

# HEAD COOK, BOTTLE-WASHER...AND SECRETARY!

## Profile of Julie Pearson by Sam Smith

Julie Pearson could well claim the title of head cook and bottle-washer at Blackley Cricket Club. The long-serving stalwart's work to support cricket at Lindley Road goes far beyond her duties as club secretary.

Helping to run the bar, doing her fair share of teas, pre-season ground painting, cleaning and organising the annual presentation and dinner are a few of chores for which Julie very willingly volunteers. Oh yes, and add to the list the arranging of a popular annual two-day trip to London.



For Julie these tasks, as well as her responsibilities as secretary, are a labour of love. She is passionate about cricket – to be more precise, cricket at Blackley. “I enjoy the cricket here because I know the people who are playing – rather than watching people I don't know,” said Julie.

“I have many friends here and I get a lot of satisfaction from helping to keep the club ticking over for them. Blackley is a really friendly place - a good atmosphere. Everyone gets on well and I enjoy being part of things. My most enjoyable times are in the summer when the weather is nice and I have time to watch the cricket – nothing better!”

Julie first came to Blackley as a spectator in 1978, watching her late husband Stuart playing for the club. "As my full-time job was a secretary I was asked if I would become club secretary – and I agreed." That was in 1981 and Julie carried on for the next three years, which completed her first spell in the post.

After Stuart's death in 1990, Julie carried on supporting Blackley. Three years later the club was looking for a new secretary – and Julie stepped into the breach once more.

Her duties include dealing with all correspondence for the club (she sets Saturday mornings aside for this task and other paperwork), keeping registration records (senior and junior) and registering new players, attending all committee meetings and taking the minutes. She also attends Halifax League meetings when treasurer Steve Williams is unavailable.

Blackley CC is a time-consuming "hobby" which she balances with her current full-time job as a database administrator. "It certainly keeps me busy – the trick is keeping on top of everything. It's a job I've been trained to do and it's not something I find difficult." And, by the way, she also manages to find time to be secretary of the Calderdale Cricket Development Group.

When asked if there were any down sides to being secretary, her answer was an emphatic "no"- although she does admit to being a little frustrated when she is short of volunteers.

After talking to Julie for even a short time, it is obvious that involvement with the club has given her many happy times over the years and her enthusiasm is as infectious as ever. She cites winning the Crossley Shield on a couple of occasions as the high points of her time with Blackley.

But then she is quick to look forward to even better times ahead. "I'm just waiting for the first team to win the Parish Cup – they have come close but it has yet to happen," said Julie.

"Maybe this is the year."