

“IT’S GOOD TO SEE PEOPLE PLAYING TO WIN BUT WITH A SMILE ON THEIR FACE”

Profile of Steve Buss by Duncan Robinson

2nd XI captain and treasurer at Augustinians Cricket Club, Steve Buss, is one of the younger members at 36.

Buss sees this as representing the main problem in amateur cricket at the moment: getting youngsters to play. He said, “There is a real lack of young players and I should not still be seen as a young player. Since I’ve been at the club the real change that I have noticed is that there are less and less young players. The average age of players not just at Augustinians but also at many other clubs seems to be creeping up. Young lads go off to university and don’t come back. There’s hardly any players between the ages of 18 and 35.”



Hastings Seafront

Hastings-born Buss played his cricket in the Kent and Sussex area in his early years before moving north to pursue a degree in Politics and History at the University of Huddersfield. He believes that there is not much difference between amateur cricket in the north and south of England and believes the problem of getting youngsters to play is prevalent in the south as well. He stated, “Augustinians is a very similar club to the one I played for in Hastings and again the main problem was getting players and keeping players, particularly the young players.”

Buss believes that cricket does not appeal to youngsters as much as other sports because of its timescale. He explained, "The difference between cricket and other sports is that it takes up a whole day and young kids don't seem to have the patience for it these days. That's why it's important that the games are competitive but also fun. It's good to see people playing to win but with a smile on their face."

Buss has played for Augustinians for four years now and, having been vice-captain for a year, took the captaincy of the 2nd XI last season. He quickly got to know what being captain was all about as he comments, "My first game as captain was probably my worst experience at Augustinians. We were in a comfortable position with the opposition on 56-6 and we somehow snatched defeat from the jaws of victory as they finished on 240-8. It did teach me a great deal though and probably made me a better captain. I learnt a lot from it."

Buss describes his best moment as an Augustinians player coming two seasons ago when they faced a very good side and having been bowled out for 80 preceded to bowl their opponents out for 78.

When asked how he saw the future for Augustinians, Buss replied, "The future is brighter now than it was last year because everyone is pulling in the right direction. It is important that we keep developing young players and give them a chance."

Outside of cricket, Buss is a keen cyclist and is currently in training for the 26-mile Colne Valley Mountain Bike Challenge. He stated: "I'm trying to get myself fit for that at the moment. The course is about 80% uphill so it is quite a gruelling prospect!"

After completing that challenge, captaining Augustinians 2nd XI should be a walk in the park.