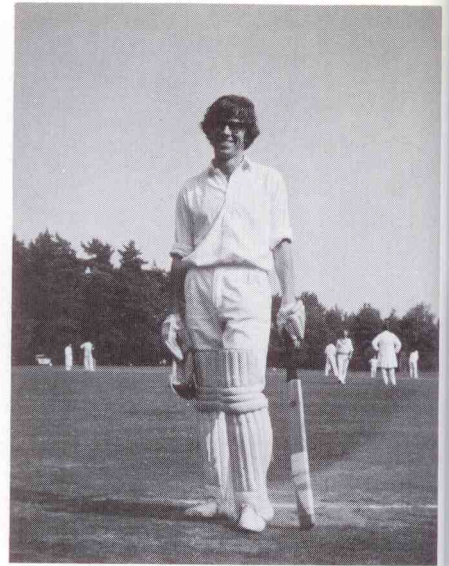


NIGEL BROOMFIELD
Captain in 1970: Eight centuries



KEN STEPHENS
Captain since 1973: Three centuries



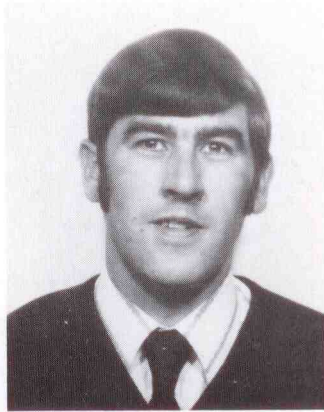
PETER HOLES
Century in 1970 age 17

In 1969 Nigel Broomfield, the former British Amateur and Army squash champion, came to live in the village and immediately made a big impression with his powerful batting and aggressive fast bowling. He captained the side in 1970 and scored 975 runs at the phenomenal average of 88, hitting four centuries and five fifties. He scored his runs at a great rate, mainly by hard, clean driving but the bowling that year was weak and outright victories proved hard to come by. In a match in July Blackheath scored 268 for 2 wickets with seventeen year-old Peter Holes becoming the youngest player to score a century for the Club up to that time. Against Worplesdon in August Broomfield and Ken Stephens, in his first season with Blackheath, put on an unbeaten 249 for the fourth wicket, Broomfield making 131 and Stephens 117 in the highest partnership ever recorded on the Blackheath ground.

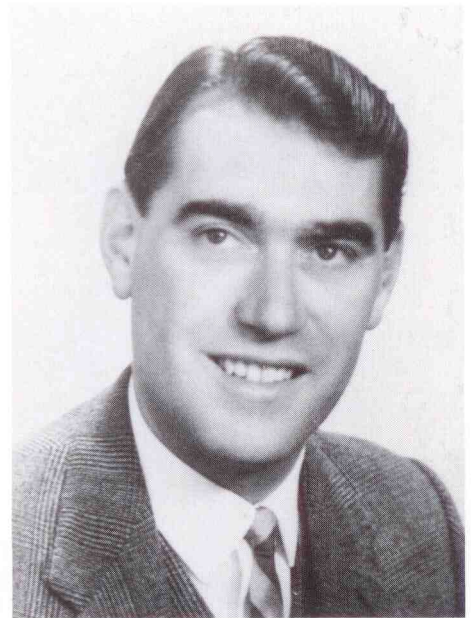
Test stars at Blackheath

In July of the same year E.J. Barlow and P.M. Pollock, both South African Test cricketers, played in a game at Blackheath. They entered into the spirit of the occasion with enthusiasm and enjoyed the diversion from more serious matters. Happily they stayed after the cricket, joined by Graham Pollock, to entertain and be entertained by Club members until late in the evening. Five days later Barlow, playing for the Rest of the World against England at Headingley, took 7 wickets for 64 runs including the hat-trick and four wickets in five balls.

Mr. H. J. Lowings, the Club Chairman, who had been the keenest of supporters and a wise councillor died during the 1971 season and, in due course, Mr. D.W. Reeds, again residing in the area, was elected in his place.

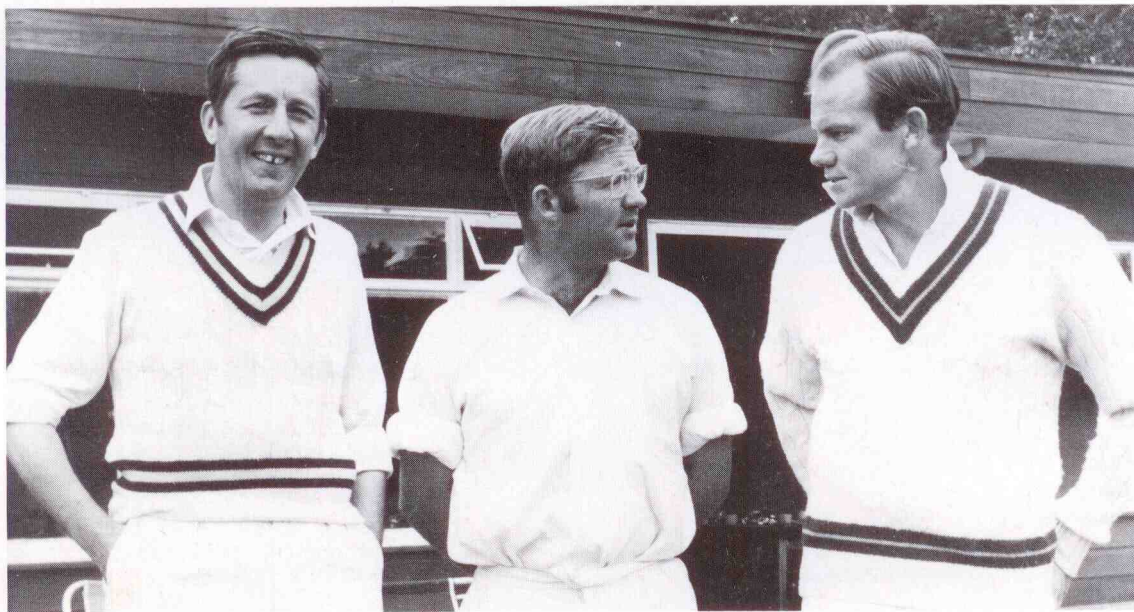


DAVID BRADFORD
Century in 1972



MR. H. J. LOWINGS
Chairman 1962-1971

ROY LONSDALE
Hat trick in 1966



TIM BRYERS,
EDDIE BARLOW
& PETER POLLOCK



BLACKHEATH C.C. 1970

*R. Syms G. Jackson M. Levett T. Bryers R. Douglass M. Pritchard W. Alder M. Harris
A. Saunders B. Waterhouse N. Broomfield A. Ward K. Stephens*

The seventies – sunshine and showers

The pavilion was extended in 1972 with the addition of a new dressing room, showers, bar and mower shed. A loan was obtained for this purpose from the Surrey County Playing Fields Association. Blackheath have often been lucky in finding members willing to lend their skills and talents for the benefit of their fellows. One who did this was Arthur Saunders who, as Hon. Secretary, did much to further the cause of Blackheath cricket. A well-known local architect, he planned and designed the extension. Some of the work was sub-contracted but the bulk of it was done by Ron Gambell, Charlie Hockley and Brian Waterhouse. Their efforts enabled the bulk of the project to be completed in a year and has contributed enormously to the subsequent prosperity of the Club. These improvements to the bar, which had been started by Tony Bryers in 1967 in somewhat cramped conditions, did much to increase the enjoyment of the members and extend their after-match involvement with the Club.

With Broomfield now abroad, the most successful batsman in 1972 was a newcomer, David Bradford, who scored over 500 runs while David Bugge, a fifteen year-old schoolboy, showed outstanding promise as a bowler. The Haig National Village Knock-out Competition was started that year. Blackheath won their first match against Newchapel by ten wickets, Gay Enticknap and Ian Tyler scoring 117 runs needed for victory, but they lost in the next round at Stoke D'Abernon.

Youth takes a hand –

1973 saw the emergence of several young players who were to serve the Club well over the next few years. Eric Holes, a young all-rounder whose grandfather Laddie Edwards had played regularly for Blackheath many years before, fielded brilliantly, and Michael Harris was an enthusiastic fast bowler and fieldsman. Bugge and Jonathan Kimber were two admirable opening bowlers and Ian Tyler an opening batsman of original attacking methods. Andrew Macdonald, then fourteen, was a talented batsman for his age who scored 49 not out in the final match of the season.

– and time takes its sad toll

In April Lord Tangley, who had been President for the past ten years, died. Mr. E.L.V. Waddilove accepted the invitation to take his place and Lady Tangley became the Club's patron. Mr. Waddilove was the Hon. Treasurer from 1949 until 1966. His wise advice was of the utmost value to the committee at all times and it was he who unobtrusively raised the money for the pavilion building and other projects to go ahead.

In the autumn Ron Gambell became ill and died at the early

age of 58. Ron, who joined the Club in 1963, was a genuine cricketer who loved to hit the ball hard and during his years at Blackheath played some splendid attacking innings. He was also a steady medium-paced bowler and a safe fielder who seldom dropped a catch. A builder by trade, he worked tirelessly to improve the pavilion. In 1968 and 1969 he was captain of the team on Saturdays and in his last season, though far from well, he finished top of the batting averages.

On 22nd September 1974 Charlie Horne became ill whilst scoring and died later that night. Charlie was an important part of Blackheath cricket for more than fifty years. He was a player from 1923 to 1952, with a short break in the 1930's; from 1953 to 1956 he umpired, and for the next seventeen years he was the Club's scorer, his score book a model of accuracy. A quiet kindly man, Charlie had a good word for everyone and was a friend to generations of Blackheath cricketers.

Years of success

In 1974 the Club won seventeen matches, three more than in 1973 and the most since 1965. This gratifying improvement, brought about under the captaincy of Ken Stephens and John Macdonald, was even better than appears to have been the case because eleven matches had been won by the end of June and only some terrible weather in August and September prevented the record number of wins (23 in 1960) from being beaten. Team spirit was high and Blackheath reached the fourth round of the 'Haig' before eventually being beaten by Ockley.

David Bugge had a fine season with the ball though he had less luck than he deserved with his late out-swingers. He played for the Public Schools representative team and for Surrey Young Cricketers. Jonathan Kimber, 19 years old, took 50 wickets during the second half of the season having already taken 50 wickets while at University. He bowled fast and straight. Eric Holes was by now an accomplished all-rounder and a brilliant fielder but the batting of the team was strangely inconsistent, only Ken Stephens and Peter Moore showing themselves reliable run-makers. John Macdonald continued to baffle Blackheath's opponents with his shrewdly flighted spinners and during the season took his thousandth wicket for the Club, a remarkable achievement. Such was the weather that only two matches were completed in September but, in one of these, B. Lanchbury who had played a few games for Worcestershire that year scored 115 for Wigmore including 7 sixes in three overs off Ken Stephens. Since that day Stephens has often been seen hard at work extending the boundary area.

