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COUNTY CRICKET IN STAFFORDSHIRE

THE OUTLOOK FOR 1926

The big ball has had its big innings, and in a few weeks will disappear from view for an all too brief spell, during which cricket will once more receive the homage of the sports-loving public of this tight little island. And everything points to a return to the palmiest days of the great summer pastime. After eight long months of the hurly-burly of football, cricket is always pleasantly welcome, and with such intriguing events in prospect this season it is more welcome than usual, or, at least, will be welcomed more universally and command a more general and a keener interest, perhaps, than ever before. And that in spite of the growing popularity of such other games as tennis, golf, and bowls. The arrival of the Australians has emphasized the realisation of the fact that the cricket season is at hand. Their presence will more or less dominate the cricket season, with the Test matches, of course, as the tours de resistance, but club cricket will go on, just as if the Cornstalks were not here, and the first and second class counties will fight out their respective championship issues with no less zest, and probably with no diminution of public interest and patronage, because of the distraction of the international tourney. Indeed, it is not unreasonable to hope that the interest aroused by the Colonists' visit may enhance the general interest in the game, and so prove a benefit all round.

What of Staffordshire cricket in the approaching season? The annual meeting of the county club was not characterised by a cheerful tone. The report of the committee was somewhat depressing, and the Earl of Lichfield, who, for the second year in succession, occupied the chair in the regretted absence, through ill health, of the Earl of Dartmouth, sounded a rather sonorous note of warning as to the fate which threatens the club unless increased financial support is forthcoming. And the state of the finances was full warrant for the serious speaking. In a prospective glance at the coming season, however, "the play's the thing," and one need not dpell too much on the gloomy financial position, except to commend to the practical attention of those Staffordshire people—and they must be legion—who take an interest in cricket, and who feel a patriotic pride in their own county, but yet do not render any financial assistance to the county club, the earnest and weighty appeal voiced by Lord Lichfield, who, by-the-bye, it was particularly pleasing to see occupying with much success a position so often filled in the past by his late father. His Lordship's effective interest is an asset to the club, and his valuable services especially opportune at a time when the active leadership of the honoured president, Lord Dartmouth, has been interrupted by ill health. Briefly stated, the financial position is that an annual excess of expenditure over income threatens to become chronic. Last year's loss was about £150, and the adverse balance now reaches £700. The membership is under 360. If it were raised to 500 the Treasurer's anxieties would be removed. That is an ideal which ought to be easily attainable in Staffordshire. In cold fact, it has been so far unattainable. Such support as has been rendered in recent years is remarkably patchy. A few areas in the north of the county furnish the great majority of the subscriptions, and a number of other parts of the county supply practically nothing in membership. One of these is the county town. The Stafford club has been invited to nominate a member of the committee. One hopes it will do so, for it would be good to see Stafford whole-heartedly supporting county cricket, which ought to be able to derive strength both financially and in the field of play from the centre of the county. Further, as one has remarked before in these columns, there appears to be no valid reason why county cricket should not be played at Stafford, whose growing population ought to make the allotment of a county match each season to the county town satisfactory from the Treasurer's point of view.

Chances of Regaining Position.

The question which now obtrudes itself once more upon the mind of the well-wisher of the Staffordshire C.C. is a speculative one of whether in the coming season Staffordshire can be expected to resume its former position, and become a power in Minor Counties' cricket, and a serious aspirant for championship honours. Well, one may be strongly hopeful, without being too confident. Personally, I am optimistic without being sanguine. Reviewing the resources of the county as revealed last season, and without considering the possibility of the emergence of new talent, there is ample ground for believing that Staffordshire would take up a proud position again if she were able to call upon her best amateurs with fair regularity. But there's the rub. The two great drawbacks are (1) the inability of young amateurs to spare the time for more than an occasional match, and (2) the attraction of first-class cricket on her borders. The latter circumstance has robbed Staffordshire of her native-born University and public school cricketers for many years, and will, no doubt, continue to do so to an irritating extent, at all events until the question of qualification is seriously dealt with, and effective supervision exercised by the ruling authority. The position of any county club is most invidious if it rests with its officials to raise a protest in the case of particular players, and it is greatly aggravated in the case of a county outside the first class. Action by a county of the second class would lay it open to the taunt of trying to prevent a young player of ability from taking part in first-class cricket, a plausible, but grossly unfair suggestion of unsportsmanship. A law is a law, in cricket as elsewhere, and the qualification law should be enforced impartially. It can only be so enforced if the counties are required to establish the qualification of their players. If this had been required in the past, Staffordshire would have had the services of a good many capable players, at least during the period of qualifying for a first-class county. Staffordshire probably suffers to a unique degree in this matter, by reason of having large populations contiguous to the borders of several first-class cricketing counties. A county like Northumberland, with no first-class neighbours, is very differently and enviably situated. So the lure of the first-class counties is a real handicap to us.

With regard to the other point mentioned, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. G. A. F. Bagguley), at the recent annual meeting, voiced an appeal in the name of the committee to the best players to make every possible effort to assist the county regularly, and I would like to emphasize the appeal. If the right men respond to the invitation of the committee, the team will be good enough to win back the championship. Such is my view.

Personality of the Players.

J. B. Russell has again accepted the captaincy, and there will have to be something entirely beyond his control to prevent him leading the team in every match, as he has done in the past two seasons. Such is his keenness and loyalty. To secure an enthusiastic captain, a capable wicket-keeper, and a batsman who would not let the side down if he went in earlier than he does, all in one, is good business. Give Mr. Russell a sound team, and there will be nothing lacking in leadership. He is a supremely popular skipper.

The professional element appears likely to consist of Barnes, Sedgwick, and Platt, and it is to be hoped they will always be available. They were not last season. Of the 10 matches, Barnes missed three, Sedgwick four, and Platt two. Haply, the cuptie claims of Castleton Moor may not clash with Staffordshire's programme so seriously this time, if at all, and Sedgwick, who is to play with Leek, is, I am told, quite sound. Platt should also be available for a full tally. Aaron Lockett, assisting Old Hill this year, may probably be relied upon to "come up smiling," literally, on all occasions, and the presence of the five players named in every match would be a tremendous asset.

With Barnes, Sedgwick, Platt, and Lockett in attendance, there is not very much wrong with the bowling, though the discovery of another good bowler is necessary to perfect this department of the team. It is all to the good that the quartet mentioned are also batsmen of parts. Barnes is probably the most dependable bat in the side; Lockett has forced his way up the batting order by merit; Sedgwick, though unfortunate last season, is worth his place for his batting; and Platt would certainly get plenty of runs if it were possible to send him in earlier. Something more than a useful quartet.

George Wilson, the old Worcestershire fast bowler, who bowled with Barnes in the Staffordshire team for some time before the war, when a professional in the North Staffordshire League, is back again as professional to the Great Chell club. If he retains his pace and his form he would be a great acquisition to the county. But whether he played sufficiently long with Staffordshire to give him a permanent qualification I am rather doubtful.

The supply of amateur batting would meet the case admirably if the men were generally available. In this respect the successful advent of C. Howl, of Wolverhampton, last year was especially gratifying, for he is second to none in keenness, and can probably command the time to play regularly. He needs no urging to play when possible, and his sound defence and clever play behind the wicket will be of great service in opening the innings. H. Goodwin, the brilliant young left-hander, is at Birmingham University, and will be available from the vacation. If he could manage all the matches it would be a great gain. The possession of one left-hand batsman of first-class ability is almost a tradition with Staffordshire. There was lamented Len Taylor, of Walsall, who made the great sacrifice in the war, and who would have made his mark in Warwickshire, for whom he was qualifying; and the ex-captain, Bernard Meakin, another great left-hander. Both of them had an off-drive to remember. And H. Goodwin is their worthy successor, with a lightning and effortless drive as his best shot. J. W. Johnson is still a county batsman, and probably always available. He lost his confidence in the long field last year, but he has always previously had a safe pair of hands, and confidence should return naturally. Supposing these men are available for most of the matches, we have the following satisfying nucleus —J. B. Russell, C. Howl, H. Goodwin, J. W. Johnson, A. Lockett, Barnes, Sedgwick, and Platt. Unfortunately, H. W. Homer and P. O. Yates, the Old Hill pair, are not usually able to play in more than three or four matches. Homer has been the most successful batsman for the last two years, and played nine innings in 1925, averaging almost 40. The more frequently he and Yates can play the better.

Then one hears with pleasure of the appointment of J. Ankers, the Silverdale batsman, as professional and coach to the newly-promoted Madeley club in the North Stafford and District League. Prior to 1924 Ankers was for some time one of the mainstays of Staffordshire batting. He was unwell during the 1924 season, and seemed to lose much of his interest in cricket. His new appointment means serious attention to cricket again. If he were added to those playing regularly the nucleus of the side would be materially strengthened, for Ankers is a batsman of real ability. At least one of the first-class counties desired to qualify him some three or four years ago, and, I believe, came very near realising their desire.

Some Old Hands.

Other batsmen whose names readily come to mind include R. G. Seddon, of Walsall, a dependable opening batsman in 1924, who was not available last year, and G. H. Thorneycroft, of Wolverhampton, who impressed me considerably a few years ago, but has only played an odd match in each of the last two seasons. Whether either will be available I am not able to say. A. A. Bickerton and W. H. Fitchford, of Porthill, would be useful, but can only play in their holidays. C. F. Rushton, Silverdale's left-hand batsman, made a promising debut last year, batting well on a bad wicket at Porthill, but only appeared twice. He is worthy of extended trial if he can spare the time to play. D. P. Lutter, probably the quickest scorer in Staffordshire, averaged nearly 27 in his five innings in 1925, and though too reckless to be dependable, seems to have the right temperament and the knack of hitting good

bowling, and is a brilliant field withal. G. T. Worthington, a member of the Norton cricketing family, now in Yorkshire, playing once last year, created the impression of being an all-round player of considerable ability, but I understand he cannot give the necessary time. Another batsman who did exceptionally well in club cricket last year is J. Jolley, of Norton. He was absent from the county team last summer, but played eight innings in 1924, averaging nearly 15. He may have developed a more complete game since then, and as he could probably play when required, he is a player to be considered, though his fielding was not a strong point. Then there is A. Smith, who has become professional and coach to his old club at Longton. And P. F. Stubbs, of Stone, made only one appearance last year, though he shaped like a county player in 1924. The batting should be consistently strong, if the players I have named as the nucleus of the team are able to render the regular service required. For there would be no difficulty in filling the remaining places from the players mentioned in this sketchy list, with always the possibility of new stars arising as the season progresses.

New Talent.

As to possible new talent, the most encouraging reports that have reached me relate to P. Lockett, of Erdington, a player of North Staffordshire birth. Rumour has it that a Southern first-class county has been wishful to secure his services. One would like to think that here is the extra bowler of class for whom the Staffordshire committee have been looking in vain ever since the war. As I believe he is keen to play for his native county, and the committee will probably be equally keen to give him a trial if their information appears to justify it, there may soon be an opportunity of forming a first hand judgment. Inquiries elicit the information that Lockett has bowled with success for Erdington for the last five years, and never averaged more than eight runs per wicket during that period, whilst last season he captured about 80 wickets at an average cost of six. A fast-medium right-arm bowler, one learns that Lockett keeps a slower one with leg-spin up his sleeve for exploitation as required. His batting powers, also, do not appear to be negligible, seeing that he has been accustomed to open the innings for his club, and last season collected the handsome aggregate, so I am informed, of 800 runs. Whether he is the man Staffordshire are looking for remains to be seen.

In the effort to solve the bowling problem, three fast bowlers have been tried in the last year or two, viz., Arthur Jolley, R. St. J. Sheppard, and J. Durbar, the two last-named being left-handers. Sheppard can make the ball swing in, but has little control, and was never able to keep off the leg side. Durbar is also much too erratic as yet, and I prefer Jolley to either of the left-handers. I have seen him bowl with a lot of fire and very fair length. But he has not quite revealed the desired class in his trials with the county team. Still, further trial might be justified. J. Whalen would be a fine left-arm bowler if he had better command of the break-back from leg, but his bowling has been a little too plain. And W. Lee, of Old Hill, has a prodigious in-swing but no variety, and is too often on the leg. With the exception of a few inspired overs in the match on his own club ground last season he was ineffective.

In the ordinary mundane affairs of everyday life the pundits of political economy would tell us that supply obligingly waits upon demand. In the really important things, as, for example, the noble game cricket, this convenient law seems to have its weak spots. Perchance it will justify itself in Staffordshire's case this year, and the very definite demand for a new bowler of class be satisfied by the discovery of such a treasure.

This year's programme is the same as last, viz., home and home matches with Norfolk, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Lancs. II., and Notts II., and the season opens on June 9 at Haslingden. Then follow two games at Wolverhampton, against Norfolk, on June 16 and 17, and against Lincs on June 28 and 29. There are three matches in July—Cheshire at Wallasey and Porthill, and Notts II. at Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Notts II. at Porthill and Lancs. II. at Stoke are the Stoke Wakes matches in August Bank Holiday week, and the Eastern tour will take the team to Grantham on August 10 and 11, and Norwich on August 12 and 13. May it be necessary to add to this programme a challenge match for the championship is the sentiment of all Staffordshire cricketers, as it is of

The Critic.

CRICKET

North Staffs. and District League

The cricket season was entered upon in North Staffordshire on Saturday, when the senior league opened the ball in conditions perhaps as favourable as could be expected. Wickets were decidedly firmer than is usually the case so early, and the mastery of the ball over the bat not so pronounced as it often is when batsmen generally are short of practice.

Burslem and Longton had a close game at Cobridge, the visitors just failing in a plucky effort to redeem a bad position. The new pavilion of the Burslem club was in use, though it is not quite finished.

Burslem were delighted with their initial victory, for they were compelled to field a greatly-weakened side in the absence of Evans Cook (captain), A. Cook, W. Briscoe, G. E. Cooper, and others. It was a great chance for Longton, and they let it slip. They failed to grasp their chance because they allowed the home men to make more runs on a nasty, kicking wicket than the merit of the batting was value for. And this was due to two factors, viz., a lack of inspiration in captaincy, and a want of alertness and dash in the field. H. Brassington started the bowling himself with Alfred Smith, the latter bowling downhill with the wind. Both kept a good length, and though the brothers Cotton batted doggedly, they found runs hard to get, until, with three wickets down for under 30, A. Birch began to score freely from Brassington. The Captain was losing his length, and wisely took a rest, but Smith was bowling at his best, and a sad error was made in taking him off also. Swinging dangerously from the leg, occasionally turning them back sharply the other way, and making the ball kick awkwardly, he had every batsman in difficulties, and only an average of one run per over had been scored from him. With ordinary luck he would have had several more wickets, and looked like playing havoc any over. The change bowlers were erratic in length and Burslem were enabled to take their score to 136. In my opinion they would not have got nearly so many if Smith had continued bowling at the top end. He could do little from the other when he was tried there late in the innings. Harold Brassington worked hard, bowled quite well at both ends, and took a sweet one-handed catch at short slip, but Alf. Smith, as he was bowling with the wind, was the hope of Longton.

One judged correctly that the runs were too many for the visitors on such a wicket, and when J. W. Johnson got himself out, after a brilliant start, by mis-hitting a bad full pitch, and Smith was unluckily out to a fine catch at the second attempt in the long field from a very hard drive, Burslem's task appeared easy. But a praiseworthy effort by the Captain, some well-timed hitting by Tovey, and a display of polished batting by Steele, a juvenile player, brought about an exciting finish, and Longton only failed by 12 runs. The batting of Steele, though he scored only 13, was perhaps the pleasantest feature of the match, for it is good to see a junior playing correct and stylish cricket. Here is a boy who looks like making a really good bat, and Alf. Smith's coaching should be of great value to him. Longton's chance of pulling the match out of the fire went when he came down too late for a quick yorker. Tovey got most of his 31 by correct timing of leg-balls.

Shorn of so many of their best players (the departure of Roy Hollowood to Swansea will hit them hard) Burslem were not a convincing side. Except for the two Cottons, the batting was either weak or slap-dash. The young left-hander, A. Birch, hit 36, and may get a good many runs, but his display was rather streaky. A. Cartlidge, E. A. Oliver, and C. Tunnicliffe (late of Porthill) bore the brunt of the bowling, and the first-named impressed me most, though I would advise him to keep a straight arm in delivery. He was the only Burslem bowler with a steady length, and he made the ball come quickly from the pitch, and occasionally "do" a little from the leg. Burslem were the smarter side in the field.

Madeley made an indifferent start at Silverdale, for though they put together 120 they were beaten by eight wickets, their bowling being mastered. J. C. Cooper signalised his return to his home club by scoring 46, not out. George Wilson had a poor beginning with Great Chell, who had the worse of a draw with Nantwich. The Cheshire team declared at 206 for 8 (T. W. Steventon 86), and Chell lost half their wickets for 134. Bignall End and Norton shared the experience of Burslem, both winning by a wicket after desperate finishes. Leek made 108 at Bignall End, with V. Astbury (40) producing his best form, and when the champions scraped home, the last pair were at the wicket. The end at Crewe was almost exactly similar, for the home side were dismissed for 98, and Norton, thanks almost entirely to 56 from the bat of P. Massey, had to send their last man in before just landing the points. A Price made 52 of Crewe's moderate score.

Porthill made a confident start at Knypersley, totalling 140 and dismissing the home team for little more than half that score.

In Section B. Stone made a good start by easily defeating Burslem High Lane at Stone. The visitors were dismissed for 65, E. C. Fernie and E. J. Johnson bowling well, and Stones' 109 for 8, included 52 not out, from F. Ravenscroft, who played through the innings. Kidsgrove were overwhelmed at Cheadle, for whom that keen player, A. L. Day, hit a capital 63 not out. The L. M. & S. R. overcame Betley, and Caverswall were too good for Audley. The resuscitated Fenton club failed by five runs in a low-scoring game on their own ground against Sandyford.

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Stafford v. Uttoxeter.

Played at The Hough, on Saturday.

Uttoxeter.—R. T. Green b Warwick, 5; C. Sandham b Whitg, 6; T. Oakden c Neville b Warwick, 0; — Hutchinson c C. Price b Hawley, 11; O. Doran run out, 1; H. Redden lbw b Hawley, 4; T. Robson b Hawley, 8; — Booth c Warwick b Hawley, 3; — Davies not out, 3; D. H. Jackson b Critchley, 0; W. E. Burgess b Critchley, 2; extras, 11; total, 54.

Bowling: R. H. Warwick 2 for 16; W. T. White, 1 for 7; S. H. Critchley, 2 for 10; J. W. Hawley, 4 for 10.

Stafford.—J. T. W. Neville b Oakden, 11; W. T. White run out, 6; Rev. P. F. M. McSwiney b Sandham, 3; R. H. Warwick c Green b Hutchinson, 39; C. W. Price c Burgess b Sandham, 2; T. W. Price b Sandham, 1; Capt. T. A. Hill b Hutchinson, 1; G. H. Greatorex b Doran, 12; J. W. Hawley c and b Hutchinson, 0; F. Burnham not out, 9; S. H. Critchley lbw b Doran, 3; extras, 11; total, 93.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday, Thursday, 9, 10 June 1926

LANCASHIRE II. v. STAFFORDSHIRE.

Fine Recovery by Home County.

Veteran Captain in Big Partnership.

In Staffordshire's first Minor Counties' match of the season to-day at Haslingden, Lancashire II. made a poor start, but the veteran, J. T. Tyldesley, and Farrimond put up a brilliant partnership, which entirely altered the complexion of the home county's innings, and turned what appeared likely to be a small total into a formidable one.

HASLINGDEN, Wednesday.

Perfect conditions favoured the opening of Staffordshire's Minor Counties programme for the season here to-day. Brilliant summer weather displayed to advantage the delightful ground set among the hills of north-east Lancashire—a ground which the Haslingden club pride themselves on as the best among League clubs in the county. This is no idle boast, particularly when full account is taken of the admirable equipment and appointments. But a club which can take a "gate" of £114 for a Saturday afternoon fixture, as Haslingden did last week, can afford these luxuries.

The Lancastrians won the toss, and the Staffordshire men went out with every prospect of a day in the field, for the wicket did not promise any special advantage to the bowlers. But both Barnes and Lockett, who opened the attack for the visitors, were treated with great respect by P. T. Eckersley and Booth and the first four overs failed to produce a single run. Ten minutes had gone before Eckersley ventured a stroke past cover off Barnes for one, and in the next over he raised the score to two by turning Lockett to backward square leg. Both batsmen held stubbornly to the defensive, the scoring continuing at this tame pace, and at the end of half-an-hour's play there were only six runs on the board.

The last of these nearly cost Eckersley his wicket, a quick return from the field placing him in peril. He had just regained his crease, however, before J. B. Russell whipped off his bails.

LOCKETT'S EARLY SUCCESS.

Shortly afterwards the same batsman recorded the first boundary, with a delightful stroke behind the wicket off Locket, and proceeded to display greater enterprise. But he had scarcely begun to put his bat to the ball before, with only 14 up, he lost Booth, Lockett turning a ball to disturb his off stump.

The outgoing batsman was succeeded by Taylor, the left-hander, who usually puts up a good show against Staffordshire, and who, in the early part of the week, assisted the Lancashire First Eleven to gain an outstanding victory over Notts.

Eckersley continued to meet the bowling with more confidence, but he saw the addition of only two runs before he put up a ball from Barnes, for Hunt to take him at point.

Paynter, who joined Taylor, is also a left-handed batsman. He started off with a single collected four from Barnes, added one more, and then succumbed to a brilliant low catch at first slip by J. S. Heath from Lockett's bowling. He was followed by yet another left-hander in A. Smith, who was able to contribute only two before he was out l.b.w. to Lockett, and four Lancashire wickets were down for 25 runs. Lockett's three wickets had so far cost only 14 runs.

In the next over Platt took over from Barnes, who is in far from normal health, having recently been in the doctor's hands. He had bowled eleven overs for one wicket at a cost of nine runs. Matters continued to go badly for the home side, for Taylor after half-an-hour's stand for four, lifted a delivery from Lockett to mid-off where J. W. Johnson made a fine running catch, thus bringing about the fall of the fifth wicket for 35.

IMPROVEMENT IN LANCS. SCORE.

That astute and veteran skipper, J. T. Tyldesley, now went in with Farrimond, who was the first batsman so far to get into double figures. In the second over put down to him Tyldesley lifted Platt over the seats for 4, but he dealt more cautiously with further deliveries from the same source.

Farrimond was hitting out freely compared with those who had gone before, and with a cut to the off for four he brought the first half-century after ninety minutes play. R. S. Hunt, the Norton bowler, now took over from Platt, who went on at the other end in place of Lockett. The last-named had bowled 16 overs his four wickets cost only 28 runs.

Tyldesley and Farrimond were now well set, and with the latter hitting out valiantly, the score moved forward at a much more rapid pace. This pair between them had put on 47 when Lockett was brought on again at the other end in place of Hunt.

By the lunch interval the Lancashire score had risen to 90 for five wickets.

Barnes went on bowling again after lunch, and from his second ball down Tyldesley drove to the mid-off boundary. Facing Lockett in the next over, the Lancashire veteran put one up wide of third slip, and he was troubled by a subsequent perfect length delivery from Barnes.

Farrimond was displaying a variety of useful strokes, and twice cut Lockett past point to the line, while another stroke for four through the slips brought up his individual 50, after he had been at the crease an hour and twenty-five minutes.

FREE HITTING.

The freedom of his hitting was indicated by the fact that his scoring strokes included nine fours. When the pair had advanced the total by 90 to 125, Lockett was again rested, Platt taking over.

Tyldesley, after a number of confident and polished strokes, including a beautiful leg drive, again just put up a ball wide of third slip, when he stood at 43.

At 137, E. Perry, the young West Bromwich player, who was making his first appearance for Staffordshire, relieved Barnes. Tall and loose-jointed, he bowls at a medium pace but keeps a fairly good length. Two singles were forthcoming from his first over, but in his third Tyldesley collected two 4's.

The Lancashire captain completed his individual 50 in an hour and twenty minuets. His partner, however, had a lucky escape when, with his total at 69, he hit up Platt to mid-off where Hunt failed to take him. This was bad luck for Platt, who had been bowling consistently well, with little success.

BIG PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED.

But he achieved his object in his next over, for he caused Farrimond to put one up to Homer at backward point. The retiring batsman, who had done so much to save his side from disaster, had batted strongly throughout his two hours' at the wicket, and his valuable contribution of 77 included no fewer than twelve boundary hits and seven 2's. He and his captain advanced the total between them from 35 to 170. Woolley followed in, but made only a brief stay, Platt finding his stumps with the addition of only six to the score.

Joined by Rushton, Tyldesley went on scoring freely with strokes to all points of the field, but the newcomer, who was making his first county appearance, was never at home, and was clean bowled by Platt before he had opened his account. Webster, another left-hander, signalised his arrival at the wicket with two mighty hits for four, which delighted the 1,000 or so spectators immensely, and when Tyldesley followed immediately in the same strain th doubl entury went up, aftr thr hours' and twnty minuts batting.

At 206 J. S. Heath went on bowling in place of Platt, but could not subdue the venturesome Webster, who drove his first two deliveries t othe boundary and turned the third to leg for a single.

Lockett came on again at the other end, and shortly afterwards the innings closed for 273.

Lockett 6 for 68, Platt 3 for 69, Barnes 1 for 32.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

P T Eckersley c Hunt b Barnes	9
Booth b Lockett	4
Taylor c Johnson b Lockett	4
Paynter c Heath b Lockett	6
A Smith lbw b Lockett	2
Farrimond c Homer b Platt	77
J T Tyldesley b Lockett	127
Woolley b Platt	5
Rushton b Platt	0
Webster c Homer b Lockett	25
Holroyd not out	1
Extras	13
Total	273

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	16	23	25	35	170	176	188	233	273

STAFFORDSHIRE'S MATCH ABANDONED.

Rain Makes Play To-day Impossible.

Lancashire Ahead at Last Night's Close.

Rain during last night and again to-day at Haslingden, where Staffordshire were meeting Lancashire II. in the former's opening match of the season, caused the game to be abandoned, with the home county in a strong position, for at the close of play last evening, Lancashire had totalled 273, and Staffordshire had lost eight wickets for 100 runs.

HASLINGDON, Thursday.

Staffordshire were in a precarious position this morning in their Minor Counties fixture with Lancashire II. This was an outcome of their disastrous collapse in opening their reply to the home team's 273 yesterday evening.

Starting with C. Howl and H. W. Homer after the tea interval, they lost Howl with the first ball bowled, the Wolverhampton player being too late to a delivery from Webster. Neither Barnes nor J. W. Johnson was able to "stop the rot," and three wickets were down with only 16 runs on the board.

L. McEllin, the Bignall End batsman, who was being called on for county duty for the first time, met the bowling confidently and for a time he and Homer stayed the unhappy trend of events and more than trebled the total before Homer, after exploiting some delightful strokes, had his off stump whipped out by a sharp turning ball from Holroyd.

J. S. Heath had scarcely settled before a smart catch in the slips sent him back, and E. Perry, another newcomer from West Bromwich, Lockett, and Platt were each quickly and cheaply disposed of.

McELLIN'S EFFORT.

McEllin continued to tackle the bowling with assurance. By the close of the day's play he was still unbeaten, and had the best total for his side. This was the more commendable, since he had had a particularly strenuous time in the field during the Lancashire innings, which lasted almost four hours.

Webster, a fast left-arm bowler, was the cause of all the trouble to Staffordshire. The six wickets he captured, out of eight which fell before the stumps were drawn, cost him only 19 runs.

The last three of them, when he came on for a second spell of bowling, were taken without an additional run being scored off him.

RESUMPTION DELAYED.

Rain fell heavily during the night, and was persisting in frequent showers this morning, so that the resumption of the game had to be delayed, there being no play before lunch.

The rain ceased at two o'clock, but the wicket was in such a soaked condition, that there was little hope of a resumption before the tea interval, even if the weather remained fine.

At 3.30 the match was abandoned.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

P T Eckersley c Hunt b Barnes	9
Booth b Lockett	4
Taylor c Johnson b Lockett	4
Paynter c Heath b Lockett	6
A Smith lbw b Lockett	2
Farrimond c Homer b Platt	77
J T Tyldesley b Lockett	127
Woolley b Platt	5
Rushton b Platt	0
Webster c Homer b Lockett	25
Holroyd not out	1
Extras	13
Total	273

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl b Webster	0
H W Homer b Holroyd	35
Barnes b Webster	3
J W Johnson b Webster	0
L M'Ellin not out	42
J S Heath c Woolley b Rushton	1
E Perry b Webster	8
Lockett c Holroyd b Webster	0
Platt c Paynter b Webster	1
S Hunt not out	0
Extras	10
Total (for 8 wkts)	100

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	18	5	32	1
Lockett	25	8	66	6
Platt	28	5	69	3
R S Hunt	4	0	21	0
E Perry	9	2	34	0
J S Heath	4	0	38	0

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

Webster	11	4	19	6
Woolley	11	2	34	0
Rushton	8	1	16	1
Holroyd	8	2	21	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	16	23	25	35	170	176	188	233	273

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday 16 June 1926

NORFOLK'S GREAT RECOVERY.

Second Innings Realises 214 Runs.

Staffordshire Require 61 for Victory

When play opened to-day, there was a prospect of Staffordshire securing an innings win over Norfolk, at Wolverhampton, but Michael Falcon (65) and H F. Lowe (53) put a different complexion on the game and as a result Norfolk totalled 214 in their second innings.

This left Staffordshire 61 runs to get in their second innings, which will commence after the tea interval.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

E W Page c Lowe b Fryer	56
C Howl b Falcon	39
P O Yates c Beadsmoore b Mower	10
Barnes c Beadsmoore b Mower	2
H W Homer b Cant	27
J W Johnson b Falcon	4
Sedgwick c Williamson b Beadsmoore	10
E Perry c Williamson b Fryer	3
Lockett (A) c Coville b Beadsmoore	10
Platt c Fryer b Falcon	24
J B Russell not out	15
Extras	27
Total	227

NORFOLK.—First Innings.

H F Low c Lockett b Barnes	0
Nichols b Lockett	14
Coville run out	7
M Falcon c Lockett b Barnes	14
J Holmes c Sedgwick b Barnes	8
P W J Fryer c Lockett b Barnes	7
R A Everett b Barnes	3
R W Cant c Perry b Barnes	1
W A Beadsmoore c Barnes b Lockett	0
G H Mower not out	14
E C Williamson st Russell b Barnes	0
Extras	5
Total	73

NORFOLK.—Second Innings.

J Holmes c Lockett b Barnes	0
R A Everitt c Russell b Platt	0
Covill c Page b Platt	28
Nichols lbw b Barnes	3
M Falcon b Barnes	65
P W J Fryer b Lockett	19
R W Cant c Perry b Lockett	5
H F Lowe c Platt b Sedgwick	53
W A Beadsmoore b Sedgwick	15
G H Mower c Perry b Sedgwick	4
E C Williamson not out	2
Extras	20
Total	214

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
M. Falcon	15.5	6	30	3
G. H. Mower	20	6	54	2
Coville	5	0	35	0
W. Beadsmoore	15	5	31	2
P. W. J. Fryer	10	1	43	2
R. W. Cant	3	1	7	1

Norfolk.—First Innings.

Barnes	18.2	7	32	7
Lockett	18	5	36	2

Norfolk.—Second Innings.

Sedgwick	18.1	4	59	3
Platt	24	6	52	2
Barnes	21	9	42	3
Lockett	19	8	33	2
Perry	4	1	8	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
85	115	115	118	125	155	162	173	191	227

Norfolk.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	17	26	24	52	53	55	57	73	73

Norfolk.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	0	10	81	124	132	151	183	195	214

WOLVERHAMPTON, Thursday.

Staffordshire had their match with Norfolk well in hand when play was resumed punctually this morning. Having made good use of a batsman's wicket in the earlier stages of the game yesterday, they took equal advantage of a drying pitch when the visitors set about their reply. Barnes and Lockett bowled through out the innings, and the former, regaining something of his old deadly form, proved unplayable, while Lockett was as valuable in the slips as with the ball. This combination proved the undoing of the East Anglians, whose wickets fell rapidly and cheaply, and left them with the position of having to follow on 154 runs behind.

A low catch in the slips by Lockett off Barnes disposed of H. F. Lowe, their first batsman in the first innings, while a smartly fielded and well-thrown in ball by C. Howl sent Covill back with only 17 runs up. Nichols, the former Stoke and Staffordshire professional, with Michael Falcon, the Norfolk captain, promised to "stop the rot," but when they had put on only nine runs during a patient and stubborn stand. Nichols lost his wicket unluckily, a delivery from Lockett cannoning from one pad to the other and then rolling into the stumps.

Falcon continued with J. Holmes in an endeavour to mend matters, but they got only to 42 when the former went for a ball from Barnes and hit it up to Lockett, again to bring off a smart catch at first slip.

LOCKETT'S CATCHES.

Thus the debacle went on, no fewer than four of the Norfolk wickets succumbing to Lockett's catches off Barnes. At 5 45, when eight were down for 57 runs, rain forced a ten minutes halt, but when a resumption was made Barnes again got a deadly spin on the ball, and quickly dismissed the two remaining batsmen with successive deliveries, the innings having lasted an hour and a half.

Barnes finished with an average of seven wickets for 32 runs, and Lockett's two wickets cost only 36 runs.

The visitors carried on their second attempt just before the close of play, and lost R. A. Everitt without a run on the book through a catch behind the wicket off Platt, who shared the opening attack with Sedgwick.

When play was resumed this morning, Barnes and Lockett took over the bowling again and met with immediate success for Lockett once more got to a low ball in the slips off Barnes' first over, scooped it up, and effected a breast-high catch. Two wickets were down without the score being opened, and Nichols, on whom Norfolk depend so greatly for their batting strength, was unable to do much to improve the position and came out lbw to Barnes after contributing only three.

VISITORS IMPROVE.

But with Michael Falcon and Covill together, events took a happier turn for the visitors, these two meeting the bowling with a straight bat and passing the 50 mark when the innings had been in progress an hour. When 30 was reached Sedgwick and Platt relieved Barnes and Lockett, who had bowled nine overs each, the former claiming two wickets for 14 and the latter having yielded 15 runs.

Falcon and Covill became set and pushed the score along at a fine pace so that when they were separated, at the end of an hour's partnership, they had advanced the total from 10 to 81 for the fourth wicket. It was Covill's wicket that fell, to a catch at mid-off by Page from Platt's bowling.

Falcon, joined by Fryer, continued to bat soundly, excelling in powerful drives, but at 47 he "skied" a ball from Platt towards the cover. It was an awkward catch, and P. O. Yates, although he got his hands to the ball, was unable to hold it.

With the captain doing practically all the scoring the aggregate passed 90 at which point E. Perry, the West Bromwich player came on in place of Sedgwick. Falcon remained with his individual total at 49 for three overs, and then, with a shot to square leg for two, reached his half-century, after being at the crease an hour and forty minutes.

The same stroke also brought the Norfolk second innings total to 100 as the result of two hours' batting. Falcon was in difficulties in Platt's next over, and at 55 edged a ball just wide of the wicket-keeper's outstretched hands.

But the next time he faced the same bowler he glided the ball to leg for four and took a single from a cut past point. At 114 Barnes came on again in place of Perry, and Lockett relieved Platt. Both started with maiden overs and in snatching a single later Fryer narrowly missed being run out. In the next over he on-drove Barnes to the rails.

By lunch time the total had advanced to 124 for four wickets

FALCON'S GREAT EFFORT.

With the second ball after lunch Lockett got through Fryer's defence and broke a fifth wicket stand that put on 43 runs, while

(Continued at Foot of Next Column.)

Barnes, in his first over on resuming, dislodged Falcon with a ball that came in sharply from the off. The Norfolk captain had batted two and a quarter hours for his very valuable contribution of 65, and his scoring strokes included ten 4's. He had made a great effort to pull the game round, and had remained at the wicket to see the score mount from the negligible total of 10 for 3 wickets, to 132 for six. When he left, 22 runs were required to avoid an innings defeat.

R. W. Cant assisted H. F. Lowe to reduce the margin to three before he was taken at third man by Perry, off Lockett. Three maiden overs followed, and then the innings defeat was saved by a hit through the slips by W. A. Beadsmoore for four.

Lowe and Beadsmoore settled down to steady defensive play and Barnes bowled five overs without a run being scored off him. At 161 Platt took over from Lockett and eleven runs later Sedgwick went on in place of Barnes and immediately bowled Beadsmoore. G. H. Mower put up a ball from Sedgwick to mid-on and was taken by Perry.

The innings closed at 3 50 leaving Staffordshire 61 runs to get to win.

✓ Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday 16 June 1926

SOUND BATTING BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

Norfolk Bowlers Find Pitch Difficult.

First Innings Total of 227.

Staffordshire made a good total in their first innings against Norfolk, at Wolverhampton to-day, E. W. Page being the chief scorer with 56 to his credit.

Going in first on an apparently good wicket, the home county batted well into the afternoon and reached a total of 227, C. Howl contributing 39.

Michael Falcon, the Norfolk captain, took three wickets for 30 runs.

WOLVERHAMPTON, Wednesday.

Staffordshire were fortunate in the weather here to-day, and were able to make a punctual start in their Minor Counties fixture with Norfolk.

While the Potteries were being soaked in rain yesterday, the Tettenhall ground was basking in sun, and was perfectly dry with a firm surface when play commenced this morning.

There were several changes from the Staffordshire side that met Lancashire last week, J. S. Heath, R. S. Hunt, and L. McElhin being absent, while E. W. Page (Wolverhampton), P. O. Yates (Old Hill), and Sedgwick (Leek) came into the team. Norfolk had introduced several young players to take the place of such familiar figures as G. R. R. Colman, G. A. A. Stevens, R. Carter, and Watson.

Staffordshire won the toss, and opened their innings with the two Wolverhampton players, E. W. Page and C. Howl, who exercised the utmost caution while playing themselves in.

The first four overs from the visiting captain, Michael Falcon, and G. H. Mower, were maidens, and then Page turned Falcon to fine leg for two and hit him through the covers to the boundary from the next ball. With nine on the books from the first eight overs, Coville was brought on in place of Falcon.

EARLY BOWLING CHANGES.

Page was now settled, and took three 4's out of the new bowler's first over, and when the score had reached 28, in rather more than half-an-hour, another bowling change was made at the other end, W. A. Beadsmoore taking over from Mower.

The rate of scoring slackened somewhat for a while, but in time Page turned Coville round to leg to run four, while Howe cut Beadsmoore for three to bring the first half-century in just under 50 minutes' batting.

Immediately afterwards Colville gave place to P. W. J. Fryer, but Page went on getting superb shots off both bowlers, the majority of his scoring strokes going for four. By the time he had collected 42 he had made no fewer than nine boundary hits. He completed his individual 50 in an hour's batting, and followed it with a smashing drive past mid-on for another four.

Howl, on the other hand, was exercising the greatest patience, more than the bowling seemed to warrant, but he got one or two useful drives off Beadsmoore's slow deliveries. After having been at the crease an hour and ten minutes, Page essayed another high shot towards the boundary and was taken at deep mid-on by Lowe. His free, forcing batsmanship was reflected in his record of runs, his total of 56 comprising twelve 4's, two 2's, and only four singles.

P. O. Yates followed in, and with the first ball to him found the square leg boundary. With 95 up, Mower was brought on, but he yielded sufficient runs in his first over to bring the century, after the innings had been in progress an hour and a quarter.

WICKET AGAINST BOWLERS.

The wicket, apparently was not as hard as it at first appeared, and the bowlers were having difficulty in making it respond to their designs.

Howl increased the pace of his scoring with a leg stroke for 4 and another cut through the slips to the line, but he was soon in difficulties with a fast delivery from Falcon, who came on to bowl again at 114, and was clean bowled with the last ball of the over. He collected 39 during his hour-and-a-half at the wicket, having hit six 4's. The score stood at 115 for the second wicket, and remained at the same figure for the third, for Yates knocked up a ball from Mower, and was easily taken at short leg by Beardmore.

Sydney Barnes and H. W. Homer formed the next partnership, but took few liberties with the bowling, which had decidedly improved. They advanced the sore by only three in fifteen minutes when Barnes put a ball from Mower in nearly the same place as Yates had done and was smartly held by Beadsmoore.

J. W. Johnson came in to finish the over before lunch. At this stage the score stood at 119 for four wickets.

Falcon opened the attack again after lunch, and after bowling a maiden over to Homer beat Johnson was a "yorker" that scattered his stumps. Johnson's contribution to the total had been a high shot to leg for four off Mower.

CHEAPER WICKETS.

A great change had come over the game since the fall of the first wicket at 85, the next four having fallen for the addition of only 40 runs. But the sun and the wind had made the pitch more difficult, and the bowlers were gradually getting the upper hand. Falcon was bowling exceptionally well with a fast leg break, and Mower was sending up fewer loose ones.

Sedgwick, having joined Homer, started hitting out at Falcon and drove him past mid-on for two, and placed another stroke to the off for a single. This encouraged Homer to adopt similar methods, and he hit the Norfolk captain past mid-on to the rails.

At 150 a double bowling change was made Fryer and Beadsmoore going on again. Sedgwick helped himself to six off the former's first over, but in the next, facing Beadsmoore, he was smartly taken behind the stumps by Williamson, after having helped to put on 30 runs for the sixth wicket.

F. Perry added very little to the sum total before he made a bad stroke off a delivery from Fryer and was easily taken in front of the wicket by Williamson. Homer, with Lockett now in partnership, cut Fryer for 4, and opened his shoulders to drive the next delivery for a similar addition. But with yet another bowling change his stand was brought to an abrupt conclusion, for R. W. Cant, taking over from Fryer, captured his wicket with his first ball. Lockett and Platt helped matters on to within nine off the double century, and then the former hit up a ball from Beadsmoore off the shoulder of his bat and was caught in the slips by Coville. J. B. Russell, the Staffordshire Captain, was the last man in and he and Platt advanced by singles to the 200 mark, when the innings had been in progress three hours and ten minutes. Shortly afterwards, with his total at nine, Platt was put down in the slips by Beadsmoore off Falcon who had taken over again with a new ball. Both batsmen now forced the pace and Platt lifted a beautiful straight drive into the rails, while Russell collected a similar number with an on-drive. They remained together batting with easy confidence until they had put on 36 runs for the last wicket when Platt was taken in the long field off Falcon.

The innings had lasted three-and-a-half hours.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

E W Page c Lowe b Fryer	56
C Howl b Falcon	39
P O Yates c Beadsmoore b Mower	10
Barnes c Beadsmoore b Mower	2
H W Homer b Cant	27
J W Johnson b Falcon	4
Sedgwick c Williamson b Beadsmoore	10
F Perry c Williamson b Fryer	3
Lockett (A) c Coville b Beadsmoore	10
Platt c Fryer b Falcon	24
J B Russell not out	15
Extras	27
Total	227

NORFOLK.—First Innings.

H F Low c Lockett b Barnes	0
Nichols not out	9
Coville run out	7
M Falcon not out	0
Extras	1
Total (for 2 wkts)	17

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
M. Falcon	15.6	6	30	3
G. H. Mower	20	6	54	2
Coville	5	0	35	0
W. Beadsmoore	15	5	31	2
P. W. J. Fryer	10	1	43	2
R. W. Cant	3	1	7	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
85	115	119	119	165	165	169	175	193	227

The Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 19 June 1926

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Norfolk

By THE CRITIC

There was a thoroughly enjoyable day's cricket on the pretty ground of the Wolverhampton C.C. at Tettenhall, on Wednesday, when Staffordshire entertained Norfolk. It was a pity to see so small a gathering of spectators, though, perhaps, hardly surprising with the Staffordshire Agricultural Show being held some half mile from the ground. The Staffordshire team was materially strengthened by the inclusion of P. O. Yates, E. W. Page, and Sedgwick, in place of J. S. Heath, L. McKellin, and R. S. Hunt. Unfortunately, Norfolk were much below normal strength, for one missed such players as G. R. R. Colman, H. R. Coldham, G. A. Stevens, R. Carter, and Watson. An interesting new comer was a young professional, Covill, playing his first match for the county, who has just been appointed to the ground staff at Lords at the age of 19. He struck one as promising with the bat, and bowls a fairly fast ball, right arm, but on this occasion revealed a tendency to get short, and was punished by Page.

The day was pleasantly fine until the last hour, when there was some drizzle, and one stoppage of 10 minutes' duration. The wicket looked surprisingly firm in view of recent rain, but contained sufficient moisture to make the contest between bat and ball a sporting one.

Staffordshire won the toss, and Page and Howl gave the batting a fine start. Falcon and Mower made the batsmen play, and the start was very quiet, but when the Captain took himself off to try Covill, Page got three fours to leg, from short ones in the junior's first over, and thereafter the local veteran scintillated. His leg hitting was brilliant, and he drove with splendid power. By comparison, Howl was the personification of patience, but his defence was good and his leg glide and his "chop" through the slips occasionally beat the well-placed field. Page's hitting accounted for 56 out of 85 in 70 minutes, and included a dozen fours. When he misshit in trying to drive and was easily caught at deep mid-on, his last eight scoring strokes were boundaries. Howl was out to a good one from Falcon at 115—a break-back which he edged on to his pad and thence on to the stumps. He had been batting 1½ hours, and his half-dozen fours included a couple of beauties through the covers, and a couple of nice square cuts. Mower, a quick left arm bowler, made the ball swing in, and got Yates and Barnes caught at short square leg before lunch. Afterwards wickets fell at fairly regular intervals until nine were down for 191, and only Homer made much of a stay. He was none too comfortable, but made some beautiful shots. Then the Staffordshire Captain and Platt had a merry 25 minutes, and both hitting cleanly, added a useful 36 for the last wicket.

Norfolk were then dismissed in an hour and 40 minutes, the bowling of Barnes and Lockett being quite too good for them. Barnes was much more himself than at Haslingden, and bowled like the master he has so long been. His leg spin had much of its old viciousness, and he mixed them as usual, varying speed and flight, sometimes going straight through, sometimes breaking back appreciably, and rarely losing an immaculate length. But it was his inimitable leg break which wrought the mischief. Many times it had the batsmen's defence utterly beaten without hitting the wicket, and when they did get near enough to touch it at all, they were caught at fine slip. Four such catches were made, and a fifth was missed by Sedgwick, whilst Howl should have caught another at point. So that fine as Barnes's return was, it might easily, and, indeed, ought to have been, better. 154 behind, Norfolk followed on, and had less than 10 minutes' batting. Sedgwick and Platt bowled an over apiece, and one wicket fell for no runs. It was a meritorious day's work.

Favoured with a second fine day, Staffordshire gained a decisive victory by seven wickets. But Norfolk struggled hard, and some good batting by Falcon, Lowe, and Covill was instrumental in avoiding the innings defeat. The two first-named both gave chances, but Falcon's first let-off was not until he had scored 47. Lowe had an uncertain start, being missed off Lockett, and often beaten by Barnes, but afterwards played well. Covill was slow, but is a promising young batsman. Beadsmoore afterwards bowled with great accuracy, and had exceptional figures.

Scores and analysis:—

SCORES AND ANALYSIS.

BATTING.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

E. W. Page c Low b Fryer	56
C. Howl b Falcon	30
P. O. Yates c Beadsmoore b Mower	10
Barnes c Beadsmoore b Mower	2
H. W. Homer b Cant	27
J. W. Johnson b Falcon	1
Sedgwick c Williamson b Beadsmoore	10
E. Perry c Williamson b Fryer	3
A. Lockett c Covill b Beadsmoore	10
Platt c Fryer b Falcon	21
J. B. Russell not out	15
Extras	27
	227

2nd Innings.

E. W. Page c Everett b Mower	26
C. Howl b Beadsmoore	3
P. O. Yates b Beadsmoore	1
Barnes not out	18
H. W. Homer not out	8
Extras	5
Total (for 3 wkts.)	61

NORFOLK.

H. F. Low c Lockett b Barnes	0
Nichols b Lockett	14
Covill run out	7
M. Falcon c Lockett b Barnes	14
J. Holmes c Sedgwick b Barnes	8
P. W. J. Fryer c Lockett b Barnes	7
R. A. Everett b Barnes	3
R. W. Cant c Perry b Barnes	1
W. A. Beadsmoore c Barnes b Lockett	0
G. H. Mower not out	14
E. C. Williamson st Russell b Barnes	0
Extras	5
Total	73

2nd Innings.

J. Holmes c Lockett b Barnes	0
R. A. Everett c Russell b Platt	0
Covill c Page b Platt	28
Nichols lbw b Barnes	3
M. Falcon b Barnes	65
P. W. J. Fryer b Lockett	10
H. F. Low c Platt b Sedgwick	53
R. W. Cant c Perry b Lockett	5
W. A. Beadsmoore b Sedgwick	15
G. H. Mower c Perry b Sedgwick	4
E. C. Williamson not out	2
Extras	20
Total	214

BOWLING.

Staffordshire.—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Falcon	15·5	6	30	3
Mower	20	6	51	2
Covill	5	0	35	0
Beadsmoore	15	5	31	2
Fryer	10	1	43	2
Cant	3	1	7	1

2nd Innings.

Falcon	7	0	25	0
Beadsmoore	10·5	6	9	2
Mower	4	0	22	1

Norfolk.—1st Innings.

Barnes	18·2	7	32	7
Lockett	18	5	36	2

2nd Innings.

Sedgwick	18·1	4	59	3
Platt	24	6	52	2
Barnes	21	9	42	3
Lockett	19	8	33	2
Perry	4	1	8	0

Staffordshire Sentinel : Monday 28 June 1926

LINCOLNSHIRE PUT UP BIG SCORE.

Mistakes in the Field by Staffordshire.

Century by Frearson.

Lincolnshire made a great recovery in their innings against Staffordshire to-day, for, after losing two out of their first three batsmen without them opening their account, the score was taken to over 250 for the seventh wicket. R. E. Frearson completed his century by brilliant batsmanship.

WOLVERHAMPTON, Monday.

Staffordshire entered on their third Minor Counties fixture of the season, with Lincolnshire as their opponents, on the ground of the Wolverhampton Club, at Tettenhall, this morning. The home county had three changes from the team that defeated Norfolk here, G. H. Thorneycroft (Wolverhampton), J. Whalen (Silverdale), and R. Winyard (Blakenhall), coming in to fill places formerly occupied by P. O. Yates (Old Hill), E. Perry (West Bromwich), and Sedgwick (Leek). Lincoln, who suffered an innings defeat against Buckinghamshire last week, and who have still to record their first victory, since their return to the competition, over Staffordshire, were without two useful men in J. E. Searby and the Rev. G. E. Ure, but they were again led by Major C. Wilson, and included in their number R. E. Frearson, their most useful batsman of recent seasons.

Winning the toss, they had first use of the batsman's wicket, and R. E. Frearson joined B. A. Bashforth in the opening partnership. The latter was in difficulties in his first over from Barnes, and had not made a scoring stroke, when, after twelve minutes at the crease, he had his off stump levelled by J. Whalen, the Silverdale left-arm bowler, who helped Barnes to skittle out the Lincolnshire batsmen on this ground two seasons ago. Frearson had collected eight at this stage, and extras brought the first wicket total to 15.

VISITORS' WEAK START.

This unpropitious start caused Frearson and his new partner, Flight-Lieutenant J. B. Allen, to proceed warily, and another uneventful 12 minutes produced one single before Barnes got through Allen's defence and scattered his bails. The out-going player was the second out of the first three to fail to open his score, and two wickets lost, with only 14 runs on the book, pointed to prospects of another debacle for the visitors.

J. W. Tomlinson joined Frearson in an effort to right matters and the pair batted with so much caution that twenty minutes passed before they collected the six runs needed to put 20 on the board. Having reached that mark they opened out more afterwards, and a hit to the square leg rails by Tomlinson, and a cut past point by Frearson for three, brought a flash of brightness to what had been otherwise a dull display. When 30 was reached, at the end of 50 minutes' play, Lockett was brought on in place of Whalen at the pavilion end.

But after he had bowled two overs, from which only two runs were scored, he relieved Barnes, Platt taking over at the pavilion end. Only 18 runs had been knocked off Barnes in twelve overs, in which he had claimed one wicket. Lockett was immediately successful at this end. The second ball down twisted off Tomlinson's bat just short of the stumper's fingers, and his third, a "yorker," had the batsmen clean bowled. Joined now by W. G. Brockson, Frearson got a lucky snick through the slips to raise 50, after an hour and five minutes batting.

Eight runs later, however, he lost Brockson who was brilliantly taken in the slips by Whalen off Platt.

E. E. Hallam, the Skegness player, materially helped to improve the position, although he was lucky with two shots over slip's head for four off Platt.

CHANCES NOT TAKEN.

Collecting runs rather more speedily, the present pair brought the total to 87, at which point Barnes returned. In the first over Hallam hit him up on to the on side, but Winyard missed him in the deep field and the ball bounced over the fence for four.

In his next over from Barnes, Hallam caused the 100 to be raised, after an hour and three-quarters' play. He then opened his shoulders again and lifted the ball to a great height, to be missed in the deep field a second time by C. Howl, another four runs accruing. The pair remained together till lunch, by which time they had exactly doubled the fourth wicket total of 58 in exactly fifty minutes.

Barnes and Whalen took over the bowling again when play was resumed, and it was off the latter bowler that Frearson drove to the on for two to complete his individual 50, as the result of two hours' batting. But his partner, Hallam, who had batted with the utmost freedom, added only a single before he again put up the ball from Barnes, and was taken in the deep field by E. W. Page.

FREE SCORING.

He had scored his runs at the rate of one a minute, his aggregate including eight fours. Frearson had got few more than his half-century when a hard chance to short-leg was put down by Platt off Barnes. But in the next over Shaw went forward to a delivery from Whalen and was stumped, the sixth wicket falling at 124. The Lincolnshire captain now came into partnership with Frearson and he began immediately to hit about him. But he, too, gave a chance in the deep field off Barnes, to be missed by Howl.

He went out to drive with great power, collecting runs at a fast pace, and after surviving two appeals for lbw, he drove Barnes over the rails for six.

When, at 167, Platt went on in place of Barnes, Wilson again opened his shoulders and, meeting the ball with the full face of the bat, lifted it well out of the field for another six. He continued to force the pace and reached his individual 50 in half-an-hour, having seven 4's in addition to his two sixes.

With a pull to leg for four, he sent up the double century, after the innings had been in progress three hours.

A double bowling change was made, Winyard and Whalen taking over, and in his second over Whalen caused the dismissal of Wilson, lbw. The seventh wicket partnership had put on 84 runs in 40 minutes.

Frearson went on steadily improving his total by sound batsmanship, and with a beautiful on-drive to the pavilion completed his century, at the end of three hours' and thirty minutes batting.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

B A Bashforth b Whalen	0
J B Allen b Barnes	0
J W Tomlinson b Lockett	18
W G Brockson c Whalen b Platt	1
E E Hallam c Page b Barnes	44
C Shaw st Russell b Whalen	2
R E Frearson c Whalen b Lockett	105
C Wilson (Capt) lbw b Whalen	57
J W Smith not out	18
F W Campion c and b Barnes	0
H Hawley c Thorneycroft b Barnes	6
Extras	10
Total	268

Staffordshire Sentinel : Tuesday 29 June 1926

HEAVY SCORING BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

First Innings Total of 422.

Lincolnshire Make Poor Start.

Staffordshire to-day took advantage of a perfect batsman's wicket at Wolverhampton, in their match with Lincolnshire, and ran up a huge total.

When play recommenced this morning, the home county had replied with 139 for two wickets to Lincolnshire's 258, G. H. Thorneycroft and Barnes being the "not outs," the former with 58 and Barnes 26. To-day, Thorneycroft carried his score to 133, and Barnes to 69, while H. W. Homer followed with a splendid contribution of 74.

Lincolnshire made a poor start in their second innings.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

B A Bashforth b Whalen	0
R E Frearson c Whalen b Lockett	105
J B Allen b Barnes	0
J W Tomlinson b Lockett	18
W G Brockson c Whalen b Platt	1
E E Hallam c Page b Barnes	44
G Shaw st Russell b Whalen	2
C Wilson lbw b Whalen	57
J W Smith not out	16
F W Campion c and b Barnes	0
H Hawley c Thorneycroft b Barnes	5
Extras	10
Total	258

LINCOLNSHIRE.—Second Innings.

B A Bashforth not out	7
R E Frearson c Platt b Barnes	0
J B Allen b Barnes	3
J W Tomlinson not out	4
Extras	12
Total (for 2 wkts)	26

Later.—Lincolnshire, 47 for three.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

E W Page c Shaw b Hawley	1
C Howl c Shaw b Hallam	46
Barnes c Wilson b Smith	69
G E Winyard run out	0
G H Thorneycroft b Frearson	133
J W Johnson c Shaw b Frearson	5
A Lockett run out	25
J B Russell b Wilson	16
J Whalen b Smith	12
H W Homer c Hallam b Wilson	74
J Whalen b Smith	12
Platt not out	6
Extras	35
Total	422

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R	W.
Barnes (S F)	25.2	6	75	4
J Whalen	18	7	56	3
Lockett (A)	17	7	41	2
Platt	14	2	42	1
R Winyard	5	0	34	0

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

Hawley	11	1	49	1
Wilson	29.4	10	79	3
Smith	35	9	99	1
Hallam	18	2	68	1
Campion	16	1	62	0
Frearson	8	1	30	2

WOLVERHAMPTON, Tuesday.

There was little prospect of the fixture between Staffordshire and Lincolnshire being finished when play was resumed here this morning. Both sides made full use of a batsman's wicket yesterday, when an aggregate of nearly 400 runs was raised, and the conditions were all in favour of run-getting again this morning.

The feature of the first day's play was the century knocked up by R. E. Frearson, the young Lincolnshire player, who, although still in his early twenties, is one of the best batsmen in the Minor Counties.

He opened with B. A. Bashforth, steadied matters when his side were heading for disaster, and carried his bat to the ninth wicket. He gave one chance in the slips early on, but, apart from this, he batted soundly and exploited some delightful strokes. The visiting captain, Major C. Wilson, also batted strongly, hitting up 50 with powerful shots in half an hour.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S REPLY.

Staffordshire started on their reply after the tea interval, with only two hours remaining before the close of play. There was early disappointment for them, for E. W. Page, one of the brightest and most interesting batsmen to watch, was sent back with a catch on the leg side behind the wicket.

After he had contributed only a single, C. Howl, who was then joined by G. H. Thorneycroft, gave a much more lively display than usual, and collected his useful total of 46 in an hour and ten minutes. Speeding up considerably after the start, he hit six 4's, and five 3's. When stumps were drawn Thorneycroft and Barnes were together and were well set, the former having hit up 58, and the latter 26.

Thorneycroft had been missed in the slips, but he batted confidently, and scored with excellent strokes in front of the wicket. His 50 occupied an hour and forty minutes. Barnes concluded a good day's cricket with a beautiful shot close to the leg boundary, and when play started again punctually, and in perfect weather, this morning, Staffordshire were only 119 behind, with eight wickets to fall.

RUNS COME FREELY.

Hallam and Campion started the bowling, but the batsmen were as steady as in the concluding stages last night, and continued to bring runs at an even pace. The 150 mark was passed eight minutes after resuming, and at 170 Major Wilson brought himself on at the pavilion end in place of Hallam.

While Thorneycroft slowed down for a time, Barnes accelerated, and with a leg drive for four completed his 50 in 55 minutes' batting. Both batsmen then sent the score along merrily, Thorneycroft cutting the Lincoln captain twice to the rails in one over, and hitting him behind point for another four the next time he faced him, while Barnes, with easily placed strokes all round the wicket, maintained a similar pace.

The 200 was reached when the innings had been in progress two and a half hours, and the partnership had then put on 130 runs in 78 minutes. Only five were added when Thorneycroft was again missed behind the wicket off Wilson. His individual total was 82, and shortly afterwards, when Barnes had scored 65, he was missed off a high shot to backward leg by Smith. Thorneycroft had another narrow escape at square leg a few runs later, the fielder getting the tips of his fingers to the ball, which came to him slowly. But he remained on, now scoring rapidly again, to complete a century after being at the crease two and a half hours, the first hour's play this morning having produced a total of 102 runs.

This fine third wicket stand advanced the Staffordshire score by 178 runs, and to within five of the Lincolnshire total, before a separation was effected. Then Barnes, who had been batting for an hour and forty-five minutes, to contribute 65 as his share of the advance, put up a ball to square leg and was taken by Wilson. He had hit seven 4's, and six 3's.

BATSMAN'S MISFORTUNE.

The next wicket was lost without any addition, G. E. Winyard, the Blakenhall player, who was making his debut for the county having the bad fortune to be run out, the ball going from his bat on to the stumper's pads to rebound on to the wicket, while he was out of his crease. H. W. Homer followed, and when the Lincolnshire total had been equalled, another bowling change was made, Hallam resuming in place of Wilson.

At 270 Hawley, the fast bowler, took over from Smith. Homer was soon at ease, and collected 4's with his favourite leg strokes, and two on-drives off Smith, and he lifted a no-ball from the same source into the rails. Thorneycroft, after a quiet spell, again kept the field busy for a time, and it was his drive for four that sent the 300 up, after three hours and thirty-five minutes' batting.

But a bowling change that was made at this stage troubled him, and eventually sent him back. Frearson was the bowler, relieving Hallam, and the delivery that captured the wicket appeared to be a simple one that tempted the batsman to step out to it, only to miss.

Thorneycroft was at the crease three and a half hours for his fine contribution, which included seventeen 4's, and seven 3's, and he made the fielders' early failings very expensive.

J. W. Johnson, who followed, stepped up to one of Frearson's googly balls, and drove it to the off-boundary, but after he had added a single, was given out to a catch behind the wicket off the same bowler—a decision with which he appeared dissatisfied.

SCORING SLOWS DOWN.

Lockett was a considerable time playing himself in, and the quick scoring which is looked for at this stage was not forthcoming. After taking two singles he turned Smith to leg for two, and then pulled him round to the square leg rails.

Meanwhile Homer, who had 36 to his credit, was at a standstill. When Lockett began to hit out with characteristic freedom, he quickly made two more boundary hits, and then, with his score at 16, gave a chance at backward leg, which Hawley did not accept.

When lunch was taken he and Homer had carried the total to 95 ahead of the Lincolnshire score with still four wickets to fall.

Wilson started the bowling after lunch, and in his first over a short run was attempted with disastrous results, for Lockett slipped halfway down the pitch, and had his bails whipped off. Twenty of his 25 runs were from boundary hits. Although he had placed himself last in the batting order, J. B. Russell, the home captain, came in at the fall of the seventh wicket, bent, apparently, on speeding up the scoring, and he started straight away as he intended to go, on-driving and pulling to leg with forceful strokes that brought him three 4's in the first two overs.

But having put together 16 runs in ten minutes, he could not get hold of the bowling again, and after several vain attempts to on-drive Wilson, he was bowled off the toe of his boots. J. Whalen joined Homer, who drove the ball to leg for four, to make his 50 after an hour and fifty minutes' batting, and the two continued to push on the score at a steady pace. They reached the 400 mark when the innings had been in progress five hours.

CRICKET

STAFFS. v. LINCOLNSHIRE

By The Critic

Playing Lines. at Wolverhampton on Monday and Tuesday, Staffordshire were without Sedgwick, who was unwell, and, of course some prominent amateurs, and gave a first trial to G. E. Winyard, captain of the Blackenhall Club, Wolverhampton. J. Searby was the principal absentee from the visiting team. A fine day attracted rather a better "gate" than usual at Tettenhall, on Monday, and they saw an interesting day's play, although Lines. were decidedly fortunate in some of their run getting.

The wicket was an easy one, especially after the first half hour. During this time Staffordshire might have had a stronger grip of the game than they actually secured, for Barnes bowled with such venom that he had the early batsmen in great difficulty, and had the Staffs. Captain been able from the start to master the pace of the ball from the pitch, Lines. would have been in sore straits. Bashforth could do nothing with Barnes, and might have been caught at the wicket before he was bowled in trying to drive Whalen. Frearson, the star batsman of his county, also gave a chance at the wicket after scoring eight, and this proved a costly let off. Allen was bowled by a beauty that turned quickly from the leg, and two wickets were down for 14. Had Frearson also gone, Lines. would probably have been cheaply dismissed. But the Skegness amateur settled down to play dogged cricket, and, as the wicket became more easy-paced, scored steadily with Tomlinson for a partner. After being missed at the wicket off Lockett, who, with Platt had taken up the bowling, Tomlinson was bowled next ball; a yorker, and Brockson fell to a thrilling catch in the slips at 58, Whalen throwing himself full length to take the ball right handed close to the ground. The next wicket, however, added 61, and they were the luckiest runs one has seen scored for some time. Hallam was soon hitting at everything, and with Barnes again bowling, put the ball up in the long field again and again, and escaped. First Winyard completely misjudged a catch on the leg-side near the boundary, and then Howl failed to reach two in succession through not starting soon enough. All these hits reached the boundary, as did two fluky strokes in one over from Platt, both of which were just over the heads of the slip fielders, though intended for drives. With these and other fortunate strokes Hallam scored 40 while Frearson was adding five, but directly after lunch Hallam skied another one from Barnes, and was caught at mid-off. Then Shaw gave his wicket away by walking out after playing his stroke, and Frearson, when 58, gave another palpable chance off Barnes, this time to Platt at short leg. Had this been accepted there would have been seven wickets down for about 130. Instead, the seventh wicket went at 208. Major Wilson, the Lines. skipper, gave the best display of batting he has ever done against Staffordshire, much of his hitting being clean and hard, though he put one or two up in the long field from Barnes, which Howl failed to get to. Reaching 50 in 33 minutes, he was eventually given out lbw to Whalen, bowling left arm round the wicket. Frearson reached his 100 in three hours and 20 minutes, and was batting altogether 3½ hours, hitting 11 fours and eight threes. Though not a stylish bat, his defence is very sound, and he has strokes all round the wicket.

Staffordshire had two hours' batting after tea, and despite the early loss of Page, caught by the wicket-keeper (standing back) on the leg-side from the fast bowler, Hawley, the home county made capital use of the time, and had put on 139 for two wickets when stumps were drawn for the day. The Lines. bowling was by no means weak, and only Frearson, who tossed up three overs of slow stuff at the close, could be described as easy to play. Major Wilson, as usual, bowled well, making the ball swing away a little and occasionally turning a slower one back well from the off. Smith, who is a groundsman, and the nearest approach to a professional player the Fen County has, bowled a steady length, and Hallam and Campion, left-arm bowlers, both sent down some good balls. The former was said to have once been a professional with Notts, and he bowled a good length, and made them turn a little from the leg occasionally. Campion has some pace, and the usual in-swing of a left hander, though not very pronounced in the absence of wind. All these bowlers, as well as Hawley, required careful playing, but Howl and Thorneycroft got the mastery in their different styles, Thorneycroft by free, stylish cricket, and Howl by his customary method of letting the ball play the bat, with occasional chops through the slips and "glances round the corner." The pair added 65 before Howl, who had latterly opened out with several nice forcing shots on the offside, gave the wicket keeper an easy catch. His innings was extremely valuable, if not very attractive. With Barnes in a further 62 were added in 40 minutes by excellent cricket, and Thorneycroft passed the 50 mark. He was a little fortunate in that he was missed at the wicket on the leg-side, and in the slips in one good over from Campion with his score at 37, and also gave a hot chance at short leg from Frearson at 44.

Tuesday's Play

The Staffordshire team were seen to great advantage on Tuesday, and forced a splendid win by an innings and 58 runs. It transpired that what was thought to have been a chance by Frearson to the Staffs. wicket-keeper at the beginning of his innings on Monday, was not a chance, as the ball touched the batsman's pad and not his bat. There was, however, a pretty general impression that Frearson had played the ball, and even the Umpire, when consulted, stated that he should have given the batsman out if the Staffordshire Captain had made the catch.

Thorneycroft and Barnes mastered the Lines. attack on Tuesday morning, and their partnership produced in all 176 runs in an hour and three-quarters. Both men made many fine strokes, and Thorneycroft had 18 fours in his attractive innings of 3½ hours' duration, which, however, contained occasional flaws, and at least half a dozen chances that went to hand, including two or three at the wicket. His back play was excellent, and his forcing shots beautifully executed, but he was a little uncertain in going forward to good length balls. Afterwards Homer played a sterling innings, but failed to force the pace as the position of the game warranted until after passing the 50 mark, which took him two hours. He was hitting hard when caught in the "gully." The later men tried hitting with fair success, and Staffordshire gained a lead of 164.

Lines. went in against this deficit at 3.25, and at 6.10 were all out for 106. The wicket remained good, though getting just a little dusty, and Barnes at the start and Lockett later, bowled admirably, whilst Whalen and Platt also pegged the batsmen down. Frearson, the centurion of Monday, was out in Barnes's first over, falling a victim to the short-leg trap, and the visitors never recovered from this shock. Though Tomlinson and Hallam each stayed an hour and a quarter, there was 50 minutes to spare when the end came. Staffs. thus retained their 100 per cent. Scores:—

Lincolnshire.—1st Innings

B. A. Bashforth b Whalen	0
R. E. Frearson c Whalen b Lockett	105
J. H. Allen b Barnes	0
J. W. Tomlinson b Lockett	18
W. G. Brockson c Whalen b Platt	1
E. E. Hallam c Page b Barnes	44
G. Shaw st Russell b Whalen	2
C. Wilson lbw b Whalen	57
J. W. Smith not out	16
F. W. Campion c and b Barnes	0
H. Hawley c Thorneycroft b Barnes	5
Extras	10
Total	258

Lincolnshire.—2nd Innings

Bashforth c Barnes b Thorneycroft	18
Frearson c Platt b Barnes	0
Allen b Barnes	3
Tomlinson b Barnes	21
Brockson lbw b Platt	0
Hallam c Whalen b Lockett	26
Shaw b Lockett	5
Smith run out	0
Wilson c Page b Lockett	13
Hawley b Lockett	0
Campion not out	4
Extras	16
Total	106

Staffordshire.—1st Innings

E. W. Page c Shaw b Hawley	1
C. Howl c Shaw b Hallam	46
G. H. Thorneycroft b Frearson	133
Barnes c Wilson b Smith	69
G. E. Winyard run out	0
H. W. Homer c Hallam b Wilson	74
J. W. Johnson c Shaw b Frearson	5
A. Lockett run out	25
J. Whalen b Wilson	12
J. B. Russell b Wilson	16
Platt not out	6
Extras	35
Total	422

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Lincolnhire.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	25.2	6	75	4
Whalen	18	7	56	3
Lockett	17	7	41	2
Platt	14	2	42	1
Winyard	5	0	34	0

Lockett bowled one no-ball.

Staffordshire.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hawley	11	1	49	1
Wilson	28.3	10	79	3
Smith	35	9	99	1
Hallam	18	2	68	1
Campion	16	1	62	0
Frearson	8	1	30	2

Hawley bowled four no-balls.

Lincolnshire.—2nd Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	14	4	27	3
Whalen	11	6	14	0
Lockett	13.3	5	23	4
Platt	10	2	14	1
Thorneycroft	4	0	12	1

North Staffordshire and District League

Sharing the leadership with 17 points each (a point only in front of Porthill), Bignall End and Leek met for their return match at Leek on Saturday, when the champions repeated their victory of early May, and thus, for the moment, shook off the persistent challenge of the Moorland men. As Porthill vanquished Knypersley they also stepped above Leek. Broadly speaking, the batting of both sides failed at Leek. On a fast wicket the home team wasted the advantage of first innings by an indifferent display, F. J. Dale bowling well to take half the wickets for 45. As at Porthill a week previously, Leek made a shocking start and lost eight wickets for 56. I have suggested before that the Leek batting might be found wanting when A. Rider should fail to give them a good send off, and the last two matches have justified the fear. Their young and promising wicket-keeper, L. Perkins, got 26, and with Sedgwick (17) added 49 for the ninth wicket to effect some improvement, but a total of 106 was not enough to give them much chance against the batting resources of the champions, who, though losing three wickets very cheaply, got home with three wickets to spare. Scoring throughout the match was slow, and A. W. Ikin, who had a big share in the victory, was more sedate than usual in collecting a precious 49.

Porthill entertained Knypersley and won in the last over. The home side hit up 192 for seven and declared. K. Gleaves again played a choice innings of 49, and N. W. White, who has latterly been out of luck, came into his own with a well played 47. Knypersley offered a dogged resistance to the Porthill attack, but just failed to save the game, being dismissed for 148 (E. Mosedale 41).

Great Chell should have profited by some good bowling by George Wilson (five for 26) at Nantwich, but their batting completely broke down. After losing eight wickets for 42 Nantwich doubled this score before they were done with, and then E. H. Steventon (five for 17) and W. T. Maybury (four for 29) got rid of Chell for 55. The Madeley batting also failed once more against Silverdale, who dismissed them for 98, and hit 127 for three wickets in response. J. C. Cooper followed a rather lean spell with an excellent 50.

Crewe Alexandra went under again, this time at Norton, though making a highly commendable effort. Norton declared with 207 for the loss of seven wickets. R. Tatton showed his old-time defence, and carried his bat through the Norton innings of 207 for seven, scoring 85. P. Massey also contributed 47. Crewe got to 183 in their reply, so that almost 400 runs were scored. C. Coffin was again to the fore with 45, and A. Price got 37. It was a spirited effort on the part of the railwaymen, and deserved a better fate than yet another defeat.

There was a great struggle and a thrilling finish at Longton, where Burslem just completed the double at the expense of their old rivals. Longton totalled 169, mainly owing to a fine innings of 72 by one of their juniors, H. Rigby. It was in the last over that Burslem got in front with the last pair of batsmen together, and the last wicket fell immediately afterwards, Burslem winning by 3 runs. Roy Hollowood once again showed all-round form, which gave him a prominent share in his side's success, for after taking six wickets for 40, he collected a very useful 33.

The Critic

North and South Staffordshire Regiments v. North Midland Area

The North Midland Area were the visitors to Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, on the 25th ult., in connection with the annual cricket week of the North and South Staffordshire Regiments, and the home side were able to secure their first victory of the week. The Area batted first to compile 136, to which the Staffords responded with 139 for the loss of five wickets. Lieut. Coleman was top scorer for the visitors with 54, whilst Col. Wyatt played a fine not out innings of 64 for the Staffords. Scores:—

North Midland Area

General C. G. Van Straubenzee lbw b Harratt	7
Major Owen st Bain b Ward	11
Capt. Aikenhead lbw b Ward	0
Capt. Mayhew b Niven	22
Capt. Allen c Bain b Harratt	0
Lieut. Coleman c and b Harratt	54
Col. Jelf c Niven b Ward	4
Major Trimble b Ward	4
Lieut. Heyman not out	29
Lieut. Johnson b Harratt	0
Lieut. Garner b Harratt	2
Extras	3
Total	136

North and South Staffs.

Capt. Bain b Mayhew	8
Lieut. Niven lbw b Mayhew	9
Capt. Ward c Owen b Heyman	23
Major Keene b Mayhew	0
Lieut.-Col. Frizelle b Mayhew	7
Col. L. J. Wyatt not out	64
Col. Lyon not out	22
Extras	6
Total (for five wickets)	139

Capt. Hatton, Capt. Tuck, Capt. Baker, and Pte. Harratt did not bat.

North and South Staffs. Regiments v. Sir Robert Peel's Eleven

The cricket week of the North and South Staffordshire Regiments concluded at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, on Saturday, when the final match against an eleven captained by Sir Robert Peel was played. The visitors compiled 124, to which the Staffords responded with 129 for the loss of five wickets, thus running out easy winners. Scores:—

Sir Robert Peel's Eleven

Outram c Bain b Niven	10
R. James st Bain b Ward	3
R. Matthias b Falconbridge	62
L. Dale b Niven	0
Cope b Harratt	16
G. H. Mayer b Falconbridge	16
S/Sergt. Taylor run out	3
H. Vickers b Falconbridge	2
Sir Robert Peel b Harratt	2
D. Sandland not out	4
W. Bird c and b Harratt	0
Extras	6
Total	124

North and South Staffs.

Capt. Hatton c and b Peel	45
Pte. Harratt b Cope	6
Capt. Tuck st Bird b Peel	4
Capt. Ward lbw b Peel	2
Lieut. Niven b Peel	24
Capt. Bain not out	28
Lieut.-Col. Frizelle not out	0
Extras	20
Total (for five wickets)	129

Col. Lyon, Major Keene, Pte. Fenton, and Pte. Falconbridge did not bat.

Tamworth v. Lichfield

Lichfield visited Tamworth on Saturday, when the home team were defeated by the narrow margin of 9 runs and one wicket. For Lichfield, F. Oram took three wickets for 10 runs. Capt. Mayhew contributed 78 runs for Lichfield and Bowden 47. Scores:—

Tamworth.—E. S. Warrilow c Knight b Fitzgeorge 33, J. Ford c Bowden b Might 31, J. Hawkes lbw b Knight 12, W. Wragg c Oram b Fitzgeorge 24, F. H. Argyle c Knight b Oram 31, C. P. Kinson b Fitzgeorge 0, A. Beard b Oram 5, A. L. Linford b Fitzgeorge 0, H. V. Stott not out 4, L. C. Jones b Oram 0, A. Streeton b Slater 0, extras 13; total 153.

Lichfield.—H. M. Fitzgeorge lbw b Warrilow 3, E. Rudgard lbw b Warrilow 1, W. Plant c Stott b Warrilow 8, Capt. Mayhew not out 78, F. Oram b Warrilow 7, F. Moore c Warrilow b Beard 0, G. Knight b Beard 4, J. Jacobs b Beard 0, H. Bowden b Hawkes 47, A. Slater c Wragg b Ford 6, G. Ellett not out 4, extras 4; total (for nine wickets) 162.

Lichfield 2nd v. Tamworth 2nd

Played at Lichfield on Saturday, resulting in a victory for the visitors by a very narrow margin. For Lichfield, J. H. Brown made 47, V. Bridgen took five wickets for 21 runs and A. J. Smith three for 34. For Tamworth, L. J. Birt contributed 26. Scores:—

Lichfield.—S. Baxter c Marriott b Peattie 1, J. H. Brown c Hicken b Peattie 47, R. E. Briault b Marriott 10, W. Plant b Hastilow 6, G. Ryan b Hastilow 7, N. Hartshorne lbw b Hastilow 0, L. Perry b Peattie 8, J. S. Brown c Tomson b Hicken 7, E. R. Standley b Birt 4, A. J. Smith not out 10, V. Bridgen c Tomson b Hicken 0, extras 13; total 113.

Tamworth.—J. Tomson c J. S. Brown b Smith 19, A. C. Marriott c Perry b Hartshorne 24, P. Morris b Smith 2, B. Musson b Smith 2, L. J. Birt b Standley 26, B. Hicken lbw b Bridgen 11, W. T. Belcher lbw b Bridgen 0, L. Johnson c and b Bridgen 8, W. Hastilow c J. H. Brown b Bridgen 3, D. B. Peattie c and b Bridgen 0, W. S. Price not out 11, extras 10; total 116.

Denstone College v Burton-on-Trent

Played at Denstone on June 24.

Burton.—E. J. Gothard c Place b Eyre 63, J. A. Ireland b Preece 0, F. Peach lbw b Timmis 3, H. V. Argyle c Preece b Lloyd 51, R. B. Rickman b Timmis 13, H. L. Newton b Timmis 14, T. H. Oakden c Eyre b Timmis 32, C. H. Wilson run out 9, H. Fletcher not out 7, W. Bagnall c Short b Timmis 8, extras 4; total (for nine wickets, innings closed) 204. H. E. L. Fisher did not bat.

Denstone.—J. T. Marshall b Peach 18, T. B. Carey st Fletcher b Peach 17, H. N. Place c Newton b Oakden 36, J. Preece st Fletcher b Peach 7, C. W. Timmis b Peach 1, R. W. Eyre lbw b Peach 28, A. H. Lloyd b Oakden 2, B. Cooke b Rickman 6, F. M. Short c Ireland b Rickman 12, P. Bluett not out 22, B. L. Leeson not out 4, extras 5; total (for nine wickets) 158.

Denstone College v. King Edward's School, Birmingham

Played at Denstone on June 26.

Denstone.—J. Preece b Cohen 8, C. W. Timmis c Baker b Cohen 8, R. W. Eyre b Cohen 70, H. N. Place c Houghton b Cohen 82, J. T. Marshall b Sutton 2, A. H. Lloyd b Raine 61, T. B. Carey b Sutton 1, P. Bluett b Raine 10, B. Cooke not out 1, B. L. Leeson not out 4, extras 9; total (for eight wickets, innings closed) 256. F. M. Short did not bat.

K. E. S.—W. E. Sandbach lbw b Eyre 35, D. R. Dudley lbw b Preece 2, A. L. Goode b Timmis 12, D. E. Raine c Short b Bluett 6, R. A. Cohen c Leeson b Bluett 21, D. O. Houghton b Eyre 2, E. S. Baker b Preece 10, A. Smith b Preece 2, R. Dickenson b Bluett 2, A. D. Sutton b Lloyd 6, G. F. Mountford not out 18, extras 3; total 119.

Staffs. Farmers v. Stoke Police

Played at Ranton Abbey on June 21

Scores:—

Farmers.—F. James c Singleton b Marshall 2, T. Chadderton run out 21, C. W. Price c Massie b Marshall 9, H. Hutsby c Massie b Guthrie 21, H. Whittaker c Singleton b Siddorn 2, T. Shaw c Massie b Collier 17, W. L. Steel b Godden 15, W. Chambers c Massie b Marshall 5, D. Coleman b Collier 7, T. Hawkins c and b Marshall 0, J. Cope b Marshall 7, C. S. Lavenster not out 1, extras 13; total 120.

Police.—Marshall b Hawkins 2, Singleton b Hutsby 0, Dodeley c Hawkins b Chadderton 34, Wilkes b Hutsby 0, Talbot c Shaw b Chadderton 5, Egar b Chadderton 2, Goddert b Hutsby 10, Siddorn b Chadderton 20, Poole b Hutsby 6, Guthrie c Shaw b Hutsby 0, Collier not out 3, Massey b Hutsby 3, extras 5; total 91.

SATURDAY'S CRICKET.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

BURSLEM v. NANTWICH.

NANTWICH.—F W Slight b Cook 25, H Smith b Hollowood 0, J E Smith c Johnson b Cook 1, T W Steventon b Hollowood 0, W T Maybury lbw b Cook 19, E H Steventon b Cook 15, B Dutton b Oliver 4, J B Swindale b Hollowood 8, H Gidman not out 15, F E Hough c Birch b Cook 2, S W Cooper lbw b Hollowood 1, extras 27; total 115.

BURSLEM.—E Cotton c E H Steventon b Maybury 7, T Johnson c E H Steventon b Maybury 22, H Hollowood c Hough b Maybury 3, W Briscoe c Maybury b Steventon 1, A Birch b Maybury 24, E Cook c Hough b Steventon 13, J H Hodgkiss b Maybury 9, A Cook b Steventon 3, E A Oliver not out 3, H Cartlidge b Steventon 0, W Perkins run out 0, extras 4; total 89.

BIGNALL END v. LONGTON.

BIGNALL END.—J H Mayer hit wkt b Brassington 38, E Downing c and b Smith 14, A E Bratby c Brassington b Smith 1, L McEllin c H Morris b Smith 10, A W Ikin c Hawker b Brassington 51, W Beech not out 35, F Nixon b Brassington 6, F J Dale not out 43, extras 30; total (for 6 wkts) 228.

LONGTON.—C Edwards st Bratby b Dale 46, H Rigby c Beech b Dr. Riley 18, A Smith c E Downing b Dale 28, H Morris c E Downing b Dale 9, J V Toney b Downing 2, C Steel b Dale 7, A Hawker b Dr Riley 1, A Kent c White b Dale 2, H Brassington b Dale 12, J Skelhorne b Dale 4, A Chell not out 0, extras 19; total 147.

GREAT CHELL v. MADELEY.

GREAT CHELL.—L Harris b Clarke 23, W Warburton c Ankers b Mayer 40, S Brayford b Beech 1, G Wilson c Hazeldine b Mayer 7, W Worthington c Hazeldine b Mayer 14, A Smith not out 63, S Baddeley b Malkin, jun 10, J Gibson c Beech b Malkin, jun 17, E J Barber not out 42, extras 25; total (for 7 wkts), 242. Innings declared.

MADELEY.—J Ankers not out 82, F Beech st Copeland b Vodrey 11, E Mayer c Copeland b Wilson 2, J Clarke c Vodrey b Smith 29, J Hazeldine c Smith b Wilson 0, Eph Mayer c Brayford b Vodrey 10, J Glover not out 10, extras 9; total (for 5 wkts), 165.

KNYPERSLEY v. LEEK.

KNYPERSLEY.—H E Bourne b Sedgwick 9, W Whitehead c G Sedgwick b H Sedgwick 43, A Cooper c Perkins b H Sedgwick 2, W Boon b H Sedgwick 17, A Millward c Perkins b Pointon 24, E Mosedale c Perkins b Pointon 28, E Tunstall lbw b Pointon 3, W Lonsdale c Byrne b Pointon 33, H Bibby c G Sedgwick b H Sedgwick 6, F Finney c Ryder b Pointon 1, J Boon not out 2, extras 10; total 176.

LEEK.—H Oliver run out 18, A Ryder c Lonsdale b Bibby 1, H Hassall c Bourne b Bibby 4, J Pointon c Finney b Bibby 0, H Sedgwick b J Boon 3, H Byrne run out 1, H Birch b Bibby 10, G Sedgwick lbw b J Boon 1, L Perkins c Finney b Bibby 16, P Hunt b Bibby 4, J H Ellerton not out 0, extras 6; total 64.

SILVERDALE v. NORTON.

SILVERDALE.—J C Cooper b Crump 27, A Ward c A Jolley b D Worthington 58, J Whalen hit wkt b Bailey 39, S Griffiths not out 32, T Kalsall c A Jolley b D Worthington 9, E Groome b Bailey 11, extras 19; total (for 5 wkts), 195. E White, G Green, A Charlesworth, P Bloor, and J Cooke did not bat.

NORTON.—L H Crump b Whalen 21, D Worthington run out 0, J Jolley b Whalen 10, S Smith, b Whalen 13, P Massey c Whalen b Groome 14, T Tatton lbw b Whalen 1, J Smith b Whalen 8, A Jolley c and b Whalen 4, P Bailey lbw b Whalen 2, J Martin c Green b Groome 0, W Beddows not out 0, extras 12; total 86.

CREWE ALEXANDRA v. PORTHILL PARK.

PORTHILL.—K Gleaves b E Woodhall 11, J S Heath c Sylvester b Woodhall 15, N W White b Woodhall 2, G A F Bagguley st Dickenson b Hartley 27, H F Wood c Dickenson b Sylvester 8, J S Heap st Dickenson b Walker 31, C R Heath c Hares b Walker 1, G Price not out 22, J Johnson c Walker b Norman 33, J Durber b Hartley 23, C H Miller not out 1, extras 12; total (for 9 wkts) 186.

CREWE ALEXANDRA.—A Price b Durber 15, C Coffin c Durber b Evanson 27, F Walker b Heap 13, J Brownridge c Bagguley b Evanson 22, S Hares b Durber 6, H Norman b White 0, J Dickenson c Gleaves b Heap 37, P Wilkinshaw b Durber 1, A Hartley not out 1, E Woodhall c Evanson b Heap 0, F Sylvester b Durber 0, extras 13; total 133.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

CHEADLE v. L.M.S. RAILWAY.

CHEADLE.—H Capewell b Partridge 10, J A Hurst c Hill b Wormington 12, A L Day c Ball b Partridge 26, A Shaw b Partridge 1, V Pepper b Partridge 9, A Westwood c Bloor b Partridge 1, A J Whitehurst c Hill b Partridge 0, J Fieldhouse c Bloor b Partridge 0, R H Botham, not out 1, J Keates lbw b Hill 1, W Brough b Hill 3, extras 1; total 65.

L.M.S. RAILWAY.—J C Hulme c Shaw b Brough 0, C Mason c Capewell b Keates 18, T Ball b Brough 12, A J Rogers c and b Keates 1, E Bloor c Day b Keates 12, R C Wormington b Keates 16, J Cope c Day b Keates 0, R Partridge retired hurt 0, R Baker not out 2, P Standerd b Keates 6, W Hill st Capewell b Keates 0, extras 6; total 73.

CAVERSWALL v. ALSAGERS BANK.

CAVERSWALL.—H S Roberts b Wareham 1, A Pickard c Green b Amson 7, A H Poate c Riley b Amson 4, E Wakelin b Amson 3, J Turner b Amson 0, F Hammett not out 0, E Hassall b Amson 0, G Freeman st Beech b Amson 0, R Dunn b Amson 0, C Turner b Amson 4, W Payne b Amson 0, extras 10; total, 29.

ALSAGERS BANK.—L Shufflebotham b Payne 0, E Riley b Poate 7, J Wareham c Pickard b Poate 0, W Beech b Poate 7, F Summall b Poate 0, A Amson c Hammett b Wakelin 5, A Green b Poate 4, E Jones hit wkt b Poate 10, S Hollinshead b Poate 0, H Roberts c Poate b Pickard 7, J Proctor not out 14, extras 5; total, 59.

BETLEY v. BURSLEM HIGH LANE.

BETLEY.—F Lyth b S Durbar 8, G Lyth c J Mason b G Skellam 2, F Sutton c S Durbar b G Skellam 10, E Jones c A Cartlidge b G Skellam 6, B Jones c A Goodwin b S Durbar 11, W Smith c J Henshall b G Skellam 4, T Amps c A Goodwin b G Skellam 1, T Dean c A Cartlidge b S Durbar 5, E Aplin b G Skellam 2, E Ashley c H Stone b G Skellam 4, J Brookshaw not out 4, extras 3; total 60.

BURSLEM H.L.—J Machin c E Jones b J Brookshaw 0, W L Vodrey lbw b J Amps 5, T Henshall c Aplin b J Brookshaw 10, F Goodwin b J Brookshaw 10, A Cartledge lbw b J Amps 0, G Skellam c Amps b J Brookshaw 6, H Stone c Smith b J Brookshaw 3, W Rigby run out 6, A Hurd c F Lyth b Amps 4, A Gaskell b Aplin 5, S Durber not out 1, extras 1; total 46.

STONE v. SANDYFORD.

SANDYFORD.—G Bourne lbw b Johnson 9, J Dean c Johnson b Fernie 3, C Cotton c Stubbs b Fernie 48, W Jones b Deyes 12, A Bourne c Reece b Fernie 29, H Holland lbw b Fernie 5, A Hall c Matthews b Fernie 4, S Dean not out 6, F James c and b Fernie 0, W Parr lbw b Fernie 0, J Meir b Fernie 0, extras 9; total, 125.

STONE.—G Reece c and b Dean 6, F Ravenscroft lbw b W Jones 22, E C Fernie c S Dean b A Bourne 1, J K L Wenger lbw b A Bourne 0, R Cadman c Cotton b A Bourne 35, P F Stubbs b A Bourne 7, J Cooper run out 0, E J Johnson b A Bourne 4, P Matthews not out 4, F T Bowdidge b A Bourne 0, G Deyes c Holland b W Jones 1, extras 5; total, 85.

FENTON v. AUDLEY.

FENTON.—J Sutton c Cork b Beech 12, W Colclough b Darlington 4, G Hammersley b Darlington 0, W Wood b Darlington 7, A Mellor not out 17, P Silvester b Darlington 0, T Bryan b Darlington 3, W Edwards c McEllin b Taylor 8, W Upton b Darlington 0, W White c Colley b Taylor 0, H Naylor st McEllin b Taylor 0, extras 5; total 50.

AUDLEY.—L Cork b White 7, H Mayer c Bryan b Naylor 4, G Taylor b Naylor 1, A J Colley run out 5, W H Timmis b Naylor 1, J C McEllin c Mellor b Wood 20, G Rowley c Wood b Naylor 7, R Proctor not out 8, F Darlington c Wood b Silvester 13, L Beech b Wood 1, extras 8; total 75.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

NORTON v. SILVERDALE.

NORTON.—I Waterfall c W Lowe b E Lowe 22, W H Robinson b W Lowe 4, H Higgins b Barnett 1, R Brown b W Lowe 4, E Waterfall c Saunders b Amery 14, S Crump c D'Arcy b Barrett 32, W Hurst st Cooke b Barrett 6, A Wright b Street 5, R Hill c and b Street 2, W Cooke not out 21, W Mountford c W Lowe b Amery 24, extras 30; total 165.

SILVERDALE.—W Lowe b Brown 4, C Edge b Higgins 3, E Lowe c Brown b Higgins 4, J Cook b Brown 10, J B Street c Robinson b Higgins 38, E Saunders b Higgins 4, A Emery lbw b Higgins 5, J Barrett b Higgins 0, A Edwards c Crump b Cook 4, T D'Arcy run out 14, S Brookes not out 8, extras 6; total 94.

NANTWICH v. BURSLEM.

BURSLEM.—A Hackney b Haighton 2, J Fenton c Haslam b Haighton 10, C Tunnicliffe c Jackson b Haighton 15, H Sharp c Mills b Meakin 39, E Baker b Meakin 0, G Smith c and b Garner 6, W Fenton c Haslam b Haighton 54, P Kirkham b Haighton 2, F Ellis b Meakin 5, R Billings c Meakin b Haighton 15, G Wood not out 0, extras 6; total, 156.

NANTWICH.—T Hope b Kirkham 16, G H Mayer b Kirkham 5, W Meakin c Sharpe b Ellis 1, W Walker b Kirkham 0, G E Jackson c Smith b Ellis 15, B Mills b Ellis 0, J Allsop b Kirkham 3, H Garner b Ellis 0, W Haslam c Fenton b Kirkham 2, T Moulton not out 13, L Haighton c Fenton b Kirkham 11, extras 5; total, 76

MADELEY v. GREAT CHELL.

GREAT CHELL.—J Worthington c Jones b J Stubbs 0, W H Meir c Millington b Boulton 13, M Goodwin c F Heath b S Heath 11, T Johnson c J Stubbs b S Heath 10, L Horne c Jones b T Stubbs 6, J Taylor c Jones b T Stubbs 5, F Warburton b T Stubbs 0, A Birtles b Boulton 0, G Fitchford c Griffiths b T Stubbs 2, W Smith b Boulton 2, G A Rhodes not out 0, extras 11; total 60.

MADELEY.—T Jones b Rhodes 0, F Heath b Fitchford 3, T Stubbs c Rhodes b Taylor 47, A Boulton c Horne b Taylor 10, S Heath b Fitchford 0, W Buckley c Smith b Taylor 0, E Griffiths not out 5, H Wilkinson c Goodwin b Taylor 12, C Davies not out 17, extras 4; total (for 7 wkts) 98.

LONGTON v. BIGNALL END.

LONGTON.—P Brassington c Hassall b Whalley 64, R H Allen lbw b Colclough 32, A Wright b Green 1, A Bentley b Green 4, J Dennis c and b Cork 19, A Hodson not out 50, E Blurton b Johnson 26, W Hine c Colclough b Johnson 9, A Bradbury b Johnson 7, P Grimley run out 0, extras 6; total 229 Innings declared.

BIGNALL END.—A Wareham b Blurton 9, A Poole b Bradbury 18, S Hassall b Blurton 1, R C Durber b Bradbury 1, E Johnson c Bradbury b Hine 16, A Hopwood b Blurton 0, H Colclough c Bradbury b Blurton 2, F Green b Hine 9, J T Cork not out 6, D Brough c Bradbury b Hine 1, F Walley st Dennis b Bradbury 0, extras 5; total 74.

PORTHILL v. CREWE ALEXANDRA.

PORTHILL.—W Mountford c Prophett b Ashbrook 13, M S Showan b Jennings 14, J R Parkes b Ashbrooke 9, C Bickerton c McBride b Sandlands 27, F W Bliss c Prophett b Jennings 15, J Hall c Sandlands b Ashbrooke 1, W Washington c Croft b Ashbrooke 6, G Amison b Sandlands 0, H Gleaves b Sandlands 0, J Glover lbw b Jennings 14, S R Cooper not out 5, extras 3; total, 107.

CREWE ALEXANDRA.—G Prophett b Glover 0, J W Ashbrooke c Showan b Glover 2, N J McBride c Mountford b Cooper 0, J Jennings b Glover 12, A M McGurk b Cooper 4, A Sandlands c Amison b Cooper 3, W Davis b Cooper 3, G J Croft run out 0, H Wright b Glover 4, F Oates lbw b Cooper 0, W N Maybanks not out 0, extras 1; total, 29

Junior Division.—Section "B."

ALSAGERS BANK v. CAVERSWALL.

CAVERSWALL.—T Ollier lbw b Tomkinson 4, E W Poate c Freeman b Tomkinson 1, T Adderley b Tomkinson 1, F Barber c Norcup b Tomkinson 12, J W Fearn c Freeman b Jones 8, W Colclough b Taylor 20, G Swift c Freeman b Jones 5, F Blunt b Taylor 0, C Simcox b Taylor 0, T Hammett run out 11, C Thorley not out 5, extras 5; total, 72.

ALSAGERS BANK.—R Proctor c Simcox b Blunt 0, A Freeman b Barber 2, J Taylor not out 28, A Scott c Colclough b Barber 1, E B Mayer b Barber 0, F W Tomkinson b Barber 4, H Jones run out 0, C Norcup b Blunt 0, W T Summall run out 0, H Cooper c Simcox b Barber 1, W Minor c Colclough b Blunt 1, extras 13; total, 50.

AUDLEY v. BRINDLEY FORD WESLEYANS.

AUDLEY.—L Riley c Brough b Machin 0, Jas McEllin c Brough b Machin 8, C E McEllin run out 5, H O McEllin b Simner 0, A Broadbent c A Walley b Simner 8, J Shuker b Simner 0, F Jervis b Slaney 5, G Bailey c Naddy b Simner 2, P Mayer not out 0, D McEllin c Simner b Slaney 2, T Beech b Slaney 10, extras 4; total 42.

BRINDLEY FORD.—C Slaney lbw b H McEllin 24, A Walley c L Riley b H McEllin 31, J Slaney lbw b Beech 57, G Caddy not out 23, extras 7; total (for 3 wkts) 142.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE v. BETLEY.

BETLEY.—R Ikin b Talbot 3, H Ashley b Talbot 13, M Jones run out 3, J Mountford c Mellor b Talbot 9, W Halfpenny b Talbot 8, J Shaw c Sambrook b Shaw 5, C Brookshaw b Talbot 0, G Griffiths b Mellor 12, J Hockenhull not out 13, C Johnson c Edwards b Fisher 2, A Beardmore b Fisher 4, extras 4; total 76.

HIGH LANE.—B Reynolds b Ikin 10, A Dunn c Shaw b Brookshaw 70, H Edwards c Halfpenny b Jones 15, E Sambrook b Jones 6, J Mellor b Ashley 18, C Rhead not out 16, J Clayton not out 6, extras 6; total (for 5 wkts) 145.

KIDSGROVE v. SCOT HAY.

KIDSGROVE.—W Rigby c J Beswick b Higginbottom 23, H Stubbs b L Bloor 6, T Murphy c Capper b L Bloor 2, A Hadley c Higginbottom b Rogerson 28, I Hadley b Downing 10, R Jones c Capper b L Bloor 16, E R Dale b L Bloor 10, S Johnson run out 0, E R Baynham not out 2, E Findley c J Beswick b L Bloor 26, E H Downs b L Bloor 6, extras 12; total 141.

SCOT HAY.—A Rogerson b Johnson 0, J Beswick lbw b I Hadley 22, F Higginbottom c Johnson b Jones 1, G Brooks run out 19, Joe Beswick c Baynham b Johnson 6, L Bloor run out 10, H Downing lbw b Downs 1, A Wainwright c Findley b Johnson 8, G Viggars c A Hadley b Downs 2, F Capper not out 0, S Bloor b Downs 1, extras 10; total 80.

SANDYFORD v. STONE.

SANDYFORD.—C Rosie c Dutton b Hunking 27, J Holmes b Wood 2, H Rawlinson lbw b Bagley 32, F Andrews b Bagley 4, E Colclough c Poole b Bagley 19, J Hammonds lbw b Dutton 8, M Baker c and b Wood 36, G Turner b Dutton 0, F Brooks lbw b Wood 7, W Butcher b Wood 0, W Martin not out 0, extras 12; total, 148.

STONE.—E Slynn c Hammonds b Butcher 10, B Devaney b Andrews 3, J Hunking b Andrews 36, W Ravenscroft c Rosie b Colclough 20, P C Dutton c and b Colclough 18, J W Hart b Andrews 9, C Wood b Colclough 1, T Godbehere c Rawlinson b Rosie 13, T Bagley c Andrews b Rosie 12, W Tomlinson not out 8, H Poole b Rosie 0, extras 29; total, 157.

L.M.S. (STOKE) v CHEADLE.

L.M.S.—T Tinsley c Sales b Malbon 0, R Ford run out 12, H Edwards c Hurst b Malbon 4, F Lockett b Malbon 0, R Edwards b Malbon 0, R Bagguley not out 32, T Calcott c Brough b Malbon 0, N Blood b Brough 11, J Cummings b E Whitehurst 1, J Tibbett c Lowndes b Malbon 16, F Morrell run out 1, extras 13; total 90.

CHEADLE.—A Brough b Cummings 5, A Holling lbw b Blood 8, R Whitehurst b Blood 0, O Whitehurst c Lockett b Blood 3, H Hurst b Blood 10, G Malbon b Cummings 0, H Day c Tibbett b Blood 9, E Sales b Cummings 11, V Wetwood b Blood 10, P Lowndes c R Edwards b Cummings 1, G Smith not out 1, extras 4; total 62.

BLYTHE BRIDGE AND UTTOXETER LEAGUE.

Division I

TEAN v. HOLLINGTON.

HOLLINGTON.—W Johnson c Chadwick b Gimbert 1, P Keeling run out 1, A Travis c Thorley b Gimbert 6, G Brindley b Kirkland 0, A Hall b Gimbert 3, J Glover run out 1, R Brindley run out 0, J Ball b Gimbert 2, E Tortoishell c Sanders b Beaman 7, F Arnold c Brown b Gimbert 1, H Taylor not out 1, extras 7, total 30.

TEAN.—H Sanders b A Hall 12, J Thorley c Brindley b Travis 16, A J Chadwick c Byatt b Travis 51, G Beaman b Ball 23, A Kirkland c Arnold b Ball 13, R Bull not out 58, extras 12; total (for 5 wkts) 185.

OAKAMOOR v. ALTON.

OAKAMOOR.—E. Alkins b Wright 18, E Swinson lbw b Taylor 24, S Walker c Goodwin b Hopkins 45 C Tipper c Weston b Hopkins 15, F Shipley c Wright b Weston 16, H Webb b Weston 4, C Sutton c Wright b Weston 1, R Butler c and b Hopkins 0, A Pattinson c and b Weston 3, R Mosley not out 13, B Buttress c Sheldon b Taylor 2, extras 3; total, 144.

ALTON. J Bridden b Webb 1, W Sargeant c Swinson b Sutton 0, R Sheldon c Shipley b Sutton 3, A Elks c Alkins b Webb 7, W Wright b Shipley 37, A Holtham b Webb 7, F Goodwin b Webb 4, H Taylor b Shipley 0, B Weston c Swinson b Webb 2, E Sargeant b Webb 2, J Hopkins not out 0, extras 4; total, 67.

STALLINGTON v. ROCESTER.

STALLINGTON.—A Simcox c Cotton b Baker 8, W Smith b Baker 9, W S White c and b Baker 14, F Wildblood b A Wood 5, K Blair b Baker 1, T Abbott c Baker b A Wood 1, N Bedson c F Wood b A Wood 0, A Woolley b A Wood 0, A Abbott not out 0, J Powell st F Wood b Baker 4, C Mills b A Wood 13, extras 2; total, 57.

ROCESTER.—W Burton lbw b White 6, H Cope b White 8, D Sinister st Bedson b White 17, F Wood b White 3, K Gordon c Abbott b Simcox 3, A Wood c Powell b Mills 6, G Wood b Smith 16, F Hurst c Smith b White 7, D Wheat not out 4, S Cotton st Bedson b White 4, extras 10; total, 84. W Baker did not bat.

Division II.

FLORENCE v. FULFORD.

FLORENCE.—G. Fildes c Warburton b Greatorex 10, A Imrie c Jackson b Taylor 5, H Willoughby b Taylor 1, H Blurton c and b Taylor 7, E Bull b Taylor 0, E Copestick b T Greatorex 1, H Barnes b R Taylor 5, J Pugh b Greatorex 13, H Baker b R Taylor 0, R Roberts c A Leese b R Taylor 0, T Steele not out 0, extras 3; total, 45.

FULFORD.—A Leese c R Roberts b Barnes 2, E Kent b A Imrie 2, J Leese lbw b G Fildes 17, R Taylor c Pugh b A Imrie 0, A Warburton c Baker b G Fildes 21, G Gregory run out 3, W Howe c T Steele b Willoughby 5, T Greatorex b E Bull 7, A Critchlow not out 4, F Jackson b E Bull 2, G Bunn c Copestick b Baker 4, extras 8; total, 75.

FENTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

BUCKNALL v. LEYCETT.

LEYCETT.—W Edwards st Meigh b Finney 3, G Spender b Finney 0, A Viggars b Finney 1, J Hill st Meigh b Finney 4, H Viggars c Clarke b Williams 6, D Furnival b Finney 2, T Hughes b Williams 0, W Hough c Tolly b Finney 0, J Broadgate b Goold 3, A Lowis retired hurt 19, J Furnival not out 0, extras 9; total, 47.

BUCKNALL.—A Meigh b Hill 4, J Finney run out 4, J Williams c H Viggars b Hough 2, A Williams b Furnival 14, J Goold b Hill 9, H Toft b Spender 1, J Clarke c sub b Spender 5, A Bullock b Spender 0, W Birks c and b Spender 0, J Flowers not out 2, A Tolly c Edwards b Furnival 1, extras 15; total, 57.

WOLSTANTON MARSH v. TEAN II.

TEAN.—J Yates b T Brett 0, L Sanders b W Robinson 4, H Beaman b W Robinson 1, H Beardmore b T Brett 0, O Rowe b W Robinson 6, J Lovatt b W Robinson 0, F Richardson b W Robinson 0, W Rowe c Green b Robinson 3, J Bull not out 2, G Parkin b T Brett 1, H Bostock b T Brett 1, extras 2; total, 20.

WOLSTANTON MARSH.—G Follows b Beaman 3, J Green b W Rowe 12, E Walker b Beaman 0, T Brett lbw b Beaman 8, H Robinson c Beaman b W Rowe 1, J Cartledge c Rowe b Beaman 1, B Rose c and b Beaman 5, J Mitchell b Beaman 5, S Smith not out 0, extras 3; total (for 8 wkts) 38.

LEYCETT II. v. HARPFIELD.

LEYCETT.—G Hollins b Mandley 4, S Matthews run out 3, J Spender c and b Mandley 1, D Holling c Ridgway b Mandley 22, J Simms c Morrall b Mandley 6, P Elliot c Baddeley b Handley 0, P Spender c Johnson b Morley 13, E Elliot c Morrall b Morley 0, F Hazeldine not out 2, H Viggars b Morley 2, Cartledge b Morley 0, extras 2; total 55.

HARPFIELD.—J Baddeley b P Spender 13, W Johnson b J Spender 9, B Morley b P Spender 0, G Mandley b D Hollins 13, W Heath b P Spender 1, C Ridgway b P Spender 3, G Morrall c Simms b D Hollins 11, F Heath not out 4, extras 12; total (for 7 wkts) 66.

SANDBACH II. v. ASHLEY.

SANDBACH.—M Brereton c Knowles b Douthwaite 13, S Davies b Vickers 42, H Trueman c and b Spilsbury 55, T Heathcote c Spilsbury b Short 11, R Lunt lbw b Spilsbury 18, R Faulkner not out 29, C J Farr b Spilsbury 0, R Riddell b Short 5, G Riddell not out 4, extras 15; total (for 8 wkts) 192.

ASHLEY.—G Spilsbury c Davies b Booth 32, D Flower b Trueman 50, A Douthwaite run out 2, C H Eyres c Brereton b Farr 10, R Lambert b Trueman 11, H Short not out 13, F Knowles not out 13, extras 18; total (for 5 wkts) 149.

HANLEY TABERNACLE v. WOLSTANTON ALEXANDRA.

HANLEY TABERNACLE.—I Lovatt b Stubbs 1, H Green b Lewis 1, B Bennett b Stubbs 0, H Lovatt b Stubbs 0, A Key b Lewis 12, J Till lbw b Stubbs 2, A Smith c Fox b Stubbs 2, F Pedley not out 28, F Coley b Lewis 4, A Davies c and b Poole 7, B Woodhouse c Lewis b Poole 0, extras 7; total 64.

WOLSTANTON ALEXANDRA.—T Grocott b Smith 2, E Whittingham b Smith 1, G Fox b Smith 2, L Millward b Bennett 0, L Whittingham b Bennett 0, T Lewis c Green b Bennett 0, L Cartledge c and b Smith 6, F Stubbs b Smith 0, J Palphs b Bennett 2, A Poole b Smith 2, E Lewis not out 6, extras 4; total 25.

MARKET DRAYTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.—Second Round.

NORTON-IN-HALES v. RAILS AND SLEEPERS.

RAILS AND SLEEPERS.—R Scott c G Lowe b T Lowe 0, B Gregory b T Lowe 0, J Jones b T Lowe 0, F Bennett b T Lowe 2, J H Jones c Furnival b T Lowe 17, F Hollows b G Lowe 0, R Ralphs b T Lowe 0, A Ankers b G Lowe 0, T Edwards c Swire b T Lowe 11, H Dorman c T Lowe b G Lowe 0, C Burnett b G Lowe 15, extras 2; total 47.

NORTON-IN-HALES.—T Lowe b Gregory 2, A Morrey b Gregory 19, R Furnival b Scott 0, G Mottram run out 13, G Lowe b Gregory 8, F Lowe b Scott 20, A Cooke b Gregory 0, P Furnival b Scott 4, F Crewe b Gregory 5, A Evans c Barnett b Scott 9, C Swire not out 11, extras 8; total 99.

GOLDENHILL WESLEYANS v. MOW COP ST. LUKE'S R.C.

MOW COP.—G Platt b Downing 0, L Patrick c G Halfpenny b Downing 0, H Boyson b Burgess 3, H Hammonds b Downing 5, E Williscroft b Downing 1, J Price b Burgess 1, A Boardman hit wicket b Burgess 20, J Wilmer c Ebrill b Downing 0, G Dixon b Downing 0, A Cook c Lovatt b Burgess 2, J Shaw not out 0, extras 0; total 32.

GOLDENHILL.—S Burgess c Hammond b Boardman 15, G Halfpenny c Wilmer b Boardman 13, C Critchley run out 2, W Halfpenny c Dixon b Boardman 0, F Ebrill retired hurt 27, S Boulton c Platt b Patrick 6, L Byron b Price 6, W Dumbell c Patrick b Boardman 0, J Downing not out 12, Joe Barnett c Hammond b Price 6, W Lovatt did not bat, extras 12; total (for 8 wickets) 96.

CONGLETON II. v. HARTFORD II.

CONGLETON II.—J Standeven c Allman b Jeans 11, W B Norris c Hitchen b Howlett 3, H Rhead c Hitchen b Jeans 5, R Gee b Jeans 9, A Winterbottam c Hitchen b Howlett 2, A Oakes b Jeans 1, A Cookson c Jeans b Howlett 1, F Pearson b Jeans 0, R Ward c and b Hitchen 12, R C Duncalf c Nancollas b Howlett 14, E Bullock not out 0, extras 5; total, 63.

HARTFORD II.—W Hitchen b Cookson 2, R Nancollas c Standeven b Cookson 10, T Rogerson b Winterbottam 6, B Allman run out 8, W Harper b Oakes 29, P Jeans lbw b Norris 11, W Howlett b Norris 0, W Roberts lbw b Rhead 1, A Hitchen c Bullock b Norris 3, B Pendry not out 6, P House lbw b Rhead 0, extras 7; total, 83.

ROCESTER v. BIRCHES HEAD ST. MATHEWS.

BIRCHES HEAD.—H Moreton c Gosling b Atkins 2, R H Robinson c Keeling b Shipley 24, J B Allman b Atkins 0, H Wood b Keeling 25, H Sage c Gosling b Fearn 9, W Oakes run out 5, G Walker c Shipley b Keeling 6, J Brandrick lbw b Atkins 1, R Knight run out 9, G Jones not out 9, F Williamson b Rowe 6, extras 12; total, 108.

ROCESTER.—J Forrester c Moreton b Wood 0, R Keeling b Jones 10, W E Atkins b Jones 0, R Rowe b Jones 1, E Burton b Wood 0, T Gosling not out 14, W Shipley c Oakes b Wood 1, W Hordern b Jones 0, C Dale b Wood 1, E Atkins b Jones 1, E B Fearn b Jones 11, extras 1; total, 40.

HARRISEAHEAD v. WHEELOCK.

HARRISEAHEAD.—J Hancock b Mason 18, W Stanier b Hatton 12, A Amos b Mason 2, F Dale lbw b Hatton 1, H Copeland c Antrobus b Mason 5, A Rowbottom b Hatton 0, H Butler c Antrobus b Mason 0, A Copeland c Hatton b Mason 1, G Minshall c Ayres b Hatton 3, G E Goodwin c Davies b Mason 0, G A Hancock not out 0, extras 2; total 44.

WHEELOCK.—G Meredith b Butler 1, J Clowes b Butler 8, W Davies b Butler 2, H Cooke b Rowbottom 12, W Antrobus b Rowbottom 1, A Hatton b Copeland 13, J Cooke b Butler 0, J Beresford c Hancock b Rowbottom 3, A Bourne not out 0, J Ayres b Copeland 0, extras 3; total 44.

BUTT LANE v. MOSSLEY.

BUTT LANE.—E Talbot b Shaw 28, W Cliffe c Cauldwell b Shaw 0, S Edwards b Shaw 27, G Boulton b Shaw 12, E Campbell st Mould b Shaw 21, W Cumberbatch b Atherton 8, G Bailey c and b Titley 47, A Boulton c Dale b Titley 21, F Cliffe c Titley b Higginson 10, F Whalley c Mould b Higginson 11, H Cliffe not out 4, extras 20; total, 209.

MOSSLEY.—A Shaw retired hurt 3, J Titley retired 5, W Caldwell b Talbot 0, W Hughes c S Edwards b H Cliffe 7, J Higginson b Talbot 6, G Atherton b H Cliffe 1, T Mould b H Cliffe 15, T Brough b H Cliffe 3, F Bailey b Talbot 3, G Hibberts b H Cliffe 0, G Dale not out 0, extras 5; total 48.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

BATTING.

J. Adams, Madeley (v. Great Chell)	*83
A. Smith, Great Chell (v. Madeley)	*65
A. W. Idn, Bignall End (v. Longton)	51
A. Ward, Silverdale (v. Norton)	58
A. Hodson, Longton II. (v. Bignall End II.)	*60
W. Fenton, Burslem II. (v. Knutton II.)	84
G. Slaney, Brindley Ford Wes. (v. Audley II.)	57
A. Dunn, High Lane II. (v. Betley II.)	70
R. Full, Teau (v. Hollington)	*58
A. J. Chadwick, Tean (v. Hollington)	51

* Not out

BOWLING.

H. Bibby, Knypersley (v. Lock)	6 for 28
J. Keates, Cheadle (L.M. and S. Ely)	7 for 22
A. Amson, Alsagers Bank (v. Caverswall)	7 for 11
A. H. Poate, Caverswall (v. Alsagers Bank)	7 for 23
G. Skellam, Burslem High Lane (v. Betley)	7 for 26
W. Hine, Longton II. (v. Bignall End II.)	3 for 8
T. Stubbs, Madeley II (v. Great Chell II.)	4 for 5
A. Boulton, Madeley II (v. Great Chell II.)	3 for 10
E. Sinner, Brindley Ford Wesleyans (v. Audley II.)	4 for 19
J. Slaney, Brindley Ford W. (v. Audley II.)	3 for 6
T. H. Downs, Kidsgrove II. (v. Scot Hay)	3 for 0
W. Fisher, High Lane II. (v. Betley II.)	2 for 3
J. Finney, Bucknall (v. Leycett)	6 for 23
G. Spender, Leycett (v. Bucknall)	4 for 5
W. Robinson, Wolstanton Marsh (v. Tean)	6 for 5
T. Brett, Wolstanton Marsh (v. Tean)	4 for 13
R. Gimbert, Tean (v. Hollington)	6 for 11
A. Wood, Rocester (v. Stallington)	6 for 16

GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE v. GENTLEMEN OF WORCESTERSHIRE.

GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE (1st innings). Major A C D Lees c Wakefield b Holloway 9, T C Johnston b Bunting 0, M Sutthery c sub b Gillingham 25, J Simpson b Bunting 19, H P Gordon b Wakefield 103, W Thursby lbw b Gillingham 28, Capt Upton not out 83, H D Elliott b Holloway 1, F H Puckle b Bunting 24, Hon W French c Fisher b Bunting 1, P A Sykes b Bunting 0, extras 22; total 316.

GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE (2nd innings)—Major A C D Lees c Aarvold b Brinton 20, T C Johnston b Bunting 15, M Sutthery c Fisher b Brinton 0, J Simpson m Bunting 12, F P Gordon not out 112, Capt R Upton b Spreckley 55, H D E Elliott not out 32, W Thursby, Hon W French, F H Puckle, P A Sykes, did not bat, extras 11; total (for 5 wickets) 257. Innings declared.

GENTLEMEN OF WORCESTERSHIRE (1st innings).—R G Berkeley b Puckle 40, Rev G W Gillingham lbw b Gordon 12, P H Wakefield b Puckle 40, Dr E J Bunting run out 32, A J Wilkes b Gordon 88, W D Fisher b Puckle 9, D Aarvold b Gordon 28, Major W Emann b Puckle 5, W F Spreckley b Sykes 20, T Holloway c Simpson b Sykes 155, R L Brinton not out 18, extras 22; total 329.

GENTLEMEN OF WORCESTERSHIRE (2nd innings).—Rev. G W Gillingham not out 52, R L Brinton c Sutthery b Simpson 115, D Aarvold c Gordon b Elliott 0, extras 17; total (for 2 wickets) 184.

DENSTONE COLLEGE v. DERBY GRASSHOPPERS.

DENSTONE.—J Preece lbw b Trubshaw 7, C W Timmis c Petherham b Loney 47, R W Eyre c Abell b Trubshaw 6, H N Place c Petherham b Trubshaw 8, A H Lloyd st Butterworth b Loney 1, T N Hart c Loney b Trubshaw 10, J T Marshall c Butterworth b Abell 1, T B Carey b Abell 6, P Bluett not out 13, B Cooke b Abell 0, B L Lecson c Abell b Tate 5, extras 6; total 110.

GRASSHOPPERS.—C S Petherham b Timmis 10, E M Butterworth c Timmis b Lloyd 13, W F Jacques c Cooke b Eyre 56, B K Trubshaw b Timmis 0, J Radford b Timmis 0, A R Laurie c Leeson b Preece 9, H E Loney b Lloyd 3, L C Thornton c Leeson b Eyre 0, C Tate not out 9, W J Aird b Lloyd 4, W P Abell not out 2, extras 10; total (for 9 wkts) 121.

UTTOXETER GRAMMAR SCHOOL v. UTTOXETER II.

UTTOXETER GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Redden b Tate 7, Cant b Whitehurst 1, Weston b Whitehurst 2, Paulson lbw b Whitehurst 14, Walker run out 24, Laughton b Whitehurst 1, Mr Torrance not out 31, Thorne b Beckwith 3, Sandham b Beckwith 4, Arnold b Harper 0, Goodwin b Beckwith 0, extras 6; total 93.

UTTOXETER II.—G Banks run out 4, G Whitehurst c Mr Torrance b Sandham 2, J Beckwith b Sandham 0, H Tate b Redden 3, W Elkes lbw b Redden 0, H Hudson run out 5, A Mellor b Redden 0, W Harper lbw b Laughton 9, W Reid b Arnold 2, J Orme not out 3, E A Weston run out 3, extras 8; total 39.

EMPIRE MILLS v. LANGLEY.

EMPIRE MILLS.—J Pickford c Manifould b Brookes 2, F Tomlinson b Brookes 6, J Chaddock b Oldfield 1, W Johnson b Oldfield 0, J Hancock not out 42, H Goodwin c F Goodwin b Brookes 2, H Boswell b Brookes 0, A Gallimore c Dawson b F Goodwin 0, J W Elkin c Oldfield b Brookes 3, A Mellor c Dawson b Shirrett 13, J Potts b Brown 0, extras 3; total 72.

LANGLEY.—J H Goodwin b Hancock 7, L Hulley b Hancock 0, E Oldfield c Pickford b Elkin 0, J Manifould b Elkin 0, E Brown b Hancock 5, R Shirrett run out 2, C Dawson b Elkin 14, H Heapy c Mellor b Hancock 0, H Manifould not out 2, F Goodwin c Hancock b Elkin 2, A Brookes b Hancock 4, extras 2; total 38.

BUTTERTON v. CLAYTON.

BUTTERTON.—D Howe b Cadman 0, G Atkinson b Titley 1, R Higgins lbw b Cadman 2, E Pointon b Titley 1, F Hawkins b Titley 2, W Myatt c Hickman b Cadman 4, G Hollings run out 6, G Hawkins run out 1, J Turner c and b Cadman 1, A Cotton b Cadman 3, H Johnson b Titley 7, J Pointon not out 0, extras 4; total 32.

CLAYTON.—Cadman b F Hawkins 2, Rushton b F Hawkins 3, McEvoy run out 2, Hickman lbw b F Hawkins 7, Keene run out 7, Colclough c Hollings b F Hawkins 3, Bowers b F Hawkins 5, Chadderton c Atkinson b F Hawkins 3, Titley b F Hawkins 2, Williams b G Hawkins 2, Tompkinson c Pointon b G Hawkins 0, Tittensor not out 1, extras 0; total 37.

MARKET DRAYTON v. TRENTHAM.

TRENTHAM.—W H Sefton c and b Winser 1, E Payne c Ball b Partridge 27, G Sargeant b Jones 18, J Drake c Winser b Jones 14, W E Bourne c Jones b Partridge 38, A Watkin c Harper b Boughey 21, D J Awford not out 50, H Davies c Barnes b Davies 23, L Boullemier not out 2, extras 6; total (for 7 wkts), 198. Innings declared.

MARKET DRAYTON.—H Harper c Jackson b Boullemier 11, J A Hilditch lbw b Watkin 32, E Partridge lbw b Payne 25, J J Jones b Watkin 5, G Barnes b Watkin 4, Rev A A P Winser b Payne 1, J S Ball c Bourne b Payne 2, F Wilkinson st Bowers b Bourne 12, E R Davies not out 15, C B Etches st Bowers b Bourne 0, J Boughey not out 17, extras 10; total (for 9 wkts), 134.

UTTOXETER v. STAFFORD.

UTTOXETER.—T Robson b Hawley 3, J Hutchinson c and b Critchley 5, S G Atkinson c Crane b Hawley 11, R T Green b Craig 31, J R Brown c Woodyer b Hawley 22, W Green c Barnham b Kenworthy 13, O Doran c Greatorex b Kenworthy 10, T Blackhurst b Craig 6, F Booth not out 6, H Davies c Bithell b Hawley 9, C Sandham c and b Hawley 0, extras 5, total, 121.

STAFFORD.—G H Greatorex run out 17, W T White c R T Green b Sandham 9, J R Bithell b Sandham 0, A J Ward c Robson b Sandham 5, F Barnham b Sandham 5, J W Hawley b Doran 9, T A Hill plyd on b Blackhurst 0, C A Woodyer notout 21, E Kenworthy not out 19, extras 15; total (for 7 wkts), 100. S H Critchley and W H Craig did not bat.

CONGLETON v. HARTFORD.

CONGLETON.—G C Biggs run out 59, B Reynolds c Thompson b Foster 48, H Compston not out 61, M Harper, jun., b Howard 1, F Whitaker c Moore b Hilditch 5, J Reynolds b Hilditch 10, S Clarke c and b Hilditch 13, A Holden c Harper b Grimsditch 16, L G Cocks not out 10, extras 14; total (for 7 wkts) 237.

HARTFORD.—E G Hilditch b Whitaker 16, C Hallman lbw b Clarke 22, S Harper b Clarke 18, T Thompson b Cocks 1, E Gammond b Clarke 1, F Forster c Biggs b Clarke 7, H Grimsditch b Clarke 1, H Howard b J Reynolds 7, F Moore b Whitaker 7, J Maddock b J Reynolds 0, G Cowley not out 2, extras 7; total 89.

COPELANDS v. ETRURIA CHURCH.

COPELANDS.—J Upsdell b G Wootton 0, J Booth c and b A Jones 19, W Brough c T Bailey b G Wootton 0, T Askew b A Jones 9, S Bates run out 1, H Holford not out 20, S Burton c and b D Jones 2, G Morrison run out 0, L Deaville b G Wootton 1, J Smith c and b D Jones 1, G Caddick c T Bailey b D Jones 0, extras 6; total, 59.

ETRURIA CHURCH.—G Wootton c J Booth b G Caddick 0, C Salt lbw b S Bates 3, W Rawlinson lbw b G Caddick 0, J Roberts c G Caddick b S Bates 12, A Jones st J Booth b G Caddick 15, N Wootton c T Askew b S Bates 8, D Jones c H Holford b G Caddick 0, C Edwards c J Upsdell b G Caddick 0, C Lowndes c and b S Bates 8, T Dunn c A Holford b G Caddick 0, T Bailey not out 0, extras 8; total, 55.

HOLMES CHAPEL MILLS v. SANDBACH.

HOLMES CHAPEL.—G Pomberton c Hilditch b Trueman 2, H Jackson c Orme b Trueman 8, E Entwistle b Dean 4, H Henshaw c Hilditch b Dean 4, P Moody c Hilditch b Trueman 7, A Jackson not out 20, S Tomkinson c Hilditch b Dean 17, B Steele run out 7, W Hilsdon c Stratton b Dean 3, T Burton c Orme b Trueman 0, G Chadwick not out 0, extras 3; total (9 wkts), 75.

SANDBACH.—J W Hilditch b Entwistle 9, F Wright c Burton b H Jackson 25, W G Cooke c Moody b H Jackson 24, A Orme b Entwistle 7, E Ramsell c Moody b Entwistle 9, W Smith c H Jackson b Entwistle 3, R H Stratton lbw b H Jackson 7, R Wright b Entwistle 3, H Trueman c Moody b Entwistle 2, R Dean c Hardwick b H Jackson 6, A Wade not out 3, extras 8; total, 105.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday 7 July 1926

STAFFORDSHIRE BAT ON BAD WICKET.

Deadly Bowling by Cheshire.

First Innings Realises 89 Runs.

Staffordshire were sent in to bat by Cheshire to-day on a wicket that became worse under the action of the sun and breeze.

As a result of deadly Cheshire bowling, Staffordshire's first innings totalled only 89, C. Howl being the top scorer with 29.

Hopwood took five wickets for 33 and Wilson three for 33 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Hopwood	11
C Howl st Bratby b Hopwood	29
Barnes (S. F.) b Wilson	8
J D Perks c Hopwood b Steventon	16
H Goodwin b Dennis	2
Sedgwick (H) b Wilson	7
D P Lutter st Bratby b Hopwood	0
P Lockett st Bratby b Hopwood	0
Lockett (A) c Wilson b Hopwood	0
Platt (G) b Wilson	0
J B Russell not out	11
Extras	5
Total	89

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

D Boumphrey not out	8
D P McIntyre b Lockett	6
D. P. McIntyre b Lockett	6
Hopwood not out	2
Extras	1
Total (for 2 wkts)	21

Later.—Cheshire, 28 (for 3 wkts.).

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	31.3	14	33	3
Hopwood	30	18	33	5
Dennis	8	2	11	1
Steventon	7	4	7	1

Wilson bowled one no-ball.

WALLASEY, Wednesday.

The rain which fell continuously yesterday had made the wicket here easy when play was started punctually this morning, in Staffordshire's fixture with Cheshire. But a powerful sun and a considerable breeze promised to have effect before long, and, apparently having this in mind, D. Boumphrey, who captained the home side in the absence, through a chill, of Vernon Hope, decided, after having won the toss, to put Staffordshire in first.

Several changes had been made in the Staffordshire team from that which defeated Lincolnshire last week. The players not included this time were J. W. Johnson, G. E. Winyard, E. W. Page, G. H. Thorneycroft, and J. Whalen, while Sedgwick, having recovered from his strain, returned. Goodwin, the Stafford and Birmingham University left-handed batsmen, and D. P. Lutter, the old Denstonian, came into the side for the first time this season, and P. Lockett, of Erdington, and D. Perks, of West Bromwich, made their county debut. Goodwin is a batsman whom the Staffordshire Committee would like always to have available, and it is hoped that he will be able to take part in all the remaining fixtures of the season. Lutter is also a sound bat and a useful change bowler, while P. Lockett and Perks came with good credentials, the former as an all-rounder, and the latter as an early bat.

The visitors opened their innings with H. W. Homer and C. Howl, who had to meet the bowling of Wilson, who has a good record against Staffordshire and Hopwood, the young professional formerly with Lancashire, who has now thrown in his lot with the Wallasey club.

VISITORS OPEN WELL.

Hopwood is a player who showed exceptional promise in his teens, and created his first great impression with the Lancashire second string against Staffordshire, at Preston, three seasons ago. He afterwards frequently found a place in the Lancashire first team, when he distinguished himself, mainly, with the bat, but recently he has been getting a lot of wickets for Wallasey. But neither he nor Wilson could get much out of the ball on the soft wicket, and the batsmen were not unduly troubled. They opened with a series of singles until Howl found the rails to send up the first ten in as many minutes. There was another comparative lull and then Homer, with a beautiful stroke to leg, pulled a ball from Hopwood high over the enclosure and clean out of the ground for six, bringing 20 after the same number of minutes' batting.

The bowlers were keeping a good length and allowed few liberties, with the result that only two runs had been added to the total, when, ten minutes later, Homer was ruled out lbw off Hopwood.

Barnes received a great ovation from the thousand or so spectators, when he went out to join Howl. Those who hoped to see such another fine stand as he made against the Cestrians, at Crewe, last season, were disappointed. He had scarcely played himself in, while, incidentally, his partner remained at a standstill, when he played a ball from Wilson on to his foot and it rolled on to his stumps. The stroke he made for four just before his departure proved to be the only scoring stroke in a succession of ten overs, for both Howl, who was missed behind the wicket at 11, and D. Perks, who joined him, found the bowling increasingly difficult to cope with.

WICKET HELPS BOWLERS.

The pitch was responding to the influence of sun and wind, and the ball was not only turning, but occasionally getting up awkwardly The sequence of unproductive overs was broken at last, too, by a rather risky run for a shot to mid off by Perks, and a more accurate return from the field might have put down Howl's wicket. But the Wolverhampton player remained on to counter the attack with an unfailingly defensive bat, and 40 minutes elapsed without his adding to the score. He then got a good stroke to fine leg for four off Hopwood, and treated the next delivery in a similar way to run two.

With 45 up, after 86 minutes' play, Dennis, the fast bowler, who did so much damage at Porthill two seasons ago, went on in place of Hopwood. A single accrued to each batsman off his first over.

With still one run wanted for the half-century another bowling change was made, E. H. Steventon, the Nantwich player relieving Wilson. It should be mentioned, by the way, that another North Staffordshire League player was keeping wicket for Cheshire, namely, A. E. Bratby, of Bignall End, who at one time used to "keep" for Staffordshire.

There was another quiet spell after the change of bowlers, and the innings had been in progress an hour and forty minutes before a single from Perks, who was fulfilling the high expectation held of him, sent up 50. He followed this with a fine straight drive to the boundary, but in the same over he was smartly taken in the slips by Hopwood, off Steventon.

Only 15 minutes remained to the lunch interval, but it was sufficient in which to bring about the fall of another Staffordshire wicket, and a valuable one at that, for H. Goodwin, who followed Perks, was able to contribute only two to the total before he was clean bowled by Dennis.

Howl and Sedgwick were together at the adjournment, when the total stood at 63 for four

SLOW SCORING.

Wilson and Hopwood took over the bowling again when play was resumed, and with the wicket becoming constantly more difficult, runs were exceedingly sparse. Wilson yielded a single from each of three overs, but Hopwood bowled three maidens before Howl cut him past point for one.

Ironical applause greeted the infrequent scoring strokes now, but sufficient allowance was not made by these critics for the condition of the pitch, which called for exceptional wariness on the part of the batsmen if a good position were to be established before the innings closed.

A sharp stroke to leg by Howl for four brought a great round of applause but there was a groan of disappointment when Sedgwick edged one from Hopwood up to point and was put down by Boumphrey, who, after a big effort, appeared to have the ball in his hand.

The spectators took heart again when, in Hopwood's next over, two wickets fell to smart stumping by Bratby. Howl was the first victim, going forward to a ball that got up badly. Later followed, and suffered an exactly similar fate with the first ball to him. This was disaster enough, but worse was to follow, for three more wickets fell without a single run being added. First P. Lockett went out to Hopwood in his next over, and again Bratby smartly took off the bails, this making three consecutive batsmen so disposed of. Then Aaron Lockett edged a ball from the same bowler up into the slips, and was taken, while Sedgwick played on to his stumps off Wilson.

Five wickets altogether had fallen at the same total—78—when the Staffordshire captain, J. B. Russell and George Platt came together for the last stand, but the innings closed for a total of 89.

Cheshire started on their reply at 3 35 with D. Boumphrey and A. W. Midgeley, the Staffordshire attack being shared by Barnes and Aaron Lockett.

Staffordshire Sentinel : Thursday, 8 July, 1926

STAFFORDSHIRE WIN BY 11 RUNS.

Four Innings Realise Only 281.

Remarkable Bowling.

Staffordshire gained a narrow win over Cheshire to-day, at Wallasey, by 11 runs, in a remarkably low-scoring match, the total of the four innings played reaching only 281 runs.

There was some sensational bowling by both sides, Barnes claiming a total of 11 wickets for 37 runs in the two innings, and Wilson, of Cheshire, 12 wickets for 58 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Hopwood	11
C Howl st Bratby b Hopwood	29
Barnes (S F) b Wilson	8
J D Perks c Hopwood b Steventon	16
H Goodwin b Dennis	2
Sedgwick (H) b Wilson	7
D P Lutter st Bratby b Hopwood	0
P Lockett st Bratby b Hopwood	0
Lockett (A) c Wilson b Hopwood	0
Platt (G) b Wilson	0
J B Russell not out	11
Extras	5
Total	89

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

C Howl c Hopwood b Wilson	7
F D Perks b Wilson	0
Sedgwick b Wilson	1
D P Lutter b Wilson	0
P Lockett b Wilson	1
Platt b Wilson	0
Lockett (A) b Hopwood	22
H W Homer lbw b Wilson	1
Barnes (S F) b Wilson	0
H Goodwin not out	7
J B Russell b Wilson	9
Extras	9
Total	57

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

D Boumphrey lbw b Lockett	10
A W Midgley b Barnes	4
D P McIntyre b Lockett	6
Hopwood b Lockett	9
Wilson st Russell b Barnes	14
H Eyre b Lockett	6
C W Tiplady b Lockett	0
E M Forsch lbw b Barnes	0
E H Steventon not out	1
E A Bratby b Barnes	2
Dennis absent	0
Extras	7
Total	59

CHESHIRE.—Second Innings.

D Boumphrey c Sedgwick b Lockett	4
A W Midgley c Platt b Barnes	9
D P McIntyre b Barnes	1
Hopwood c Perks b Barnes	2
Wilson c Sedgwick b Barnes	22
Dennis b Lockett	17
H Eyres not out	5
E M Frosch st Russell b Barnes	0
C W Tiplady c Homer b Barnes	4
E H Steventon c Russell b Barnes	1
A E Bratby b Lockett	1
Extras	10
Total	76

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	31.3	14	33	3
Hopwood	30	18	33	5
Dennis	8	2	11	1
Steventon	7	4	7	1

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

Wilson	20.4	10	25	9
Hopwood	20	12	23	1

Cheshire.—First Innings.

Barnes	18.2	8	19	4
Lockett (A)	18	6	33	5

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

Barnes	14	4	18	7
Lockett	12.3	2	34	3
Platt	1	0	14	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22	31	56	61	78	78	78	78	78	89

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	1	1	4	4	33	35	35	41	57

Cheshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	19	26	41	51	52	53	54	59	

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	10	12	25	53	61	62	70	75	76

WALLASEY, Thursday.

Although Staffordshire gained a lead of 30 runs on the first innings in their fixture here with Cheshire, their position, when play was resumed this morning, could not be described as anything but precarious. Sensation followed sensation during yesterday's play, when good bowling, aided by a bad and difficult wicket, put batting completely at a discount. It appeared to be good strategy on the part of D. Boumphrey, who captained Cheshire, in the absence of Vernon Hope, to put the visitors in first and the wisdom of the move became all the more apparent when a deadly combination between Hopwood, the left-arm bowler, and A. E. Bratby, the stumper, taking full advantage of a kicking ball, caused Staffordshire's collapse.

UNIQUE PERFORMANCE.

No fewer than five of their wickets fell at the same total, and while Hopwood completed the "hat trick," and dismissed four batsmen with five deliveries, Bratby performed the "hat trick" as a stumper.

This must be almost a unique performance in any cricket of account, and it has only one parallel in first-class county records, C. H. Brain, of Gloucester, putting down the wickets of three batsmen off three successive balls from C. L. Townsend, in 1893.

But though Staffordshire were all disposed of for 89, Cheshire fared even worse. Barnes and Lockett bowled unchanged throughout the innings, and dismissed them in an hour and forty minutes for only 59 runs. This was actually for only nine wickets, for Dennis, the Cheshire fast bowler, who was eleventh on the list, had to leave, and was not able to bat.

Both Barnes and Lockett were unplayable, causing the ball to turn with exceptional sharpness and speed on a pitch that was helping them all the way, and the former claimed four wickets for 19 runs, and Lockett five for 33. This was thrilling enough, but before stumps were drawn even that was eclipsed.

ANOTHER STAFFORDSHIRE COLLAPSE.

Forty minutes remained for play when Staffordshire entered on their second venture. J. B. Russell, the captain, decided to keep back his best batsmen in the hope that they would be able to make better use of an improved wicket in the morning. Thus Sedgwick and Platt opened the innings and in the first over Wilson sent back Platt without a single run on the book. Then the same bowler caused the ball to turn tremendously from leg to take Sedgwick's off stump, and two wickets were down for one. Next D. P. Lutter went back with a "pair of spectacles," having only three balls bowled to him in the two innings, and at the end of ten minutes three wickets had fallen for one run. Aaron Lockett now joined P. Lockett, the Erdington player, who was making his county debut, but the latter managed to collect only a single before he joined the procession, and four batsmen had gone back for an equal number of runs.

F. D. Perks, of West Bromwich, also a newcomer to the county side, played steadily in an endeavour to stay disaster, but he played on without adding to the total. At this stage, Wilson had five wickets to his credit for two runs in five overs. The captain now called on C. Howl, whose strong defensive play was most likely to be able to "stop the rot," and he and Aaron Lockett, batting with the utmost care and restraint, managed to keep together until the drawing of stumps, and, incidentally, by picking out Hopwood's loose deliveries advanced the score by twelve runs in fifteen minutes. Staffordshire were then 46 runs in front of the Cheshire first innings total, with five wickets to fall. Wilson had yielded only four runs.

ROT CONTINUES.

When Howl and Lockett went out to resume batting this morning the pitch was scarcely, if at all, improved. "Play steadily," was obviously the instruction from the players' pavilion, and it was an instruction that was carefully observed. Lockett established more confidence by getting Wilson away to the ropes for four, and the two kept together gradually to advance the total to 29 for the sixth wicket, at which stage Howl edged a ball from Wilson up into the slips for Hopwood.

H. W. Homer now joined Aaron Lockett in "safety first" tactics, and in fifteen minutes put on two runs. Then the former was sent back flow off Wilson to make way for Sydney Barnes, who again received an ovation from the spectators. The slowness of the scoring can be judged from the fact that Hopwood had bowled 26 overs for only ten runs, and Wilson 17 overs, that yielded an average of only one run apiece. Barnes started carefully, but did not stay long enough to assist the scoring, Wilson getting his middle stump with a sharp leg break, thus having accounted for all the eight wickets that so far had fallen.

H. Goodwin, having a no-ball put down to him by Wilson, started off with a single, and Lockett in the next over lifted Hopwood to the rails. But Aaron's plucky effort to save the game came to an end when next he faced the left-arm bowler, he having the bad luck to play on to his wicket.

A. LOCKETT'S EFFORT.

He had played patiently throughout his hour and twenty-five minutes at the crease, and he had not hesitated to punish the bad deliveries, and his individual total of 22 included three 4's and two 2's. J. B. Russell, going in eleventh man, opened out with characteristic forcefulness whenever an opportunity presented itself and quickly had two boundaries to his credit for powerful strokes on the leg side. H. Goodwin was favoured by fortune for, with only two singles against his name, he was put down at point by Frosch off Wilson, and in the same over Wilson himself failed to hold a sharp return from the batsman.

Fifty were on the board after the innings had been in progress an hour and forty minutes, but only seven more runs were gleaned before Russell fell a victim to Wilson's fine bowling, and the innings closed, leaving Cheshire 88 runs to get to win. Nine of the Staffordshire wickets had fallen to Wilson at the remarkably low cost of 25 runs—a distinctly noteworthy achievement, even when every allowance is made for the idiosyncrasies of the pitch.

CHESHIRE'S SECOND VENTURE.

The home county started on their second innings an hour before lunch, and D. Boumphrey and A. W. Midgley running well between the wickets managed to collect seven runs off the bowling of Barnes and Lockett before the Cheshire captain put up a ball from Lockett to Sedgwick at mid-on.

When D. P. McEntyre joined Midgley there was a succession of three maidens. From the next over McEntyre hit Lockett to mid-off for a single and Midgley, the left-hander, got a similar stroke for two. But Barnes, with a beautiful length ball breaking from the leg side, levelled McEntyre's off stump without further addition, and in the same over, with another ingeniously designed delivery caused Hopwood to be neatly taken at point by Perks. Wilson, who was Cheshire's highest scorer in the first innings came in, apparently to get runs quickly, and had nine to his credit in less than that number of minutes, when he lost Midgley, who was taken at short-leg by Platt off Barnes, the fourth wicket falling at 25. Joined by Dennis, Wilson steadied down and the two kept the score going slowly forward. At 38 Platt took over from Lockett but his first over was an expensive one, costing 14 runs.

Wilson, who made 11 out of that number, however, was sent back off Barnes' next delivery which he hit up on the leg side for a one-handed catch by Sedgwick. He scored his 22 runs in 28 minutes, having hit four 4's and a 3. The home side now required only 35 runs to win with five wickets in hand. Lockett was put back to bowl again immediately, and his first ball was sent through the slips for four by Dennis, but the batsman did not survive the next delivery which crashed into his wicket and levelled his middle stump.

A KEEN FIGHT.

Twenty-seven runs now needed for victory and four wickets to fall! The excitement was high. Eyre with a stroke to the off reduced the required number by one and then Frosch put the ball well out to the off but well away from the fielders. He was not destined to remain long, however, and with his account still blank he went forward to Barnes, missed, and was stumped in double quick time by Russell. Twenty-six runs wanted, and only three wickets remaining! That was the state of the game when the players trooped in to lunch.

With the first ball after lunch C. W. Tiplady, who followed Frosch, survived the stumper's appeal. From the next he gained a single, and there followed some keen running in the best manner of League rivalry. Seventy appeared on the board, amid cheers, and immediately afterwards Tiplady hit out at Barnes and was well taken in the deep field by H. W. Homer. Two wickets remained and 18 runs were wanted—a task far from easy in the circumstances. E. H. Steventon went into partnership with Eyre and had an uncomfortable time in his first over off Barnes—a maiden. Lockett's fast ball in his next over went for four byes otherwise the score remained at a standstill. E. H. Steventon now faced Barnes again. The first two balls met the bat, with nothing given or taken, and then the third was snicked off the shoulder and was cleanly taken behind the wicket by Russell. With only the last wicket to fall 13 runs were still wanted.

NARROW VICTORY.

A. E. Bratby was eleventh man but he could only reduce the margin by one before Lockett got through his defence with a beautiful fast ball—that appeared to come back—and knocked down the middle stump.

So Staffordshire gained the honours, in a game as full of thrills as a serial film, by eleven runs. Barnes came through in the second innings with seven wickets for 18 runs in 14 overs, while Lockett secured three for 34. The innings had lasted an hour and twenty-five minutes.

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bignall End	13	10	2	1	21
Porthill Park	13	9	2	2	20
Leek	13	8	4	1	17
Silverdale	13	7	5	1	15
Nantwich	13	6	5	2	14
Norton	13	5	4	4	14
Great Chell	13	4	6	3	11
Longton	13	4	6	3	11
Burslem	13	4	7	2	10
Knypersley	13	5	8	0	10
Crewe Alexandra	13	3	9	1	7
Madeley	13	2	9	2	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Nantwich, 115; Burslem, 59.
Bignall End, 226 for six (dec.); Longton, 147.
Great Chell, 242 for seven (dec.); Madeley, 153 for five.
Silverdale, 195 for five (dec.); Norton, 85.
Porthill Park, 186 for nine (dec.); Crewe Alexandra, 53.
Knypersley, 176; Leek, 64.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Alsagers Bank	13	10	2	1	21
Cheadle	13	8	4	1	17
Ashford	13	8	4	1	17
Fenton	13	8	5	0	16
Caverswall	13	7	5	1	15
Stone	13	7	5	1	15
Kidsgrove	12	6	5	1	13
Burslem High Lane	13	5	8	0	10
L.M. & S. Railway (Stoke)	12	4	7	1	9
Audley	13	4	9	0	8
Ashcombe Park	13	3	9	1	7
Betley	13	3	10	0	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS

L.M. & S. Railway (Stoke), 73; Cheadle, 65.
Kidsgrove, 65; Ashcombe Park, 0.
Betley, 60; Burslem High Lane, 49.
Sandyford, 125; Stone, 86.
Audley, 78 for nine; Fenton, 50.
Alsagers Bank, 59; Caverswall, 29.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P.	W	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	13	11	1	1	23
Knypersley	13	9	3	1	19
Burslem	13	8	4	1	17
Norton	12	6	4	2	14
Leek	13	6	5	2	14
Nantwich	13	6	5	2	14
Silverdale	13	4	4	5	13
Great Chell	13	4	7	2	10
Madeley	13	4	7	2	10
Longton	13	4	8	1	9
Crewe Alexandra	12	3	8	1	7
Bignall End	13	1	10	2	4

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 156; Nantwich, 76.
Longton, 229 for nine (dec.); Bignall End, 74.
Madeley, 98 for seven; Great Chell, 60.
Norton, 166; Silverdale, 94.
Porthill Park, 107; Crewe Alexandra, 29.
Knypersley, 104 for five; Leek, 79.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wesleyan	13	12	1	0	24
Kidsgrove	13	11	1	1	23
Burslem High Lane	13	9	3	1	19
Caverswall	13	7	6	0	14
Stone	13	7	6	0	14
Sandyford	13	6	6	1	13
Scot Hay	13	5	7	1	11
Audley	13	5	8	0	10
L.M. & S. Railway (Stoke)	13	4	8	1	9
Betley	13	4	9	0	8
Cheadle	13	2	9	2	6
Alsagers Bank	13	2	10	1	5

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

L.M. & S. Railway (Stoke), 80; Cheadle, 62.
Kidsgrove, 141; Scot Hay, 80.
Burslem High Lane, 146 for five; Betley, 76.
Stone, 157; Sandyford, 148.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 142 for three; Audley, 42.
Caverswall, 72; Alsagers Bank, 60.

FINE WEATHER again permitted full activity throughout the League's area of operations, but batsmen did not make such good use of the generally favourable conditions as was expected, and in some of the games run-getting was astonishingly low, although in the top grade matches only three teams failed to arrive at the century mark. But in the lower senior ranks only Sandyford reached three figures, and scoring was also paltry in many instances in the minor circles. Smart bowling was, of course, largely responsible for a number of the cases of paucity of chalks, but some of the collapses were due to sheer bad batting. The amazing item of the afternoon's doings was provided at Ashcombe Park, where the home side were not capable of reaching even two figures, their unmistakable debacle producing the following record of the fall of wickets:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	2	3	3	7	6	8	9	9	9

The Park people have fallen away from their early promise, but this exhibition was about the limit! With this failure in mind it is natural to point out that in the circle in which the strivers for promotion operate only one home team pleased their supporters with a victory, the distinction falling to Betley, who were able to dispose of Burslem High Lane. Decided shocks were meted out to Cheadle, Stone, Fenton and Caverswall, who had all commanded respect in relation to the promotion question. Alsagers Bank got over a difficult proposition when they accounted for strong competitors in Caverswall, and their lead is now an appreciable one. The leaders in the other three races were all successful, and as their immediate challengers also triumphed interest in the struggles was well maintained. Great Chell's ground was the scene of the heaviest scoring, the cost of a dozen wickets working out at 30 runs apiece. A fine innings of 82 (not out) by J. Ankers was associated with this game, and was the highest individual contribution of the afternoon.

BURSLEM'S SEVENTH DEFEAT.

Following two good wins, Burslem gave their supporters another afternoon of moderate form, and were deservedly beaten by Nantwich, who had little of the luck of the sport on their side, but were able to get the victory without much anxiety. The visitors start was not one to inspire confidence, for only three singles had been scored with the bat when the third wicket fell, and the stand made by F. W. Slight (25) and W. T. Mambury (19), was most opportune. Careful batting took the total from seven to 54, and the partnership was quite the best and most productive of the game. There was little in the rest of Nantwich's innings that was noteworthy, although E. H. Steventon (13) and H. Gidman (15 not out) tried hard to pull the game round appreciably. The biggest item of the innings was that of "Mr. Extras," who counted no less than 27. E. Cook bowled with good judgment all through, and had five wickets for 48, figures which, however, were beaten by the four for 20 of R. Hollowood. Due chiefly to the good work of T. Johnson (22) and A. Birch (24), Burslem were comparatively on level terms when their sixth wicket fell, but the remainder of their batting had no savour, the last four wickets going for eight. Though unlucky in several instances, Maybury and Steventon always held the mastery, and were full value for their returns of five for 54 and four for 31 respectively. The game furnished further evidence of the power of Nantwich's attack, which so far this season has forfeited, on the average, rather less than 80 runs per match. Unfortunately for the Cheshire club the main significance of the figures is by way of emphasising the weakness of the batting. With more rungetting power Nantwich would have been troubling the leaders.

HEAVY SCORING AT BOON HILL.

The champions came out victors in a heavy scoring match with Longton, some excellent cricket being played on a pitch which favoured batsmen. Winning the toss, Bignall End opened with J. H. Mayer and E. Downing, and their first wicket fell at 25, Downing (14), giving an easy return catch to A. Smith. Two runs later the dismissal of A. E. Bratby occurred, and after starting very promisingly L. McEllin (10) was well caught, on the boundary, by H. Morris, the third wicket going at 37. With A. W. Ikin as Mayer's fourth partner runs were made at a rapid pace, despite several changes of bowling. Ikin several times put the ball clean over the rails, and on one occasion he sent it over the pavilion into the gardens on the far side of the main road. The merry partnership held on until the aggregate reached 121, when Mayer was out in rather unfortunate fashion, displacing his bails whilst trying to evade a rising ball. His 36 was a valuable effort. At 130 Ikin was also sent back, caught on the boundary, after just passing the half-century. He had eight fours in his well hit 51. F. Nixon stayed with W. Beech whilst 22 were gathered, and more fine batting was seen when Beech was joined by F. J. Dale, the pair putting on 74 without being parted. Beech gave a pleasing display whilst scoring 35 (not out), making some well executed strokes. Dale's share was 43 (not out), and his innings was his best of the season. Three wickets each fell to H. Bressington and Smith, the toll taken being 59 runs and 28, respectively. The change bowling was very badly exploited. Longton had two hours and fifteen minutes in which to bat, and C. J. Edwards and H. Rigby (16) set the pace, runs coming quickly until 40 had been counted, when Rigby gave a catch to first slip. Smith and Edwards had a stay which was marked by clever batting, and they had more than doubled the aggregate when Edwards went out to a delivery from Dale, and, missing it, had his bails removed by the stumper. His 46 was a fine innings. After making 28 by good batting Smith was caught at extra cover by E. Downing, and there was no serious opposition to the bowling afterwards. An unfortunate incident was the tardiness of the last batsman in getting to the wickets, a violation of cricket law liable to be penalised. Dale added to his batting performance by taking seven wickets for 61 runs, as the result of excellent bowling.

MADELEY'S GOOD SHOW.

Bowlers had a sorry time at Great Chell, and Madeley can take credit for making a good show after they had been treated to an unusual measure of leather-hunting. Chell had a sound send-off by R. Harris (23) and W. Warburton (40), who gathered 53 for the first wicket, and although this progress was not maintained, scoring went on steadily until 157 had been got for seven wickets, at which stage A. Smith was partnered by E. J. Barber. The pair found the bowling vastly to their liking, and by very punishing play they put on 85 runs in quick time, and were in possession when the closure operated. Smith's score was 63 (not out) and Barber's 42 (not out), and the free methods of both players afforded much pleasure to a good crowd. The punishment of six Madeley bowlers was decidedly impartial, and E. Mayer had to pay a stiff price for the three wickets he took. The visitors' batting had a useful commencement by J. Ankers and F. Beech (11) who put on 27, but this was rather discounted when the second wicket fell at 52. The next partnership, however, went a long way towards saving the game, for F. Clarke (29) helped Ankers in a lengthy spell of resistance which carried the total to 98. With Ankers still at the crease the bowlers had to do something extraordinary if Madeley were to be beaten, and this they were unable to accomplish. George Wilson was kept in check by the county man, and although two more wickets were got down there was never any real prospect of a definite finish. Ankers played grandly for his 82 (not out), which included 13 fours. Wilson had two wickets for 55, the product of 28 overs. The result gave Madeley further hope of being able to better their position.

SILVERDALE IN FORM.

Norton were well mastered by Silverdale, who gave a convincing display of all-round cricket. The visitors were handicaped at the start by the absence of A. Jolly, and the mastery which the Silverdale batsmen obtained in the early proceedings never relaxed, in spite of the later operations of the fast bowler. Sound play by J. C. Cooper (27) and A. Ward provided a good basis for the ultimate big aggregate, 58 being put on for the first wicket, and Ward had another partner in good deeds in J. Whalen (39), who helped to collect 70 for the second wicket. Ward remained to take his personal score to 58, and played both steadily and cleverly for his runs. The example set was finely followed by B. Griffiths, who had six fours in his 32 (not out.) The most successful bowlers were F. Bailey and D. Worthington, who each took two wickets. Four Norton men reached double figures, but the batting in general was unexpectedly weak, and 21 from L. H. Crump was the best rungetting effort. The last five wickets fell for 19. Whalen was in rare fettle with the ball, and finished with seven wickets for 49 runs, 18 of which were got before he had his first success. He had a capable supporter in E. Groom, who disposed of two men for 10.

CREWE'S NINTH DEFEAT.

The attendance at the Alexandra's ground was materially affected by the local holidays, which caused many people to journey afar for their pleasure, but the gate was a good one for all that. Strong sides were in opposition, but the Alexandra were short of H. Hope and M. Walker, and Porthill Park had to manage without A. A. Bickerton and W. H. Fitchford. The visitors' batting was first represented by K. Gleaves and J. S. Heath, who were able to put on 26 for the first wicket,—a beginning which, however, should have been of shorter duration, as Gleaves, who was never quite comfortable, was missed from a sharp chance to the stumper. The second wicket fell at 28, and with another run got Heath (15) was cleverly caught in the slips by F. Sylvester. H. F. Wood got two fours, and was then smartly taken by J. Dickenson, four wickets being down for 44. At this point the visitors appeared to be in a bad way, but recovery came by G. A. F. Bagguley (27) and J. S. Heap (31), who had a stand of 56 runs. Both left at 100, and as the seventh wicket was captured at 104 the Alexandra's prospects were again bright. But they were clouded by the steady play of G. Price (22, not out) and the hitting of J. J. Evenson (33) and J. Durber (23), the two partnerships advancing the score by 81. Evenson gave a fine display of free, upstanding batting, and seven fours which he put to his credit all came from excellent strokes. E. Woodhall, who took the first three wickets, bowled very well in his first turn, but was freely punished in his other two spells. A. Hartley was also well mastered, and the most successful bowler was F. Walker, who had two wickets for 15. Sylvester sent down six overs for as many runs and one wicket, and might have been made more use of. A. Price (13) and C. Coffin (27) started the Alexandra's batting in very businesslike fashion, but Price fell at 15, and F. Walker at 34. Coffin and J. Brownridge (22) caused the visitors some anxiety by staying together until the total arrived at 76, changes of bowling being wanted before they were parted. The bowler to do what was needed was Evenson, who had Brownridge finely caught by Bagguley, and four runs later another catch got rid of Coffin, whose stay had been a most useful one. When H. Norman threw his wicket away at 82 Porthill were again well placed, only for the game to have another turn by the agency of S. Hares and Dickinson, the captain showing that he is

still a punishing batsman. The youngster was sedate but safe, and 32 runs were scored ere the co-operation was closed. The seventh wicket added 18, and then all was over, Dickinson (37) being eighth out, caught from a reckless stroke which deserved a reprimand. Durber took four wickets for 47, Heap three for 46, Evenson two for 16, and N. W. White one for six. Porthill were undouttedly the stronger all-round side, but the Alexandra made a game fight prior to the collapse of "the tail."

KNYPERSLEY'S TRIUMPH.

Knypersley's victory over Leck afforded much pleasure to the winners, who have rarely done well against the Moorland team. The success had its inception in the batting of W. Whitehead, who got 43 runs by extremely good play, some of his leg shots off H. Sedgwick being beautiful specimens. More capital batting came from W. Boon (17), A. Millward (24), E. Mosedale (26) and W. Lonsdale (35), no fewer than 83 chalks accruing between the fall of the fourth and the seventh wickets. Leek's most troublesome bowler was J. Pointon, who disposed of five men for 27 runs; Sedgwick's five successes costing 67. The visitors made a sorry show with the bat, though the pitch was a plumb one. H. Oliver (18) was the only man to stand up to the bowling of H. Bibby and J. Boon, and his wicket was squandered by a foolish run out, as was also the wicket of H. Byrne. Smart fielding by Lonsdale and H. E. Bourne had much to do with these misadventures, but in neither case was there any justification for the attempt at run-snatching. Apart from Oliver the best rungetters were L. Perkin (16) and H. Birch (10). The excellent bowling of Bibby got six wickets for 28, and Boon had two for 30.

SENIOR "B" MATCHES.

Cheadle developed a long "tail" when in opposition to L.M. and S. Railway, whose success was not anticipated. Going in first on a good wicket the home team opened at a brisk rate, but J. A. Hurst (12) was easily caught at 22, and nine runs later H. Capewell (10) was well beaten by R. Partridge, from which point matters went very badly for Cheadle, although A. L. Day had a stay which realised 26 chalks. Partridge was too troublesome for most of his opponents, getting his last five wickets for 14 runs, and his full figures being seven for 43. His most useful assistant was W. Hill, with two for six. The Railway lost a man to the opening ball of their innings, and they had to struggle for their victory, which was not achieved until after the fall of the seventh wicket; and if Cheadle had taken their chances the result might have been even closer. The best batting came from C. Mason, who made 18, and the other useful scorers were T. Ball (12), E. Bloor (12), and R. C. Wormington (16). J. Keates was a formidable opponent, his fine bowling getting seven wickets for 22.

Ashcombe Park did well to dispose of Kidsgrove for 53 to which R. Smith contributed 10 and J. Hancock 13, but the effectiveness of their own bowlers may have caused some misgivings as to what might follow. The men to account for the visitors so readily were O. Brassington and S. W. Bailey, who had seven wickets for 25 and three for 12, respectively. The Park lost a batsman in the second over, and what followed surely caused the oldest inhabitant to indulge in reminiscences anent the prowess of James Walker. Fifty-five balls from F. Timmis and W Cooper were sufficient to bring about the rout, and only five deliveries were scored from. The ten wickets were equally shared, Cooper's five costing seven chalks and his colleague's a single!

Save two Burslem High Lane players, all the batsmen in the match at Betley did a little in the run-getting line, but only two players of each side reached doubles, and if from B. Jones, of Betley, was the top score. The most productive stand of the game was also on behalf of the winners, but it stopped at 13—for the third wicket. First use of the pitch was gained by the home team, and the bowlers to put themo ut so hastily were G. Skellam—seven for 26—and S. Durber—three for 31—the pair bowling unchanged. Betley's moderate total was not thought to be beyond the powers of their visitors, but a bad start was made, the second wicket going at five and the fifth at 22, and the measure of improvement which followed was not sufficient. One player was run out, and the other wickets were shared by three bowlers, J. Brookshaw having five for 24, J. Amps two for 16, and E. Aplin two for eight.

Sandyford gained a well-earned victory, incidentally inflicting on Stone their first home defeat of the season and practically extinguishing their chances of promotion. Stone gave a very unconvincing batting display, and their bowling was treated in rather distainful fashion by C. Cotton (48), who, however, had more than the ordinary amount of luck in not being bowled on several occasions, and although he was top scorer of his side A. Bourne (29) played more correct cricket. E. C. Fernie had eight wickets for 56—after having 42 hit off him for his first two successes—but more use might have been made of the fast bowlers, G. Deyes and J. Cooper. G. Reece and F. Ravenscroft opened the Stone innings in very confident style, and looked set for a good score, but after contributing a beautifully got 22 Ravenscroft was lbw. The real turning point of the game came when Reece was out in a very unlucky manner, the ball rebounding off the pads of the wicket-keeper (standing two or three yards back) and dislodging the bails with Reece out of his ground. R. Cadman (35), making his first appearance of the season made a valiant attempt to improve his side's prospects, but with his dismissal and P. F. Stubbs (batting late owing to a damaged hand) bowled by A. Bourne the end soon came. Bourne bowled splendidly, keeping a perfect length, and having six wickets for 34; whilst W. Jones had three for 29.

The bowling of F. Darlington and G. Taylor was too much for Fenton's batsmen, of whom only A. Mellor (17, not out) J. Sutton shaped as rungetters. Darlington had six wickets for 21, bowling very well, and Taylor's three victims were got for nine runs. Audley were in grave danger when their sixth wicket dropped at 25, but J. C. McEllin rose to the occasion by hitting up 20, and was well backed up by F. Darlington (15) and R. Procter (8, not out) in the closing stages. H. Naylor, with four for 25, was Fenton's main bowler, and W. Wood had two for 18.

Caverswall and Alsagers Bank had a "needle" match on the Castle Ground, and although the Bank had such a paltry total as 29 to go against they had to fight very hard for their victory, losing six wickets before it was accomplished. Coverswall's grief was caused by A. Anson, who bowled with a strongish wind to help him, and was almost unplayable. Only four scoring shots were made from his deliveries, and he had four wickets in his eighth over. His full return came out at nine for 11, six players being clean bowled. Anson's onslaught did not clave much for J. Wareham to do, but that bowler was also an awkward opponent, sending down eight overs for eight runs and one wicket. Caverswall's scoring with the bat was confined to three fours, one couple and five singles. The home team had visions of a famous coup when they got four Bank wickets down in the course of six overs, for eight runs, but W. Beech and Anson checked the ravage, and their little stand of 13 runs for the fifth wicket virtually settled the issue. The visitors had a scare, but they were good winners ultimately, E. Jones scoring 10, and H. Roberts and F. Procter (14 not out), rattling up 21 for the last wicket. A. H. Poate bowled wonderfully well in his effort to atone for Caverswall's batting breakdown, and finished with seven wickets for 23. There was nothing about the pitch to account for the general recklessness of the batting, the true explanation of the matter being that the bowling of each side was too good for the opposition.

JUNIOR "A" GAMES.

The all-round form of Burslem was too much for Nantwich, whose batting was very streaky, and had no items of appreciable consequence. The visitors' rungetting powers were not shown in the early part of their innings, but the turn came after the fifth wicket had fallen. H. Sharpe and W. Fenton having a partnership which took the score from 54 to 131. Sharpe batted in quiet fashion for 39, and his methods were in marked contrast to those of Fenton, who was a veritable "whole-hogger" in his attack on the bowling, and had eleven fours and three couples in his 54. L. Haighton came out of the rampage with six wickets for 63, and W. Meakin had three for 40. The best stand for Nantwich was made for the last wicket, T. Moulton (18, not out) and Haighton (11) putting on 25. Of the other batsmen only T. W. Hope (16) and G. R. Jackson (15) attained any prominence. P. Kirkham and F. Ellis bowled all through, and had six for 32 and four for 39, respectively. Longton asserted themselves to some purpose against Bignall End, who were losing throughout the game. The foundation of the home team's big score was laid by the first wicket pair, the good batting of P. Brassington (64) and R. J. Hallen (32) putting on 86 runs before a parting was effected. The other rungetters of great account were A. Hodson (50, not out) and E. Blurton (36). E. Johnson, with 3 for 38, had the best figures of seven Bignall End bowlers, but none of the attacking was impressive. The visitors were in poor form with the bat, and only two of them reached doubles, A. Poole scoring 18 and Johnson 16. Four wickets fell to Blurton for 36, and W Hine had three for eight and A. Bradbury three for 25. Madeley got another commendable win at the expense of Great Chell, who after the fall of their fourth wicket had no batsmen able to cope with the bowling of T. Stubbs and A. Boulton, which disposed of the last six for a beggarly nine runs. Stubbs had four wickets for five runs in five overs, and Boulton's spell was three for 10. Stubbs was also a prominent batsman, and his well played innings of 47 effectually blighted Chell's chances. The losers' leading bowler was J. Taylor, with four for 24. Seven Silverdale bowlers failed to shake the consistency of Norton's batting, which had its worst period in the early stages, during which three wickets fell for 21. A sedate stand by I. Waterfall (22) and E. Waterfall (14) altered the complexion of affairs; and as S. Crump afterwards ran up a brisk 32, and W. Cooke (21, not out) and W. Mountford (24) put on 57 for the last wicket, the innings ended with Norton in a strong position; which, however, would have been less satisfactory but for the help of "extras," which numbered 30. Five visiting bowlers divided the wickets, the best returns being J. Barnett's three for 39. Silverdale had only one batsman to achieve distinction, J. B. Street scoring 32 by good cricket. H. Higgins had compensation for his batting failure by capturing six wickets for 45. Porthill Park's batting was again moderate, for although five players reached dual figures, only C. Bickerton, with 27, got out of the teens. His stand of 29 runs for the fourth wicket—with F. W Bliss (15)—was the most useful of the venture. J. W. Ashbrook, with four for 36, was the Alexandra's most effective bowler, whilst J. Jennings and A. Sandlands each had three victims. Crewe lost three men in as many overs, and the collapse continued to the end, the last three wickets going at the same total. One player was run out, five fell to J. Glover for 18, and four to S. R. Cooper for 10. The fine bowling of W. A. Goodwin was the main factor in Knypersley's win at Highfield, eight wickets falling to it for 46 runs. A. L. Kidd was responsible for the most satisfactory item of Leek' batting, 18 out of 21 scored for the fourth wicket. Knypersley's innings had a good start by H. Green and T. Bibby (11), and in the following play J. Butler (37) and P. Green (21 not out) showed capital form. The only Leek bowler to cause much trouble was S. Quinn, who had three victims for 17.

JUNIOR "B" DOINGS.

Losing two wickets in the first over, and having six down for 27, the L.M. and S. Railway innings had a good recovery at the instance of R. Bagguley (32, not out), who found an acceptable partner in J. Tibbitts (16), the twain adding 35 for the last wicket. Chearde's one bowler to be awkward was G. Malbon, whose figures were six for 38. Cheadle never looked like approaching the opposition total, and their first six wickets fell for 30. J. Blood and J. Cummings were effective attackers, their figures being six for 33 and four for 18, respectively. The good bowling of L. Bloor, of Scott Hay, lacked the support necessary to keep Kidsgrove's scoring powers in check, and six of the home batsmen put double figures to their credit, the principal contributions being 23 from W. Rigby, A. Hadley's 28 and 26 from E. Findley. Six wickets were obtained by Bloor for 35 runs, in the course of 16 overs. Scott Hay's sole stand which had considerable results was made by J. Beswick (22) and G. Brookes (19), and it advanced the aggregate from 3 to 42 for the third wicket. For Kidsgrove, S. Johnson took three wickets for 30, and E. Downs closed the opposition resistance in summary style with eight deliveries which secured three wickets without cost. Betley were soundly beaten by Burslem High Lane, who had one player who produced an individual score which was only two runs short of the gross contributions of his eleven opponents. The batsman was A. Dunn, who counted 12 fours in his capital innings of 70. Five Betley wickets were captured by T. Talbot for 25 runs, and W. Fisher took two for three. A very fine game resulted from the meeting of Sandyford and Stone. The visitors ran up 157, six of the side reaching double figures, with J. E. Hunking (36) and W. Ravenscroft (20) as top scorers. Sandyford replied with 148, M. Baker (35), H. Rawlinson (32) and C. Rosie (27) being the leading batsmen. C. Wood, of Stone, had the best bowling returns of the match, with four wickets for 28. Brindley Ford Wesleyans were much too powerful for Audley, the home batsmen cutting up very badly before the deadly attacking of E. Simner—four for 19—R. Machin—two for 13—and J. Slaney—three for six. C. Slaney (24) and Amos Walley (31) furnished the Wesleyans with a victory of ten wickets, and J. Slaney (57) and G. Caddy (23, not out) afterwards had some very useful batting practice, 57 chalks being gathered during their third wicket association. Alsagers Bank did well to get rid of Caverswall for 72, to which W. Colclough subscribed 20, but with one exception their own batsmen could not cope with the bowling of F. Blunt—four for 10—and F. Barber—five for 26. The Bank's outstanding player was J. Taylor, who went in at the fall of the first wicket and took out his bat for 28. He also did useful work with the ball, having three victims for 12, whilst F. W. Tomkinson had four for 29.

NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES & UMPIRES

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

Burslem v. Norton; Messrs. Bradbury and Holmes.
Longton v. Madeley; Messrs. Birtles and Downs.
Bignall End v. Nantwich; Messrs. Plant and Cooper.
Great Chell v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Forster and Worthington.
Silverdale v. Leek; Messrs. Jones and Stevenson.
Crewe Alexandra v. Knypersley; Messrs. Condliffe and Manifold.

THE ALEXANDRA sustained their fourth consecutive defeat on Saturday, Porthill, who are making a big fight with Bignall End for championship honours, being the cause of their undoing. It was another batsmen's day, the bowlers on both sides being heavily punished. In two and a half hours the Park rattled up a score of 186, at which total the captain declared with one wicket to fall.

With seven wickets down for 104, it looked like the Railwaymen having a fair chance of victory, but a very useful eighth wicket partnership by G. Price and J. J. Evanson put a different aspect on the situation, 52 runs being added before Evanson (33) fell to a catch by F. Walker. Evanson had a merry time, his score including seven boundaries. J. Durber secured a sprightly 23, and Price, with 22 to his credit, was undefeated when the declaration was made. Heap (31), Bagguley (27), Heath (15), and Gleaves (11) rendered valuable service by laying the "foundation" earlier in the afternoon. Captain Dickenson rung the changes on the bowling strength of his side, with comparatively little effect.

Crewe commenced in sparkling fashion, the partnership of C. Coffin and J. Brownridge showing great promise. The first-named holds the best batting average with the Crewe team for this season, his total of 177 working out at 19.6 for each completed innings. When it appeared as though Coffin and Brownridge had become inseparable, a change in the attack accomplished what the combined efforts of Heap and Durber had failed to do

In his second over J. J. Evanson was responsible for the dismissal of both batsmen, who were caught by Durber and Baggaley. Apart from a sixth wicket stand, J. Dickenson contributing a well-played 37, the remaining batsmen fell easy victims. Durber was the most deadly bowler, his last five overs yielding three wickets at a cost of four runs each.

The Crewe captain made his biggest score of the season, bringing his average up to 17.2 for ten completed innings. The finish of the Crewe innings was a pitiable affair, relieved only by the sound work of the skipper. After his dismissal, the end came rapidly at 133, the the last three wickets only adding one run. The bulk of the bowling was done by Heap and Durber, the former taking three for 45, and the latter four for 47.

The Alexandra second team, like the Seniors, are wandering in the wilderness. Defeat was their portion at Porthill Park, the batsmen putting up a very feeble opposition to the bowling of Glover and Cooper. Against the home team's total of 107, they could only respond with a wretched 29, of which Jennings was responsible for 12. No fewer than six Crewe men failed to open their account. C. Bickerton headed the batting for Porthill with 27.

SILVERDALE'S SUCCESS.

In recording their third successive win, Silverdale incidentally broke a spell of ill-luck at home, for this was the first victory before their own supporters since May 22nd From the fall of the first wicket at 58 there appeared little doubt as to the ultimate result, as this score was more than doubled by the second partnership which ended with Whalen unfortunately breaking his own wicket. Third out at 148, Ward had shown admirable defence for over two hours, and although his bag was only 58, all the edge had been taken off the Norton attack when he left.

Since his promotion from the junior eleven Ward has made steady progress, and it looks as though Silverdale have at last found a worthy opening partner for Jack Cooper who continues to render valuable service to the side.

It is worthy of note that another young batsmen in Percy Bloor, though still in his teens, made his first appearance with the seniors, but was denied the opportunity of showing his skill with the bat owing to the earlier batsmen doing so well, but there is yet plenty of time, and with experience and careful coaching Bloor should firmly establish himself in the team, for he is attractive to watch, and has a number of stylish strokes at his command. Whalen's seven wickets for 49 runs shows that he can still be destructive even on wickets which are not entirely suited to his bowling.

The match at Boon Hill, where Bignall End entertained Longton, proved a keen and exciting one. The home team batted first, and after losing their first three wickets for 27 runs, ran up a magnificent total of 226 for six wickets, and then declared. A. W. Ikin was top scorer, hitting up a capital 51 in a very short time. He was well supported by F. J. Dale who got 43 (not out) in good style.

J. H. Mayer, after a spell of ill luck, came into his own again. Going in first, he was content to play on the defensive, and in consequence he had been at the wicket 35 minutes before he registered his tenth run. Afterwards he began to develop more forceful tactics, and collected runs all round the wicket. With 36 to his credit he was unfortunate in hitting his own wicket when swinging round to hit a delivery from Brassington to the boundary.

W. Beech, who is a new comer to Bignall End this season, gave another sound display for 35 (not out). Seven bowlers were tried in the Longton attack, but the only two to meet with success were A. Smith and H. Brassington who shared the wickets for 59 and 28 runs respectively. Brassington was always difficult to encounter, and out of 20 overs which he sent down, nine were maidens.

C. Edwards and H. Rigby opened strongly for the visitors, and put on 40 for the first wicket. After Rigby left A. Smith assisted Edwards to add another 41 for the next partnership. Edwards, who played the bowling with ease, lost his wicket when only four short of his half century, in going out to punish Dale. He missed the ball altogether, and Bratby had the bails off before he could recover his ground. The rest of the batsmen were left to play out time, but Dale and Riley thwarted them, the last wicket falling with the third ball of the last over. Dale had a good day making 43 not out with the bat, and following up with seven wickets for 61 runs.

BURSLEM DISAPPOINT.

Burslem once again disappointed their supporters last Saturday by losing at home to Nantwich. They were well and truly beaten by a side who are fortunate to possess such a capable pair of bowlers as Steventon and Maybury. This pair are always a strong force to be reckoned with.

When Nantwich started their innings so badly by losing three good wickets for seven runs, the game looked "odds on" for Burslem, but the fourth wicket partnership turned the tide by adding 47 runs. The final score of Nantwich (115), did not, however, appear too convincing, considering that it was a batsman's wicket.

It was good news to hear Burslem's captain, Evans Cook, speak of feeling more like himself again. He had had quite a spell of indifferent health. He bowled well right through the visitors' innings, and captured five wickets, but Roy Hollowood had the best analysis with four wickets for 20 runs. There is no questioning that Roy is the "star" player this season.

Burslem commenced their reply just the reverse to Nantwich, and had 31 runs booked when the second wicket fell. Two more wickets followed quickly, but the fifth and sixth wicket partnerships raised hopes by putting together 24 and 21 runs respectively. Thereafter the "tail" wagged feebly against the strong Nantwich attack, and the innings terminated 28 runs in arrears of the visitors' total. Arthur Birch, Burslem's useful left-hand bat, was top scorer with 24, and Johnson again justified his elevation to the senior team with a good innnings for 22.

The Great Chell batsmen showed up well on the home ground last Saturday against Madeley, but despite the fact that they obtained 242 runs (which by the way is a record for the ground) compiled in 2 hours and 25 minutes, the game was not brought to a definite conclusion.

The first wicket partnership of Harris and Warburton, which yielded 53 runs, gave Chell a good send-off, but the feature of the innings was the brilliant eighth wicket stand made by A. Smith and E. J. Barber. Smith had made a score of runs when he was joined at the wickets by his captain, and the pair took the score from 157 to 242, when the innings was declared for the loss of seven wickets, both batsmen carrying out their bats. Smith obtained 63 runs in 1 hour and 5 minutes, while E. J. Barber compiled 42 in 55 minutes.

Madeley were left with 2 hours and 20 minutes minutes to bat, and when time was called they had collected 153 runs for the loss of five wickets. The out-standing feature of the Madeley innings was the sound and powerful exhibition given by J. Ankers, the opening batsmen, who carried out his bat with 82 runs to his credit. Throughout the course of his innings he found the boundary on 13 occasions.

On what appeared to be a batsmen's wicket at Caverswall, the home side could only scrape together 29 runs against Alsagers Bank, and of this total "extras" were responsible for ten. J. Wareham got the first wicket, but after that A. Amson simply walked through the rest, finishing up with the fine average of nine for 11. He clean bowled six and in one over had four wickets in four balls.

The visitors started their innings none too confidently, and at one period looked like finishing at an even smaller total than it. Four wickets were down for eight runs, and it was not until the eighth man was in that 30 was reached. E. Jones (10) had hard luck in hitting his wicket after having played the ball. J. Procter (not out 14) was the only batsman to get double figures, and the innings closed for 59. A. H. Foate again bowled well having seven for 23; W. Payne, E. Webster and A. Pickard sharing the others.

LONGTON JUNIORS' WIN.

For Longton juniors P. Brassington (60) and A. Hodson (50 not out) thoroughly trounced the Bignall End bowling. Both batsmen gave capital displays on a wicket which was a batsman's paradise. E. Blurton (36) and R. E. Allen (32) also batted with confidence, and the grand total of 229 provided a stiff proposition for the visitors.

Bignall End could only reply with 71. Though beaten they are the right type of Colts and their first team will, in the next season or two, be able to draw from its second eleven players who will well maintain the premier honours of the league. Bignall End gave about seven bowlers a chance. Johnson (three for 38) and Green (two for 19) proved to be their best. W. Hine, however, for Longton, was the greatest success. He bowled three overs (one maiden) for eight runs three wickets. In fact, towards the end he was unplayable.

The junior match between Madeley and Great Chell was responsible for a fine all-round performance by Thos. Stubbs. Great Chell had scored 51 for the loss of three wickets, when Capt. Millington handed the ball to him, and along with A. Boulton, at the other end, the rest of the side collapsed in sensational fashion, and were all out for 60. Stubbs sent down five overs, two of which were maidens, taking 4 wickets for 5 runs, and Boulton, after having six knocked off his first over, took the remaining 3 wickets for 10 runs. Stubbs, who went into bat at the fall of the first wicket, with only one run on the board, scored 47 out of 60, and was endeavouring to make the winning hit—a long drive to the sight board—when he was finely caught by G. Rhodes. He played forceful cricket, and sent the ball to the boundary five times.

Betley's visit to High Lane provided the home side with an easy victory. The visitors batting first, put together a total of 78 runs. Ashby (13), Hockenhull (13) and Griffiths (20) received poor support from the rest of the side Talbot, who took five wickets for 15, was the most successful bowler for the Lane.

High Lane knocked off the runs for the loss of three wickets. Dunn, who batted confidently, was not dismissed until he had put together 70 runs. Betley's bowling was severely punished, runs coming at a fast pace. The total had reached 145 (for five) when the closure was applied.

The Audley second XI. were completely outplayed at home on Saturday by Brindley Ford The match was an all-round success for J. Slaney. Taking over the ball when seven wickets were down he accounted for the last three men for six runs. Audley were dismissed for the small total of 42.

Faced with an easy task the champions passed the home team's score without any loss, and went on to collect 142 for three wickets. J. Slaney crowned a creditable afternoon's work when contributing 57 before being bowled by Beech.

A RUN OF SUCCESSES.

As at present constituted, there can be no denying that Kidsgrove II. are a good team, and on Saturday they registered their ninth consecutive League victory in convincing style. Batting first, they soon lost two wickets and scoring for a long time was slow. Indeed one period of 50 minutes produced only one run. But the batsmen were sure, and a third-wicket partnership by W. Rigby (23) and A. Hadley (23) paved the way to free hitting by the later batsmen. Hadley, as usual, was responsible for several brilliant strokes, and he held the fort while nearly 100 runs were scored. It was left to the ninth partnership to be the most prolific, and, of the 31 runs it realised, E. Findley was responsible for 26 (five 4's and two 3's). The total score was 141 in just over two hours.

Scot Hay commenced badly, but, like Kidsgrove, a third-wicket stand improved matters considerably. The men responsible were J. Beswick (22) and G. Brooks (19) who had presented a bold front to the attack. They both left at the same total, and after their retirement only L. Bloor (10) obtained double figures before being run out. A total of 9 was all that could be raised. The end was of a sensational character, E. H. Downs, a new-comer to the team, claiming the last three wickets in eight balls without cost. A. Johnson bowled capitally throughout the innings, and obtained 3 for 30.

Playing at home to Leycett on Saturday, Bucknall gained another victory. The visitors batting first, lost Spender with the first ball, and two more wickets fell rapidly with only seven runs on the board. With the exception of A. Lewis (who had the misfortune to receive an injury and had to retire) with 9 to his credit, none of the other batsmen put much trouble, the innings closing for 47. Bucknall commenced in promising fashion, but at 11 Finney lost his wicket in attempting a short run, but with the help of extras and some careful batting by A. Williams the Leycett total was passed for the loss of six wickets. Leycett called on five bowlers, G. Spender in particular sending up some good deliveries.

Wolstanton March met with further success on Saturday, winning against Team II. T. Brett and W. Robinson again demonstrated their capabilities by dismissing the visitors in seven overs for 20 runs. T. Brett claimed four wickets for 13 runs, and W. Robinson's returns were remarkable, claiming six wickets for five runs. The scoring was low, J. Green being the only batsman to reach double figures.

GOLDENHILL RIVALS.

Woodland Pottery and Goldenhill Wesleyans, neighbouring teams, played a most interesting friendly fixture on the Athletic Ground, Goldenhill, last week, and it was watched by a big crowd. The Pottery side were clearly superior, and won by 84 runs for nine wickets to 22. Run getting is no easy matter on this ground, but the Wesleyans' innings had no outstanding feature, and was slow. Twenty overs and two balls were sent down for their small total. Smith had seven wickets for 15 runs, and Hodgkinson, who had eight maidens out of his ten overs, had three wickets for two runs. Smith was Woodland's highest scorer with 25, and he made two big hits out of the ground for 6's. Len Cliffe played a dependable innings of 15 (not out), though he should have been caught from a "skier." C. Cotton was the other double figure scorer with 14

Players who have represented Staffordshire had a big share in Old Hill's total of 207 for seven (declared) in the Birmingham League, F. O. Yates contributing 18, W. Lee 20, H. W. Homer 29, and Aaron Lockett 23. Walsall made a gallant effort to save the game, the only bowlers to trouble their batsmen being Lee with four wickets, and Lockett with two. Walsall saved the game with seven wickets down for 166.

Although Stallington have shown improved form lately, their visitors from Rocester proved too good for them. Batting first, the home team scored 57, the veteran W. S. White contributing 14, and E. Mills 13. The visitors passed their score with four wickets in hand, R. Simister hitting 17 and G. Wood 16. White was also the home team's most successful bowler, capturing six wickets for 30. Wood and Baker bowled throughout for the visitors, Wood taking six for 16 runs, and Baker getting the other four.

Sandbach Cricket Club is this season giving every encouragement to their young players, some of whom are being included in the first eleven. Last Saturday a defeat at Holmes Chapel might have been expected, but the Mills' team escaped defeat on time only. Batting first, Sandbach made a total of 105, to which F. Wright contributed 25, and W. G. Cooke 24. The Mills replied with 75 (for nine), A. Jackson making 20 (not out), and S. Tomkinson 17. R. Dean, the young Sandbach bowler, took four wickets for 24 runs, while H. Trueman took four for 12. For the Mills, Entwistle's bowling average was six for 61, and H. Jackson's four for 22.

GREAT CHELL CRICKET KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

Second Round Draw.

Thursday, July 15th: Riley's XI. v. Middlepark.
Monday, July 19th: Newfield Rovers v. Chell Victs.
Staffs. Chem. v. Marsh Jun.
Thursday, July 22nd: Woodland Pottery v. Tunstall St. Mary's.
Monday, July 26th: Pittshill C. v. J. Lowe's XI.
Meakin's (T.) v. Taylor's Ath.
Thursday, July 29th: Sneyd Colliery v. Top Place.
smiths v. Whitfield Staff.
Monday, August 2nd: Goldenhill P.M. v. Burslem United v. Wesley Place C.C.

FENTON & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bucknall	9	5	3	1	11
Fenton II.	7	5	2	0	10
Longton "A"	8	5	3	0	10
Rough Close	9	5	4	0	10
Wolstanton Marsh	11	5	6	0	10
Leycett	7	4	3	0	8
Caverswall "A"	8	3	5	0	6
Tean II.	6	2	4	1	5
Ashcombe Park II.	9	2	7	0	4

RESULTS.

Longton "A" 87, Wolstanton Marsh 47; Caverswall "A" 86, Wolstanton Marsh 30; Wolstanton Marsh 38 for 8 wickets, Tean II. 20; Ashcombe Park II. 20, Rough Close 58; Bucknall 57, Leycett 47.

N.S. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS' A.A.

Tunstall Section.—Netball.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For.	Agst.	Pts.
Chell	5	5	0	0	100	16	10
Tunstall R.C.	5	4	1	0	66	47	8
Forster-street	5	3	2	0	69	50	6
Summerbank	5	2	3	0	54	43	4
High-street	5	1	4	0	40	65	2
Goldenhill R.C.	5	0	5	0	10	118	0

CHEADLE & DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS' LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Cheadle Council	7	6	1	0	12
Cheadle R.C.	8	5	3	0	10
Cheadle C.E.	6	3	3	0	6
Oakamoor Council	7	2	5	0	4
Ipstones	6	1	5	0	2

Kingsley have withdrawn.

RESULTS.

Ipstones 22, Cheadle R.C. 19; Cheadle Council 65, Oakamoor 35.

Best Performances.—Bowling: H. Warring, Ipstones, 8 wickets for 5 runs; F. Malbon, Cheadle Council, 6 for 11; N. Wright, Oakamoor, 4 for 5; K. Crook, Cheadle R.C., 5 for 7.

COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

Staffordshire 100 Per Cent.

Cheshire at Porthill Next Week.

STAFFORDSHIRE, who enjoy the distinction at the moment of having 100 per cent. of points from the present series of fixtures, will play their first match of the season in the North of the county on Monday and Tuesday next, when Cheshire will be entertained at Porthill. The meetings between these two sides for many seasons have aroused more than an ordinary degree of interest, not only because the elevens, as a rule, are fairly evenly balanced, but because of the keen rivalry which is always evident in encounters between neighbours. This will be marked even more on this occasion in view of Staffordshire's narrow victory, under extraordinary conditions, over the Cestrians at Wallasey this week. That match will stand out prominently in the history of both clubs and will be talked about in the pavilions and dressing rooms of the two counties for many a year to come. The wicket was a veritable nightmare to the batsmen, and the bowlers took full toll, with the result that the four innings realised only 281 runs. Coarse grass and a curious spongy surface helped the bowlers and demoralised the batsmen, and a prolonged stay at the crease was a test of endurance rather than a triumph of batsmanship.

Both Barnes, on the Staffordshire side, and Wilson, of Cheshire, were unplayable in the circumstances, and both achieved remarkable averages. Indeed, the former, with seven wickets for 18 runs in the second innings, and a total for the match of 11 for 37, was declared by some of the enthusiasts around the enclosure to be England's greatest bowler still and worthy a place in the Test team. There is little doubt that, if the Australians could be induced to play on a similar wicket, he would be capable of establishing another Test match record, for his bowling, adapted to the conditions, was brilliant. Wilson also did extraordinarily well, and at one point had five of the Staffordshire second innings wickets for two runs, finishing the innings with nine for 25, and the match with 12 for 58. Aaron Lockett was the next most successful bowler, with five in the first innings for 33 and three in the second for 34. But it was a bowlers' match, and the little extra pull that Staffordshire had in this direction gave them victory by the narrow margin of eleven runs.

One bowler did not have a happy experience and that was George Platt, the former Surrey man, who is now assisting West Bromwich in the Birmingham League. Called on to relieve Lockett at a critical stage in the game, he was unable to gain a firm foothold, Lockett's toe having caused a considerable hole in the turf at the exact point of delivery. Thus handicapped, this bowler of an almost invariable length had the unusual experience of yielding as many runs in one over as he did in ten in the last county match. Percy Lockett, the Erdington player, who was making his first appearance with the county, had an opportunity of proving his ability with the ball, as few or no bowling changes were needed. He may have a chance in next week's match at Porthill, for which he has again been selected. He is also a useful bat and knocked up 900 runs for his club last season, but there again, the pitch at Wallasey gave him no chance of showing his skill. The other county debutant, F. D. Perks, of West Bromwich, stayed long enough in the first innings to demonstrate that he is of county quality.

Another outstanding feature of this extraordinary match, which has already been referred to but which was of a sufficiently remarkable character to justify further reference, was the exceptionally smart stumping of A. E. Bratby, of Bignall End, and a former Staffordshire "keeper," who was fulfilling that office on this occasion for Cheshire, within whose borders he now lives. It occurred during Staffordshire's first innings, when he put down three wickets off three successive deliveries from Hopwood, the young left-arm bowler, who has appeared several times in the Lancashire first team. The only record of a similar feat—three men being stumped off successive balls—in first-class cricket, is that of W. H. Brain playing for Gloucestershire against Cheltenham, in 1893, the bowler then being C. L. Townsend.

These remarkable phases of the match at Wallasey lend a special interest to the return encounter which is to take place at Porthill next week. The home county will make three changes from the side that took part in this week's match, C. Howl (Wolverhampton), H. W. Homer (Old Hill) and F. D. Perks (West Bromwich) making way for J. W. Johnson (Longton), G. H. Thorneycroft (Wolverhampton), and L. McEllin (Bignall End). No Staffordshire county side appears to be complete without Jack Johnson, and from the spectators' point of view no batsman is more popular. He is a forcing bat of rare ability, whom it is a delight to watch. Thorneycroft and McEllin also give strength on the batting side. The former, it will be remembered, ran up a century against Lincolnshire at Wolverhampton a fortnight ago, while McEllin was the only one of the Staffordshire batsmen to shape confidently against the Lancashire bowling at Haslingdon in the first match of the season. When rain prevented a continuance of play, he had the highest score of the side—42—and his wicket was still intact. There will also be changes in the Cheshire team, which, with L. N. Jones and W. E. Jones included, impresses as being considerably stronger than the eleven beaten at Wallasey. A. E. Bratby will again keep wicket for them, and another North Staffordshire League player, E. H. Steventon, of Nantwich, will be in the team.

It will be recalled that Steventon had no small share in the unexpected overthrow of Staffordshire at Porthill two seasons ago, when he took four of their second innings wickets for 10 runs. The greatest damage in that match, however, was caused in the first innings by Wilson and Dennis, both of whom will be playing next Monday and Tuesday. Wilson was absolutely deadly, capturing six wickets at an average of one run a wicket, while Dennis had four to his credit for 17 runs. In last year's match at Porthill, Staffordshire took their revenge, winning by two wickets. Barnes was unable to play on that occasion and first place in the bowling honours was claimed by Aaron Lockett who took nine first innings wickets for 38 runs, while Platt came through in the second innings with six for 49.

The following teams have been selected for next week's match:—

Staffordshire.—J. B. Russell (captain), J. W. Johnson, G. H. Thorneycroft, H. Goodwin, D. P. Lutter, P. Lockett, L. McEllin, Barnes (S. F.), Sedgwick (H.), Lockett (A.), and Platt (G.).

Cheshire.—W. E. Jones (captain), L. N. Jones, J. M. Beeley, E. M. Frosch, A. W. Midgley, E. H. Steventon, A. E. Bratby, D. Marsden, Wilson, Hopwood and Dennis.

The wickets will be pitched at 11 30 a.m. on the first day and 11 a.m. on the second.

MID-WEEK CRICKET.

NANTWICH C.C. v. CREWE STATION AND GOODS C.C.

Played at Nantwich on Wednesday.

Nantwich.—B. Dutton c Smith b Croft 40, W Walker run out 8, Simpson c Jones b Lloyd 9, Swindale lbw b Tatton 29, Farrington st Dobson b Croft 1, H Green c Dudley b Lloyd 6, Kelly lbw b Lloyd 7, J Dutton c Croft b Lloyd 10; Bootle not out 12, Brookes c Croft b Lloyd 0, Manning b Croft 1, extras 6; total, 129.

Crewe Station.—Smith c sub b Walker 47, Jones c Farrington b Simpson 13, Trickett c sub b Kelly 10, Dudley c Kelly b Simpson 8; Dobson c Simpson b Walker 0, Tatton c Simpson b Kelly 5, Croft c Walker b Simpson 22, Lloyd not out 6, Porter c sub b Simpson 5, Rowe b Walker 0, Morbey b Walker 3, extras 3; total, 122.

Denstone College v. Derbyshire Friars.

Played at Denstone on July 8th.

Denstone.—J Preece c Richardson b Corbett 28, C W Timmis lbw b Oldnall 15, R W Eyre b Oldnall 0, H N Place c Aikenhead b Oldnall 2, A H Lloyd b Corbett 2, T N Hart b Aikenhead 23, P F Bluett c Walthall b Allen 11, N K Stott run out 6, J T Marshall not out 2, B L Leeson c Walthall b Oldnall 7, T B Carey c Richardson b Oldnall 0, extras 7; total 103. Oldnall took five for 23.

Friars.—A Richardson c Preece b Timmis 1, Capt Aikenhead b Preece 6, G J Corbett c Place b Timmis 71, J F Richardson lbw b Timmis 0, B O Corbett b Timmis 0, C R Moon c Timmis b Lloyd 25, H K Oldnall lbw b Timmis 10, B G Allen b Bluett 10, E C Walthall c Eyre b Timmis 11, K G Puckhard not out 4, H R N Ellison c Marshall b Bluett 4, extras 4; total 153. Timmis took six for 72.

Harpfield S.S. v. Silverdale Kent's-lane.

Played at Basford Park on Thursday.

Silverdale.—J Barnett not out 51, W Leach c Morrall b Sheridon 4, A Boote run out 2, J Boote c and b Sheridon 6, F Burgess c Morrall b Sheridon 7, S Fellds c Nixon b Johnson 6, H Boote st Morrall b Sheridon 9, T Myatt not out 25, extras 3; total (for six wickets, 113), innings declared.

Harpfield.—W Johnson run out 0, J Baddeley c Fellds b A Boote 2, C Nixon c Myatt b Leach 6, C Ridgway b A Boote 24, F Heath c Barnett b A Boote 0, G Morrall b F Saunders 0, W Heath b J Barnett 0, B Morley c Leach b A Boote 0, W Nixon c J Boote b A Boote 12, J Inglis b A Boote 0, Sheridon not out 3, extras 2; total 59.

Staffordshire Sentinel : Monday 12 July 1926

STAFFORDSHIRE AT PORTHILL.

Cheshire, by Confident Batting, Total 184.

Unfortunate Mishap to Aaron Lockett.

Staffordshire, to-day and to-morrow, are meeting Cheshire in the return Minor Counties' fixture at Porthill, and going in first to-day, Cheshire batted confidently, after a somewhat weak start, when the first wicket fell for four runs.

Hopwood first brought improvement by scoring 39, and W. E. Jones with 29, and L. N. Jones with 60, gave the Cheshire innings a different complexion, the last man not being dismissed until the score had been taken to 184.

Staffordshire met with misfortune early on, for soon after he had commenced bowling, Aaron Lockett, who has been so successful with the ball for the county this season, strained a muscle in his left leg, and had to retire. It is improbable that he will be able to take any further part in the match.

Staffordshire commenced their innings shortly after four o'clock this afternoon, and made a poor start, four wickets being down before 30 was on the board.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W E Jones b Platt	29
A W Midgley b Sedgwick	2
Hopwood lbw b Barnes	39
Wilson lbw b Barnes	0
L N Jones c Goodwin b Platt	60
J M Beeley b Platt	14
R M Dutton b Barnes	17
E M Frosch c Russell b Platt	0
A E Bratby not out	7
E H Steventon b Sedgwick	3
A Haigh c Goodwin b Platt	3
Extras	10
Total	184

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

G H Thorneycroft b Haigh	0
H Goodwin b Haigh	8
J Ankers not out	4
J W Johnson c Midgley b Haigh	0
D P Lutter b Wilson	1
Barnes (S. F.) not out	4
Extras	12
Total (for 4 wkts)	29

BOWLING ANALYSIS.
Cheshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	9	62	3
Sedgwick	14	3	31	2
Lockett	4.4	0	22	0
Platt	21.1	7	59	5

PORTHILL, Monday.

Staffordshire started on their first match of the season in the north of the county this morning, with Cheshire, whom they defeated at Wallasey last week, as opponents. The fact that the home county had met with outstanding success in the present series, and stand at present at 100 per cent., gave an added attractiveness to the fixture, and there was an attendance of about 2,000 spectators when play was started at 11 37.

Cheshire, who were captained this time by W. E. Jones, in the absence, through illness, of Vernon Hope, won the toss, and decided to have first knock on a wicket that promised to become more difficult as the day went on. They did not start convincingly losing their first wicket, when only four runs were scored.

A. W. Midgley was the batsman to be so early and cheaply dismissed, Sedgwick finding his stumps with the third ball of his second over.

Barnes, who opened the bowling from the other end, was treated with the respect that his remarkable performance at Wallasey entitled him to. He was again bowling a perfect length and causing the ball to turn, and not a single run was recorded off his first five overs, while the last ball of the fifth he caused W. E. Jones to put up to third slip, to be missed by P. Lockett.

PLATT INJURED.

Hopwood, the younk Wallasey professional, who followed Midgley, livener matteres considerably, bringing runs at a smart pace, mostly with clean strokes on the leg side. One of these came round sharply and hit Platt, who was fielding at short leg, on the head, the ball bouncing thence for the boundary line. Platt, as a consequence, had to retire but he returned after half-an-hour's absence and took up his former position in the field. In the meantime Hopwood continued to be the dominating batsman, although he gave a hard chance to short leg, where G. H. Thorneycroft was temporarily placed, when his own score stood at 20. He survived and went on to contribute 39 out of 46 for the second wicket partnership in 45 minutes, at which stage he came out lbw to Barnes, who was now bowling from the pavilion end in place of Sedgwick, while Aaron Lockett had taken over from the Marsh end.

Wilson, who is also a quick scorer, followed but he failed to open his account when he was also lbw to Barnes, the third wicket falling at 52. L. N. Jones now joined his brother, and at this point another bowling change had to be made as Aaron Lockett, having sent down the third ball of his fifth over, was unable to continue owing either to cramp or a strained muscle.

He retired to the pavilion, while Platt took over in his place. While the visiting captain was displaying more enterprise, his brother started very quietly, and was ten minutes at the crease before he opened his score with a capital stroke through the covers for four. He followed this in his next over by lifting Barnes to the square leg rails for another four, but he put up the last ball of the over just short of the bowler.

At 79 Sedgwick again came on, relieving Barnes, who had had 29 runs knocked off fifteen overs for two wickets. L. N. Jones was at first far from comfortable in facing the Leek man, who twice beat him with balls that scarcely missed the off stump.

CAREFUL BATTING.

But snatching an occasional run during a period of slow scoring, this batsman gradually approached his brother's total, and drew level with him in the early 20's while a fine late cut for four off Sedgwick sent him ahead. W. E. Jones, however, regained equality and it was a drive from him to the mid-off boundary that brought the first century, when the innings had been in progress an hour and fifty minutes.

The brothers, by lunch time, had carried the total to 109 without further loss.

It was learned during the lunch interval that Aaron Lockett had torn a muscle in his left leg, and it was unlikely that he would be able to take any further part in the match. In his second over after resuming Platt clean bowled W. E. Jones, breaking a partnership that had put on 66 runs in 60 minutes. But the bulk of the advance had been made by L. N. Jones. His brother had been at the wickets just over two hours for his individual contribution of 29, while shortly after his departure "L. N." completed his half-century.

When he was joined by J. M. Beeley both batsmen hit out briskly although the newcomer was rather lucky with two strokes through the slips. However, they sent the score on by another 29 before L. N. Jones hit Platt up to deep mid-off and was safely taken by H. Goodwin. The out-going man, who had batted brightly throughout his stay, had put 60 together in exactly 70 minutes and he received a great ovation on his return to the pavilion.

SUBSTITUTE'S CONFIDENCE.

R. M. Dutton, a young player who had not previously been selected for his county, and who was called on as a substitute at the eleventh hour, went in to face the bowling with the utmost confidence, and after hitting a four and a two he lifted a delivedy from Barnes over the rails for six.

Platt was not only bowling a good length, but he was getting something out of the wicket, on which the sun was now shining hotly. He first got through Beeley's defence to cause the fall of the sixth wicket at 167, and then with his next ball got the newcomer, E. M. Frosch to be caught at the wicket by J. B. Russell.

Barnes next came along with a delivery that puzzled Dutton and sent him back with 171 on the board for eight wickets. This brought the two North Staffordshire League players, A. E. Bratby (Bignall End) and E. H. Steventon (Nantwich) together for Cheshire's ninth wicket partnership. At this stage W. H. Fitchford, of the Porthill club, came out to relieve A. W. Midgley, who had acted as A. Lockett's substitute in the field.

Bratby, with a late cut for four and a stroke to leg for two, helped to bring the total to 179, at which point Sedgwick again relieved Barnes and in his second over sent back E. H. Steventon, the ninth wicket falling for 181, and the innings closed soon afterwards for 184.

Platt claimed the last wicket causing H. Haigh, another Cheshire recruit, to hit up a ball to be taken behind the bowler's crease by Goodwin, who made a dash for it with Sedgwick, the two coming into collision. Although bowled over Goodwin held on tight to the ball. The innings had lasted three hours and twenty minutes.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Tuesday 13 July 1926

FIRST DEFEAT FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Cheshire Win at Porthill by 113 Runs.

Wonderful Bowling by E. H. Steventon.

Staffordshire sustained their first defeat of the season to-day in their Minor Counties' fixture with Cheshire, at Porthill, the visiting county winning by 113 runs.

By dismissing Cheshire this morning for 149, Staffordshire were set 192 to get to win, but remarkable bowling by E. H. Steventon, the Nantwich player—he took six wickets for six runs—was mainly responsible for Staffordshire being dismissed for the low total of 78.

PORTHILL, Tuesday.

That Staffordshire were in a moderately good position in their match with Cheshire at Porthill when play was resumed this morning, was due to a fine stand yesterday evenng by Herbert Sedgwick. Going in when the fifth wicket had fallen for only 29 runs, he tackled the bowling confidently driving finely and turning the ball to leg for a succession of beautiful strokes, and his wicket was still intact when the winnings closed with Staffordshire 42 runs behind. This was a much stronger position than could have been hoped for at the point where half the batsmen were disposed of for a negligible score. Sedgwick compiled his total of 55 in 90 minutes, his scoring stroke including no few than nine boundary hits.

It was when he and Barnes came together that matters began to improve. G. H. Thorneycroft and H. Goodwin had fallen victims to Haigh's fast bowling, J. Ankers had been beaten by Wilson, and J. W. Johnson, starting in business-like fashion to trounce Haig, was brilliantly taken by Midgley at mid-on, off a stroke that would otherwise have found the ropes. D. P. Lutter joined the procession.

It was when E. H. Steventon, the Nantwich player, was brought on to bowl a second time, that he broke the redeeming partnership, Barnes being sent back l.b.w. off his second ball. P. Lockett, of Erdington, played forward well but was "yorked" out by L. N. Jones, and the same bowler followed this with a good delivery that beat Aaron Lockett, who was making a plucky effort—with the help of a runner—to contribute his share, despite his injured leg.

The last wicket stand with Sedgwick and Platt together helped matters greatly by putting on 33 runs.

When the Staffordshire innings concluded, after two and a quarter hours batting, there was time for just one over to be bowled before stumps were drawn. Barnes was put on, and bowling to A. W. Midgley, captured his wicket with the fifth ball of the over, without a run being scored.

And that was how the match stood this morning, Cheshire being 42 runs ahead with nine second innings to fall.

TO-DAY'S PLAY.

Hopwood went in with W. E. Jones this morning and again started scoring briskly, getting ten runs in as many minutes, while his partner hit a four and a two. But at this point Hopwood was taken behind the wicket off Platt, who shared the bowling with Barnes.

Wilson, another quick scorer, followed, and had 20 runs to his credit in less than a quarter of an hour, and when 50 was reached, after forty minutes' batting, exactly half the scoring strokes had been boundary hits.

At this total, W. E. Jones, who had then collected 19, ought to have been run out, Wilson calling him and then holding back, but Thorneycroft sent his return to the wicket-keeper instead of the bowler's end and the Cheshire captain had a remarkably lucky escape.

But the third wicket partnership, which had put on 42 runs in 25 minutes, was broken immediately after as, Wilson, surviving two appeals, going out lbw to Platt.

With the brothers Jones together, and 80 on the board, Sedgwick took over from Barnes. There was a spell of slow scoring until L. N. Jones got Platt to the fine leg boundary, and in the same over went for a loose delivery and lifted it to the square-leg rails.

With 80 up Platt was relieved by P. Lockett. The brothers kept together to push the score ahead by 33 runs in thirty minutes, "L.N.'s" share of the advance being 26. It was the latter who was then sent back, clean bowled by Sedgwick.

SEDGWICK'S SUCCESS.

J. M. Beeley caused the century to be hoisted after an hour and a half's batting, with a stroke past cover for four off Sedgwick, but the next ball from the same bowler knocked his off stump out of the ground.

In the same over Sedgwick got R. M. Dutton caught behind the wicket, and the sixth wicket was down for 103 runs. With seven added Barnes took over from P. Lockett, who had bowled three overs, yielding eight runs.

Sedgwick was in great form, and in his next over bowled W. E. Jones all over his wicket with a perfect length ball that came in from the off. The outgoing batsman had been at the crease an hour and forty minutes for a very carefully collected 30, which included four boundary strokes. Sedgwick at this point had four wickets for 21 runs and he soon had E. H. Steventon in difficulties, beating him with a ball that narrowly missed the off stump.

The eighth wicket fell to Barnes, who got through Frosch's defence. A. E. Bratby's "safety methods" caused amusement among the spectators, but he was impervious to their derisive applause and comment.

BARNES' TRAP.

At 126 Platt went on in place of Barnes, who took over at the other end from Sedgwick. Bratby continued to adhere to his "safety first" tactics, but Barnes set a trap for him and had him carefully taken at point. He had then been at the wickets twenty minutes for two runs. E. H. Steventon, who was joined by A. Haigh for the last stand, was contributing a useful innings with free strokes all round the wicket, but having taken the score to 149 he lost his partner to a good catch by Thorneycroft at cover.

The Cheshire innings had lasted two hours and twenty-five minutes, and at its conclusion Staffordshire were left to get 192 runs to win.

Stafford started on their second innings after lunch, H. Goodwin and J. Ankers opening steadily against the bowling of Haigh and Wilson. The first four came from Ankers, who turned Wilson to the leg boundary, and he went on getting runs at a good pace, 20 going up in 15 minutes.

But six runs later he was beaten by Wilson, and Goodwin was joined by G. H. Thorneycroft. The last-named was able to get only a single before he, too, was sent back by Wilson to make way for Barnes, the second wicket being down at 32.

STAFFORDSHIRE COLLAPSE.

Pulling a ball from Haigh to leg for four, the new-comer helped to send 40 up in thirty minutes, at which stage E. H. Steventon took over from Haigh and very soon caused trouble to the home batsmen. In the first place, Goodwin was dismissed six runs later by a fine catch taken on the run in the deep field by Beeley off Wilson, and then Steventon took three wickets in his second over without further addition. With deliveries that appeared to come across from the leg he first levelled Barnes' off-stump, and served out similar treatment to Sedgwick and D. P. Lutter. Aaron Lockett, limping less than yesterday, went out to bat without a runner and saw the first 50 raised, when the innings had been in progress exactly an hour.

Afterwards G. H. Thorneycroft went out to run for Lockett who opened his own account with a drive that rebounded from the screen. J. W. Johnson found the leg boundary off Steventon and drove Wilson high over the rails for six. But when at 69 L. N. Jones came on in place of Wilson, the Longton player was brilliantly taken, off a beautiful stroke through the slips, by Wilson. P. Lockett was unable to improve matters for he was out l.b.w. to Steventon, and eight wickets were down, with Staffordshire still 121 runs behind. Only eight more were knocked off the arrears when Platt was sent back and J. B. Russell, the last man, returned his first ball to the bowler, the innings closing after an hour and a half.

Cheshire victory by 113 runs was due, in very large measure, to the fine bowling of Steventon who accounted for six of the home county's second innings wickets for the remarkable average of a run per wicket.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W E Jones b Platt	29
A W Midgley b Sedgwick	2
Hopwood lbw b Barnes	39
Wilson lbw b Barnes	0
L N Jones c Goodwin b Platt	60
J M Beeley b Platt	14
R M Dutton b Barnes	17
E M Frosch c Russell b Platt	0
A E Bratby not out	7
E H Steventon b Sedgwick	3
A Haigh c Goodwin b Platt	3
Extras	10
Total	184

CHESHIRE.—Second Innings.

W E Jones b Sedgwick	35
A W Midgley b Barnes	0
Hopwood c Russell b Platt	10
Wilson lbw b Platt	25
L N Jones b Sedgwick	28
J M Beeley b Sedgwick	4
R M Dutton c Russell b Sedgwick	0
E M Frosch b Barnes	9
E H Steventon not out	22
A E Bratby c Lutter b Barnes	2
A Haigh c Thorneycroft b Barnes	4
Extras	12
Total	149

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

G H Thorneycroft b Haigh	0
H Goodwin b Haigh	8
J Ankers b Wilson	4
J W Johnson c Midgley b Haigh	0
D P Lutter b Wilson	1
Barnes (S. F.) lbw b Steventon	18
Sedgwick not out	55
P Lockett b L N Jones	3
Lockett (A) b L N Jones	0
J B Russell lbw b Steventon	1
Platt c W E Jones b Wilson	13
Extras	39
Total	142

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

H Goodwin c Beeley b Wilson	19
J Ankers b Wilson	11
G H Thorneycroft b Wilson	1
Barnes (S F) b Steventon	9
Sedgwick (H) b Steventon	0
D P Lutter b Steventon	0
J W Johnson c Wilson b L N Jones	14
Lockett (A) not out	11
P Lockett lbw b Steventon	0
Platt b Steventon	1
J B Russell c and b Steventon	0
Extras	12
Total	78

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Cheshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	9	62	5
Sedgwick	14	3	31	2
Lockett	4.4	0	22	0
Platt	21.1	7	59	5

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

Barnes	16	2	46	4
Platt	15	3	55	2
Sedgwick	13	3	28	4
P Lockett	3	1	8	0

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

Wilson	19.4	8	32	5
Haigh	10	2	21	3
L. N. Jones	10	2	25	2
Hopwood	5	1	13	0
Steventon	6	2	12	2

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

Wilson	12	2	34	2
Haigh	6	1	18	0
Steventon	7.4	5	6	6
L N Jones	2	1	8	1

GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE v. GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

Played at Market Drayton on Monday and to-day (Tuesday). Scores:—

SHROPSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

R Barber Starkey c Morgan b Woolf	0
Rev A A P Wilmer c Varcoe b Platts	40
M Sutthery c Morgan b Platts	67
H P Gordon c J Scott b Platts	9
Major A C D Lees c J S Scott b J Scott	17
P H Puckle lbw b Woolf	11
T P Gordon c Hollins b Varcoe	28
Capt R B Upton b Varcoe	57
H R Davies not out	17
T Morrey b Platts	19
J B Borough b Platts	0
H P Sykes lbw b Woolf	1
Extras	29
Total	295

GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

J S Scott c Puckle b Lees	19
R Cave Rogers c H P Gordon b Sykes	0
R Ridgway c Wilmer b Sykes	15
F F Stubbs c and b Puckle	24
J Wood c Wilmer b Lees	5
J Scott c Morrey b Puckle	0
G Cadman c Wilmer b Lees	15
G E Varcoe b Lees	0
A Platts c Barber Starkey b H Gordon	2
P Woolf b H Gordon	6
C Hollins not out	6
W Morgan b Sykes	1
Extras	13
Total	106

GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Inns.

C Hollins st Borough b Lees	4
F F Stubbs c Borough b Puckle	24
G E Varcoe b Puckle	2
J S Scott st Borough b Wilmer	10
P Woolf b Wilmer	5
A Platts not out	3
T Scott c and b Wilmer	5
G Cadman st Borough b Wilmer	9
J Wood not out	3
Extras	9
Total (for 7 wkts)	74

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Return Match with Cheshire

Good Gate at Porthill

By THE CRITIC

The capacity of the Porthill ground was taxed on Monday, when the return match with Cheshire was commenced in the full blaze of summer heat. The amount taken at the gates (£95) was the best at this ground since 1921. Staffordshire made three changes from the side so narrowly victorious at Wallasey—viz., G. H. Thorneycroft, J. W. Johnson, and J. Ankers, vice C. Howl, H. W. Homer, and F. D. Perks. Cheshire had five changes. The brothers Jones re-appeared, W. E. acting as captain in the continued absence of Vernon Hope. J. M. Beeley made his first appearance of the season, and a new fast bowler took the place of Dennis in the person of H. Haigh, said to hail from the Manchester district.

Winning the toss, Cheshire batted on a fairly fast wicket, but one which looked as if the ball might be made to turn, if not very much. Barnes and Sedgwick bowled, and the latter had Midgley beaten in trying to turn the ball to leg with only 4 scored. Hopwood at once scored freely from the fast bowler, but the skipper was in dire straits with Barnes, who opened in his best style. He turned them both ways at a rare pace, and made the new ball swing into the bargain. His first five overs were maidens, and both batsmen were fortunate not to be bowled as well as beaten. The last ball of the fifth over was edged by Jones to P. Lockett at second slip, and the catch should have been made without difficulty, but the fielder, getting two hands to it, dropped it. And Jones stayed to maintain a dogged defence for two hours! To have so skilful a defender as W. E. Jones literally stuck up for five overs and then see him palpably missed when one does go to hand is a trying experience for a bowler operating on a good wicket. Hopwood played really well, and scored 39 out of 46 before Barnes, having changed ends, trapped him leg-before. Wilson was out in the same way in the next over, three wickets being down for 52, only a dozen of which had come from Barnes's eleven overs. Lockett had been bowling at Barnes's original end, but in his fifth over he suffered serious strain to the muscle in the calf of the leg and had to retire, leaving the over unfinished. This was serious for Staffordshire and very unfortunate for the player, who late in the day pluckily went in to bat with a runner, but was obviously unfit, and was soon bowled.

Platt took Lockett's place, and bowled well. L. N. Jones, before he had scored, snicked one from the old Surrey man, which Russell stopped with his gloves but failed to get hold of. Thus both the Jones's were let off at the very start of their innings. But one hesitates to criticize a wicket-keeper, standing close up, without knowing how much the course of the ball was altered by contact with the bat, for if it is very appreciably turned the keeper has little chance. In this case the batsman palpably played the ball, which appeared to strike the captain's right-hand glove and re-bound in front of the wicket. Lucky for the batsman, and very unfortunate for the bowler and the side, for L. N. Jones became aggressive, and, enjoying further luck with strokes which did not go to hand, hit eleven 4's in scoring 60 in 70 minutes out of 95. W. E. Jones was bowled by a nice break-back at 118, and his brother skied one to mid-off at 147. Beeley gave a streaky display, twice edging Barnes just out of the reach of the fielders in the slips for 4, and being almost bowled a number of times. Dutton also had some luck. He hit one clean 6 to square-leg from Barnes. Platt and Sedgwick finished off the innings, and the former came out with creditable figures. Barnes's record was absolutely spoilt by sheer bad luck.

Staffordshire made an ignoble start against Wilson and Haigh, and actually lost five wickets for 29. The fast bowler started off with four overs for 4 runs and three wickets, and Wilson sent down seven overs for 7 runs and two wickets, 4 of the runs being for an overthrow. In addition to this present of 4 runs, 12 of the first 29 were extras. Bratby had a bad time with the bowling, and in all allowed 30 byes, besides failing to secure one or two apparent chances. First of all, Goodwin, playing forward, had his leg stump shot out of the ground, and Thorneycroft was also beaten at 21. Johnson has experienced a remarkable run of ill-fortune, and he was out again from the first ball he received to a dazzling catch. Standing back to a rather short ball, he drove it with tremendous power, and the stroke thoroughly deserved a 4, but Midgley, a brilliant fielder, standing rather deep at mid-on, leapt in the air to make a surprising one-handed catch. Lutter tried to drive Wilson with disastrous results, and Ankers, who was shaping well, was bowled by a "trimmer" that swung in from the off, and might well have bowled anybody.

Then Barnes and Sedgwick set about the task of retrieving the situation, and by sound and watchful batting took the score to 85, when Barnes was surprised by an l.b.w. decision from a ball which he turned to play to leg. Sedgwick went on scoring, though no one could stay with him until nine wickets had gone for 109. Then Platt stayed to enable the fast bowler to reach his 50 in an hour and a-half, after being badly missed at point by W. E. Jones off Steventon with his score at 40. As he also gave a one-handed chance in the slips to L. N. Jones off Wilson when 19, he enjoyed some luck, but he deserved great credit for his resistance to bowlers who were inspired by success at a critical stage of the game. His innings enabled Staffordshire to get within 42 of their opponents' score, and as, when Cheshire went in again close on 6-30 for one over, Barnes bowled Midgley without a run scored, Staffordshire had made a good recovery.

Cheshire's Revenge

The match was continued on Tuesday in brilliant weather, and there was again a good "gate" and interesting play. But another batting collapse on the part of Staffordshire left the visiting team handsome winners by 113 runs.

W. E. Jones maintained a stubborn defence for an hour and 40 minutes, and with Wilson and L. N. Jones scoring with some freedom 90 was on the board with only three men out in Cheshire's second innings. Sedgwick then had a deadly spell, and took four wickets in four overs. E. H. Steventon batted well, but Barnes finished off the innings quickly, and Staffordshire were left with 192 to get to win, and all the afternoon to do it in. There were some bare patches on the pitch, and there was a tendency for the ball sometimes to keep very low, but it rarely kicked, and the task did not appear to be hopeless. But sound and resourceful batting was required, and it was not forthcoming. Indeed, much of Staffordshire's batting was not of county class, and against good bowling and keen fielding the side failed badly.

Goodwin and Ankers scored 26 for the first wicket, before the latter was beaten in playing forward to Wilson, and Thorneycroft, who followed, again showed poor defence. Goodwin and Barnes improved matters a little, and the amateur seemed to be settling down after a shaky start. He made several fine strokes, but at 46 Wilson tempted him, and he was caught in front of the sight screen. Two runs previously Steventon had superceded the fast bowler, Haigh, who opened with Wilson, and in his second over he proceeded to clean bowl Barnes, Sedgwick, and Lutter. A fresh breeze had sprung up, and this helped Steventon to swing the ball from leg, whilst he turned it back with finger spin just enough to be awkward, and he had man after man completely beaten. Johnson tried hard to break his run of ill-luck, but it stuck to him, and after driving L. N. Jones, who bowled vice Wilson, for six, he was out to a wonderful catch at second slip from a hard, late cut. Aaron Lockett, somewhat better, batted with a runner, and hit a couple of lusty 4's, but Steventon had another spasm, and took three more wickets in six balls, finishing off the match in sensational fashion by taking six wickets for 6 runs. By their defeat, Staffordshire's percentage dropped from 100 to 75.

Cheshire—1st Innings

W. Jones b Platt	29
A. W. Midgley b Sedgwick	2
Hopwood lbw b Barnes	39
Wilson lbw b Barnes	0
L. Jones c Goodwin b Platt	60
J. M. Beeley b Platt	14
R. M. Dutton b Barnes	17
E. M. Frosch c Russell b Platt	0
A. E. Bratthy not out	7
E. H. Steventon b Sedgwick	3
A. Haigh c Goodwin b Platt	3
Extras	10
Total	184

2nd Innings

W. Jones b Sedgwick	35
A. W. Midgley b Barnes	0
Hopwood c Russell b Platt	10
Wilson lbw b Platt	25
L. Jones b Sedgwick	26
J. M. Beeley b Sedgwick	4
R. M. Dutton c Russell b Sedgwick	0
E. M. Frosch b Barnes	9
A. E. Bratthy c Lutter b Barnes	2
E. H. Steventon not out	22
A. Haigh c Thorneycroft b Barnes	4
Extras	12
Total	149

Staffordshire—1st Innings

G. E. Thorneycroft b Haigh	0
H. Goodwin b Haigh	8
J. Ankers b Wilson	4
J. W. Johnson c Midgley b Haigh	0
D. P. Lutter b Wilson	1
Barnes (S. F.) lbw b Steventon	18
Sedgwick not out	55
E. Lockett b L. Jones	3
Lockett (A.) b L. Jones	0
J. B. Russell lbw b Steventon	1
Platt c W. Jones b Wilson	13
Extras	39
Total	142

2nd Innings

G. E. Thorneycroft b Wilson	1
H. Goodwin c Beeley b Wilson	19
J. Ankers b Wilson	11
J. W. Johnson c Wilson b L. Jones	14
D. P. Lutter b Steventon	0
Barnes (S. F.) b Steventon	0
Sedgwick b Steventon	0
P. Lockett lbw b Steventon	0
Lockett (A.) not out	11
J. B. Russell c and b Steventon	0
Platt b Steventon	0
Extras	13
Total	78

Bowling Analysis

Cheshire—1st Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	9	62	3
Sedgwick	14	3	31	2
Platt	21.1	7	50	5

2nd Innings

Barnes	16	2	40	4
Sedgwick	13	3	28	4
Platt	15	3	55	2
P. Lockett	3	1	8	0

Staffordshire—1st Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	19.4	8	32	3
Haigh	10	2	21	3
L. Jones	10	2	25	2
Hopwood	5	1	13	0
Steventon	6	2	12	2

2nd Innings

Wilson	12	2	34	3
Haigh	6	1	18	0
L. Jones	2	1	8	1
Steventon	7.4	5	6	6

Staffordshire Beat Cheshire by Eleven Runs

There was a great finish to the Minor Counties' match at Wallasey on the 8th inst., where batsmen had an unenviable time on a bad wicket, and Wilson and Barnes achieved outstanding bowling feats. Overnight, Staffordshire, with five wickets down for 16, had a lead of 46. Aaron Lockett and Howl stayed half an hour. They came together with five wickets down for four, and added 29 by cautious batting. Lockett batted almost an hour and a-half, playing an invaluable innings at a critical stage. His was the only wicket not claimed by Wilson, who had most of the batsmen helpless. Cheshire required 88 to win, but Barnes bowled brilliantly, and though Wilson and Dennis made a gallant effort, a thrilling duel ended in a victory for Staffordshire by 11 runs. Barnes in the match had eleven wickets for 37.

Staffordshire.—1st Innings

H. W. Homer lbw b Hopwood	11
C. Howl st Brathy b Hopwood	29
Barnes b Wilson	8
F.D. Perks c Hopwood b Steventon	16
H. Goodwin b Dennis	2
Sedgwick b Wilson	7
D. P. Lutter st Brathy b Hopwood	0
P. Lockett st Brathy b Hopwood	0
A. Lockett c Wilson b Hopwood	0
Platt b Wilson	0
D. B. Russell not out	11
Extras	5
Total	89

2nd Innings

H. W. Homer lbw b Wilson	1
C. Howl c Hopwood b Wilson	7
Barnes b Wilson	0
F. D. Perks b Wilson	0
H. Goodwin not out	7
Sedgwick b Wilson	1
D. P. Lutter b Wilson	0
P. Lockett b Wilson	1
A. Lockett b Hopwood	22
Platt b Wilson	0
D. B. Russell b Wilson	9
Extras	9
Total	57

Cheshire.—1st Innings

D. Boumphrey lbw b Lockett	10
A. W. Midgley b Barnes	4
D. P. McEntyre b Lockett	6
Hopwood b Lockett	9
Wilson st Russell b Barnes	14
H. Eyre b Lockett	6
C. W. Tiplady b Lockett	0
W. W. Frosch lbw b Barnes	0
E. H. Steventon not out	1
A. E. Brathy b Barnes	2
Dennis absent	0
Extras	7
Total	59

2nd Innings

D. Boumphrey c Sedgwick b Lockett	4
A. W. Midgley c Platt b Barnes	9
D. P. McEntyre b Barnes	1
Hopwood c Perks b Barnes	2
Wilson c Sedgwick b Barnes	22
H. Eyre not out	5
C. W. Tiplady c Homer b Barnes	4
W. W. Frosch st Russell b Barnes	0
E. H. Steventon c Russell b Barnes	1
A. E. Brathy b Lockett	1
Dennis b Lockett	17
Extras	10
Total	76

North Staffordshire and District League

There were no surprise results in the North Staffordshire League matches on Saturday last, for Bignall End beat Knypersley, Porthill beat Silverdale, Leek beat Crewe Alexandra, Norton beat Great Chell, Burslem beat Madeley, and Longton had the better of a drawn game with Nantwich, this match being interfered with by rain more than any other. The outstanding individual performance was by N. W. White for Porthill. This brilliant young Lancastrian, who is now in his second year's residence in North Staffordshire, hit a gorgeous 145 not out in 2¼ hours out of 232 for two wickets, at which the innings was closed. Almost the only flaw in his great display of forcing cricket was a streaky shot, which was a possible, but difficult, one-handed chance in the slips in the 40's. The character of his cricket is indicated to some extent by the fact that he had 23 boundary strokes to his credit. A. A. Bickerton contributed a nice 46. White followed up his big innings by taking five Silverdale wickets for 27 runs. I have not seen him bowl, but understand he is fast, right-arm. He had accuracy with his pace on this occasion. "Jack" Cooper made a gallant effort to save the game, but his 61 did not suffice, for the rest of the batting was poor, and the side were out for 111.

The champions were at Knypersley, and after dismissing the home team for 99, put together 106 for four wickets. F. J. Dale was again the chief bowler, with six wickets for 49. Madeley, at home, were dismissed by Burslem for 106 (E. Cook 8 wickets for 38), and defeated by 7 wickets. E. Cotton contributed 52.

Leek, playing at home, declared at 146 for 8 against Crewe, and secured the last Crewe wicket at 116, of which number C. Coffin was responsible for 60 not out. Sedgwick had a good match, for he got a correct 50 not out, and took four wickets for 25. His young son showed promise, and helped materially with 19 not out. By-the-bye, I was in error in attributing four wickets to him last week. He only bowled three overs, without success, and it was his father who took the wickets, though hampered by a leg injury. The finish of the Crewe match was exciting, for it was with the fourth ball of the last over that Sedgwick bowled Crewe's last batsman and secured the points for Leek.

Another close and thrilling finish was seen at Norton, where Chell totalled 159 (A. Smith 58 not out), and seemed to be winning when the last Norton batsman went in. But F. Bailey (23 not out) and H. Higgins (12 not out) gradually got the required runs, and Norton triumphed by one wicket. J. Jolly hit with discrimination in making 59.

The delay occasioned by rain at Nantwich apparently cost Longton a much-needed point, for the home side had lost eight wickets for 87 against Longton's total of 145 when "time" saved them. A. Smith was seen at his best in putting together 61 for Longton, and he afterwards took three wickets for 9 runs, which suggests that he was not utilised as much as he should have been in the effort to get the home men out.

The Critic

DENSTONE COLLEGE v. TRENT COLLEGE

Played at Denstone on July 10 and won easily by Denstone.

Trent: P. H. Keigwin b Lloyd 41, J. L. Baker b Timmis 2, G. Sanders b Timmis 1, C. C. Barker c and b Lloyd 35, J. A. Atkinson run out 14, S. W. Sidford b Lloyd 0, H. R. Dorning c Lloyd b Stott 1, W. H. Walker b Stott 2, R. A. Ainslie run out 15, E. J. T. Pavitt not out 6, J. M. Quarmby b Lloyd 0, extras 19; total 136. Lloyd took four for 17.

Denstone: J. Preece c Barker b Quarmby 47, H. N. Place b Quarmby 59, R. W. Eyre c Atkinson b Quarmby 17, A. H. Lloyd c Sidford b Dorming 19, C. W. Timmis c Keigwin b Quarmby 7, T. N. Hart not out 2, P. F. Bluett, N. K. Stott, J. T. Marshall, B. L. Leeson, and T. B. Carey did not bat, extras 3; total (five wickets) 154.

LICHFIELD v. LICHFIELD GARRISON.—Lichfield had no difficulty in securing another victory at home on Saturday, when their visitors were the Garrison from Whittington Barracks, who for several reasons were unable to field their full side. Lichfield compiled 139, whereas the soldiers could only respond with 67. For Lichfield, G. Ellett took 5for 20 runs and A. Slater four for 23. Scores:

Lichfield: H. Fitzgeorge b Belcher 20, R. Cooke b Cole 16, W. Plant lbw b Richardson 38, F. L. Rudgard b Bowden 30, J. Brown c Johnson b Richardson 11, R. Moore c Sayner b Johnson 13, F. Oram run out 0, G. Knight b Richardson 1, G. Ellett b Richardson 4, A. Slater b Johnson 10, Lawrence not out 0, extras 16; total 159.

Garrison: Sayner b Slater 20, Gibson c Rudgard b Ellett 0, Bowden b Slater 0, Haywood b Ellett 1, Johnson b Slater 1, Richardson c Knight b Ellett 0, Cole b Ellett 10, Walker c Knight b Ellett 5, Belcher c Brown b Oram 15, Arnold b Slater 2, Bridgen not out 2, extras 11; total 67.

WOLVERHAMPTON R.O. v. LICHFIELD 2ND XI.—Lichfield 2nd XI. quite excelled themselves on Saturday, when they were entertained by Wolverhampton Royal Orphanage. G. Ryan gave a brilliant exhibition with the bat, retiring with 102 to his credit, including five 6's and 13 4's, a total of 201 being compiled for the loss of seven wickets, while the home side were all out for 77. Scores:—

Lichfield: R. E. Briault b Brown 1, S. Baxter c Geer b Bee 37, W. Plant c Moulton b Brown 1, E. R. Standley b Davies 14, G. Ryan retired 102, W. A. Wait b Davies 6, J. S. Brown c Nicholson b Davies 1, L. Perry b Davies 7, A. J. Smith not out 14, E. George not out 6, W. J. Herbert did not bat, extras 12; total 201.

Wolverhampton: Mr. Pitt b Ryan 41, H. B. Nicholson run out 4, W. Brown b Herbert 0, Mr. Winstone b Smith 11, Dr. Lilley b Smith 0, R. Bee b Ryan 4, R. E. Davies b Ryan 0, Mr. Geer c Standley b Wait 0, C. Moulton c Perry b Wait 4, N. Sneta b George 0, R. Evans not out 6, extras 7; total 77.

STAFFORD v. OAKAMOOR.

Played at Oakamoor on Saturday. Scores:—

STAFFORD.—G. H. Greatorex c James b Johnson 11, W. T. White c James b F. Walker 20, R. H. Warwick c S. Walker b F. Walker 4, J. R. Bithell c J. Walker b Collier 13, A. J. Ward c Pattison b Johnson 28, T. A. Hill c F. Walker b Finney 1, E. C. Kenworthy c F. Walker b Johnson 19, C. A. Woodger c F. Walker b Johnson 10, F. Burnham not out 9, S. H. Critchley b Johnson 5 (D. H. Craig did not bat), extras 25; total (for nine wickets, declared) 145.

OAKAMOOR.—F. Walker c Kenworthy b Critchley 5, J. R. Goodwin c Greatorex b Critchley 5, S. Walker c Hill b Critchley 13, J. W. Johnson b Warwick 15, W. Collier b Warwick 13, G. Swinson c Ward b Critchley 5, W. F. James c Bithell b Warwick 2, J. Finney not out 11, J. Walker not out 4 (A. Pattinson and J. Yates did not bat), extras 12; total (for seven wickets) 85.

Staffordshire Sentinel : Thursday 22 July 1926

NOTTS. HEAVILY IN ARREARS.

Staffordshire Declare at 221 for 8 Wickets.

Fine Batting by J. W. Johnson.

Very little play was possible at Kirkby-in-Ashfield, where Staffordshire opened their match with Notts. II. yesterday, and at the close of play Notts. had scored 64 runs for the loss of one wicket.

To-day remarkably good bowling by Lee and Barnes caused the Notts. innings to close for the moderate total of 119, and Staffordshire passed that score for the loss of less than half their batsmen. J. W. Johnson scored 76, H. Goodwin 48, and Lee 40 for Staffordshire, the eighth wicket falling with the score well past 200.

NOTTS. II.—First Innings.

C A Turner c Platt b Lee	31
Keeton lbw b Barnes	23
J F Bishop b Barnes	21
G F Hean c Platt b Barnes	2
Gunn (G V) c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
J B Hall c Sedgwick b Barnes	5
Wheat lbw b Lee	11
Harris b Lee	4
Copley c Whalen b Lee	2
Hodgkinson c Johnson b Lee	10
Voce not out	0
Extras	8
Total	119

NOTTS. II.—Second Innings.

C A Turner not out	7
Keeton not out	10
Extra	1
Total l(for 0 wkts)	18

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl lbw b Hean	21
P F Stubbs c Wheat b Voce	0
H Goodwin b Hean	48
Barnes b Voce	4
J W Johnson c and b Harris	76
W Lee c Copley b Harris	40
Sedgwick b Harris	7
F Jackson b Harris	5
J Whalen not out	6
Platt not out	8
Extras	6
Total (for 8 wkts)	221

Innings declared closed.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Notts. II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	22	4	44	5
Sedgwick	5	1	10	0
J Whalen	8	0	29	0
Lee	11.3	1	28	5

KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD, Thursday.

A splendid wicket had been prepared on the Bentinck Colliery Ground, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, but cold, wet weather prevented a start being made yesterday (Wednesday) until 5 25. Notts won the toss, and elected to bat. C. H. Turner took the first over from Barnes, one run being scored.

Sedgwick bowled a maiden over, and Turner took a four from Barnes, six coming from this over. Good fielding by Staffordshire at short leg saved several runs in Sedgwick's next over. Cricket was rather quiet for a period, Sedgwick bowling at a good pace, and Barnes mixing his deliveries well.

With 17 on the board, Whalen took the place of Barnes and Keeton scored a four off the first ball. Barnes resumed in place of Sedgwick from the pavilion end. The first half-hour's play produced 25 runs and Keeton then had a beautiful boundary stroke to leg off Whalen.

Runs came steadily, and of the first twelve overs only one was a maiden, although Barnes bowled six overs for 14 runs. With the score at 36 Keeton was lbw to Barnes, having scored 23 in 40 minutes. His innings included two 4s. Captain J. F. Bishop followed in, and Turner greeted him with a lovely glance to leg for four off Barnes. Bishop opened his account with a shick through the slips for two. Howl, fielding at point, did good work, stopping a hard cut from Turner on one occasion, and just failing to reach a ball at "silly point" from Bishop on another. The next incident was a leg hit for four by Bishop off Whalen, and 50 went up as the result of an hour's play.

Sedgwick went on again vice Barnes with the score at 54 and was "no-balled" in the first over, Bishop also driving him past cover for four.

Stumps were drawn at 6 30, with the score at 64 for one wicket.

TO-DAY'S PLAY.

The match was resumed punctually in dull weather to-day. Two runs came from Barnes' first over, and he bowled from the Institute end. Barnes' second over of the day, and his twelfth of the match, was a maiden as was also the second over. He was bowling well, and had Bishop in difficulties.

With the first ball of Lee's next over Turner gave Platt a simple catch at fine leg, the score being 73. The outgoing batsman had played good cricket for 31 runs, compiled in an hour and a quarter. G. F. Hean, a left-handed batsman from Worksop, was next in, and with his score at two survived an appeal for l.b.w. by Barnes.

This did not avail him anything as, with the next ball, he gave Platt another simple catch at short leg, the third wicket falling at 78.

G. V. Gunn, son of the famous Notts professional, tipped one up in front of the wicket when he had made one, Russell just failing to reach it. He had only added one more to his total when he skied one to Sedgwick fielding close in at point, Barnes being the bowler. Four wickets were down for 80.

CURIOUS INCIDENT.

J. B. Hall drove one just past square-leg, and then a remarkable incident occurred. Bishop, with his score at 18, played a ball from Lee on his wicket without dislodging the bails, but it was necessary to call both umpires into consultation to inspect the wicket befort the batsman was given "not out." With his score at 21 Bishop was bowled by a beautiful ball from Barnes, five wickets being down for 84. Wheat pulled Barnes round to leg for two. J. B. Hall gave Sedgwick an easy catch at point off Barnes, his score being five, and the total then 93 for six.

Five wickets had fallen with three-quarters of an hour for 29 runs, four or them falling to Barnes, who had been keeping a good length. Wheat shortly afterwards pulled the same bowler to fine leg for a boundary and the 100 went up after play had been in progress forty minutes this morning, or 105 minutes altogether. With the total at 103, Wheat put his leg in front of a straight one from Lee and received his marching orders. He had played bright cricket for his 11 runs.

Copley might have been caught from a tremendous skier just behind the bowler, but the light appeared to bother Barnes. Whalen, however, accepted an easy catch at short leg without any addition to the score, Lee being the bowler. The eighth wicket fell at 105, and Hodgkinson shortly afterwards got one to the rails through the "leg trap," and followed with another glance behind the wicket for four, both being off Lee.

Barnes had seven men close in, but the batsman got him through the slips luckily for four. Hodgkinson was the next to leave, with the score at 119 for nine, his share being ten. Harris was bowled by Lee without any addition, the innings closing for 119.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S INNINGS.

The opening pair for Staffordshire were C. Howl and P. F. Stubbs, Voce, a left arm bowler, bowling from the Institute end.

With one run on the board Stubbs was given out without scoring, a unanimous appeal for a catch at the wicket sending him back.

H. Goodwin came in next, and proceeded to play bright cricket. He hit J. B. Hall for two successive fours, although the first one was just wide of being a chance to square leg. Howl also took two successive fours off Hall, both being through the slips, and Goodwin followed with two more fours off Voce.

Half-an-hour's play produced 46 runs, and G. F. Heane then went on in place of Voce, while Hodgkinson replaced Hall. These changes quieted the batsmen for a time, but after a few overs they continued to play bright cricket. With the total at 65 Howl was given out "leg-before," to Heane, after having scored 21, including three 4's.

Johnson, who came in next, had a four, a two and two fours as his first four scoring strokes, the two latter being brilliant shots past point. Goodwin was bowled by Heane with the score at 86 for three, of which the outgoing batsman had scored 48 by forceful and brilliant cricket.

On the resumption Copley, a left-hand medium pace bowled from the Institute end and Voce from the Pavilion end. When 18, Johnson gave a difficult chance to Hall at square-leg, but the fielder failed to get to the ball, and two were scored. The batsmen were rather restrained for a time but Johnson then drove Copley for four, and the next ball was well fielded on the boundary by Gunn, one run only coming from the stroke. Voce brilliantly fielded several straight drives at the bowler's end but Johnson drove one past him to the rails.

Barnes was bowled by a splendid ball from Voce for four, and the fourth wicket fell at 108.

NOTTS TOTAL PASSED.

Johnson next lifted Voce over the fence for six, and the Notts. total was passed with six wickets in hand.

Johnson hit Hean out of the field for his second six of the match, and completed his 50, amid applause. Notts were guilty of several fielding errors, in which 4's were scored when only singles ought to have been made, and Johnson then hit his third six, Hean being the bowler to suffer. He followed this with still two more hits out of the field from the same bowler, and his batting received generous applause from the spectators. Harris was put on to bowl with the total at 183, and immediately caught and bowled Johnson. The latter had hit no fewer than five 6's and six 4's in a magnificent innings of 76.

The fifth wicket fell at 183, and had produced 75 runs. The second hundred went up in just under three hours, and immediately afterwards Harris got Lee caught at cover-point for 40, which included six 4's.

Jackson was bowled by a good ball from Harris, after scoring five, and seven wickets were down for 206.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday, 24 July 1926

Staffordshire v. Notts II.

As last year at Trent Bridge, the Staffordshire team experienced bad weather on Wednesday at Kirkby-in-Ashfield, where the first match with the Notts. 2nd XI. was fixed to commence. Rain commenced to fall about nine, and, though it was not heavy, continued throughout the morning. There was some improvement at mid-day, but the start was further delayed by a heavy shower at three o'clock. At 4-30 it was still raining, but soon afterwards the sun got through, and with a strong wind blowing the pitch was practically fit for play as soon as the rain ceased. As at Nottingham last year, Staffordshire were unfortunate enough to lose the toss, and the home team had the benefit of 70 minutes' batting on an easy wicket.

Staffordshire were able to play a fairly strong side, though Aaron Lockett's mishap at Porthill, where he strained a muscle in the calf of the leg, kept him out of the team. A trial was given to S. Jackson, captain of the Westbromwich Dartmouth Club, and W. Lee (Old Hill) and P. F. Stubbs (Stone) joined the team for the first time this season. Jackson was unlucky enough to contract a severe stiff neck during Tuesday night, and was not fit to play on Wednesday, but he pluckily took his place in the field, though the movements and exertion of fielding were obviously extremely painful.

Barnes and Sedgwick opened the bowling, but appeared to be operating at the wrong ends, for the half-gale of wind was dead against Barnes's leg-break. An in-swinger like Lee or Whalen seemed likely to be better suited at the end at which Barnes started, and after four overs had been bowled at each end Barnes changed over and Whalen was brought on. Each batsman was in difficulties with Barnes, and several strokes almost went to hand at point. When Turner, a left-hand bat, had scored 11, he jumped in to drive a ball from Barnes, was beaten by the break, and so nearly bowled that Russell missed stumping him through apparently expecting the ball to hit the wicket. At 36, Keeton, who might have been caught several times close in at point, was leg-before, and Bishop was soon in trouble with Barnes. But he survived, and got a couple of good 4's from Whalen, who had 29 runs hit from eight overs, and seemed to be kept on too long. Sedgwick bowled another over, vice Barnes, before the close, but when stumps were drawn 64 very useful runs had been scored for the loss of one wicket.

NOTTS. II.

1st Innings.

A. Turner c Platt b Lee	31
Keeton lbw b Barnes	23
J. F. Bishop b Barnes	21
G. F. Hearne c Platt b Barnes	2
Gunn (G. V.) c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
J. B. Hall c Sedgwick b Barnes	5
Wheat lbw b Lee	11
Harris b Lee	4
Copley c Whalen b Lee	2
Hodgkinson c Johnson b Lee	10
Voce not out	0
Extras	8
Total	119

2nd Innings.

A. Turner not out	103
Keeton c and b Whalen	51
J. F. Bishop c Barnes b Lee	1
G. F. Hearne not out	10
Extras	10
Total (two wickets)	175

STAFFORDSHIRE.

1st Innings.

C. Howl lbw b Hearne	21
P. F. Stubbs c Wheat b Voce	0
H. Goodwin b Hearne	48
J. W. Johnson c and b Harris	76
Barnes b Voce	4
W. Lee c Copley b Harris	40
Sedgwick c Hodgkinson b Harris	7
S. Jackson b Harris	5
J. Whalen not out	6
Platt not out	8
Extras	6
Total (inns. closed)	221

J. B. Russell did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

NOTTS. II.—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	22	4	44	5
Sedgwick	5	1	10	0
Whalen	8	0	29	0
Lee	11.3	1	28	5
Platt	5	1	15	0

2nd Innings.

Barnes	8	1	15	0
Sedgwick	10	2	40	0
Whalen	13	2	58	1
Lee	9	3	31	1

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1st Innings.

Voce	13	2	44	2
Hall	10	0	59	0
Copley	6	0	19	0
Hearne	0	3	44	2
Turner	7	2	17	0
Hodgkinson	5	0	25	0
Harris	9	4	7	4

Staffordshire Sentinel : Monday 2 August 1926

STAFFORDSHIRE LEAD NOTTS.

Advantage of 108 Runs on First Innings.

Brilliant Display by J. S. Heath.

Staffordshire overplayed Notts. II. on the first innings at Porthill to-day, scoring 164 to Notts.' 56.

The visiting side was dismissed by Sedgwick and Barnes for 56, the Leek professional taking six wickets for 23 and Barnes four for 30.

Staffordshire made a disastrous start, losing three wickets for 13 runs, but with J. S. Heath and Barnes in partnership, a big recovery was made, the professional putting on 37, and the Porthill captain giving a bright batting display in scoring his 72. The partnership added 95 runs to the Staffordshire total in 66 minutes, and was the means of the home county having a lead of 108 runs on the first innings.

PORTHILL, Monday.

Given good weather, the Staffordshire County Club's cricket week—as it has come to be termed—invariably proves a holiday diversion. Thus, when play was started in the first of the two fixtures—against Notts II.—on the ground of the Porthill Park Club this morning, there were signs of another good gate, calculated to assist materially the club's depleted finances.

Notts usually provide an attractive opposition, and, again led by L. Kirk, their eleven included several players who have put up good performances against Staffordshire, and more than one who has rendered useful service to the Notts first team.

The home county were represented by a side in which potential batting and bowling strength were well balanced. The only North Staffordshire League players in the team were J. S. Heath, of Porthill, and Sedgwick, the Leek professional. J. W. Johnson, of Longton, who ran up a lively 76 against the same opposition at Kirkby-in-Ashfield a fortnight ago, was unable to take part in this fixture through injury, but Aaron Lockett, of Old Hill, has recovered from the strain sustained at Wallasey, and was again included.

NOTTS.' DISASTROUS START.

With a wicket that promised to give little assistance to the bowlers, Notts. were regarded as fortunate to win the toss, but their start was so disastrous that the advantage proved to be more apparent than real.

They opened with C. A. Turner and Keeton against the bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick. The latter bowler, with the fifth ball of his first over—a delivery that came sharply off the pitch—levelled Keeton's off stump.

At this stage only three singles and a bye were on the book, and when seven more runs had been collected Barnes got through J. F. Bishop's defence and sent his bails flying without disturbing his stumps.

Then Sedgwick, with another leg break, beat G. F. Heane, while a brilliant catch by Platt, who stopped a hard and high stroke at short leg to catch it a second time, credited Barnes with the fourth wicket, with only 21 runs up.

C. A. Turner was the only batsman capable of coping with the bowling, and although exercising the greatest of care, he chose the right ball to hit with admirable discretion, and brought runs slowly but steadily.

When, however, he had contributed 23 to the aggregate of 31, he pulled Sedgwick round to square leg and was well taken by Barnes, half the batsmen then being disposed of for a negligible total.

L. Kirk, the visiting captain, could do nothing to improve matters, and had hit only a couple of singles when Sedgwick, who was making full use of the wicket, got in under his bat and disturbed his middle stump.

SEDGWICK'S SUCCESS.

Sedgwick, at this point, had claimed four of the six wickets that had fallen for 16 runs in nine overs.

Barnes claimed the next two wickets, clean bowling T. N. Knight, the second highest scorer at this stage with eleven, and Wheat, who was beaten with the first ball to him, eight wickets now being down, with 49 representing the combined efforts of the batsmen.

Barnes' four wickets had so far cost 27 runs. Sedgwick, continuing to bowl wonderfully well, next spreadeagled Hall's stumps and in the next over had Voce given out to a smart catch in the slips by Lockett—a decision with which the batsman appeared dissatisfied.

The whole side were thus dismissed in an hour and twenty minutes for only 56 runs, Sedgwick coming through with the fine average of six for 23, and Barnes with four for 30.

In the half-an-hour that remained before lunch, Staffordshire made an even more disastrous start than their opponents, and lost C. Howl, H. Goodwin and P. O. Yates for only 13 runs. But with F. D. Perks (the West Bromwich player) and Sedgwick together, matters improved, and by the interval they had carried the total to 27 without further loss.

In the first over after play was resumed F. D. Perks pulled Staples to the square leg boundary to send up 30 after 33 minutes batting, but seven runs later he hit up a ball from the same bowler to be taken by Voce at mid-on.

In collecting his useful contribution of 17 runs—the highest in the Staffordshire innings so far—he made three boundary hits. He was followed by Barnes, but immediately afterwards Sedgwick, attempting to place Staples to leg, was bowled, and S. Jackson was dismissed with the second ball to him by the same bowler, six wickets having fallen for 58 runs.

BARNES—HEATH PARTNERSHIP.

Joined by J. S. Heath, Barnes lifted Staples clean over the rails to leg although, according to a previous arrangement, only four was signalled, and in the next over Heath found the boundary, bringing the half century when the innings had been in progress an hour.

Just afterwards a ball from Staples hit Heath on the leg and rolled on to his wicket without, however, disturbing his bails, and a confident appeal for lbw was also unsuccessful.

At 53 a double bowling change was made, C. A. Turner taking over from Voce, and J. B. Hall from Staples. The Notts. total was passed after an hour and ten minutes, and hitting confidently Heath and Barnes set the score forward at a smart pace.

With 80 on the board another double bowling change was made, Harris and G. F. Heane taking over. Both batsmen continued to gather runs at a bright pace, and when they had equally shared an advance of 60 runs, Barnes was put down in the slips by Hall off Heane, and in the next over he was again missed in the slips off Harris, the second time the ball going to the boundary.

An over-throw in a too-eager attempt to run out Heath went to the boundary, and the bowling still being confidently tackled, the century appeared on the board when the innings had been in progress an hour and a half.

MAGNIFICENT STAND.

Voce and Staples were brought on to bowl again but they were unable to subdue the batsmen who were now well set and hitting hard. One stroke to leg by Heath was prevented from going for four by people sitting over the boundary line, and the umpires stopped the game for the line to be cleared. The magnificent stand which had put a completely different complexion on the game, advanced the Staffordshire total by 95 runs in 66 minutes when Barnes was taken behind the wicket by Wheat off Staples. Heath, who was joined by Aaron Lockett, immediately afterwards completed his individual half century, having been at the crease an hour and eleven minutes.

Lockett helped to put on ten when he poked at a ball from Staples, and sent it back to the bowler, and the Staffordshire captain was bowled first ball.

With Platt in the last wicket partnership, Heath went on with his fine display of batsmanship, finding the rails repeatedly, and hitting no fewer than three fours off one over.

Having reached 72 he gave a very difficult chance in the slips, and was bowled by the next ball which kept low and shot in under his bat to hit his leg stump. He had been an hour and a half at the crease, meeting the many varieties of bowling confidently, and with the full face of the bat, and his contribution—an exceedingly valuable one in the circumstances—included eleven boundary hits. The Staffordshire innings lasted two hours and a quarter, and gave the home county a lead of 108 runs.

NOTTS. II.—First Innings.

C A Turner c Barnes b Sedgwick	23
Keeton (W) b Sedgwick	1
J F Bishop b Barnes	0
G F Heane b Sedgwick	6
Staples (A) c Platt b Barnes	0
L Kirk b Sedgwick	2
T N Knight b Barnes	11
J B Hall b Sedgwick	7
Wheat (A) b Barnes	0
Harris (C) not out	4
Voce (W) c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
Extras	3
Total	56

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl lbw b Voce	6
H Goodwin b Staples	7
P O Yates b Voce	0
F D Perks c Voce b Staples	17
Sedgwick (H) b Staples	6
Barnes c Wheat b Staples	37
S Jackson b Staples	0
J S Heath b Staples	72
Lockett (A) c and b Staples	3
J B Russell b Staples	0
Platt (G) not out	5
Extras	13
Total	164

FALL OF WICKETS.

Notts. II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	11	16	21	31	37	45	49	55	56

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	13	13	37	58	58	135	143	145	164

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Notts. II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	12	0	30	4
Sedgwick	11.4	2	23	6

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Voce	15	3	57	2
Staples	15.2	3	40	8
Kirk	1	0	2	0
C A Turner	4	1	15	0
J B Hall	3	0	8	0
Harris	4	0	20	0
G F Heane	4	1	9	0

Staffordshire Sentinel : Tuesday, 3 August 1926

INNINGS VICTORY FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Notts. II. Disposed of in One Day.

Remarkable Bowling.

A remarkable result was achieved in the first of Staffordshire's two holiday week fixtures when, in one day, at Porthill, they defeated Notts II. by an innings and 23 runs. Although the result was satisfactory enough, improving the home county's already excellent percentage, the cricket was not as sparkling as the several thousand spectators hoped it would be under conditions which appeared to be ideal. The wicket was not as easy as it looked, retaining sufficient moisture to keep the ball low, but that this disadvantage could be mastered was shown by J. S. Heath, who tackled all varieties of bowling confidently and gave a masterly display in running up a faultless 72—faultless, at any rate, but for one possible, very difficult chance low down in the slips just before he was bowled.

The bowler able to get most out of the pitch was Herbert Sedgwick, who bowled finely to capture six of the Notts first innings wickets for 23 runs. Staples, brother of the Notts regular first team player, who has himself been included in the premier eleven, also did remarkably well to dismiss eight of the Staffordshire men for 40 runs.

Notts, 103 behind on the first innings, started on their second attempt with two and a half hours left before the close of play. They could have had little hope of avoiding defeat, but to save an innings defeat did not appear a difficult task. Disaster attended them immediately, however, their opening batsman, C. A. Turner, losing his wicket to Barnes in the first over, while in the second Keeton foolishly threw away his wicket in attempting a short run. Lockett came on at 36 to assist Barnes in disposing of the remaining batsmen and finished with four wickets to his credit at a cost of 19 runs.

A feature of this innings was the brilliant fielding of C. Howl, who not only smartly threw down Keeton's wicket, but cleverly took Staples at mid-off, diving yards to hold the ball inches above the ground. His other work in the field was also keen.

NOTTS. II.—First Innings.

C A Turner c Barnes b Sedgwick	23
Keeton (W) b Sedgwick	1
J F Bishop b Barnes	0
G F Heane b Sedgwick	5
Staples (A) c Platt b Barnes	0
L Kirk b Sedgwick	2
T N Knight b Barnes	11
J B Hall b Sedgwick	7
Wheat (A) b Barnes	0
Harris (C) not out	4
Voce (W) c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
Extras	3
Total	56

NOTTS. II.—Second Innings.

C A Turner b Barnes	2
Keeton run out	0
J F Bishop b Barnes	12
G F Heane lbw b Barnes	2
Staples c Howl b Sedgwick	8
L Kirk b Lockett	6
T N Knight b Lockett	15
J B Hall lbw b Lockett	15
Wheat b Lockett	8
Harris c Heath b Barnes	3
Voce not out	1
Extras	12
Total	85

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl lbw b Voce	6
H Goodwin b Staples	7
P O Yates b Voce	0
F D Perks c Voce b Staples	17
Sedgwick (H) b Staples	6
Barnes c Wheat b Staples	37
S Jackson b Staples	0
J S Heath b Staples	72
Lockett (A) c and b Staples	3
J B Russell b Staples	0
Platt (G) not out	3
Extras	13
Total	164

FALL OF WICKETS.

Notts. II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	11	16	21	31	37	45	49	55	56

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	12	13	37	38	38	133	143	143	164

Notts. II.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	4	8	10	43	53	55	70	75	85

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Notts. II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	12	0	30	4
Sedgwick	11.4	2	23	6

Notts. II.—Second Innings.

Barnes	14	3	44	4
Sedgwick	7	2	10	1
Lockett	7.5	1	19	4

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

Voce	15	3	57	2
Staples	15.2	3	40	8
Kirk	1	0	2	0
C A Turner	4	1	15	0
J B Hall	3	0	8	0
Harris	4	0	20	0
G F Heane	4	1	9	0

SATURDAY'S CRICKET.

N.S. & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

STONE v. FENTON.

STONE.—F Ravenscroft b W Wood 21, G Reece c Bryan b W Wood 12, E C Fernie c Sylvester b W Wood 41, A M C Smith c A Mellor b W Wood 4, G Ridgway c and b W Wood 7, A Ravenscroft lbw b White 25, J Cooper b White 0, C H Matthews c Bryan b W Wood 1, G Deyes c Naylor b W Wood 31, T Godbehere b W Wood 12, H S Stephenson not out 1, extras 4; total 139.

FENTON.—G Hammersley not out 57, C White c Stephenson b Fernie 15, A Mellor st Reece b Fernie 6, T Bryan b Fernie 0, J Sutton lbw b Cooper 3, W White b Ridgway 2, P Sylvester c Reece b Fernie 10, W Wood st Reece b Fernie 11, F Bourne c Smith b Fernie 6, S Fletcher run out 15, H Naylor b Ridgway 12, extras 6; total, 143.

Division II.—Section "B."

BRINDLEY FORD WESLEYANS v. STONE II.

BRINDLEY FORD.—C Slaney c Tomkinson b Bowdidge 3, A Walley c Poole b Bowdidge 14, J Slaney b Bowdidge 11, R Bowers c Devaney b Bowdidge 10, S Nixon c Devaney b Wood 0, E Simner c Hart b Bowdidge 6, V Gregory b Bowdidge 6, A Ayres c Hart b Bowdidge 12, G Caddy not out 24, F Hargreaves c and b Dutton 6, E Gregory c Ravenscroft b Dutton 0, extras 1; total, 93.

STONE II.—E Slynn b E Simner 3, B J Devaney b Simner 0, W Ravenscroft c Ayres b J Slaney 34, J E Hunking run out 9, C Wood run out 18, P C Dutton b J Slaney 1, J W Hart c Walley b Simner 15, F Bowdidge b J Slaney 0, T Bagley c J Slaney b C Slaney 0, J Tomkinson b E Simner 0, H Poole not out 0, extras 1; total, 81.

BIRCHES HEAD ST. MATTHEW'S v. FENTON II.

BIRCHES HEAD.—J B Allman c Naylor b White 1, T Coates c Pennington b White 2, H Sage c Upton b Wood 1, R H Robinson b White 10, R Knight c Barnett b White 2, W Oakes c Wood b White 11, J Brandrick b White 0, B Knight b Wood 1, S Sargeant not out 11, F Williamson c Upton b White 0, C Meakin, jun c Colclough b Williams 8, extras 12; total, 80.

FENTON.—F Taylor c Sage b Allman 0, A White b Robinson 6, J Pennington b Allman 6, W Colclough b Meakin 14, W Upton c Knight b Meakin 4, J Wood b Allman 4, F Barnett b Oakes 4, D Williams b Brandrick 16, S Stephens c Coates b Robinson 2, H Naylor not out 6, A Dewsnap lbw b Brandrick 1, extras 2; total, 65.

Staffordshire Sentinel : Thursday 5 August 1926

LANCASHIRE II. AT STOKE.

Late Recovery Brings Moderate Total.

Barnes Again Bowls Well for Staffordshire.

Lancashire II., who are meeting Staffordshire, on the Old County Ground, Stoke, to-day and to-morrow (Friday), made a weak start in their innings to-day, but a late stand by Woolley and Rushton effected an improvement, and the moderate total of 183 was reached.

Barnes had the best average among the Staffordshire bowlers, with four wickets for 44, Sedgwick taking two for 28 and Lockett (A.) two for 34.

STOKE, Thursday.

Staffordshire's second holiday fixture opened at the Old County Ground this morning with the Lancashire II. eleven providing the opposition. Play started punctually in bright sunshine, but the sky later was overcast and threatening, and one recalled the unhappy conditions which ruined the corresponding fixture between these two teams here last season. The home county made two changes from the side that gained so decisive a victory in one day over Notts. II. earlier in the week. H. W. Homer and W. Lee, both of the Old Hill club, taking the places of P. O. Yates, a club mate of theirs, and S. S. Jackson, of West Bromwich.

Lancashire were also strongly represented, their eleven, under the captaincy of the fine old veteran, J. T. Tyldesley, including several players who have assisted the Palatine County's First Eleven.

HOME COUNTY'S EARLY SUCCESS.

One of these, Halliday, who opened the visitors' innings with Booth, lost his wicket, however, before a single run had been scored. Barnes and Sedgwick started the bowling, and the former, after sending down a maiden over, in his next got Halliday's leg stump with a ball that came back tremendously from the off. Puynter, the left-hander, who followed, scored the first boundary with a stroke to deep leg off Barnes, and sent the next delivery from the same source to the mid-off rails. But he had collected only twelve before Barnes' careful scheming sent him back to a well taken catch at deep left by C. Howl, who was again distinguishing himself by his excellent fielding.

Booth, who had been half an hour getting six runs, was the next to go, a fast delivery from Sedgwick going from the shoulder of his bat, to be taken behind the wicket by the Staffordshire Skipper, J. B. Russell.

J. B. Newton and P. T. Eckersley, the latter of whom, incidentally, has been selected to go with A. E. Gilligan to the West Indies, now came together in a stand that promised to turn the disastrous trend of events, and while they were exercising the utmost caution, matters became very quiet.

SLOW SCORING.

After five consecutive maiden overs, the sequence was broken by Newton, who pulled Barnes to leg to run a single. He repeated the process off Sedgwick, but lost his partner, Eckersley, in the same over. The two had been together twenty-five minutes to put on 17 runs for the fourth wicket—the total now standing at 39.

Farrimond continued the policy of caution and runs came very slowly. He hit up Barnes to square-leg, but well out of the reach of the fielders, and remained with Newton to see the first half-century hoisted, after an hour and a quarter's batting.

At 53 Lockett took over from Sedgwick at the pavilion end, but play was still uneventful until Newton, hitting Barnes to the leg side, attempted a run and had his wicket thrown down by Lockett, following a quick return from Perks. The partnership had put on 25 runs in half-an-hour.

A round of applause greeted J. T. Tylesdley as he followed in, and doubtless his fine century against Staffordshire, at Haslingden, earlier in the season was recalled. He took three runs off Lockett, and pulled Barnes round to leg for four. At 80, W. Lee relieved Barnes, and Platt took over from Lockett, but the partnership was unbroken at the lunch interval, when 95 runs were on the board, as the result of two hours' batting.

MORE WICKETS FALL.

Farrimond sent up the hundred immediately after lunch, but that total had been passed by only four when the Lancashire captain put one up from Lee, to be taken by J. S. Heath at deep mid-off.

With Preston and Farrimond together play again became exceedingly quiet, and the few singles that were run were greeted with ironical applause from the bored spectators. Six runs in twenty minutes on an easy wicket was a rather tedious spectacle for the most ardent cricket enthusiast. But at that stage the partnership was broken, Farrimond edging up with a ball from Lockett to be taken by Lee in the slips, the seventh wicket falling at 110.

Farrimond had been at the crease an hour and twenty minutes for his contribution of 25, which apart from "extras," was the highest individual total so far.

Woolley and Preston livened things up for a spell and put on 17 runs in 20 minutes, before the latter was too late to a fast delivery from Lockett and made way for Rushton.

Woolley now brightened matters up considerably, scoring at a much faster pace than any of his predecessors, with powerful hitting to all points of the field. Platt came on in place of Lee at 140, and ten runs later Barnes took over from Lockett.

QUICKER SCORING.

In Barnes' first over Woolley on-drove him for four, but the next ball nipped through his defence and displaced his off-stump. Woolley had scored his useful total of 40 at the rate of almost a run a minute, his figures including seven 4's.

Holroyd was the last man in and his contribution to an advance of 19 was a stroke off Platt past cover to run four.

Barnes claimed the last wicket, causing Rushton to be taken behind the stumps by Russell. The innings, which closed at 183, had lasted three and a half hours. Barnes had the best bowling average, coming through with four wickets for 44 runs.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Booth c Russell b Sedgwick	6
Halliday b Barnes	0
Puynter c Howl b Barnes	12
J B Newton run out	22
P T Eckersley b Sedgwick	5
Farrimond s Lee b Lockett	25
J T Tyldesley (capt) c Heath b Lee	12
Preston b Lockett	6
Woolley b Barnes	40
Rushton c Russell b Barnes	25
Holroyd not out	4
Extras	26
Total	183

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer not out	1
C Howl not out	4
Extras	0
Total (for no wicket)	5

Later.—STAFFORDSHIRE. 18 for two. (Tel.)

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	22	22	39	64	104	110	127	164	183

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	20.2	7	44	4
Sedgwick	11	4	28	2
Lockett	19	7	34	2
Lee	14	6	29	1
Platt	7	2	22	0

Staffordshire Sentinel: Friday, Saturday, 6, 7 August 1926

LANCASHIRE'S LEAD ON FIRST INNINGS.

Staffordshire Reach Total of 114.

Play Delayed by Wet Wicket To-day.

Staffordshire succeeded in avoiding the follow-on in their match at Stoke to-day against Lancashire II. by bringing the overnight total of 75 for seven wickets to a final score of 114. Woolley took five wickets for 52 runs.

Lancashire, with a lead of 69 runs, made a poor beginning to their second innings, until Halliday and J. T. Tyldesley effected an improvement.

STOKE, Friday.

The position this morning in the Minor Counties fixture between Staffordshire and Lancashire II. on the Old County Ground was far from satisfactory for the home county. Having dismissed the visitors for the moderate total of 183, Staffordshire failed in the closing stages of yesterday's play to impress as a batting side, and before stumps were drawn had lost seven wickets for only 75 runs, despite the fact that the utmost caution was exercised. C. Howl, who opened with H. W. Homer, was over an hour at the crease for a contribution of 10, during which he gave two chances in the slips. J. S. Heath and Sedgwick were the only two of the home batsmen to set about the bowling with anything like confidence, and the former, again driving powerfully, ran up 22 at a fair pace before he was beaten by Preston, the fast bowler. Sedgwick and F. D. Perks were together at the end of the day the former with eleven to his credit, and the latter with one.

RAIN DELAYS START.

Rain delayed play this morning. At 12 30 the umpires inspected the pitch, which was then rolled, sawdust having been plentifully sprinkled on the bowlers' creases. It was decided to make a start at one o'clock.

Sedgwick and Perks went out to continue the innings in bright sunshine, but before a very meagre attendance. Sedgwick immediately got hold of the bowling, and in Woolley's first over collected nine runs, thus ruling out the possibility of a follow-on. But the next time he faced Woolley he snicked the ball up to be taken by Farrimond behind the wicket.

J. B. Russell, who followed, opened his shoulders immediately, starting with a beautiful drive off Woolley to the on-boundary and following it with a cut past third man, to run a single.

At 94 Holroyd came on to bowl in place of Booth from the Station end, and, without further addition, Russell hit him up to be taken at cover by Eckersley.

When play was resumed after lunch, Perks sent up the hundred with a fine off-drive off Woolley for four, and there followed a period of bright batting, to which Perks mainly contributed with some delightful hitting, mostly in front of the wicket.

But when the Staffordshire score had been pulled up to within 69 of the Lancashire first innings total, a ball from Holroyd came up sharply from the foot of Platt's bat to be taken in the slips by Woolley.

WOOLLEY'S EFFECTIVE BOWLING.

The Staffordshire innings had lasted exactly three hours. Woolley, who had bowled almost throughout, with only one brief rest yesterday evening, claimed half of the wickets, at a cost of a trifle more than ten runs each. Other remarkable figures were Preston's two for seven, and Holroyd's two for eight.

Lancashire started on their second venture at 2 45, P. T. Eckersley going in with Halliday this time, and the amateur was lucky not to be stumped in Barnes' first over. Lockett started the bowling from the other end.

The batsmen opened quietly again, and had scored only four in the first ten minutes, but at that point Eckersley picked out a loose one from Barnes and lifted it well over the rails into the fence for six. He did the bulk of the scoring until 18 was reached, and then was sent back by Lockett, who, bowling remarkably well, clean bowled the next two batsmen—Paynter, the left-hander, and G. B. Newton—for the addition of only four runs, in one over.

Halliday and Farrimond together were both subdued until the former, after having been batting for three-quarters of an hour for two, lifted a delivery from Lockett out of the ground on to the tennis courts. But it was only a "flash in the pan," and subsequent play for a considerable time was uneventful.

At 41 the fourth wicket fell Farrimond being taken off Barnes by Sedgwick low down at "silly" point. J. T. Tyldesley helped to send up the half-century after 70 minutes' batting, and at this stage there was a double bowling change, Platt taking over from Lockett, and Sedgwick from Barnes.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Booth c Russell b Sedgwick	6
Halliday b Barnes	0
Paynter c Howl b Barnes	12
J B Newton run out	22
P T Eckersley b Sedgwick	5
Farrimond c Lee b Lockett	25
J T Tyldesley (capt) c Heath b Lee	12
Preston b Lockett	6
Woolley b Barnes	40
Rushton c Russell b Barnes	25
Holroyd not out	4
Extras	26
Total	183

LANCASHIRE II.—Second Innings.

P T Eckersley b Lockett	13
Halliday lbw b Platt	36
Paynter b Lockett	4
J B Newton b Lockett	0
Farrimond c Sedgwick b Barnes	9
J T Tyldesley not out	39
Extras	10
Total (for five wkts)	101

Innings Declared. Tea.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Farrimond b Booth	1
C Howel b Woolley	10
W Lee c Preston b Woolley	8
H Goodwin c Newton b Woolley	6
J Heath b Preston	22
Barnes c Preston b Woolley	3
Sedgwick (H) c Farrimond b Woolley	19
Lockett b Preston	0
F D Perks not out	18
J B Russell c Eckersley b Holyroyd	6
Platt c Woolley b Holroyd	3
Extras	18
Total	114

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	22	22	39	64	104	110	127	164	183

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	18	30	31	39	69	73	85	94	114

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	20.2	7	44	4
Sedgwick	11	4	28	2
Lockett	19	7	34	2
Lee	14	6	29	1
Platt	7	2	22	0

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Woolley	29	11	52	5
Booth	11	4	12	1
Rushton	18	11	17	0
Preston	5	0	7	2
Holroyd	4.4	1	8	2

SLOW CRICKET AT STOKE.

Staffordshire Play Out Time.

Lancashire II. Gain First Innings Points.

Two days of slow cricket in Staffordshire's Minor Counties fixture with Lancashire II, at Stoke ended yesterday in a draw, with first innings points going to the visitors. J. T. Tyldesley, the famous veteran batsman, who now coaches and captains the Lancashire colts, made a declaration in the second innings in the hope of getting the home county out cheaply a second time, but the attempt was unavailing. One hundred and seventy runs behind with two and a quarter hours to bat—allowing for the half-an-hour that may be claimed—Staffordshire were content to play out time on a wicket which was becoming increasingly difficult. A more tedious process from the spectators point of view can scarcely be imagined, and while H. W. Homer and C. Howl clung tenaciously to safety tactics, the wits around the rails attempted to relieve the monotony of barndoor cricket with ironic quips and sarcastic comment. They failed, however, to ruffle the impatience of the batsmen, and Homer remained at the crease nearly an hour for 20, while Howl was an hour and a half in reaching 21. Holroyd had only two runs scored off nine overs, and Rushton yielded only one run in six.

There were occasional incidents as when Homer lifted Holroyd clean over the rails for six to be taken in the slips off the same bowler's next delivery and one or two square cuts to the boundary by Howl, but on the whole play was far too quiet to arouse interest.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Booth c Russell b Sedgwick	6
Halliday b Barnes	0
Paynter c Howl b Barnes	12
J B Newton run out	22
P T Eckersley b Sedgwick	5
Farrimond c Lee b Lockett	25
J T Tyldesley (capt) c Heath b Lee	12
Preston b Lockett	6
Woolley b Barnes	40
Rushton c Russell b Barnes	25
Holroyd not out	4
Extras	26
Total	183

LANCASHIRE II.—Second Innings.

P T Eckersley b Lockett	13
Halliday lbw b Platt	28
Paynter b Lockett	4
J B Newton b Lockett	0
Farrimond c Sedgwick b Barnes	9
J T Tyldesley not out	39
Extras	10
Total (for five wkts)	101

Innings declared closed.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Farrimond b Booth	1
C Howl b Woolley	10
W Lee c Preston b Woolley	8
H Goodwin c Newton b Woolley	6
J Heath b Preston	22
Barnes c Preston b Woolley	3
Sedgwick (H) c Farrimond b Woolley	19
Lockett b Preston	0
F D Perks not out	18
J B Russell c Eckersley b Holyroyd	6
Platt c Woolley b Holroyd	3
Extras	18
Total	114

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

H W Homer c Booth b Holroyd	20
C Howl c Eckersley b Newton	21
W Lee c Woolley b Newton	5
H Goodwin not out	1
Extras	1
Total (for three wkts)	48

The Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 7 August 1926-1

CRICKET

STAFFORDSHIRE v. NOTTS II.

Match Finished in One Day

By THE CRITIC

This return match begun and ended on Monday at Porthill. Such a wholesale batting failure is hard to account for. It was not a bad wicket, for the ball never got up, but it was perhaps a little deceitful, in that whilst looking hard and fairly true, it was not quite even paced. Some balls came off the pitch so low and quick as to be correctly described as shooters, and many of the batting failures seemed to be due to inability to time the ball. Others were due to obvious errors in batting, some to the crudest of strokes. An inspection of the pitch before operations commenced suggested that the side fortunate enough to bat first would be quite likely enough to bat all day, and yet 30 wickets fell, and the match was over at 6 10. Fine bowling had something to do with it, and bad batting perhaps not less. By their handsome victory Staffordshire increased their points to 23 out of a possible 30, and raised their percentage from 72 to 76 66. The "gate" was the best of the season, £110 being taken, but the fact of Tuesday being blank was a considerable loss.

Staffordshire had four changes from the side which played at Kirkby-in-Ashfield—Yates, Perks, Heath, and Lockett vice P. F. Stubbs, J. W. Johnson, W. Lee, and J. Whalen; and Notts. played L. Kirk (captain), Knight, and Staples in place of Gunn, Copley, and Hodgkinson. Staples has had a fairly regular place in the first team of late, Kirk deputised as captain for Carr several times recently, and Knight has also appeared in the first XI.

Staffordshire lost the toss and took the field, Barnes and Sedgwick bowling against C. A. Turner, the left-hander, who scored a century at Kirkby, and Keeton, who also batted well on that occasion, and has recently been tried in the first team. With only three scored, Sedgwick, in his first over, turned a quick ball just a little to bowl Keeton's leg stump, and Barnes soon beat Bishop, generally a difficult man to dislodge, with leg spin. No one but Turner shaped like playing the bowling, and he should have been caught at the wicket, rather low down on the offside, from Barnes, with his score at nine. However, a ball from the fast bowler kept low to bowl Heane at 16, and Staples was cleverly caught close in at short leg at 21. With Knight in, Turner got a four from each bowler, and then gave Barnes an easy catch at point with a bad stroke. He had made all but eight of the 31 scored in 50 minutes for five wickets. The tale of disaster continued, for though Knight got a couple of fours from Barnes by hazardous hits, Kirk was bowled off his pads at the other end, and Knight beaten by a beauty from Barnes that turned from leg to hit the off stump. Sedgwick knocked Hall's leg stump out of the ground, and Wheat made an agricultural shot to be bowled by a straight one from Barnes. Voce was out to a good catch high up in the slips, and the innings was over in an hour and 20 minutes. Sedgwick had the better analysis, and bowled extremely well, but Barnes should have had Turner's wicket quite early, which would probably have made a good deal of difference.

Staffordshire had 25 minutes' batting before lunch, and their start made one wonder what was the matter with the wicket, for three wickets went for 13 runs. Howl and Goodwin began quite confidently, but had only scored a dozen when Howl was beaten by a ball that came very quick and low from the pitch, and was leg before, and Yates was at sea with the second ball he received. Then Goodwin, playing back to Staples, was too late for another "shooter." Perks, who created a good impression on a difficult wicket at Wallasey, again showed encouraging form, and whilst finding the ball well on the defensive, was alert to punish the loose one. He seems to have a rather dangerous shot through the slips, but he kept it down, and steered one through for a four, and got two excellent leg hits to the rails. After lunch he did not get properly hold of the ball in trying to on-drive a short one, and was caught at mid-on at 37. Sedgwick tried to turn the ball off the leg stump and was bowled, and Jackson had his leg wicket disturbed second ball, six wickets being down for 38.

Then came a spell of batting that was refreshing indeed, and placed Staffs. in a strong position. It also served to show up what had gone before rather badly. Barnes and Heath played the bowling without apparent difficulty, and were not afraid to go forward to drive. At 52 Voce and Staples were taken off, rather prematurely, I thought, and 50 runs were scored in good time, and by excellent cricket, off the change bowlers, though Barnes was missed in the slips off Heane, with his score at 27. The pair added 95 in 68 minutes, and brought on the original bowlers again, before Barnes was snapped at the wicket. He had rendered great service at a critical stage, and hit five fours during his stay of over an hour and a-quarter. Lockett and Russell were out to consecutive balls at 143, but Platt helped Heath to add 21 before the Porthill captain was bowled. He was batting an hour and a-half, hit a five (four for an overthrow) and 10 fours, and the feature of his innings, apart from sound defence against a lot of good bowling, was powerful, low driving, both straight, and through the covers. Staples came out with the remarkably fine analysis of eight wickets for 40, but one thought he was assisted by some indifferent batting.

Notts required 106 to avoid an innings defeat when they went in again at a quarter past four, and made so shocking a start that they never looked like sending the home county in again. It was a big blow when Turner, playing back to Barnes, was beaten and bowled in the first over, and then Keeton ran himself out in attempting a foolish run, the wicket being cleverly thrown down by Howl. With Heane leg-before, three wickets were down for eight runs. At 19 Howl dived for the ball to bring off a very smart catch at mid-on, which sent back Staples. Bishop and Knight stayed till tea-time, and altogether added 24. After tea Lockett bowled instead of Sedgwick, and Barnes changed ends. Lockett was quickly successful. He was able to make the ball turn, and bowled Knight with a break-back, whilst Barnes again beat Bishop, who had defended stubbornly for an hour and 10 minutes. Hall hit out at Barnes, and got 13 in one over, but the bowler again had bad luck, for the batsman should have been easily caught on the offside, but Yates and Lockett both went for the catch and collided. However, the batsman was lbw to Lockett, and Harris, after being missed from a sharp chance in the slips, was caught in the same position in the same over. Lockett bowled Wheat all over his wicket to end the match, and had good figures. Hall's brief flutter marred Barnes's analysis a little, but he bowled remarkably well. The Staffordshire fielding was good, and the captain kept the wicket quite as well as Wheat, the alert little Notts. stumper.

Scores and analysis :—

Notts. II.—1st Inns.

C. A. Turner c Barnes b Sedgwick	23
Keeton b Sedgwick	1
J. F. Bishop b Barnes	0
G. F. Heane b Sedgwick	5
Staples c Platt b Barnes	0
T. N. Knight b Barnes	11
L. Kirk b Sedgwick	2
J. B. Hall b Sedgwick	7
Wheat b Barnes	0
Harris not out	4
Voce c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
Extras	3
Total	56

Notts. II.—2nd Inns.

C. A. Turner b Barnes	2
Keeton run out	0
J. F. Bishop b Barnes	12
G. F. Heane lbw b Barnes	2
Staples c Howl b Sedgwick	3
T. N. Knight b Lockett	15
L. Kirk b Lockett	6
J. B. Hall lbw b Lockett	15
Wheat b Lockett	9
Harris c Heath b Barnes	3
Voce not out	1
Extras	12
Total	85

Staffordshire

C. Howl lbw b Voce	6
H. Goodwin b Staples	7
P. O. Yates b Voce	0
F. D. Perks c Voce b Staples	17
Sedgwick b Staples	6
Barnes c Wheat b Staples	37
S. Jackson b Staples	0
J. S. Heath b Staples	72
A. Lockett c and b Staples	3
J. B. Russell b Staples	0
Platt not out	3
Extras	13
Total	164

BOWLING ANALYSIS

	Notts.—1st Inns.				2nd Inns.			
Barnes	12	0	30	4	14	3	44	4
Sedgwick	11.4	2	23	6	7	2	10	1
Lockett					7.5	1	19	4

Staffordshire

Voce	15	3	57	2
Staples	15.2	3	40	8
Kirk	1	0	2	0
Turner	4	1	15	0
Hall	3	0	6	0
Harris	4	0	20	0
Heane	4	1	9	0

S. F. Barnes is building up another wonderful season's bowling analysis with Castleton Moor in the Central Lancashire League. He has now taken 80 wickets at an average cost of less than six runs per wicket, and has much the best record of any of the dozen professionals engaged in the league. These include Cranfield, Hickmott, Morfee, Horsley, and Cook, all men who have figured prominently in county cricket. Last season Barnes had easily the best bowling and batting averages amongst the professionals, and by far the largest number of wickets. It almost seems as though "age cannot wither" his matchless skill.

North Staffordshire and District League

In brilliant weather the meeting of those neighbours and friendly rivals, Great Chell and Knypersley, attracted a satisfactory attendance at Chell last Saturday. The home side triumphed in the end, but not without moments of anxiety, and it is at least open to question whether the presence of H. E. Bourne (away on holidays) would not have just made the difference to Knypersley between losing and winning. Neither club could be regarded as quite out of the danger zone in the league table, though both ought to have no great difficulty in retaining their status. Chell have had a lean time during the last six weeks, not having tasted the sweets of victory since they dismissed Burslem for 46 and won by four wickets on June 12. But a second defeat of Knypersley would atone for many disappointments, and put them a point above their rivals, each having now won five matches of 17 played.

Knypersley batted first, and W. Whitehead and J. Bedson shaped nicely against Wilson and F. Vodrey, but the latter, a promising son of the old Knypersley bowler, E. Bedson, was bowled just when he seemed to be settling down, and A. Cooper was out to a fine running catch near the leg boundary by A. Smith, a young player who interested me much, and who fielded very well throughout. Two for 22 was not a good start, but W. Boon and Whitehead added 30, and brought on R. F. Beardmore and U. Worthington, the former of whom got Whitehead, who seems to have the making of a useful bat, caught in the slips for 22. W. Millward also played the bowling with a nice straight bat for a few overs, but Boon foolishly ran himself out when well set. He scored 19, and the throwing away of his wicket was serious for the visitors. He played the best cricket on the side, generally middling the ball, and having command of some excellent strokes. I liked his defence, and his square cut was a good wristy stroke. With the wicket playing easily and his eye well in, he might have put his side in a winning position. Millward was completely beaten by a ball from Beardmore that seemed to come back a little, and Mosedale, the Knypersley captain, who has been out of form recently, poked at a plain off-ball to give a simple catch in the slips. W. Lonsdale and J. Butler improved matters a little, but the former, after hitting three fours to leg, gave a catch to the wicket-keeper from a bad leg-ball. E. Tunstall abandoned his old propensity for hitting, and with Butler, a left-hand recruit from the second team, helped the score along by degrees, bringing on Wilson again and the veteran, W. H. Meir. The latter soon finished off the innings, more by reason of indifferent batting than good bowling. He cleverly caught and bowled the left-hander, got H. Bibby caught from a skier—a rural stroke—and bowled Tunstall, who played across the ball in trying to "farm "the bowling. He made one or two clean off-drives, and scored 19, as did Butler. The total of 128 was not formidable, and the batting was decidedly moderate, for the Chell bowling had no great sting. Wilson did not attempt his old pace, but was accurate, and sometimes made the ball turn from the off. He was the best bowler, though he failed to get a wicket.

Chell started with disaster, for W. Warburton edged the first ball of the innings from Mosedale up in the slips, and Meir should have been caught in the same position off the third. The mistake was not expensive, but after Meir's early departure J. E. Gibson and A. Smith put the home side well on the way to success. "Jimmy" Gibson has made many good scores for Knypersley, and having migrated to the rival camp this season, gave his old colleagues a taste of his hitting powers. He got 30 in half an hour, hitting well on the leg side, and then tamely hit a half-volley up to mid-off. Smith and F. Vodrey then had a fairly prolific 20 minutes, and the Knypersley bowling appeared quite unequal to the task of stopping them, until Smith, in a rash, or, shall I say, over-confident moment, tried to pull a straight ball of fairly good length, and was bowled. His 27 was the most interesting "knock" of the afternoon. I had been told to expect something above the average from this young cricketer, and I was not disappointed. There was quality in his batting, as there was in his fielding, and one was sorry when he got himself out. Early on he popped a couple of balls up in playing forward, but there was no one close enough in to get to them, and later he became a little rash in pulling, and also slashing at rising balls on the off. But he has all the promise of a really good bat, and might easily make a county cricketer. He averages 36 so far this season, and has such scores as 44*, 43*, 62*, 63*, and 58* to his credit. What he needs at the present juncture is practice against good bowling, and there is not much of that in the league so far as I have been able to discover. About the worst experience a young batsman of promise can have is to be generally playing against bowling he can take liberties with. I was also informed, on authority to be respected, that Warburton is another likely young batsman, stylish, but rather immature. As he had only one ball one must wait for another opportunity to form an opinion.

Vodrey (37) and U. Worthington (20) almost won the match, and Wilson (26 not out) came in to settle it and drive Boon for 4 fours in an over, clearing the rails three times. But there would quite likely have been a struggle and a close finish but for a sad blunder by Boon, who let a catch from Vodrey off Mosedale, in front of the sight screen, go through his hands to the boundary. Both Vodrey and Worthington enjoyed some luck, getting fours off Mosedale for fortunate snicks. The Knypersley captain was much the best of the visiting bowlers. One remembers him in his early days as a slow leg-break bowler, but he now favours off spin, and he made the ball turn more than any other bowler on either side, though the wicket was always easy. And he had poor luck. His four wickets cost 62 runs. Knypersley had passed 160 when the last wicket fell. It was quite an entertaining match, but I'm afraid one can only describe the contestants as two moderate sides. With few exceptions the batting was rather crude, though the bowling did not by a great deal come up to the pre-war league standard.

Porthill and Bignall End, by convincing victories, went further away from Leek at the head of the table, for the representatives of the Moorland town gave so poor a display of batting at Burslem that effective bowling could not prevent the loss of both points. Leek were dismissed for 55 (Roy Hollowood seven for 25), and Burslem only reached 68 (J. Pointon seven for 30). As both Nantwich and Silverdale won, they are only a point behind Leek. Porthill declared at 167 for six (N. W. White 46, W. H. Fitchford 32, A. A. Bickerton 26 not out), and dismissed Longton for 59 (J. Durber four for 10, Heap six for 44). The champions also applied the closure against Madeley at 178 for six (J. H. Mayer 46, A. E. Brathy 40, retired, E. Downing 37), and put the wooden spoonists out for 83 (F. Clarke 42). F. J. Dale had five wickets for 31. Nantwich only totalled 96 against Norton (J. Martin four for 8), but their bowling was good enough once more, and Norton were beaten by nine runs. It was not the usual pair who chiefly worked destruction this time, but the second team bowler, L. Haighton, who took five wickets for 7.

A great game at Silverdale saw Crewe Alexandra beaten on the post by three runs. Silverdale lost nine wickets for 111, but E. White (82 not out) and P. Bloor (36 not out) then added 102 before a declaration was made—a remarkable last wicket stand. Crewe, not for the first time in similar circumstances, made a splendid but unrewarded effort, for with 4 runs wanted for victory and three balls only to go the last wicket fell. C. Coffin hit 62.

The Critic.

Lichfield 2nd v. Chester Road 2nd

Played at Lichfield on Saturday, resulting in Chester Road being defeated by 78 runs. For Lichfield G. Ryan took three wickets for 19 runs. Scores:—

Lichfield. — S. Baxter b Moore 8, R. Cook st Hadley b R. Jones 27, E. R. Standley b R. Jones 0, A. J. Smith run out 25, G. Ryan c Ayling b R. Jones 5, J. S. Brown c Palmer b Moore 11, W. A. Waite b Dicks 9, W. J. Herbert lbw b Hettel 13, C. W. Pimm not out 24, L. J. Bates c A. Jones b Moore 9, W. Lawrence b Palmer 5; extras 7; total 146.

Chester Road.—A. F. Jones b Smith 0, W. Moore b Ryan 0, L. Hadley b Smith 7, G. Palmer run out 2, D. Sutton c Ryan b Standley 17, R. Jones b Ryan 0, H. Hettel c Bates b Ryan 10, R. Dicks c Cook b Standley 19, J. Gwynn st. Cook b Herbert 3, G. W. Jones b Herbert 2, C. Ayling not out 1; extras 7; total 68.

Chester Road v. Lichfield.

This match was played at Chester Road on Saturday, the result being a draw. Lichfield made 195 for nine, and Chester Road 118 for five. For Lichfield Plant played fine cricket, and did not give a single chance until he had passed his 50. Moore also played well, getting 30 in good time. Ellett, Knight, and George also made useful scores. Scores:

Lichfield.—H. Fitzgeorge (stumped) b W. A. Jones, W. Plant c Harrison b Parkes 71, R. Moore c Edgeley b Price 30, F. Rudgard lbw b Hartshorne 5, F. Oram lbw b Jones 13, W. Mercer b Jones 0, G. Ellett b Parkes 17, G. Knight c Bixby b Edgeley 22, E. George not out 12, F. Cooper c Parkes b Jones 5, A. Slater did not bat; extras, 16; total (for 9 wickets), 195.

Chester Road.—W. A. Jones c Slater b Oram 0; F. Parkes run out 0, S. Hartshorne c Oram b Slater 60, H. Price c Oram b Ellam 24, T. W. Edgeley lbw b Ellett 3, D. Stuart not out 22, G. Harrison not out 3; E. W. Russell, F. Mills, A. E. Bixby, and B. M. Whitby did not bat; extras 6; total (for 5 wickets), 118.

Lichfield v. Burton Ramblers

On Bank Holiday Lichfield first eleven entertained Burton Ramblers, who were captained by Mr. L. A. Neale, of Eadies' Brewery. A most enjoyable match was the result of a good day's cricket, Burton claiming the victory by 36 runs. The visitors batted first on a good, fast wicket, and lost five wickets for 57, when called in for lunch, King, Dickens, and Morris being the chief scorers. The two former made 14 each, and the latter 16. On resuming, Burton took their score to 138, chiefly due to Minter (14), Neale (24 not out), and Jacob (12). The Lichfield fielding was good, not a single chance being given away. Slater bowled well for his four wickets, and Ellett took three. Lichfield made a bad start, Broadbent and Plant being dismissed with only 4 on the board. Moore then came to the rescue, and made a brilliant 52. He played the best innings we have seen him play for his side, his score registering six boundaries. Fitzgeorge made 16, but the rest of the batsmen were off form, and the innings closed for 102. For Burton, Dicken took four wickets for 16 runs. Scores:—

Burton Ramblers. — R. King lbw b Oram 14, A. Leppard b Ellett 4, A. Whiles b Ellett 0, S. Dickens c Ellett b Fitzgeorge 14, J. H. Morriss b Slater 15, H. E. Beeby b Slater 12, S. J. Ife b Fitzgeorge 2, S. Dolman c Oram b Slater 1, E. W. Minter b Slater 14, L. A. Neale not out 24, R. Jacob c Mann b Ellett 12, A. Hale st. Cook b Broadbent 2; extras 19: total 138.

Lichfield.—H. Fitzgeorge b Dolman 16, F. Broadbent st. Morriss b King 3, W. Plant c Minter b King 0, R. Moore c Dolman b Dickens52, W. Mann c Moriss b Jacobs 5, F. Rudgard lbw b Beeby 6, R. Cooke c Neale b Dicken 7, G. Ellett run out 3, A. Slater c Dolman b Dicken 0, F. Oram c Neale b Dicken 0, G. Knight b Beeby 0, W. Belcher not out 2; extras 8; total 102.

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	17	12	2	3	27
Bignall End	17	12	3	2	26
Leek	17	10	6	1	21
Nantwich	17	8	5	4	20
Silverdale	17	8	6	2	20
Burslem	17	7	7	3	17
Norton	17	6	6	5	17
Longton	17	6	7	5	16
Great Chell	17	5	9	3	13
Knypersley	17	4	10	3	12
Crewe Alexandra	17	3	11	3	9
Madeley	17	2	12	3	7

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 66; Leek, 55.
Porthill Park, 167 for six (dec.); Longton, 59.
Nantwich, 95; Norton, 87.
Bignall End, 178 for six (dec.); Madeley, 83.
Great Chell, 168 for nine; Knypersley, 126.
Silverdale, 215 for nine (dec.); Crewe Alex., 210.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Alsagers Bank	17	12	4	1	25
Sandyford	17	10	5	2	22
Cheadle	17	10	6	1	21
Caverswall	17	9	6	2	20
Fenton	17	10	7	0	20
Stone	17	9	6	2	20
Burslem High Lane	17	8	8	1	17
L.M. & R. Rly. (Stoke)	17	8	7	4	16
Audley	17	7	10	0	14
Kidsgrove	17	6	9	2	14
Ashcombe Park	17	4	12	1	9
Betley	17	3	14	0	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Alsagers Bank, 109; Cheadle, 64.
Audley, 89; Kidsgrove, 33.
Sandyford, 197; L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke), 74 for seven.
Burslem High Lane, 53; Ashcombe Park, 35.
Caverswall, 98; Betley, 27.
Stone, 159; Fenton, 143.

LAST TUESDAY'S RESULT.

L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke), 97; Kidsgrove, 90.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	17	13	1	3	29
Knypersley	17	12	4	1	25
Burslem	17	11	4	2	24
Leek	17	8	7	2	18
Norton	17	8	7	2	18
Nantwich	17	7	8	2	16
Crewe Alexandra	17	7	9	1	15
Longton	17	7	9	1	15
Silverdale	17	6	7	4	14
Great Chell	17	5	10	2	12
Madeley	17	5	10	2	12
Bignall End	17	2	13	2	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 146 for five; Leek, 70.
Porthill Park, 135; Longton, 50.
Norton, 134 for four; Nantwich, 120.
Madeley, 185 for nine (dec.); Bignall End, 36.
Knypersley, 165 for four; Great Chell, 136.
Crewe Alexandra, 141; Silverdale, 72.

LAST MONDAY'S RESULT.

Crewe Alexandra, 136; Norton, 64.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wes.	17	15	2	0	30
Kidsgrove	17	14	2	1	29
Burslem High Lane	17	11	4	2	24
Caverswall	17	10	7	0	20
Stone	17	9	8	0	18
Sandyford	17	8	8	1	17
Cheadle	17	6	9	2	14
Audley	17	6	11	0	12
L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke)	17	5	10	2	12
Scot Hay	17	5	11	1	11
Alsagers Bank	17	4	12	1	9
Betley	17	4	13	0	8

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Cheadle, 70; Alsagers Bank, 27.
Kidsgrove, 99 for nine; Audley, 65.
Sandyford, 90; L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke), 39.
Burslem High Lane, 163; Scot Hay, 26.
Caverswall, 205 for seven (dec.); Betley, 38.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 93; Stone, 81.

LAST MONDAY'S RESULT.

L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke), 94 for nine; Scot Hay, 84.

WITH THE FEW MATCHES that were in arrears now played off the several competitions are about to take on the aspect of the final run for home, and cricket people who are keenly anxious that the season shall be full of interest until its close find pleasure in noting that in each section the prospect is an intriguing one. The margin by which Porthill Park and Brindley Ford Wesleyans hold leadership is almost negligible and although Alsagers Bank and the reserves of Porthill Park are in more commanding circumstances there is still opportunity for other competitors to pull them down. At the reverse end of the merit chart Crewe Alexandra and Madeley are still pursuing the struggle on which they embarked many weeks ago, and the Alexandra's present lead is too precarious to be regarded with full satisfaction. But the odds are certainly in favour of the Cheshire club, especially as they still have a home match with their rivals to get through. The blessing of fine weather attended all the twenty seven games of which the results are chronicled above, and save one each match had a definite ending. The exception was the Saturday game at Stoke, in which scoring was very slow, and Sandyford showed some amount of timidity in putting the closure into operation. The sequence of meagre run-getting was extraordinary, and there were no fewer than eleven instances in which complete innings were played for aggregates of less than sixty. Two junior players came into prominence by figuring as century makers, T. Bibby getting 105 (not out) for Knypersley's second team, and H Ford scoring 101 for the reserves of Burslem High Lane. E. Baker, of Burslem's second side, was only a run short of getting similar distinction, and of other heavy scorers E. White was the most prominent with 82 (not out) for Silverdale against Crewe Alexandra.

LOW SCORING AT COBRIDGE.

Leek were very poorly represented at Cobridge, and it was surprising that they were able to make such a close fight with a Burslem team which was almost the full strength of the club. The batting of both sides was weak, and not one bowling change was made or needed. The best cricket of the afternoon came from T. Johnson, who made 30 for Burslem in capital style, and as things turned out it was well for the comfort of his colleagues that he was in such good form. There was, however, more than a suspicion of carelessness about the doings of Burslem's batsmen, and it is certain that a different order of going in would have been adopted if the occasion had demanded it. Nevertheless, J. Pointon and H. Sedgwick got some Kudos by their capital bowling, which caused the home team's last five wickets to collapse for eight runs. Pointon had seven wickets for 30 and Sedgwick three for 31. Leek's innings—the first of the two—had 21 for the third wicket as its most notable stand, the participants in it being A. Plant and V. Astbury (14) but the best effort was that of L. Perkin, who showed a disposition to go for the bowling whilst making 16. Several of the Leek men were out to very feeble half-strokes, but the bowling of R. Hollowood and Evans Cook a big proposition, and and would have troubled better players. Hollowood had another good afternoon by taking seven wickets for 25 and Cook got the other five for 30.

LONGTON WELL BEATEN.

A good crowd saw Porthill Park in their best form at Longton, and the upshot was the complete subjugation of the home team, who were hopelessly outplayed. Porthill's batting had a brisk start by K. Gleaves (12) and G. A. F. Bagguley, but both had gone with the total at 28, and the foundation of victory was laid by N. W. White (46) and W. H. Fitchford (32), who batted very skilfully, and added 66 whilst in company. Other useful scores came from J. S. Heath (19) and A. A. Bickerton (26, not out), and the last-named seemed set for a long stay when the declaration was necessary. Longton's bowling did not create much difficulty, and the best figures were A. Smith's three for 41, and J. V. Toney's two for 21. The home side were given 140 minutes in which to bat, but as matters eventuated this was nearly an hour more than was needed. The early dismissal of such likely run-getters as O. Edwards and Smith created something like a panic, and wickets dropped so rapidly that eight were down for 22 runs. A. Kent made an attempt to improve affairs by hitting up 11, and a plucky stand by J. Dennis (11, not out), and W. Hine (11) made the last partnership the most productive of the venture, the pair taking the score from 34 to 59. J. S. Heap bowled with marked cleverness and judgment to capture six wickets for 44, and J. Durber took four wickets and also kept run-getting down, only 10 chalks coming from the 83 deliveries he sent down.

HAIGHTON'S SUCCESS.

The feature of the game at Nantwich was the success which attended the bowling of L. Haighton, who had a pitch which responded to his particular art. Batting first, Nantwich opened with great promise and finished dismally, for after 81 had been gathered with only four men out the gain of another 15 notches saw the whole side disposed of. T. W. Steventon scored 21 of 24 put on for the first wicket, and F. W. Slight (28) and H. Smith (30) had an excellent partnership which produced 59, but following their separation only W. T. Maybury (11) arrived at doubles, and seven players had only 13 runs amongst them. The collapse had its inception and continuation in the very effective bowling of J. Martin and H. Higgins, who each had four wickets, Martin's quartet being got at the paltry cost of eight runs, whilst Higgins sacrificed no more than 36. J. Smith (27) and R. Tatton (11) gave Norton a very encouraging beginning by running up 35 as the first pair, but of the rest only P. J. Massey (14) had much of a stay, and the last five wickets could do no better than is signified by the collection of 15 runs. Two couples and three singles made the toll taken from Haighton's fine bowling, and the set-off was five wickets. Maybury had three successes for 37, but it was a very abnormal circumstance that E. H. Steventon did no execution.

BIGNALL END'S TWELFTH.

Bignall End brought their victories up to a dozen at the expense of Madeley, who had no gifts from the gods, and were, therefore, well beaten. Sound batting by J. H. Mayer and A. E. Bratby for the ground team's first wicket put Madeley out of court, for the pair were not separated until the total stood at 73, when Mayer's fine innings of 46 was closed by a catch. An urgent call caused the retirement of Bratby, but he had done his share with a characteristic 40, and the visitors' troubles were continued by E. Downing (57) and A. W. Ikin (24, not out). This consistent scoring had its sequel in the applying of the closure after the innings had lasted 2¼ hours. F. Clarke, with two for 24, fared best of seven Madeley bowlers, but E. Mayer and E. Malkin, sen., were both difficult to score off. The visitors' doom was sounded when J. Ankers was smartly caught in the slips with 22 runs got—this being the third wicket to drop—and the only player with capacity to cope with the attack was Clarke, who played with confidence and no little skill whilst getting 42, an innings which was the one bright episode of Madeley's cricket. F. J. Dale had five wickets for 31, W. Downing three for 12, and D. White two for 27.

CHELL'S USEFUL WIN.

A win over Knypersley caused Great Chell to draw well away from the danger quarter, and any possibility of their occupying the altar of relegation is now virtually removed. Knypersley's innings was marked by consistent scoring, but the batting did not give full satisfaction, and some of the wickets were thrown away. An opening of some promise was ended when J. Bedson was out to a full toss, W. Boon—after making 19—had a craving for the impossible and was run out; A. Cooper made a wild stroke and was caught; and H. Bibby was captured from a snick. The soundest batting came from W. Whitehead, who was top-notcher with 22; and a very acceptable eighth wicket stand came from J. Butler and E. Tunstall who each made 19. G. A. Wilson had a blank afternoon as a bowler, but W. H. Meir took three wickets for 17, and F. Vodrey, A. Worthington and R. F. Beardmore each had two successes. Chell's batting had a sorry start, but J. E. Gibson (30) and A. Smith. (27) redeemed the position by good batting which put on 42 runs, and Vodrey (37) and Worthington (20) came along with another stand which did not leave their successors much to do. In the ensuing play L. Horne (19), F. Wilson (26, not out) scored briskly. E. Meadale took four wickets for 62, and the one over sent down by A. Millward got that bowler a victim without cost.

FINE GAME AT SILVERDALE.

The heavy scoring match at Silverdale had an exciting finish, the Alexandra's downfall being accomplished by the first delivery of the "last over." The game had many fluctuations, and was interesting throughout; and the visitors would have had no more than their deserts if they had been able to divide the points. Silverdale lost half their wickets for 49, and although T. Kelsall gathered 32 the eighth wicket dropped at 90. At this stage E. White found another useful partner in A. Charlesworth (15), the score being carried to 111 before they were parted; but the first sensation of the match had still to come. The players responsible for it were White and P. Bloor (36, not out), who gained full mastery of the bowling, and nearly doubled the score during their unbroken association. White had 14 fours in his 82 (not out), a fine display of resolute batting. F. Walker did well to get four wickets for 36, and C. Coffin had three for 49. With E. Groom and B. Griffiths absent Silverdale's bowling lacked its usual power, and Crewe had such rungetters in A. Price (26), F. Walker (35) and Coffin (62) that they looked like achieving a brilliant victory. In the later stages of the innings J. Brownridge (17) and J. Dickinson—eight fours in his 38—almost brought off the coup, but J. Cocks—three for 38—ended the excitement by taking the last wicket.

SENIOR "B" GAMES.

The important game at Cheadle had a bad ending for the home team, who found Alsagers Bank to be a keen and enthusiastic band. The Bank had the advantage of batting first on a good wicket, and their opening pair made excellent use of their opportunity, confident and good cricket by J. Wareham (20), and R. Bailey taking the score to 49 before Wareham fell to a smart catch at point. Four other wickets went cheaply, and four more—including Bailey—dropped at 83, but a useful stand by W. Beech (15) and F. Proctor (11 not out), saw 26 gathered for the last partnership. Bailey played a very sound innings of 86, more than half the total, and his long stay had the effect of giving the bowlers something to work on. V. Brough, with five wickets for 41, was quite the most effective Cheadle bowler, and A. Wetwood was useful with two for 10. Brough had one very dominant period, disposing of four batsmen in his fourteenth over. Cheadle's task was thought to be well within reach, but the batting had a disconcerting opening when J. A. Hurst had to retire temporarily through a injury and H. Capewell was bowled by a "shooter." The Bank's bowling and fielding were of a high standard, and there was never any pronounced opposition to the clever attack, though A. L. Day (13), A. J. Whitehurst (14) and Brough (10, not out) were able to reach doubles. Claiming five wickets for 13, G. W. Beech was

a formidable bowler, and he was well backed by Bailey and Wareham, with two for 11 and two for 22, respectively.

Kidsgrove failed dismally before Audley, who beat them at all points of the game, though their batting had no solidity about it, and the run-getting was mainly the work of three players. J. McEllin (31) and H. Mayer (24) had a second wicket association which took the score from 11 to 55, and F. Darlington (16) saved an utter collapse in the later stages. W. Cooper's capital bowling got six wickets for 24, and F. Timmis three for 27, was a useful assistant. The home team were soon in jeopardy, for they had lost two men with only four runs registered, and disasters followed in such rapid succession that seven chalks for the third wicket represented the most profitable partnership. Darlington had one of his most impressive periods, six wickets for 14 runs indicating his prowess, and L. Beech abetted with three for 18. The pair bowled unchanged, and T. Scarratt, who scored 18, was the only batsmen to evince any capacity to cope with the onslaught.

Bowlers had heart-breaking experiences at Stoke, in a match in which defence was the dominant idea. Sandyford were a solid lot of batsmen, no fewer than seven of them reaching dual figures. The chief of the rungetters was A. Bourne, who batted very steadily for 62, and his was the stand which broke the back of the Railway bowling. Help of moment came from H. Holland and W. Jones, who each gathered 26, and F. James (19, not out) was concerned in a last wicket effort which disposed of any notion of a victory for the ground side. Three wickets fell to R. C. Wormington for 46 runs, figures which were easily the best of what seven bowlers accomplished. The Railway had less than two hours in which to bat, and after losing three wickets for 14 they set themselves to save the game, and did so without being fully extended. T. Ball was prominent by running up 43, and his connection with V. Rouse (11) took the aggregate from 14 to 65, for the fourth wicket. No liberties were attempted with the accurate bowling of A. Bourne, who sent down 22 overs for 18 runs and three wickets.

Except for one short period batting was at a very low ebb at Ashcombe Park, the only opposition to the bowlers which was of any account occurring during High Lane's third wicket partnership, F. Wood (24) and F. Goodwin (12) putting on two dozen chalks, after which the side collapsed for another 20. Previously, the Park had been routed in ignominious fashion, 15 runs for the sixth wicket—collected by F. James (7, not out) and J. Alcock (11) representing the most lucrative resistance. Three High Lane bowlers returned good figures, G. Skellam having four victims for nine, S. Durber three for 17, and Wood three for three. For the losers O. Brassington was to the fore with four for 19. In the two innings nine players failed to trouble the scorers.

The game at Betley was accounted a good one, though scoring was painfully slow. The outfield was hard to get through, and the Caverswall innings of 98 required no fewer than 57 overs, of which 20 were maidens. Half the visitors' wickets fell for 16, and this shocking opening had but one stand as its redemption, C. Hassall (40) and A. Pickard (28) playing well to augment the total by 55 runs for the sixth wicket. W. Chell, with five for 32, was the most effective of the Betley bowlers, whilst J Amps had three for 23. J. Brookshaw also caused his opponents a lot of concern, sending down 18 overs for 17 runs and one wicket. The home team's innings was a procession with a careful 21 (not out) from A. Mainwaring as its one relief from distress. Bowling with speed sufficient to induce timidity, E. Wakelin had four wickets for ten, whilst three fell to Pickard for six and two to C. Turner for a couple.

Stone and Fenton had a fine sporting contest, victory resting with the home side by the narrow margin of 10 runs, a satisfactory result in view of the absence of P. F. Stubbs, E. J. Johnson and R. Cadman. Stone's total of 159 was reached by capital all-round batting. A nice opening partnership of 34 by G. Reece (12) and F. Ravenscroft (21) was followed up by a fine innings of 41 from L. C. Fernie. A. Ravenscroft chipped in with a very useful 11 much less stylish 25, and G. Keyes again did good service with a contribution of 21. Fenton's leading bowler was W. Wood, who had the capital analysis of eight for 51. The visitors put up a great fight without ever really getting on top, and their thanks were due to G. W. Hammersley for the near approach to Stone's aggregate. Going in late, Hammersley remained undefeated to the end, and put a well played 50 to his credit, hitting seven fours. He made two lucky shicks in the first over which were just wide of the fielders, but gave no actual chance throughout his stay of over two hours. With half the Fenton side out for 64, Stone seemed assured of an easy win, and had J. Cooper, who bowled really well, been given more scope it is not unlikely that the visitors' score would have been much less, for although Fernie took six wickets the cost—74 runs—was high. Indeed, towards the end runs came so freely that there was a prospect that Fenton would pull off the victory, but happily for the home team G. Ridgway clean bowled the last batsman. Stone clearly miss the attack of E. J. Johnson, but the best use is not made of the bowling at disposal.

The postponed match at Clough Hall had a narrow victory of seven runs for L.M. and S. Railway as its result. The visitors owed their success to a sound batting display by V. Rouse, whose 43 was nearly half their total. No other player reached dual figures, though T. Ball, C. Mason and E. Baker were each only a run short. The ten wickets were equally shared by two bowlers, S. Johnson's five costing 28 runs, and W. Cooper's share 41. Kidsgrove's first six wickets dropped for 56, but they looked like winning when S. Broad (14, not out) and E. Findley (23) had a connection which took the score to 86, leaving 12 runs to be got by three wickets. But these had little efficacy and the visitors won well. W. Hill captured four wickets for 24, and R. Partridge four for 39.

MAJOR JUNIOR MATCHES.

A weak Leek side had no chance against Burslem, whose bowlers had only two troublesome opponents 54 runs being subscribed for the fourth wicket by F. Sheldon (16) and J. Pointon (22). Seven men fell to C. Tunnicliffe's good bowling for 51, and J. Chadwick disposed of two for 21. The visitors made a poor beginning of their task of getting 71 chalks but Tunnicliffe (31) and E. Baker soon got to work, and were so productive that the score was taken from 4 to 119 before they were parted. Baker remained to carry his personal product to 59, a vigorous piece of batting which contained 10 fours. Burslem's runs were got from 35 overs, of which only three went unpunished. Two Porthill Park bowlers were equal to the job of dismissing Longton, who shaped very poorly and 14 from A. Hodson was their highest score. J Glover had five wickets for 25 and S. R. Cooper five for 25. Porthill's batting was weak at the start, but the steady work of C. Bickerton (25) brought about improvement, and W. C. Washington (19), H. C. Renshaw (15) and Glover (43) afterwards got runs briskly, Glover having nine fours in his contribution. Longton's most able bowler was A. Bradbury, who had four wickets for 26. After a most promising opening Nantwich's batting against Norton underwent a slump, the additions made by the last five wickets stopping at 17. A well played innings of 43 came from W. Meakin, whose best helper was W. Walker with 27. The potent Norton wicket taker was H. Hill, with six for 65, whilst R. Brown had two for 34 and S. Crump two for nine. Useful doings with the bat also came from Brown (15) and Crump (14), their stays with W. D. Robinson providing 45 and 35 runs respectively. Robinson had a third good partner in E. Waterman (15, not out), this connection taking the score within two runs of victory before it was severed. Robinson's attractive cricket got him 65 chalks, and was the chief factor in Norton's easy win. Madeley were in their best humour against Bignall End, and their fifth win was a comfortable affair. Their batting lacked consistency, but three players gave the visiting bowlers quite enough to do, T. Stubbs running up 50, Em. Griffiths 34 and S. Heath 35. The seventh wicket co-operation of Griffiths and Heath furnished 65 runs. Three wickets each fell to F. Whalley and L. Burgess, but the cost was heavy. Bignall End's batting was all defence, 19 of the 55 overs with which it had to contend being maidens, and the first seven wickets averaged only two runs apiece. Stubbs had a remarkable analysis, delivering 12 overs for four runs and as many wickets, whilst the toll of A. Boulton's three "scraps" was 16. The feature of Great Chell's batting at Knypersley was a capital innings of 72 (not out) by R. Harris, who had a let-off at point before he had reached double figures, but, otherwise, played very soundly. G. Bedson and W. A. Goodwin had two wickets each, and E. H. Tue deserved better returns than three for 40. The Knypersley innings was marked by a fine exhibition of correct and skilful cricket by T. Bibby, who gave one easy chance and made several bad strokes, but in the main provided a display which will not be forgotten readily. His score of 105 (not out) was raised by 18 fours, one three, four couples and 22 singles. Crewe Alexandra's run-getting proclivities rested with three players A. Sandlands getting 28, G. Prophett 24—38 for the third wicket—and J. Jennings 47, an innings of good quality. Three wickets fell to E. Lowe for 23, and J. Barnett had three for 31. Before the attack of J. Prince—three for 9, P. Wilbraham and Jennings, Silverdale's venture was a feeble affair, and 18 from G. Read was the top score. On Monday the Alexandra achieved their third successive victory, Norton being well beaten. The out- (34, not out) and E. Woodhall (23). When last wicket effort of 46 runs by A. M. McTurk standing matter of the Crewe innings was the Norton batted, P. Wilbraham took four wickets for 18 and J. Prince three for 11.

MINOR JUNIOR MATTERS.

Having disposed of Cheadle for 70 Alsagers Bank seemed to have a reasonable chance of securing a victory, but they were nonplussed by P. Lowndes, a left-arm slow bowler of promise, who tumbled them out without ceremony, and was helped in his fell work by two cases of run out. Seven overs were sufficient to get Lowndes seven wickets at the cost of two runs apiece, the only player to show any approach to resistance being F. W. Tomkinson, who scored 13. Cheadle's best run getters were V. Wetwood and H. Day, each 15.

Five Bank bowlers got wickets the best figures being the three for nine of G. Wainwright. Kidsgrove's designs on the championship were advanced by a good win at Audley, where the home team had but one batsman with sufficient ability to cope with the bowling. This player was F. Jervis, whose 30 formed half his side's total. J. Hadley came out with four wickets for 12, and S. Johnson had three for 27. Kidsgrove were in a bad way when their eighth batsman came back at 43, but Johnson and E. Findley punched the bowling merrily, Johnson having ten fours in his 50 (not out) and his colleague getting 14 by four hits. Audley's effective bowlers were G. Bailey—four for 16—and H. McEllin—three for 32. L.M. and S. Railway came badly to grief at Sandyford, their batting having a hopeless breakdown, in the course of which six players failed to get a run. The home team had consistency of a much better character, only one man doing nothing, and C. Rosie's 24 was but one chalk less than the united productiveness of his opponents. S. Dean was his best helper with 16, whilst E. Baker put on 10 useful singles. R. Ford was responsible for some serviceable bowling, which got him seven wickets for 32. For the winners W. Butcher had four five, Rosie three for 14, and E. Colclough two for six. Scott Hay were put out in pell-mell fashion by High Lane, twelve overs accounting for the whole team. The wickets were shared by H Stone and J. Mellor—six for 11 and four for 13, respectively. High Lane's batting had an unsound start, five wickets going for 17, but A. Gaskell (16) and H. Ford added 45 as the sixth wicket pair, and the rest of the innings was a "cake-walk" for Ford, who had twenty 4's in the spirited exhibition which got him 101 runs in all. H. Downing came out of the turmoil creditably with eight wickets for 34. Caverswall were much too powerful for the Betley whippers-in, despite the loss of three men for 29. The change in the game came by a profitable partnership by W. Colclough (83) and F. Barber (41), the pair figuring in a stand which added 92 notches. The bowling had further drastic treatment from F. Blunt (40) and G. Swift (21, not out), and Betley were in a sorry plight when their batting turn came. Their innings was a dismal affair, though E. Ashley had a cautious 12, and the last pair had the best yield. Five wickets fell to Barber for 17, and Blunt had three for 14. Stone have had a successful time during the last two months, and prior to their check at Brindley Ford they had won eight matches out of ten. The Wesleyans were winners by 12 runs after Stone had apparently got the game well in hand, only for three wickets to fall at the same total. W. Ravenscroft (34), C. Wood (16) and J. H. Hart(15) were Stone's top scorers, whilst for Brindley Ford G. Caddy (24, not out) and A. Walley (14) did best. F. T. Bowdidge, for Stone, took 7 wickets for 38, and for the winners E. Simner had four wickets for 35, and J. Slaney three for 17. On Monday L.M. and S. Railway and Scott Hay had quite a good tussle at Stoke, F. Higginbottom (14), J. Bestwick (19), and C. Findley (18, not out) making the visitors' total a useful one. Their most troublesome opponent was F. Morrall, who claimed seven men for 34. Thanks to a steady innings of 39 from R. Bagguley the ground team had an easy win in prospect when 80 went up with six wickets standing, but three men departed with the scores level, S. Bloor and F. Capper proving to be more effective bowlers than the four tried previously.

NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

SENIOR DIVISION: SECTION "A."

Burslem v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Timmis and W. Butters.

Longton v. Knypersley; Messrs. Stevenson and Latham.

Nantwich v. Leek; Messrs. Cooper and Furnival.

Madeley v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Forster and Cox.

Bignall End v. Norton; Messrs. Birtles and Condliffe.

Great Chell v. Silverdale; Messrs. Bowers and Mould.

SECTION "B."

Cheadle v. Fenton; Messrs. Bennett and Cantrill.

Kidsgrove v. Caverswall; Messrs. Chesters and Clowes.

L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke) v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. Gregory and Brough.

Burslem High Lane v. Audley; Messrs. F. Smith and Brown.

Ashcombe Park v. Sandyford; Messrs. Parkin and Shingler.

Betley v. Stone Messrs. Holdcroft and Bullock.

JUNIOR DIVISION: SECTION "A."

Crewe Alexandra v. Burslem; Messrs. Swindley and Bostock.

Knypersley v. Longton; Messrs. W. J. Buckley and Skellam.

Leek v. Nantwich; Messrs. R. Butters and Keeling.

Porthill Park v. Madeley; Messrs. Portch and Viggars.

Norton v. Bignall End; Messrs. Barstead and Rowlands.

Silverdale v. Great Chell; Messrs. Salmon and Fennell.

SECTION "B."

Brindley Ford Wesleyans v. Cheadle.

Caverswall v. Kidsgrove.

Alsagers Bank v. L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke).

Audley v. Burslem High Lane.

Sandyford v. Scott Hay.

Stone v. Betley.

THE CHAMPIONS entertained Madeley at Boon Hill on Saturday last, and scored an easy victory. The home team batted first on a rather soft wicket. The first two hours' cricket was very doleful. J H. Mayer took out A. E. Bratby with him to open the innings, and although both batsmen played very sound cricket, their entirely defensive tactics made the game very uninteresting. After two hours and ten minutes play, only 125 appeared on the boards. The innings was continued until the score reached 178 for six wickets, when the captain declared.

Madeley opened disastrously, losing their first four wickets for 23 runs. F. Clarke and E. Mayer made a determined effor to pull the game round, and by careful play put on 19 runs for the fifth wicket partnership ere McEllen, who deputised for Bratby behind the sticks, snapped up a chance given by Mayer. The next three wickets fell for a further 19. E. Malkin, sen., joined F. Clarke for the ninth wicket partnership, and this pair made one last gallant effort to save a point by batting out time, but after adding a further 21 runs to the total W. Downing clean bowled Malkin. With only one more run scored Clarke lost his wicket to a smart catch by McEllen behind the wicket, and the innings closed for 83, with about 12 minutes to go for time. L. McEllen proved a capable understudy for Bratby, for he took three catches, and had the distinction of not giving away a single extra throughout the innings.

The Great Chell seniors accomplished their second home win of the season when entertaining Knypersley last Saturday, and incidentally they have taken the full compliment of points from the Knypersley team this season. The visitors, who had first use of the wicket, gave a bright display of batting and compiled the useful score of 128.

The home side, in their reply, started somewhat shakily as the first two wickets were lost for the meagre total of six runs, but the remaining batsmen obtained such a mastery over the bowling that the visitors' total was passed when the eighth wicket fell, the innings eventually closing at 168 for the loss of nine wickets.

PORTHILL PREDOMINATE.

Porthill, both at home and away, were superior to Longton in all departments. At Longton the visitors took first knock, and a good third wicket partnership—White and Fitchford—put on 66 runs. Six batsmen reached double figures, White being top scorer with 46. Fitchford came next with 32, while Bickerton was unbeaten, when the closure was applied, with 26 to his credit, and Longton had to face a total of 167.

The home side were given two hours and twenty minutes in which to knock off the runs, but could do little against the bowling of Heap and Durber, who quickly had the batsmen in difficulties, half the side being dismissed for 13 runs only, and when the ninth man went in there were only 22 runs on the board. A. Kent, Dennis and Hines made eleven each, and the whole side were out for 59, the innings lasting 82 minutes.

Durber had the better average, taking 4 wickets for 10 runs, seven of his thirteen overs being maidens. Heap, who had 6 for 44, bowled much better than his figures show. Porthill's fielding was good, and some exceedingly smart catches were made.

Longton second string gave a very poor display at Porthill. Going in first they started badly, half the side being out for 27, the total only reaching the half-century. A. Hodson was top scorer with 14, which included three boundaries, E. Pass coming next with 10 to his credit. The wickets were equally divided between J. Glover and S. R. Cooper, 25 runs being scored off the former and 18 from the latter.

The home side started even worse than the visitors, the first wicket falling without a run on the board, but their opponents' total was passed with five wickets in hand, the venture totalling 135. Glover had a field day, for, in addition to being in good form with the ball, he wielded the willow to some purpose, notching 43, which included nine boundaries. Bickerton was runner-up with a well-played 26, Washington coming next with 19.

MADELEY II. SUCCESS.

Bignall End II. put up a poor show at Madeley last Saturday, the home team gaining a very decisive victory. T. Stubbs gave Madeley a good start by making 50 in an hour and a quarter, including 8 boundaries. This, however, was eclipsed by S. Heath, who knocked 55 in 50 minutes. In one over, off L. Burgess, he made 18 runs, and altogether had 9 boundaries credited to him. E. Griffiths, with 34, also gave a good display, even if these were not made in quite such quick a time. After batting two hours and a half, the home team declared at 185 for 9 wickets.

Madeley had little difficulty in disposing of the visitors, as 6 wickets were down for 10 runs, and the innings only realised 38. T. Stubbs bowled with marked success, and was almost unplayable for, out of the 12 overs he delivered, 9 were maidens, and 4 wickets were taken for 4 runs. A. Boulton also did well with 3 wickets for 16. The visitors only batted with 10 men, as S. Bratby (son of the Cheshire County and Bignall End wicket-keeper) had a nasty fall while fielding.

Scott Hay made a poor show at High Lane, Stone (6 for 11) and Mellor (4 for 13), dismissing the side for only 26. High Lane soon got the required runs, and H. Ford, batting fearlessly, had the satisfaction of recording a century. Though not faultless, his innings was a remarkable feat for a youth of 16, who is in his first season of league cricket. In face of the home side's total of 162, Downing bowled finely to take 8 wickets for 34 runs.

FINE RECOVERY.

Caverswall Juniors were at the top of their form when they entertained Betley, for, after losing two wickets for 11, they went on to score 205 (for 7) in 2½ hours. W. Colclough, who was missed in the slips at 4, played brilliantly after this let off, and was eventually bowled by Madden with 83 to his credit. It was a splendid all round innings, his off-driving especially being good to watch. F. Barber got 41 in quick time, one over alone realising 14. F. Blunt soon rattled up 40; and G. Swift played well, being not out 21, when the innings was declared.

Betley lost their first two wickets for no runs, and with E. Ashley (12), the only double figure scorer, the innings closed for 38. F. Barber was the most successful bowler, having 5 for 17. F. Blunt had 3 for 14, and T. Adderley 1 for 3.

Stallington got the better of their visitors from Alton, who put in a late appearance. Going in first Alton were soon dismissed by the home bowlers, only B. Weston, who made 14 out of 38, being able to make any stand. Stallington also made a poor start, half the side being out for 13. E. Rowley, however, saved the situation and carried his bat for a well-played 29. H. Taylor, for Alton, took seven wickets for 24; R. Stubbs four for 21; A. Simcox three for 14, and C. Mills three for two runs.

Wolstanton Marsh won their home fixture with Rough Close, and the game was well contested. The home side made a poor start, losing half their wickets for 10 runs. A. Green skied his first ball, and should have been caught. Afterwards he stayed on with T. Parker, this pair putting on 45 runs, when Green fell to a good catch by Bradshaw. Parker was out at 61, having made 28 by sound methods. Bradshaw bowled well for Rough Close, claiming six wickets. Against the home bowlers, Rough Close made a poor show, and were all out for 41 runs. The home side thus won by 29 runs. W. Robinson had five wickets at a small cost and G. Follows had four wickets, but was more expensive. Wolstanton, with this match, completed their home programme, having brought forward their other fixtures. The remaining matches away are: August 14th, Team August 21st, Bucknall.

GOOD RECORD BROKEN.

Sandbach first eleven, captained by J. W. Hilditch, have had quite a run of successes, but last Saturday, when Knutsford were entertained, the record was broken by a defeat which was only brought about a few minutes before the time for drawing stumps. Knutsford batted first and compiled a score of 150, included in which were 64 by H. Moreton, and 35 by F. C. Hilditch. The remainder added small scores. Trueman again bowled well, taking five for 53. Dean fell short of his usual excellence in attack his average working out at two for 56. F. Maskelyne, who did so well with his "knock-out" team, was given a trial, and he took two for 21. Sandbach opened fairly well, the first wicket falling for 35. Runs were secured at a slow pace, but the stand by H. Trueman improved matters, his 17 being added quickly. H. Hamer, the schoolboy, hit out creditably, and contributed 21. Seventeen and 18 were made by J. W. Hilditch and G. H. Wright respectively. With only a few minutes to go, Ramsell, who was taking everything out of the bowling at the same time exercising care, had to retire hurt. With a decided limp, he returned to partner Dean for the last wicket. Three minutes remained, but Ramsell, in spite of his injury, called Dean for a too-short run, and Dean was run out. The total was 155.

On Wednesday, Sandbach defeated Knutsford by 93 runs to 68. Capt. Rigby, who made his first appearance since his operation a several weeks ago, had a great reception from the spectators. He made 18, A. Orme, 31, and H. Trueman 21.

The match between Knypersley and Great Chell in the Junior "A" Section of the N.S. League, was notable for two splendid batting performances by T. Bibby (Knypersley) 104 not out, and R. Harris (Great Chell) 76 not out. Harris, who is a batsman with long experience of League cricket, gave a confident display of clean hitting and neither Goodwin or J. J. Green, Knypersley's slow bowlers could upset his equanimity.

T. Bibby is without a doubt the outstanding player amongst a crop of promising young

T. BIBBY, Knypersley C.C.

batsmen which the Knypersley Club is happy to possess. He is only 18 years of age. On Saturday his innings of 104 (not out) was obtained in just over an hour and a half, and he hit the ball to the rails on no fewer than 18 occasions. He gave a most stylish display and his innings was without a fault. His chief asset is an excellent defence, and possessing as he does a natural serenity of disposition, the wiles of the Great Chell bowlers had no temptations for him. He received a well-deserved ovation at the close of the innings, and when he had obtained his century he was congratulated at the wicket in a sportsmanlike fashion by the Great Chell players.

SHOCK FOR SILVERDALE.

The Alexandra first XI. gave Silverdale a bit of a shock on their own ground last Saturday. It was a batsmen's day, and the bowlers on both sides were heavily punished. Taking first use of the crease the home team rattled up 213 for the loss of nine wickets, when the captain declared, the prospects of the Railwaymen overtaking that total appearing remote.

The Alexandra put forward a noble effort, and actually got within four runs of victory before the last wicket fell. It is going to be a tight struggle between Crewe and Madeley to escape the custodianship of the wooden spoon.

The second team have improved of late, and during last week-end they placed two more victories to their credit. In 2½ hours on Saturday the Alexandra compiled 141. They made an unpromising start, but the situation was saved by the third wicket partnership of Sandlands and Prophett, the former contributing 28. Jennings proved another stumbling block for the Silverdale bowlers, and was within three of his half century when he was defeated. The Silverdale batting was rather weak; but on the other hand the home attack did not permit of any liberties being taken, the bowlers being also well supported in the field. The innings only yielded 72 runs, the highest scorer being G. Read with 18.

After a long run of successes the Alexandra touring team met their Waterloo at Malpas, who secured the verdict by the narrow margin of seven runs. Batting first, Malpas compiled 92, mainly due to a well-played 52 by B. Battesbee. The Tourists responded with 85, H. D. Chesters being the chief contributor with 21 to his credit.

COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

Staffordshire's Holiday Fixtures.

Improving Financial Position.

THE CLERK of the Weather was more benign this holiday time than he has been during the corresponding period of several past years. The Staffordshire cricket week consequently has been a greater success from the financial point of view, and the season will conclude with an advance on gate receipts over last season of at least £100. Those familiar with the difficulties which the county club has had to contend with in recent years will welcome this news, and will be no less pleased to hear that, during the present season, 111 new members have been enrolled.

J. S. HEATH.

This splendid accession will bring the total membership up to 480. To make the club entirely independent of gate receipts a total of 600 members is needed, and the excellent progress that has now been made will encourage those responsible in their efforts to reach that mark. Interest in the activities of the Staffordshire County Club appears to be growing again, and there are hopes that the time is not far distant when the club will be established on a sound basis and be able to take a more prominent part in the national game.

The improved holiday weather not only assisted matters financially, but enabled Staffordshire to complete at least one of their matches, and that one to their advantage. The rain which interfered with the other game was possibly in their favour, for their prospects against Lancashire II. were far from bright. The match with Notts. II. at Porthill added another remarkable experience to a season that has produced several unusual results. To twice dismiss the visitors in one day and gain an innings victory was an achievement that has seldom been equalled. The last time Staffordshire were able to do anything of the kind was in the opening fixture three seasons ago, when rain prevented play on the first day against Lincolnshire at Wolverhampton. Mainly through the extraordinarily good bowling of Sydney Barnes, who in the first innings took seven wickets for twelve runs, the visitors were twice dismissed on the second day and were defeated by an innings. The bowlers were again very much on top at Porthill this week on a pitch that had peculiarities, but which could not, in any sense, be called a bad wicket. It was sufficiently damp to keep the ball low, but apart from that it assisted the bowlers very little. That the attack could be coped with was proved by J. S. Heath, and in a lesser degree by Barnes, both of whom batted finely, the former to contribute 72 out of the 164 which the home county collected. Heath's driving, in particular, was superb. It was perfectly timed and always along the carpet, and the display altogther was as good as anything of the kind one could wish to see. But for it, Staffordshire would have been in almost as desperate a plight as their opponents. So to Heath on the one hand, and Sedgwick on the other, the main honours of the match were due, for the Leek player bowled as well as any time in his career, and getting whatever was to be had from the wicket, caused havoc among the Notts batsmen, several of whom, including their captain, L. Kirk, had had experience of first-class cricket with their county's premier side. Sedgwick's six wickets cost only 23 runs.

The match with Lancashire II. at Stoke was a less interesting affair, producing two days' quiet cricket without a definite result. For the convenience of the visitors, who had to travel from Redcar, where they were engaged with Yorkshire II. on Monday and Tuesday, the fixture was arranged for Thursday and Friday instead of Wednesday and Thursday as in previous years. At the start there was promise of exciting developments, the bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick causing the rapid fall of Lancashire wickets, but J. T. Tyldesley and Farrimond saved the situation, and Woolley and Rushton formed a vigorously wagging tail. Instead of the collapse that at one time seemed cartain, the Lancastrians were able to build up a sufficiently good total to give them a first innings advantage, but when they declared their second innings 170 ahead, they were unable to dispose of Staffordshire a second time in the two and a quarter hours that remained, and the game consequently was drawn. A most uninteresting display of cricetk than that while Staffordshire were playing out time can scarcely be imagined, but it was a conclusion in keeping with the play that had gone before.

Staffordshire will conclude their programme for the season next week, when they will make a tour of the eastern counties, meeting Lincolnshire at Grentham on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Norwich at Norfolk, on Thursday and Friday. Both of these clubs have already been defeated at Wolverhampton this season, but at Norwich last season, Norfolk gained the decision by ten wickets, while at Lincoln only first innings points could be counted. The Staffordshire eleve selected for these matches is as follows:—J. B. Russell (Sutton Coldfield) captain, H. Goodwin (Walsall), H. W. Homer (Old Hill), P. F. Stubbs (Stone), P. O. Yates (Old Hill), J. W. Johnson (Longton), F. D. Perks (West Bromwich Dartmouth), A. Lockett (Old Hill), Platt (West Bromwich Dartmouth), Sedgwick (Leek), Barnes (Castleton Moor).

CRICKET AT WOLSTANTON.

Match in Aid of Nursing Association Funds.

A cricket match between Mr. G. Follows' team and a Porthill team was played for the benefit of the Wolstanton Nursing Association funds, on the ground of the Porthill Club, on Friday.

At the start scoring was slow by Porthill, eight runs coming as the result of half-an-hour's play. Then Follows bowled in place of Brett, and Bliss sent up 10 with a hit to leg. Three overs from Follows yielded 17 runs, then he sent back Billington. W. Robinson retired hurt, and Follows captured his second wicket. Bliss fell to a clever catch at 80. Warburton, with a boundary, sent up the 100, and more lively cricket was seen, but at 130 Parker bowled Warburton, who had compiled 34. The batsmen continued to treat the bowling with scanty respect, and when the innings was closed Porthill had compiled 243 for the loss of nine wickets.

J. Green and G. Huxley made a fair start for the XI., but the first wicket fell at 23. G. Price followed in, but lost Huxley at 25. Price played splendid cricket, compiling 43 before he fell to Renshaw, the score then being 118 for six wickets. The total reached was 181.

PORTHILL.—S Billington b Follows 25, F Bliss c Johnson b Parker 34, H C Renshaw b Follows 8, M Smith b Parker 10, E Hammond c Adlington b Johnson 39, R Warburton b Parker 35, Barratt b Hammond 30, Chantry run out 3, E Poole c and b Johnson 2, R Billington not out 23, Len Baddaley not out 8, extras 15; total (9 wkts) 243. Innings declared.

G. FOLLOWS' XI.—J Green c Renshaw b Billington 4, G Huxley b Billington 20, E Walker lbw b Billington 7, G Follows b Renshaw 9, T Brett b Barratt 9, T Parker not out 40, R Johnson c Billington b Bliss 5, H Hammond c Poole b Barratt 5, B Adlington (absent) 0, G Price lbw b Renshaw 43, H Robinson b Bliss 11, W Robinson b Barratt 1, extras 27; total 181.

MID-WEEK CRICKET.

STAFFORDSHIRE FARMERS v. UTTOXETER THURSDAY.

UTTOXETER.—J Merrick b Chadderton 1, T Robson b Chadderton 10, J Taylor b Chadderton 6, W Heasman c Rev Salt b Chadderton 0, W Redden b Coleman 12, H Willisford c Bocking b Chadderton 0, L Eyley run out 1, F Mouseley c Clulow b Hawkins 10, Rev R Jenkins run out 3, F Allen c James b Bocking 2, F Hall not out 10, extras 2; total 56.

STAFFS. FARMERS.—Hawkins b Heasman 3, Chadderton c Redden b Hall 12, James b Heasman 0, Godley b Heasman 0, Chambers b Hall 0, Whittaker b Heasman 4, Coleman c Redden b Heasman 2, Dobson c Taylor b Heasman 3, Rev Salt c Heasman b Hall 1, Bocking not out 1, Clulow lbw b Heasman 2, extras 5; total 33.

J. W. JOHNSON.

SATURDAY'S CRICKET.

N.S. & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

LEEK v LONGTON.

LONGTON.—A Smith c Oliver b Kidd 62, H Rigby c Perkin b Sedgwick 5, C Edwards c Murphy b Hunt 28, A Hawker b Kidd 9, H Morris c and b Sedgwick 26, H Brassington c Hulme b Hunt 21, extras 2; total (for 6 wkts) 153. Innings declared.

LEEK.—H Oliver st Dennis b Brassington 0, A Plant b Smith 3, H Hassall b Brassington 0, L Perkin c Hine b Brassington 4, J Pointon c Dennis b Hine 25, M Murphy b Smith 10, Sedgwick (4) not out 35, H R Plant c and b Hine 1, F Hunt c Smith b Edwards 24, J Hulme lbw b Brassington 0, A L Kidd not out 1, extras 3; total (for 9 wkts) 108.

KNYPERSLEY v. BURSLEM.

BURSLEM.—H Cotton c Lonsdale b Bibby 47, T Johnson b Mosedale 10, A Birch b Mosedale 0, W Briscoe b Mosedale 22, W Fenton c Cooper b Millward 0, E Cooke lbw b Millward 9, E Cotton not out 50, R Hollowood c Whitehead b Butler 27, J Hodgkiss not out 15, extras 9; total 189.

Innings declared.

KNYPERSLEY.—W Whitehead run out 2, J Bedson b E Cooke 21, A Cooper b E Cooke 2, W Boon b E Cooke 0, H E Bourne b E Cooke 1, A Millward c Cardidge b E Cooke 4, E Mosedale b E Cooke 0, W Lonsdale b E Cooke 4, J Butler c Cooke b Hollowood 2, H Bibby c E Cotton b E Cooke 22, F Finney not out 0, extras 5; total 63.

SILVERDALE v. BIGNALL END.

SILVERLDALE.—C F Rushton b Dale 15, A Ward c and b W Downing 12, J C Cooper b Dale 0, J Whalen c White b Downing 5, B Griffiths b W Downing 47, E Groome c Mayer b Dale 4, E White c Durber b W Downing 0, J Cocks c White by W Downing 2, P Bloor c Bratby b Iken 5, G Green not out 24, A Charlesworth b Iken 7, extras 9; total 130.

BIGNALL END.—J H Mayer c Bloor b Whalen 12, F J Dale c Green b Charlesworth 63, L McEllin c Whalen b Griffiths 12, A W Ikin not out 30, A E Bratby not out 10, extras 7; total 134.

PORTHILL PARK v. NANTWICH.

NANTWICH.—F W Slight c White b Durber 22, T W Steventon c Fitchford b J Evenson 16, H Smith c J S Heath b J S Heap 1, W T Maybury st C R Heath b Heap 13, J E Smith b J S Heap 6, E H Steventon c Fitchford b Bickerton 35, A Hinde c C R Heath b J Burber 0, S W Cooper b J Durber 0, F Barton b J S Heap 7, F E Hough b J S Heap 21, H Garner not out 2, extras 7; total 130.

PORTHILL PARK.—W H Fitchford c F W Steventon b E H Steventon 2, K Gleaves c H Garner b W TMaybury 7, N W White lbw b W S Maybury 16, A Bickerton c Hough b Cooper 58, J S Heath lbw b Garner 15, G A F Bagguley lbw b Cooper 3, J S Heap b Garner 0, G Price c and b Cooper 0, C R Heath b Cooper 1, J Evenson c Hough b Cooper 3, J Durber not out 2, extras 4; total 111.

NORTON v. MADELEY.

NORTON.—D Worthington b Malkin jun 13, J Smith c Ankers b E Mayer 7, J Jolley c Mayer b Malkin jun 36, S Smith c Glover b Malkin sen 13, P Massey c Bytheway b Malkin jun 0, A Jolley c May r b Clarke 2, R Tatton b Madjin jun 11, F Bailey b Malkin sen 4, H Higgins c Malkin sen b Malkin jun 7, J Martin c Ankers b Malkin jun 4, A Evans not out 0, extras 9; total 106.

MADELEY.—J Ankers not out 50, J Glover b A Jolley 4, G Timmis b Evans 1, F Clarke lbw b Evans 4, J Hazeldine c Evans b J Smith 20, E Mayer c Tatton b S Smith 32, A Bytheway not out 10, extras 10; total 131.

CREWE ALEXANDRA v. GREAT CHELL.

CREWE ALEXANDRA.—A Price b Worthington 63, J Holland b Wilson 2, M Walker b Meir 64, C Coffin lbw b Barber 36, J J Steele c Smith b Wilson 6, H Lorman lbw b Barber 4, J Dickinson not out 20, H Hope lbw b Wilson 4, J Jennings not out 2, extras 10, total (for 7 wkts) 211.

GREAT CHELL.—W Warburton run out 2, R Harris c Sylvester b Jennings 34, J E Gibson b Coffin 22, A Smith not out 56, W Worthington not out 36, extras 8, total (for wkts) 157.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

STONE v. ASHCOMBE PARK.

ASHCOMBE PARK.—J Shaw lbw b G Deyes 13, C Phillips b G Deyes 6, F James b G Ridgway 9, I Rane c Fernie b P F Stubbs 26, H James b E C Fernie 18, O Davies c Ridgway b E C Fernie 20, J Alcock c Ridgway b E C Fernie 9, H Hood run out 3, P Bloor b G Ridgway 23, D Brassington b G Deyes 4, D Rane not out 12, extras 8; total 151.

STONE.—F Ravenscroft st Rane b Brassington 30, G Reece b Davis 36, P F Stubbs b F James 40, E C Fernie b Davis 22, A M C Smith b Davis 2, A Ravenscroft not out 2, G Deyes not out 1, R Cadman b James 24, extras 10; total (for 6 wkts) 167.

SANDYFORD v. BURSLEM HOGH LANE.

SANDYFORD.—G Bourne lbw b Wood 13, H Holland c Machin b Durber 22, C Cotton c Sekllam b Machin 16, W Jones c Skellam b Machin 16, W Jones c Skellam b Machin 8, A Bourne c Durber b Skellam 10, J Dean b Wood 10, A Hall b Wood 39, F James c and b Durber 7, J Meir run out 29, W Parr not out 1, H Rawlinson c and b Skellam 6, extras 15; total 176.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE.—A Robertson c Dean b A Bourne 2, J Machin b A Bourne 0, F Wood b A Bourne 41, F Goodwin b A Bourne 6, J Henshall b A Bourne 8, T Johnson b A Bourne 1, A Hurd not out 1, S Durber c Dean b A Bourne 0, G Skellam b A Bourne 0, A Dunn c Holland b Jones 0, H Cartlidge b Bourne 0, extras 11; total 70.

CAVERSWALL v. CHEADLE.

CHEADLE.—H Capewell b Poate 20, J A Hurst b W Payne 0, A L Day b R Dunn 48, J Shaw b Poate 7, V Pepper b Poate 4, A J Whitehurst c and b Payne 1, R Whitehurst b Wakelin 10, A Shaw not out 20, A Wetwood b R Dunn 5, W Brough run out 10, J Keates b J Turner 0, extras 11; total, 136.

CAVERSWALL.—J Turner c Shaw b Brough 7, G H Sherwin b Brough 1, A H Poate c Hurst b Brough 15, C Hassall c Day b Brough 12, A Pickard b Keates 4, E Wakelin c Hurst b Brough 1, R Dunn st Capewell b Brough 5, C Turner b Brough 0, G Freeman not out 3, F Hamnett b Brough 0, W Payne b Keates 0, extras 1; total, 49.

FENTON v. BETLEY.

FENTON.—G Hammersley c Chell b Amps 2, C White c and b Aplin 45, G Talbot c Aplin b Chell 6, P Silvester c Jones b Amps 4, W White b Brookshaw 1, W Wood run out 5, F Barnett c Ashley b Aplin 1, D Williams b Brookshaw 0, H Naylor c Ashley b Aplin 0, R Houseman b Aplin 2, A Mellor not out 0, extras 5; total 71.

BETLEY.—G Lyth b Houseman 0, T Dean c Silvester b Naylor 7, F Lyth b Naylor 18, J Amps c Houseman b Naylor 1, B Jones b Talbot 9, H Ashley lbw b W White 3, E Aplin c C White b Wood 19, M Jones not out 0, G Mainwaring c Wood b Talbot 1, J Brookshaw c Mellor b Wood 1, W Chell b Talbot 0, extras 7; total 66.

ALSAGERS BANK v. KIDSGROVE.

ALSAGERS BANK.—J Wareham c Dakin b W Cooper 3, R Bailey run out 17, F Sumnall b H Cooper 8, L Shufflebotham b H Cooper 7, W Beech c E Hadley b H Cooper 0, G W Beech st Eptlett b E Hadley 5, A Amson c Eptlett b H Cooper 9, A Green c Broad b H Cooper 17, E Riley c Timmis b H Cooper 0, E Jones not out 10, F Procter b E Hadley 1, extras 3; total 82.

KIDSGROVE.—H Cooper lbw b Wareham 1, S Broad c Riley b Wareham 5, A Hadley b Wareham 0, F Timmis c Beech b Bailey 20, R Dakin b Wareham 2, R Eptlett b Beech 13, E Hadley c Jones b Wareham 4, J Hancock b Beech 23, E Goodwin b Wareham 1, W Cooper not out 9, W Wellcome not out 4, extras 6; total (for 9 wkts) 88.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

LONGTON v. LEEK.

LONGTON.—R Allen b Wakelin 113, F Barlow b Hutchinson 1, A Chell lbw b Hutchinson 1, A Hoison c Baskerville b Rabone 67, F Audley not out 18, E Pass not out 10, extras 31; total (for 4 wkts), 241.

Innings declared.

LEEK.—T Sheldon c Hallan b Bradbury 8, A Baskerville c Pass b Bradbury 6, H Goodwin b Filkin 0, E Beech c Smith b Bradbury 6, W S Hutchinson b Bradbury 0, J Pace not out 18, D Mayhew b E Pass 0, H F Rabone c Hallen b E Pass 0, J Mellor b E Pass 0, R Wakelin lbw b A Bradbury 3, W Leech c Meigh b A Bradbury 0, Extras 16; total, 57.

GREAT CHELL v. CREWE ALEXANDRA.

GREAT CHELL.—J Worthington c Corbett b Ashbrook 1, S Brayford c and b Ashbrook 30, A E Pitt b Wilbraham 3, J Taylor b Prince 33, F Pickerill c and b Ashbrook 2, W Mould c Woodhall b Ashbrook 21, A Birtles b Wilbraham 1, G Fitchford st McTurk b Ashbrook 2, A Rhodes b Ashbrook 0, F Warburton lbw b Ashbrook 16, R Smith not out 15, extras 1; total 123.

CREWE.—E Kirkham c Fitchford b Taylor 1, J Coorbett c Pickerill b Fitchford 0, S Hares st Pickerill b Pitt 20, G Prophett lbw b Taylor 12, J W Ashbrook b Pitt 8, J Prince c Pitt b Taylor 10, E Woodhall c Pickerill b Fitchford 10, H H Owen b Taylor 3, A M McTurk b Taylor 0, P Wilbraham not out 9, W A Chesters c Worthington b Fitchford 0, extras 9; total 80.

BIGNALL END v. SILVERDALE.

BIGNAL END.—A Poole b Barnett 1, A Wareham c Boote b Barnett 0, S Hassall b Kelsall 9, E Johnson c Latham b Barnett 0, L Burgess b Barnett 1, F Whalley c Lowe b Barnett 0, F Colclough c Cooke b Kelsall 4, A Henshall b Barnett 1, A Hopwood not out 17, F Green c Holland b Barnett 9, S Cope hit wkt b Kelsall 2; total 44.

SILVERDALE.—G Holland c Hopwood b Green 13, G Rhead lbw b Whalley 0, T Kelsall c Colcough b Burgess 21, J Cooke lbw b Burgess 2, J B Street not out 38, T Latham b Johnson 9, A Edwards not out 0, extras 9; total (for 5 wkts) 92.

MADELEY v. NORTON.

NORTON.—W D Robinson b T Stubbs 3, R Brown b A Boulton 0, S Crump c E Griffiths b A Boulton 2, E Waterfall c E Barlow b T Stubbs 5, W Cooke run out 12, W Mountford b T Stubbs 0, W Martin lbw b A Boulton 3, A Hill c J Millington b S Heath 3, A Wright c F Whalen b T Stubbs 9, J W Bagguley b J Stubbs 11, G Chadwick not out 2, extras 2; total 60.

MADELEY.—T Stubbs c W Mountford b Baguley 4, F Heath c E Waterfall b A Hill 11, S Heath c R Brown b Baguley 2, E Barlow b A Hill 9, A Boulton st Chadwick b Hill 4, E Griffiths c Crump b Cooke 17, T Jones c Chadwick b Waterfall 19, W Buckley hit wkt b Cooke 7, F Whalen c Chadwick b Waterfoll 1, J Millington not out 1, extras 9; total (for 9 wkts) 84.

NANTWICH v. PORTHILL PARK.

PORTHILL PARK.—H Hollins c Haslem b Bell 35, T Showan c and b Allsopp 6, J Parkes lbw b Meakin 6, H F Wood c and b Meakin 17, O Bickerton c Bell b Meakin 6, F Bliss run out 0, W Washington b Allsopp 19, J Glover b Booth 1, B Briggs b Meakin 13, H Gleaves b Bell 10, G Miller not out 0, extras 10; total 123.

NANTWICH.—W Walker c Washington b Gleaves 12, H Gidman b Wood 24, G Mayer c Glover b Gleaves 10, J Swindale c Miller b Gleaves 1, B Dutton c Glover b Wood 36, G Jackson c Gleaves b Washington 23, W Meakin c Parkes b Glover 17, R Willett c Miller b Glover 0, W Haslam not out 2, extras 8; total (for 8 wkts) 133.

Junior Division.—Section "B."

KIDSGROVE v. ALSAGERS BANK.

ALSAGERS BANK.—R Proctor c Smith b Jones 13, A Freeman c Baynham b Jones 21, J Taylor c Downs b Jones 6, S Hollinshead c Smith b Jones 6, E Mayer c and b Jones 0, A Talbot c Dale b Hadley 0, A Scott c Murphy b Hadley 7, F Tomkinson c and b Hadley 13, H Clews b Hadley 13, J Wainwright not out 19, H Cooper c Dale b Downs 8, extras 5; total 111.

KIDSGROVE.—H Stubbs b Wainwright 2, R Jones c Scott b Tomkinson 1, T Murphy b Wainwright 7, R Smith c Scott b Tomkinson 0, I Hadley c Clews b Wainwright 0, R Dale run out 0, F Challinor b Tomkinson 14, E Findley c Taylor b Wainwright 6, W Maddock not out 23, E R Baynham b Wainwright 0, E Downs b Wainwright 3, extras 3; total 59.

CHEADLE v. CAVERSWALL.

CHEADLE.—A Hollins run out 24, E Botham run out 1, O Whitehurst b Blunt 0, V Wetwood b Blunt 3, J Fieldhouse b Blunt 44, H Day st Thorley b Ollier 0, E Sales b Blunt 9, H Hurst c Colclough b Barber 0, T Hawley c and b Barber 0, P Lowndes c and b Barber 2, G Malbon not out 0, extras 9; total 92.

CAVERSWALL.—W Colclough run out 7, H Roberts b Malbon 2, F Ollier b Malbon 0, T Adderley c and b Sales 69, F Barber not out 103, G Swift not out 9, extras 10; total 200.

BETLEY v. BRINDLEY FORD WESLEYANS.

BETLEY.—R Ikin c B Slaney b R Machin 3, E Jones c R Powers b R Machin 10, T Whitby b E Simner 42, G Mountford c E Simner b J Slaney 0, E Ashley run out 7, G Shaw c A Ayre b Machin 7, B Madden c R Bowers b C Slaney 10, F Brookshaw b E Simner 1, F Carter b Machin 0, J Hockenhull c and b Simner 1, C Johnson not out 0, extras 1; total 82.

BRINDLEY FORD.—C Slaney c E Ashley b Madden 0, W Wilts c Mountford b Madden 3, R Bowers b Madden 0, R Machin not out 23, J Slaney b Madden 4, E Simney b Madden 1, A Ayres lbw b Madden 1, V Gregory b Madden 4, G Caddy c Ikin b Mountford 0, F Hargreaves c Castor b Madden 0, B Slaney lbw b Madden 0; total 36.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE v. SANDYFORD.

BURSLEM H.L.—B Reynolds b Colclough 3, H Stone c Tams b Baker 12, J Mellor c Butcher b Rosie 28, W Johnson c Turner b Dean 10, H Ford c Tams b Butcher 30, A Gaskell b Dean 1, W Fisher lbw b Dean 10, C Rhead b Rosie 8, J Clayton not out 29, T Clayton c Tams b Rosie 10, J Shaw c Rosie b Colclough 2, extras 5; total 148.

SANDYFORD.—J Holmes c Ford b Stone 2, S Dean b Stone 16, W Tams c Fisher b Stone 12, E Colclough c Gaskell b Fisher 13, C Rosie c Johnson b Mellor 11, M Baker c Johnson b Fisher 0, E Baker b Fisher 8, J Hammonds c Rhead b Mellor 3, W Butcher c and b Stone 2, W Martin b Stone 0, S Tuoner not out 0, extras 2; total 67.

L.M.S. RAILWAY (STOKE) v. AUDLEY.

L.M.S. RAILWAY.—A C Binns c Riley b Taylor 2, R Bagguley c Mayer b McEllin 18, J Cope c Bateman b Taylor 0, A Wallis c and b H McEllin 7, C Latham b McEllin 0, E Steele b McEllin 0, B Hughes b McEllin 7, J Ford run out 4, F Morrell not out 12, A Walker b Taylor 0, A Hollins b Bateman 0, extras 12; total 62.

AUDLEY.—L Riley c Steel b Wallis 11, P Proctor lbw b Wallis 21, G Proctor run out 9, J McEllin run out 12, F Jervis b Morrell 23, G Taylor not out 0, extras 8; total (for 6 wkts) 84.

BLYTHE BRIDGE AND UTTOXETER LEAGUE.

Division I.

OAKAMOOR v. ROCESTER.

ROCESTER.—R Keeling c Plant b Mosley 19, A W Huskinson b Shipley 26, T Ferguson b Mosley 2, H B Simister c Shipley b Mosley 1, F B Fearn b Shipley 0, W E Atkins b Shipley 7, J Forrester c Shipley b Faulkner 1, H Heathcote c Plant b Faulkner 1, C C Dale not out 17, W Shipley c Faulkner b Shipley 0, H Forrester b Faulkner 10, extras 11; total, 95.

OAKAMOOR.—E Atkins c Ferguson b Atkins 8, C Tipper c Keeling b Forrester 20, F Shipley b Forrester 5, T Cooper c Ferguson b Forrester 9, E Swinson b Forrester 44, J Faulkner b Atkins 7, R Mosley c Atkins b Forrester 0, E Jackson c and b Forrester 0, W Kidd b Forrester 4, B Buttress lbw b Forrester 7, J Plant not out 9; total, 113.

STALLINGTON v. DRAYCOTT.

DRAYCOTT.—R Saunders b W S White 3, E W Robson b W S White 6, F Ridge c White b Symcox 11, A Hough b Symcox 1, W Bidge c J Abbott b Wildblood 2, R W Bowen b Wildblood 4, S Myatt b Symcox 4, L Ridge c J Abbott b Wildblood 4, H Hulme not out 1, F Myatt lbw Wildblood 0, J Harvey b Symcox 0, extras 2, total 38.

STALLINGTON.—J Abbott b Bowen 32, W Smith c W Ridge b Bowen 26, W S White b L Ridge 0, F Wildblood st Ridge b F Ridge 3, W Bedson c Harvey b F Ridge 0, R Stubbs c L Ridge b Hough 4, A Thurman b Hough 15, G Abbott st S Myatt b Bobson 4, H Averill not out 1, extras 4; total (for 7 wkts) 89.

FENTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

BUCKNALL v. FENTON.

FENTON.—F Taylor c Clark b Williams 11, A White retired hurt 0, F Osborne b Lockett 9, J Pennington c Finney b Lockett 0, S Fletcher c Goold b Finney 6, H Skellam b Williams 7, J Wood run out 5, H Naylor c Bullock b Finney 0, W Upton b Goold 4, T Tompkins b Goold 9, J Sutton not out 3, extras 12; total 66.

BUCKNALL.—W Biddulph b Wood 14, J. Williams lbw b Wood 1, H Toft b H Naylor 20, J Goold c Sub b Naylor 3, J Lockett c Fletcher b Naylor 4, A Williams b Naylor 0, J Finney b Fletcher 12, J Harrison b Naylor 0, J Clarke not out 0, A Bullock b Naylor 0, W Birks run out 0, extras 7; total 61.

ASHCOMBE PARK v. WOLSTANTON MARSH

WOLSTANTON.—J Green c Alcock b Corbishley 9, H Robinson c Furmston bGoldshraw 11, J Mitchell c Forrester b Furmston 9, T Parker c Turner b Goldstraw 15, G Follows c Turner b Goldstraw 0, E Walker c Forrester b Goldstraw 3, W Robinson b Goldstraw 0, G Huxley c Burndred b Goldstraw 0, W Gibson c Martin b Furmston 3 N Jones not out 1, G Jefferies c James b Goldstraw 1, extras 4; total 56.

ASHCOMBE PARK.—N James c Jeffries b Follows 3, J Martin c Green b H Robinson 8, A Turner c Jeffries b Parker 13, J Goldstraw c Jeffries b W Robinson 4, E Alcock c Green b H Robinson 0, W James c Green b H Robinson 2, F Furmston c Jones b W Robinson 2, F Forrester c Gibson b H Robinson 2, F Corbishley c Parker b H Robinson 0, J Burndred not out 0, H Lowndes c H Robinson b W Robinson 3, extras 1; total 38.

GREAT CHELL KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.—Second Round.

Sneyd Colliery v. Whitfield Staff.

SNEYD COLLIERY.—H Wildblood b Wain 1, E Unwin b Averill 14, G Kinsley c and b Averill 3, E Payne c Baddeley b Sherratt 31, H Vernon run out 12, W R Wildblood b Wain 0, J S Mayer lbw b Averill 5, A Chesworth b Averill 0, A R Wildblood lbw b Averill 0, E Farrall not out 11, S Dawson not out 0, extras 4; total, 81.

WHITFIELD STAFF.—J Pointon b Chesworth 1, R Steele b Payne 0, W Sherratt b Payne 4, R Croxton c Unwin b Chesworth 0, W Corfield b Payne 13, T Simms run out 4, R C Wain b Chesworth 4, R Smith run out 1, R J Baddeley run out 1, G Averill b Payne 3, E Steele c Farrall b Payne 0, extras 4; total, 35.

UTTOXETER v. DERBY ST. LUKE'S.

DERBY ST. LUKE'S.—G Bates c Eales b Waterhouse 30, J Keeling run out 17, J Brierley c Redden b Waterhouse 4, S Sayles b Whitehurst 7, G Waters c Redden b Whitehurst 0, T Richmond lbw b Whitehurst 4, G Paxton c Hanks b Blackhurst 7, G Pudney b Hall 47, T Cook c Hanks b Blackhurst 9, J Kitchen lbw b Blackhurst 0, J Bass not out 11, extras 7; total 143.

UTTOXETER.—G Hanks b Keeling 7, C Waterhouse c Bates b Cook 4, J Merrick b Cook 5, J Beckwith c Richmond b Keeling 23, T Blackhurst b Pudney 10, G Whitehurst c Brierley b Keeling 0, H Tate not out 15, W Redden not out 16, extras 14; total (for 6 wkts) 94.

MOW COP v. TRENTHAM

TRENTHAM.—G Baker c Price b Wooliscroft 9, H W Wildblood c Ridgway b Boyson 3, F L Boulton not out 32, F Nutting b Boyson 8, W R Wildblood c Boardman b Boyson 1, R Chesworth b Wooliscroft 6, W Barnett b Boyson 1, F Price c Wooliscroft b Boardman 7, N Snelgrove b Patrick 21, S Statham c Ridgway b Boyson 2, H Wright b Boyson 1, extras 3; total 94.

MOW COP.—G Platt b Chesworth 0, H Boyson b Baker 7, H Richardson b Baker 2, W Kirkham b Baker 1, J Statham c Chesworth b Baker 0, G Wooliscroft c Statham b Chesworth 2, A Boardman c Wildblood b Baker 12, W Wright run out 1, L Patrick c and b Chesworth 1, F Ridgway c Wildblood b Chesworth 0, J Price not out 0, extras 2; total 28.

LINDOW v. SANDBACH.

LINDOW.—J Bolsover c Rosson b Trueman 0, F Boughey b Trueman 1, H Potts run out 6, R Abel b Eardley 7, H Burgess ibw b Eardley 0, J Abel c Wright b Eardley 11, H Boughey run out 7, L Mackie c Rigby b Eardley 4, J Burgess b Trueman 0, H Jaffrey not out 2, W Leigh c Orme b Eardley 12, extras 3; total 53.

SANDBACH.—J W Hilditch c Burgess b Boughey 0, F H G Wright run out 0, G W Cooke c Mackie b H Boughey 6, A Orme b Burgess 1, F Maskelyne b H Boughey 12, H Trueman c Potts b Burgess 1, H P Rigby b Burgess 2, W J Rosson b F Boughey 15, E Eardley not out 16, T Heathcote c F Boughey b H Boughey 0, E Ramsell b H Boughey 1, extras 6; total 60.

NORTON-IN-HALES v. MARKET DRAYTON.

MARKET DRAYTON.—C Ridgway b E Lowe 0, M Powell run out 4, A Wood b G Lowe 13, J Harper run out 7, R S Hill c Furnival b G Lowe 2, C Shuker b G Lowe 2, J B Davies run out 1, S Wood c G Lowe b Evans 2, J Hollins not out 6, J Healey c G Lowe b Evans 0, H Winstanley c Norcop b Furnival 3, extras 6; total 46.

NORTON-IN-HALES.—R Furnival b Hill 0, G E Lowe b Hill 9, A Morrey b Shuker 0, P Norcop b Hill 2, T H Swire b Shuker 0, A Evans c and b Hill 9, F Lowe b Hill 4, H Simpson c Davies b Hill 0, T Shaw st Davies b A Wood 4, G Lowe not out 0, G Mottram c Shuker b A aWood 0, extras 2; total 30.

MARKET DRAYTON v. CALVERHALL.

CALVERHALL.—F Gatensbury c Jones b Winser 27, G Tudor c Partridge b Winser 8, T Norris b Partridge 5, F Bettington b Winser 1, J Shepherd b Winser 0, P Farrall c Partridge b Winser 0, Rev. G. S. Girdlestone c Harper b Partridge 13, J S Wilson c Upton b Winser 5, F Norris c Davies b Partridge 0, J H Arkinstall b Partridge 1, A Andrews not out 0, extras 0; total 60.

MARKET DRAYTON.—Captain Upton c Tudor b Arkinstall 1, J Boughey b Wilson 32, H Harper c T Norris b Shepherd 52, E R Davies b Shepherd 1, J A Hilditch c F Norris b Shepherd 1, E Partridge c T Norris b Shepherd 9, Rev. A A P Winser c and b Wilson 0, F Wilkinson b Shepherd 6, J J Jones b Wilson 24, C B Ellis b Arkinstall 8, R Kychesley not

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES.

BATTING.

A. Smith, Longton (v. Leek)	62
A. Bickerton, Porthill (v. Nantwich)	58
C. Cotton, Burslem (v. Knypersley)	not out 50
F. J. Dale, Bignall End (v. Silverdale)	63
M. Walker, Crewe Alex. (v. Great Chell)	64
A. Price, Crewe Alex. (v. Great Chell)	63
A. Smith, Great Chell (v. Crewe Alex.)	not out 55
J. Ankers, Madeley (v. Norton)	not out 50
R. Allen, Longton II. (v. Leek II.)	113
A. Hodson, Longton II. (v. Leek II.)	67
P. Barber, Caverswall (v. Cheadle)	not out 103
F. Adderley, Caverswall (v. Cheadle)	69

BOWLING.

H. Brassington, Longton (v. Leek)	4 for 19
S. W. Cooper, Nantwich (v. Porthill Park)	5 for 8
D. Cooke, Burslem (v. Knypersley)	8 for 28
E. Malkin, jun., Madeley (v. Norton)	6 for 21
W. Brough, Cheadle (v. Caverswall)	8 for 33
A. Bourne, Sandyford (v. High Lane)	9 for 21
S. Aplin, Betley (v. Fenton)	4 for 12
G. Talbot, Fenton (v. Betley)	3 for 9
T. Stubbs, Madeley II (v. Norton II.)	4 for 10
E. Pass, Longton II. (v. Leek II.)	3 for 4
A. Bradbury, Longton II. (v. Leek II.)	6 for 34
J. Barnett, Silverdale II. (v. Bignall End II.)	7 for 28
J. Wainwright, Alsagers Bk. II. (v. Kidsgrove II.)	6 for 15
H. McEllin, Audley II. (v. L.M. & S, Stoke II.)	5 for 21
B. Madden, Betley II. (v. Brindley Ford)	9 for 12
R. Machin, Brindley Ford (v. Betley II.)	4 for 18
H. Naylor, Fenton (v. Bucknall)	6 for 11
J. Goldstraw, Ashcombe Park (v. Wolstanton)	7 for 21
H. Robinson, Wolstanton (v. Ashcombe Park)	3 for 11
W. Robinson, Wolstanton (v. Ashcombe Park)	5 for 2
A. Symcox, Stallington (v. Draycott)	4 for 12

The guardians of Liskeard, Cornwall, have decided to give all their children 4d. a week pocket money, conditional on 2d. each week being put in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Tuesday, Wednesday 10, 11 August 1926

STAFFORDSHIRE IN EAST ANGLIA.

Lincolnshire met at Grantham.

Slow Scoring by Visiting County.

Staffordshire commenced their tour in East Anglia to-day with the return fixture against Lincolnshire, at Grantham.

Unfortunately overnight rain prevented play before lunch, but the wicket dried sufficiently for Staffordshire to commence batting at two o'clock. They did not make a promising start, two wickets being down for 21, but later H. W. Homer and Barnes were responsible for a useful partnership. The scoring, however, was slow throughout the afternoon, the first 50 runs taking 75 minutes to compile.

GRANTHAM, Tuesday.

The Staffordshire team are on tour in East Anglia, where they are completing their Minor Counties programme for the season. To-day (Tuesday) and to-morrow they are due to meet Lincolnshire at Grantham, while on Thursday and Friday they will be engaged with Norfolk, at Norwich.

There was early disappointment, for heavy rain during the night, and further showers this morning prevented a start being made before lunch, but the Grantham wicket has excellent powers of recovery, and with the appearance of the sun about one o'clock, there was confident expectation that play would be possible in an hour.

Consequently an early lunch was taken, it being decided to start at 2 o'clock if the weather continued favourable.

There were several changes in the Staffordshire team from that which met Lancashire II. last week, J. W. Johnson, P. F. Stubbs and P. O. Yates being included, while C. Howl, J. S. Heath and W. Lee were absentees.

PLAY COMMENCES.

Play was started punctually at two o'clock, P. F. Stubbs and H. W. Homer opening for Staffordshire, while the attack was shared by the Lincolnshire captain, Major C. Wilson, and C. H. Schwind. But after two overs had been sent down, one of the wickets was found to be wrongly marked, and a ten minutes' delay became necessary while this was remedied.

Five overs produced only three singles, and with the first ball of the sixth over Stubbs was taken by R. E. Frearson, at mid-off, off Schwind.

The first wicket down at three was an unhappy beginning enough, and H. Goodwin, who joined Homer, was unable to do much to improve matters before attempting a short run. He was sent back by Homer, and his wicket was thrown down before he could regain his crease.

With 13 on for two wickets P. O. Yates went in, and there was a spell of quiet play, until the newcomer turned Schwind to leg to run three, and Homer found the square leg boundary off the same bowler.

SLOW SCORING.

At 28 the Rev. H. Mack, a left-arm bowler, took over from Schwind. Wilson remained on and the first ball of his next over Homer hit up just out of the reach of H. Worman fielding at fine leg.

Homer got a single to the off off the last ball of the over, and then square-cut Mack to the rails, sending 30 up after 35 minutes' play.

But six runs later Yates, hitting out for the first time at Mack, had his off-stump upset and he made way for Barnes.

Although no wickets had so far fallen to him, Major Wilson was bowling remarkably well, and keeping the batsmen subdued, only six runs being scored off his first ten overs.

Barnes hit Mack to leg for two to send up 40, but there followed a period of ten minutes which produced only a single, the keenness of the fielding, no less than the excellence of the bowling, being responsible for the paucity of scoring strokes.

At this stage Major Wilson, who had had only seven runs scored off 13 overs, brought H. Hawley on to bowl in his stead. In the new man's first over Barnes hit him through the slips for two, Mack making a magnificent effort for a catch, which would have been a brilliant one had it come off.

The batsmen advanced the total very slowly until Barnes late-cut Mack, to complete the first half century, at the end of seventy-five minutes batting.

Homer helped himself to a single off the next ball, but in the same over Barnes on-drove finely for four.

FALL OF FOURTH WICKET.

At 58 R. E. Frearson, a bowler of full tosses, was brought on in place of Mack. Homer survived an appeal for l.b.w. off his first ball, which fell on the batsman's toe.

The new bowler's first three overs were proving expensive, but the last ball of the third, just outside the off-stump, Homer chopped on to his wicket, and the fourth batsman was disposed of at 74.

Homer had been at the crease an hour and forty minutes for his carefully collected 37.

Barnes, taken at mid-on by Major Wilson off Hawley, was sent back without any addition, and the tea score stood at 74 for five.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

P F Stubbs c Frearson b Schwind ...	2
H W Homer b Frearson	37
H Goodwin run out	7
P O Yate b Mack	6
Barnes (S F) c Wilson b Hawley	19
J W Johnson b Hawley	9
F D Perks not out	2
Sedgwick not out	2
Extras	3
Total (for six wkts)	88

STAFFORDSHIRE'S GOOD PERFORMANCE.

Deadly Bowling by Barnes.

Finish Unlikely Owing to Rain.

The feature of to-day's limited play was Barnes' deadly bowling. Staffordshire's first innings closed this morning for 155, and then before rain caused a lengthy stoppage six of the Lincolnshire wickets had been captured for the very moderate total of 43. Barnes had taken all these at a cost of 17 runs, and there seemed a possibility of a surprise finishing. His bowling was all the more remarkable because of the state of the wicket, which had, periodically, been drenched with rain. However, between lunch and tea no further play was possible, and a finish became almost out of the question.

GRANTHAM, Wednesday.

Rain began to fall again as Staffordshire went out to resume their first innings this morning, and there was very little prospect of a finish being reached, although the downfall so far was not heavy enough to drive the players to the pavilion.

A heavy thunderstorm broke over the ground after the concluding stages yesterday, causing several stoppages, and eventually curtailing play ten minutes before the appointed time. Even so, play had taken place while a considerable weight of rain was falling, and Staffordshire carried their total to 129 for eight.

After the tea interval Schwind went on bowling, with Hawley, and eleven runs were added, when J. W. Johnson's leg stump was upset by the latter bowler, with a ball coming back from the off. Sedgwick joined F. D. Perks, who was batting finely on a difficult wicket, and sent up the hundred when the innings had been in progress two hours' and twenty-five minutes with a stroke to leg for two, off Wilson, who had taken over from Schwind. But with only one more on, the Leek player put up a ball from Hawley to be taken by Captain Wright, in the slips.

A. Locket followed and opened his account with a fine square cut for two, repeating the stroke a few minutes later to run three, but after a short delay, on account of rain, he was taken at third man, by Stamp. With J. B. Russell, the visiting captain, and Perks together, there was some powerful hitting, and the scoring went forward smartly, although the boundaries were difficult to find.

SOME HARD HITTING.

This morning Russell and Perks were again on top of the bowling, and with some fine hard hitting carried the Staffordshire total to 150, as the result of three hours and forty minutes' batting.

At this point a double change was made in the attack, two left-arm bowlers, the Rev. H. Mack and T. D. Ross taking over. The latter, with his first ball, beat Russell and narrowly missed the stumps. His second the Staffordshire captain drove past mid-on, to the rails, but from the third the batsman was smartly stumped by Shaw.

The partnership had put on 38 runs in 35 minutes. The last wicket fell for the addition of only one, F. D. Perks putting up a ball from Ross, to be caught at cover by Stamp, the innings closing, after three hours and fifty-five minutes, at 155.

Perks made a fine and confident stand against greatly varied bowling. Ross, who was brought on to bowl only two overs, came through with the best average, with two wickets for four, while the Rev. H. Mack had two for 26, and Hawley, a local player, three for 43. Although the home captain, Major C. Wilson, claimed no wickets, he had only 20 runs knocked off 26 overs.

Lincolnshire entered on their reply at 11 50, R. E. Frearson and J. Goates opening against Barnes and Lockett.

Fourteen runs were added when Barnes, with a beautiful leg ball, got Frearson taken behind the wicket, thus disposing of the home county's highest scoring batsman of the season; while H. Stamp, who followed, chopped the second delivery to him on to his stumps, without addition.

With J. Goates and T. D. Ross together 20 appeared after thirty minutes. Rain began to fall steadily again, but play continued for another two overs when a drenching downpour, accompanied by more thunder, compelled further delay. The remarkably quick-drying wicket enabled a resumption to be made after ten minutes.

BARNES IN SPLENDID FORM.

Barnes, then bowling on a dead easy wicket, brought about the dismissal of Ross, who was caught in front of the wicket by Perks. Goates, at 18, put up a ball from Barnes just out of the reach of Perks, at short leg, but in the same over Barnes claimed two more wickets, first G. Shaw behind the stumps, and then the Rev. H. Mack put his first ball into the hands of Perks.

All the five wickets that had so far fallen had been taken by Barnes, at a cost of only 16 runs.

Just before the lunch adjournment he captured the sixth, with the additional cost of one run, which was a remarkable achievement on a soft wicket, which was constantly being drenched by showers.

By lunch Lincolnshire were 107 behind, with only four wickets to fall.

During the interval another thunderstorm broke over the ground, rain falling in torrents. The pitch was soaked, and play was delayed after lunch.

An early tea was taken in the hope that the pitch would recover sufficiently to allow a resumption to be made later in the afternoon.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

P F Stubbs c Frearson b Schwind ...	2
H W Homer b Frearson	37
H Goodwin run out	7
P O Yates b Mack	6
Barnes (S F) c Wilson b Hawley	19
J W Johnson b Hawley	9
F D Perks c Samp b Ross	27
Sedgwick (H) c Wright b Hawley ...	7
A Lockett c Stamp b Mack	7
J B Russell st Shaw b Ross	20
Platt (G) not out	0
Extras	14
Total	155

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

R E Frearson c Russell b Barnes ...	5
J Goates not out	20
H Stamp b Barnes	0
T D Ross c Perks b Barnes	4
G Shaw c Russell b Barnes	10
Rev H Mack c Perks b Barnes	0
D L G Wright c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
Extras	6
Total (for 6 wkts)	48

Later.—Lincolnshire, 48 for seven wickets.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	26	14	28	0
Schwind	10	2	28	1
Mack	16	3	26	2
Hawley	22	7	43	3
Frearson	3	0	12	1
Ross	2	1	4	2

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	13	36	74	74	85	101	116	154	155

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday, 12 August 1926

BRILLIANT BOWLING BY BARNES.

Lincolnshire's Narrow Escape.

Staffordshire's Bold Bid for Victory.

Wonderful bowling by Sydney Barnes, recalling the best performances in his brilliant career, was the outstanding feature of Staffordshire's fixture with Lincs., at Grantham.

On a wicket that assisted him to perfection, he bowled 33 overs to take a total of 14 wickets for 31 runs. He maintained an excellent length throughout, and his finger spin both ways kept the batsmen constantly guessing, while the speed at which the ball turned off the pitch was amazing. He was completely unplayable, and, placing his field with meticulous precision, he appeared to be able to make the batsmen do exactly as he wanted them to do.

His eight wickets in the first innings cost 17 runs, and he took six in the second for 14. But, despite this brilliance, Lincs. just succeeded in playing out time, only one wicket remaining to enable them to avoid an innings defeat.

A THRILLING ELEMENT.

Rain had very seriously curtailed play, and it was not really until a resumption became possible at 4 40 yesterday afternoon that a thrilling element entered into the game. Lincs. had not then completed their first innings, and needed eight runs to save the follow-on, with four wickets to fall. Barnes and Lockett continued the bowling and dismissed the remaining batsmen for an addition of four runs. Only an hour and a half remained for play when Lincs. went in a second time, and the prospect of dismissing them in that spaceof time seemed very remote. But Barnes was again unplayable, and in his first over claimed two wickets without a run appearing on the book. Compelling the batsmen to play the ball, and having a close field placed to within inches, he continued his work of destruction until one wicket remained, Major Wilson, the home captain, and H. Hawley being together for the last stand.

There was a tense atmosphere as the mastermind of the bowler pitted himself against the safety methods of the remaining batsmen. Wilson was quite at sea in trying to parry Barnes's bowling, and was beaten by practically every ball sent down to him. But he managed to keep his wicket standing, and thus saved his side from an overwhelming defeat. Staffordshire had to be content with points for a first innings lead, although this meant a slight drop in their percentage.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

P F Stubbs c Frearson b Schwind	2
H W Homer b Frearson	37
H Goodwin run out	7
P O Yates b Mack	6
Barnes (S F) c Wilson b Hawley	19
J W Johnson b Hawley	9
F D Perks c Stamp b Ross	27
Sedgwick (H) c Wright b Hawley	7
A Lockett c Stamp b Mack	7
J B Russell st Shaw b Ross	20
Platt (G) not out	0
Extras	14
Total	155

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

R E Frearson c Russell b Barnes	5
J Goates lbw b Barnes	21
H Stamp b Barnes	0
T D Ross c Perks b Barnes	4
G Shaw c Russell b Barnes	10
Rev H Mack c Perks b Barnes	0
R L Wright c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
P L Worman c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
C Wilson c Platt b Lockett	2
C H Schwind not out	0
H Hawley c Barnes b Lockett	0
Extras	7
Total	52

LINCOLNSHIRE.—Second Innings.

R E Frearson hit wkt b Barnes	9
J Goates c Perks b Barnes	0
H Stamp b Barnes	0
T D Ross b Lockett	0
G Shaw c Johnson b Barnes	0
Rev H Mack b Lockett	1
R L Wright c Lockett b Barnes	9
P L Worman c Perks b Barnes	0
C Wilson not out	7
C H Schwind b Platt	12
H Hawley not out	7
Extras	4
Total (for 9 wkts)	49

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	28	14	28	0
Schwind	10	2	28	1
Mack	16	3	26	2
Hawley	22	7	43	3
Frearson	3	0	12	1
Ross	2	1	4	2

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

Barnes	18	8	17	8
Lockett	18	7	28	2

Lincolnshire.—Second Innings.

Barnes	15	2	14	6
Lockett	10	2	23	2
Platt	4	2	8	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	15	36	74	74	85	101	116	154	155

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday 12 August 1926

BARNES IN GREAT FORM.

Staffordshire's Strong Position Against Norfolk.

Useful First Wicket Partnership.

Barnes demonstrated again to-day that he has lost none of his old skill with the ball. Yesterday, at Grantham, he played havic with the Lincolnshire wickets, capturing eight in their first innings for 17 runs, and six more for 14 when the home county followed on. He was, in fact, practically unplayable, and Staffordshire were only robbed of victory by the earlier delay consequent upon rain.

At Norwich Staffordshire began their last fixture of the season. Norfolk batted first, but Barnes soon had them guessing, and they could only compile 57, so splendidly did Barnes bowl. He finished with seven for 24, and Homer and Stubbs, opening for the visitors, soon passed Norfolk's small total.

NORWICH, Thursday.

Staffordshire entered on their last fixture of the season to-day, when they met Norfolk, at Norwich. Norfolk won the toss, and decided to bat. The ground was soft, after previous heavy rain, and the captains' had choice of two wickets prepared by the groundsman.

Barnes led the attack from the top end, and in his second over Nichols turned an in-swinger into the hands of Platt. The wicket fell at three, and Coldham then joined Falcon. Barnes turned the ball quite a lot, but the wicket was dead, and when Coldham employed his drive he found the outfield slow, and the fieldsmen were able to save the fourth run. Coldham, however, succeeded in finding the boundary with leg strokes off each bowler, and he had scored 27 when Falcon was lbw to Sedgwick, with 34 on the board

BARNES AGAIN IN FORM.

Barnes was again bowling extraordinarily well, getting all that was possible out of a pitch, on which the sun was beginning to have a telling influence. Wickets fell to him rapidly and cheaply, and in little more than an hour he had sent back seven batsmen for 15 runs, the last two off successive deliveries. The seventh, eighth, and ninth wicket fell at 42, when Dougill and Williamson came together to hit out with great hardihood, as the only hope against bowling that could not be coped with otherwise.

Williamson hit round the ball several times before he eventually got his bat under one from Barnes, and lifted it out of the ground for six, to bring the total to 57, as the result of an hour and 25 minutes batting.

Immediately afterwards, however, he attempted a short run and came to grief, and the innings closed. Barnes finished with seven wickets for 24, and Sedgwick two for 29.

QUIET SCORING.

Staffordshire opened their innings just before lunch with P. F. Stubbs and H. W. Homer, who took three singles off Michael Falcon's first over, and a similar number from that of G. H. Mower. But subsequently the scoring was quiet, and only two more runs were added in twenty minutes before the adjournment.

The first boundary of the innings came immediately after the resumption, with a stroke by Stubbs, off Mower, wide of cover, and four byes from the same bowling sent up 20 after 25 minutes.

Without W. A. Beadsmoore, who has left the district Norfolk were lacking in bowlers adapted to the conditions, and the pitch was taking the sting out of Falcon's fast deliveries. Runs came at an even pace, and after Stubbs had hit a no-ball from Mower to the mid-off rails, Homer hit Falcon twice for four in one over, first driving past mid-on, and then square-cutting cleanly to the line.

With 44 on the board Mower was relieved by Nichols, the former Staffordshire professional, who nowadays is a bowler of "googlies."

NORFOLK TOTAL PASSED.

He started with three maiden overs, but Falcon continued steadily to yield runs, and 50 went up when the innings had been in progress 45 minutes, while the Norfolk total was passed without loss six minutes later. It was a straight drive by Homer, off Nichols, that gave Staffordshire the lead. At 52 Falcon gave way to Covill, from whose first over nine runs were taken.

Homer and Stubbs went on batting brightly, pushing the score along evenly until 80 was reached, after they had been together exactly 70 minutes, Homer having gathered 35 of them and Stubbs 37.

They were then separated, Homer being out lbw to Nichol, while Stubbs put up the next ball from Covill to cover, and was smartly taken by B. W. Rought-Rought. Yet a third wicket was to fall at the same total for Barnes, who came in with Goodwin, snicked the second ball to him up into the slips, to be safely held by Mower. Perks joined Goodwin and the left-hander got Nichols nicely away to mid-on for four. But with the first ball of his next over Nichols got through the same batsman's defence and upset his off-stump, the fourth wicket having put on ten runs.

THE PACE SLACKENS.

Falcon brought himself on again at 96 and the rate of scoring slackened, both he and Nichols bowling several maiden overs in succession, but Perks and Yates remained together to send up the 100 after an hour and fifty minutes' batting.

Neither batsman was displaying much confidence, however, and with three past the century Yates edged a fast ball from Falcon, to be well taken in the slips by Coldham. J. B. Russell, who followed in, opened his account with a quick drive for three off his rival captain, but, like all the Staffordshire batsmen before him, he tackled Nichols' bowling warily until an opportunity came to pull him to leg for two.

But he soon lost his partner, Perks falling to a fine delivery from the Norfolk captain, while the visiting skipper was quick to follow to the pavilion, Nichols inducing him to put one up to the off, to be caught by Lowe.

Platt and Sedgwick together began to get on top of the bowling, and at 122 a double change was made, Mower taking over from Nichols and R. C. Rought-Rought, the younger of the two brothers, relieving Falcon.

But the batsmen continued to meet the attack confidently, and keeping close together restored Staffordshire's hope of establishing a fairly substantial lead. By tea they had carried the total to 142 without further loss.

NORFOLK.—First Innings.

M Falcon lbw b Sedgwick	4
Nichols c Platt b Barnes	2
J M Coldham c Lockett b Barnes	27
H F Lowe lbw b Barnes	1
G A Stevens c Sedgwick b Barnes	1
B W Rought-Rought b Barnes	3
Covill c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
R C Rought-Rought b Sedgwick	0
H Dougill not out	3
G H Mower st Russell b Barnes	0
E C Williamson run out	10
Extras	4
Total	57

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Nichols	35
P F Stubbs c B Rought-Rought b Covill	37
H Goowin b Nichols	6
Barnes c Mower b Covill	0
F D Perks b Falcon	15
P O Yates c Coldham b Falcon	3
J B Russell c Lowe b Nichols	5
Platt not out	18
Sedgwick not out	12
Extras	11
Total (for 7 wkts)	142

Tea.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Norfolk.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	12	5	24	7
Sedgwick	11.3	3	29	2

FALL OF WICKETS.

Norfolk.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	34	34	36	39	41	42	42	42	57

Staffordshire Sentinel: Friday 13 August 1926

STAFFORDSHIRE DENIED VICTORY.

Match with Norfolk Abandoned.

No Play Possible To-day.

Again the weather intervened to prevent Staffordshire from gaining victory, for early this afternoon the match at Norwich—Staffordshire's concluding fixture of the season—had to be abandoned, without any play to-day.

After dismissing Norfolk for 57 in their first innings, thanks to Barnes, Staffordshire established a strong position by compiling 171, in reply. Notable contributors to this total were Homer, Stubbs and Platt, and, in a lesser degree, Perks and Sedgwick.

The home county fared much better in their second attempt, putting together 55 for the loss of one wicket before the closure, but had the weather cleared to-day the effect of the sun would doubtless once more have given Barnes an opportunity of taking wickets at small cost.

NORWICH, Friday.

Rain delayed play this morning at an interesting stage, in Staffordshire's Minor Counties fixture with Norfolk. Wonderful bowling by Barnes yesterday, on a wicket that responded to his finger spin, caused the utter collapse of Norfolk.

Staffordshire, through bright batting by H. W. Homer, P. F. Stubbs, George Platt, F. D. Perks and Herbert Sedgwick were able to gain a first innings lead of 114 runs. Incidentally, Platt and Sedgwick rallied the innings when it appeared to be tailing off tamely, after a strong start, and between them put on 50 runs in 35 minutes, for the eighth wicket, before Sedgwick was cleverly taken low down in the slips by Covill.

When Norfolk entered on their second innings an hour before the drawing of stumps, the pitch was much harder than when they made their first venture, and although they lost H F. Lowe, who opened with Nichols, to the very effective arnes—Lockett combination, at 27, they went on scoring comfortably thereafter, to wipe 55 off the arrears before the close.

DULL PROSPECT.

There was a very dull prospect this morning, rain falling with irritating steadiness from a sky of unrelieved grey. If the sun would break through it was considered that the wicket would soon dry, and that Barnes would have a great chance of again cheaply disposing of the opposition. But the likelihood of the weather obliging Staffordshire to that extent was very remote at eleven o'clock.

There was no play before lunch.

At 2 45 the pitch was abandoned.

NORFOLK.—First Innings.

M Falcon lbw b Sedgwick	4
Nichols c Platt b Barnes	2
J M Coldham c Lockett b Barnes	27
H F Lowe lbw b Barnes	1
G A Stevens c Sedgwick b Barnes	1
B W Rought-Rought b Barnes	3
Covill c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
R C Rought-Rought b Sedgwick	0
H Dougill not out	3
G H Mower st Russell b Barnes	0
E C Williamson run out	10
Extras	4
Total	57

NORFOLK.—Second Innings.

Nichols not out	31
J M Coldham not out	11
H F Low c Lockett b Barnes	8
Extras	5
Total (for 1 wkt)	55

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Nichols	35
P F Stubbs c B Rought-Rought b Covill	37
H Goowin b Nichols	6
Barnes c Mower b Covill	0
F D Perks b Falcon	15
P O Yates c Coldham b Falcon	3
J B Russell c Mower b Nichols	5
Platt c Covill b Mower	31
Sedgwick c Covill b Mower	15
J W Johnson c Dougill b Mower	4
A Lockett not out	4
Extras	16
Total	171

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Norfolk.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	12	5	24	7
Sedgwick	11.3	3	29	1

Norfolk.—Second Innings.

Barnes	9	1	16	1
Sedgwick	5	1	21	0
Lockett	6	3	9	0
Platt	2	1	4	0

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

Falcon	17	6	38	2
Mower	14.1	3	39	3
Nichols	18	7	35	3
Covill	10	4	23	2
R Rought	6	0	20	0

GENTLEMAN OF SHROPSHIRE v. OLD CHELTONIANS.

OLD CHELTONIANS.—First Innings.

C M N Baker c Jary b Winser	35
J Wilcox c Burton Borough b Lutter	34
J I Piggott c Upton b Puckle	15
D P Dickenson c Bernard b Puckle	1
C H Piggott b Puckle	22
R M Scobie b Winser	46
C T B Leigh c and b Lutter	5
A A Durand c Lutter b Winser	14
C A Coghill c Winser b Puckle	11
D G W Harrison c Bryans b Winser	2
C R Harman not out	15
F W Pratt b Lutter	21
Extras	12
Total	233

OLD CHELTONIANS—Second Innings.

C M N Baker c Borough b Puckle	2
J I Piggott c Lutter b Upton	41
C H Piggott b Lutter	72
F Wilcox not out	89
R M Scobie c Lutter b Winser	41
C T B Leigh b Winser	3
C R Harman not out	4
Extras	13
Total (for 5 wkts)	265

GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE.—First Innings.

Capt R Bryans b Durand	100
B Barber Starkey c Piggott b Dickenson	30
S G Jary st Pratt b Harman	39
J G Edge b Piggott	57
Rev A A P Winser not out	16
Captain R B Upton c Pratt b Harman	33
F H Puckle st Pratt b Piggott	23
D P Lutter c Baker b Piggott	12
Comdr M R Bernard c Baker b Piggott	10
E R Davies not out	5
Extras	9
Total (for 8 wkts)	334

GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE—Second Innings.

J Boughey c Dickenson b Harman	10
Capt R Bryans c Baker b Dickenson	24
S J Jary b Dickenson	0
Capt Upton b Dickenson	8
R M Bernard c Piggott b Dickenson	14
F H Puckle c Baker b Dickenson	52
D P Lutter c Baker b Dickenson	26
J G Edge not out	13
E R Davies c Baker b Durand	1
R Barber Starkey not out	8
Extras	9
Total (for 8 wkts)	166

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Lancashire II.

BY THE CRITIC

The strong side of young players, "fathered" by J. T. Tyldesley, provided the opposition in the second of the Wakes Week matches, which was played on the old county ground, Stoke, on the 5th and 6th. Staffordshire also had a useful side, but they had the worst of the conditions, J. B. Russell being again unsuccessful in the toss. Unfortunately, the home team could get no more than one point out of the match, and so their percentage dropped from 76.66 to 68.57, and any chance of championship honours was probably lost. In fine weather there was an excellent attendance on the Thursday, but a wet morning spoiled the "gate" on the second day.

The start on Thursday was eminently satisfactory to Staffordshire, for Barnes and Sedgwick bowled with plenty of vim, and the best batsmen on the Lancashire side were pegged down and got rid of cheaply. Halliday, one of the very promising young bats which the County Palatine are nursing, had his leg stump hit by what looked like a sharp break-back from Barnes before a run had been scored. Paynter, a left-hander, with a penchant for hitting, who got runs last season at Old Trafford off the Staffordshire bowling, was lucky to get a long-hop and a half-volley from Barnes in succession, and got two fours. But Barnes's guile was too much for him. The old head changed his field, putting an extra man in the slips and dispensing with a deep leg for an over. But for the next over he signalled Howl back to the deep field, and fed the batsman with a slightly short one on the leg-side. Paynter lashed round and hit it hard, straight into the hands of Howl near the deep leg boundary. At the same total, 22, Booth was well caught at the wicket in trying to draw away from one of Sedgwick's expresses, after being almost bowled in the previous over. J. B. Newton, who has this season been playing in the Birmingham League, was not comfortable with either bowler, and P. T. Eckersley failed to keep out a fast ball that kept low. Since the two fours hit by Paynter Barnes had bowled five consecutive maidens, and at this point had sent down ten splendid overs for 12 runs and two wickets, whilst Sedgwick, also bowling very well, had delivered 10 overs for 19 runs and two wickets. Newton and Farrimond gave a little trouble, and the former got nine off Sedgwick's next over, causing a changed to Lockett at 53. Farrimond has again been a prolific scorer this season, and hit over 70 against Yorkshire II. on Tuesday, but he always strikes me as fortunate to get the runs he does. His style is certainly not polished, and he got runs from both Barnes and Lockett in directions quite contrary to his intention by fluke strokes, which fell out of reach of the field. Newton was quite orthodox and correct, but took an hour to score 22, and was many times completely beaten by Barnes's leg-break. He was badly run out by his partner, who called him and then sent him back. When he saw that the amateur had come too far the stumper tried to give his own wicket by crossing, but was too late, and the umpire ruled that Newton was out. With half the side out for 64, Staffordshire were still doing remarkably well, but Farrimond and J. T. Tyldesley improved matters. This pair came together when the position was even worse – five for 35—at Haslingden two months ago, and completely changed the game by taking the score to 170. Farrimond then made 77, and the old International went on to hit 127, being favoured with a lot of dreadfully loose bowling. On this occasion they stayed together till lunch. Lee and Platt each bowled a couple of overs before the interval, and Lee and Lockett continued the bowling afterwards. At 104 Tyldesley was easily caught at mid-off from a bad stroke, and Lockett got Farrimond caught in the slips and beat Preston with a break-back, eight wickets being down for 127.

I thought Barnes and Sedgwick should have been called upon again at the resumption, but so far the policy adopted had been successful. When Woolley and Rushton began to give trouble, however, the handling of the bowling seemed open to criticism. It was all-important to prevent the tail-end from pulling the game round, and the original bowlers might well have been brought on again promptly. Instead, Platt was substituted for Lee at 141, and it was not until the eighth wicket had added 30 that Barnes relieved Lockett. Both batsmen had then gained confidence, and were hitting freely, and Woolley got two fours from Barnes's first over, but was bowled by the last ball. Rushton, hitting out at everything, also got nine in the next over from Barnes, but was then caught at the wicket. The last two wickets took the score from 127 to 183, and both Woolley and Rushton made some good hits, but they would not have been likely to get many runs against the bowling that was too good for the early batsmen; and their 65 runs put an entirely different complexion on the innings.

That Staffordshire could not afford to give any runs away soon became painfully evident when the home county batted. Booth and Woolley were the bowlers, against Homer and Howl. Woolley is a good medium-pace, right-arm bowler, who keeps a fine length, often swings away, and can spin them the other way. He took six wickets for 15 in 19 overs on the same ground last year. Booth is also a right-arm bowler, who makes them "go" a little from the leg, and who varies his pace a lot, and occasionally sends down a really fast one. Though the bowling was good, the batting was lacking in enterprise, and 20 minutes produced only 5 runs, when Homer was caught at the wicket. Lee showed more freedom, but after Rushton had relieved Booth, the Old Hill man touched a swinger from Woolley that got up very quickly, and was taken at first slip. Goodwin also was not afraid to drive, and put Woolley, who had bowled 10 overs for 6 runs, past mid-on for an excellent four, but was soon caught at mid-on from a bad stroke, whilst at 31 Howl was bowled. He had collected 10 runs in an hour and five minutes, and had been three times missed from sharp chances in the slips. Barnes was another slip victim for Woolley, and half the side were out for 39, scored in an hour and 25 minutes. J. S. Heath again showed excellent form, and with Sedgwick also batting well, brought some improvement, but just when the pair seemed likely to play out time Heath succumbed to Preston, a fairly fast bowler with an effective in-swing. Heath was troubled by the swerve, and was appealed against for l.b.w. from three successive balls and bowled by the next. The same bowler beat Lockett with a swinging yorker, so that when stumps were drawn Staffordshire had lost seven wickets for 75, and required nine to avoid a follow-on. Though Rushton had not taken a wicket, he bowled seven consecutive maidens, and his first 11 overs cost only four runs, whilst he should have had Heath caught at the wicket when the Porthill captain had scored 17.

Rain caused delay on Friday morning, and the match was not resumed until one o'clock. The wicket became very tricky. All the afternoon bowlers who could spin the ball were difficult to play, and the batsmen had a struggling time. Runs were difficult to get, and the play was often so slow that the spectators became sarcastic. The three outstanding wickets took the Staffordshire score to 114, so that Lancashire enjoyed a lead of 69. Sedgwick was batting altogether about an hour, and his sound innings was valuable, and Perks again did well in difficult conditions. I didn't like his cramped, negative style of defence to Holroyd's leg-breaks and Woolley's swingers, which seemed to render him very liable to a fatal snick, but otherwise he showed good form and made a lovely off-drive from Woolley, when that bowler pitched one a yard too far up. Both in batting and fielding Perks has fully justified his selection.

Barnes and Lockett were suited by the wicket when Lancashire went in again, and Eckersley should have been stumped in Barnes's first over before scoring. The amateur was beaten several times by the veteran, but made a good square leg hit for 6. However, trying to hit Lockett to leg, he had his leg-stump shot down, and Aaron beat and bowled both Paynter and Newton with nice off-breaks in his next over, three wickets being down for 22. Barnes's leg break was beating the bats-man two or three times in an over, but he simply could not hit the wicket, and the batsmen were fortunate enough not to edge the balls that left them helpless. At 41 42 got Farrimond taken close in at point in his eleventh over, 15 runs having been scored from him, 11 of them by Eckersley after he was missed. Halliday had scored 6 in an hour, but with J. T. Tyldesley in the batsmen went for runs quickly, and a double change of bowling was soon made, prematurely, as I thought, in favour of Platt and Sedgwick. It was certainly not Sedgwick's wicket, and he was freely hit. Tyldesley hit brilliantly, and the pair added 60 in forty-five minutes, enabling the Lancashire captain to declare with a lead of 170. By playing the extra half-hour, Staffordshire had 2 hours and ten minutes in which to get the runs, and the task was not a hopeful one with the pitch getting more and more difficult. Still, with only one point to lose, perhaps, a bid for victory might have been made. Homer and Howl, however, found run-getting extremely difficult, and no attempt was made to force the pace. The two did well to stave off any possibility of defeat by staying nearly an hour, but they only scored 31, including a 6 by Homer to leg off a full pitch from Holroyd, who got him caught in the slips with the next ball. Howl remained an hour and a-half, his defence being meritorious on a wicket that gave the bowlers great assistance. Lee batted 46 minutes for 5, and it was a tedious and tame finish. Tyldesley has got together a clever side, which is not far from being the strongest in the Minor Counties competition.

Scores and analysis:—

LANCASHIRE II.

First Innings

Booth c Russell b Sedgwick	6
Halliday b Barnes	0
Paynter c Howl b Barnes	12
J. B. Newton run out	22
P. T. Eckersley b Sedgwick	5
Farrimond c Lee b Lockett	25
J. T. Tyldesley c Heath b Lee	12
Preston b Lockett	6
Woolley b Barnes	40
Rushton c Russell b Barnes	25
Holroyd not out	4
Extras	26
Total	183

LANCASHIRE II.

Second Innings

P. T. Eckersley b Lockett	13
Halliday lbw b Platt	26
Paynter b Lockett	4
J. B. Newton b Lockett	0
Farrimond c Sedgwick b Barnes	9
J. T. Tyldesley not out	39
Extras	10
Total (for five wkts)	101

Innings declared closed.

STAFFORDSHIRE

First Innings

H. W. Homer c Farrimond b Booth	1
C. Howl b Woolley	10
W. Lee c Preston b Woolley	8
H. Goodwin c Newton b Woolley	6
J. S. Heath b Preston	22
Barnes c Preston b Woolley	3
Sedgwick c Farrimond b Woolley	19
A. Lockett b Preston	0
F. D. Perks not out	18
J. B. Russell c Eckersley b Holroyd	6
Platt c Woolley b Holroyd	3
Extras	18
Total	114

STAFFORDSHIRE

Second Innings

H. W. Homer c Booth b Holroyd	20
C. Howl c Eckersley b Newton	21
W. Lee c Woolley b Newton	5
H. Goodwin not out	1
Extras	1
Total (for three wkts)	48

BOWLING ANALYSIS

LANCASHIRE

	1st Innings. O	M	R	W	2nd Innings. O	M	R	W
Barnes	20.2	7	44	4	13	4	23	1
Sedgwick	11	4	28	2	4	0	25	0
Lockett	19	4	28	2	13	3	26	3
Lee	14	6	29	1	1	0	12	1
Platt	7	2	22	0	4.4	0	12	1

STAFFORDSHIRE

	1st Innings. O	M	R	W	2nd Innings. O	M	R	W
Woolley	29	11	52	5	8	3	11	0
Booth	11	4	12	1	10	5	12	0
Rushton	18	11	17	2	3	2	3	0
Preston	5	0	7	2	11	7	15	1
Holroyd	4.4	1	8	2	11	0	5	2
Newton					2.1	0	5	2

Staffordshire v. Lincolnshire

The Staffordshire team assembled at Grantham on Monday night for the opening of the customary Eastern tour, to oppose Lincolnshire at Grantham on Tuesday and Wednesday, and travel on to Norwich to meet Norfolk in the concluding match of the season on Thursday and Friday. There were three changes in the team—P. O. Yates, J. W. Johnson, and P. F. Stubbs taking the places of C. Howl, W. Lee, and J. S. Heath.

The weather at Grantham took a disagreeable turn, for it rained heavily during Monday night, and light rain continued till noon on Tuesday. The wicket was fit by two o'clock, however, and after an early lunch, play commenced in bright sunshine. Staffordshire had choice of innings, and went in on a wicket that gave the bowlers a lot of help. The ball turned sharply, and came off at varying pace. Sometimes it reared very awkwardly, and at others kept low, so that batsmen had a difficult task.

Stubbs and Homer opened the innings against the bowling of Major Wilson and Schwind. The last-named is a youthful player, who has not previously appeared against Staffordshire. He bowls right-arm, medium pace, and seemed to get a little leg work on. His ball on the off stump going away was inclined to kick, and required watching. Major Wilson, who has been doing remarkably well of late, also turns them from the leg a little, and is very accurate in length. Stubbs never settled down, for, with only 2 scored, in placing Wilson on the leg-side, he gave a low catch to Wright at short-leg, and escaped only to get to the other end and hit a half-volley to Frearson at cover-point. That brilliant young fielder is the wrong man to send a catch to, and though the ball came to him very low he made it look easy. The first wicket thus went at 3, and with 10 added an annoying blunder cost the valuable wicket of H. Goodwin. The young left-hander hit another glorious century for Walsall on Saturday, and started off as though he meant business on this occasion. He lashed a no-ball round to the leg boundary, and got 2 for a nice off-stroke from the next ball. A single took him to the other end to face Major Wilson, and he played the first ball to leg, and started to run, but Homer was not backing up, and he sent his partner back. He had got half-way down the wicket, and just failed to get back in time. Having been unable to get going in the earlier matches, Goodwin has recently struck his best form, and his was possibly the most valuable wicket that could have been thrown away in this aggravating manner. As it was Homer's call, the striker was wrong in going so far without a call, but, on the other hand, if Homer had been alert for runs, and had made ground, it was a comfortable run. The Old Hill man is apt to take things too easily, and during his long stay a good many runs were neglected which might have been taken without risk. In conditions in which the batsmen were obliged to exercise care, the importance of smart running between wickets was naturally enhanced, and Homer was not free from blame either in the refusal which cost Goodwin his wicket, or in neglecting other opportunities of picking up singles.

P. O. Yates kept Homer company rather more than half an hour, during which only 23 runs were scored, and Yates then apparently lost patience and gave his wicket away by a wild stroke at a slow leg-break from the left-hander, the Rev. H. Mack, who had superseded Schwind.

Homer was batting very soundly, but with almost exaggerated caution. Early on he cut Schwind finely for 4, and hit a long-hop to the leg boundary, and he also drove Mack straight for 4, thus showing that he has not forgotten how to punish the right ball. But he seems to have acquired a degree of restraint that hardly does justice to his abilities. With Barnes in, the scoring was still slow, but with Hawley, the Grantham fast bowler, and Frearson relieving Mack to tempt the batsmen with his "donkey drops," matters livened up a little. Hawley, however, caused trouble, for some of his balls got up in dangerous fashion, while others "shot." The wicket added 38 in fifty-five minutes, and then Homer, "having a go" at a tossed-up thing from Frearson, missed it and was bowled. He had been at the wicket five minutes over two hours, his defence being very good. At the same total Barnes was caught on the leg-side from a ball which kicked abruptly. After tea, Johnson and Perks scored steadily, and the Oakamoor man was settling down nicely and playing well when he was unluckily out by turning a leg-ball on to the wicket with his pads.

A thunderstorm had been raging not far away for some time, and, with Perks and Sedgwick, an appeal against the light was upheld. The game was resumed after a quarter of an hour, and Sedgwick was out in the same way as Barnes, a ball from Hawley popping up short and providing an easy catch at point off the shoulder of his bat. Lockett made several hard hits, but, trying to score from a ball wide on the off, was caught at third man. Rain had been falling some time, and after one short stoppage play was finally stopped at 6 10. Shortly afterwards a violent thunderstorm broke over the ground. Perks had been at the wicket altogether an hour and 25 minutes, which was split up into four separate periods by stoppages for tea and bad weather. At the close the score was 129 for eight wickets.

The wicket was very soft on Wednesday morning, and Russell hit out vigorously, whilst Perks, who was very slow, punished a couple of leg balls from the fast bowler. The wicket added 38 in 40 minutes, but on Ross being tried at 150 he speedily finished off the innings. He was playing his first county match, and certainly ought to have been put on earlier. Bowling slow, left arm, he has a clever leg spin, and a good command of length—a decidedly useful bowler. Perks was at the wicket two hours, cut up into five pieces by stoppages. He again proved himself a difficult man to get out, though one would like to see him play a defensive back stroke instead of the negative absence of a stroke to which I have previously alluded.

Thunderstorms were rumbling round the ground when Lincs. went in, and before lunch there were two interruptions by sharp showers. In spite of the slow pitch, and the wet ball, however, Barnes bowled so well that he had every batsman utterly "stuck up." Lockett hardly bowled as good a length as usual, but with ordinary luck he would have had several wickets. Goates was the only batsman to put up a defence to Barnes, and he was fortunate, for he made a number of streaky shots. Frearson, Lincolnshire's crack bat, was well and cleanly caught at the wicket at 14 from a ball that turned abruptly from the leg, and Stamp played on the second ball he received. Barnes was making the ball turn and pop about, and, with the field very close in, got Ross and Mack caught at short leg, Shaw snapped at the wicket, and Wright taken at point. At lunch six wickets were down for 48, and Barnes had taken all the wickets at a cost of 17 runs, all except two of which were scored off the edge of the bat. The storm came on during the interval and drenched the pitch, so that no more play was possible till 4.45. Then the innings was finished off for the addition of four runs, and Lincs. failed to save the "follow-on." Barnes's last nine overs included eight maidens, one run, and five wickets.

When Lincs. went in again at 20 minutes to six Barnes was practically unplayable, and in eleven overs took six wickets for seven runs. In the two innings all but six of the runs scored from him were off the edge of the bat, and he frequently beat both the bat and wicket four or five times in an over. His last three overs were bowled to Major Wilson, who, though playing at every ball, touched only two in the three overs. It was sheer bad luck that Barnes did not get his wicket, and so secure full points for Staffordshire, who had to be content with three points for a win on the first innings. Barnes's 14 wickets for 31 runs was a wonderful performance.

Lincs.—1st Inns.

R. E. Frearson c Russell b Barnes	5
J. Goates lbw b Barnes	21
H. Stamp b Barnes	0
T. D. Ross c Perks b Barnes	4
G. Shaw c Russell b Barnes	10
Rev. H. Mack c Perks b Barnes	0
R. L. G. Wright c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
P. L. Worman c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
C. Wilson c Platt b Lockett	2
C. H. Schwind not out	0
H. Hawley c Barnes b Lockett	0
Extras	7
Total	52

Staffs.—1st Inns.

P. F. Stubbs c Frearson b Schwind	2
H. W. Homer b Frearson	37
H. Goodwin run out	7
P. O. Yates b Mack	6
Barnes c Wilson b Hawley	19
J. W. Johnson b Hawley	9
F. D. Perks c Stamp b Ross	27
Sedgwick c Wright b Hawley	7
A. Lockett c Stamp b Mack	7
J. B. Russell st Shaw b Ross	20
Platt not out	0
Extras	14
Total	155

Lincs.—2nd Inns.

R. E. Frearson hit wkt b Barnes	9
J. Goates c Perks b Barnes	0
H. Stamp b Barnes	0
T. D. Ross b Lockett	0
G. Shaw c Johnson b Barnes	0
Rev. H. Mack b Lockett	1
R. L. G. Wright c Lockett b Barnes	9
P. L. Worman c Perks b Barnes	0
C. Wilson not out	7
C. H. Schwind b Platt	12
H. Hawley not out	7
Extras	4
Total (for 9 wkts)	49

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffs.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	26	14	28	0
Schwind	10	2	28	1
Mack	16	3	26	2
Hawley	22	7	43	3
Frearson	3	0	12	1
Ross	2	1	4	2

Lincs.—	1st Inns.				2nd Inns.			
Barnes	18	8	17	8	15	7	14	6
Lockett	18	7	28	2	10	2	23	2
Platt					4	2	8	1

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North Staffordshire and District League

One had almost come to believe that Porthill were going to belie the reputation they have acquired since the war for fickleness. They have been remarkably consistent for a long time, and gradually won their way to the top of the ladder. But their old characteristic re-asserted itself last Saturday, and, failing to reach Nantwich's modest total of 130 at Porthill, they lost two points on Bignall End, whose assertive victory at Silverdale completed the double event against their neighbours, and placed them once more at the head of affairs. Perhaps the most striking feature of the League tourney this season has been the unvarying success of the Nantwich attack. They are now bracketed third with Leek, and they owe their elevation entirely to their bowlers, for week after week they have been dismissed for scores which, in the case of any other League club, usually spells defeat. But their bowling has again and again proved equal to the task, and a total of round about 100 on good wickets has been sufficient to win most of their matches. Only a few weeks ago it was Bignall End who dismissed the Cheshire men for just over 100, and then lost after a prolonged struggle to get the runs. On Saturday E. H. Steventon (35) and F. W. Slight (32) were the chief contributors to Nantwich's moderate score, Heap taking five wickets for 36, and once more a change bowler came along to create a debacle in the Porthill innings and bring disaster to the leaders. All through the season E. H. Steventon and W. T. Maybury have been the destructive agents, but they seem to be at no loss if this dangerous pair fail to do the needful. The other week it was Haighton, a second teamer, who wrought destruction at the psychological moment, and on Saturday F. W. Cooper sealed the fate of Porthill by taking five wickets for 8 runs. A. A. Bickerton revealed his best form for Porthill, and put together an excellent 58, but otherwise their galaxy of batting talent crumpled up, and they were dismissed for 111.

In spite of 47 from the versatile ex-Scot Hay player, B. Griffiths, Silverdale could total no more than 130 against the Bignall End bowlers. The champions' twin midgets, the brothers Downing, have been to the fore as bowlers latterly, and on Saturday it was E. Downing who captured half the Silverdale wickets for 42. Bignall End knocked off the runs in quick time for the loss of three wickets. F. J. Dale (53) and A. W. Ikin (30 not out) had a merry time, the former's runs being got by means of 13 boundary hits and a single.

Madeley created the surprise of the day by beating Norton on their own ground in hollow fashion. The home team found the medium-pace bowling of E. Malkin, jun., too good for them, and were tumbled out for 106, of which J. Jolley hit 36. The younger Malkin had the fine record of six for 21. Joe Ankers once more gave stability to the Madeley batting, and when the stumps were pulled up at 131 for 4 had carried his bat through for a solid and meritorious 50. He found useful support this time from E. Mayer, who batted well for 36.

At Crewe the home team put up another good score, taking 211 for 7 off the Great Chell bowlers, mainly owing to a great stand by A. Price (63) and M. Walker (64), which added 114 for the second wicket. But, unlike their Nantwich neighbours, they seem unable to get their opponents out, and the visitors replied with 157 for three wickets. I was interested to see that A. Smith, concerning whom I had some observations to make last week, played another good not out innings of 55.

Longton experienced rough luck at Leek, for after declaring at 153 for six, which took them 2½ hours to get, they just missed a win, Leek having scored 106 for nine wickets when time expired. Alfred Smith put together 62 by masterly cricket for Longton against some good bowling.

The remaining match was at Knypersley, where the home team cut up badly against Burslem. H. Cotton's 47 was the best innings in Burslem's 189 for seven, at which they applied the closure, and Knypersley collapsed for 62.

The Critic

Lichfield v. Stafford

Stafford journeyed to Lichfield on Saturday, the match resulting in a victory for Lichfield by 71 runs. Slater proved a very dangerous bowler for Lichfield, taking seven wickets for 27 runs. He was also the premier batsman for the day, making 46 runs, including no less than seven boundaries. For Stafford, Webb took four wickets for 29 runs. Scores:—

Stafford.—G. H. Greatorex b Slater 0, W. T. White lbw b Oram 2, G. M. Mountford b Slater 4, F. Burnham b Slater 4, A. J. Ward c Plant b Slater 0, T. A. Hill c Plant b Slater 4, S. H. Critchley b Slater 15, C. A. Woodyer not out 18, A. S. Webb b Slater 1, E. C. Kenworthy c Rudgard b Fitzgeorge 5, J. Hardgrave c Moore b Fitzgeorge 4; extras 10; total 67.

Lichfield.—H. Fitzgeorge c White b Webb 33, W. Plant b Critchley 0, R. Moore b Hardgrave 1, R. Cook b Hardgrave 9, J. Brown lbw b Webb 8, F. Rudgard lbw b Critchley 10, H. Davis b Kenworthy 5, F. Oram c Burnham b Webb 0, G. Ellett b Webb 0, G. Knight not out 10, A. Slater b Mountford 46; extras 16; total 138.

BLYMHILL v. GNOSALL.

Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, the home eleven winning by 11 runs. Scores:—

Gnosall

H. Bocking c and b Burgoyne	22
J. Hawkins b Burgoyne	0
J. Yates b Burgoyne	0
J. Green c Palmer b Scott	1
H. Mountford c Sutherland b Hitchen	6
Rev. J. C. Bocking c Palmer b Hitchen	0
J. Spence c Hitchen b Haylett	8
R. Ingram c and b Hitchen	5
C. Baker not out	2
J. Holmes b Haylett	1
W. Clay b Hitchen	3
Extras	6
Total	54

Blymhill

W. Sutherland run out	5
R. Hitchen b Hawkins	13
J. H. Haylett not out	0
R. D. Smith c Hawkins b Green	0
J. Burgoyne b Green	4
H. Harper b Butler	6
W. Tomlinson c Spence b Hawkins	5
A. R. Craig c J. Bocking b Hawkins	15
J. C. Brookes c Mountford b Butler	0
W. Palmer b Hawkins	5
C. W. Scott b Hawkins	4
Extras	8
Total	65

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D	Pts.
Bignall End	18	13	3	2	28
Porthill Park	18	12	3	3	27
Leek	18	10	6	2	22
Nantwich	18	9	5	4	22
Silverdale	18	9	7	2	20
Burslem	18	8	7	3	19
Norton	18	6	7	5	17
Longton	18	5	7	6	16
Great Chell	18	5	9	4	14
Knypersley	18	5	11	2	12
Crewe Alexandra	18	3	11	4	10
Madeley	18	3	12	3	9

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Burslem, 180 for seven (dec.); Knypersley, 63.
Bignall End, 134 for three; Silverdale, 130
Longton, 153 for six (dec.); Leek, 106 for nine.
Nantwich, 130; Porthill Park, 111.
Madeley, 131 for five; Norton, 106.
Crewe Alexandra, 211 for seven (dec.); Great Chell, 167 for three.

Section "B."

	P	W	L.	D	Pts.
Alsagers Bank	18	12	5	1	25
Sandyford	18	11	5	2	24
Cheadle	18	11	6	1	23
Fenton	18	11	7	0	22
Stone	18	10	6	2	22
Caverswall	18	9	7	2	20
L.M. & S. Rly (Stoke)	18	7	7	4	18
Burslem High Lane	18	8	9	1	17
Kidsgrove	18	7	9	2	16
Audley	18	7	11	0	14
Ashcombe Park	18	4	13	1	9
Betley	18	3	15	0	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Cheadle, 136; Caverswall, 49.
Kidsgrove, 86 for nine; Alsagers Bank, 82.
L.M. and S. Rly. (Stoke) 109; Audley, 83.
Sandyford, 176; Burslem High Lane, 70.
Fenton, 71; Betley, 65.
Stone, 167 for six; Ashcombe Park, 151.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P	W	L.	D	Pts.
Porthill Park	18	13	2	3	29
Burslem	18	12	4	2	26
Knypersley	18	12	5	1	25
Leek	18	8	8	2	18
Nantwich	18	8	8	2	18
Norton	18	8	8	2	18
Longton	18	8	9	1	17
Silverdale	18	8	7	6	16
Crewe Alexandra	18	7	10	1	15
Great Chell	18	6	10	2	14
Madeley	18	6	10	2	14
Bignall End	18	2	14	2	6

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 182; Knypersley, 50.
Silverdale, 92 for five; Bignall End, 44.
Longton, 241 for four (dec.); Leek, 57.
Nantwich 133 for eight; Porthill Park, 123.
Madeley, 84 for nine; Norton, 60.
Great Chell, 125; Crewe Alexandra, 80

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wes.	18	15	3	0	30
Kidsgrove	18	14	3	1	29
Burslem High Lane	18	12	4	2	26
Caverswall	18	11	7	0	22
Stone	18	10	8	0	20
Sandyford	18	8	9	1	17
Audley	18	7	11	0	14
Cheadle	18	6	10	2	14
L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke).	18	5	11	2	12
Alsagers Bank	18	5	12	1	11
Scot Hay	18	5	12	1	11
Betley	18	5	13	0	10

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Caverswall, 200 for four; Cheadle, 92.
Alsagers Bank, 111; Kidsgrove, 59.
Audley, 67 for five; L.M. and S. Rly. (Stoke), 62.
Burslem High Lane, 148; Sandyford, 67.
Betley, 82; Brindley Ford Wes., 56.
Stone, 116; Scot Hay, 60.

LAST SATURDAY PROVED to be the day of sensational events, defeat being the portion of the four teams figuring as leaders when the matches commenced. In three cases no immediate disturbance in respect of first position occurred, but in the fourth Bignall End resumed the priority of place which they held so long, having a victory over Silverdale to their credit, whereas their Porthill Park challengers fell to the alive Nantwich men who are still cherishing hopes that they will finish as runners-up of the top section, with a bare possibility of getting the championship. In the lower senior grade the overthrow of Alsagers Bank opened up a very interesting situation the remainder of the programme being such that at least five clubs may be said to be in the running for the ultimate honours. In the Junior Division the downfall of Porthill Park was mitigated by the similar experience which befell Knypersley, who were passed in the race by their Burslem conquerors. Burslem's outstanding games cannot be regarded as difficult tasks, and Porthill Park will need to be very careful if they are to retain their position until the end. Although not vested with general importance the most surprising result was the defeat of Brindley Ford Wesleyans, administered as it was by the bottom team of the grade. Fortunately for the Brindley Ford men, Kidsgrove were also numbered amongst the losers, and rather singularly they were beaten by opponents who were occupying the penultimate place. Amongst the lowly, Madeley caused a commotion by accounting for Norton, and so threw out a definite challenge to Crewe Alexandra, who had to be satisfied with dividing the points with Great Chell. Having still to play both Knypersley and the Alexandra the Madeley people have not yet abandoned notions of remaining in the top section, and the struggle to keep away from the bottom place may be even keener than the contest for the championship.

Rungetting was heavier than usual, and the biggest scoring game was that at Crewe, in which the Alexandra and Great Chell ran up 368 chalks without being able to settle their differences, wickets averaging 36 runs apiece. The highest aggregate was to the credit of Longton reserves, whose ranks included a century-maker, R. J. Hallen, taking 113 from Leek's bowlers. The habit of reaching the coveted three figures has recently developed amongst the juniors, and another instance occurred when F. Barber, of Caverswall, hit up 103 (not out) against Cheadle. A near approach to these scores was the 98 (not out) of A. Hackney, of Burslem, who went all through his side's innings. The lowest total of the series was the 36 which represented Brindley Ford's productiveness at Betley, and in point of mere figures this game furnished the best bowling performance, B. Madden having nine of the losing team's wickets for a dozen runs, a slightly better return than the nine for 21 of A. Bourne, of Sandyford. The club to get most exultation was Nantwich, each of whose teams had the felicity of vanquishing foes who ranked as leaders; and the other clubs which reaped full reward from their two engagements were Burslem, Madeley and Stone, the dual triumph of Madeley being the first experience of the kind this season.

KNYPERSLEY CURL UP.

Burslem's good spell of success was continued at Knypersley, where the home team were beaten from the moment they lost the toss. The foundation of the visitors' easy win was laid by H. Cotton and W. Briscoe (22), who took the total from 24 to 70 for the third wicket. Cotton remained to make 47 before being out to a beautiful catch on the boundary by W. Lonsdale, but he was not in his best humour, and had some very shaky periods. Other good stands were made by E. Cotton and R. Hollowood—57 for the seventh wicket—and E. Cotton and J. Hodgkiss—42 for the unbroken eighth partnership. Hollowood hit out well, and contributed 27 quickly. The best batting of the game came from E. Cotton, who played a very sound and attractive innings of 50 (not out). E. Mosedale was responsible for some good bowling, but was not helped by the pitch, and had to be content with three wickets for 47, whilst A. Millward had two for 26. The bowlers were let down by the fielding, which was very unsatisfactory. Knypersley had a bad time when they batted and of the first nine men only J. Bedson (21) showed much form, the aggregate standing at 38 when the eighth wicket dropped. Bold hitting by H. Bibby put a more respectable appearance on the matter, that player running up 22 by five fours and a couple. Evans Cook was unplayable after the effects of the heavy roller had worn off, and bowling out his opponents almost as fast as they came in he finished with eight wickets for 28, of which 22 were scored before he had his first success.

BIGNALL END'S RESURGENCE.

Bignall End administered the usual dose to Silverdale, and were winners of a capital match, a victory which, coupled with Porthill's defeat, restored them to the leadership. Batting first, Silverdale made a poor start, losing six wickets for 46, but a rally came by some bright batting by B. Griffiths, who, however, was rather fortunate to stay long enough to make 47. The latter part of the innings was marked by the good work of G. Green, whose 24 (not out) caused the last two wickets to put on 35 chalks. F. J. Dale, who had three victims for 40, bowled remarkably well at the start, his first nine overs being sent down for three runs and two wickets. W. Downing, with five for 42, was the most successful bowler, and A. W. Ikin got two wickets for 11. When Bignall End had their turn at run-getting they set about the bowling in astounding fashion, Dale, in particular, hammering away most unceremoniously. He completed his half-century in 32 minutes, and when his career was ended he claimed 63 of the 88 runs scored. His innings was his best for a long time, and he counted 13 fours in a fine display of hard, clean hitting. J. H. Mayer and E. McEllin helped with a dozen each, and J. Ikin 30 (not out) was going strongly when the match was won and play ceased. The worst sufferer by the onslaught was E. Groom, whose five overs were debited with 44 runs.

DRAW AT LEEK.

A weak Leek team did well to run Longton to a draw, an issue which appeared very improbable at one stage of the match. The feature of Longton's batting was the sound and correct cricket of A. Smith, whose return to form was very welcome. His display lacked some of the old brilliancy, but it was most entertaining and earned 62 of the 107 runs scored for the first four wickets. C. Edwards was an excellent seconder, and had 28 of 70 recorded for the second partnership. A. Hawker helped useful as Smith's third associate, and H. Morris (26), and H. Brassington (21) scored with some freedom. The six wickets which fell were equally shared by H. Sedgwick, A. L. Kidd and F. Hunt. The Highfield men had 129 minutes in which to bat, and their opening was a most unpromising one, Brassington having a wicket in his first over and another in his second, and half the side had been got rid of with the score at 20. At this stage J. Pointon (25) was joined by Sedgwick, and the pair proceeded to effect a reformation, 48 runs being gathered 'ere Pointon was caught by the stumper. Longton were again well on top when another batsman departed at 72, but Sedgwick found another ally of moment in Hunt (24), a further 32 runs coming before the seventh bowler disposed of Hunt. The quick fall of the ninth wicket gave Longton fresh hopes, but Kidd and Sedgwick successfully played out time. Sedgwick showed splendid restraint, whilst scoring 35 (not out), and his innings undoubtedly saved his side from defeat. Brassington bowled very steadily to take four wickets for 19, whilst Smith had two for 18 and W. Hine two for 19.

PORTHILL DETHRONED.

Nantwich held very optimistic views concerning their visit to Wolstanton, and the result proved that their confidence was well founded. The losers gave no indication of the power they are sometimes able to produce, and they were thoroughly beaten in respect of bowling, fielding and tactics. Apart from the opening pair, the Nantwich batting was not good, and that it got so many runs as 130 was due to the failing of the opposition rather than its own virtues. Save for the work of J. S. Heap the Porthill bowling was mediocre, and except for two clever catches by W. H. Fitchford it had little help from the field, which was often lifeless, as well as being badly disposed. Heap, who had five wickets for 36, might reasonably have been bowled more, though the skipper could not be expected to have prevision of what the change bowling would bring about. F. W. Slight (22) and T. W. Steventon (16) gave the winners a confident start, and Slight's long stay had a lot to do with the result, his resistance keeping one end a real problem during lengthy periods. W. T. Maybury (13) had a short but lively stay, and with four wickets down for 48 Porthill were not unhappy. The arrival of E. H. Steventon put a different complexion on affairs, for powerful hitting produced eight 4's and three singles made his score 35, of 43 gathered for the wicket. He had taken risks and was well caught from another risky uppish stroke. With 91 on the board Nantwich had established a strong position, but the game took another turn when three more wickets dropped for six, and at this point the home team seemed likely winners. But F. Borton set up a stout defence, whilst F. E. Hough (21) indulged in some free hitting which puzzled the fielders and upset the bowlers, and there was no antidote until Heap came on again, and got rid of both batsmen. The last two wickets put on 33 runs and sounded the knell of Porthill, for the Nantwich attack rarely allows opponents to get much beyond the century, especially when the pitch can give it a little help. When the home side batted six overs were safely got through, but the seventh saw a wicket fall, and another dropped in the course of the eighth turn. N. W. White (18) promised well, but at 26 he imitated the rashness of the previus batsmen, and the sequel was the loss of the third wicket. Porthill were now in "Queer-street," from which they were almost saved by A. A. Bickerton and J. S. Heath (15), who each had a life, and so stayed to add a valuable 46 runs, and cause a bowling change. This got rid of Heath when he appeared set for a lengthy stay, and a second change caused the complete breakdown of the batting, despite the efforts of Bickerton, who, apart from the one blunder from which he escaped, played a grand innings of 58, ultimately terminated by the vigilance of Hough. The second change of bowling brought on S. W. Cooper, who proceeded to acquit himself so well as to take five wickets for eight runs, a feat far in advance of anything he had previously accomplished for Nantwich. Two wickets fell to H. Garner for 18, and Maybury had two for 36. Except for the fielding lapses which concerned Heath and Bickerton the fortunes of the sport were with the visitors, but for all that there is no doubt that they deserved their triumph, which was the due reward of determination, mobility and superior tactics. Despite the two missed chances which might have led to a far different result, the fielding was infinitely better than that of the ground side, and amidst a good band of scouts none did better than H. Smith, whose work was always marked by industry, resource and unyielding resolution.

MASTERFUL MADELEY.

The all-round quality of Madeley's cricket was a surprise to visitors to the New Ford ground, who had anticipated a fairly easy win for Norton, a notion which seemed likely to come to realisation when J. Jolley (36) and D. Worthington (15) were responsible for Norton's score standing at 56 when the second wicket was captured. The stand of this pair, however, proved to be the only one of real consequence, though other dual figure contributions came from from S. Smith (13) and R. Tatton (11). No further stand of more than 16 runs was made, the decline in progression being caused by the bowling of the Malkins, father and son. E. Malkin, jun., performed grandly to take six wickets for 21 runs, and his sire had two for 16. Madeley's hopes were diminished when two wickets dropped for 11, but F. Clarke set up a stout resistance which helped J. Ankers in adding another 20 valuable runs, and this effort was surpassed when J. Hazeldine (20) was in company with Ankers, the visitors being within measurable reach of success before the co-operation was broken. The association provided 42 chalks, and as a like number were obtained ere E. Mayer (32) was accounted for Madeley were winners with six wickets standing. Hazeldine and Mayer both showed good form, but the palm goes to Ankers, who was in his most determined vein, and ran up 50 (not out) by sound and stylish batting. J Smith and A. Evans each took a couple of wickets.

RUNS IN PLENTY.

Bowlers were badly exploited at Crewe, where the Alexandra took heavy toll from Great Chell, only to find their own attack just as ineffective. The feature of the Crewe innings was the fine batting of A. Price (63) and Munro Walker (64). Profiting by fielding mistakes the pair put on runs rapidly and their connection was not closed until it had augmented the score by 114. Further brisk rungetting was indulged in by C. Coffin (36) and J. Dickinson (20, not out), and the Alexandra's full aggregate was gathered from 57 overs. Three wickets fell to G. A. Wilson for 56, and E. J. Barber had two for 35. Chell had a setback when a run out cost them a wicket at five, but from that stage they made steady progress, and a definite ending to the match was never in prospect. R Harris (34) and J. E. Gibson (22) each had a highly serviceable stay, and the fourth partnership had not been closed when time was up, A. Smith (55, not out) and A. Worthington (36, not out) obtaining full control of the bowling by excellent play, and taking the score from 89 to 157. The Alexandra have not won a game during the last nine weeks, chiefly because of the pronounced deterioration of their bowling strength.

OTHER SENIORS' GAMES.

The trouncing which Caverswall suffered from their Cheadle rivals was to a great extent due to indifferent bowling, the visitors' attack being far below its ordinary standard, and a lot of short stuff afforded plenty of opportunities for run-getting. A sensational start was made, Cheadle's first wicket going down to the first ball, but runs came at a fair rate with H. Capewell and A. L. Day in company, 50 being scored before the captain had the misfortune to kick his stumps, his share of the stand being 20. The cricket slowed down after the severance of the partnership, but the batsmen still had the advantage, chiefly because of the doings of Day, who played a very careful innings of 48, marred only by a return to the bowler at 39. A capital 29 came from A. Shaw and R. Whitehurst—a second teamer of promise—and W. Brough helped usefully with 10 each. Caverswall tried no less than eight bowlers and the most effective was A. H. Poate, with three for 22. Caverswall's beginning was only a run better than Cheadle's, and after J. Turner and Poate (15) had gathered 21 for the second wicket things went all in the direction of the bowlers, the only other contribution of more than five being 12 from C. Hassall. Brough and J. Keates bowled unchanged to take eight wickets for 33 and two for 15, respectively, and both put in some good work, which, however, had the flattery of poor batting. Cheadle's fielding was excellent, and J. A. Hurst and Shaw both made smart catches; whilst one very clever piece of stumping punctuated Capewell's general dexterity.

After four lean weeks Kidsgrove distinguished themselves by upsetting Alsagers Bank, whose batting had a pronounced relapse only R. Bailey (17) and A. Green (17) reaching the teens, and the best stand was 27 for the ninth wicket by Green and E. Jones (10, not out). H Cooper was in the limelight with six wickets for 40, and E. Hadley had two for 11. Kidsgrove made a feeble start, but relief came by F. Thinnis (20), R. Eptlett (13) and J. Hancock (23), two runs being wanted when the ninth player was sent on the return journey. W. Cooper and W. Wellecome

MR. W. SHENTON, Burslem C.C.

had little trouble in getting the required chalks and a few extras. J. Wareham was responsible for another good bowling performance, taking six wickets for 52; and G. W. Beech was next best with two for 12.

Continuing the good form they have shown since 19th June the L.M. and S. Railway men won well at Audley, though such a result did not appear probable when their sixth wicket went at 49. The turn of the tide came when J. Tebbitts (23) and R. C. Wormington joined up as the seventh wicket pair, forceful batting increasing the total by 36 runs, and it was unfortunate that Tebbitts was run out; and that another useful stand by R. Ford and V. Blood (12) was terminated in similar fashion. F. Darlington, bowling all through, had five wickets for 38, and L. Beech three for 52. In spite of a productive second partnership by C. Maddock (15) and H. Mayer (17) Audley's eighth wicket was accounted for at 55, five middle men counting but three notches amongst them. The attainment of a total of respectable proportions was due to the plucky batting of F. Bateman (23) and L. Cork (14, not out), 52 runs being collected for the ninth wicket. Wormington's bowling claimed five batsmen for 30, and Blood had a couple for 10.

Burslem High Lane were outmatched at Sandyford, the batting of the home team being far too solid for High Lane's bowling strength. All the home players were scorers, and no fewer than seven of them reached doubles. G. Bourne (13), H. Holland (22) and C. Cotton (16) opened so well that 66 runs were put on by the first three wickets, and the visitors' chances were well nigh extinguished when the capital eighth association of A. Hall (39) and J. Meir (29) took the aggregate from 103 to 167. Meir was run out, and the other nine wickets were divided between four bowlers, of whom F. Wood was the most successful, but the debit for his three wickets was 62 runs. Losing a man for a single, High Lane were always fighting a losing battle, although Wood and J. Henshall raised a flicker of hope by doubling the total—30 to 60—for the fifth wicket. But none of the later players produced any ability to deal with the bowling, the last five wickets going for 10. Wood hit up 41, a most praiseworthy effort. Nine men fell to A. Bourne's splendid bowling for 21 runs, the last of his 15 overs being adorned by three "scalps."

Betley made a gallant fight with Tenton, whose batting was the affair of one man, C. White hitting up 45 whilst his confreres were doing little or nothing. Thanks to White, the total had reached 65 with half the wickets in hand, but only six runs accrued from the efforts of the rest of the side. E. Aplin claimed four batsmen for a dozen, and the two wickets each secured by J. Amps and J. Brookshaw were obtained cheaply. Betley's venture opened ominously when a wicket was taken by the first ball, but plucky play by F. Lyth (16), B. Jones and Aplin (19), gave them a chance of victory, which was squandered when the last three players came back for two singles. G. Talbot took three wickets for nine, H. Naylor three for 13, and W. Wood two for five.

The success of Ashcombe Park's batsmen at Stone was rather surprising, and to some extent it arose from loose fielding, whilst the home bowling was none too strong. For all that, the Park are to be congratulated on a consistent display, six of their players reaching doubles, with J. Rane (26) and P. Bloor (25) as the best scorers. The main run-getting stand was for the last wicket Bloor and D. Rane adding 34 runs. Stone's most useful bowler was G. Ridway, with two for 12, G. Deyes having three for 54 and E. C. Fernie three for 64. Stone started in very promising style, F. Ravenscroft (30) and G. Reece (36) playing confidently and scoring quickly, and 60 runs were compiled before they were parted. More fine batting by P. F. Stubbs (40) and Fernie (22) added another 60 for the third wicket, and as R. Cadman (24) also scored freely the home team's win was a runaway affair. C. Davis was the best of the Park's bowlers, but he forfeited 68 runs for his three wickets.

THE JUNIORS' MATCHES.

Bad fielding had a lot to do with Knypersley's severe defeat at Cobridge, but there was no doubt that Burslem were the stronger team, though the ultimate margin rather exaggerated their superiority. The feature of the batting was the not out innings of 98 by A. Hackney, who had the luck to be missed on several occasions, but, nevertheless, showed much ability in an exhibition which included 17 strokes to the boundary. Philip Green, with four for 24, had the best average of five visiting bowlers, and finished off the innings with the "hat-trick." W. A. Goodwin came next in point of effectiveness, but his three wickets cost 67 runs. H. Tue bowled well for a lengthy period, and deserved better figures than one for 29. Knypersley played for a draw, but were frustrated by the excellent bowling of C. Tunnicliffe, who had eight wickets for 18. The top scorer was T. C. Maynard with 13, and Howard Green went all through the innings for nine (not out). Silverdale were expected to beat Bignall End, but the win was very welcome, seeing that it was the first for seven weeks. Bignall End were completely nonplussed by the bowling of J. Barnett, who had five wickets in his first three overs, and finished with seven for 28. He was well backed by P. Kelsall, who had three for 16. The only resistance of any consequence made to the bowling was set up by A. Hopwood (17, not out), and F. Green had the distinction of hitting the two boundaries which decorated the innings. Brisk batting by Kelsall (21) and J. B. Street (38, not out) made Silverdale's success a most comfortable one. Leek fielded a very weak side at Longton, and were hopelessly outclassed, their bowling being badly exploited by two of the opposition, and their own batting being very feeble. The prime matter of the match was the mammoth scoring of Longton's third wicket pair, R. J. Hallen and A. Hodson hitting up 165 runs whilst in company. Hodson's share was 67, and Hallen, who scored 18 fours, manifested considerable skill during a long stay which got him 113. The weakness of Leek's attack is signified by the fact that Longton's big aggregate came from 43 overs. Leek's rungetting with the bat stopped at 41, and of these 18 were to the credit of the veteran, J. Pace, who was not out. J. Bradbury had six wickets for 24 and E. Pass three for four. Porthill Park and Nantwich had a good set-to, and the home team were value for their win by three wickets. The Park's chief rungetter was A. Hollins, with 35, and other useful scores came from H. F. Wood (17) and W. C. Washington (19). Four wickets fell to W. Meakin for 34, and J Bell had three for 32. Nantwich had a decent send-off by W. Walker (12) and H. Gidman (24), but the result was in doubt when the fourth wicket fell at 58. The issue was settled by B. T. Dutton (36), G. R. Jackson (23) and Meakin (17). Norton found runs very hard to get against Madeley's bowling, and seven of their wickets dropped for 27. P. Stubbs disposed of four men for 10, and three fell to A. Boulton for 17. Madeley lost half their batsmen before they got in front, the game being won whilst Dph Griffiths (17) and T. Jones (19) were co-operating. Crewe Alexandra's flutter of conquest was interrupted by Great Chell, for whom J. Taylor was an all-rounder of quality, hitting up 33 and taking five wickets for five runs each. Other prominent players for the winners were S. Brayford with a patient 30, W. Mould 21, and G. Fitchford, three for 12. S. Hares, with 20, was the only Alexandra batsman to pass the teens, and the leading bowler of the side was J. W. Ashbrook, who did exceedingly well to get seven wickets for 40.

Two players preserved Cheadle's batting from dire failure, J. Fieldhouse scoring 44 and A. Hollins 24. The bowlers to cause the trouble were F. Blunt and F. Barber, with four for 19 and three for 28, respectively. Caverswall lost three wickets for 15, but T. Adderley (69) and Barber knocked the bowling about, and added 125 by their joint stay. Barber remained to make 103 (not out), getting his runs by capital scoring play, in which he was helped by slack fielding. The prospects of Kidsgrove were damaged by their defeat by Alsagers Bank, for whom E. Wainwright captured six wickets for 16, only W Maddocks (23 not out) showing a bold front to the bowling. Wainwright also fared well with the bat, scoring 19 (not out), but the Banks's top scorer was A. Freeman, with 21. Except for R. Bagguley (18) the L.M. and S. Railway players fared poorly against Audley's bowling, H. Merrilin having five wickets for 21 and A. Taylor three for 17. Audley were winners with seven wickets standing thanks to 21 from P. Proctor

and 28 from F. Jervis. Sandyford's bowling was badly treated by Burslem High Lane, seven of whose players reached doubles, with a nice sequence of 30, 29 (not out) and 28 by H. Ford, Jr. Clayton and J. Mellor, respectively. S. Dean's three for 30 made the visitors' best bowling record. This player was also top-noticher with 16, the resistance to H. Stone five for 37 — W. Fisher — three for 17 and Mellor—two for 13—being paltry. Betley's surprising win over Brindley Ford was largely due to two players, T. Whitley running up 42 by good cricket, and B. Madden astonishing the Wesleyans by taking nine wickets for 12, in seven overs; R. Machin (23, not out) being the only batsman to cope with his onslaught. Machin had previously got four wickets for 18. Stone's top scorer against Scott Hay was B. J. Devaney (32), and T. Bowdidge (22) and S. Stephenson (22, not out) were also very useful. Scott Hay's batting had a fair start, only to break down before the attack of B. Wood—four for 10—and T. Bagley—three for three. For the losers, S. Bloor and H. Downing, had four for 33 and four for 40, respectively.

NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

Senior Division: Section A.

Silverdale v. Burslem; Messrs. Bradbury and T. Smith.

Crewe Alexandra v. Longton; Messrs. Byrne and Downs.

Knypersley v. Nantwich; Messrs. Taylor and Worthington.

Leek v. Madeley; Messrs. Bagley and Rogerson.

Porthill Park v. Norton; Messrs. Jones and Timmis.

Great Chell v. Bignall End; Messrs. Plant and Maulfold.

Section B.

Stone v. Cheadle; Messrs. Whittingham and Clowes.

Fenton v. Kidsgrove; Messrs. Johnston and Perkin.

Caverswall v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. A. Holdcroft and Bennett.

Alsagers Bank v. Burslem High Lane; Messrs. W. J. Buckley and Keeling.

Audley v. Sandyford; Messrs. Groom and H. Buckley.

Betley v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. Tilsley and Salmon.

Junior Division: Section A.

Burslem v. Silverdale; Messrs. Aston and G. H. Holdcroft.

Longton v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Wright and Vigears.

Nantwich v. Knypersley; Messrs. Lyth and Mayer.

Madeley v. Leek; Messrs. Chesters and Green.

Norton v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Boulton and Shingler.

Bignall End v. Great Chell; Messrs Cartlidge and A. Smith.

Section B.

Cheadle v. Stone.

Kidsgrove v. Brindley Ford Wesleyans.

L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Caverswall.

Burslem High Lane v Alsagers Bank.

Sandyford v. Audley.

Scott Hay v. Betley.

J. S. HEAP'S BENEFIT.

Monday's Match at Wolstanton.

The first attempt to play J. S. Heap's benefit match having been abortive, arrangements have been made for the game to take place next Monday, and if proper weather conditions are vouchsafed the event should be a most interesting one.

The teams will play as Porthill Park versus Mr. S. Gleaves' side, and will include some of the best-known players of the district, and others whose appearance will add a spice of novelty to the affair. It will be instructive to note how the cricketers of lesser local prominence fare against new opponents, and in unaccustomed environment, and no doubt their form will be watched keenly. For this reason, if for no other, the match is bound to be sharply contested, and every player will have a strong desire to excel. Every opportunity is to be given to the younger participants in the game, and the comparison of their methods with those of the experienced cricketers will be informative and useful. Heap himself has had a very fine season, and his popularity is indicated by the ready manner in which so many players have signified their willingness to lend their help in the effort to make his benefit match a great success. It may be of interest to state that the beneficiary reached 43 years of age last Thursday—with a hint that a big "gate" will be a happy birthday medium, by which to show appreciation of a notable cricket personality.

The Porthill Park side will be strengthened by the inclusion of A. W. Ikin (Bignall End), A. Lockett (Staffordshire) and L. McEllin (Bignall End); and the opposition team, which will have A. E. Bratby (Bignall End and Cheshire) as captain, will be drawn from: J. Ankers (Madeley and Staffordshire), A. Bourne (Sandyford), H. E. Bourne (Knypersley and Staffordshire), F. Darlington (Audley), L. Hart (Denstone College), R. Hollowood (Burslem), W. T. Mayburv (Nantwich), E. Mosedale (Knypersley), A. H. Poate (Caverswall), J. Preece (Denstone College), F. Ravenscroft (Stone), G. Reece (Stone) and P. F. Stubbs (Stone and Staffordshire).

Wickets will be pitched at 4 p.m., sharp.

LAST SATURDAY was another joy-day for Burslem generally, the premier team accomplishing a big victory in their away fixture at Knypersley, and thus atoning for the defeat at Whitsuntide. H. Cotton carried off batting honours; and Evans Cook once again demonstrated his bowling prowess, by capturing eight wickets cheaply. Evans is by no meand a spent force. He has now had a long career on the cricket field, and his genial disposition, and perfect sporting character have won him a host of admirers. Cook always believes in playing cricket as it should truly be played.

PROMISING BATSMEN.

The Burslem second team, in their home fixture last Saturday against Knypersley II., gave a very bright and entertaining display, winning easily. The match revealed an outstanding feature in the undoubted advent of another promising young batsman for Burslem—A. Hackney, one of this season's acquisitions, who carried his bat through the innings, and gave an unblemished display.

Hackney was at the crease two hours and 25 minutes, and it was a pity that his side possessed such a weak tail-end, the last three batsmen failing to the "hat-trick." Otherwise Hackney would have completed his first coveted century. His score was 98 not out, and in his innings he made seventeen strokes to the rails.

NEVER AT A LOSS.

Hackney seemed never at a loss as to what to do, and his studious picking and choosing of the slow bowling—always a temptation to batsmen—was an example to his colleagues. When he hit out, it was a correct hit. His "carpet-drives" were grand, and when he properly opened his shoulders, there was no fear of the ball not outreaching the boundary rails. It was undoubtedly the best innings of his career, and he has the best wishes of his club and colleagues for a continued advancement.

Hackney was the second of Burslem's Reserve team to get near the century mark in successive weeks. The previous Saturday E. Baker was just one short of the 100, in a masterly display at Leek.

A RUNAWAY VICTORY.

Bignall End Juniors are still unable to stem the tide of defeat, and last Saturday Silverdale scored a runaway victory over them on their own ground. Batting first, they collapsed against the bowling of J. Barnett and T. Kelsall. Barnett routed them with his slow breaks and when the total on the score-board was 5 he had claimed all five wickets and only conceded one run. Hopwood and Green, for the ninth wicket, provided the best partnership of the innings, putting on 13 runs between them. The whole side were out for 44 in just over an hour. Barnett finished up with 7 for 28, while Kelsall claimed the remaining 3 wickets for 16.

Silverdale were not long in putting the issue beyond doubt, for after about 50 minutes' batting they had passed the home total with still six wickets in hand. They took the score to 92 before the fifth wicket fell, and the innings was declared. J. Holland (13) and T. Kelsall (21) were useful contributors, while J. B. Street demonstrated his hitting powers in quickly rattling up 38.

DEFEAT OF KIDSGROVE II.

Kidsgrove II. suffered a heavy defeat at home last Saturday, at the expense of Alsagers Bank II., and received a set-back so far as the championship is concerned. S. Johnson was sadly missed. Alsagers Bank batted first, and a slow but sure start was made by R. Procter and A. Freeman, and 26 was on the board before they were separated. But the next five wickets fell for another 26 runs, and with eight wickets down for 75 the tail-end retrieved the position, the last two wickets adding 36 runs, the innings closing for 111.

Kidsgrove commenced with H. Stubbs and R. Jones, and after Stubbs was bowled at three, a rot set in, six wickets being down for six runs. Then F. Challinor revived matters somewhat with a well hit 14, sending the score along with T. Murphy seven, to 26. With the last pair in at 36, these two batsmen, E. Downs and W. Maddock, took the score to 59 before Downs was bowled for three, W. Maddock getting 20 not out. The innings closed for 59, Wainwright bowling well and taking six wickets for 15 runs.

RECORD PARTNERSHIP.

In the Longton II. v. Leek II. match the partnership of Allen and Hodson, for the third wicket, created a record for the season. They added 165 runs in quick time. Allen's innings of 113 was delightful to watch. He gave no chance until he had well passed the century. He was at the wicket for 75 minutes, and hit no less than seventeen 4's, his timing, cutting and driving being perfect.

Hodson, though lacking the polish of his partner, batted well, his powerful driving being the feature of his innings. Included in his 67 were nine 4's. Hodson has been, like Allen, a most consistent run-getter this season.

The spectators soon spotted "Jerry Pace," and gave him a warm welcome. Faced with the formidable total of 242, Leek had plenty of time, but there was only Page who could make double figures. A. Bradbury again was unplayable, taking six wickets for 24 runs, while Pace took three wickets for four runs in three overs, one of which was a maiden.

SLOW SCORING.

Norton's batting at Madeley last Saturday was very tame and the rate of scoring exceedingly slow. Having first use of the wicket, their innings, which lasted nearly two hours, only realised 60 runs. There were only two batsmen who managed to reach double figures, these being W. Cooke (12) and J. Baguley (11).

As on the previous Saturday against Bignall End, T. Stubbs and A. Boulton played havoc with the ball, the visitors first six wickets falling for 18 runs. The tail end managed to hold out somewhat, but runs were few and far between, as 18 maiden overs were registered against them throughout the innings. T. Stubbs took four wickets for ten runs and A. Boulton three for 17.

For Madeley, E. Griffiths with 17 to his credit and T. Jones, with 19, were instrumental in passing the visitors' score in an excellent first wicket partnership. They gave a spirited display, knocking up 32 in half as many minutes, which came as a relief after the dull cricket which had been witnesed earlier. The innings closed at 84 for nine wickets. Norton had no fewer than six trundlers on view, J. Baguley claiming the best analysis with two wickets for six runs.

The photograph reproduced is that of Burslem's treasurer, Mr. W. Shenton. He is a most genial official, thoroughly businesslike, and a very active worker for the club. Burslem are fortunate generally in possessing such a capable band of officials.

SOME SMART BOWLING.

In a low scoring game Wolstanton Marsh beat Ashcombe Park, on the ground of the last-named club. The visitors had 1st use of the wicket. T. Parker and H. Robinson were top scorers with 15 runs and 11 runs respectively in a score of 56. To this the home side replied with 38, the highest scorer on the home side being A. Turner, who compiled 13 in a merry innings before falling to a splendid catch in the long-field, by Jefferies. After the fall of this wicket W. Robinson and his brother Harold were put on to share in the attack, and the whole side were dismissed for an addition of 10 runs. H. Robinson captured five wickets for 8 runs. His full analysis read 8 overs, 3 maidens, 2 runs, 5 wickets—a remarkable performance. W. Robinson also bowled well, but a couple of boundaries somewhat spoiled his analysis. However he finished with three wickets for 11 runs.

The junior match between Great Chell and Crewe, last Saturday, was notable for the outstanding performance of Jack Taylor for Chell, whose individual efforts were a dominating factor to his side's success. Taylor who gave an all round display with the bat and was top scorer with 33 to his credit. He was connected with the most productive partnership, and later captured five of the visitor's wickets for 25 runs.

COUNTY PLAYERS IN FORM.

G. Platt, the West Bromwich Dartmouth professional and Staffordshire county player, knocked up 46 not out on Saturday, in a total of 144. While he captured but two wickets, there were a pair of dangerous batsmen, and had both passed the 20 mark, Mitchells and Butlers only reached 130, and thus suffered their first defeat since 1925. F. D. Perks contributed 18 to Dartmouth's score.

Walsall had in the main to thank H. Goodwin for a splendid innings of 118 for their big score of 294 against Kidderminster, when the county team was run out. Kidderminster made a strong reply, and the match was left drawn when they had totalled 153 for four wickets.

The Old Hill team scored 213 in meeting Moseley, P. O. Yates recording their chief contribution in putting on 77. This score was a long way too little for Moseley, who replied with 236 for the loss of three wickets, Aaron Lockett being the only bowler to trouble the Moseley batsmen, the popular county player and Old Hill professional capturing the three wickets.

A NARROW VICTORY.

At the commencement of the season, Lindow came to Sandbach and defeated the first eleven by 108 runs to 45. Last Saturday, however, at Lindow, Sandbach just managed to finish with a victory of 10 runs to 55. E. Eardley, who along with H. Trueman, opened the attack, had a highly successful bowling average, and the best he has ever achieved. He took five wickets for 16 runs. H. Trueman had three victims for 24 runs. He is making a great effort to reach his century of wickets before the season closes.

Lindow, having the first innings, began badly, as also did Sandbach, but Parson's 15 and Eardley's 16 proved useful. F. Mashiter contributed 12, and G. W. Cooke 6. Incidentally, J. W. Hilditch and P. G. H. Wilson, the

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opening batsmen, failed to make a run, and the telegraph board was never mighty not very cheerful.

At home, Sandbach II. easily accounted for Macclesfield casuals. The totals were, 94 for 2 against 43. Sherwin took five wickets for 16 runs, and G. Riddell two for 3.

CREWE ALEXANDRA.

Crewe's position in the league table is becoming rather serious, and unless they secure a couple of victories out of the remaining matches, the last match of the season against Hanley will be a deciding factor as to whether they will be relegated into the "B." Division. The club has experienced known a season so difficult as this. Matters things did not look very encouraging at the commencement of the season. It was expected that they would have held their own better than they have done.

They participated in a tie of the match against Great Chell, at Crewe last Saturday, and after compiling 211 for the loss of seven wickets in just over two and-a-half hours, they were unable to dismiss their visitors before time. Great Chell were in a favourable position, having lost only three wickets with the total at 157. Three batsmen passed their half century mark—two Crewe players and one Great Chell. M. Walker (64) and A. Price (65) participated in a fine second wicket stand which added 114 to the total. Both men scored freely, and they passed their half century within five minutes of one another.

The Great Chell batsman to perform this feat was A. Smith, who, going in second wicket down, carried his bat for 55. He played a brilliant game, and although he gave a chance early in his innings, it did not trouble his rapid scoring. The second eleven provided the opposition at Great Chell, but were easily defeated by 45 runs. Batting first Chell compiled 125 against the bowling of Ashbrooke, Wilbraham and Price. S. Brayford (30) and J. Taylor (33) were their principal contributors. Crewe never looked like winning, and they lost two wickets before double figures were reached, and it was not until a third wicket stand between S. Hares (20) and G. Prophett (12) that they made any headway.

CREWE CHARITY CRICKET.

The first season of the Crewe Cottage Hospital Cricket Knock-out Competition is justifying the efforts of the promoters. The various matches have created much interest in railway workshops and other departments, and gate receipts have exceeded expectations. Recently, 2,000 spectators witnessed a keen game in which the General Offices "A" team defeated the Smithy Department by 82 runs to 64.

The interest increased during the past week when semi-final ties were played. On Monday the General Office "A" team met the Station team, and a splendid game was witnessed by a large crowd. The Station compiled 119, and then dismissed the General Offices for 94. A. W. Cooper, of the Station team, put together 43, while other useful contributors were H. Mayer (25), E. Jones (17), P. Farmer (16). J. Holland scored 27 and R. Ikin (18) for the office men.

The other tie was played off on Wednesday, and the damp wicket was responsible for a low scoring game. The Machine Shop compiled 61, the chief scorers being G. Chesters (14), J. Chesters (24) and G. Cartwright (13). Their bowlers, however, won the match, and dismissed the Sheds for 21. The highest contributor was H. Brownedge (6). T. King took five Machine Shop wickets for 14 runs, and T. Sylvester four wickets for six runs.

The final tie will be played on Monday afternoon on the Goddard-street Ground between the Station and the Machine Shop, after which the medals will be presented to the winners.

NORTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

SNEYD COLLIERY v. MIDDLEPORT.

SNEYD COLLIERY.—G Kinsey b Plimbley 6, Unwin c Wainwright b Plimbley 25, Payne c Wainwright b Goodwin 31, Baker b Goodwin 10, W R Wildblood b Plimbley 1, H Vernon run out 0, F H Wildblood c Tudor b Goodwin 15, N Wildblood b Goodwin 0, R Chesworth not out 4, extras 3; total (8 wkts) 95.

MIDDLEPORT C.C.—J Berks b Payne 0, J R[illegible] b Payne 0, G Goodwin b Payne 2, W Wain[illegible] Chesworth 1, J Owen run out 22, F Hugh[illegible] worth 0, H Tudor b Chesworth 1, J Cou[illegible] worth 6, L Yeomans c Payne b Chesw[illegible] Plimbley b Payne 1, H Robinson b Payne 1, [illegible] total 39.

COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

Staffordshire Twice Deprived of Victory.

Barnes' Brilliance.

STAFFORDSHIRE this week concluded their Minor Counties programme for the season—touring in East Anglia to play return matches with Lincolnshire and Norfolk. In both instances they come very near to achieving notable victories, only being thwarted by the unpropitious weather. Had they succeeded, as they so nearly did, they would [illegible] the championship or, at any rate, of challenging the leaders of the competition to a deciding match. But, as matters turned out, instead of improving their percentage, by gaining only points on the first innings in these two fixtures, they have finished with a lower record than would have been the case had both matches been abandoned completely Their final percentage of 60.60 scarcely represents the full capabilities of a county that has been defeated outright only once during the whole season, and which has only narrowly failed to win on three occasions. But the weather plays so important a part in cricket—more so probably than in any other sport—that no reckoning is complete that does not take into consideration the vagaries of the English climate. It must be recalled, as a set-off to the handicap of rain during the past week that Staffordshire themselves were fortunate to avoid defeat in their first match of the season—against the Lancashire second string, at Haslingden—and undoubtedly owed their escape to this same element, which, it might be said, has now exacted toll for past favours

Not for many years, and certainly not since before the war, have Staffordshire met Lincolnshire on the Grantham enclosure. It is a ground of several peculiarities, chief among which are the extraordinarily quick-drying qualities of the wicket. A torrential downpour of rain on Monday night dragged after it a persistent drizzle on Tuesday morning. Rain fell continuously until one o'clock, and yet an hour afterwards—at two o'clock precisely—it was possible for play to start. There were lengthy periods in the match when play was continued throughout sharp showers that would have been sufficient to put a good many wickets out of action. When J. B. Russell, the Staffordshire captain, won the toss there were some who thought he would elect to send the Lincolnshire men in first, and let his bowlers make the most of a drying pitch. But he held, and rightly so it proved, that the wicket would become more difficult as the day went on. The visitors did not fare too well under the difficult conditions, and if it had not been for the patient stand of H. W. Homer and F. D. Perks, both of whom batted finely in the circumstances, and a characteristically forcing display by the captain himself, there would have been but a dismal result to show for the first innings. All three passed the twenty mark—Homer reached 37—and thus between them made the bulk of the 155 runs which represented the batting efforts of the side.

It was not a big total and scarcely one on which it might be hoped to build victory. But that was reckoning without Sydney Barnes! What a brilliant bowler he again proved himself still to be! Given a tricky wicket of this kind, it is very doubtful if there is another bowler in England to-day who can equal him. Spinning the ball both ways with imperceptible use of fingers alone, he turned it off the pitch at a great pace, and his length was so perfect and consistent that the batsmen had no option but to play the ball—with disastrous results to themselves. To see Barnes set his field is an education. For all the batsmen but one—Major C. Wilson, the hard-hitting captain of Lincolnshire—he had his men close in around the wicket, and placed them almost to within an inch. There was no guesswork. He knew exactly what he wanted the batsmen to do and how to make them do it. Short leg, point, and the wicket-keeper all had catches, and those batsmen who refused to enter the trap were bowled. One catch was put down in the slips. It was off a ball pitched outside the off-stump with a leg break, and like so many others of the greatly varied deliveries, caught the batsman completely by surprise.

It was a wonderful display of bowling, that held the spectators spellbound, and gave Barnes first innings figures of eight wickets for 17 runs. It enabled Staffordshire, despite their own low total, to send in Lincolnshire a second time, 103 runs behind. Scarcely an hour and a half then remained for play, heavy rain and thunder storms having caused several delays. But again Barnes immediately found weak spots in the defence, and in his first over in the second innings sent back two of the Lincolnshire men without a single run on the board. At a later point he had six wickets at a cost of one apiece, and with the assistance of Lockett, and later of Platt, of the opposition for 39 runs. There were ten minutes to go when H. Hawley, a local club player, joined his captain in the last wicket stand. The latter faced Barnes during the greater part of the time and succeeded in keeping his wicket intact, and thus avoiding an innings defeat. How he did parry the great bowler he scarcely knew himself. Except for one ball, which he drove to mid-off for two, he was mystified by every delivery in Barnes' last three overs, and was beaten time and again, the ball missing his stumps by no more than an inch. However, it was fitting that it should be the captain who saved the side, and he received a great ovation from the spectators and was the hero of the moment. Barnes' six wickets in the second innings cost sixteen runs, making his total average for the match fourteen for 33. Aaron Lockett also bowled well and finished up with good figures, but Barnes was the dominating personality, and his performance overshadowed all others.

That it was not a flash in the pan against a side that is recognised as not one of the strongest in the Minor Counties competition was proved the next day, when Barnes repeated the dose at Norwich against Norfolk, who have at least four or five outstanding batsmen in their ranks, including Michael Falcon, their captain, probably the best all-rounder among the Second Class counties; Nichols, the former Staffordshire player, G. A. Stevens, J. M. Coldham and Covill, a young professional of marked promise. The journey to Norwich from Grantham was made by motor-'bus, with a driver unfamiliar with the route. It occupied nearly seven hours, and the hotel at Norwich was not reached until 6.30 in the morning. But the players came more or less freshly to the match, which began punctually on the Lakenham ground.

Here was another wicket drying under the influence of wind and sun, and again Barnes was unplayable, taking seven wickets for 24 runs (at one time 7 for 15), while Sedgwick who supplied the attack from the other end, had 2 for 29. Barnes' first victim was Nichols, who, to quote a Norfolk critic, "with a knowledge of Barnes 'tricks during the seven years he played for Staffordshire, fell into the leg trap in the second over." J. M. Coldham, the highest scorer of the innings with 27; H. F. Low, a young batsman highly spoken of as an asset for the future; G. A. Stevens, and Covill were all among those who fell to Barnes, but it was Sedgwick who had the satisfaction of sending back the home captain. The eleven were dismissed for 57, while Staffordshire responded with 171, on a wicket scarcely suited to the fast bowling of Falcon, Mower and Covill. Nichols, with a slow breaking ball, was more successful in the early stages, until a harder pitch assisted the others. There were two bright periods in the Staffordshire innings. The first was during the opening partnership of H. W. Homer and P. F. Stubbs, who passed the Norfolk score and were on to collect 80 between them for the fall of the first wicket. Both played delightful cricket, and during the latter part of their stay scored briskly off bowling that was frequently changed.

Then came a slump, three wickets falling at the same total, ten being added for the fourth, thirteen for the fifth, and seven for the sixth and seventh. At this point Platt and Sedgwick came together, and put on fifty in 55 minutes. Platt dominated the partnership, driving and cutting freely before he gave a sharp chance to Covill in the slips. In the hour remaining before the close of play for the day, Norfolk started on a second venture, and on a firmer wicket met with greater success, knocking off 55 of the arrears for the loss of H. F. Low's wicket to Barnes at 27. A continuous downpour of rain on the second day prevented any further play, and for a second time Staffordshire were deprived of what appeared to be a certain victory. In the two matches Sydney Barnes claimed 22 wickets for an average of 3.23 runs per wicket.

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Norfolk

A road journey of over 100 miles was necessary to enable the Staffordshire team to fulfil their last engagement of the season at Norwich on the 12th inst. A great effort to force a win at Grantham, following much tiresome interruption by weather, just failed at 7 o'clock on the Wednesday evening, and most of the players endured the further unenviable experience of 6½ hours in a small motor 'bus. This was considerably prolonged because the chauffeur, even with the amateur aid of Aaron Lockett, was not equal to finding the direct route in the dark. For example, a finger-post at Holbeach said "King's Lynn 14 miles." A dozen miles were traversed by fits and starts, with Aaron climbing signposts to read the directions with the aid of innumerable matches, and we found ourselves at Wisbech, still 14 miles from Lynn. Happily, the humorous side of things was not lost upon the party, even if Aaron did slam the door and decline further service as guide, a resolve which he stubbornly adhered to—for a mile. The Royal Hotel at Norwich was a welcome haven at 3-30 a.m., but, following upon a strenuous game, with all the team "on their toes" up to the last minute, it was not a good preparation for what is usually the hardest match of the season.

The luck of the toss, which has been against the Staffordshire captain most of the season, sent Staffordshire into the field, but it was probably a blessing in disguise, for there was some "bite" in the wicket, which improved to some extent as the day wore on. Tired though he was, Barnes again bowled like the wizard he still is with the ball. He and Sedgwick bowled through the short innings of Norfolk, who were dismissed in an hour and 25 minutes for 57. With only three runs scored, Nichols, whose batting powers seem to have waned little, if at all, since he got bags of runs for Staffordshire in the old pre-war days, fell tamely into the short-leg trap which Barnes knows so well how to inveigle even good batsmen into, but J. M. Coldham adopted aggressive tactics, and scored rather freely from both bowlers for a few overs, though being a number of times beaten by Barnes. Coldham is another player with Staffordshire connections, for he is a son of the Rev. H. R. Coldham, who laboured so long and honourably in North Staffordshire, and who was pleased to see the ground looking exceedingly well. At 34 the Norfolk Captain was beaten by a fast one from Sedgwick, which "dipped" a little, and was leg-before, and then Barnes carried all before him. In his next six overs he took six wickets for three runs. Twice he got two wickets with following balls. First Coldham edged a leg-break, which went off the wicket keeper's gloves to Lockett at short slip, Low was trapped leg-before by a bit of unexpected off-break, and Stevens, who hit a spectacular century for his county on the same ground a few days before, popped one up to point, close in. The brothers Wrought-Wrought are promising young players, but neither could stop the rot which had set in. After Covill, a young professional, who is on the ground staff at Lord's, had also fallen at point, Sedgwick bowled R. C. Wrought-Wrought with a beauty that came back, and B.W. was beaten by leg-spin, and bowled by Barnes, whilst the big left-arm bowler, G. H. Mower, was smartly stumped from the next ball. Nine wickets were down for 42 when the stumper and goalkeeper, Williamson, whipped-in. He went down on one knee to try mowing Barnes to leg, but the ball beat the wicket as well as the bat four or five times. Syd. pitched one a yard further up to try and hit the wicket, and Williamson's swipe happened to connect with the ball, producing a six, to the delight of the spectators. Another mow edged the ball over the heads of the slip fielders for two, so that when Williamson was run out, the total had been advanced by 15 for the last wicket.

Barnes had the splendid analysis of seven for 24, making 21 wickets in three consecutive innings, and two consecutive days, for 55 runs. During the 45 overs he delivered in these three innings, he scarcely bowled a bad length ball, though applying prodigious leg spin, occasional off spin, and varying his pace and flight with uncanny skill. It was bowling reminiscent of his best days, and would have got any side out. Indeed, scores of balls that flashed right across the wicket and many that were only just over the bails, would have been extremely likely to get the best batsmen out, and only failed to get wickets because the batsmen could not get near enough to touch them. Over after over of these paralysing leg-breaks, of varying pace and flight, with a quick straight one, and a sharp break-back thrown in here and there, were delivered with the same unerring length, and made one feel that here was still the greatest bowler in the world on a wicket on which spin can be made to operate. Having watched the opening day of the decising Test match, I came away with the conviction that Barnes, even yet, is, on his day, an incomparably greater bowler than any who bowled at the Oval on Saturday.

H. W. Homer and P. F. Stubbs gave Staffordshire an excellent start, and both batted really well. They passed the Norfolk total, and in an hour's partnership put on 80 runs, but three wickets fell at that total. Stubbs's forward play was more robust than that of his partner, his driving being hard and clean, but Homer played his usual stylish game, and got a number of effective strokes all round the wicket. Homer was leg-before to a googly, Stubbs failed to keep an off-stroke down, and Barnes put one up in the gully. Ten later Goodwin, after one spanking four, was bowled. Yates fell at first slip at 103, and with seven added Perks was bowled by a good one that came back to hit the leg stump, and Russell turned to tap a rising leg-ball into the hands of short leg. It was a quick transformation from 80 for no wicket to 110 for seven. Platt and Sedgwick, however, improved matters, the Dartmouth professional seizing the chance afforded by a promotion in the batting order to play a bright and enterprising innings. Just 50 were added in 40 minutes before Platt was caught in the slips from the fast left-hander, Mower. Sedgwick was similarly out after Johnson, hitting carelessly, had given a simple catch to cover-point, and the innings closed at a quarter past five with a lead of 114.

Low accompanied Nichols to open Norfolk's second innings, and Barnes and Sedgwick bowled. Nichols was fortunate not to be caught at point more than once, putting the ball up from Barnes only inches short of Sedgwick's reach, and when at 27 Low was caught in the slips only six of the runs had been scored off Barnes. From the next ball Coldham gave the easiest of chances at the wicket. Going right forward he snicked the ball, but Russell was unfortunate enough to drop it. The batsman was two or three yards out of his ground and the ball lay at the foot of the wicket, but he just got back before Russell recovered the ball and put the wicket down. If he had kicked it on to the wicket Coldham would certainly have been out. The two men played well together afterwards, with Lockett and Platt bowling before the close, when Norfolk were still 55 behind. Though obviously tired, Barnes again bowled well, and if Coldham had gone first ball would probably have got other wickets.

Rain prevented any play on Friday, and so Staffordshire were robbed of the full points in both their last two matches. They finished with a percentage of 66.66, but these four additional points would have given them 75.55 per cent., which would quite likely have entitled them to challenge for the championship. Scores and analysis :—

Norfolk.—1st Innings.

M. Falcon lbw b Sedgwick	4
Nichols c Platt b Barnes	2
J. M. Coldham c Lockett b Barnes	27
H. F. Low lbw b Barnes	1
G. A. Stevens c Sedgwick b Barnes	1
B. W. Wrought-Wrought b Barnes	3
Covill c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
R. C. Wrought-Wrought b Sedgwick	0
H. Dougill not out	3
G. H. Mower st Russell b Barnes	0
E. C. Williamson run out	10
Extras	4
Total	57

Staffordshire

H. W. Homer lbw b Nichols	35
P. F. Stubbs c B. W. Wrought-Wrought b Covill	37
H. Goodwin b Nichols	6
Barnes c Mower b Covill	0
F. D. Perks b Falcon	15
P. O. Yates c Coldham b Falcon	3
J. B. Russell c Mower b Nichols	5
Platt c Covill b Mower	31
Sedgwick c Covill b Mower	15
J. W. Johnson c Dougill b Mower	4
A. Lockett not out	4
Extras	16
Total	171

Norfolk.—2nd Innings.

Nichols not out	31
J. M. Coldham not out	11
H. F. Low c Lockett b Barnes	8
Extras	5
Total (one wicket)	55

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Norfolk.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	12	5	24	7
Sedgwick	11.3	3	29	1

Staffordshire

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Falcon	17	6	36	2
Mower	14.1	3	39	3
Nichols	18	7	35	3
Covill	10	4	23	2
R. Wrought-Wrought	6	0	20	0

North Staffs. & District League

Barnes' Wonderful Bowling

As the closing stages of the season in the North Staffordshire League tourney approach, the exciting race between Bignall End, champions for the last three years, and Porthill becomes more and more intensified. A few weeks ago Stanley Heath and his powerful batting side (as it looks on paper, and as it has proved itself on the whole) wrested the leadership from the Champions, but last week they were overcome by the Nantwich bowling, and Bignall End once more took pride of place. Then on Saturday the race became closer than ever, for Porthill gained a point on their rivals, and the two are now bracketed level at the head of the table, with Leek falling quite out of the running, but Nantwich and Silverdale hunting the leaders home. At the other end of the table Madeley's fate was probably sealed, for they failed to seize a great chance of beating Porthill, and saw Crewe Alexandra draw two points further away from them by a meritorious victory at Burslem. Knypersley are, however, slipping into danger.

Bignall End experienced rather bad fortune in that they made a spirited bid for victory against Norton, but failed by 2 runs in their race with the clock. L. H. Crump (58), S. Smith (33), J. Jolley (31), and P. Massey (26) were mainly instrumental in putting up a score of 172 on the Bignall End ground at Boon Hill, and the home side had two hours in which to get the runs. Going all out in courageous fashion, they had scored 170 for seven wickets when the inexorable pendulum beat them, and they had to be content with one point. L. McEllin (41) and A. W. Ikin (45) gave the innings a fine start, and it was the mishap by which Ikin was run out and a similar waste of E. Downing's wicket, which probably cost Bignall End an invaluable point. Downing was batting well, and had scored 23. J. H. Mayer got 24 not out, and Dr. Riley 23, and the Doctor bowled well to take five Norton wickets. F. Bailey was the only Norton bowler who was at all effective, capturing four wickets.

Porthill had a scare at Madeley, where one would imagine the wicket must have been queer. Arthur Bickerton (32) and K. Gleaves (15) scored 41 for the first wicket, but G. Griffiths got the wicket of both, and, with A. Beech, proceeded to go through the team. The whole side was out for 76. What a number of wickets are lost by bad judgment in running. The running out of J. S. Heath just when wickets were beginning to fall, and the captain seemed just the man to check the collapse, might easily have cost Porthill the match, for 76 is a poor total. It is nearly always one of two things that leads to this foolish sacrifice of wickets —either one batsman not being on the alert and ready to go on the instant if his partner calls, or indecision, starting for a short run after hesitation. It is a wise rule never to go for a run after hesitation; and it is an imperative law always to be ready, and to be making ground from the bowler's end. For a batsman to be run out would be a very rare occurrence if these axioms were observed. To come back to Madeley, the wooden spoonists had a great chance to repeat their surprising performance at Norton, and a score of 76 ought not to have troubled them. J. Ankers and G. Timmis made a fair start, but Heap and J. Durber soon got amongst their wickets, and when Ankers (19) was caught off the professional, Porthill stock rose with a bound. Heap tricked some of the early batsmen, and Durber's left-arm expresses were the undoing of the rest, so that Porthill pulled off a win after all by 12 runs. Durber took six wickets for 19. G. Griffiths's record for Madeley was almost equally good—six for 27—and against much stronger batting.

At Nantwich the home team's customary total—it was 101 this time, to be exact—was ample to bring victory over Leek. Here, again, Nantwich sacrificed two of their early wickets by bad judgment in running, and W. T. Maybury was top scorer with 27, H. Birch taking five wickets for 38. Leek were helpless before E. H. Steventon, and were bundled out for 57. Steventon had eight wickets for 28, getting Sedgwick, who saved his side a point the previous week by skilful batting and farming of the bowling, l.b.w. without scoring. Leek, Nantwich, and Silverdale were bracketed third prior to last Saturday, and as Silverdale found easy victims in Great Chell, they now share the third place with Nantwich. Great Chell at home could do no better than 124 from the Silverdale bowling, and 52 of these were well hit by J. E. Gibson. J. Whalen, E. Groom, and Cooper all bowled well, and Cooper (36), A. Ward (41 not out), and J. Whalen (39 not out) made light of the Chell bowling, so that Silverdale won by eight wickets.

Burslem cut up badly on their own ground against Crewe, and were beaten by 43 runs. M. Walker again played a fine innings of 65 for the Railwaymen, and F. Walker hit 34, the total reaching 154, with Roy Hollowood once more Burslem's most effective bowler with five for 35. W. Briscoe got going for the home side, and hit 43, whilst H. Cotton, who is batting very soundly, had some good strokes in a useful 34. At 90 for five the game was even, but J. J. Steele was put on to bowl at that point, and simply scuttled the remainder of the home side. He did the hat trick, and took five wickets for 7 in three overs.

Longton had Knypersley for visitors, and the Black Bull team were beaten by the Longton professional, Alfred Smith, who took six wickets for 32, and then played delightful cricket to score 69 not out. It was his second consecutive score of over 60. Knypersley could only reach a total of 94 (E. Mosedale 33 not out), and Longton replied with 109 for five wickets.

The Critic.

BLYMHILL v. ALBRIGHTON

This return match was played at Albrighton on Saturday, Blymhill winning by 61 runs, with four wickets to go down. Scores:—

Albrighton: W. Lymer c G. Jones b Hitchen 0, C. R. Dimelow run out 27, R. H. Lucas lbw b Scott 4, R. G. Davies b Hitchen 7, C. F. Austin b Hitchen 11, T. W. Brown lbw b Hitchen 2, A. R. Rogers c and b Harper 2, T. Davies c and b Grant 7, J. M. Wylie b Hitchen 3, J. Amos c and b Smith 6, F. W. Hall not out 2, extras 7; total 78.

Blymhill: A. R. Craig c Lucas b Amos 11, O. N. Jones b Lymer 20, A. D. Grant c Dimelow b Lymer 61, R. Hitchen c Lucas b Lymer 8, R. D. Smith c Dimelow b T. Davies 24, H. Harper b Brown 2, G. V. Jones not out 9 (W. Tomkinson, W. Palmer, T. C. Brookes, and C. W. Scott did not bat), extras 4; total 139.

WEDNESBURY v. LICHFIELD

Lichfield visited Wednesbury on Saturday, and they were defeated by a wicket and 73 runs. For Lichfield, H. Davies took three wickets for 10 runs. Scores:

Lichfield: H. Fitzgeorge b Holmes 7, R. Cooke b Holmes 16, W. Plant b Holmes 1, J. Brown b Townend 15, F. Rudgard b Townend 24, R. Moore c Ryder b Cawfield 3, H. Davies b Cawfield 2, A. Slater lbw b Townend 0, F. Oram c Watson b Townend 0, G. Knight b Townend 0, G. Ellett not out 0, extras 15; total 83.

Wednesbury: Rawlinson b Slater 9, Hipkiss lbw b Slater 7, Ryder b Slater 5, Cawfield b Oram 55, Sunk run out 11, Holmes b Oram 29, Davies b H. Davies 17, Townend b Davies 1, Haggitt c Brown b Davies 4, Watson not out 2, Lees not out 0, extras 16; total (for nine wickets) 156.

LICHFIELD 2nd XI. v. WEDNESBURY 2nd XI.

Played at Lichfield on Saturday, the visitors winning by five wickets and 59. For Lichfield, A. J. Smith carried out bat for 27 runs. Scores:—

Lichfield: J. H. Barrow c Brown b Holmes 15, S. Baxter b Holmes 0, W. A. Wait b Holmes 0, A. J. Smith not out 27, L. Perry b Holmes 0, G. Ryan b Brown 7, E. R. Standley c and b Jeffrey 12, J. S. Brown hit wicket b Morgan 12, C. Pimm c Tooth b Morgan 0, J. W. Herbert b Morgan 2, L. Bates b Jeffrey 0, extras 6; total 71.

Wednesbury: A. Tonks run out 37, B. Lycett b Barrow 31, T. Jeffrey lbw b Smith 7, L. Holmes c Perry b Smith 0, G. Gayler not out 33, J. Brown c Ryan b Brown 16, T. Tooth, F. Burton, F. Butler, T. Morgan, and F. Greenhough, did not bat. Extras 6; total (for five wickets) 130.

Tutbury v. Bass and Co.

Played at Tutbury on Saturday.

BASS AND CO.

G. Hamilton b Bryant	32
L. Hulme b T. Oakden	9
E. Dilnot c Wilson b Bryant	2
J. Thornley c Eaton b Bryant	2
E. H. King run out	33
J. Morris b Bryant	0
R. King run out	6
J. J. Insley b Thorn	7
S. Haynes lbw b Eaton	9
J. Bastock lbw b T. Oakden	7
J. O. T. Powell not out	2
Extras	6
Total	115

J. Bryant took four wickets for 13 runs.

TUTBURY.

H. Wilson not out	36
T. P. Eaton c Morris b Dilnot	3
P. Sudale b Dilnot	6
T. H. Oakden b Dilnot	10
J. Bryant c Morris b Hamilton	2
J. Dudley not out	7
Extras	1
Total (for four wkts.)	65

W. E. Thorn, A. Walkerdine, W. S. Oakden, J. Tipper, and W. Alleock did not bat.

E. W. Dilnot took three wickets for 14 runs.

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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET

REVIEW OF THE PAST SEASON

Barnes's Thousand Wickets

By THE CRITIC

Another cricket season has passed, so far as the county game in Staffordshire is concerned, and the task of reviewing the season's doings has come round again, all too quickly for devotees of the summer pastime. The fickle English climate has interfered sadly with the fulfilment of Staffordshire's limited programme, just as it has played havoc with several of the Test matches. But we who have followed the Staffordshire team have seen a good deal of interesting and some remarkable cricket, and the results achieved are a considerable improvement on the last two seasons. Had the weather permitted the last two matches to be finished, it seems likely that Staffordshire would have been in a position to challenge for the championship, but any such possibility vanished when only first innings' points could be gained at Grantham and Norwich owing to bad weather. The percentage gained of 66.66 compares favourably with 55.55 in 1925 and 57.77 in 1924. But that is the wrong standard of comparison for Staffordshire. There are the superior figures of many championship years to set the right ideal for Staffordshire cricket, and the play has not been so consistently good as to stand this exacting test. In that sense the season is disappointing. The programme of matches has been identical during the last three years, and on each occasion one of the ten matches arranged has been drawn without a decision on the first innings owing to rain. The possible points have, therefore, been 45 each year, and the points gained have totalled 26 in 1924, 25 last year, and 30 in the season just closed. In the immediately preceding years the percentage was as follows:—1923, 72.50; 1922, 60.00; 1921, 77.50; 1920, 80.00. 1921 was the last time the championship was won.

The following are the brief details of the matches played this season:—

June 9 and 10—v. Lancs. II., at Haslingden.—Staffs. 100 for eight wickets (L. McEllin 45*, H. W. Homer 35, Webster six for 19); Lancs. II. 273 (J. T. Tyldesley 127, Farrimond 77, A. Lockett six for 66). Match drawn, no play second day.

June 16 and 17—v. Norfolk, at Wolverhampton. — Staffs. 227 (E. W. Page 56, C. Howl 39) and 61 for three; Norfolk 73 (Barnes seven for 32) and 214 (M. Falcon 65, H. F. Low 53). Won by seven wickets.

June 28 and 29—v. Lincolnshire, at Wolverhampton. — Staffs. 422 (G. H. Thorneycroft 133, H. W. Homer 74, Barnes 69, C. Howl 46); Lincolnshire 258 (R. E. Frearson 105, C. Wilson 57, E. E. Hallam 44) and 106 (A. Lockett four for 23, Barnes three for 27). Won by an innings and 58 runs.

July 7 and 8—v. Cheshire, at Wallasey.—Staffs. 89 (Hopwood five for 33, including hat trick, all three wickets being stumped) and 57 (Wilson nine for 25); Cheshire 59 (Barnes four for 19, A. Lockett five for 33) and 76 (Barnes seven for 18). Won by 11 runs.

July 12 and 13—v. Cheshire, at Porthill.—Staffs. 142 (Sedgwick 55*) and 78 (E. H. Steventon six for 6); Cheshire 184 (L. N. Jones 60, Platt five for 59) and 149 (Sedgwick four for 28, Barnes four for 46). Lost by 113 runs.

July 21 and 22—v. Notts. II., at Kirkby-in-Ashfield.—Staffs. 221 for eight, declared (J. W. Johnson 76, H. Goodwin 48, W. Lee 40, Harris four for 7); Notts. II. 119 (W. Lee five for 28, Barnes five for 44) and 175 for two (C. A. Turner 103*, Keeton 51). Won on first innings.

August 2 and 3—v. Notts. II., at Porthill.—Staffs. 164 (J. S. Heath 72, Barnes 37, Staples eight for 40); Notts. II. 56 (Sedgwick six for 23, Barnes four for 30) and 85 (A. Lockett four for 39, Barnes four for 44). Won by an innings and 23 runs.

August 5 and 6—v. Lancs. II., at Stoke.—Staffs. 114 and 48 for three; Lancs. II. 183 (Barnes four for 44) and 101 for five, declared (J. T. Tyldesley 39*, A. Lockett three for 26). Lost on first innings.

August 10 and 11—v. Lincolnshire, at Grantham.—Staffs. 155 (H. W. Homer 37); Lincs. 52 (Barnes eight for 17) and 49 for nine (Barnes six for 14). Won on first innings.

August 12 and 13—v. Norfolk, at Norwich.—Staffs. 171 (P. F. Stubbs 37, H. W. Homer 35, Platt 31); Norfolk 57 (Barnes seven for 24) and 55 for one). Won on first innings.

* Not out.

It will be seen that four matches were won outright and three on the first innings, whilst only one was lost outright and one on the first innings. That looks on the face of it a record which is value for a better position, and the loss of two points on each of the three matches in which Staffordshire were leading on the first innings is, of course, an all-important factor. It is the anomaly of the system that a team which is within an ace of winning the match, and is prevented by rain, should lose percentage though outplaying their opponents. If the three matches could have been played out and six more points gained, that would have given Staffordshire a percentage of 80.00. On the other hand, in the match lost on the first innings, the position was not hopeless. The luck has not been quite all against Staffs., however, for they were saved by rain from probable defeat in the opening match in which no decision was reached. As compared with 1925, the only difference was that one win took the place of a loss.

Taking the play as a whole, it cannot be said that the form of the team was entirely satisfying. Barnes has had another wonderful season as a bowler, and his success has made the bowling more effective than last year, but the batting has not realised expectations. Only three times has the second hundred been reached in an innings, and though it is true that some queer wickets have been encountered, it is also true that poor batting has contributed in an unusual degree to the dismissal of the side for small scores. Further, much of the batting has been uninteresting and tedious. A distinct want has been that of the right opening pair of batsmen. In 14 innings no two batsmen have formed the first partnership more than four times. C. Howl and H. W. Homer have opened the innings most often, the former nine times and the latter six, and they have gone in together four times. Other first wicket men have been E. W. Page, H. Goodwin, and P. F. Stubbs, three times each; G. H. Thorneycroft, J. Ankers, Sedgwick, and Platt, the two last-named having gone in at Wallasey late in the day when the order was changed, and incidentally five wickets were lost for 4 runs. The value of a good send off is, of course, great. Both Howl and Homer have exaggerated the merit of the bowling, and, generally speaking, put the batting of the side on the defence. The moral effect has not been good on those who have had to follow, and has given the bowlers helpful encouragement. Staffordshire's average score for the first wicket throughout the season has been 21, but if the 85 by Howl and Page against Norfolk at Wolverhampton and the 80 by Homer and Stubbs against the same county at Norwich be eliminated, the average number produced by the first wicket in the other twelve innings has been 11. A good pair of first wicket batsmen is much needed.

But apart from this lack of an inspiring start, the batting has often been disappointing, and some unquestionably capable batsmen have failed to do themselves justice. The rain-affected wickets account for this to some extent, but there has been a noticeable weakness in timing the ball on several of the faster pitches, on which more runs should have been made. These failures may be attributed more to the fluctuating fortune of the game than to lack of batting strength in the county, and I have no serious misgivings for the future in this respect. On the other hand, the bowling has been much more effective than last year, but this has been due entirely to Barnes, who has played in all matches, three more than in 1925, and slightly improved on his record. The time is drawing nearer when new bowlers will be required, and no new bowlers of class have yet been discovered.

In their 14 innings, Staffordshire have scored 2,049 runs for the loss of 122 wickets, with an average of 168 per completed innings, and their opponents in 19 innings have scored 2,324 runs for 166 wickets, with an average of 140 per completed innings. Staffordshire have been allowed 210 extras, so that the runs from the bat number 1,839, and the average per innings 150, whilst opponents have had 192 extras, making the runs from the bat 2,132, and the average per innings 128. Last year the figures were: Staffordshire, runs scored in 16 innings, 2,579 (including 151 extras), average total per innings 184; opponents, 2,562 runs (166 extras), average per innings 187. It was the first time for many years that the balance had been against Staffordshire, and, happily, this lapse has been corrected this summer with a margin of 18 runs in favour of Staffordshire, or nearly two runs per wicket. Going back to 1920, the average score per innings by and against Staffordshire has been:—1924, Staffs. 170, opponents 131; 1923, Staffs. 170, opponents 131; 1923, 149 and 121; 1922, 171 and 159; 1921, 211 and 165; 1920, 207 and 137. In the pre-war days of Staffordshire's ascendancy the margin was often very striking, and in at least one season the team more than doubled their opponents' score on the average.

Staffordshire's highest score was the 422 which enabled them to beat Lancashire by an innings, after facing a first innings total of 258, and their next highest was 227. Their lowest score was 57 against Cheshire, who also put them out for 78 and 89, the only occasions on which they were out without reaching three figures. The highest score against them was 273 by Lancashire II., and the next 258 by Lincolnshire. They dismissed opponents for such small totals as 52, 56, 57, 59, 73, 78, and 85, besides nine Lincolnshire wickets for 49.

Features of the Matches

The season opened with a visit to Lancashire, whose 2nd XI. was met at Haslingden. Barnes and Lockett bowled brilliantly when the home side took first innings, and in 11 overs from each four wickets fell for 25 runs. Barnes had then taken one wicket for nine runs, all singles, and it seemed incomprehensible that he was then taken off. Lockett got another wicket at 35, but Farrimond and J. T. Tyldesley then came together and completely changed the game by taking the score to 170. When these two were well set Barnes had another spell of seven overs without breaking the partnership, but two fours and 2 twos were the only scoring strokes made from him other than singles, and in an innings which totalled 273 only 32 were obtained from his bowling. By contrast 52 were scored from Platt before he obtained a wicket, and 17 overs by J. S. Heath, R. S. Hunt, and E. Perry yielded 93 runs without a wicket. A lot of this bowling was lamentably weak, and the management of the bowling seemed most unfortunate. Barnes and Lockett looked like going through the team, and the taking off of the great bowler was the turning point in the game. Every one of the early batsmen was in labour with him, and P. T. Eckersley, a first team player, after being pegged down over after over, was out in Barnes's tenth over. Only three more singles had been scored from him when the change was made which had such disastrous consequences. Farrimond made 77, and Tyldesley went on belabouring the bad length bowling until he had scored 127, with 21 boundary hits in it. Lockett came in for some of the punishment when the two men were enjoying themselves, but had six wickets for 66. Most of the Staffordshire batsmen were quite unable to play the fast left-arm bowling of Webster, who was too quick off the pitch for many, but Homer (35) and L. McEllin (42 not out) were exceptions. By the close of the day eight wickets had gone for 100, but as the next day was wet the match was drawn. This was McEllin's first trial for the county, and

one is safe in assuming that he was unable to play again, or he would have been further tested. One of Bignall End's dependable batsmen, he has a nice style, and on this occasion played some fine bowling with considerable skill.

Then followed two matches at Wolverhampton, in which Staffordshire were seen to advantage. The first was against Norfolk, and E. W. Page and C. Howl put up the best first wicket partnership of the season, viz., 85. Page's 56 was a delightful innings, concluding with eight successive fours. He played well all round the wicket, but his driving was specially brilliant, and he again made one lament that he cannot give the time to play regularly. A total of 227 was not too good after such a start, but Barnes and Lockett dismissed Norfolk for 73. On a good wicket Barneswas next door On a good wicket Barnes was next door The follow-on saw some good batting by M. Falcon and H. F. Low. Staffordshire were set 61 to get, and won by merit by 7 wickets.

Lincolnshire scored 258 at Tettenhall, mainly owing to two factors in some indifferent fielding, and a good innings of 105 by R. E. Frearson, a very fine young cricketer from Grimsby. E. E. Hallam and Major Wilson also scored freely, but had charmed lives. In reply Staffordshire made their one big score of the season—422. C. Howl again did well on his home ground, and G. H. Thorneycroft rattled up the only century of the season, 133. He played exceedingly well, but gave some half-dozen sharp chances, mostly in the slips and at the wicket. Barnes got going, and stayed as long as he cared to, making 69 by real cricket. Then he and Lockett were mainly responsible for getting rid of Lincolnshire for 106, and winning the match by an innings.

The next engagement was at Wallasey, and was played on a difficult wicket. Bowlers were in clover, and batsmen were in trouble throughout, and the match ended at 2.35 on the second day in a desperately narrow win for Staffordshire by 11 runs. Howl evoked the sarcasm of the spectators by batting 2½ hours for 29, but his defence was invaluable. Staffordshire reached 78 with four wickets down, but lost five wickets at the same total. Barnes and Lockett put the home side out for 59, and gained a lead of 30, and, trying to reserve his best batsmen for the next morning, Russell saw five wickets fall for 4 runs. This was eventually raised to 57, and Cheshire required 88 to win. They seemed to have a chance when Wilson and Dennis used the long handle with effect, and sent up 50 with four wickets down, but Barnes's deadly length and wonderful finger spin were too much for them. Barnes had 7 wickets for 18.

Cheshire took a toothsome revenge at Porthill, where some expensive mistakes in the field enabled the visiting county to total 184 on none too good a wicket, and the Staffordshire batting broke down badly. The ball was apt to "dip," or what might almost be termed shoot. It frequently came from the pitch very quick and low, and the Staffordshire batsmen failed to time it. It was a sorry show, except when Barnes and Sedgwick put on 56 for the sixth wicket, and Sedgwick and Platt 33 for the last. Sedgwick played a sterling innings of 55 not out, but Staffordshire were 42 behind, and Cheshire eventually set the home side 192 to get in the fourth innings, over which it were kind to draw a veil. The conditions had certainly not improved, and a strong wind helped the bowlers to make the ball "swing," but, every mitigation conceded, it was a case of bad batting unrelieved. With two wickets down for 47, the whole side was out for 78. E. H. Steventon, the Nantwich amateur, who is bowling against North Staffordshire League players every week, wrought the sensational havoc, for in 7.4 overs he took six wickets for 6 runs. The secret of his triumph was that he swung them a little in the wind from the leg and turned them back a little with finger spin, whilst the ball came quickly from the pitch. He undoubtedly bowled well, but ——

Notts II. had a fairly strong side in the field at Kirkby-in-Ashfield, where bad weather was met with. There was no play on the first day until 5.20, and the wicket was too wet to be difficult. C. A. Turner, Keeton, and J. F. Bishop put up a stubborn resistance, but next morning, after the fall of the second wicket at 73, the innings became a procession, as the wicket quickened. Barnes and Lee, the latter swinging like a Hirst in half a gale of wind, had the side out for 119. P. F. Stubbs made his first appearance of the season, and was unlucky to be caught at the wicket wide on the leg side in the first over. However, Howl teased the bowlers, while Goodwin for the first and only time this season, treated us to a glimpse of his true form, and missed his 50 by two runs. Then Johnson followed suit with his only worthy innings, and it was an exhilarating pyrotechnic display. He made a perfectly splendid off-drive far out of the field for six, off Voce, who, at 17 years of age, is a left-arm bowler of real promise, and then cracked Heane out of the ground at square leg four times, three in one over. Johnson's was a dazzling 76, and Lee also batted well, so that Staffordshire declared at 221 for eight on the off-chance of getting the home team out again for a win. There was only 2½ hours left, but what might have happened had the Staffordshire captain taken a chance of stumping Turner off Barnes at the very start, who can say? However, the first pair held on long enough on the now easy wicket to extinguish any chance of a win, so Barnes was taken off when 15 had been scored from him, and was not bowled again. Turner scored with freedom from the other bowlers (Lockett was nursing a strained leg muscle at home), and hit the second century of the season against Staffordshire.

The return match at Porthill was begun and finished on Bank Holiday. Turner was the only Notts batsman to put up any sort of a resistance to Barnes and Sedgwick, and when he was fifth out, at 31 he had made 23. Sedgwick did his best bit of bowling of the season, and well deserved his six wickets for 23. The innings was over in an hour and 20 minutes, and Staffordshire were doing no better when six wickets were down for 38, the peculiar character of the Porthill wicket again finding most of the early batsmen late in their back strokes. It was Barnes and J. S. Heath who saved the situation by mastering the bowling and adding 95, and Heath played about the best innings of the season. His low driving was superb, and his 72, out of 126, was as opportune as anything could be. With a lead of 108, Staffordshire got rid of the visitors again and won by an innings and 23 runs. Barnes bowled finely, but had vile luck with missed chances and mis-hits, but Lockett rattled out the late batsmen to get a good analysis.

The Lancs. II. match at Stoke was only less unsatisfactory than the first meeting at Haslingden. Again Staffordshire got a good grip on the game when four Lancashire wickets were down for 39, and five for 64, whilst at eight for 127 they had only partially relaxed it, but the tail-enders were allowed to take the score to 183, which was a good total under the prevailing conditions. It proved considerably too good for Staffs., who were dismissed for 114. Thanks to a merry knock by Tyldesley for 39, not out, Lancashire declared at 101 for five, and left Staffordshire 2 hours and 10 minutes to get 171 to win. The wicket was difficult, and no attempt was made to get the runs. Homer and Howl stayed together an hour and stayed off defeat, but with only one point to risk and five to try for the more courageous policy, would have been to send in the fastest scorers and make a bid for victory. The chance was, of course, remote, but there could have been little harm in trying, and keeping the defensive batsmen back for emergency.

The eastern tour is fresh in memory, with both matches spoilt by rain. A great effort to pull off a win at Grantham only just failed, for Lincs. wanted 54 to save an innings defeat with the last two batsmen in when time saved them, or more truly, frustrated Staffordshire. Barnes has not bowled more brilliantly for many a long day, and his eight for 17 and six for 14 were wonderful figures, for Lockett could not get a great deal of assistance out of the wicket, and his four wickets in the two innings cost 51 runs. On the whole Barnes was finely supported by the field, but one or two catches were missed, and most of the few runs scored from him were from lucky snicks, which might easily have been fatal to the batsmen. Barnes's last nine overs in the first innings contained one run and five wickets, and when Lincs. followed on his first over was a maiden with two wickets, so that he bowled 10 consecutive overs for one run and seven wickets. His next 10 overs produced seven runs and four wickets, so that during this period he bowled 20 overs for eight runs and 11 wickets. And it is the solid truth that nearly every ball that did not get a wicket looked like doing so. Almost every time a run was scored it was a fluke. The fielders are deserving of credit for their readiness to crowd round the batsmen, though the risk was reduced to a minimum by Barnes's uncanny accuracy. Sedgwick, at point, was often not more than four to five yards from the bat, and Perks, Lockett, and others were almost equally close up, whilst Platt, at short leg, was so close as to be highly dangerous with any other bowler. And many catches were taken thus close in, which were so simple as to make the batting look positively childish, though the batsmen were habitual run-getters selected on merit for their county. The last wicket had a charmed life or Staffordshire would have won full points.

The next day the Norfolk batsmen were in similar case, and though the last man, after half-a-dozen narrow escapes of being bowled, hit a six off Barnes, he claimed seven wickets for 24, and the side were bundled out for 57. Homer and Stubbs had one of the nicest partnerships of the season in putting up 80 for the first wicket, but a collapse followed until a useful stand by Platt & Sedgwick added 50 for the eighth wicket, Platt especially batting well. Norfolk were 114 behind, and might have been in a hopeless position by the drawing of stumps, but for a mistake at the wicket. Barnes secured the first wicket at 27, and Coldham should have gone for the next ball, but he and Nichols stayed to the close, when Norfolk were 59 behind, with one wicket down. However, all Staffordshire's efforts were wasted, for it rained all the next day, and again first innings points were the only solatium.

BARNES'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

Over 1,000 Wickets for Staffordshire

Coming to a discussion of individual form, the following are the batting and bowling averages for the season:—

Batting

	Ins.	Not Out	T'tal R'ns	Highest Score	Average
G. H. Thorneycroft	3	0	134	133	44.66
J. S. Heath	3	0	95	72	31.66
H. W. Homer	10	1	249	74	27.66
E. W. Page	3	0	83	56	27.66
F. D. Perks	6	1	93	27	18.60
C. Howl	10	0	182	46	18.20
W. Lee	3	0	53	40	17.66
Barnes	13	1	190	69	15.83
Sedgwick	10	1	127	55*	14.11
J. W. Johnson	8	0	112	76	14.00
H. Goodwin	10	2	111	48	13.87
P. F. Stubbs	3	0	39	37	13.00
Platt	12	4	90	31	11.25
J. B. Russell	10	2	83	20	10.37
A. Lockett	11	2	82	25	9.11
P. O. Yates	5	0	20	10	4.00
P. Lockett	4	0	4	3	1.00
D. P. Lutler	4	0	1	1	0.25

Also batted: L. McEllin 42*, J. Whalen 12.6*. J. Ankers 4.11, E. Perry Whalen 12, 6*, J. Ankers 4, 11, E. Perry 8, 3, S. Jackson 5, 0, R. S. Hunt 0*, G. E. Winyard 0.

Bowling

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Aver.
Barnes	312.2	98	624	76	8.21
A. Lockett	201.5	67	427	37	11.54
W. Lee	35.3	10	93	7	13.28
Sedgwick	110.2	25	310	20	15.50
Platt	127.5	31	365	16	22.81
J. Whalen	50	15	157	4	39.22

Also bowled: G. H. Thorneycroft 4 overs, 0 maidens, 12 runs, 1 wicket, E. Perry 13—3—42—0, G. E. Winyard 5—0—34—0, R. G. Hunt 4—0—21—0, J. S. Heath 4—0—38—0, P. Lockett 3—1—8—0.

The natural order seems to be to speak of batting first and bowling afterwards, but on this occasion bowling demands prior attention, because the outstanding event of the season is in this realm, viz., Sydney Barnes's unique feat of taking a thousand wickets for Staffordshire. This he achieved when he dismissed Wilson in the second innings of Cheshire at Wallasey on July 8th, and when the season closed he had raised his total wickets for his native county to 1,050, taken in 14 seasons covering a period of 23 years. The following is the complete record of his bowling, season by season:—

Season	O.	M.	R.	W.	Aver.
1904	269.4	62	679	66	10.23
1905	193.2	44	508	44	11.54
1906	373.1	100	932	119	7.83
1907	246	82	505	79	6.39
1908	397.4	139	817	98	8.18
1909	285	85	676	93	7.26
1910	363.5	99	879	90	9.76
1911	337.2	113	750	104	7.21
1912	191	75	376	70	5.37
1913	196.3	48	397	65	6.10
1914	159.3	57	297	48	6.18
1924	256.5	79	525	73	7.19
1925	184.5	57	417	31	13.45
1926	312.2	98	624	76	8.21

This gives a grand total of 3,767 overs, 1,138 maidens, 8,382 runs, and 1,050 wickets, average per wicket 7.98. It is a stupendous record. During this period Staffordshire have never made more than 12 fixtures for any season, and in some years only eight, so that Barnes's proportion of wickets has been enormous, especially remembering that he has not played in by any means all the matches.

His average of under eight runs per wicket is phenomenal, just as scores of his separate achievements have been. Spread over nearly a quarter of a century, with all the luck of the game in missed chances, doubtful decisions, and what not—thrown in, on all kinds of wickets, with periods when he has bowled under great difficulty from injury or other disability—as an instance, one remembers him bowling through a match with a sore on the first finger of his bowling hand that would have prevented most men from playing at all, and again when for half a season he abandoned his customary run and bowled slow owing to a troublesome strain, which ought, by rights, to have been rested, whilst even this season he bowled with a swollen and septic jaw, against doctor's advice, and remembering further that Staffordshire have usually played the pick of the minor counties, his record seems the more wonderful the more one considers it.

"Is Barnes bowling as well as ever?" That is a question which has been asked frequently in the last three years. The answer must, of course, be in the negative, but it must not be forgotten that the comparison is with probably the greatest bowler the game of cricket has ever produced in his prime. The bowling of 33 overs in one afternoon for 31 runs and 14 wickets, with 20 consecutive overs (a rest of quarter of an hour in the middle) for seven runs and 11 wickets, is hardly suggestive of a "back number," or of a man living on past reputation, or of faded powers. Personally, I regard Barnes as the best bowler in the world to-day on a drying or crumbling wicket, but that is not saying he is quite as good as he ever was. And he has not the stamina to bodl on what is known as a plumb wicket, as he used to do when he bowled out Australia's giants on a perfect Australian pitch. At his age he is a wonder, but then he has always been a wonder. And one hopes to see him for still a few more years reducing batsmen to impotence, and rousing spectators to admiring enthusiasm. Such a record seems to call for some special recognition.

Aaron Lockett, Sedgwick, and Platt have again, with Barnes, borne the brunt of the attack this season. Lockett has improved his last year's average by two runs per wicket, and has only five fewer wickets. Since the strain which he suffered in July he has not bowled quite so well as earlier in the season, though the later wickets should have suited him. However, his record is a fine one, and no doubt he will be bowling his best again when another season comes round. Sedgwick has not been as well suited by the conditions as the more distinctively spin bowlers, but he has maintained his pace well, and often bowled with accuracy as well as dash. He, too, has knocked two runs off his average. Platt's task has been a thankless one, for he has generally been called up to bowl at batsmen well set, and when the conditions favoured batting, and has often had no chance when the wicket would have suited him best. So that his figures are not a true reflex of the measure of his skill. As he has filled the eleventh place in the batting order, which usually provides the opportunity to get out without the opportunity to get runs, his position has not been an enviable one. But George Platt is a sportsman through and through, and there has been no more keen, as there is no more genial player in the team. On several occasions he has bowled exceedingly well, and without too much luck, and he showed how well he can bat by his timely innings at Norwich. W. Lee and J. Whalen have been the only other bowlers to get wickets. Lee's swingers were very useful at Kirkby, and Whalen has poor figures, not altogether because he has bowled badly, but because he has bowled on the easiest wickets. As a left-hander he would be much more successful if he had better command of the natural break-back from leg. One need not harp on the need of new bowling talent. Perhaps the demand will create the supply.

To come to the batting table, H. W. Homer is again at the head of the more regular members of the side, the two men above him having played only three innings each. His batting has not had quite the same felicity as in several preceding seasons, but he has played

(Continued in Next Column.)

consistently well, and has only twice been out for a single figure score. Such contributions as 74, 37, 35 (twice), 27, and 20, prove his value, and the only complaints to be urged against him are some lack of enterprise, and his tendency to be a little dilatory in running between wickets. His average is 12 below last year, and Howl, who is second of the more regular ones, has lost 13 of his last year's average. It is noteworthy that Homer is the only batsman to score 200 runs, whereas last year seven men passed the second hundred, and Homer himself scored 353. Barnes has also dropped 12 in average, but Sedgwick has improved on his 1925 batting figures, which were much too bad to be true. Lockett has halved his batting average, and H. Goodwin has dropped from 27 to 13, but this is not his correct form, and he will certainly do much better another year. P. F. Stubbs would be of value to the side if he could spare the time to play more frequently, and the same, of course, applies to E. W. Page and G. H. Thorneycroft, who confine their appearances to the Wolverhampton matches. J. S. Heath is a greatly-improved bat. J. W. Johnson has only got properly going once, and P. O. Yates has had a most disastrous time. Last year he averaged 28, and his figures this time are the result of batting exclusively on difficult wickets. D. P. Lutter suffered in somewhat the same way, and the Erdington player, P. Lockett, failed to produce county form. The most promising of the new batsmen tried during the season is F. D. Perks, of Westbromwich, who proved himself a difficult man to get out, even on a tricky wicket, and should be of service in the future. Platt has almost identical figures with last year, and the Captain has improved a little on his. J. Ankers would have been useful if he had played more, and L. McEllin gave every indication of class on his one appearance. It is safe to expect that most of the county's batsmen will give a better showing next season, for few have this time done themselves justice, and the venomous wickets they have had to bat on have had something to do with it, though not affording excuse for all the weak displays given.

The fielding has maintained a fairly high level, but there have, of course, been lapses. Many fine catches have been taken, and the ground fielding has been usually good. One has criticised both the captaincy and the wicket-keeping occasionally, for it is the function of the critic, and in regard to the former one could not always agree with the management of the bowling, but the skipper, of course, used his judgment with a single eye to the success of the team, with a full sense of the responsibility resting upon him. Without question, J. B. Russell is a keen and popular captain, and has once again led the team with distinction. And he has maintained his form behind the stumps remarkably well. Mistakes are inevitable in this position, and the Staffordshire keeper has, perhaps, been a little unfortunate that several of the few chances he has missed have been offered early on by the most dangerous batsmen. Against these errors must be set some really clever catches and pieces of stumping, and the concession of fewer byes than have passed opposing wicket-keepers. He has caught nine and stumped five batsmen. The fielders who have secured the greatest number of catches are Sedgwick 10, A. Lockett 8, and Platt 7.

During the season 25 players have been utilised, compared with 26 last year and 28 in 1924. J. B. Russell, Barnes, and Platt have played in all the ten matches. A. Lockett in nine, Sedgwick in eight, and H. W. Homer, J. W. Johnson, C. Howl, and H. Goodwin each in seven. Four players took part in one match only, and eight in two each.

It will probably be found that financially the season has been the most satisfactory for some years, the membership having been largely increased by means of a special effort, and the gate receipts having improved. The latter result is doubtless due to fine weather for the most important dates. Over 100 new members have been added this year, but at least a further 100 are required to put the finances on a reasonably sound basis, and lovers of the game in the county are urged to respond to the committee's appeal.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Saturday 11 September 1926

FINAL TABLES.

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	22	16	3	3	35
Bignall End	22	15	4	3	33
Nantwich	22	12	5	5	29
Silverdale	22	12	7	3	27
Leek	22	11	9	2	24
Norton	22	7	9	7	21
Longton	22	7	9	6	20
Burslem	22	8	11	3	19
Crewe Alexandra	22	6	12	4	16
Great Chell	22	6	12	4	16
Knypersley	22	5	13	4	14
Madeley	22	3	15	4	10

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Bignall End, 119; Burslem, 70.
Longton, 108 for nine; Great Chell, 32.
Nantwich, 178; Silverdale, 146 for six.
Crewe Alexandra, 199 for three; Madeley, 84.
Knypersley, 205 for seven (dec.); Norton, 66 for nine.
Porthill Park, 173; Leek, 39.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Alsagers Bank	22	15	6	1	31
Cheadle	22	14	7	1	29
Fenton	22	14	8	0	28
Sandyford	22	13	7	2	28
Stone	22	13	7	2	28
Caverswall	22	11	9	2	24
L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke)	22	10	9	3	23
Audley	22	10	12	0	20
Kidsgrove	22	8	12	2	18
Burslem High Lane	22	8	14	0	16
Betley	22	5	17	0	10
Ashcombe Park	22	4	17	1	9

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Cheadle, 102; Ashcombe Park, 32.
Betley, 61 for seven; Kidsgrove, 53.
Stone, 217 for eight; L.M. and S. Rly. (Stoke), 211.
Fenton, 55; Burslem High Lane, 54.
Sandyford, 78 for four; Caverswall, 46.
Alsagers Bank, 96; Audley, 53.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

	P.	W	L.	D.	Pts.
Porthill Park	22	16	3	3	35
Knypersley	22	15	6	2	32
Burslem	22	13	7	2	28
Norton	22	10	9	3	23
Crewe Alexandra	22	10	10	2	22
Great Chell	22	9	11	2	20
Longton	22	9	11	2	20
Leek	22	8	11	3	19
Nantwich	22	8	11	3	19
Silverdale	22	6	10	6	18
Madeley	22	7	13	2	16
Bignall End	22	5	15	2	12

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Bignall End, 148; Burslem, 74.
Great Chell, 80 for seven; Longton, 50.
Silverdale, 103 for four; Nantwich, 100.
Crewe Alexandra, 158 for seven; Madeley, 51.
Norton, 199; Knypersley, 138 for eight.
Porthill Park, 185 for seven (dec.); Leek, 38.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Brindley Ford Wes.	22	19	3	0	38
Kidsgrove	22	15	6	1	31
Caverswall	22	15	7	0	30
Burslem High Lane	22	13	7	2	28
Stone	22	14	8	0	28
Audley	22	10	11	1	21
Cheadle	22	8	12	2	18
Sandyford	22	8	12	2	18
Scot Hay	22	7	14	1	15
L.M. & S. Rly. (Stoke)	22	6	14	2	14
Alsagers Bank	22	6	15	1	13
Betley	22	5	17	0	10

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Cheadle, 50; Scot Hay, 43.
Kidsgrove, 120; Betley, 60.
Stone, 68; L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 48.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 90 for eight; Burslem High Lane, 80.
Caverswall, 46; Sandyford, 26.
Audley, 96; Alsagers Bank, 95.

AS PORTHILL PARK—first team and reserves—and Alsagers Bank realised expectations by winning their final games of the programme the local cricket season concluded last Saturday, and the enthusiasts who were hoping that thrilling deciding matches would mark the end were disappointed. But in spite of the absence of these "death or glory" struggles the season's career has been a memorable one, especially so in relation to weather conditions, which have been abnormally favourable—to an extent which can be best appreciated by reference to the low tally of drawn games. The one definite drawback has been the industrial situation, which has materially checked the progress of some clubs, and has been a handicap to all even as it has been to more important phases of life than cricket.

The clubs to make the best finishes were Bignall End, Crewe Alexandra, Porthill Park, Cheadle and Stone, who each won both their games. The victory of the Bignall End seniors had its origin in a fine innings of 53 by L. McEllin, who went in at the fall of the second wicket and was the last man out, in endeavouring to force the pace, tactics which had hitherto been highly successful. McEllin's display was quite the best of the match. E. Cook failed to add to previous triumphs at the expense of Bignall End, and Burslem's best bowling returns came from E. A. Oliver, with three for 18; whilst C. Tunnicliffe had three for 28. The Cobridge team's batting was generally feeble, and the top scorer was R. Hollowood with 19. P. Johnson was lucky to reach 12, but there was some merit attached to the last wicket stand for 23 runs by F. Evans (5 not out) and B. Hollowood (13). The fine bowling of Dr. Riley got five wickets for 33; F. J. Dale having two for 16 and W. Downing three for 16.

Crewe Alexandra had full compensation for the defeat sustained at Madeley, being clearly the better team in the return game. Only three Madeley players were able to make headway against the Alexandra's bowling, G. Timmis scoring 21, J. Hazeldine 20, and E. Griffiths 15 (not out). C. Coffin had three wickets for 13, and H. Norman three for 19. Winners with eight wickets standing the Alexandra had run-getting batsmen in J. Holland and F. Walker, whose scores were 54 (not out) and 37. Holland played a very clever innings and Walker's runs came from bright cricket.

The game at Leek was one-sided, Porthill Park's all-round power being too much for a Leek side from which Harold Birch and V. Astbury were absent. The visitors' captain virtually made sure of the championship when he won the toss, but Porthill were doing none too well when their seventh wicket fell at 93, in spite of a second wicket stand by K. Gleaves (13) and N. W. White (40), who by careful and resolute play, respectively, took the score from 12 to 56 whilst in co-operation. Absolute dominance of the game came by J. J. Evenson (38 not out) and C. R. Heath (42), the pair going for the bowling in fine style, and increasing the aggregate by 62 during their partnership. The only formidable Leek bowler was Herbert Sedgwick, who claimed five wickets for 53. Against the splendid bowling of J. S. Heap and J. Durber the home team were quickly in trouble, four wickets falling in the course of five overs, and the sixth was down at 10. H. Alcock, with 8, was the best scorer, and Heap counted his 100th wicket of the season when Durber acted the part of a good comrade by catching this batsman. Heap finished with six wickets for 20, and Durber had four for 13. Eighteen overs, plus one ball, were enough for Leek's dismissal, the innings lasting 55 minutes.

Run-getting was low at Alsagers Bank, but four of the home players reached double figures, and so produced an aggregate which led to a comfortable success. E. Riley again proved his worth by running up 23 at a critical stage. L. Shufflebotham (18) gave the innings a good send-off, and A. Amson (17) and R. Dean (10) were responsible for a valuable ninth wicket stand of 24 chalks—the best of the venture. F. Darlington and L. Beech had long spells of bowling, and on this occasion Beech was the more effective man, taking six wickets for 49, as against Darlington's two for 30. Audley made a shocking start before the attack of Amson and G. W. Beech—three wickets in his third over and their fourth man returned at 8. J. McEllin (16) and L. Cork (11) made a gallant attempt to mend matters by putting on 23 for the fifth partnership, but disaster continued apace after R. Bailey had taken up the bowling vice Amson. Five wickets were captured by G. W. Beech for 20, and Bailey took three for 15.

Cheadle celebrated their "Wakes" with a ready win over Ashcombe Park, and the ring-leaders in the success were H. Capewell, who scored 31, W. Brough and J. Keates whose bowling was far too clever for the Park men. Catches at silly point by A. L. Day gave Brough two wickets from his first two deliveries, and his full record was six for 12. Keates was slightly more expensive, but four successes for 19 made good going. Ashcombe's most conspicuous player was O. Brassington, whose bowling got six wickets for 55 runs. He had a capable helpmate in J. Rane, who stumped four players.

There was a wonderful game at Stone, where an unrepresentative home side, going in against such an intimidatory score as 211, won an amazing victory, the winning run being made on time, with seven wickets down. With E. J. Johnson absent, the weakness of the Stone bowling was fully exposed, and the L.M.S. Railway men scored with such facility as to get their runs in two and a quarter hours, although three wickets fell for 31. H. Moor contributed 67 to the total by powerful but lucky hitting, and R. Partridge, playing good cricket, was responsible for 45. Stone made no attempt to "play for keeps," but got runs with as much freedom as they had conceded them. F. Ravensorft played fine cricket for 37, A. M. C. Smith—missed from his first stroke—was in excellent for whilst batting 53, and a stand of much moment was made for the sixth wicket by C. H. Mathews (26) and G. Deyes (31), 20 runs being wanted when they were separated. There was much excitement in the closing stages, Deyes and T. Godbehere having the handicap of bad light whilst hitting off the 18 chalks required after the seventh wicket had gone.

The Leek reserves had a long outing in their game with Porthill Park, who left nothing to chance when they batted long enough to put defeat beyond all possible doubt. Leek lacked their customary bowling strength, and of the seven players tried only S. Hutchinson presented any difficulties. W. Mountford (32) and C. Bickerton (11) laid the foundation of the home side's success by an extended stand which wore down the bowling, and in the later play M. S. Showan played in very good style for 59; and had a helpful partner in H. Renshaw (19, not out), the pair gathering 56 for the seventh wicket. Leek followed the example of their opponents by adopting passive methods, and half the overs went down by J. Glover and S. R. Cooper were maidens. H. Oliver livened up affairs near the close by getting 16 by four hits, and his was the only dual figures score. Cooper took six wickets for 17, and Glover had a couple at a like cost.

Knypersley second's good season closed with a drawn game at Norton, where the home batsmen got runs with some freedom, and no fewer than eight of them reached doubles. The chief scorer was D. D. Robinson, with a well got 50, and A. Molderoft came next with 31. The visitors' best bowler was G. Bedson, with four for 27, the cost of the six wickets shared by W. Goodwin and P. Green being rather heavy. Knypersley made good progress by T. Bibby (20), H. Green (29) and J. Butler (35), and were never in danger, whilst at one stage they seemed to have a chance of winning. Bad light caused a premature close, with Goodwin 22 (not out).

Silverdale and Nantwich had an enjoyable game on a dead easy wicket. The batting of the sides had its main features in the doings of the brothers Steventon and J. C. Cooper. Batting first, Nantwich would have had a moderate start but for the stay of T. W. Steventon, who made 47 by capital play; and even so six wickets were down for 95. A pronounced revival followed the coming of E. H. Steventon, who hit in the grand manner, and had 14 fours in his 66 (not out). Silverdale lost two wickets for a single, but Cooper was so well supported by B. Griffiths (27) and E. White (24) that there was never much possibility of the match having a definite result. Cooper went all through the innings for 75 (not out), playing finely for his runs, which were just half the total got for six wickets. He passed the 500 mark for the season in the course of his innings.

Repeating their supremacy of 1911 and 1913 Porthill Park were good value for their double championship though their second team was hardly up to the standard of previous seasons. The first eleven secured an increase of five points, and the general opinion has been that they were the League's most powerful force; and this judgment is borne out by the two defeats which they inflicted on Bignall End. The batting has usually been productive enough to give the bowlers a reasonable chance, and Heap and J. Durber have been the likeliest pair of bowlers in the League, even though the amateur has had occasional pronounced lapses. No team has been able to muster such a phalanx of batsmen as the champions, and the wonder has been that their run-getting powers have sometimes failed. Stanley Heath has made himself a popular skipper, both with his own side and his opponents, and his personal success has caused much satisfaction.

Bignall End's surrender of the honours did not occur without a big struggle, and their credit is in no way lessened by their reduction to second place. Their post war career has been the most striking matter of local cricket, but it could not be expected that their period of dominancy would continue indefinitely. The loss of bowlers of the calibre of A. Lockett and John Burgess has been felt severely, and their defeats have shown that the batting has lacked soundness when pitted against the best bowling. No club has made greater strides than Nantwich, who only need the access of batting strength, which seems to be coming, to be really serious candidates for the honours.

Alsagers Bank have merited their championship, and have earned it by showing consistent form which has been lacking in the doings of more fancied rivals. Their chief strength has been in attack, in which they have been well served by A. Amson, "the evergreen" G. W. Beech, R. Bailey and J. Wareham; whilst they have had good run-getters in Bailey, L. Shufflebotham, Wareham and E. Riley. Brindley Ford Wesleyans had little trouble in repeating their performances of 1924 and 1925, though they had one short spell of shakiness. Their all-round form has been better and more durable than what came from their rivals. The Wesleyans' players have been loyal and earnest, and, whilst all have done good work, the outstanding men have been R. Machin, C. Slaney, J. Slaney, and L. Nixon. A gratifying matter of the season has been the advance of the Knypersley reserves, who challenged Porthill Park in no uncertain fashion, and gave promise of producing prominence for their club in the future.

BLYTHE BRIDGE & UTTOXETER DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Division I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Florence	18	15	1	2	32
Tean	18	14	2	2	30
Kingsley	18	11	6	1	25
Oakamoor	18	9	8	1	21
Stallington	18	10	7	1	21
Leigh	18	10	7	1	21
Rocester	18	8	7	3	19
Draycott	18	7	10	1	15
Alton	18	4	13	1	9
Hollington	18	3	14	1	7
	18	1	16	1	3

Division II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Fulford	18	12	4	0	24
Cresswell	18	11	4	1	23
Foxt	18	9	5	4	22
Florence	18	8	6	2	18
Stallington	18	8	7	1	17
Dilhorne	18	7	7	2	16
Kingsley	18	8	8	0	16
Leigh	18	3	13	1	7
Hollington	18	0	16	1	1