

## Lascelles Hall Top Trivia

In 1873 the eleventh member of the team was chosen by a ballot taken by the other ten!

Until the 1930s, five buckets of water per match were lifted from the well at the side of the ground – one for each team to wash in, two for the bar and one for cooking purposes.

In the 1880s, batsmen had to put a silver coin on each wicket at practice. Future President JC Broadbent recalled that when he first arrived in the village ‘The crafty villagers reaped a rich harvest ...as they pocketed all they displaced from my wickets.’

John Lockwood, cousin of Ephraim, was an early Lascelles Hall groundsman and did such a fine job that he went from there straight to The Oval where he worked for several years.

When constructing the current ground in 1865 the members drew lots to decide who did the work each day. Those not working then paid 3s 6d for the privilege.

In 1952 Lascelles Hall instigated 5-a-side cricket, running their own eight team tournament. It was the forerunner to the Examiner Mini-Cricket competition played today.

In the 1880s, when Harrow Wanderers returned to Huddersfield after playing at Lascelles Hall their players threw coppers and small silver out of their wagonettes to youngsters following them from the ground. One of the youngsters to pick up a coin or two was George H Hirst.

In the 1850s and 60s the players prepared and practised on a wicket in a little paddock which had a wall to the leg side. The players therefore used to practise strokes to the off side which helped to explain why so many of their batsmen were accomplished off side players.

In 1945, with the ink barely dry on the deeds after the club bought the ground, it was listed as one of eight fields in the area to be dug up in the search for outcrop coal as the government tried to tackle the post-war shortage. When groundsman Henry Draper saw a man boring sample holes into the field he told him: ‘If tha doant stop I’ll hit thee on t’head wi’ me shovel.’ This piece of local diplomacy, coupled with written representations from cricket lovers in high places, saw the plans abandoned.