

More summer wine to come

By PETER SNAPE

3/6/81

LASCELLES HALL uncorked their own sparkling vintage of batsmanship and proved in the town of the TV series that this will not be the last of the summer wine.

And to put the ease of their seven-wicket victory over Huddersfield League champions Holmfirth, title-holders in seven of the last 12 years, into perspective they had 89 deliveries to spare in beating a substantial target of 182.

It was reasonable to expect something special from a side that totalled seven short of 1,000 runs in their first four games of the season. Yet the reality proved even better as openers Adamson and Greaves hit 133 in 65 minutes off 20 overs with strokes all round the wicket.

Adamson, 24, a product of the juniors, hit three sixes, 13 fours and just five singles in 75, reaching his 50 in 49 minutes. And this from a man whose slow scoring was a factor in the League's John Smith Trophy defeat by Airedale-Wharfedale the previous Sunday.

Greaves, who pulled Finney's first ball of the innings to the boundary, took an almost pedestrian hour to reach 50 including eight fours and a six.

Even when England dismissed them both, Greaves with the aid of a fine diving catch by Brookes, the fireworks were not over as captain Shaw, six fours in an unbeaten 29, and Walwyn, three in 14, ensured that 144 of the 185 runs came in boundaries.

Yet this was the side that just missed relegation last season. "The return of John Shaw as captain after two years at Kirkburton has brought stability and got the others cracking," explained Geoff Pamment, secretary of Yorkshire's oldest club.

"Martin and Stuart have been giving us wonderful starts for John, Murphy Walwyn from East Bierley, and the others to build upon. With a bit of luck with the weather we would be four points clear instead of being two points behind Shepley."

Nugent apart, the attack did not look particularly penetrative on a beautiful pitch and Walwyn and Nichols both dropped easy chances offered by Holmfirth's top scorer Deakin, a Derbyshire Colt.

He profited by hitting four sixes and six fours in 69 despite having to bat in a helmet to protect a cheekbone broken while playing in a friendly on Monday. Opener Smith, full of promising strokes at 19, helped him to add 110 for the second wicket and Finney, from the MCC ground staff, also gave good support in trying to redeem a desperately slow start.

It was a trying day for acting-captain Jakeman and Harvey-Walker. Jakeman had rushed the former Derbyshire all-rounder up the M1 in the morning straight off a jet from South Africa, where he has seven weeks' leave from a coaching appointment.

Jakeman at slip dropped the only chance offered by Adamson and Harvey-Walker struggled to four with the bat, and did not take a wicket although he claimed the doubtful privilege of bowling the only maiden in the Hall's innings.

Jakeman is deputising for Johnson, who is so highly thought of by Yorkshire. Nevertheless his retention on drinks duties at Park Avenue was not universally popular especially as the experienced Langton was unfit.

As becomes a member of a family synonymous with Huddersfield League cricket Jakeman has strong views on standards. "It is not as good now," he said.

"With money tight there are not as many good players coming in from outside and the clubs who don't look after their younger players are suffering. We rely on working people for our money so with unemployment up it is bound to tell. But Holmfirth will still be there or thereabouts when the honours are settled."

HOLMFIRTH: M. Smith c Brook b Nugent 50, G. Higgins b Hall 3, M. Deakin c Wrigley b Nugent 69, R. Finney c Shaw b Hall 51, A. Harvey-Walker c Brook b Hall 4, M. Taylor not out 6, J. England not out 5, Extras 13, Total (for 5 wkts.) 181. **Bowling:** Hall 14-3-37-3, Nugent 22-5-76-2, Shaw 9-1-55-0.

LASCELLES HALL: S. Greaves c Brookes b England 50, M. Adamson b England 75, J. Shaw not out 29, M. Walwyn b England 14, S. Nichols not out 1, Extras 16, Total (for 3 wkts.) 185. **Bowling:** Finney 7-0-35-0, Brookes 6-0-54-0, Harvey-Walker 5-1-20-0, Higgins 7-0-32-0, England 5-1-0-28-3.