

Gomersal v Shepley
Heavy Woollen Cup Final
Sunday 31 July 2011
Spen Victoria Cricket Club

The Heavy Woollen Cup is the second oldest cricket competition in the world, second only to The Ashes, yet the 2011 final could well have been the best ever. What a game of cricket!

Shepley beat Gomersal in a wonderful game to record the first major cup win in the Club's one hundred and forty year history. A big crowd turned up at Spen Victoria's spacious ground, with the Shepley contingent at least matching those travelling the short distance from Gomersal. The wicket looked to be a 'road' and Gomersal skipper Richard Whitehouse backed his strong batting line-up to chase down any total as he invited Shepley to bat having won the toss.

Shepley's opening pair got off to a great start as Tom Denton in particular overcame big match nerves once a middled four raced to the boundary. SP Singh played his usual anchor role as the pair began to build a fluent stand, while Denton dominated the Gomersal bowlers. Singh was out for 16 as his mis-timed drive went straight to mid-off, leaving Shepley on a healthy 73-1 after just 13.2 overs.

The dismissal began a second-wicket partnership between Denton and Tim Rees that will live long in the memory of everyone watching. Together the two put on an incredible 224 runs at around eight an over to put Shepley into a very strong position. Rees was finally out for 113 off just 92 balls, with four sixes and fourteen fours, with his side on 297-2. Denton followed seven runs later, having reached 148 off 144 balls, including three sixes and twenty fours. Both batsman gave barely a chance and played high quality cricket throughout their innings. Rarely, if at all, can anything similar have been seen in a Shepley shirt, let alone in a major final. The late innings charge led to three more quick wickets, but Shepley's total of 336-5 was the highest in a Heavy Woollen Cup final since 1928 and a daunting prospect for the Gomersal batsmen.

However, the team from just up the road put on a great batting performance themselves to really test the resolve of Danny Glover and his men. Openers Andy Gorrod and Adam Greenwood put on 98 for the first wicket, with Greenwood in particularly destructive form. The partnership gave Gomersal confidence and the target seemed just that little bit closer. Shepley's two spinners, SP Singh and Amar Rashid, however, began to exert some pressure as the runs dried up for a while and a couple of wickets fell.

But this brought in the Gomersal captain Whitehurst and he set about talking apart the Shepley attack in a blistering display of attacking shots. Helped by the classy youngster Gorrod and Greg Pickles he transformed the game and had the Shepley supporters nervously calculating the rapidly-reducing runs required. Eventually, however, he hit one towering shot too many and was safely held by Denton on the boundary, having hit seven sixes and six fours in reaching 83 off just 38 balls.

Shepley's reaction to Whitehurst's dismissal told its own story and from that point on normal service was resumed. Danny Glover led from the front, taking 4-52, including clean bowling Zeb to finish the match and win the cup. But the undoubted star of the bowling performance was off spinner SP Singh who bowled 10 high quality overs for a mere 26 runs, whilst carnage went on all around him, and took the vital wickets of Greenwood, Whitehurst and Platt. Gomersal were finally all out for 291 runs, a total that would have won every Heavy Woollen final back to 1940. They contributed hugely to a great game.

But Shepley came through and proved their class with a great performance. Tom Denton was given the Man Of The Match award, closely pressed by SP Singh and Tim Rees, but the whole team played its part, not least in a great display of fielding and catching. And the supporters too deserve some praise, not only for turning out in such numbers and in such good voice, but in demonstrating their world-class party animal credentials late into the night.

This was a great day for Shepley Cricket Club and a great day for The Heavy Woollen Cup. Let's look forward to many more, starting with The Sykes Cup final against Skelmanthorpe next Sunday.

SHEPLEY

<i>Batsman</i>			<i>Runs</i>	<i>Balls</i>	<i>Mins</i>	<i>4s</i>	<i>6s</i>	<i>S/r</i>
Tom Denton	lbw	b S Khan	148	144	176	20	3	102.78
SP Singh	c S Rashid	b A Greenwood	16	35	48	2	0	45.71
Tim Rees	c M Zeb	b S Khan	113	92	121	14	4	122.83
Liam Wiles	c and b	S Khan	13	16	26	1	0	81.25
Amar Rashid	c S Rashid	b S Khan	12	7	11	2	0	171.43
Ben Wells	not out		6	7	9	0	0	85.71
Huw Ellis	not out		0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Craig Glover	dnb							
Danny Glover*	dnb							
Nigel Hoyle	dnb							
Tom Sykes+	dnb							
Extras	1nb 22w 4lb 1b 0pen		28					
Total	336		for 5					

<i>Bowler</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wd</i>	<i>Nb</i>	<i>S/r</i>	<i>Econ</i>
J Russell	9.0	0	47	0	3(3)	0(0)	0.00	5.22
S Khan	10.0	0	75	4	2(2)	1(1)	15.75	7.50
A Greenwood	10.0	0	60	1	6(6)	0(0)	66.00	6.00
B Platt	10.0	1	56	0	0(0)	0(0)	0.00	5.60
D Lloyd	3.0	0	22	0	3(4)	0(0)	0.00	7.33
M Zeb	8.0	0	71	0	6(7)	0(0)	0.00	8.88

<i>Batsman</i>	<i>Fall of Wicket</i>	<i>Partnership</i>	<i>Batsmen</i>	<i>Over</i>
SP Singh	1-73	73	SP Singh (16) T Denton (51)	13.2
T Rees	2-297	224	T Rees (113) T Denton (90)	43.5
T Denton	3-304	7	T Denton (7) L Wiles (0)	45.1
A Rashid	4-326	22	A Rashid (12) L Wiles (9)	47.3
L Wiles	5-336	10	L Wiles (4) B Wells (6)	49.6

GOMERSAL

<i>Batsman</i>			<i>Runs</i>	<i>Balls</i>	<i>Mins</i>	<i>4s</i>	<i>6s</i>	<i>S/r</i>	
A Gorrod	c N Hoyle	b D Glover	61	99	136	7	1	61.62	
A Greenwood	c D Glover	b SP Singh	50	54	73	7	2	92.59	
S Rashid	lbw	b A Rashid	5	12	10	1	0	41.67	
D Lloyd	run out (N Hoyle)		22	32	32	1	1	68.75	
R Whitehurst*	c T Denton	b SP Singh	83	38	70	6	7	218.42	
G Pickles	c D Glover	b A Rashid	31	33	35	1	3	93.94	
B Platt		b SP Singh	0	5	5	0	0	0.00	
S Khan	c T Rees	b D Glover	4	3	5	1	0	133.33	
J Seddon+	c SP Singh	b D Glover	6	3	8	0	1	200.00	
M Zeb		b D Glover	5	10	11	0	0	50.00	
J Russell	not out		3	6	6	0	0	50.00	
Extras	10nb 4w 7lb 0b 0pen		21						
Total			291	all out					

<i>Bowler</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Wd</i>	<i>Nb</i>	<i>S/r</i>	<i>Econ</i>
D Glover	9.2	1	52	4	1(1)	1(1)	14.50	5.57
C Glover	10.0	1	69	0	1(1)	1(1)	0.00	6.90
SP Singh	10.0	2	26	3	1(1)	0(0)	20.33	2.60
L Wiles	9.0	0	64	0	1(1)	1(1)	0.00	7.11
A Rashid	9.0	1	73	2	0(0)	7(7)	30.50	8.11

<i>Batsman</i>	<i>Fall of Wicket</i>	<i>Partnership</i>	<i>Batsmen</i>	<i>Over</i>
A Greenwood	1-98	98	A Greenwood (50) A Gorrod (36)	18.1
S Rashid	2-107	9	S Rashid (5) A Gorrod (3)	21.4
D Lloyd	3-146	39	D Lloyd (22) A Gorrod (15)	30.2
A Gorrod	4-173	27	A Gorrod (7) R Whitehurst (19)	33.4
G Pickles	5-252	79	G Pickles (31) R Whitehurst (44)	41.4
B Platt	6-265	13	B Platt (0) R Whitehurst (12)	42.5
S Khan	7-270	5	S Khan (4) R Whitehurst (1)	43.3
R Whitehurst	8-277	7	R Whitehurst (7) J Seddon (0)	44.2
J Seddon	9-285	8	J Seddon (6) M Zeb (2)	45.3
M Zeb	10-291	6	M Zeb (3) J Russell (3)	47.2

Umpires: T Hamer D Koch

Scorers: G Hickmott H Dickinson