

Chris Hall

Photos from Interview by Keith 'Parky' Firminger

Chris Hall 8 September 2020

Pavilion Destroyed 15 September 1978



Fire at RCC 1978

FIRE DESTROYS CRICKET PAVILION AT RETFORD



THE burned-out remains of Retford cricket pavilion after today's mystery blaze.

By Tom Landles

RETFORD'S 60-year-old cricket pavilion was gutted today in a mystery blaze that left players and officials in a state of shock.

Groundsmen's equipment worth £2,000 was destroyed when concrete floors collapsed on their cellar store after the wooden pavilion and clubhouse were burned out.

Club records and irreplaceable team photographs going back to the last century were all reduced to ashes, together with furnishings bought earlier this year.

Just days ago the Retford players stood, flushed with success, on the pavilion steps for a champagne toast to celebrate their third successive Basselaw Cricket League Championship title.

Club chairman Mr. Colin Loates, described the blaze as a "tremendous loss."

"A ground without a clubhouse or pavilion is rather a tragic affair. It will be a big financial blow to the club which we will have to overcome somehow," he added.

Mr. Loates said the cost of building a new pavilion could be at least

shattered concrete inside the cellar.

All that remained were badly-scorched seats on the pavilion front — the scene of the happy champagne ceremony last week.

Police said that charred ruins would be examined today, to try to find the cause of the blaze.

Seventeen firemen, under Station Officer Keith Buckley, fought the outbreak after the alarm was given by an off-duty Worksop policeman, Peter Taylor, who spotted flames from the Retford by-pass road just after 1 a.m.

The three fire crews fought the blaze for two hours.

RCC v Bridon 1978



Derek Randal Opens New RCC Pavilion 1980



With Dickie Bird RCC Gala Day



With Mallen Trophy 2000



With Joan Mudford at RCC 2001



OSCA Lord's 2003



Mary's Life Membership Award 2004



With Arnie at Harrogate 2017



Paul Burrell Gala Day

