

Harry Clegg

Club secretary for 14 years

Why Booth are proud of the Gaukroger family

IT is not difficult to pinpoint the secret of the success of Booth as a village cricket club. The most important single factor is the close connection and liaison with all people in the area, including the residents of both Midgley and Luddenden.

The club has also been fortunate in its choice of officers with Joe Greenwood's service as treasurer for 21 years an outstanding example.

This record has been equalled in later years by Arthur Berry, who also served as treasurer for 21



JAMES GAUKROGER

years up to 1947, when he was followed in office by John Horsfield, grandson of A. Horsfield of the 1892 team.

Efficient secretary

Another man to whom the club owes a great debt is Harry Clegg, who recently resigned after serv-

ing as secretary for 14 years. Strangely enough, Harry is not a native of the district, and he is one of the first to admit that his knowledge of cricket from a playing point of view is negligible.

His lack of cricket knowledge has been an advantage at times for he could always stand aside from any of the dissensions about playing matters which sometimes beset the best-run cricket clubs.

His minute books are a model to all secretaries, and in them are preserved a lively record of the affairs of the club during his period of office. It is said that he most enjoyed arranging (and eating) the annual dinner, which has been such a popular feature of the club's activities since the war.

He was always keen to meet cricketers and officials on other grounds, and in this way made many friends.

He will never forget one hot day in September going with a party to Castle Garr to fetch a hut which Mr. Ronald had given to the club. After the work was finished, Harry sat down to have a bite to eat. (Several ham sandwiches, so he thought.)

Booth's wolves

To his disgust, upon opening his picnic case he found that what he had believed to be sandwiches were nothing but stones. The food had long since been eaten by other hungry members of the fatigue party.

It is, perhaps, in their choice of presidents that the club has been most fortunate. Their first, Com. Harry Boardall, held office for more than 20 years, and during his term the club grew both in strength and importance.

He was followed by Mr. Leonard Midgley, who served the club faithfully for 40 years up to his death in 1944. He served as a player, chairman and president, and both he and Mr. Boardall left sons who carried on the good work.

ROUND AND ABOUT IN LOCAL CRICKET



WILLIE GAUKROGER

When they were searching for a ground in 1946 it was quite natural that the owner of most of the land in the district should be consulted.

It was with some diffidence that Bob Midgley suggested to Mr. Ronald Murgatroyd that the best place for a village cricket field was in the park, but this was, in effect, suggesting that cricket should be played in Mr. Ronald's front garden.

However, he immediately agreed to allow this and also accepted the office of president. Without his help and encouragement, it is

extremely doubtful if cricket ever would have been revived at Booth.

He has always, in his typical modest fashion, acknowledged the help received from the club trustees, Harold Boardall and Bob Midgley, and from Mr. Alan Greenwood, for the past 13 years a most genial and patient chairman (also a non-cricketer).

So many individuals have contributed to the success of the club since the war that it is difficult to name them all, but mention should be made of a few.

Bill Hey and Jim Thomas had honorary life membership conferred upon them for the work they did in the ground reconstruction plans, and William Thomas, who, as social secretary, has for many years organised close-season activities to the considerable financial benefit of the club.

They have been fortunate in always having a number of ladies willing to sacrifice their Saturday afternoon leisure in providing teas for players and supporters, and, at the same time, making a handsome profit.

Many partisans

Players and officials are necessary to any club. Spectators are not—at least not to a club with 300 members, but they are, nevertheless, welcome, particularly when they are of the knowledgeable type found at Booth, and on many similar village greens throughout the country.

The most numerous at Booth, probably the most partisan, are the Gaukrogers. Several of the ladies of the family are Gaukrogers in name no longer, but they have certainly retained their support.

It is not unusual to have at least six brothers and sisters on the ground at the same time and, together with their wives, husbands, children and grandchildren, provide an enthusiastic force that any club would be proud of.

Another regular is Edson Patrick and, although he has little to say, he has missed little or nothing of

Booth cricket during the last 5 years.

Fred Sutcliffe, now unhappily able to see little, is as keen as ever, and Frank Sheard is usually to be found as near behind the bowler's arm as possible. Fred Mitchell sits and watches more than he used to and a regular spectator, over 80 years of age, is Mrs. Thorpe.

Looking into the future is a hazardous business, but at Booth there is reason for confidence. The boys' team is an essential to a club which likes to find its players locally, and from its ranks many good players have developed.

There is a wealth of inherited



H. CLEGG

cricketing skill and talent in the district. With players such as W. Thomas, N. Butterworth, R. Hellwell, K. Twemlow, R. Parker, R. Midgley (Jnr.), T. Driver and P. Metcalfe, to name a few, nearly all at the beginning of their cricketing careers, the future can be faced with confidence.