

NOW there's scope for a post-mortem!

HALIFAX LEAGUE club Northowram have never been a side for mulling over a defeat in the dressing room for hours after a match — they haven't been able to!

With the only access to the bar being straight through their dressing rooms, they have always had to be one of the fastest changing teams in the league, to allow everybody to get a drink.

But this year they have every chance to indulge in after-match inquests to their heart's content, thanks to improvements at their Hedge Top HQ.

The lounge and bar have been extended and the home dressing room has been moved after the conversion of an old equipment hut.

The alterations have been a real club effort: Vernon Barber the electrician, Tony Oldman the plumber, skipper Barrie Greenwood taking care of the joinery, painting and decorating by Peter Slaine and more labourers than it is possible to mention.

The changes provoked a few memories of the less comfortable times gone by.

President Walter Howden, connected with the club for 48 years, was among those who remembered the transportation of an old hen hut from Barkisland, which was then cleaned and used as a tea hut.

Toilet facilities were also spartan, with the only concession to easy living in the early days being a ladder to help players make their way down into the quarry.



During the war the quarry was filled in and, gradually, improvements were made.

"This is like the Hilton Hotel now, compared to those days," quipped Mr Howden.

Northowram Hedge Top originated from the Wesleyan Chapel in the 1920's, which used to stand opposite the Shoulder of Mutton public house; in fact, Wesleyans was their original name.

The Northowram side across the wall, members of the Bradford Central League, grew up from a different faith — Church of England.

Green light for club extension

PLANS for an extension to a cricket club house has been given the green light.

Calderdale Council Planning Committee granted permission for the development at Hedge Top Cricket Club, Hedge Top Lane, Northowram, Halifax.

Objections were raised by local residents and Northowram Village Society.

They were worried that the double storey extension would be out of

character with nearby bungalows.

And neighbours were worried it would lead to more noise during the evenings.

Application co-ordinator Mr Bruce Deadman said there was little chance of extra noise - and the extension would mean improved changing rooms and toilets.

"The club has three senior teams and five junior teams - this is a valuable community facility. Members are responsible people," he said.

Councillor Pat Abrahams (Lab,

Illingworth) backed the plans.

"I wish the cricket club well and hope this will solve all your problems."

Councillor John Foran (Con, Hipperholme and Lightcliffe) said he was considering refusing the application as the building would overshadow neighbouring gardens.

"I do believe that the back of this building is overlooking the bungalows and is of an overpowering size."

Councillors approved the plans subject to conditions.