

'I'VE BEEN INVOLVED FOR 53 YEARS'

Interview with Freda Heywood (Todmorden CC) by Harriet Brooks



Q

Freda, how long have you been involved at Todmorden Cricket Club?

A

Well I started at the club when I was about 19 and I am now 72 so I would say that I have been involved for about 53 years give or take a few, but I retired in the year 2000.

Q

Did you enjoy your time at the club?

A

Oh yes, definitely, though I actually started going as a part of the course that I was doing at college at the time, so really I began my time with the cricket club as a spectator and sometimes I helped with the teas but it was never really a regular thing.

Q

Would you mind telling me what your job was in the club?

A

Not at all and as I said earlier I started out as a spectator and progressed to helping with the teas and things. However in about 1992 I became the club's secretary and I stayed in that position till I retired in 2000.

Q

Is this a typical job for a woman in the club?

A

Very typical, most women tend to be ether spectators or tea ladies; there are very few ladies on the committee. In fact I think I may have been the first female secretary. And the situation has not really changed - there are still maybe only three or four women on the committee today.

Q

So the women who help - are they all voluntary or are they paid?

A

Oh no, all the people in the club are voluntary, except the umpires, scorers and the bar tender.

Q

Do you think that it is better if the people in the club are volunteers?

A

Yes, without a doubt, I think that if people volunteer they want to do the job and will work 100% at it, whereas if you are being paid really you are just doing it for the money; besides it makes for a much stronger community if everyone is willing to help out for nothing.

Q

Do you think that the roles of women have changed at all?

A

I think it depends on the club, most clubs have a few girls playing in their junior teams, but I think that most women tend to fill the roles of workers and spectators. However, if there was a ladies team which was forthcoming about playing I do not think that the club would turn them down; in fact there was a women's cricket team but that was years and years ago in the 1920s.

Q

And finally do you think that as a whole the sport needs to involve women more or not?

A

No, not really, I just think that the sport has evolved around men and it is men that seem to enjoy the game more than women. I suppose that's just the way it is, but I think a woman would always be welcome to get involved in any capacity they wanted, given the opportunities.