

Moles are caught out

MOLES digging up the outfield at Cartworth Moor cricket club have been dealt with just in time.

Now the pitch is ready for the first game of the Central League season this weekend.

There were almost 200 molehills, a labyrinth of tunnels and sinking patches on the pitch.

But a local mole-catcher set down traps and captured eight of the animals.

The club was even contacted by the ministry of agriculture offering to step in, after an article appeared in *The Examiner*.

Mountain of molehills undermines grant bid

By DAVID EYRE

HOLME Valley Parish Council has refused to give a grant to a local cricket club — because of a mountain of molehills.

Cartworth Moor Cricket Club had applied for help with the reseeded and levelling of their pitch.

But at last week's finance committee meeting councillors decided not to give any money to the club until they were sure a long-running battle with the moles was won.

The animals have been leaving large molehills all over the pitch.

Clr Donald Firth told the meeting that he had problems with moles this summer himself, and wanted some kind of guarantee that club would get

rid of them before a grant was made.

He said: "If we give the club a grant, how do we know the moles won't return to destroy the newly-laid pitch? We can't make sure they've gone away."

Clr Keith Horn said he was disappointed that the club was not going to get a grant, as it was the only institution in Cartworth to get any money from the parish council, but he agreed with Clr Firth on the mole issue.

"If they come back and say they've got rid of the moles then we'll look at it again," he said.

Former Kirklees Mayor Ken Sims also told the committee that the funds for last year's Mayor's appeal for Breast Cancer Research, were closed. About £17,000 had been raised for the charity.