



□ TROPHY TIME . . . Halifax League president Roy Smith presents the championship trophy to Booth skipper Ian Sharkey while the other team members celebrate.

Booth celebrate thrilling climax

BOOTH were today celebrating their first Halifax League title since 1979 after they beat Northowram by 29 runs yesterday in a thrilling finale to the season.

They finished three points clear of Barkisland, who defeated Warley by four wickets.

Booth had to survive a shaky batting spell which saw them collapse from 50 for no wicket to 80 for eight.

After openers John Sutcliffe and Roy Collinge gave Booth a sound start the visitors' bowlers, Andy Whitehead and Andy Gardner, ripped through the home side's batting order.

Then ninth-wicket pair Tim Conway and Neil Thomas, who scored 22 and 15 respectively, fought back and Booth finished on 141 for nine off 50 overs.

Northowram held out and were 80 for five with eight overs left. But when Ian Stocks was stumped by Conway off Ian Sharkey for 54, Booth had victory in their grasp. Geoff Laycock polished off their tail as Northowram were all out for 112.

Barkisland and Warley nurtured hopes of clinching the champion-

ship if Booth faltered.

They met at Barkisland where Anthony Sykes destroyed the visitors' aspirations with seven wickets for 24 as Warley slumped from 86 for one to 124 all out.

The home side cruised to 125 for six with Brian Winrow, who made 57, their top scorer.

Down among the dead men of Division One, Stones have been relegated with Luddenden Foot.

Sowerby Bridge defeated Luddenden Foot by four wickets, thanks to an unbeaten 92 by opener Tim Helliwell, while Stones picked up a point from their draw at Stainland.

In that match the home side made 280 for seven — including 132 by David Milner — while Stones could muster only 60 for seven in reply.

Siddal go up from the second flight because Mytholmroyd, the only side who could oust them from being runners-up to SBCI, lost at home to Sowerby.

Lancashire 71. Essex won by 32 runs. **Bristol:** Glamorgan 191 for eight (Maynard 68). Gloucestershire 193 for four (Russell 72 not out, Curran 55). Gloucestershire won by six wickets. **Canterbury:** Kent v Warwickshire abandoned. **The Oval:** Surrey 195 for seven (Stewart 52). Nottinghamshire 198 for seven. Nottinghamshire won by three wickets. **Howe:** Sussex v Leicestershire abandoned. **Worcester:** Northamptonshire 168 (Harper 55, Williams 53). Worcestershire 172 for one (Curtis 69 not out, Botham 61). Worcestershire won by nine wickets.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	Tie	NR	Pts
Worcestershire	16	11	4	0	1	48
Nottinghamshire	16	9	3	0	4	44
Gloucestershire	16	8	4	1	2	42
Somerset	16	8	4	0	4	40
Derbyshire	16	8	4	1	3	40
Kent	16	8	5	0	3	36
Hampshire	16	6	6	2	2	32
Surrey	16	6	6	0	4	32
Lancashire	16	5	6	0	5	30
Middlesex	16	5	7	0	4	28
Northamptonshire	16	4	6	0	6	28
Leicestershire	16	3	6	0	7	26
Yorkshire	16	3	8	0	5	24
Essex	16	4	8	0	4	24
Glamorgan	16	5	9	0	2	24
Sussex	16	4	8	0	4	24
Warwickshire	16	3	9	0	4	20

Today's games

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP — Derby: Derbyshire v Middlesex. **Chelmsford:** Essex v Lancashire. **Bristol:** Gloucestershire v Glamorgan. **Canterbury:** Kent v Leicestershire. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Northamptonshire.

Yesterday's scores

REFUGE ASSURANCE LEAGUE — Derby: Somerset 204 for five (Roebuck 78, Harden 73). Derbyshire 190 for nine (Rose four for 28). Somerset won by 14 runs. **Chelmsford:** Essex 103 for nine.