

YOUNG GUNS GO FOR IT!

Augustinians Juniors by Duncan Robinson

The thriving youth set-up at Augustinians has many people at the club raving about the prospects for the future.

The club now runs sides at under-11, under-13, under-15 and under-17 levels; this is in stark contrast to when the club first started out and they only fielded teams in the under-13 and under-15 leagues.

The progress of the juniors has been described by Harold Ainley as “very positive”, by John Harold as “very pleasing”, and “the way for the club to progress” by Paul Walton.

The improvement of the junior section of the club has been attributed largely to the modern and extensive coaching handed out to the youngsters.

Up to under-17 level the coaching is done indoors and is taken very seriously by nine qualified coaches. The club now owns their own bowling machine, all-weather strip, portable nets and new and exciting coaching apparatus.

All these new additions to the coaching infrastructure have helped improve the already high standard of the juniors. By introducing these things at as young a level as possible, the players have got used to them before they step up to play their cricket for the senior sides.

The under-13 side has enjoyed particular success over the years. Augustinians were one of the original eight teams in the under-13 league and they still remain, largely because of the tradition.

The side has been to finals and won several leagues. They were also the first English school side to tour Holland, where they were based in Arnhem. However, on this particular trip they were hampered by having to play on mats which they were not used to. This resulted in them not being as successful as they perhaps might have been.



At under-15 level, Augustinians reached the Yorkshire final at Ampleforth (above) and were beaten by just two runs by very strong opposition. The reason for this loss was partly explained by the fact that they were “totally overawed” by the occasion, according to the headmaster of the opposing school.

The under-11s have strengthened in recent years and won their section and beat the winners of the other section. They also narrowly lost in the cup final to deny them the ‘double’.

At Augustinians the development of the youngsters has been significantly aided by the addition of the Sunday XI. The reason for this is that the younger players are given an opportunity to play at this higher level against much more experienced cricketers.

The team has been very successful in recent years, winning the league four times with a very young side. This aspect of the Augustinians club attracts players because they know they will be given an opportunity with both bat and ball.

The next step up from the Sunday XI is the 1st XI and last season four under-17 players tasted 1st XI cricket as well as seven starring for the 2nd XI.