

CRICKET IN THE BLOOD

Mick Baldwin by Zak Data

Mick Baldwin is currently the chairman of Gomersal Cricket Club. He has successfully been running the club since 2005. Prior to arriving at Gomersal, Mick spent the majority of his cricketing career at Hartshead Moor Cricket Club. In addition to applying his cricking skills at Moor, his father is the groundsman at the club and his brother is the chairman so it's fair to say cricket runs in the Baldwin blood.



Mick has been playing cricket since the age of 8. His first taste of cricket came when he was just 11 years old, and he was asked to play for his junior school team. 38 years later he looks back on his successful career.

“I thought I was a terrific player. But some of my colleges would beg to differ,” he laughs. “Unfortunately I haven’t won any team trophies, but I have won a few fielding trophies.”

Unlike some chairmen, Mick has a close connection with the team, supporters and local residents. Mick is pleased with the amount of support and backing the club receives. At the moment the club have 500 members and the numbers are increasing by the day. In conjunction with this, the club has a very active social scene.

The clubhouse is located in the middle of the village and Mick boasts that the bar is by far the best in the village. It is very popular among the locals as it regularly holds functions, weddings, birthdays, fun days and discos. The waiting list is always full.

Speaking to Mick, he spent most of the time emphasising the importance of the youth team at club. Mick was proud to tell me that there is not a day goes by where there isn't some form of cricket being played on the Gomersal ground. At the moment, in addition to the two senior teams, the club have an under-9, under-11, under-12, under-13, two under-15 and under-17 teams. According to Mick, the coaches at the club do a tremendous job. They voluntarily help the youngsters in getting the best out of them. Most of the coaches play for the Gomersal first or second team and assist the children for the love of the sport.

Mick's aim is to ultimately convert the junior players into senior players. He wants to maintain a vibrant junior section for the future. He strongly believes that the club can maintain their dominance in future if the junior section is well maintained. "If the first team stay in the first league it is an incentive for the younger stars of tomorrow. Good coaching and nurturing them in the correct manner is vital."

Mick does not plan on retiring any time soon. He is still very much committed to Gomersal Cricket Club. With continued support, the club's future is looking bright. It aims to build on its strong tradition of producing good quality cricketers in conjunction with developing its current crop of budding stars.