

# A.Y.M.

**BFD Asian Youth Movement Newsletter Sept.'83**

## RACIST ATTACKS IN SAVILLE TOWN DEWSBURY

During recent months the Asian Community in Batley and Dewsbury have witnessed an ever increasing number of Racist attacks. The Racists rampage through our streets in cars shouting abuse. They attack our shops, homes and places of worship. In such an atmosphere, no longer can we walk the streets alone, day or night.

On Sunday 24th July 1983 at approximately 3pm four whites in a white Ford Capri rammed two Asian cars and beat up four Asian youths sitting in one of the cars.

Later that evening twenty whites emerged from the Scarborough Hotel at approximately 8.30pm and viciously assaulted five Asian youths. One youth Umar was admitted to a specialist hospital with a fractured skull.

During both occasions the whites were carrying iron bars. At the pub incident they were also armed with pool cues.

The police were immediately informed about the afternoon incident. They were even given the registration number of the car involved. The police took NO ACTION. Had they made arrests, Umar would not be in hospital with a fractured skull.

After the incident outside the Scarborough Hotel, the Police escorted the whites away in a Black Maria and cleared them. No arrests were made.

At 4am on Monday morning the Police raided an Asian home. Three brothers were arrested and a door smashed. They have been charged with:-

Actual Bodily Harm  
Damage to Police Property  
Breach of the Peace and Insulting  
Behaviour

A further six Asian youths have been charged.

On Monday evening a spontaneous march took place in Saville Town. The march was peaceful. It headed towards the Police Station to form a picket, demanding the release of the three Asian youths. The march was stopped and dogs released.

During recent weeks areas in both Dewsbury and Batley have been faced with more attacks. The extent is such that even Petrol bombs have been thrown at Asian Taxis.

Much talk can be heard in the community about Vigilante groups. This is hardly surprising when both the Community Relations Council and the Police fail to acknowledge the existence of racist attacks.

Such attacks have been present for many years. Press reports in the past have commented, that the Police/Asian relationships in Dewsbury are amongst the worst in the United Kingdom.

An emergency meeting took place between the Dewsbury AYO and the Bradford AYM: almost immediately the Dewsbury Defence Committee was formed. Bradford AYM have four delegates on the committee, who have helped organise a great deal of the committee's work.

### **demands**

The Defence Committee have three demands:-

1. The charges be immediately dropped against the 3 Asian brothers and also the 6 Asian Youths arrested later.
2. The closure of the Scarborough Hotel, a breeding ground for racist attacks.
3. An investigation of the appalling Police behaviour and attitude during these incidents.

### Why a newsletter

Asian Youth emerged as a political force from 1976 onwards. Today there are Asian youth organisations all over the U.K. We have lacked one thing however, and that is an instrument which could carry our views and feelings. This newsletter is an attempt to rectify that situation.

Although there is an editorial policy this will not preclude Asian youth in general from writing and getting printed their own articles.

The future success of this newsletter depends on the readership letting us know what they would like in the newsletter and suggestions for improvements.

Letters and articles for the next issue will be welcome.

Finally I would like to thank everybody who has sent their articles in for this issue, and Richard Haselgrove from C.V.S. who did all the typing for us.

Idris Bashir

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## WHY AN ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT?

The question of having an Asian Youth Movement has been bandied about for some time now. We first of all have to recognize that Asian people have had a long history of oppression in this country, but it did not start here, it started in our own countries. So in order to answer this question we need to have a look back at the issues which affect us; by this method only can we analyse the problems that have been subject matter for debate.

### Colonialism

Two hundred years of colonisation had already underdeveloped our countries; colonialism stole our natural resources, turning away our economies from serving our needs to serving the needs of the 'Mother Country' and so drained us of our resources and impeded our natural development. British Colonialism had in fact perverted our economies to its own ends, robbed us of our wealth and independence leaving us with a large labour force and no capital with which to make the labour productive.

It was this very army of labour that Britain turned to when faced with a shortage after war had bled her of her manpower 35 years ago. During the following period of full employment, the indigenous workers moved upwards into better paid and more lucrative jobs, skilled apprenticeships and training programmes leaving the low paid, hard and dirty jobs to the immigrant labour. The jobs that "coloured immigrants" found themselves in were largely unskilled and low status ones, for which white labour was either not available for or unwilling to do, such as in transport, hospitals, textile mills, foundries etc.

Today we are witnessing a general decline in world capitalism; Britain is now feeling the effects of an economic slump, the scapegoats of which are the Asian people. In May 1979 Thatcher said, "The British people are really rather scared of being swamped by people of a different culture" - a far cry from the depression when it was "Come to Britain - the streets are paved with gold". What Thatcher did here was to exploit racial differences between us and the working population, and by harnessing the latent racialism of the British public, leading the outcry against the immigrant population, giving the Government the excuse of 'public demand' for introducing more racist laws.

### Racialism

Racialism is as old as the Empire and woven into the fabric of British culture. Racial violence itself is not a new phenomenon. We have witnessed the murders of our sisters and brothers, our families and friends in our community; we have had countless attacks on our people and our property; we have seen our places of worship desecrated. To this end we have to fight for the right to defend ourselves against racist attacks. Institutionalized state racism in housing, social services and employment has escalated. The introduction of the Police Bill, on top of police harassment, systematic persecution of Asian youth, degrading separation of families in the way of deportations and removals under the racist immigration laws in addition to the 1981 Nationality Act, which grades us as second class citizens, amount to an unforgivable insult of our dignity as Asians.

### Organised Response

It would be an insult to our elders to say simply that they did not put up any resistance to this onslaught that was mounted against us. It was because this resistance was varied and on the basis of nationality i.e. Indo-Pak, that rendered it ineffective in the way of having any impact on combatting racism; the emergence of the race-relations industry also was another source of distraction. This complacency from our elders coupled with the experiences of youth instilled through racialists led to an insurmountable frustration.

It was the differing attitude to fighting racism from our elders and militancy of the youth that led to a unity of Asian youth. We recognise there is a struggle but spontaneous response is not enough. The Asian Youth Movement has shown in practice that with our unity and sense of organization we are a militant section of the community. We have taken the most consistent and determined stand against racism. In this way we conclude that the most effective and most positive approach to combatting the problems the Asian community face is by this Organized Response. That is why we need an Asian Youth Movement!

A.Y.M.

## Join The A.Y.M.

The racist hysteria of extremist groups ten years ago has now become respectable in the main stream political parties in Britain. Cries of 'Send them back' are no longer confined to the National Front. Successive governments have passed laws to deprive black people of the basic human right to have a family by splitting children from their parents, and wives from their husbands. The 1981 Nationality Act legitimises this process. On top of the racist offensive of the government Asian people have to face increasing violence from racist thugs. Even the Home Office has admitted that an Asian is more likely to be the victim of racist violence than any other group.

It is the job of the police to maintain law and order in any democratic society, but when it comes to protecting the lives and property of the national minority communities they are not interested. A government that separates a mother from her children cannot run a police force which is concerned about protecting Asian people.

Unemployment among Asians, and other black people, is rising at a faster rate than the general trend. Asian people live in the decaying areas in the worst possible housing conditions. Asian youth are discriminated against in employment and educational and training opportunities. We are asked to produce passports or other identification everywhere we go from job interviews to the dole office. Ghettoised, harassed, unemployed and hated, the Asian community and other oppressed people must unite on a broad anti-racist platform to fight our common oppression and to transform our bitter experience and anger into a language of resistance.

Tomorrow belongs to the youth. The foundation of a better tomorrow must be laid today. We have shown in the past the power the seemingly powerless have when they are organised.

We have participated and won the campaign to stop the deportation of Saeed Rehman, a militant trade unionist. We have stood beside our brother Abdul Azad in his fight to remain here. We have struggled with our sister Anwar Ditta in her fight to bring her children home. We have campaigned successfully to keep Jaswinder Kaur and Mumtaz Kiani with their children in this country. We have participated in the campaign to uphold the right of Nasira Begum and the Bradford 18 to remain in this country. We have joined in the fight to stop the splitting up of Cynthia Gordon's family. The list would be endless.

The AYM believes in uniting all those who can be in the fight against racism. We have helped form the Joint Committee Against Deportation (JCAD) in Bradford and joined with other organisations in the fight against racism.

The AYM is a campaigning organisation.

The AYM is a fighting organisation.

Join the AYM to fight for a just society.

EDUCATE      AGITATE      ORGANISE



## Full-Time Worker

I would like to begin by saying that I am honoured to be the full-time worker (FTW) of the Asian Youth Movement.

My name is Idris Bashir and I am 26 years old. I have lived in Bradford since I was 14 years old. I attended Belle Vue Boys' School. When I left school I began work in an engineering firm, as an apprentice engineer. I completed my apprenticeship at Bradford College. I have worked as a skilled engineer for over 5 years in Bradford. I speak Urdu, Punjabi and English. I was also a former Treasurer of the A.Y.M.

Since my appointment as the FTW I have been involved in various activities within the community. A large part of my work has been involved in looking for premises for our Centre. Now that we have obtained the Centre there is still much to be organised before it opens. I have worked closely with members of the executive and the Treasurer in meeting council officials, architects etc. in connection with the Centre. Unfortunately there is much work to be carried out in the Centre before it opens.

Other work I have been involved in concerns the building of better communications between various voluntary groups, council officials and other youth workers within the city. I hope that this will help us achieve our objectives and also help other organisations understand the A.Y.M. better and be more forward with support.

During the past few months I have also been involved in the Aire Valley Yarns strike, where 21 Asian textile workers were on strike. The workers were fighting for better working conditions, a fair wage and the right to join their Union (the Transport & General Workers Union). This was an important issue, not only because the workers were black, but were also facing much discrimination and racism. Working conditions at Aire Valley Yarns were appalling. The Asian workers were paid £1.02 an hour and were forced to work up to 60-70 hours per week. Similar rates were paid for overtime and weekend work. White workers worked only 40 hours a week yet took home a higher wage.



The strike is now over, they have all gone back apart from a handful. The workers have now organised their union. Unfortunately no pay increase has yet been offered.

The above are only a few activities that I have been involved in as the FTW and also as a member of the A.Y.M. Other activities include the Dewsbury Defence committee, the Separate Religious Schools issue, Sports and Recreational facilities for Asian Youth etc.

I hope that when the Centre opens Asian youth will come forward and take part in its activities and organise even more. Only with the involvement of the whole membership and other youth in the community can we be more successful.

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### What the Saathi project is and proposed activities

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#### 1) Drop-in-Centre

This will be a day and evening centre for unemployed youth where certain social facilities can be provided as in 266 Lumb Lane, i.e. coffee and tea facilities, physical exercise room, pool table, television room, music room, meeting and discussion room, study room, general recreational hall or room with table tennis etc. The T.V. room will probably be used for showing Asian movies via video. We know that these facilities will be widely used and that many unemployed youths will have a place of their own to go to. A place where the music is their own, the language is their own too. A place where they feel at home, and a place in which they place some trust and in which they know they will not be facing racism as in other clubs etc. It is foreseen that this Drop-in-Centre will on certain occasions be available to the older Asians who are in evidence sitting in the Arndale Mall and outside the Town Hall. They too have nowhere to go.

The act of bringing people together in this centre will be the impetus to self-organisation in a variety of areas.

#### 2) Sports

It is hoped that the present football and cricket teams of the A.Y.M. will be increased and that some teams for other sports e.g. table tennis will be formed. It is hoped that weightlifting equipment will go some way to relieving the physical tension and frustration of the young unemployed. Kabadi is an Asian sport which is sadly neglected in this country and it is hoped that once the youth come together they may well begin such a team. The centre will develop into a co-ordinating centre for Asian sports teams in Bradford.

#### 3) Social/Cultural

At the moment the only social activities available to young Asians are pubs, which most cannot go into because of religion, and cafes from which they are rejected. This centre will become a place in which Asian socials can be organised to Asian music. Culturally Asian dance, music and art have been neglected. Some young Asians are interested in these areas, in fact an Asian theatre group is in the process of being formed. What is lacking at the moment is a place where these activities can be organised and co-ordinated. The Saathi Project will fill this gap.

#### Advice on Unemployed Benefit and Jobs

A minor part of the centre's work will be giving advice. This will be totally voluntary and will not require funding in terms of workers from the C.C.P. The A.Y.M. has at least one trained Advice Worker who will devote some spare time to this. As unemployment increases it will be more necessary than ever to be able to explain the workings of the D.H.S.S. and unemployment benefit.

## NEWHAM

8

## CAMPAIGN

8 ASIAN YOUTHS AGED 15-21 ARRESTED FOR DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY FROM RACIAL ATTACKS HAVE NOW BEEN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO ASSAULT PERSONS UNKNOWN.

The youths, arrested on Friday 24th September 1982, after incidents involving plain-clothes police officers were originally charged with offences ranging from threatening behaviour to actual bodily harm. In December an additional charge of conspiring to assault persons unknown was laid against all eight defendants. The youths were arrested after a series of violent attacks upon Asian schoolchildren by racist white thugs. Asian schoolchildren at Little Ilford School (Newham) were attacked by armed white youths on no less than three occasions in the week leading up to September 24th. In one particular incident 60-70 white youths with iron bars and sticks went on the rampage in the East Ham and Manor Park areas of Newham looking for Asians to beat up.

All eight youths were subjected to racist abuse and harassment by the police and one was hospitalised for several days as a result of his being beaten up by the police.

## BLACK COMMUNITY ON TRIAL

Racist attacks in Newham are almost an everyday occurrence.

In the face of this growing racism what has been the response of the guardians of 'law and order'? - absolutely nothing whatsoever! But when black people, for whom the fight against racism is a question of basic survival, try to defend themselves from racial attacks, the state criminalises them by charging them with a conspiracy.

### WHOSE CONSPIRACY?

The only conspiracy is a police conspiracy - conspiring to let increasing racist violence against black people go unchecked. Both in Newham and around the country we see black people being attacked and murdered on the streets, whole communities being terrorised and homes and places of worship burned to the ground. We wait in vain for the perpetrators of such attacks to be arrested and conspiracy charges brought against the murderers and firebombers who speak openly of organised violence against black people.

On the other hand, when Asian youths defended themselves against violent racist attacks at the Little Ilford School the police framed them.

When some youths gathered to escort the younger Asian schoolkids back home in response to threats from the racist thugs that they would be coming back, they were set upon by three armed white men, who were actually plain clothes police officers who had not declared their identity. When they defended themselves, uniformed police appeared on the scene immediately, and arrested the youths.

### HERE TO STAY, HERE TO FIGHT!

The charges against the Newham 8 are a major attack on all black people and mean much more than a question of legal issues. By charging the eight youths with conspiracy the state is challenging our right to defend ourselves against racist violence to survive in this society. The challenge has to be met in an appropriate manner, for it is not just the Newham 8 who are in the dock ..... it is all of us!

The defence campaign calls upon all opponents of racism and fascism to give solidarity and help to the eight defendants to make this just struggle a victory for us all.

NEWHAM 8 ARE INNOCENT!

SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE!

## Campaign Against Racist Attacks

The Bradford 12 were arrested 30/31st July 1981. The first Defence Campaign immediately began collecting evidence on racist attacks. 20th November 1981, 4.35pm, Thomas Allen murdered Mohammad Arif.

27th January 1982 Makkam Singh was brutally attacked, a half paving stone crashed onto his skull. He lost the use of his left ear. The following day two AYM members contacted those already following up these attacks. It was agreed that the Makkam case should be investigated in depth. The attack on Makkam was the fourth, and most serious, incident in three days. Details of the Makkam attack suggested both a potential link with the Allen murder and further possibilities of violent attacks.

It was decided that an investigative body was required which would monitor racist attacks, collect and distribute information on attackers, on the police response to the attacks, monitor the general level of fascist activity, recruitment, organisation, and propaganda distribution.

The group began functioning. It took the name CARA - Campaign Against Racist Attacks. CARA has been functioning since February 1982, since when it has built up a library of information on attackers, attacks, connections between racists and fascists, background information on known fascists, fascist groups, information on police, police attitudes to racist attacks, judicial responses.

It has many cases in a constant state of investigation. It can supply investigative services for trials, tribunals, etc. when specifically requested. It has offices in Leicester, Leeds, London, Newcastle, Bradford, and sources of information throughout the country.

## Race Relations and the Social Services

Significant immigration into Bradford took place in the 1950's. In the 1960's and 1970's a large number of Asians came to live in the city. The services provided changed very little in that period. There have however been noticeable changes from 1981 to 1983. The following article attempts to discuss what changes have been made in existing services.

For many years Bradford council had a policy which assumed that the ethnic minorities would assimilate into British society. This assumption has proved to be wrong. The revised policy is one which identifies the fact that Bradford is a multi-cultural city and will remain so. A city in which we find many different groups which are identified by their different lifestyles and values, people of different coloured skin, people whose family systems are different. It is in the last point that cultured values and expectations are most striking. How people expect to bring up their children; to get married; to care for the elderly and handicapped varies enormously. Other people's way of doing things appear strange yet people think their way is normal, reasonable and clearly the best. This type of attitude leads to overt racism.

It is clear that black people, while sharing the problems of poor whites, suffer them in a more severe form. As one observer said, "it may be that blacks are in the same boat as poor whites but we are on different decks." What is clear is that although the first generation immigrants tended to accept certain forms of discrimination such as in jobs, housing and social services, it is quite clear that the new breed of blacks certainly will not. The slow awakening and anger built up into a crescendo and manifested itself in the riots of '81. These riots were an expression that youth (for that matter elders too), black and white, were sick and tired with certain forms of injustice manifested in society - injustices such as lack of jobs, bad housing, lack of provision in social services, racial discrimination and all the other inadequacies.

What happened as a result of the riots was the famous Scarman report. What Scarman did was to challenge local and central government. He said that given the special problems of ethnic minorities, exposed in evidence, justice requires that special programmes should be adopted in areas of acute deprivation. What were these special programmes? What it meant was that quite large amounts of government money was pumped into the inner cities. Most of this money came under the heading of the community programme.

What the community programme meant to Bradford and particularly social services was that large grants were made available to community based organisations such as the various religious and community groups. The list is endless. What these moves did were to provide some, be they limited, provisions for the ethnic minorities. They include some day care facilities, youth and community centres, Asian language schools etc. What the local authority did was to set up a race relations advisory group to look at the problems and possible solutions. What developed was the setting up of a number of specialist posts with particular responsibilities for developing services for the ethnic minorities, some of them include social workers, special case workers, training officer, personnel officer and development officer.

The action that had been taken as a result of these appointments includes publicity campaigns to make ethnic groups more aware of existing services - booklets have been produced in various Asian languages on topics such as Home Helps and child care, others are due to follow. Work has now started on ethnic records of staff and clients. This gives the employers clear indications as to whether the equal opportunity policy is working and also whether existing services are in fact being used by the ethnic minorities. As mentioned earlier bids under the community programme for ethnic community groups have been supported. In-service courses on race awareness and cultured sensitivity have been set up within the directorate.

Just some of the positive steps taken have been mentioned. Much bigger inroads need to be made but as they say, the ball is now rolling. Overt racism, although being a nuisance, can be isolated, identified and tackled. Institutionalised racism on the other hand is much more dangerous. This is hard to isolate. A much more organised approach has to be taken and I feel that only when black people are in a position of power will they ever be able to fight this. I hope and feel that this is now happening.

### Armley to Armley

Before I came to England, I had a very bright vision of her - a meeting place of diverse cosmopolitan cultures, a torchbearer of freedom, peace, justice and an alma mater of knowledge. Now this belief of mine is torn to shreds as will become apparent from what follows.

I came to England in 1971 to study mathematics at Leeds University. In order to attend the course, I had to travel from Bradford to Leeds, which I did by bus for two years. During that period, I would constantly notice a huge, castlelike, very dark, grim and silent



building in Armley. Somehow I never happened to discover the point and purpose of that vast place, never ever realising that one day I would be locked in there for 4 months and that it was, in fact, Armley Prison.

In 1975, I got married to an English woman and was granted permanent residence in the U.K. within a few months of the marriage. We lived together for 13 months before she left me. This marriage ended in divorce.

In 1977, I went back to Pakistan and brought my elderly parents who were allowed, on the basis of my permanent residence in the U.K., to come and live with me permanently in England. I returned to England in 1978 and in 1979 I married a girl I had met on my first visit to Pakistan.

Until 1980 I was happily settled in England with my wife, son and parents, without a single worry in the world.

Suddenly, investigations were instituted into my first marriage. We were called to Hull for an interview. The letter from the Home Office in 1975 asking me to leave the country prompted me to get married sooner than I would have done otherwise. A Home Office explanatory statement was produced full of unfounded allegations to back up the deportation order.

I appeared in an Immigration Appeals Tribunal, where I lost. There was no doubt that the Tribunal was already predisposed in favour of the Home Office, whose findings are usually considered by tribunals as sacrosanct.

Consequently, the floodgates of agony and continual harassment were opened against me and my family. After the Tribunal's decision a nightmare of three years began. My whole life and world was turned upside down.

One morning, two Police detectives burst into my house like the FBI. I was arrested. I was half shaven and not even allowed to get dressed fully. As a result of the intervention made by Bradford Law Centre (thank you Marshal!), the deportation order was suspended.

I kept on churning in the prison. After one month an abortive attempt was made to put me on the plane. I was driven to Heathrow Airport with my wife and son. At the airport, not to mention other treatment by the police detectives, minutes before the flight I was asked to sign a document to say that "... I wish to leave this country of my own free will." I refused to sign. I was harassed and threatened with dire consequences of all sorts. I still refused to sign. We came back to Bradford in the police car, going without food for 24 hours. I was locked up at the police station until the following morning, when I was handcuffed with other prisoners at the police station and driven back to prison where I spent another three months. Our luggage came back from Pakistan six weeks after coming back from the airport.

I spent four months altogether in prison and, if you take remission into account, it was like a six months sentence. My prison life is a separate and most awful story and it is not within the scope of a few pages to describe it here.

I was released on bail with the conditions that I must sign at the police station every day, failing which I would be fined £200 and face a further six months imprisonment. I signed 334 times at the police station.

My case went for Judicial Review, where I lost again. Later, I went to the Appeal Court where Lord Lane saw the light of the day and quashed the first Tribunal's findings on the grounds that they overlooked the question of my intention and that we lived together permanently as man and wife. Lord Lane ordered that a new Tribunal look at this aspect of the marriage and then decide one way or the other. So under the instructions from the Appeal Court, the new Tribunal could not but find in my favour.

A formal complaint has been lodged against the police detectives. No result is yet known and also our passports have not yet been returned.

A long and most effective Defence Campaign was organised which included all sorts of events and tremendous publicity and public support was earned. But for my Defence Committee, my victory could not have been possible. Thank you Richard Lindley, Richard Hall and all the rest of the members of Mahmud Khan Defence Committee!

MAHMUD KHAN





## Asian Youth Movement Football Club

The football club joined the Bradford 8 District Sunday League for the 1979-80 season. The team was managed by S. & E. Mirza, two A.Y.M. members. The team originally played under the name of Carlisle Rangers in the local Saturday League before resigning in 1978. The Asian Youth Movement has since been sponsoring the team and it was called A.Y.M.F.C.

The team was very successful in the first two seasons: in the 1979-80 season we finished 3rd. in the league and were promoted to the fifth division. The team repeated their performance the following season (1980-81), finishing third again, and were once again promoted into the fourth division.

At the end of the 1980-81 season S. & E. Mirza left the A.Y.M. team along with other players accepting sponsorship from a local business and playing under a different name. This new team is continuing to play well.

It was at this point that I took over the running of the A.Y.M. team, a team with many players who for the first time were given the opportunity of playing in the league. All players also took membership in the A.Y.M. At the end of the 1981-82 season the team finished in 10th. position in the league, a respectable position to say many had not played in the league before.

In the 1982-83 season the same team made an excellent start, after 8 matches the team was in 2nd. position in the table, but then unfortunately the team suffered a lot of injuries and we lost some of our best players, others like the skipper Zie Dean and Rik Ali played most of the season carrying injuries, the team at the end of the season finished well down on the table.

Looking towards the future, if we have enough people interested, we are hoping to enter an under 16 team into the local league.

J. Butt  
Manager A.Y.M.F.C.

## A.Y.M. SPORTS

Sports Secretary: Tazhir Butt

The A.Y.M. having established a football club will be looking forward to organising other sporting activities. Before being elected as the A.Y.M.'s Sports Secretary I have actively been involved in organising in Asian football and cricket teams: as the Sports Secretary my aims will be to extend sports activities in table tennis, tennis, badminton, volleyball etc., areas in which many young Asians have a natural talent but no resources. Hopefully with the Saathi Centre soon to open we will be able to come together and arrange to maybe play in the local leagues.

In my experience Asian teams, particularly cricket teams, do not always get an opportunity in the higher standards. Although we have had a number of Asian teams in the local leagues nearly all the teams play at the lowest possible levels. Considering the amount of talent we have in Bradford it seems rather odd that we have not had a team good enough for higher standards.

One reason that can be attributed to a lack of success in our teams is due to lack of organisation. A successful team needs a club: most Asian teams are only teams and do not have a club to provide funds necessary to run a team. Funding normally comes from the players pockets unlike our English opponents who have established clubs, where they are able to raise money for the teams and a place where they can meet and socialise.

For the first time Asian youth will have the same sort of facility as most of the established English clubs. The A.Y.M. now owns a centre, the Saathi Centre: as soon as the renovation works have been completed we will be able to organise fund-raising to finance the football team, start an A.Y.M. cricket team (which will be playing in the local league for the 1984 season), and also other sports activities as previously mentioned.

As A.Y.M.'s Sports Secretary I will of course be organising sports activities for Asian youth in Bradford. I would like to help any persons interested in setting up any Asian sports teams.

In order to fulfill my duties as Sports Secretary I need you to contact me on any sporting activity you may be interested in.

In preparation for the 1984 season I would like to hear from the Secretaries of Asian cricket teams in Bradford. I believe they need the help of an organisation such as ours and we will do all we can to help organise Asian Sports in Bradford.

Contact: Tazhir Butt