

# EYES DOWN FOR TITLE VERDICT

ALL EYES will be on Northowram and Barkisland tomorrow as the chase for the Division One title race builds to a thrilling climax.

The key tussle is at Barkisland where long time leaders Bradshaw know that victory could decide the issue before next weekend's final set of fixtures.

For that to happen they must rely on rivals Copley dropping points at Northowram in what promises to be another tense encounter.

After being out in front for so long it would be a major disappointment to Bradshaw if they let the title slip from their grasp at the death but they won't expect any favours tomorrow.

## Bradshaw's chance to clinch the crown

Barkisland are always a threat on their own track but the leaders should take heart from their meeting earlier in the season.

At the end of June Steve Smith (66) and Tony Illand (55) helped Bradshaw to a healthy 216 for seven and Barkisland were going well in reply until a

devastating spell by Simon Lees floored them.

His spell of seven for 41 proved the turning point as tomorrow's opponents fell 32 runs short of their target.

Barkisland won't be deterred by that performance though and will be anxious to put a spanner in the works tomorrow after seeing their own title chances effectively ended with defeat at Sowerby last week.

Copley on the other hand find themselves in a similar position to last year when they were locked in a fight for the title with eventual champions Triangle.

Ironically it was against tomorrow's opponents, Northowram, that their fate was decided on the final day last term.

A six-point victory for Copley tomorrow would again mean the title race going right down to the wire and they will be hopeful of at least ensuring that tomorrow.

They piled up 270 for nine against Northowram in their previous meeting this term with former skipper Tim Rushton (71) and his successor Brent Walker (62) doing the damage but were denied maximum points by their opponents' tail enders.

If the issue remains undecided, everything will hinge on the final matches which see Bradshaw take on Warley, with Copley meeting Triangle.

Interest tomorrow will also centre on the battle to avoid the drop to Division Two with key games seeing Old Crossleyans taking on Sowerby Bridge and Outlane meeting Booth.

Having secured promotion Luddenden Foot will now have sights on clinching the championship with victory at Blackley in their match in Division Two.

The home side are despondent after slipping up again last week and will also be keen on the outcome from Southowram as their promotion rivals take on leaders Old Town.

★ **KEITH Fletcher** is irrepresable with Essex — but county cricket's loss will have no trouble filling his space!

Fletcher ended his 31-year career with Essex by celebrating the trophy won since 1979, the Essex victory over Hampshire giving sixth championship title.

But Fletcher, who now leads Essex, joked afterwards that he had trouble getting into Chelmsford's little ground from the start of his career — unless he's given a special pass.

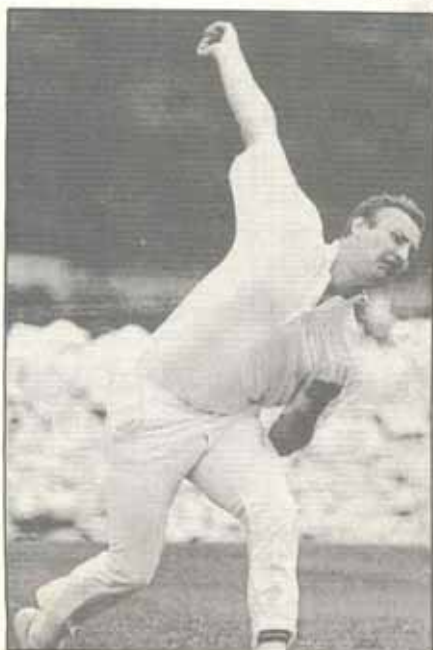
And Essex chief executive, Peter Wainwright, said: 'I'm afraid Keith will give up that parking space — we'll have to find whoever replaces him as captain.'

## Fletcher in the frame

TRIANGLE all-rounder Keith Fletcher has joined the race for the Courier/Briggs Priestley September batting prize.

His 96 against Sowerby Bridge last week took him into third place, 23 behind Warley's Stewart Barr, but he failed to score in his side's defeat at Copley.

Mark Grestorex of Boothampton are ahead in race for the bowling. Bradshaw's Trevor Loft is hot favourite after a six wicket haul at Booth last week.



□ **SIMON LEES**... who was instrumental in securing victory for Bradshaw over Barkisland with his seven for 41 when the two teams met earlier in the season. He will be hoping to repeat the feat in the return fixture at Barkisland tomorrow where a win could clinch the championship.

### Tables

HUDDERSFIELD LGE						
SECTION A						
	P	W	L	3	1	T Pts
Skelmanthorpe	23	4	1	11	7	0 60
Slithwaite	23	5	1	5	12	0 52
Kirkburton	23	1	2	11	9	0 47
<b>Elland</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0 45</b>
Meltham	23	1	2	9	11	0 43
Holmfirth	23	3	1	4	13	0 41
Kirkheaton	23	3	2	4	14	0 41
Horley	23	1	1	5	15	0 40
Kewborough	23	2	3	6	12	0 40
Shepley	23	2	3	5	13	0 38
Broad Oak	23	2	2	4	15	0 37
Lascelles Hall	23	1	4	7	11	0 37
Thongsbridge	23	1	2	4	16	0 33
Bradley Mills	23	1	5	2	15	0 26

SECTION B						
	P	W	L	3	1	T Pts
Linthwaite	22	5	0	8	9	0 58
Golcar	22	7	3	5	7	0 57
Marsden	21	3	0	9	10	0 49
Scholes	21	5	2	5	9	0 49
<b>Rastrick</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0 42</b>
Peaddock	21	3	4	4	10	0 37
Armitage Bridge	21	3	2	2	14	0 35
Dalton	22	0	3	6	11	0 35
Hill Bower	21	2	4	4	11	0 33
Penistone	21	1	3	3	11	0 31
Primrose Hill	21	1	5	5	9	0 31
Almoudbury	21	1	1	1	17	0 27
Huddersfield Wood	21	1	6	0	13	0 20

HALIFAX ASSOCIATION						
DIVISION ONE						
	P	W	L	Wd	D	Pts
Whitley Motors I	17	8	2	3	4	83
Clarence	17	9	3	0	5	77
Whitley Motors II	17	7	3	0	5	71
Bridgeholme I	17	6	3	1	7	60
Wesley	17	5	2	1	9	54
QR Muslims	17	4	5	1	7	44
Paris Gates I	17	4	8	1	6	43
Greatland Vill	17	4	4	0	5	37
Wainstalls I	17	2	10	0	5	21
Walsden	17	1	8	0	9	17

DIVISION TWO						
	P	W	L	Wd	D	Pts
Bankfoot	17	11	0	1	5	38
Hebden Bridge I	17	9	2	1	5	82
West End	17	7	4	0	6	62
Jenny Deas	17	7	6	0	4	60
Whitley	17	5	7	1	4	49
Bridgeholme II	17	5	5	0	7	47
Paris Gates II	17	4	6	0	7	39
Halifax Salem	17	3	7	1	6	35
Wainstalls II	17	2	7	0	8	24
Hebden Bridge II	17	1	9	0	7	16

### Fixtures

HALIFAX LEAGUE	
First teams	
Division One:	Barkisland v Bradshaw (Umpires: J. Dixon, P. J. Halstead); Outlane v Booth (D. Rawson, J. Huntley); Warley v Sowerby (A. E. Sharpe, S. Gledhill); Northowram v Copley (P. M. Dawson, R. Holmes); Triangle v

Fildien:	Old Crossleyans v Sowerby Bridge (V. Williamson, A. Wray).
Division Two:	Siddal v Mackintosh's Impires, E. Patrick, K. Barreclough); SBCI v Union Croft (B. Chapman, D. Allen); Southowram v Old Town (R. Scott, A. Conyers); Greatland v Stainland (C. Priestley, D. Bannister); Mytholmroyd Methodists v Stones (E. Owens, E. Northin); Blackley v Luddenden Foot (J. Rowates, J. Barron).
Second Teams	
Division One:	Stones v Triangle (Umpire, W. Greenwood); Sowerby Bridge v Greenley (W. Allott); Copley v Northowram (P. Crossley); Sowerby v Warley (G. Steele); Bradshaw v Barkisland (D. Kitchen); Booth v SBCI (K. Walker).
Division Two:	Mytholmroyd v Mytholmroyd Methodists (Umpire, A. Richmond); Luddenden Foot v Old Crossleyans (J. Gorby); Stainland v Greatland (K. Lord); Old Town v Southowram (B. Tennyson); Mackintosh's v Siddal (R. Warhurst); Union Croft v Outlane (K. Goulden).
HUDDERSFIELD LEAGUE, Section A:	Elland v Kirkheaton.
Section B:	Rastrick v Linthwaite.
BRADFORD LEAGUE, Division One:	Brighouse v Farley.
Division Two:	Lightcliffe v Cleckheaton, Queensbury v Great Horton.
AIRE/WHARFE LEAGUE, Divi-	

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE:	Castleford v Halifax.
CENTRAL YORKSHIRE LEAGUE, Division Two:	King Cross v Scholes.
BRADFORD CENTRAL LEAGUE, Division One:	Northowram v Denholme, Shelf v Buttershaw SP.
LANCASHIRE LEAGUE:	Todmorden v Rawtenstall.
HALIFAX ASSOCIATION, Division One:	Wainstalls v Paris Gates, Greatland Village v Clarence, Walsden v Bridgeholme, Queens Road Muslims v Whitley Motors II, Whitley Motors I v Wesley.
Division Two:	Hebden Bridge I v Jenny Deas, Halifax Salem v Bankfoot, Whitley v West End, Bridgeholme v Hebden Bridge II, Paris Gates v Wainstalls.
Sunday	
HUDDERSFIELD LEAGUE, Section A:	Meltham v Elland.
Section B:	Golcar v Rastrick.
BRADFORD LEAGUE, Division One:	Saltaire v Brighouse.
Division Two:	Ben Rhydding v Lightcliffe.
BRADFORD CENTRAL LEAGUE, Division One:	Northowram v Buttershaw SP, Shelf v Bolton Villas.
CENTRAL YORKSHIRE LEAGUE:	Chickensley v King Cross.
LANCASHIRE LEAGUE:	Burnley v Todmorden.
CENTRAL LANCASHIRE	

AUG/SEPT BATT	
S. Bates (Warley)	.....
P. Beck (Sowerby Bridge)	.....
D. Fletcher (Triangle)	.....
T. Whippet (Triangle)	.....
S. Frankland (Triangle)	.....
A. Oates (Warley)	.....

AUG/SEPT BOWL	
M. Grestorex (Booth)	.....
T. Loft (Bradshaw)	.....
R. Allott (Sowerby)	.....
R. Smith (Copley)	.....
P. Madden (Triangle)	.....
M. Barron (Barkisland)	.....
T. Rushton (Copley)	.....
P. Vine (Warley)	.....

SEASONAL BATT	
P. Beck (Sowerby Bridge)	.....
A. Oates (Warley)	.....
C. Longbottom (Barkisland)	.....
T. Whippet (Triangle)	.....
M. Turner (Bradshaw)	.....
S. Bates (Warley)	.....
D. Fletcher (Triangle)	.....

SEASONAL BOWL	
R. Allott (Sowerby)	.....
R. Smith (Copley)	.....
M. Barron (Barkisland)	.....
P. Madden (Triangle)	.....

### BRADFORD LEAGUE

# BRADSHAW GET THEIR REWARD

BRADSHAW duly clinched the Halifax League championship for the first time in their history but not before their players, officials and fans alike had endured every possible emotion.

After a day of high drama skipper Chris Sutcliffe was finally able to lift the trophy in the gathering gloom but there were times during the final day of an exciting season when they ran the risk of losing it to Copley.

Going into their clash against Warley they had a three point cushion but with news of Copley's 210 for five off only 26 Triangle overs reaching the ground the pressure was really on the long time leaders.

Chasing a rain reduced Warley target of 161 in 36 overs they staggered to 10 for two in the

## But champions are made to sweat by Copley

first nine overs and despite a gutsy effort by opener Mick Turner and 31 from Steve Bell the best they could manage was a point.

Had Copley gained the four points that seemed more than likely it would have brought the sides level on points and league officials reaching for the calculators to decide the title on scoring rates over the season.

But with Bradshaw's heads sinking by the minute a telephone brought the news of Triangle's victory against the odds.

Even when bad light called a halt four overs early the champagne had to go on ice as Copley's demise was double checked but with that confirmed the presentation and the celebrations could begin.

It was hard to imagine a more thrilling climax to the season but no one could really deny Bradshaw their moment of glory after they had set the pace all season.

"It's a great feeling," said Sutcliffe who now looks set to stand down as skipper after guiding his side to Parish Cup and championship triumphs in successive seasons.

"I have to admit the last few weeks have been a bit of a strain as our form dipped but this has made it all worthwhile.

"I've been skipper for 10 years in total during two spells but this has to be the highlight.

"The Parish Cup is a great day as a one-off in front of a big crowd but the title takes some winning and when you do I don't think anyone can say that you're not the best.

"We don't have any real stars but we have all-round strength and I think that has been the key. In Andy Ingham, Trevor Loft and Simon Lees we have one of the strongest attacks and we have bowled sides out all season and

### Amateur Match of the Day



by Nigel Askham

Mick Turner has led the batting with his best ever season."

The skipper also paid tribute to experienced keeper and No.11 Ian Calvert who holds the remarkable record of having faced only one ball all season.

"We pulled him out of the second team and he has done a first class job. He assures me that the one ball he did face hit the middle of the bat."

Earlier in the day Warley reached a very respectable 184 for nine with skipper Andrew Oates leading the way with a fluent 45 which included eight fours and several colleagues chipped in usefully.

But they were never able to get fully into their stride as Ingham produced one of his most productive spells of the season.

It was still enough to increase the anxiety in the Bradshaw camp and that was heightened further when Tony Illand and Steve Smith — given no chance by one that never got up from Paul Vine — quickly found themselves back on the sidelines.

Turner lifted spirits by cracking four boundaries in one over from Vine and then launching his replacement Steve Roberts for a six and two fours in his opener to bring up the half century.

But Roberts gained his revenge with the score on 65 and when Bell was superbly caught on the run by Mick Holroyd off Duncan Ritchie their hopes of settling their own fate effectively went with him.

It all came out in the wash though and a relieved Bradshaw were finally able to fly their colours proudly from the mast.

### Bradshaw v Warley

Match drawn. Bradshaw 1 pt, Warley 1 pt.

#### WARLEY 184 for nine

S. Bates c Collins b Ingham	29
P. Vine c Bell b Loft	21
A. Oates c Collins b Sutcliffe	45
D. Ritchie c Calvert b Ingham	2
A. Copley b Ingham	32
M. Kelly b Ingham	23
T. Dullaghan c Turner b Ingham	3
D. Cartwright at Calvert b Lees	4
M. Holroyd not out	8
P. Marsh c Sutcliffe b Ingham	2
P. Roberts not out	0
Extras	14

Bowling: A. Ingham 17-0-66-6; T. Loft 6-2-19-1; S. Lees 14-1-52-1; C. Sutcliffe 4-0-35-1.

#### BRADSHAW 101 for eight

M. Turner b Roberts	46
A. Illand b Ritchie	1
S. Smith b Vine	1
S. Bell c Holroyd b Ritchie	31
C. Sutcliffe not out	10
S. Collins lbw Roberts	0
S. Lees b Roberts	6
A. Ingham c Marsh b Roberts	2
N. Barracough lbw Roberts	2
T. Loft not out	0
Extras	2

Bowling: D. Ritchie 16-7-31-2; P. Vine 6-2-29-1; S. Roberts 10-0-39-5.

ANDY INGHAM . . . the experienced Bradshaw bowler, pictured in action against Warley on Saturday, finally collected a Halifax League winners medal.



☆ *JUST as Chris Sutcliffe's Bradshaw were running the full gamut of emotions Tim Rushton and his Copley side must have run out of fingernails to chew on Saturday evening.*

*With just nine balls of the season left Copley saw their title hopes shattered by Triangle.*

*Billy Morris' men looked as though they were going to fall short of the 26 over total of 212 set them by Copley but an unbroken stand of 77 for the fourth wicket between Gary Rodger (72 not out) and Paul Shannon (45 not out) did the trick.*

*They came home by the flattering margin of seven wickets to confirm Bradshaw as champions and leave Copley deflated.*

*Earlier in the innings Tracey Whippy scored 60 before becoming one of Rushton's three wickets.*

*Copley had done their best to set a competitive target in the reduced overs game and most*

*teams in the league would have failed in the chase. Unfortunately for Copley they were up against the powerhouse batting line-up from Triangle.*

*Openers Ranjit Bhabra (58) and Rushton (44) had set Copley off in fine style with a stand of 74. Rushton and Andy Thorpe went quickly but Bhabra stuck around to put on another 50 with Brent Walker.*

*Walker took the initiative and went on to score 59. Mark Thristan and Roger Smith kept the momentum going but 211 for five was not to be enough in the long run.*

*Meanwhile Sowerby St Peters were rounding the season off with a victory, beating Northowram by six wickets.*

*Northowram batted first and made 182 for eight with Bruce Deadman top-scoring with 59 and David Bottomley adding 37, Martin Schofield taking three for 47 for Sowerby. That total was later reduced to a Sowerby target of 160 by rain.*

*Schofield (41) and John Bridges (54) gave the home side a flying start and with John Hickey's unbeaten 25 they got home with room to spare.*

*Relegated Outlane finished on a low note — beaten by eight runs by Sowerby Bridge.*

*David Mobbs dominated Sowerby Bridge's 165 for four with a knock of 71 that included five sixes and seven fours. Keith Hartley weighed in with a useful 33.*

*After losing five wickets for 12 runs Outlane rallied slightly and made a good show of chasing the required runs. They fell short at 157 for nine thanks to 73 by Michael Hales and 43 by John Pettinger. Steve Dalby took six for 34 for Bridge.*

*Booth and Barkisland were washed out. Barkisland had made 272 for eight (Tony Sykes 74 and Steve Casaru 47) and Booth were 113 for six.*