

## Women at S.B.C.I.

The S.B.C.I. Ladies' Fund-Raising Committee held its inaugural meeting on 15 January 1965, its stated aim 'to raise money for the cricket club'.

This committee knew how to raise money and knew how to enjoy itself, thriving as both a fund-raising body and a social group of like-minded friends, which helped to sustain its existence.

Its first event was a hair-dressing demonstration, but bazaars, bring and buys, jumble sales and dinner dances were the annual core of their activities.

By 1970 the ladies were expanding their horizons into more social activities. A trip to Bradford to see the 'Black and White Minstrels' was minuted as 'most enjoyable', and a raffle was held which made a profit of £1 17s. The June meeting, an evening coach outing to Ilkley 'was enjoyed by approximately 45 members and friends' and 'followed by a fish and chip supper at Harry Ramsden's. A profit of £4 was made'.

The Ladies Committee could be formidable, and were not best pleased when they organised their pre-season painting rather more effectively than the men in 1972. They had cleaned and painted the pavilion tea room and minuted: 'At least our paint had dried before the first match. This was not the case in the changing rooms (which the men painted) as no doubt some of you would be aware, faced with the job of removing paint from the seat of your husband's cricket flannels.'

In recent years S.B.C.I. has been one of the most pro-active clubs in the Halifax area in encouraging women's cricket. Girls have regularly practiced with the under age teams and a long term aim of the club, as stated in the Lottery bid for the building of the pavilion, is to form a ladies' team and to take the lead in developing a ladies' league in the Halifax.