

NEAR NEIGHBOURS!

Huddersfield YMCA RUFC by Duncan Robinson

One bonus of Augustinians Cricket Club sharing their Laund Hill premises at Salendine Nook is that they have built a connection with the Huddersfield YMCA and the other teams that play there. The main advantage comes in being associated with Huddersfield YMCA Rugby Union Football Club.



Huddersfield YMCA RUFC was formed in 1927 by six YMCA members who had up until then been playing their rugby for Huddersfield RUFC. The ground and clubhouse are still on the original site, although there have been a number of changes since then.

A concrete clubhouse was built and opened in 1975 but has since been replaced by the current building, The Lawrence Batley Centre, which was opened in 1995. The present 1st XV pitch was christened in 1989 and is now shadowed by the Lawrence Batley Stand, which was built seven years later.

The club has enjoyed much success over the years. Their first trophy came in 1983 when they won the Yorkshire Silver Trophy. And they won this for a second time in 1996. In between these two triumphs they finished runners-up in Yorkshire League 2 in 1988.

In 1997 they were crowned champions of Yorkshire League 3 and also finished runners-up in the Yorkshire Cable Shield. They followed this up by winning the shield the next season and in the same year won the RFU Junior Tetley Bitter Vase and Yorkshire League 2.

The club then won Yorkshire League 1 for the only time in 1999 before being relegated, but emphatically bounced back by winning Yorkshire League 2 for the second time in 2002. They currently play in Yorkshire League 1.

The club runs five senior sides, including a 1st XV, 2nd XV, 3rd XV, Veterans team and an under-19 Colts side. This demonstrates how far they have come since starting out.

A junior section was set up in 1971 and the club now runs teams from under-7 all the way up to under-16 level. The juniors are run by a committee, most of whom are parents, and they organise many social events during the year to raise funds for the section.

The club's attire consists of red and black hooped shirts, black shorts and red and black socks and the club is sponsored by such big names as Nike, Tetleys and Fosters.

The adult teams play on Saturdays with the junior teams playing on Sundays. Training takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Huddersfield YMCA RUFC have not enjoyed the best season in 2008 and currently lie second from bottom in the league with relegation a distinct possibility. However, if the club were to be relegated it would almost almost be inevitable that a club of this size would go straight back up.