

Bedade blasts way to 234no

DRAKES HUDDERSFIELD

A BATTING masterclass from Golcar's Atual Bedade helped his side to a first-round Sykes Cup victory over Hall Bower.

The Indian international smashed 17 sixes and 19 fours in a breathtaking innings of 234 not out as Golcar piled up a huge 343-8 in their allotted overs.

Premiership Hall Bower never looked likely to avoid going out to the Conference side and Richard Hall made sure by claiming five wickets.

Bedade's superb 234 blast goes into the record books

By **DAVID LOCKWOOD**

INDIAN international Atul Bedade carved his name in the Drakes League record books on Saturday.

The 35-year-old from Bombay, smashed his way to a magnificent 234 not out in the Hills Supplies Sykes Cup first-round tie against Hall Bower — the highest individual tally ever made since the competition began in 1920.

His terrific knock eclipsed the previous all-time best of 210 created by Broad Oak's Jack Washington in 1920, in the days of unlimited overs cricket.

When the 45-overs rule was established between 1956 and 1983, Honley's Ken Bowling set a record of 176 not out against Rastrick in the 1967 season.

But since the arrival of 50-overs cricket in 1984, the record has stood to Lascelles Hall's Matthew Horne

SYKES CUP BEST

Unlimited overs cricket (and previous all-time high):

J Washington (Broad Oak) 210 v Kirkburton in 1928.

45 overs: K Bowling (Honley) 176 not out v Rastrick in 1967.

50 overs: M Horne (Lascelles Hall) 177 not out v Paddock in 1992.

All-time record: Atul Bedade (Golcar) 234 not out v Hall Bower in 2002.

(who later went on to open the batting for New Zealand) when he cracked an unbeaten 177 against Paddock in 1992.

It is not the first time Bedade has hit the headlines in the Sykes Cup, as he also achieved the highest score in last year's competition when he made 148 against Broad Oak.

However, on that occasion the Golcar player was to finish on the losing side in the first round.

Saturday's double century helped his side pull off the shock of the round as the Cedar Court Conference club knocked out Premiership opposition.

But although Bedade's effort was an individual affair, his side's 343-8 total fell five runs short of equalling the 50-overs Cup record high set by Scholes, when they made 348-3 against Rastrick in 2000.

Although Golcar's 184-run victory was the only real shock of the round, there were one or two close games with holders Kirkburton (bidding for a hat trick of Sykes Cup crowns) having plenty of scares before just overcoming the brave challenge of Shepley.

A six by Kirkburton's No9 batsman Tom Burkinshaw took the Cup holders through, with just three deliveries and two wickets to spare, after Ryan Robinson had claimed six wickets in Shepley's innings.

● Reports and scorecards — Page 14

