

Rams delight . . .

BUT IT COULD BE END FOR RAFA

26 OCT 1988

SOUTHOWRAM'S delight was RAFA's despair at last night's Halifax League annual meeting at Thrum Hall.

Southowram were elected to the league at their fourth attempt at the expense of their former Halifax Association colleagues RAFA, who were voted out after six successive re-election applications.

RAFA gained only eight votes to the 24 obtained by Southowram and the 30 for re-elected Union Croft.

Southowram's Bill Bailey and Dave Hirst were delighted, Bailey saying "It is excellent for us. It is the difference between being back where we started and going forward."

The Rams have also applied to join the Bradford Central League but will now be withdrawing that application.

They intend to have a new scoreboard and mower hut for next season with a new pavilion to follow.

For RAFA, formed in 1952, it could be the end. Representative Barry Chapman said they had feared they would not get back this time and

CRICKET:

Ian Rishworth

had already decided they would not rejoin the Halifax Association.

"We will be deciding what to do at an extraordinary meeting next Wednesday but it looks like the end of the road."

In an eventful meeting, some major rule changes were made for next season.

They included the introduction of 90 over matches with a maximum of 45 overs for the side batting first. This effectively ends "time cricket" in the Halifax League.

After Barkisland had withdrawn their proposal for 100 overs matches, it took five votes from the executive committee to push their 90 overs proposal through by 17 votes to 14.

There will also be a different points system for next season with no draws. It will be six points for a win but only four if the opposition isn't bowled out or the side batting first doesn't

declare. There will be three points each for a tie and one for sides in an abandoned game.

Matches will start 10 minutes earlier at 2.0 (1.30 after August 28) and umpires fees have gone up from £6 to £8.

Three clubs failed to fulfil second team fixtures last season and hefty new fines have been brought in to try to prevent it happening again. Sides unable to raise a team will have to pay the league £15, the opposition £25 and the umpires' fees. Teams with less than 10 men at the end of the first innings will have to pay a £10 fine to the league.

Treasurer Harry Schofield reported a profit of £283 for the season and the league now has funds of £1,600.

The Halifax League's White Rose under 22 team will play the Yorkshire League in the first round of next season's competition.

The draw for the first round of the league's indoor competition, to be held at Whitcliffe Mount on Sunday, November 20, is:

Barkisland v Copley (winners v SBCI), Northowram v Triangle (winners v Sowerby Bridge), Warley v Luddenden Foot (winners v Blackley), Bradshaw v Union Croft (winners v Outlane).