

Thorpe calls for more of the same in big test against Booth

Copley in control

LAST season's Copley versus Booth clash on the final day of the season was billed as one of the most important league matches for years in the Trinity Insurance Halifax League.

The title was on the line and although Booth lost the battle of the top two they emerged with the championship trophy having got their sums right in the bonus point stakes.

The pair meet again at Copley tomorrow with the hosts holding a 13 point lead over Warley at the top and Booth 24 points back in fourth place, their hopes damaged beyond repair by successive defeats against Mytholmroyd,

By Ian
Rushworth
Sports editor



Copley could get through on bonus points alone with Warley seemingly having given up the chase. However, they have made their mark with positive, consistent cricket under Thorpe's leadership in recent seasons and that approach is likely to continue to the season's end.

Booth have beaten Triangle, Sowerby Bridge and Outlane in

their last three outings and have enough talent to make things very difficult for tomorrow's hosts.

They won a close first meeting between the teams on June 14 at a time when Copley were down to two frontline bowlers, Thorpe and spinner Chris Goulden. That was one of only two league defeats for Copley this season, the other having come at home to triangle in May.

A glance at the league tables suggests most of the first team promotion and relegation issues are straightforward to predict.

Stainland and Blackley appear

destined for the drop after defeats last week.

A quick return to Section B could be sealed for Stainland, who are having a miserable second half to the season, at home to third-from bottom Mytholmroyd tomorrow.

Blackley lost to Sowerby Bridge last week so there is no reason why they should beat top four teams Outlane, Booth or Copley in their last three games.

Section B is only a little less clear cut, mainly because most sides still have four games to play.

Thornton have looked nailed on

for the title since the word go and although they failed to clinch promotion last week when beaten at home to Old Crossleyans, they could do it tomorrow at home to Luddenden Foot.

Skipper John Ashley has set his side the target of collecting 200 points, something no other first team has ever achieved in the Halifax League.

Despite last week's heroics and the continued good efforts of Paul Reynolds, Old Crossleyans still look unlikely to catch Southowram for second place if Fiaz Haider stays clear of injury.

Nine on the trot transforms season

