

## **Lidget Lane: Home from Home**

By Matt Elston

Skelmanthorpe's Lidget Lane ground is a beautiful, picturesque venue for local league cricket. In the winter a pale moonlight casts a long shadow over the pavilion onto the lonely looking square. In the summer the trim outfield welcomes batsmen and the firm immaculately kept square is a haven for bowlers.

Lidget Lane is a home for everyone and has a welcoming feel. The clubhouse is littered with memorabilia and more framed pictures of ex-professionals and past greats than you can count. On a matchday the clubhouse and boundary edge bustles with avid spectators. Skelmanthorpe boast one of the most loyal followings in the area and it's little wonder once your nostrils flare and fill with the smell of home- cooked food. The S.C.C. flag blows in the wind on the approach to the clubhouse; a daunting sight for visiting teams, it reminds everyone just how proud this team are.



This club and its facilities have seen numerous changes over the years, not least the ageing of once budding juniors. Everything from the changing facilities to the bar has had a facelift. People have come and gone but the cricket has always stayed the same - the atmosphere has always been welcoming and the people always smiling.

In 1995 the club was the victim of an attack by vandals. One week before the start of the season, vandals inflicted hundreds of pounds of damage by digging a 7ft by 4ft- wide chunk out of the practice wicket, and leaving a hole in the outfield.

But this hiccup did not stop such a determined club and today Skelmanthorpe have one of the most inspiring and attractive grounds in the league. Groundsman Phil Redgwick tends to grass and soil with impeccable attention. His wicket is well preened and there are runs to be had all over the ground. Emley Mast dominates the skyline at a ground surrounded by trees and houses, most of which are constantly at risk from hard-hitting batsmen.

The ground, like the rest of the club, carries an air of professionalism and the aspirations of the club mean that the ground will no doubt see more than its fair share of success and silverware in years to come. In the summer sun Lidget Lane is a beautiful place to sit and watch cricket - but don't forget your coat because, as all the locals know, when it's cold in Skelmanthorpe it's freezing!