

£10,000 grant is 'fantastic opportunity'

Village club nets cash from lottery

CRICKETERS in Southowram are celebrating after the village club was awarded a lottery grant of more than £10,000.

The cash from the Sport England Lottery Fund will help pay for new full size twin-lane artificial cricket nets at Southowram Cricket Club's ground.

The Halifax Parish League Section B club has three senior teams and two junior sides - and club secretary Keith Walker hopes the new facilities can be in use by the end of June.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for us to build on," he said.

"This facility will be used not only for the benefit of the club members but will encourage our coaches to work towards better inclusion of people of all ages in the area in the game of cricket."

The club was formed 25 years ago and is one of the newest in the local cricket

By Steven Fletcher

leagues. Members now hope the club can begin offering starter courses for all ages, including opportunities for women's, girls' and disability cricket in the area.

Mr Walker spent 18 months working on the grant application and hopes to unveil the new nets at a 25th anniversary reunion of all the club's ex-players in early summer.

And he was full of praise for the lottery fund, which has awarded more than £6 million to community sports projects in Calderdale since 1995.

"The fund is an important source of help to all budding sportsmen and women and is important to the development of all sport for the good of the community," said Mr Walker.

"Southowram Cricket Club intends to be in the forefront of cricket in the area and this grant will help us achieve that aim.

"We've also had a lot of invaluable help from Tony Scargill and Duncan Blundell at Calderdale Leisure Services. They have given us



Looking at the plans at Southowram Cricket Club are (from the left) junior manager Simon Walker, secretary Keith Walker, and chairman David Hirst

enormous support," he said.

And however the Southowram teams fare this season, the club will end its anniversary year on a high note.

"We have been chosen to host the Parish Cup Final at the end of the year," said Mr Walker.

"I think this is an honour for the club and a recognition of the work the members have done in developing the whole complex."