

Goddard bows out in the best possible way

By Harry Pincott

A BROKEN finger proved to be one of the most significant factors in Heriot's winning this season's Ryden East League, a feat they achieved in style at Goldenacre on Saturday.

Enan McIntyre, also captain of the last Heriot's XI to take the East title, 11 years ago, revealed he was mortified when he learned a month ago that Paul Kirsten, their South African batsman had broken his finger and would not play again this season.

But hasty negotiations with Trinity Acads resulted in Shahid Aslam becoming the Heriot's professional, and the young Pakistan's bowling has

played a major part, as McIntyre is first to acknowledge, in the Goldenacre side's surge towards the championship, claiming 11 wickets and scoring almost 100 runs in his three games, 63 of them against the now relegated Cupar.

However, it was not Shahid, nor another of Heriot's newcomers, Graham Hurlbatt (five for 33), who was voted Man of the Match, but George Goddard, playing his last league match after 40 years.

Goddard, 56, who along with McIntyre will be turning out in a MCC game at Harrogate later this week, was an emotional golden oldie when he received his award, to the acclaim of his colleagues

chanting: "There's only one George Goddard..."

The former Scotland spinner had taken three wickets, including that of the dangerous Alec Cilliers, to a fine running catch by Steve Thomson, and then, appropriately enough, the very last wicket to fall, that of Allan Booth, caught by, who else, McIntyre.

It was Heriot's 11th win in 18 matches, and one of their more positive displays. Put in by Cupar, Heriot's knocked up 205 for five in 47 overs, thanks mainly to Shahid's 63 and an aggressive 75 from Jim Love, their third wicket partnership putting on 72 after rain caused a delay of 80 minutes. Mind you, Love should have been stumped on 37, Booth making a hash of the chance with Love

heading heading for the pavilion.

Cupar started well enough, scoring 40 for one, but then wickets fell regularly and they were bowled out for only 89.

It was Heriot's more experienced players who were their most consistent performers during the season, but McIntyre reckons there are quite a few promising youngsters capable of playing 1st XI cricket in a few years' time, though all, bar Goddard of Saturday's side, will be back next season, and that includes Shahid, who is keen to return.

Grange continued their late run with another victory, over Corstorphine, for whom Shahid Saeed hit his fourth league century, but three wickets each for David

Ramsey, Simon Hodgson and Ian Beven, and good knocks from openers Charlie Mullins and Roddy Smith saw Grange home.

Frenchie clinched a place in next year's Scottish Cup with an easy victory over the unpredictable Carlton, David Cowan and Scott Gourlay sharing nine wickets, but there was frustration for Watsonians, who scored 229 for six against Edinburgh Acads before the match was abandoned.

And Stenhousemuir's game with Royal High was called off before a ball was bowled.

The cup qualifiers from the East are Heriot's, Stenhousemuir, Grange, Carlton and Frenchie.

Picture: Paul Edwards

ROYA
STO
RTB
SJB
IFD
SDB
ABR
DPA
DJA
WJ
KJ
E
Tot
Bla