

TO-DAY'S CRICKET.

CHESHIRE v. STAFFORDSHIRE

Visitors Lead on the First Innings

Fine Batting and Bowling Performances.

When the war broke out Staffordshire had to play Norfolk and the Surrey II. XI., but these games were cancelled, and from that time until to-day, the Staffordshire County Eleven has not played one game. It has not been possible to arrange many matches this year, owing to the fact that many of the first-class counties are not running second elevens, and, moreover, the grounds of the minor counties for the most part, are not in the best of condition. The consequence is that Staffordshire will not meet old rivals from Northumberland, Durham, Surrey, Kent, Glamorganshire, and Monmouthshire. Home-and-home games, however, have been fixed up with Cheshire and Hertfordshire, and there is a possibility of an M.C.C. eleven visiting Stoke in August.

The Cheshire match was first on the list and the Staffordshire men visited the pretty ground at Bollington, which considering the long drought, was in good condition. The wicket might have been better, and appeared to cut up somewhat, but the visitors put up an excellent show and carried their score practically to 200. At one time they looked as though it would be a difficult matter to reach the century, nine wickets having fallen for 64 runs.

C. J. Taylor, of Leek, and George Deyes, the Stoke professional, put up a wonderful exhibition and in the short space of half an hour had hit up 104 runs.

There were only four players in the Staffordshire side who took part in the last county game at Stoke in 1914, these being J. J. Awty, A. Smith, J. Ankers and George Deyes, and to-day they were responsible for 104 of the runs scored.

The early morning was beautifully fine, but when the game was commenced, promptly at 11.30, there was a rather high wind and the sky was overcast. Rain fell slightly, but the weather cleared, and when play opened with Staffordshire at the wickets—Mr. Albert Cook having beaten Mr. Vernon Hope in the spin of the coin—Awty and Smith were in partnership. The bowling was shared by Cook, the former Norton professional, and Riley, from Wallasey.

VISITORS BAT FIRST.

Awty took the first over from Cook, and he apparently touched the third delivery, for there was a confident appeal for a catch at the wickets, and the umpire simultaneously signalled that the batsman was out. It happened, however, that the wicket-keeper had dropped the ball, and in consequence Awty had a lucky escape. Only a single was scored off Cook's first over, and Riley followed with a maiden. When Cook next bowled three runs were scored, and then off the first ball of Riley's second over, Smith made a beautiful stroke to the off, but was smartly taken at extra deep cover by Jones. It was unfortunate that such a clever batsman should have lost him his wicket.

The first wicket fell for four runs, and after Sedgwick had joined Awty the score was taken to 11, when the Leek man was bowled. Skellam followed, and the score was taken to 29 by good cricket, though the batsmen took every precaution with the bowling. Cook in particular being hard to play. Matters livened up when Ankers joined Awty. He opened rather shakily and lifted a ball just over the heads of the fielders. Once settled down he hit with great freedom and was not disposed of until he had registered 45. Towards the close of the innings he hit Riley for four fours, thrice lifting the ball out of the ground. Altogether he hit seven fours. Awty was eventually taken behind the wicket, off Cook, with his score at 24.

FINE LAST WICKET STAND.

After this things went pretty badly for Staffordshire until the last partnership commenced at 12.40. The bowling was still unchanged, but the batsmen showed no lack of confidence and Taylor in particular gave a very fine exhibition. His cricket was perfect and he hit all round the wicket, being undefeated at the end of the innings when he had compiled 61. Some idea of the character of his innings can be gathered from the fact that he only made 21 scoring strokes and hit 12 fours, the ball going clean out of the ground on many occasions.

Deyes opened with caution, and although not such an attractive bat as Taylor, he kept the fielders busy and scored a delightful 34 in excellent style. Not an extra was recorded until L. N. Jones went on to bowl, two boundaries and two singles being the outcome of his first over, the wicket-keeper being beaten on each occasion. He played most expensive, his three overs costing 32 runs. Three other bowlers were introduced in Hope, Anthony, and Turner and the four overs sent down by them cost 36 runs. Cook was the most successful of the Cheshire trundlers, and accounted for six wickets for 67. The Staffordshire innings lasted until the luncheon interval.

CHESHIRE'S DISASTROUS START.

Cheshire opened disastrously, losing Hope, Anthony, Morris, and Stevenson for 14. A. S. Turner and Cook, however, improved matters and carried the score to 53, Turner in particular being responsible for some lovely driving. The partnership was dissolved when Ankers brought off a fine catch at square-leg which dismissed Cook, and Turner followed afterwards, being caught and lowballed by Lockett. The follow-on was saved by Harrison and Wainwright, who formed the eighth wicket partnership, for they succeeded in carrying the score from 60 to 102. The last wicket put on 10 runs. Lockett bowled superbly, taking five for 14.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

A Smith c Jones b Riley	1
J J Awty c Morris b Cook	24
Sedgwick (H) b Cook	5
J T Skellam b Cook	10
J Ankers c Hope b Cook	44
A Cook b Cook	5
J Wilkinson b Riley	1
A Lockett b Cook	2
H Birch b Riley	1
C J Taylor not out	61
Deyes (G) b Hope	34
Extras	9
Total	198

CHESHIRE.

V Hope run out	1
Anthony c Birch b Sedgwick	6
H Morris b Taylor	4
J Stevenson c abd b Sedgwick	0
Cook c Ankers b Deyes	23
A S Turner c and b Lockett	41
T A Higson b Lockett	2
L N Jones c Sedgwick b Lockett	0
F Harrison c Awty b Lockett	13
A Wainwright not out	10
Riley c Sedgwick b Lockett	9
Extras	3
Total	112

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
4	11	29	62	74	91	92	94	94	198	

Cheshire.—First Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	11	12	14	73	77	79	80	102	112	

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.					
	O.	M.	n.	w.	
Cook	10	2	67	6	
Riley	14	2	54	3	
L N Jones	3	0	32	0	
V Hope	1	0	6	1	
Anthony	2	0	18	0	
A S Turner	1	0	12	0	

Cheshire.—First Innings.					
	O.	M.	n.	w.	
Sedgwick (H)	10	1	39	2	
C T Taylor	8	1	30	1	
Deyes (G)	6	1	26	1	
A Lockett	7.1	1	14	5	

Sedgwick bowled one no-ball, and Deyes one wide.

Umpires: Messrs. C. T. Merritt, Stoke; and J. Bray, of Bollington.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S VICTORY OVER CHESHIRE.

Deyes and Taylor in Brilliant
Last Wicket Stand.

LOCKETT'S SUCCESSFUL BOWLING.

STAFFORDSHIRE—First Innings.

A Smith c Jones b Riley	1
J J Awty c Morris b Cook	24
Sedgwick (H) b Cook	5
J T Skellam b Cook	10
J Ankers c Hope b Cook	45
A Cook b Cook	5
J Wilkinson b Riley	1
A Lockett b Cook	2
H Birch b Riley	1
C J Taylor not out	61
Deyes (G) b Hope	34
Extras	9
Total	198

2nd Innings.

A Smith b Riley	0
J J Awty c Morris b Cook	0
Sedgwick (H) c Cook b Anthony	46
J T Skellam b Cook	2
J Ankers b Hope	39
A Cook b Hope	5
J Wilkinson not out	56
A Lockett b Cook	2
H Birch b Cook	40
H J Taylor absent (hurt)	0
Deyes c Morris b Hope	3
Extras	2
Total	195

CHESHIRE—First Innings.

V Hope run out	1
Anthony c Birch b Sedgwick	6
H Morris b Taylor	4
J Stevenson c and b Sedgwick	0
Cook c Ankers b Deyes	23
A S Turner c and b Lockett	41
G A Higson b Lockett	0
L N Jones c Sedgwick b Lockett	2
F Harrison c Awty b Lockett	13
A Wainwright not out	10
Riley c Sedgwick b Lockett	9
Extras	3
Total	112

Second Innings.

V Hope c Wilkinson b Sedgwick	17
Anthony b Lockett	5
H Morris b Lockett	27
J Stevenson b Lockett	10
Cook c Smith b Birch	0
A J Turner b Birch	2
G A Higson c Skellam b Cook	18
D N Jones c and b Sedgwick	11
F Harrison c Lockett b Sedgwick	1
Wainwright not out	4
Riley c Wilkinson b Sedgwick	6
Extras	7
Total	108

FAIL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	11	29	62	74	81	92	94	94	108

Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	2	9	36	87	93	104	190	195

Cheshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	11	12	14	73	77	79	80	102	112

Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18	22	54	61	63	64	87	93	98	108

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

Cook	0	M.	R.	W.
Riley	16	2	67	6
V Hope	14	2	54	3
L N Jones	3	0	32	0
A S Turner	1	0	6	1
Anthony	2	0	13	0
A S Turner	1	0	12	0

Second Innings.

Cook	17	0	68	5
Riley	9	0	35	1
V Hope	14.3	3	54	3
Anthony	5	0	36	0

Cheshire.—First Innings.

Sedgwick (H)	10	1	39	2
C T Taylor	8	1	30	1
Deyes (G)	6	1	26	1
A Lockett	7.1	1	14	5

Sedgwick bowled one no-ball, and Deyes one wide.

Second Innings.

Sedgwick (H)	16.5	4	46	4
A Lockett	15	4	35	3
H Birch	6	1	12	2
A Cook	4	1	8	1

Sedgwick bowled a no ball and Cook a wide. Umpires: Messrs. C. T. Merritt, Stoke; and I. Brag, of Bollington.

(BY "ONLOOKER.")

Staffordshire won their first county match this season against Cheshire by a margin of 173 runs. It was an interesting game and some good cricket was served up. The team which consisted almost entirely of North Staffordshire League players, was well captained by Mr. Albert Cook, of Burslem. He won the toss against Mr. Vernon Hope, and the game was started promptly at 11.30 at Bollington on Thursday, on a spacious ground with most picturesque surroundings. Bollington possess quite a number of cricket enthusiasts, and they turned up in good numbers, particularly after the luncheon interval, the amount taken at the gates the first day reaching £35. Cook, formerly with Necton and now of Bollington, was included in the side, while A. S. Turner and A. Wainwright, of Bollington, and V. Hope and F. Harrison, of Macclesfield, also played, and thus a local interest was added to the game.

The visitors opened none too well. Awty took the first over from Cook, and after his third delivery the bowler made a confident appeal for a catch he thought his colleague had made at the wicket. Strange to say the umpire was under the same impression and signalled the batsman out. This decision was immediately reversed when he saw the wicket-keeper had failed to make the catch, and I understand the umpire afterwards agreed with Awty that he did not touch the ball, so that had Morris made the catch the batsman would not have retired. However, the game proceeded and Smith lost his wicket after a brilliant off-drive, being well taken by Jones at extra deep cover. Another wicket fell at 11, and still another at 29. Some bright hitting was seen when Ankers joined Awty. The latter did not altogether like the bowling, particularly that from Riley, the left-hander, but, at the same time, he got in some useful scoring strokes. Ankers played with great confidence, and quickly got to work and frequently lifted both bowlers over the boundary. Such hits usually count six, but it had been arranged that not more than four should be recorded every time the ball reached the boundary. The partnership was dissolved with the total 63, Awty leaving after contributing 28. Ankers followed him 12 runs later, his 45 including seven 4's.

At this point a rot set in, and four batsmen left in quick time. It looked odds on the whole side being out for less than the hundred, but on Deyes joining Taylor the spectators were treated to a really fine exhibition. Taylor was already in his stride, and was hitting all round the wicket. Like Ankers, he knows how to open his shoulders, and he did so to advantage on Thursday, lifting the ball on many occasions out of the ground. Deyes realised that runs were needed and played steadily. He made the most of the first loose ball that came his way, which he smartly despatched to the off boundary, a favourite stroke of his. Runs continued to come rapidly, and in the space of half an hour these two players had very materially altered the Staffordshire score. They scored more than the whole of their colleagues combined, for when Deyes was beaten they had compiled 104. Taylor's score was 61, and when one states that he only made 21 scoring strokes and hit 12 fours, it will be readily understood that the innings was a treat to watch. Deyes put on 34 and hit seven fours. It proved to be the finest partnership of the match, and undoubtedly had a great deal to do with Staffordshire's victory.

Cheshire's reply was somewhat feeble, and it was generally expected that they would have to follow-on. This procedure was saved, however, by Harrison and Wainwright, who carried the score from 80 to 102. But the best partnership was that between A. S. Turner and Cook, who commenced to get runs at a very critical period, for four batsmen had been disposed of for 14. Turner's style is very much after that of Ankers. He is well built, and it is no trouble to him to hit. His batting is always attractive, because of the judgment he displays, and his timing on Thursday was perfect. At times he hit the bowlers over the ropes, and before he left to a wonderful catch by Lockett he had put on forty-one. The partnership had been responsible for 59 runs, the score now standing at 73 with half the side out. Cook lost his wicket to a fine catch at square leg by Ankers, who jumped up to the ball and caught it at the second attempt. He had contributed 23 in a faultless innings. The remaining batsmen carried the score to 112, and Staffordshire were left with a first innings lead of 88.

Going in a second time they lost three wickets for nine, but with Sedgwick and Ankers together, both big hitters, things began to look lively. Ankers had hit three successive fours when a storm broke over the ground and play ended for the day. Rain fell heavily throughout the night, and did not cease till about noon on Friday. It was possible to re-open the game after the luncheon interval, when the Staffordshire men put on a total of 195, and left Cheshire 281 to knock off in the space of three hours. There was plenty to enthuse over from the Staffordshire point of view, for Sedgwick, after having narrowly escaped being run out and being given another life by Morris at the wicket, he commenced to hit with freedom. The bowling was frequently changed for Ankers was also in a good humour. When Cook came on, however, Sedgwick treated him with scant respect. He pulled three successive deliveries to the boundary, and followed with a single, so that his initial over cost Cheshire 13 runs. When he had scored 46, Sedgwick left to a good catch in the slips by Cook off Hope, and a little later Ankers joined him in the pavilion after putting on 39 in a bright and breezy innings. The game was thus carried from nine to 86 for the fourth wicket. Another fruitful partnership was made by Wilkinson and Birch, both Leek players. The former was very cautious at the start, so much so that the fielders crowded upon him, but he soon altered the field, and was undefeated in the end with 56 to his credit. Birch also compiled a useful 40. Taylor was not seen this innings, because of an injury he received while fielding the previous day; in fact he was not able to take part in the game at all on Friday.

When Cheshire faced their big task the weather looked very threatening, but fortunately for Staffordshire it kept fine, and the home county were disposed after two hours' batting. Hope was missed by F. W. Goodwin, of Bollington, who kindly fielded for Taylor, off the first ball sent down by Sedgwick. The batsman turned the ball to leg, and Goodwin, running in, made a valiant attempt to make the catch, but the ball seemed to bounce out of his hands near the ground. The highest scorer was Morris with 27, and the other players to reach double figures were Hope 17, Higson 13, Jones 11, and Stevenson 10. Wainwright did his best to wear down the bowlers, and batted a lengthy period for four runs. He was undefeated when Riley was snapped up at the wicket with the total score 108.

The Staffordshire men were very smart in the field, particularly in the first innings when five very clever catches were taken. Wilkinson kept wicket finely. Three extras counted in the first innings, but two were against the bowlers, a no-ball and a wide being sent up. In the second innings Wilkinson was only responsible for five of the seven extras, so that he put up a clever performance, first with the gloves, and afterwards with the bat.

A word of praise must also be given to Lockett, the Stoke footballer. He is a keen sportsman, and in his first county match he has covered himself with glory. In all he took eight wickets for 49, but the work he did in the first innings proved to be the finest bowling performance of the match. He dismissed five batsmen for 14, and his analysis is worth reproducing. It is as follows:—

	4	w	1	4
	w	1	w	
1	1	1	w	
	1	w		

Cook was the most successful Cheshire bowler, and took eleven wickets in the two innings for a total of 135.

COUNTY CRICKET AT STOKE.

Next Week's Game Against Hertfordshire.

Staffordshire's Strong Eleven.

The Staffordshire County eleven will play for the first time since the outbreak of war on the Stoke ground next Monday and Tuesday, when Hertfordshire will provide the opposition. Early this week the teams met at Watford, the home county getting an advantage by a solitary run on the first innings. When they batted again, however, they cut up very badly and lost eight wickets at small cost. Morgan was practically unplayable. Other Staffordshire men to do remarkably well were E. H. Bourne, J. S. Heath, H. Sedgwick, J. N. Oldham, A. Bickerton and H. Birch. The latter bowled particularly well, but was out of luck.

For the return match next week, Staffordshire will field an even stronger side than the one on duty at Watford. They will be without E. H. Bourne, however, but he is expected to be available for the match with Cheshire on August Bank Holiday, on which day Staffordshire will also have the help of Mr. N. F. Partridge, of the Malvern XI. But the attraction on Monday will be the appearance of such players as the Hon. F. S. G. Calthorpe, of the Cambridge XI, Mr. E. C. McFerran, captain of Shrewsbury, Captain Bruerton, Mr. C. H. Campbell, Mr. J. M. Goldham, Mr. J. S. Heath, and Mr. F. Heath, besides H. Sedgwick, and B. F. Morgan. Everybody interested in cricket has no doubt followed the performances of the Hon. F. S. G. Calthorpe. He is a Staffordshire man by birth, and his appearance in the County XI will be greatly welcomed. He has seldom failed to take his three or four wickets in each innings this season, although he did not keep up to this standard in the 'Varsity match. It will be realised, therefore, that with the Hon. F. S. G. Calthorpe and Mr. J. S. Heath in the team, Staffordshire will have the help of two first-class amateur bowlers. Given fine weather, the game is bound to be brimful of interest, and it is hoped the cricket-lovers of North Staffordshire will turn up in good numbers, and so give the County committee every encouragement to provide the best possible cricket for the district. Next season, when there will be a bigger fixture-list, Staffordshire will be able to field a very strong eleven indeed.

Mr. Partridge, who has promised to play against Cheshire, was accepted in 1914 as one of the most promising batsmen in the public schools.

It is doubtful whether Mr. Bernard Meakin will be able to act as captain during this season, the chief reason being that his demobilisation is so recent that he feels that he cannot do himself and the County XI justice.

Hertfordshire v. Staffordshire.

Played at Watford on Monday and Tuesday last, the game ending in a draw. Scores:—

HERTFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.	
S G E Etheridge c Awty b Sedgwick	0
L J Reid b Morgan	8
G B Cuthbertson c Wilkinson b Sedgwick	8
Rev C G Ward b Morgan	5
A F Leighton c Burt b Sedgwick	1
H J Paris b Heath	35
B D Hylton Stewart c Wilkinson b Heath	119
W H Marsh c Wilkinson b Heath	7
Shelford b Heath	2
J S Wright b Heath	13
H M Lemoine not out	12
Extras	35
Total	243

HERTFORDSHIRE.—2nd Innings.	
S G E Etheridge c Wilkinson b Sedgwick	0
L J Reid b Morgan	0
G B Cuthbertson b Sedgwick	1
B D Hylton Stewart b Morgan	11
Rev C G Ward b Sedgwick	7
A F Leighton b Morgan	2
H J Paris c Sedgwick b Heath	10
W H Marsh c Bruerton b Heath	6
Shelford not out	1
J S Wright not out	10
Extras	6
Total (for 8 wks)	53

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.	
E H Bourne c Marsh b Paris	85
J J Awty b Stewart	5
A Bickerton b Shelford	10
Capt W Bruerton b Shelford	8
J M Goldham c Etheridge b Shelford	3
J S Heath c Reid b Shelford	40
Sedgwick (H.) b Stewart	5
C H Campbell c Reid b Marsh	67
J Wilkinson c Etheridge b Stewart	2
H Birch c Lemoine b Marsh	4
Morgan (B. F.) not out	4
Extras	9
Total	242

FALL OF WICKETS.	
Hertfordshire First Innings.	
1	2
0	16
1	2
0	0
1	2
8	41

BOWLING ANALYSIS.	
Hertfordshire First Innings.	
Sedgwick (H.)	19
Morgan (B. F.)	24
J. S. Heath	13
J. J. Awty	2
H. Birch	12
Second Innings.	
Sedgwick (H.)	16
Morgan (B. F.)	19
J. S. Heath	3
Staffordshire First Innings.	
B. D. H. Stewart	21
Shelford	30
W. H. Marsh	8.2
H. J. Paris	7
J. S. Wright	6
B. D. Hylton Stewart	bowled four no balls.

LONGTON SCHOOL CRICKET.

LEAGUE TABLE.	
P.	W.
Uttoxeter-road	6
St. James'	4
High street	4
St. Gregory's	2
Florence	2

A large crowd witnessed a very exciting match off Stone-road on Friday, when the championship of the Longton School Cricket League was decided in favour of Uttoxeter-road School against St. James' School. The batting and fielding were very smart, and although the victors only won by two runs, they have played well all through the season, and fully deserve their position at the top of the list. Scores:—
Uttoxeter-road: T. Corbushley b Rowe 0, F. Copp b Rowe 4, A. Spendlow b Rowe 6, A. Bradburn b Rowe 5, D. Edwards run out 8, J. Lovatt b Rowe 0, W. Utting c Stevenson b Lee 8, H. Bailey b Lee 14, A. Redman b Lee 2, H. Sharnam b Lee 0, I. Procter not out 1, extras 2; total 52.
St. James': H. Lee b Redman 12, A. Rowe run out 11, J. Burgess c Corbushley 1, W. Burton c Utting b Redman 1, G. Wootton not out 18, H. Tunnicliffe b Redman 0, J. Stevenson c Procter b Corbushley 4, W. Dimmock b Corbushley 0, A. Myatt b Redman 1, R. Alsopp c Utting b Redman 0, W. Taylor run out 0, extras 2; total 50.

FRIENDLY MATCHES.

LEEK v. LEAK NATIONAL RESERVE.
Played at Leek, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The proceeds were for the benefit of the Leek Cottage Hospital. The National Reserve Band were in attendance, and played selections each evening. Scores:—
National Reserve: F. Hassall c Ederton b Pace 7, W. Malkin lbw b Astbury 1, W. Bonall b Pace 12, J. Pointon, junr. c Astbury b Pace 40, J. Turner b Kidd 8, J. Pointon, senr. c Astbury b Pace 2, H. Outram c Oliver b Pace 2, H. Pointon c Oliver b Pace 7, H. Cooe b Pace 18, B. Worthington c Trenton b Pace 5, S. Hassall not out 1, extras 3; total 105.
Leek: Capt. Bruerton c Turner b Bonall 0, J. W. Sutcliffe b Bonall 2, G. Fenton c and b J. Pointon, senr. 28, V. Astbury b Bonall 1, A. Baskerville c Turner b H. Pointon 17, G. Bussell c H. Bonall 0, W. Rider run out 0, H. Oliver b Bussell 0, H. Hassall b J. Pointon, senr. 0, A. L. Kidd not out 41, J. Pace c J. Pointon, senr. b J. Pointon, junr. 8, extras 3; total 75.
LONGTON ST. JAMES' v. LONGTON ST. GREGORY'S.
St. James': B. Lee c Shaw b Walters 5, A. Rowe b Walters 1, G. Wootton b Baker 1, H. Tunnicliffe c Grady b Baker 0, J. Burgess c Walters b Baker 5, W. Dimmock c Walters b Baker 0, J. Stevenson c Walters 10, W. Burton c Walters 0, A. Myatt run out 0, J. Hammarley c Walters 0, W. Taylor not out 0, extras 5; total 56.
St. Gregory's: W. Walker b Lee 0, B. Grady b Rowe 2, W. Walters c Burgess b Lee 0, J. Perry c and b Lee 1, J. Whitfield b Rowe 0, T. McGarry run out 3, A. Shaw run out 0, G. Baker c Wootton b Rowe 1, P. Aspinall not out 0, M. O'Connor c Myatt b Lee 0, H. Judd c Dimmock b Rowe 1, extras 0; total 16.
Rowe took five wickets for a run.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE COMBINATION.

	Mid.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Pts.
Leycey	12	11	1	0	33
Alsagers Bank	12	10	2	0	30
Betley	12	7	5	0	21
Sandford H.	12	6	6	0	19
Scot Hay	12	6	6	0	19
Wolstanton Marsh	12	6	6	0	18
Keele	12	6	6	0	18
Pittshill H.	12	4	8	0	12
Kids Grove H.	12	2	10	0	6
High Lane H.	12	1	11	0	3

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Alsagers Bank, 58; Kids Grove, 39.
Leycey, 59 for six; Pittshill, 49.
Scot Hay, 196; Sandford, 91 for nine. Match drawn.
Betley, 51 for eight; Wolstanton, 21.
Keele, 117; High Lane, 118.
Kids Grove visited Alsagers Bank, and, having first use of the wicket, made a score of 39, J. Sherratt (8 not out) being top scorer. G. Beech and W. Downing bowled unchanged, and each took four wickets for 16. Alsagers Bank lost their first two wickets for no runs, and, aided by the smart fielding of the visitors, H. Smith and W. Haynes dismissed six batsmen for 22 runs. The remaining batsmen, however, took the score to 58, which brought victory. H. Smith and W. Wainwright each took two wickets for nine runs, H. Brown one for 10, and W. Haynes took four wickets for 26 runs. He also took three difficult catches.
Pittshill journeyed to Leycey, and having first use of the wicket compiled 49, E. Parker (10) and Mr. Extras (10) being top scorers. J. Hill took three wickets for 16, J. Whalen three for 20, and W. Hough one for three. Leycey had not much difficulty in passing the visitors' score, and eventually declared at the sixth wicket for 59 runs. G. Spender (11), C. Symonds (10), and J. Whalen (17) were the chief scorers. E. Garner and J. Wilsnaw were Pittshill's best bowlers, taking three for 22 and three for 16, respectively.

The match at Sandford, where Scott Hay were visitors, created a record score for a league game this season. Scott Hay had first use of the wicket, and compiled 196, eight of the batsmen making double figures. Sandford tried seven bowlers, J. Baker being the best, bowling 15 overs and taking four wickets for 35 runs. The home batsmen played very cautiously, making 91 runs for nine wickets. They succeeded in forcing a draw. A. Birtles (21), J. Ashworth (16), J. Holmes and E. Baker (14 each) were the batsmen to reach double figures. T. Bloor three for 21, J. France (four for 25), and B. Griffiths (two for 17), were Leycey's best bowlers.

High Lane received Keele as visitors, and compiled 118. H. Bailey took six wickets for 38 runs and H. Johnson two for 14. Keele responded, and passed the home team's total by one run. A. Cooper (five for 36) and S. Durbar (three for 31) were High Lane's best bowlers.

Wolstanton made a poor show on their visit to Betley. Batting first, the whole side were out for 20 runs. F. Booth took six wickets for 11 and F. Sutton four for nine for the home-sters. Betley passed Wolstanton's score in quick time. They declared at 50 for seven wickets.

MATCHES FOR NEXT SATURDAY.

Kids Grove v. Betley.
Sandford v. Leycey.
Scot Hay v. Pittshill.
Alsagers Bank v. High Lane.
Wolstanton v. Keele.

FINN BATTING BY J. E. NICHOLS.

Staffordshire cricketers will be pleased to know that J. E. Nichols is doing remarkably well as coach to the Mill Hill XI. Referring to his play the other week the "Sportsman" says:—

J. E. Nichols, the old Staffordshire player, made 103 out of 132 against the school and then retired, and on the Saturday again playing for Mr. Elliott's XI. against the Mill Hill Club 131, before being caught at cover-point. Nichols has been coach to Mill Hill for the last twelve months, and has brought the XI on wonderfully well, the indoor practice in the winter having been very popular. His many friends in Staffordshire and elsewhere will be pleased to see that his strenuous life in the trenches has not destroyed his old skill.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. H. L., Fenton.—Tunstall was the last N.S. League team for whom W. Brown was professional.

TO-DAY'S CRICKET.

County Match at Stoke.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S RETURN GAME WITH HERTFORDSHIRE.

STOKE, Monday.

Staffordshire opened their return county match with Hertfordshire shortly before noon to-day. The weather was dull, but the attendance was rather good. The home eleven was not so strong as was anticipated, a notable absentee being the Hon. F. S. G. Calthorpe, the Cambridge University player. He gave his promise to assist Staffordshire, but subsequently he received an invitation to play for Warwickshire, which he accepted. Herbert Sedgwick was also absent, his business preventing him from taking his place in the team. The visitors were well represented, but they were without Mr. Hyllon Stewart, who recorded a century in the first innings against Staffordshire at Watford last Monday.

HOME COUNTY'S INNINGS.

Mr. Campbell, having won the toss, sent in J. J. Awty and F. R. Heath to open the Staffordshire innings. The bowling was shared by H. N. Kent and Shelford. The batsmen opened cautiously, the first two overs yielding a couple of runs to each player. Of the two bowlers Kent proved the most troublesome, and at times the ball rose awkwardly from the pitch. Awty was the first to settle down and his off driving was perfect. He punished Shelford for a couple of three's, and later got Kent away to the off boundary for the first four of the match. The score was rising at a good pace, and Heath, who was playing excellent cricket, though he scored much slower than his colleague, contented himself with singles, all the result of excellently played strokes. Twice, however, he credited himself with a three, and immediately afterwards with a couple.

FIRST BOWLING CHANGE.

W. W. H. Marsh bowled for Shelford with the score at 34, and Awty lost no time in on driving him for four. The total had reached 39 when Heath opposed Kent. As was the case early on the ball rose awkwardly from the pitch, and midway through the over the batsman, with his bat high up, was caught on the chest, the ball being taken at the wicket by Lemoine. The appeal for Heath's dismissal was sustained by Mr. McArthur, and he retired to an unfortunate decision. He had contributed 14 by sound cricket.

He was succeeded by his brother, J. S. Heath, who immediately cut Kent for a couple and off drove him for three. He treated Marsh with greater respect, however, and the rate of scoring slowed down. The 50 went up when Awty off drove Marsh for four, the game having been in progress 45 minutes. In the next over Heath got Kent away for a well run three, and immediately afterwards the bowler disturbed Awty's leg stump. His contribution to the total was 23. He hit three four's, two three's and four two's. Two more wickets fell for the addition of six runs, Capt. Bruorton being caught and bowled after he had cut Kent for a couple, while E. C. McFerran was taken in the slips at the second attempt by Shelford. The total was now 60 and all four wickets were credited to Kent.

BRIGHT BATTING.

When H. Birch joined Heath the rate of scoring increased. Heath showed a particular liking for Kent's bowling, off whom he scored most of his runs. Birch quickly got into his stride, and he treated the crowd to some delightful hitting. He opened with a two and followed with a three. Two similar scoring strokes were credited to him and then in one over he despatched A. R. Gausson, who had relieved Kent, four times to the boundary, three of the strokes being past cover, while another was a clever hook. The century was reached in an hour and fourteen minutes. Birch helped himself to another two off Shelford, who went on at 07 for Marsh, but in the next over, in endeavouring to repeat his stroke past cover off Gausson, he was well taken by Ward. He had scored 29, his last scoring stroke recording the only single of his innings.

J. S. HEATH DISMISSED.

This brought the Staffordshire captain as partner to Heath, and the rate of scoring slowed. Subsequently, however, Heath hooked Kent, who had returned to the attack, to the boundary, and then off drove him for a four, all run. He had reached 36 when he was bowled by Kent. His hits included two 4's, two 3's, and two 2's. A. Lockett joined his captain with the total 117, and was badly missed in the slips before he had scored. The score was carried to 126 when the luncheon interval was taken.

In the second over after the luncheon interval, Campbell was smartly taken at the wicket off Kent, so that seven wickets were down for a total of 130. Morgan joined Lockett and the batsmen lost no opportunity of adding to the score, their running between the wickets being excellent. Lockett was the chief scorer, and after having on drove Kent for three, he pulled Shelford to the boundary. Another excellent stroke to leg by Lockett off Kent brought three runs, one counting for an over-throw. This brought him in opposition to Shelford, whom he promptly off drove for a single. Morgan followed with a similar drive, the ball travelling at a fast pace in the direction of mid-off. The elder made an excellent attempt to arrest the ball, but failed, and three runs resulted. In the same over Morgan lifted the ball to the off boundary. In fifteen minutes after lunch the total had been carried to 150. Morgan was bowled by Kent eight runs later, and this brought Wilkinson and Lockett together. The former opened by turning Shelford to leg for three, and then Lockett stepped out to the same bowler and was smartly stumped.

When Eardley joined Wilkinson he registered a couple through the slips. His partner turned Kent to leg in fine style for three, and then Eardley was bowled, the innings closing at 3.45 for a total of 167, after having lasted two hours and ten minutes.

Kent was by far the most successful bowler, his eight wickets costing 55 runs.

The visitors opened their innings at three o'clock, the Rev. C. G. Ward and C. H. Cuthbertson opposing J. S. Heath and Morgan. Runs came very slowly, the batsmen finding great difficulty in playing the bowling. Twenty-one runs had been compiled, when Ward, who had contributed 13, was beaten by Heath. When Cox joined Cuthbertson the latter was missed by J. S. Heath in the slips off Morgan, but in the next over Heath made amends by bowling the same batsman. So far he had taken two wickets for six runs.

Morgan met with success when the score had reached 30, when he clean bowled Cox with a ball that kept low. With H. C. Blower and S. G. Etheridge together, runs still proved difficult to get, but once Blower got Heath to the leg boundary for four. Later on Etheridge stepped out to Morgan and was smartly stumped, four wickets being down for 40.

Play will be resumed at 11.30 to-morrow.

STAFFORDSHIRE—First Innings.

J. J. Awty b Kent	23
F. R. Heath c Lemoine b Kent	14
J. S. Heath b Kent	36
Capt. W. Bruorton c and b Kent	2
E. C. McFerran c Shelford b Kent	0
H. Birch c Ward b Gausson	29
C. H. Campbell c Lemoine b Kent	8
A. Lockett st Lemoine b Shelford	21
Morgan (B. F.) b Kent	11
J. Wilkinson not out	6
H. Eardley b Kent	2
Extras	10

Total 167

HERTFORDSHIRE—First Innings.

Rev. C. G. Ward, b J. S. Heath	13
C. H. Cuthbertson b J. S. Heath	6
D. S. Cox b Morgan	2
M. C. Blower not out	41
S. G. Etheridge st Wilkinson b Morgan	4
H. N. Kent c Birch b Morgan	0
C. V. Tarbox st Wilkinson b Morgan	3
Shelford b J. S. Heath	0
W. W. H. Marsh b Morgan	1
H. M. Lemoine c F. R. Heath b J. S. Heath	5
A. R. Gausson c Eardley b Morgan	5
Extras	25

Total 103

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
39	54	58	60	103	117	130	158	162	167

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
H. N. Kent	19.3	3	55	8
Shelford	16	2	57	1
W. W. H. Marsh	7	2	18	0
A. R. Gausson	4	0	27	1
H. N. Kent bowled a no-ball.				

Umpires: Mr. C. T. Merritt, Stoke, and Sergt. McArthur, St. Albans.

COUNTY CRICKET AT STOKE.

Staffordshire v. Hertfordshire.

Home County's Victory by 142 Runs.

STOKE, Tuesday.

In their first innings, in reply to Staffordshire's total of 167, Hertfordshire compiled 103. They lost half their batsmen for 42, after which things continued to go badly with them, eight wickets being down for 59. The ninth wicket, with Blower the principal scorer, put on 29, and after Lemoine had been dismissed, Gausson assisted Blower to carry the score to 103, so that the last two wickets accounted for 44 runs.

J. S. Heath and Morgan bowled unchanged throughout the innings, and singularly enough Morgan sent up an identical number of overs to the ball as Kent. Whereas Kent took eight wickets for 55, Morgan disposed of six batsmen for 38. Heath also bowled remarkably well, and at one time had two wickets for six. His total bag was four for 42.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S SECOND VENTURE.

With a lead of 64 on the first innings, Staffordshire commenced their second venture, and some bright cricket was served up. Awty and F. R. Heath were the initial batsmen, and the former played with such confidence that he quickly compiled his 36 runs. He hit air round the wicket with great freedom, and many times despatched the ball to the boundary. His first four scoring strokes were fours, and in all he got the ball to the boundary seven times. He also hit two two's.

Heath played more cautiously, but only succeeded in scoring seven when a ball from Kent beat him. The first wicket, therefore, fell at 37. Birch, who followed in, adopted Awty's style and scored at a quick pace, and before he was dismissed he equalled the first batsmen's total. He hit two four's, four three's and five two's.

Four wickets were down for 74, but the fifth partnership took the total to 102. Then the bowlers became more prominent, and when stumps were drawn for the day, Staffordshire had lost eight batsmen for 109.

The remaining home batsmen were at the wickets this morning for 20 minutes when the innings closed, and Hertfordshire were left 201 runs to score to win. The most attractive bat was Wilkinson, the wicket-keeper. He was particularly strong on the on-side, and many times pulled Kent to advantage. He compiled 15, during which time Morgan and Eardley were disposed of, so that he was undefeated at the close. The decision that disposed of Morgan for leg before was given by Mr. Merritt. As a matter of fact the ball hit the batsman high up on his thigh, and appeared to be too high to bowl him.

Kent again bowled well, and in 15 overs took seven wickets for 67 runs. His figures for the two innings were 15 wickets for 122, by no means a bad record.

THE VISITORS' REPLY.

The sun shone when Hertfordshire commenced their task, the first time since the start of the match. The Rev. G. C. Ward was accompanied at the wicket by Cuthbertson, and they opened steadily to the bowling of Morgan and E. H. Eardley. Fifteen runs had been recorded when the former was taken in the slips by Awty off Morgan. The same bowler quickly disposed of Cox, the new comer whom he caught and bowled before he had scored.

Blower was next man in, the top scorer in the match so far, and who retired undefeated at the end of the visitors' first innings. His stay was very short indeed, for after registering a single, he tamely played a ball on the on-side which was easily taken by Campbell. When Etheridge joined Cuthbertson, run-getting was even slower, and at one time six overs were bowled and only a single recorded. However, the score was taken to 23 before Cuthbertson left to a one handed catch by Awty. He was top scorer so far this innings, with 16 to his credit.

Kent followed in and registered two when he endeavoured to hit a ball from Morgan and was bowled. Tarbox signalled his appearance by off-driving Morgan for two. The batsmen crossed three times, but Sergt. McArthur signalled one short run. In the last over before lunch Morgan bowled Tarbox, his figures being six for 21. Thirteen runs were scored off Eardley's eleven overs. The score at the luncheon interval was six for 37.

When play was resumed, Lockett bowled for Eardley, and soon met with success, bowling both Etheridge and Sheffield at small cost. E. C. McFerran relieved Morgan, and succeeded in disposing of Marsh, which brought Lemoine and Gausson in partnership for the last wicket. Two runs were added when Lockett bowled Gausson, and Staffordshire won by 142 runs.

When the Hertfordshire second innings opened, Wilkinson was hit in the mouth with a rising ball from Morgan. For the remainder of the game F. R. Heath kept wicket and did remarkably well. Kenneth Gleave fielded before lunch, and then after the resumption G. A. E. Ruggley went out.

The innings was over by three o'clock.

STAFFORDSHIRE—First Innings.

J. J. Awty b Kent	28
F. R. Heath c Lemoine b Kent	14
J. S. Heath b Kent	36
Capt. W. Bruerton c and b Kent	2
E. C. McFerran c Sheffield b Kent	0
H. Birch c Ward b Gausson	29
C. H. Campbell c Lemoine b Kent	8
A. Lockett st Lemoine b Sheffield	21
Morgan (B. F.) b Kent	11
J. Wilkinson not out	6
H. Eardley b Kent	2
Extras	10

Total 167

STAFFORDSHIRE—Second Innings.

J. J. Awty c Tarbox b Kent	36
F. R. Heath b Kent	7
H. Birch c Ward b Marsh	36
Capt. W. Bruerton b Kent	4
E. C. McFerran lbw b Kent	4
J. S. Heath c Lemoine b Kent	13
C. H. Campbell c Etheridge b Kent	1
A. Lockett b Marsh	4
Morgan (B. F.) lbw b Kent	7
J. Wilkinson not out	15
H. Eardley c Blower b Sheffield	7
Extras	2

Total 135

HERTFORDSHIRE—First Innings.

Rev. G. C. Ward, b J. S. Heath	13
C. H. Cuthbertson b J. S. Heath	6
D. S. Cox b Morgan	2
H. C. Blower not out	41
S. G. Etheridge st Wilkinson b Morgan	4
H. N. Kent c Birch b Morgan	0
C. V. Tarbox st Wilkinson b Morgan	3
Sheffield b J. S. Heath	0
W. W. H. Marsh lbw b Morgan	1
H. M. Lemoine c F. R. Heath b J. S. Heath	5
A. R. Gausson c Eardley b Morgan	5
Extras	23

Total 103

HERTFORDSHIRE—Second Innings.

Rev. G. C. Ward c Awty b Morgan	6
C. H. Cuthbertson c Awty b Morgan	16
D. S. Cox c and b Morgan	0
H. C. Blower c Campbell b Morgan	1
S. G. Etheridge b Lockett	0
H. N. Kent b Morgan	2
H. C. Tarbox b Morgan	3
Sheffield b Lockett	6
W. W. H. Marsh b McFerran	5
H. M. Lemoine not out	2
A. R. Gausson b Lockett	0
Extras	8

Total 58

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire—First Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
39	54	59	60	103	117	130	158	162	167
Staffordshire—Second Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	46	64	74	102	103	103	109	129	136
Hertfordshire—First Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
21	26	30	40	42	47	56	69	88	103
Hertfordshire—Second Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15	15	17	28	32	37	46	47	56	58

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
H. N. Kent	19.3	3	55	8
Sheffield	18	2	57	1
W. W. H. Marsh	7	2	18	0
A. R. Gausson	4	0	27	1
H. N. Kent bowled a no-ball.				

Staffordshire—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
H. N. Kent	15	2	67	7
Sheffield	6.1	1	31	1
W. W. H. Marsh	8	0	16	2

Hertfordshire—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
J. S. Heath	19	4	42	4
M. A. E. Ruggley	1.3	4	13	6

Hertfordshire—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Morgan (B. F.)	15	4	26	6
H. Eardley	11	4	13	0
A. Lockett	6.5	1	6	3
E. C. McFerran	3	1	5	1

Umpires: Mr. C. T. Merritt, Stoke, and Sergt. McArthur, St. Albans.

NEXT WEEK'S MATCH.

Next Monday and Tuesday Staffordshire will meet the County Ground at Stoke, when the following will be selected from the following: J. J. Awty, C. H. Campbell, E. H. Blower, J. S. Heath, F. R. Heath, J. J. Awty, H. Eardley, G. R. Ridgway, Capt. W. Bruerton, H. C. Blower, H. Birch, Morgan (B. F.) and J. Wilkinson.

COUNTY CRICKET AT STOKE.

STAFFORDSHIRE DEFEAT HERTFORDSHIRE.

The county cricket ground at Stoke has not escaped the scourge of the war. With county cricket in suspension for four complete seasons, and the ground given over latterly to football and other sports, it was not surprising to find some dilapidation. The general appointments can be got right before another season comes round, no doubt, and skilful treatment may also do much to restore the wicket to its wonted excellence for the 1920 programme, but, alas! for the outfield. To reproduce the velvety greensward which made fielding a joy in other days out of such a blackened and lumpy desert may well be a matter of time. The enthusiastic efforts of groundsmen John Butler had certainly worked wonders, and cricket was played under better conditions than seemed at all likely a couple of months ago. But the pitch did not play well from the first, for though it was on the fast side the ball would always "bite" on the rather bare surface, and often "kicked" ominously, whilst as the match progressed the wearing process was so pronounced that batsmen were bound to have a lean time and bowlers a harvest.

Staffordshire were rather weakly represented, and it was singular that each side included only one professional. The home county batted first on Monday morning, J. J. Awty and F. R. Heath were opposed by H. N. Kent and Sheffield. The professional is quite a veteran slow left-arm bowler, who can get pretty well of spin on the ball, and his bowling had more in it than his figures suggest. But the tall young amateur was the dominating personality in the visiting side. Taking a rather fearsome run, Kent delivers a fast-medium ball, right arm, getting quite a lot of pace sometimes, and holding others back in rather deceptive fashion. He uses finger spin to get a pronounced break from the leg on his slower ball, and even made a fast one of good length turn surprisingly at times. It was his first county match, and he made a notable debut. It may be added that he is an old Chiltonian and plays club-cricket chiefly with South Hampstead.

Kent commanded great respect from the first, but both batsmen played well, and Awty, in particular, missed few opportunities of scoring. Starting at 11.50, the pair were still in possession at 12.10, and it seemed as though they would force the dangerous bowler off, when an unfortunate decision cost Heath his wicket and gave Kent a new lease of life. Heath was given out to a catch behind the wicket from a rising ball which touched his chest, but was nowhere near his bat. Awty soon followed, bowled in trying to turn a quick full-pitch to leg, and two more wickets speedily fell to Kent. With J. S. Heath and Birch together, Kent was given a rest, and Birch hit four fours from consecutive balls by Gausson, who succeeded the Chiltonian. Birch's merry luncheon having been ended by a catch at point, Kent resumed, and yoked Stanley Heath. He should also have had Lockett caught in the slips before lunch, when the total was 120 for six. On resuming, Campbell was soon taken by the wicket-keeper from a very fine ball, but Lockett and Morgan added 25 in a quarter of an hour.

The veteran Herts. captain, the Rev. C. G. Ward, opened the visitors' innings with C. H. Cuthbertson, a youngster who, if he did not display a great repertoire of strokes, shaped like a coming batsman. Morgan and J. S. Heath (hotel end) bowled, and both were soon making full use of the sporting qualities of the wicket. The amateur mixed up his leg breaks with a faster ball that sometimes whipped back sharply from the off, and Morgan turned them both ways at a capital pace whilst keeping a steady length. Heath's quick one bowled the rev. gentleman all over his wicket at 21, and Cuthbertson was beaten by a foot of break from the leg five later. Then Morgan came into his own, and four wickets quickly fell to his credit. Wilkinson was very smart in stumping Etheridge, and Tarbox, the former being as pretty a bit of work as one need to see. Edgat wickets were down for 30, but Blower, who played quite well though often beaten by the ball, improved matters somewhat, and Staffordshire's lead was 61.

Staffordshire went in again at 5.15, and Awty gave a capital display of forcing tactics in hitting up 36 in 20 minutes, which included seven fours. Birch, though twice missed in the slips from Kent's bowling, again hit in lusty fashion, and the hundred went up with

only four wickets down. The last 20 minutes of the day's play saw another change, for four more wickets went, and Staffordshire left off with a lead of 173 and two wickets in hand. These two wickets added 27 on Tuesday morning, and might have added more had not Morgan been the victim of another bad decision. Kent made his bag for the match into 15 wickets for eight runs apiece.

Set 201 to get for victory, Hertfordshire's task was hopeless on the wearing wicket, and Morgan soon settled the issue. Bowling from the hotel end, he had the batsmen practically at his mercy, Cuthbertson alone making any show of playing him. The youthful batsman maintained a sturdy defence for an hour, and, like his captain, was caught at deep slip from a rising ball. The deliveries which bowled Kent and Tarbox were beauties, the latter a lovely baller that broke back from leg at a rare pace. At lunch, six wickets were down for 37, and Morgan claimed them all. A further 40 minutes sufficed for Lockett and McFerran to complete the dismantling of the visitors and leave the home county with a victory by 142 runs.

Morgan, who played for Somerset some years ago, is selected to play for Middlesex, for whom he has a birth qualification, against Lancashire at Old Trafford on Aug. 13. He bowled nicely in this match, as 12 wickets for 61 clearly prove.

An unfortunate mishap occurred to Wilkinson early in Hertfordshire's second innings. A ball from Morgan got up very quickly and struck him in the mouth, dislodging no fewer than five teeth. F. R. Heath took the gloves thereafter, and Staffordshire fielded a substitute.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
J. J. Awty	b Kent...	28	c Tarbox b Kent 36
F. R. Heath	c Le...		
molne b Kent...		14	b Kent..... 7
J. S. Heath	b Kent...	36	c Lemoine b Kent..... 13
Capt. W. Bruntton			
c and b Kent...		2	b Kent..... 4
E. C. McFerran			
Sheffield b Kent...		4	lbw, b Kent... 4
H. Birch	c Ward b		
Gausson.....		29	c Ward b Marsh 36
C. H. Campbell	c		
Lemoine b Kent...		8	c Etheridge b 1
A. Lockett	st Lemoine		
b Sheffield.....		21	b Marsh..... 4
Morgan b Kent...		11	lbw, b Kent... 7
J. Wilkinson	not out	6	not out..... 15
H. Eardley	b Kent...	2	c Blower b Shel-
			ford..... 7
Extras.....	10	Extras.....	2
Total.....	167	Total.....	136

HERTFORDSHIRE.

FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
Rev. C. G. Ward	b		
J. S. Heath.....		13	c Awty b Mor-
C. H. Cuthbertson	b		
J. S. Heath.....		6	c Awty b Mor-
D. L. Cox	b Morgan...	2	c and b Morgan 0
H. C. Blower	not out.	41	c Campbell b Morgan..... 1
S. G. Etheridge	st		
Wilkinson b M'Kan		4	b Lockett..... 9
H. N. Kent	c Birch		
b Morgan.....		0	b Morgan..... 2
H. V. Tarbox	st Wil-		
kinson b Morgan...		3	b Morgan..... 3
Sheffield b J. S. Heath		0	b Lockett..... 6
W. H. Marsh	lbw, b		
Morgan.....		1	b McFerran.... 5
H. M. Lemoine	c F.		
Heath b J. Heath...		5	not out..... 2
A. R. Gausson	c Eard-		
ley b Morgan.....		5	b Lockett..... 0
Extras.....	23	Extras.....	8
Total.....	103	Total.....	58

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

STAFFORDSHIRE.		O. M. R.W.	
Kent	19.3.3.55.8	Kent	15.2.67.7
Sheffield	16.2.57.1	Sheffield	6.1.1.37.1
Marsh	7.2.18.0	Marsh	8.0.36.2
Gausson	4.0.27.1		
Kent bowled	1 no-ball		

HERTFORDSHIRE.

O. M. R.W.		O. M. R.W.	
Morgan	19.3.4.38.6	Morgan	15.4.26.6
Heath	19.4.42.1	Eardley	11.1.13.0
		Lockett	6.5.1.6.3
		McFerran	3.1.1.3.1

TO-DAY'S CRICKET.

COUNTY MATCH AT STOKE.

STAFFORDSHIRE v. CHESHIRE.

STOKE, Monday.

The holiday attraction for North Staffordshire cricket enthusiasts who had remained in the district was the county match between Staffordshire and Cheshire. When the teams met at Bollington in June, Staffordshire recorded a somewhat easy victory. Last week both Staffordshire and Cheshire met Hertfordshire and were successful, but Cheshire's was the most decisive victory. They have a very capable side just now, and to-day's game promised to be full of interest.

The home county were not quite as selected, F. R. Heath and H. Birch being unable to play, and their places were taken by A. Lockett, who has done remarkably well for the county this season, and J. W. Johnson, the Churnet Valley League player, who years ago found his place in the eleven. Three other changes were made from last week's side, E. H. Bourne, C. R. Ridgway, and H. Sedgwick coming in for H. Birch, J. Wilkinson, and H. Eardley.

The weather was gloriously fine early in the morning, but subsequently it became dull, and rain threatened. The Cheshire players, who had to travel from the west of their county, were rather late in arriving, because of the difficulty of railway travelling, and it was quite noon before Staffordshire opened their innings, Mr. Campbell having beaten Mr. Hope on the spin of the coin.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S VENTURE.

The initial batsmen were J. J. Awty and E. H. Bourne, and they commenced before a large and enthusiastic crowd of spectators. Cook, who was formerly professional for Norton, but is now with Bollington, opened the attack. Awty treated him with the utmost respect, and no runs were forthcoming from his first over. Hope bowled from the station end, and Bourne was responsible for a lovely glide for four off his first delivery. The next ball he placed past mid-on for a single. Awty smartly turned the bowler to leg for three, and immediately afterwards Bourne played Hope wide of mid-on for another three. The over cost 11, and Hope immediately gave way to Smoker.

Cook's next series yielded three, and then the batsmen set about Smoker's bowling. The batting was of an attractive character, and the Staffordshire men ran between the wickets exceedingly well. Bourne had scored 16 when he gave a hard chance to Cook at first slip. The bowler, however, dropped the ball. The "life" did not prove of much avail to the batsman, who left to a smart catch at the wicket in Smoker's next over. The total score was 30.

J. W. Johnson joined Awty and played Smoker through the slips for a well-run three. At this period rain commenced to fall, and the score had reached 40 when the players were compelled to retire to the pavilion. They had been away twenty minutes when the weather brightened up. They at once resumed, and Johnson lifted a ball over the head of point for a couple, and afterwards neatly turned the bowler to leg for a like number. The last ball of the over he placed through the slips for a single, which brought him in opposition to Smoker. He scored a single off the first ball, but the rest of the over proved uneventful. Cook looked like sending up a maiden over, but Johnson pulled the last ball for three, which carried the total to 50. He then off-drove Smoker for a single, and Awty followed by lifting the ball over the heads of the slip fielders to the boundary. In the next over Cook disturbed Johnson's wicket. The batsman had played excellent cricket for his score of 15. J. S. Heath joined Awty with the total 57. The latter nicked one from Smoker for four, and then followed with a single through the slips. Rain again commenced to fall and the players retired. They also took the luncheon interval.

PLAY AFTER LUNCH.

When play was resumed the score was steadily increased. At 72 Cook appealed for Heath leg before-wicket, which, however, was not sustained. In the next over from Cook, Heath returned the ball, but the bowler failed to reach it to make the catch. He made a valiant attempt, however. The fielding was very keen, and the bowling such that the batsmen could not afford to take liberties. Awty enlivened matters somewhat when he turned Smoker to leg for a couple, and immediately afterwards off-drove the same bowler for three. Heath cut a ball for a couple, so that the over yielded seven. In the next over Awty made a faulty stroke and returned the ball to Cook. He had scored 40, and he hit two fours, four threes, and four twos. The score was now 89 for three.

C. R. Ridgway, who followed in, only troubled the scorers with a couple of singles before he was bowled by Cook. This brought Captain Bruerton in partnership with Heath. At 95 L. N. Jones relieved Smoker, and after each batsman had registered a single, Heath smartly turned the new bowler to leg for three. Then Captain Bruerton off-drove him for two. This brought up the hundred, the innings having been in progress an hour and 35 minutes. Heath next hit Cook for three, and then in the next over Captain Bruerton was completely beaten by Jones, and half the side were out for 108.

E. C. McFerran followed and opened cautiously. In the meantime, Heath off-drove Cook for four, and followed with a single off the same bowler. A maiden over from Jones followed, and then McFerran stepped in front of a ball from Cook and retired leg before wicket. Six wickets were thus down for a total of 115. Further disaster followed when the Staffordshire captain was smartly taken at the wicket, off Cook, two runs later. A. Lockett, who followed in, opened with a couple from a rather lucky stroke, and then Heath left, having been bowled by Jones. He had compiled 32 by good cricket.

PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP.

Sedgwick, on joining Lockett, was not long in getting going, while his partner also set about the bowling, and once he lifted Cook to the on boundary for four. He scored much faster than his colleague, and hit a two, a three, and a four in quick succession. The pair had put on 34 runs when Sedgwick left to a good catch by Cook in the slips. Joined by Morgan, Lockett continued to bat freely, and was loudly applauded for some very well-played strokes. With the total 159, Smoker resumed for Jones, and Lockett lifted his first delivery in the direction of point. The ball rose to a good height, and Hope seemed to lose sight of it. He endeavoured to make the catch, however, but failed, and two runs were scored. In the same over the innings was closed through Morgan being bowled. It had lasted two hours and thirty-five minutes. Cook, who bowled throughout, had five wickets for 53.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

J. J. Awty c and b Cook	40
E. H. Bourne c Dickenson b Smoker	16
J. W. Johnson b Cook	15
J. S. Heath b Jones	32
C. R. Ridgway b Cook	2
Capt. W. Bruerton b Jones	4
E. C. McFerran lbw b Cook	0
C. H. Campbell c Dickenson b Cook	0
A. Lockett not out	31
Sedgwick (11) c Cook b Jones	6
Morgan (B F) b Smoker	4
Extras	0
Total	159

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

T. A. L. Brocklebank c J. S. Heath b Sedgwick	27
Anthony (H) b Sedgwick	0
W. E. Jones c Sedgwick b Morgan	1
H. Morris not out	18
A. E. Lawton b Sedgwick	12
Extras	6
Total (for four wickets)	64

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30	57	89	95	106	115	117	119	143	159

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire, First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Cook (J)	25	9	53	5
Smoker (G)	13.3	0	58	2
L. N. Jones	9	2	28	3
V. Hope	1	0	11	0

Umpires, Messrs. C. T. Merritt, Stoke, and A. Evanson, Crewe.

TO-DAY'S CRICKET. COUNTY MATCH AT STOKE.

STAFFORDSHIRE v. CHESHIRE.

Home Team's Narrow Win.

STOKE, Tuesday.

Good progress was made in the county game at Stoke yesterday, for when stumps were drawn Cheshire had compiled 91 for the loss of eight wickets in reply to Staffordshire's score of 159. Twice during the home county's innings, rain drove the players to the pavilion, and then at 5.30 rain again commenced to fall. The Cheshire men continued to bat, however, and even when rain fell heavily they satisfied the wish of several spectators, who made their voices heard across the ground, and played on. At 5.40, however, it was impossible to continue, and at 6.10 the captains agreed that no further play was possible that day.

This morning the sky was overcast, but the weather cleared somewhat, and Cheshire resumed their innings shortly after 11 o'clock, and continued for 35 minutes, when the whole side were dismissed for a total of 121, Staffordshire thus obtaining a lead of 38 on the first innings.

In all Cheshire batted two hours and five minutes, starting shortly after four o'clock yesterday afternoon. They opened none too well, because Anthony left at 13 before he had scored, having played a ball from Sedgwick on to his wicket, while W. E. Jones, who followed, was smartly taken by Sedgwick in the slips off Morgan one run later.

BRIGHT BATTING.

With T. A. L. Brocklebank, a very stylish bat, and H. Morris together, some excellent batting was seen. Both batsmen, however, found Sedgwick a difficult bowler, but by sound cricket they carried the total to 50, when Brocklebank left to a brilliant one-handed catch near the ground by Heath fielding at cover. It came as a great surprise to the batsman, who, at first, did not seem to realise that he had been dismissed.

This brought A. E. Lawton, the Derbyshire and Lancashire cricketer, in association with Morris, and the score was taken to 64 when he was beaten with a trimmer from Sedgwick. Lawton ranks amongst the big hitters, and although he once hit a ball from Sedgwick out of the ground, he was not allowed to get going, and left with his score at 12.

This was the commencement of a steady fall of wickets, for four more batsmen left for the addition of eleven runs. The ninth wicket, however, with Cook and Smoker in partnership made a vast difference. They played pretty cricket, and by the close of play had carried the score to 91.

THE RESUMPTION.

They resumed before the same pair of bowlers this morning, and put on another 16 before Cook got in front of a ball from Sedgwick and was adjudged leg-before-wicket. He had scored thirteen, and the partnership had yielded 32 runs. J. Dickenson was the last batsman in, and things went well with Cheshire, Smoker hitting out freely. Eventually, he was beaten with a ball from Morgan with the total 121.

Both Sedgwick and Morgan bowled unchanged, the former finishing with six for 56, and Morgan had four for 54.

A gratifying feature of yesterday's play was the excellent attendance, and the spectators seemed to thoroughly enjoy the cricket. A large number also turned up this morning, and they saw Staffordshire start their second innings at noon with J. J. Awty and E. H. Bourne at the wicket. Cook opened the bowling, but no runs resulted from his first over. Vernon Hope took charge at the station end, and after Bourne had registered a single, Awty turned the bowler to the leg boundary. He scored much faster than his colleague, most of his runs being off Hope.

DISASTROUS START.

Bourne had reached seven, and the total was 19 when he was taken at first slip off Cook. Wickets then fell rapidly, for Cook bowled Johnson first ball. Heath, however, spoiled

him of the "hat trick," but then Hope got Awty caught at mid-on, and Ridgway in the slips with the total 25. Further disaster followed, Heath leaving to a smart catch at point by Anthony. He jumped up and arrested the ball as it was passing over his head.

Things became more lively for Staffordshire when Lockett and Capt Bruerton came in. The latter off-drove Cook for three, and Lockett immediately afterwards turned him to leg for a similar number. Capt Bruerton scored freely off Cook, being particularly strong on the on side. One stroke brought four, all run, but shortly afterwards he lifted a ball from Hope to the off, which was taken by W. E. Jones. He had compiled 18 in quick time, the wicket having produced 27 runs. One run later E. C. McFerran was smartly taken at the wicket off Hope. This brought Sedgwick in association with Lockett, and they set about the bowling. Lockett augmented his score by some lovely strokes, and then Sedgwick drove Cook to the rails. He was unfortunate in the next over in being given out leg before wicket to Hope. The total was now 65, and Morgan joined Lockett. He at once off-drove Hope for a couple. Lockett then left to a catch by Harrison, having put on 17.

LAST WICKET STAND.

The captain joined Morgan for the last wicket partnership, and lifted a ball from Cook almost on the sight-board. Then Morgan skied a ball on the on-side. Harrison, who completely misjudged the ball, failed to make the catch, and two runs resulted. Campbell followed with another two, and Morgan a three, while a single to the Staffordshire captain completed Hope's over. In the next over Campbell registered a single and a three, while Morgan scored a single. The last over before lunch yielded three runs, and the score stood at 89 for nine wickets.

When play was resumed after lunch, the batsmen continued for eight minutes, when Morgan, who had previously turned Hope to leg for four in brilliant fashion, was taken at deep slip by Harrison, off Smoker, who had relieved his captain. He had scored 20, a very valuable addition to the score. Campbell had put on 14, so that the last partnership accounted for 33 runs. The total score was exactly 100, so that with plenty of time at their disposal, providing the weather kept fine, Cheshire required 139 runs to win.

Hope accounted for most wickets, dismissing five batsmen for 57. Cook had four for 42, and Smoker one for nothing.

CHESHIRE'S REPLY.

The visitors started their innings at 2.40, and Morgan, who bowled from the opposite end to what he did in the first innings, had five scored off his initial over. Brocklebank being chiefly responsible. Anthony, his colleague, was more careful, but he assisted in the compilation of twelve before he was smartly taken at the wicket. W. E. Jones, who followed, saw Brocklebank taken in the slips off Sedgwick at the same total. The ball went to Morgan, but he failed to hold it. However, McFerran was in easy reach of him and caused the batsman's dismissal. A run later Jones was bowled by Sedgwick, and this brought A. E. Lawton and H. Morris together. The former soon settled down and scored freely as compared with his colleagues. The score had been increased to 23 when Sedgwick bowled Morris. With Hope in runs came steadily, but at 30 the Cheshire captain was taken by Lockett running in from mid-on. Half the side were thus accounted for. Further disaster followed when Sedgwick dismissed L. N. Jones at 35. Lawton was next out, Ridgway making a good catch in the long field. He had scored 19, practically half the runs made so far.

PROLIFIC SCORING.

When Cook joined Harrison runs came steadily, and once the new-comer off-drove Morgan to the boundary. They sent the 50 up, but six runs later Cook stepped in front of a ball from Morgan and was called upon to retire. Smoker, on joining Harrison, hit Sedgwick for a couple of threes in quick succession, and followed with a couple off Morgan. He also pulled the same bowler to the boundary, and thus equalised his colleague's score of a dozen. The score was 73 when Heath relieved Sedgwick. Smoker at once on-drove him for 2, and followed by turning him to leg for 3. Matters became very exciting as the batsmen continued to score at a good pace. Smoker was constantly in the limelight and hit all round the wicket. Once he pulled a ball from Morgan out of the ground for six. He not only overhauled his colleague in the scoring department but put on 19 while Harrison registered a single. With his score at 33, and after the wicket had put on 50, he was caught and bowled by Heath. Dickenson, who followed, succeeded in scoring five before he was caught by Heath. Dickenson, who followed,

leaving Staffordshire winners by the narrow margin of 23 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

J J Awty c and b Cook	40
E H Bourne c Dickenson b Smoker	18
J W Johnson b Cook	15
J R Heath b Jones	32
C R Ridgway b Cook	2
Capt W Bruerton b Jones	4
E C McFerran lbw b Cook	0
O H Campbell c Dickenson b Cook	0
A Lockett not out	31
Sedgwick (H) c Cook b Jones	6
Morgan (B F) b Smoker	4
Extras	9

Total 159

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

J J Awty c Harrison b Hope	12
E H Bourne c L N Jones b Cook	7
J W Johnson b Cook	0
J S Heath c Anthony b Cook	2
C R Ridgway c Cook b Hope	14
A Lockett c Harrison b Cook	17
Capt W Bruerton c W E Jones b Hope	18
E C McFerran c Dickenson b Hope	0
Sedgwick (H) lbw b Hope	5
Morgan (B F) c Harrison b Smoker	20
C H Campbell not out	14
Extras	1

Total 103

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

T A L Brocklebank c J S Heath b Sedgwick	27
Anthony (H) b Sedgwick	0
W E Jones c Sedgwick b Morgan	1
H Morris c Lockett b Sedgwick	23
A E Lawton b Sedgwick	12
L N Jones b Morgan	1
V Hope lbw b Morgan	5
F A Harrison c Awty b Sedgwick	0
Cook (J) lbw b Sedgwick	13
Smoker (G) b Morgan	26
J Dickenson not out	2
Extras	11

Total 121

CHESHIRE.—Second Innings.

T A L Brocklebank c McFerran b Sedgwick	8
Anthony (H) c Campbell b Morgan	0
W E Jones b Sedgwick	3
H Morris b Morgan	1
A E Lawton c Ridgway b Morgan	19
V Hope c Lockett b Morgan	2
L N Jones b Sedgwick	1
F Harrison not out	21
Cook (J) lbw b Morgan	10
Smoker (G) c and b Heath	58
J Dickenson c Campbell b Heath	7
Extras	7

Total 115

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
30	57	69	95	103	115	117	119	143	159	
Staffordshire.—Second Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
19	19	21	25	25	52	63	65	67	100	
Cheshire.—First Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	50	64	65	75	75	75	107	121	
Cheshire.—Second Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
12	12	13	23	30	35	39	56	107	115	

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.										
	O.	M.	R.							
Cook (J)	25	9	53	5						
Smoker (G)	13.3	0	58	2						
L N Jones	9	2	28	3						
V Hope	1	0	11	0						
Staffordshire.—Second Innings.										
Cook (J)	18	3	42	4						
V Hope	15	0	57	5						
Smoker (G)	5	0	0	1						
Cheshire.—First Innings.										
Sedgwick (H)	18	4	56	6						
Morgan (B F)	17.2	3	54	4						
Cheshire.—Second Innings.										
Morgan (B F)	14	4	46	5						
Sedgwick (H)	9	1	38	3						
J S Heath	5	0	20	2						

Sedgwick bowled one wide.
Umpires, Messrs. C. T. Merritt, Stoke, and A. Evanson, Crewe.

THE COUNTY GROUND.

CONTEMPLATED IMPROVEMENT NEXT SEASON.

There is a rumour that 1920 cricket may see the county ground at Stoke materially improved, as it is generally known that negotiations are on foot with the object of erecting a fine building of a semi-public character on one of the corners of the ground.

It is understood that the space needed for this will not at all interfere with the ground as a cricket ground, although it will of necessity lead to certain alterations, which, when completed, will make for the improvement and care of the ground generally.

INTERESTING COUNTY CRICKET.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S NARROW WIN AT
STOKE.

A match of thrills and fluctuating fortunes, a grim struggle for supremacy, with the issue in the balance to the last five minutes; a game of thoroughly entertaining cricket, with Staffordshire generally a bit in front; a stirring and great-hearted effort by two visiting batsmen to stem the tide of defeat and redeem a desperate position in the final stage; an atmosphere becoming more tense with excitement every minute, and then the sudden failure of the great bid for victory when within measurable reach of success; and a popular win for Staffordshire by 23 runs, such was the fare served up at the County Ground, Stoke, for these who devoted a couple of days of their holiday to the return match between Staffordshire and Cheshire on Monday and Tuesday. In spite of rather threatening weather and some curtailment of play by rain on Monday, there were good attendances, numbering about 2,000 on Monday and 1,000 on Tuesday. The wicket favoured the bowlers from the start, and the rain, which stopped play at 5.40 on Monday and fell in some quantity during the evening and night, made it probably more difficult on Tuesday. In consequence, batsmen were always struggling for runs, and in innings even of 20 was of great value. By a curious misunderstanding, Staffordshire found themselves without a regular wicket-keeper, and in this dilemma the skipper, C. H. Campbell, found his pads and gloves, and, standing back a little, took the bowling exceedingly well, making two snail and reversible catches in the last and crucial innings.

Staffordshire included E. H. Bourne, J. W. Johnson, C. R. Ridgway, and Sedgwick, in place of E. R. Heath, H. Birch, J. Wilkinson, and H. Eardley, and Cheshire, who have displayed form commanding considerable respect this season, and also improved their side by the inclusion of Smoker, for the first time since 1914, T. A. L. Brocklebank, the last-hitting cantab, and A. E. Lawton, the old Derbyshire captain, who has latterly played occasionally with Lancashire.

Staffordshire won the toss and took first innings. E. H. Bourne and J. J. Awty were opposed by Cook, who was professional to the Norton club in the North Staffordshire and District League before the war, and Vernon Hope, the Cheshire captain, who has done many good things with the ball, not the least meritorious being 12 wickets for 55 against Hertfordshire last week. He is a slow left arm bowler, whose off-break "nips" snaptly from the pitch, and whose length is usually unexceptionable. His hand over was, however, rather severely handled, and he promptly gave way to Smoker. He is last-melting, right arm, though he bats left, and bats uncommonly well, to boot. He can get some "work" from the off. Cook, medium pace, right arm, was, however, the mainstay of the Cheshire attack. His break-back was pronounced, and he often had the batsmen guessing, with a ball of equal speed that went away a few inches. His occasional show ones were not very effective and cost him most of the runs taken from his bowling. He bowled unchanged throughout the match, and even managed to cheat the umpires by getting two overs in succession in the first innings.

Bourne and Awty gave Staffordshire a useful start by hitting up 30, and the first-named, now captain of the well-known Reliance Friary Club, in Surrey, seemed to have settled down for a long innings, for he was batting with all his old grace and confidence, when he was snipped at the wicket. With Johnson in, a further 27 were added before Johnson pulled one of Cook's off-breaks into his wicket. Another useful stand was made by Awty and L. S. Heath. Rain caused a stoppage of 20 minutes at 12.10 and drove the players in to lunch at 1.20, with the total 61 for two. At 5.19 Awty failed to keep down a return to Cook. He had played good, sound cricket for an hour and a-half, and thus again rendered most valuable service. Ridgway, playing back, was beaten by a ball he should have smothered. With Heath and Bruntion together, L. N. Jones relieved Smoker, and wickets fell quickly until eight were down for 119. Heath was bowled off his body after batting exceedingly well, and the captain again fell to a catch at the wicket. The remainder of the innings consisted chiefly in some plucky hitting by Aaron Lockett, Stoke's centre-bowler, who for the third time in a week retired unbeaten, though he should have been caught from a skier to cover point 1 been caught from a skier to cover point 1 just before the end.

Cheshire began badly against Sedgwick and Morgan, the fast bowler operating from the grand-stand end. Two wickets went for 11, but Brocklebank and Morris made things quite lively and sent up 50 by resolute batting. At that total the Varsity man was dismissed by a brilliant one-handed catch close to the ground at cover-point. Troublesome times followed for the visitors, and at the close of the day's play eight wickets were down for 91. Mention should be made of a mighty on drive over the grand-stand for six by Lawton from Sedgwick's bowling.

Smoker batted admirably on Tuesday morning, and 30 were added, leaving the home county with a more than useful lead of 38. Sedgwick and Morgan bowled unchanged, and both had good figures.

On going in again, Staffordshire made a disastrous start, from which they never recovered. After Bourne and Awty had scored 19 for the first wicket, five wickets fell in a quarter of an hour, and half the side was out for 25. Bourne was caught off the shoulder of the bat from a kicking ball which he could not get away from. Johnson bowled first ball, Awty taken at mid-on trying to pull, Ridge-way out in a similar way to Bourne, and Heath beautifully caught with the left hand high up at point. Lockett, sent in earlier, and Capt. Bruntion improved matters by adding 27, but McFerran, the Shrewsbury School captain, still found luck dead against him and gained the dreaded "pat." When Lockett fell into an obvious trap at 67, after batting an hour, Staffordshire were in an unsafe position with only 105 runs on an 110 wicket to go. The Staffordshire captain, who has also been clean out of luck, was whippetted in, and he and Morgan added an invaluable 33 before Smoker relieved Hope and immediately effected a separation.

Set 134 for victory, Cheshire had no easy task, and for an hour they failed utterly to stop a rot which once set in. With Morgan and Sedgwick bowling like match-winners, and the whole Staffordshire side "on their toes," seven batsmen succumbed for 39, though Lawton made a few hits. At 56 the eighth wicket went, and the visitors' chances seemed to have been effectually extinguished. Then came the most dramatic period of the game. Harrison was joined by Smoker, who set about the hitherto unplayable bowling with great courage and determination. He rose and played stylish cricket, while the professional hit fiercely, and the last stand of the match ensued. Rapidly they revived the possibility of victory for their side, and though Heath was tried in place of Sedgwick there was no check to the scoring. Fifty-six were added in less than half-an-hour, Smoker numbering among his strokes a fine square-leg hit for six off Morgan. When within 22 of victory, however, Smoker returned one to the amateur bowler and the tension snapped. He had played a great game for his side and deserved all the applause he got. Dickenson makes many runs for Crewe Alexandra, and the match was not over yet. With eight added, however, he was out to a fine catch behind the wicket, and Staffordshire had won a remarkable match as stated. Scores and analyses:—

STAFFORDSHIRE.		CHESHIRE.	
FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
E. H. Bourne	c L. Jones b 7	Cook	16
Dickenson b Smoker	16	Hope	12
J. J. Awty	c and b 10	Cook	15
Cook	10	Anthony	2
J. W. Johnson	b Cook 32	Cook	2
J. S. Heath	b L. Jones	Cook	2
C. R. Ridgway	b Cook	Cook	2
Capt. W. Bruntion	b L. Jones	Cook	2
L. Jones	4	Cook	2
E. C. McFerran	lbw. 6	Cook	2
b Cook	6	Cook	2
C. H. Campbell	c 0	Cook	2
Dickenson	b Cook	Cook	2
A. Lockett	not out.	Cook	2
Sedgwick	c Cook b L. Jones	Cook	2
Morgan	b Smoker	Cook	2
Extras	9	Cook	2
Total	159	Cook	2

STAFFORDSHIRE.		CHESHIRE.	
FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
T. A. L. Brocklebank	c McFerran b 27	Sedgwick	8
c Heath b Sedgwick	0	Campbell	3
Anthony b Sedgwick	0	Morgan	3
W. E. Jones	c Sedgwick b Morgan	1	b Sedgwick
H. Morris	c Lockett b 23	b Morgan	1
A. E. Lawton	b Sedgwick	12	b Morgan
L. N. Jones	b Morgan	1	b Sedgwick
V. Hope	lbw. b Morgan	1	c Lockett
F. A. Harrison	c 5	Morgan	2
Awty	b Sedgwick	0	not out
Cook	lbw. b Sedgwick	13	lbw. b Morgan
Smoker	b Morgan	29	c and b Heath
J. Dickenson	not out.	2	c Heath b Heath
Extras	11	Extras	7
Total	121	Total	115

STAFFORDSHIRE.		CHESHIRE.	
FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.
Cook	25.9.52.5	16.1.42.4	16.1.42.4
V. Hope	1.0.11.0	15.0.57.5	15.0.57.5
Smoker	13.3.0.57.2	5.0.0.1	5.0.0.1
L. N. Jones	9.2.28.3		
Sedgwick	18.4.50.6	9.1.36.3	9.1.36.3
Morgan	17.2.3.54.4	14.4.46.5	14.4.46.5
J. S. Heath		5.0.26.2	5.0.26.2
		Sedgwick	bowled one wide.

CRICKET.

NORTH STAFFS. AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Prospects of Coming Season.

My boy, the game that's big and bright,
The game that stands all games above,
That towers to such a glorious height,
Deserves the summit of your love!
Is this a time for dapper spats,
When foes arrive to test our worth
Out with your flannels, gloves and bats,
And play the finest game on earth!

—Norman Gale.

After an interim of four seasons the North Staffordshire and District Cricket League will resume its operations next Saturday, when a full programme of league games will be played. The prospects of a happy and interesting season are most encouraging, though it is not expected the standard of play will be quite equal to that of pre-war times. But there is no need for worry on that score, the main thing at present is to induce boys and young men to play cricket and be interested in the pastime. Those two matters accomplished the rest will follow, and in the course of time local cricket will make a return to its old power and prestige. The opening of the tournament will doubtless be fraught with disappointment to individual players, for in many instances the old skill and magic touch will be absent for a time and failures may be more frequent than palatable, but perseverance and practice with improvement as its dominant purpose will quickly neutralise disadvantages, and ability will surely come to its own again. Results and records are not the only phases of games to be considered, the recreation must be the chief concern, and with that idea as the fundamental principle the novice may get as much enjoyment from his pastime as the expert.

"O, at times we lost, and at times we won,
But I know that for us all the same,
We played and we loved it, we got our fun,
For the game—it was still the game!"

The mellow flavour and proud traditions of the king of games will never die, and the rising generation of players must see to it that the pastime retains the unsullied purity which has distinguished it amongst the glorious sports which tingle the blood and rouse the enthusiasm of the sons of the British Empire. The usefulness of outdoor sports as factors in the formation of character, as well as the promoters of bodily vigour, courage and endurance, is now freely recognised, and to belittle the virtues of organised recreation is a disservice to the nation. So let the call of cricket appeal alike to players and to those who are able to support and encourage a great game.

The renaissance of the district's leading league will find many changes, as regards both clubs and players, for some clubs have temporarily fallen by the way, many players will now consider the game too exacting for limbs which have lost some of their former activity and suppleness, and a number, alas! can no longer pace the springy turf or linger in the haunts of cricketers, for they have sacrificed their splendid lives in the cause of country and civilisation. But the fragrance of the sweet memories of those boys and men of daring-do will never die, and recollections of their example and chivalrous sportsmanship should be to their successors an inducement and incentive to "play the game" in the pursuit of their manly recreation. Grief at severances will be renewed by the resumption of the game adorned by their dear departed, but we may continue to reverence our heroes, and gain inspiration thereby, and if our faith and imagination be strong we may get as close to the dead as to the living. Never shall their glories fade!

"O, valiant hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle-flame,
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the Land you loved."

The experiment of opening the doors of the league for the introduction of new clubs, and the formation of three sections, will be closely followed, and, though the sectional division is not yet on the intended lines, the new order of things should have a beneficial influence

on the fortunes of local cricket. What is now wanted is a little forbearance—for the good of the game—on the part of established clubs, and perseverance and emulation from the newcomers. Properly carried out, the drastic changes from pre-war notions will be for the lasting good of the district's cricket, and in due course it will be possible to attain the ideal system of position in accordance with merit. To reach this desideratum it is necessary that new clubs should pay strict attention to their playing fields, as well as their prowess—though in this connection it is an undoubted axiom that better play follows better playing conditions. Improvement can usually be effected where there is the will to improve, and having gained admittance to the "select circle" clubs should have no hesitation in doing all that lies in their power to justify and consolidate their inclusion. It is much easier to lose a desired association than to gain it, and the coming season should be invested with the work of thorough reconstruction, as well as indulgence in a pleasant pastime. The actual constitution of the sections for next season has been a cause of disappointment in some quarters, but there is no real reason for either chagrin or despondency. The ultimate triumph usually lies with the fittest, and if the ideas of the sponsors of the new movement fructify the dawn of season 1920 will witness the return of old clubs, the buoying-up of the aspirations of new ones, and the enhanced influence and power as a cricket promoting and fostering organisation of the North Staffordshire and District League.

So much uncertainty exists as to the composition of the teams which will be fielded for the opening matches that it is not possible to give the usual extensive resume of the prospects of the several clubs, but a superficial summing up may, at least, be attempted. The first matter that calls for comment is the fact that in 1919 the clubs will not have the services of professional players, though some of the competitors will benefit by being able to include cricketers whose former status was that of the paid player. The taboo of professionals has been the natural consequence of the fact that local cricket is to some extent again in the embryonic stage, and that the evolution of re-organisation calls for care and economy. The new phase of the competition will be followed with interest.

Porthill Park expect to be able to justify their prestige as champions, and they will be able to commence the season with most of their former stalwarts available. And they feel no qualms as to filling vacancies, for the club is a recognised nursery of promising players. Fortunately situated as regards the schoolboy element, Porthill have always made the training of youngsters a main matter of their policy, and their wisdom in this particular will be of immense benefit during the coming season of reconstruction. It is an unfortunate circumstance that J. L. Heath is still detained in the Army, for a cricketer of such outstanding all-round skill cannot help but be missed, but the Wolstanton club has the knack of producing the player for the occasion, and its resources are not likely to fail. H. F. Wood will again skipper the side, and his experience and natural ability are such that the club is to be congratulated on being able still to command his services. The vice-captain will be John Poole, the doyen amongst wicket-keepers, and a valuable and tried player who kept in touch with the game by helping Stoke Mount last season. Other players who are known to be at the club's call are W. H. Wood, H. Eardley, S. H. Wood, C. Bickerton, F. Taylor, P. E. Wood, and A. A. Bickerton. In these well-known cricketers lies the foundation of a powerful side, and Porthill's reserve strength has rarely failed them.

Leek will commence the season with the inspiring knowledge that they are an amalgamation of two strong clubs, Leek and Leek Highfield, and that enthusiasm for the game was never at a higher pitch in the Moorland town. The generosity of patrons has enabled them to make a start with financial resources of ample proportions; a joint debt of considerable magnitude having been wiped away, and replaced by a substantial credit balance. Leek intend to make things hum, and they have players who may be trusted to accomplish the task. H. R. Brunt, who may be classed as a veteran player, but who is as keen and virile as ever, will captain Leek's forces, with John Wilkinson, Highfield's clever wicket-keeper and batsman as his vice, and other seasoned players at command are G. J. Taylor, the fine fast bowler, J. H. Ellerton, evergreen "Jerry" Pace, V. Astbury, G. H. Tanton, H. Birch, A. L. Kidd, H. Hulme, and H. Whittles. Leek have an abundance of reserves, and will turn out three teams regularly, one figuring in the Churnet Valley League. There is every reason for optimism, and the Club's success is assured. Good luck to them!

Crewe Alexandra will bemoan the absence as a player of E. H. Stevenson, who has under-

gone a serious operation during the winter, but will continue his connection with the game in the capacity of a Second Division umpire. The loss of their cleverest all round player will be a big handicap to the Alexandra. "Ted" Stevenson is so well-esteemed that there will be a general wish that his restoration to complete health and strength may be a quicker matter than is at present anticipated. The Alexandra expect the return to the field of a number of players who have been serving in the Forces, and they are not despondent as to their future. With Stevenson hors-de-combat, the bowling is held to be the most difficult problem, and unless a good fast bowler can be unearthed Crewe may have some long spells of leather hunting. But the side should be a capable one, for players of ability will be available in G. B. Price, J. Dickinson, Fred Walker, Munro Walker, A. E. Meadowcroft, H. Carless, A. R. Cope, G. Hares, F. R. Sylvester, W. Norman, W. Chesters, W. Davies and G. Robinson. The Alexandra have ample facilities for training promising cricketers, and are likely to be as ready as usual.

Norton are looking forward to a good season and their resources are such that they can hardly be disappointed. The ground is undergoing a thorough preparation under the guidance of Adrian Copes. Levi Evans will captain the side, and will have a selection from J. Smith, A. Smith, J. H. Hodgkiss, Fred Crump, A. Jolley, J. Jolley, E. Tatton, Harry Wright, G. T. Skellam, a strong coterie of younger players and such cricketers as may be demobilised. In any event Norton will have players to maintain the reputation of the club.

Knypersley will lack some of the players who helped them in the War Workers' League Competition, but with the return of Captain D. S. Harding it is expected that the club will resume its former prominence. The Knypersley skipper has a host of imparting keenness and enthusiasm, and the club has a considerable membership to select from. Amongst the players who are expected to be available, there may be mentioned R. S. Harding, H. E. Bourne, E. Awty, E. Bedson, G. Bedson, E. Mosedale, R. Bates, E. Tunstall, J. Hancock and S. Newton.

Having gained the championship of the War Workers' League, Bignall End look forward to their return to the higher ranks of cricket with considerable confidence. They are certainly well equipped at all points, and are a resolute and keen band of players, with pride of district as a leading incentive. The Burgess and Mayer clans will again be prominent, and a strong selection should be made from the following: J. H. Mayer, E. Mayer, J. Mayer, F. Burgess, E. Burgess, E. W. Burgess, A. Lockett, A. W. Ikin, F. Nixon, E. Rowley and W. Johnson. Bignall End will be hard to beat and should take a good position in the competition.

The loyalty to the league and the devotion to the game which have been the characteristics of the conduct of the Great Chell club have been suitably rewarded by their promotion, and there will be general hope that the club may figure prominently. Chell are modest in their claims for distinction, but the following should be able to form the basis of a reliable team: W. Tipping, E. J. Barber, J. Woods, J. Fernyhough, G. Lawton, A. Mack, S. Leese, and G. Brayford. The club's elevation has given a fillip to cricket in the Chell district, and a greater measure of support than hitherto is looked for.

Longton's outlook will not be determined until a few matches have been played, for it will be necessary to build up almost a new side. The acquisition of H. Dearing should have a marked effect on Longton's cricket, for the team has needed a really reliable first-wicket batsman, and the county player's experience and clever wicket-keeping will also be considerable factors in any successes achieved by the Dresden club. The composition of the side for the opening matches is problematical, but Longton expect to hold a forward position in the tournament.

It was rather surprising that Silverdale suspended operations last season, but the spirit of cricket is far from being dead in this old stronghold of the game, and now that serious work is before them Silverdale should be as strong and sprightly as of yore. With players released from the Forces the club will have no difficulty in making a dependable selection, and J. Ankers, F. Ellams, A. Kirkham, C. F. Rushon, J. C. Cooper, E. Lowe, J. B. Street, and S. Brookes may form the nucleus of a team which will make a bold bid for honours.

Stoke Mount should prove to be one of the most attractive teams in the tourney, for their membership will include several players of repute, and some of the younger cricketers

should also figure prominently. Amongst those who have signified their intention to play with the Mount the following may be mentioned: P. W. Baggeley, E. F. Adams, A. Hollowood, J. J. Awty, H. Skellern, R. Partridge, A. Cook, Evans Cook, G. Moss, L. Ackley, and H. Hart; and rising players include F. L. Collis, J. Morris, G. Sergeant, K. Gleave, H. Hollowood, G. Robinson, J. Martin, and P. Sergeant. The team should be well equipped in all branches of the sport, and may take a high place in the competition. A number of the club's most promising youngsters are still detained in the Army, but the Mount expect to be in a position to place three teams in the field.

Great interest should be attached to the doings of the two sections of the Second Division, and the new arrangement is expected to be amply justified. Shelton Welfare, who will play on the County Ground, will have a team in each Section, and their forces will include several well-known players. Madeley, with their seasoned players, should be a powerful side in the "A" Section, and Kidsgrove and Haslington may also figure notably. A revival of cricket is looked for in Cheadle, and Burslem High Lane should also make progress. The personnel of the reserve sides of the First Division clubs will, of course, depend on the requirements of senior elevens, but there will be no lack of budding talent. Next week's opening matches are:-

FIRST DIVISION.

Silverdale v. Leek.
Crewe Alexandra v. Bignall End.
Longton v. Stoke Mount.
Porthill Park v. Great Chell.
Knypersley v. Norton.

SECOND DIVISION.

SECTION A.

Shelton Welfare v. Silverdale.
Bignall End v. Crewe Alexandra.
Stoke Mount v. Madeley.
Haslington v. Porthill Park.
Sandyford v. Kidsgrove.

SECTION B.

Leek v. Pittsill.
Burslem High Lane v. Cheadle.
Bucknall v. Longton.
Great Chell v. Shelton Welfare.
Norton v. Knypersley.

NORTH STAFFS. AND DISTRICT CRICKET COMBINATION.

A meeting of the above league was held on Saturday last at the Royal Hotel, Burslem, Mr. W. Bowers presiding. The following teams were represented: Sandyford, Pittsill, Wolstanton Marsh, High Lane, Kidsgrove, Scot Hay, Betley, Silverdale C.L.B., Keele, Leyeott, and Alsagers Bank.

It was decided that the League should consist of ten clubs.

The following officials were elected:--President, Mr. G. Ashmall; life member, Mr. F. Morgan; chairman of committee, Mr. W. Bowers; hon. secretary, Mr. I. Bailey.

It was decided that matches should commence on the first Saturday in May.

SANDYFORD CRICKET CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the Sandyford Cricket Club, Mr. T. Bollington was elected president. The following were appointed vice-president: Messrs. G. Baker, senr., M. Baker, A. W. Sumner, A. Daenport, senr., A. Davenport, junr., W. E. Bomar, A. D. Staton, E. Staton, F. D. Staton, E. Taylor, R. Proudman, E. B. Brookes, J. H. Foster, J. Reeves, W. Brookes, N. Dean, junr., J. Tweats, J. Baker, senr., J. Cotton, H. Parr, R. Butters, senr., R. Butters, junr., P. Hughes, and S. Whittaker. The committee elected were as follows: Messrs. J. Holmes, G. Bourne, A. Bourne, A. Blood, H. Blood, J. Elshy, S. Dean, N. Dean, jun., P. Hughes, J. James, E. Taylor, W. Brookes, A. W. Sumner, J. Wharton, and R. Butters, junr.; hon treasurer, Mr. N. Dean, jun.; hon secretary, Mr. W. Plant; auditors, Messrs. A. D. Staton, and E. Taylor; captain, Mr. G. Bourne; vice-captain, Mr. A. Bourne. It was decided to run two teams, one in the North Staffordshire and District League, Division II, and another in the North Staffordshire Combination.

WOLSTANTON MARSH CRICKET CLUB.

The Wolstanton Marsh Club held their annual meeting on Tuesday, when Mr. G. Follows was elected captain and Mr. S. Westbrook vice-captain. Mr. Follows will also act as secretary. The Marsh Club have joined the N.S. Combination. Most of last season's players are available, whilst new players to join the club are: A. Simpson, the Brothers Cadman (late Silverdale), L. Brett (Wolstanton Villa), F. Thornton and T. Dufft.

CRICKET.

North Staffordshire and District League.

DIVISION I.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost	Drawn	Pts.
Norton	7	6	0	1	19
Leek	7	6	1	0	18
Longton	7	5	2	0	15
Bignall End	7	4	2	1	13
Stoke Mount	7	3	1	3	12
Knypersley	7	2	4	1	7
Crewe Alexandra	6	2	4	0	6
Silverdale	6	1	4	1	4
Porthill Park	7	1	6	0	3
Great Chell	7	0	6	1	1

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Norton, 123 for three; Silverdale, 74.
Knypersley, 189, Crewe Alexandra, 90.
Longton, 106 for six; Porthill Park, 104.
Stoke Mount, 238; Bignall End, 141 for seven.
Leek, 185; Great Chell, 51.

LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Longton, 209 for five; Great Chell, 91.
Knypersley, 164; Porthill Park, 125.
Norton, 177; Stoke Mount, 145 for nine.
Bignall End, 133; Leek, 128.

DIVISION II.

SECTION "A."

	Pld.	Won.	Lost	Tied	Drawn	Pts.
Madeley	7	7	0	0	0	21
Bignall End	7	6	1	0	0	18
Sandyford	7	5	1	1	0	16½
Haslington	7	5	2	0	0	15
Kids Grove	7	4	3	0	0	12
Porthill Park	7	3	3	1	0	10½
Crewe Alexandra	6	2	4	0	0	6
Silverdale	5	1	4	0	0	3
Shelton Welfare	7	0	7	0	0	0
Stoke Mount	7	0	7	0	0	0

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Sandyford, 184; Silverdale, 29.
Kids Grove, 125; Crewe Alexandra, 82.
Madeley, 112; Porthill Park, 68.
Bignall End, 236 for seven (declared); Stoke Mount, 31.
Haslington, 165; Shelton Welfare, 55.

LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Madeley, 113; Haslington, 57.
Porthill Park, 34; Kids Grove, 33.
Sandyford, 121; Stoke Mount, 76.
Bignall End, 137; Shelton Welfare, 32.

SECTION "B."

	Pld.	Won.	Lost	Drawn	Pts.
Bucknall	7	6	1	0	18
Cheadle	7	6	1	0	18
Leek	7	5	1	1	16
Porthill	7	4	3	0	12
Burslem High Lane	7	3	3	1	10
Great Chell	7	3	4	0	9
Norton	7	3	4	0	9
Knypersley	7	2	5	0	6
Longton	7	1	6	0	3
Shelton Welfare	7	1	6	0	3

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Pittsill, 97; Norton, 48.
Cheadle, 128 for nine; Knypersley, 96.
Shelton Welfare, 57; Longton, 25.
Bucknall, 124 for six; Burslem High Lane, 47.
Leek, 88; Great Chell, 38.

LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Cheadle, 130; Pittsill, 37.
Great Chell, 126; Longton, 114.
Knypersley, 160 for nine; Shelton Welfare, 30.
Bucknall, 83; Norton, 75.
Leek, 192; Burslem High Lane, 115 for three.

A busy week-end brought considerable shuffling of the tables of merit, the clubs to profit most by their double engagements being Knypersley and Longton, in the First Division, Madeley, Bignall End, and Sandyford in the "A" Section, and Bucknall and Cheadle in the "B" Section, the teams of these clubs each gaining the maximum pointage. Amongst the seniors Leek and Norton each sustained a first check, leaving Madeley distinguished as the only club of the three competitors to have achieved all they have struggled for. Expectations that Leek and Norton would meet for their first match with unsold records were

not realised, for the dour Bignall End players disposed of the men of the moorlands in a keenly contested game, and Norton's representatives found the task of accounting for Stoke Mount a bit beyond their compass, though the drawn game was somewhat in their favour. Knypersley blossomed into form in convincing fashion, and had two handsome victories, and there was merit about Longton's brace of successes, which were gained without undue anxiety. In the Second Division encounters Madeley were not stretched in overcoming strong opposition, and their record speaks for itself, though they have still to meet the two clubs immediately below them in the table. Bignall End's brace of wins were gained with ridiculous ease, and Sandyford were not troubled in putting on their half dozen points. Cheadle were also twice good winners, though Knypersley made a bold fight, and Bucknall did well to succeed against Burslem High Lane and Norton, their second match having a close finish. The first drawn game in Second Division lights occurred on Monday, when Leek were well held by High Lane, who were in rather the better position when the match terminated. Shelton Welfare were able to chalk up their first success, getting the better of Longton in a small-scoring match.

FIRST DIVISION GAMES.

Silverdale were outclassed by Norton, eight of their batsmen managing but twelve runs between them, and the best stand being one of two dozen chalks for the last wicket. The highest score was that of J. Ankers (22 not out), and it was unfortunate that the late arrival of this fine cricketer prevented his club's getting the full benefit of his services. Frank Ellams (19) and G. Heath (15) were the other double-figure scorers. Arthur Jolley had five wickets for 27, and H. Matthews three for 38. Norton had the match won without losing a wicket, G. T. Skellern and E. Tatton again causing the century to be signalled before they were separated. Skellern had eight fours in his excellent 58, and Tatton showed sound batting in getting 45—the score reaching 111 ere the parting came. W. Heath, with two for 23, did best of six Silverdale bowlers.

The foundation of Knypersley's big score was laid by H. E. Bourne and J. E. Gibson, who put on 91 for the first wicket. Both men played attractive cricket, and during one period 30 runs came in ten minutes. Bourne had nine boundaries in a fine 64, and his colleague counted seven fours in his 44. The last four wickets fell for 13 runs, but E. Mosedale (30), E. Awty (15), and R. Bates (14) helped the big scorers usefully. The Alexandra's leading bowlers were Fred Walker, four for 42, and W. Meakin, three for 44. Crewe batted stubbornly in their endeavours to force a draw, A. E. Meadowcroft staying more than an hour for 24, and with 80 up for five wickets they looked like saving the game. But the sixth wicket fell at 84, and the whole side were out with only six more runs put on. The collapse was caused by G. Bedson and E. Mosedale, the former's second turn with the ball bringing him three wickets for six chalks—he had previously sent down nine overs for a dozen runs—and Mosedale having two for seven. Of the other bowlers E. Adams did best, with two wickets for 17. T. N. Price, J. Dickinson, and G. B. Price were double-figure scorers.

Excellent batting by A. A. Bickerton (54) and serviceable stands by C. Bickerton (17) and W. S. White (13) were the main features of Porthill's innings at Longton, the younger Bickerton pleasing the critics with his sound and correct play. A. Houseman and A. Fielding bowled capitally for the home club, and equally divided the wickets, Houseman having the better return, 32 runs being got off his deliveries, as against 38 debited against his colleague. Longton's decisive win was due to F. Thorley and H. Boulton, who scored 31 and 39, respectively, the former being not out. H. Eardley and B. Lloyd each took two wickets, but the Porthill bowling was far from being strong.

A grand 89 from J. J. Awty distinguished the cricket at Manford, the County man having seventeen fours in a brilliant display. K. Gleaves also had a sparkling turn, scoring 33 out of the first 43 and hitting six boundaries. P. W. Baguley followed

with 24, and as two other players reached doubles the Mount's score was a big one. F. J. Dale was the most troublesome of Bignall End's bowlers, and had four wickets for 65. A. Lockett had a bad afternoon, and was freely punished. But this clever player made up with the bat, settling down after a dangerous stroke off H. Skellern's first ball, and scoring 49 before being splendidly taken by L. Ackley. The visitors were in jeopardy when their sixth wicket fell at 86, but F. J. Dale (31, not out) and J. Dale (20) played excellent defensive cricket, and had their reward by saving the situation. F. L. Collis, three for 34, and J. J. Awty, three for 28, bowled well for the home club.

The Leek batsmen were remarkably level in their scoring against Great Chell, eight players getting doubles, with J. Wilkinson (30) the top score. Of the others, H. Birch put on 24, A. Baskerville 22, and Capt. Bruorton and H. R. Brunt each 17. Chell's attack was not very powerful, and the best work came from E. J. Barber, four for 35, and J. Clews, four for 45. The visitors were doing fairly well when their third wicket fell, but the rest went for a dozen runs, a collapse brought about by the wiles of J. Pace, who took seven wickets for 37 runs. H. Birch had two wickets for 14, and Leek needed no change of bowling.

On Monday, Great Chell were badly thrashed by Longton, who had four outstanding players—A. Bradbury and A. Kent each scoring 53, P. Thorley taking out his bat for 60, and R. Houseman disposing of six batsmen for 58 runs. A. Fielding also bowled well, and had three wickets for 22. The losers' top notcher was J. C. Jones, with 20, and of the remainder J. Gregory put on 14, and S. Leese and F. Baddeley each 13. Chell had seven bowlers on view, but only Gregory, three for 22, was of much moment.

Knypersley opened badly at Wolstanton, but the situation had been vastly altered when their third wicket fell, the total having been taken to 133. The promise of a huge aggregate was not maintained, however, the last seven wickets falling for 31. E. Tunstall was the chief player of the match, for he scored 79, an effort which included eleven fours. J. L. Gibson (33) and E. Awty (32) were the other prominent batsmen. H. Eardley and F. Taylor were Porthill's serviceable bowlers, and they equally shared the wickets, at the cost of 60 and 42 runs respectively. The home side made a disappointing start against the bowling of G. Bedson and H. Bibby, their fourth wicket falling at 30, but an improvement came when S. H. Wood and C. Bickerton (19) got together, 54 runs being recorded for the fifth partnership. Wood made a welcome re-appearance, and had eight fours as the chief scoring strokes of a well got 45. Porthill's prospects of making a close fight were extinguished when E. Bedson and E. Adams took up the bowling, the former having four victims for 25 runs. G. Bedson took three wickets for 37.

Exciting cricket was seen at Smallthorne, in a game in which the fortunes varied considerably. Stoke Mount did well to get five Norton wickets down for 58—E. Tatton a well-played 26—but A. Smith (32) and J. H. Hodgkiss (22) made a long stand, advancing the score to 95 before they were separated, and the visitors' bowling was afterwards freely hit by R. Hunt—who had eight fours in a dashing 43—L. Evans (13) and H. Matthews (17, not out). The last wicket pair, Hunt and Matthews, put on 37 runs. A. Cook, five for 77, and H. Skellern four for 57, were persevering bowlers for the visitors. The Mount's commencement was an unfortunate one, and, though J. J. Awty played finely for 32, six wickets fell for 55. The next partnership proved to be one of moment, for W. Pointon (45) and H. Hollowood (24) put on 68 runs, and consumed most valuable time. Pointon hit eight fours in a gallant and well played innings, and Hollowood's cricket was of excellent quality. His was the ninth wicket to fall, G. T. Skellern making a clever catch off J. Smith. Norton's hopes were finally baulked by H. Skellern and Roy Hollowood, though the youngster was almost caught a couple of yards from his bat. Norton placed too much faith in their fast bowlers, or they might have snatched a victory. A. Jolley had three wickets for 39, and H. Matthews three for 50.

Bignall End had to fight hard for their victory over Leek, but this aspect of the case

made their success the more gratifying. Rather singularly the first wicket of each side fell with 20 runs scored and appreciable stands were made for the last wicket of each innings. Excellent batting came from J. Dale (29 not out), J. H. Mayer (22), E. Mayer (24) and A. Lockett (15) for the winners, and for Leek the chief contributors were G. M. Fenton (30), P. Bradley (18), Captain Bruerton (16), H. Hassall (12), and W. Bonsall and A. Baskerville (each 11). The losers put their trust in three bowlers, C. J. Taylor taking six wickets for 47, J. Pace three for 63, and J. Pointon sending down five overs without meeting with success. The four bowlers tried by Bignall End all had reward, J. Mayer being the leading attacker, and capturing four wickets for 41 runs. F. W. Burgess had three for 24, F. J. Dale two for 23, and A. Lockett one for 23. The victory caused much enthusiasm in Bignall End and district, where interest in cricket was never more keen than it is at present and the club has rarely had a better all-round side. It should be mentioned that E. Mayer's two dozen runs came from seven scoring strokes—five fours, a three and a single—and that J. Dale showed all his old capacity for keeping one end going.

BATTING.

M. Cotton 66, Sandyford v. Silverdale.
E. Peake 65, Bucknall v. High Lane.
J. Watson 60, Haslington v. Shelton Welfare.
J. Wade 54 (not out), High Lane v. Leek.
W. Malkin 53 (not out), Leek v. High Lane.
H. Oliver 52, Leek v. High Lane.
M. Cotton 51, Sandyford v. Stoke Mount.
F. Whalley 50 (not out), Bignall End v. Stoke Mount.
W. Root 47, Knypersley v. Shelton Welfare.
W. A. Goodwin 45, Knypersley v. Shelton Welfare.
J. Johnson 45, Cheadle v. Pittshill.
H. Fielding 43 (not out), Longton v. Great Chell.
E. Griffiths 42, Madeley v. Porthill Park.
J. Madeley 41, Pittshill v. Norton.
J. Taylor 41, Bignall End v. Shelton Welfare.
J. Wareham 35, Bignall End v. Stoke Mount.
Rev. Myerrough 36, Cheadle v. Knypersley.
J. Reeves 33, Cheadle v. Knypersley.
F. Goodwin 33, Great Chell v. Longton.
A. Bourne 32, Sandyford v. Silverdale.
G. Griffiths 30, Madeley v. Haslington.
F. Enoch 30, Knypersley v. Cheadle.

BOWLING.

A. Kirkland 8 for 7, Cheadle v. Pittshill.
J. Burgess 8 for 14, Bignall End v. Shelton Welfare.
F. Clarke 8 for 27, Madeley v. Porthill Park.
W. Rawlinson 7 for 8, Bucknall v. Norton.
F. Clarke 7 for 22, Madeley v. Haslington.
E. P. Adams 7 for 35, Stoke Mount v. Sandyford.
A. Bourne 7 for 41, Sandyford v. Stoke Mount.
S. Williams 6 for 3, Shelton Welfare v. Longton.
A. Simpson 6 for 4, Porthill Park v. Kidsgrove.
J. W. Salt 6 for 6, Cheadle v. Knypersley.
S. Moreton 6 for 9, Norton v. Pittshill.
A. Bourne 6 for 11, Sandyford v. Silverdale.
W. Onions 6 for 14, Knypersley v. Shelton Welfare.
G. Fitchford 6 for 16, Pittshill v. Norton.
S. Brookes 6 for 48, Silverdale v. Sandyford.
C. R. Worrall 6 for 62, High Lane v. Leek.
J. Burgess 5 for 4, Bignall End v. Stoke Mount.
A. Plant 5 for 32, Leek v. Great Chell.
J. Lockett 5 for 13, Bucknall v. High Lane.
J. Taylor 5 for 13, Bignall End v. Stoke Mount.
F. Hunt 5 for 23, Leek v. Great Chell.
J. Williams 5 for 43, Shelton Welfare v. Knypersley.
P. E. Wood 4 for 6, Porthill Park v. Madeley.
J. Mellor 4 for 10, High Lane v. Bucknall.

NEXT SATURDAY'S PROGRAMME.

First Division.

Porthill Park v. Silverdale. Umpires: G. E. Plant and E. A. Dearing.
Great Chell v. Crewe Alexandra. Umpires: G. Stephenson and J. Stockton.
Norton v. Longton. Umpires: J. Williams and F. G. Bagley.
Stoke Mount v. Leek. Umpires: A. Bradbury and L. H. Bagley.
Bignall End v. Knypersley. Umpires: E. Farr and C. T. Merritt.

Second Division.

Section "A."

Silverdale v. Porthill Park.
Crewe Alexandra v. Haslington.
Madeley v. Sandyford.
Shelton Welfare v. Stoke Mount.
Kidsgrove v. Bignall End.

Section "B."

Pittshill v. Shelton Welfare.
Cheadle v. Great Chell.
Longton v. Norton.
Leek v. Bucknall.
Knypersley v. Burslem High Lane.

Extraordinary cricket was witnessed on Tonbridge School ground on Friday in the match between Tonbridge and Lancing. Tonbridge batted all day, putting together the huge total of 520. Hedges, the captain, shared in a brilliant partnership with Knott, which realised 300 runs. Hedges batted faultlessly for 176, and Knott, by scoring 220, had the distinction of beating the school batting record of 205, established by K. L. Hutchings, the famous Kent batsman.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE COMBINATION.

ALSAGERS BANK STILL UNBEATEN.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Pts.
Alsagers Bank	6	6	0	0	18
Leyceft	6	5	1	0	16
Scott Hay	6	4	2	0	12
Pittshill H.	6	4	2	0	12
Wolstanton Marsh	7	3	4	0	9
Betley	5	3	2	0	9
Kidsgrove H.	6	2	4	0	6
Keele	6	2	4	0	6
Sandyford H.	7	2	5	0	6
High Lane	7	0	7	0	0

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Alsagers Bank, 44; Keele, 12.
Sandyford, 130 for three wickets; High Lane, 100.
Scott Hay, 71; Wolstanton, 50.
Pittshill, 91; Kidsgrove, 23.

WHIT-MONDAY RESULTS.

Wolstanton, 102; Sandyford, 99.
Leyceft, 107; High Lane, 81.
Alsagers Bank maintained their unbeaten record by defeating Keele. Batting first Alsagers Bank were all dismissed for the small total of 44, Shuffelbottom (11) being the only batsman to reach double figures. For Keele, H. Bedson took six wickets for 11 runs, and H. Bloor two for four. Keele's innings formed a procession from the pavilion to the cress, as they were dismissed by G. W. Beech and E. Downing, who bowled six overs each plus three balls, for 12 runs. The former took four wickets for four runs, and the latter six wickets for five runs.
The match at Sandyford was noteworthy for good batting performances. A. Davenport 57 (not out), J. Holmes 38, H. Maskery 17, and J. Ashworth 11 (not out) being particularly prominent. Sandyford declared at 150 for three wickets. High Lane responded with 100, of which S. Durbar made 27, H. Mellor 20, P. Owen 10, and A. Cooper 14.

Wolstanton entertained Scott Hay, who batted first, their innings realising 71 runs. G. Green (24) and H. Rogerson (22) being top scorers. Wolstanton failed to reach the visitors' score by 21 runs, a good game ending in a victory for Scott Hay.

Kidsgrove again suffered defeat at Clough Hall at the hands of Pittshill, who were superior all through the match. The home side's innings realised 29 runs, and Pittshill 91.

On Whit-Monday Wolstanton journeyed to Sandyford and had the satisfaction of winning an exciting game by three runs. The visitors batting first and made 102. G. Follows and A. Fern 27 and 32, respectively, being the top scorers. Sandyford tried hard for victory, and J. Holmes (20), E. Baker (16), H. Maskery (14), and J. Ashworth (10), batted well for them.

Leyceft visited High Lane and secured a victory. The home side's innings realised 81, E. Davies making 50 of these by vigorous batting. J. Whitem bowled well for the visitors, taking five wickets for eleven. Leyceft responded with a total of 107, the chief scorers being J. Whitem (33), J. Hill (21), E. Davies (14), and G. Moreton (12).

NEXT SATURDAY'S FIXTURES.

Betley v. Pittshill.
High Lane v. Wolstanton.
Leyceft v. Kidsgrove.
Sandyford v. Alsagers Bank.
Keele v. Scott Hay.

STONE CRICKET CLUB.

(To the Editor of the "Sentinel.")

SIR,—In the cricket notes in the "Sentinel" on Saturday evening last, there appeared a paragraph in regard to the Club of which I have the honour to be Secretary which cannot be allowed to pass without comment, and without some attempt to remove the very unjust reflection therein cast upon the Stone Club.

I do not know who the author of the notes may be, but I wish to protest most emphatically against the totally unwarranted and unjustifiable attack on the Stone Club. An outside reader perusing the paragraph, and seeing such phrases as "shock to the amour propre of the rejected club," "stiffneckedness," "recalcitrant club," "perverse disposition to manufacture a grievance," and "displays of pique," would conclude that the Stone Club had been the most unruly and undesirable member of the League, instead of one of the most loyal. The remarks of your correspondent are utterly uncalled for.

Your correspondent refers to "gossip anent the Stone Club's alleged grievance against the League," and thereby implies that there has been no ground for such a grievance; but I venture to say that there has, and the very fact that there has been a "continuance of gossip" is in itself sufficient to show that there has been ground for a grievance on the part of the Stone Club, and that the sport-loving people of North Staffordshire recognise the fact. Indeed, I may say that this is so from my own personal experience, and the remarks which have been made to me by people living in the Potteries.

In regard to what happened in 1914, I will say very little. The Stone Club was rejected, but accepted its rejection in a sportsmanlike way, and without any whining. I do not propose to argue the point as to whether the Club had a grievance on that occasion, although there is much to be said respecting the way they were thrown out of the first division of the League; but this I will say, that the Club was entitled to expect more considerate treatment than they actually received at the hands of the League. I have no hesitation in saying that in many games when the Stone team was in a hopeless position so far as winning was concerned, had the players been content to "sit on the bat" and adopt stonewall tactics, they could have saved many points that were lost, and by that means have secured a position in the League which would have saved them the necessity of applying for re-election. Instead of adopting these tactics, they chose to play bright, free cricket—cricket of a sporting nature—of the kind which the people love to watch, and which is best calculated to create enthusiasm for the game. Thereby they lost points, and their only reward was "rejection."

I believe the vast majority of North Staffordshire people recognised and appreciated the sporting character of the cricket played by the Stone side, and surely it was only reasonable to expect that a team which played the game as it ought to be played, and not merely for the sake of League points, should not be penalised for trying to play the game in that spirit.

Your correspondent refers to the "reorganisation of cricket calling for friendly feeling and not for ill-advised displays of pique," and here I think no one who knows the facts will dispute that the Stone Club has a legitimate grievance.

In January last, a meeting was called at the North Stafford Hotel, at Stoke, to consider the question of re-organisation of League cricket. I received from the League secretary an official circular inviting the Stone Club to send a representative to that meeting. I duly attended, and after half-an-hour's delay, waiting the arrival of the Chairman, I was requested to leave the room, and immediately after doing so, the secretary was sent out to inform me that I had no right to be present, and that there was no need for me to stay any longer. Would the writer of your notes call that kind of treatment "fair play" and treatment calculated to promote "friendly feeling," and was it "playing cricket both on the field and off it"? I venture to say it was not, and I think the public of North Staffordshire and elsewhere will fully agree that it was not.

I admit the League has a perfect right to say which clubs shall be members thereof, but they cannot reasonably expect a club which has been ignominiously thrown out to go crawling back humbly begging for re-admission. After all, a club of any standing must have a little self-respect, and is entitled to that respect without any charge being brought against it of "stiffneckedness" and exhibitions of "displays of pique," and without being called a "recalcitrant club."

My Club has had an honourable association with the League, and I am quite sure desire nothing more than to continue members of the same, and personally I am hoping that the season 1920 will see the Stone Club again members; but certainly the tone in which your notes in question were written is not calculated to promote that "friendly feeling" which your correspondent rather inaptly refers to. "Let's play cricket both on the field and off it."—I am, sir, yours truly,

CHARLES H. MATTHEWS,
Hon. Sec., Stone Cricket Club.

CRICKET.

North Staffordshire and District League.

DIVISION I.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Pts.
Leek	15	11	1	1	34
Norton	15	8	2	3	27
Longton	15	9	4	0	27
Bignall End	15	7	4	2	23
Crewe Alexandra	12	6	5	1	19
Stoke Mount	15	4	3	6	18
Silverdale	12	3	7	2	11
Knypersley	15	3	8	0	9
Porthill Park	15	3	10	0	9
Great Chell	15	1	11	1	4

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Longton, 168; Silverdale, 44.
Crewe Alexandra, 193; Stoke Mount, 103.
Porthill Park, 183 for six (dec.); Norton, 52.
Leek, 96 for two; Knypersley, 90.
Bignall End, 160; Great Chell, 89.

DIVISION II

SECTION "A."

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Tied.	Drawn.	Pts.
Madeley	15	12	1	0	0	36
Haslington	12	9	3	0	0	27
Sandyford	15	9	4	1	0	25½
Kidsgrove	12	8	4	0	0	24
Bignall End	13	7	6	0	0	21
Porthill Park	13	6	6	1	0	19½
Crewe Alexandra	10	4	6	0	0	12
Shelton Welfare	12	3	9	0	0	9
Stoke Mount	12	2	10	0	0	6
Silverdale	12	1	11	0	0	3

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Madeley, 34 for two; Silverdale, 31.
Sandyford, 99 for two; Porthill Park, 96.
Kidsgrove, 63 for seven; Shelton Welfare, 58.
Haslington, 113; Bignall End, 25.

SECTION "B."

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Pts.
Leek	15	10	2	1	31
Cheadle	12	9	3	0	27
Pittsill	15	8	5	0	24
Norton	15	8	5	0	24
Burslem High Lane	15	7	5	1	22
Bucknall	12	6	6	0	18
Great Chell	15	5	8	0	15
Knypersley	15	4	9	0	12
Longton	15	4	9	0	12
Shelton Welfare	15	2	11	0	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Longton, 57; Pittsill, 49.
Norton, 39 for three; Shelton Welfare, 17.
Leek, 87 for four; Knypersley, 82.
Great Chell, 50 for 7; Burslem High Lane, 42.

Peace celebrations and matters connected with them had a disturbing influence on last Saturday's cricket, but apart from travelling troubles no serious inconvenience resulted. The First Division championship problem went a step nearer to solution, for events at Leek and Norton left the former club with an appreciable lead. Porthill Park's fine form against Bignall End suggested that they might be troublesome to Norton, but the complete manner in which the last-named club were overthrown was one of the surprises of the season. With one exception Norton's score was the lowest of the afternoon. But losing clubs fared badly all round, only one reaching the century mark, and even in this case Stoke Mount were well beaten. In the Second Division Madeley and Leek were again in winning vein, and neither club was pressed by the opposition. There was some poor scoring in these minor games, Haslington's 113 being the one completed innings which attained three figures.

LONGTON'S DOMINANCE.

Level scoring characterised Longton's batting against Silverdale, six players reaching double figures. W. Bradbury led the way with 32, P. Thorley scored 29, and F. Thorley and A. Kent each had 23. The total stood at 150 with four wickets standing, but a smart piece of bowling by W. Heath brought about a collapse, this player capturing the outstanding wickets for 16 runs. Of the other Silverdale bowlers, B. Lowe and A. Kirkham each had two successes. In the absence of P. Ellans and J. Ankers, the Silverdale batting was considered weak, and events showed that such was the case, for half the side had been disposed of with but 17 runs scored, and J. Fenton's 11 was the top score of the venture. As usual, the bowlers to work the havoc were A. Fielding and R. Houseman, the former having four wickets for 20, and the left-hander's spoil was five for 21.

ALEXANDRA'S REVENGE.

Crewe Alexandra caught Stoke Mount somewhat below full strength, and they took the

opportunity to extract full compensation for the defeat of the early season. With first use of a good wicket, the Alexandra's early batsmen showed excellent form, J. Dickinson (27), and A. E. Meadowcroft putting on 48 for the first wicket, and the latter player and F. Walker (30) took the score to 123 before the second partnership was terminated. Both men played bright cricket, and Meadowcroft's display was a very sound one. He deserved all his 47 runs, and was ultimately the victim of a brilliant catch by A. Watkin. The home bowlers held the upper hand after the fall of the second wicket, and if the fielding had been better Crewe's total would not have been an alarming one. The best form of the remaining batsmen was that of T. N. Price, who had one piece of luck, but played skilfully for 29 (not out). Of four Stoke bowlers, H. Burt was the most troublesome, and half the wickets fell to this bowler for 41 runs. B. Brindley and J. J. Awty each took two wickets. There were only two double score figures in the home club's innings, J. J. Awty getting 25 and E. Cook 54 (not out). Awty was fortunate to be missed twice in one over, but he afterwards hit powerfully, scoring six fours before a somewhat reckless stroke gave Dickinson a chance to show his smartness. Cook played a splendid innings, giving no chance till he had passed his fifty, with the last batsman at the wickets. E. H. Stevenson and W. Meakin bowled well and unchanged. The former had five wickets for 54, and his colleague four for 48. Dickinson was in excellent fettle behind the stumps, disposing of three batsmen, and a leg-bye was the only extra.

PORTHILL PARK EXOEL.

Porthill had an early set-back in their match with Norton, losing one of their best wickets in A. Jolley's first over, but following this loss they were always playing a winning game, and their general superiority was pronounced. A second-wicket stand by W. H. Fitchford (18) and A. A. Bickerton took the score to 55, S. H. Wood (12) helped to add 21, G. A. F. Bagguley and Bickerton put on 57 for the fourth partnership, and, after the sixth wicket had fallen, the brothers Bickerton had an unbroken association which added 31. Bagguley was more forceful than usual in getting 39, his score including six fours. Arthur Bickerton had one stroke of good fortune, but again showed grand form, and was not out 87 when the innings was declared closed. His main scoring shots were seven fours, a three and eleven couples. The Norton fast bowlers were not happy, and the only really troublesome attacker was S. Worthy, who captured four wickets for 42 runs. The home players were in trouble throughout; like their opponents they lost their first wicket with nothing scored, and the best stand was one of 22 chalks for the fourth wicket, J. Jolley's 19 being the only double figure contribution. The rout was effected by H. Eardley and J. S. Heath, who each bowled nine overs, and were unchanged. Heath often had the batsmen guessing, and seven wickets for 19 runs made the reward of clever work. Eardley was also in form, and had three wickets for 26. The last four overs sent down by Heath obtained four wickets, and the toll for these was a couple of singles. Norton had to manage without G. T. Skellam, but otherwise they were at full strength.

LEEK'S POWER.

Knypersley were handicapped by the absence of H. E. Bourne, but his presence could hardly have altered the result of a game in which Leek showed convincing superiority. Only two visiting batsmen could make much headway against the bowling, G. Bedson (28) playing well in the early stages of the innings, and a lucky 57 (not out) coming from E. Adams, who hit well in an endeavour to redeem the failures of the middle men. J. Pace was once more the chief factor in disposing of Leek's foes, taking six wickets for 32 runs. V. Astbury had two for 34, and H. Birch one for 22. After a careful opening, J. H. Ellerton and Astbury made light of Knypersley's bowling, and put on 57 for the first wicket. Ellerton's share of these was 35—five fours, a three, and three couples. The second wicket was not an expensive one, but Astbury and A. Baskerville soon added the runs that were needed, and were in possession when play ceased. Astbury played soundly for 38—twelve couples and two fours. G. Bedson and H. Bibbey each took a wicket.

At Bignall End the home club were minus the services of F. J. Dale, but were comfortable winners. Taking first innings, Bignall End lost J. Dale and A. W. Hain for ten runs, but with A. Lockett and F. Whalley together, the score rose rapidly, Lockett scoring freely all round the wicket. The partnership was terminated when S. Lowe went on bowling at 61, Lockett being caught on the first ball sent down by the new bowler, after making 39, by bright cricket. The fourth wicket fell at 65, and the fifth and sixth at 66—Whalley (15) J. H. Mayer (16) and J. Mayer (17) added 37 but eight batsmen were done with when the total was 106. The tail end redeemed the situation splendidly,

F. Burgess showing his best form for the first time this season, and having some grand hits in his 38 (not out). G. Howell also displayed improved play in getting 15. Leese took seven wickets for 43 runs, in 18 overs. E. J. Barber two for 28—bowled well, and deserved better results. Apart from S. Brayford none of the Great Chell batsmen did much as rungetters, but they batted very cautiously, and the last wicket did not fall until 12 minutes from time. Brayford's score was 34, made by excellent batting. Lockett bowled 14 overs for a mere six runs, and took three wickets. Six other bowlers had turns, and of these F. W. Burgess took three wickets for 25, E. Mayer two for one, F. Whalley one for five and J. Dale one for 11. A single was obtained off Lockett's first over, and his five following overs were all maidens.

SECOND DIVISION GAMES.

Seventeen overs from the Madeley bowlers were sufficient to dismiss Silverdale, F. Ellans being top notcher with eight runs. G. Griffiths took five wickets for 12 runs, and P. Clarke four for 19. G. Griffiths (13) and F. Heath (11, not out) put on 28 as Madeley's first pair. A. Hollins (17), A. J. Rowley (13) and P. E. Wood (15) gave Porthill a good start against Sandyford, but the later players failed before the bowling of A. Bourne, which obtained seven wickets for 33 runs. The match was won by G. Bourne (26) not out and M. Cotton (49), who added 82 for Sandyford's second wicket. The game was given up after Cotton had just failed to reach the half-century. The 18 of G. Lawton and 12 from T. Williams were the dual figure scores of Shelton Welfare, and for Kidsgrove R. Hadley made 33 and P. Strong 14. For the winners A. Wallis had four wickets for 19, and W. Cooper three for 14. The Welfare tried six bowlers, T. Morgan taking three wickets for 13, and T. Williams and B. Marsden each had two successes. Haslington's victory over Bignall End was an unexpectedly easy one, no visiting player making more than five. The reason for the collapse was the bowling of G. Williams, six for seven, and J. King, 4 for 15. F. Pounton made a sound 23 for the winners, whose total had the useful help of 27 extras. T. Burgess, J. Taylor, J. Burgess and J. Wareham each took a couple of Haslington wickets. The game at Pitsill, where Longton were the visitors, was a low scoring one. The visitors batted first, and ran up 57, of which J. Bentley obtained 18, and there were 16 extras. The home batsmen could do little with the bowling of A. Cotton, and seven wickets were down for 21. The last few players improved matters a little, the aggregate being 49 when the last wicket fell. Cotton took eight wickets for 15 runs, and for Pittsill G. Fitchford had seven for 22. Six Shelton Welfare players failed to score against Norton, and eleven overs sufficed to dismiss the whole team. U. Worthington had six wickets for 12 runs, and J. Martin took three for a single. Norton's runs came off 58 balls, J. R. Deane scoring 18 and J. Fenton 12 (not out). F. Hunt, five for 22, and W. Rider, three for 17, bowled well for Leek against Knypersley, whose leading scorers were W. Boon (17), A. Simmer (15) and A. Wallitt (12). For the winners, A. Hulme and G. Matthews each put on 13, J. Stonehewer made 23, and W. Rider 21 (not out). Knypersley's most effective bowler was W. Onion, three for 44. High Lane were below strength for their match at Chell, and they were rather easily beaten by the home team, for whom J. Fernyhough took five wickets for 24, and A. Mack four for 13. M. Goodwin (14) and A. Mack (10) scored 24 for Chell's second wicket, but in a slump that followed four more wickets fell for as many runs. J. Wade captured five of the winners' wickets for 18, and J. T. Skellam had one for five.

NEXT SATURDAY'S PROGRAMME.

FIRST DIVISION.

Knypersley v. Silverdale; umpires, F. G. Bagley and J. Williams.
Longton v. Crewe Alexandra; umpires, H. Matthews and W. Critchlow.
Leek v. Porthill Park; umpires, J. E. Worthington and F. H. Goodall.
Stoke Mount v. Great Chell; umpires, J. Stockton and G. B. Kent.
Norton v. Bignall End; umpires, G. Stephenson and A. Grocott.

SECOND DIVISION.

Section "A."

Silverdale v. Kidsgrove.
Porthill Park v. Shelton Welfare.
Haslington v. Stoke Mount.
Bignall End v. Sandyford.

Section "B."

Pittsill v. Knypersley.
Cheadle v. Longton.
Shelton Welfare v. Leek.
Great Chell v. Bucknall.
Burslem High Lane v. Norton.

SATURDAY'S CRICKET.

NORTH STAFFS. & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

First Division.

STOKE MOUNT v. SILVERDALE.

Stoke Mount.—K Gleave c Jervis b Fenton 107, E Cook c Green b Handy 2, R Partridge st Green b Barnett 8, J J Awty b Fenton 32, W Pointon b Barnett 4, H Sifton run out 9, L Ackley b Fenton 0, J Drake c Ankers b Barnett 15, G Thomas b Barnett 3, I Collis b Barnett 6, H Skellern not out 9, extras 13; total 208.

Silverdale.—F Ellams c Awty b Skellern 10, G Ellams c Thomas b Skellern 0, J Ankers b Awty 23, J B Street c and b Awty 0, G Green c Partridge b Skellern 13, J L Fenton c and b Awty 0, G Jarvis b Skellern 5, B Handy c Drake b Skellern 0, T Steadman not out 3, F Steadman c Partridge b Awty 7, J Barnett c Skellern 0, extras 2; total 63.

POROTHILL PARK v. CREWE ALEXANDRA.

Porothill.—J S Heath b Sylvester 13, G A F Bagguley c Dickinson b Meakin 12, A A Bickerton not out 69, S H Wood c and b Sylvester 4, C Bickerton b Croft 3, R Mawdesley lbw b Meakin 14, T Leicester lbw b Brownridge 15, C R Heath b Meakin 2, H Eardley b Meakin 17, G A Lloyd b Price 7, J Poole c Brownridge b Meakin 5, extras 10; total, 171.

Crewe Alexandra.—J Dickinson b J S Heath 0, A E Meadowcroft c Lloyd b Heath 5, W Meakin c Leicester b Heath 12, A Price c Mawdesley b Eardley 12, G B Price b Eardley 5, J Brownridge b Eardley 1, G Croft b Heath 6, A R Cope b Eardley 0, F Sylvester b Eardley 22, G Chesters st Poole b G A Lloyd 26, W Maybanks not out 0, extras 15; total, 104.

BIGNALL END v. LONGTON.

Longton.—W Bradbury b F J Dale 16, A Kent c A W Ikin b F J Dale 4, H Boulton b F J Dale 8, E Parkes b Joe Taylor 12, A Bradbury c Ikin b Mayer 14, I Thorley c J H Mayer b Mayer 16, J Proctor b Taylor 4, P Thorley b Taylor 3, H Rigby not out 30, A Fielding c and b Taylor 14, R Houseman b Dale 1, extras 10; total 132.

Bignall End.—J H Mayer c Bradbury b Fielding 58, H Johnson run out 31, A Lockett c Fielding by Houseman 13, F J Dale c Bradbury b Fielding 1, A W Ikin not out 18, F Whalley not out 6, extras 8; total (for four) 133. Innings declared.

GREAT CHELL v. KNYPPERSLEY.

Knyppersley.—J E Gibson b Barber 23, E Mosedale lbw b Barber 18, G Bedson c Clews b Meir 30, J Hancock c Wharton b Barber 6, E Tunstall b Meir 28, W Goodwin c Leese b Meir 20, R Bates run out 0, E Adams c Jones b Meir 0, E Bedson b Clews 6, H Bibby b Clews 1, H Awty not out 0, extras 8; total 136.

Great Chell.—J J Barber c Bedson 3, R Harris Mosedale 7, S Brayford c Bedson 5, S Leese b G Bedson 34, H Wharton b G Bedson 0, W Meir run out 6, A Mack c Hancock b Mosedale 1, J C Jones c Mosedale b G Bedson 0, J Clews b G Bedson 6, M Goodwin not out 0, J Tunstall c Tunstall b Bedson 0, extras 7; total 69.

NORTON v. LEEK.

Norton.—G T Skellern b Pace 10, E Patton lbw b Pace 3, J Fenton c Baskerville b Pace 4, J Jolley st Wilkinson b Baskerville 27, R Hunt b Birch 10, S Worthy b Baskerville 12, F Crump c Fenton b Baskerville 0, J H Hodgkiss b Birch 0, A Jolley b Birch 0, L Evans not out 1, H Matthews b Baskerville 4, extras 6; total 107.

Leek.—G M Fenton run out 49, A Hider c Hodgkiss b Hunt 5, W Ronsall b A Jolley 2, A Baskerville not out 55, V Ashbury not out 30, extras 4; total (for three wks) 145. Innings declared closed.

SECOND DIVISION : SECTION A.

SILVERDALE v. STOKE MOUNT.

Silverdale.—H Ford c Lander b Adams 56, D Bowers b Adams 2, W Gifford b Adams 0, F Ninsford b Adams 1, J Bamford b Adams 9, G Boodley b Adams 1, S Brooks b Adams 6, E Spooner c Baker b Adams 5, J Hall b Adams 9, B Rose not out 8, W Lowe b Adams 2, extras 8; total, 107.

Stoke Mount.—L Boullimier lbw b Bamford 23, C Baker b Bamford 5, S Emberton c Bagguley b Ford 10, C Emberton c G Bagguley b Bamford 3, H Boullimier not out 15, J Pennington b Brooks 32, P Sergeant not out 6, extras 14; total (for five wks), 108.

KIDSGROVE v. HASLINGTON.

Haslington.—J Watson c A Smith b Aston 8, F Pointon run out 2, F Stoddart c and b T Aston 0, F Fox b A Wallis 2, W Latham run out 1, D Woodward c P Strong b E Wallis 4, G Williams lbw b Murphy 26, E Plant b A Wallis 2, S King not out 17, H King run out 5, B Clarke run out 2, extras 23; total 92.

Kidsgrove.—P Strong b J Pointon 3. Game abandoned, Kidsgrove objecting to the Haslington umpire's decision.

OREWE ALEXANDRA v. POROTHILL.

Porothill.—A Hollins run out 8, G White c Hares b Simpson 19, F Wood run out 11, F Taylor run out 57, T H Naylor b Sylvester 11, A Grocott c Jennings b Norman 7, A Simpson run out 8, W Elliot not out 25, W Lawton c Charlesworth b Simpson 0, M Showan not out 14, extras 23; total (for 8 wks) 158.

Crewe Alexandra.—H Norman b Wood 20, J Corbett b Elliott 5, H Smith c Showan b Elliott 3, C Palmer b Elliott 10, G Hares b Simpson 8, W Davies c Taylor b Elliott 37, H Simpson lbw b Taylor 2, W Jennings b Elliott 27, F Sylvester b Elliott 2, W Dobson not out 19, W Charlesworth b Elliott 0, extras 6; total 147.

SECOND DIVISION : SECTION B.

KNYPPERSLEY v. GREAT CHELL.

Great Chell.—J Taylor b Parsons 9, B Bailey c Cooper b Parsons 39, T Matthews c Downs b Unwin 6, C Clews run out 20, J Fernyhough b Unwin 0, A Hurd b Unwin 2, J Woods b Parsons 9, J Smith b Unwin 3, G Smith b Stanier 15, C Hollinshead b Unwin 1, W Adshhead not out 9, extras 1; total, 120.

Knyppersley.—A Cooper c G Smith b J Woods 62, F Sumnell b J Fernyhough 15, C Summer lbw b J Woods 12, F Enock c and b J Woods 0, J Bibby b J Taylor 19, W Boon run out 7, Downs c J Smith b J Fernyhough 8, A Whalley b J Taylor 19, R Snapp not out 3, extras 1; total (for 8 wks) 146.

LEEK v. NORTON.

Leek.—J Stonehewer b Worthington 4, A Hulme b Martin 19, W Rider b Moreton 3, G Matthews c Moreton b Martin 12, J Sutcliffe run out 59, A L Kidd c Mullock b Martin 37, Cpl Bruerton not out 41, W Bull b Mullock 12, R Plant not out 9, innings declared; extras 7; total (for seven wks) 265.

Norton.—P Massey c Bull b Jones 10, J Waterfull b Jones 6, S Smith run out 40, A Smith c Stonehewer b Jones 28, U Worthington lbw Plant 3, H Mullock b Stonehewer 0, J Martin c Byrne b Stonehewer 6, E Unwin b Stonehewer 1, R Mountford b Jones 0, J Moran not out 3, S Moreton c Hulme b Stonehewer 4, extras 6; total 107.

PITTSVILLE v. BUCKNALL.

Bucknall.—W Biddulph b Shaw 25, F Peake lbw b Fitchford 0, F Taylor c Hancock b Fitchford 8, W Parsons run out 0, J Lockett c Pickett b Shaw 1, J Shenton b Lonsdale 6, J Birch b Lonsdale 2, F Dale b Lonsdale 0, W Lawton b Fitchford 0, T Cotton c Pickett b Fitchford 0, R Meigh not out 0, extras 5; total 47.

Pittsville.—F Pickett b Dale 27, J Pickett b Dale 4, T Johnson c Biddulph b Peake 25, G Fitchford b Peake 22, J Beach c Parsons b Taylor 1, N Downs not out 10, J Shaw b Peake 0, W Hancock b Taylor 8, extras 4; total for seven wks, 101. Innings declared.

CHEADLE v. SHELTON WELFARE.

Shelton Welfare.—T Coates b Capewell 4, H Clarke c Crook b Capewell 0, T Plant c Crook b Capewell 7, A Copeland b Capewell 1, D Jones b Capewell 0, W Rushton b Reeves 3, J Stevens st H Capewell b S Capewell 0, B Waugh not out 5, J Harris b Capewell 1, G Harvey b Reeves 6, J Emery st H Capewell b Reeves 4, extras 3; total 34.

Cheadle.—J W Sam b Coates 2, S Whitthurst b Clarke 0, W Bates b Plant 25, T Finney c Copeland b Coates 1, J Hurst b Clarke 24, S Johnson b Coates 58, J Reeves c Coates b Jones 58, H Capewell b Jones 3, E Crook b Plant 13, S Capewell not out 14, extras 12; total 210.

N.8. COMBINATION.

HIGH LANE v. KIDSGROVE.

Kidsgrove.—E Findley b Brayford 0, A Abbotts c Davis b Brammer 19, J Sherratt c Humphries b Cooper 5, A Hancock c Humphries b Brammer 4, C Skellern b Brammer 7, C Cartwright c Owen b Brammer 2, A Huxley b Cooper 5, H Davis c Robinson b Brammer 1, H Hadley b Cooper 0, A Cadman b Brammer 0, J Bailey not out 0, extras 8; total 51.

High Lane.—E Davis c Davis b Hancock 15, H Robinson run out 1, W Hulson c Cadman b Skellern 18, D Brammer b Skellern 7, A Humphries b Skellern 13, J Fennimore b Hancock 0, N Eardley c Skellern b Cartwright 1, F Owen not out 11, H Edwards b Skellern 1, extras 1; total 68.

WOLSTANTON MARSH v. ALSAGERS BANK.

Alsagers Bank.—K Bailey lbw T Brett 3, W Beech lbw H Robinson 11, W Downing c Green b G Follows 5, W Green c Green b G Follows 1, E Downing b G Follows 0, G W Beech c Cadman b G Follows 1, T Proctor b G Follows 0, R Proctor run out 1, A Poole c Mitchell b G Follows 5, S Hollinshead b H Robinson 2, J Whareham not out 3, extras 0; total 32.

Wolstanton Marsh.—A Watkin b G Beech 0, A Green b Beech 6, W James c Proctor b W Downing 2, T Brett c Poole b Downing 3, G Follows b Downing 0, A Cadman c Bailey b Beech 1, T Brett b Beech 6, J Mitchell c Bailey b Downing 0, H Robinson not out 0, W Mullock run out 1, A Wade b Beech 0, extras 6; total 25.