Triumphant Kirkburton's long wait over

Skelmanthorpe clinch the title and promotion as rivals crash

Drakes cricket round-up by DAVID LOCKWOOD

SKELMANTHORPE clinched the Cedar Court Conference title and promotion to the top flight next season on the day that Kirkburton ended a 30-year wait for the Byrom Shield.

Ironically, neither side actually played, as Skelmanthorpe's game at Rastrick and Kirkburton's trip to Delph & Dobcross both fell victim to the rain.

But in Burton's case the rain came more sufficiently to ensure they cannot be caught by second place Marsham, while Skelmanthorpe's title clincher was sealed by Primrose Hill, who handed promotion-chasing Berkeland a 32-run defeat at Scammonden Road.

That result — cheered on by several Skelmanthorpe players and officials — moved the Lodge Lane side into next week's home finale with Berkeland with the lot — of an eight-point cushion and an early chance to start planning for the Premier Cup final a week later against the winners of the Conference and Section B [illegible].

At the opposite end of the Championship, there was no [illegible] for either Broad Oak or Hall Bower, who both won pay Lepton Highlanders in being relegated.

The Bower put up a good fight against high-flying Meltham with Tim Sykes (121), Scott Dyson (47) and John Francis (39) [illegible] Dyson and Simon Tolson knocked over three quick wickets, a [illegible] looked a possibility.

But the intervention of Paul Brown (3 [illegible]) and Jack Lockwood (consistent Andy Yates (49) ensured Meltham caught by [illegible] on to win by three wickets.

But Broad Oak's long stay in the top flight — they have been there since 1966 (the second longest tenure, only behind Elland) — ended at Hanley in dramatic style.

Having chosen to bat first, Lepton Scaffold [illegible] 3 [illegible] against the pace of Aaron Craig Patrick who finished with [illegible] 100 of them maidens on the [illegible] supplied [illegible] 46 off over.

Hanley, four [illegible] wickets in breaking out the target in just 8.2 overs to send Broad Oak [illegible]

Meanwhile, Elland [illegible] Lee Ellis [illegible] Marsh Kirk [illegible] Mark Lockwood [illegible] Elland [illegible] Lockwood [illegible] Elland [illegible] Lockwood [illegible] Elland [illegible]