

HOME IS WHERE THE... EXCELLENT FACILITIES ARE

Laund Hill by Duncan Robinson

Over the forty years since Augustinians Cricket Club was founded there have been many changes. The club has changed leagues and seen more and more junior teams develop. However, arguably the biggest change has been the move from playing matches at All Saints' School to the current home of the club, Laund Hill. This took place in the early 1990s.

This move has seen the club move forward due to the better and wider range of facilities available to club members. There is 18 acres of ground at Laund Hill including 3 rugby pitches, 1 football pitch, 2 junior pitches and of course the cricket ground.



The square is in superb condition and the scoreboard and clubhouse are also excellent. The wicket has been improved dramatically by the groundsman and is now first rate. The changing rooms are also up to the high standard of the rest of the complex with 10 individually serviced changing rooms which are all heated and very modern.

The ground is encircled by trees that overlook the playing area and help to create an enclosed effect.

The circle of trees can both help and hinder the players. The back fall of the dark green leaves covering the trees is said to be a big advantage to the bowlers, but is not easy for the batsmen and fielders to judge the flight of the ball against. Spin bowlers in particular find the trees a big bonus as it is easier to deceive the batsmen with them in the background. With the right flight on the delivery, the ball can appear to the batsman as if it has disappeared and he will not pick it up until it is virtually upon him.

Despite the otherwise admirable nature of the ground, one criticism is that the pavilion is a considerable distance from the square itself and this can be a problem for spectators, particularly on a rainy day.

The move to Laund Hill has also been significant to Augustinians because it has meant that they are now regarded as the cricket section of the YMCA. This has given the club more of a name in the area and more support. Laund Hill is also the home of Huddersfield YMCA football and rugby teams and the supporters of these teams often lend their support to Augustinians as well.

The scale of the Laund Hill complex is emphasised by the fact that it plays host to many big events such as parties, conferences and even weddings. For a cricket club to be based in such a location can only be a positive thing.

When the players are not out on the field they can spend their time in the lounge which can hold over 100 people and has a fine selection of alcoholic beverages on tap.

With the club now based at such an excellent venue more players are interested in playing for Augustinians. Most cricketers would not turn down an opportunity to hone their skills using the facilities available and this has certainly helped the club's recruitment drive.