

## NORTHOWRAM HEDGE TOP CC

# HEDGE TOP LANE TODAY



Northowram Hedge Top's ground, on Hedge Top Lane, Northowram, is a smart, well-kept and well-appointed venue. It is situated immediately next door to Northowram Fields' home ground.

There are many appealing features of the ground: the well-groomed square, the flat, expansive outfield, the handsome scoreboard (built in 1998), and the attractive bushes and flowers just to the right of the pavilion. Club spokesman Dave Torney says: ***'At its best, our wicket is an excellent batting track. The main variable, however, is the weather.'***



The pavilion - erected in 1980 - is a modern bungalow-style building, with dedicated dressing-room space for both sets of players and umpires.

The front and side of the pavilion are adorned by the NHTCC club badge (a bright yellow crest that incorporates images of bat, ball and hedge, not unnaturally).



During the 2001-2 close season, the building was extended at the front to give the club more 'social' space, and to enhance other facilities. This meant encroaching onto the playing area - and club officials reckon that a foot or so of turf had to be sacrificed.





On one side of course, the venue is 'joined at the hip' with Northowram Fields. Around the other sides there are empty fields and, behind the bushes and flowers, a smart residential area (Croft View).

Torney explains an interesting bit of history: ***'Part of the ground - the area near where the pavilion is sited - lies on top of an old quarry. Obviously, it was all filled in, but at one point there was a huge gap in the earth down which the ball could drop. So we got hold of a long ladder, so that if the ball did get lost, one of us could go and fetch it. We also used the old quarry as a toilet. If any of the players were caught short, they would just get the ladder out - and do what they had to do down below!'***



The two fixed, sliding sightscreens (erected in 1999) are above-average in quality. They help to give Hedge Top Lane a very professional feel.

