

# CLUBS IN DANGER

By GILL HAYNES

Two Denby Dale sports clubs could themselves collapse if the village's partly collapsed cricket ground is not repaired.

A number of local people fear that if repairs were not financed and carried out, then this could be fatal for the futures of Denby Dale's cricket and bowling clubs.

Subject to a deed of trust, it is understood that if either of the grounds — which have recently

been seriously affected by flooding — were not used for sport, it is possible for the land to return to its original ownership and be reclaimed.

Unless extensive work is carried out to ensure that both cricket and bowls will resume play this coming season, there are fears that this might happen.

Mr. Brian Howell, chairman of Denby Dale Cricket Club for the last ten years, is hoping that the club will be able to obtain grants to cover repair costs.

He said that Kirklees Council were helping all they could and had fenced the collapsed area off in order to make it safe.

Mr. Howell said a site meeting had been well attended by

various representatives from Kirklees, West Yorkshire County Council, Yorkshire Water Authority and Denby Dale Sports Council.

He said that one spokesman estimated that the repair cost could be in the region of £1,000. Despite the club having no current funds other than subscriptions, he hoped aid would be recovered by grants, so the ground would be temporarily repaired and back in action for mid-April. Full repairs could then be undertaken after the season.

He said that the club would need specialised help as the main bulk of the repair work was underground.

The club's field, off Wakefield Road, was completely submerged in water, when part of the field collapsed due to press-

## Pensioners' 'stop-gap' homes

Isolated Flockton pensioners could soon have their own private telephone for emergency use only.



# Bumper bill on pitch fit only for ducks

By GARY CANNADINE

IT IS expected to cost at least £1,000 to repair parts of a cricket ground which collapsed in the recent deluge of rain and snow.

The crisis hit Central League club Denby Dale — already facing financial problems — when officials discovered that three gaping holes had opened in their field off Wakefield Road after floodwater swelled a stream running under the ground.

Railway sleepers, supporting a concrete raft bridging the stream, gave way and blocked the natural watercourse — flooding the cricket field and the green of Denby Dale Bowling Club.

Mr Trevor Heeley, secretary of the Denby Dale and district Sports Council and the Huddersfield and Halifax area Cricket Council, said: "The water was going down the holes like a whirlpool."

## Ground repairs

He said the club would have to seek cash for ground repairs and to stop such problems recurring.

It was hoped the damage could be repaired in time for the new season. "A lot of people are going to have to be

involved to get the field back — I'm hoping that all members will rally round in this emergency," said Mr Heeley.

Kirklees Council workmen fenced off the affected area and cleared debris. Outdoor division director Mr John Watson said: "We have freed all blocked culverts to prevent further damage to surrounding properties. We as an authority will sit on the sidelines and await further approaches from the club."

## Application

But club spokesman Mr Brian Howell said: "They have dug a big section at the top end and a smaller one at the bottom. Our worry is that, having taken it out, are they going to put it back in? We are going to apply for a grant — we have no source of income other than the members."

The club is expected to make its application through leisure services for grant-aid from Kirklees and other local authorities.

A site meeting is to be held on January 30 when all concerned — club, league, sports council, area cricket council, and representatives of Kirklees Council — will assess the situation and see what can be done before the start of the season in April.



Taking a look at the devastation are, from left: former player Mr S Simpson, groundsman/player Mr B Cocking, player Mr P Senior and his son Jonathan (8)