



### A Cricketing Thought.

Raging, flowing, or trickling Meanwood Beck flows from Otley Chevin, Golden Acre and Adel through Meanwood and Sheepscar into the river Aire at Crown Point. Together with the beck from Hol

(Holbeck) it deposited silt into the river Aire which gradually formed into a ford across the boundary of the river. Thus, making possible the early settlements which grew into the city of Leeds.



The flow of waters shaped the industrial and domestic landscape as the beck supplied the growing number of homes, paper, corn and flax mills and tanneries. A tale acknowledged in the blue plaque at the former Highbury Works.

The Highbury Works Cricket Club began in 1928, and after successful early years, sought to join the Leeds League. That, "concern was expressed at the irregular shape and rather small size of the ground" was not a surprise, but

entry to the Leeds League was aided by the "excellence of the playing surface" A product no doubt of hours of careful labour.



The Beck was the boundary between the Weet Wood and the Mean Wood. It separates the parishes of Far Headingley and Meanwood. At the narrow Highbury cricket ground the beck was also a boundary. A modest pull saw the ball splash- land in the chilly waters. It was relatively easy to "hit the ball into the next parish."



Our son Tom played in the youth teams. Thanks to the work of those supporting and training the junior teams he really enjoyed it.

Cricket at Highbury flourished between 1928 and 2004, after which the club could not continue. Here is a link to an article about Highbury and other lost grounds:

<https://cricketyorkshire.com/lost-yorkshire-cricket-clubs/#comments>.

This article closes with its own thought for the day:

"For now, Highbury cricket ground stays empty, overgrown and quiet. Wouldn't it be nice if it was returned to active use for future cricket teams?"