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History of Bugbrooke Cricket Club.

During a period in time before I left Bugbrooke School Easter 1954, Bugbrooke Cricket Club moved from Adams's Farm fields at the rear of Ladder Makers Yard, to Mr Doctor Whites Field to the rear of the Dower House, and adjacent to Browns Yard at the bottom of Camp Hill.

In Bugbrooke, s October 2013, Link Magazine was an article from Geoff Cook and photographs of the refurbishment of the old pavilion that was constructed from out of prefabricated homes that were being dismantled locally; I think they were from Green Norton or the Towcester area.

It was during the period from 1954 and onwards during my early years of working for Mr Harold Ward, Bugbrooke, s local Ladder Maker and Undertaker, when he paid me overtime to go and help to construct a new pavilion from out of the sections of these old prefabucated buildings with Mr Fred Curtis and several others.

Firstly brick pillars were installed to take the beams for the flooring followed by erecting parts of the old prefabs on the top of it.

Part of this building was erected over the top of a ditch come open sewer that once ran into the stream at one corner of the cricket field.



This open drain was made redundant when the sewer was laid in the village in 1952-3, it once took top water from drains from this area of Bugbrooke, such as from Camp Hill and Pilgrims Lane Area, not forgetting the over spill from the very large pond that was next to Fred Lovell's House in Georges Close, as well as the effluent from Harry Lovell's slaughter house, at one time the smell from this open ditch was a lot to be desired.

The first Pavilion that was constructed for the Cricket Club, was built right next to the brook it was made up from concrete blocks from Chad concrete products now Pinnegar and Barns Bugbrooke Wharf, due to it being so close to the stream it would get flooded out at least four to five times within each year, it did have a Bucket toilet, to the rear along with a gents toilet consisting of corrugated tins between the pavilion and the brook.

It had a score board on the front with two very large windows either side of it.

Also when this concrete pavilion was constructed they dug out the centre of the field and laid a concrete wicket, that was covered with coconut matting held down with steel pins.

This type of wicket was to be quite controversial I well remember visiting teams hating to play cricket on this type of wicket, as it was hard and fast, those not used to playing on such a wicket, such as first timers very rarely ever won a match, and always went away grumbling about it, along with saying that it was not fair play having no alternative pitch or wicket.

They even constructed a concrete wicket within the nets up one corner for practice, us young lads were encouraged to go and practice in these nets with bowling and batting etc, but unless one was exceptional very good at whatever, the chances of having a game were next to none, hence any enthusiasm that one had soon dwindled.

A man at one time was sent to roll the field with a very heavy roller behind a tractor, he was not only to roll the field but the newly laid concrete wicket of what it cracked and broke it up hence it having to be re-laid.

The Heygate family gave access to this new cricket field and pitch through Browns Yard along with car parking facilities, the field itself belong to Doctor White, and Mr Harold Ward donated to the building and upkeep of the cricket club and field.

What with the controversial concrete wicket, along with certain personnel that always played in the team, some member were disgruntled through not being able to play as often as they would have liked, as exceptionally good player from outside the village were to come and play instead of village personnel.

Hence a separate cricket club being set up in the then new playing field up Camp Hill.

Regarding the second letter in the parish Link from Mr Geoff Cook, about Bugbrooke Cricket Club and St Michael's Cricket Club to Merge, of what I hope all goes well, it was a pity in the first place that second cricket club was set up in the first place, it goes to show what can occur when politics rears its head within sport.

This article is written without malice or with any intentions of annoying any personnel but is of how things were at the time.

During our days at school we were taught how to play cricket during our games period, as well as football, of what were quite enjoyable, part from the days when we were sent out without a teacher, when the senior pupils were to be so called in charge, this was when things went array, taking the enjoyment from out of whatever, it was one thing to have the ball bowled at the wicket stumps, and another to have it thrown at you making one duck out of the way to others delight, hence myself not being too keen at playing cricket or football.

Stanley Joseph Clark.

The pavilion referred to was replaced by a more recent one in 1980, which has recently seen a major refurbishment.