

# Success for Spen

CLECKHEATON completed their best ever finish to a Bradford League season when they consolidated their third place with victory over Yorkshire Bank.

It was a historic day at Allerton Grove for not only did Cleckheaton secure a magnificent third place, it was on the day that Bank left the league.

Yorkshire Bank have played in the Bradford League for 26 years, two longer than Cleckheaton, but with no junior set up and the threat of the sale of their ground has ultimately seen the club dishand.

Any sentiment Cleckheaton may have had for the Leeds side, had to be put to the back of their minds, as they knew defeat could see them slip as low as fifth in the table.

Bank batted first and made 184-6 with Giles Boothroyd hitting 66 and Bradley



The Bradford League's top run-scorer - Spen Victoria's Grant Lambert.

## Cleckheaton earn highest league finish while Gomersal and Spen Vic are promoted

Parker 38, while Guy Blackshaw finished with 3-48 for Cleckheaton.

Paul Winrow (60) and Mark Gill (40) gave Cleckheaton an excellent start, putting on 78 for the second wicket. Chris Pickles, in his new found role of number five, made 30 not out. Cleckheaton won by three wickets with six balls to spare.

East Bierley ended their season with a win in a high scoring game with relegated Windhill.

The Busy Lane side, signed off from the first division by blasting 369 all out at South View Road.

Danny Paynter (81), T Jones (44), Greg Wainwright (34) and G Singh (28) were all among the runs.

In reply Bierley conceded just two wickets as they reached the massive target in a game that saw well over 500 runs scored.

Dermot McGrath got the ball rolling with 58, with Richard Gould (78) and Murphy Walwyn, promoted to no 3, (82 no), guiding Bierley home in 46.3 overs.

Bierley finish the season in seventh place.

For the record the first division title was won by Pudsey Congs, whose game with second placed Bradford and Bingley was declared a one point each draw after bad light stopped play.

In Division Two, Spen Victoria lost the match of the day between the top

two, but still go up as runners-up.

Even if Spen had have beaten Undercliffe, they wouldn't have finished top, but it didn't matter as they went down by 46 runs.

Undercliffe batted first and made 249-8 from their 50 overs in which H Reeve (70), Mark Gilliver (55) and R Elphee (35) got among the runs.

Ian Wood was Spen's best bowler with 3-63.

Spen's reply once again centred around Grant Lambert. His 42 extended his league batting record to 1,683 runs.

He ended the season with an incredible 2,427 runs in all competitions.

However this wasn't enough to guide Spen to victory and although Andy Walker made 35, Spen were bowled out for 203.

Gomersal missed the chance to jump above Spen into second place when they lost only their second game of the season, to Idle.

H Adnan was the thorn in Gomersal's side as his 107 guided the home side to 223-6 at the close.

Gomersal had been able to relax, knowing they were already promoted, and gave everybody the chance to bowl.

In reply Matt Garside made 43 and Alan Abbey 37, but it wasn't enough as Gomersal were bowled out for 161.

Hartshead Moor finished their season the previous week. They ended up in 10th place with 62 points.