

# The History of Sandylands Sports Centre, Skipton

Compiled by Roger Beck



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# Acknowledgements

The Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre, known locally as Sandylands Sports Centre, is located off Engine Shed Lane in Skipton. It celebrates its 50th anniversary on 11 November 2022. The Sports Centre, which became a self-help Registered Charity on 31 August 1984, is now the main provider of comprehensive community sports and recreational facilities in Craven.

As Chairman of the voluntary Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee, it has fallen on me to collate the history of the organisation. What started off as a possible small display at Reception, has now resulted in the publication of this book!

I have referred, in particular, to The History of Skipton by Ian Lockwood, published in 2018. It is the most comprehensive history of the town and Chapter 36 is devoted to the various sports in Skipton. However, unfortunately, there is no reference to Sandylands Sports Centre.

The other books I have referred to are the History of Skipton by William Harbutt Dawson, first published in 1882 and re-published in 1972, which refers to the enclosure of the land in the Ings; The Fabulous Cliffords by W R Mitchell, published in 2002, which refers to Robert de Veteripont (or Vipont) with Veteripont Limited stated as agents for Skipton Castle in the Conveyance of 2 May 1955; and A History of Hag Dyke by Peter Smith dated March 2013, which refers to the history of the Coulthurst family and The Coulthurst Trust.

The maps that I have referred to are those in the folder entitled Historic Maps and Views of Skipton, published by the Skipton-in-Craven Civic Society in June 2003. This set of historic maps of Skipton were put to the Civic Society in 2001 to commemorate the jubilee of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II. The maps are dedicated to local Chartered Architect James (Jim) Howard Wales. It was Jim who Craven District Council employed to report on Sandylands Sports Centre and who undertook the plans for and supervision of the Fitness Room project in 1988.

My research to took me to:

- Skipton Reference Library for the Craven Herald and Pioneer Archives to obtain various photographs and articles since May 1955;
- the Craven Museum and Gallery for various documents, including the Urban District of Skipton Year Books of 1967-68 and 1973-74, with special thanks to Jenny Hill;
- the Sports Centre's Solicitors Walker Foster for the various Conveyances, with special thanks to Craig Williams;
- the personal recollections of David Suter (Skipton Town AFC), Chris Moug (current President of Skipton CC and former Member of the Sports Centre Management Committee), Warren Burnett (Skipton RUFC and current Member of the Sports Centre Management Committee), the late Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager from 1972 to 2006), Colin Beck (local Cricketer, Umpire and Football Referee); Trevor Howson (former President of Skipton Lawn Tennis Club and current Member of the Sports Centre Management Committee); Noel Stuttard (who played for Skipton Town AFC and also Skipton Badminton Club); Roger Tiffany (local Cricketer and Building Contractor); and Les Viles (Member of the Sports Centre Management Committee from 1984 to 2021 and Chairman from 2005 to 2021);
- Daile Coope (Sports Centre Manager from 2009 to the present day and also Secretary of Skipton Town AFC);
- Dennis McGlinchey and Wendy Feather (Craven District Council);
- and Frances Fattorini, whose father-in-law Wilfred Fattorini bought Skipton Castle on 12 November 1956, and who kindly lent me the Particulars, Plan and Conditions of the Sale of Skipton Castle Estate dated 2 October 1956.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank the two Skipton and Ripon Members of Parliament, namely David Curry MP (1987-2010) and Julian Smith MP (2010 to the present day), who have been so supportive of Sandylands Sports Centre over the years. In particular, they have given the various Government funding bodies an appropriate nudge when required!

Whilst I have provided some background information in respect of the various adjacent sports at Sandylands, this is nevertheless not exhaustive. It is essentially to appreciate what role each adjacent sport has played over the years, eventually culminating in the opening of Sandylands Sports Centre on 11 November 1972.

For clarification, I have submitted all the planning applications at Sandylands Sports Centre since 1987. The subsequent planning permissions have enabled the various projects to be successfully undertaken.

Although I have sub-divided this book into different chapters for ease of reference, there is nevertheless significant overlap between them. Photographs have also been included wherever possible, otherwise the narrative would be a much duller read.

I take full responsibility for any errors of fact or interpretation, especially following my discussions with the various individuals named in paragraph 6 of Acknowledgements.

Finally, a huge thank you to my wife Janet and eldest daughter Margaret for their help, patience and understanding in making this book happen.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager from 1972 to 2006), the memory of Bruce Dinsmore (Sports Development Officer at Craven District Council from 2002 to 2020) and to all those people who have been involved in the many sports at Sandylands over the years.

***Roger Beck, November 2022***

## Chapter 1

# Sandylands Pre-1955

In the History of Skipton by William Harbutt Dawson, first published in 1882 and re-published in 1972, it refers to enclosure of the land at the Ings in Skipton. It is assumed that this area included what is now Sandylands. Dawson's book has a list of the "Castle Tenants" at the Ings in 1720.

Golday Clofes (numerology 6) is indicated as an area at the Ings on Crow's Map of 1757. This is one of the Historic Maps and Views of Skipton, compiled by Skipton Civic Society in June 2003, and is an estate map owned by the Earl of Thanet at Skipton Castle.

The oldest surviving building at Sandylands is the former field barn, indicated on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1893 at the boundary of OS Field no. 563.

Chris Moug thinks that this was known locally as the Golden Hey barn. Was the name actually derived from the area known as Golday Clofes on Crow's Map of 1757? It is now used for storage by Skipton RUFC and has been much altered over the years. Warren Burnett showed me around the building. Taking into account the roof pitch and the form of some of the original "rough" timbers, and the external appearance notably the square "forking hole" to the north elevation, it is likely that the traditional stone building is mid to late 18th century.

Lot 23, coloured mauve on the plan accompanying Sale of Skipton Castle and associated lands in 1956, describes the building, directly north of the former field barn to the boundary of OS Field no. 563, as "Sports Pavilion". The Tenants in 1956 were the West Riding County Council. Both Dave Suter, Chris Moug and Warren Burnett remember that the Pavilion was known locally as the Golden Hey Sports Pavilion. Chris thinks that the Sports Pavilion was probably built by one of the schools in the late 1940's. There was a direct link into it from what is now a blocked-up doorway, directly below the former "forking hole". Dave remembers that the Sports Pavilion was rendered with a felt roof, incorporated a wooden veranda, and accommodated two changing rooms, two stone baths and toilets.

Dave repaired the felt roof. In the late 1970's he remembers removing the old stone flags off the former field barn roof and replacing them with tin sheets. Dave understands that Skipton Town AFC, originally the Skipton Methodist Church Boys Club prior to 1954, used the Golden Hey Sports Pavilion for changing purposes. He thinks that the former Skipton Bulldogs, who withdrew from the Craven League in 2005, also used both the former field barn and the Sports Pavilion for changing purposes over the years. Colin Beck remembers, in the late 1950's, Aireville Secondary School (now Skipton Academy) using the adjoining field for the annual Aireville School Sports Day and changing in the Golden Hey Sports Pavilion.

When examining two Electricity Wayleave Consents made between the Yorkshire Electricity Board and the Trustees of the Coulthurst Playing Fields, dated 28 July 1972 and 24 November 1997 respectively, the former referred to the Ordnance Map of 25 June 1971 and the latter to the Ordnance Map drawn on 21 January 1997. Both maps indicated the outline of a building directly north of the former field barn, annotated as Pavilion. It is understood that the Golden Hey Sports Pavilion was demolished in the late 1990's.





The two photographs show the west (front) elevation of the former field barn, indicating the main barn door opening and Skipton RUFC's grandstand in the background (*shown above*), and the north elevation (*shown right*), indicating the former "forking hole" and the blocked-up door opening directly below, together with the site of the demolished Golden Hey Sports Pavilion in the foreground.



The first actual reference I have found referring to the area known as "Sandylands", is on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1893. The name "Sandylands" is indicated across the "Football Ground" (Skipton RUFC) and the "Cricket Ground" (Skipton CC).

Sandylands is indeed a very appropriate description of the area, which is characterised by its generally sandy soils. The area around the Sports Centre is reasonably level ground. The water table is however only approximately one metre below the surface.

## Chapter 2

# Skipton Castle

### Brief History of Skipton Castle

Skipton Castle is a Grade 1 Listed Medieval Castle. It was built in 1090 by Robert de Romille, a Norman Baron, and has been preserved ever since.

The Castle was originally a motte and bailey castle built by Robert de Romille, Lord of the multiple estates of Bolton Abbey. Shortly after 1102, Henry I extended Romille's lands to include all of upper Wharfedale and upper Airedale. The earth and wood castle was then rebuilt in stone to withstand attacks by the Scots.

In 1310 Edward II granted the castle to Robert Clifford, who was appointed Lord Clifford of Skipton and Guardian of Craven.

During the English Civil War, Skipton Castle was the only Royalist stronghold in the North of England until 1645. Cromwell slighted the castle by ordering the removal of the roofs.

Skipton Castle remained the Clifford's principal seat until 1676. Lady Anne Clifford ordered the repairs to the Castle.

Lady Anne's daughter, Lady Margaret Sackville married John Tufton, 2nd Earl of Thanet, and Skipton Castle was then passed down through the Tufton family, becoming the seat of Lord Hothfield in 1871.

The Vetripont Estate Limited (agents for Skipton Castle) were named on a Vesting Deed dated 20 May 1926; a Deed of Discharge dated 1 June 1949 and also on a Conveyance dated 31 August 1949. It included Baron Hothfield and Thanet Tufton.

John Tufton, the second Baron Hothfield, died in 1952. He had inherited his father's (Henry Tufton) estates in Yorkshire and Westmorland in 1926. The family found itself struggling to pay estate duties. In 1955, the decision was taken to put Skipton Castle and the surrounding lands up for sale. It comprised the castle and woods and in total 5,600 acres of land and 24 farms. Skipton Castle had been owned

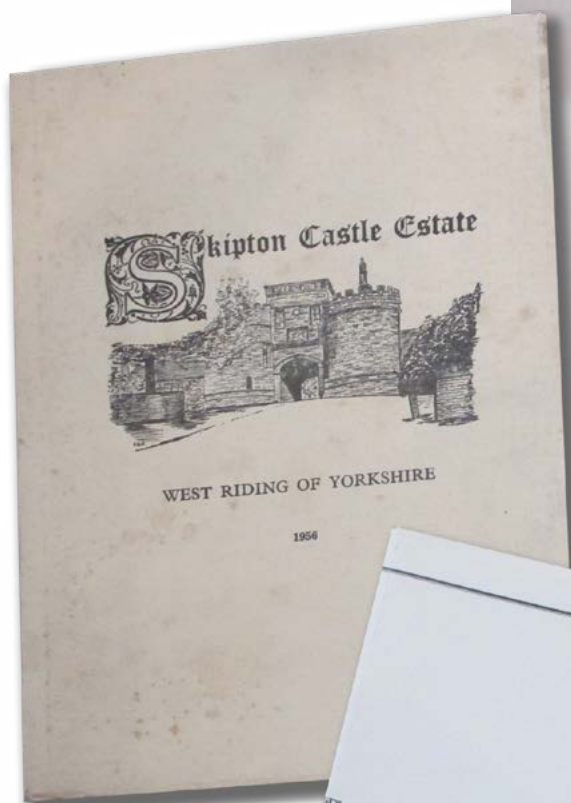
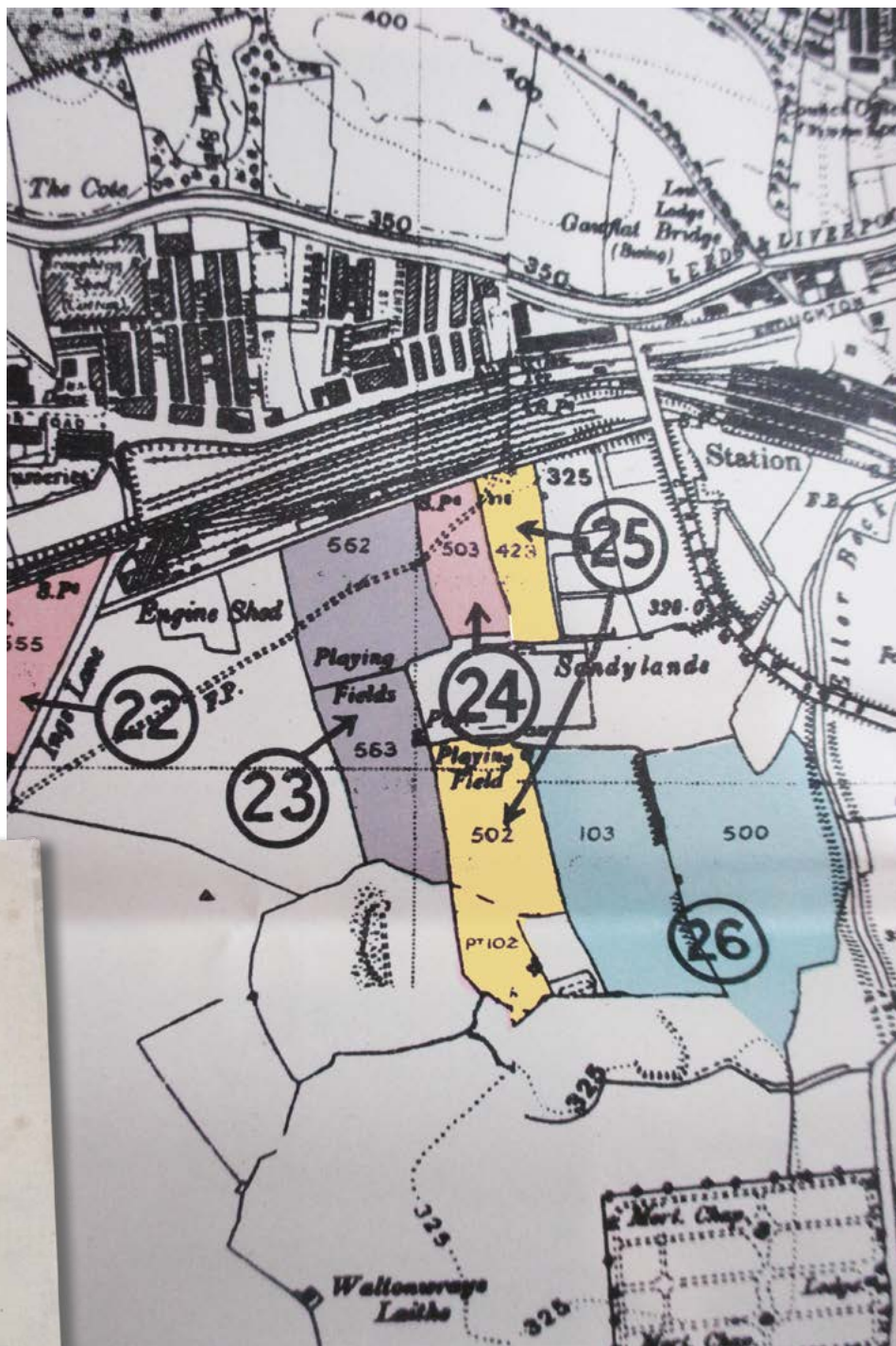
by the Hothfield family for 107 years. An official statement from the third Baron Hothfield, explained the sale by stating that "It is with great regret that the executors of my late father find it necessary to sell Skipton Castle Estate but the incidence of death duties leaves us with no alternative ... I would like to add my personal regret that this step is to be taken and I feel the loss of the Skipton Estate keenly as it will break a connection with my family's ancestors going back several hundred years".

### Sale of Skipton Castle Estate

The first page of the Sales Document was entitled "The Particulars, Plan and Conditions of Sale of the Skipton Castle Estate in the Craven District of the West Riding, including Skipton Castle and 457 Acres of Valuable Woodland (in total 6,100 Acres Freehold) was offered for Sale by Auction, as a whole or in Ninety Lots, at the Black Horse Hotel, Skipton, on Tuesday 2nd October 1956 at 2.15 pm (unless previously sold privately)".

The Solicitors were Messrs. Ralph C. Yablon, Temple-Milnes and Carr, of Bridge House, 24 Sunbridge Road, Bradford 1 and the two Auctioneers were George Trollope and Sons of 25 Mount Street, London W1 and J. Barker Place, Middlesmoor, Harrogate.





The photographs (above) show the front cover of the Sales Document and accompanying Plan and the extract from the Plan showing the appropriate Lots.



Of particular note:

**Lot 23** (*coloured mauve on plan*), comprising OS fields no. 562 and 563 to the north-west, west and south-west of Skipton RUFC. It was described as “7 ½ Acres of Land, Skipton, utilised as School Playing Fields”.

<b>Tenants</b>	West Riding County Council
<b>Rent</b>	£23 per annum.
<b>Wayleaves</b>	Electricity £8 per annum.
<b>Outgoings</b>	Net Annual Value £20.0.0

The Land is in one block, level, with a Sports Pavilion thereon, the property of the Tenants.

Area approximately 7 Acres. 2 Rood. 15 Perch. Freehold.

**Lot 25** (*coloured yellow on plan*), comprising OS Fields no. 429 and 502 to the north and north-east of Skipton RUFC. They were described as “9 Acres of Land, Skipton, utilised as School Playing Fields. The land is level, ideal for the purpose at present used, affording room for several football and cricket pitches. It is in two portions of approximately 2 ½ acres and 6 ½ acres, the former”.

<b>Tenants</b>	Governors of Ermysted’s Grammar School, Skipton
<b>Rent</b>	£43 6s 8d per annum.
<b>Wayleaves</b>	Electricity £5 per annum.
<b>Outgoings</b>	Net Annual value £19 10s

Area approximately 9 Acres. 0 Rood. 4 Perch. Freehold.

**Lot 24** (*coloured pink on plan*), comprising OS field no. 503 to the north of Skipton RUFC. It was described as “A Paddock of nearly 2 Acres, Skipton”.

<b>Tenant</b>	Mr R McLaughlin
<b>Rent</b>	£8 per annum.
<b>Outgoings</b>	Net Annual Value £5 5s

Area approximately 1 Acre. 32 Rood. 37 Perch. Freehold.

OS Fields no. **429** and **503** comprise the land now owned by the Sandylands Sports Centre.

In October 1956, the sale of the Skipton Castle Estate was announced to Zephyr Properties, which was run by a Harrogate motor trader, Frederick Frazer, and a London Accountant, Russell Tillett.

Zephyr Properties had little long-term interest in the Estate. Within a year, the majority of the land (but not the Castle or the Woods) had been sold onto the Society of Jesuits based at Stoneyhurst College, with various plots and property sold mostly to the Tenants.

Francis Fattorini, remembers her father-in-law Wilfred Fattorini, saying that he bought Skipton Castle in late 1956. The Urban District of Skipton Year Book of 1967-68 has the purchase as 12 November 1956. The Fattorini’s were jewellers in Skipton, who had a shop at the junction of the High Street with Newmarket Street.

## Chapter 3

# The Coulthurst Trust

Many sports in Craven are indebted to the foresight, vision and generosity of The Coulthurst Trust.

John William Coulthurst MA, JP, was the great-grandson of one of the founders of the internationally known firm of bankers, Messrs Coutts and Co. John William was born in 1862 and, in 1901, was living at Gargrave House at Gargrave. John William Coulthurst married Jessie Blossom Henderson on 21 October 1946. He was 84 and she was 47. John's marriage to Jessie was however, unfortunately, short lived as he died on 14 June 1949. A large branch of an elm tree struck him whilst walking in the grounds of Gargrave House with his wife. The branch only just missed Jessie. After John was struck on the head, he collapsed and was carried indoors where he died. John William was the last of the Coulthurst line.

John established The Coulthurst Trust on 2 April 1947, a Charitable Trust for the purpose of benefiting humanitarian and cultural endeavours outside the scope of state finance. The second clause of his Will of 28 April 1948 stated that: "If my said wife predeceases me then my Trustees as soon as may be after my death shall take all such steps as they may think proper for establishing a Charitable Trust of the nature hereinafter (to be known) as the Coulthurst Trust and in particular they shall cause to be prepared and shall execute a Trust Deed for that purpose...." It seems a little odd that the above clause should feature in John Coulthurst's Will of April 1948, when the Coulthurst Trust was actually set-up by Deed in April 1947. The Coulthurst Trust is Registered Charity no. 209690.

Jessie Blossom Coulthurst used the Trust to acquire what are now known as the Coulthurst Memorial Playing Fields at Sandylands, Skipton. Indeed, this address is still included on the Sandylands Sports Centre's official letter-headed paper today. Jessie made gifts to not only Skipton Rugby Union Football Club, Skipton Cricket Club and Skipton Lawn Tennis Club, but also to Wharfedale Rugby Union Football Club and to Gargrave Cricket and Football Clubs.

On 11 November 1972, she opened the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre, known locally as Sandylands Sports Centre. (See Chapter 13 entitled "Building of Sandylands Sports Centre and Opening on 11 November 1972").

Elisabeth Hawkins, Sports Centre Manager from 1972 until 2006, remembers that when Jessie Blossom Coulthurst visited the Sports Centre, she particularly enjoyed watching Ju Jitsu.

Sandylands Sports Centre became a Registered Charity, no. 515760, on 31 August 1984. The Declaration of Trust, which accompanied the Conveyance, stipulated how the Sports Centre should be managed.

Jessie died on 13 March 1985. She had received an OBE in June 1967 for her charitable work and was a Magistrate on the Skipton Bench for 32 years.

Mr and Mrs Coulthurst had no children and in 1962, Jessie's niece, Shelia Henderson Fenwick, was appointed a Trustee.

Following Jessie Blossom Coulthurst's death in 1985, Michael John Fenwick, husband of Shelia, was appointed a Trustee. In 2002, Robert Foster, Solicitor, was appointed a Trustee in place of Coutts and Co. When Sheila Fenwick died in April 2011, the remaining Trustees, namely Michael John Fenwick and Robert Foster, appointed Ian Henderson Blair, the brother of Shelia Fenwick, as the third Trustee. Michael John Fenwick died in January 2022. Since 2002, Robert Foster has been the vital "link" between The Coulthurst Trust and Sandylands Sports Centre.

Sandylands Sports Centre is extremely grateful to The Coulthurst Trust for its continued support over the years. Indeed, The Coulthurst Trust made significant donations towards the new Fitness Room in 1988, the All-Weather Pitch and associated Changing Rooms in 2004, the Solar Panels in 2013, the re-surfacing of the All-Weather Pitch in 2018, and also towards the recently approved Gymnasium and Climbing project.

The Coulthurst Trust will always be synonymous with Sandylands Sports Centre.

## Chapter 4

### **Conveyance Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1955**

The above Conveyance was between Veteripont Limited (Skipton Castle), whose Registered Office was 2, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, and the Trustees of the Coulthurst Playing Fields who were Robert Boothman of 22 Sheep Street, Skipton; Richard Middleton of 6 Brackenley Avenue, Embsay; Stanley Pepper of 9 Raikeswood Drive, Skipton; Edgar Leach of Bright Street, Skipton; Brian Walker of West Bank Road, Skipton; John Harold Capstick of 14 Firth Street, Skipton; William Ingham of 112 Keighley Road, Skipton; and Norman Jardine Vaulkhard of 16 Salisbury Street, Skipton.

The Conveyance states that "The land is Skipton Cricket Club ground (OS Field no. 501 of 3.425 acres) and Skipton Rugby Union Club ground (OS Field no. 561 of 3.829 acres) at a price of £1,800. The pieces of land are more particularly known as Sandylands".

The specific OS Field numbers and the respective acreages accord exactly with those annotated on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1909.

Interestingly, the vehicular access road from Carleton New Road to the bottom of the embankment at Skipton Cricket Club's ground, although specified to remain as a full and free right of way at all times, was not part of the land purchase. It is assumed that this upper part of the access road was owned by London Midland Scottish (LMS) Railway. This is now owned by James McCrae of Skipton as it was part of the purchase, along with all the embankments, when he bought the former LMS Football Field in October 2013.

**Further Information:** It is understood that Veteripont (Vieuxpont or Vipont) were old family names that had connections to Brough Castle and Pendragon Castle in Westmorland. Robert de Clifford's father, Roger, married Isabella, daughter of and co-heiress of Robert de Veteripont (or Vipont), giving the family a sizeable area of Westmorland. These possessions were eventually passed to Robert de Clifford, 1st Baron de Clifford. In 1310, Edward II granted Skipton Castle to Robert de Clifford, who was appointed Lord Clifford of Skipton and Guardian of Craven.

## Chapter 5

### **Conveyance Dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 1957**

This Conveyance was between Zephyr Properties Limited and the Trustees of the Coulthurst Playing Fields.

Zephyr Properties Ltd had its Registered Office at 18/22 Albert Street, Harrogate and the Trustees of the Coulthurst Playing Fields were Robert Boothman of 22 Sheep Street, Skipton; Richard Middleton of 6 Brackenley Drive, Embsay; Stanley Peffer of 9 Raikeswood Drive, Skipton; Edgar Leach of Bright Street, Skipton; Brain Walker of West Bank Road, Skipton; John Harold Capstick of 14 Firth Street, Skipton; William Ingham of 112 Keighley Road, Skipton; and Norman Jardine Vaulkhard of 16 Salisbury Street, Skipton.

The land comprised OS Fields no. 562, 563 and 503, part of OS Fields no. 102, 502 and 429, and OS Fields no. 103 and 500. It was just in excess of 34 acres and was bought at a price of £7,075. All this land is essentially that to the north of Skipton RUFC, south of Skipton RUFC and Skipton CC, and west of Skipton RUFC. The OS Field numbers are indicated on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1909.

OS Fields no. 429 and part of 503 comprise the land which is now owned by Sandylands Sports Centre, and occupied essentially by the Sports Centre's buildings, the All-Weather Pitch and the access road off Engine Shed Lane.

## Chapter 6

### **Skipton Cricket Club & Skipton Church Institute Cricket Club**

Skipton Cricket Club was founded in 1853. It is believed the original ground was on a field off Carleton Road and from there the Club moved to a site near the present railway station, which had not then been built. The railway station was built in 1875. The field was on the opposite side of Carleton New Road to the present ground. Around 1882 to 1883, it is understood that Skipton Cricket Club moved to its current pitch. Skipton Cricket Club installed Cricket Nets in 2021 and is currently in the process of creating a Hub for a Multisport Clubhouse, in association with Skipton Juniors FC.

Skipton Church Institute Cricket Club, located south of Skipton RUFC, was founded in 1882. It originated as the Cricket Club for the main church at the head of Skipton High Street, Holy Trinity. They have had three home grounds over the years, originally playing in the deer park at the rear of Skipton Castle until 1938. They then moved to a ground leased from the LMS railway company until after the Second World War, before moving to their current ground in the 1940's. It is leased from North Yorkshire County Council. A new Pavilion was erected in 2001 and the square was relocated to bring it nearer to the Pavilion.



## Chapter 7

# Skipton Rugby Union Football Club

Skipton Rugby Union Football Club was formed in 1874. Up to 1878 they used a field between the railway line and Carleton New Road. In 1878, the Club secured the use of a field at Sandylands. The first stand was erected at the end of the 1880's.

A new grandstand, which Sandylands Sports Centre now backs onto, was erected in 1923. A photograph of the Block Plan to scale 1:1250 and the Proposed Grandstand, designed by Edgar Willan Bilston, hangs in the Clubhouse. The Block Plan shows no buildings in the immediate area. The Clubhouse, built in 1952 by Members, is alongside the Grandstand. It was extended around 2000.

In 1955, the Club was offered the purchase of its ground.

The Conveyance dated 2 May 1955 confirms that the Rugby and Cricket Fields were both owned by Skipton Castle, its Agents being Vetripont Limited. The Coulthurst Trust was key in ensuring the acquisition. The total price paid was £1,800. The eight Trustees, four from each Club, were called the Trustees of the Coulthurst Playing Fields.

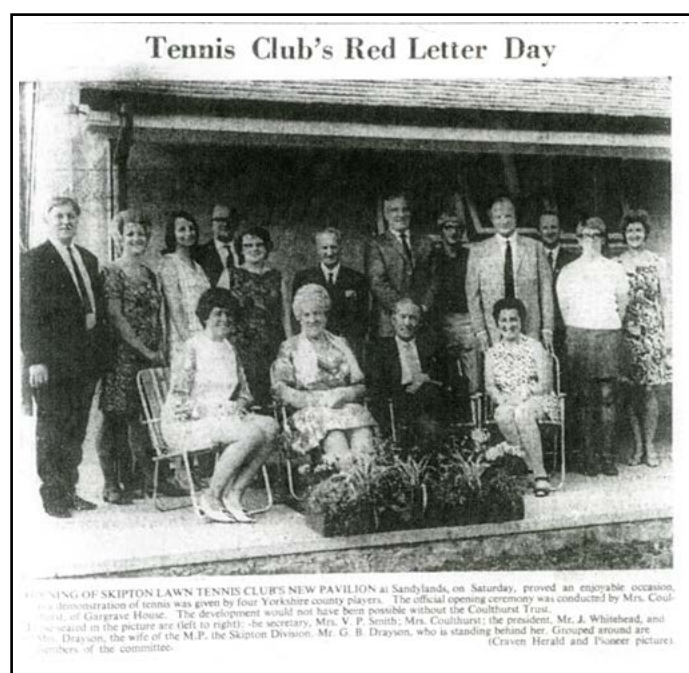


## Chapter 8

# Skipton Lawn Tennis Club & Skipton Tennis Centre

The History of Skipton by Ian Lockwood states that it is understood that Skipton Lawn Tennis Club was formed in 1881, although it is not known exactly where the Tennis Courts were located. The Ordnance Survey Map of 1909 however indicates "Tennis Ground", sited to the lower part of OS Field 432, directly north of Skipton RUFC and Skipton CC. Indeed, Skipton Lawn Tennis Club is given its own OS Field no. 432a, comprising 0.506 acres. The land between the "Tennis Ground" and Engine Shed Lane is given as OS Field no. 432, comprising 2.257 acres.

Trevor Howson remembers the original Tennis Clubhouse being a small timber building, located on roughly the same site as now. The 1909 Map however only indicates small buildings to the east and south of the Tennis Courts and also one abutting the access road to the north. Trevor remembers the latter building accommodating the original toilets. It was presumably demolished in either 1969 or shortly afterwards, following the construction of the new Clubhouse which incorporated full toilet provision.



The new Tennis Clubhouse was funded by The Coulthurst Trust. A plaque states that "This Pavilion was opened by Mrs J B Coulthurst OBE JP on Saturday 14 June 1969". The two photographs (*below*) show the plaque and also the opening of the new Clubhouse from the article in the Craven Herald dated 20 June 1969. As well as Mrs Coulthurst, the latter photograph, taken outside the new Clubhouse, also includes Mr G B Drayson MP, the President of Skipton Lawn Tennis Club Mr J Whitehead and the Secretary Mrs V P Smith. An exhibition match was played by Four Yorkshire County players.

Trevor thought that the remainder of OS Field no. 432, between the Tennis Clubhouse and Engine Shed Lane, always went with Skipton Lawn Tennis Club. It was certainly not part of either the 1955 or 1957 Conveyances. He also thought that, at one time, Skipton Lawn Tennis Club was actually a Limited Company.

Trevor remembers that there were eight grass courts at Skipton Lawn Tennis Club, which were very popular in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, especially at weekends.

Even during the early 1990's, Skipton Lawn Tennis Club was still competing in local leagues but, unfortunately, the high cost of maintaining the grass courts at Sandylands and the poor condition of its Clubhouse, meant that Members started to drift away.



On 1 June 1992, a Counterpart Lease was agreed for the majority of the land within OS Field no. 432, around 5005 square yards, between the Tennis Clubhouse and Engine Shed Lane. It was made between Vincent Paget Smith, Trevor Davies Howson, Iris Brockbank and David Bentley (described as Trustees of the Coulthurst Memorial Tennis Grounds) and Frank Wilkinson, John Christopher Mewies and David Ian Armstrong (described as Trustees of the Skipton LMS Sports Club), for 99 years at £10 per year. It excluded the “raised” land to the east of the Sandylands Sports Centre access road. A Go-Kart-Track was constructed. This was later used for remote-controlled model cars.

On 14 May 1996, full planning permission was granted for the erection of an extension at Sandylands Sports Centre, construction of a floodlit All-Weather Multi-Purpose Pitch and also the construction of a Car Parking Area. The 91-space car park was located on the two under-used grass Tennis Courts, alongside the existing Sports Centre car park. The lack of funding unfortunately prevented this development taking place. However, in 1998, Skipton Building Society wished to extend its Headquarters at The Bailey in Skipton and required off-site car parking during the construction period. The Sports Centre was approached by Skipton Building Society. This led to a project, between Sandylands Sports Centre, Skipton Lawn Tennis Club and Skipton Building Society. The 91-space car park was constructed by funds from Skipton Building Society, at a cost of around £100,000. Their staff used it during the day whilst the extension at The Bailey was completed. The car park was then “handed-over” to Sandylands Sports Centre.

Around the year 2000, Skipton Lawn Tennis Club unfortunately did not have a team competing in the local leagues. It is understood that, at this time, there were only a few members remaining and yet Trevor was still mowing the grass courts regularly.

On 8 June 2005, Skipton Lawn Tennis Club, due to the significant reduction in members, informed Sandylands Sports Centre that they wished to donate Skipton Lawn Tennis Club to the Sports Centre. At the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee it was resolved that:

1. Sandylands Sports Centre accept the offer of all land and facilities from Skipton Lawn Tennis Club.
2. All the land and facilities at Skipton Lawn Tennis Club would be retained for Tennis, and
3. The Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee invite Adam Cox, a licensed LTA Development Coach, to attend the September 2005 meeting of the Management Committee to explain his proposals for Tennis and to discuss possible grants to upgrade the Tennis facilities, notably from the Lawn Tennis Association.

At the meeting in September 2005, Adam Cox outlined his proposals for Tennis along with Stephen Turnbull, the Lawn Tennis Association Club Development Officer for Yorkshire. The Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee approved the proposals in principle, subject to a sound Business Plan being provided.

The transfer of the land and facilities from Skipton Lawn Tennis Club to Sandylands Sports Centre was approved by the Charity Commission.

Sandylands Sports Centre agreed a long Lease with Adam Cox in 2006, which was subsequently amended in 2018. Skipton Lawn Tennis Club became known as Skipton Tennis Centre.

On 27 February 2007, Sandylands Sports Centre accepted the sum of £1,909.05 from Skipton Lawn Tennis Club “...on the understanding that where possible such funds should be used as far as possible in the promotion and furtherance of Tennis.”

In 2006, the initial project cost of upgrading Skipton Tennis Centre was around £102,000. Adam Cox obtained a £75,000 loan from the Lawn Tennis Association and actually sold his house in order to provide the balance of £27,000.

In recognition of the progress made by Skipton Tennis Centre, the Lawn Tennis Association, during 2017 and 2018, awarded Skipton Tennis Centre the Yorkshire, North of England and then the National Club of the Year. The latter award was presented at Wimbledon in July 2018. Two photographs (*over*) show Adam Cox, Jonny Moore (Head Coach) and Ji Mukherjee (Coach) at Wimbledon in July 2018, and Adam with Sue Barker at the BBC Media Room at Wimbledon in 2019.



Between 2006 and 2022, there were significant and comprehensive improvements at Skipton Tennis Centre. These included the re-surfacing of all five courts, floodlighting to the three front courts, replacement of the perimeter fencing and gate, and the refurbishment of the Clubhouse. A £70,000 outside floodlit Padel court, sited on the last remaining old grass court, was installed during March and April 2022. It was opened on 6 May 2022 and became the first Padel court in Craven.

Skipton Tennis Centre currently supports 17 Craven Schools and the Summer Camps have been some of the most well attended in the county. There are now over 1,000 people playing tennis at Skipton Tennis Centre each week. The courts at Skipton Tennis Centre are also currently the only tennis courts in Craven open to the public, with Pay as you Play options.

It is proposed that the “scaled-back” project directly north of the Clubhouse, comprising three outdoor Tennis courts and two Padel courts, will open in the Spring of 2023. It is hoped that the Padel courts will be covered. The area will be fenced and floodlight. Further details of these proposals can be found in Chapter 18 of this book entitled “Projects at Sandylands Sports Centre since 1984”.





# **Skipton Town AFC**

## **Including the Conveyance Dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 1990**

Dave Suter understands that Skipton Town AFC was originally known as The Methodist Boys' Club around 1947. The History of Skipton by Ian Lockwood says that the Gargrave Road Methodist Boys' Club joined the Craven League in 1954. Dave thinks that the name was changed to Skipton Town AFC in the late 1950's.

Dixon (Dick) Keighley, from Skipton, was heavily involved with both The Methodist Boys' Club and Skipton Town AFC. Dixon was also elected Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee at the first meeting on 5 December 1984. He was Chairman from 1984 to 1986.

At the next meeting of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee, on 6 February 1985, it was decided that Skipton Town AFC should be granted an official representative on the Management Committee.

The third Annual General Meeting of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee on 19 November 1986, which was also a Special Meeting, was attended by 40 people from the Area of Benefit (Skipton). At the meeting there was an agreement in principle to sell Sports Centre land (the adjacent Football Field) to Skipton Town AFC.

A Conveyance dated 9 July 1990 was signed between the Trustees of the Coulthurst Craven (Sandylands) Sports Centre and the Trustees of Skipton Town AFC. The Solicitors were Mewies and Co of Skipton. The Official Custodians for Charities of the First Part were Roger Astle of 24 Pembroke Street, Skipton; Roger Ian Beck of 63 Burnside Crescent, Skipton; Harry Herbert Crabtree of 63 Raikes Road, Skipton; Trevor Howson of 15 Wood View, Embsay, Skipton; Dixon Keighley of 33 Belgrave Street, Skipton; Anthony Macaulay of Aireview Terrace, Skipton; Dennis Mayman of 17 Lambert Street, Skipton; Christopher Victor Moug of 8 Ward Street, Skipton; Susan Scriven of Cooper Cottage, Elslack, Skipton; Derek Swinglehurst of Cracker Croft, Stirton, Skipton; Donald Sharman of 15 Roughhaw Road,

Skipton; Leslie Viles of Cross Street, Oswaldtwistle; Patrick Verity of 56 Raikeswood Road, Skipton; Brian Phillip of 15 Duckett Street, Skipton; called "the Charity Trustees of the Second Part"; and Dixon Keighley of 33 Belgrave Street, Skipton; Dennis Mayman of 17 Lambert Street, Skipton; Donald Sharman of 15 Roughhaw Road, Skipton; David John Suter of 45 Sharphaw Avenue, Skipton; and Robert Ian Earnshaw of Manby Castle, Embsay, Skipton. The land, of around 3.31 acres and indicated on an accompanying map to scale 1:1000 dated December 1988, was sold by the Coulthurst Craven (Sandylands) Sports Centre to Skipton Town AFC for £10,000. It was sealed by Order of The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales on 5 June 1990.

Shortly after the above Conveyance was signed, Skipton Town AFC obtained planning permission for a Clubhouse. It was built by local Building Contractor Steve Arnott in the early 1990's.

The original 1972 metal foul drainage pipe from Sandylands Sports Centre, which was in poor condition, ran diagonally under the Football Pitch. As part of the improvements to the foul drainage system at Sandylands Sports Centre, a Deed of Variation, in relation to the Easement, between Sandylands Sports Centre and Skipton Town AFC, was Registered by the Land Registry in June 2021. This allowed for new foul drainage from Sandylands Sports Centre across Skipton Town AFC land, between the Football Pitch and Clubhouse, to the existing foul drainage outlet which connected to the mains sewer in Engine Shed Lane. The scheme included sealing-off the original 1972 metal pipe.

Special mention needs to be made of Dennis Mayman from Skipton, who was a Trustee of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee at the first meeting on 5 December 1984. He remained a Trustee until 2019, when he was replaced by Clive Carroll who is Chairman of Skipton Town AFC. Dennis died in 2021. He gave over 60 years' service to Skipton Town AFC.

## Chapter 10

# Engine Shed Lane & The Railway Sidings

The extensive Railway Sidings were developed in the 1880's, together with the appropriately named Engine Shed Lane. Carleton New Road was constructed in 1888. The Ordnance Survey Plan of 1893 indicates the Railway Sidings, Engine Shed Lane and also Carleton New Road.

The London Midland Scottish (LMS) was formed on 1 January 1923. It was the largest of the Big Four railway companies and its operations included the north west of England.

Colin Beck remembers trainspotting at the Railway Sidings in the 1950's. He particularly remembers watching the Thames Clyde Express steam locomotive. The train lost its title in May 1974 when the West Coast Main Line was electrified to Glasgow, but the service continued to run until 1976.

It is assumed that Skipton Urban District Council bought the Railway Sidings and also Engine Shed Lane in the 1960's. The railway tracks were presumably removed by the LMS as part of the purchase.

The only reference I could find in the Urban District of Skipton Year Book 1973-74 to Engine Shed Lane was that of July 1973, which stated that the Health Depot was removed from the High Street car park to a new depot at Engine Shed Lane.

Skipton Urban District Council and then afterwards Craven District Council, the latter being created as a result of Local Government Reorganisation in 1974, were responsible for establishing The Sidings Business Park. The Ordnance Survey Map (pre-1974) shows the internal access road and three Industrial Units to the north east. Roger Tiffany remembers building an industrial unit on the first plot. At the time of writing this booklet, there were 18 Industrial Units at The Sidings Business Park, including Roger Tiffany Ltd.

The photograph (*below*) taken off Carleton Road Bridge, Skipton, in the early 1950's, is from Railways in the Northern Dales-Railways Around Skipton, a Wyvern Publication. It shows a passenger train and also freight trucks at the Railway Sidings.





It is interesting to compare this with the photograph of the same scene today (*below*), which still indicates the same stone parapet wall extending from the bridge and abutting Engine Shed Lane. The former Railway Sidings now accommodate Industrial Units at The Sidings Business Park.

On 25 July 2020, full planning permission was granted under reference no. 2019/21073/FUL for the demolition of the existing buildings and redevelopment at the western end of the former Railway Sidings. The site now accommodates a Council Depot building and light industrial units, with access service area and parking. The address is now Locomotive Building, Engine Shed Lane, Skipton. The Planning Officer's Report stated that the existing buildings were of a "...significant age and in differing levels of decay...". It is understood that the existing buildings referred to were actually the former Railway Buildings (Sheds) at the Railway Sidings.

The upgrading of Engine Shed Lane and Ings Lane (including resurfacing, street lights, footpath and surface water drain) will be mostly completed in 2022. Engine Shed Lane is likely to be upgraded in 2023. The improvements will also eventually include a new link road from Ings Lane to the Southern Bypass at Wyvern Park. Heavy goods vehicles will then be prohibited from passing the Sandylands



Sports Centre entrance. When fully completed, the whole of Engine Shed Lane will be "adopted" by North Yorkshire Highways. The photograph (*above*) taken in early summer, shows Engine Shed Lane off Carleton New Road. The restricted width made it dangerous for vehicles to pass, which also included HGV's. Note the poor surface at the junction and the new street-lighting columns.



## Chapter 11

# Deed of Appointment Dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 1970

This Deed of Appointment was between John Harold Capstick of 28 Tarn Moor Crescent, Skipton aforesaid Solicitors Managing Clerk; William Ingham of 112 Keighley Road, Skipton aforesaid Sports Outfitters Manager; Norman Jardine Vaulkhard of 46 Raikeswood Road, Skipton aforesaid Chartered Accountant; Brian Walker of West Lea, Westbank Road, Skipton aforesaid Solicitor; and Edgar Leach of 15 Park Avenue, Skipton aforesaid Civil Servant (hereinafter called “the Appointors”) of the first part, Richard Middleton of 155 Honiton Road, Exeter; and George Stanley Pepper of “Belvedere” 9 Raikeswood Drive, Skipton (hereinafter called “the Retiring Trustees”) of the second part, and Harry Herbert Crabtree of 61 Otley Road, Skipton aforesaid Local Authority Public Health Inspector; William James Preston of 2 Belgrave Street, Skipton aforesaid Schoolmaster and James Tosney of Fern Cottage, Elslack, Skipton aforesaid Master Flock Dyer (hereinafter called the “the New Trustees”) of the third part.

The Deed was required because Robert Boothman had died, Richard Middleton had left the District and George Stanley Pepper wished to be discharged as a Trustee.

This Deed was supplemental to the two Conveyances dated 2 May 1955 and 25 February 1957.

The Schedule referred to the pieces of land to the west side of Carleton New Road, namely OS Fields no. 562, 563 and 503 and parts of OS Fields no. 102, 502, 429, 103 and 500, totalling 34 acres, 0 Roods and 3 Perches.

The Solicitors were Turner and Wall of Keighley.

Further Information: Please note that this Deed of Appointment essentially comprised four people from Skipton CC, namely Harold Capstick, William Ingham, Norman Vaulkhard and Brian Walker, and four people from Skipton RUFC, namely Edgar Leach, Harry Crabtree, William Preston and James Tosney. This Deed of Appointment dated 10 December 1970 and also that of 11 December 1971, should be read in conjunction with the Conveyances dated 1955 and 1957. These documents laid the foundations for and lead to the establishment of Sandylands Sports Centre in 1972.



## Chapter 12

# Deed of Appointment Dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 1971

This Deed of Appointment is between Richard Middleton of 155 Honiton Road, Exeter; George Stanley Peffer of “Belvedere” 9 Raikeswood Drive, Skipton; and Edgar Leach of 15 Park Avenue, Skipton; (hereinafter called “the Appointors”) of the first part, and Richard Middleton and the said George Stanley Peffer (hereinafter in that capacity called the “the Retiring Trustees”) of the second part, and Harry Herbert Crabtree of 61 Otley Road, Skipton aforesaid Local Authority Public Health Officer; William James Preston of 10 Princes Drive, Skipton aforesaid Schoolmaster, and James Tosney of Fern Cottage, Elslack, Skipton aforesaid Master Flock Dyer (hereinafter called “the New Trustees”) of the third part.

This Deed was supplemental to the two Conveyances dated 2 May 1955 and 25 February 1957. It also essentially varied the previous Deed of Appointment dated 10 December 1970.

The Schedule referred to the pieces of land to the west side of Carleton New Road, namely OS Fields no. 562, 563 and 503 and parts of OS Fields no. 102, 502, 429, 103 and 500, totalling 34 acres, 0 Roods and 3 Perches.

The Solicitors were Turner and Wall of Keighley.

## Building of Sandylands Sports Centre and Opening on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1972

According to the wall chart in the Skipton RUFC Clubhouse, work commenced on Sandylands Sports Centre in 1970.

The drawings, undertaken by Malcolm G Riley Associates, Chartered Architects, of The Coach House, 11 High Street, Skipton, indicated the Main Hall, two hard-backed Squash Courts and a flat-roofed extension. The two Squash Courts backed onto the Rugby Club stand and the flat roofed extension to the west accommodated the Changing Rooms. To the Ground Floor on Plan no. 2, the Female Changing Room for the Sports Centre was separated from the Male Changing Room at the Rugby Club. It is understood that the Reception and Office for the new Sports Centre was originally the "tunnel" through which rugby players entered the Rugby Field.

Chris Moug remembers Hirds of Keighley building the Sports Centre. Indeed, the full-page article in the Craven Herald on 10 November 1972 had an

advertisement stating that the Main Contractors were Hird Bros and Co Ltd of King Street, Keighley. Chris thinks that they subsequently went into liquidation. Chris also understands that Malcolm Riley did not have a "watching brief", hence another reason for the poor quality of construction.

Noel Stuttard remembers painting all the timber boarding to the internal walls and also the roof girders to the Main Hall, whilst working for G H Masons, 54 High Street, Skipton. Indeed, in the full-page article in the Craven Herald on 10 November 1972, the advertisement states that Mason's had undertaken "All the Decorating and External Painting". Noel also recalls that Robert Wilson, from Gargrave, was the Clerk of Works for Jessie Coulthurst (The Coulthurst Trust).

The finance for the new Sports Centre, which cost over £40,000, came mainly from The Coulthurst Trust (Mrs J B Coulthurst) who contributed £15,000, the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports

Council who made a grant of £10,000, the West Riding County Council and Skipton Urban Council who each contributed £5,000, and £7,000 which was raised through the sale of land by the Sandylands Trustees to the West Riding County Council for playing field purposes.

On 11 November 1972, Jessie Blossom Coulthurst opened the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre, known locally as Sandylands Sports Centre. The photograph (left) in the Craven Herald on 17 November 1972 shows Mrs J B Coulthurst OBE,



Councillor Mr B P Atha LLB, Chairman of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Sports Council, and Mr G B Drayson MP, at the official opening. As part of the ceremony, Skipton RUFC played a match against Sandal and Skipton Ladies Hockey played a match against Old Otliensians. Skipton Prize Brass Band was in attendance. A discotheque was held in the Skipton RUFC Clubhouse on the Saturday evening. The other photograph shows the official plaque at Sandylands Sports Centre, which commemorated the opening.

The Ground Trustees (Sandylands Trustees) for the Coulthurst Memorial Grounds on 11 November 1972 were Mr B Walker (Chairman), Mr H H Crabtree (Secretary), Mr N J Vaulkhard (Treasurer), and Mr W Ingham, Mr



G A Bailey, Mr J H Capstick, Mr W J Preston and Mr J Tosney. Mr E Leach had recently retired from the Trustees.

A further building was erected at Sandylands Sports Centre in 1976. It is understood that the Wellington Rifle Club was founded by the Skipton Old Comrades' Association of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1926. They were at the Drill Hall on Otley Street in Skipton, built in 1892 as a base for the Skipton company of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Duke of Wellington Regiment. However, when the Drill Hall was sold, they were left without premises. Following an approach to Sandylands Sports Centre, a Lease was signed on 11 July 1974 between the Trustees of the Coulthurst Memorial Grounds and the Trustees of the Wellington Rifle Club for a plot of land at the Sports Centre. The pre-fabricated building was erected in 1976. A new Lease was signed on 30 June 2005 between the Trustees of the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre and the Trustees of the Wellington Rifle and Pistol Club. A further Lease was signed on 24 April 2017 between the same Parties, which specified the Rent for the next seven years. Over the last two years, the building has been refurbished.

The flat roofs to the Changing Rooms were leaking

badly in the mid 1980's. The new Fitness Room was built above them in 1988. Also, in the 1990's, when the upper windows to the east elevation of the Main Hall were being replaced with UPVC by Skipton Glass, it was reported that there was significant movement between the inner and outer blockwork walls. A survey revealed the alarming lack of ties in the cavity. Specialist Stainless Steel tie bolts were subsequently inserted and all the external walls were pebble-dashed.

All extensions and improvements at Sandylands Sports Centre, commencing with the Fitness Room in 1988, are detailed in Chapter 18 entitled "Projects at Sandylands Sports Centre since 1984".

## Chapter 14

# Conveyance & Declaration of Trust, both dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 1984

These are the two key documents which lead to Sandylands Sports Centre becoming a Registered Charity in 1984. The self-help community-run organisation is still administered in accordance with the Declaration of Trust.

The Conveyance dated 31 August 1984 was between Harry Herbert Crabtree of 63 Raikes Road, Skipton; Brian Walker of West Lea, West Bank Road, Skipton; George Bailey of Fence, near Burnley; (called “The Grantors” of the first part); William Ingham of 113 Keighley Road, Skipton; Norman Jardine Vaulkhard 46 Raikeswood Road, Skipton; Christopher Victor Moug of 17 Devonshire Place, Skipton; and Keith Schofield of 60a Raikeswood Drive, Skipton; Trustees for the time being of the Coulthurst Playing Fields at Sandylands, Skipton (called “the Sandylands Trustees” of the second part); and Coutts and Company whose registered office at 15 Lombard Street, London; Jessie Blossom Coulthurst OBE of Coulthurst, Gargrave, Skipton; and Sheila Henderson Fenwick of Eshton House, Eshton, Gargave (called “the Coulthurst Trustees” of the third part); and William John Henderson of Stainton Coates, Coniston Cold, Skipton; and Robert Nightingale Wilson of Higherland House, Gargrave (“the Grantees”).

In particular, the Coulthurst Trustees made a payment to the Sandylands Trustees amounting to £52,345.09 for the purposes of the Coulthurst Playing Fields at Sandylands, Skipton. The Coulthurst Trustees and the Sandylands Trustees for all their respective estates and interests hereby conveyed and confirmed unto the Grantees all those parcels of land comprising 8.65 acres or thereabouts known as Sandylands Sports Centre.

The Fifth Schedule referred to the previous Conveyances dated 2 May 1955 and 25 February 1957.

The accompanying Declaration of Trust, also dated 31 August 1984, was by William John Henderson of Stainton Coates, Conistone Cold, Skipton and

Robert Nightingale Wilson of Higherland House, Gargrave (hereinafter called “the Trustees”).

In particular, the Second Schedule confirmed that the Trust Property would be held upon trust for the purposes of playing fields and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation for the use of the inhabitants of the District of Craven in the County of York (hereinafter called “the area of benefit”) with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants in the interests of Social Welfare. The Charity should be administered within the meaning of Section 46 of the Charities Act 1960.

The Declaration of Trust also stated who should be



the representatives on the Management Committee, specified the election of officials and the format of the meetings, ensured that there would be no discrimination in respect of users, explained how the Trust Property could be sold, and confirmed that the Management Committee could accept donations and endowments for the general purposes of the Charity.

The photograph shows the above two key documents.

The Charity Commission issued Sandylands Sports Centre with Registered Charity no. 515760.



## **Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee since 1984**

The first meeting of the voluntary Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee, since becoming a Registered Charity, took place on 5 December 1984 at Skipton RUFC. Those present were Mr J Henderson (Coulthurst Trust), Mrs D Foster (Turner and Wall Solicitors), Mr R Ashworth, Councillor T Carter, Mr H Crabtree, Mr R Hollings, Mr D Keighley, Mrs J Litchfield, Mr R Lyall, Mr D Mayman, Mr C Moug, Councillor B Phillip, Mr C Straker, Councillor C Swinglehurst, Mr L Viles and Mr P Wherity. Mrs E Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager) also attended. Mr D Keighley was elected as Chairman, Councillor T Carter elected as Vice Chairman, Mrs J Litchfield elected as Secretary, and Councillor B Phillip elected as Treasurer. Mr N Vaulkhard, of Western, Morley and Jackson, was appointed as Auditor on 12 October 1984. The minutes record that Mrs E Hawkins reported that the “Sports Centre roughly breaks even”.

It is interesting that, at the next meeting of the Management Committee on 6 February 1985, again at Skipton RUFC, it was agreed that a formal Licence be drawn up with North Yorkshire County Council regarding the school’s use of the Sports Centre. Turner and Wall of Keighley were retained as Solicitors. It was decided that Skipton Town AFC should be granted an official representative on the Management Committee. The minutes also record that the Auditor, Mr N Vaulkhard, reported that “There seems little way we shall accrue money for capital projects”.

A letter dated 26 September 1985 from Mrs J Litchfield, Secretary of the Management Committee, to the Charity Commission, requested advice on the sale of land (Football Field) to Skipton Town AFC.

The third Annual General Meeting of the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre was held at Skipton RUFC on Wednesday 19 November 1986. There were 40 people from the Area of Benefit. The Treasurer reported that the Sports Centre had made a profit of £859. This was also a Special Meeting, when there

was agreement in principle to sell land (Football Field) to Skipton Town AFC.

Special mention needs to be made of three Trustees, namely Harry Crabtree, Chris Moug and Les Viles, all from Skipton. Harry and Chris were Trustees in the early 1970’s and also Trustees at the first meeting of the new Management Committee on 5 December 1984. The late Harry Crabtree was associated with Skipton RUFC for some 50 years as a player and later as long-time President. Chris Moug is currently President of Skipton CC. The longest-serving member of the 1984 Management Committee was Les Viles, who represented the Wellington Rifle Club. He was also Chairman of the Sports Centre Management Committee from 2005 until 2021. Les however resigned on 24 September 2021, after having not been re-elected onto the Rifle Club Committee. Andrew Gubbin, representing Squash, was Vice Chairman from 2005 until 2019, when he stood-down due to work commitments. Mention must also be made of Derek Ingham, a long-standing Trustee and inspirational Squash Coach for many years, and also Susie Arnott, who represented Skipton Ladies’ Hockey. Susie undertook vital secretarial work during Colin Straker’s Chairmanship and also in the early years of Roger Beck’s Chairmanship.

The Management Committee, like many other Committees, had its usual clash of personalities and disagreements over the years. Probably the most memorable was in late 2019, following the introduction of Governance. The adherence to sound Governance had become a requirement for any grant funding application to Sport England. Three members of the former Finance Sub Committee resigned as they would not accept that final decisions, of any substantial financial nature, had to be made by the Sovereign Decision-Making Body, namely the full Management Committee, and not a Sub Committee.

Full Governance was subsequently adopted by the Management Committee during late 2019 and early

2020, covering Delegation to the Chairman and Terms of Reference for all the Sub Groups (altered from Sub Committees), namely Finance, Personnel and Development. A Vision Statement for the Sports Centre was also adopted stating “Providing Excellent Community Sports and Leisure Facilities for All”. This is included on our website.

Accountancy and Bookkeeping at Sandylands Sports Centre was reviewed, as part of Governance, during 2022.

The present voluntary Management Committee, comprises Roger Beck (Chairman and Public), Andy Solloway (North Yorkshire County Council), Clive Carroll (Skipton Town AFC), Gary Calam (Tennis), Ruksana Mahmood (Co-opted), Adam Cox (Public), Bev Bruce (Fitness), Trevor Howson (Public), Peter Wilkinson (Badminton), Chris Harbron (Craven District Council), Ji Mukherjee (Cricket), Warren Burnett (Rugby) and Aidan Higgins (Skipton Town Council).

The Management Committee are very much “like-minded” in respect of the way forward, with a sound and clear vision for the future of community sports provision at Sandylands Sports Centre.

## Chapter 16

# Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee since 1984

Only four people have been Chairmen of the voluntary Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee, since the Sports Centre became a Registered Charity in 1984. Roger Beck was re-elected for an unprecedented second term last year.

They are namely:

**1984 - 1986** Dixon (Dick) Keighley (Skipton)

**1986 - 1989** Colin Straker (Threshfield)

**1989 - 2005** Roger Beck (Skipton)

**2005 - 2021** Les Viles (Skipton)

**2021-** Roger Beck (Skipton)

## Chapter 17

# Managers at Sandylands Sports Centre since 1972

It is incredible that in 50 years, there has only been three Sports Centre Managers at Sandylands Sports Centre. In particular, Elisabeth P Hawkins was in the post for 34 years and Daile Coope has now been Centre Manager for the last 13 years.

### **Elisabeth P Hawkins 1972-2006**

It is understood that Elisabeth P Hawkins was appointed Sports Centre Manager shortly after the Sports Centre was opened on 11 November 1972. Chris Moug thinks that she was appointed by Harry H Crabtree. Elisabeth continued as Sports Centre Manager through the transition when Sandylands Sports Centre became a Registered Charity in 1984. All the early projects, from the Fitness Room in 1988 through to and including the All-Weather Pitch and the associated Changing Rooms building in 2004, were undertaken whilst she was Sports Centre Manager. Elisabeth P Hawkins retired in 2006. She died on 12 April 2022.

### **Daile Coope 2009-present day**

Daile Coope was only 21 years old when he was appointed Sports Centre Manager in early 2009 by the Management Committee. Kerry O'Neil had previously appointed him as part-time Manager of the All-Weather Pitch. He has successfully steered Sandylands Sports Centre through difficult times, notably the aftermath following Kerry O'Neil, the flooding in December 2015, the Green Energy projects undertaken from 2015 to 2018, and during the Covid-19 Pandemic from 2020 through to 2022. Daile has also now the prospect of having to manage the Gymnastics and Climbing extension at the Sports Centre, which hopefully will be undertaken in 2023.

### **Kerry O'Neil 2006-2009**

Kerry O'Neil was appointed Sports Centre Manager by the Management Committee in 2006. No projects were undertaken whilst she was Sports Centre Manager.

## Projects at Sandylands Sports Centre since 1984

Many projects have been undertaken at Sandylands Sports Centre since it became a self-help Registered Charity in 1984. All the following projects have been successfully completed:

### Fitness Room

Between 1972 and 1986, very little maintenance was undertaken to the buildings at Sandylands Sports Centre. The low-cost specifications of the buildings were particularly evident in the poor quality of the roofs. I discussed this serious situation with Craven District Councillors Frank Flowith from Threshfield and Norman Simpson from Calton (former Chairman of Craven District Council) in 1986. As a result, in early 1987, Craven District Council employed James (Jim) Wales, of Wales, Wales and Rawson, Chartered Architects of Skipton, to produce a document entitled "Report on Structure and Improvements at Sandylands Sports Centre". Urgent repairs were immediately undertaken to all the roofs. Phase 1 of the Report particularly identified the urgent need to construct a new first-floor area above the Changing Rooms, as an alternative to re-roofing. It was decided that this first-floor area should accommodate a Fitness Room. Following the grant of planning permission, the first-floor extension was constructed by Carling Construction Ltd from Skipton and the work supervised by James (Jim) Wales. Generous donations were received from Craven District Council, Skipton Town Council, the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, the Rural Development Commission, Skipton Temperance Society and The Coulthurst Trust. The £48,000 Fitness Room was opened on Saturday 10 December 1988.

The photograph in the Telegraph and Argus on 12 December 1988 shows Nigel Coultas, from Pool in Wharfedale, triple gold medallist at the Paralympic Games, and Skipton Mayor, Elizabeth (Betty) Campbell, on exercise bikes.



**PEDAL POWER:** Nigel with Mayor Elizabeth Campbell

### Gold star shows art of keeping fit

**NIGEL** Coultas, triple gold medallist at the paraplegic Olympic Games, opened the new £48,000 fitness room at

the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre, Sandylands, Skipton, on Saturday.

Nigel, 20, of Pool in Wharfedale, who lost his right arm in a road accident, took gold at Seoul in the 100 metres, 200 metres, set a world high jump record and won silver in the 400 metres.

He praised the centre management team for their foresight in setting up the fitness room which will not be restricted to a club membership but open to the public.

Nigel trains three times a week in two hour sessions on similar equipment which helped him in his battle for gold.

#### Generosity

Sports centre chairman Colin Straker said Nigel was an example of what could be achieved by determination through adversity.

The fitness room was the result of three years' hard work and generosity.

Grants and loans had been made by Craven District Council, Skipton Town Council, Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, the Rural Development Commission, Skipton Temperance Society and the Coulthurst Trust.



## Tree Planting

Native trees were planted in January 1991. They were donated by Craven District Council as part of their amenity tree planting scheme. They were planted jointly by the voluntary Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee and the Men of the Trees, under the supervision of Bob Preece. The Craven Herald article on 1 February 1991 included a photograph of those involved in the tree planting, from left to right, Paul Bridgford (Committee Secretary), Mrs Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager), Mrs Janet Beck, Paul Dolan (Men of the Trees), Bob Preece (Men of the Trees), Roger Beck (Chairman of Committee), John Hawkins and Les Viles (Vice-Chairman).

### Centre sports trees



The grounds at Skipton's Sandylands Sports Centre have been enhanced with the planting of 150 trees — ready for the opening of the centre's new £150,000 extension.

The trees were donated by Craven District Council as part of their amenity tree planting scheme, and consisted of alder, mountain ash, blackthorn and hawthorn. They were planted on Saturday jointly by the management committee of the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre, a registered charity, and The Men of the Trees under the supervision of Mr. Bob Preece.

Sandylands' new extension, due to open in early March, will consist of two SRA championship standard glass-backed squash courts, associated tiered seating, aerobics room, martial arts room, together with specific

spectator provision and a toilet for the disabled. The two existing squash courts will also be refurbished.

The official opening will take place on April 9, and will be carried out by 18-year-old Simon Parker, the World Junior Squash Champion, and David Campion, runner-up in the World Junior Squash Championships, and the two will play an exhibition match.

Further details and tickets for the opening are available from the Sports Centre, telephone Skipton 795181.

Picture by the Craven Herald staff photographer shows those involved in the tree planting, from left to right, Paul Bridgford, Mrs. Elisabeth Hawkins, Mrs. Janet Beck, Paul Dolan, Bob Preece, Roger Beck, John Hawkins and Les Viles. 50291.

## Extension comprising two Glass-Backed Squash Courts and Martial Arts and Aerobics Rooms

the planning application for a £170,000 extension was submitted in January 1990. The Chartered Architect was J B Birch from Bradley. Planning permission was granted and the extension built by local contractor Roger Tiffany Ltd, the plumbing and heating undertaken by S G Ives and Son and the electrical work by Malcolm Baines. The specialist work on the two glass-backed Squash Courts was undertaken by Tuffwalls. The new facilities were opened in July 1991 by Simon Parke, 18 of Harrogate, World Junior Squash Champion, and David Campion, 19 of Wakefield, runner-up in the World Junior Squash Championships. After they played an exhibition match, refreshments were taken in the new Aerobics Room. Simon and

### Champion extension



**A new £160,000 extension at Skipton's Sandylands Sports Centre was officially opened by champion squash players Simon Parke and David Campion on Tuesday.**

The extension represents further upgrading and improvements to the centre, and comprises two championship-standard, glass-backed squash courts and associated tiered seating, a viewing area, two multi-purpose rooms primarily for aerobics and martial arts, and spectator provision for the disabled.

Simon, 18, of Harrogate, World Junior Squash Champion and British Junior Open Champion, and David, 19, of Wakefield, runner-up in the World Junior Championships, treated the audience to an exhibition match in the new courts, and afterwards were each presented with a tankard.

Mr. Roger Beck, chairman of the Management Committee which runs the centre, said: "We are very proud to be able to watch these two exceptional squash players, and I am sure one of them will one day be world champion."

Part of the money for the extension was raised through various grants, an interest-free loan from the Sports Council and through donations from local businesses and individuals.

"This new extension is part of the continuing upgrading and growth of the centre, and follows the new fitness centre which was built in 1988," said Mr. Beck.

"In this Year of Sport 1991 there have been many individuals and organisations who have got together to make this extension possible, and I would like to thank them all."

The Management Committee, which comprises voluntary representatives of the various sports in the area, took over the running of the centre in 1984, when the Coulthurst Trust was established

as a registered charity.

As a result there is no membership fee, and Mr. Beck pointed out that they provided the only dry-weather facilities in the area open to all sections of the community.

Two existing squash courts at the centre have been refurbished and there are now four courts, and Sandylands now provides a full range of sporting facilities.

An exhilarating performance was given by Simon Parke and David Campion in their exhibition match, which showed off their skills to the full.

Their variety of shots and tactics kept the audience entertained throughout, and both players demonstrated why they are champions in their sport.

The scores were 9-3, 9-3, 9-0, to Simon, and although he won all three games, and the scoring showed he was probably the stronger of the two on the night, the players were not unevenly matched.

They gave a good even game despite the fact that Simon managed to keep ahead of the scoring throughout.

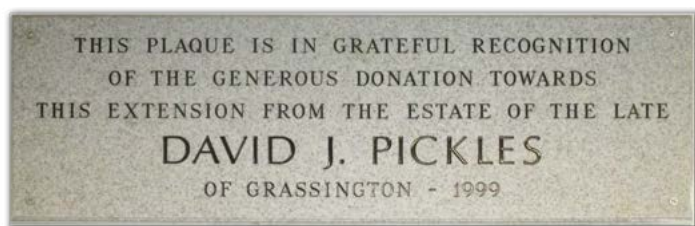
The speed of their shots gave an indication of their strength and determination, although neither looked the least bit harassed by the end, and they almost looked as fresh as they had when they walked onto the court.

Afterwards, they praised the new courts, which have been built to Sports Council and the Squash Rackets Association specifications, and also the appreciative audience.

"Squash is not always considered a high-profile game and it is nice to be appreciated," said Simon. Picture by the Craven Herald staff photographer shows, from left to right, Mr. Beck, Simon, David, and Mrs. Elisabeth Hawkins, centre manager. 150791.



David praised the quality of the new courts. The guests included the Director of the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council. It was appropriate that the new facility was opened during the Year of Sport 1991. Funding was from the Sports Centre (including the £10,000 from the sale of the football field to Skipton Town AFC), the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, the Coulthurst Trust and other local Charities. A £95,000 mortgage was taken out with Skipton Building Society. A generous donation from the Estate of the late David J Pickles of Grassington in 1999, helped to fully repay the outstanding mortgage in December 2010.



The photographs show the plaque at the entrance to the extension and the Craven Herald article on 15 July 1991 has a photograph showing Simon and David on one of the two new Squash Courts, together with Roger Beck (Chairman of the Sports Centre Management Committee) and Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager).

### Surfacing of Original Car Park

The original car park for Sandylands Sports Centre, adjacent to the Main Hall, was surfaced in quarry bottoms. It was uneven and dangerous, not drained and the limestone dust was constantly being brought into the Sports Centre on shoes. Thanks to the generosity and co-operation of two local businesses, the car park was re-surfaced in tarmacadam and white-lined in November 1992. Alan Marcham of J Marcham and Sons Ltd of Skipton made no charge for his men and machinery for a week and Nick Gammon of Tilcon (Skipton Rock) provided all the materials at a generous discount. The Sports Centre paid for the discounted materials. The Craven Herald article on 4 December 1992 included a photograph showing Alan Marcham, Nick Gammon, Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager) and Roger Beck (Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee) on the recently surfaced car park.

## Sandyland's access surfaced



Thanks to the generosity and co-operation of two local businesses, the car park and access road at the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre at Sandylands, Skipton, have been re-surfaced with tarmac.

Alan Marcham, of J. Marcham and Sons Ltd., of Craven House, Carleton Road, Skipton, made no charge for his men and machinery for a week, and Nick Gammon, of Tilcon (Skipton Rock) gave all the materials at a generous discount. Centre funds paid for the materials.

The generosity of the two companies was praised by chairman of the centre's management committee Roger Beck and its manager Elisabeth Hawkins. "It's a tremendous contribution to the centre and the community," said Mr. Beck.

J. Marcham and Sons have also laid three sleeping policemen on the re-surfaced access road to safeguard users of the centre and adjoining Skipton Rugby Club.

Following on from the new squash courts, an aerobics and martial arts extension opened last year. The work on the car

park and access is one of three projects to further improve facilities at the centre, a registered charity.

Work has already started on new showers and between December 21 and January 2 a new sprung timber floor will be installed in the main sports hall.

The showers and floor have been made possible thanks to grants from Craven District Council, Skipton Temperance Society, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, donations from individuals and a sponsored London Marathon run by "Taff" Evans. However, there is still a shortfall for this work and any contributions will be gratefully received.

All the facilities at the centre are open to the public and there is no membership fee. Further details can be obtained by telephoning Skipton 795181.

Picture by David Hyde, Skipton shows Alan Marcham Nick Gammon, Tilcon's Sales Manager, Elisabeth Hawkins, Manager of the sports centre, and Roger Beck, chairman of the centre's management committee.

## Refurbished Showers and a new Sprung Timber Floor to the Main Hall

Between December 1992 and January 1993, the existing showers in the dry-weather Changing Rooms were refurbished and a new sprung timber floor installed in the Main Hall to replace the original 1972 Granwood Floor, which was becoming dangerous due to frequent condensation. The £40,000 project was funded by grants from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Skipton Building Society, Craven District Council, Skipton Temperance Society, donations from individuals and also a sponsored London Marathon by "Taff" Evans, one of the users of the Sports Centre.

## Craven Consortium

During January and February 1996 the Craven Consortium was formed, comprising Sandylands Sports Centre, Craven District Council and Craven College, to put together a lottery fund bid for new facilities at the Sports Centre. The partnership was initiated by Alan Blackwell, Principal at Craven College, following attendance at a Sports Lottery Roadshow in Leeds in 1995. The £2.5 million bid was for a full-size floodlit All-Weather Pitch, extended car park and a state-of-the-art large Climbing Wall and Gymnasium. It was hoped that the new facilities would result in Sandylands Sports Centre becoming a "Centre of Excellence". Unfortunately, the Sports Lottery Bid for 65% of the required funding (£1,625,000) was never submitted. Craven College were given hope that £375,000 of match funding would be available through the Further Education Funding Council but were subsequently informed that the bid had been unsuccessful.

## Extended 91-Space Car Park

Whilst a Sports Lottery Bid was unfortunately never submitted by the Craven Consortium, the planning permission for the above, which included the construction of an extended car parking area at Sandylands Sports Centre, was nevertheless granted on 14 May 1996. The drawings were undertaken by J B Birch, Chartered Architect from Bradley. The 91-space car park was located on the two outside under-used grass courts at Skipton Lawn Tennis Club. In 1998, it so happened that Skipton Building

Society wished to extend its Headquarters at The Bailey in Skipton. As the planning permission was still valid, Sandylands Sports Centre was approached by Skipton Building Society. This led to a partnership between Sandylands Sports Centre, Skipton Lawn Tennis Club and Skipton Building Society. A substantial donation of around £100,000 was received from Skipton Building Society to enable the car park to be undertaken. The Skipton Building Society staff used the car park during the day and the Sports Centre during the evenings and at weekends. When the extension at The Bailey was completed, the 91-space car park was then "handed-over" to Sandylands Sports Centre.

A photograph in the Craven Herald in March 1999 shows Trevor Howson (President of Skipton Lawn Tennis Club), David Hudson (Head of Facilities at Skipton Building Society), and Roger Beck (Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee), at the completion of the car park. The extended car park was undertaken by Roger Tiffany Ltd, The Sidings Business Park, off Engine Shed Lane, Skipton.



Trevor Howson, president of Skipton Lawn Tennis Club, David Hudson, head of facilities at Skipton Building Society and Roger Beck, of the sports centre management committee outside the Coulthurst Sports Centre which is embarking on a major redevelopment

## Major boost for sports centre

A NEW car park at Skipton's sports centre is one of the first signs that a proposed £2.7 million Lottery bid for the facility is coming to fruition.

The spaces for 91 cars have been provided thanks to a substantial donation by Skipton Building Society.

An agreement has reached which allows the building society staff to use the car park while the extension to their headquarters at the Bailey is being carried out. The society is also covering the costs of maintenance and security.

The enlarged car park is part of the proposed £2.7 million Lottery Bid formulated by the Craven Consortium, a partnership between the Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre, Craven

College and Craven District Council.

Planning permission has already been secured for a full size floodlit multi-purpose all-weather pitch, climbing wall, gymnasium, changing facilities, educational meeting rooms specifically for Craven College, an athletics sprint track and upgrading and floodlighting of the tennis courts.

Roger Beck, who is chairman of the sports centre's management committee and project co-ordinator of the Craven Consortium, said:

"This tremendous gesture by Skipton Building Society has overcome parking problems at the sports centre and will benefit the whole community. It brings the total amount

raised by the management committee since 1987 for extensions and improvements to the sports centre to approximately £450,000."

The Craven Consortium hopes to submit its Lottery Bid later this year. However, following recent meetings with the Sports Council, a reduction in money available for sport and less grant being available from that first indicated, the bid will have to be considered as a phased development.

Mark Smitheringale, head of corporate communications at the Skipton, said: "This has proved to be a mutually beneficial initiative which will also ensure longer term advantages for the wide Craven community."



## Indoor Cricket Nets

The £10,000 replacement indoor cricket nets were officially opened by legendary cricketer Fred Trueman, then living at Flasby near Gargrave, on 24 February 2002. A grant of £750 was received from Craven District Council and the balance came from the Sports Centre's own funds. The photograph, at the new Cricket Nets in the Main Hall, showed Fred Trueman with ball "in-hand", Roger Beck (Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee), Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager) and Stephen Butcher (Chairman of Craven District Council).



## Full-Size Floodlit 3G All-Weather Pitch and associated Changing Rooms Building

In February 2003 an application for this major project, overwhelmingly endorsed by the recently created Craven District Football Development Forum, was submitted to the Football Foundation. Craven District Council engaged a Leisure Consultant. Skipton man Peter Marsden, who became Chairman of the West Riding County FA in 2003 and two years later President, played a key role. There were also extensive consultations and tremendous support from local football clubs, primary and secondary schools and Craven College. The numerous letters of support were included as part of the application. A letter dated 15 August 2003 from the Football Foundation confirmed approval of a £562,564 grant, which included funds for the post of Football Development Officer for the All-Weather Pitch. In respect of the required match funding, a fantastic donation of £150,000

was received from Skipton Building Society, to commemorate 150 years since its foundation. Other funding was obtained from the Single Regeneration Budget (North Yorkshire), Craven College, The Coulthurst Trust, Sandylands Sports Centre, The Tarn Moor Estate, Craven District Council, and local charities and businesses. The photograph shows the Acknowledgement Board with the full list of donations.



Work on the development commenced in September 2003. The Craven Herald article of 19 September 2003 included a photograph showing contractors, the ERDC Group, about to commence work on the All-Weather Pitch, with Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager), Roger Beck (Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee) and Bruce Dinsmore (Craven District Council's Sports Development Officer).





# Dream comes true as new all-weather pitch opens

by Tony Simpson

THE formal opening of the new all-weather pitch at Sandylands enjoyed glorious weather, generous support from the Skipton sporting fraternity, some skilful football from two junior teams and probably the biggest sigh of relief that Roger Beck has ever breathed.

Mr Beck has been the driving force behind the £850,000 project since it was first mooted in a meeting between him and Alan Blackwell from Craven College in 1995.

"That get-together spawned the Craven Consortium in 1996 and planning permission for the project was obtained in that year.

Identifying the dream, however, was a rather different challenge than that of bringing it to fruition and there were doubtless many post-meeting periods of depression as attempts to move the project forward hit regular hurdles.

"I had lots of meetings with Sport England officials," recalls Mr Beck. "But by the time we had reached 2002 the project was floundering and the situation was not looking good."

"However, things took a sharp upturn after my first meeting with the Football Association Regional Facilities Management, who told us that we might well be able to put together a bid for funding from the Football Foundation."

That bid became a reality in 2003 and the harsh financial facts of what was being taken on were then revealed in all their intimidating starkness.

To deliver its part of the grant-aid package, the Craven Consortium was required to produce 35 per cent of the total cost, which at that stage was projected to be £855,000.



Opening honours: Len Cantello and Roger Beck

The earlier anxieties of the consortium gave way to a mood of total optimism and euphoria as various sections of the Skipton community reacted magnificently to help bring the scheme to a successful conclusion.

Not for the first time, Skipton Building Society was the standard bearer with a donation of £150,000 to mark the firm's 150th anniversary celebrations, and from all parts of the town monies were pledged to give the consortium a handsome tally of £273,000 in pledges by March last year.

That such tremendous support from the community was all that the Football Foundation needed to identify the Skipton scheme as one they needed to get behind and on August 15, 2003 the letter which confirmed that a dream was about to become reality dropped onto Roger Beck's mat.

It confirmed that a grant of £502,000 had been agreed and that work could start immediately

on the capital project and that adverts could be placed seeking a community football development officer to give the new facility a crucial "after-care" element.

And so it was that Simon Armstrong started work in January this year and Mr Beck was able to see his childhood in use a month ago, giving Skipton a facility unmatched by any community organisation in the country and a mirror image of some of the finest training facilities in Europe.

Sandy's formal opening was a relatively low-key affair, former Bolton, West Brom and Under 23 player Len Cantello stepping into the "celebrity" breach to cut the red tape after more high-profile guests failed to materialise.

But the day was less to do with showbiz than acknowledging the massive amount of effort and generosity which made the scheme possible.

In his final task, Mr Beck ensured that a full range of thanks were properly given and that the

prime movers all received the acknowledgment their contribution deserved.

"I hope you all agree that this fantastic new community development, which together with the other facilities at the sports centre, will attract 150,000 person visits per year, and has resulted in £1.3 million being spent since 1987. It will be a major boost for sport in Craven," he said.

The appropriate recognition of his own contribution came from Coun Stephen Place, chairman of Craven District Council.

"Can I express my personal thanks to Roger and the committee for their commitment to the dream and to Roger's tireless campaign over several years to make this dream a reality, resulting in this wonderful facility," he said.

"He has literally, single-handedly steered this project from a dream, to a concept, to design, to building and, finally, to completion."

"Craven owes him and his long-suffering family an immense debt of gratitude for his vigorous and dedicated efforts," Coun Place added.

With the pitch now open, two local companies will be battling for honours in an immediate debt of gratitude for his vigorous and dedicated efforts," Coun Place added.

Sports Relief and Child Victims of Craven will benefit from 50 per cent of all proceeds from two games between Skipton Building Society and its subsidiary HomeLoan Management Limited.

The two teams have organised a raffle with the prizes including a framed Leeds United away shirt signed by this year's squad, an £80 golf trolley bag and tickets for Alton Towers.

Members of the public are invited down to watch the game at Sandylands and buy a raffle ticket. Picture: by Heidi Martin, of Skipton.

professional footballer). A football match took place later in the day, between Craven Minors and Silsden AFC under 18's, with Ian Ormondroyd meeting all the players. Martin Hillary of Skipton refereed the game.

The other photographs (*below*) show the site before the development (including the over-flow car parking area); the All-Weather Pitch following excavation and the base hard-core being laid, together with some of the drainage pipes; the start of laying the "Field Turf" carpet and the new fencing and internal path to the north; the internal concrete blockwork to the Changing Rooms and the almost completed building; the intricate under-floor heating pipes; and the replacement foul drainage pump chamber to the rear of the Sports Centre. In 2006, the Management Committee named the development the "Roger Beck All-Weather Pitch" and erected a plaque at the Reception.

The £850,000 project used the latest "Field Turf" for the 3G carpet to the All-Weather Pitch. The associated new Changing Room building was built by local contractors Roger Tiffany Ltd. The official opening took place on 23 May 2004. The Craven Herald article on 28 May 2004 has a photograph showing Len Cantello, former Bolton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion player, and Roger Beck, Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee, at the Football Foundation acknowledgement board at the new All-Weather Pitch Reception.

Another photograph (*below*), earlier in the fun day, shows Billy Bantam (Bradford City Mascot), Andy Hailwood (FA Regional Facilities Manager), Roger Beck (Project Manager and Chairman of the Management Committee), Len Cantello (Field Turf Consultant and former Bolton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion professional footballer), and Ian Ormondroyd (Bradford City in the Community and former Bradford City, Aston Villa and Leicester City









## Refurbishment of Original Dry-Weather Changing Rooms

This was undertaken in 2011, following a successful Sport England Inspired Facilities Grant of £50,000. The total cost of the complete refurbishment was £90,000, made possible with Sports Centre funding.

## Solar Panels

The start of the “Green Energy” projects at the Sports Centre was the installation of 68 Solar Panels on the rear (south) facing roof pitch of the All-Weather Changing Rooms building in 2013. The £20,000 project was achieved by a donation from Skipton Building Society and also a low-interest loan from Siemens, in conjunction with the Carbon Trust. The Solar Panels were installed by Craven Energies.

## Deed of Surrender

Whilst not a project, a Deed of Surrender was nevertheless signed between the Trustees of LMS, Sandylands Sports Centre and James McCrae in April 2015, in respect of a small triangular piece of land directly south-east of the Tennis Courts on the former Skipton LMS Football Field. It regularised an anomaly in respect of both land use and ownership. The hope is that a similar Deed of Surrender can be undertaken to enable the embankment, directly below Engine Shed Lane and abutting the former Go-Kart-Track area, to be transferred to Sandylands Sports Centre.

## Extensive Refurbishment

The flooding over Christmas 2015 caused significant damage, especially to the Main Hall, Squash Court floors, Reception and Office. The insurance covered most of the £300,000 cost but additional funding was obtained from Craven District Council, Sport England and North Yorkshire County Council. Special thanks must go to the Finance Sub Committee for liaising with the Insurance company. The Sports Centre staff and the North Yorkshire Probation Team particularly helped with the extensive repainting that was required. The paint was paid for by means of a North Yorkshire County Councillor Budget Grant via Councillor Andy Solloway, one of the Trustees on the



## The Regeneration of Sandylands

*The Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre, known locally as Sandylands, is the main provider of comprehensive community sport and recreational facilities in Craven.*

A registered charity, it is run by a voluntary Management Committee and receives no council subsidies, despite it attracting over 200,000 people per year. It offers 5-a-side football, badminton, cricket, basketball, squash, martial arts, aerobics, table tennis and fitness. Outdoors is a full-sized floodlit 3G all-weather pitch and recently resurfaced, floodlit hard tennis courts.

The floods over Christmas caused significant damage throughout Sandylands necessitating extensive refurbishment. The insurance covered most of the £300,000 cost,

but some cash help was obtained from Craven District Council, Sport England, North Yorkshire County Council among others and it reopened on 28th June. Sandylands would like to give a special thanks to Craven Energies for their tremendous support during the refurbishment.

The 3G all-weather pitch is one of the most well-used facilities of its kind in the country and is used by Skipton Girls High School, Ermsay Grammar School and Craven College and is the venue for Skipton Primary Schools Football Tournament. Prolonged and regular

use led to a requirement for re-surfacing, in order to comply with FA standards. A £180,000 project undertaken by SIS (UK) Ltd of Maryport, Cumbria is due for completion at the end of August. Funding for this comprises donations from The Coulthurst Trust (£50,000), The Tarn Moor Estate (£15,000), Select Components Ltd of Skipton (£10,000), Skipton Building Society (£10,000), the Skipton BID Ltd (£7,500), North Yorkshire Police Community Fund (£5,000), The Rotary Club of Skipton (£5,000) and Yorventure (£6,000). A substantial loan has also been agreed with Skipton Building Society.

Since 1988, long-serving trustee Roger Beck, (lead member for fund raising and former Chairman of the voluntary Coulthurst Craven Sports Centre Management Committee), has now raised over £1.8 million for new and improved facilities. Over the last five years, Craven Energies have enjoyed working in partnership with Sandylands, helping them to become more self-sufficient in terms of generating



their own energy and heating by introducing solar PV and Biomass systems to reduce their dependence on fossil fuel as well as reducing their carbon footprint. LED lighting and proximity sensors installed throughout the centre have improved the lighting levels, whilst dramatically reducing their energy and maintenance costs. In addition to introducing renewables solutions, Craven Energies have fitted new emergency lighting and upgraded the electrical systems to ensure that the centre remains a safe environment for staff and visitors. It was Roger, who had the foresight and belief to push the renewable projects through. The energy savings and generation income for



the next twenty years has provided a lifeline for the centre.

Craven Energies are based in the North Barn on Broughton Hall Estate near Skipton, and are focused on working with and supporting the local and wider communities of the Craven area. The company provides a single point of contact, delivering a range of renewable and electrical services including energy audits, feasibility studies, LED lighting, Solar PV panels and Biomass boilers, all of which are underpinned by their electrical installation and maintenance activities: power and lighting, periodic inspection and testing, street lighting, emergency lighting, fire alarms, CCTV and

door entry systems. They have years of collective knowledge working within a wide range of enterprises, including business estates, commercial buildings, hospitals, schools, sports centres, landowners and farms. This experience helps them identify the right solution to meet their clients' needs.

The second annual Sports and Community Fayre will take place at Sandylands on Sunday 4th September 2016 and will be an opportunity to celebrate the refurbishment of the Sports Centre and the re-surfacing of the All-Weather Pitch. Visitors will also be able to take a close-up look at the Solar PV, Biomass and LED lighting installations and can learn how the sports centre is benefiting from embracing green technologies.

**Sandylands Sports Centre**  
Carlton New Road,  
Skipton BD23 2AZ  
01756 795181  
info@sandylands.org  
www.sandylands.org

**Craven Energies**  
North Barn, Broughton Hall  
Skipton BD23 3AE  
07156 831050  
enq@cravenenergies.co.uk  
www.cravenenergies.co.uk



*The floods over Christmas caused significant damage throughout Sandylands necessitating extensive refurbishment.*

Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee. The opportunity was also taken to replace all the lighting within the building to LED. The Sports Centre reopened on 28 June 2016. The 3G All-Weather Pitch and associated Changing Rooms and the Fitness Room remained open during the renovations. Two photographs (*previous page*) in the Aspire Magazine article of September 2016 showed the damage to the Main Hall floor and after the successful refurbishment.

### **Biomass System**

A full £160,000 Biomass System, using timber pellets, was installed at the Sports Centre during 2016 by Craven Energies. It provided all the heating and also most of the hot water requirements. The scheme was achieved by means of a grant from Skipton Building Society, funding from the Sports Centre and a substantial loan from Select Components Ltd of Skipton. Two Austrian Boilers were located in a small extension, which also accommodated the timber pellets store. The latter were fed into the two boilers by means of augers. Heat Exchangers were installed at various locations around the Sports Centre. The Aspire Magazine article of September 2016 also had a photograph showing the two boilers and some of the associated pipework.

### **LED Floodlighting to All-Weather Pitch**

In 2018, all eight floodlights surrounding the All-Weather Pitch were changed to LED by Craven Energies. The lighting housing and brackets were completely re-designed, as they had to be more robust. The lighting columns were also repainted.



In recognition of the installation of the Solar Panels, full Biomass System and LED throughout the Sports Centre (including the All-Weather Pitch floodlights), undertaken at a total cost of £227,000, Sandylands Sports Centre was presented with Silver in the national Sport and Leisure category at the Green Apple Awards run by The Green Organisation. The photograph shows Daile Coope (Sports Centre Manager) and Roger Beck (Vice-Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee) receiving the Award at a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament on 25 November 2019.

### **Resurfacing of 3G All-Weather Pitch**

The All-Weather Pitch was completely resurfaced in 2018. The Sports Centre were informed that the 3G carpet normally had a life expectancy of around 10 years, but, in our case, it had lasted 14 years. The work cost £180,000 and was undertaken by SIS Ltd of Cumbria. Funding comprised a substantial grant from The Coulthurst Trust and also grants from the North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Fund and Select Components Ltd of Skipton. The outstanding balance was achieved by means of a significant loan from Skipton Building Society. The opportunity was taken to incorporate additional pitch markings. The photograph (*below*) shows the existing 3G carpet being taken-up.





## **Further Improvements to Skipton Tennis Centre**

Considerable further improvements were made to Skipton Tennis Centre between 2018 and 2020. The two back Tennis Courts were re-surfaced, some LED floodlighting was installed around the front three surfaced Tennis Courts, and all the perimeter fencing, including the gate leading to the Tennis Clubhouse, was replaced and upgraded. The latter improvements were funded by means of Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain allocations from various housing developments in Skipton. The payments were received from Craven District Council, via Sandylands Sports Centre.

## **Improvements to foul drainage at Sandylands Sports Centre (also serving Skipton RUFC) and Skipton Tennis Centre**



New foul drainage pipes were laid from Sandylands Sports Centre (also serving Skipton RUFC) along the embankment and then via Skipton Town AFC and also from Skipton Tennis Centre (including a new Pump Chamber) via Skipton Town AFC, to the existing outlet near Skipton Town AFC car park, which linked directly into the main sewer in Engine Shed Lane. The original 1972 metal foul drainage pipe, which was in a poor condition, ran diagonally under the Football Pitch. The improvements required a Deed of Variation for an Easement, which was signed by the Trustees of the Sandylands Sports Centre and the Trustees of Skipton Town AFC. The route of the new foul drainage at Skipton Town AFC was between the edge of the Football Field and the Clubhouse. At Skipton Tennis Centre, the new Pump

Chamber and the initial foul drainage route from it was along the edge of the Sports Centre car park, in order to avoid the foundations of the approved Indoor Tennis Courts extension. The work was undertaken by Eddie B Webster and Sons of Cracoe in late 2020.

The improvements also resulted in the original 1972 metal pipe being sealed-off and the existing unsatisfactory 1969 Septic Tank serving the Skipton Tennis Centre Clubhouse being disconnected and emptied. G W Pumping Services of Leeds renewed and upgraded the Macerator Pumps at the Sports Centre and also installed Macerator Pumps in the new Pump Chamber serving Skipton Tennis Centre during early 2021. In order to achieve these improvements at Skipton Tennis Centre, the existing electricity supply was upgraded to Three Phase.

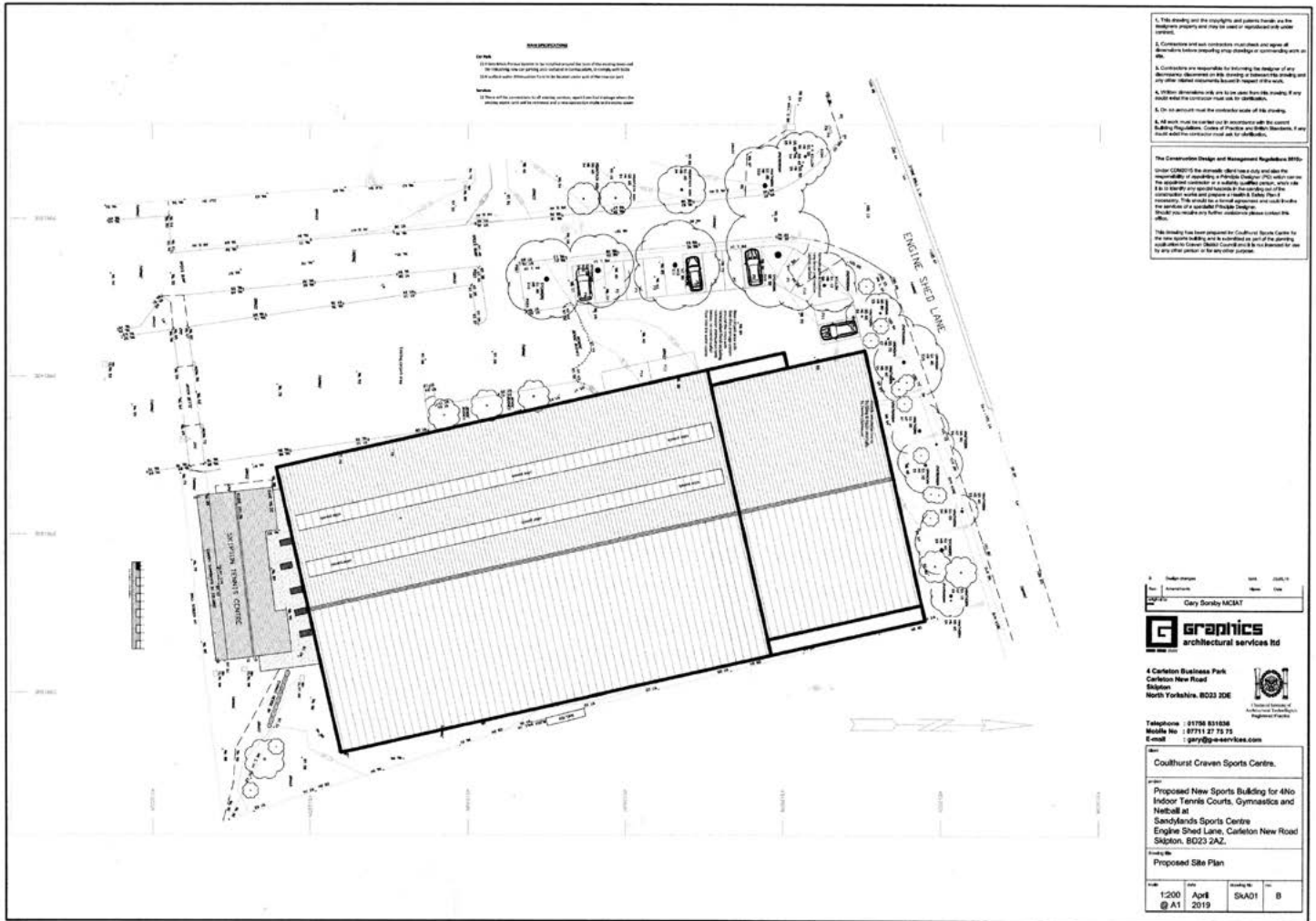
The total cost of these infrastructure improvements was around £40,000, funded primarily by a Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain allocation, via Craven District Council, and also Sports Centre funds and North Yorkshire County Councillor Locality Budgets via Councillor Andy Solloway. The photograph (left) shows a new foul drainage pipe being laid in a trench dug along the top embankment to the north of the All-Weather Pitch.

## **Four Indoor Tennis Courts Extension to Skipton Tennis Centre**

The planning application was submitted to Craven District Council on 11 June 2019, thanks to a generous donation from Nigel and Susan Baldwin (formerly Select Components Ltd of Skipton) which paid for the Topographical Survey undertaken by Sterling Services Ltd of Crosshills, all the planning drawings undertaken by Graphics Architectural Services Ltd of Lothersdale and also the required planning fee of £17,556.

There had been extensive consultations with both the Lawn Tennis Association and Craven District Council over the previous three to four years. Full Planning Permission was granted on 9 September 2019 under reference no. 2019/20610/FUL. A photograph of the submitted Location Plan, which appeared on the Sports Centre's website, shows the site abutting the rear elevation of the Tennis Centre Clubhouse. The proposed £700,000 scheme was boosted by a letter dated 2 March 2021 from the Lawn Tennis Association, confirming a £250,000





10-year interest-free loan under their Facility Loan Scheme, for three of the four Indoor Tennis Courts. Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain allocations were fully discussed with Craven District Council.

However, in late 2021, the cost of building materials (especially steel) and labour escalated, as a result of Covid-19. The cost of the proposed scheme then rose to around £1.5 million. The development had therefore to be urgently reassessed.

Meanwhile, a decision was taken to install a £70,000 Padel court, during March and April, on the site of the last remaining Grass Court. The

project was financed entirely by Skipton Tennis Centre. Local contractor A M Bowdin of Kelbrook undertook the ground works. It was opened on 6 May 2022 and became the first Padel court in Craven. Padel is one of the world’s fastest growing racket sports and is essentially a combination of Tennis and Squash played on a court roughly half the size of a tennis court. It is already proving to be popular. Two photographs (*below*) show before the start of the development on the last remaining grass court and also the completed Padel court.



Following a re-assessment of the approved extension at Skipton Tennis Centre, it was reluctantly decided to omit the building altogether. The amended scheme, costing around £400,000, will still provide three new outdoor Tennis Courts and two covered Padel Courts, the latter being located on the approved 4th Court. The development will still be sited on the approved footprint. The Principal Planning Officer at Craven District Council confirmed in an email dated 8 August 2022 that the foul drainage works undertaken at Skipton Tennis Centre in 2020 “commenced” the 2019 planning permission. This enables the approved extension to be built at a future date, when funding for it becomes available. A much-reduced Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain Allocation from Craven District Council of £17,594 will be used for the ground works and, hopefully, a future allocation of around £30,000 for later stages of the scheme. All the facilities have been fully costed, the details of the New Lease between Skipton Tennis Centre and Sandylands Sports Centre agreed, and a Business Plan completed. At the time of writing this book, The Lawn Tennis Association are still reviewing the re-submitted Loan Application for £250,000.

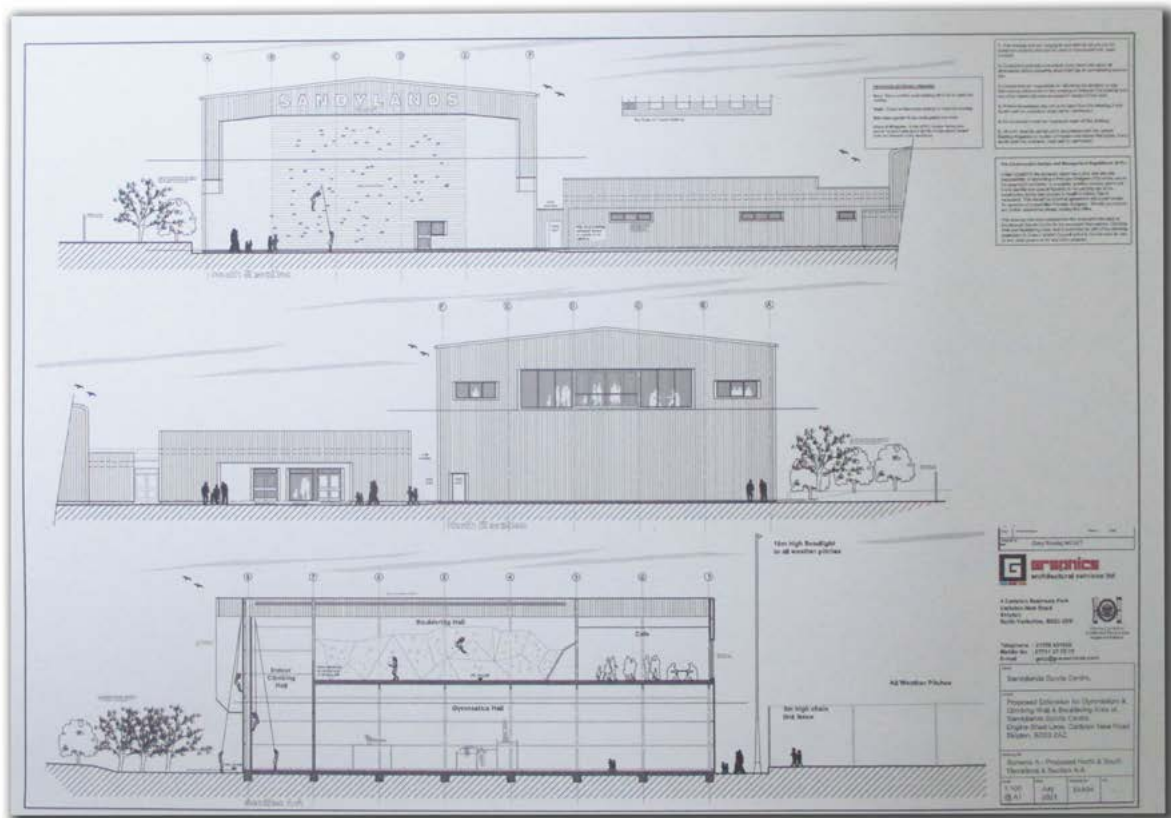
The amended scheme will be undertaken in 2023.

### **Extension to the All-Weather Pitch Changing Rooms Building to accommodate a Dedicated Gymnasium to the Ground Floor, Internal and External Climbing Walls and an associated Bouldering Area, Two Meeting Rooms and Café to the First Floor, together with Internal and External Alterations to Changing Rooms Building**

Following extensive consultations with British Gymnastics and Craven Gymnastics Club, the British Mountaineering Council and Troll Outdoors Ltd, together with Craven District Council in respect of Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain allocations, the planning application for the above development was submitted on 29 September 2021. The submission included reference to an email received from Sir Chris Bonington, the former President and one of the Patrons of the British Mountaineering Council and the conqueror of the South West Face of Everest in 1975, offering a few words of support. Graphics Architectural Services Ltd of Addingham undertook all the required planning drawings and a photograph shows one of the submitted drawings, indicating the north and south elevations

of the extension and also a Cross Section. Craven District Council, via the Section 106 Planning Gain allocation from the Broughton Road/Ings Avenue scheme, reimbursed the Sports Centre for the cost of producing the planning drawings and also the required planning fee of £11,088. During October 2021, Sandylands Sports Centre received an enquiry to possibly use the two Meeting Rooms for a Table Tennis League.

By late December 2021, fundraising by Sandylands Sports Centre had reached £185,000, with significant donations being received from The Coulthurst Trust, The Trustees of the Tarn Moor Estate and Skipton Building Society. Two low-interest loans, each of £100,000, were negotiated with Skipton Building Society to cover the outstanding balance and also for “bridging purposes” whilst Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain Allocation funding was received. Craven Gymnastics Club started fund-raising for all the required permanent Gymnastics equipment, which included the purchase of some equipment from a Gymnastics Club at Southport which unfortunately fell victim to Covid-19 and had to close. This equipment has been transported to Skipton and stored by Britannia Willis. Troll Outdoor Ltd made enquiries regarding Climbing Walls and Bouldering equipment. An objection to planning application no. 2012/23374/FUL was however received from The Environment Agency, who considered the application site to be in a floodplain. Sandylands Sports Centre therefore appointed JBA Consulting at Broughton near Skipton to undertake a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment. The 2017 Level 1 Craven District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was revised, having regard, in particular, to the three major Flood Alleviation Schemes undertaken in Skipton in 2018, the Gallow Syke Flood Water Management Scheme completed in 2021, account taken of the extensive drainage works to the All-Weather Pitch, and the recent culverting of Ings Beck and new surface water drain in Engine Shed Lane. JBA Consulting used the Environment Agency Flood Model for Skipton and also the latest 2021 remote sensing data. The flood event simulation modelling proved that the application site was not Flood Zone 3a (High Probability) or 3b (Functional Floodplain) but was actually Flood Zone 2 (Medium Probability). The revised detailed Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment was forwarded onto Craven District Council on 14 July 2020, who forwarded it onto the Environment



Agency. A response dated 26 September 2022 confirmed that additional modelling information was required. JBA Consultancy therefore undertook a further updated Flood Risk Assessment and sent this, together with a letter detailing the response, to the Environment Agency on 13 October 2022. It is hoped that this will enable the Environment Agency to withdraw their objection to the planning application.

Meanwhile, in respect of funding, the money raised by Sandylands Sports Centre has now risen to £215,000. Local contractors will be requested to submit Tenders for the proposed extension, as soon as the planning permission is granted. A future Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain Allocation of around £50,000 has also been agreed with Craven District Council. The total scheme however, due to the significant increase in the costs of materials (especially steel) and labour, is likely to have risen to over £600,000. This will require the Sports Centre to undertake further fundraising, notably to the Bernard Sunley Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council. Possible Legacies are also being pursued. During this period, the design for the internal alterations to the existing All-Weather Pitch Changing Rooms building, to re-configure the All-Weather Pitch Reception and create a comprehensive Disability Suite, is being pursued. A Building Regulations

Application has been submitted and the alterations will be undertaken by the Sports Centre over the Winter months. There has been considerable interest in Gymnastics following the nation's successes at the Commonwealth Games and European Championships and significant enquiries have been received about the proposed Climbing facilities.

It is still hoped that work will commence on the Gymnastics and Climbing scheme in 2023.

The successful projects at Sandylands Sports Centre undertaken since 1984, including the proposed Tennis and Padel development and the proposed Gymnastics and Climbing extension, both to be undertaken next year, will result in the total raised by means of grants, loans, donations and Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain Allocations, to around £3 million. The comprehensive community sporting facilities provided at the self-help Registered Charity at Sandylands Sports Centre, the "home of sport", will then likely generate usage of upwards of 300,000 person visits per year. The sustainable facilities will continue to benefit many residents in Craven and also those in adjoining parts of West Yorkshire and East Lancashire. They will also help to address the significant problems associated with community health and wellbeing, as well as the need for Disability and Inclusion provision.



# Skipton Building Society



Skipton Building Society is Sandylands Sports Centre's main private sponsor.

It was established on 1 May 1853 at the High Street, Skipton. The headquarters, built in 1990, is off The Bailey in Skipton. Skipton Building Society is the UK's fourth largest Building Society and has over one million members and over 100 branches. It has over 1700 employees and is the largest employer in the town. Its most important subsidiary is Connells Estate Agency, which operates nationally out of over 500 branches.

A mortgage was taken out with Skipton Building Society in 1990, which enabled the completion of the £170,000 extension the following year. It accommodated two glass-backed Squash Courts, together with associated tiered seating, and also two Rooms for Martial Arts and Aerobics.

Skipton Building Society's Headquarters at The Bailey in Skipton was extended in 1999. Off-site car parking was urgently required for staff during the construction period. Sandylands Sports Centre already had planning permission for a 91-space car park. A partnership between Sandylands Sports Centre, Skipton Building Society and Skipton Lawn Tennis Club enabled the £100,000 extended car park to be built. It was used by Skipton Building Society staff during the day and Sandylands Sports Centre during the evenings and at weekends. Skipton Building Society then "handed-over" the car park to Sandylands Sports Centre, as soon as the extension to their Headquarters at The Bailey was completed. The photograph of the completed car park appeared in the Craven Herald in March 1999 and is included in Chapter 18 entitled "Projects at Sandylands Sports Centre since 1984".

Skipton Building Society was the main private sponsor in respect of the £850,000 Full Size Floodlit 3G All-Weather Pitch and Changing Rooms Building, which was opened in May 2004. The £150,000 donation was agreed in 2003, which celebrated the 150th anniversary since Skipton

Building Society was first established. It significantly kick-started the required match funding. The photograph of the Plaque, recognising this fantastic partnership, is displayed near the All-Weather Pitch Reception.

Further grants and loans were received from Skipton Building Society for the successful installation of the Solar Panels in 2013, the full Biomass System in 2016 and the resurfaced 3G All-Weather Pitch in 2018.

In connection with the proposed Dedicated Gymnasium and Climbing Walls and Bouldering Area extension, Skipton Building Society not only made a £25,000 donation towards the scheme but also "put in place" two low-interest loans, each of £100,000, to cover the outstanding balance required and also for the necessary "bridging" purposes whilst the Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain allocation was received via Craven District Council.

I have been very fortunate to work closely with the last two Chief Executives at Skipton Building Society, namely the late John Goodfellow and also David Cutter who retired in April 2022. They have both been so supportive of Sandylands Sports Centre, a self-help community-based Registered Charity. It is hoped that this close relationship will continue when the new Chief Executive, Stuart Haire, takes up his post in late 2022.

Skipton Building Society has played an absolutely crucial role over the years, enabling the provision of such a comprehensive range of community sports facilities at Sandylands Sports Centre. Indeed, the significant contributions can be clearly seen by the number of times Skipton Building Society is referred to on the various acknowledgement boards and plaques displayed around the Sports Centre. Their name also appears on the front "tins" of each of the four squash courts. Sandylands Sports Centre is extremely grateful for the valuable support of Skipton Building Society.



## Chapter 20

# Craven District Council

The first reference I could find of the former Skipton Urban District Council supporting Sandylands Sports Centre was in the Year Book 1973-74. On 16 December 1970, Skipton Urban District Council decided to contribute £5,000 towards provision of sports facilities at Sandylands, under a scheme proposed by the Trustees of the Coulthurst Playing Fields. On 11 November 1972, Sandylands Sports Centre was officially opened, with finance provided by The Coulthurst Trust, the West Riding County Council, Skipton Urban District Council and the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council. The photographs show the plaque and also the articles in the Craven Herald dated 10 November 1972 and 17 November 1972.

It was two Craven District Councillors in the late 1980's, namely Councillor Frank Flowith of Threshfield and Councillor Norman Simpson of Calton, who were instrumental in recognising the worsening problems with the buildings at Sandylands Sports Centre. This led to a Report undertaken by Jim (James) Wales of Wales, Wales and Rawson, Chartered Architects, of Skipton, and the subsequent planning permission for the Fitness Room above the flat-roofed Changing Rooms building.

Craven District Council made a grant, together with Skipton Town Council, the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, the Rural Development Commission, Skipton Temperance Society, and the Coulthurst Trust, towards the new £50,000 Fitness Room which opened in December 1988.

Sandylands Sports Centre has received various grants of up to £5,000 from Craven District Council's Community Fund scheme over the years. Since 2017, this funding was superseded by the North Yorkshire County Councillor Locality Budget. North Yorkshire County Councillor Andy Solloway, who is also a Trustee on the voluntary Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee, has been instrumental in obtaining grants of between £1,000 to £2,000. These have helped to replace and upgrade specific sports equipment at the community-led Registered Charity.

It would be remiss of me to leave this section without referring to specific Councillors and Officers of Craven District Council, who, over the years, have been so very supportive of Sandylands Sports Centre. The Councillors, in no particular order, are Frank Flowith, Norman Simpson, Janet Gott, Robert Heseltine, John Sayer, Stephen Butcher, Andy Solloway and Chris Rose. The Officers, again in no particular order, are George Murray, John Scott, Alan Howell, Roger France, Jonathan Kerr, Bruce Dinsmore (see specific obituary Chapter 24), Paul Shevlin (Chief Executive), Sharon Hudson, Andrea Muscroft, Jill Heseltine, Elaine Hiser, Dennis McGlincy and Wendy Feather.

# Facilities and Usage at Sandylands Sports Centre in 2022

The existing sporting facilities at Sandylands Sports Centre, at the time of writing this book, comprise the Main Hall (used primarily for 5-a-side Football and also Badminton and Basketball); the Small Hall (used primarily for Table Tennis, Martial Arts and Gymnastics); the Sandylands Fitness Centre which includes the adjacent Aerobics Room; four Squash Courts (of which two are glass-backed); the Sports Injury Clinic; the Dry-Weather Changing Rooms serving the above facilities; the full-size floodlit All-Weather Pitch and associated Changing Rooms building; and Skipton Tennis Centre (which comprises the Tennis Clubhouse, five hard-surfaced Tennis Courts of which three are floodlit, and one floodlit Padel Court).

Sandylands Sports Centre has negotiated Leases with Skipton Tennis Centre, Sandylands Fitness Centre and Skipton Sports Injury Clinic, with Adam Cox, Matt Speres and Sarah Binner respectively. There is also a Lease with the Trustees of the Wellington Rifle and Pistol Club, who use a pre-fabricated building sited directly to the rear of the All-Weather Pitch Changing Rooms.

The extensive facilities attract over 250,000 person visits per year. During the day, the Sports Centre is used particularly by Skipton Girls' High School and also Ermysteds Grammar School and Craven College, together with Craven U3A. In the evenings and at weekends, the Sports Centre is used by clubs (especially for league matches), groups and individuals. The All-Weather Pitch, in particular, is one of the most well-used facilities of its kind in the country. Skipton Tennis Centre has over 1,000 tennis players per week. There is coaching, a full range of league matches are played and the Summer Camps are very well attended. The new floodlit Padel court which opened on 6 May 2022, the first in Craven, is already proving popular.

Since 2021, the Small Hall at Sandylands Sports Centre has also been used by the Craven Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme, run in conjunction with Airedale Hospital.

In 2022, Sandylands Sports Centre, in conjunction with Skipton Tennis Centre and the adjoining sports clubs, engaged with ten local Primary Schools, as part of their PE and Sports Premium funding, to run activity events at Sandylands. They have essentially been "taster" sessions. The various fun activities attracted 1,520 children. Special thanks go to Jonny Moore, Head Coach at Skipton Tennis Centre, for organising the events.

This year, Sandylands Sports Centre hosted the Broughton Road Community Centre Sports Days, with Badminton Coaching in the Main Hall during August. These were organised by Ruksana Mahmood, a Trustee on the voluntary Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee.

The Sports Centre has also forged close links with Skipton Step into Action, The Samaritans and various Disability Groups during 2022.

It is envisaged that the additional facilities at Skipton Tennis Centre and the Gymnastics/Climbing extension, both of which will hopefully open in 2023, are likely to increase usage to around 300,000 person visits per year.

Details of all the sports available at Sandylands Sports Centre are on the Sport Centre's Website, at [www.sandylands.org/sport](http://www.sandylands.org/sport).

## Chapter 22

### Staff at Sandylands Sports Centre in 2022

The current staff team at Sandylands Sports Centre are as follows:

**Daile Coope** – Centre Manager (since 2009)

**Jake Donald** – Deputy Centre Manager

**Andrew Hey** – also at Sandylands Fitness Centre

**Sarah Binner** – also Secretary and Bookkeeper to the Management Committee and who operates Skipton Sports Injury Clinic

**Vince Grant**

**Mia Petrucci**

**Geoff Tallon** – 18 years at the All-Weather Pitch

**Ryan Sumner**

**Tom Howson**

**Hakan Aydin-Osmond**

**Rachel Dennison** – Cleaner

Also

**Andrew Shipley** – Groundsman

**Raymond Kimberley** – Handyman

In respect of staff, mention must be made of Mel Luty who retired in 2020 after working at the All-Weather Pitch since it opened in 2004.

The dedicated and enthusiastic staff are, without doubt, the main resource at Sandylands Sports Centre.

Although not staff, it would also be totally remiss of me not to make special mention of three individuals who have given so much of their time over the years for the benefit of Sandylands Sports Centre. They are John Hawkins during the 1980's and 1990's and Philip Coope and Dave Spencer over the last 10 years. Philip and Dave are still helping "behind the scenes" today.

## Chapter 23

# Services

This section has been included to show how the problems with services at Sandylands Sports Centre have been satisfactorily overcome since 1984.

The track off Engine Shed Lane, originally serving Skipton Lawn Tennis Club, was improved in the early 1970's and considerably improved in 1992 when the original car park was resurfaced. The car parking was extended in 1999 and further car parking provided in association with the All-Weather Pitch in 2004.

The mains water supply was extended into the new Sports Centre from Skipton RUFC in 1972. An additional mains water supply, taken from lower down Engine Shed Lane, was installed to the All-Weather Pitch Changing Rooms in 2004.

The mains electricity supply to Sandylands Sports Centre is from a Pole Mounted Transformer, located directly south of the Rifle Club building. It also serves Skipton RUFC. A 3 Phase electricity supply was installed to Skipton Tennis Centre in 2021.

Foul drainage for Sandylands Sports Centre in 1972 comprised a Pump Chamber, located to the east of the above Pole Mounted Transformer, which was then pumped up to the mains sewer in Engine Shed Lane via a metal pipe running diagonally under Skipton Town AFC Football Field. This system also served Skipton RUFC. The Pump Chamber was renewed in 2004 as part of the All-Weather Pitch development. In 2020, two new powerful Macerator Pumps were installed in the Chamber and the new foul drain re-routed along the top of the

embankment and then across Skipton Town AFC land, between the football field and the Clubhouse, and to the existing foul drainage outlet leading to the mains sewer in Engine Shed Lane. The existing 1972 metal pipe was "sealed". Foul drainage for Skipton Lawn Tennis Club, which was donated to the Sports Centre in 2005, comprised a 1969 Septic Tank located near the fence to the former Skipton LMS Football Field. This was constructed when the new Tennis Clubhouse was built. Between 2020 and 2021, Sandylands Sports Centre installed a completely new foul drainage system to serve Skipton Tennis Centre. This comprised a new Pump Chamber to the edge of the Sports Centre car park, installation of two powerful Macerator Pumps and a new foul drain along the top embankment and via Skipton Town AFC land to the existing outlet, which leads directly into the mains sewer in Engine Shed Lane. The existing 1969 Septic Tank was completely emptied in 2022 and will be "filled-in". The new foul drainage scheme was only made possible due to the cooperation between Sandylands Sports Centre and Skipton Town AFC, which resulted in a Deed of Easement being signed by both parties.

Surface water drainage for the area is via existing pipes to the south, which eventually run into Ings Beck. An Attenuation Tank (for rainwater and surface water storage which is then controlled by a flow chamber) is to be located directly south of the proposed Gymnastics and Climbing extension, and then connected into the existing system.



## Chapter 24

### Bruce Dinsmore

Bruce Dinsmore, the Sports Development Officer at Craven District Council from 2002 until 2020, played an absolutely vital role in the development of Sandylands Sports Centre. Bruce laid the foundations for the success of the community-based Sports Centre. He was very well respected and never afraid to “put his head above the parapet”.

Unfortunately, Bruce (1967-2021) had a sudden stroke in January 2020 and never returned to Craven District Council. He had another severe stroke and died on 17 November 2021.

My first meeting with Bruce was at the Craven District Football Development Forum, held at Craven District Council offices, in November 2002. The Forum overwhelmingly endorsed the bid for a 3G All-Weather Pitch and Changing Rooms at Sandylands Sports Centre. Craven District Council employed a Leisure Consultant to write the bid. The application for a full size floodlit 3G Synthetic Turf Pitch and associated Changing Rooms building at Sandylands Sports Centre was submitted to the Football Foundation in February 2003. Bruce had a major input to this document. In August 2003, Sandylands Sports Centre was informed by the Football Foundation that they had approved the bid for £562,500 towards the £850,000 scheme. The photograph in the Craven Herald on 19 September 2003 in Chapter 19 entitled “Projects at Sandylands Sports Centre since 1984” shows Elisabeth Hawkins (Sports Centre Manager), Roger Beck (Chairman of the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee) and Bruce at the start of the development. The full-size floodlit 3G All-Weather Pitch and associated Changing Rooms building were opened in May 2004.

After re-joining the voluntary Sports Centre Management Committee in late 2010, I was re-acquainted with Bruce once again in early 2011. Bruce, Daile Coope and I combined to submit a rather complicated application to Sport England for an Inspired Facilities Grant of £50,000, towards the modernisation of the original dry-weather changing

facilities at the Sports Centre. The application was successful. The total refurbishment, which eventually cost around £90,000, was undertaken in 2011. The required additional funding was provided by the Sports Centre.

Bruce’s enthusiasm and encouragement was vital for the installation of 68 Solar Panels in 2013, the refurbishment of the Sports Centre in early 2016 following the flooding in December 2015, the installation of a full Biomass System using timber pellets in 2016, the resurfacing and upgrading of the All-Weather Pitch in 2018 and also the upgrading of the existing floodlighting to LED at the All-Weather Pitch later in 2018. The latter two projects were particularly significant. Bruce calculated the additional costs of the comprehensive upgrading compared to a simple “like-for-like” replacement, which lead directly to some of the first Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain Allocations being received by Sandylands Sports Centre.

It was also Bruce who arranged and chaired the first meeting of the Sandylands Community Sports Hub on 18 July 2019, held at the Narrowboat in Skipton. He announced that there could well be over £1 million of Section 106 Agreement Planning Gain allocation money for Sandylands. This money began to filter through from 2020 onwards.

In 2019, Sport England started to attach great importance to Governance, which had to be adhered to as part of any Grant Application. Bruce advised on the Governance documents required at Sandylands Sports Centre, which the Management Committee adopted in late 2019 and early 2020. In particular, Governance made it absolutely clear that that main decision-making body at Sandylands Sports Centre was the Sovereign Management Committee, not the various Sub-Committees. This led directly to three Members of the Finance Sub-Committee resigning in late 2019, as they were not prepared to adhere to this fundamental principle.

Bruce was fully involved in the early discussions between Sandylands Sports Centre, Skipton Tennis Centre, Craven District Council and the Lawn Tennis Association in respect of the proposed Indoor Tennis Courts extension. When officially consulted on the planning application, his response, which detailed exactly how the scheme would fully integrate with and also be fully compliant with Sport England's policies, was vital. Full Planning Permission was subsequently granted on 9 September 2019.

Again, it was Bruce who was instrumental in ensuring that, for the first time, Sandylands was officially recognised as the main Sporting Hub in Craven in the new Craven District Local Plan. The latter was formerly Adopted in November 2019.

Bruce made the initial contacts in respect of Gymnastics, originally proposed within the Indoor Tennis Courts Extension and then later in the combined Gymnastics and Climbing scheme. He considered that the two sports would satisfactorily complement each other. As a result, I followed-up his initial contacts with Craven Gymnastics Club and Troll Outdoors UK. The proposed extension to the All-Weather Pitch Changing Rooms building accommodates a Dedicated Gymnasium to the ground floor, indoor and outdoor Climbing Walls, an associated Bouldering Area, together with two Meeting Rooms and a Café to the first floor. It had the full support of British Gymnastics and the

British Mountaineering Council. However, the Environment Agency objected and a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken by JBA Consulting of Broughton near Skipton, on behalf of Sandylands Sports Centre. Due to the significant increase in the cost of materials (especially steel) and labour this year, further funding is currently being undertaken. The Sports Centre are nevertheless hopeful that the extension will be undertaken in 2023. A plaque will be placed in the entrance corridor to the new Gymnastics/Climbing development in honour of Bruce.

Bruce had a passion for community sports provision and his death was a great loss to all sports at Sandylands. However, his legacy will live on.

# Elisabeth Hawkins

Elisabeth Phyllis Hawkins, the Sandylands Sports Centre Manager from 1972 to 2006, was an absolute rock and successfully guided the Sports Centre from its initial meeting on 11 November 1972 until her retirement in December 2006. This amounted to an unbelievable 34 years of dedication and commitment to Sandylands Sports Centre.

It is understood that she was appointed by Harry H Crabtree (Secretary of the Sandylands Ground Trustees) in 1972.

Elisabeth oversaw the major transition to a Registered Charity in August 1984 and the also the most ambitious project ever undertaken at the Sports Centre, namely the 3G All-Weather Pitch in 2003/2004.

Elisabeth (1931-2022) died on 12 April 2022.

I did not know Elisabeth from 1972 until 1986, although I had seen her on numerous occasions whilst using the Sports Centre to play Badminton and Squash during the late 1970's and early 1980's. She recalled that, during this period, Jessie Blossom Coulthurst of The Coulthurst Trust often visited the Sports Centre. Jessie particularly enjoyed watching Ju Jitsu.

I worked closely with Elisabeth from 1986 when I joined the voluntary Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee representing Badminton. This was a difficult time for the Sports Centre, especially as the buildings were in a particularly poor state of repair. However, once Craven District Council became involved in 1987, many hours were spent discussing what the priorities were and how the necessary funding could be obtained. The first project I became involved in with Elisabeth was the Fitness Room, which opened in 1988. A year later, in 1989, I became Chairman. I then worked even more closely with Elisabeth until I stood down as Chairman in 2005, following the opening of the £850,00 3G All-Weather Pitch and associated Changing Rooms building in May 2004.

During my Chairmanship, Elisabeth rarely had any time off. Whilst often described as formidable but fair, I never, at any time, had cause to question either her honesty or integrity. Indeed, I well remember in the late 1980's, when income was extremely limited, that she informed me that for one month there were not enough funds to pay her salary. Elisabeth, however, as always, took all this in her stride.

Section 19 of this book details the many projects undertaken at the Sports Centre since 1984. Elisabeth played a key role in their success, up to her retirement in 2006. In particular, during the 3G All-Weather Pitch and associated Changing Rooms building project during 2003 and 2004, I was very fortunate to have the continuous support of not only Elisabeth but also Bruce Dinsmore, Craven District Council's Sports Development Officer. It still remains the largest project that the community-run Sports Centre has undertaken. The coordination of the two main contractors, namely Field Turf for the 3G All-Weather Pitch and Roger Tiffany Ltd for the associated Changing Rooms building, whilst at the same time keeping the Sports Centre open during this period, was no easy task. This however did not phase Elisabeth. The successful 3G All-Weather Pitch opened in May 2004 and it is now one of the most well used facilities of its kind in the country.

I remember that it was Elisabeth who negotiated the school contracts each year with North Yorkshire County Council, notably for Skipton Girls' High School and Ermysteds Grammar School. These two secondary schools, together with Craven College, still comprise vital daily income to the Sports Centre today. Elisabeth also negotiated all the contracts for other users such as 5-a-side Football, Skipton Badminton Club and the Martial Art Clubs, as well as for Bradford City in the Community. Many of these clubs and organisations still use the Sports Centre today. In respect of Squash, she was ably supported by the late Derek Ingham, who was a long-standing Squash Coach and also a Trustee



on the Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee for many years.

Long before the invention of mobile phones, it was often said at Sandylands Sports Centre Management Committee meetings that Elisabeth and I must have a “direct line”. It certainly seemed like that. We were constantly discussing all matters relating to the Sports Centre.

Elisabeth appears in many of the photographs in this book following the successful completion of the various projects, is mentioned in all the Committee Minutes from 1972 to 2006, and her name is often seen on the various Conveyances witnessing a Trustees’ signature.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Elisabeth’s husband, John. His career was in textiles and he had a good knowledge of accountancy. I well remember in the 1990’s that the Main Hall, in particular, was in need of refurbishment. However, it was vital not to interrupt its use as the income generated was essential. John therefore decided that the only option was to undertake all the repainting during the night. So, this is what he did! John also helped Elisabeth in the early years with the bookkeeping. I well remember that John was instrumental in once recovering a large amount of VAT for the Sports Centre, which was very useful for important projects.

I often telephoned Elisabeth following her retirement in 2006. She always asked about the Sports Centre. In particular, she was keen to know what projects were being undertaken and who was still on the Management Committee.

Elisabeth Hawkins was, without doubt, an absolute stalwart at Sandylands Sports Centre. She laid the foundation for the successful community-led organisation. Elisabeth was such an imposing and reliable Sports Centre Manager. As the self-help Registered Charity is rapidly approaching its 50th anniversary on 11 November 2022, she will be fondly remembered. In recognition of her unstinting 34 years as Sports Centre Manager, it has been decided that the proposed Gymnastics/Climbing extension at the Sports Centre will be named the “Elisabeth Hawkins Extension”, in her memory.

## Chapter 26

# Covid-19

This section has been included due to the impact Covid-19 had on community sports provision at Sandylands Sports Centre.

When Covid-19 struck in early 2020 (the First National Lockdown), the Sports Centre successfully applied under the HMRC Job Retention Scheme. As a result, none of the 16 staff were made redundant. The Sports Centre also submitted successful applications to the Sport England Emergency Fund, Government Business Grants via Craven District Council and also to The Football Foundation.

The Sports Centre reopened in a limited capacity on 25 July 2020. The 3G All-Weather Pitch, in particular, was well used for junior football. Skipton Girls' High School, Ermysted's Grammar School and Craven College returned as part of their educational curriculum.

The Sports Centre had to unfortunately close again on 5 November 2020 due to the Second National Lockdown. Thankfully, the above schools continued to use the sports facilities.

When the Sports Centre reopened on 2 December 2020, four Indoor Sports, namely Gymnastics, Badminton, Squash and Basketball, returned subject to satisfactory social distancing.

The Third National Lockdown on 4 January 2021 included schools so the Sports Centre had to unfortunately close again. We had to rely on the HMRC Extended Furlough Scheme and further Government Business Support Grants via Craven District Council.

Skipton Girls' High School, Ermysted's Grammar School and Craven College returned on 8 March 2021 and also one-to-one football coaching returned on the 3G All-Weather Pitch.

The Sports Centre partly reopened on 17 May 2021 and fully reopened on 19 July 2021.

Martial Arts was the last of the sports to return during August 2021.

## **Energy Crisis, Climate Changes and Cost-of-Living Increases**

The Energy Crisis, Climate Changes and the Cost-of-Living Increases will all impact on Sandylands Sports Centre.

The Management Committee recognised the need to address Green Energy with the installation of Solar Panels in 2013, the wood pellet Biomass System in 2016, and LED lighting to all the Sports Centre in 2016 and the All-Weather Pitch Floodlighting in 2018. The proposed Gymnastic and Climbing project incorporates Solar Panels to the west-facing roof pitch, the existing Biomass System extended into the new development, and all lighting will be LED.

The need to address Climate Changes was highlighted following the flooding in December 2015. The subsequent extensive refurbishments undertaken at Sandylands Sports Centre in 2016 included Flood Barriers to all external doors and the Sports Centre joining the Environment Agency's Early Warning System (Flood-Line Warnings Direct). Climate Changes were further highlighted in the recent site-specific Flood Risk Assessment undertaken by JBA Consulting, as part of the planning application for the proposed Gymnastic and Climbing scheme. A proposed underground Attenuation Tank, located directly south of the extension, will contain and regulate the flow of excess surface water from the development. The finished floor level of the proposed development will also be raised 300mm above the existing ground level of the site.

The Cost-of-Living Increases are constantly being addressed by the Management Committee but, at the same time, they are also very mindful of their commitment to provide affordable community sports provision and, in particular, their Vision Statement of "Providing Excellent Sports and Leisure Facilities for All". The last Fee increases were January 2020 and the Management Committee, at their meeting in September 2022, resolved to hold the existing Fees until 2023.



## Chapter 28

# Conclusion

Sandylands Sports Centre, a self-help community-based Registered Charity and the main provider of comprehensive community sport and recreational facilities in Craven, is probably unique. I was told that there was only one other such comparable organisation in Yorkshire and Humberside, providing a similar range of community facilities. However, I have never been informed where it is! Sandylands Sports Centre is however, without doubt, clearly unique in Craven.

The foresight and vision of John and Jessie Coulthurst is truly astounding. To lay the foundations of such a community-based organisation, which puts no strain on the public purse is, without doubt, extraordinary. The transfer of Sandylands Sports Centre to a Registered Charity in 1984, operating in accordance with a Declaration of Trust, was a masterstroke. To then ensure that it is not only managed by those playing sport in the area but also representatives from North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council and Skipton Town Council on the voluntary Management Committee, was yet another extremely sound decision.

The scale of the present organisation can be judged by the fact that since 1988, over £2 million has been raised, by means of grants, loans, donations and Planning Gain Allocations, for new and improved community sporting facilities at Sandylands Sports Centre. The two new projects, namely the Indoor Tennis Courts and the Gymnasium and Climbing scheme, will add a further £1 million of new provision. This will significantly increase sports participation at Sandylands Sports Centre and also result in a further comprehensive range of community facilities that the Registered Charity provides.

The benefits for the whole community, in respect of health and wellbeing and also tackling the problems of inclusion and obesity, are immeasurable.

Sandylands Sports Centre not only serves the residents of Craven but is also used by many from West Yorkshire and East Lancashire.

Sandylands Sports Centre is, without doubt, an extremely important community asset. Indeed, the important role of sport was aptly described by Lord Coe in 2020, when he stated that “Sport is the most important social worker in any community”.

At the time of writing this book, there is uncertainty as to how the reorganisation of Local Government, when Craven District Council is disbanded in April 2023 and all administrative functions are taken over by the new North Yorkshire Council, will affect the provision of community sports facilities in Craven. It is earnestly hoped that the new Council will fully support the self-help Registered Charity at Sandylands Sports Centre.

I can truly say that it has been a privilege to play my part in successfully implementing the vision of John and Jessie Coulthurst. The comprehensive range of sporting facilities that Sandylands Sports Centre now provides, which are available for use by all the community, will hopefully assist in tackling the serious problems of health and wellbeing.



**Telephone:** 01756 795181  
**Website:** [www.sandylands.org](http://www.sandylands.org)  
**Email:** [info@sandylands.org](mailto:info@sandylands.org)

**Sandylands Sports Centre**

Engine Shed Lane  
Off Carleton New Road  
Skipton  
North Yorkshire  
BD23 2AZ