

NORTH STAFFS. CRICKET.

Fine Century by Leek Batsman.

Fenton Bowler's Great Feat.

With wickets playing firm and true, some big scoring took place in local cricket on Saturday, particularly in the Senior "A" section of the North Staffordshire League.

The biggest total of the day was 210 for four wickets (declared) by Leek, for whom A. Rider carried out his bat for 110. He was at the wickets two hours and a half and hit sixteen 4s. He and C. Hambleton (50) were associated in a first-wicket partnership of 99. Silverdale saved the game, however, having replied with 115 for two at the close. J. C. Cooper contributed 43 not out.

E. Mayer, Norton's new professional, and S. Smith, who scored 70 not out and 52 respectively, were the chief contributors to Norton's total of 127 for seven (declared). Knyppersley just managed to escape defeat, the last two men being at the wickets with the total at 145 when stumps were drawn.

Another side to apply the closure was Longton, with their total at 174 for 7. A. L. Day (45) and C. Edwards (33) batted well. They then dismissed Great Chell for 124, Worthington being top scorer with 45. H. Brassington took five wickets for 28 runs.

L. H. Stevenson (five for 31) and L. Haighton (6 for 33), the Nantwich bowlers, dismissed Burslem for 74, the champions gaining an easy win.

The best bowling performance in this section was that of Woodall, the Crewe player, who dismissed five L.M.S. batsmen for seven runs, the side collapsing for 51. Crewe replied with 133 for nine.

Porthill failed at home against Bignall End by four wickets.

In the Senior "B" section, the feature of the day's play was a remarkable feat by J. E. J. Wood, of Fenton, who, in 5-2 overs, took six Madeley wickets for no runs. Fenton, however, only won by six runs. There was a close finish also at Audley, where Cheadle got the better of the home team by one wicket. Burslem High Lane, Stone and Sandyford all gained easy victories, and Alsagers Bank defeated Ashcombe Park by 32 runs in a low scoring game.

Appended are the chief performances of the day:—

BATTING.

A. Rider, Leek (v. Silverdale)	*110
E. Mayer, Norton (v. Knyppersley)	*70
A. Archer, Staffs. Chem'l Co. (v. Butt Lane) ..	70
G. Bishop, Norton 2nd (v. Knyppersley 2nd) ..	57
S. Smith, Norton (v. Knyppersley)	52
C. Hambleton, Leek (v. Silverdale)	50
A. Bourne, Sandyford (v. Kids Grove)	48
J. C. Cooper, Silverdale (v. Leek)	*48
H. Mollart, Sandyford (v. Kids Grove)	47
B. Fowers, Berryhill (v. Bucknall)	47
M. Walker, Crewe (v. Stoke L.M.S.)	46
A. L. Day, Longton (v. Great Chell)	46
H. Green, Knyppersley 2nd (v. Norton 2nd) ..	46
N. Worthington, Great Chell (v. Longton) ..	45
F. Ravenscroft, Stone (v. Caverswall)	45
F. Barber, Caverswall (v. Stone)	43
L. Norton, Nantwich (v. Burslem)	41
R. Dunn, Caverswall 2nd (v. Stone 2nd)	40

BOWLING.

S. Jones, Silverdale II. (v. Leek II.) ..	7 for 12.
W. Payne, Caverswall II. (v. Stone II.) ..	7 for 14.
J. Hutchinson, Uttoxeter (v. Church Gresley) ..	7 for 36.
J. Wood, Fenton v. Madeley, 6 for 0.	
H. Garner, Nantwich II. (v. Burslem II.) ..	6 for 14.
A. Anson, Alsagers Bank (v. Ashcombe Park) ..	6 for 19.
C. Clewes, Staffs. Chem. Co. (v. Butt Lane) ..	6 for 23.
W. Fenton, Burslem II. (v. Nantwich II.) ..	6 for 26.
H. Stone, Burslem H.L. II. (v. Betley II.) ..	6 for 34.
G. Davies, Onneley (v. Alsagers Bank II.) ..	5 for 7.
E. Woodall, Crewe (v. Stoke L.M.S.) ..	5 for 7.
S. Thompson, Sandyford II. (v. Scot Hay) ..	5 for 12.
J. Johnson, Berryhill (v. Bucknall) ..	5 for 13.

H. E. Wainwright, Alsagers Bank II (v. Onneley) 5 for 17.
H. Mollart, Sandyford (v. Kids Grove) 5 for 23.
A. Plant, Leek II. (v. Silverdale II.) 5 for 24.
H. Brassington, Longton (v. Great Chell) 5 for 23.
E. H. Stevenson, Nantwich v. Burslem 5 for 31.
L. Haighton, Nantwich v. Burslem 5 for 33.
J. Hancock, Knyppersley II. (v. Norton) II. 5 for 47.
W. Cooper, Kids Grove (v. Sandyford) 5 for 48.
T. Naylor, Fenton II. (v. Madeley II.) 4 for 21 (bat trick).

N.S. & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

L.M. & S. STOKE v. CREWE ALEX.

L.M. & S. R.—C. Mason c Sedgwick b Walker 10, C. Emberton b Sedgwick 0, A. Hackney c Coffin b Walker 2, W. J. Robinson c Peckinson b Woodall 11, J. Turner b Woodall 4, J. Hulme b Woodall 1, R. Baker c Woodall b Coffin 1, A. Copeland c Peckinson b Woodall 0, J. Machin b Sedgwick 5, R. Partridge b Woodall 6, J. Cummings not out 0, extras 11; total, 51.

CREWE.—J. Holland b Partridge 3, H. Hope c Baker b Turner 14, F. Walker b Cummings 23, H. Sedgwick c Machin b Cummings 0, M. Walker c Cummings b Machin 46, E. Woodall b Hackney 1, C. Coffin b Mason 28, J. Peckinson b Mason 0, J. Jennings not out 5, J. Brownridge run out 3, extras 7; total (for 9), 133.

LONGTON v. GREAT CHELL.

LONGTON.—C. Edwards c and b Machin 33, A. L. Day c Chatterley b Ikin 46, A. Smith b Butler 13, H. Brassington c Warburton b Worthington 13, A. C. Hawkins c Worthington 4, J. E. V. Toney lbw b Vodrey 23, F. R. Wildwood lbw b Ikin 0, A. Kent not out 18, extras 19; total (for 7 wks. dec.), 174.

GREAT CHELL.—A. W. Ikin b H. Brassington 11, W. Worthington b A. Smith 14, S. Crump run out 11, F. Vodrey b Brassington 0, W. Vodrey lbw b A. Smith 23, A. Smith c Day b Smith 0, R. Machin c Benton b Brassington 4, U. Worthington b A. Smith 45, J. Butler c Kent b Brassington 6, G. Pitchford not out 1, H. Chatterley b Brassington 3, extras 1; total 124.

PORTHILL PARK v. BIGNALL END.

PORTHILL.—A. A. Bickerton b Dale 16, K. Gleaves lbw b Dale 4, G. A. F. Bagguley b White 3, H. C. Roushah b White 10, J. S. Heath c J. H. Mayer b Dale 22, S. Billington b McEllin 16, W. Mountford c J. H. Mayer b Dale 1, G. Price not out 11, C. R. Heath c J. H. Mayer b McEllin 2, Durber (J.) b White 10, H. Gleaves b White 2, extras 19; total, 118.

BIGNALL END.—A. E. Prady lbw b J. S. Heath 23, L. McEllin b H. Gleaves 1, W. Beech b H. Gleaves 9, A. Booth lbw b J. S. Heath 33, J. H. Mayer b J. S. Heath 1, S. Hassall not out 11, F. J. Dale b Durber 11, D. White not out 11, extras 12; total (for 6 wks), 118. Declared.

NORTON v. KNYPPERSLEY.

NORTON.—D. Worthington c L. Lowe b H. Tue 14, I. Waterfall c H. Bibby b W. Lonsdale 12, R. Tatton b W. Lonsdale 2, S. Smith c and b H. Bibby 52, P. Massey b E. Mosedale 4, Mayer (E) not out 70, A. Wright b H. Bibby 8, J. Smith run out 10, Martin not out 1, extras 14; total (for 7 wks) 187. Innings declared.

KNYPPERSLEY.—E. Tunstall b H. Higgins 5, T. Bibby c E. Payne b J. Martin 26, A. Cooper b Mayer (E) 2, W. Whitehead b J. Martin 33, W. Lonsdale c J. Martin b Mayer (E) 24, P. Green c J. Smith b H. Higgins 4, L. Lowe c Mayer (E) b Smith 4, H. Bibby c E. Payne b H. Higgins 6, H. Tue c Worthington b E. Payne 21, W. Goodwin not out 0, E. Mosedale not out 6, extras 14; total (for 9 wks) 145. Match drawn.

SILVERDALE v. LEEK.

LEEK.—A. Rider not out 110, C. Hambleton b Groom 50, H. Oliver c Rushton b Groom 9, J. Pointon b Griffiths 2, G. Sedgwick c Green b Cocks 17, W. Rider not out 11, extras 11; total (for 4 wks), 210. Innings declared closed.

SILVERDALE.—A. Ward b Ellerton 22, J. C. Cooper not out 43, C. F. Rushton lbw b Birch 16, J. Whalen retired hurt 5, E. Downing not out 2, extras 20; total (for 2 wks), 115. Match drawn.

NANTWICH v. BURSLEM.

NANTWICH.—L. E. Norton b R. Hollowood 41, J. B. Swindale b Tunnicliffe 15, T. W. Stevenson b R. Hollowood 26, F. W. Slight c Reddows b Cooke 8, H. Smith c Cotton b R. Hollowood 4, E. H. Stevenson at Beddows b R. Hollowood 1, E. E. Hough not out 11, W. T. Maybury not out 0, extras 6; total (for 6 wks), 112. Innings declared closed.

BURSLEM.—E. Cotton c Maybury b E. H. Stevenson 1, L. Crump lbw b Haighton 12, B. Hollowood b Haighton 7, F. Bailey at Hough b Haighton 1, R. Hollowood c Smith b E. H. Stevenson 16, A. Birch at Hough b L. Haighton 7, E. Baker c Hough b E. H. Stevenson 10, E. Cooke c T. W. Stevenson b E. H. Stevenson 11, E. A. Oliver b Haighton 0, C. Tunnicliffe not out 8, W. Beddows b E. H. Stevenson 0, extras 2; total, 79.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

STONE v. CAVERSWALL.

CAVERSWALL.—C. Hassall c Stubbs b Wood 2, F. Barber run out 43, W. Colclough c Cooper b Worthington 5, A. Rickard b Cooper 7, E. Wakelin lbw b Cooper 17, J. Hadley c G. W. Hammersley b Fernie 4, F. Ollier hit wkt b Fernie 0, F. Hamnett b J. Cooper 15, C. Turner not out 7, H. B. Roberts c Cooper 4, S. H. Jackson b Worthington 1, extras 10; total 115.

STONE.—S. C. Charlwood b Wakelin 37, F. Ravenscroft b Wakelin 45, E. C. Fernie c Colclough b Turner 5, P. F. Stubbs not out 24, G. W. Hammersley b Wakelin 0, A. M. C. Smith not out 7, extras 14; total (for 4 wks) 132.

SANDYFORD v. KIDSGROVE.

SANDYFORD.—G. Bourne lbw b W. Cooper 5, C. Cotton b E. Downes 21, W. Downs run out 1, Horace Mollart b E. Downes 4, H. Mollart b W. Cooper 47, A. Bourne c J. H. Baker b W. Cooper 43, W. Parr b W. Cooper 25, M. Baker at Challinor b H. Cooper 2, E. Baker 1, W. Cooper 1, J. James b H. Cooper 2, A. Baddely not out 0, extras 23; total 120.

KIDSGROVE.—H. Cooper c H. Mollart 1, A. Bourne 31, R. Epplett b A. Bourne 0, H. Stubbs b A. Bourne 8, R. Dakin b Baddely b Horace Mollart 0, W. Hadley c A. Brown b Horace Mollart 5, F. Challinor b Horace Mollart 3, A. Hancock c Horace Mollart b Bourne 0, E. Downes b Horace Mollart 0, W. Cooper not out 3, P. Colclough c and b Horace Mollart 0, extras 8; total (for 9 wks) 68.

AUDLEY v. CHEADLE.

AUDLEY.—J. C. McEllin c Pepper b Critchlow 37, A. J. Colley c Wetwood b Keates 4, J. McEllin c Capewell b Brough 4, R. Bailey c Shaw b Brough 5, C. Maddock b Keates 1, H. Sproston c Hurst b Keates 14, F. Bateman c Wetwood b Brough 19, R. Proctor at Capewell b Critchlow 4, F. Darlington b Brough 22, L. Beach c Hurst b Keates 8, H. McEllin not out 1, extras 1; total 120.

CHEADLE.—H. Capewell c Colley b Darlington 39, J. A. Hurst b H. McEllin 7, J. Shaw b Beech 27, J. Whitehurst c Bailey b Sproston 9, V. Pepper c Proctor b Darlington 0, R. Whitehurst b McEllin 4, J. Fieldhouse b McEllin 5, E. J. Critchlow c Colley b McEllin 9, A. Wetwood b Beech 2, W. Brough not out 3, J. Keates not out 1, extras 19; total (for 9 wks) 124.

FENTON v. MADELEY.

MADELEY.—A. Beech c and b W. White 1, N. Wilkinson c Williams b W. Wood 10, F. Barlow c J. Wood b W. Wood 15, F. Clarke b J. Wood 15, E. Malkin c J. Wood b W. White 0, J. Millington b J. Wood 4, W. Gifford c Osborne b J. Wood 0, E. Griffiths b J. Wood 5, H. Buckley c Osborne b J. Wood 0, T. Stubbs b J. Wood 1, T. Jones not out 0, extras 5; total, 56.

FENTON.—A. White b Beech 4, W. Colclough b Malkin 7, G. Talbot b Stubbs 0, H. Wainwright b Stubbs 0, W. Wood b Malkin 10, W. White run out 13, J. Wood b Beech 1, H. Naylor b Beech 6, F. Osborne c Jones b Malkin 0, D. Williams b Clarke 9, A. Mellor not out 4, extras 8; total, 62.

ASHCOMBE PARK v. ALSAGERS BANK.

ALSAGERS BANK.—L. Shufflebotham c Peacock b James 5, E. Riley c James b Davies 3, R. Dean c Rane b James 0, W. Beech c Bloor b Goldstraw 12, F. Sumnall c James b Kirkham 7, A. Green b Kirkham 8, G. W. Beech run out 10, W. T. Sumnall c James b Kirkham 11, A. Anson b Davies 2, H. Lea b James 8, G. Stonier not out 0, extras 8; total, 74.

ASHCOMBE PARK.—G. Peacock c Riley b Beech 5, W. Walker b Anson 5, F. James b Anson 4, B. Bloor run out 12, L. Kirkham c Stonier b Anson 0, C. Turner c W. T. Sumnall b Anson 3, J. S. Rane c Riley b Beech 1, G. Aleock b Anson 0, D. Rane b Anson 1, J. Goldstraw not out 6, C. Davies b Beech 0, extras 5; total, 42.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

KNYPPERSLEY v. NORTON.

NORTON.—R. Hill b Caddy 0, W. Martin c Colclough b Hancock 6, S. Dawson b Slaney 12, E. Waterfall c Slaney b Hancock 16, C. Bishop b Hancock 67, W. Cooke b Caddy 0, W. Hurst c Hancock b Caddy 1, A. Smith c Ayres b Doorbar 5, W. Mould b Hancock 12, W. Davis not out 7, E. Worthington lbw b Hancock 1; extras 6; total 123.

KNYPPERSLEY.—H. Green c Hurst b Davis 48, C. Slaney run out 7, J. Colclough run out 5, R. Bates run out 0, J. Peacock b Davis 8, J. Hancock c Waterfall b Davis 2, F. Finney c Bloor b Hill 14, G. Caddy b Hill 2, J. C. Maynard b Hill 0, A. Ayres not out 6, N. Doorbar c and b Cooke 0, extras 4; total 94.

GIFAT CHELL v. LONGTON.

LONGTON.—G. L. Smith b Birenough 3, F. Audley c Yeamans b Birenough 2, C. Steele run out 5, J. Dennis c Taylor b Warburton 13, T. O'Brien b Taylor (J.) 1, J. Siddon b Smith 8, R. Dearing lbw b Warburton 6, R. Wootley not out 6, A. Poate c and b Smith 8, A. Bradbury c Iams b Smith 1, H. Peers c Warburton b Smith 4, extras 8; total 66.

GREAT CHELL.—R Harris b Smith 17, R Smith c Smith b Bradbury 6, 6, Brayford c Dennis b Bradbury 4, W Youmans b Denning 1, W Goodwin c Steele b Peers 14, A Birtles b Smith 7, 7, J Taylor b Smith 2, T Warburton run out 25, W Tams c Poate b Peers 0, A J Smith c and b Peers 0, Bircenhough not out 11, extras 9; total 96.

BURSLEM v. NANTWICH.

NANTWICH.—G H Mayer c Fenton b Kirkham 4, B S Dutton b Fenton 0, T Boston c Fenton 5, W Walker c Hodgkiss b Kirkham 1, J Jackson b Fenton 5, A Hinde b Fenton 6, C Hall b Kirkham 4, T W Hope b Fenton 0, H Garner c Fenton b Kirkham 8, J Allsop c Fenton 1, J Bell not out 2, extras 5; total 53.

BURSLEM.—J Fenton c Allsop b Bell 7, J Hodgkiss c Hinde b Garner 5, H Cotton c Hinde b Garner 0, H Sharpe b Garner 20, J Ellis c and b Hall 23, E Bailey b Garner 0, Johnson c Hinde b Allsop 12, A Cartledge c Allsop 0, P Kirkham not out 5, G Smith b Garner 0, W Fenton b Garner 0, extras 5; total 77.

LEEK v. SILVERDALE.

LEEK.—J Hulme b Greene 2, F Sheldon b S Jones 10, A Plant run out 5, H R Plant b Burgess 0, H Hyme b Jones 1, S Pointon c Cooke b Jones 5, H Alcock c Cooke b Jones 0, J Williamson b Jones 4, P Mason not out 0, A Bullock b Jones 0, A Ball b Jones 0, extras 13; total, 49.

SILVERDALE.—W Lowe b Ball 0, J Cooke b Alcock 0, J O Davis at Bullock b A Plant 35, F Burgess at Bullock b A Plant 23, P Moor b A Plant 12, S Saunders at Bullock b A Plant 5, H Groen c Williamson b A Plant 6, C Edge not 8, S Jones not out 10, extras 2; total (for 7 wks), 101.

Junior Division.—Section "B."

CHEADLE v. AUDLEY.

AUDLEY.—A Broadbent c Powell 3, G Taylor c Taylor b Mason 23, L Cook at Bentley b Powell 22, J Shaker b Barker 11, F McEllin c Lowndes b Mason 6, J Bateman lbw b Powell 9, W Edge c Powell b Alcock 18, F Jervis c Bentley b Alcock 23, C McEllin not out 11, P Mayer c and b Alcock 1. D McEllin lbw b Alcock 1, extras 10; total 141.

CHEADLE.—W Alcock b Taylor 13, A Plant c Taylor b Shuke 8, A Whitohurst c D McEllin b Taylor 4, D Powell not out 23, B Barker b D McEllin 7, W Bentley c D McEllin b Taylor 16, W Westwood lbw b Taylor 0, E Sales lbw b Taylor 0, R Mason b Taylor 0, G Malbon not out 0, extras 4; total 75.

CAVERSALL v. STONE.

STONE.—J Devaney c Farmer b Payne 8, E Slinn b E W Poate 0, P C Dutton b W Payne 0, L Ravenscroft b W Payne 2, J E Hunking b W Payne 0, C Wood c Stanley b Payne 0, J S Johnson b J Tabbinor 7, G Deyes b W Payne 0, F T Bowdidge c and b W Payne 10, W Shenton b Hamnett 4, H Poole not out 4, extras 6; total 41.

CAVERSALL.—G Freeman c Bowdidge b Deyes 10, W Stanley b Shenton 7, R Dunn c Slinn b Deyes 40, F W Poate c Poole b Bowdidge 19, S Farmer b Poole 14, T Hamnett not out 20, T Gott c Shenton b Wood 11, extras 4; total (for 8 wks) 125.

BETLEY v. BURSLEM HIGH LANE.

BETLEY.—C Johnson b Stone 37, M W Jones c Edge b Roberts 13, G Mainwaring c and b Stone 3, F Brookshaw c Stone b Jackson 11, H Leese c Shaw b Jackson 4, T Burgess b Stone 0, G Griffiths not out 27, S Wagstaff c Edge b Stone 0, J Brooks b Stone 1, A Bailey c Hines b Stone 8, J Carter run out 1, extras 2; total, 107.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE.—E Jackson run out 0, W Edge b Jones 6, H Stone c Mainwaring b Carter 29, S Porter b Carter 0, T Talbot lbw b Carter 2, A Boulton c Brooks b Jones 25, W Lardley b Burgess 4, A Roberts run out 0, C Hines c Carter b Brookshaw 1, T Clayton b Carter 22, J Shaw not out 0, extras 8; total, 97.

ALSAGERS BANK v. ONNELEY.

ALSAGERS BANK.—R Proctor b A Davis 4, G Nadin b Walsh 0, J Taylor b Walsh 4, G Jolley b A Davis 4, W Bailey b Walsh 0, F W Tomkinson c Lewis b A Davis 2, H Rowley not out 9, W Moores c Hollins b A Davies 0, F Wainwright b C Davies 1, F Proctor run out 1, A G Wainwright b A Davies 1, extras 7; total 55.

ONNELEY.—A Davis c Rowley b Tomkinson 5, C Davies c Proctor b Tomkinson 0, W Williams c J Wainwright b A G Wainwright 1, J Pealey b A G Wainwright 2, S Walsh b A G Wainwright 6, G Davie c Bailey b J Wainwright 0, A Lewis b A G Wainwright 13, A Brock c and b A G Wainwright 0, S Routledge b Tomkinson 9, A Hollins not out 4, J Morrey b Tomkinson 2, extras 6; total 53.

MADDELEY v. FENTON.

MADDELEY.—S Young c Pennington b T Naylor 39, F Price c Porter 1, P Deeming c Jackson b H Naylor 15, S Buckley c Porter b T Naylor 9, J Jackson b H Naylor 0, extras 11; total 74.

c Jeffries b Deany 0, G Salmon c Jeffries 0, T Naylor 6, L Clarke run out 7, C Morrey c Pennington b T Naylor 0, S Rowley c Pennington b T Naylor 0, A Holland not out 10, extras 9; total, 104.

FENTON.—J Sutton run out 2, J Pennington b Beech 21, J Retchford c Harrison b Price 7, T Naylor c Young b Beech 0, V Dennis b Beech 0, H Naylor c Beech b Hueley 9, H Bettamy b Price 2, T Porter b Hueley 0, H Steele b Price 0, D Jeffries not out 8, C Hawkins run out 5, extras 4; total, 58.

UTTONETER v. CHURCH GRESLEY.

CHURCH GRESLEY.—C Eaton b Hutchinson 34, J Shillito b Hutchinson 41, H Slater c Crickshanks b Hutchinson 2, G Yates b Hutchinson 10, R Turner b Hutchinson 0, G Green c Bamford b Sandham 3, T Sabine run out 1, J Miller c Doran b Hutchinson 0, H Cantrell b Sandham 3, W Sabine b Hutchinson 2, G Fairbrother not out 8, extras 5; total, 109.

UTTONETER.—J Hutchinson c T Sabine b Turner 14, J Merrick b T Sabine f F Hensman b T Sabine 4, Cant. H J Bamford b Turner 2, E Crickshank not out 41, F C Sandham b T Sabine 1, O Doan b T Sabine 26, F Harter b T Sabine 17, extras 3; total (for 7 wks), 117.

TWYFORDS v. BIRCHES HEAD.

BIRCHES HEAD.—H Moreton b Peake 6, H Wood c Lovatt b Briggs 0, J Jones at Ellis b Briggs 2, G E Walker run out 19, H Sage not out 25, R Knight b H Toft 4, J Brandrick b Peake 2, D Knight b Morris 2, J Cartledge lbw b Briggs 4, A Cwley c Simpson b Briggs 0, P Cone c Lovatt b Milligan 2, extras 2; total, 68.

TWYFORDS.—A E Morris b Wood 0, H Lovatt b Wood 1, W Ellis c Brandrick b Wood 7, T Briggs b Wood 0, F Hughes c Brandrick b Wood 0, A Simpson c Jones b Cartledge 6, H Toft b Jones 10, J Peake b Jones 7, H Oliver b Jones 0, R Milligan c and b Cartledge 0, R Banks not out 10, extras 4; total, 45.

CONGLETON v. POYNTON.

POYNTON.—Needham b Elkin 13, O Wainwright b Preston 0, W Booth b Elkin 1, A Swallow b Preston 21, G Dawson lbw b Preston 6, H Booth b Preston 0, W Dawson not out 17, J Jennions c Elkin b Preston 0, Beswick b Elkin 2, H Dakin c and b Elkin 0, J Daniels b Elkin 20, extras 29; total, 109.

CONGLETON.—R Reynolds c Wainwright b G Dawson 19, G C Biggs not out 67, C Sheldom b G Dawson 33, S Clarke c Swallow b Dakin 0, J Preston c W Dawson b Daniels 8, A Hancock b Daniels 0, W Wright b Dakin 0, J Elkin b Needham 5, extras 10; total (for 7 wickets), 142.

HARPFIELD v. NORTON BRIDGE.

HARPFIELD.—Johnson 16, Mandley 4, Turner 1, Emery 4, Evans 0, Morgan 10, Morley 2, Heath 3, Rogers not out 1, Sheridan 0, Morrall 0, extras 12; total, 53.

NORTON BRIDGE.—Clarke 0, Vivenash 6, Talbot 4, Keen 0, Woolf 5, Kent 4, Addison 0, Jones 4, Clarke not out 1, Blakeman 0, Meddings 0, extras 4; total, 23.

TUNSTALL & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

TAYLOR'S ATHLETIC v. HARRISEAHEAD.

HARRISEAHEAD.—E Stanier b Skelding 1, S Hughes b Skelding 6, Shuttlebotham c Dunn b Hodson 11, W Stanier b Hodson 0, H Copehand c Dunn b Hodson 0, Hancock not out 0, Butler b C Skelding 0, J Hughes c Dunn b Hodson 11, Jos. Hughes c J Stanyer b Hodson 1, A Cope and run out 2, Rowbottom b Bourne 1, extras 7; total, 40.

TAYLOR'S ATHLETIC.—Dunn lbw b Butler 2, J Stanyer b Butler 14, C Skelding c and b Rowbottom 14, Hodson not out 6, extras 7; total (for 3 wks), 43.

FENTON AMATEURS v. LEYCETT.

FENTON AMATEURS.—B Derricott b Spender 2, T Lawton run out 0, J Evans b Hough 0, N Draycott b Hough 2, J Barnett c Hill b Hough 7, P Grindly c Hazeldine b Hough 2, H Brown b Hough 0, J Colclough not out 13, J Calcott lbw b Hough 2, H Brookhouse b Hough 1, H Berrisford b Spender 0, extras 4; total, 35.

LEYCETT.—C Spender b Calcott 2, A Bytheway b Calcott 2, G Moreton b Calcott 0, E Elliott b J Evans 1, J Hazeldine b N Draycott 16, P Spender c and b J Evans 25, J Hill not out 14, W Edwards c Berrisford b Draycott 11, extras 7; total (for 7 wks), 78.

BERRYHILL v. BUCKNALL.

BERRYHILL.—J Hulce c Myatt b Forrester 1, W Brown run out 0, E Taylor lbw b Hawthorne 0, A Smith b Forrester 3, B Fowers b Finney 47, F Clowes run out 10, P Moss not out 23, A Brown c Peacock b Finney 2, T Dale c Gould c Finney 3, E Rowley c Finney b Hawthorne 0, J Johnson c Forrester b Finney 2, extras 5; total 107.

BUCKNALL.—J Williams c Drake b Smith 5, E Jackson c Smith b Taylor 2, G Clarke c Smith b Johnson 3, F Myatt b Taylor 10, H Peacock b Johnson 2, J Finney b Taylor 5, H Hawthorne b Johnson 2, G Gould b Johnson

1, A Jones b Taylor 6, R Burton lbw b Johnson 1, G Forrester not out 0; total 37.

BUTT LANE v. STAFFS. CHEMICAL CO.

STAFFS. CHEMICAL CO.—A Archer c J Wright b Hancock 70, W Hawkins c F Cliffe b Talbot 3, C Clewes hit wicket b Talbot 10, H Lawton b Talbot 0, W Gardner b Hancock 2, J Shaw b Hancock 10, W Hassall lbw b Talbot 0, J Roberts b Talbot 0, J Lowndes b Hancock 1, A James b Talbot 3, H Simpson not out 0, extras 7; total 106.

BUTT LANE.—J Wright b Clewes 0, A Boulton c James b Clewes 1, E Campbell c Simpson b Clewes 6, E Talbot b Simpson 13, G Bailey b Simpson 0, G Boulton b Simpson 17, J Hancock b Lawton 6, W Cumberbatch b Clewes 1, D Daniels b Clewes 0, F Cliffe not out 0, J Cumberbatch lbw b Clewes 0, extras 7; total, 51.

OTHER MATCHES.

STAFFORD v. CANNOCK.

STAFFORD.—G Greatorex 11, F Page 13, J T W Neville 45, W T White 5, G H Foley 11, A S Webb 25, S H Critchley 5, A Ward 0, J L Page not out 23, E C Kenworthy 11, D H C Craig not out 2, extras 11 total (for 9 wks), 162. Innings declared closed.

CANNOCK.—J Morris 7, F Wapples 11, B B Davies 9, F Higgs 2, W E Boot 1, H G Gallatley not out 51, R Kins 6, C Hawkyard 12, F Whyldie 6, J Hassall 4, F Edgington not out 0, extras 25; total (for 9 wks), 135.

WESLEY PLACE v. BUCKNALL P.M.

WESLEY PLACE.—A Boulton 24, A Butters 33, G Barrett 43, K Featherstone 14, J Smith 0, L Barber 30, G McFarlane 14, C Meir not out 0, A Richards 1, extras 14; total (for 8 wks), 182.

BUCKNALL P.M.—A Birch 0, A Wyatt 2, D Birch 1, W Hayward 5, R Bailey 0, R Hayward 3, W Tinsley 0, D Cordal 0, A Hallam 0, T Edwards not out 0, extras 5; total 16.

BOURNE P.M. v. CAVERSALL "A."

CAVERSALL.—H Tunnicliffe 0, G Hirst 5, J Barnett 0, G J R Francis 6, R Grier 5, G Derbyshire 0, A Farmer 4, W Mills 0, K Baxter 0, Downs not out 0, extras 1; total 30.

BOURNE P.M.—J Lustman 0, W Bennett 8, W Hine 6, W Sankey 1, W L Evans 21, A Hallam 1, J Allen 1, W Allen 0, W Heath 2, T Boden 0, E Collis not out 1, extras 5; total 46.

SANDBACH v. ASTON.

ASTON.—C Wellenden b Stonier 12, J J Farber b Dean 12, H Williams c Hilditch b Stonier 8, H Smeock b Stonier 15, W Haslam b Maskelyne 18, C McMorran b Stonier 25, J Williams b Maskelyne 16, H Robinson b Stonier 6, T A George b Stonier 5, T Johnson b Stonier 0, W Borton not out 2, extras 8; total, 127.

SANDBACH.—H P Rigby c and b Johnson 4, G Riddell b Johnson 5, A Orme c Haslam b H Williams 15, F Maskelyne c Farber b J Williams 14, J W Hilditch run out 39, E Stonier b Borton 5, W J Rossin b Johnson 11, E Ransell c George b McMorran 3, R Gotsell c and b A E Jennings b Borton 0, R Dean c Williams b Borton 0, extras 3; total, 107.

WESTON v. WHEELLOCK BROTHERHOOD.

WHEELLOCK.—A Hatton 4, J Clowes 1, W Davies 3, H Cooke 31, H Gibson 30, W Vetchus 7, G Griffiths 1, A Bourne 8, J Davies 0, E Owen 2, J Ayres not out 4, extras 1; total, 92.

WESTON.—C Henshall 0, R Bolton 0, S Sherratt 0, W Broshaw 4, E Larre 0, C Henshall (inn.) 3, G Sherratt 0, J Kettle 0, N Clarke 0, C Dodd not out 0; total, 11.

MARKET DRAYTON HIGH SCHOOL v. NEWCASTLE ORME SCHOOL.

For Newcastle, Darlington took seven wickets for 17 runs. Scores:—

MARKET DRAYTON.—R Tompkins, c Green b Henner 20, E Huntbach c Wardle b Darlington 0, J V Trickett run out 3, W C Davies c Taylor b Henney 0, G Preston b Darlington 8, R O Beeton b Darlington 0, R A. Hardy c Lewis b Darlington 4, J C Ratcliffe b Darlington 0, W T. Cooke c Tapley b Darlington 2, Hollingworth c Wardle b Darlington 0, S A Pooce not out 0, extras 13; total 50.

NEWCASTLE.—J Graham not out 33, J Lewis lbw b Tompkins 4, R Tapley b Preston 11, F Beoch c Preston b Trickett 11, L Wardle c Cooke b Tompkins 1, R Darlington c Huntbach b Preston 0, K Platt not out 102, extras 18; total (for 5 wks) 185. B Land, C Taylor, Green and R Henney did not bat.

COUNTY CRICKET FINANCES

Staffordshire's Deficit

By THE CRITIC

The two prevailing notes in the harmonious gathering of supporters of county cricket, which constituted the annual meeting of the Staffordshire County Club at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke, on Monday, were somewhat conflicting, but there was equal unanimity of feeling in respect of both. Everyone was gratified and optimistic about the play of the county's representatives in the field, but everyone also agreed that the financial position was far from satisfactory.

Lord Lichfield presided over the meeting for the fourth year in succession, owing to the regretted absence of the President, Lord Dartmouth, whose interest in the welfare of the club remains as wholehearted as ever, though his health does not permit him to attend its meetings. The company included Sir Francis Joseph, Dr. T. D. Jones, Messrs. W. C. Hancock, G. T. Bagguley, Bernard Meakin, H. J. Plant, R. Cadman, R. Prince, P. F. Stubbs, G. F. H. Bowers, J. Inskip, J. A. Burt, J. D. Appleby, J. H. Mayer, A. C. Hawkins (hon. assist. treasurer), and G. A. F. Bagguley and L. H. Hancock (hon. secretary and hon. assistant secretary respectively). A number of apologies for absence were received, including one from the hon. treasurer, Major John Kent.

Last Season's Success

In their annual report the committee expressed pleasure in the fact that after an interval of six years, the club again won the championship of the minor counties. This is the sixth occasion on which the success has been achieved, the years being as follow:—1906, 1908, 1911, 1920, 1921 and 1927, while in 1914 Staffordshire were at the head of the table when the competition was abandoned.

It is, the report stated, a matter of satisfaction that it was possible to put in the field a more regular team than in the past few years. Twenty-four players were called upon, of whom six played in one match only, and six in two. Some excellent cricket was played during the season. The match on August 1 and 2, which virtually decided the championship, and in which Notts II. received their first defeat, was most enjoyable to many members and spectators. Sidney Barnes was again a prime factor in our success as he headed the Minor Counties' bowling averages, taking 81 wickets at a cost of 6.08 runs each, a better record even than in 1926. Reference was made to the commemoration dinner at Stoke in December, and the committee congratulated, on behalf of the club, the captain, Mr. J. B. Russell, and his team on their success. The report added: Financially, the club has suffered from the common misfortune of the wettest summer for many years. In addition, the number of unpaid subscriptions is unusually large, and continues to cause anxiety. Out of a total of 478 members, 90 subscriptions remain unpaid, and while this is so, it is difficult to present a favourable balance-sheet.

Regret was recorded at the loss by death of the Rev. P. E. Mainwaring, Mr. W. L. Ward, and Mr. C. Keeling, and thanks to the committees and officials of the L.M.S. Railway (Stoke), Porthill, Westbromwich, and Wolverhampton clubs for their kindness in providing their grounds, and for the organisation and assistance freely rendered; as well as to the football authorities and football clubs who have been so willing to help the county club's finances during the past winter. Among other schemes, the sum of £19 was realised by collections on the Port Vale and Stoke City grounds.

In addition to the renewal of last season's fixtures, the committee had provided a still more attractive programme by arranging a match with the West Indians, which will be played at Stoke. This will incur a material financial responsibility, and the committee appealed for adequate support. "Last year our XI. played their part in again winning the championship; the committee would like to feel that this year the members will take their part in providing the necessary income." The list of fixtures has already been given in the "Advertiser."

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hawkins presented the annual statement of accounts, and a report by the Treasurer. The accounts showed that the receipts amounted to £901 15s. 4d., including subscriptions £487 2s. 6d., gate receipts £378 3s. 4d., and collections £25 4s. 1d. The expenditure amounted to £1,064 15s. 3d., including match expenses £756 10s. 6d., entertainments tax £57 15s. 10d., printing, stationery, and advertising £113 1s. 4d., cost of dinner, Barnes' testimonial, and souvenirs to team £39 7s., and Bank charges £35 0s. 8d. The adverse balance of £491 7s. 3d. on March 31, 1927, was increased to £654 7s. 2d., so that the loss on the season was £163.

In his report, the Treasurer stated that the loss was due to bad weather. At the matches against Cheshire at Porthill and North Wales at Stoke, the receipts were £28 7s. 6d., and the expenses £167 11s. 9d., including the guarantee of £50 to North Wales. Though an extra home match was played, the gate receipts were £52 8s. 6d. less than in 1926. The two matches in the south of the county yielded better results, and it seemed that they were within measurable distance of making these matches pay. It was fortunate for the club that August Bank Holiday week was fine, a sum of £253 9s. 7d. being taken at the two matches. Of the increase of £106 in match expenses, £94 was accounted for by the North Wales match. Subscriptions had increased by £36 17s., but there were 82 subscriptions still unpaid. In this connection, the Treasurer added that he had had more work than usual in getting in subscriptions and appealed to members to pay early. Last year's expenditure included non-recurring items to the amount of about £54. In view of the guarantee of £100 given to the West Indians, it was essential that more members should be obtained, and the Bank were asking for guarantors for the overdraft.

Defaulting Members

Lord Lichfield moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and his congratulations to the players and the club on last season's success met with cordial endorsement. Remarking that one never quite knew what one was commemorating in the case of Barnes, because he had done so many wonderful things, his Lordship read a brief summary of the great bowler's achievements, with which the Hon. Secretary had supplied him, and which have been set out in these columns. It was, he said, an extraordinary record. The play of the team last year reached a high standard, and it was gratifying that it was possible to field a more regular side.

Turning to the finances, his Lordship commented on the large number of unpaid subscriptions, which was a serious matter for a club which was obliged to rely on subscriptions more than the uncertain income from gate-receipts. The club required a membership of at least 500, and they had worked up to 478, but taking off those who had not paid their subscriptions, it was under 400.

Lord Lichfield paid a warm tribute to the late Rev. P. E. Mainwaring, and Mr. W. L. Ward, and their great service to local as well as county cricket. He tickled the curiosity of the meeting by saying he had received a communication in verse from Lord Dartmouth, which, however, he did not propose to read, but which they would, no doubt, be able to enjoy later. In reply to a suggestion by Sir Francis Joseph that the poem should be read, his Lordship said the President had handed him an addition to it a few days ago, but even now it did not appear to be finished. (Laughter.) No doubt it would be forthcoming in due course.

Discussion on the financial position and the unpaid subscriptions was taken part in by Mr. Cadman, Sir Francis Joseph, Mr. Meakin, and others. Mr. Cadman thought the personal touch was needed, and that people who, probably from carelessness, ignored a reminder

through the post, would readily subscribe if personally asked, in proof of which he stated that having secured a number of new members he was informed that 10 of these had not subscribed. In the last few days he had been able to mention it to six, all of whom had at once handed him their subscriptions.

The Chairman asked whether the defaulters were new members or old, and the Secretary stated that they were something like equally divided. Various suggestions were made for dealing with the situation, and the matter was left to the committee, the Treasurer's appeal for the early payment of subscriptions being emphasised.

The report and accounts were adopted, and an appeal by the Chairman for offers to relieve the club of part, at least, of the guarantee to the West Indians, resulted in about £50 being privately guaranteed in the room.

Election of Officers

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Lord Dartmouth as president, and remarked that they owed a good deal to the President for their success in securing a visit from the West Indians. Tributes to Lord Dartmouth's services were paid by Sir Francis Joseph and others, and Mr. G. T. Bagguley stated that his Lordship had now held the office nearly 40 years. The proposal was very cordially agreed.

The vice-presidents were re-elected, with the omission of the late Rev. P. E. Mainwaring, the late Mr. W. L. Ward, and Sir Hill Child, who resigned on leaving the county. Lord Stafford was elected a vice-president.

The committee was also re-elected, with the substitution of Mr. C. A. Hall and Mr. S. Gleaves, for the late Mr. C. Keeling and Mr. W. L. Edwards.

The following hon. officials were re-elected: Treasurer, Major John Kent; assistant treasurer, Mr. A. C. Hawkins; secretary, Mr. G. A. F. Bagguley; assistant secretary, Mr. L. W. Hancock; auditor, Mr. C. E. Bullock.

Resignation of the Captain

Lord Lichfield announced that Mr. J. B. Russell had intimated that he would not be at liberty to play regularly, if at all, this year, and would, therefore, be unable to accept the captaincy. This was a matter for regret, for Mr. Russell had rendered valuable service, and his place would not be easy to fill.

The Secretary stated that Mr. Russell had been uncertain as to what matches he would be able to play in, but he had that morning received a communication from Mr. Russell, in which he stated that the only dates he could give were for one match in August. Mr. Russell wrote that it was with much regret that he had to give up what, during the last few seasons had been a great pleasure to him.

The question of the election of a captain was left in the hands of the committee.

NORTH STAFFS. AND DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE.

Leek Batsman's Century: Fenton Bowler's Amazing Feat.

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS AND TABLES.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Nantwich	2	2	0	0	4
Knyppersley	2	1	0	1	3
Leek	2	1	0	1	3
Norton	2	1	0	1	2
Bignall End	2	1	1	0	2
Burslem	2	1	1	0	2
Crewe Alexandra	2	1	1	0	2
Longton	2	1	1	0	2
Great Chell	2	0	1	1	1
L.M. and S. Ry. (Stoke)	2	0	1	1	1
Silverdale	2	0	1	1	1
Porthill Park	2	0	2	0	0

Crewe Alexandra, 135 for nine; L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 51.
 Nantwich, 112 for six; Burslem 74.
 Bignall End, 118 for six; Porthill Park, 116.
 Leek, 210 for four (declared); Silverdale, 115 for two.
 Norton, 187 for seven (declared); Knyppersley, 140 for nine.
 Longton, 174 for seven (declared); Great Chell, 124.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Cheadle	2	2	0	0	4
Fenton	2	2	0	0	4
Sandyford	2	2	0	0	4
Stone	2	2	0	0	4
Alsagers Bank	2	1	1	0	2
Betley	2	1	1	0	2
Burslem High Lane	2	1	1	0	2
Caverswall	2	1	1	0	2
Ashcombe Park	2	0	2	0	0
Audley	2	0	2	0	0
Kidzrove	2	0	2	0	0
Madeley	2	0	2	0	0

Fenton, 62; Madeley, 56.
 Cheadle, 124 for nine; Audley, 120.
 Burslem High Lane, 160; Betley, 92.
 Stone, 132 for four; Caverswall, 115.
 Sandyford, 140; Kidzrove, 68.
 Alsagers Bank, 74; Ashcombe Park, 42.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burslem	2	2	0	0	4
Great Chell	2	2	0	0	4
Norton	2	2	0	0	4
Porthill Park	2	1	0	1	3
Crewe Alexandra	2	1	1	0	2
Knyppersley	2	1	1	0	2
Nantwich	2	1	1	0	2
Silverdale	2	1	1	0	2
Leek	2	0	1	1	1
Bignall End	2	0	2	0	0
L.M. and S. Ry. (Stoke)	2	0	2	0	0
Longton	2	0	2	0	0

Crewe Alexandra, 135; L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 51.
 Burslem, 77; Nantwich, 55.
 Porthill Park, 109; Bignall End, 55.
 Silverdale, 101 for seven; Leek, 49.
 Norton, 123; Knyppersley, 94.
 Great Chell, 95; Longton, 66.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Betley	2	2	0	0	4
Caverswall	2	2	0	0	4
Madeley	2	2	0	0	4
Audley	2	2	0	0	4
Alsagers Bank	2	1	1	0	2
Scot. Hay	2	1	1	0	2
Stone	2	1	1	0	2
Audley	2	0	1	1	1
Cheadle	2	0	1	1	1
Burslem High Lane	2	0	2	0	0
Fenton	2	0	2	0	0
Sandyford	2	0	2	0	0

Madeley, 104; Fenton, 58.
 Audley, 141; Cheadle, 75 for eight.
 Betley, 107; Burslem High Lane, 97.
 Caverswall, 125 for six; Stone, 41.
 Scot. Hay, 88; Sandyford, 65.
 Onneley, 58; Alsagers Bank, 55.

CRICKET was played under almost ideal conditions last Saturday, and the games provided some excellent sport. Run-getting was again above normal, and one batsman took the opportunity to make the season's first century. The player to get the distinction was Arthur Rider, of Leek, who took 110 (not out) from Silverdale's bowling. His success was a popular one, for Rider has long been recognised as one of the district's soundest batsmen, and it was a delightful circumstance that he should so early in the season find his form. The palm of the best bowling performance went to a much younger player, J. Wood, of Fenton, who accomplished an amazing feat by disposing of six Madeley wickets in the course of 32 deliveries, for no runs. Results in the top section left Nantwich as the only team which has not already lost a point, and as they disposed of Burslem just as easily as they accounted for Bignall End, they are obviously out to retain the championship.

RAILWAY CLUBS MEET.

The clashing of the Railway Clubs—Stoke L.M.S. and Crewe Alexandra—saw Stoke representatives beaten by eight wickets. The losing side commenced badly, as a wicket fell in the first over, and three were down for 18. Save for a stand which provided 17 for the fourth wicket, no recovery was made, the Alexandra's well-handled attack, making the batting appear feeble. E. Woodhall took five wickets, in the course of four overs, for seven runs, Fred Walker had two for 10, H. Sedgwick two for 19 and C. Coffin one for four. With only 52 runs wanted, a win for the Cheshire side was always assured, and it came after J. Holland had been bowled by R. Partridge and H. Hope (4) had fallen to a catch. The batsmen to excel were Munro Walker (46), Fred Walker (28) and C. Coffin (26).

Burslem's innings at Nantwich was one tense struggle for runs, which at no time came freely. As W. T. Maybury was not well, he did little bowling, but the return of L. Haighton meant another acceptable partner for E. H. Steventon, and the pair were much too good for Burslem. In point of quality, though not numbers, the best batting came from Burslem's youngest player, B. Hollowood, who set up a defence which was difficult to overcome. The highest scorer was R. Hollowood (16), and he was unfortunate to be out to a splendid running catch in the long field by J. E. Smith. Haighton bowled remarkably well to take five wickets for 33 runs, and Steventon was as clever and accurate as usual, whilst claiming five for 31. The bowlers were finely supported by F. E. Hough, whose wicket-keeping had the hall-mark of class. Nantwich's batting was again opened by L. E. Norton and J. B. Swindale, and the pair reached 46 before Swindale (15) was bowled by C. Turncliffe, and Burslem's bowling had no other reward until after the match had been won. Norton and T. W. Steventon (26) carrying the score to 85 for two wickets. Norton batted finely for 41. The game was won by six o'clock, and in the remaining play a few more wickets were thrown away lightly and heartily. R. Hollowood finished with good figures, having four wickets for 29 runs.

PORTHILL MASTERED.

Bignall End were good winners at Wolstanton, the home team's batting being disappointing, and their bowling lacking quality. Six players reached double figures, but no innings of greater value than 22 was played, the side never getting over the bad start which saw three wickets go for 25. The best batting, and the top score, came from J. S. Heath, and S. Billington (16) made an acceptable debut as a first team player, whilst G. Price (11, not out) and J. Durber were useful in improving affairs after eight wickets had gone for 92. In the absence of Dr. A. Riley, Bignall End were considered to be weak in bowling, but F. J. Dale (four for 49), kept one end going throughout, and D. White (four for 31) and L. McEllin (two for 17) were able to give all the help that was needed. The home team had a spasm of hope when H. Gleaves had bowled McEllin and W. Beech with only 13 runs scored, but the next partnership, that of A. E. Bratby and A. Booth, gave Bignall End a grip on the game which they never relaxed. Bratby showed that the flight of time has not dulled his defensive powers and Booth batted in style which suggested that in him Bignall End have obtained a recruit who will strengthen their ranks considerably. Booth remained until the aggregate had reached 71, and his 33 runs were got in excellent fashion, his forcing strokes to the on being particularly good. Bratby left with his personal score at 29, and he can take credit that his unwearied defence was a prime cause of Porthill's downfall. S. Hassall showed promising form for 11 (not out), and Dale and White assisted him creditably. Gleaves bowled steadily to take two wickets for 22, and J. S. Heath had three for 24 giving more trouble than any other bowler. Durber never got going, and his work was a big remove from that of two seasons ago. Bignall End were the superior all-round side.

Bowlers had a bad time at Silverdale, where only six wickets were captured, and they cost

nearly fifty runs apiece. The outstanding features of the match were A. Rider's grand innings and Leek's big first-wicket stand. Rider was, of course concerned in this, and his partner was C. Hambleton, who had 50 as his share of the 99 runs put on. Both men played admirably, and Hambleton justified the judgment of those who regard him as one of the most likely of Leek's younger cricketers. Rider batted throughout the 24 hours which the innings occupied in skilful fashion. He had 16 fours in his 110 (not out). Naturally, none of the Silverdale bowlers had a good record, E. Groome doing best with two wickets for 34. Silverdale had two hours' batting, and the opening partnership of A. Ward and J. C. Cooper went a long way towards saving the game for them. Both men played stubbornly, and they collected 44 before Ward was out for 22. A further prolonged stand by Cooper and C. F. Rushton determined that there would be no decision, the total standing at 94 when Rushton (18) was dismissed. Cooper took out his bat for 46, a thoroughly sound innings. H. Birch had a remarkable bowling analysis, which read 20 overs, 14 maidens, 11 runs and one wicket.

NORTON BAULKED.

On a perfect batting wicket, Norton and Knyppersley were unable to arrive at a definite decision but the home team took the honours of the game. The visitors had one piece of bad luck, their captain, E. Mosedale, spraining an ankle, and so having his bowling limited to five overs. Norton had done none too well when their fourth wicket went at 50, but S. Smith, who was misused with his score at four, went on to make 52, and cooperate with E. Mayer in a stand which added 75 for the fifth wicket. Smith's display was not one of his best, as it included a number of faulty strokes. Mayer's was a better innings, his 70 (not out) being obtained by delightful cricket. W. Lonsdale did the best work of five Knyppersley bowlers. Good batting for the visitors came from T. Bibby (26), W. Whitehead (33), Lonsdale (24) and H. Tue (21). Bibby and Whitehead held the fort for a lengthy period after two wickets had fallen for 13, the latter playing a particularly sound innings. Knyppersley were in danger when their ninth wicket fell, but Mosedale, who came in last, gallantly overcame his painful handicap, and assisted W. A. Goodwin to bat out time. Three wickets fell to H. Higgins for 22 runs, whilst Mayer and J. Martin each had two successes.

Longton's form against Great Chell was a vast improvement on the previous week, and their victory was well earned. The Dresden ground was in perfect condition, and its appearance was enhanced by the new pavilion. The home team took first innings, and had a fine lead by C. Edwards and A. L. Day, who gathered 64 for the first wicket. Edwards then being caught and bowled for 33, compelled by good scoring strokes all round the wicket. Day remained to make his score into 46, a most valuable innings, which included six boundaries. He made several fine drives, and his placing on the leg side was very clever. The "fireworks" were supplied by J. V. Toney and A. Kent, who came together with the score at 134 for six, and added 40 in twenty minutes. Toney hit up 23 and Kent 18 (not out), and each man had four boundaries. Chall tried six bowlers, A. W. Ikin and U. Worthington faring best with two wickets each. The visitors lost six wickets for 47, but the collapse was stayed by W. Vorey (23) and Worthington, the pair watching the bowling carefully and missing few opportunities of scoring. The stand gathered 58 runs, and was terminated when Vorey was l.b.w. to Smith. Worthington was got rid of at 120, and Brassington soon disposed of the other two wickets. Longton winning with 25 minutes left for play. Worthington made 45, the highest and best innings of the side, his leg strokes being especially good. Five wickets fell to Brassington for 28 runs, and Smith had four for 61.

WOOD'S PERFORMANCE.

All other doings in the closely contested game between Fenton and Madeley were dwarfed by the wonderful bowling of J. Wood, which was no doubt the cause of Madeley's second defeat. Batting first, the visitors made a fair beginning through H. Wilkinson, E. Barlow and F. Clarke, but the advent of Wood had fatal results. Wood had a wicket in his first over, another in his second, two in his third, another in his fifth, and a sixth with the second ball of his sixth over. He hit the stumps four times, and his other two victims fell to catches behind the wicket. It was fortunate for Fenton that Wood was in such devastating fettle, for their own batting was rather an inglorious affair, and they were nine runs behind when their ninth wicket fell. The batsmen to rise to the occasion were D. Williams and A. Mellor, who put on 15 before the former was bowled. E. Malkin and A. Beech each took three Fenton wickets.

Audley made a poor start at Cheadle, losing four wickets for 23 runs, but J. C. McEllin afterwards found useful helpers in H. Sproston (14) and F. Bateman (19), and the aggregate reached 109 before the eighth wicket fell. McEllin batted carefully and skilfully for 37.

and in the last stages of the innings F. Darlington hit briskly for 22. J. Keates had four wickets for 30 and W. Brough four for 39. Cheadle began cautiously, but the board showed 56 runs when the second wicket fell. J. Shaw (27) hit well, but in spite of his effort and Capewell's capital 39, eight men were out before the match was won. Audley's most successful bowler was H. McEllin (four wickets for 24).

Save for the last man, all the Barslem High Lane players made runs against Betley, and the chief stand was one of 58 runs for the fifth wicket, by T. Johnson (35) and S. Lovatt (25). There was another partnership for the ninth wicket, S. Durber (23) and A. Gaskell putting on 44. The most troublesome of Betley's bowlers was B. Madden (five for 42). The visitors lost two men before reaching double figures, but F. Lyth (22), J. Moores (15) and G. Shaw (26) gave them a fighting chance, only for the last six wickets to go for 26. High Lane tried four bowlers, and the best figures were the four for 34 of Durber.

STONE GOING STRONGLY.

Stone followed up their big victory at Kidsgrove with a convincing win over Caverswall, passing their opponents' useful total with six wickets in hand. F. Barber (43) was Caverswall's best scorer, but he was given a life before he had opened his account. The most skilful of Caverswall's batting came from E. Wakelin (17), and F. Hammett made a useful 15. J. Cooper (four for 25) was Stone's best bowler. With a perfect wicket, there was confidence that the home side would get the required runs, and S. C. Charlwood and F. Ravenscroft gave them a good start, carrying the score to 72 before Ravenscroft was bowled for a brilliant 45, which included seven boundaries. Charlwood stayed to carry his score to 37, and P. F. Stubbs contributed 21 (not out) in fine style. Wakelin had three wickets for 24, and was the only bowler to cause any real trouble.

Kidsgrove were outmatched by Sandyford, whose batting had a splendid recovery after four wickets had been lost for 33. The players responsible were Harold Mollart, A. Bourne and W. Parr, who had scores of 47, 48 and 25, respectively. Their cricket was characterised by free methods, boundaries coming frequently, and Mollart and Bourne put on no fewer than 115 for the fifth wicket. In such a long innings W. Cooper did well to take five wickets for 48 runs. Thanks to H. Cooper, who played a capital innings of 31, Kidsgrove fared well up to the fall of their third wicket, but the last six wickets fell for 21—one player being absent. Mollart had five wickets for 23 and Bourne four for 21.

The game at Ashcombe Park was the lowest scoring affair of all the senior matches, with Alsagers Bank's bowlers more deadly than those of the home team. W. Beech (12) was the Bank's top scorer, and the best stand of the afternoon was for the same side, 24 for the ninth wicket. F. James and L. Kirkham each took three wickets for the Park, the cost being nine and 16 runs, respectively. Only P. Blow (12) reached double figures for the home side, who found the attack of A. Anson (six wickets for 19) and Beech (three for 18) much too good.

JUNIOR DIVISION MATCHES.

As the Alexandra had one batsman who made more runs than L.M.S. Railway's full aggregate it follows that the visitors were utterly overplayed. The batsman to get the distinction was A. Sandlands, who made a sound 52. His match-winning ways were emulated by P. Wilbraham and C. Banks, the former having seven wickets for 12 and Banks three for 19.

The champions came a cropper at Cobridge, their batting collapsing in surprising fashion before the bowling of Fenton (six wickets for 26) and Kirkham (four for 22). Barslem won with six wickets standing, an excellent partnership by H. Sharpe (20) and F. Ellis (25) settling the issue. Although beaten, Nantwich had the most effective bowler of the game, H. Garner having six wickets for 14 runs.

At Bignall End, Porthill Park had four men out for half-a-dozen, but C. Buckerton (46) pulled the game round and had material assistance from E. Poole (25). For the home team, only F. Colclough (22) offered any resistance to the bowling of W. Washington (five for 12) and J. Chadwick (four for 21). For the losers L. Burgess accounted for four wickets for 31.

Leek were also soundly beaten, a complete collapse taking place after a change of bowling had brought S. Jones into action. This player got three wickets with his last five balls, his full figures being seven for 12. Silverdale lost their first two men for nothing, but J. O. Davis (35) and F. Burgess gave them an eight wickets victory.

A well-played innings of 57 by G. Bishop caused Norton to accumulate a winning score against Knypersley, whose chief wicket taker was J. Hancock (five for 47). Knypersley's chance of victory was reduced by three instances of men being run out, and H. Green's excellent innings of 46 got little backing. For the winners, W. Davis claimed three wickets for 11, and R. Hill three for 21.

Although Great Chell finally had an advantage of 30 runs over Longton, the end of the game was exciting, as four Chell wickets fell

at 60, and seven runs were needed when their last man went in. A. T. Smith (for the winners) took four wickets for 14, and for Longton H. Peers had three for 9.

A second wicket stand of 37 runs by S. Young (39) and P. Deening was the best thing about Madeley's batting against Fenton, for whom P. Naylor took four wickets for 21, including a "bat trick." Fenton's batting failed after J. Pennington had made 21, and three Madeley bowlers had cheap wickets, F. Preece's figures being three for 11.

Some level scoring gave Audley a winning aggregate against Cheadle, F. Jervis being top scorer with 26. The home team just managed to save the game. G. Taylor was Audley's most effective bowler with six wickets for 26, and for Cheadle, W. Alcock had four for 13.

H. Stone (six for 34) bowled well for High Lane at Betley, but he found too obstinate opponents in C. Johnson (37) and G. Griffiths (27, not out.) Due to Stone (29), A. Boulton (25) and T. Clayton (22) High Lane got within easy range of victory, but other batsmen failed and they finished 10 runs short.

Stone collapsed at Caverswall, their first six wickets dropping for a dozen. The damage was done by W. Payne (seven for 14). Caverswall hit off the runs for the loss of two wickets, R. Dunn batting splendidly for 40.

The highest runmaker at Scot Hay was one of the losing side, J. Jones hitting up 27, but the home team had the most dominant bowler, F. Thompson disposing of five Sandyford wickets for 12 runs.

R. Proctor (24) was responsible for just half of the runs at Alsagers Bank scored against Onneley, his companions finding the bowling of A. Davies (five for seven) and S. Welsh too good. G. Wainwright (five for 17) and F. W. Tomkinson (four for 19) made Onneley struggle for the runs, and the game was not won until the last pair were at the wickets.

CHESTER AND DISTRICT CRICKET.

Sensational Bowling at Boughton Hall.

BOUGHTON HALL scored one of the most brilliant wins in the history of the club on Saturday when they defeated Bromborough Pool as a result of some remarkable bowling. Boughton Hall batted first on an easy wicket, and scored 190 for nine. Bromborough found the Boughton Hall bowlers unplayable, and were all out for the paltry total of 18. The bowling honours were shared by Frost and L. N. Jones, whose figures were as follow:—

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Frost	5	3	2	5
Jones	5.5	2	11	5

No fewer than eight of the Bromborough side failed to score. Eight of the Boughton Hall players reached double figures, L. G. Hales (39) and H. Pratt (36) being the chief scorers.

Eaton Park entertained Aighurth, the game ending in a draw, but at the close the Park were in a favourable position.

Aighurth scored 135 for the loss of eight wickets, T. Oakey (52 not out) and C. Waddell (36) batting well. Eaton Park responded with 103 for three wickets, the chief scorers being Capt. Sykes (22 not out) and J. P'Anson (44 not out).

Shotton have thrown in their lot with the North Wales Cricket League, and on Saturday gained a sensational win at Colwyn Bay. The latter batted first and scored 235, towards which total C. A. Rowland contributed 127. Shotton, however, won with two wickets to spare, E. Higham scoring 105, and the club professional, Hall, 73.

Neston were at home to Wallasey in a Liverpool and District League match, and this proved to be one of the keenest of the afternoon's games. Wallasey hit up a total of 114. J. A. M'Entyre carrying his bat for 39. Neston began well, but collapsed badly, and were eventually beaten by ten runs.

Penyffordd gained a five wickets' victory over Wrexham.

BOUGHTON HALL KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

The draw has now been made for the Boughton Hall knock-out competition, and there are prospects of some interesting matches. The Committee have again decided to continue with the "over" system, and matches will be decided as a result of runs scored during twenty-four overs. The preliminary round will commence on Monday, when Helsby will be opposed by Hawarden Bridge. Helsby are past winners of the competition, and Hawarden Bridge last season won the Flintshire competition. The draw is as follows:—

Preliminary Round.—May 14th. Helsby v. Hawarden Bridge; 17th, Bodlestone v. St. John's; 21st, Ince v. King's School Old Boys.

First Round.—May 24th. Upton v. Tattenhall; 29th, Barrow v. Helsby or Hawarden Bridge; 31st, Helianth v. Waverton; June 4th, Brown's v. Brook Hirst; 7th, Christleton v. Y.M.C.A.; 11th, County School Old Boys v. County Officers; 14th, St. John's or Bodlestone v. R.A.F. (Sealand); 18th, King's School Old Boys or Ince v. Vernon Institute.

EATON PARK C.C.

Eaton Park have opened their programme in a manner which suggests they are in for a successful season. The Duke of Westminster (in whose park the club play) is again acting as President, Major Basil Kerr is captain, and Col. H. C. Lyon is deputy captain. Mr. H. E. Crane is again combining the dual offices of hon. secretary and treasurer, and he is assisted in the secretarial duties by Mr. E. K. Willett. Attractive fixtures have been arranged and, as usual, the majority will be played at home. The fixtures are as follow:—

May 12th, St. John's (h); 19th, Penyffordd (h); 26th, Upton and District; 28th, Bromborough Pool (h).

June 2nd, Helsby Athletic (h); 9th, Alvanley (h); 16th, St. John's (h); 23rd, Sefton Park (h); 30th, Odyssey (h).

July 7th, Doodleston (h); 14th, Houghton Hall 2nd XI. (h); 21st, Barrow (h); 28th, Bootle (h); August 4th, Trammere Wesley (h); 11th, Cholmondeley (h); 18th, Brook Hirst (h); 25th, Cammel Laird's (h).

September 1st, Boughton Hall (a); 6th, Chirk (h).

THE CHESTER LEAGUE.

The fixtures for the season are as follows:—

May 12th.—Shotton v. Llay Main

May 19th.—Rivertown v. Shotton; Llay Main v. Ellesmere Port Cement.

May 23th.—Rivertown v. Llay Main; Shotton v. Ellesmere Port Cement.

June 2nd.—Pontblyddyn v. Rivertown; Llay Main v. Shotton.

June 9th.—Ellesmere Port Cement v. Pontblyddyn.

June 16th.—Llay Main v. Pontblyddyn; Ellesmere Port Cement v. Rivertown.

June 23rd.—Pontblyddyn v. Shotton; Rivertown v. Ellesmere Port Cement.

June 30th.—Pontblyddyn v. Ellesmere Port Cement; Llay Main v. Rivertown.

July 7th.—Ellesmere Port Cement v. Shotton.

July 14th.—Shotton v. Rivertown; Ellesmere Port Cement v. Llay Main.

July 21st.—Pontblyddyn v. Llay Main.

July 28th.—Rivertown v. Pontblyddyn.

August 6th (Bank Holiday).—Liverpool League v. Chester League.

August 25th.—Shotton v. Pontblyddyn.

FENTON AND DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE.

Florence Bowler's Fine Feat.

Four matches were played on Saturday last in the Fenton and District Cricket League, and in each case the home team was successful.

The feature of the day's games was the excellent bowling feat of R. Roberts, of Florence Colliers, who secured eight wickets for nine runs, and was largely responsible for Rough Close being dismissed for 16 runs. Florence won easily.

The Trent Vale bowlers were also in form, dismissing Silverdale "A" for 23, after the home team had compiled 59. Leyceff defeated Longton "A" by 30 runs in a low scoring game.

In the remaining match, Fenton "A" scored 64 for 6 wickets, to which Bucknall replied with 61 for six. H. Skellern, jun., batted well for Fenton, scoring 37.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S CRICKET OUTLOOK.

The Club's Financial Position.

The Resignation of Mr. J. B. Russell.

(By "LOOKER-ON.")

IN JUST over a week, the Staffordshire County Cricket Club will embark upon its Minor Counties Championship programme, by entertaining Leicestershire II. at West Bromwich, and though from a playing point of view, there is much that really justifies a spirit of optimism, on the other hand it is regrettable to think that a club of the standing of Staffordshire should have to make a start with a millstone of debt round its neck. Everyone who takes an interest in the fortunes of the County Cricket Club will agree with the sentiments expressed at the annual meeting this week. It is indeed regrettable that last year's champions should have to commence the season with the worry of a big debit balance.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS.

One realises only too well that the atrocious weather last year played an important and disastrous part in diminishing the club's income, but even when the loss of £160 on the year is explained away by this cause, there still remains another contributory factor—the failure of certain members to fulfil their obligations and paying their subscriptions. This fact has been strongly emphasised by the Earl of Lichfield, who, with others, is an ardent supporter of the game, and one does not need to be a mathematician to realise that unless members are prepared to give the support which they have promised the club cannot function in the way it should. It may be that these defaulting members would, if approached, pay their subscriptions, but, at the same time, members who profess to take an interest in the club's affairs, should not need a reminder from the officials.

During the past two years, membership has certainly increased, and the Earl of Lichfield is sufficiently optimistic to think that with a little luck the Club may reach the high-water mark of 500 this year. Cricketers, and perhaps to a large extent followers of the game, are born optimists, and one can only hope for the best. The club has been striving for that 500 membership for a long time, but it will be useless if members fail to appreciate the important fact that a club cannot be run without financial resources.

CAPTAIN'S RETIREMENT.

Turning to another matter, everyone will regret that, because of business reasons, Mr. J. B. Russell is unable to take on the captaincy for another year, since about 1922, when he followed Mr. Berrard Meakin, he has proved a very capable and genial skipper. Last season he turned out with consistent regularity and was seen at his best in each and every game. He made 9 catches behind the wicket, and stumped 12 batsmen.



J. B. Russell.

As usual, the Club has a very attractive fixture list, and mainly through the instrumentality of that veteran sportsman, the Earl of Darbouth, who continues to take a keen interest in the "doings" of the County Club, we shall see a first-class game with the West Indies at Stoke on July 11th and 12th. As has been pointed out, this fixture incurs a big financial responsibility, and, therefore, it is up to everyone to see that it is a success. The club has to make a guarantee of £100 to the West Indies, and, I understand, a list of guarantors has been opened. The same counties will be met in competitive games, but in the away matches naturally the venues have been changed. The full list of fixtures

is appended. From this it will be seen that for Wakes week we shall again be favoured with visits by Notts II. and Lancashire II. and given the weather we may get some cricket of a similar sterling quality to that which delighted the spectators last season. It may interest some of those who do not know that Sydney Barnes is in the lime light already. Just recently, bowling against Middleton, in the Central Lancs. League, he took six wickets for 13 runs.

SEASON'S FIXTURES.

A complete list of the Club's fixtures for 1928 is appended:—

- May 23rd, 24th.—Leicestershire II., at West Bromwich.
- June 13th, 14th.—Lincolnshire, at Stoke.
- June 20th, 21st.—Lincolnshire, at Grimsby.
- June 27th, 28th.—North Wales, at Wolverhampton.
- July 11th, 12th.—West Indians, at Stoke.
- July 18th, 19th.—Cheshire, at Macclesfield.
- July 25th, 26th.—Notts, II., at Trent Bridge.
- Aug. 1st, 2nd.—Leicester II., at Leicester.
- Aug. 6th, 7th.—Notts, II., at Porthill.
- Aug. 8th, 9th.—Lancashire II., at Stoke.
- Aug. 13th, 14th.—Cheshire, at Porthill.
- Aug. 22nd, 23rd.—Lancashire II., at Blackburn.

* Non-Competition Matches.

BLTYHE BRIDGE AND UTTOXETER CRICKET LEAGUE.

Low Scoring in Last Week's Matches.

The League commenced the season's activities on Saturday last, there being a full programme of matches in both divisions. Generally speaking, however, low scoring was the rule rather than the exception.

In the First Division, there was a keen struggle for supremacy at Okan Moor, where the home team after compiling the excellent total of 143, were beaten by Kinsey by one wicket. Recceter and Stallington were also engaged in a close fight, the latter team winning by one run. Florence defeated Tean, for after their innings had produced 123 runs, they dismissed their opponents for 92. In low scoring games, Meir defeated Fulford by 24 runs, and Draycott accounted for Alton by 17 runs.

In the second Division, bowlers were in form at Fox, where Cresswell were the visitors. The latter could only score a paltry 24, but the home team failed to win, being all out for 16. Leigh topped the century by eleven runs against Kingsley, whose last wicket fell at 55, while Tean accounted for Meir by 24 runs. In the remaining matches, Ashcombe Park gained a three wickets' victory over Stallington, and Hollington passed Dillhorne's total of 64 for the loss of only three wickets.

MARKET DRAYTON v. SHROPSHIRE FARMERS.

At Market Drayton on Thursday. Scores:—
FARMERS.—H. Hutsby c and b Wilson 72, R. Smith b McMorran 5, E. Hunking c Barnes b Lowe 60, B. V. Pedmore c McMorran b Wilson 0, J. Manning b A. Wood 18, R. Hodgkinson c Cushing b E. Cushing 17, S. Cotterill b A. Wood 0, T. Morrey not out 10, A. Huntbach c Lutner b A. Wood 0, J. Huntbach c Hollins b A. Wood 0, A. N. Other did not bat, extras 32, total (for 9 wickets) 220. Innings declared.
MARKET DRAYTON.—A. N. Other c Hodgkinson b Hutsby 0, F. Lowe b Hutsby 28, H. Cushing lbw b Hutsby 0, G. Barnes b Hutsby 17, A. Wood c Smith b Morrey 5, B. Croome b Hutsby 8, E. Cushing b Hutsby 9, Wilson c Smith b Hutsby 18, W. Bromage b Hodgkinson 2, G. Lutner c and b Hutsby 0, J. Hollins not out 0, extras 9; total, 95.

MARKET DRAYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL v. MARKET DRAYTON OLD BOYS.

Played on Thursday. Scores:—
SCHOOL.—R. Tompkins b Leeger 17, W. T. Huntbach b Bourne 3, W. T. Trickett b Bourne 1, W. E. Davies c Hill b Bourne 2, F. W. Preston run out 0, R. G. Hardy b Hill 0, R. O. Beeston not out 7, R. Batcliffe b Leeger 4, H. Holloworth b Davis 0, W. Phillips b Croome 3, T. Pocock lbw b Croome 2, extras 17; total, 58.
OLD BOYS.—R. Hill b Tompkins 3, W. R. E. Davies b Preston 0, E. Leeger c Trickett b Tompkins 10, D. P. Lockett b Tompkins 2, H. Mulliner lbw b Tompkins 1, T. Croome b Trickett 5, P. B. Morrey b Tompkins 0, E. Bourne b Trickett 1, B. Simpson lbw b Tompkins 18, E. Jones not out 1, 8 Morrey b Tompkins 0, extras 8; total, 58.

TUNSTALL CRICKET LEAGUE.

Butt Lane Batsman in Form.

The Tunstall and District Cricket League commenced their programme last Saturday, under glorious weather conditions, enabling each match to have a definite conclusion.

Leycott opened the season with a good win at Fenton, W. Hough disposing of seven of the home batsmen for 12 runs, the whole side being dismissed for 33. The Leycott innings commenced poorly, the first four batsmen only mustering five runs between them, but J. Hazeldine (16), P. Spender (25), J. Hill (14, not out) and W. Edwards (11) carried the total to

78 (for 7 wickets), when the innings was declared. W. Calcott (Fenton) had three wickets for 9 runs.

Butt Lane, at home to Staffs. Chemical Co., found A. Archer in good form, this player contributing a splendid innings of 70 towards a total of 106. In response, Butt Lane lost four wickets very cheaply, but E. Talbot and G. Boulton, with 17 and 13 respectively, improved matters. After their dismissal however the remaining batsmen did little and the innings closed at 51. C. Clowes bowled well, and finished with six for 23. Previous to the match the Chemical Co. were somewhat doubtful about their prospects in the league, owing to their small membership, but the result should be encouraging to them for the future.

Talyor's Athletic had Hattisehead as visitors, who, taking first knock, were all out for 49 runs, R. Shuttlebotham (11) and J. Hughes (11 not out) being the chief contributors. Talyor's passed this score with seven wickets in hand.

Knypersley "A," at home to Woodland Pottery, secured a fine win over their more experienced opponents. Batting first, they were all out for the modest total of 42, of which W. Law obtained 19. The visitors' batting proved to be woefully weak, and they were dismissed for the paltry total of 33. J. Small bowled with good judgment, and secured seven wickets for 13 runs.

Leigh were at home to their near rivals, Bucknall. Taking first innings, they ran up the respectable score of 107 (B. Fowers 47, P. Moss 22) and P. Clowes (10) being the chief contributors. Bucknall made a poor show in reply, being dismissed for 37.

CRICKET FIXTURES FOR NEXT SATURDAY.

NORTH STAFFS. AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

- Longton v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Plant and Smith.
- Silverdale v. Burslem; Messrs. Cox and Jones.
- Norton v. Bignall End; Messrs. Downs and Holmes.
- Knypersley v. Leek; Messrs. Hogerson and Worthington.
- Porthill Park v. Great Chell; Messrs. Forster and Mead.
- Nantwich v. L.M.S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Latham and Taylor.

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "B."

- Ashcombe Park v. Madeley; Messrs. Castrill and Brown.
- Stone v. Chaddle; Messrs. Holdcroft and Portch.
- Sandford v. Betty; Messrs. A. Smith and Keeling.
- Kidgrove v. Caverswall; Messrs. Cartledge and Mansfield.
- Burslem High Lane v. Alsager Bank; Messrs. Butters and Naylor.
- Audley v. Fenton; Messrs. Salmon and Clowes.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

- Crewe Alexandra v. Longton; Messrs. Gibbs and Lyth.
- Burslem v. Silverdale; Messrs. Swindley and Bennett.
- Bignall End v. Norton; Messrs. Pinnell and Green.
- Leek v. Knypersley; Messrs. Skellan and Johnston.
- Great Chell v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Boulton and F. Smith.
- L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Nantwich; Messrs. Shingler and Barsted.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "B."

- Madeley v. Onneley.
- Chaddle v. Stone.
- Betty v. Sandford.
- Caverswall v. Scot Hay.
- Maccers Bank v. Burslem High Lane.
- Fenton v. Audley.

TUNSTALL AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

- Berrisbill v. Harri-seahead.
- Fenton v. Staffs. Chemical Co.
- Butt Lane v. Burslem.
- Woodland v. Talyor's.
- Knypersley v. Leycott.

BLTYHE BRIDGE AND UTTOXETER LEAGUE.

Division I.

- Tean v. Kingsley.
- Fulford v. Stallington.
- Pocock v. Gulton.
- Draycott v. Florence.

Division II.

- Meir v. Ashcombe Park.
- Kingsley v. Tean.
- Stallington v. Cresswell.
- Dillhorne v. Leigh.
- Fox v. Hollington.

OTHER MATCHES.

- Crewe P.W. v. Trentham.
- Trentham II. v. Crewe P.W.
- Hullington v. Mossley.
- Wilston v. Hadington II.
- Sandbach v. Congleton.
- Congleton v. Sandbach II.
- Prethbury v. Holmes Chapel.
- Holmes Chapel II. v. Crewe Touring.
- Uttoxeter v. Derby L.M.S.
- Stalrod v. Okan Moor.
- Okan Moor v. Stafford II.
- Houghton Hall (Lester) v. Hayton.
- Hayton v. Bouchton Hall II.
- Tattonhall v. Chester St. John's.
- Chester St. John's II. v. Doulton.
- Wickin College v. Market Drayton.
- Market Drayton II. v. Peplow.
- Derntone College v. South Wales Borderers.

COUNTY CRICKET PROSPECTS

An Attractive Programme

By "THE CRITIC"

In writing of the outlook for Staffordshire county cricket this year, one would like to start by paying tribute to two gentlemen who have passed away since last season, and who, in the years that are gone, have rendered very valuable service and support to the county club, and also to the game locally in their respective districts of the county. Mr. W. L. Ward had an unquenchable interest in and fondness for the game, and for a long time could be relied upon to visit the Potteries, if at all possible, to attend the meetings of the committee of the county club, and his views always carried weight with his colleagues. In an unostentatious way he did much for county cricket, and, like the Rev. P. E. Mainwaring, he fostered the game assiduously in his own locality. Mr. Mainwaring was hon. secretary of the county club for a considerable spell about 30 years ago, and a player who often had a place on the side. Though not an orthodox batsman, he had a good eye and a penchant for leg hitting and pulling which was sometimes disconcerting to bowlers, and he has on occasion got wickets with his seductive-looking slows. Real lovers of the game, Mr. Ward and Mr. Mainwaring were vice-presidents of the county club at the time of their death. Such stalwarts are bound to be missed.

My readers scarcely need to be informed that the championship of the Minor Counties was won by Staffordshire last year with the highest percentage of points ever obtained in the competition, viz., 90. The success was largely the outcome of a more settled side. Nine players had ten or more innings, and a tenth batted nine times. There has been no such regularity as this for a good many years, certainly not since the war. It may not be equalled in the coming season, but one would like to emphasise an appeal uttered by Lord Lichfield from the chair at the annual meeting, last week, that the best amateur players will do their utmost, even at the cost of a little sacrifice, to play in as many of the county's matches as possible. Last year furnished some really excellent games, and the struggle with Notts II. for the championship was quite thrilling. Four fine days and two splendid victories over Notts II. and Lancs. II. in Stoke Wakes week, clinched the matter for Staffordshire, who were deserving champions.

The following is the list of fixtures arranged for this year, the competition programme being the same as last season—

May 23 and 24—Leicestershire II., at Westbromwich.

June 13 and 14—Lincolnshire, Stoke.

June 20 and 21—Lincolnshire, Grimsby.

June 27 and 28—North Wales, Wolverhampton.

July 11 and 12—West Indies, Stoke.

July 18 and 19—Cheshire, Macclesfield.

July 25 and 26—Notts II., Trent Bridge.

August 1 and 2—Leicester II., Leicester.

August 6 and 7—Notts. II., Porthill.

August 8 and 9—Lancashire II., Stoke.

August 13 and 14—Cheshire, Porthill.

August 22 and 23—Lancashire II., Blackburn.

The North Wales and West Indies matches are, of course additional to the competition fixtures, and these should provide thoroughly interesting cricket. The North Wales match was a new departure last year, when the venue was Stoke, and as it was completely ruined by the weather a heavy financial loss was sustained. This time the game is taken to Wolverhampton, whose beautiful ground will provide a pleasant set for an entertaining game if the elements are kind. The West Indies team have already proved their right to be regarded as a first-class side, and they are to meet England in a series of three Test matches. So it is a notable achievement to have secured a fixture with them, and the occasion ought to revive the best traditions of the old county ground, at Stoke.

The Captaincy

The ten competition matches furnish an adequate test for any second-class county and all-round form worthy of the county's past record will have to be shown if the championship is to be retained. Coming to a consideration of personnel, three of those who were amongst the most regular players last

season may not be available to anything like the same extent this time. J. B. Russell is prevented by the claims of business from playing more than one or two matches, and has, therefore, resigned the captaincy. He is not an easy man to replace, as the wicket-keeping has been quite safe in his hands, in addition to the captaincy. His retirement makes it all the more gratifying that the championship was won last year. Success had not previously been achieved under his leadership, and it is a well-deserved personal honour that his last year in command should have seen Staffordshire mount to the top of the table once more. One is sorry to learn that E. J. Gothard, the Burton batsman, also will be unable to spare the time for county cricket this summer, and H. Goodwin, the young left-hander, having completed his course at Birmingham University, is at present uncertain as to whether he will be able to play. These are rather severe losses, and what compensations there may be it is difficult to suggest at present.

The captaincy is a problem for the committee. One is inclined to say that if E. W. Page could only arrange to play in the bulk of the matches there would be no need to look further. He is still a brilliant bat, is an experienced leader, and would even duplicate the roll of captain and wicket-keeper, just as J. B. Russell has done, and avoid the necessity of carrying a weak batsman in order to provide for the efficient keeping of wicket. "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished."

If the Wolverhampton amateur should still find it impossible to spare the time, it seems to me that either J. S. Heath or H. W. Homer would probably be the choice of the committee if they were able to undertake the responsible duties. J. S. Heath is the Porthill captain, and he has on previous occasions captained the county side with ability. He has shown "vision" and grip. But in his case also the ties of business may be an insurmountable barrier. The Old Hill batsman has not, so far as I know, had the same experience of captaincy, but that is not to say he does not possess the qualities necessary for a successful skipper. He has been the mainstay of the batting for several years, and would certainly be a popular captain if he were able to undertake it. One rather hopes that the committee will be able to secure a successor to the office without delay, and not have to fall back upon the old custom of many years ago of electing a captain for each match, a method which would probably not have a good effect on the side.

The Nucleus of the Team

Of the more regular players of last season, H. W. Homer, C. Howl, A. W. Ikin, A. Lockett, Barnes, Sedgwick, and Platt are likely to be available again in a good proportion of matches. H. Goodwin is, as stated, uncertain, and R. S. A. Hardy will be able to play after the "Varsity" term. Unfortunately, A. A. Bickerton and N. W. White are only likely to play in the Porthill matches, but F. D. Perks and E. Perry, the Westbromwich amateurs, may be of more service than last year. G. A. Fitton, the Westbromwich Albion football player, who has joined the Dartmouth club this year, is a left-hand bat with a particularly sound defence, and a brilliant outfield, and with further trial may prove to be a county player; whilst W. H. Ellerker of Smethwick, is also worthy of a real test. Other young players may develop as the season progresses, and there will probably be plenty of opportunity for trying out juniors of promise. Whether the batting will be as strong as last year seems open to doubt, but there should not be much wrong with it.

Bowling and Wicket-keeping

The bowling, however, remains a difficult problem. Last season Barnes, at 51 years of age, took 81 wickets at a cost of just six runs each. He may work havoc again, but if the season should yield a preponderance of dry wickets, the bowling resources of the county will probably be found inadequate. Sedgwick keeps his pace up wonderfully well, and Aaron Lockett, still in his prime, should be, and probably will be, as good as ever. Platt does not appear likely to play much cricket this season, but if he is available he is a serviceable player yet, and may be very useful on occasion. C. J. Taylor, of Leek, bowled finely on his two appearances last season, and though he is not as active in the field as he was, in a dry season his bowling would probably be invaluable. Durbar, the Porthill professional, bowled so well for his club at Burslem last Saturday as to arouse fresh hopes that he may develop into a 7 class bowler. Fast, left-

arm, with the necessary physique for the job, Durbar has always struck me as a county bowler if he could find the right temperament, and it is possible he may do good work for Staffordshire just where it is most needed. Time will show. One hears of one or two juniors in North Staffordshire cricket who are thought to give promise for the future, and it is to be hoped they will have an opportunity of gaining experience against a better class of batting. If some coaching could be arranged for the young players, whatever it cost would be money well spent.

A young bowler playing in a junior section of the North Staffs. and District League, of whom I have heard considerable encomiums for some time, is J. Wood, of Fenton, and as he actually took six Madeley wickets for no runs on Saturday last, the good things one has heard don't seem to have been overstated. Indeed, there appear to be great possibilities about this young man, who, I understand, is fairly fast.

Finally, there is the question of a wicket-keeper. If E. W. Page should be able to play, the need for further experiment will not arise. But that prospect is, possibly, too good to be true. Candidly, I have not seen a wicket-keeper in club cricket for some time who is good enough for the county, but then I have not seen them all by a long way. Amongst North Staffordshire League stumpers, Green, of Silverdale, has been tried before, and has ability. Two young "keepers" have been spoken of privately in L. Birch, of Leek, and C. White, last year of Fenton and now with Stallington. Birch has won fame as a hockey player, having got his Blue at Cambridge. I am told he is keenly interested in wicket-keeping, and quite likely to develop real class. White has only had experience of junior cricket, but he is undoubtedly smart, and worthy of greater opportunity.

The opening match takes place at Westbromwich on Wednesday and Thursday next, and I may be able to give the selected team in another column.

This is, perhaps, hardly the place to make any but a brief reference to the financial needs of the county club. Last year was an unfortunate one, and a loss of £160 was experienced. This, apart from the consequences of wet weather, was mainly due to non-recurrent items of expenditure of £50 or £60, and the non-payment of their subscriptions by about 20 members. The latter is a depressing feature, and one which surely is possible of correction. One fancies most of these defaulters would pay their subscriptions if they could be personally reminded.

STAFFS. v. LEICESTERSHIRE II.

The following XI has been selected to represent Staffordshire in the opening match of the season at Westbromwich next Wednesday and Thursday:—J. S. Heath (captain), H. W. Homer, C. Howl, F. D. Perks, A. W. Ikin, A. Lockett, W. H. Ellerker, G. A. Fitton, W. Beddows, Sedgwick, and Barnes. The only player new to county cricket is W. Beddows, the young Burslem wicket-keeper. Beddows was a member of the Norton club until last season, but had not been able to establish himself as the 1st XI wicket-keeper. His ability has, however, gained for him a regular place behind the wicket for Burslem, and the honour of selection for the county has come to him early. In view of the new need of the county for a wicket-keeper in succession to the ex-captain, J. B. Russell, who has, I believe, donned the gloves in every match for five seasons, the advent of the young Burslem "stumper" will be watched with much interest. The team also includes two players who had a brief trial last year for the first time, in W. H. Ellerker of Smethwick, a batsman of whom a good deal is hoped, and change bowler, and G. A. Fitton, of football fame, a left-hand bat with a strong defence and a fine out-field. That J. S. Heath is to captain the side is welcome, and the batting represented in the team gives confidence. If the spell of dry weather continues the three bowlers may conceivably have a heavy task.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S BID FOR VICTORY.

Leicester Compelled to Follow On.

Lockett's Brilliant Form With Bat and Ball.

WEST BROMWICH, Thursday.

Although the Dartmouth Club ground was subjected to a severe drenching yesterday, which made play impossible in Staffordshire's opening match of the season with Leicestershire, in the Minor Counties Championship, it had recovered so rapidly that an early start was possible this morning. Conditions, however, were not ideal by any means from a spectator's point of view. A cold wind was blowing, and the sky was dull and overcast. Any hope of play yesterday was abandoned shortly after five o'clock, but this morning the wicket, having been covered, was still fairly firm.

A BAD START.

Staffordshire won the toss, and shortly before 11 o'clock H. W. Homer and C. Howl opened the innings, facing the attack of H. A. Smith and Coleman. Howl opened with reasonable cautiousness, though he got Coleman away to the boundary with a delightful shot. But the partnership was short-lived, for, with the total at ten Howl was caught at second slip by Tyler.

Further disaster quickly followed. Barnes, who had joined Homer, being dismissed off the first ball he received. He made an attempt to cut a delivery by Smith through the slips, but was out to a very fine left-handed catch by Coleman.

Coleman sent down several awkward deliveries, which both Fitton and Homer played with care, though the former once drove him in capital style for three. Homer's defensive work was proving most valuable at this period, though the rate of scoring was slow. He was content with singles, and an occasional hit for two, but made one nice square cut off Tyler for four.

After having put on a valuable 17, Homer was out to an easy catch by Bradshaw at mid-off. Three wickets had now fallen for 38 runs, and Smith had bowled six overs for six runs, and taken two wickets.

PERKS DISMISSED.

Partnered by F. D. Perks, Fitton brought off some capital hits, but the rate of scoring was kept down by smart fielding. Soon after being joined by Perks, Fitton gave a difficult chance to Carroll behind the wickets, when edging Smith to the boundary, and almost immediately afterwards did the same thing. Smith, however, got through his defence when his total stood at 22.

Perks had also adopted an attitude of cautiousness, and when joined by A. W. Ikin, had only scored three singles. Ikin opened with a delightful square cut for four off Tyler. At the other end, Bowley, a left-arm bowler, was tried for the first time in county cricket, and Perks at once drove him to the boundary.

It was left to Ikin to liven up matters considerably, and his next two hits also went to the boundary, one being a leg hit and the other an on drive. Following this, he offered a chance to Astill deep on the on side, but the fieldsman failed to make the catch. Profiting by this escape, Ikin proceeded to send the ball away to the boundary on two occasions. Perks was dismissed when he had scored 13, Tyler again bringing off a splendid catch from a rising ball in the slips.

LOCKETT'S DASHING INNINGS.

Lockett went in to make a brisk start, a square cut off Coleman reaching the boundary, but immediately afterwards Ikin was caught behind the wicket by Carroll. He had batted in attractive style.

With J. S. Heath as his partner, there was no restraint about the batting of Lockett, for his first four scoring strokes were boundaries. By this time, the home team had retrieved their position somewhat, but having contributed nine, and with the score standing at 117, Heath was bowled by Bowley.

On being joined by W. H. Ellerker, Lockett continued to bat in enterprising fashion, making two more beautiful hits to the boundary. The first six of the match came from Ellerker, after he had made a single. With a great off-drive he sent the ball into the road, and Lockett followed it up with another splendid off-drive, which travelled at a rare pace to the boundary.

Lockett had little respect for the bowling of Astill, for twice he sent him to the rails, nine runs being made off his first over.

Ellerker was bowled by Smith after scoring seven, and Sedgwick was caught and bowled by the same bowler before he had scored. Lockett was still batting in polished style, and he reached his 50 with another fine drive to the rails, following this up by turning one to leg for his eleventh boundary. Then, in attempting a short run, Beddoes was run out, the innings closing for 172. Lockett had played a great innings.

LEICESTERSHIRE'S REPLY.

Leicestershire made a disastrous start after lunch. E. A. Broughton and Tyler faced the bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick, but only one run had been scored when the former was clean bowled by Sedgwick. Coleman joined Tyler, but the latter skied a ball from Barnes, and Homer brought off a good catch, two wickets having fallen for three runs.

Coleman and Brown found run-getting difficult against good fielding and accurate bowling, and they had only increased the total to six when Brown was caught and bowled by Barnes.

Lockett displaced Sedgwick, and with the second ball of the over had Coleman out l.b.w., whilst Hayes also fell a victim to Lockett.

Leicestershire were all out for 46. Lockett following up his form with the bat by taking five wickets for six runs. The visitors had to follow on.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Bradshaw b Tyler	17
C Howl c Tyler b Smith	8
Barnes c Coleman b Smith	0
G A Fitton b Smith	22
F D Perks c Tyler b Coleman	13
A W Ikin c Carroll b Bowley	24
A Lockett not out	62
J S Heath b Bowley	9
W H Ellerker b Smith	7
Sedgwick c and b Smith	0
S W Beddoes run out	2
Extras	8
Total	172

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

E A Broughton b Sedgwick	1
Tyler (b) c Homer b Barnes	1
Coleman (A R) lbw b Lockett	22
Brown (R. L.) c and b Barnes	2
Riley lbw b Lockett	7
E Hayes b Lockett	0
Bradshaw (H) b Barnes	3
Smith (H A) b Lockett	6
Bowley (F J) c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Astill (J) not out	1
Corrall b Lockett	4
Extras	1
Total	48

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—Second Innings.

E A Broughton not out	21
Tyler b Lockett	6
Coleman not out	3
Extras	1
Total (for 1 wkt)	31

Later.—Leicester II., 46 for 1 wicket.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Smith (H. A.)	20	3	53	5
Coleman (C. A. R.)	6	2	28	1
Tyler (B.)	7	1	15	1
Bowley (F. J.)	10	2	41	2
Riley (H.)	3	1	7	0
Astill (J. R.)	3.5	0	20	0

Coleman and Tyler bowled three no-balls, and Smith bowled one no-ball.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	14	4	19	4
Lockett	9	5	6	5
Sedgwick	5	1	22	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	10	38	56	91	95	117	150	150	172

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	3	6	26	26	33	40	43	43	48

STAFFORDSHIRE'S OPENING WIN.

Full Points Taken from Leicestershire.

In their opening match of the season in the Minor Counties championship, Staffordshire took full points from Leicestershire II. Owing to Wednesday being blank, the game which took place on the Dartmouth Club ground at West Bromwich, was reduced to a one-day fixture and the match was, therefore, decided on the first innings.

The home side, after a shaky start hit up the useful total of 172, and then dismissed Leicestershire for 46. This collapse was brought about by the brilliant bowling of Barnes and Lockett, who took four for 19 runs and five for six, respectively.

Set to get 124 to pass Staffordshire's total, Coleman and Broughton set about the task in great fashion, scoring 43 and 34 respectively. Coleman hit five fours, and two fine drives brought sixes. Riley proved a stubborn defender for 19. In one over Lockett took two wickets without a run being registered against him. As there was no possibility of the match being completed, stumps were drawn at 6.20, by which time Leicestershire were 32 runs on with one wicket to fall.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Bradshaw b Tyler	17
C Howl c Tyler b Smith	8
Barnes c Coleman b Smith	0
G A Fitton b Smith	22
F D Perks c Tyler b Coleman	13
A W Ikin c Carroll b Bowley	24
A Lockett not out	62
J S Heath b Bowley	9
W H Ellerker b Smith	7
Sedgwick c and b Smith	0
S W Beddoes run out	2
Extras	8
Total	172

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

E A Broughton b Sedgwick	1
Tyler (b) c Homer b Barnes	1
Coleman (A R) lbw b Lockett	22
Brown (R. L.) c and b Barnes	2
Riley lbw b Lockett	7
E Hayes b Lockett	0
Bradshaw (H) b Barnes	3
Smith (H A) b Lockett	6
Bowley (F J) c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Astill (J) not out	1
Corrall b Lockett	4
Extras	1
Total	48

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—Second Innings.

E A Broughton c and b Lockett	34
Tyler b Lockett	6
Coleman c Sedgwick b Lockett	43
Brown b Ellerker	1
Riley c Ellerker b Sedgwick	19
E G Hayes lbw b Lockett	0
Bradshaw b Ellerker	4
Smith b Sedgwick	15
Bowley c Barnes b Sedgwick	4
Astill not out	0
Corrall not out	2
Extras	19
Total (for 9 wks)	156

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Smith (H. A.)	20	3	53	5
Coleman (C. A. R.)	6	2	28	1
Tyler (B.)	7	1	15	1
Bowley (F. J.)	10	2	41	2
Riley (H.)	3	1	7	0
Astill (J. R.)	3.5	0	20	0

Coleman and Tyler bowled three no-balls, and Smith bowled one no-ball.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	14	4	19	4
Lockett	9	5	6	5
Sedgwick	5	1	22	1

Leicestershire II.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	10	0	46	3
A. Lockett	16	4	50	4
W. H. Ellerker	15	2	41	2

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	10	38	56	91	95	117	150	150	172

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	3	6	26	26	33	40	43	43	48

Leicestershire II.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23	79	99	91	93	103	139	140	145	

CRICKET

Staffs. v Leicestershire II

By "The Critic."

We had an aggravating experience at Westbromwich on Wednesday. The chosen players of Staffordshire and the 2nd XI. of Leicestershire, with officials, Pressmen, and a few enthusiasts assembled at the ground of the Westbromwich Dartmouth C.C. for the opening of the county cricket season. There had been little rain in the locality, and the ground was dry and hard, with a pitch well prepared, and to all appearance as fast and true as any batsman could desire, but all through the day a light rain, hardly sufficient to do more than wet the grass, but just enough to prevent a start being made, persisted practically without cessation. When eventually at 4.45, with the light mizzle still continuing, it was decided to postpone the start till Thursday morning, the wicket remained hard and dry; at least, it would have been absolutely dry in ten minutes if the rain had ceased. The sustained effort to make county cricket pay its way in the south of the county seems to be dogged by ill-luck, but Westbromwich may yet justify itself as a venue for an annual county fixture.

The fixture being reduced to a one-day match by Wednesday's blank, Staffordshire took the full points by securing a one-innings win in brilliant style. Having thus secured their 100 per cent. before 4 o'clock on Thursday, the second innings of Leicester, who followed on 124 runs behind, was in the nature of an anti-climax. Barnes did not bowl in the second innings, and the visitors were allowed to get more runs than they would have been likely to do if the issue had depended on getting them out again to win by an innings.

In the early stages the ball kicked in alarming fashion, the rain having very slightly softened the surface, whilst the wicket remained hard underneath. Homer and Howl found the ball rearing chest high, and Smith and Coleman, both fast-medium right-arm bowlers, kept the batsmen on tenterhooks. With only 10 scored, Howl and Barnes fell in the slips from successive balls, and though Homer stayed 45 minutes, four wickets were down for 56. Fitton, Perks, and Ikin gradually improved the outlook. The left-hander enjoyed a little luck with streaky ones behind the wicket, but batted well, and Ikin put tremendous power behind his off-drives, and hit five fours. Then came Lockett, to hit with splendid dash. He opened with four four's, and monopolising the scoring, dispatched the ball to the boundary in all a dozen times. When in "farming" the bowling he ran Beddows out, he had scored 62 out of 81 in 55 minutes.

The score of 172 was undoubtedly a good one in the circumstances, and, though after lunch when Leicester commenced their reply, it was evident that the roller had taken most of the "kick" out of the wicket, the visitors had a sorry time. Barnes and Sedgwick opened the bowling, and Broughton, a clever batsman, who is especially strong on the leg side, was bowled in trying to drive the fast bowler with only one scored. Tyler "had a go" at Barnes, and skied the ball to mid-on, and Brown returned one to the bowler, three wickets being down for six. Coleman used the long handle to Sedgwick, and quickly knocked the fast bowler off, but the change to Lockett was the beginning of the end for Leicester. Aaron bowled well, varying his pace cleverly, and in his first over he got Coleman lbw, and bowled the Leicester Captain (who later "bagged a brace") off his pads. Barnes had one or two lofty strokes, which might have been wickets, with ordinary luck, count only as runs against him, but after beating both Riley and Bradshaw several times, he knocked back the latter's middle stump with an unplayable leg-break. Riley and Smith stayed a while, but were very quiet, and both succumbed to Lockett. Bowley cocked one from Barnes up to point, close in, and Corral got in a mix-up with one of Lockett's, and was bowled off his pads. He had previously hit Barnes square for four, the great bowler dropping one a little too wide on the leg in the attempt to hit the wicket with a leg-break instead of beating the off-stump. The innings was all over in an hour and 25 minutes, and Staffordshire had a lead of

124. Lockett came out with a remarkable analysis, and following upon his enterprising batting, his success constituted a truly memorable day's work. He made the ball turn considerably, and flashed his quick ball through with very little warning. Barnes started with 10 overs for eight singles and three wickets, and might have had a much better record than four for 19.

The match was as good as over, but Leicester, of course, batted again, and the last two men were in when stumps were drawn. Broughton played a good innings, and Coleman hit hard and cleanly, getting two drives for six off Lockett. Ellerker had a long spell of bowling, and showed that he is quite a useful change. He got a fair amount of pace, and generally kept a good length.

It is not easy to pronounce upon the capabilities of the new wicket-keeper from one match, but he certainly showed promise. He stopped practically everything he could reach, and in the first innings gave no byes, but he was not too safe in his handling, and missed one or two possible chances. But one would certainly not say he made an unsuccessful debut. He is young enough to improve with experience, and may develop into a class wicket-keeper.

The following are the scores and analyses:—

Staffordshire.—1st Inns.	
H. W. Homer c Bradshaw b Tyler	17
C. Howl c Tyler b Smith	8
Barnes c Coleman b Smith	0
G. A. Fitton b Smith	22
F. D. Perks c Tyler b Coleman	13
A. W. Ikin c Corral b Bowley	24
A. Lockett not out	62
J. S. Heath b Bowley	9
W. H. Ellerker b Smith	7
Sedgwick c and b Smith	0
W. Beddows run out	2
Extras	8
Total	172

Leicestershire II.—1st Inns.	
E. A. Broughton b Sedgwick	1
Tyler c Homer b Barnes	1
Coleman lbw b Lockett	22
Brown c and b Barnes	2
Riley lbw b Lockett	7
E. G. Hayes b Lockett	0
Bradshaw b Barnes	3
Smith b Lockett	6
Bowley c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Astill not out	1
Corral b Lockett	4
Extras	1
Total	48

2nd Innings	
E. A. Broughton c and b Lockett	34
Tyler b Lockett	6
Coleman c Sedgwick b Lockett	43
Brown b Ellerker	1
Riley c Ellerker b Sedgwick	19
E. G. Hayes lbw b Lockett	0
Bradshaw b Ellerker	4
Smith b Sedgwick	15
Bowley c Barnes b Sedgwick	4
Astill not out	9
Corral not out	2
Extras	19
Total (9 wks.)	156

BOWLING ANALYSIS				
Staffs.—1st Inns.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Smith	20	3	53	5
Coleman	8	2	28	1
Tyler	7	1	15	1
Bowley	10	2	41	2
Riley	3	1	7	0
Astill	4	0	20	0
Leicestershire II.—1st Inns.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	14	4	19	4
Sedgwick	5	1	22	1
Lockett	9	5	6	5
Ellerker	—	—	—	—
2nd Inns.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
—	10	0	46	3
—	16	4	50	4
—	15	2	41	2

Staffordshire Gentlemen v. Denstone College

The Staffordshire Gentlemen opened their season with a game against Denstone College, on Thursday. The latter won the toss and sent in Place and Garman to the bowling of Ward and Morgan. Runs came at a brisk pace. Garman was neatly taken at the wicket by Stubbs. At lunch the College were 75 for three wickets. After lunch Denstone continued to score steadily, and in two hours made a total of 218. Of these, chief honours went to Fernie, with 53 not out; Eyre scored 52, Standerwick 42, and H. Place 33. For the visitors, Ward captured five wickets for 25, and Platts three for 36.

Stubbs and Cocks opened the Gentlemen's innings. After scoring 12, Stubbs was lbw to Eyre. Cocks was soon caught smartly by Bluett. Ward was dispatched with four runs only to his credit. Twigg meanwhile was batting in great style, and scored 51 before being caught by Richardson. Wickets were falling steadily, due to the excellent fielding of Denstone, seven men being caught out, H. Place making an exceptionally fine catch from Platts.

Denstone	
H. N. Place c McSwiney b Platts	33
J. G. Garman c P. F. Stubbs b Ward	11
R. W. Eyre c Rodgers b Ward	52
P. F. B. Bluet b Twigg	3
Standerwick b Platts	42
T. B. Carey c and b Ward	1
J. B. Place c McSwiney b Morgan	4
P. Fernie not out	53
Richardson c Morgan b Platts	0
C. K. Thacker at Stubbs b Ward	1
Carter st Stubbs b Ward	3
Extras	15
Total	218

Staffordshire Gentlemen	
P. Stubbs lbw b Eyre	12
M. H. Cocks c Place b Eyre	23
W. H. Twigg c Richardson b Bluett	51
Capt. Ward b Carter	2
B. Meakin c H. Place b Eyre	3
H. P. Priestley c Place b Eyre	7
Rev. F. F. McSwiney c Garman b Eyre	8
R. C. Cave Rogers not out	11
A. Platts c Place b Eyre	0
G. Morgan c J. Place b Bluett	1
J. F. Fernie b H. Place	10
Extras	3
Total	133

NORTH STAFFS. CRICKET.

Exciting Finishes and Big Scoring.

Norton Gain Clear Lead in Senior "A" Section.

Exciting finishes and prolific scoring were the features of the cricket played in North Staffordshire on Saturday afternoon.

In the Senior "A" section of the North Staffordshire and District League, Norton have taken over the leadership, both Leek and Nantwich being defeated. Norton's victory was an easy one, for after totalling 130 by consistent batting, they dismissed Longton for 85, J. Evans taking 7 wickets for 31.

Nantwich, who visited Silverdale, lost by 13 runs. The home team ran up a total of 159, J. Ankers (47) and C. F. Rushton (45) both batting soundly. J. B. Swindale (69) made a good effort for Nantwich, but the last wicket fell at 146.

Leek were decisively beaten in their home match with Chell. Vodrey (49) was the chief contributor towards Chell's total of 150. Leek lost five wickets for 47 in reply, but the sixth wicket added 44 runs. The remaining batsmen, however, only added eight runs, and the innings closed for 99. A. W. Ikin had three wickets for seven runs.

Knypersley had the highest total of the day, for after having dismissed their L.M.S. visitors for 63, they responded with 243 for five. A. Cooper was in brilliant batting form, and had 19 fours in his 89, while E. Tunstall (59) and E. Bibby (45) also batted in fine style.

Burslem were dismissed for 94 at Bignall End, and the home team then gave a masterly batting display. They lost two wickets for 33, but H. McEllin (96 not out) and A. Booth (96) then carried the score to 209 before the latter was dismissed. At the close, Bignall End had scored 233 for three.

Crowe Alexandra, playing at Porthill Park, also exceeded the double century, the last wicket falling at 219. J. Dickenson gave a fine display in scoring 69 not out. Left with two hours to bat, Porthill Park replied with 113 for seven, the match being drawn.

The match between Stone and Audley in the Senior "B" Section produced an exciting finish. In response to Audley's total of 137, Stone lost nine for 78, but then A. M. C. Smith and C. W. Hammersley carried the score to 136. With one run wanted to tie, Smith was caught out.

There was an unusual ending to the game between Great Chell and Leek in the Junior "A" section. Replying to Great Chell's score of 144, Leek lost eight wickets for 74, but largely through the efforts of Hutchinson (53), the score was taken to 143 for nine. The last two batsmen then secured two runs, but one was adjudged to be short, thus making the scores a tie. In the next over, Hutchinson was struck in the stomach with the ball and had to retire hurt. The game thus ended with the scores equal.

The day's play produced two individual centuries. Playing for Sandlyford, C. Cotton scored 117 towards his side's total of 297. No fewer than 108 of Cotton's runs came from boundaries. The other three figure innings was played by W. Lowe, of Silverdale II, team. He scored 110, and recorded 24 boundaries, but was missed several times.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES.

BATTING.

C. Cotton, Sandlyford (v. Ashcombe Park)	117
W. Lowe, Silverdale II (v. Nantwich)	110
L. McEllin, Bignall End (v. Burslem)	96
A. Booth, Bignall End (v. Burslem)	86
A. Cooper, Knypersley (v. L.M.S.)	89
P. Green, Knypersley II (v. L.M.S. II)	72
J. Dickenson, Crowe (v. Porthill)	69
J. B. Swindale, Nantwich (v. Silverdale)	69
E. Tunstall, Knypersley (v. L.M.S.)	69
C. Bickerton, Porthill II (v. Crewe II)	58
Hutchinson, Leek II (v. Great Chell II)	58
A. Bourne, Sandlyford (v. Ashcombe Park)	56
A. Green, Caverswall (v. Alsagers Bank)	54
S. Heath, Madeley (v. Burslem H.L.)	54
A. Birch, Burslem (v. Bignall End)	53

* Denotes not out.

BOWLING.

J. Barnett, Silverdale II (v. Nantwich II) ..	8 for 29
P. Green, Knypersley II (v. L.M.S.)	9 for 41
W. Fenton, Burslem II (v. Bignall End II) ..	7 for 18

J. Evans, Norton (v. Longton)	7 for 31
H. McEllin, Audley (v. Alsagers Bank) ..	7 for 43
G. W. Booth, Caverswall (v. Alsagers Bank II) ..	6 for 16
J. Tabbenor, Caverswall II (v. Alsagers Bank II) ..	6 for 20
J. Butler, Great Chell II (v. Leek II)	6 for 39
J. Chadwick, Porthill II (v. Crewe II)	6 for 53
A. L. Kidd, Leek (v. Great Chell)	6 for 58
S. Rowley, Madeley II (v. Burslem H.L. II) ..	5 for 10
A. G. Wainwright, Alsagers Bank II (v. Caverswall) ..	5 for 12
A. Davies, Onneley (v. Sandlyford II)	5 for 13
A. Bourne, Sandlyford (v. Ashcombe Park) ..	5 for 15
T. Naylor, Fenton II (v. Scot Hay)	5 for 17
A. Beech, Madeley (v. Burslem H.L.)	5 for 19
T. Bagley, Stone II (v. Audley II)	5 for 20
G. Malbon, Cheshire II (v. Betley II)	5 for 24
W. Colclough, Fenton (v. Kids Grove)	5 for 26
J. Keates, Cheshire (v. Betley)	5 for 36
O. Brassington, Ashcombe Park (v. Sandlyford) ..	5 for 43
H. White, Bignall End (v. Burslem)	5 for 46
W. Chell, Betley (v. Cheshire)	5 for 46

* Denotes hat-trick.

N.S. & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

SILVERDALE v. NANTWICH.

SILVERDALE.—J. G. Cooper b Maybury 6, A Ward o Hough b Maybury 2, J Ankers c Hough b Garner 47, C F Rushton c H Smith b Garner 45, E Downing lbw b Stevenson (B H) 20, W Downing b Stevenson (E H) 0, B Griffiths c J E Smith b Stevenson (E H) 7, E White c J E Smith b Maybury 7, J Whalen st Hough b Maybury 12, E Groome b Stevenson, G Green not out 1, extras 7; total 159.

NANTWICH.—J. B. Swindale lbw b White 69, F W Slight b White 7, L E Norton lbw b Groome 1, T W Stevenson c Ankers b Groome 5, W T Maybury b Groome 2, E H Stevenson b White 3, J E Smith b Downing (W) 0, H Gidman b Whalen 16, H Smith c Rushton b Griffiths 18, F E Hough b White 3, H Garner not out 2, extras 17; total 146.

PORTHILL v. CREWE ALEXANDRA.

CREWE.—H Hope c and b Bickerton 37, F Walker c Bickerton b White 13, C Coffin c White b Durbur 18, Sedgwick (H) b Bickerton 7, J Jennings b Wood 21, G Wood b Durbur 2, J Dickinson not out 69, H H Owan c Bickerton b White 0, H Norman c H Gleaves b Durbur 9, S Hares c Henshaw b Bickerton 10, E Woodhall b Bickerton 3, extras 24; total 219.

PORTHILL.—A A Bickerton b Woodhall 17, K Gleaves c Dickenson b Sedgwick 13, N W White lbw Sedgwick 23, H C Henshaw b Sedgwick 24, J S Heath lbw Coffin 9, G A F Baguley b Sedgwick 2, G Price c Woodhall b Walker 7, H F Wood not out 2, W Mountford not out 0, extras 15; total 113.

LEEK v. GREAT CHELL.

GREAT CHELL.—A W Ikin b Birch 5, W Warburton c Alcock b Kidd 6, W Vodrey c Birch b Kidd 49, R Smith b Birch 3, U Worthington lbw b Pointon 18, R J Machin c Sedgwick b Ellerton 27, F Vodrey c Ellerton b Kidd 9, A Smith c Oliver b Kidd 0, E J Barber not out 13, G Fitchford b Kidd 1, H Chatterley b Kidd 6, extras 15; total 150.

LEEK.—A Rider c Fitchford b F Vodrey 24, C Hambleton b Worthington 1, H Oliver lbw b Fitchford 6, J Pointon lbw b Ikin 34, H Alcock c Machin b F Vodrey 0, G Sedgwick c Chatterley b Vodrey 1, H Birch not out 29, W R Rider b Barber 1, J H Ellerton b Barber 0, A L Kidd b Ikin 2, J W Ellerton b Ikin 0, extras 1; total 99.

BIGNALL END v. BURSLEM.

BURSLEM.—E Cotton lbw b Dale 3, L H Crump b White 3, B Hollowood run out 15, H Cotton c Brathy b White 1, A Birch not out 53, R Hollowood c McEllin b Dale 0, C Tunnicliffe c Brathy b White 4, E Baker b White 3, F Bailey b Dale 0, W Beddows c Mayer b White 0, P Kirkham b Dale 3, extras 9; total 94.

BIGNALL END.—Dr. Riley b Kirkham 11, L McEllin not out 96, A E Brathy c Tunnicliffe b Kirkham 7, A Booth c Beddows b Baker 96, S Hassall not out 9, extras 14; total (for 3 wks) 233.

KNYPERSELEY v. L.M.S.

L.M.S.—J Machin b Lonsdale 4, A Hackney lbw b Lonsdale 5, W D Robinson b Lonsdale 3, C Mason b Lonsdale 6, T Ball c Lowe b H Bibby 2, F J Dorrigan b Bibby 6, L Fuller run out 5, G Llewellyn run out 2, A J Copeland not out 2, J Cummings c Tue b Boon 5, extras 3; total 63.

KNYPERSELEY.—E Tunstall c Hackney c Cummings 59, T Bibby b Ball 45, A Cooper c Dorrigan b Llewellyn 39, W Boon c b Llewellyn 23, H Tue c Machin b Mason 11, W A Goodwin not out 3, L Lowe not out 0, extras 7; total (for 5 wks) 243.

NORTON v. LONGTON.

NORTON.—J Worthington c Brassington b Smith 16, J Waterfall c Hine b Smith 1, R Tatton run out 10, S Smith st Meigh b Brassington 12, P Massey c Smith b Brassington 7, E Mayer run out 0, G Bishop run out 1, J Smith b Blurton 18, A Evans b Hine 27, E Payne c Edwards b Hawkins 18, H Higgins not out 10, extras 8; total 130.

LONGTON.—C Edwards b Evans 17, A E Bennett c Tatton b Mayer 11, A L Day c J

Smith b Evans 0, A Smith b Evans 3, H Brassington lbw b Evans 10, A C Hawkins b Evans 0, J E V Toney b Mayer 17, E Blurton c and b Evans 10, A Hodson c Worthington b Evans 8, W Hine not out 1, A Meigh b Mayer 2, extras 6; total 85.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

KIDSGROVE v. FENTON.

FENTON.—W Colclough c Epllett b H Cooper 43, D Beswick b Broad 0, W White c Epllett b Broad 5, H Skellern run out 0, J Wood c Stubbs b Jones 15, H Naylor run out 2, W Wood c H Cooper b Jones 11, F Osborne c W Cooper b H Cooper 0, H Wainwright b H Cooper 3, H Houseman not out 9, A Mellor c and b Jones 9, extras 11; total 106.

KIDSGROVE.—H Cooper c Skellern b W Wood 5, H Stubbs run out 15, J Scarratt b W Wood 6, R Dakin run out 14, F R Dale b J Wood 8, P Strong b J Wood 9, R Epllett b Houseman 12, R E Jones not out 29, S Broad b W Wood 8, W Cooper c Skellern b W Wood 0, E H Downs b W Wood 0, extras 7; total 113.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE v. MADELEY.

HIGH LANE.—R Billings bowled Beech 0, T Oakes c Beech b Malkin 1, J Mellor c Young b Beech 3, A Gaskell c Heath b Malkin 0, G Skellern c Malkin b Beech 0, A Hurd c Deeming b Beech 18, S Lovatt c Beech b Malkin 5, T Hancock c Jones b Beech 27, G Lancaster c and b Heath 5, S Durbur c Beech b Malkin 31, J Henshall not out 1, extras 9; total 110.

MADELEY.—T Jones run out 0, A Beech run out 0, A Beech b Mellor 5, S Heath c Henshall b Durbur 54, S Barlow c Oakes b Mellor 26, E Malkin not out 35, E Griffiths c Gaskell b Hancock 29, J Millington c Lovatt b Hurd 5, extras 9; total (for 6 wks) 163.

BETLEY v. CHESHIRE.

BETLEY.—T Dean c Whitehurst b Keates 0, F Lyth c Capewell b Keates 2, C Johnson b Brough 3, E Aplin run out 7, G Shaw b Brough 0, B Madden c Whitehurst b Keates 2, J Moore b Keates 41, T Whitty c Pepper b Keates 0, R Ikin c Whitehurst b Critchlow 14, W Chell not out 3, J Brookshaw c Hurd b Critchlow 5, extras 7; total 84.

CHESHIRE.—H Capewell c and b Madden 2, J A Hurd c Dean b Chell 1, J Whitehurst c Whitty b Chell 0, J Shaw c Madden b Chell 23, V Pepper c Dean b Chell 0, A J Whitehurst b J Brookshaw 42, R Whitehurst b Chell 3, J E Critchlow c Ikin b Brookshaw 7, J Fieldhouse c Ikin b Brookshaw 8, W Brough c Whitty b Brookshaw 0, J Keates not out 0, extras 19; total 105.

CAVERSWALL v. ALSAGERS BANK.

ALSAGERS BANK.—L. Shuffelbotham b Wakelin 31, R Dean c Hamnett b Barber 15, A Green lbw b Jackson 54, F Sumnall b Barber 5, A Amson c Wakelin b Barber 2, W Beech b Wakelin 21, H Lea not out 5, S Hollinshead run out 0, G W Beech c Wakelin b Jackson 2, E Riley b Wakelin 0, H Rowley b Hadley 1, extras 19; total 155.

CAVERSWALL.—F Barber b Beech 0, E Rowley b Lea 1, H S Roberts b Beech 0, G H Sherwin b Beech 5, E J Wakelin c Lea b Hollinshead 14, C Hassall b Amson 5, P Hammett b Beech 10, A Pickard b Beech 12, I Hadley c Green b Beech 0, C Turner not out 2, S H Jackson not out 0, extras 8; total (for 9 wks) 57.

SANDYFORD v. ASHCOMBE PARK.

ASHCOMBE PARK.—F James c Mollart b Bourne 7, G Peacock b James 0, V Stubbs c and b James 1, J S Rane c Bourne b James 12, L Kirkham b Bourne 6, B Rane not out 7, P Bloor c Baker b James 10, G Turner c and b Mollart 4, H James c and b Bourne 12, C Davies c Cotton b Bourne 0, O Brassington c and b Bourne 0, extras 5; total 64.

SANDYFORD.—G Bourne c Peacock b James 17, Harold Mollart b Kirkham 17, H Mollart lbw b Davis 32, C Cotton b Rane 117, A Bourne c Bloor b Kirkham 56, W Downs c Rane b Brassington 12, E Baker c Rane b Brassington 6, A Baddley c and b Brassington 3, M Baker lbw b Brassington 8, W Parr lbw b Brassington 1, F James not out 0, extras 22; total 297.

STONE v. AUDLEY.

AUDLEY.—J McEllin b R C Worthington 26, C Maddocks b R C Worthington 10, A J Colley lbw b A M C Smith 21, R Procter b J Cooper 6, Jim McEllin run out 30, F Darlington b A M C Smith 4, G Rowley b A M C Smith 0, H Sproton c Ravenscroft b R C Worthington 7, P Jervis c Fletcher b R C Worthington 8, W Edge lbw b H H Wood 5, H McEllin not out 3, extras 8; total 137.

STONE.—P F Stubbs b F Darlington 10, S C Charlwood b H McEllin 5, E O Fernie b H McEllin 12, E Fletcher b F Darlington 1, F Ravenscroft b H McEllin 8, R C Worthington b H McEllin 9, H H Wood b H McEllin 5, P R Shepperd lbw b F Darlington 9, J Cooper b H McEllin 10, A M C Smith c Sproton b H McEllin 43, G W Hammersley not out 15, extras 9; total 136.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

NANTWICH v SILVERDALE.
SILVERDALE.—B Lowe c Hinde b Bell 9, F Burgess b Allsop 9, W Lowe c-b J Allsop 119, J O Davies c Allsop b Mayer 5, J Cooke b Hinde 13, P Bloo c Hall b Walker 16, S Jones b Bell 48, C Edge c Hall b Bell 15, J B street b Bell 12, H Green not out 8, extras 27; total (for nine wks, dec) 275.
NANTWICH.—W Walker c Cooke b Barnett 10, B T Dutton c Jones b Barnett 1, F Borton lbw b Barnett 7, G R Jackson lbw b Barnett 5, A Hinde c Green b Barnett 6, G H Mayer c Cooke b Barnett 9, C Hall b Burgess 24, T W Hope b Barnett 0, J Allsop not out 4, J Hill b Burgess 0, H Burrows c Jones b Barnett 4, extras 22; total 91.

BURSLEM v BIGNALL END.
BIGNALL END.—A Wareham b Cartledge 0, L Riley b Fenton 0, H Mayer lbw b Fenton 11, N White lbw b Cartledge 0, F Coleclough b Fenton 14, I Durber b Cartledge 0, E Johnson c Cartledge b Fenton 5, S Cope b Fenton 10, F Whalley not out 2, J Gibson b Fenton 0, J Taylor b Fenton 0, extras 6; total 43.
BURSLEM.—J H Hodgkiss b Taylor 11, T Johnson b Taylor 9, R Birch b White 11, H Sharpe run out 24, F Ellis c Taylor b Cope 13, J Fenton c Durber b Whalley 33, A E Pitt run out 0, E Bailey b Mayer 4, A Cartledge not out 23, W Fenton b Walley 1, G Smith b Whalley 3, extras 15; total 147.

LONGTON v NORTON.
LONGTON.—F Audley c Hunt b Reynolds 6, J Dennis run out 11, C Steele b Reynolds 10, K Mackee c Hill b Martin 15, J Siddon c Dawson b Hill 10, T O'Brien c Smith b Hill 24, R Woolley b Hill 1, H Peers c Davies b Hill 0, A H Poate b Reynolds 16, E Pass not out 2, J Brown c and b Reynolds, extras 15; total 111.
NORTON.—W Hurst b Woolley 4, A Wright lbw b Woolley 15, S Dawson c Dennis b Poate 5, W Martin b Steele 10, E Waterfall b Steele 5, A Smith b Siddon 22, J Martin not out 42, R Hill run out 0, W Davies not out 8, extras 14; total (for 7 wks) 121.

L.M. AND S. RAILWAY v KNYPER-LEY II.
KNYPER-LEY.—H Green b Emery 5, G Bedson c Ford b Emery 23, J Hancock b Ford 31, R Awtly b Davies 1, J Coleclough b Baker 10, C Maynard c Willbraham b Baker 0, P Green b Binns 72, C Slaney b Morrall 23, J Penney c Binns 13, F Finney c Willbraham b Emery 27, N Dcorbar not out 5, extras 8; total 252.
L.M. AND S.—R Hall b P Green 8, C Emerton b Bedson 0, R Ford c Doorbar b Green 25, B Willbraham c Finney b P Green 0, A C Binns st Maynard b Green 2, R Baker b Green 12, R Davies c Maynard b Green 4, F Morrall c Maynard b Green 7, V Whitehurst b P Green 0, G Emery not out 0, A Williams lbw b Bedson 1, extras 0; total 62.

GREAT CHELL v LEEK.
GREAT CHELL.—S Crump c and b Plant 41, F Warburton c Ball b Plant 19, S Brayford c and b Plant 0, M Goodwin st Bullock b Plant 5, J Ball c Pointon b Astbury 1, R Harris c Ball b Plant 12, J Butler c Astbury b Plant 8, J Taylor c Goodwin b Astbury 6, W H Meir not out 19, T Smith b Hutchinson 13, H Tams c Byrne b Ball 7, extras 13; total 144.
LEEK.—V Astbury st Tams b Butler 25, J Hulme c Ball b Butler 1, S Pointon b Butler 5, A Plant st Tams b Ball 14, H Byrne b Butler 6, F Sheldon b Butler 3, H Goodwin b Butler 0, F Mason c Tams b Taylor 2, A Ball b Warburton 2, S Hutchinson retired hurt 52, A Bullock not out 14, extras 8; total (for 9 wks) 144.

CREWE ALEX. v PORTHILL PARK.
PORTHILL.—J R Parkes b Willbraham 0, S Billington b Sylvester 3, P S S Briggs lbw b Sylvester 29, J Chadwick lbw b Willbraham 1, W Washington run out 5, R Hammond b Sylvester 23, C Bickerton not out 58, G Johnson b Sylvester 15, R W Sherwin b R Sherwin 23, E Poole b Willbraham 1, J Glover not out 33, extras 18; total (for 9 wks) 169.
CREWE.—A Sandlands b Chadwick 6, R Kirkham b Chadwick 15, J Corbett b Chadwick 1, P Willbraham b Sherwin 0, H D Chester b Chadwick 0, G H Garrett b Chadwick 0, J Prince c Chadwick b Billington 62, C Banks b Chadwick 0, W Sherwin b Johnson 5, W A Lea lbw b Washington 23, F Sylvester not out 7, extras 17; total 139.

Junior Division.—Section "B."

AUDLEY v STONE.
AUDLEY.—G Taylor b Bagley 14, A Broadbent run out 5, L Cork c Shenton b Bowdidge 5, J Shuker b Bagley 2, F McEllen b Bagley 7, G Leach b Bagley 2, J Bateman lbw b Bagley 2, C McEllen not out 13, D McEllen lbw b Poole 1, P Mayer lbw b H Wood 19, T Sproston c Ravenscroft b Wood 0, extras 4; total 91.
STONE.—B J Devaney c D McEllen b Shuker 1, C Wood b Taylor 4, F Middleton b Shuker 5, W Ravenscroft c T Sproston b Shuker 0, F Johnson c D McEllen b Taylor 0, F Bowdidge c Sproston b Taylor 23, W Talbot lbw b Taylor 4, T Bagley lbw b D McEllen 10,

J Hawkins c D McEllen b F McEllen 9, H Poole b Taylor 1, W Shenton not out 17, extras 5; total 79.

CHEADLE v BETLEY.
BETLEY.—G Lyth b Malbon 2, M Jones b Malbon 0, J Mainwaring b Malbon 0, G Maddock b Wetwood 4, T Burgess b Malbon 18, E Hughes b Malbon 0, A Bailey b Barker 17, G Applin b Powell 10, G Carter c Boardman b Wetwood 32, F Brookes lbw b Boardman 1, G Burgess not out 1, extras 9; total 94.
CHEADLE.—W Alecock run out 24, T Hawley b Jones 43, V Wetwood b Burgess 15, D Powell b Carter 4, A Wetwood not out 30, F Boardman not out 17, extras 8; total (for 4 wks) 141.

SCOT HAY v FENTON.
SCOT HAY.—F Thompson b Naylor 9, L Bloor run out 29, J Brown b T Naylor 1, G Brooks b T Naylor 7, A Viggars b T Naylor 1, F Higginbottom b T Naylor 9, S Bloor b T Naylor 0, A Rogerson b Fletcher 10, W Bostock run out 0, H Downing not out 8, A Wainwright st Tenkins b Pennington 0, extras 17; total 88.
FENTON.—F Taylor b Brown 13, J Sutton not out 33, J Pennington c Viggars b Thompson 9, T Naylor b Thompson 0, D Williams c Rogerson b Higginbottom 0, S Fletcher b Bloor 4, H Naylor not out 26, extras 7; total (for 5 wks) 92.

ONNELEY v SANDYFORD.
ONNELEY.—A Davies b Jones 1, G Deavalle c Massey b Jones 27, W Williams lbw b Jones 1, S Walsh c Jones b Tweats 38, J Morrey b Butcher 1, A Lewis b Butcher 4, C Davies b Tweats 17, A Hollins c Butcher 2, Tweats 0, S Royle b Walters 8, J Pedley c and b Tweats 0, A Broadhead not out 12, extras 9; total 118.
SANDYFORD.—F Walters lbw b Walsh 3, C Isom run out 3, J Tweats b Welsh 2, J Jones b A Davies 0, C Massey c Deavalle b A Davies 1, A Hancock b Welsh 0, W Kelsall b Welsh 7, T Brooks not out 10, J Hammond b A Davies 0, G Turner b A Davies 0, W Butcher c Deavalle b A Davies 0, extras 2; total 28.

MADELEY v BURSLEM HIGH LANE.
MADELEY.—J Mayer b Stone 3, H Wilkinson run out 1, H Buckley c Jackson b Sergeant 20, S Buckley b Boulton 11, J Harrison c Boulton b Sergeant 8, H Sims not out 2, S Rowley c and b Sergeant 5, F Heath c Jackson b Sergeant 0, J Minton b Stone 0, F Price b Jackson 1, A Pile lbw b Jackson 0, extras 5; total 56.
BURSLEM H.L.—T Clayton b Mayer 2, E Jackson c S Buckley b Mayer 0, H Stone b Rowley 0, A Whalley c Harrison b Rowley 13, B Edge b Rowley 2, S Porter b Rowley 0, A Boulton b Rowley 2, A Sergeant c Harrison b Price 7, C Lancaster run out 0, J Shaw not out 0, B Whiston c H Buckley b Price 0, extras 2; total 39.

ALSAGERS BANK v CAVERSWALL.
CAVERSWALL.—G Freeman lbw A G Wainwright 0, D Bevington lbw J Wainwright 13, R Dunn b Tomkinson 0, S Farmer c G Wainwright b A G Wainwright 0, F Ollier lbw b A G Wainwright 5, W Stanley lbw J Wainwright 8, F Hamnett c Bailey b A G Wainwright 2, G J R Francis b J Wainwright 0, W Payne b A G Wainwright 6, J Tabbinor b A G Wainwright 0, T Gott not out 0, extras 10; total 44.
ALSAGERS BANK.—G Nadin b Tabbinor 9, R Proctor b Payne 2, J Taylor b Tabbinor 1, W Moores b Tabbinor 11, F W Tomkinson c Dunn b Payne 1, W Bailey not out 10, J Wainwright b Tabbinor 0, A G Wainwright b Tabbinor 0, F Proctor b Tabbinor 0, W Scott run out 0, G Wainwright b Payne 0, extras 4; total 38.

TUNSTALL & DISTRICT LEAGUE.
BUTT LANE v LEYCETT.
LEYCETT.—G Spender c Hancock b Dale 4, C Symonds b Dale 1, J Hill c Dale b Talbot 7, P Spender b Dale 0, J Hazeldene b W Cumberbatch 22, B Elliot c Campbell b Hancock 10, A Bytheway lbw b G Boulton 20, J R Griffiths lbw b Talbot 3, G Moreton b G Boulton 0, W Hough not out 0, J Brown c Campbell b Talbot 1, extras 4; total 81.
BUTT LANE.—A Boulton b W Hough 6, S Evans b J Hill 0, B Talbot lbw b Hill 7, F Whalley c b Hough 0, B Campbell c Brown b Hill 6, G Dale c G Spender b Hough 15, G Boulton c Symonds b Hough 1, J Hancock b Hough 0, G Bailey b Hill 0, J Cumberbatch not out 2, W Cumberbatch c Hazeldene b Hill 0, extras 5; total 42.

STAFFS. CHEMICAL CO. v TAYLOR'S ATHLETIC.
TAYLOR'S.—Dunn c Claws b Lawton 15, Mountford c Reade b Roberts 8, J Tipping b Simpson 5, F Hodson b Simpson 3, C Skelding b Lawton 1, R Harvey b Lawton 3, S Burgess b Claws 0, T Burgess b Simpson 19, W Nixon run out 3, W Capewell c Bowker b Lawton 0, F Lockett not out 0, extras 7; total 65.
STAFFS. CHEMICAL CO.—A Archer b Burgess 0, C Clowes b Burgess 2, W Hawkins b Hodson 0, H Lawton b Hodson 45, R Batho b Hodson 6, J Shaw c and b Hodson 0, A Bowker

b Skelding 0, W Gardner not out 24, J Roberts c Lockett b Hodson 0, S Reade not out 18, extras 11; total (for 8 wks) 106.

WOODLAND POTTERY v BUCKNALL.
WOODLAND POTTERY.—H Holland c H Jackson b Hawthorne 19, G Peake c E Jackson b Forrester 11, H Hancock b E Jackson 22, R C Hodgkinson c Finney b E Jackson 0, L Cliffe c Jackson b Hawthorne 5, J Snape c Jackson b Hawthorne 3, C Rowley c Jackson b Hawthorne 1, J N Hodgkinson b Hawthorne 2, H Smith run out 7, J Salt b Forrester 0, J Peake not out 3, extras 2; total 77.
BUCKNALL.—J Williams b J Hodgkinson 0, E Jackson b H Smith 1, A Jackson b J N Hodgkinson 0, W Biddulph b J N Hodgkinson 5, F Myatt st Snape b H Smith 2, H Hawthorne c Salt b H Smith 0, J K Clarke b J N Hodgkinson 0, J Finney st Snape b J N Hodgkinson 0, G Forrester c Hancock b J N Hodgkinson 9, A Jones b Smith 1, Joe Clarke not out 3, extras 11; total 20.

KNYPER-LEY "A" v BERRYHILL.
BERRYHILL.—A Rawlinson b Gallimore 12, A Smith lbw b Lowe 0, W Brown c Davies b Gallimore 23, W Rawlinson b Gallimore 8, B Powers b Bloor b Gallimore 40, A Brown lbw b Gallimore 0, A Chidlow b Gallimore 15, F Cowes c Heath b Lowe 0, F Drake not out 7, E Rowley c Heath b Lowe 11, F Wallis run out 1, extras 10; total 128.
KNYPER-LEY.—C Bates lbw b Rawlinson 0, F Copeland run out 1, J Heath c Rawlinson b Smith 5, T Bedson b Rawlinson 0, W Lowe c Brown b Smith 0, E Davies b Rawlinson 9, J Bloor lbw b Smith 2, J J Green b Smith 0, F Price not out 0, J Small b Smith 0, T Gallimore b Smith 0, extras 9; total 26.

FENTON AMATEURS v HARRISEHEAD.
FENTON A.—H Brown c Shuttlebotham b H Butler 5, W King c Henshall b Rowbottom 0, P Grimley b H Butler 7, J Coleclough b Rowbottom 2, J Evans b H Butler 5, N Draycott b G Rowbottom 0, C Cooper c Shuttlebottom b G Rowbottom 0, W Calcott lbw b G Rowbottom 0, J Barnett not out 1, H Perrisford b H Butler 1, G Bebbington b H Butler 0, extras 2; total 23.
HARRISEHEAD.—H Butler b W King 3, E Stamer lbw b J Evans 0, W Stenier b J Evans 0, J Henshall c Coleclough b J Evans 2, A Henshall b N Draycott 4, J Hancock run out 1, D Hancock b W King 0, H Shuttlebottom b N Draycott 1, H Copland c W King b W Calcott 15, A Copeland b J Evans 4, G Rowbottom not out 7, extras 4; total 41.

FENTON & DISTRICT LEAGUE.
LEYCETT v SILVERDALE "A."
SILVERDALE "A."—A Hilditch b Broadhead 1, W Broadgate b Edwards 0, A Edwards b Edwards 9, P Jackson c and b Broadhead 14, W Forster c Salmon b Edwards 0, S Viggars c Edwards b Furnival 7, C Bloor b Furnival 0, B Hibble run out 7, J Hollins not out 5, J Berry st Viggars 0, A Edwards b Broadhead 0, extras 16; total 59.
LEYCETT.—A Viggars b Hilditch 0, J Furnival c Edwards b Hilditch 9, G Salinon b Hilditch 0, J Broadhead b Hilditch 4, W Edwards lbw b Edwards 23, L Broadhead b Berry 5, H Viggars b Hilditch 4, J Spencer c Hollins b Hilditch 3, T Symonds c Edwards b Hollins 0, F Moreton c Edwards b Hollins 5, S Williams not out 5, extras 6; total 60.

FLORENCE COLLIERY v LONGTON "A."
LONGTON "A."—A Bold c Robinson b Roberts 2, R Young c Roberts 7, G Glover c Leese b Inrie 7, C Hodson b Inrie 6, H D Proctor c Owen b Inrie 5, T Bainbridge b Barnes 5, W Massey c Robinson b Roberts 13, H Proctor c Bryan b Leese 10, W Coleclough b Roberts 0, T Sheriff not out 1, A Wood run out 0, extras 7; total 65.
FLORENCE.—H Barnes c Young b Proctor 24, W Leese b Young 0, E Wilkinson b Young 5, W Brian b Young 3, A Inrie b Proctor 30, H Owen c and b Proctor 4, T Wood c Glover b Hodson 2, W Robinson not out 0, extras 3; total (for 7 wks) 71.

BUCKNALL v WOLSTANTON MARSH.
WOLSTANTON.—C Robinson run out 3, T Mitchell c Poole b Meigh 15, A Green b Hawthorne 2, H Robinson b Peacock 33, S Smith b Hawthorne 27, W Moss not out 15, G Follows b Poole 14, T Brett c Shelley b Hawthorne 2, W Robinson c Finney b Poole 0, extras 17; total (for 8 wks dec) 128.
BUCKNALL.—R Burton c Smith b Brett 0, E Platt lbw b Robinson (W) 4, T Poole b Brett 3, R Meigh b Robinson 20, T Boston lbw b Brett 0, H Peacock b Robinson 20, T Gould lbw b Brett 0, J Finney c Green b Brett 0, T Hawthorne b Brett 1, H Snelley b Robinson 0, P Wrench not out 4, extras 26; total 80.

BLYTHER BRIDGE & UTTOXETER LEAGUE.

Division I.

STALLINGTON v. ALTON.

ALTON.—A Holtham b W Bourne 7, F Goodwin b A Simcox 11, G Sheldon a G Abbott b H Averill 11, J Byatt c J Hart b W Bourne 20, C Lake b A Simcox 24, T Hamilton b H Averill 2, H Taylor c E Tipper b A Simcox 21, W Wright c A Abbott b A Simcox 0, J Eyre b Simcox 4, H Bridden not out 4, G Brindley b A Simcox 7, extras 14; total 124.

STALLINGTON.—W Bedson b Eyre 10, C White b Wright 17, W Smith b Byatt 1, W S White c Holtham b Sheldon 4, W Bourne lbw b Sheldon 3, G Abbott b Wright 0, H Averill c Goodwin b Wright 13, J Hart c Lake b Byatt 10, A Simcox c Eyre b Wright 0, E Tipper b Wright 7, A Abbott not out 3, extras 6; total 74.

TEAN v. ROCESTER.

ROCESTER.—F Wood c Wilson b Kirkland 26, H Heathcote c Wilson b Gimbirt 8, W Burton b Gimbirt 0, W Atkins c Capewell b Smith 42, R Wood c Smith b Willson 26, G Wood b Gimbirt 40, W Baker b Beaman 2, A Wood b Beaman 0, F Fearn not out 1, J Gosling b Beaman 0, W Shipley c Capewell b Beaman 2, extras 7; total, 154.

TEAN.—H Sanders c Heathcote b Baker 1, A Chadwick c G Wood b Baker 56; G Beaman c Heathcote b Baker 2, F Wilson c G Wood b Fearn 13, S Johnson b G Wood 8, R Gimbirt c Shipley b Baker 3, A Kirkland b Baker 0, G Smith b G Wood 4, W Bentley b G Wood 0, D Nichol b G Wood 0, W Capewell not out 8, extras 9; total, 104.

MEIR v. FLORENCE.

MEIR.—J Walters b Bridgett 3, C Cornes b Toft 3, J Hughes c G Bentley b A Bentley 23, T Adderley c Tooth b Toft 11, A Moore lbw b A Bentley 6, A Rushton b Toft 17, E Bickerton c G Bentley b Copestake 2, G Fernyhough b Copestake 2, P Shenton c Bridgett b Copestake 0, F Blunt b Toft 0, H Donkin not out 4, extras 14; total 85.

FLORENCE.—J Bridgett b Blunt 3, J Utting b Blunt 1, V Copestake b Blunt 11, A Bentley c Moore b Adderley 13, G Bentley c Bickerton b Donkin 3, F Traversa b Blunt 3, J Tooth c Shenton b Blunt 1, A Toft c E Bickerton b Donkin 2, F Toft b Blunt 8, H Lindop not out 22, J Pugh c Shenton b Blunt 0, extras 12; total 79.

Division II.

HOLLINGTON v. TEAN.

TEAN.—G Parker lbw W Walton 5, L Sanders st Mellor b Travis 7, H Beardmore c Travis b W Walters 4, J Yates c Walters b Travis 3, W Beardmore lbw b Walters 3, F Richardson b W Walters 4, J Bull st Mellor 4, W Rowe c Woodroffe b Travis 1, W Beardmore lbw b Travis 0, D Smith b Travis 11, A Beardmore not out 0, extras 15; total 59.

HOLLINGTON.—A Travis not out 10, G Allen b Rowe 4, W Belfield st Parker b Smith 3, H Woodroffe run out 5, T Atterberry not out 0, extras 8; total 30.

LEIGH v. KINGSLEY.

KINGSLEY.—E Bentley b Welsh 8, W Carr b G Backhouse 6, B Coe lbw Welsh 10, G Critchlow b Welsh 2, J Kent b Collier 18, R Coe b Hollins 3, G Goodwin b Welsh 3, J W Carr run out 1, C Jackson c Emery Welsh 3, J Keates not out 13, B Lowell b Robertson 12, extras 1; total 80.

LEIGH.—S Burton b R Coe 1, E Brown c Critchlow R Coe 3, A Robertson st Critchlow b Coe 22, S Emery b Keates 21, F Hollins c Keates b Bentley 2, C Freeman st Critchlow b Lowell 4, G Backhouse st Critchlow b Kent 20, J Handley b Carr 9, J Welsh not out 13, H C Collier not out 8, extras 10; total (for 8) 113.

ASHCOMBE PARK v. CRESSWELL.

ASHCOMBE PARK.—W James c Farmer b Mayer 0, J Martin b Mayer 6, J Goldstraw c Goodwin b Tongue 10, A Blakeman c Mayer b Tongue 22, F Corbishley b Tongue 0, J Deakin c Goodwin b Blower 2, A Rutter b Tongue 6, N Turner b Blower 0, A Kirkham c Goodwin b Blower 0, N Kirkham run out 4, H James not out 0, extras 9; total 59.

CRESSWELL.—J Farmer b Goldstraw 21, E Dale b Goldstraw 1, H Bennett b Corbishley 4, A Bettany lbw b Goldstraw 10, H Blower c Deakin b Corbishley 4, C Goodwin not out 36, F Goodwin c Kirkham b Corbishley 4, B Tongue b Corbishley 0, G Mayer b Rutter 0, A Hart b Deakin 2, C Sanders c Martin b Rutter 3; total 84.

LICHFIELD v. STAFFORD.

LICHFIELD.—R Cooke b White 45, C Bennett b Kenworthy 0, W Plant b Kenworthy 0, H Davis b Kenworthy 0, C Carnwell b Kenworthy 55, F Rudgard b Kenworthy 13, G Knight not out 38, R Moore b Greatrex 0, G Elliott not out 16, extras 39; total (for 7 wks) 266.

STAFFORD.—F Page not out 47, W T White c Knight b Oram 10, J W Hawley c Moore b Slater 0, G H Greatrix b Slater 0, S H Critchley b Elliott 22, C A Woodver st Cook b Carnwell 3, A S Webb c Rudgard b Carnwell 0, D H C Craig st Cook b Elliott 4, J S Holt c Elliott b Davis 11, A J Ward c Cooke b Oram 9, E C Kenworthy b Oram 0, extras 12; total 118.

WEM v. MARKET DRAYTON.

MARKET DRAYTON.—M Suthery b Smith 10, R O'Brien c Isherwood b Smith 43, C Ridgway b O Mohm 6, Major Lees not out 17, H Harper c Strong b Ikin 39, T Morrey b Ikin 8, R V Eardley c Strong b Smith 4, E R Davis c Clayton b Smith 1, J A Hilditch b Smith 11, E Finney b Smith 0, I Hall b Smith 0, extras 39; total 239.

WEM.—P Swain c Davies b Lees 4, C P O'Dea b O'Brien 2, O Mohm b O'Brien 9, Capt H R Makin b Lees 5, E W Isherwood 1, Suthery 47, A Smith b Lees 1, H Strong c Hilditch b Lees 2, E H Ikin b Suthery 10, R J Clayton c and b Lees 6, O E Birch b Lees 4, F Rolfe not out 1, extras 9; total 98.

TRENTHAM II. CONGLETON II.

TRENTHAM.—E C Jones 19, F B Jones 2, A Gregson 23, P Boulllemier 1, H Sefton 5, W Jackson 6, E J Dennis 22, G Taylor 5, E Freshwater not out 6, R Poulson 0, W Hensley 6, extras 9; total 103.

CONGLETON.—Amos 8, A Elkin 9, R J Ward 2, H Hackney not out 35, T Standeven 0, B Hulme 1, R Duncalf 1, J Gill 8, Tomlinson 0, B Lewis 1, Macaiddle 12, extras 12; total 90.

OAKAMoor v. ENGLISH ELECTRIC.

OAKAMoor.—J W Johnson not out 135, J Finney c Giddings b Hardgrave 3, J R Goodly b Mouniford 36, J Swinson b Mouniford 1, S Walker not out 20, extras 7; total (for 3 wks) 362. Declared.

ENGLISH ELECTRIC.—G M Mouniford 1 Swinson 33, G Smith not out 43, extras 4; total (for 1 wk) 80.

DENSTONE COLLEGE v. K.E.S. BIRMINGHAM.

DENSTONE.—H N Place c Wyatt b Plowright 19, J G Garman b Plowright 16, R W Eyre c Eustace b Hyde 75, P F B Bluett b Plowright 9, T B Carey hit wkt b Wyatt 21, J S Standerwick c Eustace b Wyatt 20, P Fernie c Lyttleton b Whitehouse 1, C K Thacker c Plowright b Whitehouse 0, A Carter c Eustace b Hyde 2, J B Place st Eustace b Wyatt 41, W A Davis not out 3, extras 14; total 263.

K.E.S.—D R Dudley c Garman b Bluett 3, F N Bryan lbw b Bluett 15, W K Wyatt run out 64, E W Elwood c Eyre b Carter 19, F L Bland st J Place b Bluett 21, N A M Plowright c Davis b Eyre 14, A W Eustace b Bluett 0, E R Lapwood lbw b Bluett 2, R A Lyttleton c Eyre b Bluett 33, G Hyde st J Place b Fernie 11, C S Whitehouse not out 0, extras 6; total 193.

UTTOXETER v. ETWALL.

UTTOXETER.—O Doran c Archer b Radford 6, E M Cruickshank b Radford 38, F Harper c Graham b Thornhill 6, J Hutchinson b Thornhill 0, Capt H J Bamford b Thornhill 0, S G Atkinson c Gregson b Trubshaw 17, J R Brown lbw b Radford 4, J Doran st Gregson b Trubshaw 10, C Sandham st Gregson b Wood 31, F Laughton c Graham b Radford 4, R Sandham not out 0, extras 14; total, 133.

ETWALL.—Wood b C Sandham 7, Trubshaw c Atkinson b C Sandham 31, Heath run out 5, Archer b Harper 12, Gregson c Hutchinson b Harper 13, T Bailey b Hutchinson 22, A Bailey c Cruickshank b Hutchinson 4, Scholes c and b Hutchinson 5, Radford not out 35, Graham b Hutchinson 0, Thornhill not out 0, extras 5; total (for 9 wks) 139.

WINSFORD v. CREWE PERMANENT WAY.

CREWE.—W Sproston 40, R King 57, J H Barratt 2, H Dudley 5, R Riding 4, J A Barrett not out 62, S Wichall 26, L Hodgkinson not out 5, extras 7; total (for 6 wks) 208. Declared.

WINSFORD.—E Noden 10, H Oakes 5, F Blackburn 3, F Corbett 12, N Haynes 5, R H Deans 1, T Henshall 1, E Gorst 14, J Everett 25, V J Prout 4, H Lamb not out 0, extras 6; total, 89.

SANDBACH v. HARTFORD.

SANDBACH.—H P Rigby 21, F Dunsell 19, W G Cooke 17, A Orma 0, G Riddell 4, H Trueman 17, J W Hilditch 40, F Maskelyne not out 22, W Rossen not out 10, extras 26; total (for 7 wks) 182. Declared.

HARTFORD.—W Kitchen 2, B Fimlott 10, C Allman 26, A Walker 47, H Howard 27, W Ifarfer 6, A J Oakley 2, E Done 0, R Nuncollis 11, J Maddock 1, H Hawlett not out 9, extras 8; total 149.

Hastington II. 48, Chester College II. 46, Sandbach II 123, Hartford II. 85, J. and G. Meakin Ltd. 36, Butterton 74, Barches Head 66, Moddershall 51, Market Drayton G.S. 62, Market Drayton O.F. 40, Market Drayton II. 113, Wem II. 32, Bourne Prius. 59, Wolstanton A.I. x. 67, Fenton Bethel 54, Longsdon 28.

NORTH STAFFS. AND DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE.

Two Century Makers in a Day of Heavy Scoring.

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS AND TABLES.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Norton	8	5	1	2	12
Leek	8	4	2	2	10
Nantwich	8	4	2	2	10
Bignall End	8	3	2	3	9
Knypersley	8	3	2	3	9
Crewe Alexandra	8	3	3	2	8
Great Chell	8	3	3	2	8
Porthill Park	8	2	2	4	8
Silverdale	8	3	3	2	8
Longton	8	3	4	1	7
Burslem	8	3	4	1	7
L.M. & S. Railway (Stoke)	8	0	6	2	2

Crewe Alexandra, 219; Porthill Park, 113 for seven.
 Bignall End, 253 for three; Burslem, 94.
 Great Chell, 150; Leek, 99.
 Norton, 130; Longton, 85.
 Knypersley, 243 for five; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 63.
 Silverdale, 159; Nantwich, 146.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Sandyford	8	6	1	1	13
Stone	8	5	2	1	11
Cheadle	8	5	3	0	10
Kids Grove	8	4	2	2	10
Audley	8	4	4	0	8
Fenton	8	4	4	0	8
Ashcombe Park	8	3	4	1	7
Madeley	8	2	3	3	7
Betley	8	2	4	2	6
Caverswall	8	1	3	4	6
Alsagers Bank	8	1	4	3	5
Burslem High Lane	8	2	5	1	5

Madeley, 163 for six; Burslem High Lane, 110.
 Cheadle, 165; Betley, 84.
 Alsagers Bank, 190; Caverswall, 67 for nine.
 Kids Grove, 113; Fenton, 108.
 Sandyford, 297; Ashcombe Park, 64.
 Audley, 157; Stone, 136.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

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

Porthill Park, 199 for nine (dec); Crewe Alex., 133.
 Burslem, 147; Bignall End, 48.
 Great Chell, 144; Leek, 144.
 Knypersley, 222; L.M.S. Ry. (Stoke), 62.
 Norton, 121 for seven; Longton, 111.
 Silverdale, 275 for nine (dec.); Nantwich, 91.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Caverswall	7	6	1	0	12
Betley	7	5	2	0	10
Audley	7	4	2	1	9
Cheadle	7	4	2	1	9
Madeley	7	4	2	1	9
Onneley	7	4	2	1	9
Fenton	7	3	4	0	6
Alsagers Bank	7	2	4	1	5
Stone	7	2	4	1	5
Sandyford	7	2	5	0	4
Scot Hay	7	2	5	0	4
Burslem High Lane	7	1	6	0	2

Madeley, 58; Burslem High Lane, 39.
 Cheadle, 141 for four; Betley, 94.
 Caverswall, 44; Alsagers Bank, 36.
 Fenton, 92 for five; Scot Hay, 88.
 Onneley, 118; Sandyford, 28.
 Audley, 91; Stone, 79.

THE FIRST Saturday of June saw "summer's tresses float upon the breeze," and local cricket people had an afternoon of excellent sport. Batsmen again had the advantage and two had the pleasure of passing the century, C. Cotton, of Sandyford, taking 117 from Ashcombe Park's bowling, and E. Lowe getting 110 in the match between the reserves of Silverdale and Nantwich. Of other big individual scores the highest came from L. McEllin and A. Booth, who each scored 96 for Bignall End against Burslem, McEllin being at the wickets all through, and carrying out the innings passed the second century, and the heaviest total was amassed by Sandyford, who hit up 297. Double success was achieved by six clubs, these being Knypersley, Norton, Silverdale, Audley, Cheadle and Madeley. Silverdale were particularly pleased, as their victims were the dual champions of last season. The results disturbed the state of equality which had existed at the head of the merit tables, and the clubs now occupying the positions of honour do so with clear leads.

CREWE'S ADVANTAGE.

Crewe Alexandra had ample reason to be satisfied with their doings at Wolstanton, even though their efforts had only a negative reward. Their batting had the merit of consistency, with H. Hope's 37 the best example of class, and J. Dickinson's 69 (not out) the most material display. Dickinson played a characteristic innings, strong and fearless in his on side work, and hit 14 boundaries, including a sequence of six. His stay put his side in an almost impregnable position, but Porthill Park have themselves to blame that dropped catches gave him such an extended tenure. The home team's bowling was again moderate, and of the seven men tried A. A. Bickerton had the best figures with four for 33. Satisfactory stands were made for Porthill's first and third wickets—N. White (23) and H. C. Renshaw (24)—but the batsmen had a bad time after the third partnership had been broken at 75, and the rest of the innings was concentration on avoiding defeat. H. Sedgwick had four wickets for 52.

BURSLEM HEAVILY BEATEN.

Burslem were heavily defeated at Bignall End, the only players to offer resistance to the very fine bowling of F. J. Dale and D. White being A. Birch and B. Hollowood. The last-named was playing nicely when he was run out after making 15. Birch went in at the fall of the third wicket, and carried out his bat for a finely got 53. Save for one over, Dale and White bowled all through and had four for 37 and five for 48, respectively. When Bignall End batted, Dr. A. Riley had a short stay for 11, and A. E. Brath's obstinacy was overcome at 35, but the match was won without further loss, L. McEllin and A. Booth proceeding to put on 174 runs before they were parted. Their partnership provided the crowd with a really skilful exhibition of spirited batting, Booth especially scoring at a great pace, and his innings of 96 contained 15 boundaries. He had the luck to be dropped in the long-field with his total at about 30, but otherwise made no serious mistake. McEllin's clever innings of 96 was also marred by one chance, but this was a trifling incident in an unbeaten stay which lasted two hours.

CHELL IN FORM.

Batting first at the Highfield ground, Great Chell were in a position of some anxiety when their third wicket dropped at 22, but the batting was steadied by U. Worthington (16) and W. Vodrey, who put on 35 for the next wicket. Vodrey then found another good associate in R. J. Machin (27), the pair bringing the aggregate to respectable proportions by adding 42 whilst in company. Vodrey made headway to the extent of 49, the capable effort which contained eight boundaries. The usefulness of the last five wickets was signified by the addition of 51 runs. H. Birch was effectively countered, though his deliveries were always hard to score from, and the most effective Leek bowler was A. L. Kidd, who did well to claim six wickets for 58 runs. The home team made a bad start by losing two men for 13 but A. Rider (24) and J. Pointon improved their prospects by carrying the score to 42 before Rider was got rid of, and after two more wickets had gone cheaply Pointon (34) and Birch opened up a prospect of victory by sound play which took the total to 91. The prospect was blighted, however, by bowling changes which brought on A. W. Ikin and E. J. Barber. The professional, accounted for Pointon in his first over, and the batting went to pieces afterwards, the last four wickets—all clean bowled—dropping for eight, leaving Birch to take out his bat for a steady 29. Ikin had three wickets for seven, Barber two for five, and F. Vodrey three for 25. Chell were good winners of a keen struggle.

NORTON'S FIFTH SUCCESS.

Norton's victory over Longton was in no way foreshadowed by the early events of the game, for a wicket was lost to the sixth ball, and unfortunate running backed up the Longton bowlers so appreciably that seven players had returned to the pavilion when 49 runs had been scored. The first indication of progress came with the partnership of J. Smith (18) and H. Evans, and the stand of these two seasoned players, which furnished 26 runs, was followed by valuable help being afforded to Evans by two younger batsmen, E. Payne scoring 18 and H. Higgins (10, not out). This striving saw

81 runs put on by the last three wickets, Evans playing with admirable steadiness and judgment for 27, his being the last wicket to fall. The best of the five Longton bowlers was H. Brassington, who was never really mastered, but had to be content with two wickets for 36. To get the required runs was not considered beyond Longton's powers, but as things turned out the visitors gave an inglorious display, and there was no adequate excuse for their failure. C. Edwards stayed a considerable time for 17, and J. E. V. Toney got a like score in the later stages, but Longton were a beaten side after the fall of the fourth wicket, and defeat always looked inevitable. Mayer and Evans bowled unchanged, the amateur adding to his batting laurels by a performance of exceptional merit, seven wickets falling to his deliveries for 31 runs.

L.M.S. TROUNCED.

At Knypersley, the L.M. and S. Railway batsmen all got some runs, but as individual productiveness ranged from 9 to 2 the aggregate was poor, especially as the match was played on a good pitch. The most profitable stand was one of 12 for the sixth wicket, and two instances of run out contributed to the breakdown. W. Lonsdale was in deadly form capturing four wickets for 15 runs, and he was well supported by W. Boon and T. Bibby, who each claimed two victims. McEllin was seen when Knypersley batted, L. L. Marshall (39) and T. Bibby (45) having the measure of the bowling from the outset, and the match was won before they were parted, a separation not being effected until the score had been taken to 54. The rest of the cricket was marked by the dazzling display of A. Cooper, this batsman hitting brilliantly all round the wicket, and getting 89 by 19 fours, two couples and nine singles. Only four overs went unpunished, and the severity of the hitting saw 22 runs got from one over, 19 from another and 16 from a third.

CHAMPIONS OVERTHROWN.

After a game marked by changes of fortune, Silverdale triumphed over Nantwich by the narrow margin of 13 runs, and they were value for their victory. Taking the field first, the Cheshire visitors did well to dispose of Silverdale's first two batsmen for 16 runs, but the next partnership turned the game materially, J. Ankers (47) and C. F. Rushton (45) not being separated until they had put on 77 runs. Fielding errors had something to do with the change of affairs, both batsmen giving unaccepted chances, and Nantwich were lucky that Ankers did not get more runs after an easy catch, and a chance of running him out had been lost. Apart from the one blunder, Ankers batted finely for his runs, his clean and powerful driving being, as usual, the dominant phase of his innings. Rushton was also in form, placing his shots very cleverly, and rarely being troubled by the bowling. The only other batsman to have a long stay was E. Downing, who was in a careful mood, taking almost an hour to score 25. In the absence of L. Haigton, through an injury, Nantwich included H. Garner in their side, and the selection was justified, for he bowled really well, and would have been credited with much better figures than two for 40 but for the nerving blunders. The other eight wickets were equally shared by E. H. Steverson and W. T. Maybury, whose debit was 50 and 62 runs respectively. Nantwich failed to produce their ordinary sound and consistent batting, and they would have been hopelessly beaten but for the masterly play of J. B. Swindale, who had no help of moment until H. Gidman joined him as the seventh wicket partner. Gidman (16) was associated with the gathering of 42 runs, and who he had gone H. Smith (16) and Swindale batted so confidently that a Nantwich win appeared more than likely. Thirty more runs were added before Swindale was dismissed. This batsman's stay lasted just over two hours. Getting runs all round the wicket, he had batted almost faultlessly for 69, and there was only one real flaw in his innings. The addition of 10 more runs saw the innings finished, H. Smith giving an easy catch in the slips, and Hough losing a delivery from E. White, who had four wickets for 46. The best of the other bowlers was E. Groom, with three for 40.

SENIOR "B" GAMES.

Madeley's return to the lower ranks has not so far been associated with the success that was expected, but the team showed something like the form of 1925 in their match with Burslem High Lane, and a comfortable victory was gained. High Lane's batting had a most distressing start, four wickets going in the course of three overs for two singles, and although A. Hurd (18) hit pluckily eight men were out for 53. The one satisfactory stand was for the ninth wicket, 47 runs being put on by T. Hancock (37) and S. Durber (31). H. Beech's bowling was always difficult and he sensationally by having two victims in his first over, but was freely hit afterwards, and wicket went cheaply, Madeley always had the match well in hand, S. Heath (54) and E. Barlow (26) playing boldly and frequently finding the boundary, and more enterprising cricket

came from Malkin (35, not out) and E. Grimiths (29).

Losing seven wickets for 16 runs, Betley looked like having a very short batting career, but further disaster was prevented by J. Moore and H. Ikin (14), the pair defying the bowling to such purpose that they were not parted until the aggregate reached 76, when Moore was bowled for a vigorous 41. Ikin got 10 from the first over bowled to him, but he was almost dormant afterwards, though highly useful in keeping one end going. J. Keates bowled well to get five wickets for 36, and Cheadle's fielding was of a good standard. The home side's batting start emulated Betley's, four wickets going for 14, but on J. Shaw (23) and A. J. Whitehurst coming together the game had another turn, and victory was well in sight when Shaw was caught from a mis-hit at 71. Whitehurst carried on until the match was decided, his share of the 91 recorded when his wicket was taken being a capital 42. W. Chell had five wickets for 40, and J. Brookshaw's second turn got him four for seven, to which must be added five scored from his first turn of two overs. Betley were alert in the field, and took some very smart catches.

SLOW PLAY AT CAVERSWALL.

Slow play characterised the match at Caverswall, the full available time being occupied in scoring just over 200 runs. Alsagers Bank had the advantage of batting first on a perfect wicket, and their first three players made the most of their chance. The top scorer was A. H. Green, who had 54 runs as the reward of capital play and other useful contributions came from L. Shufflebotham (31), R. Dean (15), and G. W. Beech (21), the last-named saving the later stages of the innings from mediocrity. Caverswall's bowling was more conventional than formidable, though E. Wakelin had a burst of effectiveness in his last turn, and finished with three wickets for 25, figures which just beat those of F. Barber, three for 32. Left with two overs to bat, Caverswall lost two men in the first over, and had to play for safety, which was a difficult job in the face of good bowling and excellent fielding. The best "stickers" were Wakelin (14), F. Hammett (10) and A. Pickard (12), the "last over" was safely negotiated with the last pair at the wicket. Of the 44 overs sent down by five Bank bowlers no fewer than 25 were maidens. Beech was at the top of his form, taking six wickets for 16 runs in 14 overs.

In an interesting game at Clough Hall only five runs divided Kidsgrove and Fenton, but the home team were actually winners with three wickets standing. Fenton had to thank W. Colclough for a big proportion of their run-getting, this batsman hitting briskly for 43. The most useful Kidsgrove bowlers were R. Jones and H. Cooper, the pair equally sharing six wickets. Copying the opposition Kidsgrove endangered their chances by having two men run out, and they were in jeopardy when their seventh wicket dropped at 80, but the situation was retrieved by the resolute play of Jones, who took out his bat for 29. The leading Fenton bowler was W. Wood, with five for 35.

SANDYFORD RUN RIOT.

After being put out for 64 by A. Bourne (5 for 15) and F. James (4 for 40), Ashcombe Park saw Sandyford run riot with their bowling, boundaries coming almost without cessation, particularly after the first pair of bowlers had gone off. The match was won directly after the fall of the second wicket, and from that point the proceeding developed into a "help yourself" affair. C. Cotton and A. Bourne in a fourth wicket stand, took the score from 103 to 246. Bourne had eight fours in his 56, but his forcefulness was quite outdone by the onslaught of Cotton, who finished his "fireworks" with a sequence of 10 fours, and in all made 27 of these profitable strokes, which with one couple and seven singles, made his score into 117. An amazing game was finished off rather hurriedly by O. Brassington, who captured five wickets in the course of four overs.

There was a fighting finish at Stone, where Audley only scraped home by a single run after appearing to have the game easily won. On a perfect pitch the visitors ran up 137, which was not a big total in view of the fact that 70 was passed with eight wickets standing. Jim McEllin (30), J. C. McEllin (26), A. J. Colley (21) and C. B. Maddock were the leading scorers. Colley figured in an unusual incident, for with his score at six he was given out l.b.w., only to have the decision reversed at the request of the Stone captain, who was of the opinion that he had played the ball. R. C. Worthington, with four for 46, had the best bowling analysis, but there was little sting in the attack in general, and the fielding was not up to concert pitch. Stone, with their acknowledged batting strength, had few qualms as to the result, but they had a shock when they lost three wickets for 32; and, the rot continuing before the in-swinging deliveries of F. Darlington and H. McEllin, the ninth man returned at 76. With the game looking almost over, the uncertainty of cricket was again demonstrated, for A. M. Smith and G. W. Hammersley, who were unusually low down in the order, put up a great last wicket stand that came within an ace of winning the

game for their side. Smith hit with refreshing freedom, and four after four came from his bat as the result of brilliant strokes, whilst Hammersley kept one end going and added a few runs quietly. The finish came when H. McEllin returned to the attack, his first ball having Smith well taken from a snick in the flaps. Smith had played splendidly for 43, and Hammersley's share of the stand was a most useful 15 (not out). H. McEllin (seven for 45) and Darlington both bowled well, but there was no excuse for the failure of the earlier Stone batsmen.

JUNIOR SECTIONS' MATCHES.

Porthill Park, opened badly at Crewe, but a stand by P. L. Briggs (29) and R. Hammond (23) set an example which was followed by the last wicket pair, C. Bickerton (58, not out) and J. Glover (58 not out) carrying the score from 125 to 199 without being separated. In their reply, the Alexandra failed to prosper till J. France (62) and W. A. Lea (25) came together as the penultimate pair, and raised the score from 53 to 121. The cause of the early troubles lay with the bowling of J. Chadwick, who at one point had six wickets for three runs though the full toll for his success was 50 more.

Fine bowling by W. Fenton put Bignall End in a hopeless plight at Colbrige, seven wickets falling to this player for a mere 18 runs. The game was won by Burslem with eight wickets in hand, and their leading rungetters were J. Fenton (53), H. Sharpe (24) and A. Cartledge (23, not out).

Chell's innings against Leek had its best feature in a sedate 41 from L. Crump, and the most effective of the visiting bowlers was A. Plant, with six for 75. Leek fared poorly before the bowling of J. Butler (six for 39), but the outlook was altered by the fearless batting of S. Hutchinson, who hit for 58, and it was sheer bad luck when an injury caused his retirement with the totals level.

Batting first, Knypersley had done none too well when they had five men out for 63, but going in with the possibility of a "hat-trick" confronting him, Philip Green batted finely for an innings without a chance. The same player made himself the prominent all-rounder in the game by capturing eight wickets for 41 runs, R. Ford (23) being the only L.M. and S. Railway batsman to show any ability to cope with his bowling.

Six Longton players reached double figures against Norton, but the top score, credited to E. O'Brien, finished at 24. The Norton bowlers to do well were A. Reynolds and R. Hill, with four for 29 and four for 15, respectively. Moderate batting came from the early Norton men, but the issue was settled by A. Smith (22) and J. Martin (42, not out).

LOWE'S CENTURY.

Two players had a very big share in the defeat of Nantwich by Silverdale, W. Lowe hitting finely for 110, including no fewer than 24 boundaries, and J. Barnett having a successful afternoon by disposing of eight wickets for 23 runs.

Bowlers had things all their own way in the game at Madeley, and the man to do most to cause the epidemic of low scoring was S. Rowley, of Madeley, who had five wickets for 10. At Cheadle, seven Betley players had eight runs between them, and of the rest J. Carter was most prominent with a vigorous 32. The bowler to create trouble was G. Malbon, with five for 24. W. Alecock (24) and T. Hawley (43) put on 68 for Cheadle's first wicket, and Hawley's vigour was copied by A. Westwood (30, not out).

Eleven players failed to get a run in the match at Alsagers Bank, and the margin between the sides was a matter of "extras." For the Bank, G. Wainwright took 5 wickets for 12 and J. Wainwright 4 for 9; whilst J. Tabbnor had 6 for 20 on behalf of the Caverswall winners.

Fenton owed their win over Scot Hay to the doings of three players, T. Naylor taking five wickets for 17, and J. Sutton and H. Naylor having scores of 33 (not out) and 26 (not out), respectively. For the losers, L. Bloor was conspicuous with a well-got 29.

Scoring 38 and capturing 4 wickets for 13, S. Walsh had a lot to do with the defeat of Sandyford by Onneley, who had other useful performers in G. Deaville (27) and A. Davies five for 13. The pick of Audley's players against Stone were J. Bateman, with 23, and G. Taylor five for 27; whilst for the losers F. T. Rowdridge made 25 and T. Bagley accounted for five wickets for 20.

CRICKET FIXTURES FOR NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12th.

Denstone College v. Old Denstonians.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP.

Staffordshire v. Lincolnshire, at Stoke.

Cheshire v. Lancashire II., at Warrington.

FRIENDLY MATCH.

Stafford Wednesday v. Bridgton.

THURSDAY.

Denstone College v. Trent College.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16th.

NORTH STAFFS. AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

Crewe Alexandra v. Silverdale; Messrs. Whittingham and Smith.
Burslem v. Great Chell; Messrs. Cox and Forster.
Bignall End v. L.M.S. Rly. (Stoke); Messrs. Holmes and Downs.
Leek v. Longton; Messrs. Stevenson and Worthington.
Knypersley v. Nantwich; Messrs. Furnival and Latham.
Norton v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Jones and Plant.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

Madeley v. Stone; Messrs. Lyth and Manifold.
Cheddle v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. Skellam and Naylor.
Leedy v. Fenton; Messrs. F. C. Billington and Mayer.
Caverswall v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. Brown and Wright.
Kidsgrove v. Audley; Messrs. Cartledge and C. S. Billington.
Sandyford v. Burslem High Lane; Messrs. Bedson and Chesters.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

Silverdale v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Farrington and Gregory.
Great Chell v. Burslem; Messrs. Cantrill and A. Smith.
L.M.S. Rly. (Stoke) v. Bignall End; Messrs. H. Buckley and Shenton.
Longton v. Leek; Messrs. Holdcroft and Gibbs.
Nantwich v. Knypersley; Messrs. W. J. Buckley and Tibby.
Porthill Park v. Norton; Messrs. Groom and F. Smith.

Junior Division.—Section "B."

Stone v. Madeley.
Alsagers Bank v. Cheddle.
Fenton v. Betley.
Onneley v. Caverswall.
Audley v. Scot Hay.
Burslem High Lane v. Sandyford.

TUNSTALL AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Taylor's Athletic v. Berryhill.
Bucknall v. Leyceet.
Knypersley v. Fenton.
Woodland v. Butt Lane.
Harrishead v. Staffs. Chemical Co.

FENTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Leyceet v. Bucknall.
Florence Colliery v. Silverdale.
Wolstanton Marsh v. Fenton. "A."
Rough Close v. Longton "A."

BLTYHE BRIDGE AND UTOXETER LEAGUE

Division I.

Tean v. Oakmoor.
Kingsley v. Alton.
Rocester v. Fulford.
Meir v. Draycott.
Stallington v. Florence.

Division II.

Ashcombe Park v. Stallington.
Leigh v. Tean.
Cresswell v. Kingsley.
Frost v. Meir.
Hollington v. Dithorne.

OTHER MATCHES.

Cannock v. Stafford.
Stafford II. v. Cannock II.
Mubram v. English Electric.
English Electric II. v. Sunbeam II.
Taton Park v. Chester St. John's.
Chester St. John's II. v. Soughall.
Market Drayton v. Newport.
Market Drayton Grammar School v. Market Drayton II.
Crewe F.W. II. v. Willaston.
Boughton Hall v. Winnington Park.
Winnington Park II. v. Boughton Hall II.
Holmes Chapel v. Middlewich.
Middlewich II. v. Holmes Chapel II.
Capeston v. J. and G. Meakin Ltd.
Congleton v. Knitford.
Knitford II. v. Congleton II.
Bass and Co. v. Utoxeter.
Utoxeter II. v. Burslem "A."
Trentham v. Sandbach.
Sandbach II. v. Trentham II.
Colwyn Bay v. Haslington.

SENTINEL CRICKET SHIELD COMPETITION.

Draw for Second Round.

At a well-attended meeting of members of the Management Committee and Club representatives, held at the Grand Hotel, Hanley, and presided over by Mr. S. Gleaves, the results of the preliminary and first rounds were announced. The draw for the second round was made and resulted as follows:—

- Group A.—Caverswall "A" v. Porthill "A"; Kidsgrove "A" v. Silverdale "A."
- Group B.—Sneyd Colliery v. Butt Lane; Taylor's Athletic v. Woodland Pottery.
- Group C.—Florence Colliery v. Berryhill Athletic; Fenton Amateurs v. Kingsley.
- Group D.—Chesterton Cong. v. Alsagers Bank; Dalehall v. Chesterton Wesleyans.

The first-named club has choice of ground and all matches have to be played on or before Monday, June 25th.

CHESTER DISTRICT CRICKET.

Boughton Hall Again Defeated.

BUGHTON HALL are finding difficulty in fielding their strongest team, and as a consequence are not showing the excellent form of last season. On Saturday, they were defeated at home by Wallasey by 37 runs. They lost because of their indifferent fielding and lack of bowling. In the absence of R. Frost E. H. Darby, and H. D. Roberts, who were playing for the Cryptics against Shrewsbury School, several of the younger members of the club were included in the side. Incidentally, Frost had a good afternoon with the Cryptics, for he secured several wickets and scored 97.

Wallasey did not begin too well and five wickets were down for 41, but with the advent of L. Duke a change came over the game. Duke gave a fine display of free hitting and compiled 32 out of a total of 210. Included in his score were 18 boundaries. Of the later players, Foster (37) did well. W. E. Jones with four wickets for 49, and L. N. Jones with four for 69 were the most successful bowlers.

Boughton Hall began well, and at one time appeared to possess a winning chance, for they had four wickets down for 109. W. E. Jones, who is having a good season, got 42, and J. Pratt, one of the younger school, also did well in scoring 45. The only other player to shine was L. N. Jones, who got a delightful 50. These were scored by forceful batting and included in his total were two sixes and four fours. The Wallasey fielding was particularly good, and this was the greatest factor in their victory. Of the bowlers, Heap (who is regarded as the fastest bowler in the competition) had three wickets for 35, and C. W. Tip-lady, who has been chosen to represent Cheshire against Lancashire II, had three wickets for 36.

SECOND ELEVEN DEFEATED.

Boughton Hall II. were heavily defeated at Wallasey. The home team batted first and scored 235 for 6 wickets, to which Boughton Hall replied with 101. J. Parkes (41), J. W. H. Greaves (32), and W. Geddes (40 not out) were the chief contributors to the Wallasey total. Boughton Hall could make little headway against the bowling of Williams, Rankes and (Sporrie), and with the exception of E. Griffiths (20) and J. Greening (21) did little of note.

Neston are showing a welcome return to form, as on Saturday they defeated Wavertree. The visitors batted first, but were dismissed in two hours for 121, and Neston passed this total in an hour and a half for the loss of six wickets. J. K. Edmondson, who is in good form this season, scored 35, and H. C. Slock 28. Nutter bowled particularly well for Neston, taking five wickets for 19 runs. Nutter also did well with the bat, scoring 31, which included five fours. J. H. B. Sullivan (42) was top scorer for his side, but should have been caught when twelve. Neston had three wickets down for 111, but lost three more before gathering the runs necessary for victory.

Bronborough Pool entertained Wavertree in a high scoring match. The Poole batted first, and declared at 205 for 7 wickets. Out of this total, F. Pugh, sen., got 166 not out, included in which were nineteen 4's. Wavertree replied with 99 for 6 wickets, J. Abell scoring 54 not out.

Neston II. showed good form at Huxton. They ran up a total of 215 for nine wickets, to which Huxton replied with 161 for five wickets. J. B. W. Hughes (31), J. Long (39), D. E. Mayer (37), L. H. Wright (53), were the chief scorers for Neston, while R. E. Woods (65) and C. J. Peedle (40, not out) were the chief contributors for Huxton.

EATON PARK'S EASY WIN.

Eaton Park were only able to field ten players against Helsby, but even so they gained an easy win. Helsby scored 62 to which T. Nield contributed 27 not out. In response, Eaton Park ran up a score of 129. H. Browne (40) and J. Tomlinson (26) were the top scorers.

Brymbo met with an unexpected reverse at home against Whitechurch. The Welsh team ran up a total of 75, of which E. Dickiey claimed 30. In reply, Whitechurch got 91, J. Lennon (21) and A. Davies (25) being the chief scorers.

Buckley proved far too strong for Barrow. They ran up a total of 110 to which the Cheshire side replied with 58. C. Peters (23) and H. Beavin (24) were the Welsh team's chief scorers. The only player on the Barrow side to reach double figures was J. Beech (23 not out).

Brook Hirst gained an easy victory over Brown's in the knock-out competition on Monday. Brown's, who also lost their first wicket

at 25, were all dismissed for 53. Out of this total E. C. Lingster scored 21 and Matthias 12. The Brook Hirst fielding was particularly good, and Wilson stumped three men. For Brook Hirst, Wilson (28), W. Greatorex (25) and R. Ruscoe (18, not out) were the chief contributors to a total of 113 for eight wickets.

The replay knock-out match between St. John's and Diddleston took place on Tuesday. Diddleston were dismissed for 71, and St. John's lost nine wickets for 60, but managed to win by seven runs. Gillam bowled brilliantly to take seven wickets for 28.

BARROW'S NEW GROUND.

Considerable interest was taken in the opening of Barrow's new cricket ground on Wednesday. The club's captain is Major John Okell, whose generosity has enabled the club to open their new field. Major Okell has provided the field, and in addition has paid for the levelling of the ground. The opening ceremony was marked by a pleasing incident, the Rector of Barrow (the Rev. T. Jenkins), on behalf of the playing members of the club, presenting Major Okell with a silver tankard. The opening match was played between Barrow, and the Rector of Eccleston's XI. Barrow scored 142 for seven wickets, and in reply the visitors totalled 138 for nine wickets.

St. John's Chester, visited Egremond St. John's on Saturday and won by one run.

Two games were played in the Chester and District League last Saturday. At Pontblyddyn, Bivertown were dismissed for 75, J. Hayes securing six wickets for 19 runs. The home team lost five wickets for 8 runs, and eight wickets were down for 37. A ninth wicket partnership, however, achieved victory for the home side.

Shotton met with their third defeat at Llay Main. They were dismissed for 49, and Llay Main replied with 71.

Tilstone Lodge and Upton met in a friendly match. The home side were all out for 27, and in reply Upton scored 47. Tattenhall played a draw against Aston, the former scoring 163 and Aston 115 for eight wickets.

STAFFORD CRICKET.

At Lichfield on Saturday, where Stafford were the visitors, the home side easily secured the honours. Batting first, Lichfield lost three wickets for nine runs, but R. Cooke (45) and C. Carnwell (55) carried the score to 53 for the fourth wicket. G. Knight later came along with 33, and there were 39 extras, with the result that Lichfield declared at 203 for seven. Kenworthy bowled well to take five for 52. Apart from F. Page, who batted throughout the innings for 47, and S. H. Critchley (22), none of the Stafford batsmen played the well-earned Lichfield attack with any degree of confidence, and the innings closed for 118.

English Electric visited Oakmoor, and found the home team in brilliant form. Although Oakmoor lost a wicket for 18 runs, J. W. Johnson and J. R. Goodwin (36) carried the score to 117 for the second wicket. Johnson then found a good partner in S. Walker (20, not out), and the score was taken to 202 for three, when the closure was applied. Johnson was not out for a brilliant innings of 135. English Electric made a good response in the time remaining for play, G. H. Mountford (33) and J. Smith (45) carrying the score to 89 before the former was dismissed. Stumps were then drawn.

In the friendly game at Stychfields, between English Electric II. and Sandon, the latter team won. The Electric innings realised 75, out of which H. Pawley, the last man, obtained 34 not out. Sandon replied with 83, J. A. Walker 31, and C. Bolton (20) being top scorers. For the Electric, W. Clements had five for 27, and R. T. Wilson three for 13.

Stafford Wednesday were decisively beaten by Birmingham University, at Stafford. The home team were dismissed for 17, E. R. Sinton taking four wickets for seven runs and H. R. Miller four for four. The University scored 183 for the loss of five wickets. S. R. Rickman (50) and R. P. S. Bache (56) played an important part in their side's victory.

CHEADLE SCHOOLS' LEAGUE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Kingsley	4	4	0	0	8
Cheadle C.E.	3	2	1	0	6
Cheadle Council	4	2	2	0	4
Blythe Bridge	4	2	2	0	4
Ipstones	4	2	2	0	4
Oakmoor	4	2	2	0	4
Team	3	1	2	0	2
Dilthorne	4	0	4	0	0

Results.—Blythe Bridge 33, Dilthorne 29; Kingsley 41, Oakmoor 22; Cheadle Council 63, Ipstones 26.

FENTON & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Leyceet	5	3	1	1	7
Florence Colliery II.	4	3	1	0	6
Buc-nall	5	3	2	0	6
Trent Vale	4	2	2	0	4
Wolstanton Marsh	5	2	2	1	5
Fenton "A"	5	2	2	1	5
Longton "A"	6	1	3	2	4
Silverdale "A"	4	2	2	0	4
Rough Close	6	1	5	0	2

Results.—Bucknall 66, Wolstanton Marsh 128 (for 8); Leyceet 69, Silverdale "A" 59; Florence Colliery II. 71 (for 7), Longton "A" 63; Fenton "A" 83 (for 6), Rough Close 34.

JUNIOR CRICKET REVIEW.

Unusual Finish to Game at Hollington.

(By "RECORDER.")

WITH GLORIOUS weather prevailing on Saturday last, players and spectators enjoyed an afternoon of excellent sport. Though the wickets favoured the batsmen, several good bowling feats were recorded.

There was an unusual and regrettable termination to the game between Hollington and Team in the Second Division of the Uttoxeter and Blythe Bridge League. Team were dismissed by A. Traversa (6 for 28) and W. Walters (4 for 16) for 59, and Hollington had responded with 30 for three wickets when, it is stated, the Team players left the field owing to a dispute over a no-ball decision.

TUNSTALL & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

The visit of Leyceet to Butt Lane, was thought likely to test the abilities of the leaders. Taking first innings, Leyceet made 81, E. Elliott (19), J. Hazeldine (22) and A. Bythway (20) being the chief contributors. Butt Lane tried five bowlers, G. Boulton coming out best with two for two. On a good wicket and easy scoring ground, this total should not have been too much for Butt Lane, but again J. Hill and W. Hough, aided by excellent fielding, rose to the occasion and the home team were dismissed for 42. J. Hill had five for 12 and W. Hough five for 25.

Berryhill continue in winning vein, and as a result of their visit to Knypersley, recorded a very decisive victory. B. Powers (40), W. Brown (23), and A. Chidlow (16), batted well for Berryhill in a total of 128. Knypersley's reply was feeble in the extreme, E. Davies (9) and extras (9) contributing 18 out of a total of 23, seven batsmen failing to score.

Harrishead, visitors to Fenton Amateurs, commenced their innings in disastrous fashion, losing 8 wickets for 15 runs, but H. Copeland (15) and G. Rowbotham (7 not out) carried the total to 41. On going in to bat, the Amateurs were routed by the fine bowling of H. Butler (5 for 9) and G. Rowbotham (5 for 12); six of the home batsmen failed to open their account. The whole side were out for the paltry total of 23.

Staffa. Chemical Co. received a visit from Taylor's Athletic, who, batting first, ran up a total of 61, chiefly through F. Burgess (19) and J. Dunn (16). The Chemical Co. replied with 106 for 8, the top scorer being J. Lawton (45), who was fortunate not to be given out before he had scored, being caught at fine slip, with the umpire unsuspected. Credit is due to J. Reade (age 16, and playing his first competition match), who scored 18 not out in very promising style.

Woodland Pottery were at home to Bucknall, and with 48 on the board for the loss of two wickets, appeared likely to run up a good score. Later batsmen, however, failed. The innings closed at 77. H. Hancock (22), H. Holland (19) and G. Peake (11) batted well. Bucknall found the bowling of J. N. Hodgkinson (6 for 12) and H. Smith (3 for 7) too good for them, G. Forrester (9) and extras (11) accounting for 20 out of the 30 runs scored by them.

FENTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

In the above League on Saturday last Leyceet were at home to Silverdale "A," whom they defeated by 10 runs. Leyceet ran up a total of 69, towards which W. Edwards scored 28. It was a bowler's day, however, and the best of several good performances was that of A. Hilditch, of Silverdale, who took six for 22.

Longton "A" were defeated by Florence Colliery by three wickets. Longton had first use of the wicket, and totalled 63. Florence started disastrously, losing three wickets cheaply, but H. Barnes (24) and A. Imrie (30), put them well on the way to victory.

Bucknall were decisively beaten by Wolstanton Marsh, who scored 128 for eight wickets against the home team's total of 88. Wolstanton lost three wickets for 38 runs, but H. Robinson (33) and S. Smith (27, not out) improved matters, and later batsmen also did well, they were able to declare. Bucknall started badly, losing four wickets for 11 runs, but B. Meigh (20) and H. Peacock (39) carried the score to 53 for the fifth wicket. T. Brett (Wolstanton) had the best bowling average, securing six wickets for 20 runs.

On Monday evening Fenton "A" received Rough Close, and the home team easily secured the points. Batting first, the visitors only managed to obtain a 34, 15 of which were extras. C. Cops and V. Dennis bowled well for the winners, the former crediting himself with 4 for 9, and Dennis 6 for 10. Three Fenton wickets were down for eight runs, but the next three wickets carried the score to 83. F. Taylor (41) and H. Wainwright (27 not out) were the principal scorers.

BLYTHE BRIDGE & UTTOXETER LEAGUE.

In the first division of the Blythe Bridge and Uttoxeter League, Alton easily defeated Stallington. The Alton innings realised 124, compiled by consistent batting, J. Byatt (20), C. Lake (24), and H. Taylor (21) all doing well. A. Simecox (Stallington) took five wickets for 37. Stallington replied with 74, W. Wright obtaining five of their wickets for 24. In the match between Tean and Rochester both teams hit up three figure scores. A feature of the Tean innings, which realised 154, was a fifth wicket partnership between W. Atkins (42) and G. Wood (40) which carried the score from 84 to 130, but the last four wickets went down for seven runs. F. Wood (26) and R. Wood (26), also batted well. Rochester made a good response, but despite the effort of A. Chadwick (56), they lost by 50 runs. The best bowling performance of the match was that of W. Baker (Rochester), who took five for 30.

At Meir, where Florence were the visitors, the home team won, scoring 85 and then dismissing their opponents for 79. J. Hughes (22) was Meir's top scorer. H. Lindop, of Florence, with 22 not out, made an unavailing effort to win the game for his side. K. Blunt, of Meir, was in excellent bowling form, and finished with seven for 23.

The Kingsley v. Okamoor match provided an exciting contest. Kingsley, after having lost seven wickets for 69, ran up a total of 140. K. Carr (40) and J. Wood (20) being responsible for this improvement. Okamoor made a splendid response, and, when stumps were drawn, were within six runs of victory with five wickets standing. A feature of their innings was the fine batting of C. Sutton, who compiled 45. He was well supported by other batsmen, notably F. Astbury (29, not out). Fulford defeated Draycott by 35 runs. Fulford lost six of their batsmen for 29, but a seventh wicket stand by W. Rushton (18) and G. Jenkinson (20) was not ended until victory had been achieved. The Fulford innings terminated for 87, R. W. Bowen taking six for 24.

In the second division, Leigh easily accounted for Kingsley, for in reply to the latter's total of 80, they scored 113 for eight wickets. J. Welsh took five Kingsley wickets for 16 runs. A. Robertson (22), S. Emery (21) and G. Backhouse (20) batted well for Leigh.

Ashcombe Park were dismissed at home by Cresswell for 59 towards which A. Blakeman contributed 22. Cresswell responded with 94. J. Farmer and A. Bettany (19) being prominent in a second wicket stand which produced 39 runs. Later, C. Goodwin batted in good style for 36 not out.

Foxt who were at home to Stallington, were dismissed for 29, H. Woolrich taking six for four and N. Blair five for 21. Stallington fared little better, for although their second wicket fell at 25, it was not until the eighth and ninth batsmen were at the wicket that victory was achieved. The innings closed for 33. J. Barks had the best analysis, with four for eight.

BLYTHE BRIDGE & UTTOXETER LEAGUE.

Division I.					
	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Rochester	6	4	2	0	8
Kingsley	6	3	2	1	7
Stallington	6	3	2	1	7
Florence	5	3	2	0	6
Meir	5	3	2	0	6
Okamoor	5	3	2	0	6
Tean	5	2	2	1	6
Fulford	6	1	3	2	4
Alton	5	1	3	1	3
Draycott	5	1	4	0	2

Results:—Stallington 74, Alton 124; Meir 85, Florence 79; Kingsley 131, Okamoor 135 (for 5); Draycott 52, Fulford 87; Tean 104, Rochester 154.

Division II.					
	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Leigh	5	5	0	0	10
Cresswell	5	4	2	0	8
Nantwich	5	4	2	0	8
Tean	4	3	1	0	6
Hollington	5	3	2	0	6
Meir	6	3	3	0	6
Ashcombe Park	5	2	4	0	4
Foxt	5	1	4	0	2
Stallington	5	1	4	0	2
Dilhorne	6	1	5	0	2

Results:—Ashcombe Park 59, Cresswell 94; Foft 29, Stallington 31 for 9; Dilhorne 33, Meir 95; Leigh 113 for 8, Kingsley 80, Hollington v. Tean abandoned, and not included in above table.

TUNSTALL & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

(Up to Monday, May 28th, inclusive.)

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Pts.
Leycect	6	5	0	0	12
Berry Hill Athletic	5	5	0	0	10
Butt Lane	5	3	2	0	6
Fenton Amateurs	6	2	3	1	5
Staffs. Chemical Co.	6	2	3	1	5
Woodland Pottery	5	2	2	1	5
Bucknall	6	2	4	0	4
Harrisonhead	5	2	3	0	4
Taylor's Athletic	6	1	4	1	3
Kingsley	5	1	4	0	2

Results:—Fenton Amateurs 25, Harrisonhead 41; Kingsley 41, A. 26, Berry Hill 124; Butt Lane 42; Leycect 61; Staffs. Chemical Co. 106 (for 8), Taylor's Athletic 65; Woodland Pottery 77; Bucknall 30.

WITH THE COUNTY CLUB.

Next Week's Fixture With Lincolnshire.

(By "LOOKER-ON")

IT WILL be a big disappointment if unfavourable weather should mar Staffordshire's Minor Counties fixtures with Lincolnshire at Stoke on Wednesday and Thursday next, for it should prove an interesting encounter, inasmuch as a recent performance by Lincolnshire suggests that the Eastern County has returned to better form than was displayed against Staffordshire in the two fixtures last year. If the weather is fine, there should be some bright and attractive cricket.

BARNES UNABLE TO PLAY.

The fact that Staffordshire will not be at full strength in the matter of regular players

should not have any deteriorating effect upon the play, for those who have been chosen are players of merit. Nevertheless, there are many in the Potteries who will be disappointed to learn that Barnes is unable to play. His services, it is understood, are required for a cup match in which his club—Castleton Moor—is concerned.



A. A. Bickerton.

Lincolnshire should, however, and Lockett and Sedgwick a real source of trouble. One remembers very well the performance of Sedgwick and Barnes against Lincolnshire at Frodingham last year. After the home team had been dismissed for 126, and Staffordshire were all out for 119, it appeared almost useless for Lincolnshire to commence their second innings five minutes before the time for drawing stumps, but those five minutes had a great effect upon the result of the game. Two overs were bowled and two batsmen were sent back for no runs, R. E. Frearson, alling a victim to a splendid delivery from Sedgwick, and P. A. Bashforth being dismissed with equal cleverness by Barnes with the last ball of the day. The next morning, Barnes was in deadly form, taking altogether 7 wickets for 19. Usually Bashforth and Frearson are batsmen of the robust type, but they found Sedgwick and Barnes too good for them on that occasion. It was in this match that Lincolnshire introduced the then 17-years-old Stamford Grammar School boy, C. E. Drake, and he proved to be a bowler with amazing speed.

BICKERTON AND MAYER SELECTED.

In next week's encounter A. A. Bickerton is to take the place of H. W. Honier, and E. Mayer, who is now professional at Norton, has also been selected. Bickerton invariably shows good cricket ability, but unfortunately he was only able to make two appearances for the county last year. He bats courageously and in resolute style once he gets the measure of the bowling, as was well demonstrated by his efforts against Notts. at Mansfield last season. E. Mayer, who captained the Madeley club last year, is a good all-round player and has made runs and taken wickets for Norton, whilst E. Perry, who also was unable to play for the county with any frequency last season, is another vigorous batsman. From the team which has been selected, J. S. Heath, who will again captain the eleven, will have at his disposal plenty of good material, for in addition to those already mentioned Lockett, Howl, Ellerker and Ikin are very sound with the bat. Lockett, too, has shown remarkably good form with the ball. Last weekend, playing for Old Hill against Stourbridge in the Birmingham League, he secured five wickets for 22 runs. Sedgwick also has only to reproduce the form he displayed against Lincolnshire at Frodingham to cause trouble, for on that occasion he took four wickets for 38.

The Staffordshire eleven will be J. S. Heath (Captain), A. A. Bickerton, C. Howl, W. H. Ellerker, A. Lockett, A. W. Ikin, G. A. Fitton, W. Beddows, E. Perry, E. Mayer and Sedgwick.

STAFFORDSHIRE AT STOKE.

Lincolnshire All Out for 118 Runs.

Capital Bowling by Lockett.

Although conditions were not perfect for Staffordshire's match with Lincolnshire in the Minor Counties Championship at Stoke to-day, play was possible just before mid-day. During the night there had been a heavy down-pour of rain, but this did not affect the bowlers' foothold, as the wickets had been protected. The pitch itself, however, was slightly affected. Staffordshire are without Barnes and H. W. Homer, while Shaw, who has kept wicket for Lincolnshire for some years, was an absentee from the visiting side.

A BAD START.

Staffordshire lost the toss, and at five minutes to twelve R. E. Frearson and J. E. Scarby opened the visitors' innings against the bowling of Sedgwick and Lockett. The weather was then dull and overcast. The visitors, however, started none too well, for in Sedgwick's second over Scarby edged a ball to the slips, where Bickerton brought off a very fine catch low down. A. R. Turner joined Frearson, but when play had been in progress only 20 minutes, rain again fell, causing a suspension. So far six overs had only been productive of four runs.

After half-an-hour's delay play was resumed, the sun shining brightly for a time. The accuracy of the bowling made run getting a difficult matter, and only two runs had been added when Turner was brilliantly caught at square leg by Mayer, the fieldsmen making the catch at the second attempt.

After a period of defensive play, Frearson began to score more freely, and with a delightful pull he got Lockett away to the boundary, following it up with a splendid off drive for three. Both bowlers were however causing the batsmen some anxiety, though Flatters made one fine cut through the slips for four. At the luncheon interval, 56 minutes play had produced 30 runs for the loss of two wickets, 19 of which had been contributed by Frearson.

FREARSON CLEAN BOWLED.

On play being resumed, Frearson, after a square pull off Lockett for 4 was clean bowled by the same bowler. His interesting innings, which included some very fine strokes, had produced 23 runs. Flatters continued to show a good defence to the bowling, but Dods, a left-hand batsman, should have been stumped by Beddows after making a single.

Flatters continued to play a very confident game, and hit well all round the wicket, but Dods devoted himself mainly to defence with an occasional single, and after scoring five runs he reached forward to a delivery from Lockett and was bowled, the ball breaking in from the off and just removing the bails.

Flatters continued to bat with vigour, and he made several delightful strokes. On the other hand Lee did not find runs easy to get. Flatters had scored exactly half of the first 70 runs when he fell a victim to Lockett, who got him adjudged lbw. The ball prior to this was skied to the boundary by Lee off Lockett, and a brilliant running catch was made by Fitton, but the umpire had declared "No ball."

On being partnered by Holt, Lee returned a ball to Lockett, for the bowler to make an easy catch. Just prior to this Holt had opened his account with a single and a splendid hit for four, but his partnership with Sutton was very short-lived, for edging a ball from Ellerker, he was out to a splendid one-handed catch by Lockett in the slips. The Rev. H. Mack made one nice hit for two before he was bowled with the last ball of a maiden over by Lockett.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

R. E. Frearson b Lockett	25
J. E. Scarby c Bickerton b Sedgwick	0
A. R. Turner c Mayer b Lockett	1
R. Flatters lbw b Lockett	36
H. W. Dods b Lockett	5
R. Lee c and b Lockett	8
A. Holt c Lockett b Ellerker	5
Rev. H. Mack b Lockett	2
W. A. Sutton c and b Lockett	5
C. Wilson not out	24
H. Hawley b Lockett	0
Extras	9
Total	118

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A. A. Bickerton not out	1
C. Howl not out	3
Extras	1
Total (for no wkt)	5

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	16	5	17	1
A. Lockett	26.3	8	65	8
W. H. Ellerker	10	2	26	1
Mayer	1	0	1	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
3	6	38	57	76	84	84	87	110	118	

CHESHIRE v. LANCASHIRE II. (At Warrington.)

(Last Season: Lancashire won by 60 runs.)
Rain delayed the start in Cheshire's opening match against Lancashire II. in the Minor Counties' Championship, at Warrington, to-day.

Teams:—

Cheshire.—W. T. Jones (capt.), L. M. Jones, R. B. Pike, S. M. H. Spearing, P. E. V. Astle, E. H. Stevenson, H. McFadyze, C. W. Tiplady, Dennis, J. P. Hodgson and J. Edmondson.
Lancashire II.—Dr. Holmes (capt.), Horridge, Painter, Preston, Holroyd, Hopwood, Chadwick, Rushton, Houseman, Halliday and Tipping.

A start was made at 5.15. Lancashire batted first, Halliday and Hopwood facing the bowling of Dennis and Stevenson. After half-an-hour's play less than 20 runs had been scored.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Halliday c Astle b L. Jones	3
Hopwood not out	31
Houseman not out	6
Extras	1
Total (for 1 wkt)	41

fourteen. Bickerton's score of 45 included five 2's, three 3's, four 4's and one six. G. A. Fitton batted stylishly and correctly, but was very slow. He was at the wicket an hour for his first six runs and at the close of play his score only stood at 24 not out. In marked contrast A. Lockett hit out in great style, though his stay at the wicket was brief. His 17 included a six and two boundaries.

Later batsmen failed completely, and after being at one time in a strong position, Staffordshire found themselves faced at the close of the day's play with the prospect of a hard fight for first innings lead.

WICKET SATURATED.

Almost ceaseless rain until about mid-day made play impossible before lunch. The pitch was in a very saturated condition this morning and the prospects were that play would not be possible until at least four o'clock and then only if there was no more rain. Towards mid-day the rain ceased for a time and the covers were removed, but there was no drying wind.

The wicket was inspected after lunch and though no rain had fallen for a couple of hours it had not dried to any appreciable extent. It commenced to rain a little at half-past two, and it was definitely decided that there could be no play before tea.

MATCH ABANDONED.

At 3.30 the umpires again inspected the wicket and pronounced it unfit for play, and the match was abandoned.

As no decision has been reached on the first innings, the match will not count in the championship.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

R. E. Frearson b Lockett	23
J. E. Scarby c Bickerton b Sedgwick	0
A. R. Turner c Mayer b Lockett	1
R. Flatters lbw b Lockett	36
H. W. Dods b Lockett	5
R. Lee c and b Lockett	8
A. Holt c Lockett b Ellerker	5
Rev. H. Mack b Lockett	2
W. A. Sutton c and b Lockett	5
C. Wilson not out	24
H. Hawley b Lockett	0
Extras	9
Total	118

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A. A. Bickerton b Wilson	45
C. Howl c Lee b Wilson	4
G. A. Fitton not out	24
W. H. Ellerker b Sutton	2
E. Perry c and b Sutton	1
A. Lockett c Sutton b Mack	17
J. S. Heath b Sutton	1
G. G. Varcoe b Sutton	0
Sedgwick not out	0
Extras	7
Total (for 7 wkt)	101

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	16	5	17	1
A. Lockett	26.3	8	65	8
W. H. Ellerker	10	2	26	1
Mayer	1	0	1	0

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
H. Hawley	10	3	20	0
C. Wilson	22	14	35	2
W. A. Sutton	16	7	24	4
R. E. Frearson	1	0	12	0
Rev. H. Mack	5	1	5	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
3	6	38	57	76	84	84	87	110	118	

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
16	61	68	76	99	100	100	

STAFFORDSHIRE'S MATCH ABANDONED.

No Play Possible To-day at Stoke.

The chances of Staffordshire establishing a first innings lead over Lincolnshire in their Minor Counties match at Stoke were none too bright at the close of play yesterday, for they had lost seven wickets for 101 runs in reply to Lincolnshire's total of 118 when stumps were drawn.

The only batsmen to play the accurate bowling of Wilson, Sutton and Mac with any confidence were A. A. Bickerton, G. A. Fitton and A. Lockett. Bickerton played in polished style for 45, scoring well all round the wicket, and he was unluckily dismissed when he played a delivery from Wilson on to his foot and then on to his wicket. Up to this point, Wilson had bowled ten maiden overs out of

CHESHIRE v. LANCASHIRE II. Match Abandoned.

(At Warrington.)

(Last Season: Lancashire won by 60 runs.)

Rain again interfered with the match between Lancs. II. and Cheshire, which should have been resumed at Warrington to-day. The wicket had been under cover since the close of play yesterday, but rain fell so heavily this morning that at 1.30 it was decided to abandon the game.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Halliday c Astle b L. Jones	9
Hopwood c Spearing b Dennis	46
Houseman c Stevenson b Dennis	15
Painter c Hodgson b L. N. Jones	33
Chadwick c Spearing b W. E. Jones	12
Preston not out	4
Rushton not out	2
Extras	6
Total (for 6 wkt)	139

STAFFORDSHIRE'S BIG SCORE.

Lincolnshire Bowling Punished.

Homer Scores a Fine Century.

GRIMSBY, Wednesday.

With their first two matches in the Minor Counties Championship having been rained off, Staffordshire made the journey to Grimsby with the hope that there might be a decisive result in their return fixture with Lincolnshire. In last week's encounter the game had to be abandoned owing to rain, when the score suggested the possibility of an interesting struggle.

In the match which commenced on the Charlton Club's ground today, Staffordshire were fielding a much stronger eleven, and Lincolnshire had also made changes with a view to giving more stability to the batting. Lockett and Homer, who had been playing for the Minor Counties against the West Indies, made the long journey from Exeter during the night, the former to earn the congratulations of his colleagues on his remarkable performance against the tourists. Lincolnshire trumped Robinson, a young player of considerable promise. A 19-year-old schoolboy, he created a record by making two consecutive centuries for the Charlton Club in good-class club cricket.

A QUIET OPENING.

There had been a little rain overnight, and the weather was cold and overcast when H. W. Homer and P. O. Yates opened the Staffordshire innings on a firm wicket. Facing the bowling of Coulthurst, Yates sent his second delivery to the boundary, the rate of scoring was slow, cautious methods being adopted by both batsmen. In fact, only nine runs had been scored in 25 minutes. Wilson, however, was very accurate in his bowling and Homer narrowly missed playing on when only ten runs had been scored.

Yates achieved matters with a fine off-drive to the boundary off Coulthurst, but Homer was unusually quiet, his first four scoring strokes being singles. Of Wilson's first eight overs, five were maidens, and forty minutes play only produced 20 runs.

When T. D. Ross went on to bowl in place of Wilson, runs came with more frequency, and Yates off-drove the new bowler for four, but in Coulthurst's next over he was given out leg before. Out of a total of 36 Yates had contributed 16.

HOMER'S CAUTION.

Barnes went in to partner Homer, who continued to bat with extreme caution, his scoring strokes numbering only ten in just one hour. Barnes quickly appeared to be at ease and opened with a number of attractive strokes.

Munnings, a newcomer to county cricket, displaced Coulthurst, and Barnes got him away for a 2 in his third over. Wilson took up the attack again and Barnes off-drove him to the boundary, and with a single sent up the 50 after the innings had been in progress an hour and 20 minutes.

Homer was missed in the slips off Ross, but immediately afterwards Barnes, in attempting an on-drive off the same bowler, was caught by Stainsby. The second wicket had added 23, of which Barnes had made 13. Fitton opened with a couple of boundaries off Munnings, the first being a finely looked shot to leg to the boundary. Homer also twice sent deliveries from the same player to the boundary.

SPARKLING CRICKET.

At the luncheon interval, the visiting county's score had been taken to 81 for two wickets, Homer having made 29 and Fitton nine.

After lunch the dull overcast weather gave way to a warmth of sunshine. Homer commenced to play with more confidence, and he pushed Munnings to the square leg boundary and square on his next delivery, for another four, following up by hitting Coulthurst out of the ground for a delightful six. Continuing to play sparkling cricket, Homer drove through the covers for another four, and with a glance to leg, reached his half century. Homer had certainly made up for his earlier cautiousness, and so far the third wicket stand had produced 75 runs. Fitton having made 21 of this number. Both batsmen especially Homer, hit out with freedom. A square cut for four off Ross brought Homer's score to 65, and at 140 he had taken his score from 29 to 65 in three quarters of an hour.

The third wicket partnership came to an end when Fitton, after having scored 31, was out l.b.w. to Ross. The stand had produced 161 runs in 1½ hours, 72 of which were added in an hour after lunch.

With Yates as his partner, both batsmen hit out in great style and 119 runs were scored in an hour and a half since lunch. Homer, who

had batted brilliantly from the luncheon interval, reached his century with a hit to the boundary off Wilson, but after having added three more runs, he returned a ball to Wilson and was easily caught. He hit two 6's and finished 47.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings

H W Homer c and b Coulthurst	163
P O Yates lbw b Coulthurst	18
Barnes c Stainsby b Ross	13
G A Fitton lbw b Ross	31
A W Ikin not out	42
Extras	19

Total (for 4 wks) 226

Later.—STAFFORDSHIRE: 247 for six.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S BID FOR VICTORY.

Lincolnshire Forced to Follow On.

Rain Stops Play at a Critical Juncture.

GRIMSBY, Thursday.

In their Minor Counties match with Lincolnshire at Grimsby yesterday, Staffordshire batted for four hours and fifty minutes for the excellent total of 301, and at the close of play the home county were 264 behind, with all their wickets standing. In the later stages of yesterday's play, there was a partial collapse, for after the fall of the fourth wicket at 230, five more men were dismissed for the addition of 36 runs. A last wicket stand by Sedgwick and E. P. Cross was marked by lively hitting on the part of both batsmen, and the score was carried to 301 before Cross was smartly taken behind the wicket by Bashforth. Lincolnshire had 45 minutes' batting, during which they scored 37 without loss, though Frearson was missed in the slips by Barnes off Lockett.

THE GAME RESUMED.

When play was resumed this morning, the weather was dull and overcast and the wicket was firm, giving the bowlers no assistance. Frearson and Ross opened quietly, but after the first few overs runs came with much more frequency and the score was taken from 37 to 60 in twenty-five minutes.

Ross, who batted steadily, was missed by Sedgwick in the slips when his score was 23. A beautiful square-leg hit brought Frearson a 4 off Lockett, but off the next ball, in attempting to repeat the stroke, he was out for obstruction.

E. A. Bashforth, who is reputed to be a consistently good bat, went out to partner Ross and, after scoring a single, he made two splendid leg glides for four off Barnes.

Having compiled a useful 13, Bashforth was lbw to Barnes, and H. E. Stamp, who was the next in, came very near to being out from the very first ball sent down to him. He reached out to a delivery from Barnes, and Cross smartly whipped off the balls, but he survived a confident appeal. With the fourth ball of the following over, however, he was easily caught at first slip by Lockett.

Directly Robinson went in he was missed by Homer, who was fielding at mid-on, off Barnes. Homer's slowness in not getting to the ball was probably accounted for by stiffness following his lengthy batting stand of yesterday.

Rain began to fall, but not heavily enough to interfere with play.

Ross continued to bat with extreme caution, and when he had added 13 to his overnight total, he had been batting an hour and a quarter. Barnes caused Robinson quite a lot of anxiety, but eventually he edged him through the slips to the boundary, the ball passing just wide of Lockett.

Having taken his score to 31 in an hour and twenty minutes, it was sent out to a brilliant catch by Cross on the leg side off Ellerker, and the same bowler got through the defence of Robinson, at 91.

Shaw going to the wickets, Ellerker was within an ace of putting the stumps down, but with the following ball the batsman drove him to the boundary.

Shaw had only a brief stay. He narrowly escaped being bowled by Ellerker, but, facing Barnes, he was out leg before.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S LEAD.

So far Stainsby had accomplished little of note, whilst Dods opened very weakly, almost

giving Barnes a return catch, and being missed by Heath at forward short leg off the next delivery. Rain continued to fall but there was no cessation of play. With the total at 103 Stainsby's patient innings came to an end, Barnes clean bowling him.

C. Wilson, was next in, but after scoring five he offered a difficult catch to cover point, but Ikin just failed to hold the ball. With the first ball of Ellerker's next over, however, the Lincolnshire captain was clean bowled.

At this stage the game had every appearance of providing Staffordshire with a win provided the rain did not interfere with play. Apart from the three first batsmen, none had offered much resistance with the exception of Dods who, succeeded in driving Barnes to the boundary. There was a disposition on the part of Dods and Coulthurst to obtain quickly-run singles, but after a nice stroke to the boundary for four, Coulthurst was the fourth man to be dismissed for obstruction.

Another catch off Barnes' bowling was missed at long on by Yates, but three minutes before the luncheon interval, Munnings was bowled by Barnes, the innings closing for 138—163 behind the Staffordshire total. Dods was not out 20.

HOME COUNTY FOLLOW ON.

Lincolnshire followed on after lunch. Frearson and Ross opposed the bowling of Sedgwick and Ellerker. The first two overs were productive of two singles, but after hitting him for three, Frearson was clean bowled by Sedgwick. Bashforth joined Ross, but play was of a quiet and subdued character, ten runs only being scored in 25 minutes.

With the total at 15, a fast delivery from Sedgwick spreadeagled Ross's stumps, the balls striking Cross in the face. Happily he was not injured. Stamp had no sooner gone to the wicket than Bashforth was smartly taken at first slip by Lockett off Ellerker. It had been raining, though not heavily, since lunch, but play continued.

With three wickets down for 13 runs, it looked as if the rain might turn to a downpour, and rob the visiting county of a win. Play, however, was continued, and Stamp got in an on-drive to the boundary off Ellerker, and followed it up with another nice hit for four. Having made the best stand so far, Stamp was out to a smart catch by Barnes in the slips. This wicket had been responsible for the addition of 17 runs, and rain was still falling fast when Stainsby went out to bat. He had made a single when rain stopped play at 35, and it had not been resumed at 3.50.

Rain continued until 4.10. The tea interval was then taken, and play will be resumed at 4.30, if there is no further downfall.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings

H W Homer c and b Coulthurst	103
P O Yates lbw b Coulthurst	18
Barnes c Stainsby b Ross	13
G A Fitton lbw b Ross	31
A W Ikin b Robinson	42
A Lockett b Coulthurst	6
W Lee b Coulthurst	13
J S Heath b Coulthurst	0
W H Ellerker c Robinson b Wilson	3
Sedgwick not out	13
E P Cross c Bashford b Munnings	17
Extras	42

Total 301

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

R E Frearson lbw b Lockett	39
T D Ross c Cross b Ellerker	31
H A Bashforth lbw b Barnes	13
H E Stamp c Lockett b Barnes	0
J Robinson b Ellerker	6
C Stainsby b Barnes	5
G Shaw lbw b Barnes	4
H W Dods not out	20
C Wilson b Ellerker	8
E J Coulthurst lbw b Barnes	7
E Munnings b Barnes	3
Extras	2

Total 138

LINCOLNSHIRE.—Second Innings.

R E Frearson b Sedgwick	5
T D Ross b Sedgwick	4
G A Bashforth c Lockett b Sedgwick	4
H E Stamp c Barnes b Ellerker	13
J Robinson not out	4
C Stainsby not out	1
Extras	0

Total (for 4 wks) 31

Later.—Lincolnshire, 54 for 4 wks.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	B.	W.
Coulthurst	33	14	64	5	5
Wilson	34	12	64	2	2
Ross	23	7	54	2	2
Munnings	18.4	4	48	1	1
Dods	4	0	29	0	0

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	B.	W.
Barnes	33.1	14	67	6	6
Sedgwick	6	0	19	0	0
A Lockett	18	7	34	1	1
W H Ellerker	11	1	26	3	3

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30	63	154	230	236	247	247	260	266	301

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
65	80	80	90	91	98	103	116	131	138

STAFFORDSHIRE'S EASY VICTORY.

Lincolnshire Defeated by an Innings.

A stoppage of an hour and a quarter owing to rain threatened to rob Staffordshire of a victory over Lincolnshire in their Minor Counties Championship fixture at Grimsby yesterday, but the weather cleared up after the tea interval, and inside an hour the remainder of the home team were dismissed, and Staffordshire gained an easy win by an innings and 86 runs. In their second innings, the Lincolnshire batsmen failed badly against some capital bowling by Barnes, Lockett and Sedgwick. The liveliest cricket came from Robinson and Stainsby who, when the innings was resumed put on 23 runs in 20 minutes. Following their dismissal by Lockett, who clean bowled them both, none of the remaining batsmen offered any resistance and the whole side were out for 77, the innings having lasted an hour and 25 minutes. Barnes, who did not bowl until five wickets had fallen for 55, came out with the best analysis—three wickets at a cost of two runs each.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c and b Coulthurst	103
P G Yates lbw b Coulthurst	18
Barnes c Stainsby b Ross	13
G A Fitton lbw b Ross	31
A W Ikin b Robinson	42
A Lockett b Coulthurst	6
W Lee b Coulthurst	13
J S Heath b Coulthurst	0
W H Ellerker c Robinson b Wilson	3
Sedgwick not out	13
E P Cross c Bashford b Munnings	17
Extras	42
Total	301

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

R E Frearson lbw b Lockett	39
T D Ross c Cross b Ellerker	31
B A Bashford lbw b Barnes	13
H E Stamp c Lockett b Barnes	0
J Robinson b Ellerker	6
C Stainsby b Barnes	5
G Shaw lbw b Barnes	4
H W Dods not out	20
C Wilson b Ellerker	8
E J Coulthurst lbw b Barnes	7
E Munnings b Barnes	3
Extras	2
Total	138

LINCOLNSHIRE.—Second Innings.

R E Frearson b Sedgwick	5
T D Ross b Sedgwick	4
G A Bashford c Lockett b Ellerker	4
H E Stamp c Barnes b Ellerker	13
J Robinson b Lockett	18
C Stainsby b Lockett	13
G Shaw c Heath b Barnes	5
H W Dods b Barnes	9
Major C Wilson b Barnes	5
E J Coulthurst run out	1
E Munnings not out	0
Total	77

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Coulthurst	33	14	64	5
Wilson	24	12	64	2
Ross	23	7	54	2
Munnings	18.4	4	42	1
Dods	4	0	29	0

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	33.1	14	57	6
Sedgwick	6	0	19	0
A Lockett	18	7	34	1
W H Ellerker	11	0	26	3

Lincolnshire.—Second Innings.

Barnes	5	2	6	3
Sedgwick	12	4	15	2
Lockett	6.4	0	22	2
Ellerker	10.1	3	34	2

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30	53	154	230	236	247	247	260	266	301

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
65	80	80	90	91	98	103	116	131	138

Lincolnshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	13	13	30	55	60	65	75	76	77

COUNTY CRICKET

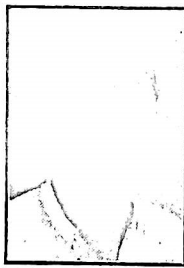
STAFFS. v. LINCOLNSHIRE

Fine Century by H. W. Homer

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as I should have liked to do with his bowling at Stoke in the rain-spoilt match against Lincolnshire. In the absence of Barnes, much depended upon Lockett, for it was a wicket for spin bowlers, and he rose to the occasion with the following meritorious analysis:—
26.3-8-65-8. He

bowled exceedingly well, and it was only in the last hour, when he was not too fresh, that the spin began to operate quickly enough to give him much help.

From Stoke, Lockett hurried to Exeter, where on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday he and H. W. Homer played for the Minor Counties against the West Indies. He did not accomplish anything noteworthy with the ball, but played an innings which will deservedly be memorable. The Tourists scored 289, and dismissed the Counties XI. for 108, of which Lockett made 22, and Homer 11. Following on, the Minor Counties lost half their wickets for 62. At that point they seemed certain to be beaten by an innings, for the Indian bowlers had so far met with no check. The great pace and "devil" of Constantine, Francis, and Griffiths had been too much for their opponents. At this stage Lockett played the innings of his life. Though repeatedly hit and bruised, especially by the thunder-bolts of Constantine, Aaron stood up to the bowling, and hit and drove it all over the field until he had scored 157, and with the help of one or two of the later batsmen, pulled the game so completely round, that the Tourists were set 146 to get, and on Tuesday were actually beaten by over 40 runs. No game has ever undergone a more dramatic change, and rarely has there been a more dramatic personal batting triumph. It was from every point of view a great innings, free from any actual chance, and it made cricket history. It reflected credit on Staffordshire, and great honour upon Lockett's native Bignall End, where he learnt and developed his cricket.

Staffordshire won the toss at Grimsby, and at the end of the first day's play it appeared to be a pity that they did. Before lunch the bowlers got considerable assistance from the wicket, later in the day they were getting none. Had Lincolnshire faced Barnes, Sedgwick, and Lockett on the pitch as it played before lunch, they would certainly have had a difficult task, and might virtually have lost the match in those first two hours. The home county had no such bowling talent to take advantage of the opportunity, but their bowling was good enough to keep Homer, Yates, Barnes, and Fitton almost wholly on the defensive, and only highly skilled defence saved Staffordshire from serious losses during this spell. Homer actually batted an hour and a-half for 14 singles, which was in itself sufficient evidence of the difficulties he and his colleagues had to cope with. Afterwards, as the pace of the wicket became easier the Old Hill batsman gave a masterly display, and scored his first century in county cricket. He hit two sixes, a big on-drive from Major Wilson, and a superb leg hit from

Coulthurst, and 13 fours, mostly sweet leg glides, crisp square cuts, and smashing off-drives. I only noticed two fluky strokes in his innings, one a snick past the leg stump, and the other perhaps a just possible chance to first slip, though the fielder failed to touch it. These were before lunch when the ball required very careful watching. Fitton's innings, following upon an invaluable 24 not out at Stoke last week, was again of untold value, and Ikin also played confident and effective cricket at a crucial time. The later batsmen, of course, tried to get runs quickly, and against the good-length bowling of Coulthurst, who made the ball "swing" a good deal, was fraught with risk, but a useful 35 for the last wicket enabled Staffordshire to reach the third hundred, a highly satisfactory performance.

Lincolnshire had 45 minutes' batting before the close of play, and scored 37 without loss, the wicket playing quite easily after the application of the roller.

On Thursday Staffordshire brought off a really meritorious victory by no less crushing a margin that an innings and 86 runs. Rain threatened to rob them of the victory, for a drizzle fell most of the morning without stopping the game, but at 3 o'clock there was an interruption which lasted an hour and a-quarter. However, the weather happily cleared, and a further hour's play sufficed. The play during the 2½ hours before lunch was characterised by an absolutely great piece of bowling by Barnes. The wicket gave him no assistance, but he made the ball turn from leg at a capital pace, and mixed them up beautifully without losing length or vim for a moment, although he suffered ill-luck enough to have taken the heart out of any bowler. Many times he had the batsman completely beaten, only to beat the wicket as well. Four times the ball went off the edge of the bat through the slips, and instead of a catch, counted four lucky runs to the striker. There were numerous other flukes, which did not quite go to hand, and Ross, Dods, and Wilson were all badly missed off his bowling. He bowled unchanged for 2½ hours, and came out with a fine analysis, in spite of all, Ellerker also bowled well, and made the ball swing a good deal. Lincolnshire were all out at lunch time, and had to follow on 163 behind. Sedgwick and Ellerker practically settled the issue by getting rid of the first four batsmen for 30. Both made the ball swing, and Sedgwick was very steady. Lockett and Barnes took up the bowling, when Robinson and Stainsby made something of a stand, and Lockett twice hit the wicket with his slower breakback, whilst Barnes got three cheap wickets to finish off the innings for the small score of 77. J. S. Heath captained the side with good judgment, and the wicket-keeping of E. P. Cross, of Moseley, was a revelation. I have no hesitation in describing him as a class "keeper," who is up to the high Staffordshire pre-war standard, when J. Poole, H. Dearing, and C. L. Winsor were at their best. He gave only one bye in the two innings, though it was his first experience of Barnes, and took a lovely catch on the leg side. He missed one chance off Sedgwick in the second innings, but it was the only blemish in a finished display. As I understand he can play regularly for the county of his birth he will certainly be a great acquisition to the side.

Scores and analysis:—

Staffordshire.—1st Inns.

H. W. Homer c and b Coulthurst	103
P. O. Yates lbw b Coulthurst	18
Barnes c Stainsby b Ross	13
G. A. Fitton lbw b Ross	31
A. W. Ikin b Robinson	42
A. Lockett b Coulthurst	6
W. Lee b Coulthurst	13
J. S. Heath b Coulthurst	0
W. H. Ellerker c Robinson b Wilson	3
Sedgwick not out	13
E. P. Cross c Bashford b Munnings	17
Extr.	42
Total	301

Lincolnshire.—1st Inns.

R. E. Frearson lbw b Lockett	39
T. D. Ross c Cross b Ellerker	31
B. A. Bashforth lbw b Barnes	13
H. E. Stamp c Lockett b Barnes	0
J. Robinson b Ellerker	6

C. Stainsby b Barnes	5
G. Shaw lbw b Barnes	4
H. W. Dods not out	20
Major C. Wilson b Ellerker	8
E. J. Coulthurst lbw b Barnes	7
E. Munnings b Barnes	3
Extras	2
Total	138

2nd Innings

R. E. Frearson b Sedgwick	5
T. D. Ross b Sedgwick	4
B. A. Bashforth c Lockett b Ellerker	4
H. E. Stamp c Barnes b Ellerker	13
J. Robinson b Lockett	18
C. Stainsby b Lockett	13
G. Shaw c Heath b Barnes	5
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COUNTY CRICKET
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W. Lee b Coulthurst	13
J. S. Heath b Coulthurst	0
W. H. Ellerker c Robinson b Wilson	3
Sedgwick not out	13
E. P. Cross c Bashford b Munnings	17
Extras	42
Total	301

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H. W. Dods not out	20
Major C. Wilson b Ellerker	4
E. J. Coulthurst lbw b Barnes	7
E. Munnings b Barnes	3
Extras	2
Total	139

2nd Innings

R. E. Frearson b Sedgwick	5
T. D. Ross b Sedgwick	4
B. A. Bashford c Lockett b Ellerker	4
H. E. Stamp c Barnes b Ellerker	13
J. Robinson b Lockett	18
C. Stainsby b Lockett	13
G. Shaw c Heath b Barnes	5
H. W. Dods b Barnes	9
Major C. Wilson b Barnes	5
E. J. Coulthurst run out	1
E. Munnings not out	0
Total	77

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffs.—1st Inns.		2nd Inns.	
O. M. R. W. O. M. R. W.			
Coulthurst	33 14 64 5		
Wilson	34 12 64 2		
Ross	23 7 54 2		
Munnings	18.44 42 1		
Dods	4 0 29 0		
Lincolnshire.—1st Inns.		2nd Inns.	
Barnes	33.114 57 6	5 2 6 3	
Sedgwick	6 0 19 0	12 4 15 2	
Lockett	18 7 34 1	8.40 22 2	
Ellerker	11 0 26 3	10.13 34 2	

STAFFORDSHIRE AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

North Wales Batsmen Score Freely.

Centuries by Metcalfe and Rowland.

TETTENHALL, Wednesday.

On the delightfully situated ground of the Wolverhampton Cricket Club at Tettenhall, Staffordshire to-day entertained a representative eleven from North Wales. The visitors fielded a strong side, but Staffordshire were again with the services of Barnes, who is engaged in a cup-tie for his club, Castleton Moor. The home county introduced a new fast bowler in Boon, who formerly played for Kuypersey, and now assists the Frickley club in the Yorkshire Council.

Rain had fallen during the night, but the wicket was in good condition. The weather, however, was not very promising, heavy clouds suggesting the possibility of rain.

EARLY SUCCESSES.

North Wales won the toss, and Hall and Mallalieu opened the innings against the bowling of Sedgwick and Ellerker. The batsmen showed considerable restraint, and with the last ball of Ellerker's first over Mallalieu was dismissed, Howl bringing off a smart catch in the gully.

Only nine runs were scored in twenty-five minutes and then Lockett went on to bowl for Sedgwick. After he had delivered a maiden over Sedgwick resumed, and both Hall and Metcalfe found him difficult to get away.

The only scoring stroke of note in the first half-hour's play was an off-drive to the boundary by Hall of Sedgwick. On the whole, the batting was unimpressive, the singles being the only scoring strokes.

Further success fell to Staffordshire when, after batting 14 minutes, Hall was taken in the slips by Ellerker off Sedgwick.

Metcalfe continued to bat with meticulous care, and after scoring eight runs in 45 minutes, he gave a difficult chance in the slips, both Howl and Ellerker making an unsuccessful attempt to make the catch.

H. R. W. Butterworth, the Cambridge undergraduate enlivened the proceedings with a delightful leg glance to the boundary, and Metcalfe followed this up with a square cut for four which sent up 40 after an hour's batting. Although the Metcalfe-Butterworth partnership had so far realised 23 runs, neither batsman had shown much enterprise.

With the total at 50, Sedgwick was distinctly unfortunate in not taking Metcalfe's wicket. The batsman cut him through the slips at a fast pace, but Howl failed to retain his hold on the ball. Almost immediately afterwards, Butterworth gave Cross a very difficult chance behind the wicket.

Profiting by this escape, Butterworth got Ellerker away to the boundary, but it was rather a lucky stroke over the heads of the slips, and he followed it up with a couple to square leg. Runs came at a greater pace, and with a pull to the square leg boundary. Benefiting by this escape, Butterworth proceeded to hit Ellerker to the boundary, over the slips, and to follow it up with a square pull to leg for a couple. Runs came with a little more frequency, and with a square pull to leg Metcalfe advanced his score to 40, after having been at the wickets for an hour and a half.

A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP.

With his score at 30, which had been compiled in 58 minutes, Butterworth survived a confident appeal for a catch behind the wicket, but he was dismissed off the next ball, Lockett making a very fine catch from his own bowling. The partnership had proved a valuable one, having produced 66 runs.

After batting an hour and a half, Metcalfe reached his 50, and had played attractive cricket after a very quiet opening.

E. Hyam stayed with Metcalfe until the luncheon interval.

When the game was resumed Boon went out to bowl. He delivers the ball at a fast pace, and with his third ball got Hyam dismissed for obstruction.

Metcalfe was then partnered by C. A. Rowland, and both found Boon difficult to play. A heavy shower of rain caused the players to make a hurried run to the pavilion, but a resumption was made in less than five minutes.

Metcalfe twice got Boon away to the boundary, and eight runs were also scored off one over from Lockett.

METCALFE'S CENTURY.

Metcalfe remained very active but, following the heavy shower, the bowlers got no assistance from the wicket. Boon remained on for six overs, from which 14 runs were obtained, and Ellerker's return to the attack was signalled by Rowland hitting him for two fours.

Both batsmen drove powerfully, and in less than an hour 72 runs had been added as the result of some attractive cricket. They timed

the bowling of Lockett and Ellerker with admirable accuracy and scored at a fast pace. At 45 Rowland was given two "lives." First he kicked a ball from Ellerker, and Cross made an effort to bring off a catch by running from the wicket to mid-way between square leg and mid-on, but failed to retain his hold, and off the next ball from Lockett he sent back a hard return, the Staffordshire bowler just failing to bring off a spectacular catch low down.

Metcalfe reached his century in two hours and 55 minutes, by which time the score had been taken to 195. But at 205, he was bowled by Lockett with a ball which just removed the balls. Metcalfe had given a good all-round display. His partnership with Rowland had been responsible for 106 runs in 70 minutes.

NORTH WALES.—First Innings.

Hall c Ellerker b Sedgwick	10
A E Mallalieu c Howl b Ellerker	0
V A Metcalfe b Lockett	103
H R W Butterworth c and b Lockett	31
E Hyam lbw b Boon	1
C A Rowland not out	111
S K Jagger b Ellerker	5
F Robson not out	8
Extras	6

Total (for 6 wks) 275

Later.—North Wales, 236 for 7 wks.

BRILLIANT BATTING BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

Ellerker and Sedgwick in Big Stand.

Match Abandoned Owing to Rain.

TETTENHALL, Thursday.

At the close of the first day's play in their fixture with North Wales yesterday, Staffordshire were 190 runs in arrears, with eight wickets standing.

The visiting team had compiled a total of 295, largely the work of two batsmen—V. A. Metcalfe and C. A. Rowland, both of whom scored a century. The Staffordshire fielding, however, was very lax and many catches were missed.

E. W. Page and C. Howl opened the Staffordshire innings and, playing attractive and vigorous cricket, they put on 71 runs before Page was caught by Hall holding at extra cover. Just before play ceased, Howl reached his 50, as the result of some delightful cricket.

THE GAME RESUMED.

When play was resumed this morning, the weather was dull and threatening, but the wicket was favourable to run getting.

Howl and Thornycroft took an early command of the bowling of Jagger and Hobson, Thornycroft quickly adding 14 to his overnight score of four, which caused the first bowling change, Edge displacing Dobson.

Displaying skill and judgment, Thornycroft continued to bat merrily, and he and Howl put on 30 runs in 27 minutes.

When Metcalfe, the fast bowler, relieved Jagger, Howl survived an appeal for l.b.w., but in Edge's next over he was out to a smart catch by Mallalieu at backward point. He had batted very attractively for a valuable 64, the partnership having realised 59 runs.

The introduction of Metcalfe caused the rate of scoring to drop perceptibly, but a splendid innings was brought to a close when Thornycroft was taken behind the wicket by W. A. Rowland with his score at 37.

There was plenty of sting about Metcalfe's attack, but Ikin, after a short period of cautiousness, sent him twice to the rails, once to square leg and then with a hook to fine leg.

Lockett had only a brief stay, for he was sent back after scoring a single. He got under a delivery from Metcalfe when attempting a drive, and Hall made a fine catch, falling over in making it, but retaining his hold of the ball.

Ikin and Heath again endeavoured to improve Staffordshire's prospect, but after a promising opening, Heath was dismissed by a spectacular catch in the slips. Jagger made a first attempt to take the catch, but tipped it on to Dobson, who succeeded in holding the spinning ball.

In contrast to the lax way in which Staffordshire fielded, the North Wales players were both keen and accurate.

With the total at 190, Ikin was caught in the slips by Jagger. He had rendered his side valuable service by scoring 32, including five boundaries.

A GREAT PARTNERSHIP.

With seven wickets down for 199, there appeared little hope of Staffordshire reaching the North Wales total, but Ellerker and Sedgwick, who were now in partnership, attacked the bowling courageously, though without taking undue risks. They gave the best batting display of the morning, and the bowling was met with confidence. Sedgwick,

with an off-drive, a leg pull and a leg glance, sent the ball to the boundary each time, while other powerful strokes by the same batsman only failed to reach the boundary because of the smart fielding.

Occasionally, the batsmen took daring risks of quickly run singles, but the majority of the scoring strokes were boundaries, the bowling of Edge and Jagger being severely punished.

In 44 minutes, Sedgwick had 45 runs to his credit, and 55 minutes, batting by Ellerker had produced 38 runs.

With the Staffordshire score at 270 for seven, Dobson went on at the pavilion end, but Ellerker made a great drive to the rails off his third ball, and Sedgwick delighted the spectators with two off-drives to the boundary off Metcalfe. Fifteen runs were scored off Edge's next over Ellerker driving him three times to the rails and making another fine stroke for three. In two hours and twenty minutes the score had been taken from 103 to 306.

At the lunch interval, Ellerker and Sedgwick had been batting for 53 minutes, during which time they put on 134. It was an exhilarating eighth wicket stand in which both had hit out with perfect freedom, timing the ball with great accuracy.

After lunch they again set about the bowling, but with 15 runs added Sedgwick was well caught by Hall. The stand had been productive of 150 runs, of which 73 had been made by Sedgwick, who hit twelve 4's. He had batted for 66 minutes.

The good work was continued by Ellerker, who revealed great ability, his driving being particularly fine. Cross, too, indulged in some forceful cricket.

ELLERKER'S CENTURY.

Having batted fearlessly and vigorously for an hour and 50 minutes, Ellerker sent up his century, with a well run three.

Immediately afterwards, at 2.50 p.m., rain stopped play.

Rain had not ceased at four o'clock, and judging by the outlook, there appeared little chance of further play.

Rain continued, and as there was little prospect of any cessation, the match was abandoned at 4.10.

NORTH WALES.—First Innings.

Hall c Ellerker b Sedgwick	10
A E Mallalieu c Howl b Ellerker	0
V A Metcalfe b Lockett	103
H R W Butterworth c and b Lockett	31
E Hyam lbw b Boon	1
C A Rowland run out	118
S K Jagger b Ellerker	5
F Dobson b Lockett	12
A L Lockwood b Boon	1
W H Rowland not out	2
Edge b Boon	4
Extras	6

Total 235

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

E W Page c Hall b Jagger	34
C Howl c Mallalieu b Edge	64
G A Fitton b Butterworth	4
G H Thornycroft c W A Rowland	57
b Edge	37
A W Ikin c Jagger b Edge	32
A Lockett c Hall b Metcalfe	1
S Heath c Dobson b Edge	4
W H Ellerker not out	102
Sedgwick c Hall b Butterworth	73
E P Cross not out	24
Extras	25

Total (for 8 wks) 393

Rain stopped play.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

North Wales.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	18	4	67	1
Ellerker	24	5	71	2
Lockett	33	9	84	3
Boon	15.2	2	65	3

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Jagger	38	7	124	1
Dobson	11	0	51	0
Metcalfe	7	1	29	1
Edge	21	3	82	4
Butterworth	17	1	70	2

FALL OF WICKETS.

North Wales.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	0	10
2	17	85	90	205	231	286	287	287	235

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
71	89	148	165	164	180	109	349

SENSATIONAL CRICKET AT STOKE.

Staffordshire Dismissed for 99.

DEADLY BOWLING BY THE WEST INDIES.

There was a sensational start to Staffordshire's important fixture at Stoke with the West Indies cricketers.

Winning the toss, the County went in to bat on an excellent wicket, but they found the bowling of the tourists most difficult, and the innings closed by lunch-time for the small total of 99 runs. A. W. Ikin and A. Lockett were the only batsmen to show any confidence, but they played with caution, contributing 40 runs between them.

C. R. Browne took three wickets for 19 runs and G. Francis two for 12.

Tourist batsmen played careful cricket, Barnes's bowling calling for respect. The rate of scoring improved later and they had put on 142 runs for the loss of five wickets at the tea interval. G. Challinor had scored 63, and was still at the wicket with Constantine.

With such glorious weather to favour the event there was a big attendance.

An interesting fact regarding the match was that Sedgwick, the Staffordshire player, also played against the West Indies touring team of 1906, Sedgwick being at that time a member of the Yorkshire county eleven. Constantine's father played in that match for the tourists.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAY.

The most important fixture in the Staffordshire club's programme this season—and, in fact, for many seasons—opened at the old County Ground, Stoke, this morning, when the county team opposed the West Indies cricketers, at present touring this country. It was a real July day. The sun shone powerfully, and lit up the rather drab surroundings, while a gentle breeze made things comfortable for the spectators, of whom there was quite a big ring half-an-hour before the game started. From the selected Staffordshire side, Lee and Mayer stood down, while compared with the side that drew with Nottinghamshire yesterday the tourists brought in C. V. Wight (who acted as captain), G. Challenor, A. E. Rae, W. St. Hill, C. R. Brown, and J. A. Small, to the exclusion of R. K. Nunes, J. M. Neblett, C. A. Roach, F. R. Martin, and M. P. Fernandes. The two outstanding personalities of each side—Sidney Barnes, the famous England cricketer of bygone days, and L. N. Constantine, the greatest all-rounder in the game to-day—were on view.

COUNTY'S SHAKY START.

Staffordshire won the toss, and, the wicket being in good condition, naturally elected to bat first. Promptly at noon the West Indians took the field, to the accompaniment of a round of cheering, and they were immediately followed by Bickerton and Homer, the Staffordshire opening pair.

Ten runs were scored in the first 10 minutes, Bickerton hitting the second ball of the match, an overpitched delivery from Francis, to the square leg boundary, and following it up with a drive past mid-on for two. Homer also opened confidently against Constantine.

The first ball of Francis's second over, however, proved fatal to Bickerton, who, in attempting to pull the bowler to the square leg boundary, was brilliantly caught by Hoad, the first wicket going down at ten.

Barnes followed in, and opened with a delightful leg glance to the boundary off Francis, a stroke he repeated shortly afterwards at the expense of Constantine. The next ball, however, ended Barnes' innings, for he was much too late for a delivery which came off the pitch at a rare pace, and took the middle and off stumps. Two for 19 was not a promising start.

Fitton next joined Homer, but with only one run added, the latter pulled a ball from Constantine into his wicket.

With Ikin and Fitton together, play became very slow and uninteresting—inevitably so in view of the state of the game. Fitton went through a very uncomfortable maiden over from Francis, and might also have been run out had Wight made an accurate return, when the batsmen hesitated over what was an easy run.

Fitton, however, was well and truly bowled at 24, Francis beating him with a unusually fast ball that rose sufficiently to take the top of the off stump. Fitton was obviously beaten by the pace of the ball. Four men were now out after forty minutes' play.

CAUTIOUS BATTING.

Lockett, the hero of the match between the Minor Counties XI. and the West Indians, at Exeter last month, joined Ikin, and the pair faced the bowling with greater confidence, though cautiousness was the keynote of their batting.

Off one over from Constantine, Lockett got a couple of delightful fours, the over realising eleven runs, while Ikin similarly treated the same bowler, first reaching the boundary with a crisp cut wide off point, and then getting a lucky nick through the cordon of slip fielders.

The first bowling change was effected at 45, Browne, who bowls in-swingers and off-breaks, relieving Francis.

An hour's play produced 51 runs, which may be counted good going, in view of the state of the game from the home county's standpoint. Browne's advent, however, still further reduced the rate of scoring, the batsmen find-

ing it difficult to get him away.

Constantine, who had bowled at a fast pace for an hour, gave way at 51 to O. C. Scott, a slow leg-break bowler. By this time, Lockett and Ikin had more than doubled the score.

Browne's first four overs only produced six runs, including a boundary, and an occasional sharply run single was the only scoring method at this juncture. Ikin did attempt to drive Browne, but only succeeded in lifting the ball into mid-field, happily out of harm's way.

The Ikin-Lockett partnership was brought to an end at 63, the West Bromwich man being adjudged out l.b.w. to Scott. The pair had put on 39 valuable runs by careful methods. Ikin, whose share of the runs was 18, had batted very correctly.

Joined by Ellerker, Lockett hit Browne for six, although St. Hill made a courageous effort to bring off the catch. The bowler had his revenge immediately, for the next delivery got through Lockett's defence, and clean bowled him. The outgoing batsman had scored 22, including one 6 and two 4's, and he combined a sound defence with aggressiveness when opportunity presented itself.

Lockett left at 69, and with the total unaltered Ellerker was clean bowled by Scott. This brought Heath and Sedgwick together, but at 71 the Staffordshire captain suffered the same fate as Ellerker, Browne bowling him.

SEDGWICK HITS OUT.

The game took a dramatic turn—albeit a temporary one—when Sedgwick hit Scott for six and four off successive deliveries, but the third ball proved his undoing. He attempted to repeat the process, but failed, and was smartly stumped by Rae.

The last two men, Cross and Boon, also showed stubbornness, the latter hitting Scott for 2, 6 and 4 off successive balls. The six was a magnificent drive over the stand. In Browne's next over, however, Cross was bowled, the innings, which had lasted 1½ hours, terminated for the small total of 99. Staffordshire's failure was largely due to bad batting, though the tourists had bowled exceptionally well.

The West Indies commenced their innings immediately after lunch, when the attendance had increased to about 3,000.

Challenor, who was accompanied to the wicket by Hoad, faced the bowling of Barnes Boon, the fast bowler, opened the attack at the other end, and his first ball, a short one, was promptly sent to the leg boundary. He also square cut the first ball of his second over for four.

Only twelve runs had been scored, however, when the first wicket fell, Hoad being well bowled by a ball from Boon, which came off the pitch at a rare pace.

Boon was bowling really fast, but was inclined to over-pitch, and Hill punished him to the extent of eight runs in one over.

Challenor, when 17, offered a difficult chance

at the wicket, off Barnes, but it would have been a spectacular catch had Cross succeeded in taking it. The score was then 29, the result of half-an-hour's play.

RESPECT FOR BARNES' BOWLING.

Both batsmen were treating Barnes with respect, and the bowler made an unsuccessful appeal against Challenor for leg before, whilst a mis-hit by the same batsman to deep-leg only just fell short of Fitton.

Boon was proving much more expensive, and it was a beautiful wristy stroke by which Challenor got him away through the slips for four. Challenor also hit Barnes to square leg for six.

After bowling eight overs for 31 runs, Boon gave way to Lockett, and a single by Challenor, off the new bowler, sent up the fifty after 45 minutes' batting.

Barnes, who had bowled steadily and consistently, met with success at 58, getting W. St. Hill clearly leg before. The outgoing batsman, who had scored 17, had played correct and purposeful cricket during a stay of 35 minutes.

Bartlett opened shakily, and after putting a ball just wide of Heath at mid-off, was out to a brilliant one-handed catch by Bickerton, at sillypoint off Barnes. Three wickets were now down for 60 runs.

With Small in, play became very quiet, but Challenor got both Barnes and Lockett away to the boundary. The bowlers, however, were maintaining an accurate length and for a long time the only hit of note was a six by Challenor off Lockett.

By cautious method the score was advanced to 62, when Small was dismissed by Lockett, who took his middle stump with a ball that came in from the off. Small had only scored four.

Rae, who came in at the fall of the fourth wicket, ought to have been out after scoring a single, Lockett missing a comparatively easy catch in the slips.

CHALLENGOR'S HALF-CENTURY.

Challenor reached his fifty with a pull to leg for two, after batting an hour and a half. So far he had hit two 6's and six 4's.

After bowling for an hour and a half for two wickets at a cost of 27 runs, Barnes gave way to Ellerker at 01, and he opened with a maiden over. A square cut for four in Ellerker's next over sent the score past the Staffordshire's total, the innings having lasted an hour and forty minutes. At the same time, Boon returned to the attack in place of Lockett, and with the second delivery bowled Rae with a brilliant ball, the middle stump being sent flying out of the ground.

Half the side were out for 102, when Constantino came in, and he received quite an ovation from the crowd—doubtless in anticipation of some fearless hitting. Anticipation was early fulfilled, for he hit Ellerker out of the ground off the fourth ball he received, and was missed off a skier in the long-field by Bickerton two balls later. At the other end, he pulled and drove Boon for four off successive deliveries. Facing Ellerker again, he hit three successive fours, and in ten minutes had 33 runs to his credit. At the tea interval the score was 142 for 5.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton c Hood b Francis	7
H W Homer b Constantino	5
Barnes (S. F.) b Constantino	8
G A Fitton b Francis	1
A W Ikin lbw b Scott	13
A Lockett b Browne	22
W H Ellerker b Scott	0
J S Heath b Browne	0
Sedgwick (H A) st Rae b Scott	10
E P Cross b Browne	2
J Boon not out	18
Extras	10
<hr/>	
Total	99

WEST INDIES.—First Innings.

E L G Hold b Boon	1
G Challenger not out	63
W St Hill lbw b Barnes	17
E L Bartlett c Bickerton b Barnes	2
J A Small b Lockett	4
F A Rae b Boon	6
L N Constantino not out	33
Extras	17
<hr/>	
Total (for 5 wkts)	142

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	19	20	24	63	69	69	71	81	89

West Indies.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5
12	58	60	82	102

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
G Francis	7	3	12	2
L N Constantino	8	1	30	2
C R Browne	8.4	3	19	3
O C Scott	7	2	28	3

WEST INDIES WIN BY EIGHT WICKETS.

Another Day of Entertaining Cricket.

STYLISH BATTING BY BOTH TEAMS.

Though Staffordshire gave a greatly improved display in the second innings of their match with the West Indies team, at Stoke, their dismissal for 181 left the Tourists with a comparatively easy chance of victory, and they won by the margin of eight wickets, shortly before 4 o'clock this afternoon.

W. H. Homer batted stylishly for the County, and this morning carried his score to 62.

The West Indies, requiring 122 runs to win, had 102 runs on the board when the first wicket fell. G. N. Challenor (37) and E. L. Hoad (not out, 46) treated the big crowd to a display of aggressive and entertaining batting during their partnership.

HOW THE GAME PROGRESSED.

(By Our Special Representative.)

In their match with the West Indies at Stoke yesterday, Staffordshire fought an uphill battle, and at the day's close were only 83 runs ahead, with six of their second innings' wickets still standing. The position, however, was much better than appeared probable at one period, for at the tea interval the tourists had established a lead of 43 for the loss of only five batsmen. An inspired spell of bowling by Sedgwick and Barnes, when the game was resumed, saw the last five wickets go down for 17 runs, and the innings terminate for 159. Constantine, who before the adjournment had given the 5,000 spectators a taste of his fearless and aggressive batsmanship, was the first to go—clearly lbw to Sedgwick. His 38 runs were scored in 13 minutes, and he hit one 6 and six 4s. It was a mastery display of clean-cut hitting, Jessopian in its might and opportunism.

For stylish batsmanship, there was nothing in the day's play to equal the innings of Challenor, who batted two hours for 71, included in which were two 6s and eight 4s. Giving no chance, Challenor pulled and hooked brilliantly, and the bulk of his runs came from swift and clean-lengthed strokes. His bat was always making purposeful and stylish movements and his innings mingled strength and charm in proportion.

Staffordshire's second innings began disastrously, for Bickerton was well and truly bowled by Constantine with only two runs scored. Homer and Ikin, however, showed a stubborn defence to the keen West Indies' attack, and though the former was bowled by a no-ball by Francis, the pair resisted all efforts to separate them until the score had been taken to 48. Ikin was then caught at the wicket off Browne for a patient but valuable 20. Fitton had only a brief stay, but Homer then found a good partner in Lockett, who, though in an unusually subdued mood, played the bowling with confidence. The last ball of the day, delivered by Constantine, proved fatal to him, Staffordshire had lost four good wickets for 83 runs. Homer was not out 44 at the close, and so far he had batted soundly and with no little skill.

WICKET HARD AND TRUE.

Although the state of the game was such that an early finish was not unlikely, there was quite a satisfactory attendance when play was resumed this morning, in brilliant weather. The wicket was hard and true, though whether the remaining Staffordshire batsmen would be able to take advantage of it, and place themselves in a stronger position, remained to be seen.

Homer, the overnight not out batsman, was accompanied to the wicket by Barnes, play starting a quarter-of-an-hour late. Constantine finished his uncompleted over, and then, in Francis' first over, Constantine made a super-human effort to bring off an almost impossible catch in the slips, diving full length in his endeavour.

A quarter of an hour's play only produced four runs, but then, after having put a ball dangerously near the square leg fielder, Homer reached his 50 with a four over the head of the slips. He had batted an hour and 25 minutes for his runs, his chief scoring strokes up to this point being one 6 and five 4s.

The rate of scoring improved this morning, and after 20 minutes play—or 1½ hours in all—the century was hoisted, as a result of a four bye.

The first bowling change took place at 106. Scott relieving Constantine, and he opened with a maiden to Homer.

Barnes and Homer were now batting with increased confidence, and a delightful leg glance by the latter batsman off Francis earned a well-deserved round of applause. Seven runs were scored off this over, and Francis then gave way to Browne, the score being 115.

Neither of the two slow bowlers could make any impression on the batsman, and, though singles were the chief scoring strokes, they succeeded in bringing about another bowling change, Small relieving Scott at 139.

The new bowler met with immediate success, for in attempting to turn Small's third ball to leg, Homer was clearly lbw. He had scored 62 of the 132 runs on the board, hitting one 6 and seven 4s. The partnership with Barnes had put 49 runs in forty-five minutes.

HOMER'S STYLISH BATTING.

Homer had batted two hours and five minutes and had shown a fine defence and a stylish bat. Most of his runs were scored on the leg side, and on occasions he pulled and hooked with power.

Further disaster overtook Staffordshire, for the first ball of Small's second over got through Ellerker's defence, and clean bowled him. Six men were now out for 135—or only 78 runs ahead.

Barnes was the seventh man to be out lbw in the match, Browne getting him adjudged out in this way at 144. Barnes had played a sound defensive innings for his 18 runs.

Sedgwick followed in, and enlivened proceedings by hitting Browne for four, and then twice repeating the performance at the expense of Small, sending 150 up after two and a half hours' batting.

With a single, Heath made Staffordshire's score into 180, thus giving the home county a lead of exactly 100. Constantine returned to the attack at this juncture, doubtless to curb Sedgwick's hitting inclinations. He met with immediate success, sending Heath's middle stump flying out of the ground.

Sedgwick, however, had no fears for Constantine's wing, for, off successive balls, he drove him hard and true to the boundary, and then turped him to leg for two.

With Cross showing a good defence, Sedgwick continued to score freely, and he brought off another magnificent drive for four off the fast bowler.

The total was steadily advanced to 181, when Cross gave Small a simple catch in the slips off Browne, and without any addition to the score Boon was clean bowled by Browne.

Sedgwick was not out 27, and he hit five 4s. The innings realised 181, and had lasted just under three hours. The West Indies were thus set to get 222 to win.

The West Indies had seven minutes batting before lunch, and Challenor and Hoad scored five runs without loss.

A QUIET RESUMPTION.

When the game was resumed, Challenor and Hoad opened quietly, against some good length bowling by Barnes and Lockett. They were batting accidentally, however, but Challenor's length square put Lockett for successive fours, and lifted him into the outfield off a no-ball.

Challenor next lifted Barnes out of the field, and Sedgwick, who relieved Lockett at 29, was similarly treated, the latter hit being a great drive on to the roof of the stand.

Sedgwick made a confident appeal for leg before, against Challenor when he was 44, but the umpire's decision favoured the batsman. The same player also survived another confident "How's that," when facing Barnes.

Only Barnes was keeping the rate of scoring down, and Hoad punished Sedgwick to the tune of three fours and a two in one over, sending up the fifty after 35 minutes batting.

Barnes' first seven overs only produced nine runs, though the total was 68.

A further bowling change was made at 72. Boon displacing Sedgwick, and eight runs later Lockett resumed.

Challenor, with a four and a single off

Lockett, reached his fifty, after batting ten minutes short of an hour. His chief hits so far were two 6s and six 4s.

The rate of scoring continued unchecked, both Challenor and Hoad giving the spectators a fine display of aggressive batsmanship, and the century was reached after an hour and seven minutes batting.

Staffordshire, however, were not to be beaten by ten wickets, for at 102 Challenor was well beaten by a ball from Lockett, and clean bowled.

Challenor had scored 57, and had made his runs by crisp and clean driving and strenuous pulling and hooking.

OVATION FOR CONSTANTINE.

Constantine came in to partner Hoad, and he received a great ovation from the 2,500 spectators, who were doubtless hopeful that he would repeat his hard hitting of yesterday.

Barnes came on to bowl again, and Constantine created a mild sensation by lashing out at his first delivery, and missing it completely. Constantine, however, was not to be denied, and he hit a glorious six into the stand, following it up with a four to the square leg boundary. He attempted to repeat the process, but was quite clearly out lbw. It had been a short, but merry innings.

St. Hill assisted Hoad to rub off the nine runs required for victory, a single to leg by St. Hill enabling the tourists to win, at 3 40 p.m., by eight wickets. Hoad was 46 not out, and had given an attractive and stylish display.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton c Hoad b Francis	7
H W Homer b Constantine	5
Barnes (S. F.) b Constantine	8
G A Fitton b Francis	1
A W Ikin lbw b Scott	18
A Lockett b Browne	22
W H Ellerker b Scott	0
J S Heath b Browne	0
Sedgwick (H A) at Ras b Scott	10
E P Cross b Browne	2
J Boon not out	16
Extras	10
Total	99

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

A A Bickerton b Constantine	0
H W Homer lbw b Small	64
G A Fitton b Browne	4
A W Ikin c Rae b Browne	20
A Lockett b Constantine	6
Barnes (S. F.) lbw b Browne	18
W H Ellerker b Small	7
J S Heath b Constantine	1
Sedgwick (H) not out	27
E P Cross c Small b Browne	8
J Boon b Browne	0
Extras	26
Total	181

WEST INDIES.—First Innings.

F L G Hoad b Boon	1
G Challenor lbw b Barnes	71
W St Hill lbw b Barnes	17
E L Bartlett c Bickerton b Barnes	2
J A Small b Lockett	4
E A Rae b Boon	6
L N Constantine lbw b Sedgwick	38
C R Brown b Sedgwick	2
C B Wright b Sedgwick	0
G Francis lbw b Barnes	1
O C Scott not out	0
Extras	17
Total	159

WEST INDIES.—Second Innings.

G Challenor b Lockett	87
E L G Hoad not out	48
L N Constantine lbw b Barnes	10
W St Hill not out	5
Extras	5
Total (for 2 wickets)	123

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	19	20	24	63	69	69	71	81	99
Staffordshire.—Second Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	48	52	83	132	138	144	180	181	181
West Indies.—First Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	58	60	82	102	150	158	168	159	169
West Indies.—Second Innings.									
1	2								
102	113								

BOWLING ANALYSIS.
Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
G Francis	7	3	12	2
L N Constantine	8	1	30	2
C R Browne	8.4	3	19	3
O C Scott	7	2	28	3

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
G N Francis	11	4	28	0
L N Constantine	14	1	38	3
C R Browne	19	2	67	5
O C Scott	12	4	18	0
J A Small	3	2	8	2

West Indies.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	20	6	30	4
Boon	10	2	42	2
Lockett	10	2	28	1
Ellerker	4	1	23	0
Sedgwick	3.4	0	14	3

West Indies.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	10	3	27	1
A Lockett	8	0	34	1
Sedgwick	4	0	38	0
J Boon	4	1	19	0

MINIATURE MATCH TO ENTERTAIN CROWD.

The game being over by 3.40 p.m. it was decided to play a miniature match, each side batting half an hour. The crowd showed their appreciation of the good sportsmanship of the West Indies by accordng them a great ovation when they came out to field.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

A Lockett b Constantine	1
Sedgwick c Wight b Constantine	0
A A Bickerton b Constantine	0
A W Ikin c Rae b Constantine	0
Boon b Hoad	16
W H Ellerker b Neblett	0
E P Cross b Hoad	4
G A Flitton not out	1
J S Heath not out	1
Total (for 7 wkts)	23

WEST INDIES CRICKETER INJURED.

Bartlett Sustains Broken Finger.

Fielding at fine leg in the match between Staffordshire and the West Indies at Stoke this morning, Bartlett, the West Indies player, broke the forefinger of his left hand. He was attended by Dr. List, and taken to the N.S. Royal Infirmary, where he underwent an X-ray examination. The injury will probably keep Bartlett out of the team for three weeks.

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. West Indies

RECORD "GATE" AT STOKE

By THE CRITIC

The old County Ground at Stoke presented such an appearance on Wednesday as I have never seen in all my 35 years' experience of Staffordshire cricket. The weather made up for some past rebuffs, for it was a glorious summer day, and over 5,000 people encircled the ground. This was easily a record for county cricket in Staffordshire, and was very heartening to all concerned in the management of the County Club. The tourists did not include their captain, R. K. Nunes, M. P. Fernandes, and H. C. Griffith (one of their fast bowlers), but in response to the wishes of their hosts, they played their wonderful all-rounder, L. N. Constantine, though he has taken part in almost every match, and it was the intention to rest him at Stoke. C. V. Wight, the vice-captain, took command, and the side was not far from representing the full strength of the visiting combination. Staffordshire included the young fast bowler, Boon, who had his first trial against North Wales, and were practically at full strength.

In winning the toss, the county obtained a doubtful advantage, for it was probably less difficult to make the ball turn on the excellent pitch provided during Staffordshire's first innings than it was later, when the sun and the roller made it into a plumb wicket. But it afforded little help to a bowler at any time, and more runs would have been scored on it, but for the fact that the bowling was too good for the batting.

The two fast bowlers, Francis and Constantine, opened the bowling against Homer and Bickerton. Constantine has the greater speed, and I much admired his run and delivery. As a fast bowler should, he throws the whole impetus of his run into it, finishing with an awesome spring up to the crease. But he is not above medium height, and he has not a particularly high delivery. He flashes the ball down at a fine pace, however, and he seemed sometimes to make it swing away a little whilst he has a splendid command over the ball. Francis appeared to swing them both ways at times, but chiefly away, and he, too, kept a capital length. Bickerton turned him to leg for a really choice four, but he promptly put an extra man on the leg side, and as promptly induced the Porthill batsman to place one straight into his hands just behind the umpire. Barnes got each bowler to the leg boundary, but a great delivery from Constantine swung sufficiently to beat his bat, and bowled his off stump. Then Homer got on top of one well outside his off wicket, and had the bad luck to chop it on. He failed to reach double figures for the first time for Staffordshire for two seasons. Fitton was not at all comfortable with the fast bowling, and Francis soon found his off stump, so that Staffordshire had lost four wickets for 24 in 35 minutes.

Ikin and Lockett revealed more ability to get the pace of the bat to the ball, and gradually improved the position, so that first Francis and then Constantine was taken off in favour of Browne, medium pace, and Scott, slow leg-breaks. Except that the latter kept a rather tantalising length, he did not impress as a first-class bowler, but Browne bowled exceedingly well. He has command of a good in-swing, and can create surprise by making the ball go away on occasion. The fifth wicket added 39 before Ikin covered up to one of Scott's that seemed to call for a forward stroke, and was out for obstruction, whilst Lockett was beaten by in-swing and bowled at the same total at the other end. Ellerker and Heath both failed, and the end was not far off, though Sedgwick hit the slow bowler to leg for four and six, and Boon used the long handle, driving Scott over the grandstand, and hitting a couple of fours. Staffordshire were out before lunch, having batted exactly 99 minutes for their 99 runs.

Barnes and Boon opened the bowling for Staffs., and the latter's speed beat Hoard with a dozen scored, but Challenor and Hill made an invaluable stand, adding 46 for the second wicket. Most of these came from Boon, who was erratic, but bowled one or two very good overs. Barnes was deadly accurate, as usual, and his leg spin made the ball turn enough to beat the bat several times. He was just over the wicket once or twice, and also dangerously near the

off-stump, whilst quite early he made a confident appeal for lbw against Challenor, who seemed fortunate in the umpire's decision. However, he effected a separation by getting Hill's wicket in the same way. A brainy bit of work got rid of Bartlett. Barnes brought Bickerton in to silly point, and the fielder took a hot catch with the left hand immediately. Lockett had superseded Boon, and his quick one shattered Small's wicket, whilst Boon, returning, sent Rae's middle stump dancing, and five were out for 102.

Constantine had a special cheer, and he lived up to his reputation. In 10 minutes before tea he hit up 33, and had the crowd in transports. But he was fortunate. Ellerker had relieved Barnes, and the effervescent black hooked the second ball he received square for six. If there had been a fielder on the square leg boundary, as there should have been for such a hitter, it would have been a catch. Then he lofted Ellerker over cover point, and Bickerton at extra cover misjudged the flight of the ball, and just failed to get back to it. Had he been fielding on the boundary, as, again, he should have been, it would have been a simple catch. Constantine repeated this stroke twice, and each time the fielder was not deep enough. Otherwise the batsman scored by means of fine strokes, especially a perfect off drive and a leg hit from Boon.

Challenor had been batting finely, and passed his fifty before tea, but on the resumption, with Sedgwick and Barnes bowling, there was a collapse. The 6th wicket went at 150, when Constantine stepped in and tried to pull a good length ball from Sedgwick, and was leg-before, and the whole side was out nine runs later. Barnes got Challenor lbw after all, straightening a ball out from the leg stump to beat the bat. Challenor was the only batsman to show real class, and he played a lot of the best bowling during his stay of two hours and five minutes. He hit one over-pitched ball from Barnes for six, and got eight fours, whilst Constantine, who was only batting 15 minutes, hit a six and six fours.

Staffordshire had an hour and 20 minutes batting, and finished up 23 runs on with four wickets down.

Homer and Ikin scored 46 for the 2nd wicket, and the Old Hill player was still not out when stumps were drawn with 44 to his credit, the result of careful and skilful play.

Thursday's Play

Again on Thursday the game was favoured by warm sunshine, and there was another excellent attendance. The number of people present on the two days was about 10,000, which is easily a record for any county match in Staffordshire.

Though the county side were by no means disgraced, the game continued to go steadily against them, and they were eventually beaten by eight wickets by a better team. Barnes accompanied Homer to the wicket when the game was resumed, and Constantine and Francis were the bowlers. The wicket still played well, but Francis made the ball rise occasionally, and Barnes edged him through the slips for four, whilst Homer put one only just out of Constantine's reach in "the gully." The famous fast-bowler's movements in the field suggest bottled lightning, and he nearly reached the ball with a spectacular dive. Then Homer, hooking a rather short, rising ball from Constantine, almost gave a catch at short square leg, but he settled down to play safe and skilful cricket, cutting Francis for four, to reach his 50 in about an hour and 40 minutes. The pair plodded along, and Browne and Scott once more relieved the fast bowlers, whilst at 132 Small bowled for the first time in the match. A medium-pace, right-arm bowler, who swings the ball both ways, Small is one of the tourists' best bowlers, and he quickly changed the aspect by swinging one in to come quickly from the pitch and trap Homer leg before, whilst a similar ball beat and bowled Ellerker in the next over, and Barnes was also lbw at the other end. The fifth wicket had put on 49, but seven were down for 144, and the county's fate was then sealed. Small was soon relieved by Constantine, who got a yorker of tremendous pace past the Staffordshire Captain, but Sedgwick, in just over 20 minutes of good, clean hitting, three times sent the fast bowler to the rails by fine slashing drives. He also hit Browne, who had a long spell of bowling, very hard to leg, and Bartlett in a valiant attempt to stop the ball, had the first finger of his left hand fractured. This was a misfortune for the Tourists, for it will keep the diminutive batsman out of the team for at least three weeks, and will cause him to miss

the next test match. Browne dismissed Cross and Boon with successive balls, and the West Indies were left with 122 runs to get for victory.

The issue was soon settled by Challenor and Hoard, for whilst the former played the same solid, all-round cricket as in the first innings, Hoard kept his wicket up and occasionally pushed the ball away on the leg side. Challenor showed great respect for Barnes, but scored freely off Lockett, who gave way to Sedgwick. Challenor survived a remarkably confident appeal for lbw by each bowler, and then, being favoured with the unusual luxury of a half-volley on the leg from Barnes, lifted it for 6. He also drove Sedgwick finely for 6, whilst Hoard put the fast bowler away for three 4's and a 2 on the leg side in one over. Boon also failed to check the run-getting from that end, and when Barnes was rested with the score at 80, only 12 had been obtained from him, including the 6 hit referred to. Challenor reached 50 for the second time in the match, and the hundred appeared without loss, but at 102 Lockett beat Challenor with a fine break-back and knocked back his middle stump. Constantine went in, obviously for the crowd's entertainment, and Barnes having resumed, drove the great bowler into the grand stand for 6, hit the next ball square for 4, jumped in front to pull the next and was leg-before, Hoard stayed to see the match won, and was batting an hour and 25 minutes.

The match being over before four o'clock, the visitors kindly agreed to give the spectators an extra turn, and it was arranged that each side should bat half an hour.

Scores:—

STAFFORDSHIRE

First Innings

J. S. Heath (capt.) b Browne	0
H. W. Homer b Constantine	5
A. A. Bickerton c Hoard b Francis ..	7
E. P. Cross b Browne	2
W. H. Ellerker b Scott	0
A. Lockett b Browne	22
A. W. Ikin, lbw b Scott	18
G. A. Fitton b Francis	1
Barnes (S. F.) b Constantine	8
Sedgwick (H. A.) st Rae b Scott ..	10
Boon (J.) not out	16
Extras	10
Total	99

Second Innings

J. S. Heath (capt.) b Constantine ..	7
H. W. Homer lbw b Small	64
A. A. Bickerton b Constantine ..	0
E. P. Cross c Small b Browne	8
W. H. Ellerker b Small	1
A. Lockett b Constantine	6
A. W. Ikin c Rae b Browne	20
G. A. Fitton b Browne	4
Barnes (S. F.) lbw b Browne	18
Sedgwick (H. A.) not out	27
Boon (J.) b Browne	0
Extras	26
Total	181

WEST INDIES XI.

First Innings

C. V. Wight (capt.) b Sedgwick ..	0
G. Challenor lbw b Barnes	71
E. L. Bartlett c Bickerton b Barnes ..	2
E. L. G. Hoard b Boon	1
E. A. Rae b Boon	6
L. N. Constantine lbw b Sedgwick ..	38
G. N. Francis lbw b Barnes	1
O. C. Scott not out	0
W. St. Hill lbw b Barnes	17
C. R. Browne b Sedgwick	2
J. A. Small b Lockett	4
Extras	17
Total	159

Second Innings

G. Challenor b Lockett	57
E. L. G. Hoard not out	46
L. N. Constantine lbw b Barnes ..	10
W. St. Hill not out	5
Extras	5
Total (for two wickets) ..	123

STAFFORDSHIRE AT MACCLESFIELD.

Good Score Against Cheshire Rivals.

Ikin and Lockett Bat Attractively.

MACCLESFIELD, Wednesday.

On the delightfully situated ground at Victoria-road to-day, Staffordshire resumed their Minor Counties programme by opposing Cheshire. Unfortunately, both elevens lacked the services of several of their more regular players, particularly Staffordshire, who were without the assistance of Barnes, who is playing for his club, Castleton Moor, in the Wood Cup final, H. W. Homer, A. A. Bickerton, Cross and W. H. Ellerker.

The visiting county introduced a new player in L. H. Crump, of Burslem, and L. McEllin, the Bignall End player, made his second appearance. That all-round sportsman, Max Woosnam, was brought into the Cheshire eleven for the first time. The weather was ideal.

A BAD START.

Batting first on a splendid wicket McEllin and Crump opened the Staffordshire innings, opposing the bowling of Wilson and Dennis, but they did not play the Cheshire attack with much confidence, Wilson frequently having the batsmen in difficulties. Only seven runs were scored in fifteen minutes, four of which were from a delightful leg glide to the boundary by McEllin off Dennis. Wilson delivered the first blow at Staffordshire, bowling McEllin with only eight runs on the board, the ball breaking in from the off and completely beating the batsman.

G. A. Fitton partnered Crump in an endeavour to retrieve a poor start, and he opened with a glide to the leg boundary. With the score at 15, there was a change in the bowling, L. N. Jones going on in place of Dennis, who, however, resumed at the other end.

In the following over Wilson went on at the pavilion end, and the batsmen became more subdued. Dennis maintained a fast pace and kept a good length; and it was off one of his deliveries that Spearing missed Crump behind the wicket. The score at the time was 18, the result of forty minutes batting. In Dennis' next over, L. N. Jones made up for Spearing's mistake by taking a quick catch in the slips to dismiss Crump.

A period of mediocre batting had so far produced 18 runs for the loss of two wickets.

IKIN'S BRIGHT BATTING.

For the most part the batting was of a very restrained character, both Wilson and Dennis bowling with unerring length, but when Ikin went to the wicket there was an improvement in the rate of scoring.

In one over from Wilson, Ikin scored seven runs, including a leg boundary, and later he sent L. N. Jones twice to the rails off successive deliveries.

Although Fitton made several capital strokes, the play was dominated by Ikin, who batted vigorously all round the wicket. He again twice got L. N. Jones away to the boundary, the first being a splendid glide to leg, and the other a drive.

Both batsmen were now playing the bowling confidently, but Cook demanded respect, only six runs were scored off him in the same number of overs, five of which were maidens.

With the score at 70, obtained in an hour and a half, Cook was distinctly unfortunate in not securing Ikin's wicket, W. E. Jones, fielding at square leg making a good effort to bring off a difficult catch, but just failing to retain his hold on the ball.

The partnership had so far realised 52 runs, 37 of which had been contributed by Ikin, whose chief scoring strokes were seven boundaries.

A good deal of the sting had been taken out of the attack, and bowling changes were fairly frequent. W. E. Jones, the slow break bowler, however, was played with caution.

After being at the wicket an hour and 10 minutes, Ikin reached his 50, having batted with refreshing vigour and without giving a chance.

A SMART PIECE OF FIELDING.

Ikin, who throughout his innings had shown a disposition to hit out, was run out immediately the game was resumed after lunch. Fitton played Dennis's second delivery to leg and attempted a run, but Woosnam fielded the ball cleverly and throw down Ikin's wicket.

Lockett went in to indulge in some attractive hitting, quickly scoring two boundaries at the expense of Wilson. Fitton continued to play with restraint, and he showed little enterprise with the exception of one really good stroke to the rails off Wilson.

With the total at 119, Cook came on for Dennis, but Lockett punished the new bowler to the extent of eleven runs in his first over, two deliveries being turned round to the leg boundary.

LOCKETT'S BRIGHT DISPLAY.

In thirty minutes the Old Hill player had scored 33 runs in polished and attractive style, and 35 minutes play had produced 52 runs.

After being at the wicket for two hours and twenty minutes, Fitton was smartly taken behind the wicket by Spearing, a valuable contribution of 46 having been made by stolid batting.

Lockett's delightful innings was brought to a close immediately afterwards he being the second player to be run out. He had hit seven 4's.

Hardy, the Oxford University player, remained only sufficiently long to make a single, Cook then bowling him middle stump.

Both Sedgwick and Heath attempted some hard hitting, but keen fielding kept the rate of scoring low. Sedgwick's stay at the wicket, however, was of short duration, for, after putting on four, Cook got through his defence. The bowlers maintained such accurate attack that the last three wickets had fallen for 14 runs.

Mayer showed a partiality for the bowling of L. N. Jones, making a first rate cut to the boundary, and gliding another to the rails. His next two strokes were also to the boundary. He was never seriously troubled and took every opportunity of scoring. But after a series of singles and three two's he was caught by Woosnam.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

L. C. McEllin b Wilson	8
L. H. Crump c L. N. Jones b Dennis	4
G. A. Fitton c Stearing b L. N. Jones	43
A. W. Ikin run out	51
A. Lockett run out	47
J. S. Heath c Woosnam b Cook	13
R. S. A. Hardy b Cook	1
Sedgwick b Cook	4
E. Mayer not out	23
Boon c and b Wilson	8
W. Beddowes b Cook	5
Extras	8
Total	206

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W. E. Jones b Sedgwick	9
J. L. Abel lbw b Sedgwick	0
J. L. Batterby not out	3
L. N. Jones not out	6
Extras	1
Total (for 2 wks)	8

Later.—Cheshire, 11 for five wickets.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	25	8	61	1
Dennis	19	8	21	1
Cook	24	9	47	5
Dutton	5	1	0	0
W. E. Jones	3	1	4	0
L. N. Jones	11	0	50	1

CHESHIRE SET A BIG TASK.

Staffordshire Declare With Lead of 300.

Brilliant Batting by Lockett.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

L. C. McEllin b Wilson	6
J. H. Crump c L. N. Jones b Dennis	4
G. A. Fitton c Spearing b L. N. Jones	49
A. W. Ikin run out	51
A. Lockett run out	37
J. S. Heath c Woosnam b Cook	13
R. S. A. Hardy b Cook	1
Sedgwick b Cook	4
E. Mayer not out	24
Boon c and b Wilson	0
W. Beddows b Cook	0
Extras	6
Total	229

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

L. H. Crump c W. E. Jones b Cook	26
L. C. McEllin c L. N. Jones b Dutton	45
A. W. Ikin c Woosnam b Dutton	0
A. Lockett c Battersby b Wilson	91
G. A. Fitton c Battersby b Cook	4
J. S. Heath c W. E. Jones b Cook	7
R. S. A. Hardy lbw b Wilson	13
Sedgwick b Wilson	13
E. Mayer not out	7
Boon not out	0
Extras	21
Total (for 8 wks)	230

Innings declared.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W. E. Jones b Sedgwick	2
J. L. Abel lbw b Sedgwick	0
J. L. Battersby c Mayer b Lockett	2
L. N. Jones c Beddows b Sedgwick	6
R. M. Spearing b Lockett	0
M. Woosnam b Sedgwick	44
Wilson c Hardy b Lockett	34
J. Pratt b Lockett	0
R. M. Dutton b Lockett	31
Cook b Mayer	9
Dennis not out	0
Extras	3
Total	130

CHESHIRE.—Second Innings.

W. E. Jones b Sedgwick	27
J. L. Abel c Beddows b Boon	0
J. L. Battersby b Boon	0
L. N. Jones c and b Lockett	19
R. M. Spearing not out	0
Extras	3
Total (for 3 wks)	63

CHESHIRE (2nd Inngs), 69 for four.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	25	8	61	1
Dennis	19	8	21	1
L. N. Jones	11	0	51	1
Cook	24	9	47	5
Dutton	5	1	9	0
W. E. Jones	3	1	4	0

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	20	6	41	3
Dennis	14	4	45	7
Cook	20	4	59	3
L. N. Jones	6	2	11	0
R. M. Dutton	17	3	53	2

Cheshire.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	16	2	64	4
Lockett	19	3	53	5
Mayer	3.2	0	10	1

MACCLESFIELD, Thursday.

As a result of the first day's play in their Minor Counties match with Cheshire at Macclesfield yesterday, Staffordshire gained a first innings' lead of 70 runs, but at one period it appeared almost certain that the home county would have to follow on, Lockett and Sedgwick having dismissed half the side for a paltry eleven runs. At this point, Sedgwick had taken three wickets for six runs in four overs, and his colleague was credited with the other two at a cost of four runs.

Cheshire's recovery was due to a timely stand on the part of Wilson and Max Woosnam, who were associated in a sixth wicket partnership which put on 69 valuable runs before the former was dismissed. Both played attractive cricket, scoring freely all round the wicket. The only other player to cause any trouble to the Staffordshire attack was Dutton, who batted soundly for 21, and the innings closed just on time for the drawing of stumps for 130. Lockett came out with the best bowling figures, his five wickets costing 53 runs, while Sedgwick claimed four for 64 runs.

A PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP.

The weather was dull and the sky overcast when Crump and McEllin opened Staffordshire's

second innings. During the night there had been a shower of rain, but it had not affected the wicket. Wilson and Dennis opened the attack, the former was twice despatched to the boundary by McEllin.

An early change was made in the bowling when Cook displaced Dennis, but runs came frequently, even though the cricket was by no means exhilarating as Crump was content to remain chiefly on the defensive, but on one occasion he got Wilson away to the boundary.

A brief spell of quick run-getting became somewhat subdued until Crump turned L. N. Jones to the leg boundary, and McEllin followed it up by driving Dennis for four. After Jones had bowled four overs, Dutton went on, and Crump found him difficult to play, but McEllin showed an impartiality for Cook's deliveries.

It was from a delivery by Dutton, however, that McEllin was badly missed by Battersby at mid-off.

Both batsmen became more enterprising as occasion demanded and 50 was sent up after 55 minutes' batting. McEllin was playing the more vigorous type of cricket, and with two delightful strokes he sent both Cook and Dutton to the boundary.

With the total at 72, however, McEllin's enterprising innings came to an end, he being caught in the slips by L. N. Jones. The chief strokes in his 45 were seven 4's.

FORCING THE PACE.

Ikins followed in, but had only a brief stay, for in attempting to drive Dutton he was smartly taken by Woosnam at point.

With Lockett as his partner, Crump continued to score at a steady pace. Lockett early showed a tendency to hit out, especially when facing Wilson. In one over he scored a four and two 2's off this bowler, and in making another drive gave a difficult chance to Dutton at mid-off. Lockett continued to force the pace, and enlivened the play with a splendid exhibition of spirited batsmanship.

The partnership was broken when the score had been taken to 103, Crump giving W. E. Jones one of the simplest catches at short leg. He had batted an hour and three-quarters for 26.

Fitton went in, but had only scored four—a boundary—before being caught at mid-off by Battersby.

Heath also attempted to force the pace, but Cheshire's work in the field was both keen and clean, Woosnam undoubtedly being the outstanding fieldsmen. Five minutes before the luncheon interval, Heath was caught at mid-off, and two balls later Dennis, fielding at mid-on, missed an easy catch offered by Lockett. At the luncheon interval Staffordshire were 200 runs on.

LOCKETT'S DASHING INNINGS.

When Lockett and Hardy resumed after lunch, they set about Dennis's bowling with vigorous style. Hardy turned him to the leg boundary, and Lockett also drove him to the boundary, off successive deliveries.

At the other end, Cook bowled a maiden over and then Dennis's bowling came in for further punishment. Lockett, with an off drive, taking his score to 50, and Hardy again turning him to the rails.

Lockett's 50 was obtained by admirable and enterprising cricket. Twenty minutes' batting produced 50 runs, but with the total at 167 Hardy was given out lbw. Lockett's score was then 68, including twelve boundaries.

For a time the rate of scoring fell appreciably, many of Sedgwick's strokes being smartly fielded. He did, however, get Wilson twice to the boundary with delightful shots the 200 being sent up in exactly three hours.

Lockett maintained his form after the departure of Sedgwick, who was clean bowled. He twice drove Cook the full distance, but when his century appeared almost certain—his score was 84—he skied a ball to first slip and was easily caught by Battersby. Lockett's exhibition was distinctive in style, all his runs being the result of powerful and well-timed shots. He hit seventeen 4's. Mayer was at the wicket when Lockett was dismissed, and on Boon going in, the Staffordshire captain declared with the score 230 for eight, setting Cheshire to get 301 to win.

CHESHIRE'S BIG TASK.

Cheshire went out to bat at 3.15, W. E. Jones and J. L. Abel facing the attack of Boon and Hardy, and they made fairly quick progress, 14 runs being put on in ten minutes. Abel's stay, however, was a short-lived affair. In playing a ball from Boon, he skied it into the waiting hands of the wicketkeeper, Beddows. The bowling of Boon caused the batsmen considerable trouble, and no sooner had Battersby gone to the wicket than he was clean bowled by the fast bowler, W. E. Jones was then partnered by his brother, L. N., and it remained to be seen whether they could retrieve a poor start. After scoring a single L. N. Jones gave Heath a difficult chance at mid-on, a quickly travelling ball going away from him whilst on the run.

With the score at 40, Mayer displaced Boon. Lockett was also brought on in place of Hardy. In Lockett's first over L. N. Jones was caught and bowled by the Old Hill player, Lockett injuring his finger in making the catch, but was able to resume.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S EASY VICTORY.

Cheshire Defeated by 127 Runs

Staffordshire won their Minor Counties' match with Cheshire, at Macclesfield yesterday by 127 runs. Taking their score to 230 in the second innings, the visiting county declared, setting Cheshire the task of getting 301 to win, but the whole side was dismissed for 173. W. E. Jones batted in spirited fashion for 31, and S. M. Spearing and L. N. Jones made useful contributions of 21 and 19 respectively, but the feature of the home county's innings was a last wicket stand by Cook and Dennis which put on 49 runs. Lockett again bowled finely and at the fall of the sixth wicket, his analysis read: 9 overs, 6 maidens, 11 runs, 5 wickets, but in the later stages of the innings the batsmen scored more freely off him, and he finished with five wickets for 51 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

L. C. McEllin b Wilson	6
J. H. Crump c L. N. Jones b Dennis	4
G. A. Fitton c Spearing b L. N. Jones	46
A. W. Ikin run out	51
A. Lockett run out	37
J. S. Heath c Woosnam b Cook	13
R. S. A. Hardy b Cook	1
Sedgwick c Cook	4
E. Mayer not out	24
Boon c and b Wilson	0
W. Beddows b Cook	0
Extras	6
Total	229

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

L. H. Crump c W. E. Jones b Cook	26
L. C. McEllin c L. N. Jones b Dutton	45
A. W. Ikin c Woosnam b Dutton	0
A. Lockett c Battersby b Wilson	91
G. A. Fitton c Battersby b Cook	4
J. S. Heath c W. E. Jones b Cook	7
R. S. A. Hardy lbw b Wilson	13
Sedgwick b Wilson	13
E. Mayer not out	7
Boon not out	0
Extras	21
Total (for 8 wks)	230

Innings declared.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W. E. Jones b Sedgwick	2
J. L. Abel lbw b Sedgwick	0
J. L. Battersby c Mayer b Lockett	2
L. N. Jones c Beddows b Sedgwick	6
R. M. Spearing b Lockett	0
M. Woosnam b Sedgwick	44
Wilson c Hardy b Lockett	34
J. Pratt b Lockett	0
R. M. Dutton b Lockett	31
Cook b Mayer	9
Dennis not out	0
Extras	3
Total	130

CHESHIRE.—Second Innings.

W. E. Jones b Lockett	31
J. L. Abel c Beddows b Boon	7
J. L. Battersby b Boon	6
L. N. Jones c and b Lockett	19
R. M. Spearing b Lockett	21
M. Woosnam b Lockett	12
Wilson c rump b Lockett	0
J. Pratt c McEllin b Sedgwick	13
R. M. Dutton lbw b Sedgwick	14
Cook not out	16
Dennis c Heath b Hardy	31
Extras	3
Total	173

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	25	8	61	1
Dennis	19	8	21	1
L. N. Jones	11	0	51	1
Cook	24	9	47	5
Dutton	5	1	9	0
W. E. Jones	3	1	4	0

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	20	6	41	3
Dennis	14	4	45	7
Cook	20	4	59	3
L. N. Jones	6	2	11	0
R. M. Dutton	17	3	53	2

Cheshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	16	2	64	4
Lockett	19	3	53	5
Mayer	3.2	0	10	1

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	9	2	23	2
Lockett	17	8	51	5
Mayer	9	3	31	0
Boon	11	4	26	2
Hardy	11.2	0	33	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	19	95	151	152	157	165	180	200	200

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
72	74	163	167	137	187	217	230

Cheshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	5	11	11	11	80	80	106	130	130

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15	19	49	69	84	84	93	113	124	173

COUNTY CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Cheshire

By THE CRITIC

For their match with Cheshire at Macclesfield on Wednesday and Thursday, Staffordshire had to place a team in the field that was far from representative. Barnes was again unable to play, as he was assisting Castleton Moor in the final of the Wood Cup, and others who could not respond to the invitation to play included H. W. Homer, A. A. Bickerton, W. H. Ellerker, F. D. Perks, C. Howl, A. Perry, E. P. Cross, P. O. Yates, and W. Lee. L. McEllin made his second appearance for the county, R. S. A. Hardy his first of the season, and L. H. Crump, a young batsman from Burslem, had his first trial. E. Mayer, the Norton professional, and former Madeley captain, was again included, and the gloves entrusted to W. Beddows. The batting strength did not look impressive, but the bowling seemed all right, with Lockett, Sedgwick, Boon, Mayer, and Hardy to take turns if needed. Cheshire also had some difficulty in completing their side, and tried several young players. The first appearance in county cricket of so famed a personality as Max Woosnam was interesting. He has, of course, gained international honours at lawn tennis and football, and was Manchester City's amateur centre half-back. He showed that he is a batsman of parts, and an unusually brilliant cover-point, from which position he ran out Ikin by a bit of lightning work.

The wicket was firm, with obviously a good deal of marl in its composition, but by the end of the day it seemed to be wearing somewhat, and the bowlers were able almost from the start to make the ball turn with adequate spin. Staffordshire took first innings, and made a bad beginning, for McEllin was deceived by Wilson's in-swing, and bowled by a ball he did not attempt to play, and Crump edged one from the fast bowler, Dennis, into the slips. Two for 18 was depressing, but Fitton and Ikin retrieved the position, and by methods which afforded a considerable contrast, remained together an hour and a quarter to lunch time, raising the score to 95. Fitton was patience personified, stopping the ball like a stone wall, with bat generally placed for the ball to hit it. But the bat was always there, and at intervals he turned one round his legs or off-drove an over-pitched one, just to show that he could swing the bat if the spirit moved him. And he even brought off a delightful square cut to the boundary, and in a moment of recklessness launched out at a ball from Wilson, and on-drove him for four. But tedious as it undoubtedly was, his innings was invaluable, and he had a big share in enabling Staffordshire to reach the respectable total of 200. Ikin's flashing bat provided the entertainment while Fitton plodded, and he reached a half-century of great merit just before lunch as a result of 70 minutes' batting. He hit nine fours, and they were got all round the wicket by a variety of good strokes. Directly after lunch a momentary hesitation in taking a sharp single gave Woosnam his chance, and he pounced on the ball like a Constantine, and threw the wicket down. Lockett followed the example of Ikin in hitting freely and well, and a further 56 runs were added before Fitton was at last caught at the wicket. He had been

batting two hours and 40 minutes. From that point Staffordshire fared badly, and whereas 150 went up with three wickets down, the seventh fell at 165. And the beginning of the collapse was another foolish bungle in running, which cost Lockett's wicket when he was well set. Cook was now bowling well, swinging away in the wind, and occasionally whipping back from the off, and though Mayer hit six fours, the end soon came. In 20 minutes before tea, Cheshire lost three wickets for 11, and on the resumption two more at the same total. Sedgwick and Lockett were bowling finely, and things were coming off. The Cheshire Captain, W. E. Jones, was beaten by in-swing, and bowled off his pad, and Lockett got Spearing in the same way with off spin. Wilson and Woosnam stopped the rot, and added 69 for the 6th wicket before Lockett placed an extra man on the leg side for Wilson to receive a catch in the next over. Lockett got his fast one down to bowl Pratt before he could make his stroke, but Woosnam held on to be eighth out at 106 to a fine ball from Sedgwick. Dutton scored freely for a time, but Cheshire were all out at 6-20, 70 runs in arrears.

Staffordshire Win by 127 Runs

There was another full day's cricket on Thursday, which must be labelled Lockett's day. Indeed, it was Lockett's match, for the popular Aaron made scores of 37, run out, and 94, and took 10 wickets for 104 runs. And this was done with the handicap of an injury to the right thumb. A blow on the end of the thumb in the West Indies match at Stoke fractured a small bone. When batting, the jar of the bat with some strokes was painful, but the injury did not interfere with Lockett's grip of the ball when bowling. In the field he had to use great care, and chiefly use the left hand.

Staffordshire's 2nd innings opened with a lengthy partnership of an hour and 20 minutes by McEllin and Crump. The latter was very slow, for he only scored 26 during a stay of an hour and 50 minutes, but he was hardly ever in difficulties, middled the ball with few exceptions, and gave no chance. McEllin made many fine strokes, and hit 45 of the first 72, his only mistake being a chance at mid-off, when 35. The policy of the Staffordshire batsmen after this consolidating first wicket stand was to force the pace, and several were out through trying to score quickly. But Lockett picked the right ones with unerring judgment, and took no half-hearted measure with them. In a stay of an hour and 50 minutes, he hit 17 fours, and failed by six to reach his century. This was probably due to his eagerness to get the hundred before the closure, which was due anytime, was applied. He and Hardy had an attractive partnership of 25 minutes, during which 50 runs were added.

Cheshire were set to get 301 in 3½ hours, nearly an impossible task, and never looked like saving the game. Boon and Hardy bowled well for the first half hour, and the former soon got two wickets, but Hardy, bowling for Staffordshire for the first time, had the worst of luck. He is a fast-medium bowler, with a high delivery, and makes the ball come quickly from the pitch. He should have had W. E. Jones caught in the slips, and his brother, L.N., caught at mid-off, besides other fortunate escapes by the Cheshire Captain. Lockett went on to bowl at 44, and in 10 overs took five wickets for 12 runs. He has rarely bowled his off-break with more deadly effect on a good wicket, and bowled W. E. Jones, Spearing, and Max Woosnam with beautiful balls. After this he was freely hit, chiefly by Dennis, who, with Cook, put on 48 in less than half-an-hour for the last wicket. It was a despairing effort by the two professionals,

which pleased the Macclesfield spectators.

Staffordshire.—1st Innings

B. L. McEllin b Wilson	6
L. H. Crump c L. N. Jones b Dennis	4
G. A. Fitton c Spearing b L. J. Jones	46
A. W. Ikin run out	51
A. Lockett run out	37
J. S. Heath c Woosnam b Cook	13
R. S. A. Hardy b Cook	1
Sedgwick b Cook	4
E. Mayer not out	24
Boon c Wilson b Cook	6
W. Beddows b Cook	0
Extras	8
Total	200

2nd Innings

B. L. McEllin c L. N. Jones b Dutton	25
L. H. Crump c W. E. Jones b Cook	28
G. A. Fitton c Parry b Cook	4
A. W. Ikin c Woosnam b Dutton	0
A. Lockett c Battersby b Wilson	94
J. S. Heath c W. E. Jones b Cook	7
R. S. A. Hardy lbw b Wilson	18
Sedgwick b Wilson	13
E. Mayer not out	2
Boon not out	0
W. Beddows did not bat	21
Extras	3
Total (inns. closed)	230

Cheshire.—1st Innings

W. E. Jones b Sedgwick	2
J. Abell lbw b Sedgwick	0
J. L. Battersby c Mayer b Lockett	2
L. N. Jones c Beddows b Sedgwick	5
R. M. Spearing b Lockett	0
M. Woosnam b Sedgwick	44
Wilson c Hardy b Lockett	34
J. Pratt b Lockett	0
R. M. Dutton b Lockett	31
Cook b Mayer	9
Dennis not out	0
Extras	3
Total	130

2nd Innings

W. E. Jones b Lockett	31
J. Abell c Beddows b Boon	7
J. L. Battersby b Boon	0
L. N. Jones c and b Lockett	19
R. M. Spearing b Lockett	21
M. Woosnam b Lockett	12
Wilson c Crump b Lockett	0
J. Pratt c McEllin b Sedgwick	13
R. M. Dutton lbw b Sedgwick	14
Cook b Mayer not out	16
Dennis c Heath b Hardy	31
Extras	9
Total	173

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffs.—1st Inns.	2nd Inns.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	25	8	61	1
Dennis	19	8	21	1
L. N. Jones	11	0	51	1
Cook	24	9	47	5
Dutton	5	1	9	0
W. E. Jones	3	1	4	0

Cheshire.—1st Inns.	2nd Inns.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	16	2	64	4
Lockett	19	3	53	5
Mayer	3.20	10	1	9
Boon	—	—	—	11
Hardy	—	—	—	4
Total	—	—	—	11.20

STAFFORDSHIRE AT TRENT BRIDGE.

Notts Attack Severely Punished.

Brilliant Innings by Fitton.

TRENT BRIDGE, Wednesday.

With Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire holding pride of place in the Minor Counties Championship with a percentage of 100, and Staffordshire third with a percentage of 85.33, the match at Trent Bridge to-day between Notts II, and Staffordshire was not without importance to the visiting eleven. They lacked the services of Barnes, who is playing for Wales against the West Indies, and J. S. Healy, also found himself unable to play. Staffordshire introduced a new member in D. L. White, a right arm fast medium bowler from Bignall End.

So far this season, Notts have accomplished little of note. To-day they were again captained by L. Kirk, a very genial cricket personality, and H. W. Homer led the visiting team.

A FAIR START.

Staffordshire won the toss, and, on a good wicket, Homer and Howl opened the innings, facing the bowling of Hodgkinson and Heane. The first 20 minutes' play saw a similar number of runs on the board, both batsmen getting the ball through the slips to the boundary, and Homer making a delightful leg glide, also to the rails.

Notts then made their first bowling change, Harris relieving Hodgkinson, and the batsmen were immediately subdued, although there had been no real tendency towards powerful hitting.

The change had an immediate effect, for Harris after bowling a maiden over, got Homer leg before in his following over, with the total at 22.

After a period of desultory batting, Howl enlivened matters, with a series of square cuts, and pulls to left, but the fielding of Notts was keen, and run-getting was confined to singles and occasional 2's.

With the score at 34, Bowman replaced Heane, but the batting continued to be slow. Yates took some time to play himself in, and half an hour's batting only produced nine runs, four of which came off a no-ball by Harris.

FREQUENT BOWLING CHANGES.

After defending stubbornly for an hour, Howl was out to a very confident appeal for lbw by Harris. Yates continued to bat cautiously, but was rarely in difficulty. Kirk rang the changes on his bowlers, and when Fitton went in to join Yates, Redditch and Gunn were responsible for the attack.

The first really good hit of the match was when Fitton drove Gunn on to the concrete stand near the luncheon board for a six. Yates became more aggressive, tempering strictly defensive strokes with some powerful drives. But when he had advanced his score to 36, after batting just over an hour, he was taken at first slip by Shipston, having just previously offered a difficult chance to Wheat. The partnership had realised a valuable 42.

Ikin did not indulge in his customary dash, but just before the luncheon interval, he got Harris away for a two and a four, the century being hoisted after the innings had lasted five minutes under two hours.

IKIN'S ENTERPRISE.

When play was resumed, in brilliant sunshine, both Ikin and Fitton made nice square cuts for two's off Hodgkinson and Heane, but otherwise the batting continued dull, only nine runs being added in 20 minutes.

Fitton at last sent Hodgkinson to the boundary, and later he repeated the process off both Forman and Harris.

Ikin also began to score with greater freedom and in one over by Forman he hit three boundaries and a two—14 runs in all. In 15 minutes he had advanced his score by 20, this being one of the brightest pieces of batting so far. He made another four but then, jumping out to Gunn, was stumped by Wheat.

The partnership of Ikin and Fitton proved a fruitful one, for, although there had been no particular aggressiveness about their batting, until just prior to the close of Ikin's innings, it had resulted in the addition of 80 runs.

Lockett stayed only long enough to make seven, being then caught at deep square leg by Forman.

FITTON'S FIFTY.

After batting an hour and 50 minutes, Fitton reached his 50, when the total was 185.

With Ellerker in, runs came with much more frequency, Fitton monopolising the scoring and the 200 mark was reached in three hours and seven minutes.

In 45 minutes, Ellerker scored 35, including six 4's, and he was smartly taken behind the wicket by Wheat. The partnership had realised 63 runs.

Fitton had taken his score to 99 at the tea interval, having hit 13 fours.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl lbw b Harris	21
H W Homer lbw b Harris	12
P O Yates c Shipston b Harris	36
G A Fitton not out	99
A W Ikin st Wheat b Gunn	46
A Lockett c Forman b Gunn	7
W H Ellerker c Wheat b Hodgkinson	35
Sedgwick c Copley b Hodgkinson	4
E P Cross not out	7
Extras	7
Total (for 7 wickets)	274

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6
22	47	89	169	176	244

NOTTS BATSMEN IN FORM.

Staffordshire's Attack Punished.

Fine Recovery After Following On.

TRENT BRIDGE, Thursday.

After batting for nearly five hours yesterday, Staffordshire, in their Minor Counties match with Notts II, at Trent Bridge were all out for the excellent total of 333, but a splendid first-wicket stand by Gunn and Shipston put the home team in the favourable position, and at the close Notts only required 209 runs to secure first innings lead.

By far the most exhilarating batting yesterday was that of Cross, who scored his 40 runs in 25 minutes. Fitton scored his century in three hours and 16 minutes, and had 15 fours to his credit. No fewer than nine bowlers were tried by Notts, and the best performance was that of Harris, who took four wickets for 102.

For an hour and 40 minutes Notts made a vigorous reply, 123 runs being put on before the partnership of Gunn and Shipston was brought to an end by the latter's dismissal. The century was hoisted in an hour and 17 minutes, and in that time Gunn had reached his 50. Shipston took a few minutes longer to record his half-century. It was not until White came on that Shipston was caught at the wicket. When play ceased Notts had scored 125 for the one, Gunn being not out 67.

WICKETS FALL QUICKLY.

Play was resumed this morning in brilliant sunshine, Gunn taking the bowling of White. He was almost run out off the first ball, but the last delivery of the over got through his defence and he was clean bowled. So far, the Bignall End bowler had taken two wickets without a run being scored off him. Gunn's attractive innings included a 6 and seven 4's. Heane became Harris' partner, but both batsmen found White extremely difficult to play, and with only six runs added Heane was dismissed leg before wicket, this being White's third wicket in four maiden overs.

Boon, at the other end, was also bowling with great accuracy, and he claimed Forman's wicket before that batsman had opened his account. Three wickets had now fallen for the addition of seven runs in 20 minutes.

A policy of extreme caution was pursued by both Harris and Copley, but the former at length made a lovely straight drive off Boon. Harris was the first to make a run off White who, up to this point, had the following analysis: Eight overs, eight maidens, no runs, three wickets.

With the score at 147, Lockett relieved Boon, but the batting continued to be restrained, 60 minutes play only yielding 25 runs, of which Harris had scored twelve and Copley ten. Following this period of cautiousness, Copley got White away to the boundary, but the batting lacked distinction.

SLOW SCORING.

Forty-two runs had been added in an hour and five minutes when Lockett held a fast return from Copley, the fifth wicket falling at 167. The partnership had put on a useful 35.

No sooner had Harris been joined by Kirk than the sixth wicket fell, the former, after batting one hour and 25 minutes for 15 runs, being caught in the slips by Boon. The batsman disputed the catch but the umpire's decision was against him.

Redditch opened with a boundary off Lockett, and Kirk also got White away to the rails. Ellerker then went on in place of White, and shortly afterwards the home side met with further disaster, Kirk being out l.b.w. by Lockett.

On Hodgkinson joining Redditch, Sedgwick was given a turn with the ball, and in his first over the newcomer narrowly escaped being run out.

Notts at this juncture required 45 runs to avoid the follow on, but Hodgkinson never played Sedgwick with any degree of confidence,

and after scoring two singles, the Staffordshire professional up-rooted his middle stump.

With Bowmar in, the 200 was reached in 3½ hours, but with the addition of another run, Bowmar was out, a confident appeal for l.b.w. by Sedgwick being answered in the bowler's favour.

Redditch and Wheat played courageously in an endeavour to save the follow-on, making quickly-run singles, and Wheat sending Sedgwick to the boundary. With the score at 213, Wheat survived an appeal for lbw, and when White took up the attack again, Redditch despatched him to the leg boundary. Wheat also drove Sedgwick for four. With the total at 228, however, Redditch was out lbw to Sedgwick, and Notts had failed to save the follow-on by six runs. The innings lasted four hours.

NOTTS FOLLOW ON.

Notts were set to get 108 runs to avoid an innings deficit. They followed on at 215, Gunn and Shipston facing the bowling of Sedgwick and Ellerker. Gunn indulged in a spell of hard hitting, driving Sedgwick three times to the boundary in two overs, and square cutting Ellerker also for four. Both proceeded to knock off the arrears at a merry pace, 30 runs being put on in 20 minutes. Gunn was particularly aggressive. Shipston, on the other hand, was not so enterprising, only scoring ten runs in half-an-hour.

At 37 Staffordshire made their first change of bowling, White relieving Ellerker, but he did not meet with the early success which marked his bowling in the first innings. Shipston made two nice leg glides to the boundary, and in 35 minutes the score had been taken to 50.

With the total at 51, the first wicket fell, Sedgwick getting Shipston out for leg before. Harris joined Gunn, and the latter continued to bat in polished style. Neither Boon nor White met with success with the ball, and with a two off Boon Gunn reached his 50 after batting exactly an hour.

When Lockett displaced Ellerker, Gunn became more subdued, and only added four runs in 15 minutes.

Howl also went on at the pavilion end, but eight runs were scored off his first over, and in an hour and 25 minutes Staffordshire's lead was wiped out.

Attractive cricket, however, had given way to stodginess, Harris being particularly cautious, while in contrast to the way in which he knocked up his 50, Gunn only scored 17 runs in 35 minutes.

The batting was occasionally enlivened by some lusty hitting by Gunn and Harris, and at the tea-interval the former had advanced his score to 89 and Harris to 42, the total being 158 for one.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl lbw b Harris	21
H W Homer lbw b Harris	12
P O Yates c Shipston b Harris	36
G A Fitton at Wheat b Harris	112
A W Ikin at Wheat b Gunn	46
A Lockett c Forman b Redditch	7
W H Ellerker c Wheat b Hodgkinson	35
Sedgwick c Copley b Hodgkinson	4
E P Cross c Redditch b Heane	40
Boon not out	11
D White b Heane	2
Extras	7
Total	333

NOTTS II.—First Innings.

G V Gunn b White	67
Shipston c Cross b White	53
Harris c Boon b Lockett	15
(F H Heane lbw b White	4
R Forman b Boon	0
Copley c and b Lockett	17
L Kirk lbw b Lockett	9
Redditch lbw b Sedgwick	27
Hopkinson b Sedgwick	2
Bowmar lbw b Sedgwick	4
Wheat not out	18
Extras	12
Total	228

NOTTS II.—Second Innings.

Shipston lbw b Sedgwick	21
Gunn not out	89
Harris not out	42
Extras	6
Total	158

Total (for 1 wkt) 158

Later.—Notts II (2nd Inns), 182 for one wicket

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hodgkinson	12	1	24	2
Heane	19.1	1	58	2
Harris	8	2	102	4
Bowman	8	1	27	0
Gunn	8	1	29	1
Redditch	11	1	35	1
Forman	7	1	37	0
Shipston	2	0	8	0
Copley	2	0	10	0

Notts II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	17.3	1	68	3
Ellerker	8	2	19	0
Lockett	23	3	65	3
Boon	18	2	46	3
White	18	10	19	3

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22	47	89	139	176	244	256	316	323	333

Notts II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
125	125	131	132	167	170	181	189	201	228

STAFFORDSHIRE'S DRAWN GAME.

Brilliant Batting by Notts.

CHESHIRE'S TEAM TO MEET NORTHUMBERLAND.

The Cheshire team to meet Northumberland in the Minor Counties match at Chester, on Wednesday and Thursday, will be:—W. E. Jones (captain), L. N. Jones, R. Moore-Dutton (Boughton Hall), R. McEntyre (Wallasey), T. B. Woodcock (Winnington Park), F. Walker (Crewe), F. Alight (Nantwich), Crooks (Birkenhead Park), Cook (Bollington), J. P. Hodgson (Birkenhead Park), and Dennis (Stalybridge).

Although on the first innings Staffordshire were in a promising position in their Minor Counties match with Notts II. at Trent Bridge, the home side fared so well on Thursday that after following on they monopolised the remainder of the day's play, and at the close had scored 268 for three wickets, having established a lead of 163 runs. The result was a draw, Staffordshire taking points for their first innings lead.

The chief feature of Notts' second innings was the batting of Gunn and Harris, both of whom made their first centuries in Minor Counties cricket. At times both played very attractively, scoring all round the wicket, but brightness was alternated by dull patches of play. Gunn batted for 2 hours and 25 minutes for his 124, when he was out to a brilliant delivery by Boon, who uprooted and broke his middle stump, the ball then travelling to the boundary. Gunn's principal strokes were four-tee 4's. Harris reached his century in 2 hours and 40 minutes, including ten 4's and a 5 (four for an overthrow).

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl lbw b Harris	21
H W Homer lbw b Harris	12
P O Yates c Shipston b Harris	36
G A Fitton st Wheat b Harris	112
A W Ikin st Wheat b Gunn	46
A Lockett c Forman b Redditch	7
W H Ellerker c Wheat b Hodgkinson	35
Sedgwick c Copley b Hodgkinson	4
E P Cross c Reddish b Heane	40
Boon not out	11
D White b Heane	2
Extras	7
Total	333

NOTTS II.—First Innings.

G V Gunn b White	67
Shipston c Cross b White	63
Harris c Boon b Lockett	15
G F H Heane lbw b White	4
R Forman b Boon	0
Copley c and b Lockett	17
L Kirk lbw b Lockett	9
Redditch lbw b Sedgwick	27
Hopkinson b Sedgwick	2
Rowmar lbw b Sedgwick	4
Wheat not out	18
Extras	12
Total	223

NOTTS II.—Second Innings.

Gunn b Boon	124
Shipston lbw b Sedgwick	21
Harris c Homer b Boon	103
G F Heane not out	11
Extras	9
Total (for 3 wkts)	268

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hodgkinson	12	1	24	2
Heane	19.1	1	58	2
Harris	28	2	102	4
Rowmar	9	1	27	0
Gunn	8	1	29	1
Redditch	11	1	35	1
Forman	7	1	37	0
Shipston	2	0	6	0
Copley	2	0	10	0

Notts II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	17.3	1	68	3
Ellerker	8	2	19	0
Lockett	23	3	65	3
Boon	16	2	45	1
White	18	10	19	3

Notts II.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick	8	0	27	1
Ellerker	10	0	39	0
Lockett	14	3	48	0
White	13	2	45	0
Boon	18.2	1	80	2
Howl	4	0	20	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22	47	89	139	176	244	258	316	323	333

Notts II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
125	125	131	132	167	170	181	189	201	228

Notts II.—Second Innings.

1	2	3
51	239	268

COUNTY CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Notts II.

A CENTURY BY G. A. FITTON

By THE CRITIC

H. W. Homer, of Old Hill, captained the Staffordshire team against Notts II. at Trent Bridge on Wednesday, in the absence of J. S. Heath, and the county were once more lacking the services of Sydney Barnes, who was playing for Wales against the West Indies in virtue of a long-standing promise. A beautiful wicket awaited the visitors, who were fortunate enough to secure first innings on it, and made fairly good use of their opportunity, although some wickets were lost by rather indiscriminate hitting. Considering that G. A. Fitton kept one end up for 3½ hours, and scored his first century for Staffordshire, the total of 333 was not really a very big one, and the opening pair of Notts' batsmen showed late in the day that runs could still be scored without difficulty.

Homer and Howl, opening the Staffordshire innings were both out in an identical way. Both went forward to a perfectly straight ball from Harris, a medium-pace right-arm bowler missed the ball, and were leg-before. Thus two wickets had gone for 47. P. O. Yates, after a couple of edge strokes over the heads of the slip fielders played well but with 42 added, he tried to reach an off ball which should have been left alone, and gave an easy slip catch. Fitton and Ikin had the best partnership of the innings, scoring 80 for the fourth wicket, but Ikin seemed to be too eager to reach his 50, and was stumped when 4 short after getting a tremendously hard off-drive from the previous ball. Lockett soon lifted one to deep square leg, but Ellerker gave the most stylish display of the day, and, with Fitton, added 68. His cricket was delightful, and it was a pity when, in trying to cut, he snicked a ball that kept a shade low, and was snapped at the wicket. Fitton was still going well, and playing with more freedom than usual. Many of his strokes were excellent, particularly his drives through the covers and past mid-off and his square cuts, and he always kept the ball on the ground. Cross was another useful partner, and he hit with power getting eight 4's in his 40.

Fitton was eighth out at 323, becoming somewhat reckless after passing his hundred. He was batting 3½ hours, hit fourteen 4's, and gave no chance, except a very difficult one in the slips shortly before he was out. His was in every way an innings of great merit, for though his natural method is largely a defensive one, and he was as usual slow, especially during the first part of his innings, he was more aggressive than is his wont, and he generally took toll of anything not of good length. But that it seemed advisable, especially after reaching the century, to score quickly in the interests of the side, he certainly did not look like getting out, and had the full measure of all the bowling.

The Staffs. innings lasted 4 hours and 25 minutes. Notts had a useful variety of bowling, and employed no fewer than nine bowlers, but they had none quite of the class of Matthews and Richmond, who played against Staffordshire last year. Heape and Hodgkinson can both make a new ball swing and Harris varied his pace well, and sometimes turned the ball back from the off. Reddish is a slow, leg-break bowler, who can also bowl the googly, and who joined the Trent Bridge staff last season. Gunn mixed them rather cleverly but the other bowlers were not of much account. It is rather a remarkable circumstance that in their match with Middlesex at the beginning of the week, the Notts XI. included seven players who have appeared in the 2nd XI. against Staffordshire in the last three years whilst if Harold Larwood had been fit he would have made the eighth.

As it had been arranged to play till seven o'clock, Notts. had an hour and 40 minutes' batting before the close, and Gunn and Shipston, in a felicitous partnership, put up 123 for the first wicket. Gunn might have been caught at the wicket, but otherwise the pair played the bowling confidently, and Sedgwick, Ellerker, Lockett, and Boon made little impression on them. It remained for Douglas White, the young Bignall End bowler, on his first appearance in the county side, to effect a separation. The second ball he sent down whipped back appreciably from the off, got inside Shipston's back stroke, and had him smartly taken low down at the wicket. White's two overs before the stumps were drawn, his first for Staffordshire, secured him a wicket for no runs. Boon's length was erratic, but he troubled the batsmen to some extent by his pace.

A unique piece of bowling was done by Douglas White when the game was resumed on Thursday, with the wicket still in almost perfect condition. In the first over he turned one back from the off to beat Gunn and bowl his middle and off stumps. Then, keeping an admirable length over after over, he soon got the left-hander, G. F. H. Heane leg before, and bowled eight maiden overs before a run was scored from him. I question whether any young bowler has ever before bowled his first eight overs for the county for no runs and three wickets. Considering the conditions and the class of the batting opposed to him, it was a most remarkable performance. In White's ninth over a ball was edged only just over the head of a slip fielder for a single, and might just as well have been a wicket for all the batsman knew about it. Then another maiden—ten overs for one run and three wickets. And these were his first in county cricket. Afterwards a couple of fours were scored from him by lucky snicks, and his 18 overs cost 19 runs.

Sedgwick and Lockett also bowled well, and it was a highly creditable achievement of the Staffordshire team to get the remaining nine Notts' wickets for 103 runs, thus securing 1st innings points by a lead of 105.

When Notts followed on, there was little hope of a win outright, and what chance there was passed with the first wicket stand of Gunn and Shipston, which yielded 51. Afterwards, in the heat, and the fatigue of bowling on a cast iron ground, told on the men, and the remainder of the play was little more than an afternoon's practice for Gunn and Harris, each of whom scored a century. Staffordshire took three points for a first innings win, and at present have 16 points out of 20, and a percentage of 80. Scores:—

Staffordshire.—1st Inns.

C. Howl lbw b Harris	21
H. W. Homer lbw b Harris	12
P. O. Yates c Shipston b Harris ...	36
G. A. Fitton st Wheat b Harris	112
A. W. Ikin st Wheat b Gunn	46
Lockett c Forman b Reddish	7
W. H. Ellerker c Wheat b Hodg-	
kinson	35
Sedgwick c Copley b Hodgkinson ..	4
E. P. Cross c Reddish b Heane ...	40
Boon not out	11
D. White b Heane	2
Extras	7
Total	333

Notts II.—1st Inns.

Gunn b White	67
Shipston c Cross b White	53
Harris c Boon b Lockett	15
G. F. Heane lbw b White	4
R. Forman b Boon	0
Copley c and b Lockett	17
L. Kirk lbw b Lockett	9
Reddish lbw b Sedgwick	27
Hodgkinson b Sedgwick	2
Bowmar lbw b Sedgwick	4
Wheat not out	18
Extras	12
Total	223

2nd Innings

Gunn b Boon	124
Shipston lbw b Sedgwick	21
Harris c Homer b Boon	103
G. F. Heane not out	11
Extras	9
Total (3 wkts.)	268

STAFFORDSHIRE AT LEICESTER.

Home County Dismissed for 124.

Fight for First Innings Lead.

LEICESTER, Thursday.

Dismal conditions prevailed at Leicester yesterday, when the Minor Counties engagement between Leicestershire II. and Staffordshire should have opened on the County ground, but a heavy downpour of rain followed by a continuous drizzle made it impossible for a ball to be bowled.

The weather this morning was in striking contrast, for, with brilliant sunshine, conditions approached the ideal. The outfield was slightly on the soft side, but the wicket, which had remained covered, was not seriously affected.

A CAUTIOUS OPENING.

Staffordshire lost the toss. Facing the bowling of Barnes and Lee, E. A. Broughton and Coleman opened the Leicestershire innings, but began so cautiously that at the end of 15 minutes only three runs had been scored, one of which was a bye.

Neither batsman was at ease, but both Broughton and Coleman eventually got Lee away for three, and Coleman followed this up with a nice drive to the boundary.

With the score at 19 in half-an-hour, Boon relieved Lee, and off his first over three runs were scored, Broughton driving him to leg for two.

In the next over, however, Barnes got Coleman caught at square leg by Fitton, the first wicket falling at 23.

Although Riley got Boon away through the slips to the boundary, there was little inclination towards aggressiveness, Barnes being particularly effective.

Forty-five minutes' play only produced 32 runs, the batting being dull and subdued. Occasionally, Broughton attempted to enliven matters, but he was never convincing, and in attempting to cut a ball from Barnes, he was smartly caught at second slip by Lee.

C. W. Packe's stay at the wicket was a very brief one, for he was bowled off his pads by Barnes off the second ball he received.

Slow progress continued to be made in the matter of run-getting, a policy of extreme caution being pursued against a keen attack. Riley brought off one or two good strokes, but it took the home side an hour and twenty minutes to reach the 50 mark.

40 MINUTES FOR 11 RUNS.

Further success came to Barnes after Tyler had played very carefully for nearly 40 minutes, during which period he had scored eleven runs. He was beaten and howled by a deceptive ball which he tried to hook. The partnership had realised 25 runs.

With Brown as his partner, Riley continued his endeavour to bring about an improvement without forcing matters. Brown, however, showed the greater enterprise.

After a spell of bowling from the gasworks end, Lockett relieved Barnes at the other end after the latter had taken four wickets for 31 runs in five minutes under two hours.

Towards the luncheon interval Brown indulged in a little hard hitting, and with a square cut he despatched Lockett to the rails.

Another change of bowling was introduced. Perry displacing Lockett, and with his first ball he had Riley dismissed by a great catch at second slip by Barnes. The stand had realised 38 runs.

Bradshaw started none too well, but the century was reached in two hours and 25 minutes, following which, after making a single, he was smartly caught behind the wicket by Cross.

After the luncheon interval, White, who met with marked success at Nottingham last week, was given a spell with the ball, and success came to him when Barnes again brought off a brilliant catch in the slips to dismiss Brown. He had played a valiant innings.

York went in to make one delightful pull off White for four, but in the next over he was "yorked" by Boon.

Some excellent bowling saw the dismissal of the third batsman in 20 minutes, Rudd being utterly defeated by a delivery from Boon when attempting a drive.

Dawson and Bowby batted stolidly for a time, but the former was eventually out to a splendid ball by Boon, the innings closing at 124, having occupied exactly three hours.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S REPLY.

Staffordshire started none too well, for, with the second ball of Coleman's first over Lockett, who was partnered by Homer, gave York a splendid chance at forward short-leg but, failing to take it, Bradshaw ran in and got his hand to the ball, without being able to effect a catch.

Having made a single, he was dismissed in the next over, when taking the bowling of York. It was a tempting ball, but he failed to get hold of it and skied it into the waiting hands of Brown at mid-on.

Joined by McEllin, both batsmen played confidently at the outset, Homer cutting Coleman to the boundary and McEllin driving a loose ball to the rails off York. But another early disaster was to follow, for, with the score at 23, Bowley, who had displaced York, got McEllin brilliantly caught at forward short leg by Broughton. It was one of the finest catches seen on the County ground.

Homer alternated defence with aggressiveness but, after being partnered for a short time Fitton, he was also dismissed, after making a beautiful off-drive for three off Coleman. Taking the bowling in the following over, he was out lbw, three wickets having fallen for the small total of 28 runs in forty minutes.

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

E A Broughton c Lee b Barnes	17
Coleman c Fitton b Barnes	8
Riley c Barnes b Perry	32
C W Packe b Barnes	0
Tyler b Barnes	11
Brown c Barnes b White	31
Bradshaw (H W) c Cross b Boon	1
A C Dawson b Boon	5
York b Boon	4
G G P Rudd b Boon	4
Bowley not out	4
Extras	11
Total	124

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Bowley	18
A Lockett c Brown b York	1
L McEllin c Broughton b Bowley	9
G A Fitton not out	10
Barnes not out	17
Extras	2
Total (for 3 wkts)	57

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	6	33	4
Lee	5	2	11	0
Lockett	14	7	21	0
Boon	18	6	39	4
White	4	1	7	1
Perry	1	0	5	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23	33	38	61	99	104	114	119	119	124

CHESHIRE v. NORTHUMBERLAND

(At Chester.)

(Last Season: Match drawn.)

Northumberland.

J G Bruce lbw b Cooke	21
W G Mackay c b L N Jones	52
L N Jones	10
H B Fritchard lbw b L N Jones	10
H C Lea b L N Jones	7
C F Stanger-Leathes b L N Jones	0
W D Wade b L N Jones	0
J B Crick lbw b L N Jones	0
J L Allen b L N Jones	3
W Hetherington b Cooke	3
G P Milne not out	3
C H Saunders lbw b L N Jones	4
Extras	20
Total	103

Cheshire.

W D Jones c Fritchard b Hetherington	0
R P Fisk c Allen b Hetherington	24
K H McEntyre c Craig b Allen	0
L N Jones b Hetherington	11
T W Jeffersou c b Hetherington	4
F S Walker b Allen	0
R M Dutton c Fritchard b Hetherington	0
A H Crooke not out	1
A W Midgley c b Leathes b Allen	7
Cook c Lee b Allan	8
Dennis c Bruce b Hetherington	24
Extras	1
Total	80

Later.—Cheshire (second innings), 74 for 2. Hetherington (six for 34) and Allan (four for 44) bowled unchanged for Northumberland.

FARCICAL CRICKET AT LEICESTER.

Staffordshire Compelled to Take the Lead.

Fourteen Wides in One Over.

Extraordinary cricket was witnessed in the closing stages of Staffordshire's Minor Counties Championship match with Leicestershire II, at Leicester yesterday, as a result of which the Staffordshire team were compelled to take first innings lead, and in consequence their chance of retaining the championship honours won last season has been jeopardised.

LEICESTER'S LONG INNINGS.

Owing to a heavy downpour of rain, no play was possible on Wednesday, but a prompt start was made yesterday, and the home county, batting first, were dismissed for 124, compiled in the lengthy time of three hours and five minutes. Staffordshire went in to bat at ten minutes past three, and were faced with the task of resisting the bowling for three hours without scoring enough runs to give them the lead.

They lost three wickets for 28 runs—a bad start, and one which suggested the possibility that Staffordshire might be dismissed for less than the Leicesters total, and in which case they would secure only one point from the match. The position, at any rate, called for a certain amount of caution, and Barnes and Fitton, playing steadily, placed the visiting county in a comparatively safe position.

With an hour to play, Staffordshire required 50 runs for first innings lead, but, with the batsmen obviously playing a strictly defensive game—from their point of view the right one—the spectators drew the conclusion that the batsmen were deliberately refusing to score. Considerable barracking was indulged in, and, it is stated, the spectators urged the Leicesters players to compel Staffordshire to take the lead.

An Astounding Over.

Whether this be so or not, it is certainly what happened. The Leicester captain, Rudd, went on to bowl and delivered what must be one of the most astounding overs ever sent down in county or any other cricket. He delivered 14 balls, six of them legitimate, six of them ordinary wides which counted as singles, and two wides which went to the boundary, so that the over contained no fewer than 14 wides. From the other end, Dawson pitched the ball high over the batsmen's heads, and Fitton, jumping playfully as though heading the ball, was stumped by Tyler while his feet were off the ground.

Following this, the ball went to the boundary for four byes on eight occasions, and without a single run coming from the bat, 51 runs were added to Staffordshire's score, giving them a lead of two runs. After that, five runs were scored from the bat, and the game finished with Staffordshire having a lead of seven runs on the first innings. Directly the Leicester score had been passed in this manner the crowd cheered lustily.

A Reduced Percentage.

The 54 extras were made up of 35 byes, which included three singles and eight 4's; three singles from leg byes; 15 wides, including seven singles and two 4's; and one no ball.

Several consultations took place between Heath, the Staffordshire captain, Rudd, the Leicestershire captain, and the umpires, though, of course, the latter had no power to interfere and could only continue the game.

Prior to the match, Staffordshire stood second in the Minor Counties Championship table with a percentage of 80, but as a result of this match it has been reduced to 78.

In the Minor Counties Competition a match which gives no result on the first innings is ignored, and one decided on the first innings gives three points to the winners and one to the losers.

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

E A Broughton c Lee b Barnes	17
Coleman c Fitton b Barnes	8
Riley c Barnes b Perry	32
C W Paake b Barnes	0
Tyler b Barnes	11
Brown c Barnes b White	31
Bradshaw (H W) c Cross b Boon	1
A C Dawson b Boon	5
York b Boon	4
G G F Rudd b Boon	0
Bowley not out	4
Extras	11
Total	124

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Bowley	18
A Lockett c Brown b York	1
L McMillin c Broughton b Bowley	9
G A Fitton st Tyler b Dawson	17
Barnes not out	28
W Lee not out	4
Extras	14
Total (for 4 wickets)	131

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	6	33	4
Lee	5	2	11	0
Lockett	14	7	21	0
Boon	18	6	36	4
White	4	1	7	1
Perry	1	0	5	1

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

Coleman	13	5	21	0
York	11	2	18	1
Bowley	15	9	15	2
Riley	9	5	8	0
Brown	3	1	8	0
Dawson	9	7	6	1
Rudd	7	6	1	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
23	33	36	61	39	104	114	119	119	124	

CHESHIRE v. NORTHUMBERLAND

Home Side Victorious.

(At Chester.)

(Last season: Match drawn.)

Northumberland.

J G Bruce lbw b Cooke	21
W G Mackay c b L N Jones	17
J Jones	32
H H Pritchard lbw b L N Jones	10
H C Lea b L N Jones	7
C P Stanger-Leathes b L N Jones	0
N Jones	0
Wade b L N Jones	0
J A Craig lbw b L N Jones	0
L N Jones	0
J L Allen b L N Jones	3
Hetherton b Cooke	3
G P Milne not out	2
C H Saunders lbw b L N Jones	4
N Jones	4
Extras	20
Total	123

Cheshire.

W E Jones c Pritchard	0
Hetherton	45
R P Fisk c Allen b Hetherton	24
K H McEntyre c Craig	0
L Allen	0
L N Jones b Hetherton	11
T W Jefferson c b Hetherton	4
F G Walker b Allen	0
R M Dutton c Pritchard	0
b Hetherton	0
A B Crooke not out	1
A W Midgley c S-Leathes	7
b Allen	7
Cook c Lee b Allan	8
Dennis c Bruce b Hetherton	24
Hetherton	1
Extras	1
Total	80

LOCAL CRICKET.

INFIRMARY INTER-WORKS COMPETITION —Semi-Final.

Whitfield Colliery v. Florence Colliery.

Played on the High Lane ground on Thursday evening. Scores:—

WHITFIELD COLLIERY.—R Smith b F Toft 20, I Waterfall c Toft b Bridgett 19, R Machin c and b Utting 22, U Worthington st Ackley b Toft 3, A Smith c Bennett b Utting 4, J Hancock lbw b Utting 12, F Volrey win b Imrie 4, S Brayford lbw b Utting 12, S Crump b Imrie 13, extras 2; total 137.

FLORENCE COLLIERY.—A E Bennett b Worthington 4, J Utting b Worthington 0, F Toft c Hancock b Worthington 4, G Bentley b Worthington 37, A Imrie c Smith b Worthington 0, H Landon c Crump b Taylor 5, D Wilkinson c Smith b Worthington 8, F Travers not out 12, J Bridgett not out 11, extras 2; total 103.

Stoke City Police v. Port Vale C.C.

Played at Burslem C.C. ground, Cobridge, on Thursday afternoon. Scores:—

PORT VALE.—S Littlewood 2, V Rouse 1, T Morgan 17, T Halford 6, W Briscoe 51, H Smith 12, R Jones 49, J Prince 0, H Austins 2, J Henshall 0, J Simms not out 0, extras 11; total 159.

POLICE.—P.C. Blanchard 9, P.C. Siddons 5, Inspector Marshall 2, P.C. Egan 0, P.C. Suggleton 0, P.C. Collier 6, P.C. Peat 4, P.C. Wilkes 0, P.C. Poole 0, P.C. Guthrie not out 0, P.C. A N Other 0, extras 2; total 28.

COUNTY CRICKET

Farcical Cricket at Leicester

REGRETTABLE SCENE IN STAFFORDSHIRE MATCH

By "THE CRITIC"

A farcical travesty of cricket took place on the Leicestershire County Ground, Leicester, on Thursday afternoon, such as I have never witnessed before and hope never to see again. Under the much-criticised percentage scheme of deciding the championship of the Minor Counties, Staffordshire have frequently been penalised by loss of percentage through winning matches on the first innings which could not be played out owing to bad weather. Such was the case in the first match with Leicester II. at Westbromwich this season, when there was no play on the first day. And such was the prospect that faced them in the return engagement at Leicester, for again there was no play on the first day. On Thursday morning, by excellent bowling Staffordshire dismissed Leicester II. for 124 on a good wicket, which had been entirely protected from the rain, but did not play quite as easily as expected owing to "sweating" as the result of being covered up. Still, one looked for more runs on it. Leicester occupied the protracted period of three hours and five minutes in making their small score, or an average rate of 40 runs an hour. When Staffordshire went in at 3.10 there were three hours and 20 minutes left for play, less 15 minutes for the tea interval, so that they had exactly the same time to bat as Leicester had taken. It was obvious the match could not be played out, and if Staffordshire took three points out of five by winning on the first innings they would suffer a further loss of percentage which might ultimately cost them the championship. At the time they were at the head of the table with 80 per cent. of points. If they played out time without reaching the Leicester score, the match would not count at all and there would be no loss of percentage. The interest of Staffordshire, therefore, was not to secure a first innings lead. That such a position should arise is an unanswerable condemnation of the system.

Staffordshire, however, started their innings with the intention of getting the runs, and even sent in Lockett, a hitter, to open the innings. Against bowlers who have recently been bowling with success for the Leicester 1st XI, three wickets were lost in 45 minutes for 28, and Staffordshire were then unexpectedly in danger of being behind on the first innings, in which case they would have taken only one point out of five, with a much more serious loss of percentage. It was incumbent upon the part of Fitton and Barnes, if possible, to place Staffordshire in a safe position, and against good, accurate bowling the pair played a fine game for their side. Fitton is naturally the slowest batsman in the team, but he was little, if any, slower than Riley, a player who recently merited than Riley, a player with recent 1st XI experience, had been when his side were doing badly. The spectators soon began to barrack Fitton, though they had apparently been quite content when Riley was scoring at the rate of 32 runs in an hour and three-quarters. At the tea interval Staffordshire had scored 57 for 3 wickets, and on resuming at 10 minutes to five required 68 runs for a 1st innings lead with an hour and 40 minutes to play. In 35 minutes they scored 11 runs, and the batsmen had by this time obviously given up any idea of trying to reach the Leicester score. The spectators

apparently guessed the visitors' intention, and seemed to be much irritated thereby, much jeering being indulged in. With the score at 79, and about an hour and a half left for play, the Leicester captain, G. B. Rudd, took his regular bowlers off, and put the amateur, Dawson on at one end and went on himself at the other. He immediately commenced to bowl wides of deliberate intent, sending down eight in one over, two of which went to the boundary, scoring four each. The spectators cheered this extraordinary exhibition, shouts of "make 'em win" being heard amidst the cheering as the ball was sent down wide of the batsman and allowed to go to the boundary. Dawson also, bowled to give extras, and the wicket-keeper allowed the ball to pass frequently and go to the boundary for 4 byes. This had been going on for 3 or 4 overs when Dawson bowled the ball so high over Fitton's head that it was palpably a wide, and Fitton playfully jumped in the air as if to head the ball in the fashion of Association footballers. The wicket-keeper, who was standing about 3 yards back, caught the ball high up and threw the wicket down. He appealed against Fitton, who was given out stumped, presumably because his feet were off the ground when the wicket was broken. The ball, however, should certainly have been declared a wide by the umpire at the bowler's end.

Lee then joined Barnes, and the batsmen played such of the bowling as they could, but more boundary byes were purposely conceded, and the eighth of these placed Staffordshire ahead between five and ten minutes before 6.30, the time for drawing stumps. The spectators yelled with delight when their side were beaten on the first innings, and, therefore, lost four points out of five. From the time the score was 79 not a run had been scored with the bat, 48 having been deliberately given to the batting side without their having changed ends, or done anything but stop such balls as they could. In the few remaining minutes Lee cut Dawson for four and Barnes placed a single on the leg side.

While the farce was being enacted the umpires held several consultations, and after Rudd's over which contained 14 wides, Barnes called the Staffordshire captain, J. S. Heath, on to the field and discussed the position with him, whilst the captain went out again later and held a consultation with the Leicester captain and the umpires, but there was, of course, nothing to be done except to play out time, and so the absurd and discreditable farce went on. The incident will, no doubt, arouse much controversy, and may serve to bring the anomalous method of scoring, by which a team may be heavily penalised by trying to win, under official consideration again.

During the morning Staffordshire bowled and fielded finely. Barnes bowled for almost two hours at a stretch, took four wickets for 32 in 22 overs, and might easily have had an even better record. Later, Boon bowled at a great pace and kept a better length than he has sometimes done, coming out with excellent figures. In the Staffordshire innings Barnes batted with real skill until the farce began. Fitton and Homer also batted well, and McEllin was playing confidently when a remarkable one-handed catch, at short leg from a hard stroke dismissed him.

The following are the scores and analysis:—

Leicestershire II.

E. A. Broughton c Lee b Barnes	17
Coleman c Fitton b Barnes	8
Riley c Barnes b Perry	32
C. W. Pack b Barnes	0
Tyler b Barnes	11
Brown c Barnes b White	31
Bradshaw c Cross b Boon	1

A. Dawson b Boon	5
York b Boon	4
G. B. Rudd b Boon	0
Bowley not out	4
Extras	11
Total	124

Staffordshire

H. W. Homer b W. b Bowley	18
A. Lockett c Brown b York	1
L. McEllin c Broughton b Bowley	9
G. A. Fitton st Taylor b Dawson	17
Barnes not out	23
W. Lee not out	4
Extras	54
Total (4 wks.)	131

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Leicestershire				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	6	33	4
Lee	5	2	11	0
Boon	18	6	36	4
Lockett	14	7	21	0
Perry	1	0	5	1
White	4	1	7	1
Staffordshire				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Coleman	13	5	21	0
York	11	2	18	1
Bowley	15	9	15	2
Riley	9	5	8	0
Brown	3	1	8	0
Dawson	9	7	6	1
Rudd	7	6	1	0

Continued on Preceding Column

DEATH OF A COUNTY CRICKETER.

Fall Through Roof of a Pottery.

A verdict that death was caused through accidentally falling through an asbestos roof was returned by a jury at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary on Saturday morning, at an inquest on William Beddowes (25), 33, Frechold-terrace, Middleport, Burslem.



WILLIAM BEDDOWES.

Shortly after he heard a girl scream, "A man has fallen through the roof!" He went down to see what had happened, and saw Beddowes surrounded by other work-people. Beddowes received every attention, and then was taken in the Police ambulance to the Infirmary. Beddowes, said witness, prior to the fall, had been working on the roof of a drying shed, cleaning the glass lights, and the place where he had fallen through was asbestos roofing.

FALL ON THE ROOF

Harold Booth, another employee of the firm, said the roof was perfectly safe for a man, who was accustomed to the work, to go on. He did not consider the work unreasonable. The asbestos tile would only break by force. It would not break by stepping on it, Beddowes must have fallen on it to have broken it. The Coroner: It is strange that the line of demarcation between safety and danger is so small. Frederick Arthur Phillips, in charge of the labourers and maintenance men at the works said there was what was known as a "cat ladder" on the roof, for men working there to use. Questioned by a juror, he said that apparently Beddowes had not used the ladder, as it was not within reach of the hole in the roof. The ladder was a movable one. A juror suggested that in future the firm should insist on the men using the "cat ladder" when work was carried out on the roof. Dr. Andrews said Beddowes was admitted to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary on Thursday afternoon, and died three hours later from a fracture of the base of the skull. Mr. W. B. Hackney (Messrs. Patterson and Hackney), who appeared on behalf of the employers, expressed sympathy with the relatives. Mr. R. F. Pointon, from the office of Messrs. F. Collis and Son, Stoke, represented the widow.

Beddowes, who was of a quiet and unassuming disposition, was a keen cricketer, and three times this season he played for the County eleven behind the wicket. He was a good wicket-keeper. For some time he played for Norton, but this would have been his second season for the Burslem Club. In cricket circles his tragic death will be greatly lamented, and the sympathy of all his cricket colleagues will be extended to his young widow.

THE FUNERAL.

The esteem and respect in which the young county cricketer was held was manifest at the funeral, which took place at Smallthorne on Monday afternoon, was attended by a large gathering of sympathising friends, including many sportsmen with whom he had associated. The Wesleyan Church was almost filled, on all sides there were evidences of deep sorrow. Proceeding the cortege were 42 members of the Smallthorne Company of the Light Brigade, with Capt. S. Parker in command. Other officers included Lieuts. C. Evans, W. Sergeant, J. Brereton, J. Sergeant, J. Stanyer and W. Bourne, and, at the entrance to the church, they formed a guard of honour in a downpour of rain. The service in the church was conducted by the Rev. G. P. Gibbens, and was of a simple but impressive character. Mr. W. H. Boote presided at the organ, and the hymns sang were "Rock of Ages" and "Jesus, Lover of my Soul." At Smallthorne Cemetery, where the interment subsequently took place, Lieut. Stanyer sounded the "Last Post."

THE MOURNERS.

The mourners included Mrs. Beddowes (widow), Mrs. Yates, Miss Beddowes, Miss Yates, Mrs. Glover (aunt), Mrs. Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pearce, Mr. G. Pearce, Mrs. Mountford, Mr. Trueman and Mr. Yates. Others, either in the congregation at the church or at the cemetery, included Messrs. T. H. Harrington (representing Messrs. Minton Hollins'), Chas. Goodyer (Chairman of the Burslem Cricket Club), J. D. Appellby (Secretary, who also represented the County Club), Evans Cooke (captain), I. Crump, F. Bailey, A. Birch, T. Morgan, W. Briggs, Laurence Hancock (representing Staffordshire County Cricket Club), S. Smith (captain of the Norton Cricket Club), C. R. Coates (Secretary), J. Bagley, A. Jolley, D. Worthington, W. Cooke, J. Smith, W. Tweats, and W. Martin (members of the Norton Cricket Club), J. Lovatt (representing Middleport F.C.), J. Jolley (Birches Head), J. T. Emberton and F. Farrall (representing the Salem United Methodist Church), Mr. Tirmis and Mr. Francass (representing the Middleport Wesleyan Church), Mr. Pearson (representing Taylors Athletic Cricket Club), and the following from the loco. dept. of the Norton Iron Works, at which he was at one time employed: Messrs. O. Lees, W. Ruston, C. Reeves, J. Walho, A. Tellowright, A. Bates, A. Ball, N. Holland, T. Cliffe, F. Morris, F. Thompson, G. Buckley, W. Mason, W. Downward, A. Bissell and J. Blencoe.

FLORAL TRIBUTES.

There were a large number of beautiful floral tributes, one of which was from the Norton Cricket Club, taking the form of a cricket bat. In addition to the family tributes there were those from the Staffordshire County Cricket Club, the Burslem Cricket Club, the Norton Cricket Club, supporters of the Burslem Cricket Club, the Ladies Committee, of the Burslem Cricket Club, members of Taylors Athletic Club, the Workingmens' Club, Messrs Minton and Hollins, Co., Ltd., the Traffic and Loco. Dept., Ford Green Works, sister Mary, Mr. and Mrs. Schofield, jun., Dave, Billie and Len, Mr. and Mrs. Hambleton and family, L. Wardle and Son, and Mr. and Mrs. Callaghan. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. J. Swindells, Waterloo-road, Burslem, under the direction of Mr. G. Pedmore.

STAFFORDSHIRE AT PORTHILL.

Slow Scoring by Notts Batsmen.

Capital Innings by Harris.

Staffordshire embarked on their holiday programme to-day by entertaining old rivals in Notts II., at Porthill Park. As was the case last year, the home county's holiday fixtures will have a direct bearing on their chances for championship honours. During the last four seasons, however, Notts have always fared badly at the hands of Staffordshire. On the last occasion when Notts visited Porthill, they collapsed in sensational style against the remarkable bowling of Barnes, who, in the second innings, took seven wickets for 17 runs.

To-day there was a big holiday crowd when Notts, having won the toss, opened their innings on a very fast wicket.

VISITORS' POOR START.

Conditions were perfect for run-getting, but against the bowling of Barnes and Ellerker, Gunn and Keaton opened cautiously. The former, however, got Barnes away past cover-point. Both batsmen had to proceed warily against some accurate bowling though Gunn, showing a little more enterprise than his partner, twice hit Barnes for a couple.

The partnership, however, was destined to be a short one, for, with the total at 19 Gunn was caught in the slips off Ellerker. Lockett made an attempt to make the catch, but, although it was too high and wide for the Old Hill pinner, it was within the reach of Barnes, who brought off a brilliant right-hand catch.

Harris, who was next in, opened in his usual cautious manner, and runs continued to come slowly.

Disaster quickly followed disaster, however, for Keaton, in trying to pull Ellerker, failed to get hold of the ball properly, and Fitton brought off a magnificent running catch at mid-on.

Two wickets had now fallen for 23 runs. Copley was soon in trouble with the bowling of Barnes, who not only kept an accurate length but made the ball turn. Copley had only made a single when he was dismissed l.b.w. by Barnes.

DOUBLE BOWLING CHANGE.

Up to this point there had been little to enthuse about, except for the good bowling of Barnes and Ellerker. Against their excellent deliveries, there was little or no attempt to indulge in vigorous hitting.

Following a period of strictly defensive tactics, Hardstaff had the distinction of making the first boundary stroke off Barnes with a delightful leg glide.

Staffordshire then made their first change in the bowling, Lockett displacing Barnes, and Sedgwick going on for Ellerker. In Lockett's second over, Hardstaff twice placed him to the boundary, but the feature of two maiden overs by Sedgwick was the fine fielding of Ellerker at point.

Having got the measure of the bowling, Hardstaff played confidently and, for some time monopolised the scoring.

It had taken nearly an hour and ten minutes before 50 was hoisted, and by that time Hardstaff's contribution was a valuable one of 21, scored in 35 minutes.

Harris remained ultra-cautious, and after being at the wickets an hour had only scored 13—a four and nine singles. Although there was little aggressiveness the score rose steadily, but when Barnes resumed at the Marsh end Hardstaff was early in difficulties. He survived an uncomfortable over and then, facing Lockett, turned him to leg for two, and sent the following ball to the rails.

Having played in convincing style for just under an hour, Hardstaff fell a victim to Barnes' "trap," being taken at point by Sedgwick. He had scored 33 in capital style.

FOUR OVERS—FIVE RUNS.

When play was resumed after lunch, there was the same disposition towards slow scoring as that which characterised play during the morning, three overs only producing two runs, following which Harris sent Barnes through the slips for three. Five runs in four overs!

Heane, after making a single, square cut Sedgwick for a couple, but in Barnes' next over Harris was completely beaten by a splendid ball which only narrowly missed taking the off stump.

The hundred went up in 2 hours and 20 minutes, a first ball from Sedgwick being allowed to travel to the boundary.

With his score at 55, Harris was badly missed at short leg by Hardy off Barnes. It was only occasionally that Harris attempted anything in the nature of hard hitting, practically every ball put down by Barnes being played defensively.

After Barnes, Sedgwick and Hardy had had a spell with the ball, White was greeted with a hearty round of applause, on going on at the Marsh end. Heane got him away for a single, but the last ball of the over completely beat him and missed the stumps by a hair's breadth.

Still defending stubbornly and showing little enterprise, the Notts score gradually mounted, but all that can be said of the partnership was that it was a stolid piece of batting, without hardly one touch of brightness. Cross failed to gather a ball when he had a chance of stumping Heane, but in the same over Lockett caught and bowled the same batsman. Heane had been batting an hour and a half for 21, the partnership having realised 56 runs.

HARRIS' FIFTY.

When Hodgkinson joined Harris the latter on-drove White for three, and narrowly missed being run out.

Hodgkinson made a splendid cut through the covers to the boundary off White, but in the same over he was well caught by Ellerker. Harris took his score to 50 after batting two hours and 45 minutes.

Morley went in to return almost immediately played on to Lockett, who had now taken two wickets for seven runs.

Matthews was the first batsman to show any inclination to hit out but his stay was a short lived affair. He placed Lockett to the boundary, and followed it up by a similar feat against Barnes, but driving the latter a second time, he was caught by Fitton at the second attempt on the boundary.

The last wicket stand by Harris and Wheat was also productive of some brighter cricket, Wheat being the first to send Barnes away for a six.

NOTTS II.—First Innings.

Gunn (G V) c Barnes b Ellerker	11
Keaton c Fitton b Ellerker	8
Harris not out	60
Copley lbw b Barnes	1
Hardstaff c Sedgwick b Barnes	33
G F H Heane c and b Lockett	21
Hodgkinson c Ellerker b White	4
A Morley b Lockett	0
Taylor c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
Matthews c Fitton b Barnes	8
Wheat not out	13
Extras	03
Total (for 9 wkts)	195

Later—Notts. II., 226 for nine wickets.

FALL OF WICKETS.

Notts II.—First Innings.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	28	28	77	133	140	141

STAFFORDSHIRE GAIN THE LEAD.

Brilliant Century by Lockett.

Draw Probable in Notts Match.

As a result of the first day's play in their Minor Counties fixture with Notts. II. at Porthill yesterday, Staffordshire found themselves in a position of some disadvantage. Notts. compiled the useful total of 236 and at the close, Staffordshire had lost four wickets for 99 runs. Notts. were mainly indebted to the stolid batting of Harris for their total. Harris was at the wicket four hours for 107, and he batted soundly, though patiently. The most attractive play by the visitors was during the last wicket stand by Harris and Wheat, which realised 65 runs.

Staffordshire made only a moderate start, four wickets falling for 59 runs. A bright stand by Lockett retrieved the fortunes of Staffordshire somewhat. Lockett put the crowd in a happy mood with some vigorous driving and hitting to leg, and his score of 36 not out included seven fours.

THE GAME RESUMED.

Rain during the night had slightly affected the wicket when Lockett and Heath resumed their partnership this morning, to the bowling of Harris and Heane. With a single, Lockett sent Staffordshire's score to 100, but in the next over, off Heane, Heath was narrowly missed in the slips by Harris who reached but could not hold the ball.

After a cautious opening, Lockett drove Heane to the boundary, and followed it up with a delightful hit to leg for another four, reaching his 50 in 55 minutes.

A change of bowling was introduced at this point, and off Morley's first over Lockett twice got him away to the rails.

Lockett continued to play sparkling cricket, scoring freely all round the wicket. Heath, too, found little difficulty with the bowling, though he was far more restrained than his partner. A beautiful square cut brought Heath a four off Copley, but another hit was stopped on the boundary.

Lockett played the bowling with obvious ease, but with the total at 146 the partnership came to an end with the dismissal of Heath, who was caught behind the wicket by Wheat. The stand had produced 87 runs.

LOCKETT'S CENTURY.

Lockett was then joined by Hardy, who, after making a single, despatched Heane to the boundary, and Lockett similarly treated Matthews when the fast bowler resumed at the Marsh end.

Having played brilliant and forcing cricket for an hour and fifty minutes Lockett reached his century, his only mistake being a chance to Wheat behind the wicket with his score at 99. He had come to the rescue of Staffordshire in great fashion, playing the most sparkling cricket of the match. Off the next ball, however, he was caught by Morley, fielding at third slip.

Lockett's attractive innings included 18 4's. Sedgwick opened in confident note, twice sending Gunn to the boundary, and Hardy also turned Matthews to the leg boundary.

In three hours and ten minutes, Staffordshire's score had been taken to 200, in contrast to Notts. taking four and half hours for 236. The enterprising stand of Hardy and Sedgwick was brought to an end when the former was given out lbw to Harris. Sedgwick, by this time, had given a fine display of hard hitting, a great drive off Heane producing a six.

In the same over he obtained a two, and with the last ball of the over again sent Heane to the rails. His innings was all too short, however, for no sooner had he become partnered by Cross than he skied a ball into the slips to be caught by Harris.

D. L. White made a quickly run single, following which he was clean bowled by Heane.

Barnes figured in a new role, going in last, but the explanation is that he damaged a finger yesterday in endeavouring to field a fast travelling ball through the slips. With the score at 238 for nine, Staffordshire declared, having established a lead of two runs on the first innings.

NOTTS SECOND INNINGS.

Notts were given a quarter of an hour's batting before lunch, Gunn and Keeton facing

the attack of Ellerker and Lockett. Keeton sent Ellerker to the boundary three times in as many overs, and Gunn also despatched Lockett twice to the rails.

It was definitely established at lunch-time that Barnes would be unable to bowl on account of the injury to the middle finger of his right hand.

After lunch White went on, and Ellerker displaced Lockett at the other end.

Subsequently Lockett had a spell with the ball from the Marsh end, but this did not prevent the score from mounting quickly, 50 being reached in 35 minutes, Keeton having five boundary hits to his credit, and Gunn four.

They were giving a far more enterprising exhibition of batting than in their first innings.

At 65, Sedgwick went on for Lockett, but the batsmen continued to score freely, 90 runs being on in an hour and ten minutes. Keeton reached his score to 50 in an hour and 25 minutes, his chief scoring strokes being eight 4's. The partnership had also realised 100 runs.

With the total at 113, however, the partnership came to an end, Keeton being caught by Lockett off Hardy.

When 77, Gunn, who had batted for an hour and 55 minutes, was out to a fine catch in the slips by Sedgwick. His chief strokes were 13 fours.

NOTTS II.—First Innings.

Gunn (G V) c Barnes b Ellerker	11
Keeton c Fitton b Ellerker	8
Harris c Cross b Ellerker	107
Copley lbw b Barnes	1
Hardstaff c Sedgwick b Barnes	33
G F H Heane c and b Lockett	21
Hodgkinson c Ellerker b White	4
A Morley b Lockett	0
Taylor c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
Matthews c Fitton b Barnes	8
Wheat not out	19
Extras	21
Total	236

NOTTS II.—Second Innings.

Gunn c Sedgwick b Bickerton	77
Keeton c Lockett b Hardy	60
Harris c Hardy b Ellerker	15
Copley not out	19
Hardstaff not out	5
Extras	7
Total (for 3 wkts)	183

Later.—Notts II. 183 for four wkts.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A Bickerton b Heane	18
G A Fitton c Heane b Gunn	19
A W Ikin c Keeton b Heane	5
A Lockett c Morley b Matthews	101
W H Ellerker c Copley b Heane	0
J S Heath c Wheat b Morley	19
R S A Hardy lbw b Harris	24
Sedgwick c Harris b Heane	29
F P Cross not out	1
D L White b Heane	1
Barnes not out	0
Extras	21
Total (for 9 wkts)	238

Innings declared.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Notts II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	30	6	60	4
Ellerker	12.3	2	21	3
Lockett	25	6	58	2
White	7	1	18	1
Hardy	4	1	14	0
Sedgwick	16	5	44	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Notts II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19	26	28	77	153	140	141	160	170	236

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
29	51	58	59	146	183	235	235	237

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Matthews	18	2	68	1
Heane	25	9	63	4
Harris	14	3	20	2
Morley	10	2	28	1
Gunn	5	1	24	1
Hodgkinson	2	1	5	0
Copley	4	0	11	0

COUNTY CAPS AWARDED.

Staffordshire County Cricket Club have awarded County caps to W. H. Ellerker, A. W. Ikin, and E. P. Cross. Ellerker, a good all-round cricketer, plays for Smethwick, whilst A. W. Ikin is professional for Great Chell. Both have played for the County for two seasons. Cross, who has played for Warwickshire, now plays for Moseley. He is a smart wicket-keeper.

STAFFORDSHIRE v. NOTTS. II.

Points for First Innings Lead.

The Match between Staffordshire and Notts. II. at Porthill Park, Stoke-on-Trent, ended in a win for Staffordshire on the first innings. The home county carried their overnight score of 99 for four wickets to 238 before they declared their innings closed. Notts. II., in their second innings, had scored 188 for four wickets, and had declared their innings when rain intervened. After waiting for some time the match was abandoned. Lockett scored a brilliant century for Staffordshire, in which he hit eighteen 4's. He was at the wickets only an hour and fifty minutes. Scores:—

NOTTS II.—First Innings.

Gunn (G V) c Barnes b Ellerker	11
Keeton c Fitton b Ellerker	8
Harris c Cross b Ellerker	107
Copley lbw b Barnes	1
Hardstaff c Sedgwick b Barnes	33
G F H Heane c and b Lockett	21
Hodgkinson c Ellerker b White	4
A Morley b Lockett	0
Taylor c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
Matthews c Fitton b Barnes	8
Wheat not out	19
Extras	21
Total	236

NOTTS II.—Second Innings.

Gunn c Sedgwick b Bickerton	77
Keeton c Lockett b Hardy	60
Harris c Hardy b Ellerker	15
Copley not out	20
Hardstaff lbw b Lockett	6
G F H Heane not out	1
Extras	7
Total (for 4 wkts)	188

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A Bickerton b Heane	18
G A Fitton c Keeton b Heane	19
A W Ikin c Keeton b Heane	5
A Lockett c Morley b Matthews	101
W H Ellerker c Copley b Heane	0
J S Heath c Wheat b Morley	19
R S A Hardy lbw b Harris	24
Sedgwick c Harris b Heane	29
F P Cross not out	1
D L White b Heane	1
Barnes not out	0
Extras	21
Total (for 9 wkts)	238

Innings declared.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Notts II. First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	30	6	60	4
Ellerker	12.5	2	21	3
Lockett	25	6	58	2
White	7	1	18	1
Hardy	4	1	14	0
Sedgwick	16	5	44	0

Notts II.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Ellerker	19	3	53	1
Lockett	11	2	36	1
Hardy	3	0	14	1
Bickerton	2	0	21	1
White	10	4	21	0
Sedgwick	10	3	36	0

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Matthews	18	2	68	1
Heane	25	9	63	4
Harris	14	3	20	2
Morley	10	2	28	1
Gunn	5	1	24	1
Hodgkinson	2	1	5	0
Copley	4	0	11	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Notts II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19	26	28	77	153	140	141	160	170	236

Notts II.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4
113	151	164	187

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
29	51	58	59	146	183	235	235	237

LANCASHIRE II. AT STOKE.

Visitors Recover From Bad Start.

A Keen Staffordshire Attack.

A heavy downpour of rain during the night threatened to mar Staffordshire's second holiday fixture with Lancashire II. on the old County Ground at Stoke to-day, but the weather broke fine and warm this morning making conditions very pleasant, and holding out the prospect of an interesting day's cricket. Although, in meeting Lancashire II., Staffordshire had formidable opponents, the home county gained a decisive victory on the occasion of their last meeting, dismissing Lancashire for 41 and 61 and winning by 110 runs. To-day, the visitors were again strongly represented, the eleven including Rushton, Halliday, Booth and Taylor, all of whom have appeared in the first eleven.

The wicket had been partly covered during the night but a drying wind and sun was likely to make it difficult.

VISITORS' POOR START.

Lancashire won the toss, and Halliday and Beattie opened quietly against the attack of Lockett and Sedgwick, the former batsman surviving a confident appeal for lbw from Lockett after having made three. Halliday, however, had only added two more singles when a further appeal for lbw, also by Lockett, was answered in the bowler's favour, the first wicket falling at 10.

Paynter joined Beattie, but without any addition to the score the former was dismissed, Sedgwick getting him out leg before.

Taylor scored the first four of the match, turning Lockett to the leg boundary, and off the same bowler Paynter did likewise. The bowling demanded respect, and in 40 minutes only 23 runs were scored.

Taylor at length despatched Sedgwick for four, and immediately afterwards Paynter was dismissed, being caught in the slips by Boon off Lockett. The total was only 30, so that Staffordshire could be said to have made a good start.

Taylor and Booth played steadily in an endeavour to improve their side's position, the latter sending both Lockett and Sedgwick to the boundary.

With the score at 46, the result of an hour and five minutes batting, Boon displaced Lockett, and the latter relieved Sedgwick at the pavilion end. Boon's first over was a maiden, but in the following over Taylor edged him through the slips to the boundary.

AN EFFECTIVE CHANGE.

The change of ends proved effective, for at 53 Lockett penetrated Booth's defence with a splendid delivery. The partnership had improved matters to the extent of 23 runs.

Higson, the Lancashire skipper, did not stay long for he had only scored three runs when he was well bowled by Boon.

Taylor, so far, was the only batsman to play the attack with any confidence. He made several fine strokes, and scored 26 of the first 72 runs.

There was a change of bowling after Horridge had gone in to partner Taylor, White going on in place of Boon. Only a single was scored off his first over and in his second spell he clean bowled Horridge.

Boon resumed at the pavilion end and Farrimond turned him to leg for two. The batsmen, however, found runs difficult to get and by lunch time the score was 79 and six men were out.

When play was resumed after lunch, Taylor hit a no ball from Lockett for four and Farrimond also got the ball away for a two and a three, following which Taylor turned Lockett to the leg boundary.

The batsmen had struck a more confident note and for a time runs came at a greater pace than before.

A curious incident arose when Boon went on to bowl. Farrimond made a hit for a single, and two runs were made for an overthrow, but the decision of the umpire was "no runs to count," and the batsmen were ordered to change ends.

TAYLOR'S PATIENT INNINGS ENDED.

In Lockett's next over from the Pavilion end, Taylor, who had made a valiant attempt to pull the game round, was dismissed, Lockett getting clean through his defence. He had scored 47 in a patient innings of two hours, six 4's being his chief strokes.

Rushton came in, but had only made a single when he was out to a well-judged catch at long-on by Day, who is making his first appearance for the County.

It was not until Farrimond and Preston became associated that the Lancashire batsmen got a grip on the game, and the pair proceeded to pull the game round for their side.

In one over from Boon, Farrimond despatched him twice to the boundary and in an hour and a quarter he scored 33 runs.

It was not until 3.30 that Barnes, who injured the middle finger of his right hand in the match with Notts, at Porthill, went on to bowl.

Preston batted stubbornly for three-quarters of an hour, during which time he had scored 7, and had survived a very confident appeal for a catch behind the wicket off Barnes.

Farrimond reached his score of 50 in an hour and 55 minutes.

The ninth wicket partnership realised 71 runs, Preston then being bowled by Boon. With only three runs added, Holroyd was run out.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Halliday lbw b Lockett	5
P. D. Beattie lbw b Sedgwick	2
Paynter c Boon b Lockett	5
Taylor b Lockett	47
Booth b Lockett	16
P. Higson b Boon	3
Horridge b White	5
Farrimond not out	56
Rushton c Day b Lockett	1
Preston b Boon	21
Holroyd run out	0
Extras	27

Total 183

Later, Staffordshire, 5 for no wicket

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	10	30	53	58	72	112	116	135	183

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lockett	30	6	62	5
Sedgwick	16	3	25	1
Boon	16.5	6	37	2
White	11	4	25	1
Barnes	8	3	12	0

DRAMATIC DEFEAT OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

Batsmen Collapse on a Tricky Pitch.

LANCASHIRE BOWLER'S FOUR WICKETS IN SUCCESSION.

There was some dramatic cricket at Stoke to-day when the match between Staffordshire and Lancashire II. was resumed.

On a difficult wicket, Staffordshire lost their remaining eight wickets for 56 runs, Holroyd taking six wickets for 45 runs, and finished up 53 runs in arrears.

Going in a second time, the Lancashire batsmen were equally in trouble and were dismissed for 74, Barnes, despite a damaged finger, bowling with all his old skill and capturing six wickets for only 24 runs.

Worse was to follow for Staffordshire, attempting the task of scoring 128 to win, lost half their wickets for 12 runs. Rushton bowled with deadly effect, taking four wickets in successive deliveries.

No batsmen could stem the tide of disaster and the whole side were out for 25, Lancashire winning by 102 runs.

Rushton finished with the remarkable analysis of seven wickets for 12 runs.

WICKETS FALL LIKE NINEPINS.

There was an even struggle during the first day's play in the match between Staffordshire and Lancashire II. at Stoke yesterday, and when play ceased last evening Staffordshire required 110 runs to take the lead, and had eight wickets standing. The Lancashire total of 169 was largely the outcome of some stubborn batting during the later stages of the innings, when the wicket was playing easier. Farrimond, in particular, played a sound and patient innings of 57 not out, including five 4's. Staffordshire had nearly two hours' batting, and at the close had scored 80 for the loss of Homer and Bickerton. The latter played attractive cricket for his 26, but during the partnership of Pitton and Day runs came very slowly, and the concluding stages of the game was marked by dull and uninteresting play.

EARLY DISASTERS.

When play was resumed this morning, Staffordshire had to contend with a keen attack, which brought about the fall of two wickets with only five runs added in nine minutes. Day took the bowling of Preston, and at once cut him through the slips for two and turned him to leg for a single. Off Holroyd, he also made another cut for two but then, in stepping out to the same bowler, he was smartly stumped by Farrimond.

Barnes was Holroyd's second victim, for off the last ball of his first over, the batsman gave the bowler an easy return catch.

No sooner had he joined Pitton than Lockett was missed in the slips by Rushton before he had scored, and Pitton, after sending Holroyd away to the boundary, made a fluky stroke through the slips off the spin bowler for two.

Lockett opened with a single and then sent Holroyd away to the leg boundary for four. Further disaster befell Staffordshire when Pitton was run out in attempting to make a second run from a straight drive by Lockett, Horridge, with a wonderfully accurate return, throwing down his wicket before he could regain his crease. The score at the time was 22, the century having been hoisted after two hours and 20 minutes' batting.

Heath went in and opened in promising style with some nice cuts and hits to leg. A high cut over the head of backward point brought him a four off Preston, the ball being misfielded.

A COLLAPSE.

With the score at 119 there was a change of bowling at the pavilion end, Rushton going on in place of Preston, and with his fourth ball he got Lockett out low.

Sedgwick was at the wicket a quarter of an hour before scoring, but Heath had been playing the bowling with confidence until he mistimed a delivery by Rushton and was caught by Beattie at mid-off. He had contributed a valuable 19.

The chances of Staffordshire established a first innings lead became very remote. Cross went in and with the second ball put down to him by Holroyd, he edged it to the slips and was caught by Rushton. In the same over, Boon attempted to drive Holroyd, but was caught at cover point by Halliday.

The collapse was completed when Sedgwick asked a ball for Beattie to make a fine running catch, the last three wickets having fallen for two runs. Holroyd who was in deadly form took 6 wickets for 45 runs.

The wicket this morning played very difficult, giving the bowlers considerable assistance. Staffordshire had batted three hours and 10 minutes.

WICKETS FALL QUICKLY.

Lancashire 55 runs to the good, began their second innings with Halliday and Beattie, Barnes and Lockett being the bowlers. They started confidently, Halliday turning Barnes to leg for two and Beattie getting Lockett away for three. In the following over, Beattie drove Lockett to the boundary through the covers, but little could be done with the bowling of Barnes, only two runs being scored in his first two overs. In his next over, he got through the defence of Halliday, clean bowling him after he had taken 25 minutes to score 5.

The batsmen remained very subdued, Beattie being at the wicket 45 minutes for ten. Paynter had been at the wicket a quarter of an hour without having scored a run and he was then caught by Day close in at short leg off Barnes. Barnes two wickets were secured for 5 runs.

On Beattie being joined by Taylor, Boon displaced Lockett, and with the last ball of his first over destroyed Beattie's stumps, three wickets having now fallen for 22.

Taylor obtained two singles off Barnes, but the bowler met with further success at 26, clean bowling Booth with the first ball he received.

BARNES UNPLAYABLE.

The wicket still played very difficult after lunch, and Barnes remained almost unplayable. Taylor played him very cautiously, but at 32 Barnes spreadeagled his wicket with a ball which completely deceived the batsman. Half the side were now out.

The second boundary of the innings was when Horridge cut Boon, and Rushton followed this up by sending Barnes to the rails. Later, Horridge turned one to the leg boundary off Barnes, and, after surviving a confident appeal for a catch behind the wicket, off Boon, he was dismissed by Barnes, l.b.w.

Higson was early in trouble with the deliveries of Barnes, but after twice being completely beaten, he managed to get a single. He was out l.b.w. to Boon, however, with the second ball of the following over.

Rushton had maintained a stout defence, but, with his score at 15, he was well bowled to Boon.

Farrimond had only scored ten when he was out to the wiles of Barnes, being adjudged l.b.w. Holroyd was dismissed in spectacular manner. Barnes put down a ball which the batsman turned to leg and commenced to run, but the ball was smartly gathered and returned to cross to throw down the wicket before he could get back. Barnes who at one time had secured 6 wickets for 9 runs, took 6 wickets for 24 and Boon 5 for 11.

Staffordshire 41 on the last of the morning 128 runs to win, on a wicket which was playing extremely difficult.

They began their second innings at 5.15 with Pitton and Bickerton, against the bowling of Preston and Rushton. After a series of singles Pitton got Rushton away for three.

With nine runs on the board the first wicket fell, Pitton being caught in the slips by Paynter off Rushton.

Surviving a session which was well past five, Bickerton kept his wicket intact for half an hour, but having scored only five runs, and the total being only 12, he was out low to Rushton. Day then partnered Homer, but he was out first ball. A similar fate awaited Barnes, who was dismissed l.b.w. and Lockett's first ball also proved fatal, Paynter catching him in the slips.

REMARKABLE BOWLING.

Rushton's remarkable bowling feat was four wickets in successive balls. His analysis at this period was

O.	M.	R.	W.
8	4	5	4

Heath resisted the attack for ten minutes without scoring, but was then bowled by Holroyd, the sixth wicket falling at 17.

Homer had so far shown sound defence, but Sedgwick met the same fate as the others, being bowled by Rushton without scoring.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Halliday l.b.w. b Lockett	5
F. D. Beattie l.b.w. b Sedgwick	2
Paynter c Boon b Lockett	5
Taylor b Lockett	47
Booth b Lockett	18
P. Higson b Boon	5
Horridge b White	5
Farrimond not out	57
Rushton c Day b Lockett	1
Preston b Boon	21
Holroyd run out	0
Extras	27
Total	183

LANCASHIRE II.—Second Innings.

Halliday b Barnes	5
F. D. Beattie b Boon	12
Paynter c Day b Barnes	0
Booth b Barnes	0
Taylor b Barnes	10
Rushton b Boon	13
Horridge l.b.w. b Barnes	9
P. Higson l.b.w. b Boon	1
Farrimond l.b.w. b Barnes	10
Preston not out	6
Holroyd run out	0
Extras	8
Total	74

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H. W. Homer b Holroyd	16
A. Bickerton c Rushton b Preston	28
G. A. Pitton run out	29
A. L. Day st. Farrimond b Holroyd	17
Barnes c and b Holroyd	0
A. Lockett l.b.w. b Rushton	10
J. B. Heath c Beattie b Rushton	19
Sedgwick c Beattie b Holroyd	9
E. P. Cross c Rushton b Holroyd	0
Boon c Halliday b Holroyd	0
D. L. White not out	0
Extras	10
Total	123

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

A. A. Bickerton l.b.w. b Rushton	4
G. A. Pitton c Paynter b Rushton	5
H. W. Homer not out	19
A. L. Day b Rushton	0
Barnes l.b.w. b Rushton	0
Lockett c Paynter b Rushton	0
J. B. Heath b Holroyd	0
Sedgwick b Rushton	0
E. P. Cross b Rushton	3
Boon b Holroyd	0
D. L. White l.b.w. b Holroyd	1
Extras	2
Total	25

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lockett	30	6	62	5
Sedgwick	18	3	25	1
Boon	13.5	6	33	2
White	11	4	25	1
Barnes	8	3	12	0

Lancashire II.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	16.2	2	24	6
Lockett	7	3	11	0
Boon	9	1	31	3

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Rushton	17	5	19	2
Booth	12	4	22	0
Holroyd	23.4	8	45	6
Preston	17	4	33	1
Horridge	4	1	7	0

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Preston	7	3	9	0
Rushton	14	8	12	7
Holroyd	7	6	2	3

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	19	30	53	68	72	112	116	123	169

Lancashire II.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	20	22	25	32	55	67	68	74	74

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34	52	85	85	102	119	134	135	135	138

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	12	12	12	12	17	18

POTTERIES CRICKET WEEK

Holiday Matches at Porthill and Stoke

Staffordshire v. Notts II.

By "THE CRITIC"

The Staffordshire County Cricket Club was again favoured with ideal weather for the opening of its annual Stoke Wakes festival of cricket, and there was a capital "gate" at Porthill, where the return match with Notts II. was commenced on Monday. Staffordshire were without the services of the Old Hill contingent, but Ellerker, Fitton, and Cross represented the south of the county. Boon was required by his club, but a fairly strong team was fielded. A. W. Ikin resumed his place, though not entirely recovered from the strain which kept him out of the Leicester match. Notts had a good side, captained by George Heane, in place of L. Kirk, and including the fast bowler, Frank Matthews.

Winning the toss, Notts took first innings on a hard wicket, but made a bad start against Barnes and Ellerker. The latter made the new ball rear somewhat as well as swing, and with 19 scored Gunn flicked one through the slips, where Barnes made a spectacular left-handed catch. Then Keeton tried to pull a rather short one, got under it, and was caught at mid-on, whilst at 29 Copley was l.b.w. in trying to turn Barnes to leg, a dangerous practice. However, Hardstaff, the 17-years-old son of J. Hardstaff, the old Notts batsman and present umpire, playing his first game in Minor Counties cricket, shaped well, playing some choice leg strokes and driving with power. Lockett and Sedgwick bowled, but it remained for Barnes to come on again and terminate the stand at 77. He threw the youngster forward by a clever variation of flight to pop one into the hands of Sedgwick close in at point. Heane should have been quite easily caught by Hardy at short leg from Barnes when he had scored six, but escaped, and the fifth wicket in consequence added 56 before Lockett at the third attempt held a return from the left-hander. Then D. White had a few overs, and got rid of Hodgkinson, and Lockett disposed of the young amateur, Morley, also making his first appearance in the team, whilst Barnes returned to capture two more wickets, and nine were down for 170, in spite of the fact that Harris was doggedly keeping one end up all this time. Barnes completely beat him several times and narrowly missed the wicket, but his defence was very sound if overdone. He took 2 hours and three quarters to reach 50, but afterwards scored more freely, especially when joined by Wheat. The little left-hander always creates diversion. He is a clever wicket-keeper and not negligible as a batsman, but he is also a born comedian. He had the audacity to hit Barnes square for 6, and kept things lively while Harris hurried up in the hope of reaching the century. He would probably have been caught by the long-on boundary off Barnes by Fitton with his score at 80, but the spectators had encroached on the field of play and impeded the fielder. Harris got his century in a little less than four hours, and was snapped at the wicket shortly after the tea interval, having had a stay of 4 hours and 5 minutes. Terribly slow going this, but he had certainly done his side great service, and his hundred was his second in consecutive innings against Staffordshire. The last Notts wicket added 66, and made Staffordshire's task much more severe than at one time appeared likely. Barnes' first 24 overs yielded 34 runs and 3 wickets, but the last stand rather spoilt his figures, which would probably have been very good indeed but for mishaps in the field. Ellerker also bowled well, and might perhaps have been made more use of.

Staffordshire had an hour and three-quarters to bat before the close of play, as wickets were not pulled until seven o'clock. Bickerton and Fitton made a useful start, though the latter was upset for a time by a nasty blow in the chest from Matthews. Several changes had been tried before a shooter sent back Bickerton at 29. It would probably have bowled anybody, and was distinctly fortunate for Notts, for the Porthill man was batting confidently and well, and had no difficulty with the fast bowler. Ikin stayed until the score was 51, although not quite himself, but then the home side encountered a most unfortunate spell. Ikin was caught in the long-field, and one thought if he had been physically fit the fielder would have watched the ball pass over his head. When Ikin hits he generally hits hard. Then Fitton, trying to turn one round his legs, scooped up a simple catch to short leg, and Ellerker tapped one to the same fielder at the other end. Four down for 59 was serious, and 20 minutes still to play, but Lockett and J. S. Heath played as though they hadn't a care, and by the brightest and nearly the best bit of batting of the whole day added 40 runs. Lockett was not afraid to drive, and his leg shots were perfectly timed, so that he credited himself with seven boundaries before play ceased, four of them being from two consecutive overs of Matthews. At the close Staffordshire were 137 behind with six wickets to fall.

Tuesday's play was chiefly noteworthy for a splendid century hit by Lockett, who missed the coveted three figures by six runs on July 19 at Macclesfield, and had a narrow escape from a similar fate on this occasion, for he was missed at the wicket when his score stood at 99, and little Wheat does not miss many. However, it was Aaron's only chance in a quite brilliant innings, and he would have been unlucky if he had just missed the hundred again. His fine leg-strokes were his best scoring strokes, and so fast did the ball travel from his bat and so well placed were these glances that the visitors could not prevent his getting them through to the boundary even when they put on two fine-leg fielders, one of whom was on the boundary. He also drove cleanly and got some of his runs by hard cutting. Eighteen times he hastened the ball to the boundary, and his century was scored in an hour and 50 minutes, which afforded a pleasant contrast to Harris's hundred in four hours on the previous day. And the innings was the more meritorious because a good deal of rain had fallen in the night, and the pitch being wet on top the ball was inclined to rear in awkward fashion, especially during the first hour. Lockett had a couple of nasty raps on the hands, and Heath and Sedgwick suffered in the same way, whilst Cross got a blow on the chest which shook him up and affected his wicket-keeping in the Notts second innings.

Heath, the Staffordshire captain, whose luck has been lead out in county matches this season, batted very soundly indeed, and only a lack of placing prevented his getting a good many more runs, for numerous good hard strokes in front of the wicket found a fielder in the way. He helped Lockett to add 87 for the fifth wicket before being caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back, from a ball that kicked waist-high and which, being straight, he could not get away from. Hardly also batted nicely for an hour and hit four excellent 4's. After the termination of Lockett's innings by a catch in "the gully" at 167 (Aaron had scored his 101 out of 132), Hardy and Sedgwick added 52 in half an hour, and got within one run of the Notts score, when both were out at the same total.

Sedgwick had a lusty on-drive from Heane which landed the ball on the pavilion steps for six. Having taken the first innings lead—an achievement of some merit—Staffordshire declared to give their opponents a quarter of an hour's batting before lunch.

Unfortunately, Barnes was quite unable to bowl, the second finger of his right hand having been badly damaged by a fast low ball in the slips from Sedgwick on Monday. It was a catch which Barnes would generally accept, but he

did not get down to it quite quick enough and received a painful blow on the end of the finger, which was swollen and discoloured and both joints injured. It was a severe blow to Staffordshire, too, for Barnes' deadly length and spin on the wicket as it was, might have secured the cheap dismissal of the visitors. As it was, with a good deal of the venom taken out of the pitch by the roller, Gunn and Keeton made Notts safe from defeat by a bright and skilful partnership which realised 113 in an hour and 25 minutes before Keeton skied a ball in the slips. Gunn had several fortunate escapes from faulty strokes which fell just out of reach, and when 49 he gave a chance to the wicket-keeper off White. When the tea interval arrived, rain having fallen for some minutes, the score was 187 for 4, and at this the Notts captain declared, but the rain set in so steadily that no further play was possible, and so Staffordshire again took first innings points.

Scores and analyses:—

Notts.—First Innings

Gunn (G. V.) c Barnes b Ellerker	11
Keeton c Fitton b Ellerker	8
Harris c Cross b Ellerker	107
Copley lbw b Barnes	1
Hardstaff c Sedgwick b Barnes	33
G. F. H. Heane c and b Lockett	21
Hodgkinson c Ellerker b White	4
A. Morley b Lockett	0
Taylor c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
Matthews c Fitton b Barnes	8
Wheat not out	19
Extras	21
Total	236

Second Innings

Gunn (G. V.) c Sedgwick b Bickerton	77
Keeton c Lockett b Hardy	60
Harris c Hardy b Ellerker	15
Copley not out	20
Hardstaff lbw b Lockett	8
G. F. H. Heane not out	1
Extras	7
Total (for 4 wks., decl'd)	181

Staffordshire

A. A. Bickerton b Harris	18
G. A. Fitton c Heane b Gunn	19
A. W. Ikin c Keeton b Heane	5
A. Lockett c Morley b Matthews	101
W. H. Ellerker c Copley b Heane	0
J. S. Heath c Wheat b Morley	19
R. S. A. Hardy lbw b Harris	24
Sedgwick c Harris b Heane	29
E. P. Cross not out	1
D. L. White b Heane	1
Barnes not out	0
Extras	21
Total (for 9 wks., decl'd)	238

Bowling Analysis

Notts.—First Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	30	6	60	4
Ellerker	12.3	2	21	3
Lockett	25	6	58	2
White	7	1	18	1
Sedgwick	16	5	44	0
Hardy	4	1	14	0

Second Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Ellerker	19	3	53	1
Lockett	11	2	36	1
White	10	4	21	0
Sedgwick	10	3	36	0
Hardy	3	0	14	1
Bickerton	2	0	21	1

Staffordshire

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Matthews	18	2	68	1
Heane	25	9	63	4
Harris	14	3	20	2
Morley	10	2	23	1
Gunn	5	1	24	1
Hodgkinson	2	1	5	0
Copley	4	0	11	0

CRICKET

North Staffs. & District League

By "THE CRITIC"

The tense struggle between Crewe Alexandra and Nantwich at Crewe on Saturday left matters as they were so far as the race for the league championship is concerned, except that as both dropped a point. Leek, who scored a comfortable win at Bignall End, were able to draw a little nearer to the Cheshire clubs. Bignall End, by this reverse, fall back at a crucial juncture, and Porthill, whom I was inclined to regard as the most likely of the N. Staffs. clubs to deliver a challenge to the Cheshire pair, also practically extinguished their chance by surrendering both points at Longton.

In a curiously fluctuating game at Crewe, both sides were in danger of defeat at different stages. Batting first, Nantwich seemed to be going to pieces when the second wicket having fallen at 48, six were down for 59, Sedgwick getting three wickets in double quick time after a rest. But I commented quite recently on the fighting qualities, as well as the batting ability, of the Nantwich Captain, E. H. Steventon, and once again he came to the rescue of his side at a vital moment. W. T. Maybury ought to have gone at 55, and if the chance had been taken, the result of the match might have been different. Who can tell? Anyway, he stayed with his captain until the score reached 97, and then J. E. Smith shared in another invaluable partnership, so that the total eventually reached 152, and "E.H." had played a heroic part with a great innings of 54. He followed this up by some fine bowling, as a result of which Crewe appeared to be well beaten, when nine wickets had fallen for 104, and 35 minutes remained for play. However, try as they might, the champions could not secure that last wicket, though one chance was given and missed, and amidst much excitement the Alexandra saved a point. Their score at the end was 116 for nine, but, of course, the last pair of batsmen had not bothered much about runs. They played to avoid defeat, and though Mr. Rudd, of Leicestershire, might call it "rotten cricket," they served their side well, and delighted the Crewe supporters by keeping the club in the running for the championship when the knock-out blow seemed about to be administered. E. H. Steventon accomplished an afternoon's work, which deserved a better reward. His bowling figures were six for 44. H. Hope made 40 in nice style for the Alexandra.

Brassington's Day Out

In trouncing Porthill at Dresden, Longton accomplished another smart performance, and confirmed my remarks of a fortnight ago concerning the team. It was Harold Brassington's match, and I was pleased that I was there to see his triumph. Porthill were short of a few of their regular players owing to the holidays, including N. W. White, H. C. Renshaw (who has recovered from his illness) and J. Chadwick, the young bowler, whom I was sorry not to see. Owing to erroneous information, I referred to him last week as a right hand slow bowler. He is a fast bowler, faster, I am told, than Durber. Longton were also not quite at full strength, the absentees including the Captain, A. Kent, and Charlie Edwards. Brassington captained

the side, and when Porthill took first innings, he and Smith bowled uncommonly well. Smith kept all the batsmen, except Arthur Bickerton, pegged down without getting wickets, but this was done by his confrere, who soon began the work of destruction. Two wickets went at six, and though Bickerton played delightful cricket, both he and W. H. Fitchford were lbw victims of Brassington, who proceeded to go through the side. He kept a good length, whipped them back a few inches from the off, and deceived batsman after batsman with his straight one, which came rather quicker from the pitch, and had several of them playing inside the ball

in anticipation of off-break, which was not there. After Bickerton, who made 26, no one could withstand the old Caverswall man, except Ken. Gleaves, who batted very soundly, going in fourth wicket down and taking out his bat for 25. Brassington's bag was eight wickets for 34, and he and Smith bowled 44 overs without change in dismissing the visitors for the wholly inadequate total of 88.

Longton's modest task assumed rather a different complexion, when A. L. Day, who will have made his first appearance in county cricket before these notes appear in print, and Smith had gone with one run on the board. Day got a surprise full pitch from Durber, and stepping in to turn it to leg, missed it, and was lbw. J. Glover, a medium pace, right-arm bowler, who has not played much with the first team, made the ball turn a little from the off and keep rather low, and Smith turned one that was going away to leg into the wicket with his pad. In spite of a lack of bowling strength, Porthill would probably have had a chance, after getting rid of Longton's two best bats thus cheaply, if they had put up another 50 runs, but a total of 88 was nothing, and though four wickets were down at 40, J. Preece and Brassington practically settled the issue by adding a quick 44. The Porthill Captain, Stanley Heath, then had a try, and bowling in something like his old form, got two wickets cheaply, but Brassington soon made the winning hit, a fitting crown to his afternoon's work. Longton won by six wickets. Brassington had 26 not out, and Preece 25, whilst earlier Bennett stayed an hour and ten minutes for 16, and Toney got a dozen solely by felicitous cutting. Preece batted really well, watching the ball closely, maintaining a straight defence, and scoring when the length permitted by a nice variety of strokes. He is an ex-captain of the Denstone College XI, and he strengthens both the Longton batting and fielding.

The Other Matches

Knypersley came a cropper at Bursley, where the home team did some even scoring, declared at 192 for five wickets, and dismissed the visitors for 69. In a gallant effort to save a point, Knypersley batted two hours, but C. Tunnicliffe finished the match abruptly by taking four wickets for four runs. Only one Burslem batsman failed to pass 20, and R. Hollowood (46) and C. Tunnicliffe (74), added 68 after the fall of the fifth wicket, and were not separated.

Great Chell fell at home to Norton, who dismissed them for 105 (H. Higgins four for 19). Ikin, who had been laid up by a strain and was unable to play for Staffordshire last week, turned out, but was not too fit, and was bowled by Mayer after scoring eight. Norton made 125 for five. (S. Smith 34, P. Massey 33).

Bignall End also failed at home, giving a poor batting display against Leek, for whom F. Hutchinson and V. Astbury got four wickets each for 18 and 20, respectively, in the absence of Harold Birch. Leek had no difficulty in passing their opponents' total of 105, and won by six wickets, C. Cotton playing a good innings of 45.

The L.M.S. team suffered their customary fate. Against Silverdale at Stoke they could total no more than 110, though C. Mason going in first, was last

out, and played an admirable innings of 52. The steady bowling of Ben Griffiths was the chief factor in their undoing, and he came out with the fine record of eight for 78. Silverdale won by six wickets, and J. Ankers gave another masterly display of polished batting in scoring 66, not out. He got his runs in 75 minutes, and his delightful offside strokes brought him most of his eleven boundaries.

The following is the league table to date:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Nantwich	17	11	3	3	25
Crewe Alex.	17	10	4	3	23
Leek	17	9	5	3	21
Bignall End	17	7	5	5	19
Porthill	17	6	4	7	19
Norton	17	8	7	2	18
Great Chell	17	6	6	5	17
Silverdale	17	5	5	7	17
Knypersley	17	4	6	7	15
Longton	17	6	8	3	15
Burslem	17	5	9	3	13
L.M.S.I.	17	0	15	2	2

In the second division Stone recovered some of the ground they have lost by occasional indifferent displays, for they registered a good win at Fenton, whilst the leaders, Sandyford, were unexpectedly defeated at Alsager's Bank, where they tumbled out for 39. R. C. Worthington had a good day with Stone, for after making 24 not out he took eight wickets for 15 runs. Sandyford still lead the way, two points ahead of Stone.

Stafford v. Lichfield

By the wide margin of 101 runs, Lichfield 1st XI. were defeated by Stafford 1st on the latter's ground on Saturday, when they only succeeded in knocking up 89 to the home side's 190. The chief contributors to the Lichfield total were F. Broadbent and G. Knight, who completed 37 and 26 respectively, they being the only two Lichfield players to attain to double figures. A creditable batting display was given by Stafford, a splendid double figure innings being played by W. T. Neville, who hit up 58, whilst two outstanding contributions were made also

by G. M. Mountford with 30, and A. J. Ward with 31. Scores:—

Stafford: F. Page lbw b Oram 9, W. T. Neville c Ellett b Broadbent 58, G. M. Mountford b Broadbent 30, E. Bostock Boyd lbw b Broadbent 1, R. H. Warwick st Cook b Cooper 9, R. C. Wood lbw b Cooper 11, G. Greatorex b Broadbent 0, L. J. Birch st Cook b Broadbent 16, A. S. Webb b Broadbent 10, A. J. Ward c Cooper b Mann 31, E. C. Kenworthy not out 2, extras 13; total 190.

Lichfield: E. C. Carnwell c Page b Kenworthy 7, F. Broadbent b Kenworthy 37, R. Cook lbw b Kenworthy 0, Lieut. Johnson b Kenworthy 0, W. Mann c Warwick b Kenworthy 0, F. Rudgard b Ward b Warwick 4, G. Knight c Birch b Webb 26, F. Cooper c and b Kenworthy 4, G. Ellett at Boyd b Webb 0, A. Slater not out 1, F. Oram c Boyd b Webb 2, extras 8; total 89.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S LAST HOME MATCH.

Rain Causes Long Delay at Porthill.

Cheshire Make a Good Start.

For their last home match of the season, Staffordshire entertained Cheshire at Porthill to-day, where conditions were anything but perfect. The weather was autumn-like, with intermittent showers and fleeting glimpses of sun.

Staffordshire have invariably fared well at the expense of their neighbouring rivals, and have already defeated them at Macclesfield this season. The corresponding match last season was ruined by heavy rain.

REPEATED STOPPAGES.

Cheshire won the toss, and though the wicket was on the soft side, decided to take the first innings. The opening batsmen, D. Boumphrey and W. E. Jones, fared the bowling of Barnes and Lockett.

Barnes had only sent down three balls, when a heavy shower of rain came on, compelling the players to retire.

After a short delay the game was resumed but only three additional overs had been delivered, producing five quickly run singles, when another heavy shower caused a second stoppage. This time the covers were brought into use.

The stoppage lasted 25 minutes, and when play was resumed Boumphrey despatched Lockett for a single, but the opening stages were marked by cautious batting. Barnes, after having bowled five overs, was replaced by Boon, and off his second ball Boumphrey gave Day a possible chance in the slips with a fast travelling ball.

BOUMPHREY AGGRESSIVE.

The first stroke to the boundary was made by Boumphrey, who turned Boon to leg. He followed this up by driving the same bowler to the rails and then square cutting him to the boundary.

Rain again caused a cessation of play for nearly 25 minutes, and when the field was again taken there was every indication that further interference was likely.

Three runs were added, and then Crump just failed to make a spectacular left-hand catch at point from a square cut by Boumphrey—it was a splendid effort. Off the next ball Boumphrey sent Boon to the boundary, and then play was again interfered with by rain. This was the fourth stoppage, a torrential downpour bringing with it thunder and lightning.

POOLS OF WATER.

Rain fell continuously and relentlessly during the luncheon interval, the field being quickly dotted with pools of water. It ceased at about a quarter past two, but by that time it was hopeless to expect any play for at least two hours, even if further rain held off.

A brilliant spell of sunshine followed the downfall, and efforts were made to drain the pools. The wicket itself was greatly affected, despite the fact that it had been partly covered.

Bright sunshine and a drying wind had the effect of partly removing the pools of water, but the turf remained in a sodden condition.

The high wind brought with it a further shower, though it was of slight duration. The umpires inspected the wicket at 3.30, but it had not dried sufficiently for the play to be resumed.

THE GAME RESUMED.

Just before four o'clock, the pitch had recovered sufficiently for Boumphrey and W. E. Jones to resume, but the outfield was very wet, and in some parts the fielders threw up sprays of water.

Boumphrey immediately turned Boon to the leg boundary, and in the bowler's next over he made a nice cut, also for four.

The state of the field can be imagined, for, when Day made a full length dive at point in an endeavour to field a square cut from Boumphrey his clothing became saturated.

Boumphrey batted in very convincing style, making some delightful cuts and adding 17 to his score in ten minutes.

He had profited however, by having chances unaccepted in the slips. He took his score to 50 in about an hour and, on a wicket that played easy he continued to hit out freely until Barnes displaced Boon, when the rate of scoring fell very perceptibly. Six runs only were registered off his seven overs.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

D Boumphrey lbw b Lockett	54
W E Jones c Bickerton b Lockett	21
J. N Jones c Crump b Barnes	1
T W Jefferson c Cross b Barnes	12
J A McIntyre not out	0
Extras	3
Total (for 4 wks)	91

LENGTHY DELAYS AT PORTHILL.

Staffordshire Take First Innings Lead.

A Definite Finish Unlikely.

Rain greatly interfered with play in Staffordshire's last home match of the season with Cheshire at Porthill yesterday, but about two and three-quarters hours cricket was possible, during which Cheshire scored 133. There were four interruptions before lunch, and during the interval rain fell so heavily that it was not possible to resume until nearly four o'clock. Boumphrey played some forcing cricket, but he gave four chances in compiling 54. His chief strokes, through the slips and square cuts, brought him eight fours. When Barnes went on for a second spell of bowling, wickets fell quickly, the last nine batsmen being dismissed for 58. Barnes was in great form taking seven wickets for 42 runs. The innings finished at 6.15 and as there was no time for Staffordshire to bat, stumps were drawn for the day.

SLOW SCORING BETWEEN SHOWERS.

The weather conditions were decidedly unfavourable when play was resumed this morning, and there was every prospect of intermittent showers. Just before play commenced there was a short, but sharp shower.

Bickerton and Crump opened quietly to the bowling of Wilson and Steventon, but when only two runs had been scored off four overs, Bickerton narrowly missed being run out.

Bickerton then turned Steventon to the leg boundary, but only ten runs were scored in 20 minutes.

Against some steady bowling, both batsmen scored slowly, and after sending down seven overs, five of which were maidens, for two runs, Wilson was relieved by L. N. Jones. Dutton was also introduced in the attack, but play remained uninteresting, singles being the rule with the exception of a stroke that produced a two to Crump.

Forty minutes at the wicket saw the score taken to 18, when a heavy shower of rain caused a suspension of play.

IMPROVED SCORING.

After a delay of about 40 minutes, play was resumed, with Wilson bowling from the Marsh end, but, with only four runs, rain fell again.

This time it was only of brief duration, and on making another resumption, Crump despatched Jones to leg for two, and Bickerton cut him through the slips to the boundary. The rate of scoring had now improved, but it took an hour for the opening batsmen to put on 40. Bickerton made a number of attractive strokes, but on a dead turf, found that it required considerable force to get the ball away.

Crump survived a very confident appeal for lbw by Dennis, but shortly afterwards he was dismissed in this manner by Steventon, a rather stolid partnership having produced 51 runs.

McEllin, in his first few minutes at the wicket, placed Wilson dangerously near to W. E. Jones at short leg, and then skied a ball almost to the boundary for two. His best stroke, however, before lunch was a pull off Steventon, which sent the ball out of the ground for six.

After lunch Bickerton continued to bat confidently until rain caused another adjournment—of only ten minutes duration, however.

BICKERTON'S FIFTY.

The rain gave way to brilliant sunshine, and Bickerton and McEllin continued their partnership playing soundly and showing more enterprise than had been the case during the morning's play.

McEllin glided Jones to leg and later sent Dutton twice to the rails with excellent hits.

At 4.1, Bickerton came near to being dismissed when, off Steventon, he put the ball dangerously near to W. E. Jones, who ran in from short leg in an unsuccessful attempt to effect a catch.

Subsequently Bickerton became a little more subdued, but he reached his score to 50 by first turning Steventon to the leg boundary and then sending the same bowler through the slips, also for four.

The second wicket partnership had put on 55 runs when McEllin was caught in the slips

by L. N. Jones, having contributed a useful 30 in 40 minutes.

With Barnes in, Bickerton skied a delivery from Steventon, and Dutton, running from cover to long-off, brought off a splendid catch, the third wicket falling at 11.1.

Lockett signalled his arrival by hitting out merrily at the bowling of Steventon, one hit being to leg for 4, and another an off-drive—also to the boundary.

Barnes was then out to a smart catch by Jefferon at deep mid-off, and Day, without scoring, was taken at first slip by L. N. Jones.

A LEAD OF THIRTY.

Lockett gave a pleasing batting display, but after Dennis had missed him, he gave W. E. Jones a simple catch at short leg.

When Cross became associated with Boon, the latter made a great hit for six sending the ball well into the adjoining field. He also hit a six off L. N. Jones when partnered by White.

Staffordshire's innings concluded at 4.10 for 163, having established a lead of 50 runs on the first innings.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

D Boumphrey lbw b Lockett	54
W E Jones c Bickerton b Lockett	21
J. N Jones c Crump b Barnes	1
T W Jefferson c Cross b Barnes	12
J A McIntyre b Lockett	2
Wilson c Bickerton b Barnes	5
R N Dutton b Barnes	11
W R Stearing c Crump b Barnes	5
E H Steventon not out	12
J A Pratt lbw b Barnes	2
Dennis b Barnes	4
Extras	4
Total	133

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton c Dutton b Steventon	53
L H Crump lbw b Steventon	21
L McEllin c L N Jones b Steventon	30
Barnes c Jefferson b Dennis	3
A Lockett c W E Jones b Wilson	27
A L Day c L N Jones b Dennis	0
J S Heath b L N Jones	2
R S A Hardy b L N Jones	0
E P Cross c W E Jones b L N Jones	2
Boon b L N Jones	17
D L White not out	0
Extras	8
Total	163

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Cheshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	21.4	4	42	7
Lockett	28	10	53	3
Boon	7	1	34	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Cheshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
75	78	90	91	97	109	114	119	129	133

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
51	106	111	122	125	143	143	144	155	163

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	29	12	39	1
Steventon	18	4	46	3
Dutton	6	2	13	0
L N Jones	15.2	4	40	4
Dennis	7	0	17	2

STAFFORDSHIRE WIN BY EIGHT WICKETS.

Barnes' Remarkable Bowling.

There was some remarkable cricket at Port-hill Park, Stoke, yesterday, when play was extended until seven o'clock for Staffordshire to win a fine victory over Cheshire by eight wickets. Interference by rain made it appear throughout the greater part of the day that Staffordshire would have to be content with first-innings points. They had replied to Cheshire's over-night total of 133 with 163, and Cheshire, going in a second time, were all out for 67.

Their collapse was due to some sensational bowling by Barnes, who, at one period, had six wickets for no runs, and came out with the fine figures of eight wickets for 25. In the match he took fifteen wickets for 67 runs. Staffordshire had half an hour in which to score the 38 runs required for victory, and, on a badly-wearing wicket, they accomplished this task in eighteen minutes. Scores:—

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

D Boumphrey lbw b Lockett	54
W E Jones c Bickerton b Lockett	21
L N Jones c Crump b Barnes	1
T W Jefferson c Cross b Barnes	12
J A McEntyre b Locett	2
Wilson c Bickerton b Barnes	5
R N Dutton b Barnes	11
W R Stearing c Crump b Barnes	5
E H Steventon not out	12
J A Pratt lbw b Barnes	2
Dennis b Barnes	4
Extras	4
Total	133

CHESHIRE.—Second Innings.

D Boumphrey c Crump b Barnes	11
W E Jones lbw b Barnes	19
L L N Jones c Day b Barnes	8
T W Jefferson b Barnes	0
J A McEntyre c Crump b Barnes	9
Wilson b Barnes	0
R N Dutton c Crump b Barnes	2
W R Stearing c Bickerton b Barnes	0
E H Steventon c Day b Lockett	12
J A Pratt c White b Lockett	0
Dennis not out	0
Extras	6
Total	67

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton c Dutton b Steventon	53
L H Crump lbw b Steventon	21
L McEllin c L N Jones b Steventon	30
Barnes c Jefferson b Dennis	3
A Lockett c W E Jones b Wilson	27
A L Day c L N Jones b Dennis	0
J S Heath b L N Jones	2
R S A Hardy b L N Jones	0
F P Cross c W E Jones b L N Jones	2
Boon b L N Jones	17
D L White not out	0
Extras	8
Total	163

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

Lockett not out	21
Boon st Stearing b L Jones	12
A A Bickerton c Jefferson b L Jones	0
L McEllen not out	4
Extras	3
Total (2 wks)	40

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Cheshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	21.4	4	42	7
Lockett	28	10	53	3
Boon	7	1	34	0

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	18	7	25	8
Lockett	15.3	5	36	2

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	29	12	39	1
Steventon	18	4	46	3
Dutton	6	2	13	0
L N Jones	15.2	4	40	4
Dennis	7	0	17	2

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
L N Jones	3	0	17	2
Wilson	3.2	0	45	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Cheshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
75	78	90	91	97	109	114	119	129	133

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
21	37	37	42	42	46	48	59	60	67

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
51	106	111	122	125	143	143	144	155	163

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

1	2
25	25

MINOR COUNTIES' TABLE.

Results to August 12th (Inclusive).

	1st Inns	No	Pts.	Pts.
	P.	W.	L.	R.
Berkshire	5	2	0	0
Bucks.	6	4	1	1
Durham	6	2	4	0
Lancashire II.	10	5	1	1
Wills	4	2	1	1
Staffs.	8	2	4	0
Herts.	9	4	1	2
Oxon	7	3	1	1
Glouc.	8	3	0	1
Norfolk	8	2	2	3
Cornwall	7	1	3	0
Devon	9	3	1	3
Surrey II.	11	2	4	2
Kent II.	7	1	3	1
Notts II.	7	1	1	2
Northumberland	7	2	1	1
Cambs	6	1	1	1
Cheshire	6	1	0	2
Leicestershire II.	8	1	0	2
Yorkshire II.	9	1	0	3
Dorset	6	1	0	0
Monmouthshire	7	0	0	3

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Cheshire

A THRILLING VICTORY

By THE CRITIC

This match, the last home engagement on the Staffordshire card, began at Port-hill on Monday, when the weather was so unfavourable, and the attendance was negligible. Throughout the morning rain repeatedly interrupted the game, and only 45 minutes' play was possible between the showers. During the luncheon interval two pelting storms passed over the ground, which was practically inundated, water standing in large pools all over the field. Under the influence of the high wind and powerful sun, the ground dried so quickly, however, that play was resumed at 3.45, and there was no further interruption except for a shower, which lengthened the tea interval to half an hour. Altogether, there was 24 hours' play, during which Cheshire completed an innings for 133, after scoring 75 for the first wicket.

Cheshire had a rather strong side out, D. Boumphrey, now a schoolmaster at Colwyn Bay, being included, but Staffs. were rather weakly represented, amongst the absentees being H. W. Homer, W. H. Ellerker, G. A. Fitton, A. W. Ikin, and Sedgwick. E. Perry also had to cry off, and his place was taken by A. L. Day.

In such weather it was, of course, a chancy wicket. The frequent showers handicapped the bowlers, and made spin ineffective until, as the afternoon wore on, the grass dried and the pitch began to respond to finger-spin. Then it soon became difficult, and Barnes had batsmen almost at his mercy. There is a time and place for everything, and mercy belongeth not to bowling—or batting, for that matter—and so Barnes did his worst, and made quite good batsmen look foolish to the uninitiated by placing the simplest of catches in the waiting hands of the fielders clustered around. It is surely a proof of great bowling when a good batsman, knowing the fielder is there, places the ball in his hands with a stroke that superficially looks positively childish. For example, L. N. Jones is an experienced batsman, a natural hitter, and a prolific run-getter for a good many years, but he did it.

Barnes and Lockett opened the bowling when the game started, W. E. Jones, the Cheshire skipper, being partnered by Boumphrey, but after bowling five overs for as many runs, Barnes gave way to Boon, presumably because the surface was too wet to take spin. Lockett kept so good a length that seven overs yielded only five runs, and though he then favoured Boumphrey with a half-volley and a long-hop, both of which went for four—a drive and a cut—they were his only loose ones in a long spell of bowling. But Boon was a little erratic with the wet ball and the rather treacherous foothold, which the frequent showers did not improve. Boumphrey got a couple of fine leg shots from him, but was distinctly lucky with a number of strokes through the slips. Though Boon had four slip fielders, the ball went between them. Day might have caught the very first of these if he had got his right hand to it instead of trying to reach it with two hands, and two or three others were touched by the fielders, who were only an inch or two short of getting a grip on the ball. Boon's speed is such that the ball travels at a great pace through the slips, and it is, perhaps, hard on a fielder to call such attempts failure to take chances. But they were fortunate escapes for the batsman, and distinctly unlucky for the young bowler, who bowled while ball and pitch were wettest, and, quite properly, in the interests of the side, was relieved to allow Barnes to resume when sun and wind were beginning to tell.

It was Lockett who separated the first pair, in his fifteenth over, when his quick one had Boumphrey leg before. The batsman had almost monopolised the scoring; had taken risks with the fast bowling, but had played a splendid game for his side. He reached fifty in just over an hour, and had eight fours. L. N. Jones soon fell at short leg, and the captain was nicely taken in the slips. Barnes next got Jefferson snapped at the wicket, and Wilson caught off his glove

in the slips, and Lockett bowled the left-hander, McEntyre, with a ball which went through a very straight when he was expecting break. From that point Barnes had all the wickets, and no one could play him. Dutton hit him for four and two, but was missed at point the previous ball, and Dennis got four for a lofty hit, which would have been caught but for the sun in the fielder's eyes. Even so, Barnes came out with a fine analysis, and his last four wickets were obtained for eight runs. Lockett bowled throughout, with the strong wind against his off-spin, and served the side exceedingly well.

Tuesday's Exciting Play

Tuesday morning was a repetition of Monday, in that frequent showers interrupted the game four times before 2.30, and Staffordshire opened their innings under conditions very similar to those of the previous day, bowlers being handicapped by a wet pitch and ball. The early Staffordshire batsmen had a chance which was denied to the men who followed, and they took advantage of it, although Crump remained too much on the defence, and took an hour and a quarter to score 21. The bowling did not invite liberties, and Bickerton, who played his usual attractive game, took an hour and a-half to reach 50 out of 102. Both McEllen and Lockett went for the bowling, and the former lifted Steventon on to the Marsh with a nice square-leg hit for six. But after the fall of the second wicket, at 106, the bowlers got on top, for the rain kept off and the sun soon began to make the wicket play differently. Five were down before the Cheshire score was passed. E. H. Steventon, the Nantwich captain, was the only bowler to get wickets while the pitch was fairly easy, but afterwards L. N. Jones bowled effectively, making the ball turn quickly. Wilson had maintained a good length, and kept the runs down well. Lockett put Staffordshire ahead by one of several excellent boundary strokes, with five wickets standing, but the lead was only 11 with eight wickets down. Then Boon made a tremendous on-drive far out of the ground from Wilson, and hit L. N. Jones square for another six, so that Staffordshire secured a lead on the first innings of 30.

With the wicket now helping the bowlers it seemed possible that Staffordshire might force a win if there were no more rain to ease it again, and the sun holding sway for the rest of the afternoon that was what actually happened, Barnes being the determining factor. When Cheshire went in there was an hour and three-quarters for play, with an extra half-hour if needed. The first pair stayed half an hour and scored 21 from Barnes and Lockett, but as the effect of the roller began to wear off Barnes became unplayable. The second wicket took the score to 37, and 20 were scored from Barnes's first nine overs for one wicket. Then the excitement began, and it started with a wonderful catch on the rails by Day, who ran along the boundary at top speed and collided with Boon, coming the other way, as he secured the ball low down. It is a long time since I have seen a more brilliant catch in the long field. At the same total a marvellous leg-break bowled Jefferson, and with five added W. E. Jones was trapped leg-before by one that turned a shade the other way when he was obviously expecting it to go away, and Wilson was utterly beaten by a replica of the ball that bowled Jefferson. Four more runs, and Crump crept up to take Dutton scarcely two yards from the bat and Spearing skied one straight up in a despairing effort to hit the great bowler. Four overs and one ball had been sent down by Barnes for no runs and six wickets. It was the world's best bowler at his best on a wicket that suited him. Steventon batted courageously, but Barnes got the left-hander, McEntyre, who had had a lot of luck with Lockett, neatly taken at the wicket, so that he secured all the first eight wickets. But Lockett had been bowling well with the worst of luck, frequently beating the bat and getting very close to the wicket, and he got a little consolation in the form of the last two wickets. The end came when Day and Crump, running from opposite directions near the leg boundary for a big hit by Steventon, were in another collision, but again Day brought off a lovely catch. His two spectacular catches had a good deal to do with 46 giving Staffordshire the chance to win, for the two strokes might easily

have been two fours instead of two wickets, and with many more runs to get the task could not have been accomplished in the time. All through the Staffordshire fielding was excellent, and a big improvement on that seen in some previous innings.

Cheshire were out at 6.15, dismissed in an hour and a-half, and Staffordshire had 32 minutes to get 38 runs for victory. Lockett and Boon made the task easy by scoring 25 in ten minutes. Lockett got two fours from Wilson's opening over, and Boon made two splendid off-drives from L. N. Jones. The first was on the ground and travelled to the boundary at a great pace, and the second was the best hit of the match, landing the ball some 40 yards beyond the rails. He was too eager, however, and was easily stumped, whilst Bickerton was caught in front of the pavilion from a big drive off the first ball he received. With McEllin in, Lockett again turned Wilson daintily to leg for 4 and cut him for another to give Staffordshire the victory by eight wickets with a quarter of an hour to spare.

Scores and analysis:—

Cheshire.—First Innings	
D. Boumphrey lbw b Lockett	54
W. E. Jones c Bickerton b Lockett	21
L. N. Jones c Crump b Barnes	1
T. W. Jefferson c Cross b Barnes	12
J. A. McEntyre b Lockett	2
Wilson c Bickerton b Barnes	5
R. M. Dutton b Barnes	11
W. R. Spearing c Crump b Barnes	5
E. H. Steventon not out	12
J. A. Pratt lbw b Barnes	2
Dennis c McEllin b Barnes	4
Extras	4
Total	133

Second Innings	
D. Boumphrey c Crump b Barnes	11
W. E. Jones lbw b Barnes	19
L. N. Jones c Day b Barnes	8
T. W. Jefferson b Barnes	0
J. A. McEntyre c Cross b Barnes	9
Wilson b Barnes	0
R. M. Dutton c Crump b Barnes	2
W. R. Spearing c Bickerton b Barnes	12
E. H. Steventon c Day b Lockett	0
J. A. Pratt c White b Lockett	0
Dennis not out	0
Extras	6
Total	67

Staffordshire.—First Innings	
A. A. Bickerton c Dutton b Steventon	53
L. H. Crump lbw b Steventon	21
L. McEllin c L. N. Jones b Steventon	30
Barnes c Jefferson b Dennis	3
A. Lockett c W. E. Jones b Wilson	27
A. L. Day c L. N. Jones b Dennis	0
J. S. Heath b L. N. Jones	2
R. S. A. Hardy b L. N. Jones	0
E. P. Cross c W. E. Jones b L. N. Jones	2
Boon b L. N. Jones	17
D. J. White not out	0
Extras	8
Total	163

Second Innings	
A. A. Bickerton c Jefferson b L. N. Jones	0
L. McEllin not out	4
A. Lockett not out	21
Boon st. Spearing b L. N. Jones	12
Extras	3
Total (for 2 wickets)	40

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Cheshire.—First Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	21.4	4	42	7
Lockett	23	10	53	3
Boon	7	1	34	0

Second Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	16	7	25	8
Lockett	15.3	5	36	2

Staffordshire.—First Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	29	12	39	1
Steventon	18	4	46	3
Dutton	6	2	13	0
L. N. Jones	15.2	4	40	4
Dennis	7	0	17	2

Second Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	3.2	0	20	0
L. N. Jones	3	0	17	2

North Staffs. and District League

NANTWICH RAMPANT: LEEK HUNTING CHESHIRE CLUBS HOME

By "THE CRITIC"

Nantwich, on Saturday, faced one of the stiff hurdles to be negotiated in the run home for the championship stakes, and, clearing it in their stride, got appreciably nearer their second successive championship. They are not quite safe yet, for their Crewe neighbours are sticking to them wonderfully well, and Leek are hunting the two Cheshire clubs home in gallant style. It is just possible that the issue may remain to be decided when Nantwich visit the Moorland town on the last Saturday of the season. If so, it will be a thrilling finish to an interesting season.

The all-round strength of the champions' team was much in evidence at Forthill, where, recovering from a bad beginning, as they have often done, they outplayed the home team and won a convincing victory. A good wicket was thrown away when L. E. Norton was run out, and though J. B. Swindale (25) batted well, four wickets were lost for 50. With some teams that would mean dismissal for 100 or so and probable defeat. Not so with Nantwich. The brothers Steventon did what was needed and pulled the game round. "E.H." made 36 and "T.W." 32—an absolutely invaluable stand, and J. E. Smith came along with 39 not out, so that the total reached 180. Such a useful score gave the bowlers confidence, and Porthill never looked like saving the game. Against the bowling of E. H. Steventon (5 for 26) and L. Haighton (5 for 40), Porthill's batting crumpled up for the second time in consecutive matches, and they were bundled out for 76, which, I believe, is their lowest score of the season. The bowling was good, but there was some batting which was rather feeble, and certainly not worthy of Porthill's batting repute. It is a new experience for them to be dismissed twice in following matches for 63 and 76, and holiday absences scarcely furnish an adequate excuse.

Crewe also made a similar recovery to that of their rivals from a bad start, only more so, for after losing half their wickets for 55 they declared at 211 for 7 at Bignall End, and then rattled the home side, rather badly depleted by the holidays, out for 92. It was H. Norman (74) and Sedgwick (35) who changed the whole tenour of the game by a partnership which realised 102 for Crewe's sixth wicket. It was a meritorious performance, for Douglas White was bowling well, and had taken 4 of the 5 wickets cheaply. Sedgwick had a good match, for his bowling had all the home batsmen completely pegged down, and his five wickets cost only 13 runs. There was one highly pleasing feature of the Bignall End innings. Whilst older players could make no headway, a 17-year-old boy in K. W. Platt played cricket which gave fine promise for his future in scoring 39. The old club seem to have another good young one coming along to maintain the reputation of the nursery which has produced so many good cricketers.

Leek appear to have found another useful bowler in W. S. Hutchinson, who is, I understand, fairly quick right-arm. He did well a week earlier, when the absence of Harold Birch called his services into requisition, and on Saturday he was to a considerable extent responsible for the defeat of Burslem at Leek. Burslem were not doing badly until he came on, and in five overs took 5 wickets for 14. Four of these were clean bowled and the other leg-before, and as he bowled L. H. Crump, who had played the other bowlers confidently and scored 40, and also got rid of Roy Hollowood and Evans Cook, his performance was as meritorious as it was useful. As a result, Leek had only to face a total of 110, and won very comfortably by 6 wickets. Their start was not promising, for three wickets went for 14, but Arthur Rider had to be reckoned with, and when he found a partner to stay with him the issue was soon made safe. It

was H. Oliver (44) who filled the role, and he and Rider added 73 at a capital pace. Stumps were drawn with the score at 119 for four, and Rider took out his bat for 58.

The meetings of Knypersley and Great Chell are always interesting and create much local interest. Generally speaking, there is not a great deal to choose between the teams, but this season Chell have been definitely on top, and on Saturday completed the double victory in no uncertain fashion at Knypersley. The home side failed with the bat, totalling only a level 100. As was the case when the teams met at Chell on Whit Tuesday, they found the slow leg-breaks of P. Vodrey tantalising, and, with G. Fitchford also bowling well, all their usual run-getters failed. The two bowlers had four wickets each. A big stand by Ikin (48) and Arthur Smith (68), which added 113 for the third wicket, gave Chell the victory by eight wickets, and when the stumps were pulled up they had reached 150 for five.

Longton made a draw at Silverdale, where the home spectators were delighted with the success of A. Ward, their young batsman, who is steadily making a name for himself. Silverdale took first innings, and things were not looking well when E. Downing, C. F. Rushton, and J. Ankers had gone before 50 was reached. Ward found a useful partner in J. Whalen (24), and after his dismissal Ben Griffiths proved his all-round value by following up his deadly bowling of a week previously with a capital innings of 45. The batting of Ward, however, overshadowed everything else. He was at the crease two hours, and in a really good innings of 80 had 14 boundary strokes. I have not been fortunate enough to see this young man in an innings of any length, and when at Silverdale a few weeks ago I saw him foolishly run out just when settling down after a slightly uncertain start. But there are others besides his friends at Silverdale, I believe, who have a high opinion of his ability, and as he is young and has every physical advantage, one hopes for big things from him as time goes on. One or two cuts from his bat off Douglas White, of Bignall End, before he was run out, certainly had the hall-mark of class. He probably had some loose bowling on Saturday, but he had to check Harold Brassington and Smith first, and they are a pair who take some knocking off. Silverdale declared at 197 for 7 wickets, and Longton replied with 146 for 5, A. C. Hawkins doing his side a splendid turn with an excellent not out innings of 50. This player has been unfortunate for some time, and has been quite unable to get going. But he came into his own at an opportune moment, and the draw sufficed to lift Longton one place in the table owing to the defeat of Knypersley. Silverdale have more draws than any other club. Their batting is stronger than their bowling.

The L.M.S. are, at least, consistent. As I feared when I saw them on the second Saturday of the season, they have been out of their class. At Norton their bowling was hit to the tune of 196 for 9, at which the home side declared, and the reply of the Railwaymen totalled 68. The Norton scoring was even, and Mayer took 6 L.M.S. wickets for 31. Norton have certainly had a season of extraordinary fluctuations. At the beginning of June, with 5 wins and 2 draws out of 8 matches, they were at the top of the table with a clear lead of two points. Then their batting went to pieces, and they lost six matches running, dropping to ninth place. Since then they have won 4 matches in succession, and have risen again to 4th position.

League table to date:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts
Nantwich	16	12	3	3	27
Crewe Alexandra	13	11	4	3	25
Leek	15	10	5	3	25
Norton	13	9	7	2	20
Bignall End	13	7	6	5	19
Great Chell	13	7	6	5	19
Porthill	18	6	5	7	19
Silverdale	12	5	5	8	18
Longton	14	6	8	4	16
Knypersley	18	4	7	7	15
Burslem	18	5	10	3	15
L.M.S.R.	18	0	16	2	2

Stone and Sandyford are running an exciting race for promotion in the E

section. The latter are strong in bowling, with a match winner in A. Bourne, who had 6 cheap wickets again on Saturday. Stone, especially on their own ground, are good for piles of runs, but their bowling is often hit rather freely. Both teams won on Saturday, and the scores in the respective matches reveal the special strength of each, for Sandyford beat Fenton in a low-scoring game, while at Stone 374 runs were scored for the loss of 17 wickets. Stone again passed the 200 mark and declared at 206 for 7 (P. F. Stubbs 53, F. Ravenscroft 43, and Ashcombe Park replied with 183 (W. Walker 62, F. James 53, A. Rutter 44 not out). With four matches each to play, Sandyford have a lead of two points, and it looks as though Stone's visit to Sandyford on the last Saturday of the season may be in the nature of a decider.

Walsall Well Beaten

Walsall visited Sandyford Park on Saturday to play West Bromwich Dartmouth in a Birmingham League match, but found the home side too strong for them, and they were easily beaten. Going in to bat first, Walsall made the respectable score of 163, thanks to Wilkinson's 67 and N. P. Hewson's 25. The home team put on 165 for four wickets, and won with a few minutes to spare, as they were batting "against the clock." Hickman made a good 53 and Deeley 47 not out. For the winners, Waddington had seven Walsall wickets for 63 runs.

Blymhill v. Shifnal 11.

The return match was played at Shifnal on Saturday. It resulted in an easy victory for the visitors by 77 runs with five wickets to spare. Scores:—

Shifnal 11.—H. Waker c Craig b Hitchen 7, C. Bishop lbw b Hughes 12, H. Phillips c Hughes b Hitchen 2, T. Meredith b Altree 12, J. Southall b Altree 12, J. Fewtrell c Altree b Hughes 2, W. Pointon c Mayland b Altree 4, L. Hargreaves c Mayland b Hughes 4, F. Deller run out 16, L. Hollinshead b Hughes 0, O. Stevens not out 1, extras 1, total 73.

Blymhill.—R. D. Smith retired 29, A. Hughes lbw b Walker 12, W. Lawson b Phillips 39, H. Harper b Phillips 0, N. Mayland not out 22, R. Hitchen c Walker b Phillips 0, F. Averill not out 18, extras 30, total 150. W. H. Price, F. Altree, S. Medlicott, and A. R. Craig did not bat.

Lichfield v. Wednesbury

High scoring characterised the match, which resulted in a drawn game, between the above teams on the Birmingham Road Ground, Lichfield, on Saturday. Wednesbury, batting first, ran up 225 for eight, the home team responding with 195 for five. Two outstanding contributions to the visitors' score were made by G. Wynyard and F. Rowlinson, with 33 and 50 respectively. Only one player in the team failed to reach double figures. For Lichfield, Capt. Howard played an excellent innings, being responsible for 110 runs, which included no less than 17 fours, R. Cook also hit up a creditable 60, including six four's, and was the first to leave with the score 157, a record for the first wicket since the war. G. Ellett took three wickets for 51 for the homesters. Scores:—

Wednesbury.—G. Wynyard lbw b Ellett 33, W. R. Hey c Johnson b Ellett 10, L. Holmes run out 15, F. Rowlinson b Ellett 50, C. Ryder b Mann 31, W. Holmes run out 11, R. Lawton c Brown b Oram 4, S. Corfield not out 28, H. Hipkiss b Johnson 32, extras 15, total (for eight wickets) 229.

Lichfield.—Capt. Howard c Hipkiss b Wynyard 110, R. Cooke c Hipkiss b Wynyard 60, J. Brown c Brown b Hipkiss 5, G. Fluck b Hipkiss 0, Lieut. Johnson not out 0, W. Mann not out 4, F. Rudgard c Rowlinson b Hipkiss 7, extras 9, total (for five wickets) 185. D. Parker, A. Slater, G. Ellett, and F. Oram did not bat.

BARNES IN BOWLING FORM.

Takes Eight Lancashire Wickets.

Staffordshire's Last Match.

BLACKBURN, Wednesday.

In meeting Lancashire II. at Blackburn today, Staffordshire entered upon their last match of the season, and were faced with a formidable task.

The match was not without interest, for although Staffordshire had little or no chance of gaining the championship, Lancashire II., by defeating Staffordshire, would considerably enhance their prospects of doing so.

The visiting county introduced Fitchford, who had played for the county before, but who was making his first appearance this season.

Heavy rain during the week-end, and again yesterday almost flooded the ground, making the wicket extremely soft.

The weather was fine but threatening, with intermittent bursts of sunshine, this morning.

AN EARLY SUCCESS.

Staffordshire lost the toss, and Lancashire opened their innings with Paynter and Pickering, against the bowling of Barnes and Lockett.

The home county started badly, for only three runs had been scored when Pickering was caught by Sedgwick at point, off Barnes. Hawkwood joined Paynter, and was missed in the slips by Boon, who just failed to take a catch high up.

There was no inclination to hit out against a keen attack, and in 20 minutes only 10 runs were scored.

Paynter then edged a ball through the slips to the boundary, and Hawkwood got Lockett away for two.

Paynter again despatched Barnes through the slips for 4, and a drive off Lockett by Hawkwood also went to the boundary.

The score reached 30 in 35 minutes, and with one run added Hawkwood was caught by Sedgwick, also at point, the bowler again being Barnes.

Paynter timed the bowling admirably, and in one over he got Barnes away for a four and three.

When Taylor had made a single, he skied a ball from Barnes to Filton, who made a splendid effort to take a running catch, but was unable to do so. In the same over, Taylor drove Barnes to the boundary, and Paynter also despatched Lockett to the rails.

HEATH'S FINE CATCH.

The partnership came to an end when Taylor made an attempt to pull Lockett to the leg boundary, and was smartly caught by Heath at mid-off. The partnership had produced 29 runs.

Having been joined by Booth, and with his score at 37, Paynter gave his first chance. It was a hard left-handed catch but after getting his hands to the ball, Perry dropped it.

Booth cut Lockett through the slips, but in the same over Paynter was bowled by a fine delivery from Lockett.

Horridge opened abakily, and Booth had only scored six when Heath brought off another successful catch at mid-off, Barnes again being the bowler.

Higson was hopelessly beaten by a delivery from Barnes which failed to remove the balls, but off the next ball he was dismissed lbw.

Barnes was bowling with deadly effect at this period and he got Farrimond's wicket before that batsman had scored, Lockett making a fine catch in the slips.

BARNES' FINE BOWLING.

Barnes had taken three wickets for no runs in one over, and he narrowly missed bowling Preston with the last ball of the over.

Preston was never comfortable, and having scored 3, he was caught in the slips by Fitchford.

Barnes had now taken six wickets for 45 runs. When play was resumed after lunch, both Horridge and Rushton made delightful strokes to the boundary off Lockett, and the century was sent up after just over two hours' play.

Horridge defended stubbornly and had scored 19 runs in 52 minutes. On the other hand, Rushton showed enterprise, but attempting to hit out at Barnes he skied a ball to Heath, who brought off a brilliant catch, retaining his hold as he overbalanced. This gave Barnes his fourth consecutive victim.

Horridge continued to show sound defence, but he too finally skied a delivery from Barnes, and was easily caught by Filton.

Lancashire's innings lasted 2½ hours, Barnes having the splendid analysis of eight wickets for 55 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S REPLY.

It was three o'clock when Staffordshire went in to bat, Filton and Fitchford being the opening batsmen. They faced the bowling of Booth and Holroyd.

Filton got Booth away for a single, and then despatched Holroyd for a two, but Staffordshire met with early disaster, Fitchford being out to a half-hearted appeal for lbw before he had scored.

Ikin opened by driving Booth to the boundary, and another off drive was only retrieved two or three yards from the boundary.

There was an early change of bowling, Rushton, who had with great success at Stoke, replacing Holroyd after the latter had bowled only two overs.

It was from one of his deliveries that the ball got up straight, and but Farrimond in the face, but in a few minutes he was able to recover and bowl the wickets.

Filton then made a nice cut off Booth for two, and also sent Rushton away to leg for another couple.

Ikin continued to play forceful cricket, and Holroyd was introduced into the attack, but meeting with no success, he was relieved by Horridge.

When Holroyd went on to bowl at the other end, however, Ikin skied a ball and was caught by Paynter.

On a wicket which was playing difficult, the partnership had been a valuable one, 40 runs having been added.

At 43, Filton, was bowled by Horridge, and Barnes, who had shown sound defence, was joined by Perry. The score reached 50 after 55 minutes' batting.

Directly afterwards, Perry survived a confident appeal for stumping, and the batsmen went on to score runs with a fair amount of freedom.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

L. J. Pickering c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Paynter b Lockett	29
C. Hawkwood c Sedgwick b Barnes	9
Taylor c Heath b Lockett	7
Booth c Heath b Barnes	6
Horridge c Filton b Barnes	25
P. Higson lbw b Barnes	0
Farrimond c Lockett b Barnes	0
Preston c Fitchford b Barnes	5
Rushton c Heath b Barnes	14
Holroyd not out	0
Extras	27
Total	125

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

W. H. Fitchford lbw b Booth	0
G. A. Filton b Horridge	14
A. W. Ikin c Paynter b Holroyd	23
Barnes (S. B.) not out	19
E. Perry not out	13
Extras	3
Total for 3 wickets	70

Later.—Staffordshire, 82 for three wickets.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	25.3	8	65	8
Lockett	25	6	49	2

Lockett bowled two no-balls.

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	31	60	71	81	81	81	95	110	123

STAFFORDSHIRE MATCH ABANDONED.

No Play Possible at Blackburn.

BLACKBURN, Thursday.

On one of the worst wearing wickets they have played on, Staffordshire put up a good performance in establishing a first innings lead of 16 runs in their match with Lancashire second at Blackburn yesterday.

Greatly affected by heavy rains, the wicket was in a bad condition by the time Lancashire had been dismissed for 123, and it became worse after the effects of the roller had disappeared when Staffordshire went in to bat. The visiting county, however, played resolutely and a useful partnership between Barnes and Perry resulted in 42 runs being put on for the fourth wicket, but the remaining batsmen found runs difficult to get, with the exception of Heath, who played a sterling innings for 25.

Lancashire had 20 minutes' batting before the close of play, during which 19 runs were scored without loss, though Pickering was twice missed.

Heavy rain fell early this morning and again half-an-hour before play should have commenced, saturating an already much affected wicket. The wicket had been partially covered, but there appeared little likelihood of a start being made before lunch.

A LONG WAIT.

Drizzling rain continued during the whole of the morning, and there appeared little or no prospect of a clearance. Although there were no pools of water on the turf, the pitch was in a soft condition.

It was raining fast at 12.30, but shortly before lunch time, there was a break in the weather, though the presence of heavy clouds suggested the possibility of a further down-pour.

In the absence of wind and sun, the chances of the wicket recovering were negligible, but it was decided that there should be an inspection of the wicket after lunch provided no further rain fell.

After the luncheon interval, which was taken early, the covers were removed in the hope that the wicket would recover sufficiently to permit of play.

From the luncheon interval until three o'clock, when a further inspection was made, the rain held off, but in the absence of a drying wind there was little change in the state of the wicket and it was decided to inspect the wicket again at 3.30.

The wicket was still unfit at 3.30, and it was agreed to inspect it again at 4 o'clock.

MATCH ABANDONED.

The weather brightened considerably, and the sun appeared at 4 o'clock, but the pitch was still unfit when it was inspected at this time, and the game was abandoned as a draw, Staffordshire taking points for the first innings.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

L. J. Pickering c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Paynter b Lockett	39
C. Hawkwood c Sedgwick b Barnes	9
Taylor c Heath b Lockett	7
Booth c Heath b Barnes	6
Horridge c Filton b Barnes	25
P. Higson lbw b Barnes	0
Farrimond c Lockett b Barnes	0
Preston c Fitchford b Barnes	3
Rushton c Heath b Barnes	14
Holroyd not out	0
Extras	20
Total	123

LANCASHIRE II.—Second Innings.

L. Pickering not out	4
Paynter not out	14
Extras	1
Total (for no wickets)	19

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

W. H. Fitchford lbw b Booth	0
G. A. Filton b Horridge	14
A. W. Ikin c Paynter b Holroyd	23
Barnes c Rushton b Holroyd	17
E. Perry at Farrimond b Horridge	28
A. Lockett c Paynter b Holroyd	4
J. S. Heath lbw b Booth	25
W. H. Ellerker b Horridge	0
Sedgwick c Paynter b Rushton	7
Boon c Farrimond b Holroyd	8
E. P. Cross not out	0
Extras	13
Total	139

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	25.3	8	55	8
Lockett	25	6	49	2

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

Booth	9.2	0	27	2
Holroyd	28	9	41	4
Rushton	10	2	21	1
Horridge	18	3	37	3

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	31	60	71	81	81	81	95	119	123

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	43	48	90	90	97	102	120	138	139

CRICKET

Staffordshire's Last Fixture

By THE CRITIC

Thirty-six hours before the return match between Staffordshire and Lancashire II. commenced at Blackburn on Wednesday, the ground was practically under water as the result of torrential rain. Consequently, the pitch was very soft, and appearances pointed to the likelihood that the winning of the toss would prove almost a decisive factor, unless more rain should come to upset calculations. One expected the wicket to play easily for a time, and as it dried to become excessively difficult, just as happened when the teams met at Stoke in "Wakes week." As Lancashire had the luck of the toss on that occasion, and put Staffordshire through the mill in consequence, poetic justice would have given the visitors choice of innings at Blackburn. Not so, however, the spin of the coin again went against Staffordshire, and so the dice were once more loaded against them.

But so far as the first day's play was concerned, the advantage was not so pronounced as seemed probable, and one was yet again reminded of the undoubted fact that there is nothing more incalculable than a cricket pitch. In my opinion Lancashire did have a material advantage in being able to bat first, but the wicket never did play easily, and it never got venomous, as did the pitch at Stoke in the latter part of that memorable match. I think Lancashire might have made better use of the first hour, before the ball had practically taken the top off the pitch, and it was fine bowling, quite as much as the difficulty of the wicket, which kept them scratching for runs from the very start. After the first hour the surface at both ends was badly cut up, and the ball had knocked a lot of the top dressing of marl off, exposing the darker soil beneath. Then the ball flew about in weird fashion. Finger-spin made it turn almost ad lib., and the ball kicked in the most disconcerting way. So that batsmen were always on tenterhooks. And yet the ball never turned with that devastating speed from the pitch which it did on the second afternoon of the Stoke match, and so the difference in the conditions for the two sides was not so great as appeared likely. But in batting second, Staffordshire were fighting against some odds and, therefore, their achievement in taking the lead on the first innings was a highly creditable one, and was won by superlatively good bowling, and a good level of skill in batting. Lancashire newspapers were already hailing their 2nd XI. as prospective winners of the Minor Counties' Championship, and they are unquestionably a clever side, but with fortune smiling upon them, they were unable to gain any advantage over Staffordshire, who were without their most dependable run-getter in H. W. Homer, and several other valuable batsmen.

Barnes and Lockett bowled unchanged

throughout the Lancashire innings of 21 hours, and though the former got eight wickets, Lockett also bowled finely, sending down 25 overs against the wind without ever losing his length, and he made the ball come back at such an acute angle as to cause the wicket-keeper, besides the batsmen, considerable anxiety. Many balls that were pitched on the off stump passed right outside the batsman's body, and it was not surprising that several of these went for byes. At the same time Barnes had batsman after batsman helpless with his leg-break, and many times was unlucky to miss the wicket. Thanks mainly to the left-hander, Paynter, who, though fortunate with some stroke that went off the edge of the bat, played with great skill for an hour and 20 minutes, 60 were scored for the first three wickets, but at 81 Barnes had an inspired over. Booth was easily caught at forward mid-off from the first ball, the second utterly beat the Lancashire Captain, Higson, to miss the off-stump by a shade, the third had him lbw, the fourth was edged into the hands of Lockett at first slip by Farrimond, and the fifth and sixth flashed past Preston's off-stump after completely beating his stroke. It would have been no more than he deserved if Barnes had had six wickets in the over. As emphasizing the greater effectiveness of leg-break, it may be pointed out that Lockett took the wickets of both the left-handers, Paynter and Taylor, whilst Barnes had all the eight right-handers.

I expected Staffordshire to find the Lancashire score of 123 beyond their powers, but after the departure of Fitchford, with only three scored, the batting was so consistently good that the visitors gradually got on top. Great care was required, especially against Holroyd and Horridge, both of whom got a prodigious break, whilst the ball often popped up awkwardly. Holroyd, like Barnes, often beat the bat with his leg-break, but he had not got Barnes's "devil" from the pitch, and at least five of the batsmen played him remarkably well. Indeed, he was a little fortunate in the wickets he took, for Ikin, Lockett, and Boon were all caught in "having a go," and the decision against Barnes for a catch in the slips looked extremely doubtful, for the ball kicked abruptly and appeared to hit the batsman's arm. It was unfortunate for Staffordshire, for Barnes, who has been much out of luck with the bat, had dug himself in, and was playing confidently. Fitton held up well for an hour, and played some excellent strokes before playing on, and Ikin was batting very well when Holroyd tempted him to his downfall. Barnes and Perry then made the best stand of the day, adding 42 for the fourth wicket, and the young Westbromwich amateur's capital innings was gratifying as confirming his fine form this season with his club. He picked the wrong one when he jumped in to drive, and was easily stumped. Ellerker did the same and was bowled, after Lockett had lifted one with a half-hearted drive to long-off, and with seven

wickets down for 102, the game had swung round in Lancashire's favour. But Stanley Heath played as good cricket as had been seen all day at the crucial point, and won the first innings lead before being last out by 50 minutes of classy batting. Lancashire were 16 in arrear, but in the 20 minutes remaining, they took a lead of three with all their wickets standing. Pickering gave two sharp chances for Barnes close in on the offside, and it was a pity neither of these was taken.

The season ended as it began, with dismal disappointment. The first day of the season was blank, and the last was the same, for rain prevented any play on Thursday, and the match was abandoned. Staffs. gained first innings points, and in doing so, for the fifth time this season, they lost any chance of retaining the championship. The loss of two points in each of five matches in which they led on the first innings has, of course, ruined their championship aspirations, and not failure in the field. The anomalous system of scoring is thus once more condemned, and it is to be hoped that the thorny problem will again be attacked by the authorities, and a more equitable system evolved.

Scores and analysis:—

Lancashire II.—1st Inns.

L. Pickering c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Paynter b Lockett	39
C. Hawkswood c Sedgwick b Barnes	9
Taylor c Heath b Lockett	7
Booth c Heath b Barnes	6
Horridge c Fitton b Barnes	25
P. Higson lbw b Barnes	0
Farrimond c Lockett b Barnes	0
Preston c Fitchford b Barnes	3
Rushton c Heath b Barnes	14
Holroyd not out	0
Extras	20
Total	123

Staffordshire—1st Inns.

W. H. Fitchford lbw b Booth	0
G. A. Fitton b Horridge	14
A. W. Ikin c Paynter b Holroyd	23
Barnes c Rushton b Holroyd	17
E. Perry st Farrimond b Horridge	23
A. Lockett c Paynter b Holroyd	4
J. S. Heath lbw b Booth	25
W. H. Ellerker b Horridge	0
Sedgwick c Paynter b Rushton	7
Boon c Farrimond b Holroyd	8
E. P. Cross not out	0
Extras	13
Total	139

Lancashire.—2nd Inns.

L. Pickering not out	4
Paynter not out	14
Extra	1
Total (for no wkts.)	19

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Lancashire II.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	25.3	8	55	8
Lockett	25	6	48	2

Staffordshire.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Booth	9.2	0	27	2
Holroyd	28	9	41	4
Rushton	10	2	21	1
Horridge	16	3	37	3

STAFFS. COUNTY CRICKET

Review of the Season

CHAMPIONSHIP LOST BY FIRST INNINGS WINS

By THE CRITIC

Staffordshire failed in 1928 to retain the title of champions of the minor counties which they gained in 1927, not because of the loss of points by reason of the superiority of their opponents, but solely because of the loss of points through winning matches on the first innings. Only once have the team been beaten, either outright or on the 1st innings, but on five occasions they have taken three points out of five for a first innings win, thereby losing 10 points. In my opinion it is not too much to say that their one defeat was due to the changing condition of the wicket, which was comparatively easy when Lancashire II. took first innings, got hourly more difficult as the game progressed, and was the most difficult pitch I have seen county cricket played on for years when Staffordshire had to play the fourth innings. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that if Staffordshire had won the toss on that occasion, they would have won the match. That, of course, is all in the luck of the game, and one mentions the circumstance not in order to detract from Lancashire's victory, but because it is relevant as affording an explanation of the one lapse of the season. That cost the county five points, which would not have jeopardised their championship chances had it not been for the repeated loss of two points out of five in unfinished matches, in which they established a lead on the 1st innings. This system, by which bad weather penalises the side which is doing well, has hit Staffordshire especially hard almost every year since 1st innings points were introduced. Last year was about the only exception. I well remember when it cost Yorkshire the county championship for, though unbeaten throughout the season, they lost 20 points in taking three out of five for each of ten 1st innings wins, and in nearly every case they had their opponents virtually beaten when rain intervened. The majority of these 10 matches would have been won by an innings but for rain, and yet Yorkshire's percentage of points was pulled down every time, until eventually they dropped below Lancashire and lost the championship for the first time for a number of years. That a team should thus be penalised, not for losing, but for outplaying their opponents, is the height of absurdity, and it is remarkable that the system has survived so long. That it has done so is, of course, due to the fact that the authorities can think of nothing better to put in its place. Probably the notorious episode at Leicester on August 2nd in the Staffordshire v. Leicestershire II. match, will serve to convince the authorities that something must be substituted for it.

The Leicester Farce

That matter has been given a great deal of publicity, but for the purpose of record I must make a reference, as brief as possible, to it here. Without too much detail, the facts were that there was no play on the first day, and on the second day, on a sporting wicket, Leicestershire completed an innings of 124 in three hours and five minutes. Staffordshire had two hours and 55 minutes to bat, with an extra half-hour if there was a chance of full decision, but not if it was only a question of the first innings lead. Staffordshire set out to get runs quickly on the off chance of forcing a win outright. But the bowling was difficult to play, and after losing three of their best wickets for 28 in three-quarters of an hour, Staffordshire were faced with a serious danger of being beaten on the first innings, being 96 behind with seven wickets to go, and two hours and 10 minutes to play. Barnes and Fitton, who were batting, therefore adopted safety tactics, but still scored as quickly as the Leicester batsmen had been able to do. They were, however, barracked in a senseless and annoying way by the spectators. They did not hurry in running between wickets, which is seen almost every week in every class of cricket when the batting side is so placed that a defensive policy is necessary in the interest of the side, and runs are of no moment. The Leicestershire Captain, G. B. Rudd, apparently conceived the idea that Staffordshire were deliberately playing for a "no result" to avoid the loss of per-

centage, which would result from a first innings win, and abandoning all attempt to get the batsmen out, he forced runs upon them in wides and byes until the Staffordshire score had passed that of Leicestershire. Mr. Rudd bowled himself, first an over of childish full-tosses, which Barnes very properly refused to score from, and then an over containing 14 wides. Thereafter the fielders deliberately allowed the ball to go to the boundary for byes until 47 runs had been added to the score without one being scored from the bat.

The view seemed to be generally accepted by the Press and public that Staffordshire, with ample time to win and no risk, played for a "no result" by refusing to score. Even if that were true it would furnish no justification whatever to the Leicestershire captain for abandoning the attempt to get Staffordshire out, bowling in a farcical and insulting way, and forcing a first innings defeat upon his own side, although certainly, they were so near the bottom of the table that the points were of no consequence to them. But it is not true. The truth is that Staffordshire were not safe from a first innings defeat even when Mr. Rudd made the game a farce. If either of the two batsmen had been dismissed, it would probably have been a struggle to avoid defeat on the first innings. Therefore, the question to be asked is whether the Staffordshire batsmen were called upon, by any obligation of sportsmanship, to risk losing on the first innings in order to try to force a win on the first innings, which would pull their percentage down from 80 to 76, and probably ruin their chance of success in the championship competition.

I say, as one who watched the whole discreditable business, that the Staffordshire batsmen played a fine game for their side in the best spirit of cricket, and that the sole responsibility for turning the game into a farce rests with the Leicestershire captain, who probably received his inspiration from a hundred or so of ill-mannered, partisan, barracking spectators.

Amongst those who have publicly commented on the matter, two contributions should be noted here, viz., those by the President, Lord Dartmouth, and one of the vice-presidents, Sir Francis Joseph. It appears to be regrettable that so valued a supporter of the County Club as Sir Francis Joseph should have accepted an erroneous view of the facts upon which to base criticism of his own county, and approval of the action of the Leicester captain. Lord Dartmouth, on the other hand, has earned the gratitude of the Staffordshire team, and rendered one more timely service to the club, of which he was one of the founders, the first hon. secretary, and the second president (succeeding his father in that office). His lordship awaited official information direct from the club, and in a characteristic letter to the hon. secretary, accepted Staffordshire's explanation of the facts, and, by a delightful touch of irony, diverted the charge of bad sportsmanship to the right channel.

The incident will make the 1928 season memorable, and it should help to bary an anomalous and inequitable method of deciding the championship. But no follower of Staffordshire cricket need be ashamed of the part played by the county captain or the county players, against whom any charge of lack of sportsmanship, or of not playing the game in the proper spirit, simply does not lie.

The Season's Record

Staffordshire again had a competition programme of home and home matches with Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Notts. II., Lancashire II., and Leicestershire II., and also arranged a home fixture with North Wales, and one with the West Indies touring team. The North Wales match provided almost an orgy of run-getting on a beautiful wicket at Wolverhampton, until rain put an end to the game at 3 o'clock on the 2nd day. Three individual centuries were scored, two in the visitors' innings by the Captain, C. A. Rowland, and V. A. Metcalfe, and a dashing hundred for Staffordshire by W. H. Ellerker. Mr. Rowland's batting took on a heroic aspect from the fact that one of his fingers was broken by

the first ball he received, one of Boon's expresses. Though the Welshmen totalled nearly 300, Staffordshire were over 100 in front with two wickets in hand when the rain came on.

Stoke gave the men from the Indies one of the finest welcomes, and one of the most enjoyable experiences of their tour. Favoured by real summer weather the match was watched by 10,000 spectators on the two days, and a thoroughly entertaining game was enjoyed by everyone. The visitors proved a little too strong for the Staffordshire team, who were beaten by eight wickets. As the match ended early on in the afternoon of the second day, the visitors, with great consideration, consented to play an exhibition game, each side batting for half-an-hour. In this extra turn the spectators saw that wonderful player, L. N. Constantine at his best, for he bowled a couple of overs of such speed and accuracy that he took the wickets of Lockett, Sedgwick, Bickerton, and Ikin for one run, and when his side batted he gave as dazzling a display of hitting as anyone present is ever likely to see, scoring 54 in 12 minutes, including five sixes and five fours.

Of the competition matches three were won, five on the first innings, one lost, and one drawn with no result. This gives a total of 30 points out of a possible 45, and a percentage of 66.66. This is a substantial drop compared with last year, when seven matches were won, one lost on the first innings, and two drawn, no result. It will be seen that the difference almost entirely consists in the number of matches won on the first innings instead of outright. As the percentage is 24 lower than in 1927, the effect of these first innings wins is obvious. The results in previous years since the war have been: 1920, 80 per cent. (championship won); 1921, 77.50 (championship); 1922, 40; 1923, 27.50; 1924, 57.77; 1925, 55.55; 1926, 66.66; 1927, 90 (championship).

The following is a summary of the 12 matches played:—

May 23 & 24.—v. Leicestershire II., at Westbromwich. Staffs. 172 (A. Lockett 62 not out); Leicester 48 (Lockett five for six, Barnes four for 19), and 156 for nine. Staffs. won on first innings. No play first day.

June 13 & 14.—v. Lincolnshire, at Stoke. Staffs. 101 for seven (A. A. Bickerton 45); Lincolnshire 118 (Lockett eight for 65). No decision. No play second day.

June 20 & 21.—v. Lincolnshire, at Grimshby. Staffs. 301 (H. W. Homer 103, A. W. Ikin 42); Lincs. 138 (Barnes six for 57), and 77 (Barnes three for six). Staffs. won by an innings and 86 runs.

June 27 & 28.—v. North Wales, at Wolverhampton (friendly). Staffs. 400 for eight (W. H. Ellerker 102 not out, Sedgwick 73, C. Howl 64); N. Wales 293 (C. A. Rowland 118, V. A. Metcalfe 103). Draw. Ended at 2.50 second day by rain.

July 11 and 12.—v. West Indies, at Stoke (friendly). Staffs. 99 and 181 (Homer 64); West Indies 159 (G. Challenor 71, Barnes four for 30, Sedgwick three for 14), and 123 for two (Challenor 57, E. I. G. Houl 46 not out). West Indies won by eight wickets.

July 18 & 19.—v. Cheshire, at Macclesfield. Staffs. 200 (Ikin 51, G. A. Fitton 46, Lockett 37) and 230 for eight, declared (Lockett 94, L. McEllin 45); Cheshire 130 (M. W. Woosnam 44, Lockett five for 53), and 173 (Lockett five for 51). Staffs. won by 127 runs.

July 25 & 26.—v. Notts II., at Trent Bridge. Staffs. 333 (G. A. Fitton 112, A. W. Ikin 46, E. P. Cross 40); Notts. 228 (Gunn 67, Shipston 53, D. L. White three for 19), and 268 for three (Gunn 124, Harris 103). Staffs. won on 1st Innings.

August 1 & 2.—v. Leicester II., at Leicester. Staffs. 131 for 4; Leicester 124 (Barnes four for 33, Boon four for 36). Staffs. won on the first innings. No play first day.

August 6 & 7.—v. Notts II., at Porthill. Staffs. 238 for nine, declared (Lockett 101); Notts. 236 (Harris 107, Ellerker three for 21) and 183 for four (Gunn 77, Keeton 60). Staffs. won on first innings.

August 8 & 9.—v. Lancashire II., at Stoke. Staffs. 136 (Holroyd six for 45) and 25 (Rushton seven for 12, Holroyd three for two); Lancs. 189 (Farrimond 57 not out, Taylor 47, Lockett five for 62) and 74 (Barnes six for 24, Boon three for 31). Lancs. won by 102 runs.

August 13 & 14.—v. Cheshire, at Porthill. Staffs. 163 (Bickerton 53) and 40 for 2; Cheshire 133 (D. Bounphrey 54, Barnes seven for 42) and 67 (Barnes eight for 25). Staffs. won by eight wickets.

August 22 & 23.—v. Lancs. II., at Blackburn. Staffs. 139; Lancs. 123 (Barnes eight for 55) and 19 for 0. Staffs. won on the first innings. No play 2nd day.

A Few Features of the Matches

The season opened with Leicestershire II. at Westthorpe. The visitors were strong in bowling, having several young professionals who have since done well with the 1st XI, notably Smith and Coleman. Continuous drizzle prevented play on the first day, and Staffs. did not fare too well on the second morning until Aaron Lockett went in with five wickets down for 51 and hit a sparkling 62, not out. The total of 172 might easily have won an innings victory, for Leicester had to follow on 124 behind. The general impression prevailed, however, arising from the opinion of an umpire, that the match counted as a one-day match for all purposes, and was, therefore, decided on one innings. Staffs. relaxed to some extent, Barnes was rested, and the visitors played out time, the extra half-hour not being claimed. It was unfortunate, as only first innings points were obtained. In the first innings Barnes bowled as only he can, and might, without being flattered, have had much better figures, whilst Lockett, coming on at 28 for 3, proved irresistible, and took five wickets for six runs.

The Lincolnshire match at Stoke was also confined to one day by rain, and no decision was reached. Barnes was unable to play for Staffordshire, and Lockett again took the bowling honours, having eight wickets for 65. Staffs. batsmen found the bowling of W. A. Sutton troublesome, and only Arthur Bickerton and the left-hand stone-waller, Fitton, were able to do much, so that Staffs. had only a trifle the better of the position.

There was some good batting in the return with Lincolnshire at Grimsby, and H. W. Homer scored the first of four centuries hit by Staffs. batsmen during the season. The Staffs. fielding was below par, or lines, would not have reached a total of 138, for Barnes and Ellerker both bowled remarkably well, and the former was unchanged for the long spell of 33 overs. The home side had to follow on, and again found the Staffs. bowling too good for them, and were heavily defeated.

Following the two "friendly" fixtures, to which reference has already been made, Cheshire were defeated at Macclesfield, without the assistance of Barnes. Staffs. would probably have made a big score in their first innings but for the running out of Ikin and Lockett when both were well set, but against Sedgwick and Lockett the home county fell 70 behind. Then McEllin and Crump scored 72 for Staffordshire's first wicket, and Lockett hit brilliantly, only missing his hundred by six runs.

The visitors' declaration left Cheshire 301 to get. Lockett's first 10 overs yielded 12 runs for five wickets, but the two professionals, Cook and Dennis, hit 49 for the last wicket, and spoilt Lockett's figures. But the result was never in doubt, and Staffs. had the ample margin of 127 runs.

When the team went to Trent Bridge, Barnes was again an absentee, and only first innings points were secured in a high-scoring match. The Staffordshire batting was good, and Fitton came out of his shell to score an excellent century in three hours, containing many fine strokes in front of, as well as behind, the wicket. Gunn and Shipston put up 123

for the first Notts wicket, and Douglas White made a remarkable debut in county cricket by going on at 123 for no wickets, and actually starting with eight overs for no runs and three wickets. His first ten overs yielded only one run. Staffordshire gained a lead of 105, but there was no chance of a win outright, and the bowling soon became rather listless when Gunn and Harris got settled down for another big stand. Both passed the century and batted extremely well, but it was not very serious cricket.

The succeeding match was the much-discussed one at Leicester, where Barnes and Boon bowled finely, and then came the Stoke Wakes matches with the second elevens of Notts. and Lancs. at Porthill and Stoke respectively. Two centuries

were hit at Porthill, Harris making a laborious hundred in something over four hours—his second in consecutive innings against Staffs.—and Lockett playing a delightful innings of 101 in an hour and 50 minutes. Having taken the lead, Staffordshire declared in the hope of getting the visitors out cheaply and forcing a win, but Gunn again figured in an opening three figure partnership, Barnes being unable to bowl owing to injury, and rain put an end to the game at teatime.

The next day at Stoke, Barnes was still unable to bowl, and Lancs. II. did well to score 159 after losing eight wickets for 116, thanks to Farrimond and Preston. Staffs. had 100 on the board, with four wickets down, but the wicket was difficult on the second morning, and there was a collapse. Barnes was able to bowl in the visitors' second innings, though his damaged finger was still somewhat painful, and on the drying wicket the Lancs. batsmen could do little with him, so that they were dismissed for 74, and Staffs. required 128, to win. But the wicket had, by this time, got to a state at which finger spin operated at a devastating speed from the pitch, and the Lancs. spin bowlers were unplayable. Rushton, bowling at a good medium pace, made the ball turn both ways, and keeping an accurate length, took the wickets of Bickerton, Day, Barnes, and Lockett with following balls. Homer, in first wicket down, held up to the end, but was twice missed. The total was the lowest recorded by Staffs. for 33 years. I discussed the debacle with Homer, who attributed it to superlatively difficult bowling, and said he could not call it bad batting. He had never batted against bowling that was so difficult to play.

The analyses of Rushton (seven for 12) and Holroyd (three for two) were the result of very fine bowling, but it was, of course, the wicket that rendered the Staffs. batsmen helpless. Rushton has rarely met with much success previously against Staffs., and Holroyd has generally been fairly expensive. In the return match at Blackburn, again on a drying pitch which gave the a considerable assistance, they were not able to do anything out of the ordinary. The Stoke wicket had been well prepared, and the surface was true, but it very rarely happens that the ball can be freely turned, and at the same time come from the pitch at such a paralysing speed as it did during the Staffs. second innings. As already stated, this was the only reverse of the season, apart from that at the hands of the West Indies team. Staffs. gained a second victory over Cheshire at Porthill, in spite of much interference by rain, mainly owing to the bowling of Barnes, who took 15 wickets for 67 runs. Bickerton's half-century was well got, and McEllin and Crump again showed satisfactory form.

In the final match, Barnes again took eight wickets in an innings, and good, even batting under difficult conditions gave Staffs. a creditable first innings lead, but another blank day confined the match to one innings each.

To be Continued

North Staffs. and District League

THE PROMOTION RACE

By The Critic

The weather was unkind to cricketers on Saturday last, so far as most parts of North Staffordshire were concerned. Some grounds escaped the thunderstorm of the afternoon, and play was possible, though wickets were soft, but in most cases play had not proceeded long when a miniature deluge descended to put an end to operations. The only two matches in the League to be finished were at Bignall End and Stoke, and in each case the home side might well have sighed for a visitation which did not come, at all events not in time to have any saving grace. At the same time, players and spectators on the other grounds would have been only too pleased if they could have switched the downpour over to Stoke, or anywhere else, so long as they could have got rid of it. But there was no providential intervention to save the L.M.S. from one more severe defeat, nor were Bignall End saved from a continuance of the unfortunate spell in which they have been inveigled for the last month.

Leek were the visitors to Stoke, and found the L.M.S. with only 10 men to oppose them. On the soft wicket the Railwaymen could do little with Harold Birch and E. L. Kidd, and were bundled out for 44. The left-hander had 5 wickets for 23, and Birch 4 for 14. A. Rider and Birch then knocked off the runs without loss, so that Leek won by 10 wickets, and stumps were pulled up with the score at 48 for nil.

Bignall End cut a sorry figure against the slow leg-breaks of F. Vodrey, which brought him 6 wickets for 13, and were dismissed for the paltry score of 35, against which Great Chell totalled 43 for 3, W. Warburton playing the best cricket of the match in scoring 25 not out. I fancy Warburton is another young batsman whom the county committee might keep their eye on.

At Silverdale, Joe Ankers batted well against Porthill during the short time play was possible, and scored 28 not out of the 48 for 3, which was all the scoring done before the unwelcome visitation. All three wickets fell to Arthur Bickerton. Norton lost 4 wickets against Nantwich for 51, Knypersley got 40 for 2 against Longton, and at Burslem Crewe had only scored 11 without loss when the thunderstorm arrived. The outcome of all these negative results is that Nantwich retain their 4 points lead with two matches to play, so that they cannot now be beaten. The only possibility of the championship changing hands is for Nantwich to lose both their remaining matches, Crewe to win both theirs and beat the champions in the play-off.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts
Nantwich	20	13	3	4	30
Crewe Alexandra	20	11	5	4	26
Leek	20	11	6	3	25
Great Chell	20	9	6	5	23
Norton	20	9	7	4	22
Porthill	20	7	5	8	22
Bignall End	20	7	8	5	19
Silverdale	20	5	6	9	19
Knypersley	20	5	7	8	18
Longton	20	6	8	6	18
Burslem	20	6	10	4	16
L.M.S.R.	20	0	18	2	2

The struggle for promotion between Sandyford and Stone gains in excitement as the end approaches. Happily the weather permitted both to play on Saturday, and both recorded victories, though the leaders had a severe fright at Audley. On the same ground Stone nearly dropped a point a week earlier, for they only got the last Audley batsman out two or three minutes before "time." On Saturday Audley made 86 against Sandyford, and when the last visiting batsman went in 25 runs were still needed to avoid defeat. Amidst much excitement they were obtained, and Sandyford scraped home by one wicket to retain their two points lead, their last batsman, W. Butcher, having scored 18 not out.

On the other hand, Stone, on their own ground, conquered Burslem High Lane easily. The visitors were put out for 54, and Stone replied with 149 for 6 wickets. To-day Stone meet Madeley at Stone, which is not a gift for them by any means. If they can win the struggle will be carried to the last day of the season, when they have to visit Sandyford. The latter's match to-day is at High Lane, who don't appear likely to check the leaders, although, of course, one never knows. If Sandyford pull it off Stone will require to beat Madeley to give themselves a chance to go to Sandyford and force a play-off. The task before Stone is a severe one. Assuming that Sandyford are successful at High Lane, only a victory over Madeley and a double defeat of the leaders will give them the promotion they have been seeking so long. But they have a good side, specially strong in batting, and a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether may land them back into the senior company, in which the club really ought to be for next season.

REVIEW OF COUNTY [CRICKET

Second Article

By The Critic

During the season Staffordshire have batted 18 times and lost 138 wickets for an aggregate of 2,889 runs, an average per wicket of 20.93 and per completed innings of 209. Their opponents have batted 21 times, including the brief 2nd innings of Lancashire at Blackburn, and have lost 178 wickets for 3,064 runs, an average of 17.21 per wicket and 172 per innings. Eliminating the friendly games the figures are: Staffordshire 13 innings, 110 wickets, 2,209 runs, average 20.06 per wicket and 200 per innings; opponents, 13 innings, 157 wickets, 2,489 runs, average per wicket 15.85, average per complete matches Staffordshire have thus scored 42 runs per innings more than have been scored from their bowling. The comparative figures for previous years are:—1927, Staffordshire 2,541 runs for 130 wickets, average per completed innings 195; opponents, 1,751 runs, 163 wickets, average 106; 1926, Staffordshire average per completed innings 168, opponents 140; 1925, respectively 184 and 187; 1924, 170 and 151; 1923, 149 and 121; 1922, 171 and 159; 1921, 211 and 165; 1920, 207 and 137. During these nine years since the war Staffordshire have averaged 185 per completed innings, and their opponents have averaged 146 against them. A margin of practically 40 runs per innings in their favour on the average must be regarded as satisfactory, and it might be added that during four of these nine seasons Barnes was not playing for the county. This year has fully maintained the average, though the superiority over opponents is less accentuated by statistics than in 1927, when, owing to some extent to the wet summer, the average number of runs scored from Staffordshire bowling was the lowest of which I have any record, with the exception of 1914 and 1907.

Staffordshire's highest score in 1928 was 400 for 8 wickets against North Wales, and they also made 333, 301, 239 for 9, 230 for 8, and 200. Apart from the phenomenal collapse against Lancashire II, their lowest score was 99. Against them the highest total was the 293 of North Wales, followed by 268 for 3, 236, and 223; whilst the lowest scores were 48 by Leicester II, 67, 77, and 74. Last year they dismissed opponents for less than 100 nine times (against 4 times this year), and were never themselves put out for less than a three-figure score.

The score of 25 for which the side were dismissed on August 9 is not the lowest total ever made by Staffordshire. The lowest on record was made during the Norwich Cricket Week, in August, 1886, 42 years ago, when Staffordshire were dismissed in their second innings by Norfolk for 18. On that occasion Rudd took 6 wickets for 14 and Tillard 4 for 4. In 1885, at Stourbridge Staffordshire tumbled out against Worcestershire for 23, also in their second innings. Other small scores by the county include 32 against Northants at Northampton, in May, 1901, 32 against Cheshire at Port-hill in 1924, 38 against Somerset at Stoke in 1890, and 43 in the return match the same year at Taunton, 38 against Durham at Sunderland in 1907, 39 against Bedfordshire, at Bedford in 1900, 41 against Lancashire II, at Stoke in 1924, and 44 against Notts II, at Nottingham in 1909. So far as I can trace these are the only occasions on which Staffordshire have been dismissed for less than 50. But the times that Staffordshire have dismissed opponents for under 50 are too many to enumerate. The lowest of these scores is 14 by Cheshire at Stoke in 1909. They made 29 in the second innings, and Barnes took 14 wickets for 13 runs. Other very low scores were 20 by Durham at Stoke in 1907, 22 by the M.C.C. at Stoke in 1887, 24 by Bedfordshire at Bedford in 1906, and 26 by Kent II, at Stoke in 1914, when the Hop County's team was twice dismissed for 65. Durham made 67 in their two innings in 1907. Yorkshire II were twice dismissed at Stoke in 1906 for 82 and Hertfordshire twice for 84 in a Minor Counties semi-final at Stoke in 1906. One might give some examples of tall scoring by way of contrast, but space will not allow on the present occasion.

It is interesting to note that of the 138 wickets lost by Staffordshire this season, 43 have been bowled, 67 caught, 17 l.b.w., 7 stumped, and 4 run out; whilst of the 178 opponents' wickets taken 69 have been bowled, 73 caught, 32 l.b.w., and 4 run out. The number of l.b.w. decisions is not surprising, in view of modern methods of batting, but it is remarkable that there has not been a single case of stumping. This is not due to an unusual number of chances being missed, but because hardly any really palpable chances have been given.

Personnel

The following are the batting and bowling averages for the season:—

Batting and Bowling Averages

	Batting			
	Ins.	Not out	Runs.	Highest score. Av'ge
H. W. Homer ...	8	1	245	103 35.00
A. Lockett ...	18	2	418	101 23.71
A. W. Ikin ...	10	0	261	51 26.10
G. A. Fitton ...	14	1	332	112 25.53
C. Howl ...	4	0	97	64 24.25
L. McEllin ...	5	1	94	45 23.50
A. A. Bickerton	8	0	153	53 19.12
Sedgwick ...	13	3	189	73 16.90
W. H. Ellerker	9	1	150	102* 18.75
L. H. Crump ...	3	0	51	26 17.00
E. P. Cross ...	10	3	87	40 13.85
Barnes ...	10	2	87	28* 10.87
R. S. A. Hardy	4	0	43	24 10.75
Eoon ...	10	3	70	17 10.00
J. S. Heath ...	13	0	108	25 8.15
A. L. Day ...	3	0	17	17 5.66
D. L. White ...	5	2	4	2 1.33

Also batted:—E. Mayer, 24*, 2*; P. O. Yates, 18, 36; W. Lee, 15, 4*; E. Perry, 1, 23; W. Beddows, 2, 0; G. H. Thorneycroft, 37; E. W. Page, 34; F. D. Perks, 15; C. G. Varcoe, 0; W. H. Fitchford, 0.

Bowling

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av'ge
Barnes ...	215.4	70	404	55	7.34
A. Lockett ...	351.4	99	869	53	16.39
Boon ...	127.3	26	416	19	21.89
D. L. White ...	63	22	135	6	22.50
Sedgwick ...	167.1	30	525	22	23.86
W. H. Ellerker	123.3	19	358	14	25.57

Also bowled:—R. S. A. Hardy, 19.2-1-61-2; E. Mayer, 13.3-3-42-1; A. A. Bickerton, 2-0-21-1; E. Perry, 1-0-5-1; W. Lee, 5-2-11-0; C. Howl, 4-0-20-0.

The season has seen a greater change in the personnel of the team than usual. Four of the most regular players of last year have dropped out, and the effect of this unsettlement has been that the number of players called upon, after steadily declining since 1924, when the number was 28, has increased from 24 last year to 27. By the inability of J. B. Russell to spare the necessary time the county lost at once a captain and a wicket-keeper. J. S. Heath was persuaded to step into the breach and accept the duties of captain, and he has discharged them efficiently and with credit to himself and the county. The first wicket-keeper tried was W. Beddows, of Burslem, who showed much promise, but after keeping the wicket in three of the first six matches, he met with a fatal accident by falling through an asbestos roof whilst following his occupation, a tragedy which came as a great shock to his colleagues. E. P. Cross, of Moseley, first kept the wicket at Grimsby in the third match, and at once impressed by his skill. He became the regular wicket-keeper, and though he has not always quite sustained the high standard he set in his first match, he has been a success in the position, and an opportune and fortunate discovery. Platt seems to have retired from participation in the game, and H. Goodwin and E. J. Gothard have not been available. To fill these vacancies the committee have called upon G. A. Fitton and W. H. Ellerker, who had a first trial in 1927, and a young professional fast bowler, Boon, whilst A. A. Bickerton and L. McEllin have been able to play more; another useful bowler has been tried in Douglas White, of Bignall End, and a young Burslem batsman, L. H. Crump, has had a promising trial. L. H. Day, of Longton, was also tried, but on difficult wickets was not able to reproduce his club form, though his fielding was brilliant.

The new captain has had an unfortunate time with the bat. In the early part of the season he was quite unable to do himself justice, but in the later matches, when wickets were difficult, and 20 was a good and valuable score, he on three occasions batted with great skill at the most needed juncture, and rendered the side notable service without being able to make much impression on his average. H. W. Homer once more takes the lead, and has been as hard to get out as ever, and he is followed by the "Bignall End twins," A. Lockett and A. W. Ikin. The latter missed several matches through injury but made nearly as many runs as last year, with a slightly better average, whilst Lockett has splendidly maintained his all-round form, and has nearly doubled both his aggregate of runs and his total number of wickets. He has improved his batting average, but his wickets have been more costly, and I don't think he has been quite at his best with the ball in the latter part of the season. But he has been of great service to the team, and has several times successfully borne the brunt of the bowling in the absence of Barnes.

The Westbromwich Albion footballer, G. A. Fitton, has been a valuable acquisition to the team, and has played in every match but one, and batted in every innings except the two against Cheshire at Porthill, when he was absent. He is naturally a slow scorer, but certainly shares with Homer the honour of being the most difficult man in the side to get out. And he is not short of scoring strokes, for he can drive the half-volley very hard and low, can cut well, and is felicitous in his strokes behind the wicket. As he has great speed and dash in the field, he has runs saved to his credit before he begins to score. The advantage of a good left-hand bat in the team is considerable, and Fitton has successfully filled the role which in past years has been supplied by such skilled left-handers as B. Meakin, the late L. F. Taylor, and H. Goodwin. The Smethwick all-rounder, W. H. Ellerker, has also proved his usefulness, for though he has had a run of ill-success with the bat, his century against North Wales and his useful score at Trent Bridge were evidence of his ability, and he has been distinctly useful as a bowler, particularly with a new ball, and is smart in the field. A year ago, after very brief trials, I ventured to predict the future usefulness of both these young players. Both have made good, though I think Ellerker will be seen to greater advantage yet. He has not been a good starter and should learn to restrain his propensity for hitting, at all events until he has had time to get set. C. Howl has been less often in the team, but has a useful average, whilst Arthur Bickerton's more frequent appearance has been all to the good. Leo McEllin, another Bignall End product, is a county batsman without doubt, and one wishes he could take a regular place. Barnes has been consistently unfortunate with the bat, but Sedgwick has batted well on occasion. Of L. H. Crump one would look for big things, if he could have expert coaching. His defence is sound and his style good, but he has been rather lacking in scoring strokes. The Burslem club probably has greater possibilities of adequate public support than any other club in the North Staffordshire League, and it is rather surprising that the committee have not seen their way to the engagement of professional assistance for the benefit of their young players. As a prominent supporter of county cricket remarked to me recently, the one thing needed at present in North Staffordshire is professional coaching, for there is an abundance of young talent discernible which only needs tuition of the right kind for its development, but which, without it, is never likely to rise above the average of League cricket. Those are emphatically my own views.

Turning to the bowling, Barnes has well maintained his wonderful skill, and has another extraordinary season's record. He only played in three matches prior to August, and on the hard wickets which prevailed during the greater part of the season, his bag of wickets was small for him. But in six innings during the last month he took 37 wickets at a cost of 6.45 runs a piece. Last Saturday, bowling for Wales, he took 6 wickets for 58 in 33 overs, against the champion county, and proved that he is still able to get the very best batsmen out. Of Lockett's bowling I have already spoken. Sedgwick has been more expensive than usual, but has enjoyed no luck. The three new bowlers who have taken a share of the attack, all promise to be useful in the future, and in that respect the season's experience is particularly gratifying. The need for the discovery of new bowlers has been gradually but surely growing more urgent, hitherto with no sign of being supplied. The advent of Boon, Ellerker, and Douglas White (the fourth member of the Bignall End school to appear in the team this year) is hopeful. All are young. Boon has more pace than anyone who has bowled for Staffordshire since the war. He is at present apt to be erratic and therefore expensive, but he has time on his side, and with maturing physique and more experience of county cricket he may conceivably develop into a bowler of class. He has done well in his first season to take 19 wickets at a cost of under 22 runs each, and one has real hopes of him. Ellerker is chiefly a "swinger," and a useful bowler to have on the side considering his potentialities, as a batsman, and White made a sensational and probably unique debut at Trent Bridge, and also gives promise as a medium pace off-spinner, with inswing to help his break.

What R. S. A. Hardy is capable of with the ball, there has been little opportunity to judge, but he also creates the impression of being at least a useful change bowler, who is liable to make some runs. E. Perry, of West Bromwich, played only twice, and bowled only one over, but his batting seems to have materially improved, and one hopes he will be able to play more county cricket in the future.

The secretarial duties have again been discharged in a pleasant and efficient way by Mr. G. A. F. Bagguley, with the able assistance of Mr. Lawrence Hancock, and Major John Kent, and his energetic assistant Mr. A. Cropp Hawkins, have looked after the finances of the club with assiduity.

Lichfield First XI. v. English Electric, Stafford

Lichfield First XI. gained a decisive victory over the English Electric, Stafford, on the Birmingham Road Ground, Lichfield, on Saturday, the visitors being defeated by 138 runs. For the home side Capt. Howard was the premier batsman with 42 runs, while W. Plant compiled 39. Scoring was low in the visitors' team, the highest scores only being 12 and 15 by F. Mason and R. Wilson. Scores:—

Lichfield.—Capt. Howard lbw b Hardgrave 42, W. Plant lbw b Haynes 39, J. Brown run out 8, D. Knight c Mason b Hardgrave 7, D. Parker run out 12, Lieut. Johnson run out 22, F. Rudgard b Redshaw 3, G. Ellett b Hardgrave 21, J. Bernie not out 8, F. Oram b Hardgrave 7, extras 17, total 186.

The English Electric.—J. Lilwell b Ellett 0, H. Clothier b Oram 3, J. Smith c and b Oram 3, E. W. Redshaw c Howard b Ellett 0, F. Mason c Plant b Oram 12, J. Hardgrave c Knight b Oram 4, H. Southwell b Oram 7, R. Wilson not out 15, A. J. Owen b Knight 0, A. Newell b Knight 2, R. Haynes b Oram 1, extras 1, total 48.

CRICKET

**North Staffs. and District League
NANTWICH AGAIN CHAMPIONS**

By The Critic

Just as seemed almost certain for the last few weeks, Nantwich have again won the championship of the League, whatever may befall them in their final engagement at Leek to-day. I think no one will question their moral as well as their statistical right to the honour as the best team of the year. E. H. Steventor has again proved himself an able captain and a match-winning player, and he has been splendidly backed up by a good, sound, all-round team, who have been a little too good for any of their North Staffordshire rivals, and a lot too good for some. There will be an opportunity to say something more about them when one comes to review the league season and to consider its lessons.

Knypersey were the visitors to Nantwich on Saturday, and they cut up badly, giving one of their weakest displays of the season. That is not to detract from the merit of the champions' performance. Quite the reverse, for the weak show of the visitors was, of course, the outcome of the all-round superiority of the Nantwich men. The champions compiled the useful total of 185 by even scoring, although, for once, the captain failed to get a run, and his experience was shared by J. B. Swindale. But there is always, or nearly always, someone in the Nantwich side to get runs, and this time there were three in the thirties, and L. Haighton, last man in, got 26. Knypersey could not cope with the bowling of E. H. Steventon (5 for 13) and L. Haighton (4 for 20) on the soft wicket, and were tumbled out for 46.

The Silverdale team also did some good, level scoring on their own ground against Crewe Alexandra. Sedgwick found the pitch too dead for him, and C. Coffin was the only bowler to make any impression on the Silverdale batsmen. The innings was declared at 182 for 6, against which Crewe made an indifferent start. The all-round value of Sedgwick's services was demonstrated, however, for if he was not effective with the ball he came along with a great innings of 67 just when it was urgently needed and, finding a dour partner in J. Dickenson (41 not out), staved off defeat and saved a useful point. The total reached 165 for 7 at the close.

By a desperately narrow win at Longton, Leek gained a point on the Alexandra, and are now bracketed with them as runners-up to Nantwich. Second place in the final table, therefore, depends upon to-day's results. Neither contestant has an easy thing on, for while Leek have to entertain the champions, Crewe receive a visit from Great Chell, whom they will not easily overcome. Leek made a rather laborious 109 at Dresden, with J. Cotton as the chief contributor with 42. A. C. Hawkins was the most destructive agent, for he took 6 wickets for 38, making good use of the soft wicket with his finger-spin and finding a better length than he has been able to command for some time. Longton put up a great struggle for the runs, but Charles Edwards, who batted with much skill, could get no one to stay with him. He scored a lovely 41, but when the last man went in 18 runs were required. Amidst tense excitement the score crept up to 105, but the Longton captain, A. Kent, after a gallant effort, then returned one to Hutchinson, and the victory went to Leek by 4 runs. Hutchinson was bowling well at the finish, and is a young bowler of whom a good deal more may be heard. I am told by those who have played against him that he can make the ball come back from the off at a capital pace. On this occasion, however, the young left-hander, Gordon Sedgwick, was Leek's outstanding bowler, capturing 6 wickets for 28.

Bignall End took advantage of their visit to the county ground to bring their depressing run of defeat to an end, as was only to be expected, and inflicted upon the L.M.S. their 19th reverse. In the absence of Douglas White, F. J. Dale and A. Booth made hay of the L.M.S. batsmen until R. Baker (44) and S. Stevens (24), in a late partnership, put a better complexion on the innings, and set the visitors something of a task, the total reaching 119. Bignall End won by 5 wickets, and Booth (37 not out) was batting attractively when the stumps were pulled.

The other two matches were drawn, wickets being too soft to give bowlers any assistance. At Wolstanton, Porthill once more declared, their score being 191 for 8, and Norton lost the same number of wickets for 120. J. S. Heath and A. A. Bickerton played splendid cricket for Porthill. The captain, who, curiously enough, averaged under 9 with Staffordshire in his first season as skipper and his first as a regular player for some years, hit 85 not out, and has had a fine season with his club, whilst Bickerton chalked up another admirable innings of 68. R. Tatton was Norton's star performer with a timely and well-got 56.

There were also plenty of runs at Chell, where Ikin got properly going and took toll of the Burslem bowlers to the extent of 64. W. Vodrey (45) helped him commendably, and the home side totalled 130. Burslem saved the game, scoring 144 for 8. The left-hander, A. Birch, batted well in scoring 38.

League Table

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts
Nantwich	21	14	3	4	32
Crewe Alexandra	21	11	5	5	27
Leek	21	12	6	3	27
Great Chell	21	9	6	6	24
Norton	21	9	7	5	23
Porthill	21	7	5	9	23
Bignall End	21	8	8	5	21
Silverdale	21	5	6	10	20
Knypersey	21	5	8	8	18
Longton	21	0	9	0	10
Burslem	21	6	10	5	17
L.M.S.R.	21	0	19	2	2

Thrilling Promotion Race

There has rarely been so thrilling a struggle for promotion as that which has proceeded for weeks between Sandyford and Stone. The former owe no small measure of their success in heading the table throughout the last half of the season to the effectiveness of their crack bowler, A. Bourne, whereas Stone have batting resources well worthy of the higher section, but their bowling has often lacked something in effectiveness. If they should achieve their ambition and gain promotion, one assumes that professional assistance would be secured to augment their bowling, in which case the club might well look forward with confidence to the retention of senior rank.

For quite a number of weeks Sandyford have hung on to a two-points lead over their rivals, but on Saturday they lost it. After a narrow escape at Audley the previous week, they fell at High Lane. The leaders were dismissed for 72, and although A. Bourne bowled as though his life depended on it, and secured 7 wickets for 29, High Lane managed to get the runs needed from the other bowlers, and eventually won by 14 runs. They were chiefly indebted to A. Gaskell, who scored 37 not out.

While this good turn was being done for them at Burslem, Stone were scoring one of their most remarkable victories of the season against Madeley, who were in the First Division last season. E. C. Fernie found the wicket to his liking, and the Madeley batsmen could make nothing of him; 6 for 17 were his figures, and Madeley collapsed for 32. Then the home batsmen made runs with freedom. F. Ravenscroft hit 61 of the best, F. Middleton got 39, and the total reached 173 for 9.

So Sandyford and Stone are bracketed level at the head of the table, and the issue rests solely between themselves, for they meet to-day at Sandyford to play their return match, which I hope to see. Stone won the first match on their own ground. Let us hope for fine weather, a good wicket, a fair fight, and no favours.