

60 NOT OUT!

Dennis Baldwin on his career at the club

I'm 75 now. It's 60 years since I first came up here as a junior and I think I've probably been groundsman for 40 years. I can't remember exactly! I first played as a junior and then for the senior teams.

In my early days all cricketers were expected to help with the ground, and they just got on with it. You'd have three players pushing and pulling the roller at either end. There was a bit more of that attitude in those days. The players didn't mind helping at all. Today there's not so much of this. It's a sign of the times!



At one point all three of my sons played at Hartshead Moor. One has now gone off to play for Gomersal because he lives close by. But when I stopped playing it was pretty natural for me to help more and more with the ground.

Today we're paying people to play and the lads in the team are slightly less willing to help with the ground. But that said, I can call on 8 or 9 lads to help me when I need it.

I suppose my main helpers come from the 2nd XI. A lot of the lads who play with the seconds have come through as juniors and are good club lads. So when the 2nd XI are at home I'm usually OK for help.

I'm also club treasurer and cellar man – which means I order the beer when we're short! I've been retired for 15 years which means I do have the time to help with jobs like this.