

'ONCE I STARTED I WAS HOOKED!'

Interview with Yvonne Collins (Kirkburton CC & Huddersfield League) by Ruth Gibson



What is your role within the club?

I am the registration and matches secretary for the Huddersfield League and I am the scorer for Kirkburton Cricket Club first eleven. I used to be the scorer for the under-21s. I used to score for Lockwood.

When did you become involved in cricket?

I became involved in cricket in 1983 with Lockwood when my boyfriend, now my husband, was playing for them. They needed a scorer because their scorer had not turned up. The club knew that I used to sit in the car and watch the games, so they came and handed me a scorebook and a pen and I learnt how to do it on the spot. Once I started I was hooked!

Can you tell me about your role as registration secretary and matches secretary?

My role as registration and matches secretary is vital to the Huddersfield League. It is a twelve-months-of-the-year job as there is plenty to sort out after the cricket season has finished in order to prepare for the next season so it can be up and running without any problems. I deal with the transfers of players, the registration of the players and clubs and keep a record of every player and transfer within the league. I also sort out the fixtures

both home and away and then at the end of the season I sort out who's been relegated and who's been promoted. I also deal with the fines - fines for slow over rates and fines for if the club do not send the match results to the *Examiner* or *Yorkshire Sport on Sunday*.

How did you get involved in his role?

My husband's father used to be the fixtures secretary, then the job was passed to someone else but when it became vacant again me and my husband took up the role. So I suppose it was from a personal interest really.

Is this a paid role?

No. But I do receive a small honorarium.

How important do you feel your roles are within the league and at Kirkburton Cricket Club.

Both my roles are really important. My role as secretary is important to the league as well as to the individual clubs. My role as scorer is important to Kirkburton and is a role I take very seriously and have made my own. The cricketers know they are not allowed to touch my book and say it is like a work of art! Sticky hands, food, beer etc are not allowed near my scorebook and when I am on holiday I leave a spare book for the stand-in to fill in and I copy the results up when I get back - all colour co-ordinated - so people can see who's done what throughout the game.

Do you feel you bring a feminine touch to the club and is it welcome?

Yes I do think I bring something with me to the club and I think it is appreciated - everyone wants to look at the scorebook at the end of the match and I think my hard work is noted through out the club.

How do you fit your roles in around your family?

Before I had my three girls I used to score for my husband's cricket club, then I took 12 years off to have my family. Now they are older it fits in around my family life.

How did you get back into cricket after your break?

I put an advert in the paper asking if any clubs needed a scorer - I had six replies! I spoke to them to see what they had to offer. I also had a look at their registration forms and made my choice through this! I chose Kirkburton because I had scored for the under-21s and so a lot of them now played for the senior team.

Do you enjoy both your roles within cricket?

I absolutely love them!