**THE MEMORIES OF KEITH WELSBY - THE WOODEN HUT FROM STRETTON AIRFIELD 1957**

My time in the cricket section was from 1956-62 - why? Not because of my cricket ability. I made up the second team if short or umpiring and my mates were members: Gareth Whalley, Peter Houghton (Jr), Derek Knight, Geoff Gaskell, and Allan Swift.

I don't know the exact date we collected what was to become the new pavilion, but it would be around September 1957. Peter's dad arranged transport, a local coal merchant's lorry.

We thought it was going to be straight forward, taking out a number of bolts, loading onto the lorry and bring back to Rainhill.

The hut wasn't in as good condition as expected and it literally fell apart when we started dismantling it. This would have taken place over a weekend. To make it easier to get round to the club we brought via the ex-Services land – there were no houses then – but Stove works had a cricket square on their land. I do not think we did any damage.

The new pavilion would need level foundations as near to the old pavilion as possible, the two were be linked together with the old one still being changing rooms.

Footings were dug out and because of sloping ground they had to be stepped, Ready mixed concrete arrived on one of the wettest Saturdays, with the outfield sodden the lorry got bogged down halfway up the outfield and had to unload onto a trapline sheet. The meant that the concrete had to be barrowed before it set.

Noel Lea (member) did the bricklaying and was not impressed with how we had laid the concrete as it was not very level.

A considerable amount new timber was required to make the hut habitable from then on all weekends were taken up getting it ready for the coming season.

*Background information: Keith’s father John Welsby captained the side in the early part of the 1900’s and passed away in 1935.*