

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR TEA



Praise for the women in cricket

By NEIL ATKINSON
News Editor

THEY may not be as vital as the spin bowler or the opening batsman — but dozens of local cricket clubs rely on them to see them through, season after season.

In many cases clubs could well have folded had it not been for their efforts.

Now the women who are part of the lifeblood of the village cricket scene are to have their moment in the spotlight.

An exhibition opening in Huddersfield Sports Centre on Monday will tell the story of women and cricket.

The exhibition, From Chairladies to Chairladies, explores the social history of the sport in Huddersfield and Kirklees.

It highlights the role of women in playing cricket, fundraising and league administration.

The exhibition has been put together by Huddersfield University lecturer and researcher Dr Peter Davies and is being launched at the sports centre at 7pm.

A special guest will be Yvonne Collins, Kirkburton scorer and a high-ranking official with the Drakes Huddersfield League.

But the exhibition looks back over the years, charting the vital fundraising work done by women's committees at many clubs — and the so important role of the tea lady.

Dr Davies has collected many photos of the people behind the



salad teas in cricket pavilions all over the town.

He said: "Perhaps their contribution has been underplayed, but our exhibition intends to rectify this.

"Women are vitally important to local cricket. Many kept clubs going through difficult years with their fundraising efforts.

"Even now the boundaries at our league games are filled with wives and girlfriends supporting the players.

"Their contribution is like that of a housewife. If you add up their worth they are priceless."

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■ CATERING FOR CRICKET: Maureen Earnshaw serves the teas at Almondbury CC (above), ready to quench those thirsts are Kathleen Dudley (left) and the girls with the orange juice at Flockton CC (right) and Doris Brody (below) knows all about what cricketers want having been doing the teas at Leymoor CC for 25 years

