

HOME SWEET HOME

The Crossroads ground - at the intersection of Mount Tabor Road, Wainstalls Lane and Balkram Edge - is neat, compact and incredibly square: all four sides are straight and of approximately the same length. Spectators can easily perch themselves on the craggy whitewashed dry stone wall that skirts three sides of the playing area.





In many ways Crossroads is a typical rural venue: there are bushes and farmers' fields all around, horses grazing nearby, and only the odd cottage within a six-hit of the modern, bungalow-style pavilion.



As such, the area around the cricket ground is the ideal location for lonely, contemplative pursuits - jogging, cycling, dog-walking and horse-riding (there is a public bridleway at the top end of the ground, just over the boundary wall).



On a clear August afternoon, the panoramic views from the cricket ground are nothing short of spectacular.

And when the sun starts to set, the pavilion casts a lovely, cooling shadow on the edge of the outfield.



For this reason and others, Wainstalls - a village once famous for its textiles - is a high, scenic and rather solitary setting.





Indeed, if it was not for the hourly bus service into Halifax, and the Crossroads Inn and Country Hotel, which almost backs onto the cricket field, civilisation would feel a very long way away indeed.



As it is, the hostelry does a wonderful trade on Saturday nights - and a framed aerial photograph by the bar shows just how proximate pub and cricket ground actually are.





In its publicity material, the Crossroads says its residents are ***'superbly placed to explore the breathtaking and rugged countryside of the nearby Bronte Country or the many local historical and cultural attractions such as Haworth and Hebden Bridge.'***

They are also ideally located for a spot of impromptu cricket-watching because, from the comfort of their rooms, guests can peer right out onto the square.



Crossroads has also played host to women's cricket.







And a nugget for local historians: a rugged milestone stands on the Balkram Edge side of the ground. The inscription reads: 'THE DIVISION OF WARLEY AND OVENDEN - 1805'.



