

TEAS, ROTAS AND FUNDRAISING

Andrew Smith on Illingworth's women

Women at the club have played a very important role. In recent years Mavis Lawton, Judith Verity and Caroline Smith have been responsible for teas and setting up rotas.



They have done sterling work. They have even done the catering for our annual dinners and sportsmen's dinners, which have been massive fundraisers – netting the club around £1,000 each time.

Other key females over the years have been Janet Colgan, Helen Robertshaw and Karen Tagg. They all had sons or husbands involved at the club and played a part in the running of the club.

We've never had ladies committees or anything like that. Women's role has been significant but their role has been 'informal' rather than 'formal' or 'official' in any sense.

In terms of playing, a key individual was Brenda Rothera. She played for Yorkshire Ladies and North of England Ladies, and even in a women's Test match. She also turned out for our 2nd XI when we were short.

The ECB is always looking for female involvement at clubs, and this will keep encouraging us to have as many women involved as possible.