

CHURCH DEBATE

Steve Brierley on the Rastrick New Road link

I've played since 1984 – for both senior teams. Paul Shepherd has also been around for quite a while: 29 years, I think, since he was 14.



End of the road

ONE of the most famous names in Huddersfield cricket will soon be disappearing.

Rastrick New Road are to become Badger Hill Cricket Club when a new 20-year lease, negotiated with ground owners Yorkshire Thornhill Estate, begins at the end of next month.

They are amicably severing their links with the local Sunday school in order, says committee member Trevor Bottomley, that "we can play Sunday cricket."

"The trustees of the Sunday school have given us permission in the past to play the Lumb Cup and Crosland Trophy finals on Sundays if we got there but

we had to play the previous rounds on Monday and Tuesday evenings," explained Mr Bottomley, a stalwart of the Huddersfield Association's oldest club.

"At the end of November, the lease runs out so we thought it a good time to break away from the Sunday school and start up under a new name. The trustees of the Sunday school have allowed us to keep the equipment and the cash—most, of which, has been raised by the players—that we had, although if the club folds in the first five years then all the assets will

revert to the Sunday school."

There seems little danger of that as there is evidence of Rastrick New Road having existed over 125 years ago, although actual records date back to 1896, when they first played at Badger Hill.

During their history, the New Roaders have captured the Section "A" title 22 times and the Lumb Cup on 18 occasions. They were also beaten finalists against Edgerton this year.

Huddersfield Association match and registration secretary Barry Allison has confirmed that the club will keep their Section "A" status under their new name.

By **ROBERT GLEDHILL**

1987

We had a big debate in 1987 about the future of the club and our relationship with Rastrick New Road church. Should we stay as Rastrick New Road, or become Badger Hill, or maybe go for something that linked us to the church but not directly – like New Road? The big issue was playing matches on Sundays – and the church couldn't give its blessing to that.

Some people wanted a new start – and that's why Badger Hill was eventually settled on.