

# Champions Again!

## 2<sup>ND</sup> XI RECLAIM Paddock SHIELD

By Rob Hardie

For the second time in three years, Meltham's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were triumphant in the Paddock Shield. In a rain-hit final against Scholes played at Scholes home ground, Chapelgate, Meltham came away with a six-wicket victory. The match, which was scheduled for 50 overs on Sunday 19 August, was hit by adverse weather and delayed as a result. This led the one-day game to be concluded three days later on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Chapelgate, Scholes

Despite the rain, Meltham were able to dominate most of the match. This was especially helped early on when Scholes' opening batsman, Nicky Brook, was out for a duck. The dangerous Brook was caught by Berry off the bowling of eventual man-of-the-match Richard Holroyd. The bowling attack was well led by Holroyd, who claimed three wickets as Scholes were bowled out for a total of 142.

Meltham were boosted by having their opponents all out. As they were beginning to sense that victory was in their grasp, they were dealt a major blow when two of their main batsmen were dismissed. Howard Palmer departed for 32 off the bowling of Josh Brook, while Paul Hamer was dismissed for 35 by Tom Brook.

Filling the void came brothers Jack and Richard Holroyd. As they fought their way to a partnership of 59, Richard hit 38 to add to his excellent display. The partnership came to an end when Jack was given lbw for 13 off the bowling of Joe Hinchcliffe.

The Jack Holroyd wicket came as the scores were tied on 142, leaving Meltham needing just a solitary run for victory. Next to step up to the crease came Andy MacLeod, needing to hit a single to claim the silverware for Meltham. He did 'hit' the winning runs, albeit somewhat fortuitously, as he himself explains. "I tried to play a shot

down the leg side, but as I swung the bat, the ball narrowly missed. The ball ran to the boundary and the umpire signalled a four.”

This crucial decision did little to take away the team’s delight at coming out on top in the final. The triumph was in no small part down to Meltham’s bowling and man-of-the-match Richard Holroyd. The three wickets he took included that of Nicky Brook, Scholes captain Daryl Brook, and their top scorer with 37, Craig Marsh.



**The Paddock Shield**

It was an immense team effort that enabled the club to capture the Paddock Shield for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in their 140-year history.

### **ROUTE TO THE FINAL**

**Round 1 bt Paddock by default (Paddock failed to provide opposition)**

**Round 2 bt Honley by 2 wickets**

**Round 3 bt Shepley by 4 wickets**

**Semi-Final bt Shelley by 9 wickets**

**Final bt Scholes by 6 wickets**