

“THE CLUB HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY GOOD TO ME”

Profile of Keith Colman by Mark Edmonds

From Espom, Surrey, via Bournemouth to Barkisland, West Yorkshire it's been quite a journey for Keith Colman but he is accepted into the club as though he's been there all his life. Now into his third decade at the club, Keith has held a number of roles before his current one as administrative secretary along with being the club representative at Huddersfield League meetings.



Epsom Racecourse

So how does someone originally from outside the area get involved in the close-knit community club that is BCC? “I went down with my sons Gary and Jamie who both played for Barkisland when we first moved to the village in 1986,” says Keith. “The club has always been very good to me. I love cricket, and I used to go and watch the team play but it was when my sons started getting involved that I got to really know people, and it just carried on from there.”

As for the role of administrative secretary itself, Keith is one of the major links between the club and the league. “I deal with all the correspondence going in and out of the club,” explains Keith. “I take notes at all the meetings the club

has; I do all the paperwork, distribute all the minutes, and then deal with any issues on behalf of the club at league level.”

All of this obviously takes time, but fortunately for Keith it’s not too much of a burden – it’s mostly an evening’s work a week, which is a lot less than at other clubs in the area. “We’re very lucky here in that it’s not a case of one person doing everything,” says Keith. “We’ve got David Sykes who is treasurer, Steve [Casaru] is obviously the main driving force behind the club, but even Brian [Winrow] is well involved – as president he’s more of a figurehead for the club but he’s always helping out.”

Keith’s other role as BCC’s Huddersfield League representative is an important one - for example, presenting ideas to the rest of the league with regards to rule changes in how the league is run. “The two conference winners (Frank Platt and Cedar Court) used to be promoted up to the top division with the second-placed teams playing off for a trophy, but not achieving promotion,” says Keith. “We thought it would be a great idea to have three up and three down each season, with the final between the conference runners-up then meaning something.”

It didn’t all go to plan for Barkisland and Keith, however. “The idea was accepted, but we fell foul of the rule in the first year it was introduced when we finished in the third spot!” Currently, Keith is now organising accommodation for new overseas player Love Alish, as well as sorting out the ordering of equipment such as cricket balls for the firsts and seconds. It’s a busy time, but also the most exciting period, as months of work in the close season starts to come to fruition with the first match of the season drawing ever closer.