

Cricket – success-hungry Sharif eyes Pakistan



Scotland celebrate their first win over England . Picture by Nigel Duncan Media

Safyaan Sharif kept his cool to claim the final English wicket in Scotland's historic six-run victory over The Auld Enemy at The Grange.

And the Huddersfield-born all-rounder said he backed his skills even under the most severe pressure.

The 26-year-old said that the key was when Scotland claimed a run-out near the end of the innings.

And he said: "I was confident my yorkers could work for us as long as I got the right length.

"(The victory) was a great achievement for us and I am lucky I got the last wicket but the way the team played as a whole was great.

"It was unbelievable to beat a good solid side from England. We posted 371 and it was up to us (the bowlers) to do the

job.”

England were all out for 365 and the Fife-based player acknowledged that England were in a commanding position after the first part of their innings.

The visitors were 220 for three at 28 out of 50 overs but he added: “The bowlers knew they had to keep calm and keep bowling the length and we did that.

“Our bowlers took key wickets and key times and managed to keep the pressure on them.

“It was a great achievement for Scotland and an amazing win.”

Pace bowler Sharif said it was disappointing to go out of the World Cup to the West Indies in Zimbabwe recently.

But he added: “We were unlucky with a few decisions there but, like I said, this is now and we had an opportunity today (Sunday) to show the world what we can do.

“This result proved we can play at a standard and we need a few more games like this in the year.”

He said the England game was now history and Scotland take one game at a time.

They host Pakistan in two T20 games at The Grange Club on Tuesday and Wednesday (both games at 4pm) this week.

He added: “They are the No 1 side (at T20) and hopefully we can continue this form.”