

The total is mounting for dedicated scoring duo

By John Metcalfe

AN unbroken stand of 75 is cause for celebration for two Trinity Insurance Halifax League cricket scorers.

Rod Annison of Booth and Warley's Alan Bateson have been marking off the runs for as long as many people can remember.

Annison has taken the lead with 50 years in the scoreboard while Bateson has contributed a quarter-of-a-century of service.

Annison, who made his scoring debut as a 13 year-old in 1951, did have a short break after joining the army but has been a permanent fixture since 1965.

"I started as a junior player but then was asked to help with the scoring," said Annison, who also became Booth's chairman in 1968.

"I have lived in Luddenden village all my life and knew most of the players because in those days they were all locals."

Annison, a part time caretaker at Midgley School added: "My greatest ambition is to come away with the Parish Cup."

When Annison does decide to hand over the scorer's book, he has a ready replacement in 15-year-old Laura Midgley. "There is a problem generally with a lack of scorers so we sent Laura on a proper course and she is ready to take over when I am unavailable."

Bateson has also seen his share of good players but "also quite a few duffers" in his time. He took over the Warley job when Andrew Oates decided he would rather play in the 1970s.

"I took the job on approval and after six matches I said I would do it," said Bateson. "My first match was on April 23, 1977 against Bradshaw and it was snowed off," he recalled.

Warley's three Parish Cup successes have been particular highlights.

"I have been proud to have been associated with the club and I would like to think I can carry on for a while



Alan Bateson (left) and Rod Annison in front of the Booth scoreboard