

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

The three clubs which had secured the maximum number of points from the first two matches were again winners on Saturday, and as, curiously enough, all the next five clubs in the table suffered defeat, Porthill, Leek, and Oldfields have placed a tremendous gap between themselves and their competitors. They are a select trio standing high above the heads of all other competitors. Porthill had quite an easy journey on their own ground against Silverdale, but things did not always look rosy for them, and they had to thank a lively and prolific ninth wicket partnership between R. Mawdesley and H. Eardley for a safe position. Of the early Porthill batsmen, only Barnes could do much with the bowling of J. C. Cooper, and the professional got an invaluable 47 before the left-hander bowled him. Yet seven wickets were down for 75, and the eighth went at 100. Mawdesley (36) and Eardley (40) then hit the bowling all over the field, and added 62 without being separated before the closure was applied at 162 for eight. J. C. Cooper and Brown made a promising start for Silverdale, and the professional was well set when he was unfortunately run out. This was the beginning of disaster, and the whole side collapsed. Brown made 24 out of 35 for the first wicket, and the whole side was out for 67, no fewer than three men being run out. Barnes had four wickets for 30 and H. Eardley two for 3. Cooper, who made 17, bowled very well for Silverdale and took six wickets for 36. Leek went to Longton and overcame the "Neck Enders," who were put out by Sedgwick (five for 43) and J. Pointon (five for 15) for 68. J. W. Allen damaged the professional's analysis a bit and took out his bat for 29. Sedgwick was in form with the bat, and hit 45 before he was run out, and stumps were pulled up, with the visitors' score at 86 for six.—Oldfields had Burslem for visitors, and it might be said that Hollowood and Co. were beaten by Mitchell. The Uttoxeter professional hit 70 out of 109 in really good style, and then captured nine Burslem wickets for 29. It is a long time since any single player had such an afternoon out as this in connection with the League, and Mitchell deserves hearty congratulation on a brilliant performance. Burslem totalled 92, and so fell short by only 17 runs. R. J. Mee (five for 43) and Page (four for 38) bowled well for them.—The champions made an awful mess of their home match with Tunstall, for after getting rid of the visitors for 71, they actually tumbled out for 40, 10 of which were extras. No one got double figures, and the analysis of Morgan and J. Gregory was respectively seven for 22 and three for 8. H. Matthews dismissed seven Tunstall batsmen for 32, and Wilson got three for 33. H. Winkle (20), H. Hopkins (16), and Morgan (15) were the only men to get double figures in the match.—Stoke came a "cropper," so to speak, at Crewe, where Dwyer found his form with the ball and took seven wickets for 24. G. B. Price proved his usefulness by taking three for 14, including P. Briggs. Of the 62 put together by Stoke, Nichols was responsible for 22, and 10 were extras, so that there was some feeble batting or excellent bowling, even after allowing for a treacherous wicket. E. Osborne (31) set his men a good example, and they passed the century before the last wicket fell. Nichols got the wickets as well as the runs, seven falling to him for 35.—Fenton unexpectedly yielded the points to Stone, who are, however, a much-improved side. As on other grounds, there was a slow wicket at Fenton, but Anthony and E. J. Johnson bowled so well on it that the ex-champions were dismissed for 105, and looked quite likely to get fewer, until some sound batting by H. Eagland (17), and some hitting by Deyes (17) and J. McLean (19) improved matters. Johnson took six wickets for 45, and Anthony four for 43, and they were unchanged. The Stone innings was distinguished by a really excellent 40 by F. C. Johnson, and "E. J." (19) batted well, too, at a crucial point, and made the winning hit. Stone were all out for 114, and Deyes took three wickets for 18 and H. Eagland three for 26.—Knypersley gained their first victory in the senior division at the expense of the Highfield at Leek. Thanks to a splendid 52 by H. E. Bourne, Knypersley passed the hundred and won by about 20. Horner did well with the ball, capturing seven wickets for 35. J. Pace was again the most successful bowler for the Highfield, and six wickets fell to his slow.

Stafford played their first match of the season at Coseley on Saturday, taking a strong team. Coseley batted first and scored 122, leaving the visitors an hour and three-quarters in which to get the runs. The score, however, mounted up slowly, and when time was called Stafford had lost eight wickets for 93, the game being left drawn. For Coseley, E. Harris scored 30 not out, J. T. Whitehouse 29, J. J. Davies 16, and W. Bunch 11, while the chief scorers for Stafford were T. Eaton-Shore 21, E. H. Twigg 16, F. W. Twigg 12. At Stafford a match was played between Stafford II. and Coseley II. The result was as follows:—Stafford II., 176 for seven (C. A. Wood 47, W. Sheldon 43, A. J. Ward 31, V. E. Scott not out 23, J. P. Elmore 15, V. J. Robins 10); Coseley 48 (Whitehouse 11). For Stafford, W. Sheldon took four wickets for 10 runs, and V. G. Robins five for 25. Other local matches on Saturday resulted as follows:—Wolverhampton 154, J. Yeatman not out 45, E. W. Page 28, Dutton 18, H. D. Stratton 15, G. F. Beddow 15, R. C. Page 11; Knowle and Dorridge 121 (J. H. James 45, J. Balkwill 24, A. E. Bulton 18.—Wolverhampton II., 109 (S. Jordan 31, H. V. James 30, R. M. Sankey 12, H. Dunn 11); Otton, 32 (W. Rose 15); Newport, 150 (A. F. Whittingham 25, W. M. Belt 28, H. D. Elliott 19, C. H. Lewis 16, Booth 12, J. Elkes 10); Dunstall Park, 78 (H. Hudson not out 37, J. H. Furnival 12).—Mitchole and Butlers, 121 for nine (Wilkinson 56, W. Perkins 32, A. Holloway 15, H. E. Smith 10); St. Oswald's, 82 (H. Whitman 21, W. Clapham 14); Penn, 44 (D. M. Critchley 17); Wombourne, 35 (J. Hickman 12). D. M. Critchley secured five wickets for 16 runs.—Essington, 52, Walsall Brotherhood, 27. For Essington Sherratt took five wickets for 9 runs, and Churm four for 11.

LICHFIELD CRICKET CLUB.

The annual meeting of this club was held at the Swan Hotel, Lichfield, on the 28th ult. Col. H. D. Williams, president, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were the Rev. H. L. Muriel, Capt. Nevill, Messrs. H. M. Morgan, J. Richardson, J. S. Dudley Owen (captain), H. H. Brown, W. B. Chancellor, F. Key, sen. and jun., J. E. Dawes, A. H. Barnes, G. R. Couch (honorary treasurer), and A. W. Barnes (honorary secretary). The balance-sheet showed that the club numbered 116 members, and that £37 12s. had been received in subscriptions and £44 11s. from other sources, making the total receipts £132 3s. The expenditure had amounted to £158 4s. 1d., leaving a balance of £26 18s. 1d. due to the treasurer. In addition to that debit balance, the club owed £61 19s. 9d., including £43 1s. 8d. for rent and sundry small accounts. Mr. A. W. Barnes, the honorary secretary, said his prediction had been verified that they would be about £20 worse off than this time last year, and that he did not see much prospect of saving anything during the coming season. Their membership had been increasing during the last two years, but they must make an earnest effort to add still further to the number. Col. Williams said the only way of keeping within their income would be to reduce the number of matches, and that, in his opinion, would be a pity. The more cricket they had the better it was. They must strive their best to secure more members, and to thus raise funds to meet their necessary expenditure. The balance-sheet was passed. The Executive Committee submitted the lists of matches for the ensuing season, comprising 34 for the first eleven and 15 for the second eleven. The Honorary Secretary explained that it had not been found possible to arrange matches as yet with the military at the Lichfield Garrison owing to the uncertainty of the movements of the troops, but several dates had been left open in the hope of securing fixtures.—Afterwards the meeting was made special to consider an amendment of the rules, and Mr. A. W. Barnes proposed that Rule VII. should be so altered as to provide that the subscription to the club for playing members should be not less than 10s. per annum and for honorary members not less than 5s. per annum; that gentlemen residing more than five miles from Lichfield, desirous of playing in mid-week matches, should be eligible for election at the reduced subscription of 5s. per annum, but such reduced subscription should not entitle them to use the ground for practice. Mr. Barnes said his object in reducing the subscription of honorary members to 5s. was to induce gentlemen who did not play but were interested in

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Some interesting games were played under the auspices of the North Staffordshire League. The most notable achievement was that of Longton, who won a brilliant victory on their own ground against Knypersley, after the visitors had made a sporting declaration with 188 for eight wickets. H. E. Bourne, who is being given an extended trial by Sandridge, broke a spell of ill-luck, and played a skillful and brave innings of 91. He was always master of the situation, though not scoring particularly fast, and he was still at the wickets when Mr. Hardine, who captained the side for the first time after his long illness, applied the closure, leaving the home men two hours to get the runs. Thanks to a remarkably fine not out innings of 91 by E. G. Baxter, and a hard hit 69 by H. J. Plant Longton achieved the task set them, and won close on time amid much enthusiasm by five wickets. H. Mitchell's four for 34 for Longton was the best bowling performance of the match, and E. Tunstall (32) and H. Bates (25) rendered Bourne a lot of assistance in compiling the visitors' total.—Fenton also registered a capital win over Norton who, after climbing to the second place in the table by consistently good play, have lost three matches in succession. Batting first on Saturday, Fenton were dismissed for 91 (W. Hinton 38, T. Skellars 25, and J. Smith 20), and Fenton, chiefly by means of an invaluable and gritty stand by H. Hawley (55) and H. Deading (33) took the lead with only half their wickets down. At the close they had scored 164 for seven. Hawley's innings was the feature of the match, and on such form he is the most promising young batsman in North Staffordshire. He treated the fast bowling of Wilson with scant respect, and his thumping forward strokes and dazzling cuts were alike splendid. Having practically won the match and passed the half century he recklessly threw his wicket away, but we venture to say there has not been a more brilliant piece of fearless and polished batting in the League this season than the Fenton lad's 50. The county committee should have their eye upon him. Early in the season he went to the wickets four times in succession without getting a run, but these things happen to all, and help to make the great old game so true a discipline for temper, and so healthily an influence upon and builder of character. At Leek the bowlers had a harvest, and at Uttoxeter they were hit hard and often and had little consolation. Twenty wickets fell for an average of five at Leek, and nine fell for an average of 36. Such are the contrasts of cricket. Tunstall were the visitors to Leek, and they were dismissed by Sedgwick (five for 39) and J. Pointon (five for 24) for a paltry 64. But J. Gregory (six for 17) and Morgan (3 for 21) went one better and got rid of the home side for 43, so that Tunstall won three valuable points mainly owing to the deadliness of Gregory, who is bowling exceedingly well this season. The Oldfields batsmen were in form against Stone, and a declaration was possible at 209 for six. H. S. Cadman (51) and A. E. Gausson (37) made an excellent start, but the Rev. H. S. Barber (49 not out) and H. Mitchell (35 not out) did some hard hitting after the fall of the sixth wicket. The rev. gentleman's drives had as usual any amount of force behind them. Stone were not to be beaten, and played out time with 118 for three. A. E. Ingham (62 not out) played a time and excellent innings. F. Johnson made 25 and H. Holmes 21 not out. Forth had a great difficulty in putting another victory to their credit, Leek Highfield going under at Westanton by 75 runs—167 to 92. Barnes had his usual lion's share in the matter, missing his half-century by 2 and taking five wickets for 38. E. Bawdesley (36) also showed his best form, and H. E. Hawley (four for 44) bowled throughout with the professional. J. Wilkinson batted in stubborn fashion for the visiting side and went nearly through the innings for 44. Burslem kept up their recent form, beating Crewe Alexandra on their own ground with ease. Burslem declared with 153 for eight, and the Railwaymen were unable to withstand Albert Cook, who took eight wickets for 32. The Crewe total was 89. E. Cook got near the half-century for Burslem, and several others did fairly well. In the remaining match Stoke defeated Silversdale very cleverly on the County Ground. The visitors were dismissed for 118 (Nichols six for 48), and the home men hit off the runs with half their wickets standing. J. C. Cooper (34) was top scorer for Silversdale, and with four for 39 was the only successful bowler, and P. E. Williams again showed excellent form for Stoke, and is a valuable addition to the team. His wicket runs, including 30, and P. Briggs contributed 27. The table now stands as follows:—

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Porchill	12	11	1	0	33
Burslem	12	7	3	2	23
Fenton	12	6	4	2	21
Norton	11	6	4	1	19
Oldfields	12	5	4	3	18
Stone	12	5	5	2	17
Tunstall	12	6	4	2	17
Silversdale	12	3	3	6	15
Crewe Alexandra	11	4	6	1	13
Leek	12	4	7	1	13
Longton	12	4	7	1	13
Stoke	12	4	7	1	13
Leek Highfield	11	2	5	4	10
Knypersley	11	3	8	0	9

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In the above League on Saturday Walsall, at home, gained a capital victory over Handsworth Wood. Batting first, the home side compiled 276 for six (J. C. Eaton not out 72, Brammer not out 54, W. Preston 44, C. Cozens 32, A. Flavell 27), and then declared. Handsworth Wood made a poor response, their innings closing for 156 (Fereday 66, E. H. Wigley 28). Brammer took six of the visitors' wickets for 41 runs. Westbromwich Dartmouth defeated Smethwick with little difficulty on the latter's enclosure. Their innings realized 137 (S. Jackson 97, H. E. Mitchell 19, R. Gurney not out 17, W. Parks 13), while Smethwick only scored 131 (B. Lewis 27, J. W. Roberts not out 25). Corfield bowled well for the Dartmouth side, and was credited with six for 57. At Kidderminster the home batsmen fared ignominiously against Mitchells and Butlers' bowlers. The visitors went to the wickets first, but although they started badly they had reached 255 for nine (J. Williams not out 106, E. Powell 63, J. Hadley 30) when they declared. Kidderminster were dismissed for 45, Wilkinson taking six wickets for 17 and H. J. Bayley four for 23. Other matches resulted as follows—Moseley 200 (F. G. Stephens 76, C. L. Breeden 51, G. L. Matternby 27, J. F. Byrne 17); Dudley 84 for eight (C. F. Blewitt 72, Grimeshaw 30, W. E. Hatcher 21, H. Baker 21); Aston Unity 141 (S. H. Richardson 42, W. George 33, G. W. Rea 15); Stourbridge 91 (H. Pattee 27, J. O. Hingley 22).

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

For the first time this season, wet weather interfered with the Birmingham League programme on Saturday. All the matches were ruined, and in no case was a single innings completed. The scores were as follows:—Dudley v. Walsall: Walsall 127 for five (A. L. Lyons 67, A. Flavell 22, J. Wistance not out 16, W. Preston 11). Kidderminster v. Westbromwich Dartmouth: Westbromwich Dartmouth 131 for six (F. Wheldon 37, S. Jackson 31, W. W. Langwell 30). Mitchells and Butlers v. Aston Unity: Mitchells and Butlers 188 for one (A. Holloway not out 79, Wilkinson not out 75, H. G. Powell 22). Handsworth Wood v. Smethwick: Handsworth Wood 85 for four (E. H. Wigley not out 44, J. H. Cooper 21). Stourbridge v. Moseley: Moseley 4 for no wicket.

Owing to the heavy rainstorms on Saturday, most of the local cricket matches were abandoned without much, if any, play. The following were among the scores:—Wolverhampton (v. Camp Hill Old Edwardians) 30 (E. W. Page not out 15). Market Drayton 133 (Procter 60, Eches 24, Suttbery 19, Young not out 11). Whitechurch 44 (Eccleston 22). Erdington 104 (Mills 26, Smith 22). Bloxwich 78 for seven (Hawkins 18, Sherwood 14, Thomas not out 12, the Rev. Darling 12). Sandwich 103; Butt Lane 83. Haslington 88; Goldenhill Wesleyans 31. Congleton 119 for five; Hollington 11. 51 for four. Crewe Permanent Way 11. 14; Nantwich 11. 51. Maer 136; Pell Wall 79. Churnet Valley League: Uttoxeter Town (v. Leek Highfield 11.) 39 for three. Leek 11. 110; Rocester 50 for three. Caverswall (v. Tean) 64. Cheadle (v. Oakamoor) 71. Stallington (v. Oldfields 11.) 44 for three wickets. Leek and District League: Woodhead Hall (v. Leek Alexandra) 95 for nine. Leek Ball Hays Green 63 for eight; Ipton 31 for three. Played on Tuesday—Stafford Police 171 for seven (Police-sergt. Whitehurst 41, Police-constable Rushton 35, Police-constable Whelwright 25, Police-constable Wheatley 23, Police-constable Roe 17); Cannock Police 63 (Police-constable Beach 19, Police-constable Hodson 14.)

Stafford gained a victory at Dunstall on Saturday the scores being Stafford 226 (W. H. Twig 74, V. H. Robins 44, J. Eaton Shore 41, F. W. Dyke 29, A. J. Ward 16), Dunstall 98 (H. Blomley 23, W. J. Stay 19, J. Furnival 14, J. W. Wright 10). In other local matches the following were among the results recorded:—Stafford 11. 163 (V. G. Robins 11, V. G. Scott 14, J. P. Ellsmoor 56, G. A. Wood 23, F. Warr. 12, and H. Dutton 11), Dunstall 11. 90 (P. Howard 31, F. Burslem 18, Malvern College 257 for eight (F. C. G. Neumann 61, J. H. Neumann 41, D. J. Knight 39, C. J. Mann 36, T. Cuming 21), Wolverhampton 255 (H. D. Stratton 69, E. W. Page 63, N. J. Hodgkinson 33, A. C. Fimes 27, G. Howard-Smith 17, the Rev. E. M. Baker 10). Newport (Salop) 131 (Dare 56, Tucker 21, Pritchard 20, Cooper 16, Whittingham 15, Bakewell 13, Booth 10, Bruen 10, Walton-on-the-hill 45. Bushby 89 (Hodson 32, Anderson 15), Codsall 19. Wolverhampton L and N.-W. 51, Stafford L and N.-W. 37. Wellington

Collego 154, Siemens (Stafford) 47. Wednesday 153 for seven (the Rev. Brown 40, Ryder 35, Guest 21, Lees 14, Skidmore, un. 12), Netherton 137 (Davidson 54, Bate 29, Cole 18). Hednesford 60 (Bates 25), Chesmore 11. 39. Bates took three wickets for five and Bartow six for 15. Blinton St. Leonard's 67. Willenhall 39. Chester Road 187 for six (Cheate 67, Heaton 41, Walker not out 33, Lawson 21), Bloxwich 85 (Frost 42, S. F. Thomas not out 12, R. Hawkins 12). Norton Bridge 9, Barnston 66. Tilmorke 35. Kingsley 156. Barnat's 15. Works 75. Cheddleton Asylum 108 for four wickets. Darlaston 55. Trunham Park 98 for seven. Longsdon 66. Fenton Amateurs 58. Congleton 161, Fieldhouse 232 for six. Mr. A. J. Dix's XI. 58, Maer 67. Crewe Permanent Way 247 for three, The Mayor's team 143. Churnet Valley League: Leek Highfield 129, Tean 217 for nine. Cheadle 49, Rucester 88. Oakamoor 187 for three, Stallington 62. Uttoxeter and Birthe Bridge League: Oakamoor 226, Hollington 71. Woodhead 22, Caverswall 11. 88. Maer 54, Cheadle 56. Leek and District League: Liberal Club 46, Leek Alexandra 43. Woodhead Hall 105, Ipton 31.

Played on Monday.—Lichfield 157 (F. H. Argle 32, Beauchamp not out 25, R. J. Salt 24, J. S. Dudley Owen 21, E. Dyson 11), Whittington Barracks 100 (Priv. Hayward not out 40, Lieut. Chaytor 16, L. Corp. King 15). Played on Wednesday—Lichfield 146 (J. B. Dudley Owen 49, Lieut. F. H. Gunner 33, W. J. Mercer 14, R. J. Salt 13, A. H. Barnes 12, Beauchamp 10), Handsworth Wood 135 (A. E. Davies 30, the Rev. W. Emery 27, G. Walker 22, A. S. Cooper 15, L. Wigley 14, A. D. Keeling 10). Stafford 107, Emberton 41, Davy 15, Sheldon 14), Dudley 111 (Shropshall 16, Dyke 12). The Denstone College team played four matches last week and achieved something of a record. The first, against Caverswall, they won by 269 runs; the second, against Repton 11., they won by seven wickets and 61 runs; the third, against Fenton, they won by six wickets and 67 runs; the fourth, against Trent College, they won by an innings and 86 runs, only five wickets falling in the first innings. The total score against them was 444 for 50 wickets, an average of less than nine runs per wicket; their own total was 877 runs for 23 wickets, an average of nearly 40 each. Three centuries were made, and the captain's average for the week stood at 104.—On Tuesday this week Denstone College gained a victory over King Edward's High School. The latter in two innings made 54 and 107, while Denstone compiled 168 in a single innings. For the winners C. P. Smith scored 43, T. H. Bowman 39, H. C. S. Walker not out 19, A. J. Wood 18, L. B. Helder 11, F. C. White 11.

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A general interruption of the League games was occasioned by the wet weather on Saturday. In one match, Walsall v. Stourbridge, not a single ball was delivered. The scores in the other matches were as follows:—Aston Unity v. Kidderminster: Kidderminster 72 for four (W. G. Gethin 47, C. L. Butcher 13), Moseley v. Mitchells and Butlers: Mitchells and Butlers 75 for one (A. G. Powell not out 35, A. Holloway 22, Wilkinson not out 14), Smethwick v. Dudley: Dudley 39 for three (A. Fereday not out 15), Westbromwich Dartmouth v. Handsworth Wood: Handsworth Wood 53 for one (H. Harper not out 31, Fereday 19).

On account of rain, few local matches were brought to a conclusion on Saturday. The results recorded included the following:—Penn 207 (E. Sadler 66, D. M. Critchley 50, F. Dodard 18, F. W. Taylor 16), A. Herbertson 15, C. Eddies 13; Wolverhampton II. 143 (A. C. Flanis 84, C. Pearson 23, W. Tomkinson 15, H. McMer 12), Walsall Y.M.F. 293 (Key 71, Adams not out 34, Cartwright 32, Oxspring 17, Taylor 13); Wednesbury 156 for three (Brown 86, Jones not out 39, Lees 14), Rugby United I. and N.W. R. 63; Stafford I. and N.W. R. 88. At Stafford on Wednesday an exciting match was witnessed between Stafford II. and Newport College, the latter winning by a single run. The scores were Stafford 108 (J. Hall 30, W. Sheldon 22, A. J. Ward 19, C. E. Marchant 11), Newport College 109 (N. Rejner not out 40, J. D. Knowling 20, J. A. Scott 15). For the winners N. Rejner took nine wickets for 20 runs, while for Stafford A. Brinson took four wickets for 30, J. Hall three for 24, and C. E. Marchant two for 10. On the same day Yarlet beat a Stafford eleven by 144 to 137. The Rev. H. E. Hubbard compiled 73 for Yarlet, while for Stafford V. L. Robins scored 45 not out, F. T. Dyke 26, W. Hird 18, and F. P. Emberton 14. V. H. Robins took five wickets for 37.

CRICKET WEEK AT TETTENHALL.

Some interesting cricket has been witnessed at Tettenhall in connection with the Wolverhampton Club's cricket week. Monday's fixture—Wolverhampton v. Aston Unity—was abandoned owing to the rain. On Tuesday the home club gained an easy victory over Mr. E. J. Bigwood's XI. The visitors batted first and compiled 172 (G. H. Tyler 39, F. G. Stephens 28, E. G. Bigwood not out 25, A. Whitehead 22, E. B. Crookford 16, C. L. Broeden 11, J. F. Byrne 10, F. B. Clarke 10). Wolverhampton responded with 312 for eight, the feature of their innings being the fine batting display of E. W. Page, who scored 147, making 20 boundary hits. Other useful scores for the winners were made as follows:—W. J. Biddows 45, G. Howard-Smith 32, C. H. Pearson 26, H. D. Stratton 22, R. C. Page 11, N. J. Hodgkinson 10. Birmingham Non-descripts opposed the home side on Wednesday, Wolverhampton winning by 199 to 162. For the winners, H. D. Stratton scored 60, the Rev. E. M. Baker 39, C. H. Pearson 34, N. J. Hodgkinson not out 31, the Rev. H. A. Bereford 12; for the losers, F. Burgoyne hit up 68, G. L. Rattenbury 34, Dr. C. Johnson 46, J. W. C. Turner 14, J. Kench 10. Arrangements for a match on Thursday between Wolverhampton and Warwickshire Gentlemen having fallen through, a fixture was made with the Dudley Birmingham League team.

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A brilliantly fine afternoon favoured the League matches on Saturday, and all the games were played to a finish. At Walsall there was a very exciting finish, but the home side lost a good deal of ground by faulty fielding, and Mitchells and Butlers, who are now at the head of the table, snatched a narrow victory by 81 runs to 78. For the winners H. G. Powell and J. Stevenson both scored 16, Wilkinson 15, A. D. Parsons 13, and J. Williams not out 10, while for the losers T. Lyons hit up 23, and Brammer 13. The bowling on both sides was very good. Brammer, for Walsall, getting five wickets for 33 and D. P. Pearman-Smith three for 23. The analyses of the Mitchells and Butlers bowlers were: Wilkinson three for 41, Bayley two for 25, and Brown (who only bowled three overs and five balls) four for two runs. Westbromwich Dartmouth, entertaining Dudley, made a poor show and were dismissed for 54 (B. Barter not out 10). Dudley passed the home side's total with four wickets down, and their innings realized 140 (B. G. Stevens 34, W. E. Hatfield 31, J. F. W. Bateman 14, C. W. Jukes 12, E. Sadler 12, H. F. Baker 11). For Dudley, Hatfield took six wickets for 23, and Baker three for 21. Other matches resulted as follows:—Aston Unity 268 (W. George 54, S. A. Marlow 54, A. Joyce 45, E. H. Richardson 40), Moseley 99 (A. W. Smith 31), Handsworth Wood 238 (G. W. Field 71, A. F. Cooper 42, Fereday 41, C. F. Hurst 32), Kidderminster 208 (F. J. Gethin 31, W. G. Gethin 43, F. M. Tomkinson 39), Smethwick 189 for nine (B. Lewis 41), Stourbridge 180 (T. Clark 95).

Stafford on Saturday beat Sandbach on the latter's ground by 127 runs to 77. W. H. Lamplugh had a big share in the Stafford victory, taking five wickets for 18 and scoring 57. A match at Stafford between the home club's second team and Inceley was not finished on account of rain. Inceley scored 137 for nine (J. S. Gardner not out 64, T. Bowers not out 32, S. Fairley 19, H. Brown 14, C. H. Heston 13), and Stafford responded with 39 without loss (W. Sheldon not out 22, V. G. Hobins not out 13). In other local matches the following were among the results recorded on Saturday:—Lichfield 85 (Folton 32, Owen 20, Beauchamp not out 14), Derby Grasshoppers 52 (Driffild 26, Duckesne 11, Corbett 14, Abell 14), Cannock 132 (Nichols 56, H. W. Morris 29, the Rev. L. J. Price 10), Bilbali 74, Morris captured seven Willenhall wickets for 24 runs. Wolverhampton II. 124 (L. Smith 25, R. C. Page not out 19, R. M. Sankay 19), Patshull 22, Penn 113 (D. M. Critchley 39, A. Herbertson 23), Bushbury 41, for Penn, R. Moeck took four wickets for runs. Moseley 204 for seven (J. T. Wiltchouse 32, W. Torton 69), Rowley 133 for eight (J. Marshall 36, H. Southall 35), Market Drayton 127 (Dr. Exham 33, Arkinstall 22, Johnson 21, Barnes 20), Nantwich 105 (Mills 30), Blakenhall 167 for seven (F. Horefield 61, N. Hadley 60), Walsall Y.M.F. 160 (J. Lee 33, F. Blanchard 24, H. R. Bushby 21), Harborne 101, Dunstall 85, Bostock's 48, Chadsmoor 34, Dosey 133 for nine, Siemens 59, Hednesford 41, Chase Terrace 37, Essington 64, Leamore 36, Priors Lee 71, Blymhill 47, Yarnfield 65 (innings declared), Keele 56, Alton 48, Ipton 44, Crewe Permanent Way 182 for seven, Whitchurch 100, Goldenhill 209 for seven, Newcastle 22, Congleton 159, Middlewich 75, Goldenhill 76, Brindley Ford 35, Goldenhill 74, Wolstanton 32, Macc 42, Andem 30, Uttoxeter and Blythe Bridge League: Macc 38, Chaele II. 34. Leek and District League: Leek Broughs 58, Leek Liberal Club 40, Churnet Valley League: Leek II. 104, Uttoxeter 77, Caverswall 92, Chaele 73 for seven wickets. Tean 45, Rocester 32.—Played on Wednesday: Lichfield, 282 for three (Lieut. H. Martin 131, Lieut. A. B. Baumann 100, the Rev. E. L. Muriel not out 31); Lichfield Theological College, 177 (the Rev. W. Longford 51, W. R. Tyms 41, W. E. Salmoud 21, S. G. Philmister 13, A. J. Mercer 11).

A two-days' match at Tettenhall between Wolverhampton and Mr. C. W. Clifford's XI. concluded in a win for Wolverhampton by 141 runs. The scores were—Wolverhampton, 1st innings, 246 (E. W. Page 114, Fimms 32, Kennard 30, Stratton 22, Smith 13); 2nd innings, 170 for nine declared (the Rev. Baker 49, Kennard 45, Pearson not out 30, Stratton 22). Mr. C. W. Clifford's XI, 1st innings, 195 (Constable 30, Upton 28, H. Marten 28, Sparrow 13); 2nd innings 80 (R. Marten not out 25).

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Mitchells and Butlers are in a strong position at the head of the League table with 28 points, their nearest rivals being Dudley and Walsall, with 21 points each. On Saturday, Mitchells and Butlers were entertained by Westbromwich Dartmouth at the Four Acres. The home side, who batted first, showed a lack of confidence and skill in facing the deliveries of A. Brown, and were dismissed for 109 (S. Jackson 21, H. Gurney 20, J. H. Sherwell not out 16, R. Massey 12, H. E. Mitchell 12, G. Baddley 10). Mitchells and Butlers responded with 223 (H. G. Powell 62, J. P. Stevenson 54, A. O. Parsons 28, A. Holloway 21, J. Williams not out 15, Wilkinson 13). For the winners, A. Brown took seven wickets for 55, and accomplished the "hat trick." The best bowlers on the Dartmouth side were W. W. Langwell and H. E. Mitchell, the former taking five for 32 and the latter four for 43. There was an exciting finish at Walsall, where the home side beat Moseley by two runs. Moseley's innings realized 175 (G. V. Stephen 33, W. G. Seaver 27, F. H. Bredon 20, T. S. Stafford 20). Nine of the Walsall wickets were down with the score standing at 141, and then the last two men—B. P. Pearman-Smith and G. Hawley—carried the score to 177 (J. C. Eaton 29, W. Preston 26, Brammer 25, B. P. Pearman-Smith not out 23, G. Hawley not out 18, W. Whistman not out 10). Brammer captured five of the Moseley wickets for 60 runs, while J. F. Byrne had most of the Walsall wickets, his analysis being seven for 67. Other matches resulted as follows:—Dudley 198 (W. E. Hatfield 84, H. F. Baker 30, J. W. Yates not out 19), Kidderminster 129 (Skelding 26, C. L. Butcher 25, G. E. Stratton 21), Handsworth 132 (G. M. Belding 39, H. Harper 30), Stourbridge 130 (J. O. Hingley 31, M. Davis 24), Smethwick 352 for six (F. Burgoyne 135, Bucknill 78, H. Walker 53), Aston Unity 65 (J. Devey not out 33).

In other local matches played on Saturday the following were among the results:—Stafford II. 205 for six (W. Biddow 49, E. G. Newman not out 48, J. P. Elliott not out 46, V. J. Scott 19, F. Warr 13, G. C. Davy 10), Crewe Permanent Way II. 87 (A. Shires 41, A. Klompf 30, F. Whitley 17), Aliens 208 (G. Macnamara 62, H. G. Neville 35, P. Lawrence 23), Wolverhampton 120 (J. A. Kennard 25, N. J. Hodgkinson not out 23, G. H. Smith 14, W. J. Heddows 14), Lichfield 167 for seven (Cough 103, Dudley 133), Braze Norton 64, Eglinton 39, Polesworth 92 (W. Mills 34), Dunstall 331 for six (W. J. Stay not out 151, A. V. Wormald not out 58, J. Furnival 29, A. Rowland 22, H. R. Hudson 21), Siemens (Stafford) 67 (H. Wilde 15, R. Hobson 14), Wednesbury 144 (Wilson 71, Knowles 20, Ryder 15), Bloxwich 158 (A. R. Wootton 39, Sherwood 51, the Rev. G. M. Darling 19, C. Footon 30), Stourbridge 130 for three (Aloock 57, Smith 28, Wightman 23), Tamworth 93 (Ordish 32, Nugent not out 19, Clarke 15), Newport 131 (Lewis not out 32, Dare 23, Elkes 16, Pritchard 15), Penn 120 (Critchley 46, Roston not out 32), Walsall Y.M.F. 161 (Ashwell 33, Blanchard 28, Lee 22, Keay 19, Cowie 18), Willenhall 100 (E. Podley not out 33, W. Podley 23), Bushbury 91 (E. Mobley 17, F. Davis 17), Swindon 73 (E. Crooke 22, P. Biddle 20), Leamore (Walsall) 109 (E. R. Westwood 44), Hednesford 105 (H. Henshall 32), Blakenhall 130 (F. W. Archer 49, W. Jeavons 37), Saker's 73, Cosley 209 (J. T. Banner not out 54, Busch not out 29), Shannons (Walsall) 139 (Cartwright 64), Cannock 181 (H. Morris 63, G. B. Nicholls 42, Walsall A XI, Bostocks 28, Yarnfield 21, Nantwich 61, Betley 31, Congleton 153, Northern Zingari 25, Bunbury 179, Nantwich 95, Barlaston 52, Sandon 33, Rode Park 140 for seven, Alsager 34, Churnet Valley League: Rocester 197, Caverswall 131 for six, Leek II. 120, Tean 83, Uttoxeter 63, Stallington 95, Oldfields 11, 64, Chaele 25, Chadsmoor 150 for six, Leek Highfield 58, Uttoxeter, Blythe Bridge and District League: Chaele II. 31, Hollington 56 for nine, Checkley 71, Macc 86. Played on Thursday, Lichfield 122 (P. E. Myatt 38, A. C. N. Spicer 19, Beauchamp 14, S. F. Sopwith 11); Whitlington Garrison 84 (Lieut. F. H. Gunner 28, Capt. C. C. W. Nevill 17, Lieut. W. Preston 14).

The last of the two-day games in the first week's cricket festival at Market Drayton terminated on Saturday in a draw, the home eleven being opposed to the Gentlemen of Worcestershire. Scores:—Worcestershire-Gentlemen 248 (F. A. W. How 66), 164 for six wickets (T. B. Burns 68 not out); Market Drayton 146 (A. P. Winsor 80), 283 for eight wickets; innings declared (D. C. Collins 90, T. Morrey 68, R. Marten 63, the Rev. A. G. Seymour 55 not out).

WALTON CRICKET FESTIVAL.

The Walton Cricket Club held its annual festival this week on the Old Croft Ground, Walton, near Stafford, and the cricket, which has been thoroughly enjoyed, has been favoured with beautiful weather. Thanks to Mayhew, the local club groundsmen, the wicket was in excellent condition, and remained so throughout the week. The home side were strongly represented, having the assistance of Mr. L. P. F. Campbell, who figured in the Gents v. Players match at Lords, and the Oval this year. Messrs. H. S. Altham, and R. Sale, both Oxford Blues; and Mr. G. M. Buckston, the old Cambridge University and Derbyshire County player. During the week the players and spectators have been hospitably entertained by Capt. the Hon. H. T. Allsopp and Mrs. Allsopp, the Dowager Lady Salt, the Rev. F. G. and Mrs. Inge, Capt. and Mrs. Hughes, Mr. Fourdrinier, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hughes, Mr. William Morgan, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Twigg. Among others noticed on the ground were the Rev. A. R. and Mrs. Morgan, the Rev. C. and Mrs. D'Ombrain, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Hand, Mr. and Mrs. Conway Morgan, Mrs. and Miss Lambert, Miss Hargreaves, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McFerran, Mrs. Charles Reid, Mrs. Geo. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Nesbitt, Mrs. C. H. James, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Lees (Acton Trussell), Miss Frank, Mrs. K. Rogers, and Miss Foden. The opening match of the week was decided on Monday, when Walton received a visit from the Staffordshire Gentlemen, twelve a-side being played. The Gents. batted first and made 173. R. E. Lambert carrying out his bat for one short of the half-century. Walton replied with 216 for six wickets, and won easily.

Scores:—

STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.	
J. F. Fernie, b. F. W. Twigg	23
C. H. Campbell, b. F. W. Twigg	0
H. C. Gardner, b. F. W. Twigg	0
C. H. Twigg, c. Topleis, b. Wynne	39
H. C. Rogers, st. Buckston, b. F. W. Twigg	5
E. O. Howell, c. G. Morgan, b. Wynne	11
E. R. Woodcock, b. Wynne	1
R. E. Lambert, not out	48
A. H. Human, b. F. W. Twigg	4
M. Ratcliffe, b. Campbell	9
The Rev. P. E. Mainwaring, run out	3
A. E. Hughes, b. G. Morgan	2
Extras	27
Total	173

WALTON.	
R. Sale, b. C. H. Twigg	90
C. M. Topleis, b. Lambert	4
I. P. F. Campbell, l.b.w., b. C. H. Twigg	22
G. M. Buckston, st. Gardner, b. Rogers	28
H. S. Altham, c. Gardner, b. C. H. Twigg	41
F. W. Twigg, c. Hughes, b. Lambert	11
Extras	4
Total (6 wickets)	210

G. N. R. Morgan, E. R. Wynne, W. Marden, B. L. Holland, G. C. Fourdrinier, and W. W. Morgan did not bat.

On Tuesday, a team fully representative of the Stafford Club were the visitors. Walton won the toss and failed rather unexpectedly, being all dismissed for 93. Stafford compiled the big total of 253 for nine wickets, W. H. Twigg being responsible for a well-played innings of 101. The visitors thus gained an easy victory, and Walton, going in a second time, did very well, scoring 178 for five wickets. G. M. Buckston gave a fine display, contributing 76.

Scores:—

WALTON.		STAFFORD.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.	First Innings.	Second Innings.
Capt. Allsopp, c. Bird, b. F. W. Twigg	20	F. W. Twigg, st. Buckston, b. Campbell	0
G. M. Buckston, b. F. W. Twigg	0	V. H. Robins, run out	0
R. Sale, c. Davy, b. F. W. Twigg	5	W. H. Twigg, c. Marden, b. Holland	101
H. S. Altham, b. F. W. Twigg	11	C. H. Twigg, run out	1
I. P. F. Campbell, l.b.w., b. V. H. Robins	11	A. J. Ward, b. Campbell	1
G. N. R. Morgan, b. F. W. Twigg	19	E. O. Powell, b. Wynne	12
E. R. Wynne, not out	8	J. J. Robins, l.b.w., b. Campbell	1
A. H. Human, b. F. W. Twigg	0	G. J. Davy, c. Buckston, b. Campbell	11
W. Marden, b. V. H. Robins	4	W. Bird, not out	10
B. L. Holland, b. F. W. Twigg	0	J. Daly (did not bat)	0
W. W. Morgan, b. V. H. Robins	7	Extras	32
Extras	8		
Total	93	Total (for 5 wkts)	178

STAFFORD.	
F. W. Twigg, st. Buckston, b. Campbell	0
W. Sheldon, b. Wynne	0
V. H. Robins, run out	76
W. H. Twigg, c. Marden, b. Holland	101
C. H. Twigg, run out	1
A. J. Ward, b. Campbell	1
E. O. Powell, b. Wynne	12
J. J. Robins, l.b.w., b. Campbell	1
G. J. Davy, c. Buckston, b. Campbell	11
W. Bird, not out	10
J. Daly (did not bat)	0
Extras	32
Total (for 9 wickets)	253

On Wednesday, the fixture was with Lichfield, and a very exciting match resulted, the visitors being beaten by three wickets. Scores:—

WALTON.	
Capt. Allsopp, b. F. H. Key	0
W. H. Twigg, l.b.w., b. Beauchamp	38
R. Sale, run out	21
H. S. Altham, c. Watson, b. F. B. Key	8
I. P. F. Campbell, c. Salt, b. Beauchamp	27
G. M. Buckston, l.b.w., b. Beauchamp	33
C. H. Twigg, b. Beauchamp	8
F. W. Twigg, c. and b. Beauchamp	14
G. N. R. Morgan, b. Watson	36
W. W. Morgan, c. Wilson, b. F. B. Key	2
G. Fourdrinier, not out	6
Extras	5
Total	218

LICHFIELD.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.
F. B. Key, b. Altham	56
S. Evington, b. Campbell	9
R. J. Salt, c. Buckston, b. G. N. R. Morgan	15
R. Abbett, b. G. N. R. Morgan	0
G. R. Couch, b. Altham	31
Beauchamp, b. Altham	2
M. E. Ratiff, b. G. N. R. Morgan	5
J. Watson, b. Altham	0
A. H. Barnes, not out	6
The Rev. H. L. Muriel, b. Altham	0
F. Key, l.b.w., b. Altham	5
Extras	22
Total	151

On Thursday, the Walton team journeyed to Manchester to play the Western Club, on the latter's ground. Walton, batting first, put together the creditable total of 363 for five wickets, W. H. Twigg giving an admirable display and just missing the double century by one run. He was ably assisted by Messrs. Campbell and Buckston, 200 going up for the second wicket. Walton declared, and left the Western two and three-quarter hours to get the necessary runs. The Walton bowling was equally as ineffective as the visitors' on a prime wicket, and the home team compiled 243 for three wickets, and match being drawn. Scores:—

WALTON.	
Capt. the Hon. H. T. Allsopp, b. Thwaites	7
W. H. Twigg, st. Fletcher, b. G. Morgan	199
R. Sale, c. Thwaites, b. G. Morgan	3
I. P. F. Campbell, c. Morgan, b. Thwaites	77
G. M. Buckston, c. MacLaren, b. G. Morgan	48
F. W. Twigg, not out	8
Extras	21
Total 5 wickets (Innings declared)	363

C. M. Topleis, C. H. Twigg, E. O. Powell, A. H. Human, and W. W. Morgan did not bat.

THE WESTERN.	
E. C. MacLaren, b. C. H. Twigg	109
G. W. Woods, b. F. W. Twigg	71
J. R. Creagh, l.b.w., b. Allsopp	18
P. C. Fletcher, not out	22
Extras	23
Total (for 3 wickets)	243

J. Thwaites, J. L. Stocks, R. L. Lowcock, G. N. R. Morgan, B. L. Fletcher, H. S. Pilkington, and W. J. Norton did not bat.

Yesterday (Friday) the Walton Club entertained Mr. R. C. Rogers XI. The visitors had first knock and hit up 140 (C. M. Topleis 40, F. B. Clark 20). Walton passed this total before the loss of their third wicket. Capt. Allsopp, whose fielding and batting were one of the features of the match, compiled 54 out of 166 by excellent all-round cricket and he was well partnered by Mr. Campbell, who made 42. W. H. Twigg also contributed a useful 37. J. Thwaites 21, G. N. R. Morgan 21, C. H. Twigg 15. Walton won by seven wickets, but finished their innings, scoring 235. Through pressure on our space we are unable to give the complete scores. The concluding match of the festival will be played to day (Saturday), when The Western Club pay a return visit.

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MARKET DRAYTON FESTIVAL.

A two days' match between Market Drayton and Old Cheltenham began at Market Drayton on Monday, when the home team compiled 248 (D. C. Collins 133, R. Marten 68, W. V. Meidon 18, and the visitors replied with 196 (G. E. C. Wood 71, C. H. Pigg 52). In Market Drayton's second venture Mr. Collins again gave an excellent display of batting, scoring 136, whilst T. B. Hankey contributed 44. W. Bridges 34, and T. C. Fitzherbert 26 not out, the innings being declared at 388 for eight wickets. The Cheltenhamians replied with 286 for five wickets (C. A. Cunningham 100, C. H. Pigg 73), and the match was drawn. Another two days' match began on Wednesday when the Free Foresters were the visiting team. They compiled 346 (L. G. Colbeck 85, M. Woods 125, C. Byrne 43) and the home team responded with 145 for five wickets. On Thursday they carried their total to 117 (R. Marten 47, T. B. Haukey 41 not out, D. C. Collins 25, L. W. Bridges 19). The Foresters in their second venture, made 182 for four wickets and declared (L. G. Colbeck contributing 74 not out, R. Middleboth 36, C. Byrne 26). In their third innings Market Drayton scored 269 for six wickets (T. B. Hankey 136 not out, L. W. Bridges 36, T. C. Fitzherbert 36), the match being left drawn.

Shugborough Park 208 for one wicket (Lord Anson not out 132, Sir F. H. Bathurst 47, the Hon. R. Anson not out 24), Walton 62 (C. M. Poplis not out 33). Shugborough, the Rev. F. H. Hutchins took three wickets for 41 runs. W. Battery three for 14, and the Hon. R. Anson four for 25. Played at Lichfield: Stafford 138 (E. O. Powell 43, B. H. Twigg 35, A. J. Ward 19). Match abandoned owing to rain. Played at Stafford: Stafford II 174 (W. Sheldon 43, W. J. Robins 36, J. Hall 24, T. B. Maylott 20, J. P. Ellsmoor 17). Lichfield II 181 for four wickets (F. A. A. Peake 74 not out, W. L. Mercer 41, W. J. Crump 24, J. Parsons (the Warwickshire county player) 16, H. Webb 15). Congleton 116; Nantwich 49 for six. Churnet Valley League: Tean 37 for three; Stalington 81. Uttoxeter and Elmsale Bridge League: Cavenwall II 154 for four (innings declared); Chesdale II 76. Played on Monday, at Lichfield: Lichfield 134 (Beauchamp 20, Lieut. Preston 17, Argyle 17, Connett 17, Wakeman 17); Lichfield Old Edwardians 274 (Key 81, Dudley Owen 77 not out, Couch 33, C. E. Barnes 17); Wolverhampton 298 (E. W. Page 151, W. J. Seddows 48, G. F. Seddows 48 not out, R. C. Page 16); Harborne 304 for seven wickets.

The championship of the Cannock Chase League has been secured by Wimblebury, who beat Chadsmoor, last year's runners-up of the league, at Cannock, on Saturday. Chadsmoor batted first and lost six wickets for 16 runs. The whole side were out for 45 (Pugh 13, T. Edgington 10). E. W. Harvey took six wickets for 16 runs, and G. Jones three for 41. At the drawing of stumps, Wimblebury were 105 for six wickets (G. Jones 33, J. Homer 24, A. Smith 21). Heath Hayes Unity, who have won the league championship for the past five years, are second in the league table at present, with three points out of eight. Cannock and Bagley II and Hednesford played a drawn game at Rawley, on Saturday. Mainly through the efforts of Bates (48) and W. Lyons 28 not out, Hednesford obtained 114 for five wickets. Against this the home team responded with 78 for seven wickets (Wainwright 31).

NORTH STAFFORD AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

There was some sensational cricket in this League on Saturday. On the Oldfields ground, which has usually in past years been a batsman's paradise, the Porthill bowlers, Barries and H. Eardley, dismissed the Oldfields team for 13 runs, five of which were extras, so that the total from the bat was eight. This is probably a record for the League. The home side was considerably weaker than usual owing to the absence of the Denstone College contingent, and the wicket was in a condition which enabled the bowlers to make the ball turn and come quickly from the pitch. Eardley bowled nicely, swinging the ball in with his arm at a rattling pace, and keeping so accurate a length that two singles only were scored from him in five overs. He bowled H. Redden and Mitchell, and in all took four wickets for two runs. The other six wickets fell to Barnes at a cost of exactly one run apiece. It was a memorable achievement for the two bowlers, who have been associated in many other remarkable performances during the last few years. Porthill found Mitchell's off break difficult to cope with and lost six wickets for 49, but H. E. Wood (27), W. H. Wood (22), and J. Poole (17 not out) raised the total to 107. Mitchell had eight wickets for 35. A splendid finish was witnessed at Stoke, where the home captain made a remarkable sporting declaration and bidding for victory, chanced to lose the one point he might have obtained for a draw. Fenton were the visitors, and on one of the best wickets of the year the Stoke batsmen found run-getting so hard that they took over two hours and a half to put together 171 for the loss of their wicket. Briggs and Nicholls 56, and H. Taylor. Fenton had less than two hours in which to get the runs or get out, and though the light was bad and got steadily worse, they went for the runs. Thanks mainly to H. Dearing, who hit a brilliant 82, and was out in trying to get the few remaining runs against the clock, and in the darkness, Fenton forced a draw, and in which the visitors were left in the attempt to get the winning hit. P. W. Baguley hit hard for 28. It was an exciting finish, for the batsmen were racing neck and neck, so to speak, against the clock all the way through, and especially during the last hour. Another desperate finish took place at Norton, where Crewe were beaten by the narrowest of margins. Norton opened the batting with E. Tatton (25) and T. Skelton (21) again batting well. On the Crewe side J. Dickenson kept up the remarkable form he has been showing with the bat, scoring 33, and he was helped by G. B. Price, who made an excellent 28, but when the last wicket fell there was a run required 10 to reach a draw. The visitors' speed was not much for a good many of the visitors, and they took seven wickets for 44. For Crewe, G. Price took four for 35 and Dwyer six for 67. Knypersey visited Burslem and found the home team in form with the bat. Albert Hollowood played a beautiful innings of 102 not out and Page paced the Knypersey bowlers well, scoring 152 for five wickets (H. Tunstall 12 not out, H. Simpson 35, H. E. Bourne 28). E. Fletcher took four wickets for 41. Leek are quite unable to get out of the rut of misfortune and suffered another defeat by a narrow margin. This time Stone beat them at Leek by 13, and the reverse was a serious one, as it leaves them in a position somewhat difficult to overcome. The visitors' speed above the last two League places. Not that it cannot be done, but it will need a very strong pull all together. Stone totalled 140 (P. C. Dutton 38, J. F. Fernie 24, H. Price 21). Though G. Fenton made a gallant effort for his side, and scored 40 not out, Leek were dismissed for 127, an amateur bowler took the bowling honours on each side—viz., H. Birch eight for 56 and E. J. Johnson six for 48. Birch might easily become a very useful bowler, for he has a good leg break, but his length is apt to be erratic, and he has often been rather expensive. Longton piled up 212 for five wickets against Leek Highfield (A. Smith 88, J. W. Allen 45 not out). The meeting of Silverdale and Tunstall produced an excellent game, and in the end the spoils went to the former by a margin of a dozen runs. Silverdale put together the useful total of 174 (J. E. Rushton 32 not out, F. Elms 39, C. Cadman 23), and though the Tunstall side gave an even display of batting, few runs scoring between 16 and 20 each, the last wicket fell at 83. J. Broad (24) was the top scorer, with C. Farrell (22) next. E. Groom bowled in his best form for some time and took six wickets. The championship is definitely settled in favour of Porthill, who cannot now be headed, but the struggle to avoid the last two places continues very keen. Knypersey have by some sound batting improved their position, but they are still last, and both they and Leek will find it hard to escape. Stoke and Oldfields are, however, in real danger, and it would not be greatly surprising if the two newly-promoted clubs had to apply for re-admission. The engagements of these four clubs may be given in order to facilitate a comparison of their chances. Oldfields have still to meet Fenton and Knypersey at home, and Leek Highfield and Stone away; Stoke have Knypersey and Tunstall at home and Stone and Silverdale away; Leek have Silverdale and Burslem at home and Knypersey and Tunstall away; and Knypersey have Leek and Longton at home and Stoke and Oldfields away. It will be seen that Knypersey have to play all the other three clubs that are in the most perilous position, so that a good deal will depend upon the form of Knypersey. It will be seen that Stone and Tunstall, neither of whom are yet safe, also figure twice each in fixtures with those below them, Tunstall having to meet Stoke and Leek, and Stone having to face Stone and Oldfields. There are wide possibilities therefore at the lower end of the table. Tunstall, with only Crewe, Leek, and Stoke to get points from, may not have much to spare, but we fancy the chances of Stone and Stoke, who may each total about 30 points. Leek are in the doldrums and seem incapable of pulling themselves together, so they are likely candidates for re-election, and it may possibly be left to the meeting of Oldfields and Knypersey on Sept. 16 to decide who shall share their fate. At present the table is as follows:—

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts.
Porthill	22	18	1	3	57
Fenton	23	12	4	7	43
Norton	23	12	7	4	40
Burslem	23	8	7	8	31
Longton	23	8	8	7	28
Crewe Alexandra	23	7	8	7	28
Leek Highfield	23	6	7	10	28
Silverdale	23	6	7	10	28
Tunstall	23	7	11	5	26
Stone	23	7	10	5	26
Oldfields	22	5	8	9	24
Stoke	22	6	11	5	23
Leek	22	6	11	5	22
Knypersey	22	5	11	6	21

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

In consequence of stoppages through rain and bad light, only two of the Birmingham League matches were brought to a definite conclusion on Saturday. Handsworth Wood defeated Walsall in a low-scoring game at Brown's Green by the narrow margin of four runs. The home side were dismissed for 108 (Fereday 24, R. Evans 20, A. D. Keeling 17, C. F. Hurst 11), and Walsall replied with 101 (L. Taylor not out 44, G. H. Cozens 23, W. Preston 11). Brammer, the Walsall professional, took six wickets for 22, while R. Evans took nine of the Walsall wickets at a cost of only 49 runs. Westbromwich Dartmouth were decisively defeated by Smethwick at the Four Acres. Smethwick, who went in first, hit up 191 (J. W. Roberts 45, B. Lewis 35, J. Poot 32, D. Dorman 19, white Dartmouth scored 120 (S. Lamb 58, B. Baxter 22). For the winners, Bucknell took four wickets for 35 and F. Burzyne three for eight. Mitchell and Butler, who are at the head of the table with a lead of 11 points over their nearest rivals—Walsall, Dudley, and Handsworth Wood—compiled the big score of 237 for eight (H. G. Powell 70, Wilkinson 51, J. S. Stevenson 50, H. J. Bayley 25, W. C. Smith 19, A. Holloway 17, R. E. Parr not out 14) at Cape Hill, but Kidderminster managed to effect a draw, the score being 131 for four (S. G. Tomkinson 22, F. L. Cowell not out 49, when a heavy shower and bad light put an end to the game. In the other two drawn games the scores were as follows:—Dudley 133 (A. Fereday 56, B. G. Stevens 40, E. Sadler 24), Moseley 119 for three (G. W. Stephens 42, G. Hallam not out 41), Aston Unity 224 for nine (A. Davis 64, W. H. Greenway 38, S. H. Richardson 34, H. Holland not out 24), Stourbridge 113 for three (M. Davis not out 50, H. Bryant not out 22).

In local matches, the following were among the results recorded on Saturday:—Lichfield 223 (Couch 47, C. F. Barnes 44, Eglinton 35, Beauchamp 24, Myatt 20, F. Key 19, Oreham 13, F. B. Key 12, A. H. Barnes 11), Sutton Coldfield 109 for four (Creeford not out 112, Parsons 26), Cannock 102 (N. H. Hobbs 22, G. B. Nichols 19, Horace Morris 18, J. Morris 15, the Rev. L. J. Price 10), Rugley 70 (R. C. Rogers, J. Selby, Gardner 15). For the winners, Horace Morris took seven wickets for 34, while Bowes captured seven Cannock wickets for 16. Wednesday 219 for nine (W. Crantfield 71, G. Skidmore, sen., not out 58, W. Holmes 33, F. Rawinson 39, H. Wilson 14), Coseley 78 (W. Turton 24, W. Summers 13), Hednesford 155 (Westwood 63, Rogers 20, Picken 17), Blithwick 11, 90 (Wootton 53), Chadsmoor 103 (W. Pugh 23, F. Edgington 21, T. Edgington 17, Westwood 15), Siemens (Stafford) 41. For the winners, T. Edgington took six wickets for 17, while F. Sellman caught four batsmen behind the wickets. Blakenhall 83 (P. F. Foster 35), Priorside 67 (R. E. Morris 30), F. W. Turton, of Blakenhall, captured ten wickets for 42 runs. Beaudesert 91, Chadsmoor II 82 (E. Edgington 23, Southwick 21), Booth 28, Hanley 65, Calverhall 120, Tean 31, Crewe P.W. 46, Calverhall 115, Woodhead 93, Melr (for six wickets) 66, Kingsley (for one wicket) 124, Burslem (for six) 22, Market Drayton 64, Nantwich (for eight) 196, Curnet Valley League: Oakmoor 147, Chesdale 90, Leek and District League: Woodhead (for seven wickets) 139, Ipatons 24, Leek Broughs 77, Alexandra 36. A match between Lichfield v. Derbyshire Friars was played at Lichfield on Wednesday. Scores:—Lichfield: Key, st. Evans, B. Wilson, 40; Beauchamp, l.b.w., b. Goldie, 9; Felton, c. Jeff, b.; C. Irlion, 24; A. H. Barjes, c. Goldie, b. Crichton, 2; Watson, b. Goldie, 26; Lient, Preston, c. Barrington, b. Goldie, 11; Major Wilson, c. Goldie, b. Wilson, 6; the Rev. Murie, b. Crichton, 23; Blackshaw, c. Crichton, b. Wilson, 1; Marshall, c. Wilson, b. Goldie, 11; A. W. Barnes, not out, 2; extras, 6; total, 161. Derbyshire Friars: Barrington, not out, 106; Evans, c. Preston, b. Beauchamp, 17; Capt. Bagdaley, b. Beauchamp, 2; Capt. Lyon, l.b.w., b. Beauchamp, 9; Jeff, not out, 52; extras, 10; total (three wickets), 196.