

BOOTH CC

BROAD FOLD TODAY



A view from the roadside

The cricket ground, set amid luscious greenery, is only a matter of yards from the bus terminus and the narrow, winding road that is Dean House Lane. The Booth CC website (www.boothcc.co.uk) describes Broadfold Park as '*picturesque*', and one regular visitor to the ground talks about the '*beautiful setting*'.



It would be difficult to disagree with these verdicts. If there was an award for well-kept cricket grounds, just as there is one for well-kept railway stations, Booth would have to be in with a shout.

The playing area resembles a large, slightly sloping putting green, and the tall emerald green trees that surround the venue are handsome.

The sightscreens are sturdy and wheeled, and there's a lovely curved wall on the far side of the ground, on top of which hardy supporters congregate - even when it's raining. There's also a public bridleway running nearby.



In 1950 work was carried out to reduce the slope, and in 1972 builders started on the pavilion. Thirty years on, the kitchen is always busy, the walls are awash with team photos - from 1912, 1948, 1949, 1952, 1958 and later - and a blue club flag flatters from the building's roof.



There were further developments in the 1980s: the pavilion was extended, a new car park was built, and showers were installed. Today, there's a BBQ by the changing rooms, pretty flowers in the hanging baskets,

and cut-price teas available for kids on matchdays. The new scoreboard clock is dedicated to the memory of Rod Warhurst, a long-serving club member.





Booth may be a small village, with only a few rows of terraces, but its cricket ground is definitely worth a visit.

Club secretary Mike Barnett says: ***'It's a small venue but very attractive. The ground is overlooked by a big manor house and, all in all, it's a lovely setting. The wicket has a tendency to keep low and I'd say that 200 is a decent par score. Our current groundsman has been with us for seven or eight years and he's done a very good job.'***







The most important people at Broad Fold