

GOOD PLACE TO PLAY CRICKET

David Peel on Bennett Lane

I'd say somewhere like Brighouse is close to being the perfect cricket venue – round, flat, not too big or small.



Bennett Lane is vastly improved as a venue. I wouldn't say it's that picturesque, and there's a bit of a slope and maybe it's slightly too small, but it was a good place to play cricket.

The wicket here is better than it was. It has never really been a batter's wicket, but has certainly got better. Bowlers like Harry Atkinson could be very lively but it's died a bit recently, which has been good for the batters.

I was an opening bowler. I bowled fast off-breaks and found the wicket quite helpful. In recent times the wicket has lost its pace and bounce – work has deadened it up. This isn't a bad thing. It's certainly evened things out a bit in terms of the bowler-versus-batsman contest.

In the 1970s 150 could be a winning score in early season. Today more runs are scored. There's a lack of quality bowling and the wicket isn't as helpful to bowlers as it once was.