

TRIANGLE CC

GRASSY BOTTOM TODAY



Triangle is the home of an enchanting cricketing venue.

A Club spokesman says: ***'Opposition teams love coming here. The river, the trees, the views from all around. It is a fantastic place to play cricket.'***

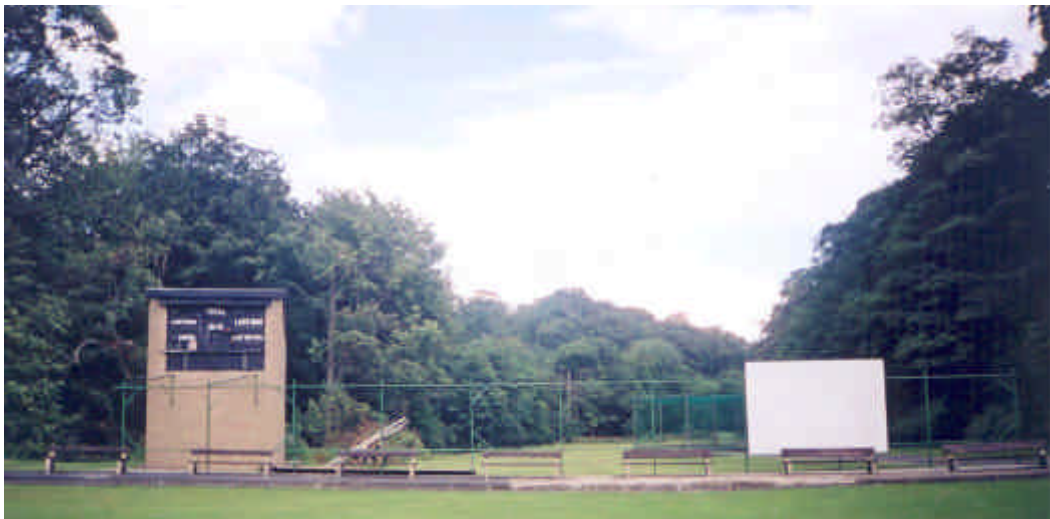


The ground is also pretty small: ***'It could well be the tiniest in the league. But, to be honest, places like Booth and Bradshaw aren't that much bigger. At Triangle, perhaps the ground looks smaller than it is because it is so enclosed by trees. It is small, but it is also well proportioned, which makes a big difference.'***



The venue lies almost halfway between Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, just off the main Rochdale Road.

A blue and white 'TCC' flag flutters from atop the whiter-than-white double-tier pavilion (which incorporates dressing rooms and a bar), and a small, simple plaque reminds visitors that cricket has been played amid the vivid greenery of Grassy Bottom since 1862.



So the Club is fast approaching its 150th anniversary. One seasoned visitor says: ***'I always think it is a similar setting to the Salem ground at Hebden Bridge. It's cosy and intense.'***



Enclosed on one side by tall trees, the trickle of the Ryburn and a series of handsome houses, and on the other by a rising bank of woodland, the cricket ground is lined by a neat array of wooden benches. And when you sit on one, you feel very adjacent to the action and intimately involved in the spectacle.



Over the years, Grassy Bottom has retained its character, as the Club spokesman notes: ***'The pavilion has been upgraded, and in 1982 the scoreboard was moved from on top of the pavilion to the far end of the ground. We've also made a tea room out of a wooden store room. But that's about it.'***



And there is no argument about the wicket. ***'Just ask our bowlers!'*** says one Triangle batsman. ***'It's a good batting pitch. A few years ago you would have been happy with 190 batting first, but now you've got to be aiming for over 250. It is not just the short boundaries that make this a good place to bat - it's also a great track.'***



A woman whose house backs on to the playing area explains a bit more: ***'I am a member of the Club, and so are my son and grandson. Did you know those trees at the far end were blown over in a hurricane recently? And did you know my grandson acted as ballboy for two years on the river side of the ground? A lot of balls get hit into the water, you know!'***



However, locals confirm that *because* they hire a ballboy, who wades through the water with a net, they do not actually lose that many balls in a typical season. According to local supporters, the ball-retrieval escapades add to the atmosphere and camaraderie.



The prettiness of the location is enhanced by the whiteness of the pavilion and the general effort that has been made to whiten the walls behind the bowler's arm near the main entrance. On the front of the pavilion there is a clock and a T.C.C. crest (incorporating a triangle, of course).



The tea room is spick and span - lots of orange juice and Yorkshire Tea in evidence - and a poster in the window tells all members what is expected of them: PLEASE CAN YOU PUT ALL RUBBISH IN BLACK BIN LINERS AND PUT ROUND THE BACK OF THE CLUB HOUSE IN THE WHEELY BIN. THANK YOU.



Way back in 1927, Colonel Tom H. Morris, a local mill-owner, made a gift of the ground to Triangle CC. Today, it is a smart and well appointed venue, but it's the tree-lined boundaries and the sound of running water that captivates the visitor.

