

# Supporters hoping for big revival

KIRKBURTON officials and supporters will be looking for a big season from Danny Waugh and hoping he can help revive their flagging fortunes, both on and off the field.

As club president Billy Hall told me: "We've had a bad run over the last 12 months or so with the weather and everything else.

"We've surfaced the drive and also in front of the pavilion which has cost us £4,000, threequarters of which we were promised as a grant from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts.

"But since the lottery started, that proposed grant has now been scrapped and we've been told to apply to the National Lotteries Commission, although the work has already been done on the strength of getting the grant.

"During the winter, the volume of snow brought the nets down, water has spoiled the artificial batting strip which will have to be relaid, and then during one particularly harsh storm the wind completely demolished the scoreboard."

Fortunately one of the club members, Roger Kilner, has re-built the scoreboard, saving the club in the region of £2,500.

But they were further hit on the playing side when new signing Ian Wightman went to New Zealand for the winter, promptly found himself a job and decided not to return.

"Generally income is getting harder to come by," added Mr Hall.

"Bar takings are down, as are attendances, and we are just not generating the sort of money that we used to be able to do.

"On the plus side, we are very happy with our new groundsman, Ray Horrocks, who is a local professional gardener.

"He also looks after the Shepley and Scholes grounds, and I've been very pleased with the way he's tackled our square. Jonanthan Smith, who did such a good job at Bradford Park Avenue, relaid our square in 1992, and it really is looking in good nick now."

Chairman Mike Thornhill, whose family are again looking after Waugh, is hoping his summer lodger and family can help boost the club's off-the-field fortunes.

"As Mark will be playing for Essex this summer, and Steve is due over to play for an international XI against Warwickshire, we are looking at the possibility of fixing a fund-raising sportsmen's evening with the players later in the year," said Mr Thornhill.