

16/6/95

# RAMS READY TO COME BACK FIGHTING

## New skippers breathe life back into Northowram neighbours

1994 was a black year for the Northowram clubs with the neighbours, separated by the thickness of a wall, both relegated. But 1995 promises better things with two new skippers at the helm.

The Halifax League side struggled for all of last season and it turned out that their late heroics in 1993, when they performed a great escape on the last day, only prolonged the inevitable.

The drop led to the departure of several key players, including almost the whole of the bowling attack, and former captain Andy Whitehead is not missing at the moment after moving house.

New skipper Bruce Deadman was left with a fairly unenviable task at first sight but the Hedge Top men have put a distinctly unpromising first day defeat by Greetland behind them to move up the league and gain a surprise place in the semi-finals of the Parish Cup.

Northowram's Bradford Central League neighbours were perhaps a shade unfortunate to go down from their top section.

They finished joint second from bottom with Idle UC but went down by virtue of fewer six point wins. They were also denied a good winning opportunity on the last day of the season when their match at Sandy Lane was washed out.

Chris Howes, who has done the rounds in the Bradford League with clubs such as Queensbury, Hanging Heaton, Spen Victoria and most recently Heckmondwike in the Central Yorkshire League, is the new man in charge and things have gone quite smoothly so far.

Wide margin wins over Girlington, Eldwick and Gilstead, Denholme, Crossflatts and Bingley Congs took them to the top of the table and they are still in the firing line despite last week's losing draw at home to Allerton.

So things are looking up, but can the Northowram clubs keep it going?