

DENBY DALE CC

HOME SWEET HOME



The cricket ground is the ultimate village venue. It is sited on the main road adjacent to the bowling green; this means that on Saturday afternoons all passers-by get a taste of the action. Not only this, but they get an excellent view of proceedings because the playing area is 'down below' the road, sited in an amphitheatre-type 'bowl'.



The pavilion is a modern, double-decker building that owes its existence to the Sport England Lottery Fund and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. It boasts a balcony, superb changing facilities and three hanging baskets on the front.



Inside there are themed cricket tea-towels on display, 'fundraising' bricks, and posters (one publicises the Club's 'sponsored tree' scheme; another shows a photo of the old pavilion in 1997 and the new one in 1999 - a kind of 'before-and-after' effect).

There is also a newly-installed disabled stairlift, a spick-and-span kitchen (which serves super toffee cheesecake on 'Denby Dale Bicentenary Pie' plates), and a special room for scorers and umpires (plus assorted hi-tech gadgetry). There are three scoreboards: two electronic facilities (one in the pavilion, one directly opposite) and a small manual device.







So forward-thinking are Denby Dale that they hire out the pavilion as 'business space' during the week. As the roadside noticeboard puts it: ***'Welcome to Denby Dale Cricket Club and Denby Dale Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic - John Secker BSc (Hons) MCSP SRP, Chartered Physiotherapist - Tel: 07979 597289'***. (Recently, the Club has also put on a special training course for cricket scorers - six sessions plus an exam - and coaching sessions for local female cricketers).



As you look out at the playing area from the main road, you see not only a sporting arena but an area of dense woodland, some mauve-coloured heather, a selection of hand-crafted walls, a field of cows high above the village, and the odd house.

The ground is a lovely round shape - the boundary is marked in white paint.



A copy of the latest teamsheet is pinned to the noticeboard near the main entrance and a set of benches line the perimeter of the field. Some of these have special significance as the following inscriptions make plain:

- **Dedicated to the memory of Dennis Padgett from his wife Joyce.**
- **Donated to Denby Dale Cricket Club in memory of Arthur Lodge by his wife Edith - Happy Memories.**
- **In memory of Selwyn Brian Simpson - Lifelong Supporter and Player.**
- **Dedicated to the people of Denby Dale and the surrounding villages - From Doctors K & R Samanta.**
- **In memory of their parents - From Doctors K & R Samanta.**