

# 1973 COPLEY'S CUP—THANKS TO BELLENGER

By Chris Judge

Copley achieved the first leg of their possible cup and league championship double with a comfortable victory by 43 runs against Stainland in a low-scoring Parish Cup final at the Ramsdens yesterday.

On a lively wicket, which no batsman could master, the bowlers and fielders took the honours.

First there was Stainland's Richard Severn, whose pace bowling had the Halifax League leaders in all sorts of trouble as he captured seven wickets for 35 runs.

But then came Ron Belenger who pulled this game out of the fire for Copley with his fast and accurate bowling off a good length.

He took eight for 14, and this performance rightly earned him the man-of-the-match award on a day when batsmen had to take a back seat.

Copley, who won the toss, batted first but made hardly the start they had hoped for.

## PAVILION

After three overs both opening batsmen were in the pavilion with only five runs on the board.

Severn made the breakthrough in his first over, having Ian Ball caught in the slips and then Holroyd hit Paul Beck's off stump after the left-hander had looked far from happy.

Severn struck again in his next over when Smith did not quite get hold of the ball and holed out to Norcliffe.

At this stage, with Copley six for three and in desperate trouble, Stainland should have attacked more by bringing in the field. Instead they allowed Copley's confidence to revive.

Copley captain Brian Hume pushed himself up the order and with Derek Smith found runs coming more freely.

## GOOD WORK

When these two had departed Mike Doggett and Colin Ratcliffe continued the good work and after 15 overs the score had risen to 35.

Doggett was then caught in the covers off Severn with the score 54 for six and Stainland made another breakthrough.

One run later Brian English was caught on the boundary and then with another three runs on the board Dave Hudson gave up his wicket to Severn.

Copley were back in serious trouble again, and it was left to Ratcliffe to keep plugging away, content to take singles, rather than go for the big hits, and it was paying off.

But at the other end he lost another partner when Bowyer got a touch and wicketkeeper Brian Evans took a low catch to his right for Severn's sixth wicket.

Severn's seventh wicket came 14 runs later when he dived full length to catch Belenger.

With only 80 runs needed for victory a shock win for Division Two Stainland looked on the cards, but the Copley players had not given in yet.

With Belenger in scintillating form and Copley players not giving away a chance or a run in the field they soon swung the game back in their favour.

Belenger struck with his fourth ball, bowling Ian Norcliffe,

and then in his second over he shattered Harry Jowett's stumps.

With time on their side and not too many runs to Stainland had no need to be too adventurous in the early stages.

But first Colin Noble was bowled after an unorthodox stroke and at 15 for three Copley were slowly getting back into the game.

Then Stainland's captain, Denis Severn, edged a ball to Beck. It struck the wicketkeeper's pads and was then juggled by Belenger before Hudson finally took a catch.

Ben Green was then well caught by Smith on the boundary and at 16 for five Copley had swung the game back in their favour.

Evans showed some resistance and was at least content to pick out the balls to score off, but his partners continued to disappear.

John Holroyd and Tony Woolf were both bowled by Belenger and when Evans went himself the game was lost.

Had Stainland taken things a little more slowly and prepared to accept runs as they came they might have won, at least brought the scores a lot closer.

But there is no detracting from the performance of Belenger and Copley in the field when at one time all seemed lost.

## SCOREBOARD

Copley 79: I. Ball c Noble b Severn 1, P. Beck b Holroyd 4, D. Smith lbw b Severn 14, G. Spencer c Norcliffe b Severn 9, B. Hume c Jowett b Holroyd 7, M. Doggett c Holroyd b Severn 18, C. Ratcliffe not out 23, B. English c Woolf b Holroyd 1, D. Hudson b Severn 3, D. Bowyer c B. Evans b Severn R. Belenger c and b Severn 4, extras 1.

Bowling: J. Holroyd 18-4-45-3; R. Severn 17.5-1-35-7

Stainland 36: H. Jowett b Belenger c Hudson b Belenger c Norcliffe b Belenger c Severn c Hudson b Beck Noble b Belenger 10, B. c Smith b Belenger Evans c and b Beck Holroyd b Belenger Woolf b Belenger 6, J. H b Belenger 9, L. Uorcl Spencer b Belenger Severn not out 6, extras

Bowling: R. Belenger 2-14-8, P. Beck 9-3-20-2.



**COPLEY FIRST XI PARISH CUP AND DIV 1 WINNERS 1973**

Dennis Bowyer David Hudson Gordon Spencer Mick Doggett Brian English Ron Bellenger  
Ian Ball Colin Radcliffe Brian Hulme(Capt) Derek Smith Paul Beck

1973 Parish Cup Final  
At The Ramdens, King Cross

Copley 79

| Stainland Bowling | O.   | M. | R. | W. |
|-------------------|------|----|----|----|
| J. Holroyd        | 18   | 4  | 43 | 3  |
| R. Severn         | 17.5 | 1  | 35 | 7  |

Stainland

|              |           |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| H. Jowett    | c Hudson  | b Bellinger  | 0         |
| L. Norcliff  |           | b Bellinger  | 0         |
| D. Severn    | c Hudson  | b Beck       | 2         |
| C. Noble     |           | b Bellinger  | 10        |
| B. Green     | c Smith   | b Bellinger  | 0         |
| B. Evans     | c & b     | b Beck       | 12        |
| J. Holroyd   |           | b Bellinger  | 2         |
| T. Woof      |           | b Bellinger  | 6         |
| J. Howson    |           | b Bellinger  | 0         |
| L. Norcliffe | c Spencer | b Bellinger  | 0         |
| R. Severn    | NOT       | OUT          | 0         |
|              |           | Extras       | 2         |
|              |           | <b>Total</b> | <b>36</b> |

| Bowling      | O.  | M. | R. | W. |
|--------------|-----|----|----|----|
| R. Bellinger | 9.1 | 2  | 14 | 8  |
| P. Beck      | 9   | 3  | 20 | 2  |

