

Priestley Cup seals double

NEW Farnley lifted the Priestley Cup for the second time after defeating Townville by 34 runs in a hard-fought final at Undercliffe.

Mark Lawson was named man of the match after taking 6-32 as Townville were dismissed for 107 in reply to New Farnley's score of 141.

It gave them their second cup triumph in two weeks following their Heavy Woollen Cup win over Woodlands.

New Farnley's decision to bat first looked unwise as they struggled against a fired up Townville attack.

The new ball spell of Conor Harvey (4-15) tore them apart, and with some excellent fielding to boot, Townville showed why they are such a formidable force.

When Aidan Langley and Adam Waite succumbed to Harvey, New Farnley were in trouble at 14-2.

Things got even better for Townville when James Glynn trapped Steve Bullen lbw in his first over to reduce New Farnley to 34-3.

Lee Goddard and Dan Hodgson looked to have calmed their side's nerves before the New Farnley skipper clipped spinner Harry Clewett to midwicket and was caught by Chris Grey for 44.

Townville sensed it was the key breakthrough and when Hodgson (22) became Clewett's second wicket after a fine catch by Athelbert Braithwaite, New Farnley were 94-5.

Lawson struck a couple of defiant blows before being bowled by Jack Hughes,

while the Townville captain followed up by having Gorman Randhawa caught behind.

Grant Soames scored an invaluable 32 before he was caught and bowled by Harvey.

Alex Lilley then fell lbw to Hughes before Dan Houghton holed out to give Harvey his fourth wicket.

Townville opener Jonny Booth went for a duck when he was caught by Langley from the bowling of Andrew Brewster.

Braithwaite hit nine fours and dominated a 52-run second wicket stand with Grey, before spinner Gorman Randhawa came on to change the game.

In his opening over, Randhawa trapped Braithwaite lbw and had Hughes caught by wicketkeeper Hodgson for a duck to reduce Townville to 62-3.

When Lawson had Grey caught at slip by Bullen in the next over, three wickets had fallen for no runs.

Two more wickets fell at 68. Lawson caught and bowled Glynn before having Harvey caught by Hodgson for a duck.

When Randhawa had Ritchie Bresnan caught by Lawson six runs later, Townville were in disarray.

Alex Page hit 20 before he holed out to a catch by Langley to give Lawson his fourth wicket.

Lawson wrapped up victory by removing Harry Clewett to Hodgson's third catch of the innings and trapping last man Charlie Sykes with his next delivery.



Bradford's Darren Tetley (right) losing to Liam Taylor last year. Picture: MTK Global.

Tetley open as Covid hits his life and boxing

BOXING

By Nathan Atkinson

T&A Sports Reporter

HOLME Wood boxer Darren Tetley should have been fighting at Elland Road tomorrow, but his struggles with Covid-19 mean that bout has been postponed.

The pandemic has had a profound impact on the Bradford star. It has affected his training, made his wife severely ill, and seen him lose a couple of close friends because of it.

In an open and honest interview with the T&A, Tetley said: "It's been tough going."

"Losing my last two fights in a row was a bit of a blow as before then I'd gone undefeated for 10 years."

"Afterwards, I lost a bit of motivation for my boxing, as I felt I'd achieved everything I'd wanted to in the sport."

"All I'd wanted growing up was to box for England as an amateur really, but after those defeats, I wondered if I wanted to do it any more."

"I've got a full-time job and three kids, and it's so hard juggling it all sometimes."

Fortunately, help was at

hand, with Tetley saying: "I've got to give Shane Thewlis from Sanctus Fitness & Boxing Gym a lot of credit."

"I boxed with him at amateur level, and I've looked up to him since I was young."

"I spoke to him about strength and conditioning, and I now do that with him twice a week, alongside my boxing with my manager and trainer Mick Marsden."

"Since my grandad died in 2018, boxing hadn't really felt the same, more of a job than anything else, but I started feeling and seeing the difference with Shane and Mick before Covid hit me."

Asked how the virus has affected him personally, Tetley said: "I tested positive and had to spend 10 days in the house, so things went downhill then."

"I got back to training and sparring though, and initially I felt lucky the fight got postponed for a couple of weeks (to September 19), as I thought that would give me longer to feel ready."

"But in the gym, after a session on the pads, my chest would get tight, and I didn't feel brilliant."

"I probably could have fought on the 19th, but I

wouldn't have been at 100 per cent and I wouldn't have got to show off all the work I'd done with Shane and Mick."

"I've got a couple of things to sort before I fight again, like getting a post-Covid form from the doctor, but I want to be back out there and in the ring before Christmas."

Tetley is very much on the mend now, but the impact of the pandemic has rocked him over the last few months.

He said: "Four or five of those 10 days I was pretty bad, but my wife got it and it hit her really badly."

"I don't really get scared of anything but it was terrifying seeing how she was."

"I lost two friends to it, and I was petrified of losing her too."

"I maybe didn't take the pandemic seriously until I saw what it did to my wife and how it was something that can affect lives."

"People can spout their conspiracy theories, and I'm not going to tell anyone to get their vaccine or not, but it's made me rethink, seeing my wife like that."

"I'm going to change who I am and make sure I always do what I think is best for me and my family from now on."

Shah spin sees Saltaire to title glory



SALTAIRE have been crowned Aire-Wharfe League champions with two games to spare after beating visiting Bilton by six wickets on Saturday.

The victory puts them 41 points clear of second-placed Rawdon in Division One, who are now mathematically unable to catch them.

Bilton batted first at the weekend, and were in a relatively strong position at 89-4.

But leg-spinner Mustahsan Ali Shah (pictured) then got to work, with his 4-17 instigating a Bilton collapse which saw them crumble to 118 all out.

Despite Saltaire losing opener Muhammad Khurshid for a duck, the win and title were never really in doubt, with Awaise Hussain (59 not out) seeing his side home after 28 overs.

But Tong Park Esholt face a real fight to gain promotion into the top flight now, after they lost their crucial top of the table clash in Division Two to Horsforth Hall Park.

Josh Bennett took 4-76 for Tong Park, but he proved expensive, as did several of his teammates, as Horsforth racked up an imposing 297-8 in their 50 overs.

Tong Park were never at the races, despite opener and captain David Hester scoring a battling 42, and they were bowled out for just 154.

The defeat leaves Tong Park 14 points behind Horsforth, who occupy the second and final promotion spot. New Rover have already officially gone up.

● **BINGLEY** Congs could face a title decider at Haworth on Saturday, September 11.

Cong's lead the table on 43 points but the Brontelanders have climbed into second place in Division One of the Craven League, and are only three points behind with two matches left.

Cong's, sent in at Hepworth & Idle on Saturday, racked up 278-7, with runs coming at the front and back of their innings.

Keeper George Hicks (50) and Danny Pearson (69) put on 106 for the first wicket, and Simon Bailey (41) and Josh Nutting (60 not out) added 66 for the seventh as Harry Pinkney bagged 4-65.

The Westfield Laners made 162-8 in reply, keeper Luke Harland (39) top scoring.

Matt Roberts (3-40) and Mohammad Adil (3-53) did best with the ball for Cong's.



Lee Goddard hoists the cup high. Pic: Ray Spencer.