

References to "Ayton's cricket team" can be found as far back as 1844 in the Cleveland Repertory and Stokesley Advertiser, where details of matches between Ayton and Stokesley are recorded.

The earliest picture I have located is the one of the Great Ayton 1st eleven in 1922 when they won the Cleveland Mines League.

It appears that the existing club was formed about 1921. Approximately 20 interested parties invested £2 each to purchase "tackle" (equipment). This included Joe Harbottle, Frank Dodsworth, William Long, Bert Heavyside, G. Wilson, and H.S. Wilson. The tackle was bought from Jack Hatfield senior who started the famous Jack Hatfield sports outfitters in Middlesbrough and who has a strong connection with Great Ayton. Jack's mother was visiting Great Ayton on 15 August 1893 when she went into labour and gave birth in one of the cottages on the High Green. (Jack jnr told me it is the cottage where the lady who does flowers for the church lives!!) In their first season they played friendly matches against teams such as Chop Gate and St. Lukes. In their second season they joined the West Cleveland League.

The first cricket ground used by the club was a field in Monkabecque, rented from Mr Thompson Johnson. After 2 years they moved to a field in front of the Tile Sheds farm. Bowls was also played here. The "tackle" was kept in an old tramcar. The cricket captain at that time was Mr G. Wilson, and in 1925 they won the West Cleveland League Championship.

Unfortunately Mrs Winn complained of damage to hedges and the club had to seek a new field. The cricket captain, Mr G. Wilson, appealed to the agents of Squire Jackson to have use of the present field at Leven Court, and he was successful.

The cricket pavilion is thought to have been built sometime between 1925 and 1930. In 1931 the cricket club was given the cricket field on a 99 year peppercorn rent, in memory of Annie Backhouse Kitching. Cricket was also played at "The Grange", probably stated by Noel Kitching's father. in the early 1900's. All the matches were friendly games, and you could only play if you were invited. Matches were usually on a Thursday and at weekends.

The photographs below are on display at the Great Ayton Workingmen's Club.



Village Cricket 1930^s

Jack Bickerton	Jack Wilkes	Ellis Heavyside	Bill Heavyside	Alan Heavyside	Jack Harrison	Billy Bell
Geo(Plumber) Wilson	Bert Wilson	Sid Stockdale	Maurice Heavyside	Unknown	Will Kitching	



GREAT AYTON CRICKET CLUB
NYSD League Division B Champions and Haith Cup Winners 1977

Andrew
 Readman
 (scorer)

Keith
 Brown

John
 Jones

Bob
 Milburn

Phillip
 Readman

Keith
 Readman

Phil
 Willison

Gary
 Readman

(Captain)

Ian
 Russell

Tony
 Harrison

Arthur
 Walker

Maurice
 Bell

George
 Little
 (Secretary)