

41 Gratwicke rd
Tilehurst
Reading
RG30 4TU
6 April 2005

Dear Sir,

I am writing to give more information about Blagrove Recreation Ground, since I could not fit all that I wanted to say into my witness statement.

I was born here in Tilehurst in 1923. I went to Park Lane School when I was five years old, in 1928. We were taken to the 'little rec.' (Blagrove Recreation Ground) by a teacher. All the children were provided with a band to put over their heads so that the teacher knew who was in her class. The 'little rec.' was where we enjoyed our sports.

When I was 11 years old I moved up to Norcot School, where I stayed until I was 14 years old. At Norcot School I played football for the junior side in the 'little rec.'. There was a proper football pitch, which was cared for by a park keeper in those days. The rec. was locked up each night. There were toilets, swings, and a pavilion then. In my time at Norcot School we had three boys who played for Reading Boys. The senior boys team at Norcot played at the 'big rec' (Victoria Recreation Ground).

Mr Saul, the head teacher in my time, was a good teacher and he loved the game of football. There are still quite a number of my age group around here in Tilehurst who, like myself, got great pleasure from the 'little rec.'. RBC should restore it and remember the land belongs to the children of Tilehurst to use for recreation..

Yours faithfully

F G Wickens

Frederick George Wickens

President Friends of Blagrove Recreation Ground