

AMAZING VIEWS

David Armitage on the ground

Our ground is actually in Soyland rather than Stones. The views out from Swift Cross are amazing. Halifax to the left, the M62 – Junctions 22 and 23 – in mid-distance, and Littleborough in the far distance to the right. SBCI and Queensbury also have amazing views – at Stones I don't think we ever get bored of them!

But the ground is very exposed and we're often rained off. We've had seven or eight games rained off this year – we're very vulnerable because it's so open! But on a nice day there's nowhere better.



The pavilion was one of the first stone-built pavilions in the area when it was put up in the 1970s. It's been extended twice. In the early 1990s we added showers, toilets and a kitchen. And in the past few months we've extended it further, expanding the size of the bar and changing rooms.

We've done a lot of the fundraising ourselves but we've also been indebted to Ripponden Parish Council and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council. A few years ago we held a Sportsman's Dinner which netted us £7,000 – and that was obviously a big help. And we were one of the few clubs to gain an ECB loan. We also received funding for our nets three or four years ago.