

Brentham Cricket Club Centenary 1908-2008



The Pavilion and Recreation Ground



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Brentham Cricket Club thank
Grainger Estates plc
for their sponsorship
of this centenary brochure
and thereby continuing
their association with
the Brentham Estate
which they acquired
in 1940



Message from the President

It is, of course, a great honour to be President but more so at the time of the Club's Centenary. We are one of the youngest Clubs relative to our opposition, particularly in the County League, and it gives the feeling that, having completed 100 years, we have now come of age and stand as a centurion alongside the longer established Clubs.

I joined the Club in 1957 and one of my lasting memories as a new young player was to have been selected to play in the Jubilee Match of 1958. Frank Ahl, then reaching the end of his career, brought an invited side to celebrate the occasion. We were treated to a mixture of the best players of the day, including Henry Malcolm, Doug Newman, Eddie Ingram, Dusty Miller, and Bob Talbot together with some of the older members of the Club. On this occasion fifty years on we are delighted to mark this milestone with matches in August against the MCC and the Club Cricket Conference, together with a Centenary Dinner in February.

We also thought it appropriate to produce a Brochure for the occasion. Following the 1957 season we lost our pavilion to fire and had to face our Jubilee without one. At the same time we have also lost our records of that year. We have, therefore, sought to remedy that omission by seeking to record the history of the Club and personalise that history with reference to the family

associations and individuals that have put their mark down, particularly over the second half of the century.

It is inevitable that, as it is not possible to mention everyone and the choice has to be subjective, there will be omissions. It has to be recognised that a Club does not survive and prosper over 100 years without the contribution to a greater and lesser extent of many many people. There are many unsung heroes, not least of which are Mrs Raynor and Michael Lawrence, who over the decades not years have, of their own volition, planted and tended the flowers in front of the pavilion. This Brochure is in recognition of all the Members and contributors.

Our Centenary year appropriately sees the return of the Club to the Premier Division of the League. Our objective will be to retain that position. I trust, however, the aim for 2008 will be not just a successful year on the playing field but also one of strengthening our roots by renewing links with past and present members and taking stock for the future.

David W Bloomfield



President

D W Bloomfield

Life Vice-Presidents

J G Capps
I I R Chaplin
K A R Drane

R A James
R F Kingdon
B J Reid

J L Swann
P A R Swann
D W J Vincent

Presidents

Position first introduced in 1939

W Allen 1939 – 1942
J C Roberts 1943
F W Green 1944 – 1950

H J Fisher 1951 – 1960
A W G Thurland 1961 – 1970
H Brearley 1971 – 1972

K L Kettle 1973 – 1997
B J Reid 1998 – 2005
D W Bloomfield 2006 –

Vice-Presidents

M P Avery
G D Barlow
J M Brearley, OBE
R Chambers
C D Cheadle
S Clarke
A Cooper
T Daly
J Darbon
G de Jonk
C C Denty

B C Eden
D L Frewer
J A Hamilton
N G Hamilton
P O Hooper
H R Hunt
R Hunt
S M Hunt
M C James
I Juster
H Lambi

N Lambi
M A Lawrence
F Legg
M H Lewis
B J Mead
P D Minor
J Morley
G M Overy
J A Overy
C A Phillips
P Roberts

C Rodgers
H F Rose
G Rayner
Mrs J E Rayner
N F Sargeant
D Ventham
G Wells
D K West
G A Williams



Brentham Garden Suburb

The question frequently asked of the cricket team is "where is Brentham". A better question would be what is it, rather than where is it, because it is also little known that Brentham has a unique place in social history in that it was the first Garden Suburb founded on co-partnership principles.

It was constituted in September 1901 and was the forerunner of the better known co-partnerships at Letchworth in 1903, Hampstead in 1907, and Welwyn in 1920, as well as those in many countries including Germany, Canada, and Russia. Although now seen as a part of North Ealing, Brentham certainly has strong and unusual roots and an original part in history.

The origins of Brentham, which was designated in 1969 a Conservation Area, can be traced back to the Arts and Crafts movement led by William Morris and the Garden City movement, which focused upon social reform and founded by Ebenezer Howard, following the publication of his book called *Tomorrow*, in which he detailed his ideas about planning and economic foundation of towns and cities. The central tenet was the principle of co-partnership, whereby each prospective tenant would take a share in the company's capital and, as a shareholder, would be entitled to a share in the profits. In 1891 Howard established his own co-operative building company, one branch of which was in Ealing.

Following the opening in 1838 of the Great Western Railway, Ealing had seen a great surge of building activity and at the end of 19th century the one area that remained as farmland was Pitshanger Farm situated between Castlebar Hill and Hangar Lane. Six members of the Ealing branch of Howard's firm determined to build their own houses in Woodfield Road and clubbed together to buy the plots of land. They discussed their plans in the Haven Arms in Haven Lane (an ironic location as the sale of alcohol was banned on the subsequent estate) with Henry Vivian, a Member of Parliament and a visionary, who not only encouraged them to build but also to form a tenants' association known as Ealing Tenants, of which he became Chairman. He subsequently became an authority on co-partnership housing and organised an association at Hampstead on the same lines as Brentham.

The first 9 houses proved to be a catalyst and more were to follow between 1901 and 1906. Then, additional land was acquired from the Fowler's Hill estate and a further 30 acres from Pitshanger estate. By 1913 510 houses had been built and the population stood at 2,000.

Such was the popularity of the co-partnership concept that many roads on the estate—Brunner, Denison, Neville, and Holyoake, for example—were named after some of the eminent leading protagonists of the venture.



Whilst the social activities of the suburb were many and varied, the amenities were inadequate as growth took place. As a result, in 1911 a permanent social centre, opened by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, was achieved by the completion of the Institute in Meadvale Road, now Brentham Club. Subsequently, in 1915 the old farmhouse was demolished and made way for the cricket pavilion, which survived until 1957, and a 5 acre playing field. The new sports ground was opened on Whit Monday by the Right Honourable John Burns MP, President of the Local Government Board.

Membership was originally limited to residents of Ealing Tenants and there was a ban on alcohol and games on Sunday. The latter was lifted in 1922 but the former persisted until 1936 when the rules on membership were also relaxed. The control of Ealing Tenants was reduced and the basis of the present organisation established when a separate company, Brentham Club Ltd, was formed and was bought by its members in 1947. The purpose remains as a sports and social centre where cricket, tennis, bowls, and football are the main external activities.

Brentham in War

During the First World War activities were necessarily curtailed. The Club, however, remained open and

convalescent soldiers from local hospitals were invited to become honorary members. The sports grounds were used for military drilling, whilst Belgian refugees were housed on the estate and even overflowed into the cricket pavilion.

The coming of the Second World War brought considerable damage from bombing and 40 houses had to be completely or partially re-built. In 1940 it also brought the severance of the last remaining links with the old co-partnership system, when the estate was sold to a commercial undertaking. This ultimately led to the Club and its 12 acres being sold to its members.

The grounds "hosted" an anti-aircraft battery for a while at the beginning of the war but, in time honoured fashion, this was seen to be an excuse for a cricket match between the parties. A small bomb dropped on the grounds but fortunately missed the square. Charity matches were held in aid of the Red Cross 1943 and 1944 against the British Empire XI, bringing many well known players to the Club and raising substantial sums for charity.

As a tribute and memorial to those from the estate, who lost their lives in the hostilities, the northern boundary of the cricket ground was planted with poplar trees – one for each life lost. This poignant boundary is now well established and maintains recognition of the debt that is owed to those who lost their lives.



A History of Brentham C.C.

1908-1958

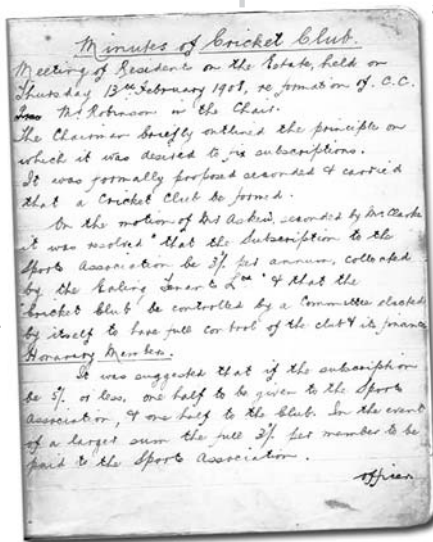
Written and researched by A W G Thurland

Brentham Club was formed as a social and sporting centre and although a few games had been played in 1907, the Cricket Club was officially founded as Ealing Tenants C.C. at a meeting in February 1908. The pavilion and grounds were opened by the Rt. Hon. John Burns, M.P. on Whit Monday 1908 on the site of the old Pitshanger Farmhouse. The name was changed to Brentham C.C. at the end of the 1910 season, and during the following summer the main Clubhouse building was opened by T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. One of the main purposes of the Cricket Club (as of the other sporting organisations as they emerged) was to provide amenities for tenants of the Brentham Estate – then a quarter of its ultimate size – and to attract other tenants as the Estate developed. The early years of the Cricket Club were ones of a constant struggle to survive, but of steady development. The pioneer members

had to do a lot of the work themselves, although a groundsman (with a horse) was employed by Ealing Tenants. The first Captain was C.B. Askew and the first Secretary was George Royce – the last named still being an active member in 1932. The first century (125 not out) was scored by C. McCormack in 1911. F.W. Green, who became Secretary in 1911, was Captain for six years from 1927 to 1932 and President from 1944 to 1950, was one of those early members who gave much time

and effort to put the Club on a firm foundation. Ernie Rigg – wicketkeeper, batter and later umpire – was another whose association with the Club extended for 50 years.

The social side was not neglected, with dances, concerts and suppers. One such supper in 1908 attracted an attendance of 52, and yielded a profit of 17/9 (89p). It was decided to give this to the Lady helpers. An interesting comparison with today's costs is shown by the fact that this sum covered the price of tickets at



Inaugural Minutes from 1908





Team in the 1920s

Daly's Theatre for five (2/6) railway fares at 8d and 41/2d each for refreshments.

With the outbreak of the First World War the Club kept going in 1915 and 1916, but no fixtures were played in 1917 and 1918. The grounds and clubhouse were taken over by the Royal Flying Corps and were thus not available to the members.

In January 1919 an enthusiastic meeting decided to reactivate the Club, which became affiliated to the Club Cricket Conference. The wicket had been neglected

during the war years, and much hard work was necessary by members in the early post-war period to bring the amenities back to the former standard, and to enable the fixture list to be maintained and improved.

The Clegg family – George and Jack, with the latter's son Harry – performed many doughty deeds for the Club, perhaps the most noteworthy being that of George when a veteran (he had played in London County teams about the turn of the century with W.G. Grace) in taking 627 wickets in the six seasons 1925 to 1930. Harry Clegg, as free-scoring batsman and lively bowler, was several times our nominee in Ealing and District games organised for charity.

In the inter-war years the Club made continued steady improvement and benefited greatly from an influx of good local cricketers from Ealing County School, a number of them being sons of the original Estate tenants.

The three James brothers (Reg, Bert and Charles) had a long and successful connection with several Brentham sports, still maintained by Charles. They achieved the unusual feat of each scoring a century for the Club. Both Roy (son of Bert) and Michael (son of Charles) were later to carry the family connection into the next generation, and now Laurence (son of Roy), the third generation, has taken up the mantle.



When the Second World War started the Clubhouse was taken over for a while by an Anti-Aircraft battery. On 8th October 1939 they played a cricket match against Brentham, who beat the soldiers by an innings. In this game Jack Howard not only scored 50 but took 5 wickets for 3 runs. He was later to make his mark by scoring a century on the day his daughter was born.

During the war a small bomb fell on the outfield but luckily the square and the buildings escaped. In these years the Club was kept going most efficiently, and its standing even enhanced, largely through the efforts of a few members – chiefly Freddy Green (President), Frank Sharpe (Captain and Match Secretary) and Len Haworth (Secretary). It was their boast that any Service member on leave would always be included in the team if he sought a game.

Bob Felton (Middlesex) from Ealing C.C. and Frank Ahl (late of Worcester C.C.C.) greatly strengthened the Club during these years, as did the arrival of John Swann, whose first season in senior cricket was 1942 before he was sixteen. He first scored a thousand runs in a season in 1943 and this presaged a long and prolific association with the Club, where he was joined by his brother Paul, who was not only a talented player but a most efficient Secretary for 12 years. John's successes for Brentham with bat, ball and indeed soccer boots, are legendary. He

gained a Middlesex II cap and played several games for the County First team.

Charity matches in aid of the Red Cross were organised in 1943 and 1944 against the British Empire Eleven, bringing many well-known players to Brentham, welcome publicity to the Club and substantial sums to the Charity concerned.

The return of most of the ex-Service members in 1946 brought a near surfeit of players and enabled the Club to



Club photograph 1953



launch a third team, fraught with difficulties though this was with only one ground. On 6th October 1946 the ex-Servicemen celebrated their return by playing and defeating by 3 wickets a team from the rest of the Club. This was the forerunner of the present-day Club match with which the season is still concluded.

After the Second War the poplar trees along the north side of the ground were planted, one for each of those members of Brentham killed during the War, including three members of the Cricket Club (Messrs Cox, J. Gray and F. Watts).

In 1947 the Clubhouse and grounds were purchased from Ealing Tenants Ltd at the preferential price of £15,000, and are now in the freehold ownership of the members.

Frank Sharpe had died in 1946 and, as a Memorial to him, a new Score-Box was constructed in the loft of the old pavilion by one of the Club members (Dick Burrows) and officially opened in 1948.

Horace Brearley (Yorkshire II) began a long association with the Club soon after the War, and in addition to scoring many runs at Brentham gained a Middlesex II cap. He also brought his very young son Michael to play a few games for the Club before going on to captain Cambridge University, Middlesex and England in a most distinguished career.

Three matches were organised against County teams in aid of the Benefit Funds of Jim Sims – Middlesex (1946), Tom Wade – Essex (1948) and Ray Smith – Essex (1951) when worthwhile sums of money were raised, although the 1948 game was rained off at lunch-time. The members enjoyed playing against regular County players, particularly when in 1946 Jim Sims brought along the legendary Pat Hendren, current England player Bill Edrich and Leslie Compton. In 1949 an Ealing District XI, including five Brentham members, defeated a full Middlesex XI at Corfton Road in aid of Denis Compton's benefit, John Swann scoring 81 runs.

The original wooden Pavilion was completely destroyed by fire in November 1957 and the present structure erected in replacement. Resources were unfortunately limited by the insurance monies and so a somewhat austere building was unavoidable. The Frank Sharpe Memorial Score-Box was also destroyed, but the commemorative plaque survives on the replacement Score-Box.

A special Dinner and Dance was held in October 1958 at the St. Ermin's Hotel to celebrate the Club's jubilee, when the Guest speakers were Mr A.J. Spong (President of the Club Cricket Conference) and the Mayor of Ealing, Alderman G. Ward (father-in-law of our own Jack Howard), whilst for the Club the speakers were John Swann (Captain) and Frank Ahl.



The only special accolade within the Club's gift is election as a Life Vice-President. This honour has only been conferred four times – George Royce (1939), Freddy Green (1951), Ernie Rigg (1954) and Arthur Thurland (1971).

Memories of the Early Days

By Frank Hender (1919-1938)

Just after the first World War (1914/18), the Club went through a difficult period because not only were we short of money but also members. Club membership at that time was restricted to residents on the Brentham Estate and also no Sunday play was permitted.

Also, during that time only one ground staff was employed, Bill Copestake, who had to look after the requirements of all outdoor sections of the Club, i.e. Football, Tennis, Bowls etc. This meant that members of the Cricket Club were asked each week to help look after the "Cricket Table" – repairing, weeding, rolling etc. and when it was dry, had to bale out water from the River Brent.

Fixture lists were also restricted because nobody had cars in those days so public transport had to be used and teams more or less local had to be relied on, such as

Ealing Dean, Southall G.W.R., Uxbridge, West Drayton etc. Fortunately, the Club had a number of good, reliable older members like George Rogers, Fred Green, Bill Carr, Freddy Watts, Ernie Rigg and these stalwarts laid the foundation stone for a fine healthy Club.

In time, the finances of the Club improved, the restriction of membership lifted and extra ground staff

Cartoon Middlesex Gazette 1930



were employed with a result that the Club's playing strength improved, the fixture list strengthened and two reasonably strong teams played in the field each week.

The first real import in the playing strength of the Club occurred when the Clegg Family joined, comprising Father Clegg, his brothers George and Ernie, together with his son Harry.

In time Harry Clegg turned out to be a very forceful opening bat and a very useful change bowler, but the star of the Clegg family was George, who was one of the best spin bowlers in Southern England. Each week he was responsible for taking many wickets and his bowling brought out the best of the team's fielders, particularly Bert James with his wonderful slip catching. The success of the Club brought forth a still stronger fixture list and also the development of many of the younger players such as Dickie Burrows, Gordon Clark, Bert and Charles James, Frank Hender, Bob and Dennis Melhuish, Geo Hibbert, Arthur Thurland etc. and all these players proved to be good loyal club members and a very happy bunch of players.

In the early thirties more notable players joined the Club, including Frank Sharpe amongst others and, as a result, the Club continued on an upwards path.

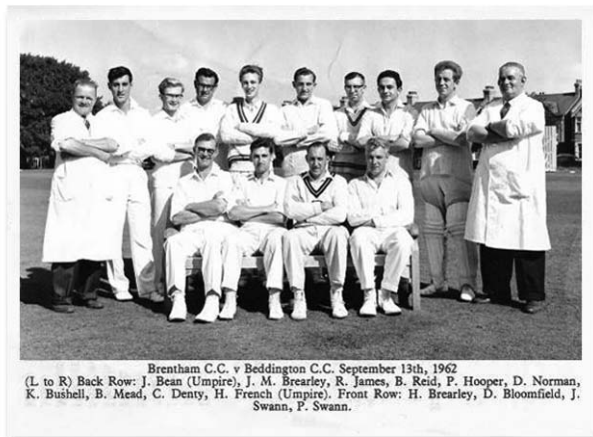
1958-1983

Written and researched by D W Bloomfield

1958, our Golden jubilee year, was memorable mainly for its problems and frustration. The very attractive but rather ramshackle pavilion and scoreboard was burnt down and only temporary facilities in the main Clubhouse were available. Inevitably the season proved a very wet one. The jubilee match, however, against a Frank Ahl's XI of notable club cricketers, was blessed with a fine day and a closely fought contest. We were honoured by such outstanding cricketers as Eddie Ingram, Henry Malcolm, Dusty Miller and C. Treadwell.

The late fifties saw the establishment, under the combined captaincy of John Swann (1956-61) and David Vincent (1956-66) of one of the outstanding sides which with the odd exception held together for nearly a decade. Youth was encouraged and blended with experience. Five of the first XI at this time, Roy James, David Norman, Brian Walters, David Bloomfield and John Pickering were under 22. This side. was considerably augmented in 1961 by the arrival of Brian Reid, a genuine quick bowler who proceeded to take 100 wickets a season on ten or more occasions and Joe Misso in 1963. John Swann had not only provided the impetus and leadership but continued to excel in all departments. His reputation was second to





none in club cricket both as a person and a player. His many appearances for Middlesex 2nd XI and the Club Cricket Conference underlined his ability.

The strength of the Club's batting at this time was highlighted by Whit-weekend in 1964. David Vincent and Joe Misso scored 244-0 on the Saturday against Ealing Dean, only to be followed the next day by 364-4 in under three hours against Gravesend at the Bat & Ball. One fifty took 11 minutes. Whit-Monday produced 237-5 against Barnes making a weekend total of 845 runs.

Perhaps the high spot of this period came in 1962 when Brentham headed the Northern Section of the Club Cricket Table of Merit based on Saturday results, organised by the Evening Standard. Whilst this was an unofficial league table, it led to a Challenge Match with the winners of the Southern section – Beddington, a formidable side. It was held on a wet ground at Finchley and proved to be a match of very tense cricket from start to finish. Brentham, under the captaincy of David Bloomfield, due to David Vincent's absence, and with Mike Brearley as twelfth man, batted first and were bowled out for only 89. However, due to tight fielding and even tighter bowling 29-4 became 70-7 before Beddington got home in the 51st over. John Swann bowled 25 overs taking 4 for 21. We had come second but cricket was one of the winners.

David Vincent, who had captained the side on Sundays from 1956, took over on both days in 1962 and continued until 1966, a ten year stint of office during which he had dedicated himself to the success of the club. David had always been conscious of following such outstanding cricketers as Frank Ahl, Bob Felton, Horace Brearley and John Swann, all of whom had played County and representative cricket and his success was underlined by the achievements of the side.

Roy James (1967-69) succeeded David and not only did the composition of the side start to change but also at





Lord's Final 1972. Back row (l-r): I Chaplin, A Wilmore, A Holley, M James, G Barlow, R Kingdon, G Rayner, D Vincent. Front row (l-r): J Hopkins, B Reid, D Bloomfield, J Swann, R James

this time the framework of Club cricket. Historically all games had been competitive but nevertheless "friendlies". Each game was an entity and there was no measurement of one side against another over a season. The Gillette Cup had arrived at County level and the Middlesex Clubs found themselves in 1968 with the Wills Cup, (more recently the Lambert & Butler). This has proved to be a very popular and successful limited over competition which has now been joined by others.

Thus far Brentham has not distinguished itself in this Cup although in 1972 we were within an ace of reaching the

final, losing to Enfield by the margin of 1 wicket. In a very tense match Enfield were nursed home by an outstanding innings by Larry Gomes later to play a similar role for the West Indies.

The wind of change was very much abroad and despite an earlier attempt to introduce League cricket this became a reality in 1970 when 16 leading clubs, of which we were one, formed themselves into the Middlesex County Cricket League with the competition to take effect from 1972. This caused a complete tremor through Middlesex cricket and with fixture lists at risk, leagues were formed on all sides.

The MCCL has proved to be a very successful format although there are those who are concerned at the influences it has brought with it. The general demand for an overall competition has been answered and now after ten years experience the game has a generation which has known nothing else. It is a radical change from all the earlier decades of cricket and it is up to successive generations to maintain the game in its traditional spirit.

Our best performance thus far came in the inaugural year of 1972 when we were third. David Bloomfield, who became captain in 1970, has played a leading role on behalf of the Club in league matters. Unfortunately, we also occupied the bottom of the table in 1976.



One of the cup competitions, and perhaps the most important that was established in the '70s, has been the National Knock-out. It is not surprising that 1972 has been described as one of the most successful in the Club's history since not only were we third in the league and semi-finalists in the Wills Cup, but also reached the final of the National Cup at the mecca of cricket – Lord's. It was an exhilarating season with games coming thick and fast. The high spot was the victory over Wolverhampton in the semi-finals when Graham Barlow scored 113 and Jeff Hopkins, our wicketkeeper, took 7-34. The return trip down the M1 is impossible to describe.

Scarbrough won by 6 wickets

LORD'S GROUND

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT FINAL

for THE DERRICK ROBINS TROPHY

BRENTHAM v. SCARBOROUGH

Sunday, 10th September 1972

(80 minutes only. No further play after 9 overs)

BRENTHAM		Scarbrough	
1. M. C. James	40	1. M. C. James	40
2. D. Vincent	30	2. D. Vincent	30
3. D. Vincent	30	3. D. Vincent	30
4. D. Vincent	30	4. D. Vincent	30
5. D. Vincent	30	5. D. Vincent	30
6. D. Vincent	30	6. D. Vincent	30
7. D. Vincent	30	7. D. Vincent	30
8. D. Vincent	30	8. D. Vincent	30
9. D. Vincent	30	9. D. Vincent	30
10. D. Vincent	30	10. D. Vincent	30
11. D. Vincent	30	11. D. Vincent	30
12. D. Vincent	30	12. D. Vincent	30
13. D. Vincent	30	13. D. Vincent	30
14. D. Vincent	30	14. D. Vincent	30
15. D. Vincent	30	15. D. Vincent	30
16. D. Vincent	30	16. D. Vincent	30
17. D. Vincent	30	17. D. Vincent	30
18. D. Vincent	30	18. D. Vincent	30
19. D. Vincent	30	19. D. Vincent	30
20. D. Vincent	30	20. D. Vincent	30

FALL OF THE WICKETS

1-10 1-11 1-12 1-13 1-14 1-15 1-16 1-17 1-18 1-19 1-20 1-21 1-22 1-23 1-24 1-25 1-26 1-27 1-28 1-29 1-30 1-31 1-32 1-33 1-34 1-35 1-36 1-37 1-38 1-39 1-40 1-41 1-42 1-43 1-44 1-45 1-46 1-47 1-48 1-49 1-50 1-51 1-52 1-53 1-54 1-55 1-56 1-57 1-58 1-59 1-60 1-61 1-62 1-63 1-64 1-65 1-66 1-67 1-68 1-69 1-70 1-71 1-72 1-73 1-74 1-75 1-76 1-77 1-78 1-79 1-80 1-81 1-82 1-83 1-84 1-85 1-86 1-87 1-88 1-89 1-90 1-91 1-92 1-93 1-94 1-95 1-96 1-97 1-98 1-99 1-100 1-101 1-102 1-103 1-104 1-105 1-106 1-107 1-108 1-109 1-110 1-111 1-112 1-113 1-114 1-115 1-116 1-117 1-118 1-119 1-120 1-121 1-122 1-123 1-124 1-125 1-126 1-127 1-128 1-129 1-130 1-131 1-132 1-133 1-134 1-135 1-136 1-137 1-138 1-139 1-140 1-141 1-142 1-143 1-144 1-145 1-146 1-147 1-148 1-149 1-150 1-151 1-152 1-153 1-154 1-155 1-156 1-157 1-158 1-159 1-160 1-161 1-162 1-163 1-164 1-165 1-166 1-167 1-168 1-169 1-170 1-171 1-172 1-173 1-174 1-175 1-176 1-177 1-178 1-179 1-180 1-181 1-182 1-183 1-184 1-185 1-186 1-187 1-188 1-189 1-190 1-191 1-192 1-193 1-194 1-195 1-196 1-197 1-198 1-199 1-200 1-201 1-202 1-203 1-204 1-205 1-206 1-207 1-208 1-209 1-210 1-211 1-212 1-213 1-214 1-215 1-216 1-217 1-218 1-219 1-220 1-221 1-222 1-223 1-224 1-225 1-226 1-227 1-228 1-229 1-230 1-231 1-232 1-233 1-234 1-235 1-236 1-237 1-238 1-239 1-240 1-241 1-242 1-243 1-244 1-245 1-246 1-247 1-248 1-249 1-250 1-251 1-252 1-253 1-254 1-255 1-256 1-257 1-258 1-259 1-260 1-261 1-262 1-263 1-264 1-265 1-266 1-267 1-268 1-269 1-270 1-271 1-272 1-273 1-274 1-275 1-276 1-277 1-278 1-279 1-280 1-281 1-282 1-283 1-284 1-285 1-286 1-287 1-288 1-289 1-290 1-291 1-292 1-293 1-294 1-295 1-296 1-297 1-298 1-299 1-300 1-301 1-302 1-303 1-304 1-305 1-306 1-307 1-308 1-309 1-310 1-311 1-312 1-313 1-314 1-315 1-316 1-317 1-318 1-319 1-320 1-321 1-322 1-323 1-324 1-325 1-326 1-327 1-328 1-329 1-330 1-331 1-332 1-333 1-334 1-335 1-336 1-337 1-338 1-339 1-340 1-341 1-342 1-343 1-344 1-345 1-346 1-347 1-348 1-349 1-350 1-351 1-352 1-353 1-354 1-355 1-356 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1-1733 1-1734 1-1735 1-1736 1-1737 1-1738 1-1739 1-1740 1-1741 1-17

It is unusual to be able to count Test cricketers amongst the players but the Club is extremely proud to have been associated with Michael Brearley, who will probably turn out to be England's most outstanding captain, and Graham Barlow. Ian Gould currently on tour to Australia also played at the club for a season. The 1958 Secretary's Report commented that "Michael Brearley not yet 18 a batsman of the future who also bowls and keeps wicket. It has been said he will be a better player than his father." Poetic words indeed!

Brentham cricket as it approaches its seventy-fifth year is in a healthy state. This in no small way is due to its officers and we are indebted to the wisdom and the guidance of our Presidents – H. J. Fisher, Arthur Thurland, Horace Brearley and Ken Kettle. Our umpires and scorers should also not be overlooked: in particular the umpiring services of Hugh Thompson, Stan Turner and Joe Bloomfield and those of scorers Tommy Field (1951–1968) and Ivor Chaplin (1964–) who have contributed unflinching to our Club. So of course, have many others too numerous unfortunately to mention by name.

The health of the Club is also in its future and, as we set out on the last leg towards the centenary, one of the most important features is the strength of our Colts section. Club cricket is having to provide for its own succession and the colts currently under the

direction of Roy James and the team managers and helpers are to be commended on their enthusiasm and achievements.

In 1958 the Secretary's Report concluded:

*"And now the light of the day has gone and the sun is
sinking fast
The crack of the willow has ceased to sound and the thrill
of the match is past
Then all I ask are two cool sheets, a bed, and a peaceful night
And I'll lay down and dream of the King of Games until the
morning light"*

So be it in 2008.

1983–2007

Written and researched by J G Capps

Our Centenary has arrived and the 2007 season proved the ideal way to complete our 100th playing year with both 1st and 2nd XIs gaining promotion to their top divisions. Despite the hiccup of relegation for the 3rd XI, with an extremely young side due to various retirements, the introduction of a 4th XI was so successful that they finished third in their division and were runners up in the League Cup. Our thanks go to Mark Saggars and Peter Brandreth for their leadership in this new venture – more of 2007 later.





Signs of the future

Since our 75th Anniversary, club cricket has changed considerably with league cricket dominating to such an extent that Sunday cricket suffered increasingly as the century expired. Fortunately, with an excellent colts set up, we now have plenty of younger players wanting to play both days. Hopefully a better standard of Sunday opposition can be found in order to enhance our younger players' ability.

At the time of our 75th celebrations the Club inaugurated a Cricket Week that began initially with 3 matches and due to its success grew to a 5 match format. This was sustained for 20 years. With, however, the decline of mid-week cricket and reduced availability, it has since reverted to 3 matches. To compensate for this,

mainly at the instigation of James Pettifer, we had our first ever Tour in 2006, when 15 took themselves to the Isle of Wight in a mini-bus driven by Richard Devine and John Capps. This was such a success that it was repeated in 2007 and in what turned out to be one of the only dry weeks of the summer.

During the '80s and '90s the successes of the earlier decades were not repeated. Under the captaincy of Tony Williams the 1st XI achieved third in 1985 and the 2nd XI finished third in 1984 under Roy James. Just prior to these two decades overseas players started filtering into club cricket in the south and over the years we have had an eclectic bunch, mainly antipodeans. Most notably, these included New Zealanders Grant Douglas, whose father was the Minister of Finance, Simon Joyce, and Roger Bradley. The latter subsequently became a Holland International having married a Dutch girl. We also had the company, albeit for a few weeks, of Hamish Marshall prior to his selection for New Zealand. Australians then became the order of the day and we enjoyed several seasons with Nick Martin, as indeed we have with Damon Rowan recently.

In addition, a number of other notable county standard players appeared such as Alec Davies, an excellent batsman/wicket keeper, who eventually represented Scotland in the 1999 World Cup, Jason Pooley while on



Middlesex duty, his brother Greg, who played for Middlesex 2nd XI, Neil Sergeant before and after he played for Surrey, Keith Dutch before and after he played for Middlesex and Somerset and Simon Cook while he played for Middlesex.

In cup competitions we rarely came through the early rounds. Our best efforts were in the National Cup in 1993 when Old Hill beat us in the quarter finals under the leadership of Graham Wells and in 1996, when Clifford Pile was captain, Walsall proved too strong for us in another Quarter Final. In the Ibex Cup in the same year a club record was established, when an amazing 379 runs were scored from 45 overs against Kenton, including a remarkable 34 from the last over by Greg Pooley. The only other notable success was in the Evening Standard Cup when, in 2002, we lost the semi-final against eventual winners High Wycombe, when Neil Sergeant was skipper.

In 1999 the winds of change arrived. After 27 years of Middlesex County Cricket League comprising only one Division, where sides played each other once, it was split into two and promotion and relegation were instituted. The top group became known as the Premier Division and a third division was added in 1999. In 1998 the 1st XI had their best result finishing second to Richmond and qualified for the new Premier Division,

where it was laid down that the match had to extend to 120 overs as opposed to 100 in the other divisions. This highest placing was achieved under the captaincy of Neil Sergeant, who had returned from County cricket. Neil skippered during our three year stay in the Premier Division and the following two years when, attempting to regain our status, we finished 3rd on each occasion. Since the introduction of Premier League cricket, the standard in the top flight has improved markedly and, for the future of Brentham, maintaining our membership amongst the elite remains our goal.

In 2005 Keith Dutch returned after retiring from the first class arena. Under his captaincy we won the championship of the Second Division and returned to the Premier League. Unfortunately, staying up proved difficult and relegation by a tiny margin followed. Although not captain in 2007, Keith's contribution to reinstating us in the Premier Division once again was enormous, scoring 550 runs at 45.83 and taking 49 wickets at 11.57. He was ably supported by Majed Ali, who totalled 592 runs at 45.82 and a very young and enthusiastic group of players, some still in the Colts led by the evergreen Gary Dattani.

During '00s the 2nd XI have had their ups and downs, quite literally. Their third promotion to Division 1



culminated this season with a very strong all round unit of players under the leadership of Jon Mays.

Though records are not Brentham's forte, it is interesting to note that before 1983 only Roger Kingdon on one occasion scored 500 runs in a league season. Then, Jason Pooley hit 600 in 1992. Since the introduction of extra divisions there have been 13 instances. Danny Rodgers, our most successful league batsman, and holder of Brentham's highest league score of 181, has done so on 4 occasions. Matt Ennion and Keith Dutch have done so twice each and Brett Islip, Roger Faraday, Matt Foreman, Damon Rowan, and Majed Ali once each. On the bowling front 50 wickets in a 1st XI league season have been taken on 3 occasions. Ricky Fay did so in both the years he was with us and Naz Ali in 2005. Additionally, John Capps also achieved this goal in 2003 in the 3rd XI.

Away from the playing side the Club has been very fortunate in the number of players and ex players, who have been very active on our Committee. Now that we are running 4 league sides and have two out-grounds to pay for, sponsorship is hugely important and over the years we have been indebted to Brian Reid for all his efforts and contribution. Amongst the projects that have been undertaken, although much remains to be done,

was the face lift given to our rather lacklustre pavilion by the addition of a covered sitting area to the front. The score-box was firstly refurbished and then brought more up to date by electrifying the numbers, whilst new nets were installed and subsequently refurbished last year. A significant modernising feature was the acquisition of covers, which are now an essential feature of senior cricket.

Within the Club framework we have been fortunate to have continuity in all posts and special mention must be made to all officers over the past 25 years, not least to Brian Reid, David Bloomfield, and our 2 Club Captains initially Jonathan Vincent and now Richard Devine. Amongst others to be commended are David Vincent, John Capps, James Pettifer, Roy James, Clifford Pile, Steve Clarke, and Ken Drane.

Finally, to Ivor Chaplin, the irreplaceable, who has been scorer for the 1st XI for 40 years – what a fantastic contribution he has made – and also, lastly but certainly not least, to Alison Delaney, who is the hardest working Hon Secretary we could wish for. As the only female to break into our male dominated world, she has hopefully shown the way for others. In the hands of these good people, the Club can look to the future with great confidence.



First Team Captains

C B Askew	1908 – 10
G F Royce	1911 – 18
J W Clegg	1919 – 20
B Goodridge	1921
J W Clegg	1922 – 26
F W Green	1927 – 32
F T Hender	1933 – 35
R Howell	1936 – 37
F H Sharpe	1938 – 44
F D Ahl	1945 – 48
R Felton	1949 – 52

H Brearley	1953 – 55
J L Swann	1956 – 61
D W J Vincent	1962 – 66
R A James	1967 – 69
D W Bloomfield	1970 – 72
B J Reid	1973 – 75
R F Kingdon	1976 – 78
D W Bloomfield	1979 – 80
B J Reid	1981 – 83
G A Williams	1984 – 86
J A Hamilton	1987 – 88

G A Williams	1989 – 90
G M Overy	1991 – 92
G Wells	1993 – 95
C J Pile	1996
R M Devine	1997
N F Sargeant	1998 – 2003
J B Clemow	2004
K P Dutch	2005 – 2006
M Ali	2007 –



A Family Affair

One of the most appealing features of Brentham over the years has been the family spirit of the club. To a very large extent, the 'village' environment of the Brentham Estate was responsible for pulling in local families in the early days. However, as the years passed and members arrived from further afield, the family association endured and brothers followed brothers and sons followed fathers.

Some of the most significant family associations are set out below. Such has been the family succession, that it would be possible to 'field' several teams comprising combinations of two or more from the same family (indeed, The Jameses and The Vincents make up more than one on their own!).

The Jameses

Whilst there have been many family associations with the club, the one that stands out is the Jameses. It originated with the three brothers Reg, Bert, and Charles (Wag) and was not only with cricket. Reg started in 1922 and was followed in 1924 by Bert, who established himself as the leading batsman until the end of the '30s, and in 1928 by Charles. Bert and Charles were both prominent through the period but Wag was the more successful bowler. Bert went on to make his mark as captain of 2nd XI, whilst Wag was responsible for a



Five captains 2004: D W J Vincent, D W Bloomfield, R A James, J L Swann and P A R Swann

marked improvement in the fixture list during his period as Fixture Secretary. There was a further connection when Wag James married the daughter of H.J Fisher, who was President from 1951 to 1960.

The next generation was led by Roy, Bert's son. An aggressive right-hand batsman, slow bowler, and fine fielder, he played for the Club for 30 years, was captain 1967-69, and, again following his father, was 2nd XI captain as well. In addition to long service on the Committee in various positions he also gave service to the Colts section for 14 years. He is a Life Vice President as was his father before him.



Charles' son and H J Fisher's grandson, Michael was probably the best player of the family. He was an imperious opening bat, as can be seen from his League average of 32.16, as well as medium fast bowler. He formed a formidable opening partnership with Roger Kingdon. Both Michael and Roy played in the National final at Lord's in 1972.

Roy's son, Laurence, was the third generation and he came through the Colts to reach the 1st XI, both as an opening batsman and an off spinner. He also followed family tradition by serving as Fixture Secretary.

The Swanns

The two brothers John and Paul played major roles in the Club from the 1940s through to the 60s and their efforts were recognised by both being appointed Life Vice Presidents.

John was arguably the Club's best ever player as he excelled in all the disciplines. He was an outstanding left-handed batsman, first scoring 1,000 runs in only his second season at the age of 17, a right-handed leg break bowler, a brilliant fielder, and an inspiring captain from 1956-61. His first season was in 1942 and he retired (in everyone's opinion too early) in 1973. He scored over 24,000 runs, played 745 innings at an average of 41.17.

He averaged over 50 in 6 seasons and 40 in 7. If this was not enough, he took 1,668 wickets at a cost of 13.22 runs per wicket. He completed "the double" in 1953, when he scored 1205 runs and took 106 wickets, a feat that has not been equalled. The League came right at the end of his career but he still took 59 wickets in 24 matches at an average of 12.14. In the National Final at Lord's he returned the figures of 8 overs, 5 maidens, for only 7 runs, which included one boundary. Such controlled and effective bowling was a feature of his performances.

He played first class cricket with Middlesex and was capped for the County 2nd XI as well as the CCC. In 4 innings in one season for Middlesex 2nd XI he scored 364 runs. He represented the CCC on many occasions – perhaps the most notable was against the Australian tourists at the Oval – and also captained the side, including against the MCC at Lord's.

Paul, although older, came to the Club after John due to service in the Navy. He often kept wicket but was mainly a forceful left-handed batsman, born out by his completion of over 1,000 runs in 1953. The Swann brothers must have done most of the batting that year. He was a major presence in the Club, giving much encouragement to the youngsters. He held the position of Secretary for 12 years from 1951 until 1962 and at the same time served on the Committee of the overall Club.



The Brearleys

Horace was above all else a Yorkshireman and he played once for the County, where he opened the batting with Sir Len Hutton. After the War he moved south to teach at The City of London School and came to Brentham in 1946. He was a solid and analytical opening batsman, as well as a fine slip catcher. He was captain from 1953-1955 and made the opening position his own through to the end of the '60s, whilst scoring some 15,000 runs for the Club. In 1970 at the age of 57 he remarkably topped the batting, averaging 45.22 in 13 innings. He also served as Treasurer in 1969 and 1970 and was elected as President from 1971 to 1972. He played twice for Middlesex but was proud to become better known as the father of Michael.

Michael was brought up around the club cricket circuit from an early age and perhaps owes a debt to his sisters for all the bowling they did in his formative years. Indeed, he figures in the club photograph of 1953. He played 3 matches in 1955 at the age of 13 making his debut against Malden Wanderers, when at no 11 he held out to draw the game-signs of things to come! Inevitably, his career with the Club was limited and somewhat sporadic. At first, School cricket intervened and subsequently university, where he scored over 1,000 first class runs in his first season. He did, however, play from time to time

throughout the '60s before his County and International career took off. One weekend in particular was memorable, when Edmonton and Hornsey, then powerful sides, were the opposition on successive days. Against some of the best bowlers in club cricket Michael not only scored centuries on both occasions but won both matches with imperious displays.

His achievements are well documented and do not need to be repeated here. It is, however, a matter of great pride to the Club to have been associated not only with an England player but probably one of the finest Captains to have graced the game.

Michael has been accorded one of the most prestigious awards in cricket by being appointed President of MCC and happily it coincides with the Centenary of his original Club.

The Vincents

David was a polished opening bat and played from 1947 to 1976. He was Captain from 1962 to 1966 as well as Sunday Captain from 1956 to 1961. He scored over 16,000 runs and played some 700 matches. He was also 2nd XI captain in 1973-75. He served as Treasurer from 1972 to 1977 and again from 1999 until 2006 completing a distinguished 60 year association, which still continues. He is a Life Vice President.



His three sons, Nicholas, who scored over 6,600 runs in the 1st XI, Jonathan, and Tim, all played for the Club, as has Jonathan's sons Andrew and Christopher.

Jonathan, who has been the Chairman since 2003, has not only continued the family close association but has also held a range of positions over the years, not least of which has been as a coach to the Colts. A very capable wicket keeper he mainly kept in 2nd XI where he was Captain in 1998/1999 as well as Vice Captain in 1985 and 1995. He was Club Captain in 1998 until 2003. He has made a substantial contribution to the well being of the Club.

The Bloomfields

David, who is the current President, came to the club in 1957 and was in the side that celebrated the Club's Jubilee game in 1958. He played in the 1st XI until a re-occurrence of a back injury curtailed his activities in 1985. An attacking right-handed batsman, who regularly occupied the No. 4 slot in the order, he played nearly 850 innings and scored 15,000 runs, including 3 centuries.

At 23 he was appointed Vice Captain and in David Vincent's absence led the side in the Evening Standard Final against Beddington. He was also Vice Captain to Roy James from 1967 before becoming Captain from 1970 to

1972 and again, on a Saturday only, in both 1979 and 1980. The former period encompassed both the commencement of the League and the run to the Final of the National Cup at Lord's.

Being involved with the origins of the League he initially served on the Committee before taking on the position as Secretary from 1976 until becoming Chairman in 1979 to 1984. Subsequently, he has acted as the Club's representative on League matters. In 1987 the administration of the Club required bolstering as it was apparent that players were less willing to shoulder the tasks. As a result, the position of Chairman was added and David held this post until 1995.

The Club have granted to him a Life Vice Presidency and the League also have appointed him an Honorary Vice President.

Joe, David's father, took a close interest in the Club's activities and umpired for many years. He also was made a Life Vice President.

The Hoopers and Cheadles

Paul was a local boy and came to the Club as a schoolboy. He was an all-rounder being a striking right-handed bat and off spin bowler. He was member of the very strong side of the late '50s through to the mid '60s, which



reached the final of the Evening Standard competition in 1962.

His father Eric was a great supporter and umpired for the Club. He gave stalwart service and was relied upon for many years, mainly by the 2nd XI. He was another unsung servant of the Club.

Paul, after he had retired, returned to play a prominent role in coaching the Colts in tandem with Colin Cheadle. They both had very talented sons Antony and Matthew, who were outstanding in their formative years before progressing to fill 1st XI places. Both represented Middlesex Colts and Middlesex Schools-Matthew as captain. Antony went on to play for the Young Cricketers and Middlesex 2nd XI, gained a Blue at Cambridge, and represented the Combined Universities against West Indies and Pakistan. Matthew, captained Manchester University and the Western UAU and was selected for the British Universities.

The Hamiltons

Jim came to Brentham after a long career at Hounslow and still played 354 matches in the period from 1984 to 1997. He was an aggressive left-handed opening bat, who took great pleasure in his occasional medium fast bowling. He completed nearly 6,000 runs in 320 innings

and reached 50 on 26 occasions. He took on the captaincy of the Club in 1987 and 1988 in between the 2 spells of Tony Williams. He also served on the Committee. He was part of the side that reached the quarter final of the National Cup in 1993 and was capped by the Club Cricket Conference.

Jamie, Jim's son, played at the same time as his father and was an attractive right-handed bat and an off spin bowler. He scored just over 4,000 runs and took 191 wickets at 23.28.

The Lambis

September 2007 saw the end of an era in Brentham history, when Nick Lambi joined his older brother Harris in retirement, having completed 41 playing seasons, one more than Harris who retired at the end of the 2005 season.

For the majority of their careers, due to work commitments, they were only able to represent the club on Sundays and although both had the ability to be all-rounders, it's fair to say that Harris's main strength was with the ball and Nick's with the bat, though both in their careers made useful contributions with the other discipline.

Nick has the distinction of being one of only a few players to score centuries for all three elevens, his



highest being the then club record of 162 not out, against Shepherds Bush 2XI in June 1985. In all, Nick scored in excess of 20,000 runs with his best season being 1997, scoring over 1,000 runs in 17 innings. With the ball, he once took an amazing 9 for 12 (including 4 overthrows)!

Harris also made telling contributions with bat and ball on numerous occasions over the years, with best bowling figures of 8 for 6 and towards the end of his career he took on the Vice Captaincy of the 3rd XI.

Harris's commitment to the club was not only on the playing side. For 13 seasons he gave of his energy and time to the Colts section – at least 2 nights a week during the season coaching and managing the Under 15s and many of today's younger players in all four elevens, owe him a debt of thanks for the way he helped nurture and hone their skills.

There can be few clubs that can boast of brothers who have contributed so much, both on and off the field, as they have over so many years.

*It's easier from the boundary:
J Capps, N Lambi, A Williams, H Lambi*



The Movers and Shakers

The inaugural meeting to form the Club took place on 13th February 1908 and those, who are experienced in these matters, will not be surprised that the attendance amounted to only 7 people. The comment at the time was "even with the small attendance a spirit of independence was manifested in the decision not to accept non residents as Members". The attendees, although small in number, were obviously determined and that is what is fundamental in establishing and running such an organisation. Much in the early days was as a result of the efforts of C B Askew, the first Captain, and G F Royce, the first Secretary, and latterly F W Green and F H Sharpe.

Over the ensuing years many have continued to be determined and made sure that the Club has not only survived but progressed throughout its history. It takes a mixture of talents for this to occur. Outstanding players are a prerequisite but without those, who take on what can be seen to be thankless tasks in running the Club, excellence will not be possible. We have been fortunate to have had our mixture and sometimes both characteristics are to be found in one player. Set out below are portraits of some of the movers and shakers, which allied to the Families, attempts to give the flavour of the people behind the History.

F D Ahl

Frank was a major figure at Brentham. Not only did he captain the Cricket Club from 1942 to 1948 but he was also Chairman of the main Club for some years. This was at the crucial time when the freehold was put up for sale and with considerable apprehension bought by the Members. He led the way forward and guided the Club in its transition to a private Members Club.

His first class career, where he was predominantly a wicket keeper, was at Worcestershire and spanned 1931-1933. He joined Brentham in 1941 and played through to the late '50s. In club cricket his speciality was as an accurate right armed medium fast swing bowler. He took nearly 1,000 wickets, his best season being in 1944 when he returned 141 wickets, which must be a club record. His partnership with Bob Felton, a similar operator, made them a feared attack. Under his leadership the Cricket Club produced a formidable team and made great strides, rising up through the cricketing ranks.

R Felton

Before he left on a matter of principle Bob was an Ealing member from 1926-1941, where he scored nearly 11,000 runs at an average of 36.61. He then played at Brentham from 1944 until the end of the '50s, adding a further



5,600 to his career total, as well as over 500 wickets. He was an outstanding all-rounder being a hard hitting middle order batsman as well as right-handed medium fast swing bowler. He captained the Club from 1949 to 1952 taking over from Frank Ahl. Together they were a major influence and formed the leadership of the Club during this recovery period after the War.

He played 13 first class matches for Middlesex spread over the years from 1935 to 1948, the most notable of which was 171 against Cambridge University at Fenner's, when he reached his hundred in 110 minutes and put on 138 for the fifth wicket in an hour.

B J Reid

Brian was one of the most accomplished bowlers in club cricket. He came to Brentham in 1961 and quickly formed a formidable opening partnership initially with Brian Mead and subsequently Alan Holley. Overall, he played in 1,016 games in a Club career of 33 years and totalled 2,274 wickets at an average of 15 runs per wicket. He was captain from 1973-75 and 1981-83 as well as on Sundays from 1979-1980. His best season was 1970 when he amassed 131 wickets, taking 5 wickets on no less than 10 occasions. He achieved 5 wickets in a match 123 times whilst his best return was 9-19 against Ealing in 1965.

He played a major part in the run in 1972 to the Final of the National Cup held at Lord's and led the side to the last 16 the following year. He was in the side that reached the Final of the Evening Standard Cup in 1962 but was still a force in the side of 1994, which reached the quarter finals of the National Cup.

His League career only started when he was 36 years old. It is, therefore, remarkable that he is even today the leading wicket taker in the Middlesex County Cricket League. He tallied 542 wickets at an average of 17.82 and a lot of those came when he was over 40 years old.

He was capped by the CCC in 1965 and toured Australia in 1971. Other representative honours were gained with Middlesex 2nd XI, Middlesex County Cricket League, and Cricket Union.

He served on the Committee for 23 years, sponsored the Club, and was President 1998-2005. He also was on the League Committee and managed the League side. He has most deservedly been appointed a Life Vice President of both the Club and the League.

G D Barlow-Middlesex and England

Graham was a punishing left-handed opening batsman and an exceptional fielder-being rated alongside Derek Randall, which was praise indeed. His Test career was



short, playing in three matches but he had more success in One Day Internationals, where in 6 innings he averaged a respectable 29.80. He toured India in 1976-77 and, despite scoring well in the first class matches, was unable to replicate his form in the Test arena.

His first class career ran from 1969 to 1986 and it was ironic that someone who took fitness so seriously should have their playing days curtailed by back injury. He played 251 first class matches, scoring 12,387 runs at an average of 35.9. He is currently coach to Central Districts in New Zealand.

Graham joined Brentham in 1966 and in the time honoured way was put into the 2nd XI! His precocious talent soon exercised itself and few bowling attacks escaped his aggressive approach. His running between the wickets was something to behold- particularly for his partners! He played 122 matches, scoring 4,235 runs at an average of 39.58. His top score of 156 against Amersham was a club record for many years, whilst his hundred against Wolverhampton in the National Cup semi-final was probably his most important.

I I R Chaplin

Ivor has one of the most amazing records in club cricket. He joined the Club in 1964 and was initially scorer to the



Ivor our long-standing scorer

2nd XI. After another stalwart, Tommy Field, left in 1966 Ivor was asked to act for the 1st XI and still does to this day. There began a piece of the club's history. In 40 years he has not missed a game and has carried out his duties flawlessly. Not surprisingly he has become a landmark around the circuit.

In 2006 the League completed its 35th year and Ivor had scored at every league match for Brentham, an unbelievable total of 567 matches, a feat that has not been matched. As a result, the League decided such an achievement should be recognised and granted Ivor a well deserved Vice-Presidency of the League. He has now reached 585 matches and 600 is in sight in the Centenary year.



Previously, in 1989 his services to the Cricket Club, for what was then 25 years, had drawn the highest award available the position as a Life Vice President. Additionally, Brentham Club Ltd also recognised his achievement by granting him Honorary Life Membership.

J G Capps

John, or Capps as he is widely referred to, reached the amazing total of 1,000 wickets in league cricket in the final match of the 2006 season. The total was made up of 71 wickets in the 1st team, 594 in the 2nd XI and 335 in the 3rd. This is a milestone only reached by one other person in the 35 year history of the league and they have both, not surprisingly now retired.

A very slow left arm bowler, John's career stretched over 42 years, during which time he played in all three sides, as well as captaining both the 2nd XI and 3rd XI sides. He took 3,242 wickets in this period at an average of 15.49 and is credited with bowling just under 16,000 overs. On two occasions he took 9 wickets in an innings and amazingly on one of them the opposition only had 10 men. Batting was not his forte, but he still achieved 13 half centuries and an undefeated top score of 89. No doubt the not out element still rankles today.

In addition to his long and ever present career Capps was a tower of strength off the field as has been recognised by his appointment as a Life Vice President. He held the difficult post of Team Secretary for 15 years, Fixture Secretary for 5 years, and, if that was not enough, was either captain or vice captain of the 2nd and 3rd XIs for over 20 years. Clubs are what they are as a result of sterling service of this nature.

K L Kettle

Ken was the longest serving President of the Club holding office from 1973 until 1997. During this period the position of Chairman was created to assist with the administrative burdens. He held a variety of posts including, as a chartered accountant, Auditor to the main club, then a member of the Committee and subsequently became its Chairman. He was an Ealing Councillor and was Leader of the Council for some years.

Despite all these commitments Ken was a very keen cricketer. He joined in 1955 and his career primarily in the 2nd XI, although making numerous appearances in the 1st XI, continued until 1980. He was one of those rare people who threw left-handed but batted right-handed. He was a solid opening batsman, who completed 5 centuries for the club, and regularly had the highest aggregate for the 2nd XI. His opening partnership with



Graham Miles, particularly through the '60s, was prolific. He captained initially the 3rd XI before the taking over the 2nd XI. It was to his disadvantage that opening positions in the 1st XI were well catered for, otherwise he would have made many more appearances at that level.

G A Williams

Tony played a vital part from 1978 until 2000. He was predominantly a slow left-hand spin bowler and dominated the spin attack. He bowled nearly 8,000 overs in 654 matches for the Club and finished with 1,281 wickets at an average of 18.37 each.

In the overall League records for the total number of wickets taken, he features in second place with 515 in 275 matches. He garnered 5 wickets in a League innings on 22 occasions and 62 times in all matches.

Tony captained the Club in 2 spells from 1984 to 1986 and again in 1989 to 1990. In 1985 he brought the Club to third place in the League, one of our highest results. He also represented the County League.

N F Sargeant

Neil had two spells with the Club either side of his professional career at Surrey. Although a very capable and attacking batsman, his forte was wicketkeeping. His

County career is recorded elsewhere but he is particularly remembered for returning to the Club and taking on the responsibility of leading the side. He was captain for 5 successive years from 1998 to 2003 and had to suffer relegation by the smallest of margins in his third year. In successive years he only just failed to gain promotion finishing 3rd on each occasion.

He scored 5,000 runs in 288 matches including 25 half-centuries. He also was responsible for the dismissal of 331 victims, 101 of which were stumped. He kept wicket regularly for the League side.

K P Dutch

Keith had two spells at the Club initially from 1992 to 1995, when he was a contracted player with Middlesex and later from 2003 to 2007 partly during his association with Somerset. His professional career is set out elsewhere.

He made a significant impact, particularly in the League, and in all played 116 matches scoring 3,380 runs at an average of 38.41. This included a highest score of 171 not out. His main role, however, was an off-spinner and he took 277 wickets with a best of 8 for 45 at an average of 18.1. Amazingly, he captured 5 wickets in an innings on no less than 17 occasions or once every 7 matches. If this



was not enough, he was an outstanding fielder and this is depicted by his taking of 66 catches.

Keith captained the Club in 2005, which resulted in promotion as Champions to the Premier League, and also in 2006, which saw us relegated again. Although he gave up the captaincy in 2007, he played the major role in conjunction with Majed Ali, in what was largely a very young side, in gaining promotion yet again. He scored 550 runs at an average of 45.83 and took 49 wickets at 11.57. Two particular performances were outstanding when he scored 134 and took 6 wickets against Enfield and against North London when he took 5 wickets and then batted throughout to score 88 not out.

He will not be with us in 2008 and will be much missed but his role last season with the youngsters will be long remembered.

R M Devine

Richard has been dedicated to Brentham man and boy. He first came to prominence in the Colts as an 11 year old, when even then his rumbustious character was apparent.

He was, as an all-rounder, in the under 13s and 15s and was in both the Under 17 sides that won the County title, being the captain in 1988.

He then moved on to become a significant figure in the Club both on and off the field, playing over 480 matches and captaining the side in 1997, before making way for Neil Sergeant. A hard hitting batsman he scored 7,600 runs with a highest score of 126 and over 40 fifties. In addition, he bowled over 3,000 overs taking 451 wickets with a best of 7 for 25. He took 5 wickets in an innings on 9 occasions. His career was brought to a premature conclusion by injury not all due to playing conditions.

Richard continues to play a pivotal role in the Club, particularly with the young members, and has held the post of Club Captain since 2005, as well as being a member of the Management Committee of the main Club. He is widely known in cricketing circles and was instrumental in creating the Tour to the Isle of Wight, which has proved a great success.



Brentham and County Cricket

They Played First Class Cricket

Frank Ahl

Born 1908 Transvaal, S. Africa

Died 1967

Major Teams Worcestershire

Right-hand bat

Right-arm medium swing bowler

Wicketkeeper

Matches 35

Graham Barlow

Born 1950 Folkestone, Kent

Major Teams England and Middlesex

Left-hand Opening Bat

Brilliant Fielder

Matches 251 plus 3 Tests and 257 List A. Toured India 1976-77.

Coach Central District, N. Zealand

Roger Bradley

Born 1962 Wellington, N. Zealand

Major Teams Netherlands and Northern Districts

Right-hand bat

Right-Arm Medium Fast bowler

Matches 19 Internationals

Horace Brearley

Born 1913 Heckmondwike, Yorkshire

Died 2007

Major Teams Yorkshire and Middlesex

Right-hand Opening Bat

Slip Fielder

Matches 5

Michael Brearley

Born 1942 Harrow, Middlesex

Major Teams England, Middlesex and Cambridge University

Right-hand Opening Bat

Slip Fielder/Wicketkeeper

Captain

Matches 455 plus 39 Tests and 272 List A

Simon Cook

Born 1977 Oxford, Oxon.

Major Teams Middlesex and Kent

Right-hand Bat

Right-hand Medium Bowler

Matches 103 and 151 List A



Alec Davies

Born 1962 Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Major Teams Scotland and Surrey

Right-hand Bat

Wicketkeeper

Matches 5 plus 16 representing Scotland including World Cup

Keith Dutch

Born 1973 Harrow, Middx.

Major Teams Middlesex and Somerset

Right-hand Bat

Right-Arm Offspinner

Outstanding Fielder

Matches 72 and 168 List A

Bob Felton

Born 1909 Streatham, London

Died 1982

Major Teams Middlesex

Right-hand Bat

Right-hand Fast Medium

Matches 13

Ian Gould

Born 1957 Taplow, Bucks.

Major Teams England, Middlesex, and Sussex

Left-hand Bat

Wicketkeeper

Matches 298 and 315 List A including 1983 World Cup International Umpire

Richard Hayward

Born 1954 Ickenham, Middlesex

Major Teams Hampshire and Central Districts

Left-hand Bat

Left-Arm Medium Bowler

Matches 50 and 48 List A

Antony Hooper

Born 1967 Perivale, Middx.

Major Teams Cambridge University

Right-hand Opening Bat

Matches 24 and 2 List A

Jason Pooley

Born 1969 Hammersmith, London

Major Teams Middlesex and England A

Tour Pakistan

Left-hand Opening Bat

Matches 82 and 103 List A



Neil Sargeant

Born 1965 Hammersmith, London

Major Teams Surrey

Right-hand Bat

Wicketkeeper

Matches 52 and 17 List A

John Swann

Born 1926 Ealing, London

Major Teams Middlesex

Left-hand Bat

Right-hand Leg Break Bowler

Cover and Gully Fielder.

Matches 4



Club v County 1946



Celebrity Opposition

Over the second half of our 100 years existence we have been fortunate to have had the experience of having in the Opposition many outstanding cricketers who have played at County and International level. Reference is made elsewhere to George Clegg playing with W G Grace and, after the war we entertained in Benefit and Red Cross Matches, many notable players of the time including Patsy Hendren, Bill Edrich, and Jim Sims. It was decided that it would highlight the celebrities that have crossed our paths as well as providing a talking point, if these were consolidated into the formation of two sides. Brian Reid was asked to act as Chairman of the Selectors and he has nominated the following sides.

Team 1

Alec Stewart	Malden Wanderers, Surrey and England
Sourav Ganguly	Brondesbury, Bengal and India
Mark Ramprakash	Stanmore, Middlesex, Surrey and England
Mike Gatting	Brondesbury, Middlesex and England
Roland Butcher	Enfield, Middlesex and England
Russell Endean	Malden Wanderers and South Africa
Chris Cairns	Cockfosters and New Zealand
Jamie Dalrymple	Teddington, Middlesex and England
John Snow	Edmonton, Sussex and England
Andy Caddick	Hampstead, Somerset and England
Phil Tufnell	Southgate, Middlesex and England

Team 2

Greg Ritchie	Hounslow, Queensland and Australia
P Roy	S. Hampstead and India
Larry Gomes	Enfield, Middlesex and West Indies
Clive Radley	Hounslow, Middlesex and England
Owais Shah	Ealing, Middlesex and England
Adam Gilchrist	Richmond, W Australia and Australia
Dermot Reeve	Brondesbury, Warwickshire and England
Dilip Doshi	Hampstead, Bengal and India
Angus Fraser	Stanmore, Middlesex and England
Wayne Daniel	Enfield, Middlesex and West Indies.
John Price	Wembley, Middlesex and England



Middlesex County Cricket League

The '60s are widely known as a period of change and cricket was not an exception. There was talk of the need to introduce league cricket but it met with a very mixed reception. In fact, cup cricket proved to be the easier of the two to introduce. At a meeting to discuss the cup proposal Bob Felton, then retired, made an appearance so that he could make the point that in his view the subject should be league not cup cricket.

Although the cup and limited overs were adopted, the league issue did not go away. After an initial attempt failed to be received positively, the matter was resurrected in 1969. In the meantime the climate had changed, as in 1968 Surrey had adopted league cricket as a format and was up and running. Initially, 13 clubs with varying degrees of enthusiasm agreed to proceed and a further 3 were invited to join. The CCC required that there should be 18 months' notice given of any major changes to Fixture lists and, in order to comply, the season of 1971 was played purely on a trial basis. Those matches already in being against other invited clubs would be played on a league basis and an unofficial table was published. The League proper commenced in 1972 with all parties playing each other once.

The Constitution was drawn up by Terry Woram of Richmond and Bob Peach of South Hampstead and has proved a success. It has since been amplified but not

extensively altered. The other major factor was the points system adopted. Nearly every other League has modified its scoring system with bonus points for batting and bowling or introduced limited overs. Usually this has failed to deal with the problems they were designed to solve. Almost alone MCCL has remained wedded to 10 points for a win and 4 points for a faster scoring draw. This has served the League well and remains a bedrock of the format.

One of the major changes that followed the League was the establishment of an Umpires Panel. Hitherto, each club had supplied an umpire and their independence was assumed. With the each match forming a part of an overall competition the pressure "for justice to be seen to be done" grew. Due to the sterling efforts of Jim Conroy of Southgate in particular, a Panel was established and independent umpires at least in 1st XI games have become the norm.

The League was successful not only in cricketing terms but also socially. Although the trend in more recent years has been for socialising to fall away, for most of the time the players became well known to each other and were more than happy to mix after the game in the bar. Indeed, the Annual Dinner was and is a well attended function. The biggest upset to the smooth running of affairs came when the decision was taken in 1979 to



ject Edmonton C C. This was a very difficult period and it took some time before the turbulence subsided. Hampstead, who had originally decided not to participate, replaced them.

In later years the number of Clubs was increased to 18 and ultimately to 20. Throughout the whole period there was criticism that the League was a closed shop and outside clubs felt hard done by at their exclusion. The League, however, required considerable management and it became known not only as one of the strongest in cricketing terms but also as one of the best run and organised. Care had to be exercised as what additional clubs would add to the existing structure in both ability and administration.

This issue came to a climax following the publication of the MacLaurin Report. The ECB decided that its conclusions should be implemented and pressurised all the Leagues to conform to a pattern. The significant element was promotion and relegation and the requirement of the top League in each County to play 120 overs and, therefore, all day on a Saturday, an uncommon event for most clubs. The concept was that the number of professional cricketers would reduce and County 2nd XI cricket would be abandoned. This would enhance the role of the leading clubs and club cricket in general. More money would be directed to club cricket by the Counties. Eventually in

1999, the clubs succumbed to the pressures but the ECB did not deliver their promises and were never in a position to do so. It remains a blot on the standing of the ECB.

Thus, promotion and relegation was achieved as well as a degree of the much vaunted pyramid. There are now four divisions, although only three come under the League administration. The League has maintained its strength and, judging from the frequency with which it either wins Inter League competitions or its clubs are represented in the final stages of the various cup competitions, is able to suggest it is amongst the best, if not the best, in the Country.

Brentham has had a rather mixed performance in the League. In the first year we finished in third place and in 1998, the year before the League was divided into two, we came second, our highest position to-date. At the other end of the scale in 1976 we finish bottom.

Following the splitting of the 20 clubs into 2 divisions we found ourselves relegated in 2001. We then finished third twice and fourth once before gaining promotion in 2005, only to be relegated immediately, albeit by a narrow margin. By a combination of outstanding contributions by Keith Dutch and Majed Ali coupled with the efforts and enthusiasm of many young players, our place in the Premier Division has been won back, which is only fitting in the Centenary Year.



Brentham has played its full part in the progress of the League and has a unique record. What will prove surprising to some, players for the Club lead the wicket taking tables over the history of the competition. Brian Reid has taken more wickets in Middlesex 1st Division cricket than has been recorded by anyone else, namely 542. This may well be exceeded but, bearing in mind he was 36 when the League started, his achievement will be difficult to equal. Whilst Brian's figures are well known, those of the second highest are not. This position is enjoyed by Tony Williams with 515 wickets and it is interesting that he and Brian almost bowled the same number of overs. The third milestone is by the inestimable John Capps. In his League career of 34 years, mainly in 2nd and 3rd XI cricket he reached the amazing

total 1,000 wickets. This achievement equalled that by Laurie Allen of Richmond, who just beat John to the target.

On the administrative side David Bloomfield served on the League Committee from its formation in 1970 to 1984 including being Secretary and Chairman. Brian Reid also served on the Committee for a number of years, as well as managing the League side. Additionally, he sponsored the League from 1992 to 1995. The contribution of both was recognised by the League by appointing them as Honorary Vice Presidents. This same honour was subsequently given to Ivor Chaplin for his unparalleled performance set out elsewhere. Brentham are in the position of three Members holding this accolade.



Middlesex County Cricket League 1972-2007

1st XI Batsmen (qualification 20 completed innings)

Batsmen	M	I	NO	R	HS	50's	Ave
MAJED ALI	102	92	11	2287	92	14	28.23
GRAHAM BARLOW	29	29	5	1281	115	10	53.38
STUART BEAVIS	69	64	4	1190	90	7	19.83
DAVID BLOOMFIELD	130	119	7	2001	83	6	17.87
JAMES BOLGER	61	53	11	692	70 *	1	16.48
ROGER BRADLEY	26	25	3	666	104 *	4	30.27
LUKE BUDDEN	38	30	3	572	79	2	21.18
CHARLIE BURROWS	59	56	5	873	50	1	17.12
JOHN CAPPS	74	41	20	168	25	-	8.00
RON CHAMBERS	84	67	10	546	52 *	2	9.58
MATTHEW CHEADLE	37	31	10	303	50	1	14.43
JASON CLEMOW	88	83	11	1585	100 *	8	22.01
NEIL COLLINS	33	31	4	300	40	-	11.11
TERRY DALY	44	35	11	368	46	-	15.33
GIRISH DATTANI	115	87	25	1312	110 *	4	21.16
ALEC DAVIES	39	37	1	1065	106	7	29.58
RICHARD DEVINE	182	153	35	2034	61	2	17.24
KEITH DUTCH	91	83	14	2829	134	20	41.00
BRIAN EDEN	104	66	34	268	20 *	-	8.38
MATTHEW ENNION	78	74	8	2231	119	16	33.80
CHRIS GATES	44	39	6	553	95	2	16.76
PAUL GLOVER	30	27	3	430	69	1	17.92
JAMIE HAMILTON (JR)	92	83	11	1105	62	3	15.35
JIM HAMILTON (SNR)	149	142	6	2563	103 *	12	18.85
CHRIS HEALEY	30	27	1	435	88	2	16.73



Batsmen	M	I	NO	R	HS	50's	Ave
ALAN HOLLEY	64	39	11	214	20 *	-	7.64
ROBERT HUNT	52	49	3	733	56 *	1	15.93
BRETT ISLIP	32	30	6	896	100 *	7	37.33
MICHAEL JAMES	33	33	2	997	117 *	8	32.16
GAVIN JUSTER	54	47	5	834	97	6	19.86
ROGER KINGDON	113	111	14	3045	100	22	31.39
NICK MARTIN	44	43	3	953	74	5	23.83
PETER MINOR	54	48	7	616	51	1	15.02
RICHARD MINOR	57	52	10	942	73	3	22.43
GRAEME OVERY	122	114	9	2178	75	10	20.74
BHARAT PATEL	142	134	15	2299	142 *	7	19.32
CLIFFORD PILE	58	44	19	277	39	-	11.08
GREG POOLEY	100	93	7	2734	114	20	31.79
JASON POOLEY	40	39	3	1728	155	12	48.00
RICHARD PORTER	47	46	10	660	50	1	18.33
ROBERT PROCTOR	28	26	0	479	70	2	18.42
JOHN RATCLIFFE	30	29	1	317	41	-	11.32
GEOFFREY RAYNER	87	83	5	1253	58	4	16.06
ADAM REID	128	121	15	2782	94	14	26.25
BRIAN REID	274	158	53	819	33	-	7.80
DANIEL RODGERS	162	154	16	4640	181	35	33.62
DAMON ROWAN	32	30	9	884	118 *	3	42.09
NEIL SARGEANT	179	156	15	2839	78	13	20.13
JAMES SPRACKLING	47	28	6	216	29	-	9.82
JOHN SWANN	24	23	3	274	52	1	13.70
VISHAL VAKHANI	57	46	7	583	67	3	14.95
NICK VINCENT	98	93	3	1840	132	8	20.44
DAVID WARD	37	34	1	607	63	2	18.39
GRAHAM WELLS	90	76	11	728	54 *	1	11.20
ANTHONY WILLIAMS	275	175	82	853	58	1	9.17



Middlesex County Cricket League 1972-2007

1st XI Bowling (qualification 20 wickets)

Bowler	Matches	O	M	R	W	5 Wkts	Best	Ave
NAZ ALI	82	924.4	185	3568	154	8	7-66	23.17
STUART BEAVIS	69	296	35	1245	39	2	6-39	31.92
ROGER BRADLEY	26	250.4	47	888	55	3	7-19	16.15
GRANT BRODERICK	8	105.3	25	309	21	-	4-17	14.71
JOHN CAPPS	74	434.5	91	1624	71	1	5-9	22.87
RON CHAMBERS	84	398.3	92	1263	52	-	4-19	24.29
SIMON COOK	29	357.3	84	1036	57	2	7-28	18.17
GIRISH DATTANI	115	813.3	170	2955	116	1	6-31	25.47
RICHARD DEVINE	182	1557.5	301	5512	205	5	7-49	26.88
KEITH DUTCH	91	1317.3	224	4298	237	16	8-45	18.13
BRIAN EDEN	104	953.4	240	2761	136	5	7-49	20.30
MATT ENNION	78	450.5	70	1806	71	1	5-57	25.44
DAVID FAIRHEAD	23	173.2	45	670	23	-	3-28	29.13
RICKY FAY	34	637.1	153	1836	108	8	8-61	17.00
JAMIE HAMILTON JR	92	142.5	10	762	32	1	7-34	23.81
RICHARD HAYWARD	23	241.2	59	722	36	1	5-31	20.06
ALAN HOLLEY	64	729.4	168	2155	110	5	5-19	19.59
DION JOUBERT	7	95	21	326	21	1	5-33	15.52
GAVIN JUSTER	54	256.2	47	1065	21	-	4-67	50.71
HASSAN KHAN	16	137.2	25	518	20	1	5-30	25.90
ROGER KINGDON	113	203.3	20	882	31	1	5-47	28.45
GARY MASON	17	150	23	569	20	1	5-36	28.45
BRUCE MINNETT	11	111.3	23	327	21	-	4-20	15.57
HEATH MULLER	14	179.3	43	526	40	4	6-38	13.15
CLIFFORD PILE	58	221	23	1026	32	-	4-71	32.06
YOGESH PRABHU	36	180	22	680	26	-	4-49	26.15
ADAM REID	128	722.1	136	2606	87	3	6-24	29.95
BRIAN REID	274	3586.2	1074	9687	542	29	8-27	17.87
DANIEL RODGERS	162	649.1	119	2292	92	3	6-37	24.91
MARK SAGGERS	30	302	53	1069	33	1	5-27	32.39
JOHN SWANN	24	297.5	98	716	59	2	5-17	12.14
ANTHONY WILLIAMS	275	3518.3	876	10893	515	22	7-25	21.15



Brentham Colts

Written and researched by R A James

The Colts Section is affiliated to the Middlesex Colts Association founded in 1966. Brentham joined in the early '70s.

Prior to this period and before the Second World War, the Club benefited from the local schools, particularly Ealing Grammar School. After the War and before colts cricket became organised, the interest of the youngsters was fortunately catered for by members, who arranged friendly matches against other clubs. During the '50s Paul Swann and in the early '60s Alan Trueman encouraged many young cricketers to play for the Club during the ensuing years.

In the later 1960s, regular colts matches were arranged for the first time and these proved a great success. Matters took a real step forward, when in the '70s, David Frewer assisted by Geoff Rayner established the Colts within the framework of the Middlesex Association with the assistance of Fred Bailey, who was the Middlesex Colts Liaison Officer and lived locally. This gave form and organisation to the section so that it could build for the future.

The leadership changed later that decade and Roy James, Colin Cheadle and Paul Hooper joined the coaching staff, followed by Clifford Pile immediately after he ceased to

be a colt himself. Roy became the Administrator and the Section became firmly established on the colts circuit, running Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups. During this period and throughout the '80s we won many area titles and were the County League Champions four times at different age groups.

A further milestone was reached in 1983 when the Colts Festival was established. This proved to be very popular and continued for many years. In 1987 Clifford Pile took over as Colts Administrator and Roy James became South



Under 17s Colts County Champions 1985



Area Vice Chairman whilst continuing coaching along with the stalwarts – Colin Cheadle and Paul Hooper, joined by Ron Chambers and a small number of other helpers.

The regime changed again in the '90s. Ken Drane took over as Administrator and continued in that role until 2002 when he became Secretary to the Colts, a role he still fulfills today. During this period an Under 10 side was added and Jonathan Vincent and Harris Lambi were closely involved with the coaching, together with Chris Healey, Mark Saggars, Peter Roberts and James and David Bolger.

Steve Clarke took over the role of Colts Administrator from 2000 to 2006 and was particularly involved with the coaching of the younger age groups. In 2001, he started a Colts Cricket Week which proved to be a great favourite amongst the boys. This was a substantial undertaking and the parents and members involved are to be congratulated for their input.

The Section has provided winter and summer coaching for over 100 boys per year and they are, of course, too numerous to mention individually. It has provided an enjoyable outlet for so many. Some have gone on to

represent Middlesex and a significant number have progressed to play for the senior Club sides.

The establishment and running of the Colts has required the time and steadfastness of very many helpers and parents over the years and although they have not all been named, their contribution has been vitally important to the well being of the Section.

Latterly, first class cricketers have been used to lead the coaching staff and raise standards. The Colts are now under the direction of Peter Brandreth and flourishing more than ever. Over 20 current colts appeared in Club Cricket this year and are better off as a result.

The Section has served well innumerable boys for over half a century. With the failure of so many schools to provide for team sports, this outlet for youngsters to learn and play the game has proved to be increasingly important as the years have rolled by. The future of the game is in the hands of all these coaches who selflessly devote their time to the cause.

The continuing message is "may all the boys continue to practise hard, listen, ask questions and learn and, above all, enjoy playing this wonderful game".



The Future

On reaching such a significant milestone as the completion of 100 years the Club has to concern itself as to the future and the next century. The past, however meaningful, is history and what really matters is how the foundations, painstakingly laid, are utilised to create an even stronger future.

It is imperative that there is no complacency. The number of clubs affiliated to the Club Cricket Conference has fallen significantly and even some senior clubs with long histories have failed. Generally, the health of Club Cricket is not what it should be and it is not helped by the falling interest in and quality of Sunday cricket. The League is strong but conversely it adversely affects other cricket.

The ECB via the MacLaurin Report proposed 10 years ago that the extent of professional cricket would be curtailed and Club Cricket would play a greater role as the bridge between the youth and the professional game. Great pressure was applied to the clubs to give up their independence and conform to the blueprint of the ECB. Premier Leagues and pyramids were the order of the day. As soon as the reorganisation was instigated, it became clear that ECB did not have the authority to implement their plan. Professional cricket ignored ECB so club cricket was reorganised for no apparent reason. Whether there is an outcome of all this remains unclear.

We, as always, must concentrate on our own well-being. We have a thriving Colts Section and this has been particularly noticeable this year. The youngsters have not only been given the opportunity in the First XI but have taken advantage of that opportunity. The 4th XI has been instigated and again successfully. More youngsters have had the chance to put their skills to the test against older opposition and in a proper cricketing framework. Coaching in recent years has been centred around professional coaches and this needs even more focus and support as we strive for further growth and improvement.

This scenario has to be built upon. It has taken the dedication of many over the 100 years of our existence to achieve what have. It goes without saying that to maintain and improve the standards will require a great deal of effort by future Members. The facilities require constant attention and the replacement of the pavilion is overdue. This will be a huge project but one fundamental to the future. Another area that may well come into consideration is broadening the membership to include Ladies Cricket, which might begin by filling the void being created by the decline in Sunday cricket.

It remains, therefore, for the current vibrant youngsters, to take up the reins and drive the Club forward so that the next 100 years can be anticipated with optimism.



Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers

Chairmen

1933 – 1946	S W Green
1963 – 1964	D Norman
1986 – 1995	D W Bloomfield
1996 – 1999	D L Frewer
2000 – 2004	B Patel
2005	J P Vincent

Hon Secretaries

1908 – 1910	C B Askew
1911 – 1914	F W Green
1915 – 1925	W Carr
1926 – 1935	A G Clarke
1936 – 1939	C F James
1940	H W James
1941 – 1947	L Howarth
1948 – 1950	A W G Thurland
1951 – 1962	P A R Swann
1965	B W Walters
1966 – 1968	J Windover
1969 – 1970	M P Annand
1971	G L Rayner
1972 – 1974	I I R Chaplin
1975 – 1981	R Jones
1982 – 1989	R T Chambers
1990 – 1994	A Norman
1995 –	A Jordan
1996 – 2001	S B Clarke
2002 –	Alison Delaney

Hon Treasurers

1957 – 1959	C F James
1960 – 1964	P H Ottaway
1965 – 1968	H W Dyason
1969 – 1970	H Brearley
1971 – 1977	D W J Vincent
1978 – 1979	N Scott
1980 – 1982	R T Chambers
1983 – 1984	S Turner
1985 – 1991	G de Jonk
1992 – 1994	J Bolger
1995 – 1998	M Saggars
1999 – 2006	D W J Vincent





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