

# Jaffer leads huge run spree

THE amount of games washed out is usually a reasonable guide as to what sort of summer we have had in Huddersfield.

This year's tally is 65 (33 in the top flight and 32 in the Conferences), so I will leave readers to make up their own minds!

However, whatever the weather, runs have once again flowed from the bat with a massive 92 centuries rattled up since April.

The highest number, of course, belonged to Wasim Jaffer (7), with Tim Rees and Matt Hughston two behind him.

Jaffer just failed to overtake Brandon Nash's highest-ever tally, but his 1,705 runs from 20 innings, which included six unbeaten and a highest score of 161 not out, gave him a Drakes record-breaking average of 121.79 (League and Cup), expunging the previous best Premiership mark of 100 exactly which Jaffer already held.

It also surpassed the previous overall best of 107.08 set by Paul Winrow in Barkisland's Conference-winning season of 2003.

As well as the three already mentioned, other multiple ton-makers were Golcar duo Steve Whitwam (4) and Jeremy Brown (3),

Delph's Ian Hague (3) and Bruce Cruse (3), and there were two apiece for Ian Swallow (Meltham), Simon Kelly (Honley), Kyle Hogg (Delph) and John Greaves (Elland).

A staggering total of eight players (11 if the Conference men are included) reached 1,000 runs in League and Sykes Cup cricket in 2005, while Mike Fraine (995), Greaves (973) and Hague (950) were only a modest knock away from joining them.

Compare those figures with some taken at random from League handbooks going back over the last four decades.

In 1968, Primrose Hill's Norman Scrimshaw was the league's leading scorer with 662 — and that was from 23 innings — while only FOUR men made centuries in the entire season, and those were Max Dyson, Charlie Moore, Scrimshaw and Richard Horner.

Obviously no-one neared 1,000.

In 1975, Elland's Brijesh Patel topped the run-makers with 952 from 20 innings. A total of 16 centuries were scored that summer in a League which boasted legendary names like Madal Lal, Stuart

Armitage, John Shaw — the first man to score 1,000 in the limited-overs era in 1971 at Thongsbridge — Allan Greaves, Brian Turner, Jeff Senior and Mike Bocarro.

Ten years later in 1985, it was another Elland man, Stewart Bradley, who compiled the highest total with 922, and that season his contemporaries included Richard Blakey, Mark Curry, John Webster, Graeme Higgins and Jeff Senior as collectively the League batsmen recorded 21 centuries.

Of course the wickets are now far better and, the bowling was generally of a higher standard, although I'm not getting involved in an argument here!

## LEADING PERFORMERS

Wasim Jaffer (Scholes) 1,705 runs; Matt Hughston (Kirkburton) 1,239; Simon Kelly (Honley) 1,140; Jeremy Brown (Golcar) 1,117; Nash Stone (Lascelles Hall) 1,099; Tim Rees (Shepley) 1,099; Bruce Cruse (Delph & Dobcross) 1,080; Steve Whitwam (Golcar) 1,079.

Leading bowlers:

Rajesh Pawar (Honley) 82 wickets; Jeremy Brown (Golcar) 67; Nash Stone (Lascelles Hall) 63; Kamran Mirza (Delph & Dobcross) 59; Steve Crook (Honley) 58; Craig Horner (Lascelles Hall) 58; Tahir Maqsood (Delph & Dobcross) 54; Chris Greenwood (Barkisland) 53; Steve Whitwam (Golcar) 53; Dave Berry (Slaithwaite) 51.