

Broad Oak rally to Sykes Cup

B R O A D O A K clinched their first Sykes Cup victory for 21 years at Farnworth last night thanks largely to the efforts of two bowlers who turned their attentions to batting.

Medium-pace man Alan Roberts first rode his luck but also included some fine shots to make 41 as Oak resumed at 21-3 from 10 overs in reply to Shepley's 126-9. Then fast bowler Dennis Schofield produced some big hitting along with Craig McCreadie to steer them home with 4.1 overs to spare.

Schofield, who had taken six for 46 on Sunday deservedly picked up the Victor Muff Trophy for the man of the match.

Shepley made a valiant effort in their bid to win the Cup in their first ever final. However, to some extent they had only themselves to blame as their bowlers strayed down the leg side too much in the crucial stages.

Roberts came close to being out off the popular Peter Dibb's second over when he turned the ball round the corner but it was tantalisingly wide of Brian Kettlewell's outstretched arm.

Huddersfield League White Rose player Howard Palmer was brought on for the eighth, over to allow Colin Shaw to switch ends with Dibb. The ploy worked as Dibb had John Baxter caught at short square-leg by Kettlewell and Oak were 35-4.

Eighteen-year-old John Lockwood joined Roberts for what turned out to be a vital partnership. The bowlers continued to give little away, but the score

was kept moving by some fast running between the wickets and the 50 came up in the twenty-fifth over.

In the next five overs Broad Oak added 16, but some fine fielding aided by a slow outfield ensured no boundaries were scored.

Palmer was brought back for Dibb and was unlucky to see David Berry drop at first slip a relatively simple chance given by Roberts. In his next over the 18-year-old Shepley all-rounder beat Lockwood consistently but again had little luck.

Shepley were on top but Lockwood then smashed Shaw square for 3 and after Roberts had hit a single he scored the first boundary of the night with a beautiful well-timed on-drive.

Palmer began to lose his line, and Lockwood smashed a short-pitched delivery for another 4 as Oak reached 89 in 35 overs to leave them just over 3.5 runs an over for victory.

Kettlewell brought himself on in a bid to break the partnership which had begun to dominate, and his second ball picked up the wicket of Roberts.

Roberts could not resist having a go at the slow-medium delivery which was dropped slightly short and he pulled the ball round with tremendous force only for David Barber to take the catch chest high as though the ball had been lobbed gently to him.

Roberts received a tremendous ovation from the crowd of a few hundred for the part he had played in holding the Oak innings together when it looked as though they might collapse. Schofield entered the arena and got off the

By ROBERT GLEDHILL

mark with a boundary down to fine leg, but next over he lost Lockwood when Keith Davis held an easy catch at mid-on off Palmer. Oak were 95-6. McCreadie also got off the mark with a well-timed four off Palmer, and Schofield brought the 100 up in the 38th over off Dibb, who replaced Kettlewell.

Shepley set an off-side defensive field, but the bowlers failed to keep the ball on that side and even when they did the batsmen were looking to pull the ball round to leg.

Eight runs were added in the 39th over from Palmer — three leg byes, two byes and fierce drive through extra cover for 3 by McCreadie — and the Section "B" club attack began to look frayed.

Dibb's next over cost nine runs. Schofield first scampered a leg bye, McCreadie squeezed a single and Schofield then tried to clear the rugby stand off the third delivery but succeeded only in getting an edge over Palmer at deep point allowing them to run three. McCreadie then straight drove Dibb to the boundary to bring the score to 118.

Palmer's first ball of the 41st over was a beamer at Schofield — a somewhat rash thing to do had Shepley had to bat — but the Oak man replied by hitting the next delivery over his head for 2.

He then pulled the ball round for four and ran a bye as Palmer's next delivery, which was a bouncer, bounced off wicket-keeper Thorpe's pads.

McCreadie hit the winning runs by dispatching a friendly full toss down the leg side for 4 to end a brave Shepley bid.

Broad Oak captain Allan Greaves congratulated Shepley as they walked of the field and especially veteran Dibb, who had taken three for 37 but there was no question who was the man of the match — Dennis Schofield.

Overnight: Shepley 126-9, Broad Oak 21-3 (10).

BROAD OAK — continued
Roberts c Barber b Kettlewell ... 41
Baxter c Kettlewell b Dibb ... 4
Lockwood c Davis b Palmer ... 26
Schofield not out ... 16
McCreadie not out ... 17
Extras 16

Total (for 6) 129
Shaw 17-2-43-1, Dibb 16-5-37-3, Palmer 7-1-27-1, Kettlewell 1-0-6-1.

Bradford League

Lightcliffe v Brighouse

BRIGHOUSE
Gilliver c Davenport b Bore ... 25
Dickinson b Horne ... 9
Chapman b Horne ... 4
Bolus (B) lbw b Bore ... 56
Baxter c Pickles b Horne ... 2
Bolus (D) c Barrett b Horne ... 0
Brannan lbw b Horne ... 12
Ham b Bore ... 14
Laribert lbw b Horne ... 4
Peel c Radcliffe b Horne ... 4
Ellison not out ... 0
Extras 1

Total 131
Bore 3-65, Horne 7-65.

LIGHTCLIFFE

Pickles c Dickinson b Bolus (D) ... 19
Radcliffe c Brannan b Bolus (B) ... 23
Roberts b Bolus (D) ... 0
Westerbly c Dickinson b Bolus (B) ... 2
Barrett c and b Bolus (D) ... 23
Davenport c Chapman b Ellison ... 0
Horne not out ... 26
Bore c Bolus (B) b Bolus (D) ... 23
Modgil not out ... 4
Extras 14

Total (for 7) 132
Peel 0-27, Chapman 0-12, Ellison 1-19, Bolus (D) 6-60.

MICHAEL WHITAKER, the Outlane show jumper, was a member of the Great Britain team who retained the European Junior Showjumping Championship at Stainington, Northumberland. Great Britain finished ahead of Ireland (second) and Holland (third).