



▲ Completed in 1895 at a cost of £12,000, the pavilion at **Old Trafford Cricket Ground** was designed by Thomas Muirhead, architect also of the pavilion at The Oval. Despite many alterations (and bomb damage sustained during the blitz), the building maintains its original layout, with a central viewing area which backs onto the Long Room (behind the arched ground floor windows), flanked by first floor viewing balconies for the players of each team.

When Lancashire County Cricket Club's predecessors, the Manchester Cricket Club,

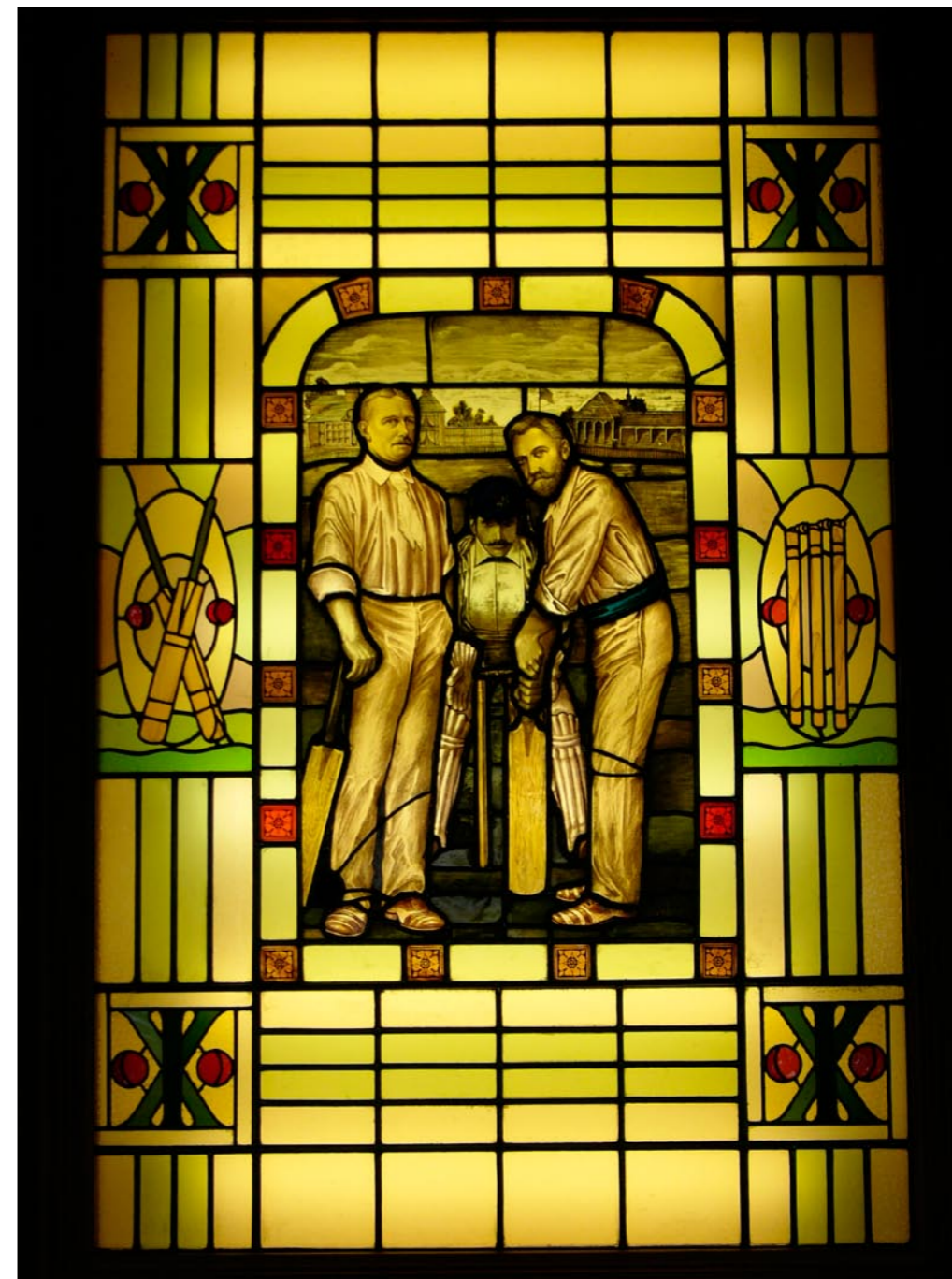
first rented the ground from Sir Humphrey de Trafford in 1857 there were three separate pavilions, for members and amateur players, for professionals (on the opposite side of the ground), and for Ladies. Women were finally allowed into the main pavilion in 1977 (still some 25 years before Lord's).

Even in this new pavilion the amateurs still received preferential treatment, however, being supplied with three baths compared with only one for the professionals, who were more numerous.

Three years after the pavilion's completion Lancashire purchased

the ground from Sir Humphrey for £24,732. It would prove to be sound business, for the sale of various outlying plots of the site has kept the club afloat throughout many a lean time.

One indication of how modern safety and amenity levels have affected cricket grounds is that whereas Old Trafford once held 46,000 spectators, for the Roses match in 1926, nowadays, within the same space it holds just 19,000. But one aspect of Old Trafford never changes, and that is the ringing of the pavilion bell (*left*) to signal the start of play.



◀ When the Bolton-born Lancashire and England batsman and slow bowler, Dick Barlow (1851-1919), was awarded a benefit match in 1886, he decided to spend some of the proceeds on the creation of a large stained glass window, which he designed himself. (He later designed his own gravestone. 'Bowled at Last' read the inscription.)

The window, completed in 1887, shows Barlow (*right*) with his fellow opening bat at Old Trafford, AN Hornby (1847-1925), an Old Harrovian who won England caps for both cricket and rugby and was a powerful presence in Manchester sporting circles.

Behind the third figure, the Lancashire and England wicket keeper, Richard Pilling, is the original Old Trafford pavilion (*left*) and the Ladies Pavilion (*right*).

For years no-one knew of the window's whereabouts, so in the late 1960s the Lancashire CCC historian and museum curator, Keith Hayhurst, resolved to track it down. One day, making enquiries in Blackpool – where Barlow is buried – Hayhurst spotted a bowls player with a bag bearing the initials LBW.

Leslie Barlow Wilson, as Hayhurst had surmised, was the great man's grandson. Yet neither he nor any of the family seemed keen to discuss the window.

Barlow, it transpired, had fathered an illegitimate son, who had bought the window from Barlow's daughter.

After seven more years on the case, Hayhurst finally found both the owner and the window – as vivid as the day it had been unveiled – in a house in Southport.

It now takes pride of place in the Old Trafford Long Room; a unique memorial to three of Lancashire and England's finest.