

THE big time can prove to be a bit of a sticky wicket.

It's easy to get bowled over with all the competition about.

But Kirkburton ladies' cricket team are determined not to be caught out in their next season in the Yorkshire Ladies' Cricket League.

The girls aim to keep batting on with a series of friendlies this year and knock 'em for six in 1980.

Kirkburton are the only team in the Huddersfield area to have joined the league.

For the past couple of seasons they have been battling against sides from Sheffield, Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield.

"I'm afraid we didn't do very well in the league table last year," said team captain Diane Firth.

Team captain Diane Firth (front) with from left, her teammates: L Oates, J Binns, S Beaumont, S Lodge, Y Kilvington, S Starbuck, T McParland, M Rowley, V Ainsworth, I Thorpe and K Oaters.

# Knocking 'em for six

"But we have some good youngsters coming up and we hope to do much better next time."

The team was formed about four years ago when wives of Kirkburton Cricket Club members decided that they, too, would like to play cricket.

They joined the Yorkshire League shortly afterwards, and Diane

says the team are now going from strength to strength.

"Ladies' cricket is becoming more popular all the time," she said. "We have noticed that there are more clubs springing up."

This year, there will be no Yorkshire League contest because of a visit by a ladies' touring team from the West Indies. The season will comprise a series of friendlies instead and hopefully things will be back to normal next year with Kirkburton in there fighting.

Although the team are fully staffed at present, Diane is appealing for more members to cover holidays and illness.

"We meet for training every Tuesday at the club and there is a great social aspect," she said.

The men have given the girls every encouragement. Apart from helping out with equipment, they often attend training sessions to point out mistakes and offer advice.

For anyone who is interested in ladies' cricket, Diane stresses that it's not necessary to have played before. Age doesn't matter much either.

"Ours is basically a young side," she said, "but we have people of up to 40 playing for us. The game is easy to pick

up. You start with bowling and batting and take it from there, learning by your mistakes.

"Another important thing is that it's good for the figure and a great way of keeping slim."

With a recommendation like that, there can be no boundaries.

# Meeting over club's 'fliers'

A CRICKET club committee meet tonight to discuss the latest developments over a man's claim that he is entitled to protection for his home from flying cricket balls.

The meeting at Kirkburton Cricket Club will be attended by the club's legal adviser, who is expected to report on talks with the man's solicitor.

The dispute stems from an incident more than two and a half years ago when a ball crashed through the lounge window of Mr and Mrs Anthony Kimmings, whose house at Riley Park adjoins the cricket field, during a match with Almondbury.