

SCHOLES CC

HOME SWEET HOME



Over the last quarter of a century, the turnover of the club has increased 25-fold and, likewise, our operating costs have risen year on year so that in 2002 it will cost the club in the region of £4,000 before a ball is bowled...Please support club social functions, use your contacts to attract new sponsors to the club, promote the use of the clubhouse as an ideal setting to have a birthday party or other intimate family gatherings.

[Bob Pell, Chairman of Scholes C.C. - 2001]



Scholes' ground is both peaceful and distinguished. It is set high above Holmfirth, amid glorious moorland scenery. You can access the ground by various means - over the wall, through the gate near the far field, or via the path near the garage.



When you enter the arena, you are struck first of all by the fantastic views on offer. For the most part, you catch sight of tranquil greenery, but if you look close enough you can spot a windmill in the mid-distance and a football pitch in the near-distance.



In terms of buildings, there are two, and both are modern: a bar and tea room by the main entrance (home to some excellent photo-montages on a cricketing theme) and a pavilion for the teams to change in further round to the right (note the iron railings and the cute waiting area for batters-to-be).



Around the perimeter of the ground, there are lots of empty beer barrels and a number of benches for spectators' use.



Two in particular bear rather moving dedications: IN MEMORY OF HENRY WARDELL 1923-1999 - SUPPORTER AND FRIEND and THESE SEATS ARE DONATED IN MEMORY OF J.W. HEYWOOD (BILL) WHO DIED 4TH JANUARY 1988 - A LIFELONG SUPPORTER OF SCHOLES C.C..

At one match in September 2003, another bench collapsed under the weight of the seven spectators sitting on it - and many drinks were spilt!



The playing area slopes gently down from the dressing-room area. Adjacent is an area of tasteful new Brookside-style housing (some of the residences even have verandas).

The powers-that-be at Scholes are very fond of their notices. In the bar and tea room you encounter the

following: WELCOME TO SCHOLES C.C., WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY CRICKET AT SCHOLES?, THANK YOU FROM ALL AT SCHOLES C.C. and NO SPIKES TO BE WORN IN THE TEA ROOM AND BAR. Outside the pavilion: THIS AREA IS DESIGNATED FOR PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS ONLY.



Near the back entrance to the ground: PLEASE SHUT THE GATE OR IT WILL BE LOCKED - THANK YOU. Even the local authority gets in on the act. Near the gate at the bottom end of the ground, a sign reads: KIRKLEES M.C. - NO DOGS ALLOWED.



The locals are also keen on their poetry. As you order your drinks at the bar you can read various bits of verse on the Club noticeboard: *Scholes Lament*, *Scholes Balls and All* and also this little ditty in honour of the Chapelgate groundsmen:

These three chaps appear frequently on the cricket pitch at Scholes

Days of bat and ball are over, 'T'roller now along they bowls...

Two 'undred and seventeen years 'etween 'em,
That's how long they've done so far

T'owdest rollers in the business, Yet they still prop up the bar.



Back in the old days, Scholes had to rely heavily on villagers for support. In 2001 Club member Paul Ibbotson wrote a 'nostalgia' piece for the SCC 125th Anniversary brochure. ***'It seems that fundraising was as big an issue 80 years ago as it is now,' he explained. 'The club had to raise the funds to pay for everybody's kit, unlike today, and there was no bar to provide a steady income. Clifford [Oldroyd] recalls walking round the village aged 16 with a friend, knocking on every door they could find, asking for contributions to keep the club going. 3d, 6d, a shilling or two bob were all gratefully received, and half a crown got you a vice-presidency!'***

