



Stepping down

ONE of the area's leading all-rounders has retired — just one short of his 50.

He is Kirkheaton's 49-year-old Brian Stockton, who is bowing out after 30 years in the game.

Stockton (pictured above) had hoped to retire at the end of last season but was persuaded to continue after a successful summer which saw him score over 500 runs and take 18 wickets with his slow right armers, writes Robert Gledhill.

This summer he admits he has been struggling and has decided to step down so he can concentrate more on his other great sporting love, golf. He is a nine-handicap player at Crossland Heath.

"There was no way I was going to play in the second team — not because I'm 'too big' for it but because I hold very strong principles about sec. 2 team cricket. It should be for young lads and not for old men.

"But I have had a good run in the game, played 30 years, scored around 10,000 runs and taken about 1,000 wickets," he says.

Stockton began his career at Sowerby Bridge where he played for three years before moving to Elland. He scored 49 in helping them win the 1954 Sykes Cup final against Sialthwaite and also collected a Section "A" championship medal in 1956. He then moved on to ICI where he was professional before joining Kirkheaton seven years ago.

Kirkheaton secretary Alan Stephenson says he is sorry to see Stockton retire.

"Brian has been a great servant to this club. But we now have a youth policy which appears to be the only way to get some fruit and Brian, quite rightly, doesn't upset it."



Bob Furness — on his way to 88 against Linthwaite on Saturday

20 Oct



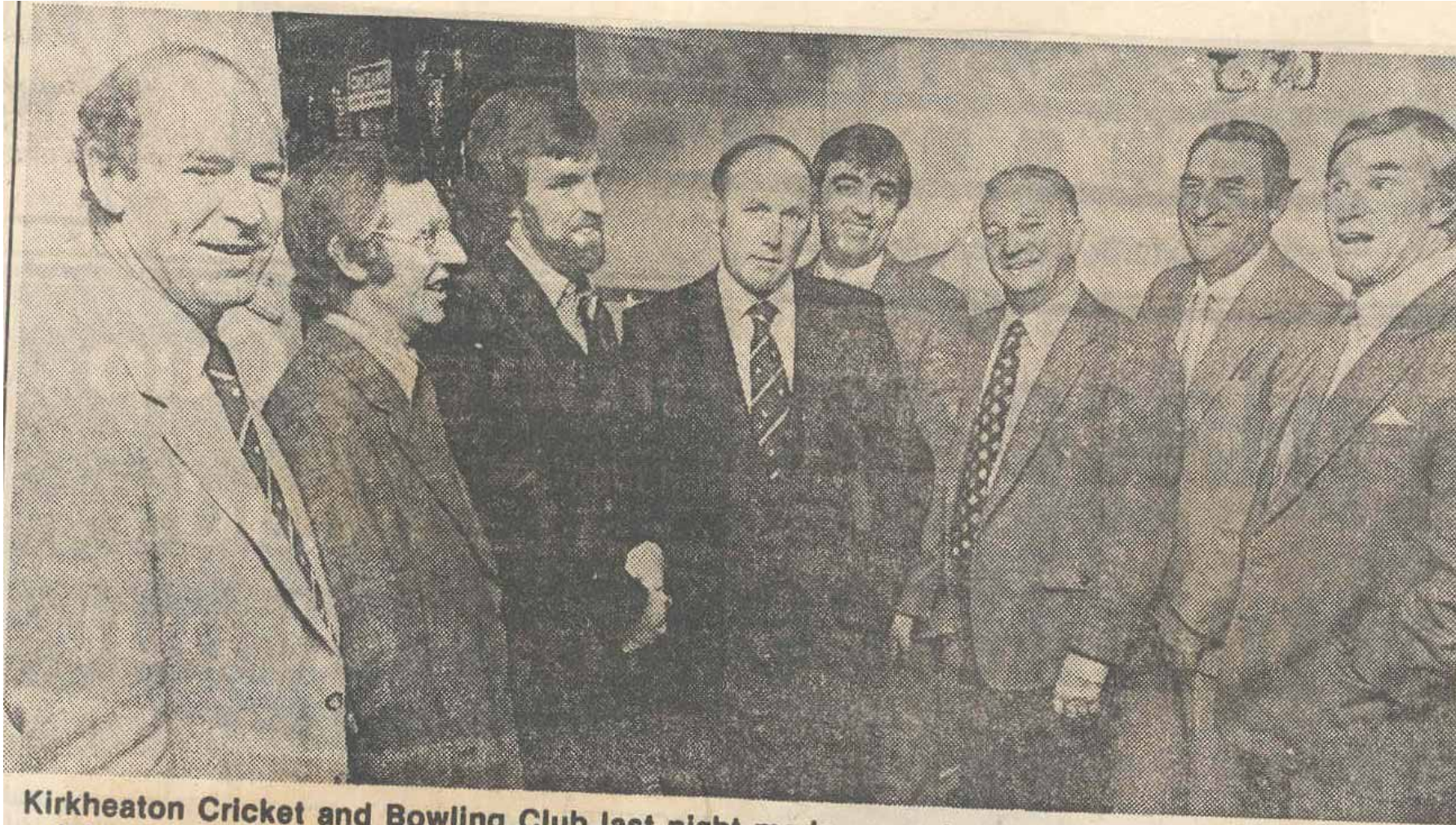
KIRKHEATON cricketers stepped out in style and, at the same time, did themselves and a local charity a good turn.

Around 30 of them swapped their whites for walking gear and tackled the Three Peaks Walk during the summer.

And that has enabled them to raise £250 for both their clubhouse extension plans and the Huddersfield Hospice Appeal Fund.

Following a collection of the sponsorship money, former first team skipper and walk organiser Alf Hewitt was able to hand over a cheque to the chairlady and treasurer of the Kirkheaton branch of the fund, Angela Mortimer (pictured left) and Rosemary Sanderson, at the club on Sunday.

18 Dec



Kirkheaton Cricket and Bowling Club last night made an early start to next year's centenary celebrations when they officially opened the £35,000 extensions to their clubhouse. "Examiner" Sports Editor John Gledhill (centre) performed the opening ceremony and he is pictured with (from left) Eric Hepworth (treasurer), Alan Stephenson (secretary), Brian Pember (chairman), Ian Aspinall, representing Kirkheaton president Maurice Broadbent, Ken Wood, president of the Huddersfield and District Bowling Association, Jim Dawson, the Huddersfield Cricket League president, and Bob McCreadie, representing Joshua Tetley's.