

40 NOT OUT!

History of Augustinians CC

By Duncan Robinson

This year Augustinians Cricket Club celebrates its 40th anniversary. The celebrations mark the occasion in 1967 when the staff, pupils and former pupils of St. Augustine's Voluntary School decided to form a cricket club of their own. In 1968 they joined the Huddersfield and District Cricket Association.



The 1982 squad

During this period Augustinians played their matches at All Saints School. Their first major success was the winning of the Crossland Trophy by the 2nd XI in 1973. The team followed up this triumph by reclaiming the trophy the following year. However, the set-up was

disrupted and new personnel were brought in during the late 1970s when a merger was completed with another local school, St. Gregory's Grammar.

The club went from strength to strength after this transition and in 1981 the 1st XI won the Section 'A' championship. The side, under the captaincy of Harold Ainley, went on to retain the championship in 1982 and 1983 and followed this up by winning the Lumb Cup in 1984.

However, it was in 1985 that Augustinians truly lived up to their title as 'Team of the '80s'. This was the year that they achieved the remarkable feat of the 'treble'. Not only did they win the Section 'A' championship for a fourth time, but they also secured the Association outdoor 6-a-side title and the 2nd XI again picked up the Crossland Trophy.

It was in 1990 that Augustinians relocated to Laund Hill in Salendine Nook where they still currently play their home fixtures. The complex is home to the Huddersfield YMCA and this has helped the club as they can now recruit YMCA members. The decision to switch grounds came about as it was felt the club had lost its identity with the school. The arrangement had also not been ideal as the club had been restricted in what they could do with the cricket field during the week because it was part of the school's premises.

The current Augustinians elevens have not quite lived up to the success of their predecessors in recent years but the club as a whole is steadily growing in stature. They are now the only Huddersfield-based club in the Halifax Cricket League. They also have their own website and are regarded as the cricket section of the Huddersfield YMCA. Augustinians boast two senior teams and a Sunday XI as well as junior sides at under-11, under-13, under-15 and under-17 levels.

Many important figures from the club's past still remain in some capacity. Former 1st XI captain Harold Ainley is now the 2nd XI skipper and also volunteers in other capacities and one of the founder members of the club, and also former player, John Harold, is now club president. So it is clear that Augustinians Cricket Club haven't lost touch with their roots despite all the changes over the years and it will be no surprise to see them reflecting on another successful 40 years come 2047.