

Stones' drive gathers momentum

STONES' promotion hopes in the Halifax League received a double boost — they beat close rivals SBCI by six wickets at home while Outlane crashed by 95 runs away to the Old Crossleyans.

The Ripponden side are now a clear second to runaway Division Two leaders Old Town, who picked up a useful four points at Southowram.

SBCI's batsmen struggled to find their form on a slow wicket and veteran spinner Adrian Houlker's five for 21 sent them tumbling to 105 all out. Only three players — Martin Uttley (23), Martyn Summerscales (34) and quick bowler Jonathan Hampshire (20 no) — made double figures.

Captain Chris Houlker led the way for Stones with some good strokes on his way to 40 before the Pollard-Dyson combination completed a comfortable victory.

Outlane crumbled to 80 all out away to the Crocs with John Bake (five for 23) their main tormentor. Their struggle emphasised how good an innings Charlie Daly had played earlier for the home men, batting all 45 overs for an unbeaten 64, a massive 41 extras boosting the Crocs total to 175 for nine.

The bottom of the table game between Siddal and Mackintosh's went the way of the visitors thanks to Ken Broadbent's fine unbeaten 89.

He rescued Macks after medium pacers Darren Hickey (five for 67) and John Redhead (three for 38) had caused early problems.

A total of 162 proved too much for Siddal who were never really in the hunt and finished on 110. There were three wickets each for Kevin Beaumont, Dale Lister and Mick Brear.

The other trailing club, Mytholmroyd

Meths, were unable to defend a useful 180 for nine total at Union Croft.

Opener M.Riddles made 69 and was one of six victims for Mick Briggs as Meths had first use of the wicket. Michael Wild gave the visitors hope with a couple of early wickets but N.Robertshaw's unbeaten 81 gave Croft the points.

Old Town looked in a spot of bother at 26 for three, chasing 141 to win at Southowram. However, knocks of 44 from Jonathan Bamford and 40 not out from Richard Butterworth helped them to a four-wicket success.

Bowlers were generally on top with Southowram's Derek Moody (four for 34) and Old Town pair Jon Kimber (three for 51) and Mark Turner (four for 34) taking the honours.

Kimber and Turner stepped in after Phil Veal (41) and David Riley (30) had taken the Rams to 98 for one.



□ IN FULL SWING . . . SBCI opener Martin Uttley hits out during his knock of 23 against SBCI.



STONES 3RD XI
HALIFAX SUNDAY LEAGUE

*BACK ROW F. Crowther (Umpire), N. Greenwood (Scorer), J. Lumb, M. Jones,
N. Smith, M. Chaplin, P. Heptinstall, M. Swallow*

*FRONT ROW R. Holroyd, P. Collinge, J.D. Kenworthy (Captain), R. Armitage,
D. Kenworthy*

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