



Memories of Grasshoppers at the Royal Oak by Richard Perou



I joined the club in 1956, We played at Gunnersbury Park where hot showers were provided and then went to the Royal Oak where we offered our guests hospitality, sausage and mash and a pint of beer.

The custom was that a jug of beer was bought for the opposition provided by a kitty quite separate from the match fee. The match fee had to be extracted by the team captain. It was normal for guests to buy a jug of beer and, as this happened in the days before leagues, clubs met each other on a regular basis and one would often meet old friends.

It was an unwritten law that as hosts you could not leave until guests did. It was dangerous not to do so. But that is another story.

Grasshoppers were a singing club, I suppose that it seems quite peculiar now but it was the custom that, when the guests had left, chairs were drawn in a circle, pints were refreshed, and singing would start. No worries about drink driving laws, no-one owned a car!

Richard Perou, 12th April, 2022

‘Fortis in Animo’