

WALTER, FRED AND FRIENDS

Alan Hampshire on club people

Walter Birkby (below) was a very important person at the club. He used to sit on a bench near the sightscreen on the right as you look out from the new pavilion. He brought his dog too!



Fred Bates was a character. He was given out lbw on one occasion and just sat on the wicket. He wouldn't move! In the end the decision was reversed! He also used to clean the ball with red boot polish! Fred served as club treasurer, but he only had to keep track of pop and crisps!

A number of women have played a role at the club: Edith Birkby, Joyce Jowett, Betty Barlow, Dorothy Sunley, Betty Briggs, Mrs Greenwood and Mrs Seymour. My wife, Susan, also did teas for 40-odd years. Our two sons, Simon and Jonathan, played here as well.

For a long period we had no water at the ground. We had to use a nearby well – at Clays, off whom we also bought the ground.