

# **'A BRILLIANT ATMOSPHERE'**

*Interview with Julie Pearson of Blackley Cricket Club by Dan Barton*



**What is your role at the club and what does it involve?**

I'm the club secretary but I end up doing a bit of everything. Mainly it involves sorting out the club's paperwork but it could be anything from keeping minutes at meetings to helping out with teas and catering.

**So you're a very important lady then?**

I like to think so!

**How many hours a week are taken up with working at the club?**

During the cricket season in summer I tend to be there for 3 to 4 hours most evenings and then all day Saturday and Sunday when matches are on. So it's quite a commitment and it's all voluntary.

**How did you first get involved with working at the club?**

I got involved when my husband first went to play there in 1978 and they needed a secretary so I was volunteered. Sadly my husband died in 1990 but I continued working there as I had made lots of friends at the club. I'm now in my second stint as club secretary and I've been doing it about 10 years now.

**Obviously you enjoy working at the club?**

Yes it's a brilliant atmosphere and it's good seeing all the friends I have made here over the years.

**Are there any other roles women are involved in at Blackley?**

Yes we have about a dozen or so working at the club whether that be doing the teas or volunteering at fundraising events. We also have the girls that work behind the bar too.

**Are girls encouraged to join the club at junior level or is it mainly aimed at getting boys to play?**

We try to get as many girls along to play at junior levels, I think we have 4 signed on at the minute but they really only joined because their brothers played, but we would welcome any girls that want to join.

**How have the male members of the club treated you over the years? Have you had to deal with any chauvinistic attitudes?**

No, not really they have all been very respectful towards me when I first started and because many were friends of my late husband they have supported me and respect the job I do. Some of the younger ones can be a bit cheeky but I work with men everyday in my job so I know how to deal with them.

**When you first got involved with the club did you like cricket or has your attitude to the game changed over the years?**

I'd never been to a cricket match before in my life when my husband first decided to join the club but as the years have gone on I found I that I enjoy watching the cricket as well. Being part of the club is not just a social event - it's also a good sporting event to watch.