

'MR AUGUSTINIANS' AND THE WEST INDIAN FAST BOWLER...

Profile of John Harold by Duncan Robinson

It is easy to see why John Harold is known as 'Mr Augustinians' at the club. He has done virtually everything there is to do and has fulfilled practically every role.

Harold joined St. Augustine's, a thriving sports school, as a teacher in 1964. By 1968, a new cricket club, Augustinians, had joined the Huddersfield League.



The man himself recalls, "Myself and the head of department, Brian Doran, realised that we had an excellent crop of young players but there was no tradition of going on and playing, so we started a side to continue their cricket teaching."

Harold has been the president of Augustinians CC throughout the club's existence and remains in that role to this day. He has, at one time or another, held every single position on the committee and has also captained the club at all levels. Indeed, he only stopped playing last year.

Furthermore, Harold has also been a coach, as he puts it, "for donkey's years", and, like many at the club, takes great pride in the emergence of the junior teams. He says, "I've constantly coached and I'm busy throughout the winter and summer. It's been a good experience and I'm very pleased with the juniors."

Away from Augustinians, Harold has been a league representative and was president of the Association league for eleven years.

As a player, Harold was an all-rounder and won many awards for both batting and bowling, "like many of the lads", as he modestly puts it. However, not many of the lads have gained eight wickets at the cost of just one run, something Harold achieved in a match against Lockwood.

He, quite understandably, takes great pride in this and explains, "That was my best individual achievement in my time at the club. The one run was

actually very unfortunate because it was a wide and it was on the very day that the new rule came in about wides going down to the bowler!”

Harold’s most recent award came just two years ago when he won the Sunday League bowling award. This was no mean feat considering bowlers can bowl only a maximum of ten overs, so there are a lot of bowlers competing for the award and less time to shine.

Another highlight of Harold’s playing career was when, as part of centenary celebrations, he played for an Association representative side against a West Indian select team.



Playing for the opposition was West Indian bowling legend Michael Holding (above). Although not renowned for his ability with a bat, the Jamaican does hold the record for most sixes in a Test career hit by a player with fewer than 1000 career runs.

However, he was brought crashing down to earth by John Harold who bowled him out. ‘Mr Augustinians’ recalls, “He wasn’t too happy about that but he was a lovely guy and he came and changed with us in our changing rooms and had a chat with us.”