

Howzat! A lifetime of volunteering in cricket

Colin Dawson has been a volunteer for 45 years at Blythe Cricket Club, which has emerged as one of the most successful clubs in the Staffordshire Moorlands area.

Just five years ago the club only ran two teams, but now they have a thriving junior section, with teams competing across a wide age range. There are also two senior teams playing in the North Staffs and District League and a social XI known as the Blythe Vikings.

The club is extremely proactive in getting members qualified as coaches and managers, and all the teams have people in both positions. The club also has a male and female welfare officer to deal with any issues that may arise at the club.

The hard work of the members has been rewarded as the club's junior section has been recognised as the most successful in the Moorlands area. Councillor Pat McGarry presented the club with the Duke of Devonshire Trophy. This is an award based on a number of criteria, including the number of teams operating and where they finished in their respective leagues. Blythe's under 9's, under 13's and under 18's all won their respective leagues in the 2004 season.

Colin was awarded the Alan Hurst Trophy for lifetime achievement, at the Staffordshire Moorlands Arts and Sports Awards. In typically modest fashion Colin accepted the award by saying;

"I am delighted to receive this award on behalf of everyone at the club. Five years ago, we were a company facility, now we are a true community club. We had two teams five years ago, now we have eight and are keen to start a girls' team. We are now looking to develop the bottom end of our ground to facilitate this."

Colin continues to work tirelessly for the club to gain funding for this new project, and with members like him it seems certain they will succeed.

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