

## Interview with ex-player Kevin Beaumont



### **Schools cricket:**

He first played at school and said that schools cricket was very strong in the 1960s among the grammar and high schools and the secondary moderns. He went to a high school which only played friendly matches against the grammar schools. However, the secondary modern school played in a league which was very competitive as did the junior schools. Kevin thinks that the lack of cricket in local schools has seen numbers of young players drop, because everyone had to play at school, whereas only those people interested or linked to clubs in some way are introduced to the game now.

### **Professionalism:**

Initially a one professional-per-club rule was enforced. However, some time in the 1970s/80s this was changed to allow any number of professionals to play for a team. According to Kevin this was because of unofficial payments to players which could not be policed. He also thinks that the standard was better in the 1960s as the strength in depth of teams was greater. The professionals of the 1960s dominated in a similar way to the overseas players of today.

### **Crowds/revenue:**

Most clubs received substantial revenue through gate money. Crowds could number in their thousands, especially for local derbies. These were usually played on the Tuesday of Whitsuntide week when most people were given a second day's holiday. Teams were free to arrange league matches for that day and in many cases local derbies were arranged. These were family occasions and although the club bar was often open spectators, on the whole, behaved in an orderly fashion.