

PASSION AND DRIVE

Groundsman Dave Evans by Zak Data

Dave Evans is the groundsman at Bradshaw Cricket Club. A mild mannered fellow, Dave has been voluntarily helping out at Bradshaw for over 50 years. Now in his mid 70s, he still has the same passion and drive he first had starting out all those years ago.



Dave initially started playing cricket when he was at school. A budding all-rounder, Dave settled as bowler. As a player he won various awards and trophies. He proudly says he ran out of space on his mantelpiece for them all! His favourite trophy is the league bowling prize which he won early on in his career.

Nowadays, there are various different qualifications and groundsmen can take ECB and Institute of Groundsmen day courses etc. Dave has had the opportunity to attend some of these courses and feels he has learnt a fair bit from them, "These courses are very well put together for people like myself and up and coming groundsmen. There is always something new you can learn and if you are willing to learn you will definitely develop as a groundsman. Plus I have had the opportunity to tour Headingley Cricket Ground which was a dream come true."

During the summer, Dave tends to work flat out almost every day. With the summer holidays imminent, the juniors tend to take up most of the time on the wicket. However, Dave doesn't mind that though as it keeps him as fit as a fiddle and with the current warm weather we are having it makes it all the worthwhile.

In conjunction with his role as a groundsman, Dave is also the club's treasurer. He has the sole responsibility of keeping the club's finances in order and cashing up every night. He also has the responsibility of stocking up on beer and wine and spends most of his days down at the cash & carry warehouse.

Outside cricket, Dave doesn't have many hobbies as most of time is occupied helping Bradshaw Cricket Club. However, he did admit that he has a fondness for travel and occasionally enjoys a good holiday. Apart from that he is a strong family-oriented person and spends most of his free time with his children and grandchildren.

Dave explains how it is very important to remain enthusiastic if you want to have longevity as a groundsman. You can immediately realise the hard work and graft he has put in over the years. It is mainly passion and love for the club which has kept him going. "My advice to future groundsmen is that you should try enrolling on a groundsmanship course. It teaches you the basics of being a groundsman.'

Dave would like nothing more than to take on a young apprentice. He confesses, "I have a young lad I am training at the moment. It is really rewarding passing on my knowledge and expertise."