

THE BLACK HUT

Alan Hampshire on his early days at the club

I attended Sowerby Bridge Grammar School and joined SBCI as a youngster. I played the odd Under-18s game. Then, maybe only 10 clubs had junior sides. Now almost every club has them. I started playing for the 2nd XI aged 14 or 15. A lot more cricket was played in schools in those days.



When I started there was a black hut at the bottom of the ground – directly opposite where the new pavilion now stands. I think the club had acquired the hut in 1922 from the RAF airfield at Squires Gate.

The hut served as the club pavilion: there were two changing rooms at the front. The building incorporated tea room and scoreboard. It also had shutters – and the club tackle was stored behind it. The practice wickets were close by, and tennis courts too. There was nothing where the new pavilion now stands – just a football pitch.