

# YOUTH IS THE FUTURE

## Profile of Paul Walton by Duncan Robinson

Local lad Paul Walton has been a member of Augustinians Cricket Club since 1975. Having started off as a player, he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes in various roles and is currently the club secretary. He also still occasionally turns out for the Sunday XI when work allows. In and among all this, he also finds time to coach a junior side so it certainly cannot be said that he does not give back to his club.



### Paul in 1988 with his teammates

Walton has been a loyal servant to Augustinians for over thirty years and spends much of his time attending meetings and other events. This is all the more impressive considering he has a very time-consuming job away from the club. This has meant that he does not get to play as much cricket as he would ideally like and he feels it is “not fair to play unless I can give it my all and always be available for selection”.

Huddersfield-based, he has a fierce competitive streak and believes that, “if you are going to take part in something then you should give it all your focus”. He gives this as the reason that he does not get to pursue many other interests outside cricket, though he clearly loves the game. This being said, he is also a keen motor racing fan and attends many events when he gets the chance, although he stresses, “I do not take part!”

During his many years at the club, Walton has become known as always the last man to ask for a lift to an away game. This reputation is indisputably deserved as he has had a tendency to get lost over the years! He confessed,

“I have got lost on a number of occasions and for one game I was responsible for myself and half the team arriving an hour late!”

This story is not one that Walton looks back on with great pride but he describes his biggest regret during his time at Augustinians as not breaking into the team during the successful 1980s. He explains, “I was 12<sup>th</sup> man for many finals but I never actually played and I do wish I had done.”

Walton sees the future as very bright for Augustinians and looks upon the many junior teams with much pride. “We started off with just one team,” he states, “now we have teams all the way up through the age groups.” He also believes the club should “live and die” by youngsters and feels they need to work harder in getting more youngsters and keeping them involved.

His opinion is, “We lose 70% of kids to university or work which means not as many are forcing their way into the first team as should be the case.” Walton goes on, “We need to push the kids forward and move up the divisions. We should be using more youngsters and this is the aim for the future.”