

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Staffordshire Prospects.

#### Next Week's Match at Nottingham.

THE SUCCESS or otherwise of the Staffordshire County Cricket Club in the present season depends very largely on whether or not they will be able to rely on the regular services of representative batsmen. There is no lack of players of the right standard within the county, but many of them are unable to take part in more than one or two of the fixtures. The result is that frequent changes have to be made in the early order of batting with consequences that may be imagined. If that can be obviated this year, and the batting strength brought up to equal that of the bowling last season, the return of the Minor Counties' Championship to Staffordshire might very well be looked for.

What may be accomplished in that direction by keenness on the part of the captain will be forthcoming. Mr. J. B. Russell, who was appointed to the position for the third successive year at the last annual meeting, has his heart in the game as completely as any



MR. J. B. RUSSELL.

cricketer ever had. He considered it a big honour to captain the county team, he told the meeting, in returning thanks for his appointment, and it also gave him tremendous pleasure. "I hope I shall never give up cricket until cricket gives me up," he added, "and so long as I can play I intend to do so." He touched on the disadvantages of not being able to get more regular batsmen, and the difficult position in which this sometimes placed him. But he hoped things might be better in this direction in the future. Whether that hope will be gratified in the present season is doubtful, although there may be an even bigger circle of capable players to select from.

#### THIS SEASON'S FIXTURES.

Ten fixtures have been arranged with the same five counties that were engaged last season, viz.: Cheshire, Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Lancashire (II.) and Nottinghamshire (II.). For the home matches the grounds of the Porthill, Old Hill, Wolverhampton and L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) clubs will be used. At Porthill numerous improvements have been carried out during the winter months, and the additional amenities of the enclosure include a new pavilion for the players, while parts of the playing pitch have been re-laid, and a new

drainage system installed. With regard to the away matches Notts. II. will be encountered this time at Trent Bridge, instead of at Mansfield; Lincolnshire at Lincoln, instead of at Skegness; and Cheshire at Crewe, instead of at Macclesfield. This will be the first time Staffordshire have visited Crewe since the war. The complete list of fixtures is as follows:

May 27, 28—Notts. 2nd ..... Trent Bridge.  
June 3, 9—Cheshire ..... Porthill.  
" 15, 16—Norfolk ..... Wolverhampton.  
" 22, 23—Lincolnshire ..... Old Hill.  
July 6, 7—Cheshire ..... Crewe.  
" 15, 16—Lancashire 2nd ..... Old Trafford.  
" 20, 21—Lincolnshire ..... Lincoln.  
" 22, 23—Norfolk ..... Norwich.  
Aug. 3, 4—Notts. 2nd ..... Porthill.  
" 5, 6—Lancashire 2nd ..... Stoke.

Sidney Barnes, who returned to Staffordshire cricket with such conspicuous success last season, has again been engaged for the present campaign, and, judging by his recent performances with Castleton Moor, the Lancashire club, will be of great assistance again. Although he fell just short of heading the Minor Counties' bowling averages last year, he took more wickets than any other bowler in the competition—a total of 73 for an average per wicket of 7.18. The only higher record was that of G. H. K. Sherlock, of Devon, whose 22 wickets cost only 6.68 runs each. That Barnes has again quickly found his form is evident from the fact that last Saturday he captured seven wickets for twenty-five runs.

#### THE OPENING MATCH.

For Staffordshire's opening match of the season at Nottingham next Wednesday and Thursday, the team will be selected from the following twelve players: J. B. Russell (captain), C. G. Varcoe, P. O. Yates, H. W. Homer, W. Lee, J. W. Johnson, P. F. Stubbs, A. Lockett, R. Hunt, Barnes (S. F.), Sedgwick (H.), and Platt (G.). This gives an impression of all-round strength, and is certainly not wanting on the bowling side, while at the same time, it is evenly balanced between the north and the south of a county. Apart from the captain, the south is represented by no fewer than four players from the Old Hill Club. One name that will be missed is that of R. G. Seldon, who was one of the opening batsmen in every match, with only a single exception, last season, compiling an aggregate of 300 runs. Since then, he has been appointed a master at Blundell's School, and will be available only during the holidays.

With a view to placing the Staffordshire Club on a sound financial basis, every effort is being made to increase the membership. At the present time it reaches barely 400, while at least 500 members are required to free the club from its dependence on that very uncertain quantity—gate receipts. That so populous a county should fail to provide so modest a membership is surprising, particularly having regard to the interest in local cricket, which is still keen, if not, perhaps, quite so keen as in the days before the war. It is in the south of the county where the most pronounced indifference to the county club has existed, but there are indications of improvement, and impetus should be given to the slowly but steadily growing interest in that area by the active assistance which the Earl of Lichfield (one of the Vice-Presidents) has promised to give.

More members are also wanted from North Staffordshire, and Major John Kent, D.S.O., of Longton (the hon. treasurer) or Mr. G. A. F. Bagguley, of Newcastle (the hon. secretary) will be pleased to hear from those wishing to join.

Mr. Bagguley was appointed at the last annual meeting to succeed Mr. J. Stanley Heath, who held the secretaryship for five years. Mr. Heath now finds that business claims prevent him from continuing the duties, and, moreover, it is very likely that he will be playing occasionally for his native county of Derbyshire, for whom he rendered very useful service towards the close of last season. Mr. Bagguley has proved his capabilities for the secretarial office during two or three years as assistant secretary. He is the son of Mr. G. T. Bagguley, who for many years has been a stalwart of the club.

#### SUMMARY OF LAST SEASON.

It may be of interest to recall the results of Staffordshire's matches last season, and the individual batting and bowling averages:—

Played ten, won four, won on first innings two, lost three, drawn one. Percentage 57.77.  
June 2nd and 3rd, Lincolnshire, at Wolverhampton. Won by an innings and 47 runs. Staffordshire 161. Lincolnshire 33 and 81.

June 18th and 19th, Notts II., at Mansfield. Won by 91 runs. Staffordshire 22 and 254. Notts II. 168 and 217.

June 30th and July 1st, Cheshire, at Porthill. Lost by 81 runs. Cheshire 128 and 194. Staffordshire 38 and 123.

July 7th and 8th, Norfolk, at Old Hill. Lost by an innings and 34 runs. Staffordshire 63 and 134. Norfolk 231.

July 16th and 17th, Cheshire, at Macclesfield. Won on first innings. Staffordshire 178 and 306 (for eight). Cheshire 79. Rain prevented further play.

July 23rd and 24th, Lancashire II., at Old Trafford. Match drawn. Staffordshire 194. Lancashire II. 68 (for seven). Rain prevented further play.

August 4th and 5th, Notts II., at Porthill. Staffordshire won by 139 runs. Staffordshire 180 and 116 (for 8), innings declared. Notts II., 81 and 76.

August 6th and 7th, Lancashire II., at Stoke. Lost by five wickets. Staffordshire 107 and 41. Lancashire 60 and 91 (for five).

August 11th and 12th, Lincolnshire, at Skegness. Won by 113 runs. Staffordshire 165 and 186. Lincolnshire 66 and 172.

August 13th and 14th, Norfolk, at Norwich. Won on first innings. Staffordshire 273 and 50 (for two). Norfolk 116 and 301.

#### BATTING AVERAGES.

	Runs	Inns.	Outs.	Avg.
H. W. Homer	178	26	0	26.33
H. Goodwin	113	22	0	26.25
W. H. Fletcher	146	100	1	24.33
D. F. Lister	92	34	1	16.40
R. G. Seldon	300	74	0	17.64
Barnes (S. F.)	269	41	0	16.81
R. Hunt	66	30	0	16.50
P. F. Stubbs	91	26	1	16.16
J. Jolley	119	37	0	14.87
Sedgwick (H.)	173	75	0	14.41
A. A. Bickerton	116	48	1	14.37
P. O. Yates	115	58	0	14.37
C. G. Varcoe	128	43	2	12.80
J. W. Johnson	89	23	0	12.71
Platt (G.)	184	65	1	12.61
A. Smith	60	28	0	12.00
A. Lockett	161	58	9	10.06
C. Edwards	85	17	8	8.26
J. B. Russell	180	69	0	8.00

The following also batted for Staffordshire:—B. H. Bennett, 10; E. W. Page, 9; W. Lee, 8 and 0; Morgan (B. F.), 1\* and 19; L. H. Morris, 1 and 9; R. St. J. Sheppard, 5 and 8; J. Whalen, 0\* and 6; G. H. Thorner, 0\* and 10; J. J. Moore, 10.  
\*Signifies not out.

#### BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avg.
Barnes (S. F.)	266.5	79	526	73	7.19
Sedgwick (H.)	123.5	24	337	27	12.48
A. Lockett	165.3	41	387	26	14.88
Platt (G.)	111	14	396	18	22.11

Also: J. Whalen took four wickets for 48; W. Lee, four for 74; J. J. Moore, one for six; R. Hunt, one for 11; and Morgan (B. F.), one for 18.



# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Signal End	4	3	0	1	7
Crewe Alexandra	4	2	1	1	5
Longton	4	2	1	1	5
Porthill Park	4	1	2	1	3
Silverdale	4	1	2	1	3
Nantwich	4	0	3	1	1
Great Chell	4	0	3	1	1
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	4	0	3	1	1

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 100; Knypersley, 50.  
Crewe Alexandra, 134; Porthill Park, 54.  
Longton, 128; Nantwich, 99.  
Silverdale, 121 for four; Longton, 84.  
Leek, 140 for eight; L.M.S. Railway (Stoke), 36.  
Barton, 110; Great Chell, 83.

#### SECTION "B."

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Wadeley	4	3	0	1	7
Handyford	4	2	1	1	5
Allegers Bank	4	2	1	1	5
Cheadle	4	2	1	1	5
Kidsgrove	4	2	1	1	5
Stone	4	2	1	1	5
Arbours Park	4	1	2	1	3
Burslem High Lane	4	1	2	1	3
Caverswall	4	1	2	1	3
Andley	4	0	3	1	1
Boon Hay	4	0	3	1	1

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 80; Burslem High Lane, 36.  
Andley, 58; Arbours Park, 30.  
Kidsgrove, 89; Allegers Bank, 81.  
Stone, 101 for eight; Andley, 91.  
Wadeley, 60; Handyford, 54.  
Cheadle, 81; Boon Hay, 20.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	4	3	0	1	7
Nantwich	4	2	1	1	5
Signal End	4	2	1	1	5
Leek	4	2	1	1	5
Longton	4	2	1	1	5
Porton	4	2	1	1	5
Silverdale	4	2	1	1	5
Burslem	4	1	2	1	3
Knypersley	4	1	2	1	3
Crewe Alexandra	4	1	2	1	3
Great Chell	4	0	3	1	1
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	4	0	3	1	1

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 107; Knypersley, 91.  
Porthill Park, 101 for seven; Crewe Alexandra, 68.  
Nantwich, 88 for nine (dec.); Burslem, 183.  
Silverdale, 104; Longton, 34.  
Leek, 79; L.M.S. Railway (Stoke), 66.  
Barton, 178 for three; Great Chell, 74.

#### SECTION "B."

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bradley Ford Wesleyans	4	3	0	1	7
Burslem High Lane	4	3	0	1	7
Wadeley	4	3	0	1	7
Caverswall	4	2	1	1	5
Cheadle	4	2	1	1	5
Kidsgrove	4	2	1	1	5
Stone	4	2	1	1	5
Allegers Bank	4	1	2	1	3
Andley	4	1	2	1	3
Handyford	4	0	3	1	1
Wadeley	4	0	3	1	1

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem High Lane, 46; Caverswall, 37.  
Bradley Ford Wesleyans, 174 for nine (dec.);  
Wadeley, 88.  
Kidsgrove, 94; Allegers Bank, 84.  
Stone, 58 for six; Andley, 51.  
Wadeley, 108; Handyford, 41.  
Cheadle, 89; Andley, 98.

**EXPERIENCING** a foretaste of summer, local cricketers had an afternoon of splendid sport last Saturday, and the disappointments of the previous week had their antidote in present pleasures. Results in the chief district league were generally in accordance with expectations, and if there was one prime surprise it occurred at Crewe where Porthill Park's fancied team were utterly outpointed. Three other sides shared with Porthill the pain of suffering the first defeat, the trio being Allegers Bank, Longton Second and Caverswall Second. The tally of unbeaten teams was thus reduced by one in each section. On the other hand, the Silverdale and Caverswall

Seniors had the gratification of achieving their opening victories of the season. Silverdale's second string were also successful and other clubs to accomplish the double event were Signal End, Leek, Norton, Cheadle, Kidsgrove and Stone. The heaviest scoring game of the day took place at Nantwich, where the home club's reserves were opposed to Rurelem Second. Runs aggregated 408, but as 62 of them were "extras," batsmen were not quite so abnormally prolific as might have been supposed. Nantwich's total was the only instance of the second century being passed. Every winning team in the top section got beyond the century mark, and it was rather singular that not one of the losing sides arrived at the three figures' stage, though Nantwich were only a run short. The least total was that of Boon Hay, and there were two other cases in which counting stopped in the twenties. The best individual innings of the afternoon was to the credit of a Silverdale batsman, J. Whalen getting a fine 83 (not out). This score, however, was not the highest, for A. Smith, playing for Norton's reserves, beat it by running up 75 (not out), but if any comparisons are to be made, regard must be paid to the difference of bowling quality. A remarkable feature of the general happenings was the number of batsmen who lost their wickets by being run out, no less than 37 such incidents taking place. The figures clearly indicate careless running, even when allowance is made for alert fielding and swift and accurate throwing in.

#### ALEXANDRA'S DELIGHTFUL FUNCTION.

After the close of cricket at Crewe a delightful function took place in the Alexandra's tea-pavilion, when the freedom of the club—that is, life membership—and long service medals were presented to Mr. Arthur Evanson and Mr. W. C. Pickard. The honour is the highest that the old-established and famous Alexandra Club can confer, and the bestowal of it is no mechanical matter, but the guardian of service which has been active, devoted and highly useful; and the latest recipients are to be felicitated with on joining a select and illustrious band of stalwarts. Major J. N. Jackson, V.D., presided gracefully over a fine gathering of members and friends, and the whole proceedings were happy in intention and execution. Congratulatory and most appreciative speeches were made by the Chairman, Mr. Edgar Osborn, Mr. S. Gleaves and Mr. P. M. Abraham, each speaker eulogising the capacity, loyalty and general high qualities of Messrs. Evanson and Pickard. The honoured gentlemen made brief response, expressing the hope that they might be of further service to the club, and that the distinction they had gained would arouse a strong spirit of emulation among the younger members, who have long careers before them, and whose duty it is to provide that the Alexandra shall continue its life as an organisation which promotes and encourages manly and reputable sports. A short but most enjoyable musical and humorous programme was supplied by Miss Beatrice Walley (Mrs. A. Klemm), Mr. J. Port, Mr. J. G. N. Plaid, Mr. W. N. Horabin and Mr. W. G. Thomas, who received a cordial vote of thanks for their kind services—and Mr. Horabin's reply to the vote aroused considerable enthusiasm. The gathering was the official conclusion of the Alexandra's "perfect day," but the "after-claps" were equally pleasant and diverting.

#### SIGNAL END'S THIRD.

Signal End had a good game at Boon Hill, and recorded a ready victory over Knypersley, whose batsmen, after playing on mud patches, found the wicket much too fast for them. The home men took first innings, and opened with J. H. Mayer and A. E. Bratby, who by cautious methods took the score to 51, when Bratby—who had two lives in the slips—was bowled after contributing 18. The next wicket did little, but on E. Downing joining Mayer another stand was made, and runs came quicker. With the total at 75, Mayer was bowled by E. Mossdale, after playing soundly for 35, the top score of the match. A. Lockett

opened in lively fashion, and the score rose rapidly to 100, when E. Downing (17) was foolishly run out. F. J. Dale failed, but more brisk cricket was seen when Lockett was partnered by A. W. Ikin, and 41 chalks were put on ere Lockett was well bowled by H. Bibby, with his personal score at 35—one easy chance. Ikin played on after contributing 22, and F. Nixon ran up a useful 19 (not out). Mossdale and Bibby each took three wickets, but the captain was not suited by the pitch. J. Butler bowled well but was luckless. H. E. Bourne and J. Gibson started for Knypersley, and in the first over Gibson made a shocking stroke at an off break from Lockett, and was bowled; and trouble followed so quickly that when Bourne was bowled for eight four wickets were down, and the aggregate was eight. The rest of the innings found no recovery from this sorry start, and not one batsman reached doubles. Dale bowled wonderfully well, and was practically unplayable, his seven wickets costing a trifling 19 runs. Lockett aided effectively with three successes for 24.

#### ALEXANDRA'S TRIUMPH.

Porthill Park came a cropper at Crewe, and were soundly beaten. Their batsmen failed to get the pace of a pitch which was much faster than what they had previously been operating on, and the start of the innings was a veritable collapse, six men being got rid of for as many runs; and if a chance had not been slipped the aggregate would probably have been memorable for its poverty. The player to escape was J. S. Heath, who afterwards played fine cricket against the excellent bowling of Fred Sylvester and Hartley. The first man to afford the semblance of help to the Porthill captain was A. C. Hawkins, who, by upish strokes which dropped out of reach, contributed three couples before being bewildered by Sylvester. The stand increased the total by 11, and 12 more came through the association of Heath and J. J. Even-son. With J. Poole in the best batting of the venture was seen, for Heath commenced to open out and the stumper played quite well, and it was unfortunate that a few runs were lost by his inability to go the pace between the wickets. The ninth wicket fell at 44, Poole just grazing a delivery from Hartley which was held by J. Dickinson. With the last man in Heath hit the two boundaries of the innings, excellent strokes to the off and leg, the second causing 50 to be signalled. Another couple made the over an expensive one, but on J. Durber facing Hartley he was easily stumped from the second delivery sent down to him. Heath's gallant innings of 26 (not out) included two fours, a three and four twos. Sylvester's bowling was reminiscent of his form of 1923, and it earned six wickets for 28 runs. He kept a splendid length, and his pace had most of his opponents in sore trouble. His bowling laurels were supplemented by a very clever slip catch which sent C. Tunnicliffe back. Hartley, who promises to be a most useful coach and player, bowled steadily, as four wickets for 18 indicates. Porthill's batting lasted 75 minutes, and its undoing aroused much amusement. The home club's batting was started by H. Hope and W. H. Norman, to the bowling of Heap and Durber, and a single from the first delivery was considered a good omen. But a wicket should have fallen before ten was reached, a chance of stumping going astray. The fortunate player was Hope, and as he remained to make 29 the blunder was a bad one, though its seriousness need not be laboured, seeing that the root of Porthill's tribulation lay with their batting. Making the most of his reach Hope gave a capital display, and as he had a resolute partner, 18 runs were soon put on, progress which caused Evanson to take up bowling vice Heap, who crossed over. The change was immediately effective, Norman being caught in the slips from the new bowler's first delivery. Fred Walker hit the next ball to the leg boundary, but was soon a victim to Heap, who induced him to play back, with fatal results. J. Brownridge, who came next, was a man of good fortune, for he was most uncomfortable, and Evanson "all but" had his wicket on several occasions. However, he remained, and as Hope continued to score well the partnership added 19 ere Hope played too soon at a hanging ball from Tunnicliffe, and missing it was stumped. Hope played in his customary finished style for his runs, which included three fours, two threes and three couples, and his effort was the coping to the basis produced by the bowlers. Hereabouts, Porthill showed symptoms of depression, and Brownridge and Munro Walker were not much troubled in taking the score to the tie stage, at which juncture Walker hit against Heap's break in trying to pull, and was caught in the slips. A. Price won the game with a couple, which might have been a chance but went clear, and from that point the batsmen went for the bow-

ing in joyous fashion, and every player attained double figures. Price showing the way with a sprightly 24. Heap took five wickets for ten runs apiece, and Evenson deserved much better figures than one for 13. On their form of this game the Alexandra will be a troublesome lot for any opposition.

#### BURBLEM BEAT NANTWICH.

Spectators at Cobridge had an afternoon of entertainment for the cricket was keen, and there was none of the dullness so often associated with slow scoring. Burslem's innings lasted just two hours, and its start was a quiet one, W. P. Maybury and E. H. Stevenson bowling too well to permit of liberties. The first wicket fell at 5, and half the side were out for 38, of which W. Briscoe made 23 by adventurous play, his end coming when his stumps were hit by a fine direct throw. A Birch (20) and E. Cook (20) had an attractive connection, and it was during their partnership that the bowlers were first subdued. The stand put on 35 runs, and was broken when Birch was run out in attempting an almost impossible second run. The best batting of the venture came from H. Cotton, who made 23 by confident and correct cricket. He was the third wicket to be sacrificed to a run out. T. Booth (16) did good work by helping in a ninth wicket stand which provided 36 chalks. Maybury had three wickets for 49, and Stevenson two for 34, figures which failed to do justice to their clever bowling. The other two wickets which fell to bowlers were taken by S. W. Cooper, for 26 runs. The visitors began their task unpromisingly, Maybury being uncomfortable, and losing his wicket to R. Hollowood at 4. The next partnership gave Nantwich great encouragement, F. W. Slights (38) and J. E. Smith (27) settling down to a good stand and getting runs steadily and comfortably. The profitable resistance called for changes of bowling, and the second of these effected its purpose, Smith being beaten by E. A. Oliver. E. H. Stevenson afterwards put on a useful 16, and with eight wickets standing and 70 runs on the board the Cheshiremen seemed to be well away. But fortunes altered strikingly when Hollowood and Cook resumed bowling, and the innings had an abrupt conclusion. Cook's second turn got him five wickets for 19 runs—total debit 38—and Hollowood's three for six—full figures four for 17. Nantwich made a good fight, and were not discredited by the failure to beat Burslem's well-equipped team.

#### SILVERDALE'S FIRST.

The second home match at Silverdale provided the villagers with a well-deserved win at the expense of Longton, who had a strong following. The visitors won the toss, and had first use of a good wicket, C. Edwards and J. V. Toney facing the attack of A. Charlesworth and J. Whalen. Play was very sedate at the outset, and Longton lost a wicket at four, and although the pace of run-getting quickened somewhat after the arrival of A. Smith, scoring continued to be a difficult job. At 31 Smith was out to a brilliant slip catch, low down, by Whalen, the successful bowler being E. Groom, who had replaced Charlesworth. The fast bowler shortly afterwards went on for Whalen, and a surprising change came over the game, for Charlesworth proceeded to account for three men in four deliveries, two falling to smart slip catches by Whalen and C. F. Rushton. Groom further increased Longton's discomfiture by bowling Edwards, whose innings of 23 had been well-nigh faultless. Eight wickets were down for 45, but A. Bentley (11, not out) and A. Kent (27) withstood the bowling resolutely, Kent's off driving being a feature of the game. The stand was dissolved at 81, when Kent was finely caught by the stumper, and the last wicket was soon secured. Charlesworth had five wickets for 30, Whalen three for 22, and Groom two for 25. The Silverdale fielding came back to something like its proper standard. The home club's batting task was started by G. Green and A. Ward, and both had returned when the total had reached nine. Rushton, the next man, was not at all comfortable, but he stayed with Whalen until the score reached 40, making way for Groom, who co-operated with Whalen in an exhibition which delighted the spectators. The pair put on 81 runs before Groom was bowled, and the game was given up. Groom played confidently and trenchantly for 39. Whalen, who looked like being a permanency from the start of his career, reached 65 (not out), and his runs were got without the semblance of a chance. Not for a long time has Longton's bowling been so utterly tied up as it was last Saturday.

#### LEEK'S WALK-OVER.

The L.M.S. Railway side gave a feeble show against Leek, who have rarely gained a victory with such little trouble. The visitors' batting

was feeble in the extreme, and their eclipse was assisted by three players getting run out. Cooper was the only batsman who shaped at the bowling, and he went in first and was out sixth, for 14. Half-a-dozen from R. Baker was the next best score. H. Birch disposed of four wickets for 22, H. Walsley had two for eight, and T. Plant one for three. The Railway bowling was also poor, and after getting the runs required for success A. Rider (34) and Cotton (48) carried on without being separated until the aggregate reached 81, when Cotton was bowled. Three other wickets fell for the addition of 12 runs, and in the irresponsible play which followed J. Poynton scored 19 and H. Hassall 18 (not out). By taking three wickets for 17 runs P. R. Stevens made himself quite the most successful of five Railway bowlers.

#### NORTON BEAT GREAT CHALL.

Great Chall made a plucky fight against Norton, and they might have created a surprise if four of their batsmen had not finished their stay at the crease by getting run out. Norton's batting lacked solidity, but B. Smith played finely for 43, and W. D. Robinson (18) helped him in a valuable third wicket stand which realised 28 chalks. The only other double-figure maker was P. Massey (11 not out). J. Barber bowled cleverly, and had six wickets for 37; whilst G. Pitchford took three for 36. Careful batting by R. Harris (23) and W. Warburton gave Chall a winning chance, the pair having a first-wicket connection of 33 runs, but wickets were squandered afterwards, and a plucky effort by A. Smith (19) was of no avail. R. Hunt had an unsatisfactory afternoon, and Norton's most penetrative bowler was U. Worthington, who claimed four wickets for 26 runs. The winners were not at their best, and were a trifle fortunate in not having stronger opposition to contend with.

#### CAVERSWALL WIN CLEVERLY.

Runs were scarce in the game between Caverswall and Burslem High Lane, and twelve of the twenty-two players had no batting fertility, for they failed to count a chalk between them. Winning the toss, Caverswall batted first on a fairly good wicket, and they opened very cautiously against accurate bowling, only a couple of singles accruing from the first seven overs. The first wicket fell at 11, W. Grace being out to a catch at point about which there was some doubt, and the incoming batsman was dismissed by the next ball, being caught from what was quite a good stroke to leg. The third wicket connection of C. Hassall and J. W. Fearn (11) was the most productive partnership of the innings, realising 17 runs, and Fearn again showed praiseworthy form whilst getting his side's top score. T. Adderley (20), a newcomer to the first team, also revealed promise. High Lane's fielding was good throughout, and the four bowlers who had turns all met with success. W. Moulds and F. Owen each took three wickets for 14 runs, G. Skellam had two for 15, and H. J. Edwards two for four. With what seemed a light task before them the visitors were confident of victory, but Caverswall were not without hope, and in the course of three overs they got a grip of the game which they never relaxed. F. Wood, after scoring three from W. Payne's first series, was well caught from P. Brassington's initial delivery. A smart piece of fielding got rid of a dangerous batsman in A. Robertson, and a good length ball disposed of the next man, the third wicket dropping at five. J. Machin had some luck, but played well enough to run up 15, but the only other batsman to shape at run-getting was B. Reynolds, who made one fine hit over the rails off Brassington before being bowled "all over the place" by the same bowler. This hit finished the scoring, the last five wickets all dropping at 26. So Caverswall won cleverly and deservedly. Their fielding was very skilful, and the bowling of Payne—five for 11—and Brassington—four for 14—was excellent. Payne maintained his length wonderfully well, and his colleague's slows were a botheration.

#### CADMAN'S CAUSATION.

Stone largely owed their four wickets' victory over Audley to the sound batting of R. Cadman who contributed a chanceless 55, going in first wicket down and retiring undefeated at the close of play. Taking first innings on a fine wicket, Audley made an excellent start, though they should have lost a man at eight, H. Timmis (23) having a life in the long-field. But he and John McEllin (24) displayed capital form, and brought off some extremely good shots. After Timmis had left at 25, J. Mayer (14), blessed with some luck, helped McEllin

to put up a very profitable stand, which carried the total to 60. At that point the visitors were in a splendid position, but after V. Kent had clean bowled Mayer the game had another turn, the later batsmen failing to sustain the efforts of their colleagues, and only D. Downing (15) and James McEllin (10 not out) made much addition to the score. After changing ends, E. C. Farnie bowled very steadily, and finished with six wickets for 46; Kent having the remaining four at a cost of 29. Stone lost A. Ravenscroft before a run had been got, and at 37 two more wickets fell, but Farnie stayed with Cadman whilst the total was taken to 66, when the captain was well caught. The fifth and sixth wickets fell at 81 and 86, but so well was Cadman playing that the result was never really in doubt, and with G. Reece in, the Audley total was passed. Cadman, who batted an hour and three-quarters gave no chance, and many of his strokes were most skilfully executed. He hit six boundaries, one 5, and seven couples. F. Darlington, with four for 34, was Audley's most successful bowler, and H. McEllin had two wickets for 12.

#### CHEADLE'S EASY WIN.

Cheadle had little difficulty in accounting for Scot Hay's young men, who found the bowling too good for them, and the home side had the game won with seven wickets standing. F. Higginbotham's 10 was the only contribution of moment in Scot Hay's innings, the next best score consisting of three singles. The bowling and fielding of Cheadle showed marked improvement, the scouting especially so. This important branch of the game has not been a strong point, and keener interest in it will have to be taken if Cheadle are to make the progress so much desired by their officials and supporters. J. Keates and E. Gregory both finished with excellent bowling figures—six for 10 and four for 7 respectively. The visitors treated their batting task rather lightly, but they found that Scot Hay's attack was not to be despised, and, although J. Shaw quickly hit up 11, the only batsman to have positive control of the bowling was A. L. Day, who played with great care, and went all through the innings for 22 (not out). B. Griffiths bowled extremely well to take four wickets for 15, and A. Rogers had the 4 for 25.

#### THE OTHER SENIOR GAMES.

Alsagers Bank's batting at Clough Hall had one good period, which was during the fifth wicket partnership of F. Sumnall (21) and G. W. Beech. This stand realised 52 runs, and was followed by a decided slump, five wickets dropping for eight runs. The reason for the collapse lay with the bowling of F. Timmis, fifteen deliveries of which disposed of four batsmen for a debit of one run. W. Cooper was almost equally successful in the early part of the innings, having four victims for nine. H. Cooper (14) and P. Strong (13) gave Kidegrove a promising send-off by running up 23 as the opening pair, but this progress was far from being maintained, and the home club were well behind when their fifth wicket fell at 37, and were in jeopardy when the seventh went at 57. The situation was saved by the resolute batting of J. Hancock (20) and W. Cooper (12). G. W. Beech followed up his valuable run-getting effort by bowling steadily throughout the innings, and taking five wickets for 34 runs. A. Amson and R. Bailey each claimed a couple of wickets. Kidegrove are anxiously awaiting the return of E. Hadley, the clever all-rounder whose services to the club cannot be over-estimated.

In a low scoring match Batley made a stout fight with Sandiford, who owed their victory to the bowling of A. Bourne, which got seven wickets for eight runs, in eight overs. Bourne was also the top-notcher of his side, with 12, the only other dual figure score being 10 from H. Holland. F. Sutton's short spell of bowling for Batley was very effective, four batsmen surrendering to it at the cost of five runs. B. Madden also took four wickets, for 27. The losers' batting had a feeble beginning, and the doings of W. Smith (17) and H. Millington (13) failed to counter-balance the general flow of disaster, which otherwise was only relieved by the counting of eleven "extras." G. Bourne took one wicket, but was unusually expensive, and his displacement by Holland—two for four—occurred just in time.

Bowlers had matters all their own way in the game at Ashcombe Park, and two of them put up noteworthy performances. E. Mayer's seven wickets for 11 runs was the reason why the Park's innings ended in such a hurry; and this performance was beaten when Madeley had their batting turn, for F. James took so many wickets for three runs less. As things turned out, it was an unfortunate matter for the home club that F. James was not one of the first pair of bowlers. As E. Mayer made 26, it is clear that he was the dominant player of the game.



## JUNIORS' GAMES.

Signal End lost seven wickets for 20 runs against Knypersley, and it was left to F. Whalley (21), G. H. Burgess (37) and J. Wareham (27, not out) to bring the aggregate up to decent proportions. W. Whitehead (32) and J. Hancock (24, not out) made a good sixth wicket stand for Knypersley, but the assistance they got was poor. D. White and Whalley each took four wickets, for 51 and 20 runs respectively; and for the losers J. Boon had four for 28. Crewe Alexandra's last five wickets fell for 12 runs against Porthill Park, and their best scorers were J. Meakin (13) and H. Chesters (15). H. F. Wood bowled well to claim four wickets for 11, and W. C. Washington had three for 17. Good batting by R. Sleeves (31) and J. R. Parkes (43) gave Porthill a win by seven wickets. The most effective Crewe bowler was H. Oarless—four for 38. Nantwich owed their heavy score to W. Mercer (39), S. Coffin (53, not out), P. Moulton (36, not out) and "Mr. Extras" (48). Coffin and Moulton had an unbroken ninth wicket partnership of 79 chalks. There were periods of hurricane hitting, Burslem's bowling being quite moderate. The visitors lost seven wickets for 64, mostly to L. Haighton, but H. Richardson afterwards hit strongly for 42, and his example was followed by F. Ellis (31, not out) and J. H. Hodgkins (32). Haighton finished with seven wickets for 75. Longton came to grief against Silverdale, and were badly outplayed. None of their batsmen was resourceful enough to cope with the bowling of S. Jones and E. Lowe, and 10 from W. Hine was the top score in a feeble display. Jones had six wickets for 17, and Lowe's four cost 20. The visitors opened moderately, but 20 runs from W. Lowe settled the issue, and in the ensuing play, P. Bloor and C. Robinson also reached the twenty mark. Hine—three for 25—and J. Taylor—three for 38—fared best amongst Longton's bowlers. L.M.S. Railway did well to get rid of Leek for such a moderate total as 79, and the man to accomplish most of the damage was W. Hill, who captured six wickets for 21. The home team made poor headway against the bowling of A. L. Kidd and F. Hunt, and their first seven wickets dropped for 38. A. E. Tinsley, with 15, being the only batsman to gather double figures. Kidd had five wickets for 29 and Hunt four for 18. At the new Ford ground, Great Chell lost three wickets for five, and the fifth went at 28. A pronounced breakdown was prevented by J. Taylor who hit merrily for 32. J. Martin did well to get six wickets for 27, and two overs from H. Higgins secured three for four. With an easy task in front of them Norton scored freely from the start, and they had the game won with seven wickets in hand. Serviceable scores came from R. Tatton (28), E. Waterfall (21) and S. Crump (16, not out), but these players were put in the shade by A. Smith, who had twelve fours in his attractive innings of 75 (not out).

Bowlers held the field at High Lane, where only one player of each side attained dual numbers. The home team's last four wickets fell at the same total. F. Ollier, J. Utting and E. Wakelin each had three "scalps," Ollier's trio being got for three runs apiece. For High Lane, S. Durbur took five wickets for 14, and J. Lowe three for ten. Caverswall's first four men departed for ten, and the last four for five, doings which were not good enough to preserve an unbeaten record. Brindley Ford Wesleyans enjoyed themselves at Madeley, although their opening was disastrous—three wickets going for seven runs. But six of their batsmen reached double figures, with A. Ayre (35), R. Machin (28), and A. Walley (28, not out) the main scorers. Madeley made a deplorable start, and there was no redemption. Machin took five wickets for 12, and C. Slaney four for 14. Kidsgrove's win at the expense of Alsagers Bank was largely due to the capital play of the three men, F. Timmis scoring 23, I. Hadley 27, and J. Hulme disposing of six wickets for a paltry five singles. Amongst a lot of failures the innings of 21 played by A. Walters for the Bank was quite a big performance. Stone second gained an easy win over Audley second, dismissing the home side for 32, chiefly as the result of the obtaining of five wickets for 12 by G. L. Johnson. The winners knocked off the necessary runs with only three men out. P. R. Sheppard contributing 22 and T. Bowdize 12. Level batting and effective bowling supplied Betley with a ready success over Sandford. Their most prolific run-getters were B. Jones (24) and M. Jones (22), and the bowlers to do the execution were J. Brookshaw five for 14 and R. Ikin three for seven. The Sandford men who outdid their fellows were H. Bird—five for 27—and J. Dean who scored 16. For Cheddle, J. Fieldhouse did the "hat trick" against Onneley, and finished with five

wickets for 11 runs, figures which were only a shade better than those of W. Brough, five for 12. None of their opponents had eight notches betwixt them. Brough was top scorer of his team with 21. Five Onneley bowlers each had some measure of success.

## NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES &amp; UMPIRES.

## Senior Division.—Section "A."

Signal End v. Norton; Messrs. Bowers and Mantfold.  
Crewe Alexandra v. Great Chell; Messrs. Arthur Rogerson and T. Smith.  
Burslem v. Knypersley; Messrs. Bradbury and W. Butters.  
Silverdale v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Jones and Cox.  
Leek v. Nantwich; Messrs. Worthington and Birbles.  
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Longton; Messrs. Taylor and Plant.

## Section "B."

Caverswall v. Cheddle; Messrs. A. Smith and Shingler.  
Aashcombe Park v. Scot Hay; Messrs. Wright and R. Butters.  
Kidsgrove v. Burslem High Lane; A. Holdcroft and Tinsley.  
Stone v. Madeley; Messrs. Boulton and F. G. Bagley.  
Sandford v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. Buckley and Latham.  
Betley v. Audley; Messrs. Portch and Rostock.

## Junior Division.—Section "A."

Norton v. Signal End; Messrs. F. Smith and Coates.  
Great Chell v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Albert Rogerson and Brown.  
Knypersley v. Burslem; Messrs. Keeling and Furnival.  
Porthill Park v. Silverdale; Messrs. Whittingham and Cleave.  
Nantwich v. Leek; Messrs. Green and Forster.  
Longton v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Barsted and Farrington.

## Section "B."

Cheddle v. Caverswall.  
Onneley v. Brindley Ford Wesleyans.  
Burslem High Lane v. Kidsgrove.  
Madeley v. Stone.  
Alsagers Bank v. Sandford.  
Audley v. Betley.

## FENTON &amp; DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Fenton Bethel	5	2	2	0	11
Leycester	3	2	0	0	4
Florence Colliery II.	3	1	1	0	3
Tea	2	1	0	0	3
Longton Baptist	2	1	1	0	2
Rough Close	2	0	1	0	2
Longton "A"	2	0	1	0	1
Bucknall	1	0	1	0	0
Wolstanton Marsh	2	0	2	0	0

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Tea II. 38, Florence Colliery 36; Leycester 63, Wolstanton Marsh 26, Fenton Bethel 65, Rough Close 17.

## UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

## DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Tea	4	3	0	0	7
Leigh	3	2	0	0	5
Florence	4	2	1	0	5
Kingsley	4	2	1	0	5
Stallington	4	2	1	0	5
Oakmoor	3	1	1	0	3
Uttoxeter	3	1	1	0	3
Draycott	3	0	2	0	1
Alton	4	0	3	0	1
Hollington	3	0	3	0	0

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Oakmoor 105, Kingsley 105; Hollington 5, Leigh 19 for 1; Tea 114, Florence 63; Stallington 71, Alton 64.  
Notable performances, batting:—R. Barker (Oakmoor) 25, G. Harrison (Kingsley) 39, J. Chadwick (Tea) 55. Bowling:—A. Sumco (Leigh) 6 for 0, G. Backhouse (Leigh) 3 for 2, G. Harrison (Kingsley) 6 for 29, F. Shipley (Oakmoor) 4 for 18, R. Smith (Tea) 3 for 17, W. Bentley (Tea) 4 for 8, H. Lindop (Florence) 5 for 36, R. Stubbs (Stallington) 5 for 12.

## DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Leigh	4	3	0	0	7
Cresswell	3	2	1	0	5
Fulford	3	1	1	0	3
Kingsley	3	1	1	0	3
Stallington	2	1	1	0	2
Oakmoor	3	1	2	0	2
Alton	2	0	2	0	0
Hollington	2	0	2	0	0

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Leigh 66, Hollington 25; Kingsley 30, Oakmoor "A" 75; Cresswell 30, Stallington 52 for 7, Alton 24, Fulford 93.  
Notable performances, batting:—Warburton (Fulford) 37 not out, 8 Aikins (Oakmoor) 30. Bowling: R. Moseley (Oakmoor) 7 for 2, C. Mills (Stallington) 7 for 8, R. Critchlow (Fulford) 6 for 10, J. Merrick (Leigh) 4 for 11, H. Shipley (Leigh) 4 for 11, G. Brindley (Hollington) 4 for 13, R. Coe (Kingsley) 6 for 24, F. Taylor (Cresswell) 5 for 11.

## CHEDDLETON W.M. v. A. LOCKETT'S XI.

Played on Thursday.  
Cheddleton.—W. Bunn o Marler b Lockett 3, W. Sutcliffe b Lockett 1, C. Earnshaw o Henshall b Lockett 4, H. Walker b Lockett 0, J. Baker b Burgess 2, W. Newstead not out 17, P. Corbett b Lockett 0, J. Buckingham o Marler b Lockett 9, Dr. Stewart b Lockett 0, A. Webster o Henshall b Hawking 4, R. Arrowsmith b Lockett 4, extras 2; total 46.  
Second innings, 34.

A Lockett's XI.—A. E. Bratby o and b Corbett 1, F. Nixon o Corbett b Sutcliffe 4, A. W. Ikin o and b Corbett 30, J. Harper run out 48, A. Henshall lbw Corbett 0, A. Lockett o Bunn b Corbett 0, A. W. Hawkins b Buckingham b Corbett 6, J. Burgess b Corbett 0, A. Holden st Buckingham b Corbett 2, B. J. Marler not out 4, E. Madcock run out 0, extras 7; total 103.

## CONGLETON AND DISTRICT CRICKET.

The visit of the Congleton first team to Knutsford, on Saturday, provided a most interesting and delightful afternoon's sport. The game was of an exciting character, as there was little between the contesting sides, the result being a victory for Congleton by the narrow margin of 12 runs. Congleton batting first made 126. Again R. Reynolds proved himself a capable batsman by contributing 32 runs, F. Whittaker adding 27 and J. Reynolds 21. The Knutsford batsmen fared disastrously at the opening of their venture, half of their wickets falling for only 25 runs. Subsequently the rate of scoring improved, as the total reached 114. The attaining of this was chiefly due to the praiseworthy efforts made by A. Moreton, who gave a sound display with the bat for 41, and E. Shaw, who subscribed 23 runs.

While the first teams were trying conclusions at Knutsford, the second elevens were meeting at Congleton in ideal weather. Congleton II. realised a total of 132 for nine wickets. W. Wright played a vigorous innings for his 50, which included eight 4's. The visitors replied with a total of 126 for the loss of five wickets, the match ending in a draw. Some big hitting was done by B. Brown, who obtained 65 runs, and H. Moreton, 44 runs.

At Mossley, the visitors were Holmes Chapel. Mossley were the first to bat, their total reading 89. In response to this, Holmes Chapel scored 35, of which J. Pickstock accounted for 14 runs. George Atherton took 8 wickets for 12 runs, and Allan Ball two for five.

Congleton Empfre Mills team, just managed to defeat Leek "A" team, on the Beggars' Lane ground, Leek, by two runs, on Saturday. Both teams obtained low totals, Congleton having first for 31 runs, to which Leek "A" replied with 29 runs.

## FENTON CLUB'S REVIVAL.

After some years of inactivity, the Fenton Cricket Club recommenced on Saturday, on the ground off Park Lane, best known as the Fenton Athletic Ground. At the last moment the Hanford C.C. notified their inability to fulfil their fixture, but very readily the Berryhill Athletic C.C. stepped into the breach. One could not have wished for a better day, and a good crowd of spectators assembled to give the team a send off. Captain Mellor won the toss, and the opening partnership produced ten runs. The advent of N. Hawley saw some lively cricket, and he was not dismissed until he had 28 runs to his name. C. White and his brother William also reached double figures, whilst Mellor showed himself far from a spent force with a well obtained 15 not out. The side totalled 108, and with such a score high hopes were held of recording a victory. L. Homer (Berryhill) returned the good analysis of five for 16 runs. J. Hulme and C. Taylor were Berryhill's opening pair, but with good batting by A. Rawlinson and L. Homer, the score steadily mounted to 33 for 3. The advent of W. Edwards in the bowling department saw a sudden change, and 9 wickets were down for 39 runs. The captains agreed on an extra over, and with the initial ball Berryhill's innings terminated. Edwards had the remarkable average of 5 for 2. The game was a most enjoyable one, and showed that in Fenton there is still much good material which, properly coached, should bring back the old club to its palmy days of yore.

## WREKIN COLLEGE v. GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE.

Played on the College Ground on Wednesday.  
College.—L. G. Hales b Lees 6, A. D. Clarke b Lees 0, A. D. Wilke o and b Lees 0, A. Syddall o Lawrence b Paris 30, T. Barrington b Lawrence 6, J. M. Elliott not out 18, W. Hampton o McKenna b Lees 35, W. Wood run out 23, R. Chandler b Kerr 3, J. Matthias o Clark b Paris 14, J. Penn b Lawrence 6, extras 14; total 155.  
Gentlemen of Shropshire.—H. Richmond o Clarke b Barrington 19, Major E. Paris b Chandler 11, Dr. McKenna o Wilkie b Matthias 22, R. Edwards o Penn b Elliott 24, R. A. Clarke b Barrington 0, A. C. Lees b Wood 11, Dr. Lawrence b Wood 6, J. S. Kerr o Barrington b Chandler 8, R. Barber Starkey not out 1, J. Beattie o Clark b Wood 0, H. Clegg b Chandler 0, extras 4; total, 108.

## STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET.

### OPENING FIXTURE AT TRENT BRIDGE.

This cricket season, so far as the Staffordshire County team is concerned, opened on Wednesday, when Notts II. were opposed at Trent Bridge. Unfortunately, the weather conditions on Wednesday morning were atrocious. Heavy rain had fallen in the night, and the wicket was soaked. The rain took the Notts officials by surprise, the outlook on Tuesday evening being apparently promising, and only the creases were protected. The Notts v. Leicestershire match, which ended on Tuesday, was played on a pitch only a few yards from that prepared for Staffordshire, and the bowling holes on the adjacent wicket were full of water, and the worn patches were sheer mud. The pitch destined for the match was very wet, and as a light drizzle continued almost incessantly during the morning the ground had no chance to recover. Between one and two o'clock an improvement took place, and with the sun making a belated appearance, it was eventually found possible to start play at 4.40. As it was arranged to play till seven in order to finish earlier on Thursday, and give the Staffordshire party a chance to catch the last train home, Notts, who had a big stroke of luck in winning the toss, batted 2 hours and 20 minutes, batting at the close of the day. The wicket played "dead easy," with the prospect of becoming "deadly difficult" on Thursday, if there should be no more rain. Thus that two hours' batting on the slow, lifeless pitch might quite conceivably mean a gift of victory to the side fortunate enough to have choice of innings. Notts made quite good use of their chance, though they had to thank Lilley almost exclusively for their success. He played the right game, taking full advantage of the slow pace from the pitch to watch the good-length ball, and hitting lustily everything that was either short or over pitched. Except for his praiseworthy forcefulness, the Notts batting was tame and uninteresting. When stumps were drawn, Notts had put together 156 for the loss of four wickets, and of these Lilley had hit 105, and was still not out. He hit well in all directions, reaching 50 out of 70 in eighty minutes, and 75 out of a hundred in as many minutes, and 100 out of 145 in eighty minutes over two hours. He made a few bad strokes, hitting Barnes dangerously near to Johnson in the long field, and giving a sharp though awkward chance to Whalen at short leg off Lee, both quite early in his innings, whilst, when 55, he should have been caught at mid-on by Whalen from Lockett's bowling. These were fortune's favours in a splendid innings, which was a repetition of his achievement in the corresponding match at Mansfield last season, when he also hit a fine century off the Staffordshire bowlers, but did not save his side from defeat. Together with Walker he has been playing for the Notts First Eleven, as he did on a number of occasions last season, and as a wicket-keeper batsman he is a player most counties would be extremely glad to have. Walker's display was a lacklustre affair, and when Platt beat him with a nice break-back he had only scored 16 out of 63 in an hour and five minutes. Barratt also took 50 minutes to score 9, but then took 10 off one over from Barnes, two of the strokes being lucky snicks through the slips. When the total was approaching 150, with Lilley and Barratt still together, and only ten minutes to go, it seemed likely that the home team would wind up the day in a very strong position, but in the last quarter of an hour the pitch began to show more life, and a rapid change came about. Barratt, whose cutting had been his most attractive stroke, was bowled in trying to drive a swinging ball from Whalen, the Silverdale left hander; Payton was "stuck up" by Barnes and easily taken close in at point; and McLellan bowled by a good one from Whalen, also in a swinger. Thus three wickets fell while four runs were added, and the position of Staffordshire materially improved.

The Staffordshire Eleven was quite a useful one, with a good Southern contingent, but a notable absentee was H. Goodwin, the Stafford left hand batsman, who is now at Birmingham University, and was unable to play. Sedgwick was also absent owing to an injury.

There were some heavy showers on Wednesday evening, but Thursday was fine, and the pitch was fit for play at 11 o'clock. It seemed as though the fates were fighting for Lilley and the home side, however, for the wicket was again quite innocuous before lunch. Afterwards there was more life in it, and the ball turned more sharply, but with a rather high wind blowing the surface never was sun-baked and never became really difficult.

Lilley continued batting with great brilliance and again dominated the cricket, as may be gathered from the fact that he carried his score to 200 out of 292 for eight wickets, at which the Notts innings was declared at 12.40. Batting just over 3½ hours, the Notts professional made few indifferent strokes, and his forcing shots on both sides of the wicket were generally well timed and often well placed. He was still not out at the end, and is the first player in any class of cricket to hit 200 when opposed by Sydney Barnes. His hits included 20 fours to all parts of the field.

Staffordshire had a thankless task, for the prospect of avoiding a first innings defeat was not a hopeful one, with the wicket playing much less easily than it had for their opponents. However, they made a fight of it, mainly thanks to some sound and skilful batting by Barnes, who resisted the Notts' attack for nearly three hours and scarcely made a mistake, if one or two rather streaky shots through the slips are excepted. He hit eight 4's, mostly clever leg strokes, and when he was last out it was to a catch of the kind that comes off very seldom, for the bowler held a drive that was well worth four with the extended left hand. A. Lockett rendered the great International most assistance, playing thoroughly good cricket for almost an hour, and W. Lee was playing confidently when a misunderstanding sacrificed his wicket. Larwood and Staples always required careful playing, the former finding fair pace, and making them "go" both ways on occasion. Silverberg had a dangerous in-swing.

As a result of the encounter Staffordshire had to be content with one point out of five for a first innings defeat.

Scores and analysis:—

#### Notts II.—First Innings.

Walker b Platt	16
Lilley not out	200
Barratt (P.) b Whalen	26
Payton (A.) c Homer b Barnes	0
J. S. McLellan b Whalen	2
J. F. Bishop b Platt	15
G. F. H. Heane l.b.w. b Barnes	23
H. Silverberg b Lockett	0
L. Kirk b Lockett	2
Extras	8

Total (for 8 wks.) 292

Innings declared. Staples (A.) and Larwood did not bat.

#### Second Innings.

Barratt c Lee b Lockett	11
J. S. McLellan not out	20
H. Silverberg b Barnes	4
Payton not out	8
Extras	2

Total (for 2 wks.) 45

#### Staffordshire.

P. O. Yates b Larwood	17
H. W. Homer b Larwood	16
Barnes c and b Heane	74
J. W. Johnson b Larwood	0
P. F. Stubbs b Larwood	5
W. Lee run out	11
C. G. Varcoe c Staples b Heane	6
Platt b Payton	3
A. Lockett b Silverberg	31
J. B. Russell b Silverberg	0
J. Whalen not out	3
Extras	8

Total 174

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

##### Notts.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	6	63	2
Lee	13	0	47	0
Platt	17	0	73	2
Lockett	15.2	2	33	2
Whalen	12	0	60	2
Varcoe	1	0	18	0

Lee bowled one no-ball.

##### Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lockett	8	1	20	1
Platt	4	0	15	0
Barnes	3	1	8	1

##### Staffordshire Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Larwood	26	4	83	4
Staples	25	0	40	0
Heane	7.5	3	11	2
Payton	9	3	25	1
Silverberg	6	3	7	2

## CRICKET.

### STAFFORD C.C. v. ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY.

On Siemens' ground on Saturday, May 23. This match was considerably interfered with by heavy rain.

Stafford C.C.—J. T. W. Neville c Owen b Hardgrave 36. W. T. White b Hardgrave 10. A. D. Foster b Hardgrave 0; J. W. Hawley c Webb b Hardgrave 6; the Rev. F. W. Stanbridge b Hardgrave 6; A. J. Ward run out 0. R. H. Warwick not out 20. C. A. Woodger not out 5, extras 2, total (for six wickets, declared) 85. W. C. R. Ellsmoor, H. J. Hollands, and G. C. Godley did not bat. J. Hardgrave took five wickets for 25 runs.

English Electric Company.—J. Hardgrave b Hollands 0. J. Webb c Woodger b Hawley 5. L. Bellamy c Warwick b Ellsmoor 23. J. Smith not out 14. T. A. Poole not out 1, extras 3, total (for three wickets) 51. H. Smith, R. Lockwood, H. Morris, A. J. Owen, A. Austin, and G. Mountford did not bat.

### CHESTER ROAD v. LICHFIELD II.

Lichfield Second Eleven met with their first defeat on Saturday, when they visited Chester Road. Lichfield could only knock up 67, while the home team responded with 77 runs for two wickets, and declared with 107 to their credit for the loss of six wickets. For Lichfield, N. Hartshorn took three wickets for 12 runs. Scores:—

Lichfield.—R. E. Briault b H. Hadley 14. W. Plant b S. Carver 2. R. Cook c Price b S. Carver 12. N. Hartshorne c S. Hadley b H. Hadley 4. G. Ryan c Cox b S. Carver 0. W. Belcher b H. Hadley 5. J. Barrow b S. Carver 1. J. S. Brown c H. Hadley b S. Carver 3. P. L. Cooper c Cox b H. Hadley 15. W. A. Wait b H. Hadley 0. C. F. Page not out 5, extras 4, total 67.

Chester Road.—A. F. Jones c Plant b C. F. Page 1. W. Price b Hartshorne 56. E. Adams c Briault b Hartshorne 13. S. Hadley c Brown b Plant 5. W. Daniels l.w. b Hartshorne 12. G. Harrison l.w. b Belcher 2. R. Cox not out 8. S. Carver not out 0, extras 4, total (for six wickets) 107. C. W. Jones, H. Hadley, and Phelps did not bat.

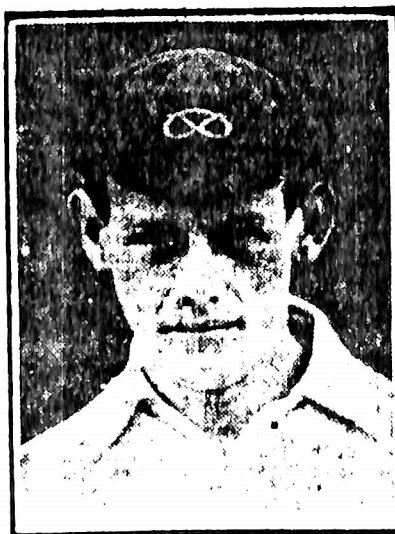


## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Cheshire's Visit to Porthill.

#### New Players for Staffordshire

STAFFORDSHIRE will play their second match of the season on Monday and Tuesday next, when their old rivals, Cheshire, will be the visitors to the Porthill Park ground. Cheshire, in recent years, have been one of the most improved sides in the Minor Counties competition, and whereas at one time they regularly proved easy victims for their Staffordshire neighbours, they turned the tables on them last season at Porthill. That was a



A. A. BICKERTON.

great day for Wilson and Dennis, the two Cestrian professionals, who, between them, played havoc with Staffordshire wickets in the first innings, dismissing all the batsmen for the exceedingly small total of 32 runs. Six of the wickets fell to Wilson for an equal number of runs, while Dennis claimed the other four for seventeen.

In the return match at Macclesfield, Staffordshire made a great effort to avenge their earlier defeat, but after getting in a strong winning position they were thwarted by rain.

Staffordshire have chosen an interesting side for next week's match, although, unfortunately it does not include Sydney Barnes, who has an important cup engagement with his Lancashire club, Castleton Moor, or Herbert Sedzwick, who has not yet recovered from the strain he sustained a week or two ago. The batting strength will gain by the inclusion of A. A. Bickerton, who has made many a good stand for the county, and trials are also to be given to two North Staffordshire League players, who will be making their debut in Minor Counties cricket. These are C. Rushton, a batsman who is giving good service to Silverdale, and J. Durber, who has done sensational things with the ball for Longton, and who has now added strength to the Porthill attack. The Staffordshire team will be as follows: J. B. Russell (captain), A. A. Bickerton, C. G. Varcoe, J. W. Johnson, C. Rushton, W. Lee, R. S. Hunt, J. Whalen, A. Lockett, J. Durber, and Platt (G.).

The London, Midland and Scottish Railway are providing special travelling facilities for all who wish to attend the Staffordshire County fixtures this season, viz., return journeys from any point within an eighty miles radius, third or first class, at a single fare.

The county club is in need of all the support it can possibly get, and good "gates" at Porthill on Monday and Tuesday would be of material help at this juncture.

# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Signal End	8	5	0	1	14
Crewe Alexandra	8	4	1	3	13
Porthill Park	8	4	2	2	10
Nantwich	8	3	3	2	8
Longton	8	3	3	2	8
Alverdale	8	1	4	3	5
Great Chell	8	1	4	3	5
Knyperley	8	1	4	3	5
L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke)	8	0	8	0	0

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 50 for two; Norton, 41.  
Crewe Alexandra, 55; Great Chell, 44.  
Burlem, 125; Knyperley, 77.  
Alverdale, 120 for four (dec.); Porthill Park, 77 for 8.  
Nantwich, 95 for eight; Leek, 91.  
Longton, 78 for none; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 41.

#### WHIT-MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 168 for eight; Crewe Alexandra, 53.  
Burlem, 157 for four; Great Chell, 131.  
Knyperley, 67; Alverdale, 67.  
Leek, 78; Porthill Park, 74.  
Nantwich, 103 for eight (dec.); L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 42 for eight.  
Norton, 280 for six (dec.); Longton, 144 for nine.

#### WHIT-TUESDAY'S RESULTS.

Burlem, 104; Signal End, 79.  
Norton, 183 for three (dec.); Crewe Alexandra, 54.  
Great Chell, 54; Alverdale, 53.  
Leek, 109; Knyperley, 64.  
Porthill Park, 164 for nine (dec.); L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 57.  
Nantwich, 110 for eight; Longton, 111.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kidsgrove	8	5	1	2	12
Madeley	8	4	2	2	10
Sandford	8	4	2	2	10
Alsagers Bank	8	3	3	2	8
Burlem High Lane	8	3	3	2	8
Caverswall	8	3	3	2	8
Cheadle	8	3	3	2	8
Stone	8	3	3	2	8
Alsagers Bank	8	3	3	2	8
Audley	8	3	3	2	8
Beley	8	3	3	2	8
Scot Hay	8	0	8	0	0

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 51; Cheadle, 37.  
Alsagers Bank, 50; Scot Hay, 51.  
Kidsgrove, 59; Burlem High Lane, 71 for 8.  
Madeley, 55 for six; Stone, 75.  
Sandford v. Alsagers Bank abandoned.  
Beley, 78 for nine; Audley, 47.

#### WHIT-MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 58; Alsagers Bank, 30.  
Kidsgrove, 51; Scot Hay, 48.  
Burlem High Lane, 70; Stone, 58.  
Sandford, 73; Madeley, 45.  
Alsagers Bank, 50; Beley, 18.  
Audley, 58; Cheadle, 51.

#### WHIT-TUESDAY'S RESULTS.

Kidsgrove, 104 for four; Caverswall, 55.  
Cheadle, 57; Alsagers Bank, 40.  
Stone, 147 for eight; Scot Hay, 64.  
Burlem High Lane, 70; Sandford, 58.  
Madeley, 57; Beley, 55.  
Alsagers Bank, 120 for six (dec.); Audley, 56 for 7.

### JUNIOR DIVISION—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Nantwich	8	5	0	3	13
Porthill Park	8	5	0	3	13
Norton	8	4	2	2	10
Alverdale	8	4	2	2	10
Burlem	8	3	3	2	8
Signal End	8	3	3	2	8
Leek	8	3	3	2	8
Knyperley	8	3	3	2	8
Longton	8	3	3	2	8
Crewe Alexandra	8	3	3	2	8
Great Chell	8	3	3	2	8
L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke)	8	0	8	0	0

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Norton, 124; Signal End, 110.  
Crewe Alexandra, 55; Great Chell, 55 for eight.  
Burlem, 150 for four (dec.); Knyperley, 55 for 8.  
Porthill Park, 91 for four; Alverdale, 70.  
Nantwich, 70; Leek, 44.  
Longton, 58; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 49.

#### WHIT-MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 54 for eight; Crewe Alexandra, 52.  
Burlem, 154 for eight; Great Chell, 108.  
Alverdale, 64; Knyperley, 59.  
Leek, 117; Porthill Park, 104 for nine.  
Nantwich, 131 for 8 (dec.); L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 50.  
Norton, 55 for six; Longton, 54.

#### WHIT-TUESDAY'S RESULTS.

Burlem, 50; Signal End, 78.  
Crewe Alexandra, 104; Norton, 50.  
Alverdale, 101; Great Chell, 131.  
Knyperley, 50; Leek, 50.  
Porthill Park, 54 for two; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 70.  
Nantwich, 134; Longton, 50.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans	8	5	0	3	14
Burlem High Lane	8	5	0	3	14
Beley	8	5	0	3	14
Caverswall	8	4	2	2	10
Alsagers Bank	8	3	3	2	8
Cheadle	8	3	3	2	8
Stone	8	3	3	2	8
Onsley	7	3	3	1	7
Kidsgrove	7	3	3	1	7
Audley	8	1	4	3	5
Madeley	8	3	3	2	8
Sandford	8	0	8	0	0

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 180 for eight (dec.); Cheadle, 51 for five.  
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 108 for seven (dec.);  
Onsley, 50.  
Burlem High Lane, 44; Kidsgrove, 17.  
Stone, 47; Madeley, 50.  
Alsagers Bank, 52; Sandford, 48.  
Audley, 58; Beley, 58.

#### WHIT-MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 53 for nine; Caverswall, 71.  
Burlem High Lane, 77; Stone, 59.  
Madeley, 102; Sandford, 100.  
Beley, 115; Alsagers Bank, 38.  
Audley, 43; Cheadle, 58.

#### WHIT-TUESDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 59; Kidsgrove, 37.  
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 74; Cheadle, 58.  
Onsley, 100; Stone, 58.  
Burlem High Lane, 40; Sandford, 37.  
Beley, 58; Madeley, 34.  
Alsagers Bank, 72; Audley, 58.

### WHITSUNTIDE'S HEAVY PROGRAMME

Of seventy-one matches was completed under conditions which were mostly favourable, and as nearly all the games had decisive endings the tables of merit were associated with much shuffling of positions. The chief event of the proceedings was the overthrow of Signal End, the champions once more finding Burlem a very difficult problem—a side as mettlesome as themselves, and finally led by a skilled tactician. Burlem found the vulnerable heel of the Boon Hill Achilles, and their success was the more praiseworthy because circumstances caused them to be below their best strength. The victory gave the Burlem men the leadership of their section, and though it is much too early to discuss the possibility of their retaining the position it is at least gratifying to find that one team is able to seriously contest the might of the champions. Other sides to suffer first reverses were the Seniors of Norton and Sandford, and the last named are now distanced by Kidsgrove and Madeley, who are not unlikely to repeat their best competition of last season. The rise of Kidsgrove was synchronous with the return to the field of E. Hadley, whose skill and general personality constitute a big asset of the club.

Senior sides to have the encouragement of initial success were Great Chell and Knyperley, and it was rather singular that both should obtain such measure of satisfaction as the outcome of bouts with Alverdale. The L.M. and S. Railway are now alone in their class as being without a win to cheer them, but they showed distinct signs of improvement in their struggle with Nantwich, and better backing might lead to a change in their fortunes. Much of the enthusiasm generated by Mr. F. A. L. Barnwell has been allowed to get to a moribund stage, and there are indications that the interest taken in the players is merely perfunctory. For the most part the Railway cricketers are youngsters whose skill is not yet equal to their eagerness, and such ability as they possess needs the warmth of moral support if it is to develop. One matter of the club's operations calls for much commendation, and that is the general condition and appearance of the ground. Both the pitches and the outfield are greatly improved, and in this respect much credit is due to all concerned. What is now wanted is a serious and kindly move in the direction of helping the players to ripen their latent powers. The engagement of John C. Cooper as coach was a good step, but he and his pupils will benefit by active concern in their doings.

Few teams had the gratification of annexing the whole of the spoils for which they competed during the short holiday period, the nearest few to have such glory being Burlem's

first eleven, the reserves of Nantwich and Burlem High Lane and Brindley Ford Wesleyans. The reverse experience was the lot of Scot Hay and the second teams of L.M. and S. Railway and Sandford. The series of games brought the first "tie" match of the season, the second elevens of Audley and Beley equally sharing fifty chalks. Other extremely close results were the victory of Crewe Alexandra over Great Chell, Sandford second team's defeat by Madeley competitors, Caverswall juniors' win at the expense of Kidsgrove second—each by a matter of two runs—the three runs which divided the juniors of the Burlem High Lane and Beley from Sandford and Madeley, respectively; and the margin of four notches which separated Leek and Porthill Park and Great Chell and Alverdale. Scoring ruled low in a big proportion of the matches, and the doubtful distinction of being bundled out for the smallest total belonged to Beley, who were dismissed by the Alsagers Bank bowlers for 15, two runs less than the score which Kidsgrove's reserves obtained against High Lane's second team. The biggest aggregate was gained by Norton, who ran up 220 for six wickets against Longton, but lacked sufficient time in which to separate the visitors' last pair of batsmen.

The highest individual score fell to A. Lockett, who came to the rescue when Signal End were in score trouble, and after winning the match made light of Crewe Alexandra's bowling, his brilliant innings of 111 (not out) containing no less than 23 fours. As he had previously taken six wickets for 21 runs the Alexandra will no doubt retain vivid recollections of Lockett's doings on Whit-Monday, 1925.

### ITEMS OF SENIORS' MATCHES.

Two good wins and a defeat in a keen contest made the portion of the champions, who beat Norton and Crewe Alexandra and succumbed to Burlem. The Norton batsmen were hopelessly lost on the dead pitch, and were put to rout by A. Lockett—four for 9—and F. J. Dale—four for 6. Signal End had little trouble in getting the runs wanted, and the chief matter of their batting was a well-hit 25 (not out) by A. W. Ikin. An hour's play was sufficient for the disposal of Crewe Alexandra, six visiting players failing to score, and only W. H. Norman (23) reached double figures. Lockett and Dale were again amongst the wickets, their records being six for 21, and four for 28 respectively. The home team had a severe shock at the start of their innings, for they lost six men for a beggarly ten runs. The game was pulled round by Lockett and Dale (19), who put on 28 for the seventh wicket, and the rest of the task was easy. W. Downing (43), and Lockett (111 not out) had an eighth wicket partnership which realised 148 runs. Hartley bowled finely for the Alexandra, and took all the wickets that fell—eight for 51.

### THE CHAMPIONS BEATEN.

In the happy position of being able to field their best side Signal End were confident of victory when they faced Burlem's depleted team, though they appreciated the fighting qualities of their opponents. The actual result was rather a staggerer, but the Cobridge men were good value for their clever win. They owed a lot to the sound batting of A. Birch, whose 38 had the effect of making their aggregate a satisfactory one, even though it was not formidable. Dale was by far the most successful Signal End bowler, disposing of six wickets for 43 runs. The champions made an unhappy start by losing a man at nine, and their fourth wicket fell at 31. Hope came from a stand by A. E. Braby (15) and Lockett (23), but Burlem were always winning after the hitter had been accounted for, and Evans Cook finished off the innings in dramatic fashion by taking four wickets in the course of 14 deliveries which were not debited with a single run. The captain's full return was six for 28, and he was well supported by R. Hollowood, who bowled very steadily to get three wickets for 24.

Burlem's other opponents were Knyperley and Great Chell, and both made plucky fights against powerful opponents. Knyperley made run-getting a difficult job, though W. Briscoe employed "the long handle" whilst scoring 34, and E. Cotton played good cricket for 14. J. Fenton (26) was also a useful run-getter, but was lucky that upish strokes went just wide of fielders. Knyperley's fielding was very smart, and W. Lonsdale—six for 21—bowled well. The visitors tried hard to save the game, and they almost succeeded, only five minutes being left for play when their last wicket fell. R. Hollowood—six for 29—and E. Cook—four for 28—were both in good bowling fettle. S. Brayford (43) and R. Harris (25) were Great Chell's chief scorers, and they managed to subdue Burlem's usually successful



full pair of bowlers, the honours of the attack falling to Briscoe, who claimed four wickets for 25 runs. Chell's fate was sealed by E. Cook (22, not out) and Briscoe (54), who carried the total from 42 to 120 for the fourth wicket.

Chell nearly effected a coup against Crewe Alexandra who found the task of getting 44 runs almost beyond them, and they had lost eight wickets with nine chalks still wanted. A plucky 11 (not out) from Jennings was the factor which determined the issue in Crewe's favour. U. Pitchford took five wickets for a paltry eight runs, and E. J. Barber aided ably with five for 25. Chell owed their opportunity of making a game struggle to F. Vordrey (12) and W. H. Meir (14, not out), who batted gamely after witnessing a sensational collapse, six wickets having dropped for three runs. The successful bowlers were Hartley—six for 24—and F. Sylvester—three—for 16. The visitors' last batsman was run out, an unlucky incident which may have cost them the game.

Heartened by their good work against Crewe and Burslem, Great Chell performed famously at Silverdale, and won a surprising victory. F. Vordrey and Pitchford sent six of their opponents back for 19, and better scoring by E. White (14) and A. Charlesworth (14) was not sufficient to make Silverdale's aggregate a menacing one. Even so, it was almost enough, for Chell were a run behind when their last batsman took his stand. E. White was responsible for a remarkable piece of bowling, sending down ten overs for five runs and six wickets. The winners' main run-getters were W. Warburton (19), E. J. Barber (13) and J. Wilschaw (12). Vordrey's four wickets cost 16 runs, and Pitchford had a like number of successes for 21.

Silverdale had a poor period, although they had a paper advantage in their bout with Porthill Park. This arose from a good innings of 55 (not out) from J. Whalen, and the wretched light conditions during the latter part of Porthill's innings. The attendance and the game were both ruined by the unfavourable weather. The most satisfactory matter of Porthill's cricket lay with the batting of A. A. Bickerton (40) and J. S. Heath (29).

At Knypersley on Monday the home players proved to be a slightly superior force to Silverdale, and their first win was well earned. Their best scorers were A. Cooper, with 25, and W. Boon, with 19, and J. Bedson and E. Mosedale each ran up a useful dozen. A. Charlesworth, who bowled very fast, did a good afternoon's work by taking seven wickets for 33 runs. Capital batting by E. Lowe (14) and C. F. Rushton (18) caused Silverdale's beginning to be a promising one, but Knypersley were always on top after a smart catch by A. Millward, at mid-off, had sent Rushton to the pavilion. Four wickets fell to W. Lonsdale for 25 runs. E. Mosedale had three for 19, and H. Bibby two for eight.

Nantwich fared famously by winning two of their games and drawing the other. Their victories were gained away from home, and were as unlooked for as their failure to beat the L.M.S. Railwaymen on their own ground. They did well to dispose of Leek for 91, to which J. Cotton and H. Birch contributed 28 and 26, respectively, and the reason for Leek's dismissal for a total of such moderate proportions rested with the bowling of W. T. Maybury, which secured seven wickets for 36 runs. When the visitors batted they were given an encouraging opening by T. W. Stevenson (27) and F. W. Slight (18), but there was something like a slump afterwards, only Maybury making an extended stay, and he had some luck whilst remaining to make 17 (not out). He had F. E. Hough as a last partner—W. Meakin had retired injured—and the pair put on 15 chalks and won the match, the fifth ball of the "last over" providing the winning stroke. Leek's bowlers were let down by fielding blunders. J. Pointon had three wickets for 13, and H. Walmsley three for 38.

On Monday the Cheshire men lost five wickets to L.M.S. Railway for 47 runs, but Maybury and S. W. Cooper found the fielders in a generous mood, and the sequel was a stand of 66 runs for the sixth wicket. This gave Nantwich a sound position, which was enhanced by further good scoring by Maybury (8, not out), and J. B. Swindale (24, not out) the unbroken association of the pair for the ninth wicket carrying the aggregate from 139 to 183. W. Hill did well to take four wickets for 28, and J. Turner had three for 31. Turner also batted well for 27 (not out) but the outstanding matter of the visitors' cricket was a masterly innings of 44 from Cooper, who was never in trouble until he was unfortunately run out. E. H. Stevenson bowled cleverly for Nantwich, but his four wickets were debited with 45 runs.

Leek and Porthill Park had a dour struggle at Wolstanton, on a bad pitch. A burst of brilliant fielding episodes gave Leek a narrow win, to which they were helped by reckless running between the wickets, such incidents

leading to the homeward march of three Porthill batsmen. Cotton played good cricket for 20 for the winners, and adventurous hitting by J. H. Ellerton (18, not out) retrieved an early collapse. Heap had five wickets for 32, and J. Durber three for 18. Porthill were soon in jeopardy, and of the early batsmen only A.A. Bickerton (34) shaped against the dangerous bowling of V. Astbury and H. Birch. Bickerton's 34 were all but five of the runs got when he was disposed of, and it was un-

fortunate for his side that he threw his wicket away after experiencing some good fortune. In the later stages of the venture J. J. Evanson (20) showed that the bowling could be hit, and, with useful help from J. Poole, he nearly won the game. Birch had five wickets for 35, and bowled steadily and cleverly.

Longton had a runaway victory over L.M. and S. Railway, but on Monday their bowlers were badly exploited by Norton, six of whose batsmen had scores ranging from 18 to 43. The top-notcher was J. Martin, with 43 (not out), W. D. Robinson scoring 41, P. Massey 36, and D. Worthington 33. The feature of Longton's display was a finely hit 73 from H. Brassington, who counted 16 boundaries. R. J. Hailen (18, not out) and J. Dennis saved the visitors in the last ditch. Norton were short of their recognised bowlers, and the men at command were not up to the standard needed.

Crewe Alexandra were badly outpointed by Norton, for whom L. Crump (82, not out) and A. Jolley (48) made a second wicket stand of 80 runs; and Crump and J. Jolley (44, not out) had an unbroken connection which gathered a further 63. Crump played sound cricket throughout his long stay. Arthur Jolley had two wickets in his first over and another in his third, and the Alexandra never got over the shock, the only players to offer any resistance to the bowling being M. Walker (18) and H. Hope (18). The fast bowler finished with six wickets for 38, whilst A. Evans had two for four and U. Worthington two for 12.

A spirited innings of 71 by J. H. Ellerton, and good bowling by H. Birch—five for 28—and V. Astbury—five for 30—were the factors which provided Leek with a decisive victory over Knypersley. The outstanding affairs of the game between Porthill and L.M.S. Railway were clever batting by H. F. Wood 59, and the destructive bowling of J. Durber, who did the "bat-trick," and in all had six wickets for 20 runs. Nantwich had three players of real note in their game with Longton, a stand by F. W. Slight (37, not out) and F. E. Hough (44) bringing victory after a seemingly hopeless position had been arrived at, Maybury securing seven wickets and W. T. Maybury securing seven wickets for 55. For the losers, A. Smith was a prominent all-rounder, scoring 43 and taking three wickets for 36. H. Brassington's work was also marked by versatility, for it got 23 runs and five wickets for 24.

#### NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

##### Senior Division.—Section "A."

Leek v. Burslem End; Messrs. Bowers and Arthur Rogers.

Silverdale v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Manifold and Ward.

Norton v. Burslem; Messrs. Plant and L. H. Bagley.

L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke) v. Great Chell; Messrs. Cox and Jones.

Longton v. Knypersley; Messrs. W. Butters and Brathay.

Nantwich v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Taylor and Birles.

##### Section "B."

Sandford v. Caverswall; Messrs. Green and Keeling.

Stoke v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. Brown and F. G. Bagley.

Cheddle v. Kidsgrove; Messrs. Perkin and Johnston.

Retley v. Good Hay; Messrs. Farrington and Salmon.

Audley v. Burslem High Lane; Messrs. Lyth and A. Smith.

Alsagers Bank v. Madeley; Messrs. Thibley and Bullock.

##### Junior Division.—Section "A."

Signal End v. Leek; Messrs. Cartledge and Pennell.

Burslem v. Norton; Messrs. Rowlands and Furlival.

Great Chell v. L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke); Messrs. Viggers and F. Smith.

Knypersley v. Longton; Messrs. Shingler and Whittingham.

Porthill Park v. Nantwich; Messrs. Boulton and Forster.

##### Section "B."

Caverswall v. Sandford.

Bradley Ford Wesleyans v. Stoke.

Kidsgrove v. Cheddle.

Onneley v. Retley.

Burslem High Lane v. Audley.

Madeley v. Alsagers Bank.

**BURSLEM'S** Whitman programme proved most productive, for they won all three games played. Last Saturday's game with Knypersley was interrupted by the weather but with an exciting finish came a good result.

A good crowd welcomed Burslem to the new corners of the league—Great Chell, on Monday, and whilst Chell struggled hard, they will admit Burslem had the advantage. Briscoe played a great innings in this game of 54, his nine boundary hits being accomplished with apparent ease.

Tuesday's game against Signal End, the champions, was the best of all, and was one of the most interesting games seen at Burslem for some time. Throughout it was a case of master brains, and it must be credited to the two men stood out, Evans Cook in the bowling for Burslem, and Brathay with the bat for Signal End. The ball eventually triumphed over the bat, and it must be many a long day since Evans Cook bowled so well. When all hope was lost, came the sunshine of victory, and a most unusual thing about Signal End was that their last five batsmen only collected one single run. Six wickets for 2 runs hardly did Evans Cook his full justice for he was always master. This third successive victory, and with depleted forces, was all the more creditable, and proves that Burslem are a good side.

Burslem II. have also done well during the holiday by winning two and drawing one match. Two young players, Bernard Hollis and J. Chadwick, showed up exceptionally well on Tuesday.

#### A FRIGHT FOR THE CHAMPIONS.

Battling first on Whit Monday, Crewe cut u badly against the Signal End attack at Boon Hill. The whole side was dismissed for 1 runs, six batsmen each getting a "duck," V. H. Norman scored 22 by resolute batting, and he was the only Crewe batsman to enjoy any real comfort while at the crease. A. Locke and F. Dale bowled unchanged, the former being the more deadly, and capturing six wickets for 21 runs.

The Champions, on opening their venture had a fright, for they lost their first six wickets with only 10 runs on the board. The remarkable collapse had been caused by Hailley, the Crewe pro., who at this point he captured all six wickets for three runs. Lockett then proved his stirring worth as batsman, for, going in at a most critical point he, together with F. Dale, took the score 38 before Dale left. With W. Downing as his partner, he batted with wonderful judgment and restraint until the match was won, after which he gave a magnificent display, his leg driving, cutting and execution on the leg side being a delight to watch.

Signal End demonstrated their championship abilities on Saturday, when they entertained Norton at Boon Hill. The visitors batted first and gave a distinctly disappointing exhibition, the whole of the side being dismissed for 41 runs. The bowlers were tireless throughout the innings. A. Locke bowled remarkably well throughout, sending down 17 overs, 11 of which were maidens, and he captured four wickets for 9 runs.

In their reply to this meagre total, the champions only required the services of four batsmen, two of whom were undefeated, when the innings were declared closed. J. H. May and L. McEllen put on 23 for the first wicket.

Jack Whalen, the Silverdale bowler, quickly establishing himself amongst the league's batsmen. In the last two innings he has scored 63 and 58 without forfeiting a wicket. It is significant that the county recognise him, solely on account of his bowling ability.

## KNYPERSLEY KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

## First Round.

## EMPIRE MILLS v. GUIDE MILL.

EMPIRE MILLS.—J. Hancock b Morris 22, F. Tomlinson c Hughes b Boon 4, F. Marsh c Lowe b Morris 2, J. Elkin b Boon 4, W. Johnson b Morris 0, J. Chaddock c Ayres b Morris 0, H. Potts c and b Boon 0, A. Gallimore b Boon 0, G. Pickford run out 21, A. Brough lbw b Boon 22, A. Sherratt lbw b Hughes 5, extras 5; total 84.

GUIDE MILL.—W. Boon c and b Hancock 21, T. Ayres b Elkin 1, F. Morris b Hancock 0, J. Wright b Elkin 0, F. Machin b Hancock 2, G. Perks c Gallimore b Elkin 0, E. Moore b Hancock 0, R. Davies b Hancock 2, H. Hughes c Gallimore b Elkin 0, A. Taylor b Elkin 0, J. Lowe c Hancock b Elkin 1, extras 4; total 32.

## PEDAGOGUES v. STRIP MILL.

PEDAGOGUES.—G. Lawton c Bradbury b Small 17, A. T. Rogers b Small 0, G. Cooper c Bradbury b Small 17, B. Boulton not out 12, J. H. Law b Small 1, C. Pollars b Small 0, W. Quinlan run out 8, H. Ellerton b Harrison 0, W. Sammonds b Small 1, J. Ball not out 1, extras 0; total (for 8 wickets) 79.

STRIP MILL.—T. Pass b Cooper 8, W. Bradbury b Cooper 6, J. Baddley c Quilton b Cooper 6, W. Taylor b Law 1, W. Malbon run out 2, G. Harrison b Cooper 7, G. Bentley b Cooper 2, H. Barton run out 2, W. Williams c Quilton b Cooper 0, J. Small b Boulton 15, J. Bradbury b Boulton 0, extras 0; total 49.

## OLD BOYS v. LOCO DEPT.

OLD BOYS.—W. Hunt c and b Butler 3, F. Finney c Butler b Shaw 20, A. Doorbar b Shaw 0, A. Shumbotham b Shaw 0, H. Doorbar b Shaw 17, R. Leadbeater run out 4, F. Copeland c Edwards b Butler 3, W. Roberts b Butler 0, N. Doorbar c Harper b Butler 1, S. Copeland c Lawton b Harper 1, W. Moss b Butler 0, extras 4; total 53.

LOCO DEPT.—J. Butler c Finney b Copeland 9, P. Harper c Finney b Doorbar 5, F. Harper c Copeland b Doorbar 0, C. Lovatt b Finney b Doorbar 0, J. Shaw run out 0, H. Edwards run out 1, J. Dean b Doorbar 0, J. Mossdale c Hunt b Copeland 1, E. Barlow c Roberts b Doorbar 2, E. Lawton b Doorbar 0, H. Rees c Leadbeater b Doorbar 1, extras 3; total 22.

## BAND CLUB v. PRIMITIVES II.

BAND CLUB.—R. Bates lbw b Jack Heath 12, L. Crowder b Jack Heath 1, J. Malbon b Jas. Heath 3, J. Robinson at Oakes b Jas. Heath 5, G. Swift at Oakes b Jack Heath 2, B. Lowe lbw b Jack Heath 9, W. Whitehurst b Jack Heath 8, A. Heath run out 7, L. Barnett c Walton b F. Rowley 0, A. Booth b Jack Heath 1, T. Swift c Green b Cope 22, extras 1; total 70.

PRIMITIVES II.—Jas. Heath b Booth 8, C. Walton b Booth 5, S. Rowley c and b Booth 0, J. Brown lbw b Booth 20, F. Rowley b Booth 0, W. Oakes c Swift b Malbon 3, H. Green c Swift b Booth 0, Jack Heath b Booth 2, E. Cope b Booth 0, R. Hill b Booth 0, J. J. Green lbw b Booth 10, extras 2; total 60.

## POST BOX v. BROWN LEES COLLIERY.

POST BOX.—G. E. Davies b Griffiths, Jun. 12, W. Lees b Griffiths, Jun. 5, W. Longdon c Griffiths, sen. b Machin 1, P. C. Shaw b Machin 16, W. Lowe b Slaney 13, J. Naze c Griffiths, Jun. 13, E. Beech b Slaney 1, J. Boon b Hargreaves 24, J. Robinson b Hargreaves 22, J. Barlow not out 15, extras 14; total 136.

BROWN LEES COLLIERY.—A. Whalley c Leese b Boon 3, R. Machin b Boon 0, C. J. J. lbw b Boon 2, A. Hargreaves b Robinson 2, J. Griffiths, Jun. c Barlow b Boon 3, J. Hallows b Boon 0, F. Millward run out 0, J. Ash b Robinson 2, A. D. Nourse c Naze b Boon 1, E. Brammer b Boon 1, J. Griffiths, sen. b Robinson 1; extras 0; total 18.

## CHELL VICTORIA v. FEAR NOTS.

CHELL.—J. Mack at Bibby b Hawley 0, F. Frost b Hawley 14, C. Smith b Clarke 5, A. Mack b Clarke 2, R. Stevenson b Clarke 0, W. Broad c Baddley b Clarke 3, S. Carter b Clarke 0, A. Leese c Maynard b Clarke 8, A. Blood b Hawley 10, H. Hewitt c Awty b Maynard 22, H. Hewitt b Clarke 0, extras 4; total 65.

FEAR NOTS.—F. Downes b Broad 13, T. C. Maynard b Broad 8, N. Hawley c Mack b Broad 3, F. Small c and b Mack 0, H. Hawley b Broad 0, S. Clarke b Carter 27, J. Gallagher b Mack 1, H. Handcock b Mack 3, E. Baddley not out 14, extras 4; total 73.

## NORTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

## Norton Colliery v. New Inn C.C.

NORTON COLLIERY.—T. Lowe b D. Chadwick 29, R. Baddley b D. Chadwick 14, H. Matthews c and b D. Chadwick 5, J. Johnson c and b D. Tomkinson 11, S. Moreton b D. Chadwick 3, J. Cooper run out 2, A. Martin b D. Chadwick 2, J. Hawkins not out 2, G. Glaze not out 4, extras 8; total (for seven wickets) 109. J. Holdcroft and J. Worthington did not bat.

NEW INN C.C.—H. Hallam b H. Matthews 0, T. Tittensor c and b S. Moreton 1, W. Tittensor c Lowe b Matthews 0, D. Tomkinson at Johnson b Matthews 0, W. Burgess c Johnson b Baddley b Matthews 0, H. Moreton 4, D. Chadwick c Baddley b Matthews 0, G. Biddulph b Matthews 1, E. Glisan at Johnson b Matthews 0, B. Barber c and b Matthews 0, H. Askey c Holdcroft b Matthews 11, extras 2; total 25.

## Fenton House v. Wolstanton Marsh.

FENTON HOUSE.—E. Hulme b W. Robinson 1, Mason run out 17, Shenton b W. Robinson 0, Hammensley b H. Robinson 1, Draycott c and b G. Follows 6, Sandland c Follows b F. Green 0, Unwin b F. Green 3, Smith b F. Green 2, Pope run out 2, Thorley c and b G. Follows 7, S. Dutton c and b F. Green 1, extras 12; total 62.

WOLSTANTON MARSH.—H. Robinson c and b Mason 9, F. Green b Mason 11, G. Follows not out 29, J. Mitchell not out 9, extras 7; total (two wickets) 58.

## SENTINEL CRICKET COMPETITION.

## First Round Results and Draw for Second Round.

Mr. S. Gleaves presided over a well-attended meeting of the "Sentinel" Cricket Competition held at the Grand Hotel, Hanley, last night, when the results of the competition, up to date, were announced as follows:—

Preliminary Round.—Bucknall 78 (for 8), Hanford 28; Florence Colliery 52 (for 6), Fenton 43; Alsagers Bank "A" 42, Silverdale "A" 23; Norton "A" 112, L.M. and S. Railway "A" 111; Brindley Ford Wes. 50 (for 6), Sandyford "A" 44; Porthill Park "A" 137 (for 3), Caverswall "A" 57.

First Round—Group A.—Sneyd Colliery 104 (for 8), Wolstanton Marsh 23; Leyceft 61 (for 1), Goldenhill Wes. 42; Gaskell and Grocotts 123 (for 4), Longport W.M.C. 24.

Group B.—Hanley All Saints 50, Aston-by-Stone 18; Shelton Company 49, Hanley Tab. 26.

Group C.—Fenton Bethel 111, Leigh 52; Stallington 53, Rough Close 39; Kingsley 43 (for 8), Fenton Wes. 27; Florence Colliery 115 (for 6), Ashcombe Park 42.

Group D.—Kidsgrave "A" 62 (for 3), Burslem High Lane "A" 54.

The draw for the Second Round resulted as follows:—

Group A.—Leyceft v. Parkhouse Colliery; Sneyd Colliery v. Gaskell and Grocotts.

Group B.—Berryhill or Bucknall v. Hanley All Saints; Shelton Company v. Birches Head St. Matthews.

Group C.—Kingsley v. Florence; Fenton Bethel v. Stallington.

Group D.—Alsagers Bank "A" or Burslem "A" v. Longton "A"; Kidsgrave "A" v. Brindley Ford Wes. or Porthill Park "A."

## FENTON &amp; DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Fenton Bethel	4	3	0	1	7
Leyceft	4	3	1	0	6
Rough Close	4	3	1	0	6
Florence Colliery II	4	2	1	1	5
Tea	4	2	1	1	5
Longport Baptists	5	1	3	1	3
Longton "A"	3	0	1	2	2
Wolstanton Marsh	4	1	3	0	2
Bucknall	3	0	3	0	0

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Florence Colliery II 54, Wolstanton Marsh 45; Rough Close 49, Tea 32; Leyceft 123, Longton Baptists 45.

## LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Wolstanton Marsh 41, Bucknall 40; Rough Close 43, Longton Baptists 28; Leyceft 61, Tea 78.

## UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Leigh	5	3	0	2	8
Tea	5	3	0	2	8
Kingsley	6	3	1	2	8
Oakmoor	7	2	1	4	8
Stallington	7	3	2	2	8
Florence	6	2	1	3	7
Uttoxeter	6	2	2	2	6
Draycott	5	0	3	2	2
Alton	5	0	3	2	2
Hollington	6	0	5	1	1

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Stallington 53, Uttoxeter 31; Leigh 64 (for 8 wickets), Draycott 34; Hollington 14, Kingsley 57; Oakmoor v. Florence, ground unfit.

## LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Oakmoor 68, Stallington 63; Uttoxeter 72, Hollington 30.

## DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Leigh	6	4	1	1	9
Greenwell	5	3	1	1	7
Kingsley	5	2	1	2	6
Stallington	4	2	1	1	5
Fulford	4	1	1	2	4
Oakmoor	4	1	2	1	3
Alton	4	0	3	1	1
Hollington	4	0	3	1	1

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Alton 35, Stallington 44; Greenwell 42, Leigh 10; Kingsley 87 (for 4 wickets), Hollington 11, Fulford v. Oakmoor (not played).

## CONGLETON &amp; DISTRICT CRICKET NOTES.

The four local Congleton teams experienced a fatal day on Saturday, as each sustained a defeat, though only by a narrow margin, with the exception of Mossley. The Congleton premier team visited Hartford, who were the first to take the field. They dismissed their visitors for a total of 52, J. Reynolds (13) and L. G. Cocks being the top-scorers. For Hartford Hilditch bowled effectively by taking seven wickets for 21 runs. Against the total registered by Congleton, the home team scored 59, E. Gammond (16), C. Hilditch (12), and C. Altman (11) being the principal contributors. For Congleton J. Reynolds captured five victims for 22 runs, L. G. Cocks, two for 11 and F. Whittaker three for 24. Congleton were thus defeated by only seven runs.

The Congleton and Hartford second teams met at Congleton when Hartford achieved a victory by the narrow margin of eight runs. Batting first, the home representatives collected a total of 62, mainly through the fine effort made of C. Coppinger who subscribed a useful 33. He was ably assisted by A. Winterbottom (14) and F. Smart (11). For Hartford 11, T. Rogerson bowled splendidly capturing seven wickets for 21 runs. In response the Hartford batsmen collected a total of 70, of which R. Nancollas was responsible for a well-played 30. W. Howler coming next with 12. Arthur Cookson dismissed five batsmen for 21 runs.

The visit of Porthill "A" team to the Mossley enclosure, on Saturday, proved a disastrous one to the home team as Porthill won by 50 runs. Having first possession of the crease Porthill "A" scored 63, chiefly through the efforts made by P. S. Briggs, who scored 24. For Mossley A. W. Yates took six wickets for 21 runs. Mossley made a very poor reply, all being dismissed for 13 runs. The visitors' bowling was very good indeed, J. Glover taking four wickets for three runs and G. Poulson six for 10 runs.

Congleton Empire Mills journeyed to Goldenhill to oppose the Wesleyans. The Mills' team batted first and reached a total of 39 runs. Geo. Pickford (19) and J. Chaddock (12) proved the chief run-getters. The Goldenhill batsmen replied with a total of 47.

## Market Drayton v. Cheshire Farmers.

Played at Market Drayton on Thursday.

CHESHIRE FARMERS.—W. Night b Harrison 17, R. Dutton lbw b Boucher 28, H. Knowles b Harrison 9, J. Swindale c Smith b Boucher 23, R. Garnett c Hollins b Smith 20, J. Dutton b Harrison 4, W. Hassell c and b Boucher 16, G. Blagg b Boucher 0, E. Parton c Turner b Morrey 18, J. Hinchey c Podmore b Morrey 2, J. Bourne not out 0, extras 22; total 153.

MARKET DRAYTON.—E. Partridge b Parton 24, M. Powell run out 36, T. Morrey b Parton 0, E. V. Podmore b Hinchey 14, J. Boucher b B. Dutton 28, R. Harrison lbw b B. Dutton 5, F. Goodall not out 30, H. Smith not out 30, extras 31; total (for six wickets) 253.

J. Hollins, E. Cushing, and H. Turner did not bat. Uttoxeter Town Thursday XI. v. Uttoxeter Grammar School.

UTTOXETER THURSDAY.—First Innings: C. Waterhouse lbw b Thorne 8, B. Harvey c Thorne b Redden 3, H. Willisford lbw b Thorne 5, F. Heasman b Redden 10, W. Astbury b Redden 1, S. Armstrong c Torrance b Langridge 10, D. Hewitt c and b Redden 2, W. Heasman c Wood b Langridge 3, H. Ladd b Langridge 0, T. F. Hall c and b Langridge 4, F. Waterhouse not out 1, extras 2; total 54.

Second Innings: C. Waterhouse not out 25, B. Harvey b Torrance 14, F. Heasman c sub b Torrance 2, F. Hall b Torrance 2, S. Armstrong run out 9, H. Willisford b Torrance 18, extras 7; total (for five wickets) 80.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—First Innings: Redden c Willisford b Hall 7, Orme b Waterhouse 11, Wood c Waterhouse b W. Heasman 18, Walker b F. Heasman 0, Simister at Willisford b Harvey 4, Thorne b Heasman 0, Cant b Harvey 1, Snow c W. Heasman b Harvey 5, Sandham b Harvey 0, Langridge at Willisford b Harvey 6, Torrance not out 6, extras 8; total 68.

Second Innings: Orme run out 8, Torrance c Waterhouse b Heasman 10, Sandham b Heasman 0, Cant run out 8, Langridge at Willisford b Harvey 0, Snow b Heasman 3, Redden b Heasman 0, Wood b Hall 3, Walker b Heasman 0, Simister not out 23, Thorne not out 9, extras 6; total (for nine wickets, dec.) 68.



## CRICKET.

### STAFFS. v. CHESHIRE.

#### GOOD BOWLING ON A BAD WICKET.

The Porthill wicket, which probably suffered from an overdose of mair a year or two ago, has not yet been got into the condition which batsmen like, despite much attention and considerable expense, and instead of the "plumb" pitch which was anticipated, after almost a fortnight of fine weather, for the Staffs. v. Cheshire match on Monday and Tuesday, the wicket always favoured the bowlers. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the club to improve it will be successful, but the condition of the turf suggests that possibly re-laying in the autumn would be the wisest, as well as the long run the cheapest policy. On Monday, 25 wickets fell during a shade over five hours' actual cricket, for an aggregate of 222, or an average of less than nine runs per wicket. This, on a dry ground, surely tells a tale.

Staffs. were compelled to field a weak side, being minus Barnes and Sedgwick, besides quite a galaxy of amateur talent. There were four changes from the side that met Notts II., Barnes, P. F. Stubbs, P. O. Yates, and H. W. Homer falling out. A. A. Bickerton was, happily, able to play, and the team was completed by the inclusion of R. S. Hunt, C. F. Rushton, and J. Durbur. The two last named made their debut in county cricket. Rushton is a left-hand batsman of the Silverdale club, who certainly merits a trial, and the same may perhaps be said of Durbur, a left-arm fast bowler, last season with Longton, and this time fairly successful with Porthill. As he is quite young, he has time to develop, and on Monday he bowled quite well, though meeting with no success.

Cheshire, who brought a useful side, won the toss, and, taking first innings, collapsed before Aaron Lockett, who bowled through the innings, and captured nine wickets for 38 runs—a great performance. He kept an immaculate length, except for a couple of overs just before lunch, when he was tiring a little. He had sent down 22 overs for 22 runs and six wickets, and then had 14 hit from him in three overs. Resuming after the luncheon rest, he rattled off the last three wickets in two overs for 2 runs, which suggests that an over or two's rest before lunch for the large-hearted Bignall End player would have been wise policy. Lockett had the batsmen in trouble from the first, opening with five maiden overs and one wicket. W. E. Jones and Wilson, a resourceful and strong pair of batsmen, remained together half an hour to add 29 for the second wicket, when the amateur was, curiously enough, caught in the slips in trying to hit a "sawing" ball to leg. Wilson found a useful partner in J. G. Frost, a Cambridge man, who narrowly missed his blue, and the pair added 28 for the fifth wicket, but seven were down for 70. Then C. B. Twemlow, the Macclesfield stumper, took his courage in both hands, and, being favoured with luck in some of his strokes, quickly added 20 before lunch, in company with Frost. As stated, the end soon came on the resumption.

Staffordshire started their innings a little before three, and were dismissed in five minutes short of two hours for 11 short of the Cheshire total. Dennis, the winning fast bowler, made the ball fly about awkwardly, and no one but Bickerton played him with much confidence. Lee was beaten in playing forward at 7, and Johnson lost a good one 10 runs later. Rushton shaped well in the difficult conditions, but when L. N. Jones relieved Dennis he bowled the left-hander in his first over. Lockett soon got busy, hitting three choice fours to leg off Jones, and W. Bickerton, still playing fine cricket, Staffordshire's chances of securing a lead on the first innings were materially improved, with 50 on the board for the loss of three wickets. However, at 59 a great misfortune occurred, Bickerton being caught close in at short-leg from a nasty, kicking ball from Smoker. With 2 added, Lockett rashly attempted to drive a straight ball, and Varcoe was caught at the wicket. Thereafter Cheshire were on top, and though Platt made a few excellent strokes, Dennis resumed to rapidly finish off the innings.

Cheshire had a further hour's batting, and Lockett looked like going through the side again, when he bowled Pratt and Wilson with following balls at 5, both sizzling break-backs. W. E. Jones and A. W. Midgley, a useful left-hand batsman, playing with care and skill, carried the score to 41, but Platt took three wickets in four overs for 1 run, and the close of play found Cheshire leading by 54 with half their wickets down—a remarkably even and rather eventful day's

cricket. There was a fair attendance, but the gate receipts, £35, were not sufficient to make county cricket pay its way.

Perfect weather continued on Tuesday, and the match was played to an exciting finish. There was a fair attendance, and Staffordshire's gallant victory was heartily cheered. The pitch was badly broken in places and loose and sandy in others, and as the game proceeded batting became more and more of an adventure. It took an hour and eight minutes to finish the Cheshire second innings, which was redeemed from complete failure by a sterling display by W. E. Jones, who carried his bat through, and gave no chance until near the end, when he should have been stumped off Lockett. The ball rose high, and Russell was rather slow in getting the balls off, but, even so, the umpire's decision was a little surprising. Platt and Lockett did all the bowling, and both had good figures.

When Staffordshire essayed the task of getting 131 in the fourth innings, the conditions were such that there appeared little hope of success, and when Bickerton and Lee had been disposed of with only 16 on the board, the prospect had not improved. Then, however, Johnson played a heroic innings, with Rushton a skilful and invaluable partner. Johnson went for the bowling in his own courageous and effective way, putting great power behind his strokes, and scoring from many balls most batsmen would be content to stop. And all the time the ball was turning quickly, and constantly kicking in dangerous fashion. He was struck on the arms and chest by the fast bowler, Dennis, a number of times, but went merrily on, trying to keep his head out of the way, and at the same time hitting brilliantly. When he was bowled, the third wicket had added 53 in less than 40 minutes, his share being 35. With Lockett in, a further 30 were added, and he and Rushton looked like making the issue secure. But at 97 Lockett was bowled in playing back to a fast ball which he was rightly afraid to go forward to. And then was demonstrated the fact that on such a pitch anything might happen, for Rushton was caught at the wicket after a stay of an hour and 25 minutes, and Varcoe and Hunt were soon out to kicking balls, seven wickets being down for 109, and 22 still required. Whalen was stubbornness itself, and Platt played finely at this crucial juncture, making one beautiful drive from the fast bowler. It was a misfortune when Whalen was narrowly run out in attempting an overthrow, for the Silverdale man had withstood the attack for 40 minutes. When the Staffordshire captain joined Platt 6 runs were needed, and he edged his first ball through the slips for 2. Then Platt snicked one at the other end past his leg stump to the boundary, and the match was won by two wickets. Rushton's form in such difficult conditions was good enough to suggest that he might prove a valuable left hand bat for the county.

Scores and analysis:—

#### CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W. E. Jones c Lockett b Lee	18
G. A. Pratt c Varcoe b Lockett	6
Wilson b Lockett	23
A. W. Midgley lbw b Lockett	2
L. N. Jones c Varcoe b Lockett	0
J. G. Frost c Lee b Lockett	19
W. N. Jones b Lockett	0
Smoker c Bickerton b Lockett	0
C. B. Twemlow not out	22
V. Hope b Lockett	0
Dennis c Lee b Lockett	0
Extras	5

Total ..... 95

#### Second Innings.

W. E. Jones not out	45
G. A. Pratt b Lockett	2
Wilson b Lockett	0
A. W. Midgley c Russell b Platt	17
L. N. Jones b Platt	0
J. G. Frost c Lockett b Platt	0
W. N. Jones c Bickerton b Platt	4
Smoker c Platt b Lockett	9
C. B. Twemlow c Whalen b Platt	5
V. Hope b Lockett	16
Dennis b Platt	6
Extras	15

Total ..... 119

#### STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A. A. Bickerton c W. E. Jones b Smoker	23
W. Lee b Dennis	4
J. W. Johnson b Dennis	5
C. F. Rushton b L. N. Jones	10
A. Lockett b L. N. Jones	16
C. G. Varcoe c Twemlow b Smoker	0
J. Whalen c L. N. Jones b Dennis	2
R. S. Hunt b L. N. Jones	1
Platt c Hope b Dennis	12
J. B. Russell b Dennis	0
J. Durbur not out	5
Extras	6

Total ..... 84

#### Second Innings.

A. A. Bickerton c Smoker, b Dennis	5
W. Lee b Dennis	5
J. W. Johnson b Smoker	40
C. F. Rushton c Twemlow b Wilson	27
A. Lockett b Dennis	13
C. G. Varcoe c Frost b Dennis	6
J. Whalen run out	4
R. S. Hunt c W. E. Jones b Wilson	2
Platt not out	13
J. B. Russell not out	2
Extras	14

Total (for eight wickets) 131  
J. Durbur did not bat.

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

##### CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lockett	24.4	11	38	9
Durbur	9	2	23	0
Lee	12	4	26	1
Platt	3	1	3	0

Lockett and Lee each bowled one no-ball.

##### Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lockett	20	6	35	4
Durbur	5	1	10	0
Lee	5	3	10	0
Platt	16	4	49	6

Lockett bowled two no-balls and Lee one wide.

##### STAFFS.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dennis	15	6	24	5
Wilson	9	5	12	0
Smoker	9	3	16	2
L. N. Jones	9	3	24	3

Dennis bowled one and L. N. Jones two no-balls.

##### Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dennis	15	4	38	3
Wilson	14.3	4	26	3
Smoker	8	1	23	1
L. N. Jones	5	0	19	0
Hope	6	0	17	0

Dennis bowled three and L. N. Jones two no-balls.

STAFFORD C.C. v. WALSALL Y.M.F.

At Walsall on Saturday. Owing to motor trouble, Stafford arrived late, and although an extension of time was agreed on, there was never any likelihood of a finish. B. Brammer played a useful, if somewhat lucky, innings for his side, and, with J. Chaitin, put on 83 runs for the third wicket. H. J. Hollands was the only Stafford bowler able to keep a length, and took six of the seven wickets that fell for 42 runs. W. T. White was top scorer for Stafford, and again justified the good things that have been said of him since his promotion to regular membership of the first eleven.

Walsall Y.M.F.: A. Done c Neville b Hollands 13, K. Saunders b Hollands 10, B. Brammer c W. T. White b Hollands 53, J. Chaitin b Warwick 29, H. Whitehouse c Woodger b Hollands 2, W. Starlin c and b Hollands 4, H. Hubble not out 4, G. Haynes b Hollands 2, extras 25, total (for seven wickets, declared) 152. W. Keay, T. Cartwright, and G. Robinson did not bat.

Stafford C.C.: J. T. W. Neville lbw b Keay 18, W. T. White c Done b Whitehouse 21, J. W. Hawley c Whitehouse b Brammer 18, G. H. Greatorex b Brammer 7, C. W. Price not out 15, G. C. Davy b Chaitin 5, A. J. Ward not out 4, extras 5, total (for five wickets) 91. R. H. Warwick, C. A. Woodger, H. J. Hollands, and H. R. White did not bat.

STAFFORD 2nd XI. v. WALSALL Y.M.F. 2nd XI.

At Stafford. Stafford 2nd XI, 102 (the Rev. P. F. M. McSwiney 23, T. W. Price 20, J. P. Ellsmoor 20). Walsall Y.M.F. 2nd XI, 109 (for seven wickets (J. Sparke not out 33).

STAFFORD C.C. v. OAKAMoor C.C.

At Stafford, on Wednesday. Batting first on a perfect wicket, Oakamoor made light of the Stafford bowling, and were able to declare after not much more than two hours' batting with the score reading 263 for only two wickets down. For this they were largely indebted to a magnificent display by J. W. Johnson, the county batsman, who hit one six and 25 fours, and never failed to hit hard any ball the least bit loose, and to a very sound innings by J. R. Goodwin. In reply, Stafford made 151 for 5 wickets, the Rev. F. W. Stanbridge, who hit well all round the wicket, being the highest scorer with 59 runs.

Oakamoor C.C.: J. W. Johnson not out 159, W. F. James b Paton 19, J. R. Goodwin c Ward b Warwick 53, F. Walker not out 8, extras 24; total (for two wickets) 263. W. Collier, H. Capewell, G. Swinson, J. Walker, C. Sutton, H. Perrins, and M. A. Boulton, did not bat.

Stafford C.C.: Rev. F. W. Stanbridge c Capewell b Swinson 59, R. L. Paton b Perrins 4, C. A. Woodger not out 45, Rev. P. F. M. McSwiney b Swinson 17, W. C. R. Ellsmoor c Capewell b Perrins 4, R. H. Warwick b Perrins 7, A. J. Ward not out 10, extras 5; total (for five wickets) 151. A. S. Webb, G. H. E. Foley, J. G. Horne, and A. A. Powell, did not bat.

LICHFIELD v. TAMWORTH.

The Birmingham Road Ground, Lichfield, was an ideal pitch for batsmen, on Saturday, when Tamworth were the visitors. Lichfield declared at the fall of the third wicket for 200, of which Major R. B. Stephenson knocked up 94 and W. Plant carried out his bat for 42. Tamworth made a creditable response, compiling 120 with five wickets down at the close of play. Stephenson was the star performer of the day, not only making 94 with the bat, but taking two of the visitors' five wickets, and catching two of the remainder. Scores:—

Lichfield: R. B. Stephenson at Pearson b Stott 94, M. M. Fitzgeorge lbw b Atkinson 32, W. Plant not out 42, W. Mann c Vickers b Warrilow 1, G. Fluck not out 6, F. Rudgard, G. Knight, R. Moore, F. Oram, G. Elliott, and A. Slater, did not bat, extras 25; total (for three wickets) 200.

Tamworth: F. S. Warrilow c Mann b Stephenson 48, G. L. Atkinson lbw b Knight 21, J. Hawkes c Stephenson b Knight 1, H. Pearson c Stephenson b Oram 10, H. Vickers c Elliott b Stephenson 4, J. Ford not out 20, Sir R. Peel not out 2, Rev. L. C. Jones, F. Barkitt, H. Stott, and L. J. M. Coleby did not bat, extras 14; total (for five wickets) 120.

LICHFIELD 2nd v. TAMWORTH 2nd.

Lichfield's 2nd XI secured an easy victory over Tamworth's 2nd XI, in the Castle Grounds, Lichfield, declaring with 185 for eight wickets, and dismissing the home batsmen for 49. For Lichfield C. F. Page took six wickets for 29 runs, and G. Ryan three for 18. Scores:—

Lichfield: R. E. Briault c Beard b Birt 9, R. Cook b Chalmers 42, F. L. Cooper lbw b Birt 2, W. Plant c Stretton b Chalmers 25, N. Hartshorn b Chalmers 13, G. Ryan retired 58, A. J. Smith not out 17, C. F. Page b Chalmers 9, L. J. Bates b Chalmers 0, H. Baker not out 2, and J. S. Brown did not bat, extras 7; total (for 8 wickets) 185.

Tamworth 2nd: Hickin c Cooper b Page 0, Birt c Smith b Page 9, Morris c Plant b Page 0, Stretton run out 12, Chalmers b Ryan 2, Bullock c Baker b Ryan 0, Beard c Smith b Page 10, Mussin b Page 2, A. Linford b Page 1, S. Lewis b Ryan 5, Elgie not out 5, extras 3; total 49.

BLYMOUTH v. ALBRIGHTON.

Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, the home team winning an exciting match by 11 runs. Scores:—

Blymouth: W. R. Smith lbw b Bishop 0, G. M. Cambridge b Vinning 5, R. Hitchlen b Bishop 4, A. R. Craig b Bishop 47, G. W. Webb c R. G. Davies b Bishop 3, C. R. Webb at E. Dimelow b Vinning 20, J. Burgoyne b Bishop 3, W. Benbow c R. Dimelow b Vinning 15, W. Tomlinson c and b Vinning 0, C. W. Scott b Brown 1, J. W. Swift not out 1, extras 9, total 109.

Albrighton: The Rev. H. S. Vinning c and b Hitchlen 13, R. G. Davies b Hitchlen 3, C. R. Dimelow b Hitchlen 5, the Hon. W. J. French not out 34, G. B. Jenks b Burgoyne 1, T. Davies b Burgoyne 3, R. J. Russell b Burgoyne 5, T. W. Brown b Burgoyne 15, F. W. Hall b Benbow 0, C. E. C. Bishop c Smith b Benbow 9, E. Dimelow c C. Webb b Burgoyne 0, extras 9, total 97.



## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Staffordshire's Victory Over Cheshire.

### Strong Team to Meet Norfolk.

**THE OUTSTANDING FIGURES** in Staffordshire's victory over Cheshire at Porthill this week were Anton Lockett and J. W. Johnson. The former made the most of a bad wicket and played a great part in the cheap dismissal of the visiting batsmen, while Johnson, by fearless, forcing batsmanship, under great difficulties, and at a critical period, pulled the game through in Staffordshire's favour. Lockett's remarkable first innings record was nine wickets for 36 runs, and he even had a

with sea sand. Whether the process was carried out strictly in accordance with the advice I cannot say, but the remedy proved a trifle too drastic, and the wicket crumbled to pieces during this week's county match.

Jack Johnson's second innings performance with the bat was, therefore, all the more creditable. The ball got on awkwardly and dangerously many times, particularly from Dennis's last deliveries. But with forward and back strokes, well-timed cutting and powerful driving, Johnson meted out severe punishment to all and sundry, and despite the difficulties, scored his forty runs at almost the rate of a run a minute. There is no more attractive batsman in the county side, and he supplied a much-needed splash of brightness in an otherwise not very thrilling encounter. His contribution was also specially valuable at that particular stage, and undoubtedly bridged the gulf between defeat and victory. He was the victim of an unfortunate accident, receiving on his chest a blow forcibly flung by Dennis and intended for his wicket. He was in his crouch at the time, but the thrower apparently thought otherwise. The impact left a nasty bruise. This was the first piece of ill-luck of the kind that Johnson has suffered. It will be remembered that he was hit in the face by a sharply rising ball in a county match at Old Hill last season. Then several small bone vessels were broken and one or two teeth loosened.

The two newcomers to county status, C. E. Rushton, the left-handed batsman of Silverdale, and J. Durbor, the left-arm fast bowler of Porthill, came through with credit against Cheshire. The former played sound cricket for his ten in the first innings and 27 in the second, and Durbor, although he took no wickets, had few runs scored off his bowling.

Next Monday and Tuesday, Staffordshire will entertain Norfolk on the delightful Wolverhampton ground at Tettenhall, and they will have a much more representative eleven, and one that should do the Midland County credit against their strong opponents from East Anglia. The selected team is as follows: J. B. Russell (captain), E. W. Page, P. O. Yates, H. W. Homer, C. G. Vane, J. W. Johnson, C. Howl, A. Lockett, J. Whalen, Barnes (S. F.) and Part (G.). Howl is a Wolverhampton player, who will be making his first appearance for the county. Last season, Norfolk, under the captaincy of the fine all-round cricketer, Michael Falson, defeated Staffordshire at Old Hill by an innings and six runs.



J. W. JOHNSON.

hand in disposing of the one other batsman, whom he took in the slips off W. Lee's bowling. His accomplished part for the match was 13 wickets for 75 runs, an average of 5.61 per wicket. He was greatly assisted by the condition of the pitch, which made cutting during the later stages of the match a perilous adventure. A test of it a few days ago, the Porthill wicket was found to be marl in rather too generous proportion. But this season comes, and in the hands of a man like Lockett, it is a different matter. The hard and solid consistency of the surface, the club, on expert advice, dressed it

# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Signal End .....	9	6	1	2	14
Burslem .....	9	6	1	2	14
Leek .....	9	6	2	1	13
Crewe Alexandra .....	9	5	3	1	11
Norton .....	9	4	4	1	11
Nantwich .....	9	3	5	1	10
Longton .....	9	3	5	1	10
Porthill Park .....	9	3	5	1	10
Knyperley .....	9	1	5	3	5
Silverdale .....	9	1	5	3	5
Great Chell .....	9	1	6	2	4
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) .....	9	0	8	1	1

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 134; Signal End, 186.  
 Crewe Alexandra, 134; Burslem, 107.  
 Leek, 165 for five; Great Chell, 158 for eight (dec.).  
 Knyperley, 167; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 133 for seven.  
 Longton, 218 for seven (dec.); Porthill Park, 76.  
 Nantwich, 175; Norton, 172.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Alaers Bank .....	9	6	1	2	14
Alaers Bank .....	9	7	2	0	14
Alaers Bank .....	9	4	1	4	12
Sandford .....	9	4	2	3	11
Burslem High Lane .....	9	3	3	3	9
Stoke .....	9	4	4	1	9
Caverswall .....	9	3	4	2	8
Cheadle .....	9	3	4	2	8
Betley .....	9	3	5	1	7
Alaers Bank .....	9	2	5	2	6
Audley .....	9	1	4	4	6
Scot Hay .....	9	1	6	2	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Stoke, 104; Caverswall, 54.  
 Kidsgrove, 52; Alaers Bank, 30.  
 Scot Hay, 44; Sandford, 23.  
 Betley, 139; Burslem High Lane, 114.  
 Madeley, 66 for four; Audley, 50.  
 Alaers Bank, 104 for eight; Cheadle, 89.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park .....	9	6	0	3	15
Nantwich .....	9	6	2	1	13
Norton .....	9	5	2	2	12
Silverdale .....	9	5	2	2	12
Burslem .....	9	4	3	2	11
Leek .....	9	4	3	2	10
Knyperley .....	9	3	3	3	9
Signal End .....	9	3	4	2	9
Longton .....	9	3	5	1	7
Crewe Alexandra .....	9	2	5	2	6
Great Chell .....	9	0	6	3	3
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) .....	9	0	7	2	2

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Silverdale, 140 for six; Signal End, 68.  
 Burslem, 163 for six; Crewe Alexandra, 88.  
 Leek, 166; Great Chell, 49.  
 Knyperley, 107; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 69.  
 Porthill Park, 94 for five; Longton, 74.  
 Norton, 125; Nantwich, 114.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans .....	9	6	1	2	14
Burslem High Lane .....	9	6	1	2	14
Betley .....	9	6	2	1	13
Caverswall .....	9	5	2	2	12
Alaers Bank .....	9	3	3	3	9
Cheadle .....	9	3	3	3	9
Omney .....	8	3	3	2	8
Kidsgrove .....	8	3	4	1	7
Stoke .....	9	3	5	1	7
Madeley .....	9	3	6	0	6
Audley .....	9	1	5	3	5
Sandford .....	9	0	7	2	2

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 187 for six; Stoke, 180.  
 Kidsgrove, 180; Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 84.  
 Omney, 71; Sandford, 41.  
 Betley, 89; Burslem High Lane, 53.  
 Madeley, 34; Audley, 29.  
 Cheadle, 125 for seven (dec.); Alaers Bank, 85 for 9.

**UNDER** the bountiful patronage of bright Phoebus, June's pleasant tune was maintained at an exhilarating pitch last Saturday, and local cricketers had an afternoon of joyous sport. The arrival of hard and dry wickets had a marked bearing upon scoring, particularly in the games of the "A" Sections' clubs, who in general have the advantage of better grounds than those of the minors. Close and interesting finishes characterised most of the matches of the big teams, and the end of the struggle between Nantwich and Norton was especially exciting, the Cheshire side having an advantage of three runs from the joint aggregate of 347. Nantwich's victory was, perhaps, the best of the day, though Longton got much kudos from their runaway win over Porthill Park. The afternoon's doings had the

effect of further reducing the number of unbeaten teams, for Burslem, Brindley Ford Wesleyans and the reserves of Burslem High Lane, all had the tribulation of suffering initial defeats, Porthill Park's second eleven now standing in solitary state as not having had their colours lowered.

The number of teams without a victory to gladden them was reduced by one, for Scot Hay got the better of Sandford in a low-scoring game, a result which was quite unexpected. This match had an incident which was as curious as its issue, for a Scot Hay batsman had the unique distinction of counting 12 runs for one hit! The current value of the stroke was a single, but as the ball was lost in mowing grass, and the fielders lacked knowledge of rules or presence of mind, "lost ball" was not called, and the batsman kept up their merry and profitable sprint until they had ticked off a dozen chalks. In all the circumstances it was rather fortunate that the episode did not actually affect the result. Only two games of the twenty-four were left unfinished, and slow rate of scoring was the cause of indecisiveness in these cases. Leek, Kidsgrove, Betley, and Madeley were winners of both their matches, and visitors fared better than home teams, being successful in thirteen of the twenty-two finished games.

#### SIGNAL END'S UPHILL FIGHT.

Signal End's form against Silverdale showed no traces of blight induced by the defeat of the previous Tuesday, and the champions won a remarkable victory in gallant fashion, after fielding blunders had put them in an awkward position. Silverdale's batting start did not suggest the big score which followed, for two wickets were down with only a single recorded. Improvement of game with the third wicket partnership of A. P. Rushton (11) and J. Whalen, but Whalen was fortunate in having escapes at the wicket and at mid-on whilst collecting his 42. Other useful contributions came from E. Groom (16) and J. Cocks (25), but in spite of these the seventh wicket fell at 112. The next man was E. White and his prowess was the reason why the champions had something really serious to think about. White scored freely all round the wicket, and although he was badly missed in the long-field he gave a really good display of hitting, and counted twelve 4's in his 65. A. Lockett's five wickets cost 60 runs, but his figures were the best of the match. Signal End's batting venture opened very carefully, and their first wicket went at 28, but the following play soon showed that Silverdale had little prospect of getting solace for previous rebuffs. A. W. Ikin proved that he had not lost his partiality for Silverdale bowling, and he gave another grand display of bright hitting. He treated all the bowlers alike, and on many occasions lifted the ball clear over the rails. Other capital innings were played by E. Downing (33), L. McEllin (28), and Lockett (21, not out), but the prime factor of victory was Ikin's bright batting. His score of 64 contained fourteen 4's and six 2's. The best of the Silverdale bowlers was Whalen, who had three wickets for 44 runs.

#### ALEXANDRA'S REVIVAL.

Crewe Alexandra had a rather lean time during the short holiday period, but they came back to form against Burslem, and secured a clever win, in which two players were mainly concerned. H. Hope scored 50 runs by sound batting, and J. Jennings was responsible for a fine bowling performance which decided the issue. Hope was lucky enough to have an adverse l.b.w. decision reversed, and his subsequent clever batting was the basis of his side's innings. His best helper was P. Walker with 21, and W. H. Norman and J. Brownridge each put on a useful round dozen. The last five wickets fell for 25 runs. E. Cook had four successes for 48, and R. Hollowood three for 21. E. Cotton showed good form for 24 in the early stages of Burslem's innings, but trouble commenced shortly after Jennings bowled, vice P. Sylvester, and the fourth wicket fell at 47. Double figures came from A. Birch, W. Briseie, A. Cook and E. Cook, the captain helping in a ninth wicket stand of 30 runs, which, however, was not

sufficient to pull the game round, and Burslem suffered their first defeat. Fourteen overs got Jennings six wickets for 27 runs, and Hartley had three victims at a like cost. The losers were not at their best, and the fortunes of the sport ran against them.

#### LEEK'S COUP DE MAIN.

There was a striking contrast between the two innings played at Great Chell, for whereas 24 overs—less two balls—were required for the home team's gathering of 158 runs, Leek got their winning aggregate from 33 overs, a rate of scoring which amazed the losing team, who had made what was considered a safe declaration. The bulk of Great Chell's run-getting was done by three players, W. Warburton having a stay of about two hours for 53, and W. H. Meir (33) and F. Pickerill (28, not out) putting on 56 for the eighth wicket. Warburton batted with extreme care, and his score contained 31 singles. H. Birch was a hard-working Leek bowler, but the rigid defensive tactics which were adopted were a sore problem for him, and his three wickets were debited with 61 runs, of which 31 were got by singles. A. L. Kidd also had three wickets, costing eight chalks each. Leek began furiously by getting 25 runs from the first four overs, and a though this rate was not sustained scoring went on rapidly throughout their innings, and only three overs which did not provide profit were bowled. The leading promoter of the onslaught was Cotton, who had eleven fours in his finely played and spirited 64, and he was ably backed by A. Rider, who hit up 25 of 47 got for the first wicket, J. Pointon, who was responsible for a brisk 39, and Birch 19 (not out). The Chell bowlers had no strategy which could subdue the assault, but L. Curnook, the last to have a turn, took three wickets for 15 runs. Leek once more proved their workmanlike qualities, and their victory was splendidly earned.

#### FEW SPARKS AT KNYPERLEY.

Neither Knyperley nor L.M.S. Railway took full advantage of the best wicket seen at Knyperley for several seasons, and play was quite tame in some of its stages. The home team got the benefit of first innings, and H. E. Bourne and J. E. Gibson started confidently, the latter rather too much so, for in having "a go" he was caught on the boundary, and Knyperley lost a batsman whose cricket is full of run-getting possibilities. Gibson seems utterly unable to curb the impetuosity which leads to the fall of his wicket before he has got his eye in or found the pace of the pitch. So his undoubted ability is sacrificed time after time. A second misfortune befel the side at 22, when Bourne was run out, his partner declining to budge for a hit to deep cover. The third wicket produced a mere single, but recovery came by E. Mosedale, A. Cooper (13), and W. Whitehead (18), the first of the stands putting on 40 and the second 64. Mosedale played a merry innings, and the major portion of his score of 69 was obtained by powerful and clean hitting. Whitehead's steadiness was most valuable. In the closing part of the venture useful contributions came from W. Mosedale (13) and John Butler (16). A. C. Harris fared best of the Railway bowlers, taking four wickets for 30, and W. Hill had three for 30. The Stoke side showed a disposition to "sit on the aplice" from the start, and it is possible that this playing for safety cost them a point. The one player of enterprise was E. Bloor, who scored 31, and it was a fortunate matter for Knyperley that an excellent catch got rid of him. His best backer was Hill, who was not out with 34 to his name. Three wickets fell to Mosedale for 39, and Butler had two for 23.

#### LONGTON'S SIGNAL SUCCESS.

Longton caused consternation at Wolstanton by the magnitude of their victory over Porthill Park, who gave a somewhat invertebrate exhibition, and were soundly thrashed. The losers had the worst of the general luck, particularly as regards the pitch, but there are other reasons which have contributed to the latest and previous failures, and some of them are the intimate concern of the management of the club. But another absolute cause of non-success may be summed up by the lines "But of all plagues, good Heaven, thy wrath can send, Save, save, oh save me from the candid friend." Porthill's players suffer from an excess of critical gossip, and the outcome of it all is that their cricket is an ordeal rather than a pastime. Longton's play was characterised by the happy sparkle of a contented team, Porthill figured largely as a collection of dejected



units. The foundation of victory was laid by J. W. Johnson and H. Brassington, who, after two wickets had fallen cheaply, took charge of the bowling, and that to such good purpose that their third wicket connection provided 107 runs. Johnson hit powerfully and with judgment for 51—ten fours—and was rather unfortunate in being out to a catch, by J. Durbor, which was as adventurous as it was marvellous, but had the prime merit of being "made." Brassington suffered by comparison with his partner, but played a fine game for his side, and was at the wicket's whilst 171 chalks were gathered. He had one sequence of seven fours, and 15 boundaries in all. He gave chances and made some risky strokes, but his 86 was a capital effort, and was much too weighty for the well-being of the opposition. Porthill's outwork was generally poor. The home side's batting had a disastrous start, and its one redeeming feature rested in a healthy innings of 35 from N. W. White, whose career was closed by a good delivery from C. Edwards. Brassington added to his batting laurels by taking three wickets for 16 runs, but these figures were beaten by J. V. Toney, who had five victims for 19, most of them being "doddled" out. Toney's success was the climax to an afternoon of amazing cricket. The Longton fielding was keen and clever, and there was never any indication that a winning position would be foisted.

#### CHEESE BEATS COAL.

Nantwich produced unexpected batting powers at Norton, and their score sheet is a record of creditable uniformity. Not one player failed to help in the good work, and no fewer than eight reached double figures. The best stand of the innings was that for the fourth wicket by F. W. Slight (34) and W. Meakin (27), and this satisfactory lead was so well sustained that even the last pair of batsmen—G. R. Jackson (16) and H. Smith (10, not out)—put on 21. Of the rest, T. W. Stevenson made 17 and S. W. Cooper 19. Nantwich played lively cricket, their 175 runs coming from 39 overs, and their innings occupied 112 minutes. Norton began promisingly with D. Worthington (25) and L. H. Crump, but sedate methods were adopted after the first wicket had fallen at 32, and the bowling was so troublesome that the seventh batsman returned with the aggregate at 89, of which P. Massey claimed 23. C. Worthington had appreciable help from E. Tatton and A. Evans, and the game was almost won by the last pair, Worthington and J. Smith. These men of a forlorn hope came together with the total at 127, and by determined and clever batting they added 45, and brought their side within four runs of victory, before Worthington was caught at the wicket. Such a finish was as creditable to the vanquished as to the victors. Worthington played brilliantly for 54, and Smith showed all his old stubbornness and resource whilst subscribing 17 (not out). Nantwich had to send down 57 overs, less two balls, to get rid of their gallant foes. The wickets were shared by the stays of Nantwich's attack, E. H. Stevenson having six for 62, and W. T. Maybury four for 65.

#### OTHER SENIOR GAMES.

Stone secured an easy victory at Caverswall, where, after running up a score of 104, they dismissed the home team for 34. E. C. Fernie, the top scorer of his side, displayed something like his true form in notching 33, whilst J. Cooper, an ex-Caverswall man, enjoyed himself by getting 18 against his old comrades. W. Payne was the home side's most successful bowler, taking five wickets for 38; S. H. Jackson having three for 15 and A. Pickard two for 20. Losing a good wicket to the first ball sent down, Caverswall cut up badly, and were soon accounted for, G. H. Sherwin (13) and A. Rushton (11) being the only men to reach double figures. V. J. C. Kent had three wickets for eight, C. Wood three for two, and Fernie two for 19. The losers had an off day, and were well beaten. Stone are expecting to welcome E. J. Johnson back to their ranks next week, a return which will very materially strengthen the side, but it is a stroke of bad luck for them that, following his recent nasty accident on the field, the Rev. Alan W. Stevens has definitely decided that it is his duty to give up the game.

There was some sensational play at Ashcombe Park, where the home team were beaten by the narrow margin of two runs, after disposing of their Kidsgrove visitors for what appeared to be a paltry 32. Kidsgrove had no player to get more than half a dozen, and the most prolific partnership of their venture was a matter of 12 runs, for the third wicket, C. Davies took five wickets for eight runs, and O. Brassington had four for 20. The attack of W. Cooper and F. Timmis soon had the Park "in a pickle," four wickets drop-

ping for six, and, though J. Rane did his best by running up a dozen, there was no fight in the rest, two of whom managed to get run out. Cooper had seven wickets for 18, and Timmis one for eight.

Scot's Hay recorded their first victory of the season against strong opposition, the sufferers being Sandvford, who, short of G. Bourne, Sandvford batted first and were dismissed for a beggarly 23 runs, their top-notcher getting five. The dominant bowlers were L. Bloor—five for 13—and B. Griffiths—four for six.

Scot's Hay's early batsmen were put out very cheaply, three going for two runs, but the 23 mark was passed before the fifth wicket fell. A. Furnival was the chief scorer of the game with 19, of which 12 accrued from one stroke—into the long grass. B. Griffiths also reached doubles. W. Jones claimed four wickets for 20, H. Holland three for 13, and A. Bourne two for 10. Scot's Hay's run-getting was flattered through the lost ball incident, but they were good winners for all that.

Consistent batting gave Betley a creditable win at High Lane, all their players getting some runs, and six of them securing double figures. T. Dean (20) and F. Lyth and W. Smith (14 each) caused a promising beginning, and the middle part of the innings had stiffening from H. Millington (14), J. Amps (15) and J. Moore (28), the last named having five fours in his effort. High Lane tried four bowlers, and too much confidence seems to have been placed in one of them, for his one success cost no less than 50 runs. G. Skellam accounted for five wickets for 37, and F. Owen had three for 27. A second wicket connection by A. Robertson (28) and A. Hackney (25) which took the aggregate to 47 suggested a High Lane victory, but the batting tailed off afterwards, and 29 from B. J. Reynolds was not sufficient to effect a recovery. F. Sutton and B. Madden each disposed of four wickets, for 22 and 33 runs, respectively.

Mateley had no trouble in getting the better of Audley, and the player to have the biggest hand in their success was E. Mayer, who took five wickets for 22, and subsequently scored 27 with the bat. His association with A. Beech (19) carried the total from 13 to 62, for the second wicket, giving his side a win with eight wickets standing. The losers' most conspicuous player was James McEllin, who scored 24 by careful batting.

Excellent fielding and good bowling provided Alsagers Bank with a praiseworthy success over Cheadle, whose fielding was so slack and uncertain as to be positively distressing. Cheadle took first innings, and made a careful start, but the fourth wicket fell at 44, and the bulk of the run getting was the work of J. Shaw (16) and H. Capewell (29), who both went for the bowling, Capewell counting six fours, three of which were got in one over. W. Beech took four wickets for 10 runs, and A. Amson and R. Bailey each had a couple. The Bank opened badly, three wickets—all to E. Gregory—going for a dozen runs, but there was improvement during the next partnership, which saw the commencement of Cheadle's undoing. The batsmen profited by slovenly fielding and A. Poole (33) and J. Wareham took the total to 35 before the latter was bowled. G. W. Beech (23) who followed might have been run out before opening his account, but got a chalk instead, and he and Poole afterwards settled down to add 44, four chances going by default whilst they were together. Nine runs were needed when the seventh wicket fell, and these were soon obtained, E. Riley hitting well for 18 (not out). Gregory had five wickets for 35. Cheadle may have a change of fortune when their scouting improves, but they cannot achieve prominence until it does.

#### AFFAIRS OF THE JUNIORS.

Strengthened by the return of T. Kelsall, Silverdale had an easy win over Bignall End, whose batting was sadly deficient, nine wickets dropping for 38 runs. An additional 30 were put on by the last pair, F. Colclough scoring 10 (not out) and R. Rushby 18. The belated stand closed when Rushby was run out, his being the third case of the sort. S. Jones took four wickets for 25, and A. Emery three for 20. Kelsall soon started getting runs, and the match was won whilst he and H. Ford (25, not out) had the second wicket partnership. Kelsall's forceful and well-played innings of 73 contained 14 fours. A useful fourth wicket stand of 30 runs by P. Wilbraham (24) and H. Chesters (15) was the only item of note in the Alexandra's innings against Burslem. The home bowling was good, and F. Ellis had four wickets for 15. With the exception of J. H. Hodgkiss the early Burslem batsmen did but little, but the result was never in doubt, Hodgkiss being in scoring tittle from the start of the innings. The game was won during the sixth wicket connection of Hodgkiss and Ellis (34, not out), which took the aggregate from 68 to 130.

Hodgkiss batted in his best style for his 72. The Crews bowling was moderate, and only one of the 36 overs sent down did not furnish runs. Great Chell were outmatched by Leek, although their bowlers managed to keep run-getting within reasonable limits, only one home player reaching the twenty mark. This batsman was A. G. Baskerville, who ran up 31 in free fashion. His best helpers were F. Hunt (18) and F. Hassall (15). J. Wilshaw disposed of three men for 15, and F. Warburton three for 29. Chell opened wretchedly, and their sixth wicket fell at 15. Matters mended somewhat afterwards, but no batsman was capable of making an effective stand, and 17 from L. Baddeley was the best score. F. Hunt and T. Plant bowled unchanged, and had returns of six wickets for 22 and four for 27 respectively. James Butler and J. W. Hancock were the Knipersley players most concerned in the overthrow of L.M.S. Railway. Their batting contributions of 39 and 24 overshadowed what was accomplished by their colleagues, and when the Railway side batted only two men made much headway against their bowling, A. Rogers scoring 16 and L. Fuller 19. Butler had a rare "bag" of wickets, nine falling to him at the small cost of 28 runs; Hancock getting the other for eight. For the losers, Rogers had three for 17 and F. Morrall three for 30. The patient cricket of H. Fielding and some heavy hitting by A. Taylor were the two items of Longton's innings against Port-hill Park that mattered. Fielding went all through the piece for 20 (not out), and Taylor collected 21 of the 23 scored for the last wicket, and that by six hits. S. R. Cooper sent down 14 overs for seven runs and four wickets, and H. Gleaves had three victims for 31. Port-hill had the game won for the loss of four wickets. A. Hollins batting skillfully for 33, and having useful assistance from H. F. Wood (14) and C. Tunnicliffe (19). A. Bradbury, with three for 37, came out best of Longton's bowlers. Nantwich and Norton had a good set-to on the Cheshire club's ground, the fortunes of the teams fluctuating entertainingly. In spite of a well got 36 from B. Griffiths, Nantwich's sixth wicket fell at 50, but better results came when R. Shenton and T. Hope were in company, the pair adding 40 runs whilst together. Shenton had five boundaries in his 21, and Hope played soundly for 29. F. Bailey and J. Martin equally divided the ten wickets, the cost to them being 27 and 43 runs, respectively. R. Tatton gave Norton a satisfactory lead by scoring 25, but four of his partners had only ten chalks between them. The turning point came when Martin (24) assisted him in getting 26 for the fifth wicket, and Norton were afterwards put in good circumstance by A. Smith, who played steadily for 34. L. Houghton was a difficult bowler to master, and secured four wickets for 28.

Spectators at Stone had a fine afternoon's sport, for after the home juniors had put up a score which seemed to ensure them from defeat, Caverswall hit off the runs with four wickets in hand and two minutes to go. B. J. Devaney (59) and P. R. Sheppard gave Stone an excellent start by scoring 54 for the first wicket, and C. H. Matthews (19), was also very useful. E. Walkelin had five wickets for 19. Chiefly as the result of some capital batting by F. Barber (46 not out) and W. J. Elson (34) Caverswall, faced with a weak attack, were never in trouble whilst hitting off the runs. Brindley Ford Wesleyans failed to reproduce their best run-getting form of the season, and though their total of 84 was not a despicable one it was not nearly enough to check Kidsgrove. The chief contributors were V. Gregory (21) and A. Waller (16). E. Goodwin took four wickets for 14, and I. Hadley three for 27. Hadley was also prominent with the bat, scoring 27, and it was due to him and R. Dakin (30) that Kidsgrove won with four wickets standing. In the following play S. Johnson rattled up 34—eight boundaries. The highest score in the match between Sandvford and Onneley was 12 by F. Whalen, for the winners, but S. Royle (Onneley) and F. Brooks (Sandvford) were only a run behind. E. Cotton took four wickets for ten for the losers, and for Onneley A. Davies had four for 14, H. Bedson three for 16, and F. Halfpenny two for four. Bowlers enjoyed themselves at Retley. E. Apin—six for 20—and J. Brookshaw—four for 28—doing good work for the home club, whilst J. Lowe—four for eight—and H. Stone—three for 10—were most prominent for High Lane. W. Smith High Lane's last man, was the topnotcher of the game, with 15 (not out). Batsmen suffered the quick despatch at Audley. G. Griffiths—six for 12—and G. Onseley—four for 12—bundling the home side out without ceremony, and when Madeley batted G. Taylor—six for 18—and H. Mayer—four for 14—were almost as effective. Play was very slow at Alsagers Bank, where V. Pepper (33), E. Sales (25) and H. A. Shaw (34) made useful scores for Cheadle, and J. C. Durbor (26) and G. Ratcliffe (25) saved the Bank's batting from a collapse.

## NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

## Senior Division.—Section "A."

Signal Hill v. L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke): Messrs. Cooper and Downs.  
 Crews Alexandra v. Leek: Messrs. W. Butters and Condiffe.  
 Burslem v. Silverdale: Messrs. Stevenson and Worthington.  
 Great Chell v. Longton: Messrs. Byrne and Grossett.  
 Knypersley v. Nantwich: Messrs. Bowers and T. Smith.  
 Port Hill Park v. Norton: Messrs. Holmes and Kellett.

## Section "B."

Caverswall v. Betley: Messrs. Gleave and Boulton.  
 Ashcombe Park v. Sandford: Messrs. Parkin and Keeling.  
 Kilscrew v. Stone: Messrs. Albert Rogers and Groom.  
 Great Hay v. Audley: Messrs. Roostock and A. Smith.  
 Burnlem H.L. v. Alsagers Bank: Messrs. Portch and F. G. Bazley.  
 Madeley v. Cheddle: Messrs. Latham and Buckley.

## Junior Division.—Section "A."

L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke) v. Burnall End: Messrs. Skellum and Rowlands.  
 Leek v. Crews Alexandra: Messrs. Barsted and Johnston.  
 Silverdale v. Burslem: Messrs. Mayer and Leth.  
 Longton v. Great Chell: Messrs. Wright and P. Butters.  
 Nantwich v. Knypersley: Messrs. Vizzani and Gregory.  
 Norton v. Port Hill Park: Messrs. A. Holbrook and Coates.

## Section "B."

Betley v. Caverswall.  
 Sandford v. Brindley Ford Westons.  
 Stone v. Kilscrew.  
 Audley v. Onneley.  
 Alsagers Bank v. Burnlem High Lane.  
 Cheddle v. Madeley.

## FENTON CRICKET CLUB.

A big list of playing members enabled the Fenton Cricket Club to turn out two teams on Saturday last. The First XI. journeyed to Knutton Y.M.C.A. and recorded a ready victory, the home team not being able to withstand the onslaughts of Houseman and Naylor, who returned the averages of 6 for 6 and 4 for 1, respectively, the run's one being 17. So big a small aggregate allowed Captain Meller to materially alter his batting order, and good use was made of the opportunity, in spite of good bowling by Brown. At home, the visitors, Etruria Church Institute, scored a magnificent victory. Having first knocked the second team in the course of an hour, the second team, the bowler being Osborne (2 for 15). At one time, Etruria appeared in for a lesser score, but an opportune scoring effort by Wootton, assisted by slack bowling, found the visitors victorious by three wickets. Although of the friendly character both games provided keenness, and gave much pleasure to both players and spectators alike.

## MID-WEEK CRICKET.

## KNYPERSLEY KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION. First Round.

## Nondescripts v. Norton Works.

**NONDESCRIPTS**—L. Crump b Jolly 17, J. Henshall b Hollinshead 8, J. Chadwick b Jolly 7, D. Boulton b Jolly 1, S. Turner b Hollinshead 1, R. Billings c and b Hollinshead 2, C. Heath c and b Hollinshead 0, S. Hanford run out 0, W. Wingrove b Jolly 2, E. Hall b Jolly 0, E. Griffiths b Jolly 21, extras 13; total 70.  
**NORTON**—W. Shaffery b Billings 1; R. Holdcroft b Crump 18, E. Whitehurst run out 4, W. E. Hook b Crump 2, L. Bird b Crump 11, A. Whatmore b Crump 1, A. Jolly b Crump 11, J. Dale c and b Crump 0, J. A. Hollinshead run out 0, W. Saitcock b Crump 0, R. Yates c and b Billings 14, extras 0; total 47.

## Hoop Mill v. Boiler Yard.

**HOOP MILL**—B. Arty b E. Bedson 14, A. Rogers at Shallerons b Brough 18, S. Brough b E. Bedson 0, J. Haydon c Brough b E. Bedson 0, J. Rogers at Shallerons b Brough 27, D. Ritchens c Prince b Brough 12, V. Brough b Brough 2, G. Gallimore b J. Bedson 0, F. Taylor c Davies b Brough 20, A. Rhodes b J. Bedson 0, L. Lowe b E. Bedson 1; total 96.

**BOILER YARD**—Davies b Ritchens 0, J. Bedson run out 22, Brough c Haydon b Rogers 0, Higgs b Haydon 0, Cottrell b Haydon 6, Ginnis c Brough b Haydon 9, b Bedson b Haydon 6, Prince c Gallimore b Rogers 1, Ratcliffe b Rogers 0, extras 0; total 47.

## New Pool v. Mossley.

**NEW POOL**—A. Ball b Atherton 0, M. Bailey b Atherton 9, J. Evans b Shaw 7, E. Tunstall c Moss b Atherton 14, E. Simmer b Atherton 9, E. Sutton c Hammond b Shaw 1, J. Tunstall b Atherton 1, W. Archer b Shaw 0, A. Ball b Shaw 10, T. Johnson c Miller b Atherton 0, H. Matthews b Atherton 2, extras 9; total 52.

**MOSSLEY**—W. Whitehead lbw b Simmer 13, Caudwell b Ball 6, Tittle b Bailey 17, Coppinger c Matthews b Simmer 12, Hammond c Sutton b Bailey 2, Moss c and b Simmer 0, Hatherton run out 14, Shaw not out 27, Miller b Ball 0, Cannon not out 17, extras 14; total 122.

## NORTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

## Round 1.

## Young Nortonsians v. Middleport C.C.

**YOUNG NORTONIANS**—A. Clews b G. Goodwin 6, S. Ryles b F. Robinson 6, W. Corfield b T. Robinson 1, N. Eardley c Goodwin b Robinson 5, E. Eardley b F. Robinson 7, S. Houston c and b G. Goodwin 0, A. Love c Lewis b Robinson 8, J. Dale b T. Robinson 0, J. Dawson b G. Goodwin 0, W. Cork b G. Goodwin 0, A. Proctor c and b G. Goodwin 0, extras 1; total 36.

**MIDDLEPORT C.C.**—S. Lewis not out 11, J. Abbott c Clews b Eardley 18, W. Wainwright b Boulton 4, J. Birks b Eardley 4, extras 2; total for 3 wickets 39.

## Norton C.C. No. 1 v. Grayhound C.C.

**NORTON C.C. No. 1**—E. Martin c Whitehall b R. Producers 73, W. Davies b P. Payne 30, W. Marland c Whitehall b R. Producers 0, W. Smith b P. Payne 1, J. Davies c G. Mountford b R. Producers 1, E. Copeland c Tomkinson b P. Payne 6, J. Baskerville c W. Holcher b F. Brown 0, E. Worthington not out 2, J. Payne not out 11, extras 12; total 136.

**GRAYHOUND C.C.**—B. Dean c Martin b W. Hunt 0, G. Arook b W. Smith 79, P. Payne c J. Payne b W. Hunt 21, G. Mountford not out 3, R. Producers run out 8, F. Brown b W. Hunt 0, N. Neene not out 0, extras 20; total 131.

## Wilson's XI. (Endon) v. Black Lion (Burslem).

**WILSON'S XI. (ENDON)**—R. Higginson b J. Bourne 21, J. Brown b J. Bourne 15, K. Weston b J. Bourne 0, K. Hudson run out 0, R. Grady c Hancock b J. Bourne 0, R. Kitchin c Hancock b A. Poynter 5, G. Brown st Hancock A. Poynter 17, F. Chesworth run out 8, S. Wilson c and b A. Poynter 6, J. Griffiths c and b J. Boulton 7, A. Kent not out 9, extras 13; total 99.

**BLACK LION (BURSLEM)**—W. Salt b Higginson 9, J. Hancock b Griffiths 10, A. Poynter b Griffiths 0, J. Bourne b Griffiths 6, J. Schocken c Wilson b Higginson 13, T. Tabor b Griffiths 8, F. Poynter c Weston b Griffiths 0, T. Mountford b Higginson 29, J. Darby c Brown b Higginson 8, J. Boulton run out 0, S. Griffiths b Griffiths 0, extras 14; total 97.

## Smallthorne Wasps v. Pioneer Club.

**SMALLTHORNE WASPS**—J. Mountford st Worthington b Glaze 1, Dale c and b H. Crump 0, J. Critchlow lbw b H. Crump 52, N. Ellis b W. Boote 23, W. Jolley b Frost 10, A. J. Day c Barcroft b H. Crump 4, A. Phillips st Worthington b H. Crump 0, A. Jackson c and b H. Crump 0, J. Lowe run out 0, T. Mountford st Worthington b H. Crump 2, W. Simms b H. Crump 1, extras 5; total 104.

**PIONEER CLUB**—W. Boote b J. Mountford 0, Frost c and b J. Mountford 33, P. Russell c A. J. Day b T. Mountford 14, G. Bellamy c Critchlow b A. J. Day 4, F. Worthington c and b N. Ellis 11, H. Crump not out 38, J. Glaze not out 2, extras 5; total for 5 wickets 102.

## MARKET DRAYTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.—Second Round.

## Casuals v. Shavington.

**CASUALS**—F. Wilkinson run out 2, J. Bonney at Caverswall b Arkenstall 17, A. Hodgkinson b Jolly 6, F. Emery b Pinder 12, R. Williams c Jolly 3, R. Hill b Pinder 5, H. Farnley b Arkenstall 1, A. Arkenstall b Arkenstall 1, J. Shuter at Caverswall b Arkenstall 20, S. Moore b Arkenstall 0, H. P. P. at Caverswall b Arkenstall 21, extras 3; total 92.

**SHAVINGTON**—F. Galt c J. Emery b Hill 4, T. Morris c Emery b Emery 1, R. Farnley b Hodgkinson 22, F. Bonney run out 1, G. Jolly st Pinder b Emery 9, T. Hill run out 9, J. Naylor b Farnley 1, F.

Norris c Bennett 0, L. Dawson b Hodgkinson 14, A. Holms b Hodgkinson 0, J. Arkenstall c Barnett b Hodgkinson 0, extras 14; total 77.

## WOORE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

The draw for the first round of the Woore Knock-out competition resulted as follows:—North 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506,



## CRICKET.

## STAFFS. v. NORFOLK.

For the annual county fixture at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire were opposed on Monday and Tuesday by Norfolk, and a useful side was fielded, containing no fewer than six changes from the eleven which last week defeated Cheshire at Portlith. Barnes returned to the team. E. W. Page made his first appearance of the season, as did G. H. Thorneycroft, whilst a third Wolverhampton player in C. Howl was given his first test in county cricket. H. W. Homer and P. O. Yates, the Old Hill pair, also came in, and the following half-dozen dropped out: A. A. Hickerton, W. Lee, C. F. Easton, C. G. Varcoe, K. S. Hunt, and J. Darbar. The side was materially strengthened, and the visitors brought a strong team, the hard hitting amateur, Stevens, being the only noticeably absentee. Monday was a perfect cricket day, and the fast wicket seemed to promise more runs than were actually scored. The outstanding feature of the day's play was the success of the debutante, C. Howl, who, in his first innings for Staffordshire, batted for three hours against good bowling, and completed an excellent, if a little stolid, 77. The success of Staffordshire amateurs on their first appearance in the county team has been quite remarkable in the last year or two. P. O. Yates and W. Moore, of Cannock, both passed the half century well in their first innings, and other instances that came to mind are H. W. Homer and H. Goodwin, whilst C. F. Rushton last week made a highly creditable debut.

Staffordshire had first innings, and made a bad start, losing Page and Barnes for 6. Then Howl and Homer made a valuable stand, most of the runs coming from the Old Hill player, who made a number of attractive strokes, and seemed well set when he was bowled by Mower, an amateur, who gave the impression at Old Hill last year of being a distinctly useful bowler. Johnson was also going well when he made a mistake which proved fatal, and, with Yates also batting skilfully, the weak start had been largely redeemed. Howl's batting was patient, but never uninteresting. He revealed a very fine defence, and some good strokes, particularly on the leg side, and his trial has certainly added to the batting resources of the county. With the breaking of the partnership of Howl and Yates, the home county again suffered a bad spell, and though Thorneycroft made one or two good strokes, and Platt and Whalen added a useful contribution for the last wicket, the total of 215 fell short of what at one period appeared likely. Whalen was introduced to county cricket as a left-hand bowler, but has latterly shown a sound defence as a batsman. His improvement in this department has also been noticeable in club cricket, his scoring for Silverdale in the North Staffordshire League having been very consistent.

When Norfolk batted, they were entirely indebted to the old Staffordshire professional, "Jack" Nichols, for the avoidance of a complete collapse. Nichols will be remembered as having charge of the Oldfields ground at Uttoxeter in its palmiest days before the war. He was a regular member of the Staffordshire team for a number of years, playing many fine innings and taking a good many wickets as a slow bowler, with a penchant for the googly. He batted well against Staffordshire at Old Hill last summer, and again on Monday proved how well he preserves his skill with the bat. Barnes bowled remarkably well, but he could not overcome the splendid defence of his old colleague, who also almost monopolized the scoring. When play ceased for the day, Nichols was still undefeated with 81 to his credit out of a total of 116 for five wickets, four of which were claimed by Barnes. Norfolk thus required exactly 100 to gain a lead on the first innings, with half their wickets standing—a fairly even position.

The weather remained on its best behaviour on Tuesday, and the wicket continued too good to allow of much chance of a definite result being obtained. The first innings' lead was, therefore, of importance, and there was an interesting struggle for this advantage. Nichols and Holmes played so well together that they put the visiting county in a strong position before the fall of the sixth wicket, but when once this partnership had been broken, matters swung round again, and Norfolk failed by 24 runs to reach the Staffordshire score. Nichols was a dominating figure in the batting, and without him it would have been a sorry show. His style is not the most exhilarating, his defensive game being rather cramped, but he is still a difficult man to get out, and he has a quick eye for the hitable ball, and flashes out powerful scoring strokes when least expected. He is strong on the leg, and made many fine drives through the covers. He had a little luck with uncertain shots through the slips, but gave no actual chance until after passing his 100, when Barnes put a plain one down at mid-on. Barnes came out with fine figures for such a wicket.

When Staffordshire batted again, Page was once more unfortunate, and Barnes was bowled for the second time by the Norfolk Captain when he appeared to be taking root. Howl and Homer again put up an excellent stand, and the former confirmed the impression of Monday that, as he is playing at present, his is an exceedingly difficult wicket to get. He maintained an impregnable defence, watching the good-length ball well, and scored nearly all his runs before the wicket until, after he had obtained his second 50 in his first match, when he showed that he can jump in and drive, if so disposed. He eventually chopped a swinging ball from the quick left hander into his wicket, having tendered yeoman service, and practically cleared the home county out of danger of defeat. As he fielded throughout the match with real dash, he is a most valuable recruit. Homer played a pretty innings, his late cutting being excellent, and Johnson, Yates, and Lockett all batting well, Staffordshire were able to declare at tea time, and send their opponents in to get 242 in two hours and ten minutes to win. When Owens and Falcon had fallen unresisting into the short leg trap which Barnes knows so well how to set, there seemed just a chance of Staffordshire snatching a victory outright. But the luck did not go their way, and so Colman settled down, and, with Nichols, gradually improved the position. It was distinctly unlucky that both Barnes and Lockett quite early in the innings missed Colman's wicket very narrowly with balls which completely beat the Norfolk crack, who might easily have had the unusual experience of "bagging brace." However, he survived, and played sterling cricket until stumps were drawn at 6.30, an hour and forty minutes. Nichols pulled a swinger from Whalen on to his middle stump on the Silverdale's left hander relieving Barnes, and Goldham had two fortunate escapes in the slips, a streaky one off Platt going between Barnes and Lockett, whilst Lockett failed to hold a fast, high ball at the other end from Whalen. Colman and Goldham hit out freely in the last half hour, so that Barnes, on resuming, had three men in the long field on the boundary. There were some lousy hits, but they were clear of the fielders, the pair remaining until 6.30, when Goldham was bowled in trying to hit Platt's leg break, and the extra half hour which could be claimed if there were a prospect of a definite finish was not taken.

It was an enjoyable match, in charming surroundings, but the attendance was not large.

## Scores and analysis:—

## STAFFORDSHIRE.

First Innings.	
E. W. Page c Williamson b Beads-	1
moore	77
C. Howl hit wkt b Beadsmoore	4
Barnes b Falcon	34
H. W. Homer b Mower	24
J. W. Johnson c Colman b Beads-	32
moore	4
P. O. Yates st Williamson b Wat-	11
son	12
A. Lockett c Mower b Watson	0
G. H. Thorneycroft c Williamson	14
b Watson	2
Platt b Watson	215
J. B. Russell b Beadsmoore	
J. Whalen not out	
Extras	

Total 215

Second Innings.	
E. W. Page b Beadsmoore	5
C. Howl b Mower	55
Barnes b Falcon	16
H. W. Homer b Beadsmoore	44
J. W. Johnson c Falcon b Beads-	24
moore	20
P. O. Yates c Nichols b Beads-	15
moore	7
A. Lockett not out	9
G. H. Thorneycroft c Moore b	22
Watson	
Platt not out	
Extras	

Total (for seven, dec.) 217

## NORFOLK.

First Innings.	
J. H. Owens c Homer b Barnes	9
Nichols c Platt b Barnes	127
G. R. R. Colman b Barnes	0
M. Falcon lbw b Barnes	1
J. M. Goldham b Barnes	9
R. A. L. Everett, b Lockett	7
J. B. Holmes b Platt	19
W. A. Beadsmoore c Russell b	0
Platt	0
G. H. Mower b Whalen	0
Watson not out	10
E. C. Williamson st Russell b Platt	0
Extras	9

Total 191

Second Innings.	
J. H. Owens c Platt b Barnes	1
Nichols b Whalen	16
G. R. R. Colman not out	64
M. Falcon c Platt b Barnes	4
J. M. Goldham b Platt	45
Extras	4

Total (for four wkts.) 154

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

## STAFFS.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
M. Falcon	19	2	62	1
Beadsmoore	26	5	55	4
Watson	21.1	6	58	4
Nichols	3	0	11	0
Mower	7	0	27	1

## Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
M. Falcon	14	1	23	1
Beadsmoore	23	3	65	4
Watson	10	2	25	1
Colman	3	0	15	0
Mower	15	0	56	1
Goldham	2	0	6	0

## NORFOLK.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	27	11	32	5
Whalen	19	7	41	1
Lockett	16	2	63	1
Platt	15.4	4	40	3

## Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	13	4	56	2
Whalen	5	0	25	1
Lockett	7	3	8	0
Platt	10.5	1	41	1

## STAFFORD C.C. v. WEDNESBURY C.C.

At Wednesbury, on Saturday, batting first on a good wicket, Wednesbury put up a huge score before declaring. For this they were mainly indebted to F. Rowlinson, who played a splendid innings of 134 without giving a chance. J. T. W. Neville and J. W. Hawley, who put on 56 for the second wicket, were the only Stafford batsmen who played the bowling of W. Holmes and C. Ryder with any confidence, and in the end Wednesbury scored an easy victory. Scores:—

Wednesbury C.C.—F. Rowlinson b Greatorex b Hawley 134, W. Townsend c Ward b Hollands 2, C. Ryder b Warwick 24, W. Holmes c Hawley b White 0, H. Hipkiss c Ward b Warwick 1, J. Lees c Hawley b Hollands 16, L. Holmes not out 36, W. Davies lbw b Hollands 0, B. Haggart not out 4, extras 19, total (for 7 wickets, declared) 236. O. Skidmore and A. Grindley did not bat.

Stafford C.C.—W. T. White c and b Holmes 0, J. T. W. Neville lbw b Ryder 29, J. W. Hawley c Davies b Ryder 32, H. J. Hollands c Grindley b Ryder 3, R. H. Warwick c L. Holmes b Rowlinson 1, G. H. Greatorex st Davies b Ryder 2, A. J. Ward c L. Holmes b W. Holmes 10, G. C. Davy b W. Holmes 0, W. E. Burgess c Ryder b W. Holmes 0, W. S. Macfarlane not out 3, J. Jones run out 3, extras 19, total 102.

## STAFFORD 2nd XI. v. WEDNESBURY 2nd XI.

At Stafford, on Saturday, Wednesbury 2nd XI, 156 for six wickets, declared (V. Davies 45, F. Burton 40, B. Lycett 36 not out). Stafford 2nd XI, 125 for eight wickets (C. H. Yates 49, W. C. R. Ellis-moor 28, the Rev. P. F. M. McSwiney 16).

## BURTON v. LICHFIELD.

Lichfield journeyed to Burton on Trent on Saturday, and succeeded in making a draw. For the home team, L. B. Blaxland hit merrily for 87 before being caught by Mann, and for Lichfield H. M. Fitzgeorge was top scorer with 45 to his credit. Scores:—

Burton.—A. P. Wilson c and b Knight 25, E. J. Gethard b Fitzgeorge 38, L. B. Blaxland c Mann b Rudgard 87, A. E. Cardew b Oram 25, J. A. Ireland c Knight b Moore 33, D. I. Hughes not out 5, extras 14, total (for five wickets) 227. A. A. Wragg, F. Robinson, H. W. Faulkner, F. Evershed, and Topham did not bat.

Lichfield.—H. M. Fitzgeorge b Wragg 43, Lieut. Dalton lbw b Wragg 37, W. Platt b Faulkner 10, F. Rudgard not out 10, W. Mann not out 8, extras 10, total (for three wickets) 118. R. Moore, F. Oram, S. Baxter, G. Knight, A. J. Smith, and A. Slater did not bat.

## LICHFIELD 2nd v. ALREWS.

Lichfield Second Eleven maintained their winning ways on Saturday, when they defeated Alrewas on the Bunting Lane Road ground with a margin of 22 runs and six wickets to spare. G. Ryan was Lichfield's best bowler, taking seven wickets for 25 runs, and R. Cook carried out his bat with 84 to his credit, including 13 fours. Scores:—

Alrewas.—E. Houghton b Ryan 0, C. Pattinson b Ryan 9, D. Shaw c Platt b Ryan 46, R. Ball c Hartshorn b Page 27, R. Hardy c Baker b Ryan 10, J. Cartwright c Baker b Ryan 4, J. N. Kirby b Hartshorn 6, H. Hoskisson b Ryan 2, T. Shannmonds not out 9, G. Souster c Baker b Ryan 0, J. Hammond c Ryan b Hartshorn 5, extras 18, total 136.

Lichfield 2nd.—R. E. Brault c Shaw b Hardy 13, R. Cook not out 84, W. Platt c Hardy b Cartwright 3, G. Ryan b Hammond 30, N. Hartshorn c Souster b Shannmonds 8, C. R. Standley not out 10, extras 10, total (for four wickets) 158. F. I. Cooper, C. F. Page, H. Baker, W. A. Wait, and W. Lawrence did not bat.

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Staffordshire's Match at Old Hill.

### Another Successful Debutant.

Against Lincolnshire at Old Hill on Monday and Tuesday Staffordshire will be represented by the following team: J. R. Russell (captain), C. Howl, D. P. Lutter, H. W. Homer, W. Lee, J. W. Johnson, C. Rushton, A. Lockett, J. Whalen, Sedgwick (H.), and Platt (G.).

Lincolnshire, who returned to the Minor Counties Competition last season for the first time since the war, are not a strong side. They collapsed completely before the Staffordshire bowling at Wolverhampton last year, and were twice dismissed in one day to lose by an innings. Their record, so far this season, does not suggest that they have greatly improved, and if the weather conditions are favourable the home county should gain another victory.

It was inevitable that the selected side would include Clifford Howl after the great assistance he rendered Staffordshire in his first match with them—against Norfolk at Wolverhampton

A great effort was made to complete the match, but the odds were all against a definite conclusion. Norfolk were set the task of getting 242 runs in two hours and ten minutes.

There seemed to be just a likelihood at first that they might all be cheaply dismissed, and Staffordshire gain the victory. The first three wickets were down at very small cost. But, thereafter, G. R. R. Colman and J. M. Goldham got the measure of the bowling, and hit out so briskly that there were even speculations as to whether they would not perform the almost, if not actually, impossible task of knocking off the required runs. But at half-past six, Platt sent Goldham back, and as 108 runs were still required and only another half-an-hour available for play, if either captain wished to claim it—strips were drawn. As is usually the case when Staffordshire and Norfolk meet, the game was an attractive one, except for occasional spells of excessive caution, for which there was ample recompense in long periods of excellent cricket.



A. LOCKETT.

this week. An ideal first wicket batsman, he played a big part in securing the first innings decision for Staffordshire, and was the most successful wielder of the willow of the side, knocking up 77 in the first innings and 55 in the second. Both his attempts were marked by a sound defence and much patience, and with good hitting on the leg side.

The greatest batting achievement of the match was that of Jack Nicholls, the old Staffordshire professional, who is now coaching at a public school in the south, and plays with the Norfolk team. He proved in an attractive innings that most of his old skill has been retained and his keenness is unimpaired. With every delivery he kept his eye on the ball from the bowler's hand to the bat, and his timing was never at fault. He was only an hour and three-quarters in collecting 27 runs, at which point he fell a victim to Barnes' leg-trap. But for his contribution, Norfolk would have been in sad case, for the remaining batsmen made only 64 runs between them. This was due in large measure to the fine bowling of Sydney Barnes, who finished up the innings with five wickets for 32 runs.



# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burslem	10	7	1	2	14
Signal End	10	6	2	2	14
Leek	10	6	2	2	14
Crewe Alexandra	10	6	2	2	14
Norton	10	4	3	3	11
Porthill Park	10	4	3	3	11
Longton	10	3	3	4	10
Nantwich	10	4	4	2	10
Great Chell	10	3	5	2	8
Kaynesley	10	1	5	4	6
Silverdale	10	1	6	3	6
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	10	0	6	4	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Leek, 181; Signal End, 135.  
Crewe Alexandra, 318 for three; Silverdale, 112.  
Burslem, 179 for seven; Norton, 129.  
Great Chell, 85; L.M.S. Railway (Stoke), 88.  
Longton, 314 for three (dec.); Kaynesley, 146 for 7.  
Porthill Park, 120; Nantwich, 114.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Macclesfield	10	8	2	0	16
Kidsgrove	10	8	2	0	16
Handsworth	10	8	2	0	16
Alton Bank	10	4	3	3	13
Stoke	10	6	4	0	12
Cheddle	10	4	4	2	10
Burslem High Lane	10	3	4	3	9
Handley	10	3	4	3	9
Coverwall	10	3	5	2	8
Batley	10	3	6	1	7
Alton Bank	10	2	6	2	6
Stoke	10	2	6	2	6

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Handsworth, 86 for nine; Coverwall, 68.  
Stoke, 144; Alton Bank, 94.  
Cheddle, 116 for eight; Kidsgrove, 109.  
Batley, 74; Macclesfield, 71.  
Handley, 121; Burslem High Lane, 99.  
Macclesfield, 187; Alton Bank, 109.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	10	7	1	2	14
Norton	10	6	2	2	14
Nantwich	10	6	2	2	14
Silverdale	10	6	2	2	14
Burslem	10	4	3	3	11
Kaynesley	10	4	3	3	11
Signal End	10	4	4	2	10
Leek	10	4	4	2	10
Longton	10	3	6	1	7
Crewe Alexandra	10	3	6	1	7
Great Chell	10	1	6	3	6
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	10	0	6	4	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 201 for six (dec.); Leek, 133.  
Norton, 120; Porthill Park, 72.  
Great Chell, 148 for seven; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 70.  
Kaynesley, 113 for four; Longton, 109.  
Porthill Park, 261 for seven (dec.); Nantwich, 81.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans	10	7	1	2	14
Burslem High Lane	10	6	2	2	14
Coverwall	10	6	2	2	14
J. J. Fry	10	6	2	2	14
Cheddle	10	4	3	3	11
Alton Bank	10	4	3	3	11
Stoke	10	3	4	3	9
Cheddle	10	3	4	3	9
Handley	10	3	4	3	9
Stoke	10	3	4	3	9
Handley	10	3	4	3	9
Stoke	10	3	4	3	9
Handley	10	3	4	3	9
Stoke	10	3	4	3	9

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Coverwall, 82; Brindley Ford, 35.  
Brindley Ford Wes., 174 for eight (dec.); Stoke, 31.  
Alton Bank, 71; Cheddle, 32.  
Cheddle, 144; Batley, 121.  
Burslem High Lane, 38; Audley, 28.  
Handley, 114; Alton Bank, 84.

CRICKET FOLKS had a continuance of their period of satisfaction last Saturday, and the affairs of the premier local league appeared exceedingly, the play being good and attractive, and the attendances of spectators very satisfactory. The chief event of the afternoon was the second defeat of the champions, and as Burslem were winners at Norton the Cobridge club again take the leading place, with Signal End and Leek equal as the immediate followers, and Crewe Alexandra in dangerous proximity. In the lower grade Macclesfield resumed their ascendancy over all rivals, their own success obtaining emphasis by the overthrow of Kidsgrove, who found Cheddle in capital fettle. In the struggles of Junior Section B teams matters went strongly in favour of the Porthill Park champions, who administered a decisive thrashing to Nantwich, the Cheddle side giving their worst display of the season. Their downfall lost them second

position, a win at Cobridge causing Norton to supplant them. Brindley Ford Wesleyans had another big success, but they are still levelled by High Lane, whose bowlers provided a remarkable finish to a game of low scores.

The heaviest run-getting match of the whole series was the one at Longton, in which chinks were only one short of the fourth century; the bowlers being effectively subdued. This game furnished an individual century, a brilliant 107 from A. Smith. The dominance of the Longton captain was not surprising, for Kaynesley have often had cause to pay homage to his prowess. Another player to reach the coveted three figures was Fred Walker, of Crewe Alexandra, who scourged Silverdale's attack to the extent of 100 (not out). The highest aggregate was obtained by Porthill's second eleven and the pain of being put out for the lowest total was the lot of the Audley reserves, who made fewer "ducks" than their High Lane foes, but were well beaten for all that. Great Chell's reserves earned congratulations by their first win of the season, a performance which enabled their club to figure as dual conquerors, a distinction which they shared with Porthill Park and Macclesfield. The biggest "gate" belonged to Norton, and it was an easy record for the club, a circumstance which caused extreme gratification to the members, as well as all who have concern for the fortunes of an old established and enterprising organisation.

#### SIGNAL END'S DOWNFALL.

Signal End and Leek participated in another four encounter, and this time the spoils went to the Highfield men, who thus got recompense for previous checks to their aspirations. The game was a great one, and it pursued its course in a series of kaleidoscopic fluctuations which maintained intense interest throughout the proceedings. Leek had the advantage of getting first use of the wicket, and they availed themselves of their opportunity to a satisfactory degree, though their opponents did not regard their total as one which should arouse apprehension. Losing half their wickets for 88 runs, Leek owed a lot to the fine batting of Cotton, who had the good luck to have an easy chance to square leg dropped with his score at about six, but, otherwise, played grandly for 52—seven fours. The blunder was the one real blemish in Signal End's smart exhibition of fielding and it had disastrous results, for Cotton's batting was the great factor of Leek's success. Still, the best of fielders make mistakes, and the chances which "go begging" are often the easiest. The player to give the most assistance to the Leek coach was A. G. Bosterville, who helped in a sixth wicket stand of 44 runs, and had a well got 23 as his personal share. The other double-figure makers were A. Rider (12) and H. Birch (14), and "extras" swelled the total by 19. The last three wickets fell rather precipitately, and the cause of the hurry was the bowling of A. W. Ikin, 25 deliveries of which claimed four wickets for a paltry five singles. Such havoc made Ikin the most prominent of Signal End's five bowlers. A. Lockett met with resistance which is not often his fortune, his three wickets costing 41 runs; whilst J. Burgess had two for 28. The visitors opened moderately by losing two men for 34, but the partnership of E. Downing (27) and Ikin appreciably improved their outlook, though it should have terminated much sooner than was the case, Downing being missed on the leg side, and Ikin escaping a run out with his score at 10, the hurry of anxiety causing the fielder to throw the ball to the wrong end with both batsmen in one crease. Signal End seemed to have a great chance when their aggregate stood at 96 with only three men out, but there was such a sudden revolution of prospects that the sixth wicket fell at 98, and from that point Leek never relaxed their grip of the game, despite a brave stand by F. J. Dale, who hit up 17. The last three wickets went at the same total. Ikin showed his worth as an all-rounder by capping his bowling with a score of 40, the outcome of good cricket and the highest of the venture. In the absence of J. H. Ellerton, through indisposition, Leek were skippered by Birch, who not only bowled finely but also managed the attack with splendid judgment. His personal work got him five wickets for 31 runs, whilst A. L. Kidd had two for 18, and T. Plant,

J. Pointon, and H. Walmaley one each. The losers were chagrined by the result, and blamed both the pitch and the umpires, two players who retired to lbw decisions being especially argumentative.

#### SILVERDALE WELL BEATEN.

Losing three wickets for four runs, Silverdale gave a disappointing exhibition, and were well beaten by a much superior team. E. Groom showed good form whilst collecting 39, and useful scores came from J. Whalton (21), J. Cooks (19) and J. B. Street (19), but the rest of the batsmen were sadly at fault, and had no ability to cope with the skilful bowling of Hartley, which disposed of six wickets for 20 runs. On a good wicket, the Alexandra got runs almost as they liked, and, after the first partnership had terminated at 26, H. Hope (41) and F. Walker had an association which carried the aggregate to 87, when Hope fell to Groom. This stand effectually settled Silverdale, whose bowling was made to look very simple by Walker and Brownridge. The pair scored rapidly by strokes all round the wicket, and 131 runs were piled on ere Brownridge was bowled by A. Charlesworth and play ceased. Brownridge had 11 boundaries in his dashing 58, and Walker's 100 (not out) contained 19 fours. Both players showed free and attractive form, but the bowling had little sting, and it was not surprising that heavy toll was extracted from it. The Alexandra's aggregate came from 45 overs, less one ball.

#### BURSLEM'S SEVENTH.

Norton had a great afternoon as the outcome of the visit of their Burslem neighbours, and, despite the fact that defeat was a part of their destiny, they had every reason to be satisfied with the course of circumstances. They tried gallantly to avert overthrow by a better side, and were only narrowly balked in their endeavours; they discovered that their general good form had aroused much interest in their doings; and they had a financial yield which will be very useful in respect of the extensive ground improvements upon which they have embarked. The match was an excellent one, contested for the most part in proper spirit, and the big crowd was fully alive to the merits of both teams. Norton had a stroke of luck by getting first innings on a capital wicket, and, although their batting was not associated with consistency, they ran up a highly useful score, which would have been enough if their bowling and fielding had been on a par with the old standard. The bowling, however, was much below that of the best days of A. Jolley and R. Hunt, and David Worthington's wicket-keeping was far from being as satisfactory as it can be. The batting was opened by L. H. Crump and D. Worthington, and the first wicket fell in Evans Cook's second over. Crump, who was shaping like the sound batsman he is, being well beaten by "one out of the bag," a splendid delivery which turned very quickly. W. D. Robinson, playing against his old club, assumed the role of "sticker" whilst Worthington hit, and as R. Hollowood's bowling was to the liking of the hitter a change was made at 34, E. A. Oliver coming on. But the separation was induced from the other end, for after Robinson had been missed from a swirling chance he was well taken at leg, by Oliver, the total standing at 37. J. Jolley had a short stay, A. Cook making an artistic one-handed capture at mid-off. With P. Massey in, the game took a turn in Norton's favour, a profitable stand being made, Worthington scoring rapidly whilst his partner was chiefly occupied in preventing Cook getting his wicket, a task which kept him on tenter-hooks. At 52 G. E. Cooper bowled vice Oliver, and the change suiting Norton, 18 runs—including four "extras"—coming from the first of his two overs, and the second furnished another half-dozen. At 64 the fourth wicket fell, and the man to come back was Worthington, whose share of the aggregate was 57, mostly obtained by bold and clean hitting. He had a slice of luck with his score in the twenties, a catch being badly misjudged near the sight-sheet, but he had played a really good innings for his side, and counted 11 fours. At this stage Evans Cook had four wickets for 18 runs, the result of brilliant bowling. Arthur Jolley did little and provided Hollowood—who had supplanted W. Briscoe—with his first success. Cooper making a nicely judged catch at cover, and at 94 Massey's useful stay terminated. Hollowood getting at his stumps with a good one. Norton were now in a rocky state, but S. Smith and Hunt stopped together whilst 25 runs were gathered, when Hunt—who shaped as if very short of practice—made a poor stroke at a delivery from Oliver, who had taken the ball from his captain, and was well beaten. Another man should have departed directly afterwards, but

S. Smith was badly let off at leg, and he celebrated his fortune by a brisk and well played innings, his shots on the off side being especially well executed. His stand with U. Worthington provided 45 runs, and was ended when A. Cook held a skimming ball at mid off, low down and well taken. Smith had eight fours in his 40. The innings soon closed after Smith's departure. U. Worthington—value for 23—being splendidly caught by Briscoe, running along on the boundary, and A. Evans giving E. Cook a "dolly" return. The Burslem skipper finished with six wickets for 42, and has rarely bowled better. His length was generally perfect, and no batsman found him easy to deal with. Hollowood had three for 54, and was unfortunate in having three catches dropped. The Burslem fielding was a curious admixture, the ground work being usually very smart, and some clever catches were made, but there was serious alloy in the shape of dropped catches.

#### BURSLEM'S BATTING.

Burslem began unpromisingly before the bowling of A. Jolley and Hunt, for J. Fenton was bowled in the third over by a fine delivery from Jolley, who did not produce many more of like quality. The next wicket pair, E. Cotton and Cooper, settled down to steady play, and they not only added 43 runs but gradually wore down the bowling by their sound methods. Their association ceased when Cotton was bowled by U. Worthington, for a valuable 16, and the third wicket fell at 67, Briscoe unluckily diverting a ball from Hunt into his arms. Cooper had Oliver as his next colleague, and the newcomer had an early piece of good luck, a very palpable catch being bungled by the stumper. The miss had a serious sequel, for Oliver afterwards batted in enterprising and upstanding fashion, and was top-dorcher of the innings. Cooper left at 89, for a finely got 34, and the game had no better batting than his. With Oliver and E. Cook together, 28 runs were put on steadily, mostly by Oliver, but when a big stand seemed in prospect the captain had a sad fall from grace, leaping out recklessly at a delivery from Hunt and finding his stumps put out of alignment. At this point Norton had just a chance, but it was quickly dispersed by Oliver and A. Cook. The last-named soon caused J. Smith to retire from silly mid-off, and the field generally to spread out, and he took 24 of the next 33 runs before going back to a smart catch at deep cover by S. Smith, from one of J. Smith's special brand. It may be here remarked that this same J. Smith had no opportunity of showing his batting skill, and might reasonably have given himself the higher place in "the order" which circumstances seemed to call for. Oliver and H. Cotton took the score within two runs of victory ere Cotton was captured at square leg, and the game was won when Hollowood snicked a fourer. Burslem won well, but they ought to have been more troubled than was the case. A. Jolley, Hunt, and U. Worthington each took two wickets, but, as previously indicated, the bowling was not up to the recognised Norton pattern. Oliver's match winning stay provided him with 46 runs, and he was not out. This was his best innings for Burslem, and it was a good one, full of confidence and replete with excellent forcing shots. On the whole Norton's fielding was satisfactory, but some bad blunders were made.

#### GREAT CHELL'S SECOND.

The game at Stoke was of great importance to the clubs concerned in it, and as Great Chell were winners their prospects of retaining their position amongst the "big Wigs" were greatly enhanced. The match was sternly contested, and run-getting was slow, few risks being taken by either team. Batting first, Chell made a fair start, but a pronounced falling away resulted in half their wickets being accounted for with only 39 runs got. The stand which led to a winning total being reached was made by S. Brayford (30) and E. J. Barber (18), and it furnished 31 precious runs. R. C. Worthington and R. Partridge bowled well and steadily for the home side, their returns being 4 for 25 and 3 for 10 respectively. The Railway lost their first wicket at five, and their batting was generally moderate though Cooper (23), J. Turner (15) and Worthington (13) did their best to alter the trend of events. L. Curnock—four for 18—F. Vodrey—three for 17—and G. Fitchford—two for 18—did good work with the ball for the winners.

#### HEAVY SCORING AT DRESDEN.

The ineffective game at Dresden was played on a grand wicket, and there was no surprise that runs galore were forthcoming. The feature of the play was Longton's great second wicket stand, by A. Smith and E. Owens, which carried the score from 43 to 168. Smith survived a most confident appeal for a catch at the wicket before he had reached his half-century, but he played a splendid innings,

which contained no less than 20 boundaries, his last seven scoring strokes all being "counters." His driving, cutting and leg hitting shots were beautifully timed, and his whole display was one which deserved the ovation given at its close. Owens got most of his runs on the leg side, his gliding being very good, and the majority of his ten boundaries came by this stroke. He failed to get

runs in front of the wicket, but his innings was praiseworthy, and other strokes should come with experience and increased power. Knypersley began well by the agency of J. E. Gibson and W. Whitehead (26), and 85 runs were chronicled before Gibson was bowled for 54. He gave two chances, but batted very nicely. Two other wickets fell at the same total, Whitehead being bowled, and A. Cooper foolishly running himself out. Longton were hauled by H. E. Bourne, who, on account of indisposition, was kept back until the third wicket had gone. Bourne laid himself out to stay, and did so for some ninety minutes. He played a great game for his side, and scored 32 (not out). Bowlers had a trying time throughout the game, but for Longton, H. Brassington took two wickets for 22 and W. Hine two for 21.

#### PORRHILL BEAT NANTWICH.

The match at Nantwich had an exciting finish, and was won by two great catches, by A. A. Bickerton and J. S. Heath. The visitors made a poor beginning by losing three men for ten, but W. H. Fitchford came back to form with a well got 38, and K. Gilheaves (18) assisted him in a useful stand which produced 30 for the fourth wicket. The other partnership of note was for the eighth wicket by Heap (14) and C. Tunnelliffe (18, not out), and was a matter of 31 chalks. S. W. Cooper fared best of the Nantwich bowlers, taking four wickets for 17, whilst W. T. Maybury had four for 46 and E. H. Stevenson two for 39. In spite of a valuable 26 from J. E. Smith, Nantwich lost seven wickets for 63, but F. E. Hough (16), G. R. Jackson (13) and H. Smith (16, not out) hit freely, and their efforts almost won the game. J. S. Heath took three wickets for 24, and Heap, Bickerton and Tunnelliffe each had two victims. Porthill's fielding showed distinct improvement, and Bickerton was prominent by taking three catches.

#### OTHER SENIOR GAMES.

Caverswall had no hitting powers in their game with Sandford, and most of their batsmen were troubled by the pace of the pitch. Their best scorer was C. Baxter, who was the ninth man to bat, and made 15 (not out). The brothers Bourne bowled unchanged, Arthur having six wickets for 30, and George four for 32. G. Bourne afterwards helped W. Jones in a stand which brought the game to the "tie" stage before the second wicket fell, but Caverswall deem themselves unlucky in not having Jones back in the pavilion much earlier. Three more wickets fell before the issue was settled. W. Payne bowled steadily to get five wickets for 39, and E. Wakelin made a satisfactory field with a senior team, getting two wickets cheaply and making a brilliant catch at point.

A fine innings by F. Stubbs was the great feature of the game at Stone. Commencing with a boundary from the first delivery sent down, the county player displayed splendid form, and scored brilliantly all round the wicket, his score of 69 including twelve boundaries. His doings were well seconded by P. R. Sheppard (28) and B. J. Devaney (17, not out), and his timely stand with Sheppard, for the sixth wicket, carried the total from 52 to 112, and placed Stone in a sound position. J. Goldstraw with four for 22, was Ashbourne Park's most successful bowler, C. Davis and E. Brassington each having three wickets. The visitors made a bold bid for victory after they had lost H. James for four, F. James (28) and C. Phillips (39) treating the bowling very cavalierly. Their parting at 57 was the turning point, wickets afterwards falling quickly, and after the total had been taken to 96 the last five wickets went down without the addition of another run. V. J. C. Kent disposing of the last three with successive balls. E. C. Fernie had six wickets for 38, and Kent four for 39.

Cheadle and Kidsgrove had an enjoyable and close game on the Cheadle ground. Getting first innings, the visitors scored freely in the early stages of their venture, H. Cooper (22) and P. Strong (24) putting on 31 for the first wicket, and being followed by R. Epitlett (12) and T. Scarratt (31), who caused 132 to be signalled when the fifth wicket fell. The remainder, however, made a poor show, and further scoring was confined to seven chalks. F. Gregory took five wickets for 42, J. Keates three for nine, and A. James two for nine, the last-named being the most difficult man to get runs from. Cheadle made a pitiable start, the first four

wickets going for 11, but a stand of consequence was made by A. J. Whitehurst and H. Capewell, 67 runs being put on before Whitehurst was out, after playing well for 25. Capewell had another good partner in A. Smith, who was responsible for a carefully obtained 10, and their connection took the total within eleven runs of victory. Capewell played finely for 52, and his efforts settled the issue. W. Cooper had five wickets for 36, and F. Timmis three for 37.

Due mainly to a capital innings of 23 by J. Beswick and the all-round doings of L. Bloor, who made 17 and took four wickets for 27, Scott Hay secured a meritorious win at Betley. When the home club's last six wickets went down for 17 runs, Bloor had capable assistance in the bowling department from A. Furnival—two for 7—and R. Griffiths—two for 20. For the losers F. Sutton had a short but very effective spell of bowling, 21 balls getting him four wickets for five runs. J. Aups helped well by claiming three wickets for 13, whilst F. Sutton (18) and W. Smith (17) were the leading scorers.

A sound innings of 51 by John McEllin and serviceable contributions from A. J. Colley (20) and F. Darlington (24) gave Audley a strong foundation in their match with High-lane visitors, whose batting collapsed deplorably before the terrible attack of H. Timmis and Darlington, whose figures were six for 13 and four for 15 respectively. John McEllin was a highly appreciated backer of the bowlers, making four catches. For High-lane, G. Skelham had five wickets for 35 and F. Wood three for 20.

The Madeley leaders had a stern tussle on Alsagers Bank's ground. The game furnished two noteworthy batting performances, F. Clarke, of Madeley, and W. Beech, of the Bank, each making 50. Madeley, who batted first, had other useful scores by E. Mayer (21), and T. Stubbs (22, not out). Mayer and Stubbs were also prominent bowlers, their figures respectively being seven for 37 and three for 22. G. W. Beech—five for 50—and A. Amson five for 41—equally shared the visitors' wickets.

#### AMONGST THE JUNIORS.

Bignall End had a runaway victory over Leek, and their play had its prime feature in a great stand by G. H. Burgess (92) and F. Colclough (55), the pair adding 138 for the fourth wicket. Leek's best rungetters were H. Alcock and H. Oliver, who each made 27. The winners' most successful bowlers were F. Whalley, with four for 36, and J. Wareham, three for 45. At Comridge, the home side were well beaten by Norton, whose captain, B. Martin, was a prominent all-rounder. He captured seven wickets for 32 runs, and his 43 was the highest score of the game. The bowling was the best part of Burslem's cricket, P. Kirkham having four wickets for 15, and A. Cartledge four for 43. Ten L.M.S. Railway players were no match for Great Chell, for whom J. Worthington (30) and J. Wilshaw (32, not out) scored well, and G. A. Rhodes had five wickets for 18. The losing team's chief mer were T. Tinsley (21) and A. Wallis—four for 33. Longton had five dual figure makers against Knypersley, with A. Bradbury's 34 the top score. Most of the batsmen were sorely troubled by the bowling of G. Parsons, which accounted for six of them for 22 runs. Knypersley lost three men for a single, but J. Hancock (46, not out) and R. Snape (48, not out) defied the bowling as the fifth pair of batsmen, and won the game. Deplorably slack fielding ruined any chance Nantwich had of causing trouble to the champions, and as their batting was equally mediocre they were soundly thrashed. Porthill had a strong start by A. Hollins (24) and J. R. Parkes (33), and the lead was followed by G. A. F. Bagguley (20), C. R. Heath (49), J. Hall (50, not out) and J. Poole (40, not out). L. Haighton had five wickets, but was freely punished. The Nantwich batting breakdown was due mainly to the bowling of S. R. Cooper—six for 23.

At Caverswall, the attack of J. Utting was far too penetrative for the Sandford men, and it secured seven wickets for a dozen runs. Although W. Grice made 17 and P. Brassington 13 the home side lost seven wickets before the match was won, F. James getting five of them for 29. On a fiery wicket Stone were hopelessly beaten by Brinsley Ford, who were helped by terribly bad fielding, dropped catches reaching double figures, C. Strange (45), V. Gregory (36) and H. Brough (31), not out were free scorers for the Wesleyans, and E. Simmer took seven wickets for 15, his rearing deliveries being very intimidating. For Stone, K. Allen had four wickets for 39. At Clough Hall, H. Broad with 22 not out was the only batsmen of the match to attain dual figures, and only two more chalks came from the whole Cheadle side. E. Goodwin and S. Johnson sending them back in summary fashion. For Cheadle, G. Malbon and J. W. Fieldhouse got wickets at a cheap rate. Betley had a good start by R. Ikin (20) and E. Jones (23), and five other



double figures made their total a useful one. That it was not enough was due to the excellent batting of H. Bedson (50 not out) and F. Whafar (44) who put on 77 as Onneley's third wicket pair. In the meagre scoring affair at High Lane, H. Mayer had eight wickets for 16 for Audley, and J. Lowe capped this by getting eight for 12 for the home team. Lowe also scored 22 runs. Bowling against Alsagers Bank, J. Watson had five wickets for 11, and F. Griffiths four for 12; whilst J. Cooper disposed of six Madeley men for 39.

#### NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

##### Senior Division.—Section "A."

Bignall End v. Longton; Messrs. Timmis and Jones.  
Crewe Alexandra v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Taylor and Arthur Rogers.  
Burslem v. Leek; Messrs. Worthington and Manifold.  
Silverdale v. Norton; Messrs. Birtles and Bradbury.  
Great Chell v. Nantwich; Messrs. L. H. Bagley and Cooper.

Knymerley v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Plant and Cox.

##### Section "B."

Caverswall v. Audley; Messrs. Green and Barsted.  
Aascombe Park v. Retley; Messrs. Salmon and Shingler.  
Kidsgrove v. Sandyford; Messrs. Ponsell and Farrington.  
Stoke v. Cheddle; Messrs. Brown and Forster.  
Scot Hay v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. A. Holdcroft and Mayer.  
Burslem High Lane v. Madeley; Messrs. A. Smith and F. G. Bagley.

##### Junior Division.—Section "A."

Longton v. Bignall End; Messrs. Cartledge and Whittingham.  
Leek v. Burslem; Messrs. F. Smith and Perkins.  
Norton v. Silverdale; Messrs. Bullock and Furnival.  
Nantwich v. Great Chell; Messrs. Latham and Vizzars.  
Porthill Park v. Knymerley; Messrs. Groom and Tilsley.

##### Section "B."

Audley v. Caverswall.  
Retley v. Brindley Ford Wesleyans.  
Sandyford v. Kidsgrove.  
Cheddle v. Stoke.  
Alsagers Bank v. Oundley.  
Madeley v. Burslem High Lane.

**THE GAME between Leek and Bignall End** at Highfield was well worthy of the high reputation of both teams. It was disappointing to the home supporters to find that Leek were compelled to take the field minus the services of such useful players as J. H. Ellerton (captain), V. Astbury and H. Hassall.

They were fortunate in securing efficient substitutes, and Harold Birch, who deputised for J. H. Ellerton, was also lucky in having first use of a fiery wicket, which wore a lot, and kicked badly in both innings. Several of the players were hurt, J. Cotton having to retire for treatment. Fortunately he was able to resume his innings, and as he contributed over one-third of the home total of 151, there is no gainsaying the fact that his splendid batting had much to do with Leek's ultimate victory.

To a certain extent Cotton's innings was a lucky one. He was badly missed by J. Burgess at square-leg when he had scored five, and again by the same fielder when 44. It was a very pleasing recognition of a great effort when a collection for him taken round the ground realised £8 1s.

A. W. Ikin was responsible for Cotton's downfall, and as the Bignall End player captured the last four Leek wickets for only five runs in four overs, his bowling afforded a striking contrast to the 47 overs sent down by the other four bowlers.

Leek were at the wickets two hours and 25 minutes for their runs, and this left Bignall End with just five less in which to "do or die." At one period they certainly looked like "doing it" easily with only four wickets down for 97 runs. Then came a slump, and the next two wickets only added a single run. The seventh wicket fell at 115, and amidst a scene of intense excitement, just when they appeared to have a fine chance to either win or draw, Bignall End lost their last three wickets at the total of 135, Leek winning a sensational victory just five minutes off time.

A. W. Ikin (40) and H. Downing (27) batted finely for the losers, this pair adding 42 runs for the third wicket in 48 minutes. Ikin was batting an hour for his runs.

#### CREWE BATSMAN'S CENTURY.

A feature of the game at Silverdale, where Crewe Alexandra supplied the opposition, was the fine performance of Fred Walker, who knocked up a century in brilliant style, his score including no fewer than 19 boundary hits. His previous highest total this season was 23 in the opening match of the season at Stoke. He joined Hope when the first wicket had fallen at 28, and both batsmen hit out freely, no fewer than seven different bowlers being tried with a view to affecting a separation.

Hope came within nine of repeating his previous week's performance against Burslem, when he compiled a half century. The partnership, which had produced 61 runs, had taken the sting out of the Silverdale attack, and when Brownridge joined Walker the spectators were treated to some vigorous hitting. From 87 the score was carried to 218, Brownridge being then bowled by Charlesworth for 55, this total including 11 boundaries. Walker was still unbeaten with 100 to his credit when the innings closed.

Silverdale had first knock on what was undoubtedly a batsman's wicket, but they found the Crewe bowling too "hot," the deliveries of Hartley in particular being troublesome. The Alexandra pro. captured six wickets at a cost of 35 runs, two victims—Green and Lowe—being secured in his initial over. With four wickets down for 37 Silverdale's chances looked the reverse of rosy, but a fifth wicket stand by Groom and Cocks added 40 to the total, the first-named proving top scorer for his side with 39. The ninth wicket also improved matters somewhat, Street contributing a well-played 19. The last wicket fell at 112, which, under the prevailing conditions, did not represent a very formidable task for the Railwaymen.

The meetings of Burslem and Norton still maintain their local rival traditions for keenness and attractiveness, and a huge crowd gathered at Norton last Saturday. It was a great game, full of thrills, and Burslem obtained another laurel by gaining a fine victory by three wickets. Norton's score of 189 was made from 56 overs, and Burslem's 178 for seven wickets from 42 overs. It proves the sparkle of the "mother" town team's batting. Albert Cook put in a few fireworks, and Oliver played his best innings of the season for Burslem.

Evans Cook captured six wickets, and he and Roy Hollowood are running a neck and neck race in the total number of wickets captured. The latter is just ahead by one wicket—37 against Cook's 36. Both teams, perhaps, had cause to mourn over the number of dropped catches, and the fielding was far from being excellent. In fact left much to be desired.



## MID-WEEK CRICKET.

## Congleton II. v. Congleton Empire Mills.

EMPIRE MILLS.—J. W. Elkin b Smart 29, A. Mellor b Smart 2, J. Chaddock lbw b Rhead 1, G. Gallimore b Rhead 1, W. Johnson lbw b Smart 17, A. Gallimore b Rhead 3, J. Potts not out 0, A. Brough b Smart 0, J. Beech b Rhead 5, extras 7; total, 76.

CONGLETON II.—R. D. Reekie b Elkin 6, H. Rhead b Elkin 2, J. Littlemore b Hancock 0, J. Fletcher at Gallimore b Hancock 9, A. Winterbottom b Hancock 1, C. Coppinger b Hancock 8, W. R. Norris b Hancock 18, F. Smart not out 16, J. A. Jenkins c and b Elkin 4, F. Bullock run out 1, J. Standeven b Hancock 5, extras 1; total, 71.

## Norton H.H. v. Taylor's, Ltd.

TAYLOR'S, LTD.—J. Stanley c Machin b Garner 10, C. Skelding c Leech b Mountford 4, T. Burgess run out 6, T. Hughes c Mountford b M. Ford 4, H. Jackson b Mountford 1, J. Holdway b Mountford 1, S. Skelding b Garner 1, W. Capewell c Hodgkiss b Mountford 1, A. Skelding c Hodgkiss b Davies 16, T. Burgess b Garner 16, S. Atkins not out 0, extras 11; total 75.

Norton H.H.—F. Hodgkiss not out 27, J. Davies b Capewell 14, B. Garner not out 34, extras 2; total one wicket 77.

## Uttoxeter Town v. Stoke City Police.

STOKE CITY POLICE.—Marshall c Deaville b Ladd 1, Godden b Heasman 3, Talbot c Hall b Ladd 5, Singleton lbw b Heasman 4, Egan b Heasman 2, Siddons b Ladd 4, Wilkes b Ladd 0, Gurney lbw b Ladd 0, Plant not out 6, Boulton b Heasman 1, Saunders c Hewitt b Ladd 3, extras 15; total 42.

UTTOXETER.—Deaville lbw b Talbot 11, Horvath b Marshall 6, Gurney b Talbot 0, Heasman c Siddons b Talbot 24, Armstrong b Talbot 0, Beckwith b Talbot 0, Siddons 12, Hewitt b Siddons 27, Ladd c Wilkes b Ashbury c Egan b Siddons 27, Ladd c Wilkes b Godden 12, Watkinson not out 0, extras 6; total 99.

## WOORE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

## Norton-in-Hales v. Madeley.

NORTON-IN-HALES.—A. Evans c Ousley b Hill 2, L. Swire b Hill 1, F. Lowe c Rethway b Watson 0, J. Walker b Hill 0, A. Morrey b Watson 0, F. Lowe b Watson 1, S. Swire b Watson 0, F. Grewe b Hill 1, H. Russell run out 0, C. Swire b Watson 0, R. Furlival b Hill 1, extras 1; total, 7.

MADELEY.—A. Rethway b Walker 1, S. Heath c Swire b Walker 32, N. Barlow b Evans 0, J. Ousley run out 4, J. Hill c Morrey b Lowe 3, R. Tomkinson c and b Lowe 55, E. Griffith b Walker 13, J. Harrison c Lowe b Walker 0, H. Wilkinson c Morrey b Walker 2, H. Ruckley b Walker 6, J. Watson b Walker 2, extras 6; total, 104.

## G. W. Timmis' XI. v. T. Morrey's XI.

G. W. TIMMIS' XI.—A. Simpson c Morrey b Higginson 0, G. Timmis b Peatman 12, H. Wallis c Morrey b Peatman 10, F. Lawton b Peatman 4, R. Cole c Bourne b Higginson 5, E. Peters run out 2, J. Bailey c Smith b Higginson 1, C. Adam run out 2, G. Weston b Higginson 0, P. Meakin b Higginson 2, G. Parton c Jones b Peatman 8, Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

T. MORREY'S XI.—F. Morrey b Parton 5, R. Smith run out 26, H. Higginson run out 2, J. Pickstock c Lawton b Parton 10, F. Jones retired 21, G. W. Salt b Simpson 0, F. Peatman c and b Timmis 16, M. Manning b Parton 0, L. Bourne not out 6, W. H. Shipley not out 2, extras 12; total (for eight wickets), 98.

## CONGLETON AND DISTRICT CRICKET NOTES.

Congleton sustained another defeat at the hands of Sandbach, who visited Congleton, in the return encounter on Saturday. Batting first, Congleton compiled 213 runs, of which G. C. Biggs, R. Reynolds, M. Harper, Jun., and F. W. Norris accounted for 58, 41, 25 and 20. In reply, Sandbach reached a total of 214 for the loss of seven batsmen, thus winning by three wickets. The Sandbach scorers were H. P. Rigby (84), A. Orme (35) and T. Heathcote (22 not out). The bowling on both sides was of only a moderate standard, and there were no outstanding averages.

While their first team were being trounced at home, Congleton II, were defeating Sandbach II, at Sandbach. Congleton were the first to bat, and they registered a total of 147. The chief scorers were C. Coppinger (40), A. Winterbottom (26) and R. D. Reekie (28). After making a promising start, the last five of the Sandbach wickets only yielded 16, the total being 130. G. Faulkner (55) and W. Smith (23) were the top scorers for Sandbach, who were finally defeated by 17 runs.

Congleton Empire Mills visited Leek "A" team in the return game, and defeated them by 38 runs. The Mills' total reached 98, out of which J. Hancock contributed 22, Gallimore 18 not out, and J. W. Elkin (14). Leek "A" responded with a total of 58. C. Hambleton (25) and E. Thonger (17) were the chief hitters. For Congleton, J. W. Elkin took seven wickets for 22 runs. No fewer than 16 catches were accepted during the match.

On Monday the Mills team visited Congleton II, whom they defeated by five runs only. The totals were: Empire Mills 76, Congleton II, 71.

The Mossley team, on Saturday, entertained and defeated Burslem "A" team, who were dismissed for 73 runs, while the home batsmen replied with a total of 136 for eight wickets. E. Caldwell (25), H. Boulton (22 not out), L. Wardle (19) and Syd. Clarke (18) were Mossley's highest scorers, whilst extras amounted to 14 for Burslem "A."

## UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

## DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Leigh	7	5	0	2	12
Florence	8	4	1	3	11
Team	7	4	1	2	10
Kingsley	8	4	2	2	10
Stallington	9	4	3	2	10
Clayton	8	3	3	2	8
Oakmoor	9	2	5	4	8
Alton	7	1	4	2	4
Hollington	8	1	6	1	3
Dracott	7	0	5	2	2

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Hollington 84, Uttoxeter 78; Alton 94, Oakmoor 81; Stallington 158, Leigh 143 for nine; Dracott 88, Florence 74 for five; Team 69, Kingsley 41.

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batting: P. Bentley (Alton) 49, S. Johnson (Leigh) 71 not out, J. Abbott (Stallington) 51.  
Bowling: A. Travis (Hollington) six for 18, J. Bridgett (Florence) eight for 23, R. Smith (Team) six for 10.

## DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	7	4	1	2	10
Stallington	6	4	1	1	9
Leigh	8	4	3	1	9
Oakmoor	6	3	2	1	7
Dracott	7	3	3	1	7
Bulford	6	2	2	2	6
Alton	6	1	4	1	3
Hollington	6	0	5	1	1

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Leigh 25, Stallington 26 for seven; Kingsley 75 for seven, Bulford 63, Dracott 28, Alton 62; Oakmoor 93, Hollington 13.

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Bowling: R. Morley (Oakmoor) three for 8, C. A. Nichols (Oakmoor) four for 8, C. Goodwin (Dracott) six for 10, G. Mout (Alton) five for 10, R. Phillips (Leigh) three for 7, C. Mills (Stallington) three for 6, N. Blair (Stallington) five for 7.

## N.S.E.S.A.A.

## CRICKET.—Hanley Section.

(Including games played on Wednesday, June 17th).

## "A" DIVISION.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Cauldon	8	7	1	0	14
Ettricia	8	7	1	0	14
Shelton	8	6	2	0	12
Eastwood	7	2	5	0	4
Wellington	7	2	5	0	4
Canon street	6	1	5	0	2
St. John's	6	0	6	0	0

## "B" DIVISION.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Northwood	8	6	1	1	13
Clarence street	7	5	2	0	10
Grove	7	3	4	0	6
Catholic	8	2	2	1	5
Broom street	6	2	4	0	4
Sneyd Green	6	2	4	0	4
Glass street	5	1	4	0	3

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Staffordshire's Improved Batmanship.

### Lincolnshire Overwhelmed.

CONSIDERING that it is in the heart of the Black Country, the Old Hill cricket ground, where Staffordshire played their fourth fixture of the season this week, is a surprisingly attractive enclosure, and seems far remote from the usual atmosphere of industry. It is the centre also of a very keen cricket community, or keen, at any rate, so far as the Saturday afternoon league games are concerned. Unfortunately, there is not the same enthusiasm for Minor Counties cricket, although very largely that may be due to lack of opportunity. Business is not so brisk nowadays that people can afford to neglect work in order to watch cricket. But there are a great many people who are able to attend these matches and who do not. What is the cause of the indifference? Staffordshire were represented by a good side, including three of the best of Old Hill players, the weather was reasonably good, and yet the attendance could be counted in the hundreds. One reason may have been that the opposition was not sufficiently strong to provide the close game that the average spectator naturally prefers. Lincolnshire certainly are not one of the strong sides of the competi-

tion, also came through with good figures, having three wickets for fifty-two, but he was more effective still in the second innings, when he took two wickets and had only eleven runs scored off ten overs.

Chief second innings honours, however, go to George Platt, the former Surrey professional, who is now doing good work for Old Hill. He bowled with consistent skill and accuracy, and the five wickets he took in seventeen overs cost only 40 runs. Four of the batsmen he disposed of were clean bowled, and the other was cleverly enticed to put up an easy catch to the bowler. The popularity of Platt with his old Surrey colleagues can be judged from the fact that each season they send a strong team to Old Hill to play in a match for his benefit. Last season's team included the great Jack Hobbs and Sandham, and some fine cricket was seen.

Another satisfactory feature about the fixture with Lincolnshire was the fact that the Staffordshire batsmen came up to scratch. It was stated at the last annual meeting of the club that, if the batting came up to the same standard as the bowling, the Minor Counties Championship might very well come to Staffordshire again. This week there was a continuance of the improvement shown in the stand against the Norfolk bowling. C. Howl, the Wolverhampton player, who made such a striking initial appearance for the county on that occasion, again gave a good account of himself, and he assisted H. W. Homer to put on 115 runs for the first wicket. Homer has seldom played a more attractive innings than that against Lincolnshire. Once he had played himself in, he settled down to confident and well-considered play, and for a lengthy period scored rapidly with strokes in front of the wicket. He and Howl had a neck and neck race as to who should reach the individual half-century first. The Old Hill man won by one run, but Howl caught him up again off the next ball.

Homer, who was top scorer with 74, hit eleven boundaries and a six. He was bowled immediately after being put down at mid-off. He seldom does much after giving a chance, and came out in a similar way against Norfolk at Wolverhampton. There was some brisk scoring by J. W. Johnson, who hit eight 4's and a six to collect 47 runs in thirty-five minutes, while D. P. Lutter and A. Lockett also sent the total forward rapidly, finding the ropes with great frequency, and each of them scoring a six. Lutter, who is a former Denstone College player, did well with both bat and ball.

Staffordshire's remaining fixtures are as follows: July 6th and 7th, Cheshire at Crewe; July 15th and 16th, Lancashire II. at Old Trafford; July 20th and 21st, Lincolnshire at Lincoln; July 22nd and 23rd, Norfolk at Norwich; August 3rd and 4th, Notts II. at Porthill; August 5th and 6th, Lancashire II. at Stoke.



G. PLATT.

tion. Since joining the Minor Counties after a long lapse, they have made very little impression and for the second season in succession Staffordshire defeated them by an innings.

The game served to show again the strength of Staffordshire bowling, despite the absence of Sydney Barnes. No fewer than six players took a hand in the attack in the second innings, and all of them performed creditably. The best bowling performance of the match was Aaron Lockett's in the Lincolnshire first innings. He was turning the ball both ways and was getting an occasional fast one through with deadly effect. Four wickets for ten runs in four overs is an achievement of no little merit. If Lockett continues throughout the season as he has started, he will regain the distinction that was his two years ago, by heading the Minor Counties bowling averages again. W. Lee, the Old Hill player, bowling on a familiar wicket, was primarily the cause of Lincolnshire's early collapse, for when he opened the bowling with Sedgwick, he took two wickets in his first over, without a single run being scored off him. It was a disastrous start from which the visitors never recovered. Herbert Sedgwick, who has been out of the county team previously this season through a

# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Handley	11	8	2	1	16
Signal End	11	7	3	1	14
Crewe Alexandra	11	7	3	1	14
Leek	11	6	3	2	14
Porthill Park	11	5	3	3	13
Longton	11	5	3	3	13
Nantwich	11	4	4	3	11
Stretton	11	4	4	3	11
Great Chell	11	3	6	2	7
Knyppersley	11	1	6	4	2
Silverdale	11	1	7	3	2
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	11	0	7	4	0

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 129 for one; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 126.  
Crewe Alexandra, 218 for six (dec.); Leek, 85.  
Burslem, 117 for nine; Silverdale, 115.  
Longton, 149 for seven (dec.); Great Chell, 48 for 8.  
Nantwich, 188 for 4 (dec.); Knyppersley, 184 for 4.  
Porthill Park, 128; Norton, 64.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Handley	11	8	2	1	16
Kidsgrove	11	8	2	1	16
Sandyford	11	6	3	2	14
Alsagers Bank	11	5	3	3	13
Stone	11	4	4	3	11
Burslem High Lane	11	4	4	3	11
Caverswall	11	4	4	3	11
Chesley	11	4	4	3	11
Audley	11	3	5	3	9
Scot Hay	11	3	5	3	9
Betley	11	3	7	1	7
Ashcombe Park	11	2	7	2	6

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 146 for eight (dec.); Betley, 88.  
Sandyford, 129 for seven (dec.); Ashcombe Park, 28.  
Stone, 207 for five (dec.); Kidsgrove, 125 for three.  
Scot Hay, 41; Audley, 55.  
Burslem High Lane, 118; Alsagers Bank, 105.  
Handley, 73 for five; Chesley, 70.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	11	7	3	1	14
Norton	11	6	3	2	13
Nantwich	11	6	3	2	13
Silverdale	11	5	4	2	12
Signal End	11	4	4	3	11
Burslem	11	4	4	3	11
Knyppersley	11	4	4	3	11
Leek	11	4	4	3	11
Longton	11	3	5	3	9
Crewe Alexandra	11	2	6	3	6
Great Chell	11	1	6	4	2
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	11	0	8	3	0

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 98; L.M.S. Railway (Stoke), 79.  
Leek, 97 for two; Crewe Alexandra, 95.  
Burslem, 180; Silverdale, 148 for eight.  
Longton, 214 for six (dec.); Great Chell, 108 for 8.  
Nantwich, 196; Knyppersley, 119 for eight.  
Porthill Park, 236 for five (dec.); Norton, 128 for 8.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bradley Ford Wesleyans	11	8	1	2	16
Burslem High Lane	11	8	1	2	16
Caverswall	11	7	2	2	14
Betley	11	6	4	1	13
Omney	11	5	3	3	12
Chesley	11	4	4	3	11
Kidsgrove	11	4	4	3	11
Alsagers Bank	11	3	5	3	9
Stone	11	4	4	3	11
Handley	11	4	4	3	11
Audley	11	1	7	3	5
Sandyford	11	0	9	2	2

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 141; Betley, 125.  
Bradley Ford Wesleyans, 106 for six; Sandyford, 93.  
Stone, 188; Kidsgrove, 78.  
Omney, 104 for eight (dec.); Audley, 27.  
Burslem High Lane, 87; Alsagers Bank, 73.  
Chesley, 200 for eight (dec.); Handley, 116.

**SEVEN DRAWN GAMES** signify that there was some back-sliding in relation to cricket weather last Saturday, but 17 completed matches indicate that affairs might have been much worse, especially as the indecisiveness of several of the struggles was partially due to scoring which was above the average. The latter phase of the matter was particularly in evidence at Longton, Norton, Knyppersley and Kidsgrove. The best win of the afternoon was that achieved by Crewe Alexandra at the expense of Leek, whose bowling was badly flouted by J. Dickinson and his colleagues, who carried their dominance to a fitting conclusion when they figured as attackers. This game had its great feature in the batting of the Crewe captain, who promoted himself to his old role of being an opening batsman, and signalled the occasion by scoring 100 in his best style. Dickinson's success was very popular, both at Crewe and elsewhere, the Alexandra captain

turn, nine deliveries getting him three wickets for as many runs. Hartley and F. Sylvester were the other effective bowlers, with five for 43 and two for 22, respectively. Both were difficult to score off, keeping a good length and flitting the ball cleverly. The bowlers were helped by smart and safe fielding, and altogether the Alexandra produced a splendid showing of match-winning cricket.

### BURSLEM UPSET PRECEDENT.

Silverdale cricketers have put many victories to their credit at Cobridge, and their latest visit to Burslem's home almost furnished a repetition of previous exploits. That the ground team upset precedent was largely due to the fielding blunders of their visitors, who were

also unfortunate in suffering the loss of their wicket-keeper at a critical point of the match. But it cannot be said that all the bad luck fell on Silverdale, for Burslem had a telling slice of it by way of having to bowl with a wet ball before and after the interval which rain brought about; and if the home skipper had been guided solely by the best interests of his team an earlier adjournment would have been made. Two easy chances went begging because the rain baffled the fielders' vision, and sawdust was a poor antidote against the lubricity of the sodden ball. Silverdale lost five wickets for 28 runs, and their batting had its best feature in a vigorous innings of 36 from E. Groom, who had no qualms about going for the bowling, and counted six good fours. He had a useful partner in J. Whalen (10), this batsman playing very patiently, and stopping whilst the total was advanced from 28 to 66 for the sixth wicket. With nine men done for with the aggregate at 81, Silverdale were in a poor way, but the last pair, W. Lowe and S. Robinson, aroused surprise and praise by a very plucky stand, which realised 34 chalks. Lowe's score was 15 (not out) and Robinson (19), and both young players showed plenty of confidence and made some rattling good shots. Evans Cook was again the master man of Burslem's attack, and finished with seven wickets for 52. E. A. Oliver had two wickets for 22, and supplemented his bowling by making three catches, the first of which was a delightful item of quick thinking and agility. The home team's batting was opened by A. Birch and G. E. Cooper, and the first-named had a slice of good fortune in Groom's first over, a chance to second slip going astray. Birch celebrated the let-off by some brisk hitting, and when his wicket was the third to fall he was credited with 19 of the 28 runs got. Burslem's prospects rose with the connection of W. Briscoe and Oliver who put on 30 for the fourth wicket, Oliver then falling to a delivery from Groom, after making 13, mainly by powerful forcing strokes off his legs. Hereabouts, E. White bowled an over to permit of Whalen and Groom changing ends, and with 60 on the board Briscoe was missed at long off, a piece of fortune which had also happened to E. Cotton, who was bowled at 69. A. Cook (19) and Briscoe threatened to win the game, but the gameness of Silverdale's bowlers had reward when Cook was bowled at 96 and Briscoe well taken at mid off at 102. Prior to these incidents Silverdale had experienced a slice of material ill-fortune, for G. Green sustained a nasty thumb injury, which probably preserved Briscoe from being stumped, as well as necessitating the retirement of the wicket-keeper. Burslem's eighth wicket fell at 107, but H. Cotton was safe, and the match was won when R. Hollowood got Groom to the boundary. Briscoe's share of the score was 35, and although he had some luck, he played stirring cricket, and his effort was the deciding factor. Groom and Whalen bowled magnificently against odds, and saved for the one over sent down by White they persevered throughout the innings. Groom had six wickets for 57, and earned all his success, whilst Whalen's record was three for 45. The losers suffered by dropped catches but they gave the leaders a rare night, and the case was one of "Tweedledum and Tweedledee."

### DRAW AT CHELL.

Rain deprived Longton of a win at Chell, three interruptions, one of which lasted some 50 minutes, wasting sufficient time to prevent a definite finish. Longton's best scorer was E. Owens, who played a chanceless innings of 44, getting most of his runs by clever leg-side strokes. A. Smith (15), J. Collis (24), A. Kent (19), R. J. Hallon (19 not out) and A. Wright (14 not out) also batted well for their useful scores. Great Chell's bowling was marked by steadiness, and the best figures belonged to G. A. Rhodes—two for 23—and G. Fitchford—two for 37. R. Harris and W. Warburton showed good form as the home team's opening pair, and G. Fitchford hit three 4's at the far end of the innings, but none of the other batsmen tried to make runs. As the consequence of so much passivity the Longton bowlers had

having won the cordial esteem of all local players and followers of cricket. Another skipper to distinguish himself as a century-maker was C. Bickerton, who leads Porthill Park's reserves. Bickerton played a not out innings of 100 on the Norton ground, and his achievement brought much gratification to his many friends. The clubs to get two victories were Burslem High Lane and Caverswall, and a notable occurrence of the afternoon was the third successive win of plucky Scot Hay.

### FURIOUS FINISH.

In the absence of J. H. Mayer, who was away through illness, Bignall End were captained by A. Lockett, and the deputy skipper had the satisfaction of leading his side to victory and having a big share in the success. Batting first, the L.M. and S. Railway had an encouraging start by Cooper and J. C. Hulme, who ran up 29 before Hulme (19) was disposed of. This partnership lasted some 35 minutes, and was followed by a suspension of an hour, caused by the heavy drizzle which set in. Another wicket fell soon after the resumption, but a good stand was made by Cooper and R. C. Worthington, the aggregate reaching 75 ere the third partnership was broken. Worthington showed capital form whilst getting his 19 runs, and this third combination was the most prolific of the innings. The bowlers were badly handicapped by having to operate with a wet ball but they got on top after Cooper and E. Bloor had gathered 22 for the fourth wicket, and a very useful 16 (not out) from P. Stanford was the only other batting of moment. Cooper played very cautiously for his 40, his defence being sound, and his scoring shots cleverly executed. Lockett came out with five wickets for 30, and A. W. Ikin had a couple of successes for 9, having the satisfaction of bowling Cooper. Bignall End had 60 minutes in which to hit off the runs, a situation which caused Ikin to accompany L. McEllin to the wickets as the first pair. But the bowling of Worthington and Cooper was so well directed that runs were hard to get, and a drawn game seemed in prospect when 30 minutes were consumed in getting as many chalks. The pace quickened, however, from this stage, and the total was rapidly taken to 60 before Ikin (38) was caught in trying to pull a delivery from Bloor. With Lockett (25, not out) in company with McEllin the game was forced furiously, and the required 60 runs were collected at the rate of two a minute, and Bignall End were winners with four minutes to spare. McEllin played a great innings of 51 (not out), making a number of fine cuts past point and some exceptionally good forcing drives.

### ALEXANDRA'S TRIUMPH.

Crewe Alexandra gave an invigorating display of batting against Leek, whose bowlers were in a sore tangle, and runs came at the rate of five per over. The fashion was set by J. Dickinson and F. Walker (40) who put on 60 for the second wicket, and there was no lull in the scoring during the following partnerships. J. Brownridge (21) helped to add 38 for the second wicket, and W. H. Norman (22) assisted in the following connection which gained another 49, the association being broken when the Crewe captain was bowled by V. Astbury. Of the 184 runs gathered whilst he was in possession Dickinson claimed just 200, and his great exhibition was worthy to be classed as one of the best innings of his notable career. His score was made by 17 fours, six couples and 20 singles. M. Walker (19) maintained the dual-figure vogue, and the innings was closed after he had been concerned in the acquirement of 34 runs by the fifth and sixth wickets. H. Birch and Astbury each had two bowling successes, but they have rarely had such small recompense for so much punishment. Leek's batting commenced portentously, for A. Rider was bowled in the first over, and there was never much recovery from the bad start, though Cotton (17) and Astbury (12), put on 29 for the second wicket. But they fell in successive overs from Hartley, and of the rest only J. Pointon (20) and A. G. Backerville (12) showed much capacity for dealing with the attack. The climax came when J. Prince had a bowling



flattering figures, and 20 of the 38 overs sent down were maidens. W. Hine, who had three wickets for 4, was quite the best bowler, and might have had a longer turn. A satisfactory circumstance of Longton's outwork was splendid wicket-keeping, J. Dennis filling the onerous position in fine style.

#### HEAVY SCORING AT KNYPPERSLEY.

The proceedings at Knyppersley were marked by the heavy scoring of both sides, due to bad bowling rather than brilliant batting. The ball was as hard to grip as a piece of wet soap, and bowlers were badly handicapped all through the game. F. W. Slight batted finely for Nantwich, but in spite of his 44 Knyppersley were going well until E. H. Stevenson and E. E. Hough came together as eighth wicket partners. The pair forced run-getting to some purpose, and their unbroken stand was for 88 runs, Stevenson getting 43 and Hough 41—nine fours. Knyppersley lost a wicket at four, but E. Mosedale (56) and W. Boon (54, not out) set about the bowling, and collected 96 runs whilst together. Mosedale played well for 56, and Boon, who had not previously reached the half-century score, showed praiseworthy form whilst getting 54 (not out). The rest of the batting was chiefly the affair of J. E. Gibson, who was missed on the boundary, but nearly won the match, a catch getting rid of him after he had hit up 34. Bowlers had a bad match, and the best figures were J. Boon's three for 30.

#### PORTHILL'S SMART WIN.

Four players figured conspicuously in Porthill Park's smart win over Norton, N. W. White (40) and G. A. F. Bagguley (34) making a great sixth wicket stand after A. Jolley had promised to dismiss the side without ceremony, and Hoap and J. Durber putting Norton to rout as the sequel to an auspicious first wicket effort. While displayed sound methods whilst getting the top score of the game, and Bagguley pleased the crowd by coming back to form with a timely and meritorious exhibition. Jolley showed his wonted partiality for Porthill environment, and by fine bowling claimed seven wickets for 57 runs. D. Worthington and L. Evans (20) gave Norton an encouraging beginning, but there was not much resistance about the batting after Hoap and Durber got warmed up, and 15 from A. Jolley was the only other double-figure score. Hoap finished with five wickets at the nominal cost of 24 runs, and only six more came from Durber, whose five victims were all clean bowled. As the League regulations require that captains shall neither request nor accept substitute fielders, Norton had to operate with nine players during the early portion of the match, but this circumstance had little effect on the course of the game, which was well won.

#### THE OTHER SENIOR MATCHES.

Caverswall and Betley had a fine game, and the spectators appreciated the sporting way in which the visitors went for the runs, without any attempt to play for a draw. The Caverswall batting had more spirit about it than is usual, and two capital individual innings were played. C. Haesall showed finished form whilst getting 40, and E. Wakelin had numerous good strokes in his 36 (not out). This player looks like developing into a most useful all-rounder. F. Sutton, with three wickets for 43 was Betley's most troublesome bowler. H. Ashley was the "big gun" of Betley's batting, scoring 40 by good cricket, and F. Lyth (13, not out) made a plucky attempt to ward off defeat. B. Brindley, who took seven wickets for 26, bowled in his best style, and had most of his opponents in difficulty, whilst W. Payne—two for 25—did better work than his record suggests. A. Pickard made two clever catches at point, one accomplishing the seemingly impossible.

Sandyford were far too clever for Ashcombe Park, though they had to work hard for their runs. G. Bourne, who went all through the declared innings, batted with great steadiness for 40 (not out), he found highly useful partners in M. Cotton (30) and J. Dean (25). The best figures from five Park bowlers were those of O. Brassington—three for 29. The home team lost three wickets in the third over, and none of the batsmen produced ability which could cope with the deliveries of the terrible Bourne brothers, who sent them all back in 17 overs, less one ball. A. Bourne's "bag" was eight wickets for a trifling 14 runs, and G. Bourne had two "scalps" for 13.

#### MANY RUNS AT KIDSGROVE.

There was a feast of runs at Clough Hall, where Stone, after giving a brilliant display of batting, failed to get rid of their opponents. The Stone batsmen gave an exhibition which was far superior to anything they had previously shown this season, and the actual time occupied by their run-getting was two hours. The total of 207 came by consistent work, each

of the seven men who batted getting useful scores. P. F. Stubbs, who hit 18 in one over, played delightful cricket for 23, and G. Reece, top scorer with 44, made some splendid strokes, which included nine boundaries. A Ravenscroft was second best scorer with 42, and P. R. Sheppard (32), E. C. Fernie (21), R. Cadman (15) and B. J. Devaney (14, not out), also played well. W. Cooper and F. Timmis each claimed two wickets, but they were freely punished, as were three other bowlers. Kidsgrove had two hours in which to bat, but, although P. Strong (30), took advantage of some loose balls to score rather freely, it was soon evident that the difficulty of the task was realised, and that safe tactics were to be adopted. Strong and W. Cooper (20) put on 59 for the first wicket, and R. Bpillet (34, not out), and T. Searratt (13) performed their part manfully, and never failed to make scoring use of any really loose deliveries. The Stone bowling was moderate, and as a few catches were dropped Kidsgrove had no difficulty in making an "honours even" draw.

Scott Hay had Audley as the victims of their third successive victory—a triumph which was far from being forecast by the early happenings of the match. Before the destructive bowling of R. Timmis and F. Darlington, the first six Scott Hay wickets dropped for a dozen, and the ninth went at 30. The last pair of batsmen, however, managed to make the most profitable stand of the venture. A. Viggars (10, not out), and H. Furnival (7) running up the total to 41. Timmis had five wickets for 19, and Darlington five for 21. When Audley had their batting turn they quickly discovered that their task was no easy one, and 13 from J. C. McEllin was no effective counterpoise for six "ducks." The cause of Audley's undoing was the bowling of Ben Griffiths, who sent down seven overs, and had success in all but the first of them. Seven wickets for nine runs were the reward of his splendid work, and he was well supported by A. Furnival, who had two for five.

A well-contested game was seen at High Lane, where the home side's margin was only 13 runs of the 223 gathered. A. Hackney (30) and F. Goodwin (29) were the mainstays of High Lane's batting, and useful help came from A. Hurd (19) and F. Wood (13). Some effective bowling by W. Beech and R. Bailey was responsible for the fall of the last five wickets, which supplied but 17 runs. W. Beech had four wickets for 18, and R. Bailey two for 11, whilst G. W. Beech took two for 32 and J. Wareham two for 22. With the exception of W. Beech no Alsagers Bank batsman distinguished himself, and there was a regular fall of wickets after the second had carried the aggregate from six to 39. W. Beech played skilfully for 30. By taking four wickets for 30 runs, Wood made himself the prominent home bowler; G. Skellam having two victims for 28, and W. Mould two for 17.

The match at Madeley was played on a rough wicket, and the batsmen on both sides were badly knocked about. Cheadle had the privilege of taking first innings, but lost two wickets very cheaply, and when A. James (10) and A. L. Day (27) looked like making a decent stand, James lost his place by a bad run-out. Day played very carefully for his runs, and his dismissal was due to the peculiar nature of the pitch rather than faulty batting. The remainder of the batsmen were overawed, and none of them had a stay of any length. F. Mayer took three wickets for 32, and made things uncomfortable, whilst B. Malkin had three for 17, and T. Stubbs two for 19. The home team's first three wickets went for 20, but F. Clarke and E. Malkin sen., stood their ground well, and when their connection had been ended, T. Stubbs (15 not out) came in to assist Malkin to take the aggregate within seven runs of victory. Malkin played with determination and skill for his 25 runs. W. Brough captured three wickets for 34, and F. Gregory had two for 22.

#### JUNIQR SECTIONS' GAMES.

The match at Stoke was a close one, and up to the fall of their sixth wicket there seemed a possibility that the L.M. and S. Railway players might secure their first victory. But the batting broke down after F. Calcott (35) and A. Wallis (11) had been parted, the last four wickets going for ten runs. "Extras" had a lot to do with the winning margin, Bignall End counting 19 as against one to the losers. S. Haesall, with 24 (not out), was top-notch for the winners, for whom D. White claimed five wickets for 35. The chief bowling figures of the match belonged to a Railway man, J. Cummings having six wickets for 22. At Leek the home team had a comfortable win over Crewe Alexandra, whose batting had a very bad start, and not much recovery, only D. Kirkham (21) getting past the teens. The veteran J. Pace had a wicket with his first ball, and bowling throughout the innings finished with five successes at the outlay of nine runs apiece. Leek made the Alexandra

bowling look very poor stuff, and every over was debited with runs. A fine innings of 51 (not out) from G. M. Fenton was the feature of the game, as well as being a most popular event. Consistent batting characterised the drawn match between Silverdale and Burslem, and no bowler met with marked success. Six Burslem men reached doubles, and "Mr. Extras" helped with no fewer than 51. The best stand of the innings was for the last wicket, A. Cartledge (33, not out) and H. Richardson (16) forwarding the score by just fifty runs. B. Handy (32) and S. Jones (21) were the most prominent home batsmen. At Longton the outstanding affair was a great partnership for the ground team's third wicket, A. Bentley and C. Steele trouncing Great Chell's bowling almost as they pleased, and putting on 187 runs whilst in company. Steele had 16 fours in his dashing 92, and Bentley was not far behind with an excellent 68. Great Chell were saved by the timely doings of J. Smith (43), J. Taylor (38) and A. Copeland (25). A. Cotton captured four Chell wickets for 50. Eight Nantwich players ran up doubles against Knyppersley, and "extras" numbered 20. H. Gidman (39) and B. Mills (24) were the most serviceable batsmen during the early doings, and T. Hope (25 not out) and R. Willett (24) had a final stand of 54 chalks. The most troublesome attacking came from W. Goodwin—five for 45. The striking matter of Knyppersley's batting was the second wicket connection of J. Hancock (48) and H. Green (23), which produced 61 runs. L. Houghton had four wickets for 39. Porthill Park made a moderate opening against Norton, but it was more than redeemed by the run-getting qualities of H. T. Marsh and C. Bickerton, who were partners whilst the aggregate was carried from 18 to 145; and when Marsh was done with, C. R. Heath (21) and A. C. Hawkins (23, not out) continued the free scoring. Marsh played a sound game for 63, and 16 fours punctuated Bickerton's admirable innings of 100 (not out). Norton were saved from defeat by the capital joint effort of A. Smith 44 (not out) and F. Bailey (37), the twain taking the score from 29 to 93 for the fifth wicket. Porthill had only one disquieting bowler, S. R. Cooper bagging six wickets for 31.

Six of Betley's wickets fell for 53, but useful work by "the tail" made the total a satisfactory one, though it was not big enough to beat Caverswall. The leading scorers were E. Alpin (21) and F. Brookshaw (26). Four wickets were claimed by P. Braasington for 22 runs. Caverswall were winners with five wickets standing, chiefly through the capital batting of F. Ollier, whose score was 53. J. Brookshaw had four wickets for nine runs each. Sandyford made more runs than usual, but were no match for Brindley Ford Wesleyans, for whom L. Nixon made 35 and O. Slaney 42. A. Hancock—three for 10—was the most effective home bowler. Sandyford made a feeble start, and useful scores by H. Hulme (28), M. Baker (16) and H. Bird (14) were not sufficient to retrieve it. Four Wesleyans' bowlers took wickets, the best figures being Slaney's three for 15. Stone had a meritorious victory over Kidsgrove, chiefly as the result of some fine batting by the brothers W. and F. Ravenscroft, who scored 77 and 27 respectively. W. Ravenscroft hit twelve fours, and played splendidly. I. Hadley, with four for 18 and C. Goodwin, five for 35, were Kidsgrove's best bowlers. J. Hadley (13) was alone as a dual-figure scorer for the losers. K. H. Allen bowled well to secure five wickets for 31, and F. Ravenscroft had three for 20. Audley were well beaten by Onneley, who had good scorers in A. Lewis (28) and F. Halpenny (22), and deadly bowlers in H. Bedson, with five for 16, and A. Davies, four for 11. A not out innings of 9 by F. Jarvis represented Audley's best batting. The all round play of J. Lowe caused High Lane's victory over Alsagers Bank. Lowe got four wickets for 18, and saved a batting breakdown by a creditable innings of 34. High Lane losing eight wickets before the issue was settled. Hy. Edwards was a material helper by taking four wickets for eight. The Bank's most useful players were S. Hollinshead—four for 31—J. C. Durber—three for three—J. Cooper (20) and J. Scott (18, not out). Cheadle got their 200 runs in less than two hours J. W. Fieldhouse hitting firmly for 74, and A. Wetwood showing good form for 32 (not out). S. Heath (21) and R. Tomkinson (28) scored freely in the earlier portion of Madeley's innings, but three cases of run out upset hopes of a stern fight, though A. Barlow made a useful 24.

## NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

## Senior Division.—Section "A."

Nantwich v. Bignall End; Messrs. Holmes and Stevenson.  
 Longton v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Bowers and Groom.  
 L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke) v. Burslem; Messrs. Kellett and Byrne.  
 Leek v. Silverdale; Messrs. T. Smith and Ward.  
 Norton v. Knypersley; Messrs. Downs and Cox.  
 Porthill Park v. Great Chell; Messrs. Condliffe and W. Butters.

## Section "B."

Alsagers Bank v. Caverswall; Messrs. Salmon and Clowes.  
 Audley v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. Gregory and Pennell.  
 Retley v. Kidsgrove; Messrs. Portch and R. Butters.  
 Sandyford v. Stone; Messrs. Shingler and Whittingham.  
 Chesdale v. Burslem High Lane; Messrs. Keeling and Coates.  
 Madeley v. Scot Hay; Messrs. Bullock and Groom.

## Junior Division.—Section "A."

Bignall End v. Nantwich; Messrs. Albert Rogerson and Boulton.  
 Crewe Alexandra v. Longton; Messrs. Stellan and Lyth.  
 Burslem v. L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke); Messrs. Wright and Buckley.  
 Silverdale v. Leek; Messrs. Bostock and Vignars.  
 Knypersley v. Norton; Messrs. Rowlands and Johnston.  
 Great Chell v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Carlidge and Brown.

## Section "B"

Caverswall v. Alsagers Bank.  
 Brindley Ford Wesleyans v. Audley.  
 Kidsgrove v. Retley.  
 Stone v. Sandyford.  
 Burslem High Lane v. Chesdale.  
 Onneley v. Madeley.

## SENTINEL CRICKET SHIELD COMPETITION.

## Draw for Third Round.

A meeting of the Management Committee and club representatives of the "Sentinel" Shield Competition was held at the Grand Hotel, Hanley, on Friday night. Mr. S. Glaaves (Chairman of the committee) presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. Caton (vice-President), M. Brookes, E. Peake, W. Plant (Management Committee), H. Sefton (Secretary), G. C. Critchlow (Kingsley), J. P. Paret (Florence), O. Parry (Sneyd Colliery), J. Marsh (Porthill), F. Tunnicliffe (Birches Head), C. Taylor (Berry Hill) and others.

The committee dealt with a protest from Florence respecting their match with Kingsley, on the ground that Kingsley had played ineligible players. After hearing witnesses from both sides, the committee deferred their decision until further evidence was forthcoming.

The Secretary announced that the third round matches had resulted as follows:—

## Group A.

Leycett 77 for 3, Parkhouse Colliery 30; Sneyd Colliery 175, Gaskell and Groom's 27.

## Group B.

Berry Hill 59 for three, Hanley All Saints 54; Birches Head S.M. 49, Shelton Colliery 43.

## Group C.

Kingsley 69, Florence Colliery 42; Fenton Bethel 61 for six, Stallington 29.

## Group D.

Alsager's Bank 2nd 75 for eight, Longton A 72; Porthill A 61 for two, Kidsgrove A 28.

The Chairman asked the club representatives to decide whether the group system of drawing should continue, or the draw should be made from the whole of the clubs. The latter method was favoured, and the draw resulted as follows:

## Third Round

(To be played on or before July 13th).

- 1.—Birches Head v. Sneyd Colliery.
- 2.—Berry Hill v. Kingsley or Florence Coll.
- 3.—Porthill A v. Fenton Bethel.
- 4.—Leycett v. Alsagers Bank II.

To be played on the ground of the first-named club.

## Semi-final Round.

- 1 versus 3.
- 2 versus 4.

To be played on neutral grounds, the Chairman and Secretary to make arrangements.

## UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

## DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Leigh	8	6	0	2	14
Florence	9	5	1	3	13
Tean	8	5	1	2	12
Kingsley	9	5	2	2	12
Stallington	10	4	4	2	10
Uttoxeter	9	3	5	3	9
Oakmoor	10	2	4	4	6
Alton	8	1	4	3	5
Hollington	9	1	7	1	3
Draycott	8	0	6	2	2

Last Saturday's Results:—Uttoxeter 244, Alton 113 for seven; Oakmoor 136, Tean 201 for nine; Kingsley 110, Stallington 66; Leigh 106 for one, Hollington 26; Florence 76 for five, Draycott 39.

Notable Performances:—Batting: F. Harper (Uttoxeter), 110 not out; J. Hutchinson (Uttoxeter), 53; A. J. Chadwick (Tean), 49; F. Shipley (Oakmoor), 65 not out; F. Wilson (Leigh) 80 not out. Bowling: C. Jackson (Kingsley), four for 10; J. Reeves (Leigh), six for 16; G. Backhouse (Leigh), four for 12; J. Bridgett (Florence), five for 37; V. Copestake (Florence), five for 11; W. Winfield (Draycott), three for 15.

## DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	8	5	1	2	12
Stallington	7	5	1	1	11
Leigh	9	5	3	1	11
Fulford	7	3	3	1	8
Oakmoor	7	3	3	1	8
Cresswell	8	3	4	1	7
Alton	7	1	6	1	3
Hollington	7	0	6	1	1

Last Saturday's Results:—Hollington 16, Kingsley 63 for eight; Alton 149, Leigh 157; Stallington 66, Oakmoor 36; Cresswell 33, Fulford 63.

Notable Performances:—Bowling: W. Howe (Fulford), seven for 16, including "hat-trick"; F. Woolridge (Cresswell), four for 8; B. Lowell (Kingsley), four for 5; B. Coe (Kingsley), four for 5; D. Smart (Stallington), five for 3; N. Blair (Stallington), two for 7; C. Northall (Oakmoor), five for 18.

## BURSLEM AND DISTRICT SCHOOLBOYS' CRICKET LEAGUE.

(Up to Thursday, June 26th.)

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bradeley	5	5	0	0	10
Park road	5	4	1	0	8
Middleport	4	2	2	0	4
Cobridge C.E.	3	2	1	0	4
Hill Top	4	1	3	0	2
St. John's	4	1	3	0	2
Smallthorne	3	1	2	0	2
Central	4	0	4	0	0

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Staffordshire to Meet Cheshire at Crewe.

#### A Strong Team Selected.

**F**OR THE FIRST TIME since the War, the Staffordshire County cricket team will play, on Monday and Tuesday next, on the Alexandra ground at Crewe, where they are being entertained in a return fixture by Cheshire. The corresponding match last season was played at Macclesfield, where Cheshire avoided the follow-on by only one run, and were saved from almost certain defeat by the weather. Their poor display with the bat was chiefly due to Barnes, who had one of those wonderful days of his, when his bowling was almost unplayable. Staffordshire's second innings brought them the substantial aggregate of 306 runs for eight wickets before rain made further play impossible. The main contributors were Sedgwick with 75 and R. G. Seldon with 74. Seldon, having now a scholastic appointment, is not available, except for the holiday matches, but Sedgwick is back in the county side again after an absence as a result of a strain caused while playing for Walsall in the Birmingham League. He played his first match of the season with Staffordshire against Lincolnshire

C. G. Varcoe has been out of the side in the last two matches because recurring hay fever affected his eyes. He is now quite fit again. Barnes' return will put the finishing touch to what impresses as a strong all-round team. As stated before, he played havoc among the Cestrians' wickets at Macclesfield last year, claiming eight of them at a cost of only a fraction more than four runs apiece. The selected eleven is as follows: J. B. Russell (captain), J. W. Johnson, C. Howl, H. Goodwin, G. T. Worthington, D. P. Lutter, C. G. Varcoe, A. Lockett, Barnes (S. F.), Sedgwick (H.) and Platt (G.).



H. SEDGWICK.

at Old Hill and again proved his usefulness with the ball on a hard wicket. He was not very successful with the bat, but he has been doing very well in that direction of late with his own club.

In the side that has been selected to meet Cheshire next week, there are four changes from that which opposed Lincolnshire. The players who will be absent are H. W. Homer, W. Lee, C. F. Rushton, and J. Whalen, and those who come into the team in their place are H. Goodwin, G. T. Worthington, C. G. Varcoe, and Sydney Barnes. It will be remembered that Goodwin is the Stafford player, who, like a number of others who have been tried since the war, made good in his first appearance with the county. This was against Lincolnshire at Skegness last August, when in his two innings, he knocked up a total of 89 runs. He is a young, left-handed batsman, clean and accurate in his hitting and powerful in his driving. He and Sedgwick put on 68 runs in 37 minutes at Skegness. G. T. Worthington is another recruit to the county ranks. A native of Norton, he is playing at present with the Benaby Main Colliery team in the Yorkshire Council, and he is reported to be a sound bat and also a useful right-arm medium pace bowler. He is doing well with his local club, and is regarded as quite up to county standard.



# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burslem	12	9	1	2	20
Signal End	12	8	2	2	18
Crewe Alexandra	12	8	2	1	17
Leek	12	6	4	2	14
Porthill Park	12	6	3	3	14
Nantwich	12	6	4	2	13
Norton	12	5	4	3	13
Longton	12	5	4	3	11
Knypersey	12	1	5	6	8
Great Chell	12	2	7	3	7
Silverdale	12	1	8	3	3
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	12	0	8	4	4

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 134 for six; Longton, 93.  
Crewe Alexandra, 95; L.M. and S. Ry (Stoke), 89.  
Burslem, 189; Leek, 108.  
Norton, 209; Silverdale, 179.  
Nantwich, 164 for three; Great Chell, 149.  
Porthill Park, 177 for six (dec.); Knypersey, 168 for seven.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Madeley	12	10	2	0	20
Sandyford	12	7	2	3	17
Kidsgrove	12	6	3	3	15
Stone	12	6	4	2	14
Alsagers Bank	12	4	4	4	12
Burslem High Lane	12	4	4	4	12
Audley	12	3	6	3	10
Caverswall	12	4	6	2	10
Cheadle	12	4	6	2	10
Scot Hay	12	4	6	2	10
Ashton Park	12	3	7	2	8
Betley	12	3	8	1	7

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Audley, 84; Caverswall, 87.  
Ashton Park, 42; Betley, 29.  
Sandyford, 188; Kidsgrove, 145.  
Stone, 260 for six; Cheadle, 31.  
Scot Hay, 74; Alsagers Bank, 75.  
Madeley, 185 for nine; Burslem High Lane, 61.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	12	7	0	5	19
Norton	12	7	2	3	17
Nantwich	12	7	3	2	16
Leek	12	6	4	2	14
Silverdale	12	6	3	3	13
Knypersey	12	4	5	3	13
Signal End	12	5	5	2	12
Burslem	12	4	4	4	12
Longton	12	4	6	2	10
Crewe Alexandra	12	3	6	3	9
Great Chell	12	1	7	4	5
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	12	0	8	4	4

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Longton, 102 for five; Signal End, 93.  
Leek, 134 for six; Burslem, 88.  
Norton, 142 for five; Silverdale, 149.  
Nantwich, 185 for four; Great Chell, 136.  
Knypersey, 194 for six (dec); Porthill Park, 136 for 4

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans	12	9	1	2	20
Burslem High Lane	12	8	2	2	18
Caverswall	12	6	3	3	16
Onneley	12	6	3	3	14
Betley	12	6	5	1	13
Cheadle	12	5	4	3	13
Kidsgrove	12	5	5	2	11
Madeley	12	5	7	0	10
Alsagers Bank	12	3	6	3	9
Stone	12	4	7	1	9
Audley	12	1	8	3	5
Sandyford	12	0	10	2	2

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 120; Audley, 86.  
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 106 for five; Betley, 91.  
Kidsgrove, 96 for four; Sandyford, 50.  
Cheadle, 107 for six; Stone, 53.  
Onneley, 48; Alsagers Bank, 80.  
Madeley, 115; Burslem High Lane, 68.

LAST SATURDAY'S GAMES marked the beginning of the second half of the League's season, and it was a happy augury that conditions were good and the doings full of interest. The matches had no interruptions and, save two, all provided definite finishes. Rather singularly, the same two clubs were concerned in both the drawn affairs, and the bowlers of Knypersey and Porthill Park had experiences which were somewhat worrying. The outlook in respect of the fights for the championships had little change, though Porthill Park's reserves dropped a point, and the defeat of High Lane's minors had the effect of giving Brindley Ford Wesleyans a clear lead. Burslem and Signal End both disposed of strong opponents in the top grade, and so made their prospects even brighter than before;

and Crewe Alexandra—after a fight—kept themselves well in the running. The very narrow margin of the Alexandra's win over L.M. and S. Railway was the one really surprising happening of the afternoon, and the Stoke men are not likely to have a better chance of getting a first win. Amongst runaway victories that of Stone over Cheadle was the most pronounced, the conquerors putting up the highest score of the season, after disposing of Cheadle for a meagre total. The game also furnished the biggest individual innings, a brilliantly played 136 (not out) from E. L. Crawshaw, a newcomer to the Stoke side. A welcome matter for Stoke was the return of T. J. Johnson, who, of course, had a big share in the great victory. A tenth win to Madeley put that club in a rosé position in respect of the race for promotion, but the hopes that Kidsgrove may have entertained of running as strongly as last season were somewhat blighted by a home defeat at the instance of Sandyford, who supplanted the losers as holders of second place. Sandyford are making steady progress in a quiet way, and evidence of their efforts to improve their affairs is to be found in their new pavilion, which will be opened formally next Monday, when a match in which a number of well-known local players will take part is to be played.

### CHAMPIONS DOMINATE LONGTON.

Expectations that a great fight would be waged at Boon Hill were far from being realised, and instead of the welter of runs that was anticipated, a fine crowd witnessed what was something like a collapse by Longton's admittedly strong batting side, and the inevitable sequel of a rather tame finish. Getting first use of a good rungetting pitch, Longton opened fairly well, mainly because J. W. Johnson showed a striking liking for the bowling of J. Burgess, who probably would not have been an opening bowler if E. J. Dale had not been a tardy arrival. Anyhow, Johnson made the most of the situation, and by grand driving and cutting—which did not leave A. Lockett put of the reel—soon had six boundaries to his credit. The first wicket fell at 35, when E. Owens was l.b.w. to Lockett, for a modest half-dozen, and the county all-rounder disposed of Johnson three runs later, alert A. E. Bratby making a clever catch from a ball which got up slightly and was barely edged. Johnson had 27 to his credit, and "the ranks of Tuscany" gave him a fervid ovation, his display having aroused admiration and his dismissal rejoicing. A. Smith was not in form, and, following some irresolute play, there was not much surprise when he was well beaten in Dale's third over, though the ball which did the trick did not appear to present any particular difficulty. With three wickets gone for 42, Signal End were well on top, and they soon emphasised their domination, H. Brassington making a tame stroke which Lockett swallowed in the slips, and L. Collis being bowled by a ball of the type which he sometimes hits out of the field. Five for 47 was not good going, but the next wicket made a much better show. C. Edwards batting well and J. Skelthorne registering stoutly. The pair put on 32 before Edwards was bowled in playing back to Lockett. His share of the total was 23, got in customary clever fashion. Two more wickets fell without addition, A. Kent being l.b.w. and Skelthorn, his patience exhausted, a victim to Lockett's on-side trap. The rearguard men were good for 14 runs, of which J. V. Toney had 8 (not out). Lockett and Dale both bowled exceedingly well, and there was no question about the quality of their work, though poor batting contributed to some of their success. Lockett had six wickets for 41, and Dale four for 28. The champions' task was regarded as an easy one, and Bratby and L. McEllin deputised to begin the quest for the necessary runs. Bratby's restoration to the role of a first-wicket man did not meet with general approval, but his captain had sound reasons for his choice, for a man who knows how to bat as well as to discharge the onerous duties of stumper with consistent credit should be given suitable opportunity to indulge in his hobby. McEllin's wicket went at six, a nibble at an off ball providing a catch in the slips, but the connection of Bratby and

Downing made a big inroad on the job in hand, the aggregate standing at 44 when Downing was cleverly caught low down by Kent, who was almost too late in his forward move. Downing had played well for 23. The arrival of A. W. Ikin caused the fielders to spread out, though on this occasion stations in the far country were not necessary, Ikin not being in the humour for smiting, and after getting seven singles and a four he was well bowled by Collis—the total being 62. Meanwhile, Bratby was pursuing an even course, getting the ball in the middle, and scoring single as the whim dictated. The toll to his careful methods was provided by W. Downing, who went for the bowling shortly, seven scoring shots getting him two dozen runs. With four runs wanted Bratby's tenure was closed by a l.b.w. decision, and Longton's affliction retired for 23, runs which were got well, if slowly. Lockett came in to make the winning hit, and did the deed by a pull to the boundary. This was all he accomplished, for he disgusted himself by making a feeble stroke into the slips, and the ball was held comfortably. Most of the rest of the play concerned W. Downing, who was not out with 51 to his credit. He had ten fours and three couples in his praiseworthy display of forceful cricket. Brassington, Smith and Collis each had two wickets, and the bowling which commanded most respect was Brassington's. Longton were soundly beaten, and will not often crumple up so readily.

### SCORE FOR CREWE.

The Alexandra had a rare fight in their bout with L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), and it was a fortunate matter for them that the weakest "tail" in the Section had to cope with their final assault. Their own batting failed astonishingly, and it was rough luck on the Stoke attackers that the distinct chance of victory which their efforts brought about did not materialise. Crewe lost six wickets for 54, and it was the work of H. Hope (13), A. Handlands (15) and Hartley (15) which made the aggregate fairly respectable. R. C. Wormington bowled finely, and had five wickets at an outlay of five runs each. The visitors' first two wickets fell cheaply, but Wormington (22) was again a stalwart, and his association with J. C. Cooper realised 37 chalks, and carried the total to 55. Wormington fell to J. Prince, who was promptly displaced as a bowler after the purpose of his trial had been served. With 80 on the board and five wickets in hand the Stoke team seemed well away, but the knell was sounded when Cooper was l.b.w. to Hartley, after playing soundly and skilfully for 30. Of the rest, P. Stanford managed to gather a dozen, but his colleagues had no power to combat the guile of Fred Walker, who had them all taken by the eager fielders. Walker finished with five wickets for three runs, an effective piece of bowling which clearly won the match. F. Sylvester had two successes for 25, and Hartley two for 42. The Crewe fielding was of great merit, and Sylvester was conspicuous by taking four catches.

### BURSLEM'S GOOD WIN.

Burslem gave delight to a good crowd by being in tip-top form, and they were full value for their pronounced win. Securing the first batting turn, they made a fair start, 29 runs being got ere E. Cotton was out unluckily, pulling a ball on to his stumps. J. Fenton hit forcefully, and scored 17 of the 22 runs put on for the second wicket. G. E. Cooper, who was a first wicket man, was the fourth to return, his 51 being just half the total at that stage. He batted confidently and well for his runs, but was fortunate in having several lives, seeing three catches missed and once escaping a run out. His end came when he was well beaten by T. Plant, whose left arm swingers were very troublesome, characterised as they were by good length. The best stand of the innings followed the fall of the sixth wicket, A. Birch (32) and E. Cook (30) playing in resolute style, and their association carried the total from 102 to 158. Plant's bowling suffered in the later stages, but it got four wickets for 44 runs, whilst J. Pointon had four for 50. The Burslem bowling was generally too good for the Leek men, the exceptions being A. Baskerville and J. Cotton. The former pleased with a capital 37, his pulls to the leg boundary being splendidly executed. Cotton (19) showed himself as an accomplished batsman, but shared the fate of Baskerville in returning to a l.b.w. decision, an edict which he did not relish. No other Leek batsman reached doubles. Cooper had two wickets for 10, A. Hollowood two for 15, E. A. Oliver two for 18, and E. Cook two for 43, the captain having no terrors for Leek's main run-getters.

**HEAVY SCORING AT SILVERDALE.**

Batsmen fared extremely well in the game between Silverdale and Norton, though the doings provided one capital bowling performance. This was accomplished by A. Charlesworth, who had seven wickets for 51 runs. The support afforded him, however, was poor, the Norton men having little difficulty in accumulating chalks from the other bowlers. Norton lost three wickets to Charlesworth for 20 runs, and the first stand of moment was made by S. Smith (26) and D. Worthington (19) who added 37 as the fourth pair. L. H. Crump followed with a sound 25, but the eighth man was sent back at 104. The winning position was established by J. Jolly and U. Worthington (32), who played a bright game, and ran up a level century whilst in company. Jolly had ten 4's in his meritorious 58 (not out). Silverdale made a discouraging start, but T. Kelsall hit well for 28, and C. F. Rushton helped him in a second wicket partnership which gathered 46 runs. Rushton and E. Groom (10), added 34 for the third wicket, and J. Cooks (16) and Rushton (38) for the fifth. The left-hander was unfortunately run out, after getting 47 by cricket of sound quality. Free hitting was afterwards shown by E. White (32) and Charlesworth (14), the eighth wicket providing 29 notches. The last two wickets fell to the wiles of J. Smith, and Norton won cleverly. Smith had three wickets for 25, and A. Jolly three for 47.

**KUDOS FOR NANTWICH.**

Nantwich earned considerable kudos by the manner in which they beat Great Chell. The losers ran up a very satisfactory total—mainly through the agency of R. Harris (37) and S. Brayford (41), who had a joint stay which furnished 57 for the second wicket—but it was all too small for the Cheshire side, who had two brilliant young batsmen in F. W. Slight and J. B. Swindale, who were in company whilst some 120 runs were gleaned. The last-named, a youngster of 13 years, went in second wicket down, but had to retire to have an injured finger dressed, and a wicket falling during his absence the score board showed three for 56. The resumption of the connection rapidly dissipated Great Chell's chance faultless batting causing the score to rise quickly, changes of bowling having no effect on the rate of run-getting, save when it was increased. Slight counted 11 fours and a six in his grand 79 (not out), and Swindale's equally praiseworthy 50 (not out) was garnished with seven boundaries. The best bowling figures of the game also belonged to the winning team, W. Mearns taking four wickets for 30.

**KNYPSERSLEY'S SIXTH DIVISION.**

The outstanding matters of the game at Knypersley were the fine innings of K. Gleaves and H. E. Bourne, and the excellent assistance rendered by J. H. Pakes, H. E. Wood and N. Boon. The Porthill visitors commenced rockily, but Gleaves and Pakes (21) played slow but sure cricket in pulling the game round by taking the total from 24 to 67 for the fourth wicket, and Wood (41, not out) helped Gleaves in a big stand which realised 91 for the sixth wicket. Wood was uncertain at the start, but played extremely good cricket after settling down. Gleaves batted finely whilst making 85, getting runs all round the wicket, and giving no chance. Very slow at the start, he livened things up when a bad position had been redeemed, and lost his wicket in forcing the pace. Bourne played in his customary high-class style for 48, and might have given Knypersley a sensational win if he had not been unluckily run out, an over-anxious partner calling him for an impossible run. Boon (34) was a very able seconder to Bourne, and the pair scored so quickly whilst in company that Knypersley had 100 runs on the board when their innings had lasted an hour. W. Lonsdale (21) scored freely in the latter part of the ground side's venture. The best bowling figures of the match were those of E. Mosedale, who had three Porthill wickets for 32.

**MORE SENIORS' AFFAIRS.**

The game at Caverswall was not an exhilarating affair, bowlers holding the advantage almost throughout, and although a lot of the attacking work was quite good the quality of it was certainly enhanced by the unenterprising character of the batting. Audley's best run-getting period occurred between the fall of the third and fourth wickets, 24 runs being subscribed by A. Latham (17) and James McEllin (22). The other main stand was made by F. Darlington and R. Proctor (10) for the eighth partnership. E. Wakelin did the best work of the Caverswall bowlers, having four wickets for 10 runs, and J. Utting—three for 29—was also useful. The fielding satisfied,

and C. Simeox took two good catches. Caverswall's batting never got going, and its only bright phase was the plucky last wicket resistance of Wakelin (18) and Simeox (12 not out). Wakelin, who went in at the fall of the third wicket, played very patiently, and was the last man out. Eight wickets fell to H. Timmis for 25 runs, and Darlington had two for 27.

Batsmen were full of modesty at Ashcombe Park, and only one player reached the teens. This man was F. James, who gathered 14 for

the Park, and had his best helper in J. Alcock (10). None of their comrades could manage to rise above five, and the last five wickets went for 11. Ashcombe's most formidable foe was A. Madden, who had seven of their wickets for 24 chalks. Betley soon found that their task was bigger than had been imagined, the home bowlers being so well on the spot that only a single came from the first six overs, and there was a rush of disaster after the opening pair had been separated in the seventh over. F. Ashley (10, not out) did his best to effect a change of fortune, but the support he got was negligible, and two cases of run out made the straggled more pronounced. C. Davies and F. James, bowling unchanged, had five wickets for 11 and three for 11, respectively.

At Clough Hall, the first three Sandford wickets were secured at a cheap rate, but the game was pulled round in favour of the visitors by the able batting of U. Bourne (32) and M. Cotton, who collected 70 for the fourth partnership; and as the good work was continued by A. Hall (15), G. Baker (11) and Cotton, the visitors rapidly built up a strong position. Cotton was not sent back until his score was within four of the century, and it was hard lines that his brilliant exhibition—which contained 15 boundaries—should have been closed by a run out. S. Broad, with three wickets for 33, fared the best of five Kidsgrove bowlers. The home club's venture had a heartening opening by H. Cooper (18) and P. Strong (25), but A. Bourne's bowling was very penetrative after they had been parted, and with six wickets down for 76 Kidsgrove appeared to be well beaten. Redemption came, however, by the vigorous batting of R. Smith and the steady play of P. Timmis, which nearly doubled the total before Smith was caught. Timmis (17 not out) afterwards had no one able to stay with him, the last three wickets dropping for a single. Smith's dashing display got 67 runs, 56 of which came from boundaries, a sequence of seven of these profitable shots marking the early part of the innings. A. Bourne was a veritable bugbear to his opponents, accounting for eight of them at the moderate cost of 37 runs.

Cheadle had no excuse for their sorry show against Stone. They were privileged to have first use of a good run-getting wicket, and the only reason why their batting broke down was bowling which was too clever for the men who had to cope with it. Certainly, two players were run out, but one of them was the last, and, of course, the bother had occurred before his arrival. The first six wickets tumbled down for eight runs, and the whole innings contained only 16 scoring strokes. E. J. Johnson had five wickets for eight, and V. J. C. Kent three for 23. Commencing with B. J. Devaney and J. Cooper (51), Stone were only two runs behind when Cooper was run out in foolish fashion, and this incident no doubt prevented the "grand slam." Devaney afterwards had a riotous career, hitting eight fours in succession, and taking his contribution to 60 before he was stumped. F. G. L. Crawshaw opened his stay with Devaney as a partner, and he found another congenial colleague in G. Reece, who batted well for 49, and helped in a partnership of 130 runs. Cheadle were reduced to a state of demoralisation, and Crawshaw took the opportunity to give a delightful display of finished batting. No fewer than 100 of his 136 (not out) came by boundaries. The trouncing to which the bowling was subjected is indicated by the fact that Stone got their 290 runs in 135 minutes.

Scott Hay's fourth victory was a clever one, and it brought much gratification because it was gained at the expense of Alcesters Bank rivals. The Bank lost six wickets for 23, and it was left to G. W. Beech (17), J. Cooper (13) and P. Proctor (10) to retrieve the total from insignificance. A. Furnival had three wickets for nine, and B. Griffiths three for 16. Scott Hay also opened poorly, and although Furnival played well for 22, eleven runs were wanted when the last man went to the crease. These were safely got by A. Rogerson (15) and N. Frost. G. W. Beech, with three for 16, came out best of the Bank's bowlers.

Madeley showed their might against High Lane, whose batting had its only feature in a patient innings of 15 from A. Hackney. No Madeley bowling change was necessary, F. Mayer taking seven wickets for 20 and T.

Stubbs three for 39. Madeley lost three wickets at five, but Mayer (18) and E. Watkin, senr. (24) soon mended matters, and the game was won quickly when Stubbs went to the wicket. This player had 13 fours in his brisk 59. In the remaining play E. Malkin, jun. (20) and W. Heath (37, not out) scored freely. G. Skelham took three wickets for 18, and W. Mould had a trio for 27.

**DOINGS OF THE JUNIORS.**

Except in two cases the Bignall End batsmen could make little headway against the bowling of Longton, the prominent scorers being E. Johnson (30) and R. Haswell (27, not out). C. Steele took three wickets for 17 and A. Cotton three for 36. Steele was also conspicuous in the batting line, getting 50 in free style, and as H. Fielding scored 22 and F. Audley 17 (not out) Longton were always winning.

A good bowling performance by H. Walmsley kept Burslem's batting at a low ebb in the match at Leek. Walmsley took all the first nine wickets for 27, and was unlucky that the free hitting of F. Ellis (27) called for a bowling change which sent the last batsman back. A. Plant (53, not out) played a capital innings for Leek, and was well backed by H. Oliver (20) and F. Hunt (30). Silverdale had productive batsmen in E. Lowe (49), H. Ford (19), and J. Hall (24), whilst three others reached doubles. I. Watfall was Norton's most successful bowler, taking four wickets for 32, and he was also their main batsman, scoring 64 by solid cricket. The players to give him most aid were W. D. Robinson (24), A. Smith (25) and R. Brown—three for 17. Watfall and Robinson had a connection of 80 notches for the second wicket. Great Chell's batting against Nantwich lacked consistency, and nearly all the run-getting was confined to three players, J. Wilshaw scoring 40, A. E. Pitt 24 and A. Copeland 22 (not out). The bowler to have most of the rest in travail was L. Houghton, who claimed seven for 46 runs. C. Coffin and H. Gidman (24) began the Cheshire team's innings in merry fashion, and B. Mills partnered Coffin in a second wicket stand of 97 runs. Coffin had twelve fours in his 66, but Mills got the greater proportion of his runs by singles, playing patiently for 54 (not out). Knypersley must surely have established a record at Wolstanton, for their batting was done against no less than 75 overs. A strong position was secured for them by the joint stay of W. Hancock (32) and J. Robson (74), and T. Bibber (29, not out) and P. Green (24) put the coping on the work of the third wicket pair. A. Hollins (23), T. T. Marsh (37) and G. Price (33, not out) scored freely for Porthill, who were short of time in which to do or die.

Caverswall had to struggle for their victory over Audley, losing seven wickets before they got in front. F. Bateman (25) and G. Taylor (11) were Audley's leading scorers, putting on 26 whilst in company. C. Turner's bowling gave much trouble, and got four wickets for nine runs. This player also did well with the bat, scoring 22 at a critical stage. For the losers, J. Bateman accounted for five men for 26. Betley's early batting against Brindley Ford was very feeble, eight wickets dropping for 23 runs, but B. Jones—who batted carefully for 12 (not out)—found run-getters in E. Hughes (22) and J. Brookshaw (14), and the last two wickets more than troubled the score. R. Machin had five victims for 27, and C. Stanley four for 23. The Wesleyans lost three wickets for 31, but J. Slaney (29) and C. Slaney (32) had a partnership which all but settled the issue. The bowling of I. Hadley—four for 10—and E. Goodwin—four for 26—was too good for Sandford, whose top-notcher was J. R. Wilkes (11, not out). Only two batsmen were really required by Kidsgrove, I. Hadley and T. Murphy (23, not out) having an opening partnership which was not severed until the total stood at 74. Hadley rattled up 50 by eleven fours and six singles. Stone's innings at Cheadle was a two-men affair, only P. C. Dutton and W. Ravenscroft, who were third wicket partners, showing any form. Dutton got 42 by good cricket, before being well caught. Cheadle's bowling and fielding did them credit. G. Malbon took five wickets for 36, and J. W. Fieldhouse had three for 12. Cheadle started fairly well as run-getters, but the form was not maintained, and the sixth wicket dropped at 38. Rescue came from J. Whitehurst (13, not out) and A. Wetwood (52, not out), who finished off the match without being paid. Wetwood hit well, but profited by loose fielding. G. Deyes claimed four wickets for 25. Bowling without a change, J. C. Durbur—five for 25—and S. Hollinshead—five for 23—easily disposed of Onneley at Alsagers Bank but the visitors' aggregate proved to be sufficient to get a com-



portable win, though Durbur gave the Bank a decent lead by scoring 13. The collapse was created by H. Bedson, who had six wickets for 14. Burslem High Lane's aspirations had a check from Madeley, for whom S. Heath (42) and E. Barlow (27) scored freely, and J. Onseley and G. Griffiths bowled effectively.

#### NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES.

##### Senior Division.—Section "A."

Signall End v. Northill Park.  
Crewe Alexandra v. Nantwich.  
Silverdale v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke).  
Lock v. Norton.  
Great Chell v. Knypersley.

##### Section "B."

Caverswall v. Madeley.  
Ashcombe Park v. Alsagers Bank.  
Kingsgrove v. Audley.  
Stone v. Betley.  
Sandyford v. Cheddle.  
Scot Ray v. Burslem High Lane.

##### Junior Division.—Section "A"

Northill Park v. Signall End.  
Nantwich v. Crewe Alexandra.  
Longton v. Burslem.  
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Silverdale.  
Norton v. Lock.  
Knypersley v. Great Chell.

##### Section "B."

Madeley v. Caverswall.  
Alsagers Bank v. Brindley Ford Wesleyans.  
Audley v. Kingsgrove.  
Betley v. Stone.  
Cheddle v. Sandyford.  
Burslem High Lane v. Onseley.

### CONGLETON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Cricket enthusiasts who attended the Congleton enclosure on Saturday were provided with a full afternoon's good batting, particularly from a Congleton standpoint. The opponents were Bollington II., and the home team, who batted first, ran up the huge total of 267 for the loss of four wickets. G. C. Higgs was again a forceful batsman, playing a masterly not out innings of 128, which included eighteen fours. He was ably assisted by R. Reynolds who hit up 74 runs, the pair recording 125 prior to being separated. Bollington's response was 155, to which T. Cooper contributed 62 and Joe Jackson 38. L. G. Coeka took four wickets for 33 runs for Congleton, who won by six wickets.

The Congleton second string visited Astle Park, Cheddle, on Saturday, when they achieved a victory by ten runs. Congleton collected a total of 92 and Astle Park 82 runs.

Trentham inflicted a defeat upon Mossley on the Trentham pitch. The home team batted first and registered 102 runs, W. E. Bourne (26), and E. R. G. Corn (20), being the leading scorers. For Mossley, H. Boulton took four wickets for three runs. Mossley failed to reach the total compiled against them by 30 runs. G. Atherton scored 21, H. Hammond 16, and H. Boulton 14.

Congleton Empire Mills won their match against Mow Cop, at Mow Cop. The home team were dismissed for 59 runs, F. Clar (22) and H. Wright (14) being the top-scorers. For the Mills XI, J. W. Elkin scored six for 20 runs and J. Hancock four for 37. The Congleton batsmen experienced no difficulty in knocking off the necessary runs for the loss of three wickets. Johnson played a fine innings for 57, and he had a good assistant in George Pickford, who obtained 20 runs. For Mow Cop, E. Willis took four for 17 runs.

On Wednesday, Congleton defeated Liverpool Casuals, Congleton scoring 246 for six wickets, to 118, totalled by Liverpool.

### SANDYFORD CRICKET CLUB.

#### New Pavilion to be Opened on Monday.

The Sandyford Cricket Club has been in need of a new pavilion for a number of years to take the place of the old one which was erected about 40 years ago. Many efforts were made to acquire a suitable building, the response financially being very liberal. The new building is now almost completed and will be formally declared open by the president of the club (Mr. George Baker) on Monday. The opening ceremony will be followed by a match, the following players promising to take part: J. H. Mayer, A. W. Ikin, E. Downing, F. J. Dale (Bignall End), W. H. Fitchford, K. Glenava (Porthill), G. E. Cooper, R. Hollowood, E. Cook, W. Briscoe (Burslem), F. Pickerill, F. W. Beardmore (Great Chell), H. Lawton (Congleton), R. Eplett (Kingsgrove).

### MID-WEEK CRICKET.

#### KNYPERSLEY KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

##### Second Round.

##### Pedagogues v. J. Lowe's XI.

PEDAGOGUES.—G. Lawton st Snape b Woolley 44, W. Boulton c Woolley b Evans 8, G. E. Cooper b Lloyd 18, J. Davies st Snape b Lloyd 8, J. H. Ellerton run out 0, W. Quinton c and b Lloyd 2, A. T. Rogers run out 0, B. Ford not out 6, T. Ball c and b Woolley 0, extras 6; total 115.

J. LOWE'S XI.—R. Snape c Ford b Law 4, E. Gilbert b Law 1, T. Gallimore run out 1, B. Lloyd b Cooper 0, J. Woolley c Law b Boulton 8, J. Lowe b Cooper 0, V. Evans b Cooper 0, A. Snape b Cooper 8, A. Barlow c Ford b Boulton 4, J. Austin b Cooper 0, W. Tomkinson b Boulton 0, extras 7; total 30.

##### Childerplay v. Fitting Shops.

CHILDREPLAY.—F. Mitchell c Pearson b Slaney 13, A. Caddy c Bailey b Slaney 9, F. Caddy b Pearson 19, J. Sutton b Slaney 0, W. Caddy c Bailey b Pearson 11, J. Grindy c Mitchell b Slaney 0, L. Adams c Triner b Pearson 0, D. Matthews b Bailey 11, J. Haydon st Mitchell b Bailey 0, extras 6; total 93.

FITTING SHOPS.—F. Pearson b Adams 0, R. Bostock b Adams 0, A. Triner c Sutton b T. Caddy 9, D. Martin run out 5, C. Bailey c Mitchell b T. Caddy 0, J. Sanderson run out 2, E. Trubshaw c Mitchell b Adams 0, Y. Walley lbw b Adams 15, A. Galley b T. Caddy 5, A. Mitchell c Caddy b Adams 12, B. Slaney st Mitchell b T. Caddy 9, extras 11; total 68.

##### Biddulph Labour Club v. Havana Mills.

LABOUR CLUB.—W. Stevenson b Usherwood 1, J. Reynolds c Ellison b Usherwood 23, A. Walleit c Myer b Usherwood 17, J. E. Gibson c Myer b Ellerton 44, G. Pemberton run out 27, F. Yates c and b Washington 4, H. Clayton not out 13, J. Nixon c Fletcher b Usherwood 8, W. Bailey c Washington b Usherwood 0, T. Price run out 0, D. Walker not out 0, extras 12; total 150.

HAVANA MILLS.—A. Gannon b Reynolds 2, J. Fletcher run out 2, T. Doughty b Reynolds 0, W. Myer c Reynolds b Yates 20, J. Washington c Bailey b Reynolds 1, J. Howell run out 3, J. Unsworth b Walleit 12, J. Barry c Gibson b Reynolds 1, E. Stott st Pemberton b Reynolds 4, A. Usherwood run out 0, F. Ellison b Reynolds 20, extras 1; total 68.

##### Packmoor v. L.M.S.

PACKMOOR.—J. Rhodes b Spode 55, G. Bourne not out 93, H. Whitley c and b Spode 29, G. Lawton not out 33, extras 11; total 221.

L.M.S.—H. E. Bourne lbw b Butler 23, H. Bayley b Butler 0, J. W. Banstow c Perks b Woolley 18, F. Stanway c Rhodes b Bourne 13, A. Pedley st Poole b Butler 0, W. Chesteron b Rhodes 0, J. Hambleton c and b Rhodes 3, S. Spode b Butler 1, W. Vickers b Bourne 1, R. Chesteron st Poole b Bourne 5, T. Banstow st Poole b Bourne 3, extras 1; total 73.

### CHEADLE AND DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CRICKET LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Cheadle C.E.	9	7	1	1	14
Cheadle Council	9	0	2	1	13
Cheadle R.C.	9	6	2	1	13
Kingsley	9	6	2	1	13
Fox	9	3	4	2	8
Oakmoor Council	9	3	6	0	6
Hollington	9	1	8	0	2
Upstones	9	1	8	0	2

##### RESULTS.

Cheadle C.E. 107, Hollington 22; Cheadle Council 51, Upstones 14; Fox 58, Kingsley 51; Cheadle R.C. 57, Oakmoor Council 39.

Best performances: Batting.—E. Whitley (Fox), 38; J. Swift (Kingsley), 34; T. Coxon (Cheadle C.E.), 20. Bowling.—T. Thorley (Cheadle C.E.), 8 for 6; Devonport (Cheadle Council), 5 for 6; Beardmore (Cheadle Council), 4 for 6; Powell (Cheadle R.C.), 7 for 10.

### N.S.E.S.A.A.

#### Tunstall District Cricket League

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Chell	9	8	1	0	16
Forster Street	8	6	2	0	12
Packmoor	10	4	6	0	8
Catholics	8	3	5	0	6
Summerbank	5	2	3	0	4
High Street	8	1	7	0	2

### FENTON & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Rough Close	8	4	2	0	12
Leyce	7	6	1	0	12
Fenton Baptist	7	5	1	1	11
Team	7	4	2	1	9
Longton Baptist	9	3	5	1	7
Florence Colliery II	8	2	5	1	5
Bucknall	7	2	4	1	5
Wolstanton Marsh	8	2	6	0	4
Longton "A"	7	0	4	3	3

##### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Leyce 85 for 4 wks, Wolstanton Marsh 43; Team 46, Longton Baptist 51; Longton "A" 91, Rough Close 107 (for 7 wks); Bucknall 79, Florence Colliery II 46.

Notable performances: Batting.—A. Smith (Rough Close) 45. Bowling.—W. Hough (Leyce) 7 for 13; G. Spender (Leyce) 3 for 8.

### UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

#### DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Leigh	9	7	0	2	16
Florence	10	6	1	3	15
Team	10	5	2	3	12
Kingsley	10	5	3	2	12
Stallington	11	5	4	2	12
Oakmoor	11	3	4	4	10
Uttoxeter	10	3	4	3	9
Alton	9	2	4	3	7
Hollington	10	1	8	1	3
Draycott	9	0	7	2	2

##### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Leigh 129, Uttoxeter 73; Alton 57, Kingsley 21; Hollington 29, Stallington 79; Draycott 38, Oakmoor 69; Florence 159, Team 74.

Notable performances: Batting.—F. Toft (Florence) 55. Bowling.—F. Harper (Uttoxeter), 3 for 8; G. Harrison (Kingsley), 4 for 12; C. Jackson (Kingsley), 3 for 12; J. Gribbles (Alton), 7 for 11; W. Smith (Stallington), 2 for 13; R. Stubbs (Stallington), 4 for 7; L. Ridge (Draycott), 4 for 13; P. Shildes (Oakmoor), 6 for 12; H. Walsh (Oakmoor), 3 for 11; L. Linton (Florence), 5 for 9.

#### DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	9	6	1	2	14
Stallington	8	6	1	1	13
Leigh	10	5	4	1	11
Oakmoor	3	4	3	1	9
Cresswell	9	4	4	1	9
Fulford	3	3	3	2	8
Alton	8	1	6	1	3
Hollington	8	0	7	1	1

##### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Kingsley 63, Leigh 45; Stallington 84 (for 6 wks), Alton 47; Oakmoor 141 (for 9 wks), Fulford 112; Cresswell 41 (for 7 wks), Hollington 12.

Notable performances: Bowling.—N. Blair (Stallington), 4 for 11; J. Welch (Leigh), 5 for 9; J. Hathaway (Kingsley), 3 for 9; C. A. Nicholls (Oakmoor), 6 for 20; C. Goodman (Cresswell), 7 for 5; R. Taylor (Cresswell), 5 for 7.

### SENTINEL CRICKET SHIELD

#### COMPETITION.—Third Round.

##### Porthill Park "A" v. Fenton Baptist.

The meeting of these teams at Porthill on Monday night should provide a game of more than usual interest. Porthill and Baptist are the present holders of the shield, and will no doubt make a great effort to retain possession of the beautiful trophy.

Wickets will be pitched at five o'clock, and Porthill will be represented as follows:—

Messrs. L. Baddley (captain), W. C. Washington, P. S. Briggs, F. W. Bliss, J. Glover, G. E. Poulson, J. N. Hodgkinson, A. Lloyd, R. Warburton, T. Parker and G. Ackley.



## CRICKET.

### STAFFS. v. CHESHIRE.

#### STAFFORDSHIRE'S FAULTY FIELDING AND GREAT RECOVERY.

Staffordshire took the strongest eleven of the season on paper to Crewe for the return fixture with Cheshire on Monday and Tuesday, and the home county was also well represented, though they gave a trial to one or two young players, including H. Hope, the Crewe Alexandra batsman. H. Goodwin, who has been hitting some brilliant innings for Birmingham University, and on Saturday played with Walsall in the Birmingham League, made his first appearance of the season in the Staffordshire team, and a trial was given to G. T. Worthington, one of the Norton brothers, two of whom are now playing with that club, and whose father kept wicket for Norton 30 years ago. G. T. is now living at and playing with Denaby Main in the Yorks. County. Barnes returned to the side. The weather on Monday was unpleasant, drizzling rain falling at frequent intervals up to three o'clock. Play was stopped for 25 minutes at 12.20, but this was the only delay, though the Staffordshire bowlers had to contend with a wet ball during the greater part of the Cheshire innings. That this lasted until almost 4.30, and realised 280 runs was the direct result of faulty fielding by the Staffordshire men, who had only themselves to thank for the fact that Cheshire were not quite cheaply dismissed.

Winning the toss, Cheshire opened with W. E. Jones and a young recruit in A. Guthrie, and it was a stroke of luck for the fielding side that Guthrie called his partner for too sharp a single with only 8 scored, and a quick return by Johnson saw Jones run out. Guthrie might have been caught at backward point by Howl off Sedgwick, but the Wolverhampton man made amends for his failure to get to this catch by bringing off a particularly good one a little later in the same position, and throughout he fielded with keenness. Two wickets were down for 27, but Wilson and Midgley added 72 before lunch, in which they were assisted by the drizzling rain, but still more by mistakes in the field. With his score at 9, Wilson, who is far too good a bat to offer favours to, should have been caught in the slips by Barnes from Sedgwick's bowling, but the great bowler failed to hold the catch, and the mistake proved terribly costly, for it was Wilson's skilful batting thereafter that put Cheshire on the road to success. Sedgwick returned the compliment by failing to take a sharp low chance in the slips off Barnes from Midgley when the left hander had only scored 5. Wilson drove with power, but his partner gave another chance when 17 to the wicket keeper off Lockett, who had relieved Sedgwick. The outcome of these errors was that at lunch only two wickets were down for 99.

Immediately on resuming, with Sedgwick and Lockett bowling, the left hander was well caught at the wicket, and Wilson, having got the 4 he needed to reach his 50, by means of a rather fluky stroke, was out to a great catch at deep mid on. Varcoe, diving forward and holding the ball close to the ground, 105-4-50 was the state of the telegraph at this point, but L. N. Jones and F. A. Harrison then enjoyed an extraordinarily lucky partnership, during which they added 138 in 75 minutes. The number of times that both men played the ball off the edge of the bat without losing their wickets was as surprising as it must have been galling to the bowlers. Time after time what were intended for drives skinned through over the slips or past the leg stump for quite undeserved fours, some good scoring strokes being naturally intermingled with these streaky uncertainties. For these gifts of fortune neither fielders nor bowlers could, of course, be blamed, but there were other favours of a tangible kind. Harrison appeared to be fortunate in the umpire's decision when the Staffordshire captain appealed for stumping him off Barnes, and Jones had something of a charmed life. With his score at 17, he gave Russell a chance behind the wicket from Sedgwick, and was missed by Barnes in the slips in the same over. Other distinct chances were given by the same batsmen from Barnes in the long field to Johnson, and from Platt to Howl in the slips. Barnes bowled with wretched luck, for he often beat the bat without hitting the wicket, whilst the good scoring strokes off him were few and far between.

Sedgwick also suffered greatly from unintentional boundaries, in addition to missed catches, and his first 18 overs yielded 77 runs for two wickets. He had come on for his third spell at 216, and his last six overs yielded five wickets for 15 runs. Keeping up his pace remarkably well, he yoked Harrison at 241, got Jones caught at the wicket at 258, and thereafter hit two wicket three times with fine balls. Cheshire were all out at tea-time, and, with reasonable accurate fielding, might have been dismissed for a greatly reduced total. Jones's hits included 13 fours, and Harrison got eight, but neither played any

thing like the polished cricket of Wilson after his early let-off. Cheshire got their runs in 3½ hours, and Staffordshire had an hour and forty minutes' batting before the drawing of stumps. Towards the close, the weather was brighter than at any other time during the day. Dennis made the ball bump in rather dangerous fashion, and it was in trying to get out of the way of his third delivery that Howl was unfortunate enough to give a catch to fine slip standing rather far back. One wicket without a run scored was a bad start, but H. Goodwin and Barnes then played unquestionably the best cricket of the day. Though the ball was getting up most awkwardly, they gave no semblance of a chance, and both executed delightful strokes. The young left hander fully confirmed the high opinion formed of him on his first appearance for the county in the two concluding matches last season. His foreing strokes were played without apparent effort, and yet had much power behind them. His low, hard driving of the fast Lawler was beautifully timed, and he got several fours by a forward stroke, which had something of a cut about it, in front of point. With a change of bowling, he failed to keep one from L. N. Jones down, and sent it fast back to the bowler for a good catch, having hit 41 out of 65 in fifty minutes. With Johnson and Barnes playing confidently and well, 30 were added before he was out to a surprising decision. He turned to play the ball to leg, and was obviously astonished when given out leg before. The last five minutes were disastrous to Staffordshire, for Varcoe was caught and bowled from the bumping ball, and Johnson's wicket foolishly thrown away, so that at the close Staffordshire, with five wickets down, required 53 to save a follow on.

On Tuesday, Staffordshire took the gifts of the gods with both hands, and, turning a measure of good for one to splendid account, accomplished a brilliant recovery and an unexpected and dramatic victory. There had been heavy rain during the night, and even the parched ground was considerably softened. Staffordshire required 59 to save the follow on, and had five wickets to go. Wilson was able to make the ball turn sharply, as well as swing in the wind, and he quickly got rid of Lutter and Sedgwick, though the latter was very unlucky, playing the ball with the full face of the bat on to his foot, from which it rebounded and removed the leg bail. Lockett skied one from the fast bowler, and eight wickets were down with 40 runs still wanted. G. T. Worthington played like a batsman of ability, and, with Platt also doing well, the pair added 29 before the amateur was taken in the slips. The Staffordshire Captain whipped in with 11 runs required, and got within 4 when he edged Vernon Hope through the slips to the boundary. Platt then did the trick with a lovely off drive from Wilson and Russell fell at deep mid on without addition. The follow on was thus saved by 1 run, just as Cheshire did in the corresponding match last year. And that one run had an incalculable bearing on the result, for Cheshire had to bat again while the wicket was still tricky, and collapsed before Barnes and Lockett, whereas the rapidly-drying pitch had to some extent, at least, lost its guile when Staffordshire set about the task of scoring 171 to win. Judging by what Barnes and Lockett had made the ball do, the odds seemed all against the batting side, but so well did H. Goodwin and Barnes bat, that they placed victory within easy reach before the second wicket fell. There was no doubt that the pitch had improved, but quite probably the excellence of the batting of this pair made it play easier than it really was, and the speedy loss of four wickets when once they were separated lent colour to this view.

To return briefly to the Cheshire second innings, Barnes's analysis scarcely did justice to the skill with which he bowled, for many of his leg breaks had the batsmen helpless, some at least of which must have been very near the stumps. Lockett also bowled with craft as well as accuracy. He made the ball come back very sharply, as when he completely beat F. A. Harrison's forward stroke, and he had one or two batsmen hopelessly late by unexpectedly flashing down his quick one. Vernon Hope made some difference to his analysis by hitting two fours and a two in the last over before being cleverly caught by Platt close in at short leg.

When Staffordshire faced their considerable task, Howl was deceived by a slow ball and was bowled off his pad at 16, but then was seen a gradual mastering of the Cheshire attack by sterling batting. The young left hander's defence was impeccable, and he put force behind his front of the wicket strokes, and generally timed them remarkably well. Some leg hits and cuts were delightfully easy, and his drives took a deal of stopping. His only fault was a tendency in driving not to go quite far enough to the ball, with the result that he lofted a few rather dangerously. He gave no chance, however, until he had completed a half century that was as brilliant as it was timely. Then he was let off twice from high balls, on 30 deep mid off being his

worst mistake. These chances not being taken, he went on to score 84 in two hours. Barnes made no mistake until he was out, and played a masterly game throughout. He hit seven fours, and Goodwin twelve fours and two threes. The pair scored 136 together in an hour and 35 minutes, and in the two innings compiled 201 in partnership. Johnson made the winning hit—a lusty four to leg from Wilson—and Staffordshire won a spectacular victory at 5.25.

Scores and analysis:—

CHESHIRE.—1st Innings.	
W. E. Jones run out	0
A. Guthrie c Howl b Sedgwick	14
Wilson c Varcoe b Lockett	50
A. W. Midgley c Russell b Sedgwick	21
L. N. Jones c Russell b Sedgwick	85
F. A. Harrison b Sedgwick	53
H. J. Beausire b Sedgwick	14
H. Hope b Sedgwick	13
C. Twenlow b Sedgwick	0
V. Hope run out	7
Dennis not out	0
Extras	23

Total 280

2nd Innings.	
W. E. Jones b Lockett	21
A. Guthrie b Barnes	5
Wilson b Lockett	12
A. W. Midgley c and b Lockett	1
L. N. Jones b Barnes	0
F. A. Harrison b Lockett	0
H. J. Beausire c Lutter b Barnes	2
H. Hope b Lockett	5
C. Twenlow c Lutter b Barnes	8
V. Hope c Platt b Lockett	10
Dennis not out	0
Extras	7

Total 71

STAFFS.—1st Innings.	
C. Howl c L. N. Jones b Dennis	0
H. Goodwin c and b L. N. Jones	41
Barnes lbw b Hope	35
J. W. Johnson run out	29
C. G. Varcoe c and b Dennis	10
Sedgwick b Lutter	2
D. P. Lutter b Wilson	0
A. Lockett c H. Hope b Dennis	6
G. T. Worthington c Harrison b Wilson	16
Platt not out	18
J. B. Russell c Midgley b V. Hope	6
Extras	13

Total 181

2nd Innings.	
C. Howl b V. Hope	2
H. Goodwin b Dennis	84
Barnes c L. N. Jones b Wilson	57
J. W. Johnson not out	25
C. G. Varcoe b Wilson	3
Sedgwick c L. N. Jones b Wilson	0
D. P. Lutter not out	0
Extras	15

Total (for five wks.) 173

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Cheshire.—1st Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	17	4	49	0
Sedgwick	24.1	5	92	7
Lockett	15	4	47	1
Worthington	5	0	17	0
Platt	12	0	52	0

Sedgwick bowled one no-ball.

2nd Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	13	3	30	4
Lockett	13	2	34	6

Staffs.—1st Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dennis	17	3	49	3
Wilson	22	8	42	3
V. Hope	9.2	0	39	2
L. N. Jones	12	2	38	1

2nd Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dennis	8.1	0	32	1
Wilson	14	4	46	3
V. Hope	7	0	21	1
L. N. Jones	6	0	15	0
W. E. Jones	11	0	38	0
Harrison	3	1	6	0

Dennis bowled one no-ball.

## CLUB CRICKET.

### STAFFORD C.C. v. ERDINGTON C.C.

This match, at Erdington on Saturday, was a much closer affair than the mere scores would indicate. On a wicket that did unexpected things, Stafford could only muster 70, of which H. J. Hollands by some courageous hitting got 23; but Erdington found it equally difficult to get runs, for they lost 5 wickets for 27, and the ninth man was out with the score 67. Scores:—

Stafford C.C.—W. T. White c Dudder b Lockett 0, J. T. W. Neville b Lockett 6, J. W. Hawley c and b Lockett 5, A. J. Ward c Dudder b Gwinnell 4, G. H.

Greatorex c Attwood b Gwinnell 9, C. A. Woodger c and b Lockett 5, H. J. Hollands c Widdowson b Lockett 23, S. H. Critchley b Lockett 3, H. R. White c Lockett b Gwinnell 1, S. W. Arrowsmith b A. Parkins 8, A. R. Greatorex not out 0, extra 1; total 70.

Erdington C.C.—J. Hindson lbw b Hollands 0, E. A. Rudman c Hollands b Critchley 21, A. Parkins c Arrowsmith b Critchley 4, W. T. Dudder c Greatorex b Hollands 0, E. Allday b Hollands 0, F. Parkins c Hollands b Hawley 33, P. Lockett c Critchley b Woodger 11, W. Widdowson not out 35, H. C. Jolly run out 6, H. Attwood b Hollands 2, J. Gwinnell c Neville b W. T. White 9, extras 7; total 123.

### STAFFORD 2nd XI. v. ERDINGTON 2nd XI.

At Stafford, on Saturday, Stafford 2nd XI, 101 (W. S. Macfarlane 29, J. P. Ellsmoor 20; Campbell 7 wickets for 23). Erdington 2nd XI, 139 for nine wickets (Campbell 40, Emblem 24, Bedworth 23, Codling 21 not out).

### LICHFIELD v. LICHFIELD GARRISON

Lichfield's first eleven met with defeat on their own ground on Saturday at the hands of Lichfield Garrison, the visitors making 163 to Lichfield's 114. For Lichfield, A. Slater took three wickets for 33 runs, and for the Garrison Lieut. Niven took five wickets for 23 runs. Scores:—

Garrison.—Lt. Dawson b Slater 13, Lt. Thompson b Slater 3, Lt. Niven c Baker b Oram 25, Capt. Bain b Slater 2, Lt. Wilkins st. Dalton b Knight 31, Pte. Harratt b Fitzgeorge 7, Capt. Halton run out 38, Sergt. Slade st. Dalton b Stephenson 13, Pte. Boylett c Mann b Stephenson 17, Pte. Martin not out 7, Pte. Coombes run out 1, extras 11; total 163.

Lichfield.—R. B. Stephenson b Harratt 2, H. M. Fitzgeorge b Lt. Niven 5, W. Plant b Niven 0, F. H. Rudgard lbw b Harratt 44, W. Mann b Boylett 20, Lt. Dalton lbw b Boylett 1, G. Knight b Niven 21, P. Oram lbw b Niven 0, R. Moore c Dawson b Niven 4, H. Baker b Harratt 3, A. Slater not out 0, extras 14; total 114.

### 2nd NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGT. v. LICHFIELD II.

Lichfield 2nd XI. achieved an easy victory on Saturday at Whittington Barracks against the 2nd North Staffordshire Regiment, whom they defeated with a score of 138 for eight wickets against the soldiers' 67. For Lichfield N. Hartshorne took four wickets for 8 runs, G. Ellett two for 29, and G. Ryan three for 35. Scores:—

North Staffordshire.—E. Houghton st. Cooke b Ellett 8, Watkins c Plant b Ryan 2, McDermott c Cooke b Ryan 4, Lt. Myers c and b Ellett 13, Baker run out 3, Lt. Berry b Ryan 2, Sergt. Roberts c Cooper b Hartshorne 19, Williams b Hartshorne 8, Molloy b Hartshorne 0, Yates b Hartshorne 2, Halford not out 3, extras 3; total 67.

Lichfield.—R. E. Briault b Yates 4, E. R. Standley b McDermott 1, N. Hartshorne b Yates 24, W. Plant c Roberts b Yates 9, L. Perry c Williams b Halford 0, R. Cooke (retired) 56, G. Ryan c Berry b Watkins 9, F. L. Cooper b Halford 9, G. Ellett not out 12, W. A. Waite b Watkins 0, J. S. Brown not out 7, extras 7; total (for eight wickets) 138.

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Staffordshire's Fine Win at Crewe.

OF THE FIVE MATCHES which Staffordshire have played so far this season, three have been won outright while first innings points in the other two have been lost on one occasion and gained on the other. This is a better record than was established by this time last year, when two games had been lost outright. One of these was against Cheshire at Porthill. This season Cheshire have been twice defeated, first at Porthill by two wickets, and again this week, at Crewe by five wickets. This latter match was one of the most interesting in which Staffordshire have been concerned for a long time. It is not often that fortunes fluctuate to such a degree or that such a dramatic recovery is made when defeat seems certain. It illustrated the fighting qualities of the Staffordshire team and the spirit that never admits that a match is lost until it is won.

On a hard wicket that was a joy to the batsmen the Cestrians hit out merrily. The only bowler who was really effective against them was Herbert Sedgwick, and it was a long while before he could make the ball do all that he wanted it to. His first two wickets, before lunch on the first day cost him 61 runs, but he was much more effective when play was resumed and claimed five more wickets at an average cost of six runs each. He should have met with earlier success and the other bowlers, too, would have finished with better figures had there been greater keenness in the field. A surprising number of catches were put down, and curiously enough, the bowlers themselves were conspicuous among the culprits. Cheshire made the most of the good fortune that was thus presented to them, and confronted Staffordshire with a big task. To add to the visitors' troubles, rain fell plentifully during the night, while next morning the sun and a high wind set themselves to prepare a wicket that would delight the hearts of the bowlers. This combination of the elements came within an ace of dealing out disaster to the Staffordshire men, and only a plucky stand at a critical moment enabled them to avoid the follow-on. Even so, they were only saved by one run, but it was a run of inestimable value, for if the side had had to follow on they could have hoped for very little on the drying wicket. Fortunately for them, they were able to transfer the handicap to Cheshire, whose batsmen could do nothing against the bowling of Aaron Lockett and Barnes, who made the most of the gift the gods had sent. The result was that, soon after lunch on the second day, Staffordshire found themselves in the position of requiring only 171 runs to win. That could not be regarded as an easy task in the circumstances, although when H. Goodwin and Barnes came together after the fall of the first wicket, they made it appear to be. Between them they got 135 of the required runs in an hour and thirty-five minutes, and put the issue beyond doubt. Goodwin's 84 included twelve 4's and two 3's, while in collecting his 57, Barnes hit seven boundaries and a 3. When they were separated there were still eight wickets in hand, and only twenty runs wanted. That the bowling was not quite so easy as they made it look may be judged from the fact that three more wickets fell before victory was complete. But on the whole it was a wonderful recovery and a fine win.



# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burslem	13	10	1	2	22
Signal End	13	9	3	1	20
Crewe Alexandra	13	8	4	1	17
Port Hill Park	13	8	4	1	16
Norton	13	6	4	3	15
Leek	13	6	5	2	14
Longton	13	4	4	5	13
Wentworth	13	4	5	4	13
Knyppersley	13	1	7	5	8
Great Chell	13	2	8	3	7
Silverdale	13	2	8	3	7
L.M. & S. Ry (Stoke)	13	0	9	4	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 299 for nine; Crewe Alexandra, 37.  
Burslem, 231 for nine (dec.); L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 104.  
Silverdale, 148 for seven; Leek, 138.  
Norton, 193; Knyppersley, 127.  
Port Hill Park, 188 for seven (dec.); Great Chell, 47.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Madeley	13	11	2	0	22
Handyford	13	7	5	1	18
Kids Grove	13	7	5	1	17
Stoke	13	6	4	3	16
Alsagers Bank	13	5	4	4	14
Chendale	13	5	4	4	14
Burslem High Lane	13	4	6	3	11
Ashcombe Park	13	4	7	2	10
Audley	13	3	6	4	10
Caverswall	13	2	7	4	10
Beest Bay	13	4	7	2	10
Betley	13	3	9	1	7

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Alsagers Bank, 162; Caverswall, 76.  
Ashcombe Park, 75; Audley, 67.  
Kids Grove, 109; Betley, 75.  
Handyford, 289; Stoke, 121 for seven.  
Chendale, 166; Burslem High Lane, 59.  
Madeley, 134 for seven; Beest Bay, 59.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Port Hill Park	13	7	1	5	19
Wentworth	13	7	3	3	18
Norton	13	7	3	3	17
Silverdale	13	6	3	4	15
Knyppersley	13	6	3	4	15
Burslem	13	5	4	4	14
Leek	13	5	4	4	14
Signal End	13	5	4	4	14
Longton	13	4	7	2	12
Crewe Alexandra	13	3	6	4	10
Great Chell	13	3	7	3	9
L.M. & S. Ry (Stoke)	13	0	10	3	3

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Wentworth, 32 for nine (dec.); Signal End, 133.  
Crewe Alexandra, 99 for six; Longton, 65.  
Burslem, 218 for nine; L.M. and S. Ry (Stoke), 59.  
Silverdale, 143; Leek, 112.  
Knyppersley, 108; Norton, 109.  
Great Chell, 138; Port Hill Park, 115.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans	13	10	1	2	22
Burslem High Lane	13	9	2	2	20
Caverswall	13	9	2	2	20
Onsley	13	6	4	3	14
Kids Grove	13	6	4	3	14
Betley	13	6	4	3	14
Chendale	13	6	4	3	14
Madeley	13	6	4	3	14
Stoke	13	6	4	3	14
Alsagers Bank	13	3	7	3	9
Audley	13	1	9	3	5
Handyford	13	0	11	2	2

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 127; Alsagers Bank, 80.  
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 111; Audley, 31.  
Kids Grove, 101; Betley, 100.  
Stoke, 191 for six (dec.); Handyford, 101.  
Burslem High Lane, 51; Chendale, 69.  
Madeley, 114; Onsley, 87.

LAST SATURDAY'S GAMES were rich in tall scoring and titillating incidents, and even the juniors revelled in the riot of run-getting. Four teams were able to pass the second century, and others would probably have done so but for necessity to make declarations. These instances, however, did not include the biggest aggregate of the afternoon, for Burslem's reserves took advantage of the inability of their L. M. and S. Railway visitors to get beyond the three-hundred stage, and one of them created history by helping himself to chalks to a prodigious extent. This player was Jack Fenton, who made spiritless opponents taste the bitterness of humiliation by running up such a mammoth score as 170. This effort formed a bizarre garniture to two other centuries in which Burslem players were concerned, these coming from G. E.

Cooper (113, not out) and B. Cotton (101, not out). By very fine cricket the pair had an unbroken first wicket partnership of 221 runs, a feat which conjured up recollections of a similar performance by E. H. Bourne and H. Dearing, for the old Fenton Club. To complete the tally of gladsome individual doings the secondary seniors also had a matter of three figures, L. Shuffield, of Alsagers Bank, punishing the attack of Caverswall to the extent of 108 runs. Four centuries in one afternoon made good going, and signified the wonderful effect of sunshine on the pursuit of batting. A prime incident of the day was the first defeat of the Port Hill Park reserves, an event foreshadowed by some previous wobbly doings by the champions of the juniors. The downfall was at the instance of lowly Great Chell, who are to be congratulated on having put the check to a long course of invincibility. Another monumental matter was the licking administered to Crewe Alexandra by Longton, whose bowlers must surely be regarded as the hobgoblins of the Cheshire team. The Alexandra's total of 37 was the lowest in all senior games, but the Audley second team fared even worse, their aggregate being six runs less. The visit of Stone to Sandyford's somewhat confined territory furnished the heaviest run-getting match of the series, 442 runs being gathered for the loss of seventeen wickets. Amongst close results may be cited the one chalk margin by which Kids Grove's second team disposed of their Betley opponents, and the six runs victory which the improving Knyppersley reserves gained over their Norton rivals. Clubs to figure as dual conquerors were Burslem, Silverdale, Kids Grove and Madeley and following their period of stress, Silverdale earned felicitations by their two capital successes.

### FRIGHT FOR CHAMPIONS.

The largest crowd of the season attended at Wentworth to see Bignall End disport themselves, and most of the spectators had gratification by seeing the champions in a tangle from which they could not extricate themselves until the eleventh hour. The absolute matter which determined victory and defeat was the difference in the fielding qualities of the sides, for whereas Wentworth were guilty of some bad blunders, Bignall End missed nothing; whilst the late arrival of H. Smith caused the home team to be an outfielder short whilst the first 50 runs were put on. The chief stands for the Boon Hill men were made by A. E. Bratby (11), and A. W. Ikin (42)—53 for the first wicket—and J. H. Mayer (34) and F. J. Dale—66 for the seventh wicket. Ikin was lucky enough to be missed in the first over, after scoring a fourer, and Dale had an escape quite early in his innings. W. E. Maybury was by far the most effective of the Wentworth bowlers, claiming seven wickets for 77 runs. F. W. Slight (43) and H. Gidman (32) gave Wentworth a hopeful start by putting on 39 for the first partnership, and Maybury and T. W. Stevenson afterwards did so well that 150 was signalled with five wickets in hand. This state of things roused A. Lockett and J. Burgess to a supreme effort, and, after the stubborn pair had been parted, the attack gradually got on top. Maybury played finely for his 53 runs, and Stevenson's methods were equally meritorious whilst running up 25. Lockett finished with six wickets for 74, and Burgess bowled his swingers to good purpose, having four victims for 26. A feature of Bignall End's outwork was the brilliant catch by which Burgess disposed of J. B. Swindale, a left-handed capture at silly point which followed an agile drive.

### CREWE'S CALAMITY.

The Alexandra's visit to Dresden furnished Longton with their first home success of the season, and the ground players were in such fine fettle as to provide a really scrupulous feast for their supporters. Longton lacked J. W. Johnson and W. Hine, and Crewe were short of Fred Walker and J. Brownridge, the sides being otherwise fully representative. The wicket was an excellent one, and the Alexandra had the first use of it, a fact which makes their effacement the more inexplicable. Crewe's scoring strokes were confined to 16—seven boundaries and nine singles, and as wicket-

keeper J. Skelthorne kept a clean sheet run-getting finished at 37, of which Munro Walker claimed 17. The last five wickets dropped for six runs, and the whole debacle was induced by brilliant bowling and safe catching. Alfred Smith and H. Brassington bowled splendidly, their figures being six for 17 and four for 20, respectively. Smith has rarely, if ever bowled better, keeping a perfect length, coming off the pitch a bit faster than usual, and doing just enough to beat the bat. No wonder that the Alexandra were involved in confusion! Brassington was also a bowler of length, and he had an animate abettor in L. Collis, whose dexterous catching helped him to three of his four wickets. Longton lost one wicket, that of G. Edwards (33), before the match

was won, but in the ensuing play the visitors' bowlers had a sultry time. E. Owens (31) and R. J. Hallen (69) put on 47 for the second wicket, Hallen and Smith accumulated 75 for the third—Smith running up 39 by clever all-round shots—and Skelthorne (43) doing most of the run-getting whilst the total was taken from 138 to 191 for the fourth, at which stage Hallen returned. This batsman had several escapes, but showed very promising form whilst getting 69, including 11 boundaries. Longton have two useful recruits in Owen and Hallen. Of the rest, Collis got 23 (not out), mostly by powerful straight drives. Hartley, with four for 58, had the best bowling figures. The Crewe fielding never sparkled, but it never got really slack, and the interest of the spectators was such that not many of the crowd left before the stumps were drawn.

### ANOTHER RAILWAY DISASTER.

Burslem spectators are very enthusiastic just now, and they treated the L. M. and S. Railway people to their best "gate" of the season, whilst their heroes gave the home players "socks," emitting their hip and thigh. The great matter of the one-sided game was, of course, the colossal stand of G. S. Cooper and E. Cotton, who did so much that none of their colleagues had opportunity for a batting turn. Now the Railwaymen aver that both players were lucky in being allowed to occupy the creases so long; Burslem maintain that only one real opportunity of getting rid of a batsman came along, and this was when Cotton gave a hard chance to the stumper when his score was 98 or perhaps thereabouts, as his total was 101, and his last two strokes a four and a two. But, whatever scratches barely disfigured the joint scoutcheon, there is no doubt that both Cooper and Cotton gave a magnificent display, and that their cricket revealed full knowledge of defence and versatile scoring strokes. Equipped in such manner, Cooper counted 15 fours, one three and nine couples in his 113 (not out), and Cotton had 12 fours, two threes and six twos in his 101 (not out). The torment of the Railway bowlers is signified by the fact that not one of the 49 overs failed to provide runs for the bat. The disconsolate home players gave a feeble show with the bat, and the brightest items of their venture were a well-hit 28 from T. Ball, and a plucky last wicket stand by H. Churchman (nine, not out), and W. Hill (11). Evans Cook had six wickets for 44, E. A. Oliver two for 14, and R. Hollowood two for 21. Evans Cook secured his fiftieth wicket of the season during the innings, and it was a fitting circumstance that brotherly co-operation helped him to get it. The Railway players were opposed to a much better and far more experienced lot of cricketers, so who shall blame them that their failure was absolute?

### BULLY FOR SILVERDALE.

Silverdale's second win should give the team renewed ardour, for it was gained in excellent fashion from a strong team. Leek's batting was marked by consistency rather than brilliancy for no man failed to score. Six reached doubles, and 26 from J. Pointon was the highest individual innings. The best stand was for 39 runs, by Cotton (21) and Pointon, for the third wicket. It was unfortunate that promising partnerships were closed by two cases of run out. J. Whalen had five wickets for 56, and A. Charlesworth two for 34. A capital stand by W. Lowe (45) and C. F. Rushton (32) virtually determined the issue in Silverdale's favour, the pair carrying the aggregate from 19 for one to 94 for two. J. B. Street afterwards settled Leek's flickering hopes by a well hit 22. V. Astbury, with four for 53, was the most effective of the visiting bowlers. Each team lacked the usual captain, and E. Groom was another notable absentee.

### NORTON KNOCK KNYPPERSLEY.

Norton had little trouble in accounting for their Knyppersley rivals, who were not enamoured of a pitch which had a sporty

appearance, though it did not disconcert the home players. Knypersley did well to get six wickets down for 72 runs, and it was a stand by S. Smith and R. Hunt which turned the game in Norton's favour, the twain adding just 50 for the seventh partnership. Hunt had a goodly share of fortune whilst collecting 35, but Smith played excellent cricket for his 61, getting his runs by fine strokes all round the wicket. H. Bibby was much the best of the five Knypersley bowlers, even though his three wickets cost 67 runs. The visitors opened badly, half the side returning for 35 chalks, and there was no recovery until the last pair were together. Of the early men only H. E. Bourne (18) was useful, and he was missed in the slips from the first ball sent down to him, and was always very uncomfortable. The forlorn stand was made by W. Whitehead (33 not out) and F. Finney (18), and it provided 43 runs. Whitehead played a fine game, and was never perturbed by the close attentions of the phalanx of fielders. Hunt bowled very well, and had five wickets for 49 runs, whilst A. Jolley had four for 70.

#### CHELL'S SUICIDAL POLICY.

Great Chell contributed to their complete overthrow by Porthill Park by presenting their opponents with the first batting turn. The policy which begot such a procedure was a very mistaken one, for any possibility that a draw might eventuate from a long tenure of the wicket by the home team had more than its counterpoise in the certainty that the pitch would be influenced by ordinary wear and tear. Chell commenced all right by getting three wickets down cheaply, but their doom was sealed by the long connection of A. A. Bickerton and W. H. Fitchford, which, for the fourth wicket, took the aggregate from 39 to 124. Bickerton then making a tame stroke which gave the bowler an easy catch. After a quiet start, Bickerton had exhibited excellent form whilst taking his score to 76—nine fours. Fitchford remained to carry out his bat for 54. A trifle uncertain at the beginning, he gradually developed his real game, and his return to form was grateful and comforting. He counted eight boundaries, by clever strokes on both sides of the wicket. G. Fitchford, three for 50, was the most effective Chell bowler. The fielding was good during a long spell, but it fell away in the later stages of the outing. Its prime time was the very smart catch by which E. J. Barber disposed of J. R. Parkes. The visitors' batting was mediocre, the players being clearly nonplussed by Heap's deliveries and somewhat terrorised by J. Durber's. The fast bowler failed to find a length, and a lot of his deliveries flew about in dangerous fashion. He had two wickets for 23. Heap bowled craftily and with precision, and his work was good value for his record of eight wickets for 15. S. Bravford, who went in first wicket down, took out his bat for nine, and played very pluckily. He had some luck, besides some nasty knocks.

#### THE OTHER SENIOR GAMES.

Slackness on the part of Caverswall's fielders had a lot to do with the easy victory of Alsagers Bank. Many chances were missed, and several of them were offered by L. Shuffelbotham, who made 109. Despite its blemishes this was a good innings, and its enterprising character called for some of fortune's favours. Caverswall's only batsman of distinction was J. Fearn, who played sound cricket for 29. The Bank's chief bowler was F. Proctor, who had five wickets for 21, and bowled really well. He was ably supported by G. W. Beech—three for 32. Caverswall's bowling was a case of "love's labour lost" for lack of backing by the fielders prevented the attackers having proper results from their efforts. F. Wakelin took five wickets for 54, and J. Utting had three for 19.

The start of Ashcombe Park's adventure at Audley did not suggest victory for the visitors, the first three wickets dropping for 13. What proved to be redemption came from the batting of F. James (21), F. Furnston (14) and C. Phillips, but the total of 75 was not one calculated to arouse alarm. That it was sufficient was due to the distinctive bowling of C. Davis and J. Goldstraw, who had seven wickets for 29 and two for 16 respectively. The bulk of Audley's batting was done by A. J. Colley (16) and F. Darlington (26), who were associated in a third wicket stay which appeared to have ensured a win for their side. Darlington was also prominent with the ball, taking four wickets for 31, figures which were just beaten by H. Mayer's four for 27.

Betley have fallen on hard times, and their defeat by Kidsgrove was their fourth successive loss. Most of their men found the Kidsgrove bowling far too good for them, and the only progression of much account was made during the fifth wicket connection of J. Amps (25) and E. Jones (11). The

stand furnished 50 runs, but the rest of the innings was a case of going and returning, the last five wickets dropping for a paltry dozen. E. Hadley had four wickets for 12, S. Broad three for 17 and F. Timmis two for 18. The Clough Hall people commenced feebly, but H. Cooper (36) and E. Hadley (18) put them on the royal road by gathering 43 for the fourth wicket, and, although three other players did very little, the game was won with three wickets standing. In the remaining play Broad scored 21 by lively cricket. Five Betley bowlers got wickets, the best figures belonging to W. Chell—four for 24—and E. Apin—three for 14.

An exceptionally interesting game was witnessed at Sandycroft, where the bat obtained complete ascendancy over the ball. Sandycroft were fortunate enough to get first knock, and they took full advantage of the privilege, their score of 259 being the highest total recorded against Stone since they fell from the higher division. They have themselves to blame for their long outing, for their ground fielding was poor, and eight catches were missed. For example, Sandycroft's last man put up a "sitter" when he had made two, but it was unaccountably dropped, with the sequel that more than 60 runs were added. The sting was taken out of the bowling by G. Bourne, who, as an opener batsman, played sound cricket for 30, and A. Bourne afterwards batted cleverly for 45. The highest score came from A. Hall, who hit up 85 in happy-go-lucky fashion. He was given three lives in his forceful effort, which finished in "fireworks" when he hit 20 from one over. In all, 72 of his runs came by boundaries. M. Cotton had some good forcing shots in his 24. The Stone bowling lacked vim and guile, as may be implied from the fact that the runs were got in 140 minutes. Stone's opening indicated that there was an outside chance of the runs being hit off, but check, came by way of the grand bowling of A. Bourne, who, having once got his length, kept one end in a state of defence, and though liberties were occasionally taken at the other end a win for the visitors was out of the question. G. F. Crawshaw played attractive cricket for 46, G. Reece was forceful in getting 25, and F. Ravenscroft batted well for 30, but Stone had a fright when their seventh wicket fell at 177, for E. J. Johnson had left the ground, and not much was expected from the "tail-enders." Fortunately E. Slyn and C. H. Matthews were equal to requirements. P. R. Sheppard (18), who faced a lot of A. Bourne's bowling, played a fine defensive innings, in spite of receiving several nasty raps on the fingers. Bourne was bowling throughout the innings, sending down 32 overs, and maintaining his length wonderfully well.

At Cheadle the home team made a good start against High Lane by running up 31 for the first wicket, and, after three other wickets had gone quickly, a fine stand was made by A. J. Whitehurst (31) and H. Capewell (41), their praiseworthy batting carrying the total from 46 to 117. E. Gregory afterwards got 18 (not out) in sportive style, his association with T. Finney (15) realising 32 runs. High Lane's fielding had no glory about it, and the batsmen were helped by several missed catches. G. Skellam had five wickets for 52 and W. Mould three for 38. The visitors' batting was painfully feeble, not a man showing capacity to cope with the bowling of Gregory and W. Brough, and the top score was Mould's nine (not out). Gregory had seven wickets for 17, and Brough two for 16, the last named having eight maidens in his 11 overs. Cheadle were keener in the field than usual, and their bowlers were encouraged by the improvement.

Madeley were too powerful for Scot Hay, who made a game struggle after losing seven wickets for 28 runs. The regeneration of their batting came from the good deeds of L. Bloor and N. Frost who scored 30 and 15 (not out), respectively. Madeley's main bowlers were T. Stubbs, six for 33, and E. Mayer, three for 17. The home side lost four wickets for 49, but the partnership of Stubbs (36) and A. Beech, the fifth pair, did not conclude until the match had reached the "tie" stage. A. Farnival, two for 18, and Bloor, two for 26, fared best of seven Scot Hay men who had bowling turns.

#### JUNIOR DIVISION GAMES.

The hopes of championship honours entertained by Nantwich were enhanced by their ready victory over Lignall End, coupled with the little affair at Chell. Their big total had its main founder in G. H. Mayer, who played a bright innings of 77 (not out). His leading helpers were the Rev. J. Pearce, B. Mills and L. Moulton, who each reached the twenties. Lignall End's best bowler was E. Johnson, who, in such a long innings, performed wonderfully well by capturing six wickets for 38 runs. The best of the losing batsmen was A. Henshall, who showed sound form for 50. L. Haighton took six wickets

for 45, and in doing so brought his season's "bag" up to 68, in 13 matches. By beating Loughton the Alexandria gained their first victory out of seven tries. The originator of it was W. Davies, who took five wickets for 27 runs, 21 from F. Audley being Loughton's highest score. Crews lost four men for 28, but H. McBride (18) and F. Oates (23) pulled the game round, and P. Wilbraham (17, not out) and J. Meakin (16, not out) caused the victory to be an easy one. For the losing side A. Bradbury took three wickets for 23. The innings of L.M.S. Railway, at Cobridge, was played in two sections, Burslem's opening batsmen retiring from the wickets to allow the laggard visitors to have their turns. L. Fuller had a decent stay for 14 (not out), but his comrades were helpless against the bowling of A. Carlidge—five for 15—and M. Baker—four for 21. The rest of the play was a continuation of the "slaughter of the innocents," J. H. Hodgkiss (67) and Jack Fenton putting on 142 for Burslem's first wicket, and the fun went on ad libitum. Fenton's flashing flail earned him 170 runs, 140 of which came by boundaries. Fours were fashionable throughout the piece, producing 244 of the 303 chalks which Burslem gathered with the bat. A. Harris did well to claim four wickets for 46. In spite of 23 from E. Lowe, six Silverdale wickets fell to Leek for 64 runs, but salvation came by a creditable stand by H. Ford and C. Edge, who put on 52 for the seventh partnership. Ford batted very carefully for 36 (not out), seeing all but one of his colleagues make the return journey; whilst Edge had eight fours in his capital 38. The most effective Leek bowler was H. Walmsley, four for 43. Only two Leek men had much success as run-getters, P. H. Bradley scoring 33 and G. M. Fenton 17. E. Lowe claimed five wickets for 30, and B. Handy three for 18. Knypersley beat Norton with two wickets in hand, chiefly through the agency of J. Bedson (36), T. Bibby (18, not out), and J. Boon, who took four wickets for 31. The losers—who had two men run out—lost their first seven men for 47, and the players who brought the aggregate to a point which gave the side a chance were H. Higgins (35), W. Beddows (40) and J. Tagguley (11, not out). A. Evans, with four for 44, came out the best of Norton's bowlers. Great Chell owed their surprising success over Porthill Park to some good batting by A. Birtles (45) and A. Copeland (41), the twain adding 55 for the seventh wicket. The visitors' batting was decidedly streaky, and it was left to the "tail" to try to win the game. B. S. Briggs (18), H. Gleaves (29) and L. R. Cooper (12, not out) did their best, but not quite sufficient. J. Taylor claimed five wickets for 37 runs; and, for the losers, J. J. Evenson had five for 56.

Caverswall had no trouble in accounting for Alsagers Bank, whose one prominent batsman was P. Proctor, who collected 26. F. Barker took four wickets for 21, and R. Dunn finished off the innings by claiming four victims in the course of 11 balls, for two singles. W. Grice (36) and Dunn (26) settled the Bank by running up 65 for Caverswall's second wicket. R. Machin left his Brindley Ford colleagues little to do in their match with Audley, for he scored 60—nine fours and as many couples and afterwards captured six wickets for 10 runs. Such a dual feat was too much for Audley. M. Jones batted well for Berley against Kidsgrove, his 31 being more than any three of his fellows could muster. As he also took four wickets for 18 he was not responsible for his team's narrow defeat. Although E. Goodwin (18), E. Baddeley (17) and S. Johnson (19) scored well, Kidsgrove needed four notches when their last player went to the crease. Goodwin accomplished other useful work by taking five wickets for 34. Stone secured a comfortable win over Sandycroft. W. Ravenscroft batted well for 59 (not out), and was ably supported by C. Wood (47) and P. C. Dutton (35). The visitors' best bowler was F. James—four for 45. Only M. Baker, sen. (41) could do anything with the Stone attack, the next highest score being "Mr. Extras," with 29. K. Allen had four wickets for 23, and T. Bagley four for nine. Careful cricket got High Lane a respectable total in their game with Cheadle, whose fielders were "slackers," several catches being dropped. A. Gaskell, with 24, was High Lane's top-notcher, and J. Fieldhouse, with four for 19, was Cheadle's best bowler. When Cheadle batted Fieldhouse hit well for 34, but the help he got was negligible. The winners were smart in the field, and S. Durber bowled well to take five wickets for 11 runs. Two players were chiefly concerned in Madeley's victory over Onneley, J. Onsley getting 41 by capital batting, and S. Heath disposing of seven wickets for 22, in addition to making 21 with the bat. For the losers H. Wrench and H. Bedson scored 34 and 33 (not out), respectively, and Bedson also secured three wickets for 27.



## NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

**Senior Division.—Section "A."**  
 Knypersley v. Bignall End; Messrs. Byrne and Coadiffe.  
 Porthill Park v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Holmes and Ward.  
 Nantwich v. Burslem; Messrs. T. Smith and Birles.  
 Longton v. Silverdale; Messrs. L. H. Bagley and Stevenson.  
 L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Leek; Messrs. Cox and Crockett.  
 Norton v. Great Chell; Messrs. Downs and Kellett.

**Section "B."**  
 Burslem High Lane v. Caverswall; Messrs. A. Holdcroft and Mayer.  
 Madeley v. Aschcombe Park; Messrs. Penzell and Buckley.  
 Alingers Bank v. Kidsgrove; Messrs. Tinsley and Statham.  
 Audley v. Stone; Messrs. Lyth and Green.  
 Beley v. Sandford; Messrs. Vizards and Bullock.  
 Chedale v. Scot Hay; Messrs. Rowlands and F. Smith.  
**Junior Division.—Section "A."**  
 Bignall End v. Knypersley; Messrs. Bostock and A. Smith.  
 Crewe Alexandra v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Gregory and Boulton.  
 Burslem v. Nantwich; Messrs. Farrington and Shindler.  
 Silverdale v. Longton; Messrs. Salmen and Latham.  
 Leek v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. R. Butters and Wright.  
 Great Chell v. Norton; Messrs. Coates and Furnival.  
**Section "B."**  
 Caverswall v. Burslem High Lane.  
 Brindley Ford Wesleyans v. Madeley.  
 Kidsgrove v. Alingers Bank.  
 Stone v. Audley.  
 Sandford v. Beley.  
 Oneley v. Chedale.

**BY LOSING** the return fixture with Bignall End, at Ellighfield, Leek suffered its third successive defeat, and they have fallen into fifth position in the N.B. League, eight points behind Burslem, present leaders.

They certainly fielded a far from depressing eleven on Saturday, but, bearing in mind the easy win at Silverdale, it was hardly expected that the visitors would reverse the result, and record their second success of season at the expense of the Leek club.

Leek had the advantage of first use of a wicket, but beyond a breezy stand of 36 by J. Pounton (88) and J. Cotton (21) for third wicket, the batting lacked distinction and they were dismissed in a couple of hours for 138 runs.

This total singularly enough, was the 41 with which Leek won at Silverdale, although on that occasion they passed the Silverdale total of 77, for the loss of four wickets.

The weakness of Leek's attack was exploited by W. Lowe (46) and C. F. Rush (32), this pair paving the way to Silverdale's ultimate victory by putting on 65 runs for second wicket in just over an hour.

Leek appeared to have a sporting chance when this prolific partnership was broken by V. Astbury, as the next few wickets fell cheaply, and with six wickets down, the stand stood at 117.

Another good stand, however, by J. Street (28) and W. Heath (12), finally turned the scale in favour of Silverdale, and although Street was run out in attempting the win, the next wicket saw the match won.

## BURSLEM'S BRILLIANCE.

What a great day last Saturday was Burslem Cricket Club! Both teams—senior and juniors—accomplished such brilliant performances that they will be remembered many a long day in the annals of local cricket.

The notable feature of the seniors match at the County Ground, Stoke, was the great wicket unbroken partnership, which produced the fine total of 221 in two hours, when innings was declared. B. Cotton and G. Cooper were the players responsible, and their individual contributions of 101 and 113 (not out) were grand achievements. This stand is a record for the premier league, but it was an accomplishment that brought honour to club, of which they can feel justly proud. This was Cotton's best effort of his career, in fact, in serious cricket, he had before reached the half-century mark.

Cotton, who is the son of another Burslem stalwart, is one of those unassuming

personalities on the playing fields, and a batsman of distinctive ability. Cool innings must also rank as the best of career, and this popular sportsman has delighted. Everyone connected with club was most enthusiastic about this performance.

The Railwaymen's innings did not reach the Burslem total, their full toll of runs 104. Evans Cooke again bowled splendidly and captured six wickets. Incidentally, fifth of these was his fifteenth for the season; curiously enough, it was his brother Albert, who assisted in obtaining the hon by bringing off a marvellous catch.

Whilst the seniors were doing well from home, the juniors, on their own ground, were also playing a great game. After missing the L.M.S. juniors for the palfrey of 33, they amassed for their own nine a venture the huge total of 317. And this in minutes short of two hours—a magnificent performance.

A Cartledge (five wickets for 15 runs) and Baker (four for 21) were responsible for visitors' poor scoring. Half the side were "ducks." Young Jack Fenton and the vet skipper, J. H. Hodgkiss, scored 142 for the wicket, when the latter was bowled for a full 67.

Young Fenton carried on merrily, and practically through the innings, being the but one to leave. He had accomplished remarkable feat of scoring 169 runs, wicket stand out as being very near, if it is actually, a record individual score in section. The boundary was reached on fewer than 35 occasions. His cutting, driving and pulling to leg were delightful features of great innings, and the young player is highly congratulated on his wonderful display.

The final score of 317 cannot be far short a record too, and in the short time it accomplished, but in any case what a achievement!

The visit of Knypersley is always forward to with a great deal of pleasure rivalry on both sides, although there are few left of the sides that took part in match on the Knypersley ground when Norton opposed a side which included Mr. Ar. Heath and Mr. L. Harding, when the pavilion was opened.

The contests have always been keen, through the years the interest is still continued, and the spoils go, in the majority of matches, to the older club. It was the game under notice. Play was most interesting, and the game was well fought right to the finish. Norton were not very convincing in their batting at the start until Smith R. Hunt became associated. These turned the game right round, and placed home side in a sound position before H. wicket was captured. Fifty runs had added to the score, and after Hunt left Smith continued to play finely, his wicket falling after he had compiled 61.

S. Smith never played a better innings. Every stroke carried conviction, and there was no weakness or hesitancy in any part of his best. He showed restraint, good fence, and he hit with power, as six boundaries in his 35 goes to prove.

## FENTON &amp; DISTRICT LEAGUE

	P.	W.	L.	D.
Rough Close	9	7	2	0
Leycester	8	7	1	0
Fenton Bethel	8	5	2	1
Team	7	4	2	1
Longton Baptist	8	3	5	1
Bucknall	8	3	5	1
Wolstanton Marsh	10	3	7	0
Florence Colliery H.	8	2	6	1
Longton "A"	9	0	9	0

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Fenton Bethel 89, Leycester 101; Rough Close Longton "A" 33; Bucknall 88 for five wickets, Wolstanton Marsh 33.  
 Monday's Result.—Longton "A" 89, Wolstanton Marsh 140 for seven wickets.

## CONGLETON &amp; DISTRICT CRICKET NOTES.

The return encounter between Congleton and Hartford first teams terminated in a drawn game on Saturday. Hartford batted first, and it was not until they had put up a total of 196, that their innings finished. C. Allman (60), E. Gammond (33) and C. G. Hilditch, the Manchester United footballer (33), wore the leading scores for the visitors. For Congleton, Frank Whitaker took five wickets for 58 runs. Against this formidable total the Congleton batsmen succeeded in getting together a total of 171 runs for nine wickets. M. Harper, jun. (36), G. C. Biggs (20), R. Reynolds (21), and A. Holden (19), each batted in praiseworthy style. H. Grimsditch dismissed six of the home batsmen for 18 runs.

The Hartford and Congleton second teams tried conclusions at Hartford. Congleton were dismissed for the meagre total of 34 runs. H. Rogerson took five wickets for 10 runs, and W. Howlett, four for 19. The home team made a poor start, as they had seven batsmen dismissed with only 15 runs on the books. Through the efforts of B. Allman (28 not out) and W. Howlett, the score was increased to 81, and Congleton II, returned defeated by 50 runs. A. Cookson took five for 28, and W. B. Norris, two for ten.

On their own ground, Butt Lane proved a superior team to Congleton Empire Mills on Saturday, when the Mills XI, on batting first put together a total of 58 runs. W. Johnson (22), and J. W. Elkin (17 not out) were the top scorers. After making a feeble start, Butt Lane rose to the occasion, and before six wickets had fallen, victory was theirs. The total reached was 71. E. Campbell (27) was the chief scorer for Butt Lane, who won by 13 runs. For Congleton J. W. Elkin secured five for 34 runs, and W. Johnson three for 13.

## UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

## DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Florence	11	7	1	3	17
Leigh	10	7	1	2	16
Team	10	6	2	2	14
Kingsley	11	6	4	1	14
Stallington	12	3	4	5	10
Oakamoor	12	3	4	5	9
Alton	10	3	5	3	9
Uttoxeter	11	1	9	1	3
Hollington	11	0	8	3	2
Draycott	10	0	8	2	2

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Kingsley 155, Uttoxeter 24; Team 84, Oakamoor 52; Hollington 26, Florence 144 for three; Alton 64, Draycott 37; Leigh 73, Stallington 79.

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batting.—J. Wood (Kingsley), 54.  
 Bowling.—C. Lowell (Kingsley), five for 7; G. Harrison (Kingsley), three for 15; A. Pattison (Oakamoor), six for 14; A. Wood (Team), five for 14; J. Bridgett (Florence), five for 8; H. Lindop (Florence), four for 15; R. W. Bowen (Draycott), six for 14; W. Wright (Alton), seven for 15; W. S. White (Stallington), six for 13.

## DIVISION II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	9	6	1	2	14
Stallington	9	5	2	1	13
Oakamoor	9	5	3	1	11
Leigh	10	5	4	1	11
Cresswell	9	4	4	1	9
Fulford	8	3	5	2	8
Alton	8	1	6	1	3
Hollington	8	0	7	1	1

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Oakamoor 52, Stallington 27.  
 Notable Performances.—C. Mills (Stallington), eight for 17; C. A. Nicholls (Oakamoor), six for 13; J. Finney (Oakamoor), four for 8.

## CHEADEL &amp; DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CRICKET LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Cheadle C.E.	11	9	1	1	19
Cheadle Couche	11	8	2	1	17
Kingsley	11	8	2	1	17
Cheadle R.C.	11	6	4	1	13
Foxe	11	4	5	2	10
Oakamoor Council	11	4	7	0	8
Hollington	11	1	10	0	2
Ipton	11	1	10	0	2

## RESULTS.

Cheadle Council 64, Foxe 34; Oakamoor 88, Hollington 28; Cheadle C.E. 37, Cheadle R.C. 24; Kingsley 51, Hollington 22; Cheadle Council 37, Cheadle R.C. 37; Cheadle C.E. 11, Ipton 16; Foxe 31, Oakamoor Council 18; Kingsley 49, 1 stones 9.

Best Performances.—Batting: Davenport (Cheadle Council), 52; Finney (Council), 23; P. Edwards (Kingsley), 23; J. Whitehurst (Cheadle C.E.), 21; Bowling: Green (Council), six for 5; R. Clowes (Oakamoor), seven for 9; Barker (Kingsley), seven for 6; Whitehurst (Cheadle C.E.), five for 11; Penzell (Cheadle R.C.), seven for 18; C. Morris (Foxe), four for 8; J. Wood (Oakamoor), five for 11; Tharley (Cheadle C.E.), four for 10; B. Whieldon (Foxe), four for 9; Waring (Ipton), five for 16; J. Barker (Kingsley), six for 9.



## CRICKET.

### STAFFORDSHIRE v. LANCASHIRE 2nd XI.

At Old Trafford on Wednesday, when they commenced their first match with the 2nd XI. of Lancashire, the Staffordshire team gave a disappointing display, and finished the day in a practically hopeless position, for they were dismissed for 113, in reply to which the home side hit up 296, and established the crushing lead of 183.

Staffordshire had a weakened side, for besides the absence of Barnes, whose club was once again engaged in a cup tie, which deprived Staffordshire of the great player's aid, there were many other absentees. As compared with the side which beat Cheshire last week there were three changes, H. W. Homer, J. Whalen, and R. St. J. Sheppard taking the places of C. Howl, G. T. Worthington, and Barnes. Sheppard is a fast left-hand bowler, whose only previous appearance was at Stoke last August. The Lancashire team included two young recruits in Waddington and Webster, and the latter's medium pace, left-hand bowling proved of great value on Wednesday morning. He is professional with Stafflwaite, one of the strong Huddersfield district clubs, in connection with which that genial and popular old cricketer, H. England, who captained Fenton so long before the war, learnt his cricket. Webster showed himself a useful bowler, for he bowled the inswinger quite well, and occasionally straightened them out with the natural break of a left hander. He had a remarkable spell of success after changing ends, and it seemed rather strange tactics when he was taken off by J. T. Tyldesley, who now "fathers" the young talent of Lancashire. McNairy is a young giant of 6ft. 7in., who bowls fast from a great height and he was liable to kick shoulder high, and at other times came through at a great pace.

The behaviour of the wicket was somewhat puzzling, for there was certainly a good deal of fire in it before lunch, which appeared to be almost entirely missing in the afternoon, when the Staffordshire bowlers could get no life out of it. It was stated that this is not an entirely new characteristic of the Old Trafford wicket, and that many teams have been in difficulties before lunch on the first day, only to find the wicket quite plain later. Why it should be so is not easy to say, but it is certainly a fact that the ball was coming along much more evenly in the afternoon than during the first two hours.

Staffordshire met with early disaster, for the third ball of the match proved fatal to H. Goodwin without a run scored. The young left-hander was unfortunate, for turning to play a kicking legball he was brilliantly taken, low down and wide, by the wicket-keeper, standing well back, apparently off his glove. Johnson set about improving the position, and made some delightful off strokes in collecting 23 out of 28 before playing a ball of deceptive flight on his wicket. He had had many awkward rising balls, which he managed to keep away from. Webster had bowled with McNairy, and at 27 he changed ends. Johnson was his first victim, and he proceeded to bowl Sedgwick, Lutter, Varcoe (first ball), and Lockett in quick succession, six overs producing five wickets for 12. Only one more run had been scored from him when he was taken off and did not bowl again. Homer, who started very slowly, and afterwards scored with some freedom, also kept away from the bumping balls very successfully, defended admirably, and got some choice square cuts and leg hits, though he did not exploit the glide as effectively as he often does. He could get no one to stay with him very long, and looked like carrying his bat through the innings. He did not reach his 50 until after the fall of the ninth wicket, and it was in trying to force the pace that he edged a rising off ball into the slips. His batting stood out in bold relief in a weak display, and he was at the wicket almost two hours.

Lancashire's first three wickets fell at 17, 48, and 73, but on Farrimond joining Paynter, one of five left-hand batsmen in the Lancashire team, a prolonged and prolific stand was made. The wicket was playing very truly now, and the pair defied the Staffordshire bowlers for an hour and 40 minutes, and added 148 to the score by really excellent cricket. Farrimond is not a stylist, but he is a consistent scorer, and after surviving a confident appeal for lbw from the first ball he received, he was rarely in any difficulty, and made many fine strokes. But he was overshadowed by his partner, whose innings was practically faultless, and who scored with great facility all round the wicket. He was fifth out at 245, having batted two hours and 40 minutes, and hit 20 fours. Both he and Farrimond were beaten by fine balls from Sedgwick, and thereafter wickets fell rapidly to Sedgwick and Whalen.

until nine were down for 259. The lengthy McNairy greatly amused the spectators by some burlesque cricket, hitting at everything and enjoying remarkable luck, for he skied the ball all over the place, and was missed four times from easy chances during the time that 37 were added for the last wicket. Staffordshire's fielding throughout lacked the virility that characterised that of their opponents, whose much keener running between wickets also gained them many runs.

Staffordshire.—1st Innings.	
H. W. Homer c Webster b McNairy	53
H. Goodwin c Farrimond b McNairy	0
J. W. Johnson b Webster	23
Sedgwick b Webster	1
D. P. Lutter b Webster	6
C. G. Varcoe b Webster	0
A. Lockett b Webster	7
J. Whalen b Richardson	13
Platt c Webster b McNairy	0
J. B. Russell c McNairy	3
R. St. J. Sheppard not out	0
Extras	7

Total ..... 113

Lancashire II.—1st Innings.	
Bateson b Sedgwick	8
Waddington c Lutter b Sheppard	19
Paynter b Sedgwick	124
Taylor b Sheppard	8
Farrimond b Sedgwick	71
J. H. Richardson c b Sedgwick	4
J. T. Tyldesley lbw b Whalen	5
Woolley b Whalen	0
Webster b Whalen	5
Holroyd not out	5
McNairy lbw b Lockett	30
Extras	17

Total ..... 296

## BOWLING.

### Staffordshire.—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
McNairy	10.3	4	30	4
Webster	10	1	23	5
Woolley	6	2	14	0
Richardson	8	0	39	1

### Lancashire II.—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	23	2	90	4
Lockett	19.3	3	63	1
Sheppard	9	2	40	2
Whalen	11	1	54	3
Platt	10	3	32	0

Sedgwick bowled six no balls and Lockett one.

## CRICKET.

### STAFFORDSHIRE v. LANCASHIRE 2nd XI.

(Continued from Page 11).

Staffordshire gave a vastly different display on Thursday, and with the wicket playing well all day, it appeared more curious than ever that it should have been so fiery before lunch on Wednesday. The application of the roller at the close of Staffordshire's first innings may conceivably have been the cause of the change. The fight the visitors made was creditable, and there was a period in the afternoon when the home supporters became a little anxious. Staffordshire had put together the good score of 277, and set Lancashire 95 to get to win. From the first ball of the innings Richardson was thrown out by Lutter, and with Sedgwick and Whalen bowling, Paynter gave a sharp chance high up in the gully off Whalen with his score at five, whilst Whalen just failed to get to an upish stroke by the same batsmen off his own bowling. These errors were serious at such a time, but they were to some extent retrieved when at 51 Sedgwick bowled Waddington, and two later Lockett, having relieved Whalen, got Paynter beautifully caught one handed, low down at first slip by Sedgwick. Taylor and Woolley were then together, and Sedgwick and Russell made a most confident appeal for lbw against Taylor, before he had scored, which the umpire first answered in the affirmative, but quickly changed his decision. From the next ball their was another loud appeal for a catch at the wicket, but Taylor again survived. What might have happened had either of these decisions been against the batsman can only be surmised, but four for 33 would have been a piquant situation. However, Taylor and Woolley gradually gained confidence, and when at 58 the Staffordshire Captain took Sedgwick off in favour of Sheppard the tension was over, and runs were speedily hit off without further loss.

There was much excellent batting in Staffordshire's second innings. Homer and Goodwin made a nice start, and Johnson was again scoring freely, when he edged one from the last bowler to fine slip, the second wicket falling at 66. Goodwin was playing with absolute confidence, and though Lutter was at first uncertain, a lucky snick for four set him going, and he drove and cut with power and good timing. When he was out to a bad stroke at 145, he had hit nine fours in his 40. Sedgwick played more like himself than at any time this match, and after Goodwin's departure at 164, he and Lockett carried the score to 200, the arrears being wiped off with six wickets standing. Varcoe, Platt, and Russell each added a useful quota, but even so the task set the Lancastrians was all too light, so disastrous had been the first innings collapse. Goodwin's innings was quite as good as that at Crewe last week, though the wicket was probably playing better on this occasion. He made one mistake, the wicket-keeper standing back, dropping a catch from Woolley when the left-hander had made 27. He was batting an hour and 50 minutes, hit 10 fours, and was out when he seemed likely to reach the century by slightly mistiming a hook stroke and giving a catch at deep mid-on.

Scores and analysis:—

### Staffordshire.—2nd Innings.

H. W. Homer b Woolley	12
H. Goodwin c Holroyd b Woolley	77
J. W. Johnson c Richardson b McNairy	20
D. P. Lutter c Paynter b Richardson	40
Sedgwick c Farrimond b Webster	35
A. Lockett b Woolley	31
C. G. Varcoe lbw b Webster	17
J. Whalen b Webster	5
Platt b McNairy	13
J. B. Russell c b Woolley	13
R. St. J. Sheppard not out	2
Extras	12

Total ..... 277

### Lancashire II.—2nd Innings.

Waddington b Sedgwick	19
J. H. Richardson run out	0
Paynter c Sedgwick b Lockett	13
Taylor not out	13
Woolley not out	28
Extras	5

Total ..... 96

## BOWLING.

### Staffordshire.—2nd Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Webster	22	3	64	3
Richardson	8	0	43	1
Woolley	21.2	2	72	4
McNairy	13	2	52	2
Holroyd	9	1	34	0

### Lancashire II.—2nd Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	8	2	19	1
Whalen	4	0	18	0
Lockett	5	0	21	1
Sheppard	5	0	24	0
Platt	3.1	1	9	0

## CLUB CRICKET.

### STAFFORD v. OAKAMoor.

An enjoyable match on a good wicket and under perfect weather conditions ended in a fairly even draw at Oakamoor on Saturday. For Stafford, W. T. White (five wickets for 29 runs) bowled extremely well, as also did H. Perrins for Oakamoor, while A. J. Ward, who played a fine, forcing game, was top scorer of the afternoon.

Oakamoor.—J. W. Johnson c Ward b Warwick 13, W. F. James c Warwick b Hawley 2, J. R. Goodwin b W. T. White 19, G. Alkins b W. T. White 35, W. Collier c Burgess b W. T. White 11, S. Walker c Ward b W. T. White 26, G. Swinson b W. T. White 1, J. Walker not out 14, H. Perrins b Warwick 9, M. A. Bolton c Hawley b Davy 20, extras 13—total (for nine wickets) 163. T. Yates did not bat.

Stafford.—J. W. Hawley c Alkins b Swinson 28, W. T. White c Alkins b Perrins 10, G. H. Greatorex b Perrins 0, W. S. Macfarlane c Collier b Perrins 3, A. J. Ward not out 48, R. H. Warwick c Alkins b Perrins 19, W. E. Burgess b Perrins 0, G. C. Davy not out 2, extras 2—total (for six wickets) 112. C. A. Woodger, H. R. White, and B. C. Floor did not bat.

### STAFFORD 2nd XI. v. OAKAMoor 2nd XI.

At Stafford, on Saturday, Oakamoor 2nd XI, 157 (R. Barker 49, C. G. Tipper 30; J. P. Ellsmoor seven wickets for 28); Stafford 2nd XI, 128 (J. P. Ellsmoor 77).

### TAMWORTH v. LICHFIELD.

The outstanding feature of Lichfield's easy victory at Tamworth on Saturday was Major R. B. Stephenson's brilliant not out score of 121. Scores:—

Lichfield.—R. B. Stephenson not out 121, H. M. Fitzgeorge b Peel 12, W. Mann b Peel 5, W. Plant hit wkt b Peel 41, F. H. Rudgard lbw b Vickers 8, G. Knight b Vickers 0, R. Moore b Vickers 7, F. Oram not out 0, extras 5—total (for six wickets) 199.

Tamworth.—L. Atkinson run out 12, J. Matthias c Plant b Slater 45, H. Vickers c and b Fitzgeorge 1, H. Pearson b Fitzgeorge 4, M. Turner c Rudgard b Knight 0, F. H. Argyle c Plant b Slater 2, Sir Robert Peel c and b Knight 8, the Rev. L. C. F. Jones c Plant b Slater 0, A. Mercer c Moore b Slater 4, C. D. Abbott not out 1, H. V. Stott c and b Slater 0, extras 4—total 81.

### LICHFIELD II. v. TAMWORTH II.

Lichfield's Second Eleven had a stroke of bad luck against Tamworth Second Eleven on Saturday. R. Cook, who has been their most reliable scorer this season, having the misfortune to be run out for a duck. Scores:—

Tamworth II.—J. Thomson c Cooper b Ellett 1, P. Morris b Ellett 5, A. Beard not out 56, A. Stretton b Standley 19, R. Lawrence b Standley 2, W. A. Waite run out 0, S. Lewis run out 10, K. Chadwick b Standley 4, A. L. Linford c Smith b Standley 0, R. L. Elgie c Smith b Cooper 11, T. Dornier c Cook b Cooper 0, extras 12—total 120.

Lichfield II.—R. Cook run out 0, W. Plant b Chadwick 40, N. Hartshorn b Beard 2, G. Ellett lbw b Beard 0, J. Smith b Chadwick 4, G. Ryan c and b Chadwick 0, E. R. Standley c Stretton b Lewis 8, F. L. Cooper b Lawrence 2, J. S. Brown b Lewis 0, R. E. Briault b Linford 15, F. Lawrence not out 3, extras 11—total 83.

## HISTORIC CRICKET.

### MEMORABLE EVENTS ON A CLASSIC GROUND.

Of the making of "records" there is no end. There seems no finality about the world's best (writes J. A. H. Catton in "Baily's Magazine"). The sporting reporters have assiduously fed the public taste in this matter until an appetite has been created that has to be satisfied. In many games records are of a very fleeting nature, but this cannot be said of big events in the world of bat and ball. The other day, at Lord's ground—to be exact it was the eighth day of June, in the year 1925 (this for future generations)—that a certain clever young Yorkshireman, by the name of Percy Holmes, scored 315 in one hand and was not out, in a grand match at cricket between Middlesex and Yorkshire. No other batsman had ever scored 300 runs and upwards in one hand on the ground of the late Thomas Lord; in fact, the largest score hitherto recorded at this fashionable rendezvous of cricketers and beaux of the period was 278, on the 24th day of July, in the year 1820, by W. Ward, Esq., in the match between Marylebone against Norfolk, with E. H. Budd, Esq., T. Vigne, Esq., and F. Ladbroke, Esq. This remarkable score was made against some inferior bowling and fielding, but it was not beaten for 105 years until Holmes, the hard-hitting batsman from the champion team of Yorkshire, surpassed the figures, but neither he nor the company assembled at Lord's had knowledge that an event so historic was transpiring.

In some such manner would this event have been chronicled in the early volumes of "Baily's Magazine," for our grandfathers were very exact and precise in all that they set down on paper about performances without a parallel. Good fortune has attended my visits to Lord's, for I was there on July 9, 1906, when Arthur Fielder, the Kent fast bowler, took all the ten wickets in the first innings of The Gentlemen for 90 runs on behalf of The Players. This was the Centenary Match between The Gentlemen and Players at Lord's, and Fielder celebrated an occasion so interesting by a feat which had never been done for either side in the contests of a hundred years. This was a most meritorious performance upon the part of Fielder, who went prancing along, nodding his head like a horse enjoying a canter on the heath in early morning, and delivering that good honest ball of unimpeachable length that so often swung towards the men in the slips.

Again, it was my luck to be at Lord's on June 22, 23, 24, 1914, when the Marylebone Cricket Club had arranged a match between the M.C.C. team, which had just toured South Africa, and The Rest of England, for the purpose of celebrating the centenary of the opening of the present Lord's ground. The cricket was not very notable, but King George, with the unerring instinct to do rightly on a historic occasion, honoured the ground with his presence, and had the Prince of Wales and Prince Albert with him. My Lord Hawke, the President of the M.C.C., presented the captains C. B. Fry and J. W. H. T. Douglas, to his Majesty, who was to have their loyal service in another capacity before that year had run its course.

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Barnes' Absence Felt at Manchester.

DESPITE THE FACT that they were hopelessly outplayed on the opening day of their match with Lancashire II. at Old Trafford on Wednesday, Staffordshire made a very fine recovery on Thursday. There was a period in fact, when they once appeared to have an outside chance of snatching a victory. This was when Lancashire Second, requiring 85 runs to win, had lost three wickets, including that of Paynter, who scored 124 in the first venture, for 33 runs. The fourth wicket stand of the Lancashire Colts, however, settled the issue, and Staffordshire were beaten by seven wickets shortly before 5.30.

The visitors' first innings debacle was undoubtedly the cause of their reverse, for, apart from the work of Homer, Johnson, and Whalen, there was no one in the side to face the bowling of the Lancashire men with any degree of confidence. That it could be played and scored from was ably demonstrated by Staffordshire in their second innings.

Goodwin played an exceptionally fine innings, and he received valuable support from Sedgwick, Lutter and Lockett.

There was no denying the fact that the absence of Barnes was a severe handicap to the visitors' attack when Lancashire ran up the total of 226 runs at the first attempt. There was some big hitting by Paynter, Farrimond and MacNair, but it is safe to assume that the artistry of Barnes would have prevented much of this.

Apart from the three Lancashire colts named, no other Lancastrian could do much with the bowling of Sedgwick, Sheppard and Whalen, not even the once famous J. T. Tyldesley, who now captains Lancashire II. His stay at the wicket was a very short one.

Lancashire's victory, however, was a meritorious one, and they deserved the honours if only for their splendid work of the opening day.

Although Staffordshire were defeated at Old Trafford, there is some satisfaction in the fact that the game was played to a finish, and did not meet the same fate which last season's fixture had. Then the match was abandoned owing to heavy rain.

#### NEXT WEEK'S TOUR.

Next week, Staffordshire are on tour in the eastern counties, and with a strengthened team hopes are entertained of further successes.

On Monday and Tuesday the local county meet Lincolnshire, at Lincoln, in the return match. Earlier in the season, Staffordshire gained an easy victory over Lincolnshire, at Old Hill, by an innings and 64 runs, and last season, at Lincoln, Staffordshire were also successful by 113 runs.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Norfolk are met at Norwich. This will also be the second meeting between the counties this season. At Wolverhampton, in June, an interesting and high scoring game ended in a draw, while last season, at Norwich, Staffordshire gained first innings' points in a drawn game.

Staffordshire will have the services of S. Barnes for next week's matches, and the selected team to go on the tour is as follows: J. B. Russell (capt.), W. H. Fitchford, H. Goodwin, J. W. Johnson, P. I. Yates, R. S. J. Sheppard, A. Lockett, C. G. Varcoe, Barnes, Sedgwick and Platt.



# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burslem	14	10	2	2	22
Bignall End	14	9	2	3	21
Crewe Alexandra	14	8	6	1	17
Porthill Park	14	6	3	5	17
Leek	14	7	5	2	16
Longton	14	5	4	5	15
Nantwich	14	6	6	2	15
Norton	14	6	6	2	15
Knyperley	14	2	6	6	10
Silverdale	14	3	8	3	9
Great Chell	14	2	9	3	7
L.M. & S. Ry. (Stoke)	14	0	10	4	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Bignall End, 226 for nine (dec.); Porthill Park, 199 for nine.  
Nantwich, 226 for nine (dec.); Crewe Alexandra, 98.  
Longton, 212 for eight (dec.); Burslem, 97.  
Silverdale, 174 for three; L.M. and Ry. (Stoke), 169.  
Leek, 167; Norton, 120.  
Knyperley, 170; Great Chell, 87.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Madeley	14	12	2	0	24
Sandyford	14	8	3	3	20
Kidsgrove	14	8	3	3	19
Stoke	14	7	4	3	17
Alsagers Bank	14	6	4	4	16
Burslem High Lane	14	5	6	3	13
Cheadle	14	5	7	2	12
Ashcombe Park	14	4	8	2	10
Audley	14	3	7	4	10
Caverswall	14	4	8	2	10
Beck Hay	14	4	8	2	10
Betley	14	3	10	1	7

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Madeley, 137; Caverswall, 93.  
Alsagers Bank, 67 for five; Ashcombe Park, 29.  
Kidsgrove, 83; Audley, 71.  
Stoke, 239 for seven (dec.); Betley, 60.  
Sandyford, 143 for five; Cheadle, 135.  
Burslem High Lane, 82; Beck Hay, 47.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	14	8	1	5	21
Nantwich	14	9	3	2	20
Knyperley	14	8	3	3	17
Norton	14	7	4	3	17
Burslem	14	6	4	4	16
Leek	14	7	5	2	15
Silverdale	14	6	4	4	15
Bignall End	14	5	7	2	12
Crewe Alexandra	14	4	7	3	10
Longton	14	4	8	2	10
Great Chell	14	2	8	4	6
L.M. & S. Ry. (Stoke)	14	1	11	2	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Porthill Park, 227 for four (dec.); Bignall End, 102.  
Nantwich, 138; Crewe Alexandra, 40.  
Burslem, 139; Longton, 100.  
L.M. and S. Ry. (Stoke) 93 for five; Silverdale, 86.  
Leek, 124 for nine; Norton, 76.  
Knyperley, 126 for four; Great Chell, 122.

9th JULY.

Crewe Alexandra, 142 for six; L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 126.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans	14	11	1	2	24
Caverswall	14	10	2	2	22
Burslem High Lane	14	9	3	2	20
Onneley	13	7	4	2	18
Kidsgrove	13	7	5	1	15
Betley	14	7	6	1	15
Cheadle	14	6	5	3	12
Madeley	14	6	8	0	12
Stoke	14	5	8	1	11
Alsagers Bank	14	3	8	3	9
Audley	14	1	10	3	6
Sandyford	14	0	12	2	2

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 74 for nine; Madeley, 65.  
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 79; Alsagers Bank, 50.  
Kidsgrove, 120; Audley, 68.  
Betley, 121; Stoke, 51.  
Cheadle, 72; Sandyford, 69.  
Onneley, 199; Burslem High Lane, 80.

THE CONVULSIONS of last Saturday's session were the downfall of Burslem and the first victory of the L.M. and S. Railway club, whilst the partial failure of the Bignall End champions was only slightly less surprising. The Stoke people should be encouraged by the change of fortune, even though the opening win was but an affair of the secondary team. Longton's pronounced success at Cobridge may be classed as the best performance of the afternoon, and it bears out the notions of those who contend that the Division seniors ought to be occupying a more prominent position in the table of merit. Burslem

had some consolation in the check administered to Bignall End by Porthill Park, and the severity of the struggle between the Cobridge men and the champions should not be lessened by the doings of last week. Another event of moment was the overthrow of Crewe Alexandra by their Nantwich neighbours, and this second successive defeat has almost put the Alexandra out of the running for chief honours. In the subsidiary senior competition Madeley continued their career of conquest, and at this stage of the season their margin of four points is a very valuable one. Stone again figured as heavy rungetters, and their aggregate was the highest of the afternoon. Amongst the juniors, Porthill Park got back to winning ways, but they are still being sternly chased by Nantwich, who made their club's triumph over the Alexandra a complete one. In the bottom grade, Burslem High Lane had another collapse, leaving Brindley Ford Wesleyans and Caverswall as the leading contestants. In general the heavy scoring of the previous week was not maintained, but batsmen still held the sway, and there were five instances of innings passing the second century mark. The lowest total of the series was that of Ashcombe Park, but the most amazing collapse was to the hurt of Great Chell, who were tumbled out pell-mell by the Knyperley bowlers.

#### CHAMPIONS THWARTED.

A big "gate" assembled to witness the clash between Bignall End and Porthill Park, and the crowd had the satisfaction of having a full afternoon's cricket served up, quantity being a set-off for what was lacking in quality. A lot of the batting was very clever, and much of the bowling commanded respect, but the fielding was a big remove from a gratifying standard, and the feebleness of some of it was appalling. Bignall End's batting occupied 155 minutes, the visitors were allowed 25 minutes less, and those who blamed the home captain for not making an earlier declaration no doubt swallowed their criticisms before the proceedings closed. Bignall End had a sound send-off by A. E. Pratty (18) and A. W. Ikin (31), the pair putting on 45 runs for the first wicket, and the following men made so light of the bowling and found the fielders so generous that a mammoth score seemed in prospect. E. Downing enjoyed himself whilst making 85, A. Lockett hit up 36 in merry fashion, L. McEllin played nicely for 15, and the fruitfulness of the first five batsmen meant the hoisting of 184 when the fourth wicket fell. So far the game had been all Bignall End's, but Porthill began to take a real part in the match from the time that J. S. Heath and Heap commenced their final bowling turn, and instead of announcing successive tens the scorers were chiefly occupied in proclaiming the fall of wickets. The bowlers had their opponents in dire trouble, and as the fielding smartened up, runs were hard to get, so much so that five wickets dropped for 36 and the declaration was almost a formality. Heath, who had four wickets for 52, bowled with something akin to his old-time brilliancy, and was very unlucky that his reward was not greater, for he suffered by missed chances, besides beating the batsmen ineffectually on many occasions. Heap also prospered in the later play, and finished with four for 52. E. Downing had eleven fours in his 85, and most of his runs came by capital strokes, but he was fortunate in having several escapes, three of which, however, occurred after he had reached the fifty mark. Not many of the Porthill fielders could be absolved from the charge of slackness, and the best items of the outwork were two really clever catches by the captain. Missed chances were only incidents of the general blundering, and the slovenliness of the ground work excited derision at times, and provoked a remark that the fielders were possessed of "filleted fingers." Bignall End began the job of dismissing their opponents confidently, and they soon had three wickets down for 21, of which A. W. White counted 14 by good cricket. The fourth pair of batsmen were J. R. Parker and H. F. Wood, and both players settled down to the task of trying to save a game which appeared hopelessly lost. For a long time their efforts were regarded with dispassionate interest, but they played so soundly and scored so steadily that friend and

foe alike were constrained to sit up and take notice. Changes of bowling had no effect until the partnership had put on 81, when Wood fell to a grand catch by J. Burgess, and retired for 42, got by the best batting of the game, clever footwork being a striking characteristic of the display. With G. Price (32) partnering Parkes another stand of moment was made, the twin carrying on whilst the total was advanced to 155, and it was during their association that Bignall End began to exhibit the tired feeling, and were finally reduced to despondency. With this score at 51 Parkes made a somewhat reckless attempt to hit Lockett out of the field, and getting more left than carry in his stroke was out to a fine running catch by McEllin, who took an awkward chance very cleverly. Parkes had eight boundaries in his brave innings, in which he showed that he could defend, as well as hit powerfully; and the gifts of good fortune which he had detracted little from a skilful exhibition. Bignall End's hopes were fully extinguished by Price and Heath, though hesitancy which should have lost the captain's wicket to a run out almost "put the fat in the flame." Price was disposed of at 180, after playing a very serviceable innings, and Heath (15, not out) and C. Tunnicliffe carried on to the end, the last-named having an escape in the slips. Lockett, with three for 48, had the best bowling figures, but he was well held by Parkes and Wood, and none of the other bowlers caused trouble. Bignall End were rather taken aback, and their outwork was shorn of its customary sparkle.

#### ALEXANDRA'S TRAVAIL.

The clash of Cheshire clubs at Crewe attracted a good crowd, and partisans of the two sides had some rare fun. The game went all in favour of the improved Nantwich team, who were superior in every department of the sport. The foundation of their big score was laid by T. W. Stevenson, who had nine fours in his splendid 58, and the coping was supplied by E. H. Stevenson and G. R. Jackson (29), their stand for the eighth wicket producing 67 chinks. The skipper hit brilliantly, and had twelve boundaries in his 65 (not out). The Alexandra bowling was made to appear quite ordinary, and J. J. Steele's three wickets for 47, was the best record. Crewe lost four wickets for 22, and the main feature of their innings was a sound 34 from J. Holland. The only other double figure scores were 10 and 17, from W. H. Norman and J. Dickinson, respectively; the pair putting on 24 for the sixth wicket. Dickinson lost his wicket to a great one-handed catch by T. W. Stevenson, scouting at forward short leg. The Nantwich fielding was generally smart, and other fine catches were made by F. W. Slight and W. Meskin. Four wickets fell to W. T. Maybury—for 66—and E. H. Stevenson had the other half-dozen, the pair bowling without a change. The skipper was in his most dominant mood, and the toll for his success was a paltry 28 runs.

#### LONGTON'S LUSTRE.

Burslem's first defeat before their own crowd was no half-and-half affair, for they were well beaten, though they might have forced a draw but for shocking bad judgment in running. Longton's innings lasted 170 minutes, and the early part of it was rather laboured, in spite of a brisk 20 from H. Brassington. The stand which put the home team in a bad way was made by E. Owens and A. Smith, who were not separated until they had advanced the score from 30 to 145. Owens, who made 47, was a very slow run-getter, but he provided a splendid example of defensive tactics, and his stay of slightly over two hours was invaluable to his side. Smith was seventh man out, returning to a fine catch in the long field by E. A. Oliver. His score of 95 was the outcome of brilliant batting, which was voted "the best display of the season." His driving was particularly fine, but he scored in all directions, and counted 14 fours. K. Hollowood, who had four wickets for 38, was the most troublesome bowler. Burslem's start was ominous, a foolish attempt at a run which was impossible costing G. E. Cooper's wicket before that batsman had faced a ball. Of the early players only E. Cotton shaped as a stayer, and he was cleverly caught by Smith after scoring 23. The sixth wicket fell at 56. A stand of 35 runs by E. Cook (14) and F. Cotton (28) aroused renewed hopes of a draw, but Cook was well beaten by Brassington, and a second instance of reckless running sacrificed Cotton's wicket, after he had shown the best form of the venture. The game was won with three minutes to go, L. Collis accounting for the last two men. Brassington, who had four wickets for 20, bowled with

excellent judgment, and was fairly backed by energetic Collis, who claimed four wickets for 19. Longton won well and deservedly, and their elation was justified.

#### SILVERDALE'S THIRD SUCCESS.

Runs came freely at Silverdale, where the L.M. and S. Railway players showed greatly improved form with the bat, six of them reaching dual figures. Their highest scorer was R. Partridge, who played bright cricket for 38 (not out), and had a final partnership of 29 runs with W. Hill (16). A previous highly useful stand was that of J. Hulme (20) and J. Turner (24), which put on 29 for the sixth wicket. The batsmen's chief trouble was the bowling of E. Groom, which accounted for six men for 53. Unfortunately for the visitors the promise of their batting was not maintained by their attack, and Silverdale had no anxiety whilst hitting off the runs from very moderate bowling. Good batting came from W. Lowe (38), J. Whalen (67 not out), and Groom (37 not out), whilst T. Kelsall (14) and C. F. Rushton helped usefully. The second wicket put on 31 runs, the fourth 41, and Whalen and Groom had an unfinished connection which realised 83. The palm belongs to Whalen, who batted in most finished fashion, his innings being virtually faultless. Silverdale's runs came from 35 overs, only one of which was unproductive.

#### NORTON FALL TO LECK.

After three successive defeats, Leek were not very confident of having the beating of Norton, but consistent batting gave them a well-earned victory, though they were handicapped by the premature close of V. Astbury's innings, as the result of an accident, and the deprivation of the same player's bowling. Leek's first four wickets fell for 41 runs, but no man failed to score, and three passed the twenty mark, H. Birch getting 29, J. Pointon 28, and Astbury 22. The Norton attack was principally the affair of A. Jolley, who secured six wickets for 59 runs. Due to good work by J. Jolley (26), L. H. Crump (19), S. Smith (18), and U. Worthington (25), the visitors passed the century with five wickets standing, but Worthington was bowled at 100, and his departure was followed by a collapse. The bowling of four Leek men was handled very judiciously, and each bowler met with success, H. Birch having three wickets for 39, F. Hunt three for 37, J. Pointon two for 31, and Cotton two for seven—from as many overs.

#### GREAT CHELL OUTPLAYED.

Knipersley were short of H. E. Bourne in their match at Chell, but as things turned out his absence was not felt, for the visitors found run-getting a fairly easy matter, no less than eight of them subscribing double figures, and only the "not out" man was not a scorer. Ninety runs were put on by the first three wickets, chiefly as the result of creditable batting by A. Cooper (29) and W. Hoon (33). G. Fitchford, with four wickets for 55, was Great Chell's most effective bowler, and E. J. Barber, G. A. Rhodes and L. Curnock equally shared the other six wickets. The home team were soon in a sorry plight when they had their batting turn, for four of them were back in the pavilion with only 16 runs got, E. Mosedale's fourth over getting him three wickets. No recovery was made from this bad start, and the patience of R. Harris, who went all through the innings for seven singles, was of no avail, 17 overs sufficing for the downfall of the whole side. No change from the bowling of Mosedale and H. Bibby was wanted. Mosedale having such convincing figures as six for 15, whilst Bibby's debit for four wickets was only two runs more.

#### SENIOR "B" GAMES.

Madeley made a most unpromising start at Caverswall, and they owed their recovery to one long stand, which would have been of considerably less duration if the home fielders had been able to take the chances offered. The first five wickets fell for 27 runs, but on G. Griffiths (41) and T. Stubbs (53) getting together the run of events underwent a big change. Both batsmen had escapes, and they signalled their fortune by effective use of "the long handle," the 94 runs of the partnership being gathered in a few minutes over the hour. No other batsman of the side reached dual figures, but J. Glover showed good style for eight. The wickets were shared by four bowlers, P. Brassington having three for 28, W. Payne three for 38, and C. Turner two for 16, and E. Wakelin two for 23. Caverswall started feebly by losing two men for six, and their early efforts had their only good feature in a clever innings of 24 by A. Pickard. Other

capital batting came from P. Brassington (19, not out), R. Dunn (13) and C. Turner (9), but there was never much doubt as to Madeley's ultimate success. Dunn and Turner were being "blooded" as first-teamers, and both produced promising form during a joint association which provided 20 chalks. Madeley had formidable bowlers in E. Malkin, sen., and E. Mayer, whose figures were five for 32 and three for 24 respectively. The bowling was backed by smart fielding, and run-getting was a difficult job.

The attack of Alsagers Bank was much too

hot for Ashcombe Park, who lost eight wickets for 15 runs, and the innings was only saved from utter insignificance by P. James (17), who created a flutter of excitement by hitting three fours in one over. G. W. Beech was in fine fettle with the ball, having seven wickets in the course of ten overs, for a palty six runs, all singles. A. Anson suffered by the spam of F. James, but finished with two wickets for 21. Two of the Bank's batsmen returned for eight runs, but the issue was quickly settled by J. Wareham, who had boundaries in his 23. J. Goldstraw took two wickets for a dozen, and was the most troublesome of the Park's bowlers.

Kids Grove lost three wickets to Audley for 6 runs, and as their last four went for a run less, it is clear that their innings was all middle. Only two players were really concerned in it, H. Cooper batting very steadily for 35, and E. H. the hitting well for 20—six 4s and a three. J. Hayes—three for 25—H. Mayer—three for 24, and H. Thomas—two for 25—bowed well to the visitors, and their labours were lightened by two cases of run out. When Audley batted, the bowling of W. Cooper made run-getting a hard proposition and though fours were fairly frequent wickets fell steadily, and no player got out of the teens, 14 each from J. Mayer and H. Mayer and 12 from Jack Moblin being the best scores. Cooper's excellent work claimed six victims for 38 runs, and E. Hadley had two for 14.

Stone had little difficulty in overcoming Betley, for after piling on the agony to the extent of 239 runs, for the loss of seven wickets, they dismissed their opponents in just over an hour, for 60. The Stone batsmen were again in great form, and their last four innings have produced 918 runs, for 25 wickets. G. Keece and P. G. L. Crawshaw particularly have recently been in the vein in which runs flow freely from the bat. Reece, who played beautiful cricket, was top scorer against Betley, recording a faultless 65 before pulling a wide ball on to his stumps. The vigour of his onslaught is told by the fact that he hit 11 fours and a five, and only ten singles. F. Ravenscroft also played a glorious innings, for 62; whilst Crawshaw (36) and A. Ravenscroft (24) were in capital forcing form. The innings lasted just over two hours. Betley's response was feeble, and but for 20 from E. Aplin and 16 from W. Chell the total would have been a sorry one, the partnership of the pair putting on 32 runs after eight wickets had been lost for 23. None of the batsmen could play E. C. Fernie, who disposed of seven of them for 29, whilst F. Ravenscroft followed up his fine batting by securing two for four.

An enjoyable game at Sandysford ended in the defeat of the Cheadle visitors, who experienced considerable trouble in extracting runs from the bowling of the brothers Bourne, aided as it was by excellent fielding. The visitors' top-notcher was J. Shaw, who hit well for 28, and A. L. Day (18) was batting confidently when he ran himself out. These players were responsible for the best stand of the innings—35 for the third wicket. A. Bourne had three successes for 25—from 17 overs—and G. Bourne four for 53. Sandysford opened well by the instrumentality of G. Bourne (25) and H. Holland (16), but a bad run out lost Holland's wicket at 24; following which Bourne and W. Jones (25) made another fruitful stand, 64 being signalled when the second wicket fell. The connection of M. Cotton (37, not out) and G. Baker (21, not out) soon settled affairs in Sandysford's favour, the pair scoring freely by enterprising methods. The Cheadle bowling was weak, and the services of W. Brough were badly needed. Sandysford played keen cricket throughout, and their general superiority was obvious.

Weakened by the absence of B. Griffiths, Scot Hay were outmatched by Burslem High Lane, who had the game won with seven wickets standing. The only item of note about the home team's batting was the partnership of F. Higginbotham (17) and A. Furnival (11), which put on 17 for the third wicket. Only six runs were added between the fall of the fifth and ninth wickets. G. Skellern claimed five victims for five runs each, and W. Mould had four for 19. I. Wood (22) and A. Hackney (15) gave High Lane a send-off which did not leave much for their successors to do. This may have been a fortunate circumstance, for

Higginbotham—four for 11—and Furnival—four for 27—afterwards bowled very effectively.

#### MATTERS OF THE MINORS.

Biggall End were outclassed by their Port-hill hosts, who made light of some moderate bowling. Fifty runs were collected for the first wicket, and 18 was the lowest score of the declared innings. H. T. Marsh furnished another illustration of his impressive cricket rejuvenescence with a fine 74, and C. R. Heath distinguished himself by running up 50. Of the rest, A. S. Briggs (30) and J. Hall (23, not out) played bright cricket. Bignall had tried hard to play out time, but the task of the "tail" was too severe. The highest scorer was J. Taylor, who got 20 by six strokes. S. R. Cooper took five wickets for 38, and J. J. Evanson had two for 16. The Nantwich bowlers had a gay time with Creve Alexandra, whose batting broke down dismally, only one double figure score adorning the sheet. J. Houghton gave further evidence of his prowess by securing six wickets for 12 runs, and T. Moulton had three for 18. Two Nantwich wickets dropped cheaply, but H. Gidman (23) and G. H. Mayer (39) took the total within three runs of victory before they were parted. D. Kirkham, who had five wickets for 49, was the most prominent Alexandra bowler. Burslem had a fairly easy win over Longton, due chiefly to the run-getting capacity of W. Fenton, G. Harris and J. H. Hodgkiss, whose scores were 43, 28 and 25, respectively. The best of Longton's bowlers were P. Grimley—four for 30—and A. Cotton—three for 28. J. Dennis afforded excellent assistance to the attackers by taking four catches behind the stumps. The home team lost seven wickets for 45, and their partial recovery was the work of Cotton (34) and J. Elkin, a plucky eighth wicket stand adding 47 runs. W. Fenton took four wickets for 30, A. Cartledge three for 31, and M. Baker two for eight. L. M. and S. caused a minor sensation by their steady victory over a strong Silverdale side who were left wondering how it had all happened. Six Railway bowlers had a hand in the ready dismissal of the visitors, A. Wallis three for 16 coming out with the best figures. Silverdale's principal scorer was D. Bowers, with 24. Two Railway wickets went for a mere trifle, but there was no further faltering, and capital batting by F. Calcutt (54, not out), and A. Pointon (23) decided the issue. Norton's batting failed badly against Leek, and the only conspicuous man was R. Hill, who was the tenth player and made 25 (not out). H. Walmisley and A. L. Kidd were a terrible pair of bowlers, finishing with six for 20 and four for 44 respectively. Although C. Hambleton scored 20 Leek were ten runs behind when their ninth wicket fell, but Walmisley and Kidd again asserted themselves, and had an unbroken association of 58 runs, Walmisley scoring 39 (not out) and Kidd 12 (not out). The Norton bowlers to cause the early commotion were A. Evans—four for 44—and C. Biggaley—three for 16. A sound innings of 41 by M. Goodwin put Great Chell in a strong position, but the last five wickets dropped for 23 chalks, chiefly because W. A. Goodwin took four for 18. Knipersley hit off the runs with comfort. H. Green batting steadily for 56, and P. Green scoring 24 by six strokes.

Fine bowling by J. Utting—seven for 13—caused the rout of Madeley, who looked like returning the dose when Caverswall's sixth man came back at 15. The game was pulled round by B. Roberts (16), F. Blunt (13) and C. Thorley (10, not out). S. Heath was responsible for the early failings by taking five wickets in as many overs, his full record being five for 21. Two batsmen got more than half Alsagers Bank's total, A. H. Green scoring 14 and S. Hollinshead 16, and the rest of the team were greatly troubled by the bowling of R. Machin, which disposed of seven of them for 21 runs. J. Slaney gave Brindley Ford a good lead by running up 22, and the match was won by six wickets. J. Cooper—five for 31—did good work with the ball for the losers. Three batsmen shared 170 of the 124 runs which Kids Grove scored against Audley. E. Baddley showed the way with a steadily got 42, and F. Challinor and F. Findlay put on 22 and 35, respectively. Effective bowling by F. Goodwin—five for 19—settled Audley's possibilities. L. Beech captured four Kids Grove wickets for 26. Some of the batting broke down badly at Betley, and only valuable little contributions by G. L. Johnson (40), K. Allen (13), and R. Tomsen (12) saved the side from utter disaster. Betley knocked off the 52 runs wanted for the loss of five wickets, and finished with 121. T. Hughes (42), I. Brookshaw—five for 25—and M. Jones—four for 14—were Betley's chief bowlers, whilst Allen, for Stone, had four



for 14. Poor use was made of a good run-getting wicket by Sandford, whose top scorer was C. Cotton, with 15. G. Malbon—three for 20—and J. Fieldhouse—three for 21—were the most dangerous of Cheadle's bowlers. The ball continued to be the master when Cheadle batted, and the victory was due to the fine effort of B. Crook, the veteran skipper, who went in last and scored 22 not out. C. Rosie bowled well for Sandford, getting seven wickets for 41. The attack of F. Halpinny—six for 15—made short work of High Lane, whose only batsman of consequence was H. Edwards, who went in first wicket down, and took out his bat for 20. For Onneley, H. Bedson played a splendid innings of 61, and was well supported by F. Whalen (22) and W. Buckley (25).

#### NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

##### Senior Division.—Section "A."

Bignall End v. Great Chell; Messrs. Cooper and Bradbury.  
Crewe Alexandra v. Knypersley; Messrs. Manford and Arthur Rogers.  
Burslem v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Plant and Ward.  
Silverdale v. Nantwich; Messrs. Worthington and Timmins.  
Leek v. Longton; Messrs. Stevenson and Taylor.  
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Norton; Messrs. Byrne and Jones.

##### Section "B."

Caverswall v. Scot Hay; Messrs. R. Batters and Porth.  
Ashcombe Park v. Burslem High Lane; Messrs. Parkin and F. Smith.  
Kilgus v. Madeley; Messrs. Lyth and Albert Rogers.  
Stone v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. Brown and Whittingham.  
Sandford v. Audley; Messrs. Latham and Keeling.  
Betley v. Cheadle; Messrs. Bostock and Farrington.

##### Junior Division.—Section "A."

Great Chell v. Bignall End; Messrs. Salmon and Johnston.  
Knypersley v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Rowlands and Boulton.  
Porthill Park v. Burslem; Messrs. Forster and Clowes.  
Nantwich v. Silverdale; Messrs. Gregory and Mayor.  
Longton v. Leek; Messrs. F. G. Bailey and Farnham.  
Norton v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Cartledge and Barsted.

##### Section "B."

Onneley v. Caverswall.  
Burslem H.L. v. Brindley Ford Wesleyans.  
Madeley v. Kilgus.  
Alsagers Bank v. Stone.  
Audley v. Sandford.  
Cheadle v. Betley.

### CONGLETON & DISTRICT CRICKET NOTES.

For the fifth week in succession Congleton first eleven were engaged at home, their opponents being Crewe Permanent Way. Having first use of the wicket, the home team collected a total of 201 for the loss of only four wickets when they declared, thanks to some splendid batting by Reg. Reynolds, who hit up 111 which included no fewer than 22 fours. His dismissal was the outcome of a splendid catch accepted by L. Hodgkinson. Useful assistance was rendered by G. C. Buggs (19), M. Harper, jun. (19) and C. T. Sheldon (16, not out). Time deprived Congleton of victory, as the Crewe P.W. batsmen had scored only 144 runs for the loss of eight wickets, when the game terminated. Some excellent batting was produced by Jas. Barrett (43), L. Hodgkinson (24, not out) and T. S. Lucking (21).

Crewe Permanent Way and Congleton second teams met at Crewe when the visitors returned with an easy victory. Crewe realised only a moderate total of 48 while the Congleton batsmen gave the home fielders a warm time, and reached the fine total of 195 for seven wickets. For the winners, W. B. Norris (50 not out), A. Winterbottom (41), A. Cookson (26), C. Coppinger (21) and Reg Ward (25, not out) were the most successful.

Mossley again entertained the Porthill "A" on Saturday, when an interesting and pleasant game ended to the credit of Porthill "A," who batted first and compiled a total of 86, of which J. Ackerley (20), J. Glover (16), and R. Lillington (15) were the principal scorers. For Mossley, A. Shaw took three wickets for five runs. The Mossley innings realised 74. H. Boulton (26) and H. Hammond (12, not out) being the only batsmen to reach double figures. For Porthill "A," F. Bliss bowled remarkably well by capturing six wickets for 15 runs.

Empire Mills visited Knutton to meet the Y.M.C.A. team. The result being a close victory for the home team by eight runs. The Mills batted first, and collected 36 runs, nine of the batsmen being clean bowled. Knutton's response was 38.

**THERE WAS AN EXCITING FINISH AT HIGH** to Leek's return fixture with Norton. visitors in two hours and seven minutes set the task of beating the Leek total of 110 and although half the side were out by the seventh wicket fell at 110, and despite some stubborn stone-walling, the last man dismissed at 120—seven minutes off time.

Some idea of the nature of Norton's defensive tactics may be gathered from the fact that the last nine overs sent down maidens, the last three wickets falling at a same total, viz., 120.

Four of the Norton batsmen between, scored 88 runs, J. Jolley being top-scorer 26. Norton's two best stands were one runs by J. Jolley and L. H. Crump (10) the second wicket, and a freely hit partnership of 36 by U. Worthington (26), and Smith (18), for the fifth wicket.

Leek were at the wickets two hours and minutes for their 187 runs. With the exception of J. Poulton who played a sound 28, earlier batsmen failed badly, and in looked ominous when the seventh wicket fell at 76. An opportune stand of 50 for the wicket by V. Astbury (22), and H. Birch brought about a good recovery, and to some spirited hitting by P. Hunt (16), L. Perkin (11), the home tail "wagged" the extent of 41 runs.

Apart from his useful innings, Perkin kept wicket well. He not only broke up the dangerous second wicket partnership practically won the match by smartly striking the Norton skipper.

Several of the home batsmen received knocks. A. Baskerville had a finger split during his stand with H. Birch. V. Astbury the bad luck to have the middle finger of right hand broken, and he could take further part in the game. This sincerely dispirited the Leek bowling, leaving Birch, only three bowlers, but a far more serious aspect is that the accident may keep Astbury out of the team for the remainder of the season.

#### BURSLEM'S FIRST HOME DEFEAT

On their own ground on Saturday, Burslem cast a gloom over their supporters by losing their first home game of the season to Longton. To be quite candid, Longton are warmly congratulated for their fine achievement, as they were, on this occasion Burslem's masters.

Burslem's failure was most apparent, was impossible for them to gain a victory the time given after Longton's big score, they could only have hoped to force a draw. Their innings started with a disappointment when Cooper was run out without having ball, and the innings generally was of good features, apart from the brothers Co

Alf Smith's batting display for the victors made 35—was fine, as also was Branton's bowling. Without doubt, Smith is of the best batsmen the district possess and on this occasion he gave of his very best.

Burslem second team did well to overcome Longton's juniors by a respectable margin in this encounter W. Fenton shone with bat, making 43.

Burslem are shortly to have a new pavilion erected, and it is likely to be one of the best in the district for convenience and comfort.

When it looked as if the L.M. and S. Rd might record their initial victory, amassing the useful total of 169, Silverdale rose to the occasion in brilliant style, passed that score with seven wickets still standing. Whalen (67) and Groome (37) carrying score from 91 without being separated. score of 174 took exactly 100 minutes to complete.

Of 35 overs sent down by the Railway only one maiden accrued, and this was due to Worthington in the twenty-seventh over the innings.

At last Silverdale appear to have four trustworthy pair of opening batsmen in Ke and W. Lowe. The former, a dashing, forceful batsman, is never afraid of tackling the bowling, whilst his partner is a young, promising batsman with a variety of stroke.

Great Chell failed lamentably before home crowd, when entertaining Knypersley Saturday. The visitors' total of 170 was piled in less than two hours, eight of the 11 men obtaining double figures. The contributions of Boon (32) and Cooper (29) were outstanding features in the Knypersley batting.

The home side were dismissed for 37 in sixty-five minutes' occupation of the crease. Bibby and Mossdale bowled throughout, the former taking four wickets for 17, and the latter six wickets for 15 runs.

#### NANTWICH RETALIATE.

Nantwich turned the tables on Crewe Alexandra on Saturday. A few weeks ago, "Wychers" two teams were handsomely beaten by the Alex.; on Saturday Crewe suffered almost similar defeat. The first team provided one of the sensations of the season on the Nantwich ground. They were all out for 56, Nantwich were quickly reaching this total when a rapid rot set in, and the last six wickets fell for no runs. The "Wychers" were merciless in their revenge on the Crewe ground. They batted merrily for three hours for 228, when they declared before the fall of their last wicket. The Alexandra were utterly unable to gauge the bowling, and were all dismissed for 88.

There was some very tall hitting. The Stevensons—the back-bone of the Nantwich eleven—were responsible for more than half of the total runs, their hits including boundaries. "E. H.," who carried his bat, made 20 runs for his last five hits. Mr. G. R. Jackson, who by the way is son of chairman of the Crewe club, and E. H. Stevenson put up a first-class partnership for 80.

Nantwich always provide a "Derby Day" for Crewe, and on Saturday there was a repeat, notwithstanding that it was the town "Wakes" week. There were considerably more present than at the Cheshire and Staffordshire match earlier in the week. Probably this is due to the fact that so many Crewe players have gone over to the Nantwich side. It would be interesting to know why!

The Crewe fielding on Saturday was weak, and one or two good opportunities were missed. T. W. Stevenson might have been dismissed.

### UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE

#### DIVISION I.

	P	W	L	D	P
Leek	11	8	1	2	3
Floresce	12	7	2	3	2
Team	11	7	2	2	2
Kingsley	12	7	3	2	2
Stallington	12	6	4	2	2
Oakamoor	12	5	5	4	2
Alton	11	5	5	5	2
Uttoxeter	12	5	6	3	2
Draycott	11	1	8	2	2
Hollington	12	1	10	1	2

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Draycott 154 (for 8), Uttoxeter 42; Floresce 143; Kingsley 117; Alton 79; Hollington 53, 71, 136.

#### NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batting: F. Green (Draycott) 89. Bowling: Gilbert (Team) 4 for 13, R. Smith (Team) 4 for 10, J. Hopkin (Alton) 5 for 19, J. Bridgett (Floresce) 5 for 21, J. Welch (Leigh) 4 for 23, W. Han (Uttoxeter) 5 for 8, W. Welford (Draycott) 7 for 2.

#### DIVISION II.

	P	W	L	D	P
Kingsley	10	6	2	2	3
Stallington	10	6	2	2	3
Leigh	11	6	4	1	2
Oakamoor	9	6	3	1	2
Fulford	9	4	3	2	1
Cresswell	10	4	5	1	2
Alton	9	3	5	1	2
Hollington	8	0	7	1	2

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Leigh 53, Kingsley 37; Alton 39, Cresswell 36; Stallington 57, Fulford 38.

#### NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batting: T. Greetley (Fulford) 39. Bowling: Goodwin (Cresswell) 6 for 11, B. Weston (Alton) 7 for 10, J. Hopkin (Alton) 3 for 10, F. Taylor (Cresswell) 3 for 14, H. Broadmore (Kingsley) 4 for 12, B. Hall (Leigh) 4 for 21, B. Lovell (Kingsley) 4 for 20, Greetley (Fulford) 7 for 25.



## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Disappointing Eastern Tour.

**STAFFORDSHIRE'S TOUR** in the Eastern Counties was a disappointing one, for rain spoiled the first match against Lincolnshire at Lincoln; and at Norwich, Norfolk inflicted a heavy defeat on the tourists.

Monday was a blank day, a fine drizzling rain falling practically throughout the day. Tuesday morning saw a repetition of Monday's conditions, but the rain cleared by the time play was due to commence. The sun broke through, and the wicket dried sufficiently for play to commence before lunch. Even in such a short period an innings was completed by each team, Staffordshire holding the advantage by 30 runs.

H. Goodwin and Barnes gave promise of a decent score at the commencement of Staffordshire's innings, but this did not materialise, only W. H. Fitchford and P. O. Yates reaching double figures among the remaining batsmen.

The two days' rain had made the wicket heavy and scoring was slow. The Lincolnshire fielding was remarkably efficient.

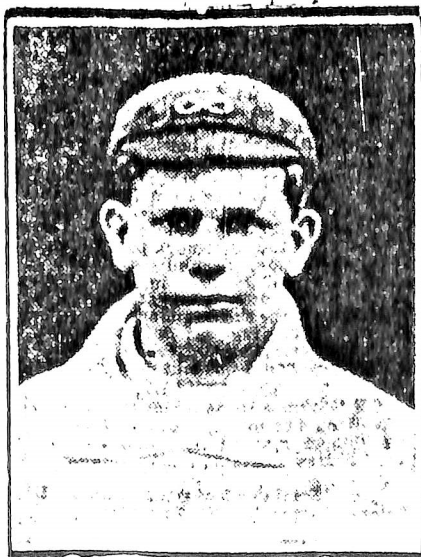
The feature of the game was the fine bowling performance of Hawley, of Lincolnshire, who took seven wickets for 54. The bowling of Barnes and A. Lockett was disastrous to Lincolnshire, the former taking four wickets for 14, and the Bignall End amateur six wickets for 31 runs. Lincolnshire were only able to total 54. Staffordshire took two hours and twenty minutes to collect their 24.

Staffordshire lost at Norwich on Thursday for the second time only in five years. M. Falcon's decision to put Staffordshire in on a drying wicket was an important factor in the success of the home county, as Staffordshire never recovered from the loss of six wickets for 55 before lunch on the first day. It is a moot point whether Norfolk would not have fared just as badly during that period if Falcon had decided to bat, and undoubtedly his decision was greatly influenced by respect or dread of Barnes on a drying wicket. As a matter of fact the pitch, though damp, was never as difficult as it was expected to be.

with his seventh ball. Falcon was more successful than he expected to be on a wicket which did not suit him, but Norfolk supported their bowlers admirably in the field, and Williamson, the Norwich City goalkeeper, made four very good catches behind the wicket.

Much of the Staffordshire batting was frankly disappointing. Barnes made a really fine effort to save the side on Wednesday. He batted two hours, was never in difficulties, and until he was bowled by a ball which kept very low, he never looked like getting out. The success of the enterprising methods of J. B. Russell and R. Sheppard in adding 27 for the last wicket, the best partnership of the innings, suggested that others would have profited by similar methods. The cautious methods rather battered the Norfolk bowlers.

Norfolk unquestionably had the better wicket to bat on, and they batted better than Staffordshire. Stephens played an especially good innings, and Bagnall and Watson, if fortunate with some shots, played courageous, forceful cricket. The oppressive heat undoubtedly affected the bowlers. Staffordshire's second batting effort was more feeble than the first, for the faster condition of the wicket offered no excuse for so many failures. Barnes again made a good effort to turn the tide, and batted over 70 minutes, but the support given him was very poor and when A. Lockett promised to give him more assistance, Falcon came in again and got Barnes caught behind the wicket. Lockett's admirable display contrasted sharply with that of the earlier batsmen, and emphasised their failures. He scored freely in front of the wicket off all the bowlers and played sound attractive cricket. The skipper also batted well in each innings and seemed to merit a higher place than No. 10.



A. LOCKETT.

and this was borne out by the comparative failure of Beadmoore. The Norfolk captain had great hopes of his slow left-hander doing big things, but Beadmoore's success stopped after he had taken Goodwin's wicket.

# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burslem	15	11	3	1	22
Signal End	15	10	4	1	20
Porthill Park	15	7	7	1	15
Longton	15	6	8	1	12
Crows Alexandra	15	6	8	1	12
Wolverhampton	15	6	8	1	12
Norton	15	7	7	1	15
Nantwich	15	6	8	1	12
Kynnersley	15	6	8	1	12
Silverdale	15	6	8	1	12
Great Chell	15	6	8	1	12
L.M. & S. Ry. (Stoke)	15	6	8	1	12

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal End, 132 for three; Kynnersley, 92.  
Porthill Park, 178 for nine (dec.); Crows Alex., 106.  
Burslem, 166; Nantwich, 125.  
Longton, 187 for four; Silverdale, 151.  
Leek, 241 for five (dec.); L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 98.  
Norton, 200 for five (dec.); Great Chell, 117.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Walsley	15	13	2	0	26
Nantwich	15	9	5	1	19
Kidsgrove	15	8	6	1	17
Alsagers Bank	15	7	7	1	15
Stoke	15	7	7	1	15
Burslem High Lane	15	6	8	1	12
Cheddle	15	6	8	1	12
Audley	15	6	8	1	12
Alscombe Park	15	4	10	1	9
Claverwall	15	4	10	1	9
Woot Hay	15	4	10	1	9
Betley	15	3	11	1	7

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem High Lane, 149 for six; Claverwall, 140.  
Walsley, 100 for five; Alscombe Park, 84.  
Alsagers Bank, 118; Kidsgrove, 97.  
Audley, 152; Stoke, 82.  
Nantwich, 196; Betley, 129.  
Cheddle, 180; Woot Hay, 113.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	15	9	5	1	19
Nantwich	15	9	5	1	19
Kynnersley	15	7	7	1	15
Burslem	15	7	7	1	15
Leek	15	6	8	1	12
Norton	15	6	8	1	12
Silverdale	15	6	8	1	12
Signal End	15	6	8	1	12
Longton	15	6	8	1	12
Crows Alexandra	15	4	10	1	9
Great Chell	15	4	10	1	9
L.M. & S. Ry. (Stoke)	15	1	13	1	3

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Kynnersley, 136 for three; Signal End, 95.  
Porthill Park, 98; Crows Alexandra, 95.  
Burslem, 213; Nantwich, 80.  
Longton, 203 for nine (dec.); Silverdale, 80.  
Leek, 180; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 69.  
Great Chell, 119 for eight; Norton, 97.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans	15	12	3	0	24
Claverwall	15	11	4	0	22
Burslem High Lane	15	9	6	0	18
Kidsgrove	15	8	7	0	16
Cheddle	15	7	8	0	14
Walsley	15	7	8	0	14
Betley	15	7	8	0	14
Walsley	15	6	9	0	12
Stoke	15	5	10	0	10
Alsagers Bank	15	3	11	1	7
Audley	15	3	11	1	7
Nantwich	15	1	13	1	3

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Claverwall, 180; Burslem High Lane, 81.  
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 86; Walsley, 63.  
Kidsgrove, 138 for nine; Alsagers Bank, 136.  
Audley, 140; Stoke, 118.  
Nantwich, 140; Betley, 84.  
Cheddle, 134; Walsley, 87.

**M**AINTEINING the good fame of the month July's third Saturday supplied excellent cricket weather, with the pleasing consequence that all the two dozen matches of the premier local league had determinate conclusions. Nothing occurred to disturb the sectional leaders, and except in one instance the same remark applies to the teams nearest in pursuit. So the prospect of fighting finishes was little dimmed, and there are sound reasons for confident expectations that the closing stages of the season will be veiled with stirring interest. Few surprises were associated with last week's games, but of results that could be guessed as unexpected the dual victories of Audley over Stoke may be quoted, and the winners are to be congratulated on their after-

noon of capital doings. Another event of note was the first success of Nantwich's minor side. The margin was a narrow one, but it definitely served the purpose of removing the worrying thought from the "won" column. The L.M. & S. Railway seniors are now singular in being without a victory, and there will be a strong wish that the reproach may soon be removed, no matter who the contributors to such comfort may be. The highest aggregate of the day was secured by Norton, whose ranks included the top-bowler of the groups of games, J. Jolley scoring a fine 120 (not out) at the expense of Great Chell, a total which made a record for the New Ford Ground. The lowest aggregate belonged to the Nantwich reserves, whose batsmen were toppled out in amazing fashion by Burslem's bowlers. A gratifying matter was the marked increase of scoring capacity amongst the teams of the bottom section, only one side failing to get more than 80 runs. Clubs to reap the full reward for their mainly soft were Burslem, Leek, Longton, Porthill Park, Audley, Cheddle and Sandysford, the prominence of the last-named being, of course, their first such distinction of the season.

### EASY FOR SIGNAL END.

The champions had an easy victory over Kynnersley, who were below full strength, the absentee including reliable H. E. Bourne. The bowling of Signal End, backed up as it was by brilliant fielding, was far too clever for the Kynnersley men, some of whom were hampered by exceptionally smart catches. The home team were quite unable to take advantage of their privilege of batting first, and the only player to come in the limelight was W. Boon, who gave a fine display of free hitting whilst scoring 35, which included six fours. E. Mossdale (18) sacrificed his wicket by making a wide stroke at a delivery from A. Lockett, after arousing expectations of a big score. Lockett bowled well throughout the innings, and finished with seven wickets for 42 runs, the other batsmen falling to P. J. Dale—two for 25—and J. Burgess—one for 14. Signal End passed the opposition score for the loss of two wickets. A. E. Bratby, going in first, remained unbeaten with 57 to his credit, and J. H. Mayer (30) stayed with him whilst 58 were put on for the second partnership. This number was beaten by the next stand, F. Nixon contributing a useful 84, and helping Bratby to provide 64 for the wicket. Mossdale was the most troublesome of the Kynnersley bowlers, and had two successes for 34.

### PORRHILL'S REQUITAL.

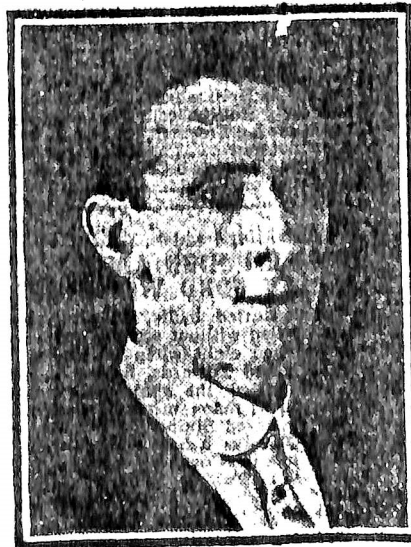
Porthill Park had recompense for the rebuff sustained in 18th May by a pronounced win over Crows Alexandra, who were well beaten in the late stages of an interesting match. The benefit of taking first innings fell to the home team, and their batting was marked by consistency rather than brilliancy, though N. W. White, who was the top scorer with 47, got his runs by lively methods, and J. S. Heath (28) was also a free scorer. Five other players reached doubles, and Heap (14 not out) gave his best batting exhibition of the season. The bowling of Hartley and F. Sylvester had its sting extracted by the early batsmen, and the most successful of the Crows bowlers was Fred Walker, who claimed four wickets for 48 runs. Jennings came next with two for 18, and Hartley's couple cost 45. J. J. Steele bowled in good style, but his luck was out. The Alexandra had 135 minutes in which to get the required runs, and H. Hope and W. H. Bottoms started in fashion which suggested that the job was an easy one. Hope especially scoring rapidly. A bad miss gave Hope a life half way through his innings, and Porthill were relieved when Norman (18) was caught when he was beginning to open out, with the total at 66; and they realised that the game was not lost when Fred Walker came back with the score unaltered. Munro Walker threatened danger by getting 21 from three hits, and his dismissal through a bad run-out upset Crows' morale and settled their chance. Heap's second turn soon disposed of Hope, who had played splendidly for 48, and the rest of the batting was of little account. Heap finished with six wickets for 21, and was clearly master after he had

sent Hope back, whilst White's highly useful turn—two wickets in his first over—got him three successes for 15.

### BURLEM'S IMPORTANT WIN.

Blackness in the field had a lot to do with Nantwich's downfall, and this weakness was added to by the late arrival of a player which caused the home team to scout one short for fifty minutes. Burslem's start was a disastrous one, for E. H. Stevenson dismissed the century maker, with only one run got. E. Cotton being caught at first slip off the first ball of the game, and G. E. Cooper bowled after W. Briscoe had scored a single; and wickets fell so quickly that seven were down for 47, and the visitors seemed to be in "Queer Street."

The turn of fortunes followed the arrival of R. Hollowood, who soon commenced to hit freely and with some luck. He was twice missed, off successive balls, with his score at 11, but his spirited play came off, and he deserved the fortune which favoured the brave. The stand of Briscoe and Hollowood realised 40 runs, and it was terminated by a one-handed catch, in the slips, by E. H. Stevenson which sent the left-hander back. Briscoe had batted skilfully for 35. The next partnership also materially mended Burslem's outlook, J. H. Hodgkiss and Hollowood putting on 37 before the younger player was bowled for 59, which contained ten fours, and was an innings of great merit. Nantwich's troubles were continued by Hodgkiss and E. Bailey (8, not out), who gathered 32 as the last pair. The restoration of Hodgkiss to the first team was a happy idea, for his 40 ranked as the best innings of the venture. He batted finely, was very sure in his strokes, and gave no chance. E. H. Stevenson had six wickets for 67, whilst W. T. Maybury's three cost 68. The prime feature of Nantwich's outlook was the brilliant wicket-keeping of F. E. Hough, who did not allow one "extra." When the home side batted they lost a man in the fourth over, and wickets fell regularly until five had gone for 47. Some improvement resulted from the connection of E. H. Stevenson and J. E. Smith—the pair collecting 25—but the batting never got on top, and although the captain stayed to make 49 he was not in militant mood, and had none of his customary full-blooded drives in his display. For all that, he was the man of the innings, and was wise in subduing the temptation to take risks. The downfall of Hough, who was shaping like getting runs, was an important incident, and



THE LATE MR. G. T. SKELLAM.

was brought about by the best catch of the match, E. A. Oliver, at first slip, taking a very sharp ball with one hand, low down. Hollowood and Evans Cook bowled well to get four wickets for 41 and four for 53, respectively, and the change bowling served its purpose. The Cheshire club have a good side, which will be better when the members have improved their fielding and have discovered that there is virtue in punctuality.

### LONGTON'S RARE FEAT.

Longton have had little satisfaction from their games with Silverdale during quite a long period, but they atoned for some previous repulses last Saturday, when their victory was well and truly gained. The game was a fine



one, and ranked as one of the best of the season. Silverdale took first innings on an excellent wicket, and lost W. Lowe to the opening ball, the smart sliding of F. L. Coles causing a run out. Good bowling and scouting made runs hard to get, and the fourth wicket fell at 40, the game having its first turn in the visitors' favour when J. Coles (35) and J. Whalen got together. Both men batted very well, scoring all round the wicket, and causing changes of bowling which were not effective. The stand produced 83 notches, and was closed when the original bowlers A. Smith and H. Brassington, were brought back. Coles hitting across one from Brassington and Whalen being well beaten by Smith. The rest of the innings was noticeable by the doings of E. White, who scored very quickly, hitting both bowlers repeatedly, and having five fours and four couples in his 33. Brassington bowled exceedingly well, hitting the stumps five times, and on a good hard wicket his six for 44 was a very fine performance. E. Owens and A. Kent started for Longton, and the first wicket fell at 8, a poor start which was succeeded by a decided recovery, Owens and Smith putting on 53 as the second pair, and they looked like adding many more when the captain pulled a ball from E. Groom on to his sticks. Smith had five boundaries in his 33, and had played in his best style. The next combination went a run better than the last, and virtually settled the result. C. Edwards batted correctly for 21, and Owens continued his course until his personal score was 67 and the aggregate 139. The rest of the job was easy for Brassington (16 not out) and J. Skeithorne. Owens played an invaluable innings of 67—eleven 4s—and had a well-earned ovation for it. Though a trifle slow he missed few obvious chances of scoring, and his work on the leg side was particularly good. The Silverdale bowlers had to be content with few wickets, but they persevered gamely, and not many loose deliveries were sent up. The fielding was of a high standard, and the brilliant doings of the distant men prevented many boundaries.

#### RAILWAYMEN'S NOT QUITE.

The L.M. and S. Railway players almost salvaged a point from the visit of Leek, and the closeness of their "not quite" is indicated by the fact that their overthrow was not accomplished until the fifth ball of the "last over" had been sent down—and played. The batsman to receive it was W. Hill, and his gentle push forward barely moved it out of his crease—but far enough for Joe Pointon to dash in and make a catch that was weird in its execution and fatal in its consequences. Leek's batsmen had no trouble in exacting terrible toll from some very weak bowling, all the six men who went to the crease reaching double figures, and three of them passing the forty mark. The stands of great prolificacy were made by Jack Pointon (66), A. Plant (43), and H. Birch (64 not out). Pointon and Plant putting on 81 for the fourth wicket, and Plant and Birch 80 for the fifth. Runs came with the utmost freedom, and during long periods of the fury boundaries were almost as frequent as singles. The batting of the home team was mostly of the passive variety, and the only players who shaped as rungetters were J. C. Cooper (27) and J. Turner (23). Five wickets fell to Birch for 34 runs and he bowled finely through two longish spells. F. Hunt—three for 22—was also an awkward man to get runs from. The winners were keen in the field, and they had the opposition in sore distress in the last stages of the match.

#### GHELL WELL BEATEN.

The outstanding matter of the match at Norton was, of course, the very fine batting of J. Jolley, who had a five and 19 fours in his sparkling innings of 120 (not out). All the other Norton men who batted reached dual numbers and Jolley's most prominent associates were D. Worthington (31) and S. Smith (32) who figured in stands of 66 and 49 runs, respectively. Great Gheell opened very weakly, losing five wickets for 26 runs, and the only real resistance to the bowling was offered by A. Smith and J. Taylor, who gathered 57 for the sixth wicket. Smith played most patiently for 18 (not out), whilst Taylor had eight boundaries in a breezy 40. Arthur Jolley sent down 15 overs for 18 runs and four wickets, and J. Martin had three successes for 32. J. Smith had his slow punished to the tune of 45 runs from five overs, but his purpose was served by two captures.

#### OTHER SENIOR GAMES.

A good and pleasantly contested game took place at High Lane, where Caverswall were the visitors and the hosts the winners. Cavers-

wall, batting first, lost a wicket for a single, but matters were retrieved by a splendid partnership for the second wicket, W. Grice (21) and A. Pickard (42) adding 73 runs before their stand was broken. Both players showed capital form, and Pickard had nine fours in his lively display. The joint effort suggested a big aggregate, a notion which, however, was dispelled by the rapid return of three other batsmen for two runs. In the ensuing play useful additions to the total were made by F. Brassington (15) and C. Hassall (16), whilst the boys of the team did their share by a brave last wicket resistance, C. Simcox hitting lustily for 17 and F. Hamnett making nine (not out). Four of the five High Lane bowlers who were on view met with success, W. Mould getting three wickets, and F. Owen, J. Machin and A. Hackney having two each. The home team's batting had a respectable start by F. Wood (18) and A. Robertson, who carried the score to 30 for the first wicket, and Robertson pleased the spectators with a match winning innings of 75, which contained very delightful strokes on the leg side. Pickard, with three wickets for 38, fared best of the Caverswall bowlers.

Ashcombe Park made a doleful start against the Madeley leaders, losing half their wickets for 19 chalks, and only "Mr. Extras"—16—and F. Furmston preserved the final reckoning from insignificance. Furmston proved his worth with a praiseworthy innings of 43 (not out), and his exhibition made a striking contrast to the feebleness of his comrades. Five Madeley bowlers were utilised, and all were useful, with F. Clarke especially so, for half the wickets fell to him for 26 runs. The Park created a flutter of excitement by getting rid of four of their opponents for 27 runs, but their fate was sealed by the good batting of Clarke (45, not out) and A. Beech (31), the twain winning the match before their effort was closed. F. James took three wickets for 35 runs, but the visitors' bowling as a whole was quite moderate.

The batting of Alsagers Bank against Kidegrove would have been undistinguished save for the fine display of W. Beech, who was in his best vein, and collected 68 runs whilst his colleagues were mostly in trouble. He was unlucky in having his excellent exhibition terminated by a run out. F. Timmis—four for 34—and H. Cooper—three for 29—were the most potent of four visiting bowlers. Kidegrove had a hopeful start by A. Cooper (18), P. Strong (11) and R. Eplett (20), the half-century being signalled when the third wicket fell, but the remainder of the innings was mostly disaster, and the only stand of moment was made by Timmis (12 not out) and R. Smith (18)—21 for the seventh wicket. J. Wareham sent down four overs for 18 runs and four wickets, and G. W. Beech, who was on throughout, claimed four victims for 47.

Stone's recent run of success and big scoring had its end at Audley, where the home team scored a win by 70 runs. Stone lacked several prominent players, but the main cause of their defeat was faulty work in the field, half-a-dozen catches being allowed to go astray. They commenced well by getting rid of Audley's first four wickets for 16 runs, but A. J. Colley—given an early life—stemmed the tide of disaster with a well-played 25, and had good backing from James McEllin (21). With seven wickets down for 64 the game was still in Stone's favour, but with the advent of G. Rowley the catching suffered a sad relapse, and, profiting by several "lives," Rowley remained to contribute 42. F. Ravenscroft, with three for 22, had the best bowling average. In ordinary circumstances Audley's total should not have been beyond the capacity of the Stone side, but at one end the batsmen were bothered by the brilliancy of the sun—low down on the horizon—and at the other the good length deliveries of F. Darlington pitched into the dark shadows and were completely lost by most of the batsmen. Only G. Roese (19) and F. Ravenscroft (16) stayed for any length of time, and, after 38 runs had been recorded with only one man out, nine wickets went down for the addition of 14. Darlington, apart from the help he got by the batsmen being troubled by their own shadows, bowled extremely well, and had the fine analysis of six for 17; J. Mayer taking the remaining four wickets for 19.

A well fought game resulted from the meeting of Betley and Sandford, and although the visitors ultimately had runs to spare they were in real danger of defeat at one stage. The bulk of their run-getting came from W. Jones (25), A. Hall (21) and J. Dean (32, not out), whilst a further highly useful donation came in the 27 of "Mr. Extras." The "tail-enders" were also well in the picture, the last three wickets carrying the aggregate from 110 to 169. Betley's main bowler was A. Madden, who did well to take seven wickets for 50. The home team lost a man with only a single got, but the game seemed

to be in their hands when excellent batting by T. Dean (52) and F. Lyth (35) took the score to 85 before the second wicket was captured. Unfortunately for Betley, J. Amps was the only other batsman who was not a "rabbit," the brothers Bourne "boring" the whole litter whilst they counted out eight chalks between them. Amps was third best scorer with a well got 22. G. Bourne had six wickets for 71, and A. Bourne sent down 21 overs, plus three balls, for 35 runs and four wickets.

Cheadle's winning total was gathered by even batting, six players reaching doubles, with J. Shaw's 29 the top score—seven of his scoring shots reaching the rails. The Scot Hay bowling was not formidable, and on a good wicket it was surprising that Cheadle did not get more runs. A. Rogerson, with four for 35, had the best bowling figures. Assisted by slack folding the visitors made a start which promised success, J. Bewick (37) and J. Bloor (13) gathering 50 for the first wicket and F. Higginbotham backing up with 22. Cheadle pulled themselves together after the second wicket had fallen, and the only other player to be oblate was H. Downing (17, not out). E. Gregory took four wickets for 32, J. Leese three for 24, and J. Keates two for 15.

#### JUNIOR GAMES.

Bignall End made a feeble show against Knypersley, for whom H. Tue took five wickets for 32 and G. Parsons three for 19. S. Hassall, with 18, being the losers' best scorer. H. Green (69) and W. A. Goodwin (42) afterwards freely exploited some poor bowling, and Knypersley's first wicket did not fall until the aggregate had reached 103. Porthill Park had a rare fright at Crewe, though they are able to put the Alexandra out for such a moderate score as 93, to which D. Kirkham contributed 29 and G. Prophet 20. The effective bowlers were J. J. Evenson—six for 43—and H. Greaves—four for 23. The Park lost eight wickets for 41, of which G. Price was responsible for 18, and it was left to two "old hands," J. Poole (34, not out) and C. Bickerton (16) to pull the game out of the fire, the "tie" stage being reached before the ninth wicket fell. P. Wilbraham did well to get five wickets for 21, and W. Davies had three for 43. Nantwich heads and hats were brought to a proper propinquity by the crash at Cobridge, in which F. Ellis and H. Cartledge induced the quick despatch, Ellis having five wickets for 13 and Cartledge five for 12. The victims of such bowling are undoubtedly a good side, and their failure was another instance of "the glorious uncertainty." Three Burslem batsmen revelled in the subsequent opportunity of getting some match play practice, H. Cotton (61), P. Kirkham (48) and M. Baker (53) each having a good afternoon. The best feature of the losers' cricket was the wicket-keeping of B. Griffiths. The free scoring of two Longton players against Silverdale appears to have got the recorders of runs in a tangle, and there is no reliable news as to whether C. Steele made 94 or 103. Anyway, he got more runs than all his opponents could muster, and his innings was a capital exhibition of free cricket. He had an excellent collaborator in J. Dennis, who put on 55. A. Ward had the best record of the Silverdale bowlers, and his three wickets for 26 included both the big scorers. E. Lowe was conspicuous by going all through the home team's innings for 35 (not out), but the help he got was paltry. E. Pass was a most persuasive Longton bowler, having seven wickets for 29. L.M. and S. Railway were outclassed by Leek, who had a most promising youngster on view in H. Goodwin, whose 66 made up for a feeble start, and surpassed the joint aggregate of the Stoke team. The visitors made a fair start, but they were put out pell-mell when P. Bowcock partnered D. Newall in the bowling; Bowcock having five wickets for nine and Newall three for 24. A. Smith got 28 for Norton against Great Chell, but the rest of the visitors' batting was much below what was looked for. The Chell bowler to do most damage was G. Averil, with four for 30. J. Smith (32) and A. E. Pitt (21) batted well for the home side, who lost eight wickets before they got ahead.

A soundly played innings of 86 (not out) was the basis of Caverswall's win over High Lane, who had three batsmen run out, and the 20 of T. Johnson as the top score. Ollier and R. W. Cooke each got three wickets cheaply for the visitors. R. Machin had another dominating afternoon for Brindley Ford, scoring 16 and afterwards claiming eight Madeley wickets for 29. Madeley had two players who at merit marks, G. Griffiths securing five wickets for 10, and J. Ouseley hitting up 30 by eight strokes. J. Griffiths, who scored 23, was Machin's main helper. Alsagers Bank made a feeble start against Kidegrove, but J. Scott (23)



and S. Hollinshead (49) came along with a sixth wicket stand of 71 runs, which caused their opponents to have something substantial to go against. That the task was not beyond K. Isgrove's capacity was due to the batting of J. Jones, not out 43. For the winners, E. Goodwin had four wickets for 42, and Jones three for 19. In a capital game at Stone the Audley visitors lost eight wickets for 71, but a last wicket stand by G. Leech (22, not out) and L. Beech (33) saw 51 runs added to the total. C. Wood had six wickets for 46. Stone's chief scorer was E. Flynn with 51, and G. Johnson, G. Deyes and S. Stephenson each reached doubles. J. Blakeman claimed five wickets for 47, and D. McEllin had four for 34. S. Holmes, five for 47, and C. Rosie, with 37, were mainly concerned in Sandford's win over Betley, for whom W. Chell had five wickets for

30 and B. Jones scored 22. A good second wicket stand of 63 runs by T. Crook (29) and B. Pepper (32) put Cheddle on the winning track in their game with Onneley, for whom H. Badson was top-notcher with 38. E. Crook polished off the losers "tail-enders," taking four wickets for two runs each.

#### NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

##### Senior Division.—Section "A."

Norton v. Bignall End; Messrs. Grocott and Holmes Great Chell v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Cox and Worthington.

Kuyersley v. Burslem; Messrs. W. Butters and Timble. Porthill Park v. Silverdale; Messrs. Condliffe and Kellett.

Nantwich v. Leek; Messrs. Downs and Bowers. Longton v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. T. Smith and L. H. Buckley.

##### Section "B."

Cheddle v. Caverswall; Messrs. A. Holdcroft and Whittingham.

6-65 Hay v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. Barsted and Farrington.

Burslem High Lane v. Kilscrew; Messrs. Cartledge and Portch.

Madley v. Stone; Messrs. Groom and Bostock.

Ainsingers Bank v. Sandford; Messrs. Mayer and F. G. Buckley.

Audley v. Betley; Messrs. Buckley and Latham.

##### Junior Division.—Section "A."

Bignall End v. Norton; Messrs. Vizzars and A. Smith.

Crewe Alexandra v. Great Chell; Messrs. Forster and Bullock.

Burslem v. Kuyersley; Messrs. Tilsley and Wright.

Silverdale v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Lennell and R. Butters.

Leek v. Nantwich; Messrs. Skellam and Coates.

L.M.S. Bly. (Stoke) v. Longton; Messrs. Hingler and Green.

##### Section "B."

Caverswall v. Cheddle.

Brandyford Wesleyans v. Onneley.

Kilscrew v. Burslem High Lane.

Stone v. Madley.

Sandford v. Ainsingers Bank.

Betley v. Audley.

#### CRICKET MATCH AT GREAT CHELL.

##### Effort in Aid of New Tunstall Church.

An entertaining cricket match was played on the ground of the Great Chell Club on Thursday between teams got together by Mr. J. Corbett Jones and Mr. Harold Lawton. The effort was in aid of the building fund of the new Catholic Church at Tunstall now being erected. A good crowd was present, and they were well repaid by witnessing some real good sport. Mr. Jones had received the valuable assistance of Mr. Sam Gleaves in the selection of his team, which was comprised of some of the best local players, and captained by Evans Cooke, the genial captain of Burslem. Mr. Lawton's team was chiefly comprised of players outside the district, although there were included a few notable locals. Through the kind assistance of Mr. Harry Taylor, this side included two members of the staff of Lancashire Cricket Club, L. Cooke and A. Steward, who is also the Manchester United Football Club goalkeeper, whilst a younger brother of Cooke's unfortunately missed his train. George Cooper captained this side. Mr. Jones's XI. batted first, Ikin giving the innings a good send-off by some lusty hitting, and in quick time had collected 34 before succumbing to Cooke. The total score of the side was 117. If Cooke didn't get many wickets he revealed much of his old craft, and was always difficult to score from. A. Jolly bowled well, his three wickets costing 25 runs. Mr. Lawton's XI. had a wicket down before a run was scored, but the following batsman showed up well. Arthur Jolley was the highest scorer of the innings

with a well played 26, which included seven boundaries. Of the others only Bourne came out with distinction.

There was some excitement at the close, for the scores were levelled—117 each—when the Cooke-Brady combination dismissed the last batsman. It was a fitting climax to an even game, and Cooke's four wickets cost 13 runs and Roy Hollowood also took four wickets but these were more expensive, costing 19 runs. Messrs. W. Butters and A. Barsted were the umpires.

In the interval the Rev. P. J. Ryan, who was introduced by Mr. Corbett Jones, thanked the Great Chell Club for the kindly use of the ground, Mr. Sam Gleaves, Mr. Jones, Mr. H. Lawton, Mr. H. Taylor for the getting together of the teams; the players themselves; the ladies, for their excellent work in looking after the refreshments, and everyone who had given their kind support to the effort. He appreciated it very highly.

Responding, Mr. Sam Gleaves said there was one very outstanding feature about this cricket fraternity, there was no bigotry amongst them. If they could do a good action, it was done readily and willingly. The match had been most enjoyable, and he thought the players had enjoyed it equally as well as the spectators.

##### The scores were:—

MR. J. C. JONES' XI.—A. W. Ikin b Cooke 34, K. Gleaves b Jolly 3, W. Briscoe b Jolly 2, E. Downing st. Pickett b Steward 14, J. H. Mayer b Steward 5, A. E. Brady b Pickett 13, Steward 5, F. L. Collis b Jolly b Bourne 8, R. Hollowood c and b Bourne 0, E. Cooke not out 16, J. Durber c J. Jolly b Bourne 8, F. Vredy c Steward b Jolly 4, extras 11; total 117.

MR. H. LAWTON'S XI.—G. E. Cooper st. Brady b Hollowood 10, A. S. Steward c Mayer b Durber 0, J. Jolly c Cooke b Hollowood 6, L. Cooke st. Brady b Hollowood 17, A. Jolly c Cooke b Hollowood 35, T. Nixon c Ikin b Downing 8, A. Orme st. Brady b E. Cooke 3, A. Shaw st. Brady b E. Cooke 0, J. Harper c Ikin b E. Cooke 0, A. Bourne not out 18, F. Pickett st. Brady b E. Cooke 7, extras 9; total, 117.

#### FENTON & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Leyceet	10	9	1	0	18
Rough Close	11	8	3	0	16
Fenton Bethel	10	7	2	1	15
Team	9	5	3	1	11
Wolstanton Marsh	12	5	7	0	10
Longton Baptists	11	5	7	1	7
Bucknall	8	3	5	1	7
Florence Colliery H.	9	3	6	1	5
Longton "A"	11	0	8	1	3

##### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Team 50, Leyceet 117; Wolstanton Marsh 76. Longton "A" 66; Longton Baptists 83, Fenton Bethel 174, Florence Colliery H. 59, Rough Close 93.

#### CHEADLE AND DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CRICKET LEAGUE.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cheddle C.E.	13	10	2	1	21
Cheddle Council	13	10	2	1	21
Kingsley	13	9	3	1	19
Cheddle R.C.	13	8	4	1	17
Ford	13	5	6	2	12
Oakmoor Council	13	4	9	0	8
Hollington	13	3	11	0	4
Ipsstones	13	1	12	0	2

Results.—Kingsley 77 for 7, Oakmoor C. 32; Cheddle Council 41, Cheddle C.E. 39, Cheddle R.C. 39, Hollington 41; Ford 24, Ipsstones 21.

Bowling.—Taylor (Hollington), six wickets for 2 runs; R. Wilson (Ford), seven for 9; J. Salt (Kingsley), eight for 10; A. Finney (Cheddle Council), four for 6; H. Waring (Ipsstones), five for 11; A. Keates (Cheddle R.C.) four for none. Batting.—For Kingsley, F. Edwards made 64 runs.

#### CONGLETON SCHOOLBOYS' CRICKET LEAGUE.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
St. James's Church	4	3	1	0	6
Brook St. Wesleyans	4	3	1	0	6
St. Mary's Catholic	4	3	1	0	6
Asbury Church	3	3	0	0	6
Wagstaff Wesleyans	4	3	1	0	6
St. Stephen's Church	3	2	1	0	4
St. Peter's Church	4	1	3	0	2
Wesley Church	2	1	1	0	2
Buglauston Council	4	0	4	0	0

##### RESULTS.

St. Mary's 55 (for eight), Wagstaff Wesleyans 43; St. Stephen's 63, Asbury 30; St. James's 75, Buglauston Council 51; Wagstaff Wesleyans 61 (for four), St. Peter's 57.

#### CONGLETON & DISTRICT CRICKET NOTES.

On Saturday, Congleton first team visited Macclesfield in a friendly match, the financial proceeds being set apart for Wilson, the popular Macclesfield professional. Fine weather prevailed, and a good crowd was present. The home team were the first to bat, and they recorded the huge total of 232 for six wickets. F. A. Leadbetter was in his best form, contributing 74 runs, which included eight fours. Excellent assistance was rendered by J. Sheldon (53) and Howard Husaby (36 not out). Congleton were disposed of for 98 runs, J. H. Richardson (39) and G. C. Biggs (30) being the only players to offer any resistance to the attack. For Macclesfield T. A. Leadbetter took four wickets for 26 runs, and Wilson five for 41 runs. Haywood, for Congleton, secured four for 86.

The Congleton and Macclesfield second teams provided the bill of fare on the Congleton enclosure. Some good batting was witnessed, and the visitors, who batted first, compiled a total of 161. Their principal scorers were A. Whiteley (38), P. Eccleston (35), H. Veale (32) and A. C. Butler, the last man in (24). For Congleton H. Fred Smart again proved himself a serviceable bowler by securing nine wickets for 56 runs. In reply the Congleton batsmen opened out in a grand style, as their first wicket stand yielded 80 runs. Eventually the total reached 179 for nine wickets. Again Fred Smart was very prominent, backing up his fine bowling with a grand total of 68 runs. Arthur Cookson and W. B. Norris (28 each) were the next highest scorers for Congleton 11, against whom A. Burke took five for 72 runs.

On Saturday Mossley defeated Sandbach second eleven by no fewer than 47 runs. Mossley, who had first use of the wicket, collected 98 runs, material support being rendered by E. Moss (16), G. Atterton (15), H. Boulton (15), and E. Frost (13). After losing six batsmen for a total of 16 runs, the Sandbach batsmen subsequently carried the full total to 51. A. Maskelyne (11) was the only player to reach double-figures. A. W. Yates (four for 20) and H. Boulton (four for 21) were the Mossley bowlers' averages.

Congleton Empire Mills visited Goldenhill Wesleyans on Saturday, when they were defeated by 22 runs. The Wesleyans defended the wickets first, and obtained 48 runs, Jim Barnett (14) and F. Thrill (10) being the top scorers. J. W. Elkin took five for 12 runs for the Empire Mills, who were disposed of for only 26 runs.

#### UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

##### DIVISION I.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Leigh	12	8	2	2	18
Team	12	8	2	2	18
Kingsley	13	8	3	2	18
Florence	13	7	3	3	17
Stallington	13	7	4	2	15
Oakmoor	13	4	5	4	12
Uttoxeter	13	4	6	3	11
Alton	12	3	6	3	9
Draycott	12	1	9	2	4
Hollington	13	1	11	1	3

##### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Uttoxeter 211, Florence 139; Oakmoor 184 (for 6), Hollington 45; Stallington 94, Draycott 66; Leigh 50, Kingsley 65; Alton 62, Team 124.

##### NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batters.—G. Whitehurst (Uttoxeter), 19; J. Beck with (Uttoxeter), 41; C. G. Tipper (Oakmoor), 51; A. Pattison (Oakmoor), 46; A. J. Chadwick (Team), 46. Bowling.—H. Averill (Stallington), five for 16; W. Wainfield (Draycott), three for 12; G. Banks (Uttoxeter), six for 27; O. Doran (Uttoxeter), three for 8; H. Webb (Oakmoor), 5 for 32; G. Backhouse (Leigh), five for 33; C. Lowell (Kingsley), four for 13; C. Jackson (Florence), three for 4; R. Gimbert (Team), three for 13; A. Kirkland (Team), three for 10; G. Bearman (Team), three for 12.

##### DIVISION II.

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Kingsley	11	7	2	2	16
Leigh	12	7	4	1	15
Stallington	11	6	4	1	13
Uttoxeter	10	5	3	2	12
Oakmoor	10	5	4	1	11
Cresswell	11	4	4	3	9
Alton	10	3	6	1	7
Hollington	9	0	8	1	1

##### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Kingsley 145 (for seven), Cresswell 87; Hollington 37, Alton 100; Oakmoor 46, Leigh 78; Fulford 54, Stallington 50.

##### NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batting.—J. Eyre (Alton), 55 (not out); J. R. Carr (Kingsley), 33; H. C. Collier (Leigh), 32. Bowling.—W. C. Mansell (Kingsley), four for 10; B. Weston (Alton), five for 12; A. Beakins (Alton), three for 11; J. Shipley (Oakmoor), five for 17; W. Howe (Fulford), four for 14; K. Yates (Stallington), three for 9.

**BURSLEM.** In a match of vast fortunes, defeated Nantwich at Nantwich by 166 to 128. On a fast wicket Burslem did none too well, for E. H. Stevenson had none in his first over without a run recorded, and then with seven Burslem wickets down for 47, the position looked promising Nantwich.

Then, however, W. Briscoe, who came first wicket down, R. Hollowood, and J. Hodgkiss put a different aspect on the scene. Briscoe playing himself in, stayed on to 35 with good batting, while Hollowood, who was missed early in his innings, and later, a chance in the long field, hit out to complete an invaluable innings of 59. The Burslem tail end went merrily to the end, for Hodgkiss the tenth in had 40 to his credit when the innings ended. E. H. Stevenson with only 14 against him had five wickets early in the game, but later events spoiled his average which read at the finish 15 overs, one maid, 67 runs and six wickets.

Nantwich could have done during their stages with a good change bowler, but when they tried had only one wicket, with knocked off him in four overs.

The outstanding feature of the Nantwich batting was E. H. Stevenson's 49, which included five boundaries. T. W. Stever (16) and J. E. Smith (11) were the only batsmen who made any stand against Burslem bowlers, of whom five were tried, most of the work and the wickets falling to Evans, Cooke and Hollowood, each of whom sent down 18 overs. Cooke had four wickets for 41, Hollowood four for 53, G. E. Cooper for nine and A. Cooke one for seven.

Thanks to the fine condition of the ground, Longton spectators have this season been able to see over 2,000 runs scored on the ground. In its present state it must rival some of the county grounds.

H. Brassington again proved his worth on his side, taking six wickets at a cost of over seven runs each. W. Hine, a very missing medium fast bowler, will also be a force for his opponents to contend with. For this season he has not had the best luck, having hurt his shoulder, but Saturday saw his return to form.

E. Owen may not yet have attained the same rate of scoring as his popular skip Alf. Smith, but his 67, following a useful innings at Burslem, stamps him as a first opening batsman.

Colin Steele, the young second team player who recorded his century on Saturday at Silverdale, came very near doing it a week ago when he obtained 92. A feature of his batting is his leg glides, his sound defensive play, in which respect both he and Owen are alike.

#### THE LATE MR. G. T. SKELLAM.

No one desires to dwell upon sad incidents in the history of a club, but it is only fit to place on record so excellent a player as the late Mr. G. T. Skellam, a gentleman on and off the field, a real all-round cricketer. The sympathy of all who knew him will be extended to his wife and family, and to his mother.

Norton accomplished what was expected of them on Saturday in taking the points. Chell, Steve Smith played beautifully and D. Worthington gave another good display of hitting. L. H. Crump played in his usually excellent style, and promised to be of great service to his club, but the wonderful innings of J. Jolley placed all others in the shade.

Jolley started in his usual steady way, he scored rapidly and hit with such power that 80 out of his not-out score of 120 were the result of boundary hits. It was easily Jolley's best performance, and as a record, may stand for many a day. When J. Smith was at the wickets, these two practically did as they pleased with the bowling. Chell fielded well at first but fell away. A. Smith gave a good account of himself. He and J. Taylor were Chell's best batsmen. A. Jolley was Norton's best bowler.

The feature of the Caverswall innings at High Lane was a splendid second wicket stand, which realised 73 runs. Out of this total, Pickard in scoring 42, hit fearfully reaching the rails on nine occasions. (1) in a more sedate manner, gave him valuable assistance whilst recording 21. Brassington who early on received the benefit of an appeal for "stumping," had quite a long stay for 15. The last man in, Kimcox, hit up 1 quick time, the innings closing for 140.

High Lane's opening pair quickly had 3 before Wood was bowled. Afterwards nothing else was "dwarfed" by A. Roberts' innings. Quickly finding his form, the popular left-hander gave a most entertaining display. Many of his drives landed in the neighbouring fields, and even the church clock came into the line of fire. His brilliant exhibition which brought him 75 runs, in just over the hour, and was quite an old effort. The game was won for the loss of 10 wickets, a well-earned victory.

#### PORTHILL PARK OVERRIDE CREWE

By losing their match at Porthill Park Saturday, Crewe Alexandra sustained their third successive defeat. The team opened the season in fine style, and both their batting and fielding were nearly all that could be desired, but instead of improving as the season progressed, they have gradually grown weaker in all departments. A month ago they had a hard tussle with the lowly L.M.S. Railway in order to gain a victory. On Saturday Port were able to compile 178 for the loss of 10 wickets, and then dispose of Crewe for 128. Neither side played a really brilliant game, and except for a first wicket stand between W. H. Norman and H. Hope, nothing started. As on the previous Saturday against Nantwich the Crewe fielders were weak, and on one occasion allowed Pitchford to score five off one hit.

The second team were very unfortunate to lose on their own ground, there only being a difference of three runs between the two sides. The home team made a magnificent start, their "tail," as it has done so many times this season, failed at the critical moment. It is surprising that the club cannot find a better all-round team; the want of batsmen seems to be their chief trouble. In many matches they have got their opponents out for a modest total, and then have failed to go one better.

When a last minute vacancy occurred Saturday in the junior team of the G. Chell, the popular Secretary, Mr. G. Ave stepped in and filled the breach and proved to be a contributing factor to his side's success by dismissing the first three Norton batsmen for five runs, whilst J. Willsaw claimed last two wickets for two runs.

In the batting J. Smith (32), A. E. Pitt (R. F. Beardmore (18, not out) and W. H. (15, not out), were praiseworthy efforts. Beardmore's runs were compiled out of the last runs scored, and he was thus responsible for the winning hit.

Two new batting records for the season were set up by Leek junior at Highfield in their return fixture with the L.M. and S. Railway. The first was the scoring of their highest total, viz. 160, and the second was that H. Goodwin with a fine innings of 68, passed the previous best individual score made for Leek, viz. M. Fenton's not out innings of 61 against Crewe Alexandra on June 20th.

It is also rather singular that Goodwin's score should be identical with that of Pointon in the seniors' match at Stoke. W. Leek recorded their highest total of the season. Pointon's 68 was also his highest score of the year.

Goodwin, who was playing in school cricket last season, has been batting very well in the "A" team, for whom he has made several useful scores, and Saturday's match was the second time he has played with the second eleven.

His 68 was a distinctly promising display of sound and confident cricket. He hit in all round the wicket, his scoring shots including 10 fours, and he gave no chance during his stay of one hour. During this time quite altered the complexion of the game when he went in. Leek had lost four wickets for 15 runs but he saw the score taken to 100 before he left, at the seventh wicket down.

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Favourites for Minor Counties' Championship.

### Potteries Cricket Week.

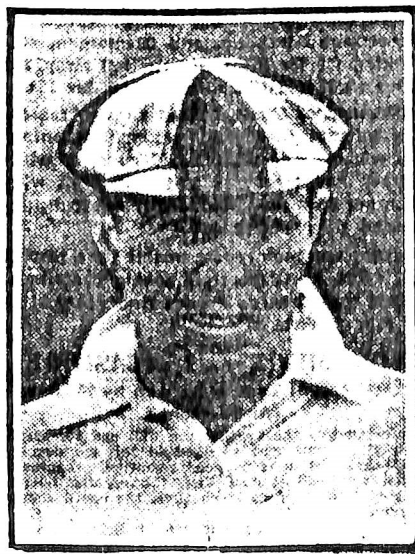
**T**HE INDICATIONS are that Northumberland will again head the Minor Counties table this season, for they have won outright everyone of the five matches they have played so far. They are the only county with anything like so strong a record. Next to them—excluding counties that have played only a very few matches—are Lancashire II., who are due to meet Staffordshire at Stoke next Wednesday and Thursday, but Notts II., who will be the other Wakes Week visitors to the Potteries—meeting Staffordshire at Porthill on Monday and Tuesday—are low in the table, with only a percentage of 22.35 from seven games.

Staffordshire's record to date is three victories from eight matches and two games won on the first innings, giving them 22 points out of a possible 40; and a percentage of 55. They cannot win the championship this time, but by success in their two remaining fixtures next week they can establish a better position than that gained last year.

Wakes Week has become recognised as the Potteries Cricket Week, and attractive matches are always arranged for this period. There are also usually available at this time of the year a greater number of players to select from

ful batting performances, notably his 74 at Trent Bridge. The Notts team will be: L. Kir's (captain), Dr. G. O. Gault, J. W. Peatfield, A. Spencer, A. O. Ashley, B.A., Wal-kerdien, H. Silverberg, J. B. Hall, Staples, Shipsten, and Wheat.

To meet the strong Lancashire second string on the Old County Ground, Stoke, on Wednesday and Thursday, Staffordshire have selected the following side:—J. B. Russell (captain), A. A. Bickerton, H. Goodwin, J. W. Johnson, C. Howl, W. Briscoe, A. Smith, A. Lockett, J. Whalen, Barnes and Sedgwick. The Lancashire team will be selected from J. T. Tykies-ley (captain), P. T. Eckersley, Taylor, Webster, Woolley, Farinond, McNairy, Paynter, Bateson, Holdroyd, Hopwood, Iddon and Halliday. This should be an exceptionally interesting match.



MR. J. B. RUSSELL

and the Midland county is able to field really representative sides. The team that will oppose Notts II. on the ground of the Porthill Park Club on August Bank Holiday and Tuesday is as follows: J. B. Russell (captain), A. A. Bickerton, H. Goodwin, H. W. Homer, P. O. Yates, C. Howl, A. Lockett, W. Briscoe, J. Durbar, J. Whalen, and Barnes. This will be Briscoe's first knock for the county this season, but after his lucky and productive stand for Burslem against Porthill last Saturday, the selection will be a popular one.

This will also be Barnes' first match in the Potteries this year. He was not available for the fixture with Cheshire earlier in the season. In the corresponding match last year he took five of the Notts wickets for 36 runs. He has been achieving great things again in this campaign, and has, in addition, put up some use-



# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bignall End .....	16	11	2	3	25
Burslem .....	16	11	3	2	24
Porthill Park .....	16	8	5	3	21
Leek .....	16	8	5	3	20
Norton .....	16	8	5	3	19
Crewe Alexandra .....	16	6	8	2	18
Longton .....	16	6	8	2	17
Nantwich .....	16	7	6	3	17
Knypersey .....	16	2	7	7	11
Silverdale .....	16	3	10	3	9
Great Chell .....	16	2	11	3	7
L.M. & S. Ry. (Stoke) ..	16	0	12	4	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Bignall End, 124; Great Chell, 68.  
Knypersey, 243 for seven (dec); Crewe Alexandra, 101 for three.  
Porthill Park, 180; Burslem, 129.  
Nantwich, 182; Silverdale, 150.  
Leek, 107 for five; Longton, 105.  
Norton, 101 for one; L.M. and S. Ry. (Stoke), 88.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Madeley .....	16	13	3	0	26
Handyford .....	16	10	2	4	24
Kidsgrove .....	16	9	4	3	21
Stone .....	16	8	6	2	19
Alaegers Bank .....	16	7	5	4	18
Burslem High Lane .....	16	6	7	3	18
Cheddle .....	16	6	8	2	14
Ashecombe Park .....	16	5	7	4	12
Audley .....	16	4	8	4	12
Caverswall .....	16	5	9	2	12
Scot Hay .....	16	4	10	2	10
Betley .....	16	4	11	1	9

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 117; Scot Hay, 72.  
Ashecombe Park, 47; Burslem High Lane, 25.  
Kidsgrove, 88 for eight; Madeley, 55.  
Stone, 104; Alaegers Bank, 83.  
Handyford, 114; Audley, 41.  
Betley, 98; Cheddle, 80.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park .....	16	10	1	5	25
Nantwich .....	16	10	4	2	22
Knypersey .....	16	7	3	6	20
Leek .....	16	7	5	4	20
Norton .....	16	8	5	3	19
Burslem .....	16	7	6	4	18
Silverdale .....	16	6	6	4	15
Bignall End .....	16	5	9	2	12
Great Chell .....	16	4	8	4	12
Longton .....	16	5	9	2	12
Crewe Alexandra .....	16	4	8	4	11
L.M. & S. Ry. (Stoke) ..	16	1	13	2	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Great Chell, 174; Bignall End, 77.  
Crewe Alexandra, 254; Knypersey, 120 for seven.  
Porthill Park, 229 for eight (dec); Burslem, 168.  
Nantwich, 200; Silverdale, 194.  
Leek, 142; Longton, 61.  
Norton, 241 for eight (dec); L.M. and S. Ry. (Stoke) 106.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans ..	16	12	3	1	26
Caverswall .....	16	12	2	2	26
Burslem High Lane .....	16	10	4	2	22
Cheddle .....	16	9	6	1	19
Kidsgrove .....	16	8	6	2	17
Onneley .....	16	7	6	3	16
Betley .....	16	7	6	3	15
Madeley .....	16	7	9	0	14
Stone .....	16	6	9	1	13
Alaegers Bank .....	16	3	10	3	9
Audley .....	16	3	10	3	9
Handyford .....	16	1	15	0	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 61; Onneley, 41.  
Burslem High Lane, 171; Brindley Ford Wes., 123.  
Madeley, 66; Kidsgrove, 40.  
Stone, 198; Alaegers Bank, 97.  
Audley, 87 for nine; Handyford, 26.  
Cheddle, 124 for nine; Betley, 91.

**THE ABSORBING MATTERS** of last Saturday's games were the disasters which befell three of the sectional leaders—Burslem, Madeley and Brindley Ford Wesleyans, who each lost to competitors who have still some interest in the championship struggles. As consequences of these defeats Burslem are now distanced by Bignall End, and the Wesleyans are equalled by Caverswall, who since Whitstable have had a period of full profit. Madeley still possess a clear lead in the Senior "B" Competition, but the advantage is one that another defeat might extinguish, and formidable foes in Stone and Sandyford have to be met in the next two matches. Bowlers were less sorely tried last Saturday than has been the case during many weeks

of the season, some of the aggregates being surprisingly meagre, with the 25 of Burslem High Lane the smallest. Crewe Alexandra and Knypersey were concerned in both the drawn games which took place, and the heaviest scoring of the afternoon occurred in the bout between the seniors of the two clubs. Two centuries were recorded in the primary section of the juniors, G. H. Mayer getting 108 (not out) for Nantwich, and C. R. Heath 114 for Porthill Park. With individuals in such talling form there was no wonder that the respective teams finished as winners.

### BIGNALL END'S RESTORATION.

Bignall End's win over Great Chell, coupled with the downfall of Burslem, restored the Boon Hill men to pride of place, and they are not likely to relinquish it without a keen struggle. Their latest success was a comfortable one; gained as it was with eight wickets standing, and there was not much interest in the match after the winning hit had been made. Chell's innings lasted eighty minutes, and J. Taylor (18) and E. J. Barber (19) were the only players to reach double figures, their fifth wicket connection producing 32 chalks. A. Lookett and E. J. Dale were responsible for the ready dismissal of the visitors, their figures being six for 33 and three for 22, respectively. Forty-five minutes' batting was sufficient for Bignall End to pass the opposition total, Dale (21) and W. Downing (12) putting on 25 for the first wicket, and E. Downing following up with 37, which was the highest individual score of the game, got by good cricket. The home side afterwards batted in irresponsible fashion, and wickets were rather cheap. G. Eitchford had four for 25, F. Voderay three for 10, and A. Smith two for 14.

### TALL SCORING AT CREWE.

Just 400 runs were got by the bat in the match at Crewe, the average for each wicket which fell being 40. Knypersey had the advantage of batting first, and they had a rare good start by running up 82 for the first wicket, by the agency of H. E. Bourne (28) and W. Boon. Runs came steadily from the start, 50 being scored in 35 minutes, and from that point Boon got very busy, scoring quickly, whilst Bourne was content with keeping one end going. The second wicket put on 58, and A. Cooper was the militant man in this partnership, Boon being somewhat tamed by the intense heat. He was ultimately caught after scoring 68 by excellent cricket. Cooper gave a fine display of forceful batting, counting 14 fours in his 72, and giving no chance. Knypersey's other batting was chiefly a case of get runs quickly or get out, and four other players reached doubles, two of them being the not-outs. The Alexandra tried nine bowlers, and the best returns were obtained by J. Brownridge, who got four wickets for 25. Crewe lost two men for 42, of which W. H. Norman claimed 18 by steady play, but any hopes of victory which the visitors may have entertained were dispelled by the doings of J. Holland and J. J. Stickle, both men batting exceedingly well whilst adding 56 for the third wicket. Holland was beaten by a "trimmer" from Jack Butler when his personal score had reached 49. A further 93 runs were gathered by Steele and H. Hope and both men were undefeated when stumps were drawn. Steele was a very fast scorer, hitting to a merry tune, and he had 14 boundaries in his 76 (not out). He got most of his runs in front of the wicket, and missed a goodly number by neglect of the cut stroke, which he may profitably cultivate. Anyhow, his batting greatly impressed the critics, and in him the Alexandra appear to have a cricketer of great promise. Hope collected 25 (not out) in his usual finished style.

### BURSLEM'S OVERTHROW.

The meeting of the Burslem and Porthill Park rivals attracted a fine attendance, and spectators had the satisfaction of witnessing a game which was full of thrills, and was contested in good spirit. Porthill had the privilege of taking first innings, and although they failed to get as many runs as was anticipated

they ran up enough to secure the honours and were satisfied when the end came. Six of their batsmen reached double figures, and the best and highest innings was played by H. F. Wood, who scored 31 by excellent methods, and was caught from his first bad stroke. The early part of the venture was marked by a most useful stand for the second wicket by K. Gleaves (18) and N. W. White (24), White being sure and forceful in his strokes, whilst Gleaves batted soundly during a stand which took a lot of the vim out of the bowling. G. A. F. Bagguley (14) figured in an association with Wood which carried the total from 78 to 109 for the seventh wicket, and it was a bad blow for his side when he was run out through assistance in going for a run which at the best was a mere speculation. J. Durber (13, not out) was the chief participant in a very useful last wicket stand, which was closed by a second run out incident. R. Hollowood bowled splendidly in both his spells, finishing with six wickets for 32, and always being difficult to score from. Evans Cook was not up to his customary standard, and was handicapped by a troublesome knee. Burslem's innings was full of thrills, the earlier ones being caused by the work of J. Durber, who found a good length, and bowled at a tremendous speed whilst capturing four wickets in five overs for seven singles. As Heap clipped in with two successes, Burslem lost six men for 28, and were in a parlous plight when E. Cook joined W. Briscoe. The pair set out to save and win the game, and they almost succeeded, their great effort improving the total by no less than 91 runs. Cook (30) played one of his soundest games, and though Briscoe was more forceful he was always sure in his purpose. The stand was finished when the skipper was out to a brilliant one-handed catch in the slips by A. A. Bickerton. Briscoe might have won the match if he could have found a man to stay with him, but two of the remaining batsmen were quickly mastered by Heap, and the last man was run out in an attempt to get the bowling for the left-hander. Briscoe had ten fours in his 60 (not out), and his fight against great odds may be classed as a wonderful exhibition. Durber finished with four wickets for 24, and it seemed that his first turn might have been of longer duration. It certainly broke the back of Burslem's batting, and was an "eye-opener" for some of the critics. Heap bowled very cleverly to get half the wickets for 41. Porthill were sadly handicapped by having only ten men in the field during the greater portion of the innings, A. A. Bickerton being absent through the call of reverential duty. In this game Porthill were a sounder side than their rivals, and their victory was well deserved.

### NANTWICH WIN CLEVERLY.

An excellent game was provided by the meeting of Nantwich and Silverdale, and although the Cheshire team got off in fine style, they had to fight hard for their victory. Batting first, the visitors had a very productive opening pair in E. W. Slight (21) and H. Gidman, who each had one life, but, otherwise, played sound cricket whilst gathering 76 runs. Slight was much slower than his partner, who hit vigorously after getting a good sight of the ball, and had ten fours in a very attractive exhibition. Another excellent display was that of J. B. Swindale, who went in at the fall of the third wicket and was ninth man out. He was disposed of by an obvious trap at short leg, but very sound play got him 40 runs before this happened. Three other players reached double figures, but, following such a strong start, Nantwich's final total was below expectations. W. T. Maybury (10) was out to a great and "inade" catch by W. Lowe, and there was merit in the captures by E. Groom and J. Cocks which accounted for T. W. Stevenson (12) and S. W. Cooper. The burden of Silverdale's attack was borne by A. Charlesworth, E. Groom and J. Whalen, and the first-named had a bad afternoon, his one wicket costing 60 runs. Whalen and Groom both required careful watching, and they finished with five wickets for 50 and three for 45, respectively. Silverdale opened with T. Kelsall (11) and W. Lowe, and both were done for when the score had reached 15, Lowe nanking a tame stroke which offered an easy slip catch, and Kelsall skying a ball which was safely held by the bowler. The next wicket was much harder to get, the co-operation of C. F. Rushton and Whalen gathering 45 runs, and giving Silverdale a real chance of getting a needed victory. Both batsmen adopted careful tactics, but they helped the score forward steadily, and caused changes of bowling, the second of which was successful, Rushton (23) being caught, off his glove, in trying to pull a bad ball. Groom, who came next, was

another highly useful partner for Whalen, who was now well set, and scoring freely, and the collaboration of the pair gave Nantwich real cause for anxiety, and called for the return of the original bowlers. The separation, however, was not effected until 41 runs had been added, when Groom (15) was stumped—a near thing. The fielding team were plainly relieved by this happening, and they girded themselves up to win the game, a task in which they were helped by some feeble batting at the end at which Whalen was operating. Charlesworth managed to create a little flutter by hitting up to one vigorous pull into the grassy grand stand pleasing the crowd and the executive—but he was much too adventurous in his methods of coping with Nantwich's wily bowlers, and was soon out to a skier over his wicket. Whalen was the ninth man to return, failing to a smart catch in the slips when trying to force runs. His score was 65, and he deserved every chalk he got, even though he might have been caught and bowled whilst in company with Rushton, a fierce chance to Maybury being rather too hot and wide to be held on the left side. Whalen played superb cricket, and his off strokes were delightful. Six wickets fell to Maybury for 42 runs, and E. H. Stevenson had three for 44, and the later stages of the innings furnished another illustration of the match-winning qualities of the twin.

#### LONGTON LOSE TO LECK.

Longton had one of their occasional spells of impotence last Saturday, and were soundly beaten by Leek, who were superior in all branches of the sport. The wicket was not a good one, but the visitors had the advantage of having first use of it, and their heavy defeat must be put down to bad batting. Five men reached double figures, but the only player to get beyond the teens was J. Skelthorne, who rattled up 21, which included four boundaries, the first of which was the first of the match. A. Smith was unusually scathe, and his 17 all came by singles. The eighth wicket fell at 75, and the plucky stand for the ninth partnership was the best of the venture, the connection of A. Kent (12) and A. Hawker (18) carrying the aggregate to 104; H. Birch had six wickets for 30, and his good length bowling was too great a problem for his opponents. He had capable help from F. Hunt, whose figures were four for 44. Leek were keen in the field, and their outfielding was particularly smart. Sound batting by A. Rider (21) and J. Cotton (14) gave the home team a promising start, and when they were finished with A. Plant (25) and J. Pointon (26) took the score within easy reach of victory. Birch (11) was shaping well when he received a nasty smack over the eye, and had to be carried off the field. H. Brassington, who had three wickets for 31, was quite the best of Longton's bowling.

#### RAILWAY OUTCLASSSED.

The L.M. and S. Railway team made a bad start against Norton by losing their most reliable batsman in the first over, and as a good second-wicket recovery was succeeded by other failures the final score was a poor one, far too meagre to cause trouble to a side of Norton's calibre. The second wicket stand was made by J. Hulme (15) and R. C. Wormington (28), who were both in commendable form; and J. D. Axford (17), a new man, also did well; but Norton's bowling had the rest in dire trouble, and six batsmen had only two singles between them. J. Smith had a good afternoon by taking four wickets for 21 runs, whilst U. Worthington had four for 35, and A. Jolley two for 12. Norton's first wicket fell at four, but L. H. Crump and J. Jolley established a complete mastery over the bowling, and scored almost as they pleased, though boundaries were extremely rare, in fact, the innings contained but three. The batting of both men was of excellent quality, and they put on runs at a fairly level rate. Jolley (51 not out) scoring slightly faster than Crump (42, not out). The losers' form in this game did not encourage hopes of an early win.

#### SENIOR "B" MATCHES.

Caverswall's return to winning ways was happily associated with the coming back of their skipper, S. H. Jackson, whose appearance in the side was gratifying evidence of recovery from a recent illness. A smart throw-in caused the fall of Caverswall's first wicket at 11, and there was not much doing until C. Hassall and F. Hamnett came together as the seventh pair, a connection which was marked by delightful batting and ran the total from 57 to 112. Hassall performed in his wonted polished style whilst getting 37, and Hamnett—

the "Benjamin" of the team—got 39 in most promising fashion. No other player reached double figures. Scot Hay's most effective bowlers were L. Bloor—three for 32—and A. Furnival—three for 17. The visitors opened confidently, but Caverswall got a grip on the game when W. Payne got two "trimmers" home in his fifth over, and the only resistance of moment which was offered to the bowling subsequently came from F. Higginbotham (11), and Rogerson (22). Few liberties could be taken with the bowling of Payne and E. Wakelin, who captured three wickets for 16 and five for 23, respectively. Two remarkably good catches were made by A. Picard, whose work behind the stumps was generally good.

The game at Ashcombe Park had a sensational ending, the home team's bowlers having a triumph which brought victory after defeat had seemed inevitable. Against some capital bowling the Park men shaped poorly, no player getting more than eight runs, and the aggregate of 47 was not one to perturb the High Lane batsmen, who have been free scorers on many occasions. But sixteen overs from C. Davies and F. James were sufficient to put out the lot, and when the last wicket was disposed of the visitors were 22 chalks behind. The total stood at seven when the fifth man fell, and 10 from A. Gaskell equalled the joint contributions of all his colleagues. James had five victims for 17, and the resourceful attack of Davies accounted for four players at the paltry cost of three singles. The Park are progressing nicely.

Madeley's batting came undone badly at Clough Hall, seven players failing to count a run amongst them, and only a well hit 22 from F. Clarke saved an out-and-out rout. Such a trifle as eight runs made the toll for the five wickets which went to the credit of F. Timmis, whilst E. Hadley was not a long way behind with four for 20. Kids-grove's easy task was soon accomplished, H. Cooper (27) and P. Strong (18) scoring with freedom as the first wicket couple, and the game was won before they were separated. Wickets were very cheap afterwards, and E. Mayer, who bowled well throughout, finished with six for 23.

Strengthened by the return of E. J. Johnson, Stone resumed a winning course, and gained a capital victory over Alsagers Park. Having first knock on a good wicket, Stone's early batsmen fared none too well against some admirable bowling, backed up by exceptionally smart fielding, and seven men were out for 99, the chief contributors to that total being F. G. J. Crawshaw (29) and B. C. Fernie (22). A stand of consequence was then made by A. Ravenscroft and P. C. Dutton (25), their stay augmenting the score by 44 before Dutton was sent back. Ravenscroft, who had been very shaky at the start of his innings, afterwards played finely, and remained to reach 48 (not out), a valuable last wicket stand with E. J. Johnson producing 31 notches. Ravenscroft hit nine fours, and it was not until late in his innings that he gave an actual chance. A. Anson, who took three wickets, was the visitors' chief bowler; G. W. Beech, W. Beech and J. Wareham each having two victims. It was left to the father and son of the Beech family to show the only material resistance to Stone's attack, and the result was never in doubt from the time the younger player left, fifth out, after running up 24. G. W. Beech stayed to make 31, the top score of the innings. E. J. Johnson signalled his return by bowling extremely well and taking five wickets for 20.

A fourth wicket partnership of 61 runs by A. Bourne and M. Cotton was the feature of Sandysford's innings against Audley, whose bowlers made short work of the rest of the team. Cotton had ten fours in his spirited innings of 43, and Bourne batted soundly for 26. Audley's main bowlers were F. Darlington—four for 37—and H. Timmis—four for 28. The visitors made a sorry start by losing five men for ten runs, and the last four wickets all fell with the total at 41. G. Rowley did well with 20 (not out), and Darlington got 10 by three hits, but the other nine players had only a beggarly seven chalks between them. A. Bourne made himself a distinguished all-rounder by disposing of six wickets for ten runs, and G. Bourne had two for 27—the other two men being run out.

Cheadle found runs hard to get at Betley, the bowling and fielding of the home team being very good, and no chance of attack was necessary. The ball reared badly at times, and no batsman forced the well-directed bowling confidently, 7 not out from E. Gregory being the top score. W. Chell had six wickets for 16, and B. Mudden four for 30. Betley started the task of surpassing Cheadle's meagre total in confident mood, and although they lost three wickets for 24 the result was never in doubt, for T. Dean played the bowling with ease, and scored 44 by particularly good cricket. There was not much distinction

about the other batting, but W. Smith compiled 27 by forceful methods. J. Keate took four wickets for 29, and W. Brough had three for 28.

#### PLAY OF THE JUNIORS.

Due to the capital batting of A. S. Pitt and W. H. Meir, and some destructive bowling by Pitt—three for 19—and J. Wilshaw—four for 8—Great Chell obtained a praiseworthy win over Bignall End, whose best performer was J. Taylor, with six wickets for 44. The fifth wicket stand of Pitt (42) and Meir (43) realised 95 runs, and gave Chell a winning position. Bowlers were mostly out of the picture at Knypersley, and the only one to get much satisfaction was J. Hoon, who had four Alexandra wickets for 31. Crewe's batting had the merit of consistency, for seven players reached dual figures, with D. Kirkham quite the most prominent. This player put a well got 80 to his credit. Knypersley lost four men for ten, but H. Green (49) and R. Bates (20), effected an improvement, and the match was saved by the stand of H. Green and P. Green (47), the pair carrying the score from 50 to 119 for the sixth wicket. Two men played big parts in the success of Porthill Park over Burslem, C. R. Heath scoring 114 and C. Tunnicliffe capturing seven wickets for 32. Heath, who hit 20 boundaries, got his big score by excellent batting, and Tunnicliffe bowled very cleverly. For the losers, Joe Fenton (57) and G. Smith (20) had a fine opening stand of 74 runs, but the batting gradually fell away, and Porthill were able to beat the clock. Nantwich had to struggle desperately for their success over Silverdale, who appeared to have got runs enough to at least ensure them against defeat. That the visitors were beaten was due to the splendid display of G. H. Mayer, who went in at the fall of the second wicket, and took out his bat for 108, 15 4's. He was capably supported in the closing stages by J. Allsopp and B. Willett, the last two wickets adding 55 runs. Silverdale's most conspicuous player was C. Saunders, who scored 43 and took four wickets for 42. His last wicket partnership with S. Brookes (25 not out) obtained 59 chalks. A finely hit innings by H. Allcock, who had 17 fours in his 85, was the main factor in Leek's win over Longton, though due credit must be given to the bowlers, A. L. Kidd securing five wickets for 32 and D. Newall three for 27. For Longton, E. Blurton disposed of six men for 30, and F. Audley played a patient innings of 22 (not out). Norton were always winning against L.M.S. Railway, whose bowling was feeble. J. Massey was to the fore with a well got 67, and was ably supported by A. Smith (33), R. Hill (38) and A. Evans (29). The losers' leading batsman was A. Tinsley, with 31. R. Brown accounted for four men for 42, and A. Evans and J. Baguley shared the other six wickets.

At Onneley the bowling of J. Utting was too big a proposition for the home team, seven wickets falling to it for 16 runs. Caverswall made a sorry start against Onneley's moderate total, but 25 from T. Adderley put them out of danger. A. Davies—three for six—had the best figures of four Onneley bowlers. At High-lane the bowling of Brindley Ford was well collared by the home batsmen, good stands being made by Hy. Edwards (30), F. Goodwin (23), T. Johnson (32), J. Lowe (32) and D. Brammer (20, not out). The Was-leyans commenced ominously, and although R. Machin played finely for 52, and A. Ayre made a plucky 23, they never looked like warding off defeat. Lowe had four of their wickets for 33. There was a lot of poor batting in the game between Madeley and Kids-grove, the only player to make a respectable show being E. Griffiths, who got 28 for the Madeley winners, whose bowling honours went to J. Ousley—five for 15. Kids-grove's most useful representative was E. Goodwin, who had six wickets for 28. E. Slynns was the outstanding figure in the match between Alsagers Bank and Stone, going in at the fall of the visitors' first wicket and taking out his bat for a fine 84. Nine Bank bowlers were tried, J. Cooper—four for 27—having the best figures. The home batsmen found C. Wood—six for 38—and W. Ravenscroft—four for 28—in capital form, and only W. Sumnall (27) and A. Green (20) showed much run-getting ability. Wickets cost just three runs apiece at Audley, where G. Taylor—six for 13—and L. Beech—four for 13—gave Sandysford quick despatch, and F. James—five for 18—and S. Holmes—four for nine—were deadly for the losers. At Cheadle, J. Whitehurst played a very patient innings of 38 for the home team, whose batting was fairly level; and G. Lyth did well for Betley with 38. G. Malbon—six for 34—was a troublesome Cheadle bowler.



## NEXT WEEK'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

## MONDAY.

## Junior Division.—Section "A."

Crows Alexandra v. Silverdale; Messrs. Clones and Gregory.

## TUESDAY.

## Junior Division.—Section "B."

Kidsgrove v. Onneley.

## SATURDAY.

## Senior Division.—Section "A."

Crows Alexandra v. Bignall End; Messrs. Taylor and Downs.

Burslem v. Great Obell; Messrs. Bradbury and Arthur Rogers.

Silverdale v. Knypersley; Messrs. Worthington and Gnocott.

Leek v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Ward and Condiffe.

L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke) v. Nantwich; Messrs. Manifold and L. H. Bagley.

Longton v. Norton; Messrs. Bowers and W. Butters.

## Section "B."

Ascombe Park v. Caverswall; Messrs. Rowlands and A. Holdercroft.

Kidsgrove v. Root Hay; Messrs. Forster and Coates.

Stone v. Burslem High Lane; Messrs. Keeling and Shingler.

Sandford v. Madeley; Messrs. Groom and Portch.

Betley v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. Tinsley and Bostock.

Andley v. Chaele; Messrs. Pennell and Green.

## Junior Division.—Section "A."

Bignall End v. Crows Alexandra; Messrs. Boulton and Lyth.

Great Obell v. Burslem; Messrs. Viggars and Buckley.

Knypersley v. Silverdale; Messrs. Barsted and Latham.

Porthill Park v. Leek; Messrs. Brown and Furnival.

Nantwich v. L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke); Messrs. Salmon and Johnson.

Norton v. Longton; Messrs. Perkin and Albert Rogers.

## Section "B."

Caverswall v. Brindley Ford Weekyans.

Onneley v. Kidsgrove.

Burslem High Lane v. Stone.

Madeley v. Sandford.

Alsagers Bank v. Betley.

Chaele v. Andley.

## CONGLETON AND DISTRICT CRICKET NOTES.

The holding of the annual Congleton Hospital Carnival on Saturday marred the interest of the local cricket enthusiasts, and as a result, a meagre attendance witnessed the encounter between Congleton and Oakamoor, the result of which was a draw. Batting first, Congleton collected 224 for nine wickets, when they declared. A brilliant and skilful display was given by Cecil T. Sheldon for his total of 66. J. Reynolds also played a lively innings for 32, while able support was rendered by R. Reynolds (28), F. Whitaker (27), and M. Harper, jun (15). For the visitors F. Walker took four wickets for 41 runs, and W. F. James three for 25. Against this total the visitors succeeded in registering 125 with only half of their wickets down, when the game ended. The brothers S. and F. Walker were the principal scorers for Oakamoor, S. Walker contributing 30 runs and F. Walker 43. For Congleton, F. Broxup had two wickets for 21 runs and F. Whitaker two for 26.

Congleton Empire Mills visited Mow Cop on Saturday, when they were defeated. The Mills XI were the first to bat and reached a total of only 40, F. Tomlinson (14) being the only player to make any stay at the wicket. H. Bayson secured five wickets for 16, and E. Williscroft five for 24 for Mow Cop. Prior to their sixth wicket falling the homesters had knocked off the required runs, and their whole innings realised 83, out of which W. D. Wright accounted for 23 and H. Boyson 12. For Congleton Empire Mills J. W. Elkin captured five for 33 runs, and J. Hancock the remaining five for 46 runs.

In an interview at Bath, M. D. Lyon, the Somerset amateur cricketer, asked why he is playing again, said: "I am playing a few matches because, in a letter dated 15th July I received an explanation from Mr. Lacey, originating from Lord Harris, which I have formally accepted." It will be recalled that Lyon announced last summer his retirement from first-class cricket owing to some difference with the M.C.C.

## UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

## DIVISION I.

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	13	9	2	2	20
Kingsley	14	9	3	2	20
Florence	14	8	3	3	18
Leigh	13	8	3	2	18
Stallington	14	7	5	2	16
Oakamoor	14	4	6	4	12
Alton	13	4	6	3	11
Uttoxeter	14	4	7	3	11
Draycott	13	2	9	2	6
Hollington	14	1	12	1	3

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Uttoxeter 51, Kingsley 140 (for 7); Oakamoor 60, Draycott 93; Florence 79 (for 7), Stallington 36; Team 158, Leigh 66; Hollington 31, Alton 88 (for 6).

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batting.—R. Carr (Kingsley), 49; W. Winfield (Draycott), 42.

Bowling.—W. Wright (Alton), five for 13; J. Bredlen (Alton), four for 13; C. Sutton (Oakamoor), five for 18; L. Ridge (Draycott), five for 16; C. Jackson (Kingsley), five for 23; F. Tolt (Florence), four for 14; A. Copestake (Florence), six for 22; W. Bodson (Stallington), three for 6; F. Wilson (Leigh), three for 12.

## DIVISION II.

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	11	7	2	2	16
Stallington	12	7	4	1	15
Leigh	12	5	4	1	15
Fulford	10	5	3	2	12
Oakamoor	11	5	5	1	11
Alton	11	4	6	1	9
Cresswell	11	4	6	1	9
Hollington	10	0	9	1	1

## LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Alton 105, Oakamoor 48; Stallington 57, Hollington 29.

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

Batting.—W. Sarceant (Alton), 33.  
Bowling.—K. Yates (Stallington), four for 3; C. Mills (Stallington), four for 6; B. Goodwin (Alton), five for 18; C. Nicholls (Oakamoor), five for 21.

## CHAELE AND DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CRICKET LEAGUE.

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Chaele C.E.	14	11	2	1	23
Chaele Council	14	11	2	1	23
Chaele R.C.	14	9	4	1	19
Kingsley	14	9	4	1	19
Fort	14	6	6	2	14
Oakamoor C.	14	4	10	0	8
Hollington	14	2	12	0	4
Ipsstones	14	1	13	0	2

Chaele Council 41, Kingsley 27; Chaele C.E. v. Oakamoor (Chaele C.E. awarded match); Chaele R.C. 115 for seven, Ipsstones 31; Fort 54, Hollington 33.

Best Performances.—Batting: A. Keates (Chaele R.C.), 59. Bowling: J. Davenport (Chaele Council), five wickets for 8 runs; K. Green (Chaele Council), four for 4; D. Powell (Chaele R.C.), eight for 12.

Chaele C.E. and Chaele Council played an interesting match for the Championship, C.E. winning by 5 runs. Both were ex-champions, the Council having had the honour of being the first team to win the Shield, and the C.E. team were champions last year.

On Tuesday evening the Champions played a team chosen from the Rest of the League, the scores being: Rest of League 79, Chaele C.E. 35. After the match, Dr. Mackenzie (president) handed the shield to the captain of the C.E. team.

The League batting prize has been won by A. Finney (Chaele Council), who had made 223 runs in 22 innings, his average being 18.6. The bowling prize was won by J. Barker (Kingsley) with 42 wickets for 65 runs.

## MID-WEEK CRICKET.

## WOORE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

## Semi-final.

## Green and Gold v. Madeley.

Played on Wednesday.

MADELEY.—R. Tomkinson b Rowley 1, A. Rythway b Harrison 24, S. Heath c Goodall b J. Bailey 1, J. Ousley b J. Bailey 0, J. Hazeldine b Harrison 19, J. Hill b Harrison 17, J. Harrison b Harrison 0, E. Gough not out 11, S. Barlow b Rowley 0, H. Backley c Rowley b Harrison 7, J. Watson not out 0, extras 5; total 87.

GREEN AND GOLD.—L. Lightfoot c Heath b Ousley 0, W. Lawton b Heath 1, G. Keeling b Heath 7, R. Harrison b Ousley 0, G. Rowley b Heath 3, F. Goodall run out 4, R. Rowley b Heath 0, E. Bailey b Ousley 4, J. Bailey c Barlow b Ousley 0, H. Martin c Hill b Heath 1, J. Lightfoot b Heath 0, extras 4; total 24.

## MARKET DRAYTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.—Semi-final.

## Casuals v. Woore.

Played at Market Drayton on Monday.

CASUALS.—F. Wilkinson b Bodson 14, J. Boushey b Morrey 14, R. Hodgkinson c Rowley b Morrey 1, T. Finney c Harrison b Morrey 0, C. Shaker c Timmis b Bodson 0, R. Hill c Timmis b Morrey 2, B. Parry b Bodson 0, A. Andrews c Keeling b Morrey 0, J. Jones c Timmis b Morrey 1, S. Morrey b Morrey 10, R. Williams b Bodson 2, extras 7; total 54.

WOORE.—G. W. Timmis b Hill 8, T. Morrey c Wilkinson b Hodgkinson 13, W. Lawton b Hill 0, H. Bodson b Hill 12, H. Wallis b Hill 6, R. Harrison b Hill 4, F. Goodall b Hill 4, C. Keeling c and b Hodgkinson 2, R. Cole b Hill 1, G. Rowley b Hill 2, H. K. Harrison b Hill 0, extras 8; total 63.

## Congleton Wednesday v. Staffordshire County Police.

Played at Congleton on Wednesday.

CONGLETON WEDNESDAY.—A. E. Brathby b Siddons 21, Rec. Reynolds c Talbot b Godden 67, W. H. Briscoe c Egan b Talbot 66, M. Harper, jun b Talbot 28, A. C. Hawkins b Inspector Marshall 1, A. Coates b Inspector Marshall 6, J. Standeven not out 0, E. Bullock b Talbot 0, extras 6; total (for 7 wks) 195. Declared.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY POLICE.—P. C. Godden b Hawkins 5, P. C. Siddons b Briscoe 1, Inspector Marshall c Briscoe b Hawkins 1, P. C. Boulton b Briscoe 4, P. C. Talbot b Briscoe 2, P. C. Mussey b Briscoe 0, P. C. Wilkie c Coates b Briscoe 12, P. C. Volley not out 28, P. C. Egan c Brathby b Briscoe 1, P. C. Plant b Briscoe 6, P. C. Guthrie b Briscoe 1, extras 2; total 69.

## Sherwood Foresters v. Uttoxeter Town Thursday.

SHERWOOD FORESTERS.—S. M. Townsend c Heasman b Hall 4, Wells b Heasman 6, Sgt. Bradley c and b Hall 14, Neep b Heasman 0, Griddle b Heasman 0, Whittles b Heasman 0, Beardsmore c and b Heasman 0, Pettinter b Heasman 0, Cresswick b Heasman 9, Poulson not out 5, Daylins c Willisford b Heasman 0, extras 3; total 41.

UTTOXETER.—J. Deville c Neep b Townsend 20, R. T. Green c and b Townsend 36, W. B. Harvey lbw b Townsend 4, W. Heasman c Neep b Townsend 19, W. Astbury b Townsend 0, F. Hall c Bradley b Townsend 0, H. Willisford c and b Darks 4, F. Armstrong not out 3, Heasman, jun, b Townsend 1, D. Hewitt b Townsend 1, Capt. Bamford did not bat, extras 7; total (for nine wks) 95.

## Port Vale v. Woore.

PORT VALE.—E. Collinge c and b Harrison 13, P. Oldacre c F. Lawton b Morrey 7, T. Morgan c Harrison b W. Lawton 17, G. Harris b W. Lawton 14, W. Briscoe c Harrison b Morrey 10, T. Cooper c Timmis b W. Lawton 10, A. Capes c Smith b Morrey 6, J. Poulton lbw b Morrey 0, R. Jones c Peters b W. Lawton 1, C. Ralphs not out 0, S. Tiley st Smith b W. Lawton 0, extras 4; total 82.

WOORE.—T. Morrey c Briscoe b Morgan 2, R. Smith c Cooper b Briscoe 12, W. Lawton lbw b Morgan 12, G. E. Parton b Briscoe 4, G. W. Timmis c and b Collinge 15, H. Wallis c Collinge b Poulton 6, R. Harrison not out 10, R. Cole b Poulton 2, E. R. Peters b Briscoe 3, F. Lawton c Tiley b Collinge 2, F. Goodall c Briscoe b Collinge 1, extras 5; total 74.



**THE LOCAL TIT-BIT** last Saturday, Burslem and Porthill, provided a game that abounded with thrills, and the match was one of the most interesting that has taken place between these keen rivals for many years. Porthill won by the narrow margin of seven runs, and this only after one of the most gallant attempts by two men, Briscoe and Evans, to retrieve the game, when all hope appeared to be gone.

Porthill, by steady batting, totalled 136, and they were fortunate to find Evans Cooke below his usual form with the ball, owing to a damaged knee. Roy Hollowood, however, bowled splendidly, and gave one of his best bowling displays of the season. He was by no means flattered with his figures of six wickets for 32 runs.

Then came Burslem's venture, and soon six wickets were down for 28 runs. But then came the change that turned the game completely round. Briscoe and Evans Cooke, by cricket that was deserving of the highest praise, took the score forward to 119, when Cooke's great attempt was brought to a close by a brilliant single-handed catch in the slips. No wonder the large crowd cheered Cooke as he returned to the pavilion. He had scored 30. Briscoe could get no further support, so on his own he carried on in the gamest manner possible, and he must be warmly praised for his great innings. He was undefeated at the close with 60 to his credit, which included ten 4's, and one stroke for 5.

Heap and Durber bowled wonderfully well for Porthill. The former was a most "brainy" trundler, whilst the latter whizzed the ball down at a tremendous speed. Burslem's fielding was exceptionally smart, many runs being saved in this respect.

Bigball End were superior in all departments to Great Chell, but the losers must be complimented on fighting hard against so strong a combination as the Boon Hill team. Great credit must be given to their bowlers for dismissing six such batsmen as A. W. Ikin, J. Burgess, L. McEllin, A. E. Bratby, A. Lockett and F. Nixon for 21 runs. This happened after the winning hit had been made, as J. H. Mayer had altered his usual order of going in. E. Downing was the top scorer of the match with 37.

G. Fitchford bowled well for Chell. He had 16 runs knocked off him for one wicket, when Curnock relieved him, but resuming again at the other end, he finished up with taking 4 for 25. Helped by Vodrey, who took 3 wickets for 10 runs, the home team's "tail" completely broke down, and the innings only realised 124, after the first four batsmen had scored 96. With Burslem failing at home, this win puts them at the head of the table.

Batting first, Great Chell lost five wickets for 17, when J. Taylor and E. J. Barber came together, and put on 32 for the sixth wicket, which was the best stand of the innings, each batsman contributing 19. The remainder gave little trouble, and the side were out for the moderate total of 68.

A. Lockett and F. J. Dale bowled practically unchanged, as J. Burgess only sent down one over to allow Dale to change a shoe. The former returned the best figures by taking 6 wickets for 33 runs. Out of the 30 overs these two bowlers sent down, 15 were maidens.

#### BRIGHT BATTING AT CREWE

Rarely have Crewe spectators been treated to such an exhibition of batting as that provided by the match with Knypersley, who scored 243 for seven wickets, whilst the Alexandra responded with 191 for three. The fact that the home batsmen ran up such a big total in a couple of hours, compensated to some extent for their weakness in the field, which was largely responsible for Knypersley obtaining a commanding advantage.

At least four catches were dropped, the most expensive one from the Railwaymen's point of view being the "life" awarded to Cooper before he had scored, the Knypersley man afterwards heading the list for his side with 72. These were compiled in something like three-quarters of an hour by delightful cricket. Brownridge was the ninth bowler put on by Crewe, and he "came off," four wickets falling to him at small expense.

It was a big task that faced the Alexandra, and they received an early set-back when A. Price was sent back for six, and Norman for 18. Holland batted steadily in partnership with Steele, and reached one short of the half-century before Butler got past his defence. Then came the brightest bit of batting of the afternoon, J. Steele being responsible. He is a young college student, and this was his first big performance in Staffordshire League cricket. Cautious at first, he opened out later, having gauged the lengths of the various bowlers, and he succeeded in carrying his bat for a magnificent 76. Hope was not out for 25, and when time was called he also looked fit enough for another half-century.

Jack Whalen came into his own again on Saturday after several weeks of inactivity with the ball, by capturing half the Nantwich wickets at a cost of ten runs apiece. In addition he maintained his recent good form with the bat in collecting 65 runs. So long as he remained at the wickets, there always seemed a possibility of Silverdale getting the runs, but after the partnership with Groome had been broken, no one else appeared likely to render him any assistance. C. F. Rushton is acquitting himself remarkably well behind the stumps during the enforced absence of Green.

The Railwaymen's chances of retaining their place in the premier division are getting more remote as the season advances. Although the wickets have been favourable to run-getting, the batsmen have failed. R. C. Wormington, the Railwaymen's captain, has been the backbone of the team, both in bowling and batting. The team has also missed the valuable assistance of R. Partridge who, through illness, has only been able to play occasionally. J. Awford, a new man from Bristol, was tried on Saturday, and he should be a useful addition to the team. His 17 runs on Saturday were very useful, and he was the only successful bowler.

#### AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.

Leek's success against Longton in the return fixture at Highfield, was somewhat marred by the accident which happened to Harold Birch just on the close of Leek's innings. The home side had made 104 for the loss of three wickets against the visitors total of 105, when Birch played the ball hard on to his forehead. He sustained a cut over the right eye and was temporarily knocked out, but after receiving medical attention he was able to be taken home in a motor car, and is now going on all right.

It was a distinctly unfortunate termination to a highly successful afternoon's cricket for the popular Leek player, for not only had his stand of 32 runs with Jack Pointon brought his side to the verge of victory, but that victory had been rendered all the easier by his splendid bowling in securing six Longton wickets for 30 runs in 22 overs.

Jack Pointon, who made his record score against the Railway, at Stoke, again batted well, and he was unlucky not to have been "in at the death." His 26 runs were made in taking the home total from 54 to 104, and, as he also brought off three particularly smart catches, he had much to say in his side's success.

Alf Smith's 17 runs were all singles—a rather unusual entry in Longton's score book. J. Skelthorne's 21, which included four crisp boundary shots, rather discounted the ultra-cautious methods of the earlier Longton batsmen, and a further breezy stand of 25 runs by A. Kent and A. Hawker, for the ninth wicket, showed that runs were to be got.

E. Owen, Longton's prolific run-getter, was at the wicket fifty minutes for his 13 runs, and Alf Smith forty-five minutes for his array of singles.

# CRICKET.

## STAFFORDSHIRE v. NOTTS II.

The weather was rather unkind on the first day of the holiday programme of the Staffordshire County C.C., for a wet morning on Monday undoubtedly had a serious effect on the gate receipts at Porthill, where Notts II. were the visitors, whilst in the afternoon the weather again turned bad, and greatly curtailed the day's play. The morning's rain made the wicket rather soft, and when the Notts captain won the toss he took the experimental course of giving Staffordshire first innings. Thus twice in succession Staffordshire were sent in to bat after losing the toss. The step was a wise one beyond question when taken by Mr. Falcon at Norwich, but with the weather so unsettled it seemed doubtful policy at Porthill. The pitch was not really difficult at any time, and as matters turned out, drizzling rain after lunch made the conditions unfavourable for the bowlers and easier for the batsmen. Before lunch the play justified Kirk's decision, for at the interval Staffordshire had lost six wickets for 89, but with the intervention of light rain and one or two brief stoppages the bowling was hit somewhat freely, and the home county were enabled to compile a score of 208. As the rain set in steadily at the close of the Staffordshire innings, and no further play was possible on Monday, it was quite conceivable that the total might prove a formidable one if Tuesday should furnish a drying wicket.

Staffordshire had a fairly strong side, in spite of the absence of Sedgwick and Platt. W. Briscoe, the Rurslem left-hand batsman and Port Vale footballer, was included for the first time this season, and J. Durber, Porthill's last left-arm bowler, was given his second trial. The Notts side contained a number of new names, including Dr. Gauld (hon. secretary of the Notts club), J. W. Peatfield, W. Keeton, B. A. Walkerdine, A. Ashley, A. Spencer, and Shipston. The latter seems to be a "find" of some importance, for he has been scoring exceedingly well since his inclusion in the team. He hails from Doncaster, but has a birth qualification for Notts. Ashley and Spencer are both young left-arm bowlers. Such familiar names as Lilley, Walker, and Larwood, all now firmly established in the first XI. were, of course, missing, though they played against Staffordshire at Trent Bridge in May.

Homer and Howe made a subdued opening for Staffordshire, and it looked as though a little more aggressiveness would have been good tactics in the early stage, half-volleys being treated with lenient respect. But the two remained together 50 minutes to score 37 for the first wicket. Howl, after scoring half-a-dozen, edged one from Staples to Dr. Gauld at second slip, and was fortunate to be let off. There was a fairly strong wind blowing across the wicket, and when Ashley bowled vice Silverberg, who had started the attack with Staples, the wind assisted him to bowl the inswinger. It was in trying to drive a half-volley that Homer succumbed to the "swing," pulling an off-ball into the wicket.

The fall of the first wicket was followed by a serious misfortune, for Barnes was run out five runs later. Howl square cut a ball hard, and, thinking it would beat the field, started to run. The bowler had no orthodox point, Walkerdine being rather deep and somewhat in front of the wicket. By a quite brilliant effort he reached the ball and made a surprising left-handed stop. With his partner well down the wicket Barnes tried for the run in preference to sending him back, and was narrowly run out. Further success attended the visitors, for, with Dr. Gauld bowling vice Staples, Bickerton played too late at a yorker at 47. Goodwin edged one up in the slips at 53—which Silverberg failed to hold but knocked into the hands of Staples—and

Howl, who had given a chance of stumping off Ashley when 22, was unluckily out at 69. He turned to play a short one to leg, and the ball striking him on the body dropped on the wicket as he swung round. Yates and Lockett played well together for a spell, but the partnership was broken with the last ball before lunch, Lockett hitting out at Gauld and driving the ball hard to mid-off.

On resuming, Yates played the most confident cricket he has shown for the county this season, and in partnership with Whalen, who maintained a dour defence, though the good length balls occasionally had him guessing, gradually improved the position. The lunch score was six for 89 as the result of almost two hours' batting, and the seventh wicket exactly doubled the score in 55 minutes. Yates's driving was hard and well-timed, and would have been more prolific with better placing, but most of his runs came from clever leg strokes. He also got runs through the slips, some strokes being nice late cuts, but some of them were of the streaky kind, off the edge of the bat and a little fortunate. He also got under the ball once in playing his skilful hook shot, and asked it, but it was out of reach of square leg. He gave no actual chance; and, allowing for a few uncertain strokes, he played a fine game for his side, was batting a little more than an hour and a half, and hit 9 fours, 2 threes, and 7 twos in helping to add 125. Whalen also batted well for an hour, during which 90 runs were scored, but skied a ball to cover point immediately after the departure of Yates. Briscoe edged a half-volley up to first slip, and nine wickets were down for 180. Russell and Durber, however, added a useful 28 in quick time. The captain got three well-timed leg hits to the rails off Gauld, and one smashing on-drive, and Durber a couple of lusty leg hits from Staples before he skied one and was caught near the on boundary. Staffordshire were batting 3 hours and 20 minutes. Rain was falling during most of the latter part of the innings, and there were two stoppages of ten minutes each. On both occasions the game was resumed while it still rained, presumably in response to the rather inconsiderate appeals of the spectators.

Before the visitors could open their innings the rain set in more heavily, and continued in a steady downpour, preventing any further play.

After a tedious wait while the wicket dried on Tuesday morning, there was an interesting afternoon's cricket, and the result of the match was that Staffordshire secured a first innings lead and took three of the five points. The pitch was in a saturated condition after the downpour of Monday evening, which was renewed during the night, and play was not possible until 12.45. Thereafter, however, the weather was pleasant, and a capital ring of spectators were entertained by some good cricket.

Though the wicket was very dead and the foothold for the bowlers bad for some time, Notts made a disastrous start. In 45 minutes before lunch they lost two wickets for 24 against Barnes and Lockett, and might have done even worse, for Keeton was distinctly fortunate. J. W. Peatfield and Shipston, the latter a recent acquisition to the Notts ground staff, who promises well, opened the innings, and only five had been scored when the professional edged a quick ball from Lockett, and was beautifully taken at first slip low down with the right hand by Barnes. Keeton got his first runs by means of a lucky snick from Lockett which was just out of Barnes's reach, and, having scored seven, placed one from the same bowler into the hands of Briscoe at short leg and escaped. Barnes also had both batsmen beaten, and at 23 Peatfield turned to play the England bowler to leg and instead popped it up to Howl close in at point, the leg spin doing the trick. Further disasters befel the visitors when play was resumed after lunch, two clever

catches at short leg disposing of Keeton and Walkerdine, so that four wickets were down for 36. Briscoe performed a complete somersault in diving in to take the first named off Barnes, and Goodwin jumped to a high one at the other end to knock the ball up and catch it at the second attempt, quite a brilliant catch.

At this point there were visions of Notts following on, but these were soon dispelled by the forceful tactics of the Notts captain, who twice lifted Barnes on to the Marsh, the narrow leg boundary evidently attracting him. But he tried the game once too often with so wily a bowler as Barnes, and, skying the ball to a great height, was very well caught by Briscoe. The fifth wicket went at 64, but the next added 72 runs in an hour, Staples and Silverberg playing good cricket and bringing on Whalen and Durber. Lockett bowled with disheartening luck, not less than four catches being missed from him in the course of the innings. Staples was let off at the wicket when Lockett came on again in place of Whalen, but a separation was effected by Durber, who got the professional caught in the slips at 136. While this pair were together there appeared a fair chance of Notts securing the first innings lead, for it was evident that the wicket was drying easy. The sunshine was rather subdued, and not enough to impart much life to the pitch.

When the partnership was broken a collapse ensued. Silverberg tried a single for a hard drive, which was finely stopped by Homer at deep mid-on, and the Old Hill man crowned a good piece of work by throwing the wicket down. Barnes then returned to the attack, and took the last three wickets in 3.3 overs for one run. The Notts innings closed at 4.30, having lasted 3 hours and 5 minutes, a very slow rate of scoring. Barnes came out with capital figures and deserved them, and Lockett ought to have had a vastly better record. He lost his length occasionally, and was punished, but such would quite probably not have been the case if he had been credited with the wickets he was entitled to. Wheat was allowed to escape when he put a ball from the Bignall End bowler up near the wicket, owing to a misunde standing between Russell and Howl, who watched the ball drop between them.

There was no further interest in the result, but the spectators were entertained to some excellent batting during the hour and 35 minutes which remained for play after tea. Homer and Goodwin made a useful start in Staffordshire's second innings, in which Staples was not able to bowl owing to a blow which he received on the ankle from Durber when batting, and he left the field limping before the end. For a long time Homer scored chiefly singles, but Goodwin got four for a delightful shot through the covers from Gauld, and forced Silverberg twice to the on boundary with equally facile strokes. However, at 36 Goodwin failed to keep down a hard on drive, and, as in the second innings at Norwich, gave a catch at deep mid-on which was safely held. Bickerton was never comfortable, and contributed only three singles of the 29 runs added for the second wicket. Homer was warning to his work, and after being let off by Kirk in the "gully" from a hard cut at 15, and by Keeton from a just possible chance at mid off—though the fielder did quite well to prevent a boundary—he set about the bowling in brilliant style. His square cutting often aroused the enthusiasm of the spectators, and he got some pretty leg strokes and well-timed drives. Yates, who helped Homer to add 55 in half an hour, hit to leg with great effect, and lifted both Gauld and Spencer on to the Marsh for six. The display of the Old Hill pair was highly diverting, and was brought to an end at 120, when Homer popped a kicking ball up between the wickets and was secured by the bowler. He hit nine fours and played polished cricket. At the close Stafford-

shire were 184 runs on with only three wickets down.

Yates received a nasty blow in the side in trying to hook a fast short ball from Spencer, and had to receive attention at the wicket from ambulance men, but on recovering he went on batting, and promptly hit one of the sixes already referred to. He had a good match, for he scored 100 for once out.

Scores and Analysis:—

### STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H. W. Homer b Ashley	19
C. Howl b Spencer	35
Barnes run out	0
A. A. Bickerton b Gauld	4
H. Goodwin c Staples b Gauld	1
P. O. Yates c Ashley b Gauld	74
A. Lockett c Peatfield b Staples	14
J. Whalen c Walkerdine b Gauld	26
W. Briscoe c Gauld b Staples	0
J. B. Russell not out	18
J. Durber c Silverberg b Staples	10
Extras	6

Total ..... 208

### STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

H. W. Homer c and b Spencer	70
H. Goodwin c Kirk b Silverberg	18
A. A. Bickerton lbw b Gauld	3
P. O. Yates not out	28
W. Briscoe not out	5
Extras	6

Total (for 3 wickets) .... 123

### NOTTS.

J. W. Peatfield c Howl b Barnes	9
Shipston c Barnes b Lockett	1
W. Keeton c Briscoe b Barnes	14
B. A. Walkerdine c Goodwin b Lockett	5
L. Kirk c Briscoe b Barnes	20
Staples (A.) c Lockett b Durber	39
H. Silverberg run out	36
Wheat not out	5
Dr. G. C. Gauld st. Russell b Barnes	5
A. Ashley c Whalen b Barnes	0
A. Spencer c Russell b Barnes	1
Extras	1

Total ..... 152

### Bowling.

#### Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Staples	20.4	3	56	3
Silverberg	9	1	17	0
Ashley	16	2	47	1
Gauld	23	9	63	4
Spencer	5	1	19	1

Silverberg bowled two wides.

#### Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Gauld	15	1	34	1
Silverberg	11	1	37	1
Ashley	6	0	24	0
Spencer	3	0	24	1
Kirk	1	0	3	0

Kirk bowled one wide.

#### Notts' Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	23.3	7	42	6
Lockett	24	6	50	2
Whalen	7	2	25	0
Durber	8	1	18	1

Lockett bowled three no-balls.

## COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

### Staffordshire's Holiday Matches.

**R**AIN has interfered with Staffordshire's home fixture with Lancashire II. on the Old County Ground at Stoke for three successive seasons. Two years ago it deprived Staffordshire of victory; this week it saved them from defeat—or as near a certainty of defeat as can be imagined. Less than two hours' play was possible on the second day, and in that time the home batsmen managed to withstand the visitors' attack and leave the issue undecided.

There was nothing very enlivening for the fairly large attendance of spectators on the first day. Both the Lancastrians' principal contributors, Hopwood and Halliday, were excessively cautious on an easy wicket, and there were long spells of decidedly dull play. Hopwood took two and a quarter hours to score 50, and Halliday was exactly two hours in running up a like total, while at the end of three and a quarter hours there were only 150 runs recorded. There are few things better to watch than carefully exercised restraint and a sound defence when these are demanded by the circumstances, but spectators are apt to get a little impatient when batsmen sit on the splices. However, this pair remained together to put on 116 runs for the second wicket in two hours and a half, and they certainly paved the way for a substantial score for Lancashire.

Subsequent batsmen, Taylor, Woolley, Farrimond, and McNairy, showed more enterprise, particularly the last-named, who hit out forcefully and rather wildly at everything that came his way. He is, of course, a bowler, but his mighty hitting, which delighted the spectators, added 22 to his side's total.

Staffordshire's unfinished reply was disappointingly weak. The fact that they had had five and a half hours in the field might account for their disastrous start in the concluding stages of Wednesday's play, but they lost four more wickets on Thursday for only 68 runs. Of the seven batsmen disposed of before the drawing of stumps only H. W. Homer and Sydney Barnes were able to reach double figures.

Rain also curtailed play in the match with Notts. II. at Porthill earlier in the week, and in that instance Staffordshire were in the stronger position, having a lead of 56 runs on the first innings. Features of the match were the sound batting displays of the two Old Hill players, P. O. Yates and H. W. Homer. The former scored 74 in the first innings and the latter 70 in the second, and they both revealed a great variety of scoring strokes. Barnes again came through well on the bowling side with six wickets at a cost of only seven runs each.



# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bignall End	17	11	3	4	28
Burslem	17	11	3	3	28
Porthill Park	17	8	3	6	20
Leek	17	0	0	8	0
Norton	17	8	5	4	20
Crewe Alexandra	17	0	0	6	0
Nantwich	17	5	6	5	19
Longton	17	6	6	5	19
Knypersey	17	2	7	8	12
Silverdale	17	3	10	4	10
Great Chell	17	2	11	4	8
L.M. & S. Ry. (Stoke)	17	0	12	5	8

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.  
Norton, 198 for eight (dec.); Bignall End, 39 for two.  
Great Chell, 111; Crewe Alexandra did not bat.  
Burslem 175 for five (dec.); Knypersey, 101 for three.  
Porthill Park, 110 for three (dec.); Silverdale, 41 for three.  
Nantwich, 185 for nine (dec.); Leek, 15.  
L.M. and A. Ry. (Stoke), 134 for nine (dec.); Longton, 25 for none.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Madeley	17	14	3	0	28
Sandyford	17	10	2	5	23
Kidsgrove	17	10	4	3	23
Alsagers Bank	17	7	5	5	19
Stone	17	8	5	3	19
Cheadle	17	7	8	2	18
Burslem High Lane	17	6	8	3	18
Ashcombe Park	17	6	9	2	14
Audley	17	4	8	5	13
Caverswall	17	5	10	2	12
Betley	17	4	11	2	10
Boat Hay	17	4	11	2	10

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.  
Cheadle, 61; Caverswall, 48.  
Ashcombe Park, 74; Boat Hay, 33.  
Kidsgrove, 59 for one; Burslem High Lane, 94.  
Madeley, 87 for five; Stone, 55.  
Alsagers Bank, 105; Sandyford, eight for none.  
Audley, 114; Betley, 64 for eight.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	17	10	1	6	26
Leek	17	10	5	2	22
Nantwich	17	10	5	2	22
Knypersey	17	7	3	7	21
Norton	17	8	5	4	20
Burslem	17	7	8	5	19
Silverdale	17	6	8	5	17
Crewe Alexandra	17	6	8	4	14
Longton	17	6	9	2	14
Bignall End	17	6	9	2	14
Great Chell	17	4	9	4	12
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke)	17	1	14	2	4

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.  
Bignall End, 131 for eight (dec.); Norton, 39 for none.  
Crewe Alexandra, 95 for five; Great Chell, 92.  
Knypersey, 178 for six (dec.); Burslem, 76 for five.  
Silverdale v. Porthill Park was abandoned.  
Leek, 94; Nantwich, 68.  
Longton, 64; L.M.S. Railway (Stoke), 47.

LAST MONDAY'S RESULT.  
Crewe Alexandra, 56 for five; Silverdale did not bat.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wealeys	17	13	2	2	26
Caverswall	17	10	5	2	22
Burslem High Lane	17	10	5	2	22
Cheadle	17	9	5	3	21
Kidsgrove	17	10	6	1	21
Betley	17	8	8	1	17
Onneley	17	7	8	2	16
Stone	17	7	9	1	15
Madeley	17	7	10	0	14
Alsagers Bank	17	3	11	3	9
Audley	17	3	11	3	9
Sandyford	17	2	13	2	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.  
Cheadle, 110; Caverswall, 70.  
Brindley Ford Wealeys, 163 for seven (declared); Onneley, 72.  
Kidsgrove, 114; Burslem High Lane, 76.  
Stone, 113 for one; Madeley, 109.  
Sandyford, 121 for six; Alsagers Bank, 95.  
Betley, 49 for four; Audley, 48.

LAST TUESDAY'S RESULT.  
Kidsgrove, 166 for seven; Onneley, 71.

AUGUST'S FIRST SATURDAY brought rain and disappointments for cricketers, and in the chief local league the majority of the games were ruined, though there was but one instance of complete abandonment. The greatest trouble was associated with the affairs of the premier section, the match at Nantwich being the only one that was finished. This had a very sensational ending, an unrepresentative Leek side being put out for a beggarly 15 runs! Such a finish was amazing enough, and the defeat put an end to any slight chance which Leek had of figuring in the final fight for the championship. The

clubs of the lower senior grade were able to make more progress than those of the top section, and Madeley took the opportunity to improve their promotion prospects by beating Stone, whilst their nearest competitors, Sandyford, had to be content with a division of the points. In the Junior Division the outlook of Porthill Park was slightly bettered as the outcome of the defeat of Nantwich by Leek, and Brindley Ford again got a clear lead through the overthrow of Caverswall by Cheadle, whose seniors were also successful over their old rivals. Most of the clubs suffered by absenteeism, many well-known players being attracted by holiday delights which had more fascination than cricket's regular routine. Troubles of team raising aroused the old discussion as to the advisability of including annual holiday dates in the programme, but no solution of the difficulty seems possible, unless the number of the clubs in membership is reduced, an antidote which would probably fail to find favour.

### LEEK'S LURID LAPSE.

Leek had a mere skeleton of their first team on duty at Nantwich, and the attenuated muster fared dismally, the utter breakdown of the batting being inexplicable. There was nothing in the state of the wicket to account for it, and the bowlers of both sides were handicapped by the sodden ball. The home team made a poor start by losing two men in the course of thirteen deliveries for five runs, and the only satisfactory matter of their early batting was a good innings of 23 by H. Gidman, who finished up by running himself out rather foolishly. What was the first stand of moment came from F. W. Slight and E. H. Stevenson (20), the pair carrying the score from 74 to 106 for the eighth wicket. In the subsequent play Slight continued to bat finely, and he had such capable help from W. Walker (19) and W. Meekie (9, not out) that the last two wickets put on 82 before the declaration was made. Slight played brilliantly for his 81 (not out), his off-side methods being especially pleasing. He gave an easy chance to the stumper before he had scored, and another difficult one—in the same direction with his score in the forties, but these blemishes did not detract much from the general excellence of his display. He counted 15 fours, one three and eight couples. A. L. Kidd, with four wickets for 75, was the most successful of the Leek bowlers. Leek began badly when Cotton was out to the first ball of W. T. Maybury's first over, a ball cutting through to hit his protective leg; and when the opening ball of the fifth over had been bowled four men were done for with only two singles recorded. The complete collapse may be indicated by the tale of the fall of wickets:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	1	2	8	11	12	13	13	15

The bowlers derived much help from the superb wicket-keeping of F. E. Hough, who disposed of three men and allowed no "extras." Another outstanding item of the outwork was a great catch, low down, at first slip, by Maybury, which accounted for Jack Poulton. Most of the batsmen were ready victims of the bowlers, who have rarely had such a simple task. The pitch was too soft for the exploiting of break, though Maybury was able to turn an occasional ball, and the main reason for the breakdown was bad batting. Maybury had a triumph by taking six wickets for seven runs, and E. H. Stevenson was not far behind with four for eight. Leek were nonplussed, but the same players may never again participate in such a sorry show.

### SOME UNFINISHED GAMES.

Play on the Norton ground was sadly curtailed, but it proceeded long enough for the home side to provide the champions with something serious to consider, and Norton were unlucky in not having the opportunity to test the real value of their excellent total. The great feature of the play was the very fine partnership of J. Jolley (65) and J. Smith (66). This furnished 82 chalks for the fifth wicket, and during its course the Bignall End bowling was well mastered. Of the rest of the batsmen P. Massey came out best with a

well-hit 25. A. LOCKER took four wickets, but the extent of his travail is indicated by the fact that they were debited with 92 runs. Bignall End gathered 39 runs from 18 overs, A. E. Bratby batting soundly for 19 (not out).

Great Chell's satisfactory total against Crewe Alexandra was brought about by the steady batting of the first five players, whilst 16 from G. Fitchford was the factor which caused the century mark to be passed. The chief scorers in the earlier stages were R. Harris (20), A. Smith (19) and F. Pickerill (18). F. Walker, F. Sylvester and J. Jennings each took three wickets, the cost to the first named being 18 runs whilst each of his colleagues was charged with two chalks more. The Alexandra had no opportunity of manifesting their prowess with the bat.

At Knypersey a start was made at four o'clock, and Burslem went in with the idea of letting runs furiously, tactics which were fully successful, for their total was obtained from 35 overs. W. Briscoe (14) and H. Cotton (27), put on 27 for the first wicket, the left-hander then being well caught on the boundary, and a further 30 came from the connexion of A. Cook (19) and Cotton, who was granted several lives. E. A. Oliver (51) and A. Birch (34) were even quicker than their forerunners, Oliver trying to make every ball a scoring medium, and this partnership realised 66 runs ere Birch was bowled in "having a go." Opening with H. E. Bourne and W. Boon (13), Knypersey's first action was to try to get the runs, but Boon was well caught from a skier at 16, and after A. Cooper had fallen at 56 play proceeded on sedate lines. Cooper batted in lively fashion for 25, and was caught on the boundary. In a bad light Bourne and W. Whitehead (12) played out time. Bourne's score was 39 (not out), and his display was one of skill, against troublesome bowling and awkward circumstances.

Porthill Park made a sporting attempt to force a definite result in a game which did not begin until five o'clock, but they were balked by their opponents and the weather, which did not permit Silverdale to have the 55 minutes' batting time which was granted them. The feature of the short-time cricket was the fine innings of A. A. Bickerton, who had nine fours in a clever exhibition which got him 64 runs. He had a good first wicket companion in K. Gleaves, whose sound play got 27 of the 64 which the stand obtained. T. Kelsall took three wickets for 30. Silverdale commenced with their rapid scorers, but Kelsall was out with a single scored, to a brilliant catch by J. Durber, who held a very hot return low down, and the second wicket fell at 38, of which the outgoing batsman claimed 27. This player was A. Charlesworth, who was occasionally tied up, but eight scoring strokes were enough for his highly useful score, and Porthill were relieved when he was bowled by C. Tunncliffe. Rain caused a finish at 7.15, with the game in an interesting state of uncertainty.

Bad light and rain probably deprived Longton of victory over L.M. and S. Railway, whose best hitting came from J. C. Cooper (34), and R. Partridge (36, not out). Both men played capital cricket, Cooper being the mainstay of the early efforts, and Partridge holding out finely after seven wickets had gone for 82. He had a serviceable last partner in W. Hill (11, not out), who figured in an unbroken stand of 26 runs. Three wickets fell to L. Collis for 20, and A. Smith had a trio for 39. Smith (13, not out) and J. V. Toney (12, not out) took free toll from eight overs, but bad light put a stop to their joint career.

### MADELEY MASTER STONE.

Madeley greatly enhanced their prospects of promotion by gaining a well-merited victory over Stone. On a somewhat difficult pitch, and against good length bowling, Stone found runs hard to get, and their full number was 83, the only batsman to play well being A. Ravenscroft, who followed up his previous week's score of 41 by another fine innings of 33, which earned the praise of his opponents. He gave no chance until 32, and was the only Stone player to hit a boundary. E. C. Fernie, the captain, was the next highest scorer with 14, but in compiling that small number he enjoyed tremendous luck, being missed three times before reaching seven. It was, however, unfortunate for Stone that G. Reece their most steady and reliable batsman, should have been given out, caught at the wicket, from a delivery which struck his pad. The four Madeley bowlers tried shared the wickets, G. Griffiths having four for 19, E. Mayer two for 21, E. Malkin, sen., two for 23, and P. Clarke two for 14. If the catching had been up to the same standard as the bowling Stone's total would have been much less, and the bowlers' averages considerably better. Madeley's bad example in respect of dropped catches was promptly followed by Stone, whose chances of victory were minimised straightaway, for before a run had been scored J. Glover, who opened the innings with E. Mayer,

was missed in the slips off E. J. Johnson, and he profited by the let-off to such an extent as to stay to see the aggregate carried to the half-century before the first wicket fell. Glover (17) was then lbw to F. Ravenscroft, who with his next delivery clean bowled G. Griffiths. The first wicket partnership sealed Stone's fate, but Madeley lost four further wickets before the required runs were got. E. Mayer's innings of 39 was a fine one, the principle of hitting hard and often being adopted, and no chance was given until late in the effort. F. Ravenscroft, with four for 24, was Stone's most successful bowler, E. J. Johnson—one for 23—bowling very well but experiencing bad luck.

#### CHEADLE'S "DERBY" WIN.

The meeting of the Cheadle and Caverswall rivals furnished a well-fought and enjoyable game. The holidays caused both sides to be below strength, but the traditional keenness was apparent for all that. A good pitch had been got ready, and it was unfortunate that it was spoiled by heavy rain, which also delayed the start. Cheadle gained a distinct advantage by batting first the visiting bowlers being seriously handicapped by the wet ball and slippery ground. B. Brindley and W. Payne rose nobly to the occasion, and bowled heroically in the face of great difficulties. Cheadle had to fight hard for their 61 runs, and their best batting came from A. L. Day, who got 14 in good style, V. Pepper with 11 was the only other double figures scorer. Brindley had five wickets for 23 runs, Payne three for 17, and R. Dunn two for 11. The bowlers had a full measure of support from the field, and catches made by W. J. Elson and Payne were especially noteworthy. F. Hamnett showed distinct promise in making his debut behind the stumps, and in addition to making a catch was responsible for a beautiful piece of stumping. On having their turn at the wickets, Caverswall found runs just as hard to get as Cheadle had done. Early misfortunes befell them, and with seven wickets down for 23, Cheadle's star was in the ascendant. Such rally as came about was due to spirited batting by S. Bridgwood (16) and C. Simcox (12), the doings of the pair almost conjuring visions of a Caverswall coup. The home bowling was left to W. Brough and J. Keates, who performed very well indeed, their figures being six for 29 and four for 16 respectively. Cheadle's fielders were always "on their toes," and Captain H. Cepewell was a most capable wicket-keeper.

#### THE OTHER SENIOR GAMES.

Scot. Hay cut up badly with the bat in their bout with Ashcombe Park, who had a comfortable success, getting the required runs with seven wickets standing. No Scot. Hay player reached double figures, the good length bowling of C. Davis and O. Brassington reducing them to a state of helplessness. Davis had six wickets for 13, and Brassington four for 19, and eight of their victims had their sticks made disorderly. The Park lost three men for 12, but G. Turner (15) and J. S. Rane (18) soon settled the issue, and in the later play the Rev. H. Shallcross reached doubles and kept his "pulpit" intact, scoring 13 (not out). G. Brookes, with three for 12, was Scot. Hay's most impressive bowler. The best feature of the losing team's cricket was the excellent work of J. Beswick in the onerous position of wicket-keeper. Beswick made two clever catches and claimed two other victims by smart stumping, and Scot. Hay will be well served if he continues to occupy the important post.

An easy win was achieved by Kidsgrove at High Lane, but the home men might have made a better show if three of them had not managed to get run out. F. Goodwin (24) and F. Owen (17), who were two of the leading scorers both lost their wickets in this unsatisfactory fashion. J. Machin (17), J. Henshall and W. Mould also shaped well, but the last four wickets went for five runs. E. Hadley claimed three wickets for 25, and H. Cooper had a couple for five singles. A fine opening by the same players brought Kidsgrove within measurable reach of success, the pair putting on 62 for the first wicket, and, after Cooper had returned for a well-played 31, Hadley carried on until the game was won. He had nine fours in his excellent 61 (not out). The High Lane bowling was feeble, and every over sent down provided runs.

The prime affair of the unfinished game between Alugers Bank and Sandyford was the batting display of R. Bailey, who went in at the fall of the home team's first wicket, and was the eighth man out. He had two serviceable partners, W. Beech (19) helping in a second wicket stand of 49, and E. Riley (14, not out) assisting, while the total was taken from 71 to 94 for the eighth wicket. A Bourne—four for 24—was Sandyford's best bowler, though his figures were beaten by the five for 28 of S. Holmes. Eight overs were sent down

by G. W. Beech and F. Proctor before rain ended the proceedings, but run-getting was such an awkward proposition, that only three singles accrued from them.

Betty appeared to be in a hopeless position when their game with Audley had to close, for they were 50 runs behind and had only two wickets left. Audley's strong position was brought about by the good batting of J. C. McEllin and C. Maddock and the effective bowling of F. Darlington, who took six wickets at the cost of five runs apiece. Maddock's batting got him 39 runs, and was quite the best of the game. His first wicket partnership with J. C. McEllin (18) gathered 50 chalks.

Betty's leading bowler was B. Madden, who claimed four wickets for 41, whilst J. Amps had two for two, and W. Smith two for 29. The visitors made a sorry beginning by losing two men for as many runs, and the only player to effectively deal with the bowling was Smith, who hit up 18 after six wickets had gone for 30.

#### JUNIOR DIVISION ITEMS.

Three players were responsible for nearly all the runs of Bignall End's declared innings against Norton, who started well by getting two wickets down for seven. These successes were followed by a productive third wicket partnership, F. Coleclough (41) and F. Johnson (26) adding 64 whilst in company; and A. Hopwood afterwards hit well for 42. W. Cooke, with three wickets for 28, fared best of five Norton bowlers. The visitors had 75 minutes in which to bat if rain had not intervened, and as they scored 39 without loss they were well on the way to victory. W. Beddowes had five fours in his 29 (not out). Nine Great Chell men could muster only 15 runs between them, and the capital batting of J. Worthington (52) and J. Ferneyhough (21) was in vain. Worthington was unlucky enough to be run out, and his dismissal was the beginning of the end, the last four wickets going for ten runs. The bowlers to do most of the 'damage' were W. Davies—four for 21 and P. Wilbraham—three for 20. The Alexandra had a winning start by E. Dutton (15) and G. Proppett (25), who put on 43 for the first wicket, and the issue was settled by Wilbraham and H. McBride (not out) who each scored 18. Although H. Green scored 21 and T. Bibby 36. Knypersley lost four wickets to Burslem for 52 runs, and the big recovery from this moderate opening was due to the hard-hitting innings of R. Bates, who was quite impartial in his treatment of all the bowling, and had 15 fours in his attractive 87 (not out). In spite of the onslaught of Bates the three wickets captured by B. Hollowood were taken for 30 runs, and this boy bowler again showed promise of keeping the family name before the cricketing public. He followed up his good work with the ball by making 20 runs, helping T. Morgan (20) in a second wicket stand of 33. Burslem were weakly represented, and were lucky to avoid defeat. The Junior Division sensation of the afternoon arose from the match between a strong Nantwich side and what was almost the residue of Leek's forces. Getting first use of the pitch, Leek were in trouble when their fifth wicket fell at 24, but the turn of the tide came with the co-operation of H. F. Rabone and J. Nelson (14), who had a stand of 39 runs for the next wicket, and after Rabone had been dismissed at 72, S. W. Bailey (13, not out), and S. Furnston set up further serviceable resistance, and put on 17 as the eighth pair, their connection being unfortunately terminated by a run out which sent Furnston back. Rabone batted in sound fashion for 30, and his experience was a big asset in coping with the bowling of L. Haighton, who had six wickets for 52, finishing off the venture by getting two "scalps" with successive balls. T. S. Wood had two victims for 12. Before the bowling of Bailey and M. Murphy the visitors were soon in a perilous position, and they had no recovery until J. Allsopp (20) and Haighton carried the total from 24 to 47 for the eighth wicket. The parting of this pair was soon followed by the end, the innings having occupied 80 minutes. Murphy had four wickets for 10, Bailey three for 32, G. Sedgwick 2 for 7 and R. Knott 1 for 2. The youngster Sedgwick also made two catches, items which served to maintain the prestige of a name honoured in local cricket. The only batting of much account in the game between L.M. and S. Railway and Longton came from E. Blurton (24) and J. Dennis (15), who put on 37 for Longton's third wicket. The other Longton men gave little trouble to J. Cummings and G. Llewellyn, who took five wickets for 21 and three for 18 respectively. The Railway batsmen were ready offerings to J. Bridgett—five for 14—E. Blurton—three for 23—and A. Bradbury—two for six. There was little play at Crewe

on Monday, when Silverdale almost had a repetition of the abandonment of their Saturday's game. The Alexandra batting was mostly the work of S. Hares (20, not out) and W. Davies (17), who had a fifth wicket partnership of 33 runs. L. Lowe claimed three of the five wickets that fell for 23 runs.

The early part of the game at Caverwall did not suggest that Cheadle would ultimately get a pronounced victory, for the visitors lost four wickets for eight notches, and six were down with the aggregate at 28. The players to give some colour to the batting was G. Malbon, who had 30 (not out) as the reward of his good work. Five other Cheadle men reached doubles, and B. Barker (12) and J. Barker (15) helped Malbon in stands which caused the last two wickets to put on 80 runs. Caverswall had very useful bowlers in F. Barber—five for 35—and J. Utting—four for 37. Thanks to F. Blunt (11) and W. Redson (16) the home team made a fairly good start in their run-getting endeavours, but Malbon was again the destroyer of their hopes, for he took seven wickets for 25 runs, disposing of three batsmen in his last turn of five deliveries. He had telling aid from P. Barker, with three for 9. Brindley Ford Wesleyans came back to form in their encounter with Onneley, who felt the weight of the champions' prowess. The foundation of success was laid by A. Walley (22) and R. Machin, who severely punished the bowling whilst contributing 81 for the third wicket. Machin hit 11 4's in his valuable innings of 74, and he had a good share in Onneley's batting failure, disposing of three men for 11, which came from nine overs. Brindley Ford's other bowler of consequence was C. Slaney—four for 25. F. Whalen played a plucky innings for the visitors, his 36 being just half of the full aggregate, which included 14 extras. High Lane had three serviceable scorers against Kidsgrove, J. Lowe getting 28, H. Stone 19, and W. Fisher 16, but their doing were nullified by the weakness of their colleagues, whose scoring strokes were confined to seven singles and a four. The bowler to cause the final collapse was E. Findley, who had four wickets for as many runs. Kidsgrove's batting had a shocking start, but T. Murphy (59) and I. Hadley (23) scored merrily, and soon put the result beyond doubt. S. Durber—six for 32—was an awkward High Lane bowler. Stone Second quite overwhelmed Madeley's reserves, for after dismissing their opponents for 109 they knocked off the runs for the loss of only one wicket. Madeley's chief batsmen were H. Buckley (39) and E. Barber (26). Seven wickets fell to C. Wood for 36, and K. Allen had three for 38. E. Slyn followed up his 54 (not out) of the previous Saturday by scoring 59 (not out), and he and W. Ravenscroft (47) took Stone's score to 95 before the first, and only, wicket fell. Slyn gave no chance, and batted very well. At Sandyford, the first four Alsagers Bank wickets realised 80 runs, but the whole team (one short) were finished with when five more had been added to the score. The main man of the good opening was A. Freeman, who ran up 36. F. Steele took four wickets for 17, and the batting of H. Hulme (37) and C. Rosie (25) was the other important factor of Sandyford's second success. Betty made short work of Audley, whose last five wickets fell for nine runs, and the only dual figure score of the innings was 14 from G. Taylor. J. Brookshaw had a good afternoon by disposing of seven batsmen for 15, and R. Ikin accounted for a couple for 14. The Audley attack proved to be no stronger than the batting, and a spirited innings of 29 by G. Shaw caused Betty to have a comfortable win. On Monday, Kidsgrove fielded a strong team against Onneley, who were not fully represented, and were badly overplayed. Their batting had but one stand of any account, F. Whalen (16) and A. Lewis (17) gathering 25 runs as third wicket partners. The first two Kidsgrove batters freely exploited Onneley's moderate bowling, and were not parted until the aggregate reached 125. I. Hadley had eight fours in his level 50, and H. Cooper's 77 included 12 boundaries, one three, eight couples, and ten singles. Whalen, who was the sixth Onneley bowler to be tried, did well to take five wickets for 27.

#### NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

##### Senior Division.—Section 'A.'

Bignall End v. Burslem; Messrs. Holmes and Worthington.  
Norton v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Arthur Rogers and Manifold.  
Great Chell v. Silverdale; Messrs. Byrne and Jones.  
Knypersley v. Leek; Messrs. Birles and Taylor.  
Porthill Park v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Cooper and Platt.  
Nantwich v. Longton; Messrs. Cox and Timmls.



## Section "B."

Caverswall v. Kidsgrove; Messrs. Brown and F. Smith.

Obedale v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. R. Butters and Rowlands.

Scot Hay v. Stone; Messrs. Farrington and Johnston.

Burslem High Lane v. Sandyford; Messrs. A. Smith and Keeling.

Madeley v. Betley; Messrs. Whittingham and Pennell.

Alsagers Bank v. Audley; Messrs. Boulton and Salmon.

## Junior Division.—Section "A."

Burslem v. Bignall End; Messrs. Groom and Barred.

Crewe Alexandra v. Norton; Messrs. Bullock and Forster.

Silverdale v. Great Chell; Messrs. Gregory and Cartledge.

Leek v. Knypersley; Messrs. F. G. Bagley and Skellam.

L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Albert Rogerson and Furnival.

Longton v. Nantwich; Messrs. Wright and Clowes.

## Junior Division.—Section "B."

Kidsgrove v. Caverswall.

Brindley Ford Wesleyans v. Cheddle.

Stone v. Omaley.

Sandyford v. Burslem High Lane.

Betley v. Madeley.

Audley v. Alsagers Bank.

## MID-WEEK CRICKET.

## Knypersley Knock-out Competition.

## EMPIRE MILLS v. ENDON.

EMPIRE MILLS.—J Hancock c Grindy b Collis 16, W Johnson b Griffiths 17, J Helkin c Griffiths b Collis 14, F Tomlinson b Griffiths 0, W Bailey b Griffiths 0, A Mellor b Griffiths 0, G Pickford b Collis 4, J Potts b Griffiths 5, A Gallimore c Brown b Collis 0, A Sherratt b Collis 4, J Beech b Collis 0, extras 3; total, 63.

ENDON.—J Brown b Hancock 5, R Higginson run out 37, L Collis c Hancock b Helkin 10, G Brown c Mellor b Helkin 14, J Griffiths b Hancock 0, E Kufole b Hancock 0, J S Wilson b Helkin 3, R Grindy c Gallimore b Helkin 1, A Kent run out 1, T Martin b Helkin 1, W Stubbs b Hancock 2, extras 1; total, 77.

## POST BOX v. HOOP MILL.

HOOP MILL.—R Awtly hit wkt 1, L Lowe c Boon b Robinson 14, L Brough b Robinson 7, F Taylor c Nash b Robinson 9, J Haydon b Robinson 0, J Rogers b Boon 0, A Bibby c and b Robinson 0, E Wilcox c Barlow b Robinson 0, L Copeland b Robinson 4, A Copeland run out 3, J Rhodes b Robinson 18, extras 1; total, 53.

POST BOX.—W Leese c Awtly b Rogers 5, E Shaw b Awtly 20, W Lowe c Rhodes b Rogers 9, J Robinson c Wilcox b Bibby 18, E Davies run out 12, J Mothershaw c Rogers b Rhodes 17, T Nash not out 25, J Boon b Rhodes 0, E Beech b Haydon 14, T Povey not out 2, extras 3; total (for 8 wks), 128.

## SHROPSHIRE GENTLEMEN v. RADNORSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

Shropshire Gentlemen defeated Radnorshire Gentlemen by an innings and 34 runs at Knighton on Wednesday and Thursday. Scores:—

## SHROPSHIRE GENTS.

Capt W H Crawford-Clarke run out 33, H J Tomking b Routledge 24, H Pritchard-Gordon b Routledge 103, R Gale run out 55, H H Sykes b Jones 3, Maj A C L D Lees c Routledge b Jones 6, R Barber-Starkey c Routledge b C-Maitland 15, Rev T Swinburne c Millard b Routledge 27, Hon W French c Millard b Routledge 6, H G Barber b C-Maitland 1, R W Crawford-Clarke not out 8, Com Bernard b Routledge 1, extras 13; total, 295.

Routledge took five wickets for 87 runs.

## RADNORSHIRE GENTS.

First Innings.—Sir R Green Price c Tomking b Lees 0, Maj F A Phillips c E Crawford-Clarke b Lees 16, Lieut R Onslow c Sykes b Lees 30, G Millard c Tomking b Pritchard-Gordon 1, R H Routledge b Lees 5, Capt F O Lewis c Tomking b Lees 0, H D Crichton-Maitland c Gale b Lees 7, W Renshaw c Tomking b Lees 16, Rev A Green-Price c Barker b Crawford-Clarke 13, P T McLennan not out 21, H R Jones b French 17, E Edwards b Lees 5, extras 16; total, 147.

Second Innings.—Sir R Green Price absent 0, Maj F A Phillips c Gale b Pritchard-Gordon 0, Lieut R Onslow b Lees 19, G Millard b Lees 3, R H Routledge c Barker b Lees 19, Capt F O Lewis c Tomking b Lees 11, H D Crichton-Maitland c Tomking b Lees 11, W Renshaw not out 32, Rev A Green-Price b Pritchard-Gordon 0, P T McLennan b Lees 5, H R Jones c Sykes b Pritchard-Gordon 0, R Edwards b Pritchard-Gordon 6, extras 8; total, 114.

Lees took eight wickets for 44 runs in the first innings and six for 64 in the second innings.

## SCOT HAY CRICKET CLUB.

## Interesting Match Between Past and Present Members.

A cricket match between past and present members of the Scot Hay Club was played on Tuesday, and resulted in a narrow win for the present members by two runs.

PAST, First Innings.—F France, b Rogerson, jun. 2, T Jennings b Furnival 9, F Boulton c Rogerson jun b Downing 16, W Beardmore run out 10, W Rhodes c H Furnival b A Furnival 0, A Rogerson sen, b Viggars 11, G Green b Downing 3, A Lovell c Viggars b Downing 3, Joe Bewick c Rogerson b Viggars 5, J Hales b Downing 2, A Cotton b Viggars 8, A Wainwright not out 6, extras 7; total, 81.

Second Innings.—Joe Bewick c Viggars b Bewick 0, A Rogerson sen b Bewick 13, F Boulton c Thompson b H Furnival 15, G Green b Bewick 9, W Beardmore c

Capper b Bewick 6, A Wainwright b H Furnival 5, A Cotton b H Furnival 0, T Jennings b H Furnival 0, F France run out 0, W Rhodes b H Furnival 0, J Hales c Thompson b Bewick 0, A Lovell not out 0, extras 9; total, 55.

PRESENT, First Innings.—John Bewick c Rhodes b France 1, F Higginbotham c Rogerson sen b Rhodes 9, F Thompson c Green b Boulton 8, C Rogerson c Rhodes b Boulton 0, H Downing c Green b Rhodes 1, F Capper c Rogerson sen b Boulton 0, A Furnival run out 12, A Rogerson b Rhodes 0, A Viggars c Bewick b Rhodes 0, G Brookes b Boulton 0, H Furnival at Rogerson sen b Boulton 5, W Bostock not out 8, extras 7; total, 49.

Second Innings.—A Rogerson jun run out 7, A Viggars b Boulton 7, A Furnival c Bewick b Boulton 1, John Bewick c Rogerson sen b France 31, H Furnival b Green 2, F Thompson b Hales 10, H Downing run out 14, W Bostock at Rogerson b Boulton 9, G Brookes c Rogerson b Rhodes 3, F Higginbotham c Rhodes b Boulton 3, F Capper run out 0, C Rogerson not out 0, extras 2; total, 59.

## CONGLETON AND DISTRICT CRICKET NOTES.

For the first time during the current season there was an absence of local cricket, due to the inclement weather. Both the Congleton first and second teams' matches did not take place, and the Congleton Empire Mills were obliged to cancel their match at Butt Lane. However, the Mossley and Trentham teams braved the elements at Mossley, when Trentham secured an easy victory by 27 runs. Mossley were the first to bat, and after totalling 54 runs for five wickets, the remaining half collapsed badly as they only added two more runs. The highest scorers were H. Hammond (17) and Syd Clarke (16). The Trentham bowlers, W. Bower, W. E. Bourne and E. F. Adams, bowled consistently throughout.

The visiting batsmen, in reply, had little difficulty in passing the Mossley figures, the result of their efforts amounting to 83 runs. W. H. Sefton contributed 22, P. Bates 16, and A. Bentley 14. For Mossley, Arnold W. Yates bowled effectively, taking eight wickets for 28 runs. Despite the adverse conditions, the game was both interesting and enjoyable.

On Tuesday, Congleton second eleven entertained Congleton Empire Mills on the West-street ground. The Mills batted first and compiled 128, to which the home side responded with a total of 57 for seven. F. Smart took six wickets for 29 runs for Congleton II., and J. W. Elkin five for 30 for the visitors. The game ended in a draw.

**THE REDEEMING FEATURE** of the match between Longton and L.M.S. (Railway) was Cooper's valuable innings of 34. Although he was a considerable time at the crease, he played the correct game. Then Partridge liveden matters up towards the end with a more vigorous batting display.

Longton made no attempt to obtain the runs, as only 40 minutes were left for them to bat. L. Collis came out best in the bowling, his three wickets costing twenty runs. It was a Wakes match, spoiled by the elements, and slow in the extreme.

The visit of the Railwaymen from Crewe to Chell on Saturday, was looked forward to with interest, but the interference of rain, marred what would have proved to be an interesting match. A start was not possible till after 5 o'clock, and the Railwaymen, winning the toss, gave the home side the advantage of first use of the crease.

Chell's innings lasted two hours and totalled 111 runs. Six of the batsmen reached double figures, R. Harris being top scorer with 20 to his credit. F. Walker was the most successful bowler for the visitors, taking three wickets for 18 runs.

The batting of the home side was an improvement on that at Crewe earlier in the season. Last Saturday Hartley could only capture the wicket, and his was at a cost of 30 runs. During the interval a heavy shower came on and spoiled what chances there were of continuing the game.

## DISAPPOINTMENT AT NORTON.

The officials of the Norton C.C. had a great disappointment last week. The splendid weather enjoyed so long gave way to heavy showers which, falling just previous to the commencement of the match with Mignall End, completely spoiled the "gate," the attendance falling very far short of expectations.

Play had only been in progress 17 minutes when rain prevented a resumption for over three-quarters of an hour, but in spite of this drawback the game was exhilarating and interesting, for both John Jolly and J. Smith were in splendid form. The spectators were treated to as fine a display of clever batting and lively hitting as could have been desired.

J. Jolly was very cautious at the start, and hit eight singles in his first 10 runs. But he quickly showed his best form, gathering 65 runs in all, including nine boundary hits and five 2's.

J. Smith played like the leader he is, and batted splendidly. His score of 56 was compiled in a most confident style, and included eight boundaries, one three and four twos.

P. Massey gave of his best in compiling 26, which included four boundaries, one 3, and three 2's. J. Baguley made a promising first appearance in the first XI. He bowled two overs for one run and a wicket. The bowling of the Bignall End was not so effective as in some matches. A. Lockett had four victims, two which played on, but his wickets were dear, 92 runs being hit off his bowling. In spite of the drawbacks in the game the match was interesting. The home side had a couple of their best players away—Hunt and S. Smith. Bratby batted convincingly, and together with Ikin and Burgess they were Bignall End's best performers.

Kidsgrove's visit to High Lane provided them with an easy victory. The home side with five men out for 89 gave promise of a big score, but a sudden collapse saw the innings close for only five more runs. F. Goodwin (24) was top scorer, batting freely before being run out, a fate which befel two other members of the side. Machin and Owen each obtained 17 runs, the former being out to a great catch by Hadley. H. Cooper (two for five) was the most successful bowler.

Kidsgrove had little difficulty in hitting off the runs, Cooper and Hadley putting on 62 for the first wicket, before Cooper was bowled for a capital 31. Hadley continued to score freely, making the deciding hit just as the rain came on again. Kidsgrove thus won in the nick of time. Hadley, who retired unbeaten, hit in brilliant fashion, his 61 (not out) including nine hits to the rails.



STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY  
CRICKET.

## REVIEW OF THE SEASON.

In 1925, as in 1924, Staffordshire cricket has not been so consistently good as to secure for the county anything like the high place it used to command in the struggle for honours amongst the Minor Counties. Again, as in 1924, the team has not enjoyed the best of luck, for whatever advantage has attached to the spin of the coin has generally gone against Staffordshire. In support of this it may be pointed out that the loss of the toss was a potent factor in the loss of four out of five points in the opening match at Trent Bridge; that the winning of the toss at Old Trafford had much to do with losing five points, because the wicket, which looked good, kicked badly for the first two hours, and was innocuous thereafter; that at Norwich, where Staffordshire were sent in first, the loss of the toss put them at a disadvantage which cost them more points; that last week at Porthill they were again sent in first (though the policy was questionable), and in the concluding match at Stoke had all the worst of matters, largely as a result of losing the toss. The only occasion on which any material advantage was gained in the matter of choice of innings was at Old Hill against the weakest opposition. These are circumstances which have, in fact, been a real handicap. Choice of innings has been gained generally when it mattered little, and even when, at Manchester, it was a losing disadvantage, and has been denied when it was of serious consequence. In reviewing a season of disappointing results, this is certainly a factor to be noted. At Nottingham, Manchester, and Norwich 14 points were dropped out of 15, and the strong probability is that the results would have been reversed if the order of batting had been reversed. Such, of course, are the common hazards of the game, but this season Staffordshire have none of fortune's similar favours to set against these rebuffs, and are, therefore, entitled to such mitigation as they afford of the season's failures.

## HOW THE MATCHES WENT.

To recount, first of all, the features of the ten matches played, the opening fixture was at Trent Bridge, and here the Notts batsman wicket-keeper, Ben Lilley, repeated his success of last season at Mansfield, where he scored a century, by hitting a splendid not out innings of 200, the only double century ever scored against Barnes. Owing to rain play did not start until 4.40, and on a dead, easy wicket, Notts, thanks entirely to Lilley, scored 156 for four wickets before the close. The pitch was just beginning to get more difficult at the end of the day, and three wickets fell in the last quarter of an hour. But more rain made it lifeless again for Notts to continue their innings next morning, and they declared at 292 for eight, and gave Staffordshire a drying pitch to bat on. The score of 174 was not a bad one in the circumstances, and Barnes played with great skill for nearly 3 hours for 74.

The next match was against Cheshire at Porthill, when, without Barnes and Sedgwick, Staffordshire scored a clever victory by two wickets. The wicket was a thoroughly bad one, and scoring was low throughout, and when Staffordshire entered on the task of making 131 in the fourth innings it looked to be heavy odds against them. But J. W. Johnson paved the way to success by a courageous innings of 40, being struck many times by the fast bowler, Dennis, and C. F. Rushton, in his first county match, played skilfully for 27. In the Cheshire second innings W. E. Jones carried his bat through for 45. A Lockett was in great form with the ball, taking nine wickets for 38 in the first innings and 13 for 73 in the match, and Platt also bowled well.

A well-contested and entertaining match was played at Wolverhampton on a beautiful wicket, with Norfolk as opponents, and the outstanding feature was the almost sensational debut in county cricket of C. Howl, the Wolverhampton batsman. Against a strong bowling side he scored 77 and 55, and established himself as a county batsman with dramatic suddenness. H. W. Homer, P. O. Yates, and J. W. Johnson also did well in both innings. Barnes bowled 27 overs for 32 runs and 5 wickets in the Norfolk first innings, which would have been lean indeed without a meritorious century by Nichols, the old Staffordshire player, who for some years has been coaching in the eastern county. On so excellent a pitch the match could not be finished, and Staffordshire claimed the first innings points. E. W. Page made his only appearance of the season in this match, and failed in both innings. Neither could G. H. Thorneycroft get going in his solitary match.

Lincolnshire were easily overcome at Old Hill, where Staffordshire had the best of the wicket. C. Howl confirmed his form at Wolverhampton by scoring 53, and probably created a record by exceeding 50 in each of his three first innings for the county. With Homer, who played polished cricket, he shared the best first wicket partnership of the season, viz., 115. Johnson again batted in free and attractive style, and D. P. Lutter hit a six and 11 fours in scoring 33. Lockett, Platt, Sedgwick, and Lee all bowled effectively, and Staffordshire gained an innings victory. Barnes was

again an absentee, being engaged with his club in a cup-tie.

Then followed the finest victory of the season at Crewe. Some mistakes in the field, which were taken full advantage of by the Cheshire batsmen, enabled the home county to total 280, and at the close of play on the first day Staffordshire had lost five wickets for 121, and required 59 to avoid a follow on. It appeared that the best the visitors could hope for was to avoid defeat outright and so save one point. But a brilliant all-round performance on the second day brought a great and totally unexpected win by five wickets. It was a coincidence that Staffordshire should save the follow on by one run, for Cheshire did precisely the same in the corresponding match of the previous season. By that narrowest possible margin Staffordshire made their opponents bat again, and on a tricky wicket they could only enhance their lead of 99 by 71 runs, Barnes and Lockett bowling unchanged with striking success. Thus Staffordshire brought victory within the realm of possibility, though on such a wicket 171 to get to win was a formidable task. H. Goodwin and Barnes, however, mastered the bowling, and shared the most prolific partnership of the season. H. scoring 136 for the second wicket they put their side on a high road to success. Though the wicket was probably less difficult than during Cheshire's second innings, it was not easy, and in all the circumstances this partnership must be given the palm as the most meritorious piece of batting of the season, though the amateur gave a couple of chances after passing his 50. In this, his first match of the season with the county, he scored 125 runs, and made the highest individual score for Staffordshire of the season. Sedgwick bowled exceedingly well in the Cheshire first innings to take seven wickets for 52, and, like some of the other bowlers, suffered from missed catches.

The defeat which followed at Old Trafford was the outcome of a bad collapse in the first innings, and it was inexplicable that on what looked like a perfect wicket the ball reared so awkwardly before lunch on the first day that the Staffordshire batsmen were in perpetual difficulties. With the ball often flying up shoulder high, the batting was unsettled, and a poor resistance was offered to Webster, a left-arm medium-pace bowler, who hit the wicket five times with in-swingers. Homer alone maintained a steady defence, and he not only kept away from the kicking balls, but

did not allow this tendency to unsettle his game. In first, he was last out, and his 53 occupied nearly two hours. With the application of the roller the wicket lost all its venom, and thereafter played so well that the home team scored 296 and Staffordshire replied with 277, but the first innings debacle was irretrievable, and Lancashire won by seven wickets. Barnes was again much missed in this match, and the Staffordshire bowling presented little difficulty on the "plumb" pitch. H. Goodwin again batted with masterly ease, and seemed well set for his hundred when he mistimed a hook stroke. Lutter, Sedgwick, Lockett, and Johnson all batted well.

Rain ruined the return with Lincolnshire at Lincoln, and on a difficult wicket on the second day 20 wickets fell in five hours for 148 runs, Staffordshire making 84 and Lincolnshire 64. Hawley, a fast bowler, took seven Staffordshire wickets, and much of the batting was weak, but Barnes and Lockett completely nonplussed the home batsmen, and gave Staffordshire the first innings points. But further trouble was in store at Norwich, where Staffordshire were sent in on a drying pitch, and collapsed for 105. As the Norfolk captain anticipated, the wicket then rolled out fast and easy, and the visitors did quite well to get rid of Norfolk for 229. Sedgwick (four for 47) and Platt (three for 41) were the most successful bowlers, Barnes and Lockett not doing as well as usual. On the second day Staffordshire ought to have improved their position, but the batting broke down on a good wicket. Barnes followed up 36 in the first innings with 23 in the second, and Lockett made a general failure look inexcusable by playing the bowling confidently and well to hit 45 not out. The total was so poor that Norfolk had only nine runs to get for victory.

The Wakes week matches were both interfered with by rain, and neither could be played out. At Porthill the Notts captain won the toss and put Staffordshire in, from which it may be assumed that they did creditably to score 208, mainly thanks to a fine innings of 74 by P. O. Yates. Notts were dismissed for 152, and Staffordshire put together 123 for three wickets in the time remaining. Homer played a delightful innings of 70, and Yates was going strongly again with 26 not out. Barnes bowled like himself to take six wickets for 42.

At Stoke, in the last fixture, Lancashire II, batted with everything in their favour, and by tedious cricket compiled 276, and Staffordshire had to set their teeth to avoid loss of points on a rain-damaged pitch late on the second day. Barnes and Homer, by a dour partnership, staved off the danger, and the match was drawn. In this innings Woolley took six of the seven wickets that fell in 19 overs for 15 runs. Bowling fast-medium, right-arm, he sometimes swung away and sometimes broke back. With a good command of length he is a young bowler of promise.

## SOME STATISTICS.

The following is a summary of the matches played:—

- May 27 and 28—v. Notts II., at Nottingham.—Staffordshire 174 (Barnes 49); Notts 292 for 8, declared (Lilley 200 not out and 45 for 2 wickets. Lost on first innings, one point out of 5).
- June 8 and 9—v. Cheshire, at Porthill.—Staffordshire 84 and 131 for 8 (J. W. Johnson 40); Cheshire 95 (A. Lockett 9 for 38) and 119 (W. E. Jones 45 not out, Platt 6 for 45, Lockett 4 for 35). Won by two wickets; five points.
- June 15 and 16—v. Norfolk, at Wolverhampton.—Staffordshire 225 (C. Howl 77) and 217 for 7, declared (C. Howl 55, H. W. Homer 44); Norfolk 191 (Nichols 127, Barnes 5 for 32) and 134 for 4 (G. H. Colman 64 not out, J. M. Coldham 45). Won on first innings; three points.
- June 22 and 23—v. Lincolnshire, at Old Hill, — Staffordshire 287 (H. W. Homer 74, D. P. Lutter 55, C. Howl 53, J. W. Johnson 47); Lincolnshire 99 (A. Lockett 4 for 10) and 124 (Platt 5 for 40). Won by an innings and 64 runs. Five points.

July 6 and 7—v. Cheshire, at Crewe.—Staffordshire 181 (H. Goodwin 41) and 173 for 5 (H. Goodwin 84, Barnes 57); Cheshire 280 (L. N. Jones 85, P. A. Harrison 53, Wilson 50, Sedgwick 7 for 92) and 71 (A. Lockett 6 for 34, Barnes 4 for 30). Won by five wickets; five points.

July 15 and 16—v. Lancashire II., at Manchester.—Staffordshire 113 (H. W. Homer 53, Webster 5 for 23) and 277 (H. Goodwin 77, D. P. Lutter 40); Lancashire 296 (Paynter 124, Farrimond 71) and 96 for 3. Lost by seven wickets; no points.

July 20 and 21—v. Lincolnshire, at Lincoln.—Staffordshire 84 (Hawley 7 for 54); Lincolnshire 54 (A. Lockett 6 for 31, Barnes 4 for 14). Won on first innings; three points.

July 22 and 23—v. Norfolk, at Norwich.—Staffordshire 105 (Barnes 36, M. Falcon 6 for 33) and 130 (A. Lockett 45 not out); Norfolk 229 (G. A. Stevens 60, Sedgwick 4 for 47) and 9 for 0. Lost by 10 wickets; no points.

August 3 and 4—v. Notts II., at Porthill.—Staffordshire 208 (P. O. Yates 74) and 128 for 3 (H. W. Homer 70); Notts 152 (Barnes 6 for 42). Won on first innings; three points.

August 5 and 6—v. Lancashire II., at Stoke.—Staffordshire 72 for 7 (Woolley 6 for 15); Lancashire 276 (Hopwood 75, Halliday 66, Barnes 5 for 73). No decision.

Staffordshire in 16 innings scored 2,579 runs, 151 of which were extras, and their opponents in 17 innings scored 2,562 runs against them, of which 166 were extras. This gives an average score per completed innings for Staffordshire of 161, and for their opponents of 151, and we believe it must be over 20 years since our county's opponents previously scored more runs per innings against Staffordshire than Staffordshire scored against them. Time was, before the war, when Staffordshire, on the average for a season, more than doubled their opponents' score, and for several years scored nearly double. Last year Staffordshire averaged 170, and opponents 131; 1923, respectively 149 and 121; 1922, 171 and 159; 1921, 211 and 165; 1920, 207 and 137. It is a pity to find the long sequence of years during which the margin has been in favour of Staffordshire broken, and that every wicket they have taken has, on the average, cost them a fraction of a run more than their own wickets have on the average cost their opponents. Apart from the bad luck in the loss already referred to, the absence of Barnes from 3 matches, and of Sedgwick from 4, has no doubt had its effect on these figures, which give emphasis to the fact that recent years have not revealed any new bowling talent of real county class in Staffordshire. If extras are eliminated, and only runs from the bat reckoned, Staffordshire have scored an average of 173 per completed innings, and their opponents 174.

The number of points obtained in the competition was 25 out of a possible 45, giving a percentage of 55.55. Last year, when the programme was identical, 26 were obtained out of 45, percentage 57.77. In preceding years the percentage was as follows:—1923, 72.50; 1922, 40.00; 1921, 77.50; 1920, 80.00. In both the last-mentioned years the championship was won.

In all, 26 players have been called upon, compared with 28 last year, and only five of the 26 were not seen in the team last season. These are C. Howl, C. F. Rushton, J. Durbar, W. Briscoe (who played in several matches in 1923), and G. T. Worthington. Five men took part in one match only, and only two, J. B. Russell and A. Lockett, played in all matches, as they did in 1923, when Barnes also made a full tally. This time the claims of Castleton Moor kept Barnes out of engagements with Lancashire II., Cheshire, and Lincolnshire. Sedgwick missed the first three matches through injury, and one in Wakes week owing to another engagement; and Platt was kept out of both Wakes matches, as last

## BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES.

The following are the average tables of batting and bowling:—

	No.	Times		Total	High- est	Av.
		ins.	out.	runs.	score.	
H. W. Homer	9	0	353	74	39.22	
C. Howl	7	0	223	77	31.85	
P. O. Yates	7	0	201	74	28.71	
H. Goodwin	10	1	251	84	27.88	
Barnes	10	0	277	74	27.70	
D. P. Lutter	5	1	107	55	26.75	
A. Lockett	14	2	226	45*	18.83	
J. W. Johnson	14	1	225	47	17.30	
W. H. Fitchford	3	0	47	23	15.66	
C. F. Rushton	3	0	44	27	14.66	
R. St. J. Sheppard	5	4	12	9*	12.00	
Platt	12	4	91	18*	11.37	
J. Whalen	9	2	67	26	9.57	
A. A. Bickerton	4	0	35	23	8.75	
J. B. Russell	12	2	79	18*	7.90	
Sedgwick	9	1	50	35	6.25	
C. G. Varcoe	8	0	44	17	5.50	
W. Lee	4	0	22	11	5.50	
A. Smith	3	0	6	6	2.00	

Also batted:—G. H. Thorneycroft, 11, 7; J. Durbar, 10, 5\*; W. Briscoe, 0, 5\*; E. W. Page, 1, 5; R. S. Hunt, 1, 2; G. T. Worthington, 16; P. F. Stubbs, 5.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av'ge
Barnes	184.5	57	417	31	13.451
A. Lockett	230	61	565	42	13.452
Sedgwick	118.3	22	387	22	17.59
Platt	119.4	18	395	20	19.75
W. Lee	42	9	127	4	31.75
J. Whalen	79.4	12	238	9	32.00

Also bowled:—R. St. J. Sheppard, 20 overs, 4 maidens, 90 runs, 2 wickets; J. Durbar, 22, 4, 51, 1; A. Smith, 9, 1, 19, 0; D. P. Lutter, 6, 1, 18, 0; G. T. Worthington, 5, 0, 17, 0; C. G. Varcoe, 1, 0, 18, 0; J. W. Johnson, 0.3, 0, 4, 0.

year, by his duties at Old Hill. A distinct loss to the team was the absence of R. G. Seldon, who in the previous season proved himself a very useful first wicket batsman; and Morgan, being so far away as the Newcastle-on-Tyne district, was never available. To compensate for the absence of Seldon, a recruit of great value was found in C. Howl, and H. Goodwin and H. W. Homer were seen in the team more frequently.

## CHEERFUL BATTING PROSPECTS.

The batting figures of the past season contain some cheering features, but also some depressing ones. And in any comparison with the preceding season it must be borne in mind that 1925 has been a dry summer, whereas 1924 was an exceptionally wet one. Against that there is the fact that three innings were played on fast wickets that were more trying to batsmen than many slow ones, viz., two against Cheshire at Porthill and one against Lancashire, at Old Trafford. On the whole, however, batters have certainly been more favoured than in '24. A comparison with last year shows considerable improvement at the top end of the table, but after the first eight places there is a sad falling off. This year seven batsmen have scored over 200 runs each, against only two last year, but only eight have totalled over 100 against 13. There are two averages above 30 against none, and six over 26 against only 5 over 23. But the rest of the table compares badly with a year ago, for then there were 18 players with double figure averages, and this time there are 12 only. Last year 19 players batted four times or more, and the only single figure average was 8. This time 19 batted three times or more, and six averaged 8 or less, and dwindled down to 2. Thus it seems that the run-getting has devolved largely on a few, who have done quite well, and the team has had a prodigious tail. Of the more regular players, Platt would probably have done better if he had gone in earlier, as he has always had the chance to get out, with no opportunity to get runs; and Sedgwick has had an unfortunate season, and has figures too bad to be true. C. G. Varcoe has had a prolonged trial, and does not seem able to do himself justice in county cricket. Eight innings for 44 runs is a sad record for one player for his batting. The captain, J. B. Russell, might get more runs if he could

take a higher place in the batting order, but someone must go in late, and his value chiefly lies in captaincy and wicket-keeping. A. A. Bickerton has not played like himself in his two matches, and his club-mate, W. H. Fitchford, has dropped from second place, with an average of 29 for six innings, to 9th place with 15 for three innings. Last year he scored 100 not out at Mansfield, and he has the defence of a county batsman if he could spare the time to play. G. T. Worthington, member of a Norton cricketing family, now in the Doncaster district, playing in one match, created a favourable impression. As a batsman he might be serviceable another year.

To turn to the more pronounced successes, H. W. Homer heads the table for the second time consecutively, and has established himself as the premier batsman of the county. In his nine innings he has never failed to get double figures, and has only three times been out for less than 30. He has played three more innings than last year, just doubled his total of runs, and increased his average by 10, and in doing so he has played delightful cricket, with a powerful old-fashioned square cut as one of his most exhilarating strokes. Next to him stands C. Howl, who should prove a great asset to the county. He has a fine defence, and scores with most facility behind the wicket. We have already made mention of his remarkable debut, and need only add that his refreshing keenness is as sure to tune up Staffordshire cricket as his genial personality is to enliven it. P. O. Yates has only once been out for a single figure score, and has jumped from 14th place to 3rd by doubling his average and almost doubling his quota of runs. He was at his best in his timely 74 against Notts II. at Porthill, when his leg hitting and driving were seen to advantage. H. Goodwin has a very similar average to last year, when he made his first appearance in county cricket in the last two matches. This year he started off with 41, 84, 0, 77, batting with delightful freedom, and scoring nearly all his runs by forceful strokes in front of the wicket, strokes played with easy grace and an apparent lack of effort that stamps him as a natural batsman. Later he developed some recklessness, and want of restraint is his chief fault. With experience he will probably acquire a nicer discrimination, and he will then be a batsman any county would be glad to have. His fielding is also excellent, and the same should be said of Howl. Barnes has batted like the master of the game that he is, and but for being twice run out for small scores would quite likely have threatened Homer's leadership. D. P. Lutter is not a very dependable batsman, but his penchant for clean, hard driving makes him a rapid scorer and a boon to spectators. After him there is a considerable drop in the averages, but A. Lockett and J. W. Johnson, with very similar figures, have rendered valuable service. Johnson struck a bad patch at the close of the season, and spoilt his average by scoring one run in his last four innings, after having averaged 31 for eight consecutive innings, including one occasion when he was run out when well set. He is still a forcing batsman of great value, though he has not quite maintained his customary high standard in the field. Lockett was deservedly promoted in the batting order, and has done well, though his average is about four less than last year, when he stood fourth in the table by virtue of nine not out innings out of 16. As an all-round player his worth to Staffordshire is hardly calculable, and that he may retain his effectiveness with bat and ball for many years is the wish of all lovers of the game in Staffordshire. He ought never to be omitted from an eleven selected to represent the Minor Counties. C. F. Rushton, the Silverdale left-hander, played in two matches, and on a dangerous wicket at Porthill shaped so well as to suggest that he would be a very useful addition to the batting strength if he could play at all frequently, and we shall hope to see much more of him next year. If R. G. Seldon



should then be again available, Staffordshire's batting at least should be equal to regaining championship honours. A side composed of J. B. Russell, H. W. Homer, P. O. Yates, J. W. Johnson, H. Goodwin, C. Howl, R. G. Seldon, A. Lockett, Barnes, Sedgwick, and Platt, with C. F. Rushton, W. H. Fitchford, D. P. Lutter, A. A. Bickerton, J. Whalen, W. Briscoe, A. Smith, G. T. Worthington, and, say, A. Jolley, the Norton fast bowler, in reserve, would be a warm proposition for any of the Minor Counties, even the all-conquering Northumberland side.

#### THE PROBLEM OF BOWLING TALENT.

We think the bowling is all right when Barnes, Sedgwick, Platt, and Lockett are available, and that a good many runs have been sacrificed in the past season by using other bowlers of lower class. When one or two of these men are unavoidably absent, other bowling has to be found, but the bowling which has been utilised to supplement the regular quartet has been, generally speaking, of inferior quality, and it is a striking circumstance that, whereas these four bowlers have taken 115 wickets at an average cost of 15.33, the other nine bowlers tried have taken 16 wickets at an average cost of 39.50. These figures clearly indicate what is an undoubted fact, that the committee has failed to find any bowlers to back up the four named who possess the requisite class. J. Whalen has been the best, and he also has merit as a steady batsman. As we have said, the bowling is all right when the regular quartet is available, but there is dire need of discovering talent to take their places when required.

Barnes and Lockett are so close together in average at the head of the table that three places of decimals are required to separate them. Lockett has once more rendered whole-hearted and meritorious service, and has improved his figures as compared with last year, when he took 26 wickets at an average cost of 14.88. Platt has also done rather better, and we think he might have been used more on some occasions, instead

of amateurs, who have been ineffective and expensive. Sedgwick's average is five runs per wicket higher than in 1924, but, like Barnes, he has often bowled with poor luck. Barnes has experienced the least successful season he has ever

had with Staffordshire as a bowler. In his first year with his native county, 1904, he took 66 wickets at an average cost of 10.23, and he has never had a double figure average since until this year. It might be inferred that his matchless powers are really waning at last, and to a certain extent the inference is true, but that his record this year in county cricket is not quite a true reflex of the measure of ability which he still retains is shown by the astonishing success with which he has bowled, in a season of batsmen's wickets, for Castleton Moor in the Central Lancashire League. This is a strong class of club cricket, and Barnes, both in batting and bowling, has completely out-distanced all the other professionals engaged in the league, who include other men of first-class experience. Though there are four matches still to play, Barnes has already taken about 120 wickets at an average cost of less than 6 runs per wicket. This is phenomenal bowling, and gives the lie to the suggestion that advancing years have dragged him down to the common level. That his club have no misgiving on this score is indicated by the fact that they have recently concluded an agreement with him for the next three years. Barnes is not quite the bowler that he was 15 years ago, but he is still great, and may he continue so for a few more years. Jack Hobbs wrote of him in the Press recently:—"Barnes is the greatest bowler I have ever seen." Some of us believe he is the greatest bowler the game has ever produced, and think that Staffordshire might well do something more than she has done to honour her world-famed son.

Barnes has often bowled with indifferent luck during this season, and he is perhaps not quite as well able to defy the whims of fortune as he used to be. He has bowled over after over to batsmen whose most watchful defence has

been beaten again and again without getting wickets, and surely that is bowling well but without any luck. Absent for three matches, he has taken 31 wickets, and his bowling was good value for considerably more. Last year, playing in every match, he took 73 wickets for 7.19 a-piece, so that his average has jumped by six runs a wicket this time, and his bag of wickets declined by more than half. And yet he heads the list.

Staffordshire's most baffling problem is to find young bowlers of class to gradually take the places of those who are now in the veteran stage. All efforts to this end since the war have been distressingly barren, and the prospect at the moment seems no whit more hopeful. The two great causes of the problem are the absence of good class professionals in the North Staffordshire League, and the attraction of first-class cricket for the University and public school player. Good bowlers, as well as batsmen, of Staffordshire birth quite frequently appear in these nurseries, but qualifications, genuine or otherwise, are discovered by first-class neighbours, and they are lost to Staffordshire. And so where bowling talent is to come from is not apparent. But the need for it will inevitably arise ere long.

Staffordshire fielding has again been patchy, with some players alert and keen and some inclined to shoddiness. It is always a great asset for the whole team to be, as it were, on its toes from start to finish of an innings. Howl, Goodwin, Lutter, and Briscoe may be mentioned as men who save runs by their dash in the field to enhance their scores with the bat, but generally speaking Staffordshire have been at a disadvantage in this respect with some of the young and virile teams they have met. The captain has done quite well with the gloves, and certainly could not be improved upon in that all-important position at present.

The secretarial duties have devolved upon Mr. G. A. F. Bagguley, who had previously assisted Mr. J. S. Heath in that capacity for several years, and has borne the not inconsiderable burden this year successfully.

#### CLUB CRICKET.

##### STAFFORD C.C. v. OAKAMoor C.C.

Stafford scored a moral victory at home on Saturday, requiring, when time was called, only 5 runs to win, with six wickets to fall. J. W. Johnson (59), J. R. Goodwin (50), and F. Walker (18) got all but 7 runs made from the bat for Oakamoor, C. A. Woodger taking the last five wickets for no runs. A. J. Ward (59), R. H. Warwick (40 not out), and W. T. White (25) all batted well for Stafford, and made a splendid effort to obtain the runs required for a win in the hour and a-half left for play.

OAKAMoor C.C.—M. A. Bolton b Hardgrave 0, F. Walker b White 13, J. W. Johnson c Neville b Leaver 59, J. R. Goodwin c Neville b Woodger 50, W. Collier c White b Leaver 1, S. Walker c Neville b Hardgrave 1, J. Alcock c Leaver b Woodger 3, H. Perris b Woodger 0, F. Shipley b Woodger 0, D. T. Walker c White b Woodger 2, J. Yates not out 0, extras 12—total 146.

STAFFORD C.C.—J. T. W. Neville b Perris 7, W. T. White b Johnson 25, A. J. Ward run out 59, R. H. Warwick not out 40, J. P. Ellsmoor b Shipley 6, C. A. Woodger not out 2, extras 3—total (for four wickets) 142. G. H. Greatorex, G. C. Davy, P. Leaver, J. Hardgrave, and W. E. Burgess did not bat.

JUST PUBLISHED.

## "Staffordshire Cricket"

Records: Reviews: Reminiscences;  
*From the earlier years of the Nineteenth Century to 1923.*

BY

WILLIAM GATUS WATSON, F.J.I.

With an introduction by the Rt. Hon. THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

#### SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:—

The Father of Midland Cricket;  
Envile Hall Cricket Festivals;  
Cricket in Trentham Park;  
Cricket in Shugborough Park;  
All-England Elevens in Staffordshire;  
Cricket in the 'Sixties;  
Cricket, 1870 to 1874, embracing formation of County Club;  
Cricket in 1875 to 1879;  
Lichfield Cricket Festival, 1879—83;  
Cricket in the Early 'Eighties;  
Cricket in the Later 'Eighties;  
Cricket in the Early 'Nineties;  
In the Later 'Nineties;  
Mr. A. H. Heath on the Cricket Field;  
Cricket, 1900 to 1905;  
Formation of Staffordshire Gentlemen's Cricket Club;  
Cricket, 1906 to 1910;  
Cricket, 1911 to 1914;  
In Memoriam—1914-18;  
Cricket, 1919 to 1923;

Published at 10/6 per Copy, Post Free, by

Messrs. ALLISON & BOWEN, LTD.,

19, GREENGATE STREET, STAFFORD,

to whom orders for Copies should be addressed.



## MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET.

### Staffordshire's Record for the Season.

ALTHOUGH still handicapped by the inability of a number of their most reliable batsmen to take part in all the fixtures, the Staffordshire County Cricket Club have come creditably through the minor Counties campaign of 1925. They have not secured the championship this time, but they are in the upper part of the honours table, and they have several good performances to their credit. Both Cheshire and Lincolnshire have been defeated twice—home and away—and first innings points have been gained at the expense of Notts II. and Norfolk, while defeats have been suffered on only two occasions, and at the hands of Norfolk and Lancashire II, both of whom figure among the strongest sides of the second class counties.

J. B. Russell has been the captain—for the third successive year—and has taken part in every fixture, giving valuable service, apart from his captaincy, behind the wicket. The only other player who has appeared in the team in every match this season is Aaron Lockett, who has been remarkably consistent also in his play. As a bowler he has become almost indispensable to the club, and, taking a greater number of wickets, he has equalled the average of Sydney Barnes, and so goes to the head of the honours list. Barnes has not been available for one or two matches, but when, in the side he has again bowled with great accuracy and skill and has also contributed several fine batting performances.

The batting averages, however, are again headed by H. W. Homer, the Old Hill player, who held that position at the end of last season. He is one of the most stylish batsmen that the county have had in their ranks for a number of years, and it is unfortunate that he, together with others, cannot take part in more of the games. On the whole the batting has not been as strong as in some previous seasons. Staffordshire's average per innings has been 176 against 169 by their opponents, and the highest individual average is less than forty.

Following is Staffordshire's record for the season:—

Played ten, won outright three, won on first innings three, lost on first innings one, lost outright two, drawn one. Percentage 50.00.

May 27th and 28th, Notts. II., at Trent Bridge. Lost on first innings. Staffordshire 174. Notts. II. 292 for eight (innings declared) and 45 for two.

June 8th and 9th, Cheshire, at Porthill. Won by two wickets. Staffordshire 84 and 131 for eight. Cheshire 86 and 118.

June 15th and 16th, Norfolk at Wolverhampton. Won on first innings. Staffordshire 215 and 217 for seven (innings declared). Norfolk 191 and 134 for four.

June 22nd and 23rd Lincolnshire at Old Hill. Won by an innings and 64 runs. Staffordshire 287. Lincolnshire 99 and 124.

July 6th and 7th, Cheshire at Crewe. Won by five wickets. Staffordshire 181 and 173 for five. Cheshire 280 and 71.

July 15th and 16th, Lancashire II. at Old Trafford. Lost by seven wickets. Staffordshire 113 and 277. Lancashire II. 298 and 96 for three.

July 20th and 21st, Lincolnshire at Lincoln. Won on first innings. Staffordshire 84. Lincolnshire 54.

July 22nd and 23rd, Norfolk at Norwich. Lost by ten wickets. Staffordshire 105 and 130. Norfolk 229 and 9 for no wicket.

August 3rd and 4th, Notts. II. at Porthill. Staffordshire won on first innings. Staffordshire 208 and 128 for three. Notts. II. 152.

August 5th and 6th, Lancashire II. at Stoke. No decision possible on account of rain. Lancashire II. 276. Staffordshire 72 for seven.

### BATTING AVERAGES.

	Inn.	Runs	Inns.	Outs	Ave.
H. W. Homer	9	363	74	0	39.22
C. Howl	7	223	77	0	31.71
S. F. Barnes	10	277	74	0	27.70
P. O. Yates	8	201	74	1	25.12
H. Goodwin	10	251	84	1	25.10
D. F. Lutter	8	107	85	1	21.40
A. Lockett	14	226	45*	2	18.14
J. W. Johnson	14	228	47	1	18.07
W. H. Fitchford	3	47	23	0	15.66
C. F. Rushton	3	44	27	0	14.66
A. A. Bickerton	4	35	23	0	8.75
G. Platt	12	91	16	4	7.58
J. Whalen	9	67	26	2	7.44
J. B. Russell	12	79	18*	2	6.58
H. Sedgwick	9	50	35	1	5.55
C. G. Varcoe	8	44	17	0	5.50
W. Lee	4	22	11	0	5.50
R. St. J. Sheppard	5	12	9	3	2.40

The following also batted for Staffordshire:—J. Durber, 8 and 10; G. T. Worthington, 16; G. H. Thorncroft, 11 and 7; E. W. Page, 1 and 5; R. S. Hunt, 1 and 2; W. Briscoe, 0 and 5 not out; A. Smith, 6 and 0; P. F. Stubbs, 5.

\*Signifies not out.

### BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Ave.
A. Lockett	227	60	566	42	13.45
Barnes, S. F.	180.3	51	417	31	13.45
Sedgwick, H.	118.3	23	387	22	17.59
Platt, G.	116.3	17	386	20	19.30
J. Whalen	79.4	12	282	9	31.33

Also: W. Lee took four wickets for 127 runs; R. St. J. Sheppard took two for 66; and J. Durber one for 31.

# CRICKET COMMENTS.

## North Staffordshire and District League.

### SENIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Signal Hill	18	13	3	2	30
Burslem	18	13	3	2	30
Porthill Park	18	9	3	6	24
Norton	18	9	5	4	23
Westwich	18	9	5	4	23
Leek	18	8	7	3	20
Crewe Alexandra	18	8	7	3	19
Knypersley	18	8	8	2	18
Silverdale	18	8	8	2	18
Great Chell	18	4	10	4	12
L.M. & S. Railway (Stoke)	18	3	13	2	8

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal Hill, 179 for eight (dec.); Crewe Alex., 108.  
Burslem, 283; Great Chell, 90.  
Silverdale, 184 for six; Knypersley, 190.  
Porthill Park, 102 for seven; Leek, 109.  
Westwich, 101 for six; L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 51.  
Norton, 180 for seven; Longton, 147.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Madley	18	14	4	0	28
Sandford	18	11	5	2	27
Alsagers Bank	18	11	5	2	26
Stone	18	9	6	3	21
Cheadle	18	8	7	3	18
Burslem High Lane	18	6	9	3	15
Ashcombe Park	18	6	10	2	14
Caverswall	18	6	10	2	14
Audley	18	4	9	5	13
Stoke	18	4	12	2	10
Stoke New	18	4	13	1	9

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 89; Ashcombe Park, 43.  
Alsagers Bank, 100; Stoke New, 107.  
Stone, 189; Burslem High Lane, 88.  
Sandford, 107; Madley, 98.  
Alsagers Bank, 47; Betley, 51.  
Cheadle, 132; Audley, 84.

### JUNIOR DIVISION.—SECTION "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	18	11	5	2	26
Westwich	18	11	5	2	24
Knypersley	18	8	5	5	23
Leek	18	10	6	2	23
Norton	18	9	5	4	23
Burslem	18	8	5	5	21
Silverdale	18	8	7	3	17
Signal Hill	18	6	9	3	15
Crewe Alexandra	18	5	9	4	14
Longton	18	6	10	2	14
Great Chell	18	4	10	4	12
L.M. & S. Railway (Stoke)	18	1	15	2	4

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Signal Hill, 108; Crewe Alexandra, 55.  
Burslem, 189; Great Chell, 71.  
Knypersley, 148 for five; Silverdale, 135.  
Porthill Park, 112 for eight; Leek, 110.  
Westwich, 80; L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 14.  
Norton, 284 for three (dec.); Longton, 89.

### SECTION "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans	18	14	2	2	30
Caverswall	18	13	4	1	29
Burslem High Lane	18	11	5	2	24
Cheadle	18	9	6	3	21
Alsagers Bank	18	10	7	1	21
Madley	18	8	8	2	18
Stoke	18	8	9	1	17
Stone	18	7	10	1	16
Madley	18	7	11	0	14
Alsagers Bank	18	4	11	3	11
Audley	18	4	11	3	11
Sandford	18	3	13	2	8

#### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 87; Caverswall, 84.  
Cheadle, 83; Kildagrove, 40.  
Burslem High Lane, 107; Stone, 88.  
Sandford, 81; Madley, 14.  
Alsagers Bank, 100; Betley, 70.  
Audley, 103; Cheadle, 83.

**FAVOURABLE** By perfect conditions, last Saturday's matches provided some excellent cricket, and a pleasant circumstance of the afternoon was that all the games had conclusive endings. Some clubs again had great difficulty in raising two teams, but the responsible people faced their troubles with good hearts, and were rewarded by the successful carrying out of an ordinary programme. Five clubs of the "A" Section had resources powerful enough to secure a brace of victories, performances also accomplished by Sandford and Alsagers Bank in lower grade affairs. Most of the games were associated with run-getting, which was above normal, though, as usual, variety was introduced by a few instances of

utter incapacity to cope with the onslaughts of the bowlers. So we find that the reserves of L.M.S. Railway and Madeley could only muster 16 chalks for full innings, and the Betley Seniors were only slightly more productive with 21. There were four cases in which the second century was passed, and the highest aggregate was put up by Burslem's first team, whose ranks included the top scorer of the afternoon in respect of premier games. The player was A. Birch, who gathered 124 by clever batting, and the success of such an earnest cricketer was very popular. The highest joint aggregate arose from the bout between Silverdale and Knypersley, in which 388 runs were made. From the average point of view the palm went to Norton's secondary side, who had a total of 224 for the loss of only three wickets. The chief agent of this big feat was W. D. Robinson, whose 132 (not out) was the record of his extended career. It would appear that Robinson finds the Smallthorne din more congenial than that of Cobridge. Anyhow, he is accomplishing good deeds for the Norton club, of which his father was such an illustrious member.

Amongst bowlers, sensational performances were credited to R. Bailey, of Alsagers Bank; J. James, of Sandford; and W. Payne, of Caverswall, amongst others. Bailey discomfited Betley by taking nine of their wickets for 15 runs; James disposed of seven of Madeley's second team for 8, and Payne downed the hopes of Ashcombe Park by getting seven for eleven.

The prospects of the teams most concerned in the struggles for the championships had little change, but Sandford's overthrow of Madeley opened up the fight for promotion considerably, the margin between the two clubs now standing at a single point; and Sandford's remaining matches seem less arduous than those left for Madeley's attention.

#### SIGNAL HILL'S WEIGHTY WIN.

The champions had a good win at Crewe, and the importance of it may be gathered from the fact that their previous two visits to the Alexandra's ground have been associated with the mastery of the home team. The foundation of the success was laid by A. E. Bratby (30) and J. H. Mayer, who came together after the first wicket had gone for a dozen, and by solid and cautious methods advanced the total to 74 before they were parted. Bratby then came back to a lbw decision, after a stay in which the bowling had been completely subdued, despite numerous changes. A. W. Ikin (12) and A. Lockett had short reigns, but the connection of the captain and E. Downing was one of moment, 48 runs being put on rapidly ere Mayer was caught off Fred Walker. Mayer had nine 4's in a chanceless innings, and his sound and clever display was of extreme merit. The next wicket was unproductive, but the brothers Downing were responsible for more serviceable batting, Ernest's full score—made by good cricket—being 27, whilst William was 14 (not out) when the closure was made. Hartley's four wickets cost 38 runs, and F. Walker had four for 41.

The Alexandra's venture opened disastrously, H. Hope being out from the first ball sent down, and four men were done for in twenty minutes. With the total at 30, a very fine catch by Ikin accounted for F. Walker. Lockett bowled in his most persuasive manner, and the only resistance of consequence came from J. Brownridge (22) and J. Dickenson (33), the work of the pair causing the total to be more than doubled between the fall of the fifth and seventh wickets. Lockett bowled throughout the innings, and finished with seven wickets at the cost of seven runs each. W. J. Dale had two for 38, and Ikin one without debit. The game was well fought throughout, and furnished an afternoon of excellent entertainment.

#### ONELL WELL BEATEN.

Great Chell failed to show much fight at Cobridge, and were well beaten by a much better team, from which several of Burslem's leading players were missing. The losers performed in rather dispirited fashion, and are capable of better form than was indicated by their general doings.

Their innings lasted ninety minutes, and the really creditable batting came from A. Smith, who, after a shaky start, gave a very sound display, some of his leg strokes being especially good. Over-anxiety led to his being run out after scoring 31. Of the other batsmen only W. H. Meir (19) was at all comfortable with the bowling. R. Hollowood had three wickets for 24, P. Kirkham two for 2; A. Cartliffe two for 25; and F. Ellis one for 11.

Burslem lost a wicket with but a single over, but W. Briscoe and A. Birch quickly consolidated into a flourishing firm, and they were so assertive that the required runs were put in 33 minutes, and the partnership was not broken until the total stood at 143. Briscoe counted 88 by fine cricket. His responsibilities as deputy captain did not weigh too heavily upon him, but he took no risks until success was assured, and his innings was one of real merit. In the remaining play A. Cook had

eight fours in a lively 28, and F. Ellis scored 20, but all the batting paled before the doings of Birch, whose play was exceptionally clever, and obtained complete mastery over the numerous bowling changes. He reached his century in 35 minutes, and his full score, of 124 occupied 60 minutes. He counted 23 fours, a number of which came by classy strokes to leg. He was ultimately out to a "hari-kari" walking stroke, missing his object and being easily stumped. F. Vodyrey was much the best of the Chell bowlers, but was very expensive at times his five wickets costing 60 runs.

#### SILVERDALE'S SUCCESS.

Silverdale's fourth victory was a meritorious one, gained as it was in face of a big score. The match was marked by consistent batting, twelve of the nineteen batsmen who went to the crease getting double figures, and no player failed completely.

Knypersley had a fine send-off by W. Boon (32) and H. Green (28), who put on 48 for the first wicket. Boon played in his usual forceful style, and Green's work bore out the opinion of his sponsors, who have a firm conviction that the lad will develop into one of the district's best. His stroke play in the game suggested real quality. Of the other early men, H. L. Bourne put on 17 by careful methods before being caught at the wicket off a quick rising ball, and A. Cooper scored 21 by six strokes, but there was something like a slump after the fall of the fourth wicket, and eight were down for 138. Revival came by H. Bibby (19), F. Finney (21 not out), and J. Boon, the last two wickets increasing the total by 52. The test of the Silverdale bowlers was E. Groom, who had three victims for 47, whilst J. Whalen took three for 42. E. White's swimmers were troublesome at times, but were apt to get on the short side.

Silverdale started briskly, and the loss of a wicket at 12 did not cause them to falter, few overs going unpunished. T. Kelsall played well for 20, Groom chipped in with 18, and White hit confidently for 35, each player being a useful partner for C. F. Rushton, who went in first wicket down and remained till the end. His personal contribution was 35 (not out), and he played beautiful cricket for his runs, his only mistake being a chance in the slips when at about 50. The chance was an easy one and was badly missed, and Knypersley paid dearly for the blunder. E. Mossdale had a bad afternoon as a bowler, and Bibby's three wickets cost 50 runs.

#### LEEK'S SEVENTH DEFEAT.

Both Leek and Porthill Park were short of prominent players, but the Highfield team suffered most, as their very decisive defeat suggests. Leek had the advantage of batting first, but their run-getting was virtually confined to three players, and there was only one stand of much account, W. Rider (33) and H. Alcock (30) gathering 48 for the fourth wicket. J. Pointon (16) also reached doubles, but the last five wickets dropped for 15. Heap and J. Durbor both bowled effectively, the professional having four wickets for 28, and the fast bowler's four costing a run more.

Porthill opened none too well, W. H. Fitchford being cleverly caught at the wicket, from what was really a good stroke to leg, at 18, and the third wicket falling at 35. The game was won by G. Price (53) and J. S. Heath (48), who batted soundly against frequent changes of attack, and their partnership was not broken until it had realised 98 runs. A. L. Kidd, F. Hunt and W. Rider each claimed two wickets, and Kidd was by far the best of the seven men who had bad turns.

Porthill have not been beaten since 6th June, but they are hardly likely to get a higher position than they hold at present.

## RAILWAY FAIL AGAIN.

There was not much spice about the match between L. M. and S. Railway and Nantwich, and although the Cheshire team got the victory which was expected from them, they would not be able to derive a lot of satisfaction from the course of the game. The losers tried hard, but were meeting players of superior calibre, and Nantwich exhibited signs of staleness, which suggested that they were fortunate in not being pitted against more powerful opposition. Weak batting was again the bane of the Stoke team, and some of their efforts at run-getting were neutralised for want of ordinary alacrity between the wickets, at least a dozen runs being lost through a strange disposition to ignore openings which were quite safe. The only batting of practical importance came from T. Tinsley (29), C. Stevens (17 not out) and J. D. Awford (17). The newcomer, Awford, produced some rather rustic shots at the start of his innings, but he improved vastly, and was shaping extremely well when he lost his wicket to "a good 'un" from W. T. Maybury. Awford looks like a cricketer, and on hard, fast wickets he should be highly useful with both bat and ball. Tinsley played quite well, and it is unfortunate for his club that his appearances are so irregular. Stevens showed up well in a defensive capacity, and deserves praise for a plucky stay, in which he saw six wickets fall. He was fortunate in having two chances unaccepted. G. H. Stevenston and Maybury bowled throughout, but they were not as formidable as usual, and no harm would have been done if changes had been tried. Maybury finished with six wickets for 50, and Stevenston had four for 38.

The visitors lost H. Gidman at 10, as the outcome of an attempt at a third run which only a wide return could have made possible, and F. W. Slight (13) left at 23, caught from a mistimed stroke which resulted in the batsman's being laid out and the rebounding of the ball to a fielder. This was a case of sheer bad luck. The partnership of G. H. Mayer (13) and E. H. Stevenston took the score about half-way to victory, but the skipper had a let off when the Railway had just a chance if it had been taken. He remained to get 30 by aggressive cricket, ultimately losing his wicket whilst making a reckless stroke. The fourth wicket went at 63 and the fifth at 73, Maybury following his captain's example after scoring eight, but with J. E. Smith (13) and F. E. Hough (19, not out) together, the game was soon won, the wicket-keeper scoring on the leg side almost as he wished. Five bowlers had a wicket each, and the sixth, J. C. Cooper, had Stevenston missed, an incident which should have led to his having a longer turn than a couple of overs. R. Worthington and R. Partidge bowled well whilst they were fresh, but there was not much sting in the attack after their powers had waned. Neither side was distinguished in the field, but the Railwaymen were certainly triers all through.

## NORTON'S SMART VICTORY.

Longton managed to field a better side than in their previous game, but they were still short of several prominent players, and the absentees included the captain, who was taking part in an extraneous game. The best feature of Longton's cricket was the fourth wicket stand of 80 runs made by C. Edwards and A. Hawker, who both played in sound fashion, and had scores of 54 and 39, respectively. Unfortunately for the home club the batting tailed off after the pair had been separated, and the last six wickets dropped for 37. The collapse was produced by the bowling of J. Smith—three for 27—and J. Martin, the last named having such fine figures as four for 15.

A. Jolly (40) and L. H. Crump (14) gave Norton a splendid send-off by putting on 44 for the first wicket, but the visitors were in a dangerous position when their seventh man returned at 104. The change of fortune came when Martin joined S. Smith, and Longton's hopes were soon blighted. Martin (30, not out) set about the bowling, and Smith (26, not out) scored steadily, the unbroken partnership providing 48 runs. The joint display was a fine one, and it clinched Norton's all-round superiority. H. Brassington took four wickets for 43, and A. Cotton had three for 37.

## THE OTHER SENIOR GAMES.

At Ashcombe Park the toss was won by Caverswall, who batted first on what seemed to be a dead and easy wicket, which, however, proved to be full of tricks. G. H. Sherwin was the only batsman to overcome the difficulties

of this treacherous pitch, and the merit of his achievement may be gathered from the fact that he batted throughout the innings, and scored 30 (not out) of the total of 59, ten of which were "extras." The Park bowlers took full advantage of the helpful conditions, C. Davis having four wickets for 18 and O. Brassington four for 23.

Forcing tactics characterised the beginning of the home side's venture, and these promised success until W. Payne found a "spot," and caused Caverswall's total to look very formidable. There was much excitement as successive wickets fell, and the ante-climax came when G. Freeman made a thrilling one-handed catch, high up on the boundary, which virtually sealed the issue. Payne did the rest, and the visitors were winners by 17 runs. The bowling honours of the day were carried off by Payne, whose fine work got seven wickets for a paltry eleven runs. Sherwin followed up his batting success by having two wickets for 27.

Patrons of Clough Hall cricket were treated to some unusually heavy scoring, the game between Kidsgrove and Scoth Hay producing 337 runs. The home team's most prolific batsmen were S. Edwards (62, not out) and S. Broad (45), who had a third wicket connection which gathered 82 runs. Both players showed excellent methods, and their stand put their side on a happy footing. Following their separation Edwards had little help until T. Aston came in as the last man, and proved to be a very useful one, his determined batting getting 38 of the 56 runs gathered during his stay. In the first stage of the innings E. Hadley scored 21 by seven strokes. Scoth Hay's most successful bowler was A. Furnival, who claimed four wickets for 55.

The visitors threatened to compete with Kidsgrove's score, whilst their first pair were together, J. Beawick (46) and A. Rogerson (37) scoring freely, and putting on 78. The collapse which followed was surprising, the remaining nine wickets going for 29 runs. The main cause of the turn of events was the bowling of W. Cooper, which disposed of six men for 38.

Stone gained a very comfortable victory over Burslem High Lane, running up a total of 159 and dismissing their opponents for 58. G. Preece, although not at his best (he had two lives) played a most valuable innings of 56 on a pitch which gave the bowlers much assistance, but until the advent of F. G. L. Crawshaw scoring was on the slow side. Crawshaw (28) quickly got to work, and sent the total bounding forward at a greatly accelerated speed. E. C. Fernie helped usefully with 21, but he has yet to strike his real form. G. Skellam, with five for 48, and W. Mould, four for 33, were High Lane's leading bowlers. The visitors found E. J. Johnson in something like his old-time form, and could do nothing with his deliveries, J. Machin, with 21, being the only man to reach doubles. Johnson finished with six wickets for 18, and with the least bit of luck would have had even better figures, for time after time he beat the batsmen and missed the stumps by a hair's breadth.

Madeley's bowlers had an uncommon experience at Sandyford, their attack being treated in very cavalier fashion by several of their opponents, who hit boundaries galore. A. Hall (59) and M. Cotton (49) were very forceful in their methods, and G. Baker (26) and J. Dean (29) were ready abettors, though not so successful. The bowlers to come best out of the turmoil were W. Heath, with three for 23, and E. Malkin, sen., who had three for 29. Malkin was also Madeley's chief scorer with 25, and was closely followed by E. Mayer with 21. The last five wickets fell for 35 runs, the change which brought on H. Holland being one of great moment, for this player had four wickets for ten chalks. A. Bourne, who was on all through the innings, also had four successes, for 27. The result was a triumph for Sandyford, who were hardly at full strength.

Wickets were very cheap at Betley, the debit for twenty stopping at 65 runs. The home team appeared to have done well when they put out Alsagers Bank for 47—of which P. Bailey (12) and W. Beech scored 20 for the first wicket—but their outlook proved to be a mirage, although the eleventh over of their innings was being bowled before the Bank got a wicket down. This fell to G. W. Beech, who saw Bailey do the rest of the execution. This player had three wickets in his seventh over, one in his eighth, another in his tenth, a sixth in his next, and another trio in his twelfth and last. The stumper helped him to one victim, and the rest were clean bowled—havoc which had but 15 runs as the set-off. Little reward fell to G. W. Beech, but a beggarly four singles made the toll extracted from his dozen overs. Betley's bamboozlement was effected



by clever bowling, and was foreshadowed by what their own attackers accomplished. F. Sutton having such creditable figures as eight for 22, whilst W. Chell had two for 11.

Audley were quite unable to cope with the smart bowling and fielding of Cheadle, and eight of their batsmen had to be satisfied with a few runs amongst them. Of the rest, F. Jervis had five fours in a well-hit 22 (not out), G. Rowley scored 12, and C. Maddock made 10, after being missed before he had got a run. W. Brough—five for 38—and J. Kentes—three for 14—both bowled well, and were backed by fielding which could be classed as excellent. Cheadle entered on their task in good spirits, and by very consistent batting gained a pronounced victory, the winning hit coming with seven wickets in hand. J. Shaw, with 20, was the top notcher, but only two players failed to arrive at double figures. Audley's most successful bowler was D. Downing, who took three wickets for 11.

### AMONGST THE JUNIORS.

The batting of Bignall End was very moderate, especially on the part of the Alexandra, whose best scorer was D. Kirkham with 15. J. Taylor had six wickets for 25 and D. White three for 27, and the eighth man returned at 37. Bignall End lost five wickets before they were winners, but the result was never in doubt. Taylor, with 19, was the highest scorer of the game. Crewe's chief bowlers were J. Prince—four for 24—and Kirkham three for 23. At Chell the only real resistance to Burslem's bowlers came from J. Worthington (25) and A. Mack (17), E. Collinge taking five wickets for 11, and E. Baker three for 27. The home side started in hopeful fashion by getting three men out for 19, but in the following play their bowling was badly punished by Baker (57) and R. Bellingham (43). J. Ferneyhough did well to account for six wickets for 54. Silverdale lost three wickets to Knypersley for six chalks, but capital batting by J. Hall (46) and A. Ward (34) pulled the game round, and S. Brookes enhanced his side's prospects by getting 30. Very careful play by W. Goodwin and T. Bibbey (39) gave the home team an encouraging start, and the result was determined by a bright innings of 60 (not out) from H. Tue. The best bowling of the game was that of Goodwin, who had seven wickets for 45 runs. A depleted Leek team were not able to serve out to Porthill Park similar sauce to what they had dished up for Nantwich, although they managed to score more runs. Leek's mainstays in batting were W. Cantrill—whose 16 made half the runs got for the first three wickets—G. M. Fenton (39) and J. Nelson (21), the last-named pair adding 40 for the seventh wicket. Porthill had an effective bowler in S. R. Cooper—six for 43. The home team opened poorly, but a fine third wicket partnership of 80 runs by A. Hollins (40 not out) and M. S. Showan 36 went a long way towards settling matters. Hollins played sound and safe cricket, and his young partner's spirited display earned high commendations. G. Sedgwick again did well, taking four wickets for 38. Very praiseworthy bowling by J. Cummings—six for 29—and F. Morrell—four for 31—caused L.M. and S. Railway to dispose of Nantwich for a total which was unexpectedly small, but it was far too big for the visiting batsmen, who were tumbled out neck and crop by L. Haighton—five for eight—and T. Moulton—four for five. The losers had only ten players and nine of them had five chalks betwixt them! Longton were totally outclassed by Norton, whose grand total was collected by three players, W. D. Robinson, D. Worthington (35) and R. Hill (38). Fifteen fours made the marks of punctuation of Robinson's innings of 132 (not out), a most attractive exhibition. Longton were quickly in trouble against the bowling of A. Evans—five for 34—and their only batting of any consequence came from J. Bridgett (17) and J. Filkin (24, not out). H. Higgins had three wickets for 23. An exciting match at Caverswall ended in Brindley Ford having a bare margin of three runs. T. Adderley (31) was quite the best of the home batsmen, and E. Simner (37) and V. Gregory (21) did well for the Wesleyans, whose eighth wicket fell at 59, leaving R. Bowers (8, not out) to help Gregory to win the game. Brindley Ford's chief bowlers were Simner—five for 28—and C. Slaney—three for 25; whilst F. Barber had four for 22 and J. Utting four for 33 for the losers. Most of the Kidegrove batsmen failed badly before Onneley's attack—F. Lightfoot five for 14—but T. Murphy (18, not out) played well, and had a young partner to help in 18 being subscribed for the last wicket. The debutant was W. Hadley—a good cricketing name—a boy of 18 who had a stay of 28 minutes for five runs, and delighted friends and foes alike by the

quality of his defence. More power to him! Thanks to A. Dayies (35) Onneley had the game won with eight wickets standing. High Lane's win over Stone was largely due to the good batting of J. Lowe, whose 51 was nearly half his team's total. G. Dayes took five wickets for 21 for Stone, whose best scorers were A. M. Smith (23) and Dayes (21, not out), J. Onneley was the chief instrument of Sandycroft's cheap dismissal by Madeley, taking five wickets for 17; but his work was eclipsed by the visiting bowlers, F. James having seven wickets for 9 and C. Rosie three for five. A. Freeman (25) and A. Shuffelbottom (23) were Alsagers Bank's best batsmen against Betley, who had useful scorers in G. Lyth (19), T. Whitby (19) and G. Mainwaring (18). For the losers J. Brookshaw took five wickets for 38. Audley's win over Cheadle was largely due to G. Proctor (22), J. Leech (25) and J. Bateman—five for 31. For Cheadle G. Malbon had four wickets for 16, and A. Wetwood made 20.

### NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

#### SENIOR DIVISION—SECTION "A."

Silverdale v. Bignall End; Messrs. Stevenson and T. Smith.  
Burslem v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Plant and Jones.  
Leek v. Great Chell; Messrs. L. H. Bagley and Timmins.  
L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke) v. Knypersley; Messrs. Bradbury and W. Butters.  
Longton v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Ward and Arthur Rogerson.  
Nantwich v. Norton; Messrs. Bowers and Condliffe.

#### SECTION "B."

Stone v. Caverswall; Messrs. Portch and Johnston.  
Kidegrove v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. A. Holdcroft and Tilley.  
Sandycroft v. Scot Hay; Messrs. Whittingham and A. Smith.  
Betley v. Burslem High Lane; Messrs. Green and Bullock.  
Audley v. Madeley; Messrs. Lyth and Penneil.  
Alsagers Bank v. Cheadle; Messrs. Farrington and R. Butters.

#### JUNIOR DIVISION—SECTION "A."

Bignall End v. Silverdale; Messrs. Latham and Viggars.  
Crewe Alexandra v. Burslem; Messrs. Mayer and Bostock.  
Great Chell v. Leek; Messrs. Groom and Cartledge.  
Knypersley v. L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Buckley and Shillam.  
Porthill Park v. Longton; Messrs. Coates and Wright.  
Norton v. Nantwich; Messrs. Shingler and F. G. Bagley.

#### SECTION "B."

Caverswall v. Stone.  
Brindley Ford Wesleyans v. Kidegrove.  
Onneley v. Sandycroft.  
Burslem High Lane v. Betley.  
Madeley v. Audley.  
Cheadle v. Alsagers Bank.

### UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

#### DIVISION I.

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Team	15	11	2	2	24
Kingsley	15	10	3	2	22
Leigh	15	9	4	2	20
Florence	15	8	4	3	19
Stallington	14	7	5	2	18
Alton	15	5	7	3	13
Oakmoor	15	4	7	4	12
Uttoxeter	16	4	9	3	11
Draycott	15	4	9	2	10
Hollington	15	1	13	1	3

#### DIVISION II.

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	13	9	3	2	20
Leigh	12	7	4	1	18
Stallington	12	7	4	1	18
Fulford	11	6	3	2	14
Oakmoor	12	5	6	1	11
Alton	11	4	6	1	9
Crewe	12	4	7	1	9
Hollington	11	0	10	1	1

### Stoke-on-Trent City Police v. Poor Law Officers.

Played at Finney Gardens. Scores:—

POOR LAW OFFICERS.—C. Bickerton b Talbot 0, E. Scott b Talbot 1, F. Pickering b Marshall 1, Talbot 10, C. Tomlinson c Talbot b Marshall 1, R. Robinson c Talbot b Marshall 7, W. H. Meir b Marshall 1, H. Williams b Talbot 4, H. Holloway b Talbot 0, C. Cooper b Marshall 2, W. Every not out 4, A. Meigh b Marshall 0, extras 5; total 35.  
CITY POLICE.—P. C. Godden b Meir 1, P. C. Voadrey b Scott 1, P. C. Singleton b Meir 0, Inspector Marshall run out 7, Gould c Holloway b Cooper 2, P. C. Talbot c and b Williamson 33, P. C. Siddons b Bickerton 8, P. C. Egan not out 18, P. C. Guthrie c and b Scott 1, extras 7; total (for 8 wkts) 82. P. C.'s Massey and Boulton did not bat.