



A smiling Geoff Boycott pictured with Holmbridge cricket club president Mrs Kathleen Gapper and club officials (from left): Geoff Earnshaw and John Booth.

Boycott talks — but not about THAT

HOLMBRIDGE cricket officials and over 300 Geoff Boycott supporters were kept in suspense last night by the delayed arrival at Burnlee WMC of the deposed Yorkshire captain.

Boycott, however, honoured his engagement. He apologised for the hold-up created by a television commitment in London and immediately emphasised that the presence of national Press men would curtail his comments.

After making a telephone call, he said: "I am told by my solicitor that everything concerning the recent controversy is sub judice — and this means that, in the interests of Yorkshire County

By **JOHN GLEDHILL**

Cricket Club, I don't talk about this issue."

Boycott, who on his arrival confirmed that despite a tight schedule he would meet the county club's general committee next Monday at 4pm — he flies to Australia with the England touring party the following day — spoke on a wide range of cricketing topics which won him a standing ovation and the best wishes of his audience for a successful winter and, hopefully, a happy summer in 1979.

He recalled his initial reluctance to tour Asia because of health hazards following a ruptured spleen when he was ten years old, but described how he overcame these problems last winter in Pakistan with the help of

home-made biscuits and "Mars bars at 50p a time."

Asked about the possibility of overseas cricketers playing for Yorkshire, Boycott said:

"Anything concerning Yorkshire, I feel, is up to the members. Whatever they want has always been all right with me. That is what matters."

Boycott attempted to demonstrate his point by asking his audience their views — and this brought overwhelming support for a Yorkshire-born side.

"Everybody knows it has become more difficult with the introduction of overseas players, but I think we are just beginning to get some super young players coming through and the future looks bright for Yorkshire cricket."

Boycott clearly is determined to be a part of it.

But though he was completely relaxed during his 90-minute discussion in front of around 350 of his followers, he must now look to the less friendly reception he can expect at Headingley next Monday when he will explain his comments on the Michael Parkinson television show

HUDDERSFIELD-born Ken Taylor, who believes the Yorkshire team should have a say in the captaincy, was praised by Boycott.

Bob Barber (ex-Lancashire and Warwickshire), and Surrey's John Edrich are two of the three best opening batsmen Boycott has partnered — Taylor is the other.

"Ken and I had a great understanding, we got on well together — he was a great runner between the wickets," said a tongue-in-cheek Boycott.

"I was very disappointed when he gave up the game, I think he was pushed out by some of the other play-



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Holmbridge B team. Back row left to right, A. Cuttall, C. Bentley, J. Hallam, B. Sykes, A. Rees and R. Mortimer. Front row, C. Earnshaw, T. Swift, J. Booth (capt.), M. Robinson and R. Priestley.