

## **I interviewed John Ellam**

### **1. What was the first game you saw at Fartown?**

The first match John Ellam saw was in 1974 where a one day match was being played between Yorkshire and another team. He was 12 years old when he saw that match. His mother and father had took the family on a day out. He said that he was expecting either Chris Hold's or David Bairstow to hit the chapel across the road and knock a few windows out, unfortunately that never happened.

### **2. What was the last Game you saw at Far town?**

The last match he saw was in 1977 it again was a one day match. He could not remember who played.

### **3. What is your fondest memory of the ground?**

John Ellam had told us that it was not primarily to do with Cricket it also was because of Rugby. He said his fondest memory was "when Moldgreen lifted the holiday cup a few of my mate's were playing and we had a good celebration." He also said that the fondest cricket match that he saw at Fartown would have to be the first one since it stuck out in his mind as one of the best games.

### **4. What was the greatest match you saw or were involved in at the ground?**

He was never involved in one but his greatest match would have to be the first one again because or personal reason.

### **5. What was the greatest player you saw or played with at the ground?**

In his opinion he said "David Bairstow over Chris Old, Geoffrey Boycott was not around at that time." David Bairstow was England and Yorkshire wicket keeper whist Chris Old was a fast bowler and a hitter of the ball. Unfortunately David Bairstow only got a few caps he was under rated. Reminded him of Darren Lehmann

### **6. What was the best thing about the ground?**

He said that the best thing was the families getting together.

The ground facilities were a bit scarcest that was the only trouble. His family would sit down next to the rope with a few chairs and a blanket. He said, "It was very common for families to go there, there were quite a lot that sat around the boundary."

### **7. What would you have changed about the ground?**

"Love to see Yorkshire play there again." He also said that "They needed to develop the ground a bit more by adding better stands." He thought that was one of the things that led to the down fall of the pitch. .

### **8. Could you try and describe the atmosphere at the ground during one of the big games?**

"It was a nice friendly ground" he said, also "Loads of families came from the same area which was nice since it was very friendly place to be."

### **9. What positive impact do you think the ground had on the local area and community?**

"Brought a lot of people in regardless on who was playing." also he said the type of people at the ground back then would be mainly white males but now in places like Headingley there is more variation. Also he said it brought a lot of families together. He also thought that the people running the ground were trying to spread little money over a wide area. When Fartown was first built it was actually a multi sports facility.

### **10. What do you feel when you see the ground now?**

"Disappointed they should at least try to keep it going somehow." Also local matches have to be played at the McAlpine Stadium. "He also thought that everything has gone towards football than other sports." He also thought that the ground might be torn down. He feels if people actually took responsibilities they might have been able to save it.

**Trivia:** He thinks the pitch was a batting pitch the rugby facilities were poor he had better facilities at school.

Biggest crowds there were for Yorkshire testimonial matches also Australia played at Fartown.

The ground finally closed three years ago. Very slim chance of reopening.