

Cash crisis club left on a sticky wicket

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By Catherine Langford

A RASTRICK cricket club has been stumped by a cash crisis in its centenary year and is desperately seeking sponsors.

Badger Hill Cricket Club, which has its ground on Dewsbury Road, has been plagued by vandals and thieves since last summer. The club house has been broken into on many occasions, equipment has been stolen and three weeks ago arsonists torched the building.

The cash-strapped club has been striving to raise £2,000 so it can apply for a grant to build a new pavilion. But the money has had to be spent on repair work following the attacks.

The club's second team captain, David Wilson, said the attacks had ruined them and the club could even fold.

"A lot of damage has been done and equipment has been stolen. They even took three mowers which are essential to a cricket field," he said. "We have had to spend hundreds of pounds on repairing the place. To be honest, this could have finished us."

The club — formerly Rastrick New Road — applied to the National Lottery and Sports Council for grants but was turned down.

"They said we needed £2,000 before we applied, but we didn't have it because we have had to spend it on all the repairs," said Mr Wilson. "We now need £15,000 to pay for a new pavilion."

Mr Wilson appealed for local businesses which could put up sponsorship money to contact club secretary Ian Thornley through the nearby Sun Inn pub. He said members had been holding events to raise cash for the pavilion, which Calderdale Council gave planning permission for 12 months ago.

"We feel utterly devastated by the whole thing," said Mr Wilson. "We are feeling very bitter."