

KIRKBURTON CC

HOME SWEET HOME





Kirkburton's ground, on Riley Lane, is surrounded on one side by luxury houses and bungalows, built in the 1960s and 1970s; most have grown tall hedges or covered their rear windows with iron covers or netting to save a large glazier's bill in the event of a middle-order batsman swinging to leg. (Some of the bungalows also boast verandas - perfect for cricket-loving residents).

On other sides, it is farmers' fields and greenery that border onto the turf. The village church looks on, as does Emley Mast in the far distance.



The playing surface at Riley Lane is undulating in certain regions (it falls away slightly at the far end from the pavilion). In places too, the field is slightly raised. The boundary's edge is littered with benches, bins, and animals (look out for cats and dogs).



A Club member says: ***'It's always been a good batting wicket here - a bowler's deathbed in many ways.'*** There is also an artificial wicket, just to the left as you look out from the pavilion. Club spokesmen describe Riley Park as an ***'elevated site'*** and ***'a superb piece of land in a delightful setting'***, with a ***'commanding position above the village'***.

The current pavilion arrived in 1962 - the one that still stands today. It is a converted bungalow, with a garage next door. It took two years to build, and was then extended only two years after it was opened. (As a plaque inside the building announces: THIS EXTENSION WAS ERECTED BY VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE CLUB WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM MR STANLEY KINDER OBE, VICE-PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE, APRIL 1964).



By 1969 the powers-that-be at Riley Lane were pretty satisfied; in the Huddersfield League handbook, they described the new structure as **'attractive'** and **'well built'**, and their ground as a **'modern and pleasing home for village cricket'**.



They went on: **'Enjoy a pleasant afternoon at our picturesque ground and a pleasant evening in the comfort of our modern clubhouse'**.

Today, the building incorporates kitchen, bar area and lounge (named after the aforementioned Mr Kinder), plus a small cricket library, which members and visiting spectators are free to borrow from. Adorning one of the inside walls is a superb watercolour painting of Riley Park - the work of Jean Sutcliffe.



The scoreboard, built in the early-1970s and almost a 180-degree walk from the pavilion, is an interesting feature. A warning notice on its frontage says: **SCORERS ONLY PLEASE** (there's also a lock and padlock to scare off intruders). There is a cute set of steps up to the top floor and there are five small advertising boards affixed to the bottom.



