

# MOVING IN!

## Graham Hobson on his early days

I've been associated with Birstall CC for 42 years – and my lad is now carrying on the family connection. We moved to Birstall as a family when I was 11. We lived on Rectory Drive on the estate just by the ground.



**1977 Team Photo – Graham is front row, second from the left**

I played one game for the Under-13s but then there weren't the array of junior teams that there are now. I went through college and teacher training and gradually made my way into the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and then the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

We've had lots of good times at the club, but probably more with the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI than the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. There have been league titles and Crowther Cup successes – three of these came in the 1980s and two in the 1990s. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI had to wait almost half a century for another league title – they were champions in 1954 and 2002.

We're lucky at the moment in that many of our juniors have come through and are now playing in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. And a good proportion live locally, which hasn't always been the case with 1<sup>st</sup> XI players. They don't necessarily socialise at the club, but some have got young families, so that's understandable.