

Profile of Maynard Bluff by Stephen Darwin

Maynard Bluff joined the club around the 1975 season and was involved in one form or another until fairly recently when a heart operation restricted the work he could carry out as groundsman for the club.

These days Bluff struggles to affiliate himself with the club mainly due to the amount of change that has occurred since his departure in 2001. Despite being considerably less involved, his affection for the club will always remain and he reflects on his time spent with the YMCA side (as they were formerly known) with considerable pleasure, 'I just used to love playing cricket and I had some really good times at the club.' Bluff attributes the majority of his proudest moments to his role as wicket keeper and one particularly remarkable catch sticks in the mind for him. 'I had loads of memories but I remember one game at Flockton where I took a catch low down diving to my left against a Pakistani fast bowler, I think even he was surprised that I caught it!' A clearly elated Bluff remarks on a catch that even when looking so far back is still such a distinctive memory.

Not only useful behind the stumps, Bluff also contributed with his fair share of runs. An impressive 92 against Dewsbury became his highest individual score and although this would seem emphatic to most, the patriotic Bluff continues to condemn the century that got away.

When considering the rivalry in the Birkby area, Bluff insists that although a rivalry with Birchencliffe C.C. was evident, it wasn't as intense as one might expect. 'There was definitely a rivalry but I felt before the move (from Laund Hill to the Rose Hill cricket ground) there was more of a rivalry between us,' comments Bluff. He added that 'one time funnily enough I remember a game against Birchencliffe that got pretty heated.' Bluff went on to say: 'It was a cup semi final in the Association League and it was pretty tense due to it being a close run game more than anything else.'

Until fairly recently Maynard Bluff continued to work in various capacities to contribute as much as possible to the day to day running of the club. His family have also been actively involved with wife Pam vacating the role of tea lady and daughters Deborah and Dale filling various secretarial and scoring positions at the club. Deborah even assumed the role of chairperson at one stage and Deborah's daughter Rebecca has won awards as a 1st XI scorer. A significantly proud moment for Maynard was the day he stepped out to play alongside his grandson James, an emotional moment for the whole Bluff family.