

## WORK BEHIND THE SCENES (TO 2008)

We know nothing of the volunteers who worked hard on the club's behalf in the very early years. In 1954 the Lancaster Guardian published an article about two players with long associations. Ted Stewart had played for Bay Horse as a teenager, and Billy Wildman had, as a child, joined in team practice with them before 1914. Ted had played some cricket elsewhere, but Billy played for Shireshead for around 40 years and was a mainstay in many different ways. In 1955 he handed over the post of secretary to 19-year-old Harold Thompson who then served the club in nearly every capacity for the next 46 years. After the untimely death of Harold in 2001, many people have stepped in to help in many practical ways. Angela Murphy took over as Secretary and Terry Oliver became Treasurer. The huge amount of work needed to maintain the square and outfield has largely been done by Andrew Cragg and Bill Jacques. Andrew began as a junior in 1976, and in the final part of a long playing career was a well-regarded 2nd XI captain. He has now acquired much expertise in maintaining the square which he does throughout the year. Bill Jacques likewise is to be seen toiling for many hours, often alongside Terry Oliver.



Ted Stewart Billy Wildman



Harold Thompson in the 1990s



Andrew Cragg

Apart from the playing surface, a great deal of work is needed to maintain the surroundings of the ground. In the 1970s and 1980s much of this care



was undertaken by Tommy Walmsley (left), and nowadays John Cragg (right) can be seen at all times of year cutting hedges, clearing the dyke and generally taking care of the appearance of the surroundings.



In the preceding pages, one person appears repeatedly in the 1st XI photos. This is Angela Murphy who, as well as acting as secretary of the club, has been a most efficient scorer for over 25 years. Over a similar period, Margaret Mansfield has been scorer for most of the U-16 and U-13 matches and, since 1998, for the 3rd XI.

Bill Jacques has been resolute in most aspects of the club's life for three decades. He was for many years Chairman, but since he retired from that role he is still to be seen at nearly all events. Perhaps the most abiding memory for those privileged to be there was his performance with bat and ball for the 3rd XI in 2007. Typically, he generously agreed to play at Kirkby Lonsdale because they were short, and his crucial role in a remarkable victory is recorded earlier in this book. Here we present a photo taken during that match which does perhaps sum up this extrovert character who is so much loved in the club.



We are fortunate indeed not only to have the services of good scorers but also, in Steve Parkinson, a painstaking statistician who presents a quite outstanding guide to the performances of senior players each season. In previous years he played an important role as an all-rounder in the 1st XI, and he has continued to compile an annual statistical spreadsheet long after retiring from the field of play.



When we compare the status of the club at the present time with that of the 1970s and earlier, a foremost element is the financial position. Solvency at a comfortable level once seemed totally out of reach, but now such



discomfort is a matter of history and we hope it will remain so. In Terry Oliver we have a prudent treasurer, whose task is assisted by a vital line of income — takings from the bar. Here John Carter's unpaid role of steward is of the utmost importance, and we are most grateful to him for his hard work.



Let's not forget loyal spectators, of whom one in particular stands out. Melvin Moorby was a most dedicated supporter since we entered the Westmorland league. Here we see him alongside Les Hanslip who for many years served as umpire for the 1st XI.

The dinner held soon after each season's end was once an annual event enjoyed by most cricket clubs, but nowadays it has been retained by a minority. For Shireshead it is still a predominant feature of the calendar



which is attended by over one hundred senior and junior members and their families. One reason for its continued success is the fine quality of the after-dinner speeches which has been maintained over many years. The ones best remembered are those by current president Denis Yates. For 21 years he delivered an account of the previous season which entertained the company with delightful anecdotes, and which set a standard which fortunately has been upheld since he retired from the role.



Any account of tasks undertaken behind the scenes would be seriously flawed if the work of the ladies were not mentioned. For Shireshead they do so much it is impossible in the space available to provide an account of all they undertake, so we hope this photo of two of the most loyal supporters of the junior teams will suffice as a potent reminder.

The junior section is vital because it underpins the strength of the senior teams. Looking after the 80+ members is a major undertaking, and we owe much to Colin Twiname who has now been senior coach for 13 years, and also to the others who have become qualified coaches and who give many hours to the work which expanded considerably after the introduction of the U-11 competition in 2007. Although it's impossible to list all those who have helped with the junior section, we sincerely thank them all for what has been achieved over the years. Most recently, Simon Brayfield and Peter Harrison have given much time to the U-11s, and Margaret Mansfield continues as secretary, a role begun in 1976. We are fortunate too in having junior members with parents who give strong support during matches, and in providing transport to away games.



Lastly, we mention the splendid work of the club's committee, and thank in particular Mark Yates, the current Chairman, who gives many hours not only to administration, but at a practical level in maintaining our fine facilities.