

MIRFIELD P CAV

Captain: Kenny Wharton. 1988: 7th, Div 2.

PARISH intend to add substance to their at times cavalier performances of 1988 and mount a genuine promotion challenge seeking first division cricket for the first time since their League days.

To that end they have recruited Sean Twohig from Gomersal to take over behind the stumps and stiffen the batting after a successful winter helping Liversedge FC win promotion, experienced seam bowler Steve Winn from Scholes and Alan Baxter (Heckmondwike) who is expected to strengthen the batting.

"Steve will really strengthen the bowling because he is so accurate", said secretary Arthur Ledgard. "We shall lack Bob Hirst for much of the season because of a knee operation but we are going to be very competitive and a side that has to be beaten.

"I am sure we shall be the best side in the division of those who have not forked out a penny. If we perform to the best of our ability we can be up there".

Many experts will be watching the form of Russell Clarke, who had such an exciting season scoring 861 runs at 53.81 since moving from Heckmondwike.

Veteran spinner Colin Fretwell, 47 wickets, will again be a key member of the attack. It is hoped that Nathan Graham, who already has three second team centuries behind him, and won the Joe Lumb best player of 1988 award, will develop into a regular first-teamer. After his impressive RL debut for Dewsbury in their last-match win over Sheffield the future is full of promise for the 17-year-old.

Fears that there will be no local derby after Mirfield's promotion were quickly dispelled when they were paired to meet in the Jack Hampshire at Dunbottle Lane on May 28.