

BRADSHAW CC

HOME SWEET HOME

*It used to be a flyer, but not now. It's as flat as a
pancake
and the ball can keep very low.*

[A Bradshaw batsman on his home wicket]



The Club's ground is visible from Bradshaw Lane - situated just behind houses, tennis courts and the local bowling green. Legend has it that only one batsman in 80 years has managed to clear the boundary, and the farmer's field that lies beyond it, and deposited the ball onto the bowling green.



The ground also lies adjacent to the Bradshaw Tavern. Indeed, visitors to the pub can watch the action from inside the bar, and drinkers who wander out into the beer garden can see the game at even closer quarters.



In the early 1990s, the pub actually became famous. TransWorld Sport, an international television company, were looking for a venue for the Knur and Spell World Championships (K & S is an early, antiquated form of golf). The TV people liked the look of the pub, and the ground, and brought the event to Bradshaw - in their view, an ideal and hugely picturesque venue.



The most impressive feature of the ground is the newly renovated pavilion (situated side-on to the square). With financial help from the Sports Council, the Lottery Sports Fund, Calderdale Council and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, the Club was able to open the new building in 1997.



The glorified wood hut disappeared, and in its place emerged a spacious, spick-and-span construction with all the facilities a local league club could hope to boast: modern changing facilities, welcoming bar area, roomy TV lounge and open-plan kitchen (visiting spectators should leave plenty of room in their stomach for the help-yourself tea).



The framed miscellany is interesting - two drawings of the venue by 'Pellet' (1991 and 1993), a painting and a tapestry, and plaques that explain the contribution of key individuals in the Club's development - and the patio and hanging baskets in front of the building just add to the effect.



From the pavilion you can see right down into Halifax, with Queensbury up and to your left, Holmfield Industrial Estate straight in front, and the Halifax-Bradford road winding its way round the hillside in mid-distance.



From the A647, the Bradshaw Lane ground looks like it is located on a steep slope; when you are actually at the ground, you do notice the pronounced fall down from the pavilion to the far boundary, but it is a gentle slope, and nothing more. It's a windy spot, but on a sunny day, when the shadow of the pavilion stretches out onto the outfield, it's also a very pleasant spot.



Club stalwart Mick Turner says that opposition players like visiting Bradshaw: ***'They appreciate the facilities, but they're always a little wary about the weather. If it's not a sunny day, they know it will be pretty chilly!'***



The playing area is well kept, and on three sides surrounded by a low, whitewashed dry stone wall. The boundaries straight of the wicket are shorter than those square of it (when the ball beats the slip cordon it's usually four); the sightscreens are 'sliders' (and relatively new); and the green-and-white scoreboard, facing the pavilion at the bottom end of the ground, is extremely cute (and has recently been re-built in the same kind of stone that was used for the new pavilion).



Before



After

The wicket, notoriously uneven, was re-laid at the beginning of the 1990s, and according to locals has improved markedly in recent years. In 45 overs, a par total is now round about the 200 mark.

