

Jaffer leads Spen to HW Cup triumph

By Paul McGinley

A SUPREME century by Spen Victoria's Wasim Jaffer dominated the 118th Heavy Woollen Cup final and set his side on their way to a 144 run win over Hanging Heaton.

By seven minutes past three there was little doubt the Cup was on the way to Spen Victoria for the second time in three years.

That was the time 29-year-old Jaffer and Spen skipper Andy Bethel notched up a superb century partnership for the first wicket.

The Spen innings was dominated by Man-of-the-Match Jaffer's marvellous 131. He always looked in control and rarely gave a chance.

His driving was majestic, he pulled with brutal force and even treated the crowd to some elegant late cuts — one drive was so true it smashed a stump at the bowler's end.

Bethel, at the other end, played his career to perfection, slowly accumulating runs on a flat, true wicket — the sort of pitch Geoff Boycott probably dreams about.

One felt for the Hanging Heaton bowlers, and, in particular, John Carruthers who ran in with the heart of a lion all afternoon but received no reward.



Heavy Woollen Cup heroes, Wasim Jaffer, left, who scored a supreme century, (C050802). Right Chris Elstob devastated the Hanging Heaton batting with 5-40. (C050803)

A packed crowd enjoyed possibly the best day weather wise all season for the final at picturesque Liversedge CC — the ground a tribute to the host club.

Spen were always in command after batting first with Jaffer and Bethel (27) putting on 119 for the first wicket before Bethel was leg before. Their scoring, at around four an over, was perfectly paced and Spen never really got out of a canter.

Jaffer received further support from Andrew Walker (26) and Ed McKenna (25) before a tired shot saw him caught by Steve Bartle off Javed Umarji five overs from the end. He rightly received a standing ovation on his way back to the pavilion.

Some good running at the end by Spen took their total to 243-5, although they did not throw the hat into the ring with wickets in hand.

Umarji finished with 33 in three overs.

Heaton, losing finalists last season, never really threatened, despite a solid start from Steve Bourne and Steve Bartle. Bartle was dropped in the gully before Elstob caught him off Walker for 18.

McKenna then stunned everyone with a fine catch in the gully to send Bourne back for 25 off the bowling of Tosh Baker.

Bob Winter went for a duck and despite 32 from Suleman Hudda the rest of Heaton's batting folded quicker than one of the many

deck chairs littered around the ground.

Teenager Chris Elstob was the star with the ball for Spen as the 16-year-old punter grabbed 5-40 in 15 overs to shatter the middle/late order. He received good support from Walker who took 2-29.

The end — or merciful relief for Hanging Heaton's supporters — came in bizarre fashion when Heaton skipper Simon Parry retired hurt with a knee injury with his side 49-9.

Parry will be out of action for at least a month.

● **CROWTHER** Cup final for HW Cup area starts at 11 at Batley on Sunday when Mirfield PC meet Birstall at 1.30pm.

SPEN VICTORIA

W. Jaffer & Bethel & Gray	131
A. Bethel (wicket)	27
A. Walker & Harris & Ashdown	26
E. McKenna & Gray	25
S. Bethel & Carruthers & Gray	14
V. Marshall (wicket)	5
T. Brook (wicket)	1
Extras	28
Total (346/5, 50)	243
Bowling: J. Carruthers (10-0-4-1), S. Hudda (10-0-4-1), S. Parry (10-0-4-1), T. Baker (10-0-4-1), J. Gray (10-0-4-1)	

HANGING HEATON

S. Bartle & McKenna & Baker	25
S. Harris & Elstob & Walker	18
T. Hudda & S. Bethel & Elstob	14
R. Winter & McKenna & Walker	9
J. Umarji & Elstob	5
S. Alston & Hudda & Elstob	4
S. Gray & Gray	1
J. Carruthers & Bethel	1
S. Ashdown (wicket)	0
S. Knight & Dutton & Walker	0
S. Parry (wicket)	0
Extras	9
Total (96/9, 40.2)	99
Bowling: T. Elstob (10-0-4-1), T. Baker (10-0-4-1), A. Walker (10-0-4-1)	



HW Cup winners Spens Victoria XI. Back row, left-to-right, Ed. McKenna, Tosh Baker, Ian Wood, Chris Elstob and Steve Bethel. Front row, l-r, Neil Marshall, Alan Duncan, Gary Brook, Andy Bethel, Wasim Jaffer and Andy Walker. (Absent Peter Jackson). Match report inside. (C180710)



HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP WINNERS 1998
 SPENS VICTORIA 245-7 BANGING HEATON 30
 W Jaffer, A Bethel, D Marshall, E McKenna, D Richardson, F Jackson, D Brown, A Walker
 C Elstob, S Bethel (captain), G Brook, T Baker, A Duncan