

Hall of Fame



Pat RUECROFT

Thirsk C.C. 1948 – present

Secretary 1962 – 1967
Assistant Secretary 1955 – 1961
Treasurer 1984 – 1985
Committee 1958 – 1985 & 2007 – present
Captain 2nd XI 1960; 1975 – 1976; 1978 – 1979
Junior Coach 1978 – present
Club Umpire 1980 – 1988
Club Historian 2001 – present
Thirsk Sports Council representative 1980 - 1995
Practice Area Project Manager 2007

Thirsk Athletic Club

Committee 1963 - 1975

John Patrick (Pat) Ruecroft has worn many hats and served in many positions of office throughout his membership of Thirsk Cricket Club and it is totally appropriate that he should be inducted into the League's Hall of Fame as he sets out on his 60th season with his club.

It all started way back in 1948 with Thirsk looking for their ninth league title in the renamed York & District Senior Cricket League. It's forerunner, The Thirsk & District Cricket League had been disbanded at the outbreak of WWII and was not revived so the club's second eleven competed in The Vale of Mowbray League. It was in this competition that Pat opened the batting as a young teenager against such teams as Richmond, Masham and Catterick.

His participation in the game was interrupted in the early 50s by a lengthy illness but in 1955 Pat became an official of the club when he accepted the post of Assistant Secretary to Frank Robinson. He was 'up-graded' to Club Secretary in 1962 and served in this capacity until 1967

During the ensuing years Pat's dedication to Thirsk C.C. has been evident by the number of positions he has held and his present day involvement. He served as second XI vice captain for two years in 1958 and 1959 and then skippered the side in 1960. A further three seasons as vice captain followed between 1962 and 1964, during which time Thirsk II switched to the York League, then, in the 1970s he again skippered the side for four seasons between 1975 and 1979 with a mid term break in 1977.

He served on the club committee from 1958 to 1985, the latter two years as Hon. Treasurer and returned to the committee last season. He was Thirsk Sports Council rep. From 1980 to 1995 and club umpire from 1980 to 1988 and served on the general committee of The Thirsk Athletic Club, the parent body, from 1963 to 1975. However possibly his biggest contribution has been his lengthy spell as junior coach which began way back in 1978 and continues to the present time when he is once again coaching the under 12 side.

His input into the club's junior section extends beyond coaching and team management and the club's new practice area stands as a tribute to his hard work and commitment as Practice Area Project Manager. Another example of his devotion to the club is the fantastic archive of photographs, posters and documents which he has assembled since becoming the Club Historian in 2001. These were on display during the club's 150th Anniversary celebrations in 2001.

He had earlier been involved in the bi-centenary celebration for the birth of Thirsk born Thomas Lord, the founder of Lords Cricket Ground when the MCC presented Thirsk Cricket Club with an oak plaque carved by Robert Thompson of Kilburn. The presentation was followed by a match against Arthur Austin's Durham County XI. Pat considers the most prestigious event during his time at the club to be the invitation to the club to play a match at Lords in 2005 to celebrate Thomas Lord's 250th birthday. The opposition was provided by Hampshire side West Meon, the village that houses Lord's grave. Sadly the match was totally washed out but Pat and his clubmates still had an enjoyable visit to cricket's hallowed headquarters.

Having spent a significant part of his playing career outside the York Senior League details of Pat's performances are limited. He recalls that he never made a league century but does remember retiring on 100 in 1971 against touring side West Somerset Yeomen. He also made 103 in a Sunday friendly game against Leeds Springfield. He ranks his 55 in the first division in 1961 as one of his best innings as it was made against a strong Northallerton side whose attack

included Ron Diggle, Chris Merry and Yorkshire colt Doug Burnett. Chasing a Northallerton total of 168, Pat, together with Don Pringle, who made 75, posted an opening stand of 128 to set up a six wicket victory. He also recalls making 27no in a Thirsk total of 58 on a wet track in 1970 which proved to be a match-winning knock as Civil Service were then whipped out for a mere 43 by Dave Worsnop (3-10) and Frank Phillips(4-7). Pat says he was not a prolific run scorer but had many enjoyable days when “things went right” and he made a few runs.

Pat recalls with a degree of pride the fact that his grandfather J.D. Ruecroft was the joiner of the new pavilion that was opened on the first Saturday of the 1907 season. Records within his archive show that the total cost of the pavilion was £247 –9s-6d of which Mr. Ruecroft’s costs were £112-19s-5d. One of those present at the opening ceremony was future Yorkshire and England star George Macauley, then aged 10 years, whose nephew Joe Lister played for Thirsk and became Yorkshire County Club Secretary. The money laid out for the pavilion proved to be a sound investment since it remained in full use until 1985 when it was replaced by the club’s current facilities.

Pat’s contribution to his club and the game of cricket was doubly recognised in 1997 when he was the recipient of the club’s Major Bell Trophy and also received the Hambleton District Council’s “Dedication to Sport Award.

Phil Robshaw / avp

PAT RUECROFT – PLAYING RECORD
(Details of years when qualified for League Handbook)

YEAR	DIV.	XI	INN.	N.O.	H.S.	RUNS	AVE	100/ 50s	Pos.	Overs	M	Runs	Wkts	Ave	RPO	5w/I	Pos.	Ct	St	Notes
Thirsk																				
1961	1	1 st	17	2	55	261	17.40													
1962																				
1963	1	1 st	14	1	39	201	15.45													
1964																				
1965	1	1 st	19	1	57*	333	18.50													
1966																				
1967																				
1968																				
1969	1	1 st	16	1	nk	289	19.26													
1970																				
1971	2	1 st	15	0	39	272	18.13													
Totals			81	5	57*	1356	17.84													

Awards won by Pat Ruecroft

- 1997 Major Bell Trophy
- 1997 Hambleton District Council “Dedication to Sport” Award



Photo – Phil Robshaw

Pat Ruecroft at Lords 2005
250th Anniversary of birth of Thomas Lord