

BADGER HILL CC

HOME SWEET HOME

Badger Hill's ground is situated just inside Calderdale's south-eastern boundary. It sits below Dewsbury Road, to the rear of the Sun Inn public house and just down the road from New Road chapel.



It is located straight opposite a small housing estate known also as Badger Hill, and is close to a major crossroads which connects Dewsbury Road with New Hey Road (heading towards Ainley Top), Crowtrees Lane (heading into Rastrick) and Clough Lane (heading into the Huddersfield suburb of Fixby).

The ground is sited in what used to be a quarry. When you view the arena from on high - from Dewsbury Road - this historical fact becomes obvious: the cricket field fits nicely into the large, cavernous space where quarrying once took place.



The playing area is surrounded by grassy mounds, trees, and houses on the Crowtrees Lane side. In the late-1960s, efforts were made to level the playing surface. Graham Wilkinson, a stalwart of Badger Hill C.C., explains: ***'There are a few dips, but the ground has served the club well ever since the nineteenth century.'***



Disaster struck one day in August 2002 at 2.45am when vandals set fire to the old pavilion. This building had been erected in the early years of the twentieth century. It was a wood hut with changing-room space and a scoreboard built on top. Prior to the building going up in flames, the club had applied for National Lottery money.





The Club's bid had been accepted, but eventually fell foul of the rule which said that all successful bidders had to have at least 10 years to run on their ground lease.



Unfortunately for Badger Hill, they couldn't gain a lease extension and the ambitious pavilion plans had

to be scrapped. After the fire, the club was left with no option but to erect a couple of portakabins.



Wilkinson adds: ***‘The strangest day in the history of Badger Hill C.C.? Easy! A few years ago we had to call a game off after a fortnight of bright sunshine. The reason? There was a leakage at the nearby filtration plant. A valve was opened - and all the water ended up running onto our field!’***