

NORTHOWRAM FIELDS CC

## WESTERCROFT LANE TODAY



When there's a big match on at Northowram, the atmosphere is always convivial. The pavilion, in particular, is a hive of activity and noise. Once upon a time, Northowram relied on an old wood hut. However, in the early 1990s they 'raided' Butlins at Filey after the holiday centre had closed down, and ferried stonework, doors and various other items by lorry to the Westercroft Lane site.



They proceeded to build a new pavilion - the one that proudly stands today. (Some time in the future, when finances permit, the Club would like to extend the pavilion further).



In 2001 a new scoreboard was erected. The facility was part-funded by grant money, and it replaced the small hut that had served the Club up till that point.



As there aren't a lot of benches around the perimeter of the ground, spectators tend to make a virtue out of a necessity, and perch themselves on top of the long low dry stone wall that runs round the boundary on the pavilion side.

There is always a lot of banter between cricketers and cricket-watchers - particularly when batsmen are either leaving or returning to the pavilion!



Fields used to lease their ground out to New Riding CC of the Halifax Association. Furthermore, in August 2002, Northowram Fields staged the Halifax Association cup final between Queens Road Muslims and Stirk Bridge; and, even though it drizzled with rain almost continuously, the ground proved itself to be an excellent big-match venue with a great matchday atmosphere.



The playing surface is more of a square than a circle and there are sightcreens on wheels and whitewashed stone walls at both ends.

The current club president, Peter Atkinson, says: ***'The wicket here is very good. We have a groundsman who attends to the square on a regular basis, and another person who sees to the outfield. The wicket plays as well as any other in the league - it's a very fair cricket wicket. When we moved into the Central Yorkshire League, we were slightly unsure whether we would meet all their ground criteria, but in the end we did so on all counts - size of playing area, pavilion, changing rooms, the lot.'***