

Margaret Dollive: More than a Woman

By Matt Elston

Nineteen ninety-eight saw Skelmanthorpe Cricket Club begin a new chapter in their history. Margaret Dollive and Beverley Crossland assumed the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair respectively and it is the former who greeted me with a grateful and welcoming smile when I arrived at Lidget Lane for my first visit to Skelmanthorpe. Margaret is a cornerstone of this cricket club and a vital cog in a successful, blossoming machine.

Spectator, mother, tea lady and chairperson, this all-rounder is invaluable to Skelmanthorpe's line-up. Since the late 1980s Margaret has stood on the boundary watching and willing her beloved sons and team to success. Never one to shirk responsibility, Margaret's involvement began as a junior league scorer when she watched her sons Adam and James play three times a week. Eighteen years on, her involvement has seen her acting on the ladies committee, fundraising for the team, decorating the clubhouse and ultimately sitting as Chair on the committee.



Margaret's attitude mirrors perfectly the attitude of everyone at Skelmanthorpe. A club proud of its local heritage, SCC stress the importance of local young talent like Max Joice, Kristian Whittaker and James Crossland, to name a few up and coming cricketers who she hopes will ultimately follow one day in her footsteps. "We have good enough players who could play anywhere in the Huddersfield League and earn good money, but the local lads are really loyal and have stuck with us." Margaret is selfless and reluctant to attribute any success at this club to herself or any one person.

My attention was drawn to the spirit at the club and the importance of local support without which this club would surely perish. "It's a compliment to the cricket club that so many people support us," she says. It's also a credit to the people within the club, who have invested their heart and soul in a sport they love, that past schemes like 'buy a brick' and other fundraising events have kept the club and its facilities in the finest nick.

Margaret is a woman who knows she fulfils an important role at Lidget Lane, yet her unshakeable passion is in helping everyone to enjoy success. Her appreciation of others within this club is mirrored only by their appreciation of her as a remarkable chairperson.