

‘MOST OF THE MEN ARE MARRIED TO THE SPORT!’

Interview with Hilary Holmes (Linthwaite CC) by Muni Rashid



❖ What's your role at Linthwaite CC is and what does that involve?

Answer I am secretary at the club. There are a lot of jobs that I do, I can't possibly name them all, but I think on the whole I bring organisation to the club.

❖ Tell me Hilary, how did you become involved with the club and cricket in general?

Answer Well I became secretary of Linthwaite in about 1991 or 1992; sorry I can't remember the exact year! My husband and son played cricket and I used to go and support them and I guess things progressed from there! My first job was as a tea lady at Emley CC and it has progressed from there. To be honest though I have been brought up with cricket since I was about two years old - my family were involved in cricket. One way of putting it is that cricket has been drilled in to me since childhood! Just like today you see families who are obsessed with football, well for me and my family it was cricket.

❖ **Wow! So it's a family thing! It must have had a pretty big influence on you as you are massively involved to this day! OK Hilary do you enjoy being part of the team at Linthwaite? What is the environment like to work in?**

Answer Oh yes I love working at the club, everyone is so friendly. It has got better over the years though. I mean improvements that have been made to the ground have helped us to develop as a club, it has become a nicer place for us to work in. Also the emergence of junior teams and having a first and second team is a great asset to the club.

❖ **How do the male members of the club treat you? Do you feel that their attitudes have changed over the years?**

Answer They treat me very well, they always have done. There has not been much female input at the club. I mean most of the men at the club are married to the sport! So they welcome any females at the club! At the moment we have a young tea lady and everyone gets on very well with her.

❖ **Are there any other roles that women play at your club?**

Answer Well, besides the tea lady it is a hugely male-populated environment. We do have a bowling club too and we have men's and women's bowling teams - this creates a good atmosphere among the teams and a sense of togetherness. Although a lot of mothers, wives and girlfriends come and offer their support, unfortunately that is as far as it goes.

❖ **How involved are ethnic minorities at your club?**

Answer We are a mixed group of people. Just last week a West Indian professional (Deighton Butler) arrived at the club and he has mixed in very well with the others. We are also involved with ethnic minorities on the social side - for example we have toured Barbados and Australia and met some very lovely people, and in return they have come to stay with us at Linthwaite.

❖ **Thank you very much Hilary you have been very helpful, there is just one last question I would like to ask you and then that is it! Are you happy at your club?**

Answer Yes I am, it is a lovely place to work in. I would love for more people to be involved especially with the improvements that the club has made. I would also love for the community to become more involved, I know that cricket will never become as popular as football but I think that the community should be more aware of the sport and what is has to offer.