

CARTWORTH MOOR CC

HOME SWEET HOME!

WELCOME TO GILL LANE

Cartworth Moor Cricket Club own their own ground. It is an archetypal Holme Valley venue located at the intersection of Gill Lane and Cartworth Moor Lane.

It is rural, isolated and open to the elements. Round about there are sheep, several farmhouses and the odd caravan.



On the local league circuit, Cartworth Moor's reputation is an unenviable one. Without a shadow of a doubt, it is deemed to be the coldest venue in the area.



The square - looking up from the road end

However, stalwart Stuart Clayton is not so sure:

'I certainly wouldn't put it like that. Rather, I'd say that we get the extremes: it can get very windy up here - and I've also played in fog and snow. But, to be fair, when the sun is out, there is no better place to be than Cartworth Moor. There's even a nice gentle breeze to cool everybody down. And we don't have the midges you get down in the valley!'

The local council helps with the mowing of the outfield. And, in general terms, Clayton is pleased with the current state of the wicket:

We've got a big square here and, as a result, there are plenty of tracks to choose from. Expert groundsman Ray Horrocks has helped us a lot in recent years. Granted, it can still be a little lively, and there's always a bit of irregular bounce, but it's now a pretty fair track.



The square – looking towards the road end

There are two distinctive things about Gill Lane as a cricketing venue: its height and its excellent array of seating.

It is no exaggeration to say that when you arrive in Cartworth Moor, you think you have landed on top of the world.

The views out towards Holmfirth and Holmbridge are deep and breathtaking: layer upon layer, mile upon mile of Pennine farmland.



The peaceful panorama gives you such an interesting and helpful perspective - you can follow the course of the Holme Valley from east to west, and gain a real insight into the topography and architecture of this part of West Yorkshire.

There are only a handful of seats, but three in particular have profound significance. Two are sited in front of the pavilion.

IN MEMORY OF HARRY ARMITAGE - 58 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CMCC, reads the inscription on both.

Close to the main entrance is another seat, so new and gleaming that it looks like a throne. The dedication tells all:

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD HINCHCLIFFE 1920-2002 - A HAPPY MAN, WHO PLAYED CRICKET HERE AS A BOY, HE LIVED PASSIONATELY AND IS REMEMBERED WITH LOVE.



There are other seats sited on the perimeter of the ground as well.



The cosy changing rooms are located in the adjacent pavilion building.

This is an interesting structure in itself. It was built out of two converted railway carriages - but its strange history is certainly not obvious to the first-time visitor.



The pavilion also boasts a mini-loft, which on matchdays is inhabited by the home and opposition scorers. The letters CMCC are emblazoned on the roof in 3-D plastic.

