

Mirfield's HW Cup delight

By Angela Walker

MIRFIELD lifted the Heavy Woollen Cup for the first time in 13 years after beating Spen Victoria at Liversedge on Sunday.

The Memorial Park side upset the odds when they comfortably beat their fellow Bradford League Division One side by eight wickets in a one-sided final.

Mirfield captain Dave Jackson was delighted and a bit surprised by the comfortable manner of his side's victory.

"We got ourselves into a situation where we did not have to panic. We kept them to 145, when they were probably looking for a score of over 200. The pressure was all on Spen after two run outs and we made the most of it," said a happy Jackson.

But a young Spen side will be kicking themselves for handing it to them on a plate. The run-outs put Spen on the back foot, blows from which

HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP FINAL

Mirfield v Spen Victoria

SPEN VICTORIA	
G Hazle run out	14
D Davis c Ackroyd b Harrison	8
C Elstub run out	26
S Cunningham c Ackroyd b Asif	33
R Anjum c Ackroyd b Asif	22
T Owens c & b Fairburn	5
I Wood b Fairburn	4
J Barton c & b Asif	0
P Jackson b Parkinson	11
J Baker not out	1
M Ahmed not out	7
Extras	25
Total (Balls: 50)	145
POW: 15, 19, 41, 73, 81, 95, 100,	
136. Bowling: Parkinson 10-0-40-1,	
Harrison 10-0-36-2, Asif 10-4-16-3,	
Haikings 16-2-24-0, Fairburn 10-4-18-3.	
MIRFIELD	
S Horkin not out	41
R Haikings c Barton b Elstub	0
M Fairburn b Cunningham	44
I Latif not out	30
Extras	13
Total (Balls: 37.2)	148
POW: 0, 78. Bowling: Anjum 10-4-29-0,	
Elstub 10-3-32-1, Davis 7-21-40-0,	
Boss 30-50, Cunningham 4-3-13-1.	



Man-of-the-match Mirfield's Mark Fairburn hits out against the Spen Victoria attack. (040862)

they never recovered.

Mirfield can also thank the superb form of their 'part-time' bowlers Richard Haikings and Mark Fairburn. Their tight spells helped restrict Spen to a paltry 145, at least 50 to 60 runs short of a challenging target.

Man-of-the-match was Fairburn who took 3-18 and then played a dynamic innings of 44 to thoroughly deserving his accolade.

Spen won the toss and captain Ian Wood chose to bat first in steamy conditions. They have the batsmen who are capable of delivering a formidable target but on Sunday it just didn't come off.

In the fifth over a smart take by Philip Ackroyd behind the stumps, off the bowling of Matthew Harrison, gave Mirfield the wicket of Gareth Davis (8).

Scott Cunningham was dropped on four and

he went on to top score with 33. His solid play became the focus of Spen hopes as all about him started to crumble.

Garib Razak looking nervy on 14 just avoided being run out. But the next delivery, off 18-year-old Harrison, was delicately pushed to fine leg and he went for a ridiculous run - the throw easily beat him.

The glaring error was compounded in the next over, bowled by Asif. Chris Elstub went for an even more impossible run and was stranded in the middle of the track.

Mirfield piled on the pressure as Rao Anjum, an important source of runs for Spen this season, produced a couple of well timed boundaries but on 23 he got an edge off a Fairburn delivery which carried to the reliable Ackroyd.

Fairburn and Haikings have limited bowling opportunities in league cricket but on Sunday Mirfield needed 10 tight overs each from the pair.

They exceeded expectations, conceding just 42

runs between them and Fairburn picked up three valuable wickets.

Mirfield emphasised their domination with further cheap wickets. Spen captain Wood made six before Fairburn ripped out his off stump.

Tom Owens (5) gave Fairburn a simple return catch while Asif encouraged John Barton (6) to do the same.

Neil Parkinson returned for his final five overs from the Roberttown Lane end, he had opened at the Lumb Lane end, and hastened the innings to its close with the wicket of Peter Jackson (13).

Cunningham played defiantly for his 33. Unfortunately for him he became the third caught behind victim for Ackroyd, off the dangerous Asif as Spen trudged to 136-8.

Spen's last man, Kez Ahmed showed some bravado with a terrific six but it was to little avail as Spen finished on 145-8.

Mirfield didn't score a run in the first five overs of their innings. They also lost the wicket of

Richard Haikings in the third over, caught behind by Barton off Elstub, but it didn't matter.

Once Mirfield got off the mark they didn't falter. Simon Horkin, who had carried his bat for 50 overs against East Bierley the day before, was again unbeaten.

He provided the anchor role for Fairburn who relished the freedom he had to go for his shots.

The pair put on 78 for the second wicket before Fairburn (44) was bowled by Cunningham.

Spen needed early wickets to have any chance but they found Ibrar Latif a stubborn opponent.

A six and a four off his legs announced Latif's intentions while Horkin, not to be left behind, also frustrated the Spen bowlers.

The generous Horkin snatched a single, enabling Latif to reach his half century.

A hasty collection was started but abandoned when Horkin, aptly, hit the winning run, signalling Mirfield's delight and Spen's despair.

Mirfield's Simon Horkin defends a delivery during last Sunday's Heavy Woollen Cup final against Spen Victoria. (040863)



Pictures: Matthew Roberts.

MIRFIELD CC First Eleven - Heavy Woollen Cup Winners 2003



*Front Row: Phil Ackroyd, Matthew Harrison, David Jackson (capt), Simon Horkin, Mark Fairburn
Back Row: Mohammed Asif, Ibbi Latif, James Walker, Neil Parkinson, Richard Haikings, Toby Ibbotson, Andy Kaye
(1st) Phil Dunn (manager)*