



Speakers: (from the left) Dennis O'Keefe, David Thorpe, Tony Hutton, Martin Bishop and Roy Pearce

## Howzat for a great night's entertainment?

By Colin Drury

A mature student bowled over an audience with a presentation on the history of Illingworth St Mary's Cricket Club.

Dennis O'Keefe, 54, of Hillyview Gardens, Northowram, Halifax, gave the talk from research he did while studying for a master's degree in history

at the University of Huddersfield.

The presentation – part of the third annual Pennine Cricket History Conference at the university – looked at the origins of the club which formed in 1884 as a way of attracting working men to St Mary's church.

Mr O'Keefe said: "It was really useful to present my

findings to an audience of experts and historians.

"It went well and I actually found out one or two things myself – apparently there was some social disorder in Illingworth around the time the club formed so I'll have to see if there's some sort of link there."

Former players and

officials from the club were among the audience of about 50 at the event on Saturday

Organiser and history lecturer Peter Davies said: "It was an excellent occasion.

There were five talks and all were well received, it got everyone in the mood for the forthcoming season.'