

► CRICKET HISTORIES: Augustinians – the fifth in our third series...

# Key individuals and school roots

AUGUSTINIANS CC was founded in 1967. One irreverent note on the club's website says that it was formed 'from the remnants of John Finbar Harold's darts team', but the reality was that the new team was connected to St. Augustine's Voluntary School, Bradley Bar.

According to the official history of the Huddersfield Association it was at the November meeting in 1967 that "Mr Grimes, representing the staff, students, former students and friends of St. Augustine's Voluntary School, expressed his club's hopes of being admitted to the Association in 1968 and replied to questions put to him by various representatives."

They began life in the Huddersfield Association.

The club used to play at All Saints School, but were restricted in what they could do with the cricket field during the week - because it was part of the school's premises.

When St. Augustine's merged with a nearby school, St. Gregory's Grammar, in the late-1970s to form All Saints School, the cricket club continued to thrive, recruiting staff, pupils and old boys from all three institutions.

In this early period, the club was indebted to a number of key individuals: Brian Duran, Frank Heppenstall, Peter Lawrence-Brown and Vincent O'Hara, plus Harold Ainley (1st XI captain) and Stuart Burns (2nd XI skipper).

And then there was John Harold - stalwart of the side in its infancy and still, today, heavily involved at the club. Harold also served as president of the Association. His term of office began in 1975 and he was in post in 1986 when the league celebrated its centenary.

One early encounter pitted Augustinians against Atterbury Wesleyans. The club scorebook shows that the eleven men representing Augustinians were dismissed for a combined total of six - with byes top-scoring with two!

But Huddersfield Association silverware followed - and in 1985 Augustinians 1st XI scooped the Huddersfield Association League Section A Championship,



**ON THE BOUNDARY EDGE:** Augustinians relax in the sunshine; a winter scene as frost and snow strike the pavilion (right); action at the picturesque ground (below)

while the 2nd XI bagged the Crossland Trophy. A great double!

Augustinians also netted the Association League Outdoor six-a-side title. Not surprisingly, they were dubbed the 'Team of the '80s'.

Around 1990, Augustinians moved ground to play at Laund Hill, Salendine Nook. With the demise of Salendine Nook Old Boys CC, Augustinians are now the only Huddersfield-based side in the Halifax & District Cricket League.

The club boast two senior teams, a Sunday XI, plus junior sides at under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17 level.

Martin Farrar sums up the essence of Augustinians as a cricket club: "Today we are regarded as the cricket section of the YMCA because we lodge at Laund Hill. It's a nice set-up, a good, proper cricket ground, and we can work on the square during the week, a refreshing change after All Saints."

The club celebrated its 40th birthday with a special function in 2008.

AROUND THE WICKET

...with historian Peter Davies



**LINE-UPS:** the 1st XI in 1952 (far left): back row, P Grimes (scorer), T Lomax, C Charles, P Nash, S O'Malley, A Fearnley, J Ramsbottom; front: P Connolly, C Mogson, C O'Hara, A Oldfield, G Whitehouse and a 1988 line-up (left): C Ainley, T Lomax, J Wedge, C Walton, P Walton, P Hepworth; front: W Cratchley, H Ainley, C Charles, A Fearnley and J Harold.