

## HARRY ANTHONY, STONE.

The All-Round Cricketer of Notts  
County Fame.

(By "UMPIRE.")

Harry Anthony, the professional in the service of the Stone Club, was born on May 16th, 1876, at Old Basford, on the outskirts of Nottingham; the place, in fact, from whence came William Lockwood, the famous Notts-born Surrey player, who was then a regular player of the club, which Anthony first joined when only 13 years of age, viz., the Forest Wanderers. Anthony played in the second eleven for a couple of years, and his ability at the end of that period drafted him into the first eleven. Batting was his chief forte then, and in his first year with the Forest second team he averaged 26, and in the second year his average was 33. His initial year in the Forest Wanderers first eleven resulted in him getting second place with an average of 24; the top average man was Frank Shacklock, a famous Notts. player. That year Anthony's average with the bat was 24, and he also took 22 wickets at a cost of 14 runs per wicket. In the following year he was invited to play in the annual Notts. Colts' match, and it is interesting to relate that John Mee, the former professional of Norton, was one of his victims, the others being W. Barnes, Mordecai Sherwin, and W. Attewell. He took four wickets for 24, and won the ball offered by the County Committee to the best bowler in the match. Anthony has the ball mounted in silver, with the following inscription:—"Notts. C.C.C. Presented to H. Anthony for best bowling average; Colts' match, 1893." That year he joined the Notts. Commercial Club on the recommendation of Alfred Shaw and Attewell, who, when not engaged with the County, played for the club. His first season with the Notts. Commercial was a splendid one, his record being 89 wickets for 12 runs each and a batting average of 29. Anthony then attracted the attention of Richard Daft, who became one of the Stone professional's best friends. In his second season with the Commercials he took 71 wickets for 10 runs each, with a batting average of 23.

It was then he was invited to play for the Notts second team against such clubs as Yorkshire II., Surrey II., and Warwickshire, which was then a second-class county. In the match against Yorkshire II., he got top score for his side in both innings, batting against J. T. Brown, the famous fast bowler. In that match Anthony had a big share, for he got four wickets for 14 in the first innings and five for 23 in the second innings, he and J. Bremonger bowling throughout. Against Warwickshire he took seven wickets for 35 runs, and got 36 off the bat. Other excellent performances were accomplished whilst Anthony was an amateur, and after five years with Notts Commercials and the County Second Eleven, he took his first engagement as a professional in 1897, going to Burnley St. Andrew's. He did wonderfully well for the Lancashire club, for they gained the championship of the Ribblesdale League. He too 44 wickets at a cost of half-a-dozen runs each, and had an average of 28 with the bat. Here it was he came under the notice of the late Johnny Briggs, who strongly advised him to return to his native county, and largely in consequence of that advice, he returned home, and was engaged by the Notts County Club, and played regularly with the Club and Ground. That season he played two matches with Notts against Kent and Lancashire. His first ball in County cricket got him a wicket, for he bowled C. V. J. Weigall, the Kent amateur.

Apart from these two County matches, Anthony took 84 wickets during the season, at a cost of 11 runs each, and he had a good average with the bat. In the following season he was given a trial against Worcestershire, and again did well. A curious incident arose in this match. Worcestershire batted first on a perfect wicket, scoring over 300 runs, and Notts had a little batting on the first day. On the second day there was a series of thunderstorms, and on the third day the wicket was in a bad state. Notts were all out on the first innings for 102, and, following on, went in shortly after four. The first two men made a good stand, with the result that several of the players, including Wass and Oates, left for Nottingham on the 5.30 train. But a series of disasters happened, with the result that only Anthony and his colleague at the other wicket were left to bat. It was an anxious time for Anthony, who, however, refused to be beaten,



HARRY ANTHONY, Stone.

[Photo by Jacks, Stone.]

and together the two batsmen played out time. This resulted in hearty congratulations from A. O. Jones. Later in the season Anthony played at Lord's against the M.C.C. and also took part in second class county matches. He accompanied the team to the South of England as reserve, but was not called upon to play, though the Notts public wrote numbers of letters to the Press asking for his inclusion. He was also selected as reserve against Lancashire and Yorkshire, but did not play against either. As a result of this Anthony refused to re-engage with Notts unless definitely promised twelve county matches. This was refused, and so Anthony shook the dust of Nottingham from his feet and engaged himself with Norton, a prominent Stockton-on-Tees club, which was then captained by C. L. Townsend, the Gloucestershire amateur. Here he did splendidly, once taking 18 wickets in one match, when playing for Lord Londonderry's team against Seaham Harbour. In all he got 94 wickets. Whilst here he played for Northallerton against a Yorkshire eleven, and had the pleasure of bowling F. S. Jackson, Rhodes, Tunncliffe, J. T. Brown, and Hirst. For this performance he was presented with the ball, handsomely mounted, and it was largely, if not wholly, owing to his performance in this match that he was invited to make the trip to South Africa. He was asked, too, to play for the County again, and he did so, appearing against Sussex. He got 14 runs with the bat, and had the satisfaction of catching out Prince Ranjitsingh. There arose no opportunity of bowling, for Wass and Hallam trundled throughout. He was then invited to go with Notts on their Southern tour, but his club refused to let him off, and he was not asked again. However, he continued to do excellent work for his club, and at the end of 1903 was asked by Lord Hawke to take the engagement as coach to the Western Provinces club, which occupies the position in South Africa much as the M.C.C. does here. The post ranks high in the professional world, for it has been held by several first class men, including Lohmann, of Surrey.

The South African club were highly pleased with his services, for altogether he took 80 wickets in 23 matches for just under 10 runs each, and he had a batting average of 28. On arrival home in the spring of 1904 Anthony engaged with Halifax, where he put up a better record than any professional of the previous ten years. His first season resulted in a batting average of 25 and 88 wickets for 10 runs each. He engaged for a second season and finished with 78 wickets for 11 runs each and a batting average of 20. After two seasons with Halifax he went to Lowerhouse, a Lancashire League club, and subsequently took up his quarters at Stone.

Anthony's first year with the Stone club was a fairly successful one, though he failed to carry out his brilliant opening against Norton, in the first match of the season, when he practically won the two points for Stone. He got 38 runs, in a low scoring match, and took seven Norton wickets for 13 runs. On only two other occasions did he take more than five wickets, namely, eight for 24, against Norton—which club at any rate must hold him in respect—and six for 44, against Tunstall. Altogether he took 65 wickets at a cost of 668 runs, his season's work reading: 232 overs, 75 maidens, 668 runs, 65 wickets. His best score during the season was 51 against Longton, and his average for the season was 12.52. Anthony did not have the best of luck last season, but there is no reason why he should not, with ordinary fortune, greatly improve on his record of 1909.

**WILLIAM BROWN, SILVERDALE.**

**The Versatile County Veteran of  
Staffordshire.**

(By "WANDERER.")

The departure of William Brown from Longton and his advent at Silverdale is Longton's loss and Silverdale's gain. No man has shown more consistency throughout a long career in club cricket than he has, and though in the veteran stage, he is still a foe to be reckoned with. He came into this district as a cricketer from the Middleton club, in Lancashire, but he is of Staffordshire birth. It was at Brierley Hill that he first saw the light, but he had not been alive very many years when his parents transported him and themselves to the county of Broad Acres; right in the midst of some of the very best cricket which this age has produced. It was not to be wondered at, therefore, that very early in life he became a most assiduous student of the game, and his natural abilities were quickly developed in the spare time which he had at his disposal between his work in the pit. At the early age of eleven he obtained a place in the Altofts village team, near Leeds, and with that club he remained until he was 23 years of age. His all-round excellence had secured for him a position as professional to the Dodsworth club, but, in the following season, he returned to Altofts as an amateur. Not very long afterwards, however, he was persuaded to accept an engagement with Royston, in the Central Lancashire League.

Brown's career with Royston was a most successful one, and before long his value was recognised by the Staffordshire Club, for whom he played for the first time in 1890. With the exception of the one season four years later, when he assisted Lancashire, for whom he had a residuial qualification, he has been a Staffordshire player ever since. After a period with Royston, Brown threw in his lot with Middleton, and materially assisted that club to carry off the championship of the Central Lancashire League on several occasions. He remained with Middleton for eleven years, and his experience there was a very happy one. His batting average for eleven seasons was a little above 40 per completed innings, while one season his final average was 71 for 22 innings. He was, moreover, then as brilliant with ball as with bat, and one year he had 91 victims, and his analysis gave him an average of nine runs per wicket. One of his best performances was on that occasion when nine Horwich batsmen fell to him for just as many runs, and later, against the same opponents, he was responsible for seven wickets at a total cost of five runs only, sending down eight overs, of which five were maidens. He also, in one particular season, scored four centuries, and was generally recognised as one of the very best all-round men known to the League.

Since Brown took up his abode at Longton he has achieved much more, and he is a thorough favourite with a Potteries crowd. He has the utmost respect of his opponents, who know full well how dangerous he is with both bat and ball, and everybody has a good word for him, both as a cricketer and as a man. He has always been prominent in statistical tables, and his fine play has in this way been placed in evidence as a lasting memorial to his magnificent consistency. He headed the batting averages of the North Staffordshire League with 690 runs and an average of 60.72—Barnes being second with an average of 43.46—and although he did not figure very high in the bowling averages, he took 45 wickets with an average of 11.88 per wicket. In 1905 he headed the batting averages with 49.6 for each of 22 innings, and captured 81 wickets at a cost of 7.4 runs per wicket, and was all but successful in also heading the bowlers' list. Brown has not been so prominent with startling isolated deeds, as with the regularity of steady effective work. His best recommendation has always been his reliability. Among his attainments, however, there stands out very boldly his world's record of carrying his bat through two complete innings in one match.

Brown was one of the most popular members of the County team, and one of the most regular players for years. He enjoyed the distinction of figuring at the top of the County batting averages for eight seasons, and there have been times when he has finished at the head of the bowling averages as well. He may have lost some of his agility, but he has not lost his keenness for the game and his great ability as one of its best athletes.



WILLIAM BROWN, Silverdale.

[Photo by R. Lewis, Longton.]

JOHN BUTLER, STOKE.

The Durham County Man of Consistent Achievements.

(BY "WANDERER.")

John Butler, the professional attached to the Stoke Cricket Club, belongs to the class of men who are known as persevering and thorough. These are traits which one man likes to find in the character of another, and in a cricketer, especially, they are much to be admired. During the short period of less than three years he has been in North Staffordshire, Butler has shown a consistency with ball and with bat which has been fully appreciated by the many people who know his worth.

It was at Ruddington, four miles south of Nottingham, that John Butler was introduced into the world, and it was in his native place that he began to play club cricket. When only 15 years of age he turned out with the Ruddington second eleven, and in the same year he assisted the first team, and found a regular place therein. At the age of eighteen he entered into an engagement as professional for the officers of the United Services Club, Portsmouth, and he carried out his work with distinct credit. Twelve months later he was elected by the Kent County Committee as one of their staff, and in that capacity he did several smart things for Tunbridge Wells, against the M.C.C. and Ground, Eastbourne, Hastings, Brighton, and other clubs. In one of these matches he took five wickets for 19 runs, and dismissed three of the then Kent team in his initial over—and all of them clean bowled. His other performances this year included five wickets

for 13 against the M.C.C., five for 23 against Hampstead, and six for 24 against Grayville Lee; the latter feat being achieved in 23 overs, of which no less than 18 were maidens. At the end of the season he had taken 97 wickets for his club, at a cost of ten runs per wicket, and as he assisted other clubs and played altogether in 60 matches, he had the grand aggregate for the campaign of 142 wickets, and his average was seven. His batting average was 19, and his highest score 87.

In 1895, Butler transferred his services to the Newcastle Constabulary Club, at Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and here he continued to do well. In all matches that season he claimed 85 wickets for 639, or an average of just about eight, and he scored 428 runs, with an average of 20. Then he took up an engagement with the Burnmoor Club, and he displayed remarkable consistency in both bowling and batting. He finished a very successful season with a record of 151 wickets and an aggregate score of 672 runs. In the year 1897 he also had another very successful experience, taking in all 137 wickets at an average of 6.58 per wicket, and scoring a total of 415 runs.

Having qualified to assist Durham, he was brought in the team immediately in the following term, and participated in every match they played. His batting average for county matches in this, his first season, was 18.60, his highest inings being 57. As a bowler he was handicapped by spraining the muscles of his side. He also did well again for his club—with 80 wickets at an average cost of 9.12, and a batting average of 27.50. His season's record was 729 runs and 95 wickets. Continuing his engagement with the Burnmoor Club, in 1899, he also played for Durham in all their matches. In county engagements he took 34 wickets with an average of 19, and scored 283 runs, his highest contribution being 55. For all matches, Butler's figures were: 143 wickets for 1,295 runs, or an average of 9.05; and a total of 607 runs with the bat. Thus he took 108 wickets in club cricket, and his average for these was 7.18. The season 1900 was one of the best for the Burnmoor Club, and he helped them to win the premier position in the Durham Senior League. Including County matches, he was responsible for the dismissal of 135 batsmen that season, and the sum total of his batting was 846 runs. Butler's sixth year with Burnmoor was, like its predecessors, a very successful one. He rendered splendid aid to Durham in winning the Second Class Counties championship, for he headed the bowling with 52 wickets at the cost of 14.28 per wicket. Included in his performances were five for 55 and six for 30 against Staffordshire. During the season he compiled 788 runs and took 132 wickets, costing 11.90 per wicket.

The following year again furnished some very praiseworthy items to his record. His best bowling in club matches was against Lumley (seven for 14), Sunderland (five for 18),



JOHN BUTLER, Stoke.  
[Photo by A. and G. Taylor, Sunderland.]

South Shields (six for 18), Rainton (five for 18), Durham University (five for 20), Haddon (seven for 28), Chester-le-Street (seven for 22), and Wearmouth (eight for 16). Four times did he pass the 50 mark with the bat. With the County he also did remarkably well. Against Northumberland he took eight wickets for 23 runs; against the Yorkshire second eleven he had six for 22 and six for 58 in one match; and against Staffordshire he took five for 23 and five for 51 in one match. He was second in the county averages with 52 wickets for a little more than 10 runs each, and in all matches he had 174 wickets with the splendid average of 8.54. Besides this, he scored 646 runs in 33 completed innings. In Butler's eighth season with Burnmoor he had another excellent time, taking 124 wickets with an average of 11.36, and scoring 735 runs. Again he showed consistent form with bat and ball for both his club and county, for on seven occasions he scored 40 or more for the former, and he was top scorer in both innings in one of the county matches, with Cambridgeshire, on a bowler's wicket, with 21 and 43 not out. But his last year with the Northern club was his best, for he scored 938 runs, with an average of 21.30, and took 198 wickets, with an average of 10.35. Altogether, during his stay in the North, he took 1,091 wickets and scored 5,581 runs for the Burnmoor club.

Before coming to North Staffordshire, Butler had two successful seasons with the East Lancashire club, and he has now entered upon his fourth campaign with Stoke. Since he has been amongst us, Butler has been a very consistent player and his best performance was at Crewe, last season, when he took five wickets for nine runs and scored 64 not out. North Staffordshire people appreciate a good all-round cricketer, and that is the reason that John Butler is so well liked by devotees of the summer pastime in the district. May we long have the pleasure of his company and the benefit of the entertainment he provides with bat and ball!

## GEORGE DEYES, BURSLEM.

### The Bowler with the Lightning Delivery.

(By "GOOGLE.")

North Staffordshire has had splendid opportunity of seeing the Burslem professional send down his "expresses" for the past two seasons, and this season he hopes to beat his previous best; and now that he is eligible and qualified to assist the county of his adoption, one trusts he may have that good fortune which he richly deserves. Burslem have had some splendid professionals, including, of course, Jack Mee, Hall, Moss (the terror), Jack Brown, Ericoe, Garton, Hulme, Gutteridge, &c.

George Deyes was born on February 11th, 1880, so that he is just turned thirty years of age, and the port of Hull is his native place. He is a picture of physical proportion, being six feet high, 13st. 1lb. in weight, 41 inches round the chest, with a forearm measuring 17 inches. He was captain of the Westbourne-street Board School team, and, after he left school, he played for four seasons with Hull 6th Barnabas, winning both batting and bowling prizes each season. He was then asked to assist Hull in the Yorkshire Council Competition, and, as it was near the end of the season, he only played in five matches, but was successful in capturing 35 wickets at a cost of two runs per wicket. Hull, at this time, had four professionals on their ground (Rudston, Lawrence, Asquith, and Hincheliff), and young Deyes' marvellous bowling simply astounded the Hull spectators.

By trade he was a smith, and had great strength. The next season, he left Hull for North Yorkshire, and at Thirsk he remained for five seasons as professional, his best season's figures being 107 wickets for five runs each and scoring with the willow—and he can hit—605 runs, yielding an average of 35 per innings. Yorkshire, ever on the alert for first-class material, were not long in finding Deyes. Mr. Norris Hepworth, of Leeds, took a Yorkshire eleven to Thirsk for a benefit match, and included five very important cricketers. Deyes rose to the occasion and captured seven wickets for 15 runs. This led to his first colts match v. Notts Colts, at Wath, in Yorkshire, in which Deyes took five wickets for 31 in the first innings and six wickets for 38 in the second. Payton, the well-known Nottingham batsman, was in the Notts side, making his initial bow in the cricket arena, and he obtained a capital score of 32. His first game with the Yorkshire second eleven was at South Shields, against Durham, when he obtained, on a wicket not to his liking, four wickets for 64.

Notwithstanding the fact that he was bowling so brilliantly for Thirsk, his services were not requisitioned again for three years by the County. When, however, he was re-introduced into the County eleven, he was played continuously, Yorkshire were playing Sussex at Headingley, and Lord Hawke, wishing to test several new fast bowlers, asked four of these to attend at practice before the game, and they all bowled at Lord Hawke, Hirst, Rhodes, C. B. Fry, and Vine. The other bowlers included Foster, of Elland, and Wilson, of Scarborough. After they retired, Mr. Fry remarked to Lord Hawke that Deyes was one of the fastest bowlers in England, and that he should like, if not wanted by Yorkshire, to take him into Sussex to qualify for the southern county. Deyes played in his initial first-class match in 1895, at Harrogate, when he commenced the bowling with Hirst and bowled for three hours and took six wickets for 50 runs, against such a strong batting side as Somerset were that year. In this game he removed S. M. J. Wood's balls more than 50 yards. In 1896 he was called upon five times to assist his County, and in 1897 he played 18 games in first-class company. The season being a wet one, his bowling was hurt somewhat, but to play in 18 matches speaks for itself as to how he was appreciated in the county of broad acres.

He can boast many great performances, but he reckons that his seven wickets for 101 runs, at Repton Oval, in August, 1897, on a wicket that was absolutely of no assistance, among his best. His eight wickets for 21,



GEORGE DEYES, Burslem.

The above is a photograph of Deyes in a characteristic attitude. It is hoped that he will be of much service to the Staffordshire County team, for which he has now qualified.

[Photo by Foster, Brighton.]

against Staffordshire, was another great performance. He played for Staffordshire last season, at Lords, against the M.C.C., and made a fine initial bow, as he clean bowled—middle stump—a Marylebone representative with his very first ball on Staffordshire's behalf. At Old Trafford against Lancashire Second, whose side included B. H. Spooner and H. G. Garnett, he took seven wickets for 54, the

wicket-keeper, Dolphin, taking four for him, behind the wickets. His eight wickets for 23 runs, on Burslem's behalf, against the rival eleven from Porthill, last season, will long be remembered, as also will his seven for 14 against Leek. He is a heavy hitter and once lost a ball in a dyke. Deyes has shown the Cobridge crowd several good batting displays, his best being 84, when opposed by Leek bowling. He takes a great run when trundling, believing that it is necessary when trundling at such a pace, and that it makes it easier to deliver. He also swerves the ball a little.

Unlike many prominent cricketers he does not remember any member of his family other than himself who ever played at cricket at all. Deyes considers that the North Staffordshire League is a very good one, but not quite the same class as the Yorkshire Council, where the grounds are larger and the teams, he considers, a little stronger. Deyes prefers a good hard wicket, and, given this and a smart field, he has few superiors in the cricket world. He speaks in great praise of the Burslem groundsmen, Mr. Lofell, who, Deyes declares, is second to none for looking after and preparing wickets. When in Hull, Deyes was a Rugby three-quarter, with Hull Kingston Rovers, so that his experience in sport is not confined to cricket. One wishes him a most successful season, which, of course, he will have if the wickets are at all to his liking and the fieldmen smart.

**GEORGE C. GILL, FENTON.**

**The Man Who Has Played for Five Counties.**

(BY "NOMAD.")

George Cooper Gill first saw the light of day at Mount Sorrel, a pretty village in the heart of the Hunting Shire—Leicester—famous, so my professional training reminds me, for its granite quarries. His father was a rare good old cricketer, while his younger brother has played for his native Leicestershire, and is now professional at Batley, in Yorkshire. The subject of my sketch has the unique distinction of having represented five counties—Brecon, Dorset, Somerset, Leicester, and, once, for Staffordshire—against Worcester, at Wolverhampton, last summer. As he is now fully qualified, he will undoubtedly be a great addition to the playing strength of our own county. His acquaintance with the band of the Leek came about through the removal of his family



GEORGE C. GILL, Fenton.  
(Photo by A. Pickering, Leicester.)

to Brecon, and he showed such aptitude for our grand summer pastime as to secure a position in the Breconshire county eleven at the tender age of 15. Shortly afterwards his people again removed, this time into Dorset, and here George had his first professional engagement, on the County Ground, at Poole Park.

He played for Dorset for three years, but his fame as a bowler early reached the authorities of the neighbouring county of Somerset, and he was induced to qualify for them, being professional in the meantime at Bridgewater. For the "Cider" county, he did magnificent work in every department of the game, and, during his five years stay with them, was quite the mainstay of the attack. At the end of his fifth year, an alluring offer prevailed upon him to return to his native shire, and, for four years, he gave Leicestershire of his best. Excepting those who have gone through the mill, none can tell of the strain of first-class county cricket upon a fast bowler. Day following day, like a human machine, he has to plug away on billiard-table wickets, often under a broiling sun, and no one can wonder that some of our best bowlers give preference to a remunerative engagement with a League club. Sydney Barnes was probably the first to strike out in this particular line, and he has worthy followers in George Gill and George Wilson, Norton's new professional.

Early in the winter of 1907, Fenton advertised for a new professional, and George Gill was one of the applicants. Many other men of repute also applied, but it early dawned on the committee that he was their man, and the agreement was fixed up with as little delay as possible. No records were asked for; his reputation was all sufficient, and few will question the wisdom of the choice. He has from the onset been a model professional. Long associations with gentlemen of the stamp of S. M. J. Woods have broadened his views and wrought out to the full his natural sporting qualities, and he has made himself deservedly popular, not only with his fellow players, but with each and every member of the club. Always immaculate in his appearance on the field, his pardonable pride in this respect is only exceeded by his keenness for the welfare of his side, and no captain ever commanded a more willing worker. No matter how hot the day, or what success is attending his efforts, he pounds away with the heart of a giant, and few of those who were eye-witnesses will ever forget his bowling against Harry Wood, in the home match with Porthill last year, when he actually bowled 17 overs for five runs. In the field, too, his enthusiasm is infectious, but perhaps it is his natural hitting ability that has wormed its way to the hearts of the multitude more than anything else. In his first innings, at Fenton, he took 78 from the Silverdale bowling, on several occasions sending the ball yards over the hoarding, and when the last word has been said in favour of scientific batting, the smiter is the man for the public.

Last year the fates were unkind to his efforts with the bat, but his superb innings of 98, in something like 50 minutes, at Crewe, fully atoned for any previous shortcomings, and delighted friend and foe alike. When bowling, he takes an abnormally long run, but is most accurate in pitch and pace, and his fast one is a snorter. His figures last season—96 wickets for a trifle over six runs per wicket—prove that he had no little share in Fenton's championship. The present champions have ever been lucky in their selections of professionals, and, to say the least, George Gill has not let them down. He keeps no records, has a very modest opinion of his own deeds, and is most reluctant to speak of them. His highest score was 178 for Somerset, against M.C.C., and, in his own mind, he thinks his best performance was 100, in 55 minutes, against Sussex, at Leicester. His best season in first-class cricket was for Somerset, when he took 93 wickets for 18 runs each, and scored more than 800 runs, with an average of 25. He took six Middlesex wickets

at Lord's for 13 runs, and has taken 15 wickets in one match, against Warwickshire—and that's about all one can get out of him. He has played in festival cricket on several occasions, for the South of England and the Rest of England, and on many occasions for London County. He has the greatest regard for the old champion, W. G. Grace, and has received much instruction and kindness at his hands.

At one time he was no mean Soccer player, and has played in the Somerset County eleven, and, on a few occasions, for Southampton. He is more than useful with a billiard cue, too. His innings at Fenton might probably last a little longer if he would not try to hit too many balls into the coal trucks which form part of the scenery round the ground; but when once George has tasted blood—well, nature will out! Good luck to him!

**FRED MOORHOUSE, CREWE.**

**The Warwickshire Stalwart of Yorkshire Birth.**

(BY "VETERAN.")

There is no professional in the North Staffordshire League better respected than Fred Moorhouse, who is always kind, cheerful, and unassuming in his manner, features which have made him universally popular with the cricketing fraternity in the Railway town.

Fred Moorhouse was born at Berry Brow, which is one of the suburbs of Huddersfield, in 1880, and many well-known players of the present day can also lay claim to the same locality, including George Hirst, Wilfred Rhodes, Schofield Haigh, Charlesworth, and Bob Moorhouse, a brother of the Crewe professional. Fred Moorhouse, like the other members of the family, had always a keen desire to become an accomplished cricketer, and at the age of fourteen he played for Armitage Bridge, who at that period were affiliated to the Huddersfield League. Moorhouse was played for his batting in his early days, and many good scores did he knock together. His reputation soon began to travel, and two seasons later he was given a trial with the Yorkshire second eleven—an honour he much appreciated. He recalls an incident when playing at Norwich, against Norfolk, when he made 18 and 11 (not out), in addition to capturing one wicket for 18. Up to this day he cherishes that one wicket more than all the others, for it happened to be that of Albert Bell.

He had the misfortune to badly fracture one of his fingers, and that accident proved most serious, for it deprived Moorhouse from taking part in the game for two seasons. No doubt a place in the Yorkshire eleven was his ambition, and his brother had already gained that distinction, through the recommendation of Lord Hawke. Dame Fortune, however, did not favour the claims of Fred Moorhouse, but another door opened when John Bates, the groundsmen at Birmingham, amicably arranged with the Yorkshire executive for the transfer of Moorhouse to play for Warwickshire. After becoming qualified in 1901, he quickly made his presence felt with his new masters, and when doing duty against Yorkshire, in the following year, he took four good wickets for 27 runs. By this time Moorhouse had become a very useful trundler, and at Coventry he was very prominent against the Philadelphians in 1903. In that match he took four wickets for 30. Shortly afterwards that performance was eclipsed at Hull, when, again opposing his native shire, Moorhouse claimed four wickets for 61 in the first innings, and seven for 63 in the second innings.

More good performances followed, against Worcestershire, Hampshire, and other well-known county teams. In a match against Lancashire, he claimed six for 64, and scored 33 runs with the bat. His best scores were 48 against Derbyshire, at Edgbaston, in 1903, 76 against London County, and 65 not out against Lancashire. Of his abilities as a good all-round cricketer there will be no two opinions. Endowed with a healthy appearance, a bright temperament, and the courage of a lion, Moorhouse is indeed a typical "Tyke" of the first water.

Since his location in Crewe, Moorhouse has clearly proved his sterling value to the Alexandra, and he has now entered upon his third season with the Railway town club.



FRED MOORHOUSE, Crewe Alexandra.  
[Photo by Powis and May, Birmingham.]

**GEORGE WILSON, NORTON.**

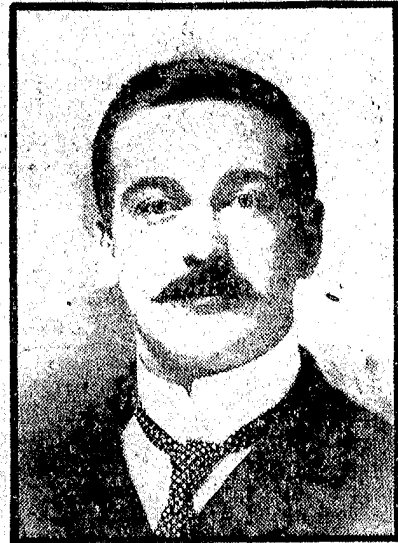
**The Man Who Took Eight Wickets in  
Eight Maiden Overs.**

(BY "WANDERER.")

One is always sorry to part with old friends, and, consequently, the public of North Staffordshire must regret very much the passing away from professional cricket of Robert John Mee, one of the ablest cricketers the district has ever known. He has not given up his residence in the locality, and one is pleased on that score, because the chances are that some day he may be seen on our cricket fields again as an amateur. But every lover of the game in the district, and visitors to the County Ground and the Norton and Burslem grounds in particular, will feel his absence until he does return, as it is sincerely hoped he may be induced to do. Mee's successor at Norton is George A. Wilson, and the probability is that there may be some slight difficulty in recognising him from the photograph reproduced above, owing to the fact that he has lately removed his heavy moustache. He is a good cricketer, and an enthusiast. A native of Buckinghamshire, he commenced to play cricket with the Cross Arrows Club. When 16 years of age he accomplished a very smart performance against Chesham, for with the first ball of each of eight maiden overs he took a wicket. This brought him into prominence, and Essex asked him to qualify for them, but, having a good position on the railway, he decided not to entertain this idea. Later, however, he went to Kidderminster, and in the four years that he was there he helped his team to carry off the championship of the Birmingham League three times.

Meanwhile he had qualified for Worcestershire, and he was a member of the team who, in 1893, went through the season without losing a match. Then Worcestershire commenced to play in first-class company, and on the occasion of his debut in the top flight Wilson got eight Yorkshire wickets in one innings. He played with Worcestershire until 1906, and was always regarded as one of the best fast bowlers in first-class cricket. He did the "hat-trick" three times—against Surrey, London County, and the Australians. In the first four years he captured more than a hundred wickets each season, and afterwards the number fluctuated between 60 and 70 each year. The significance of these figures can only be realised when it is remembered that Worcestershire are supposed to have the best "wickets" in England.

Subsequently Wilson was engaged as professional to the Nelson Club in the Lancashire League, and he demonstrated very forcibly there that he could handle the willow as well as bowl, for in a match against Skipton he scored 142 in an hour and three-quarters, and he also got 78 not out against Bacup and 68 not out against Lowerhouse. Now he is with us in North Staffordshire, and his six wickets for 20 runs, against Burslem, in the opening match, as well as his score of 21—which was the highest of the match—shows that he means business.



GEORGE A. WILSON, Norton.  
[Photo by A. Reibold Shiels, London.]

## N.S. AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

(NOTES BY "INCIGNITUS.")

### DIVISION I.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Longton	5	3	0	2	8
Silverdale	4	2	0	2	6
Burslem	4	2	1	1	5
Crewe Alexandra	4	2	1	1	5
Norton	4	2	1	1	5
Porthill Park	4	2	1	1	5
Fenton	5	2	2	1	5
Leek	4	1	1	2	4
Tunstall	5	1	3	1	3
Leek Highfield	4	0	2	2	2
Stoke	4	0	2	2	2
Stoke	5	0	3	2	2

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Leek Highfield, 52; Fenton, 132.  
Burslem, 80; Porthill Park, 61.  
Crewe Alexandra, 163 (for 5); Stoke, 60.  
Longton, 164 (for 6); Leek, 134 (for 9).  
Stoke, 98; Norton, 106.  
Tunstall, 82; Silverdale, 123 (for 7).

### LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Fenton, 83; Longton, 169 (for 4).  
Porthill Park, 166 (for 7); Leek Highfield, 80.  
Crewe Alexandra, 80; Burslem, 121 (for 9).  
Norton, 124; Tunstall, 131.  
Leek, 142; Stoke, 46.  
Stoke, 57; Silverdale, 135 (for 7).

### LAST TUESDAY'S RESULTS.

Tunstall, 119; Fenton, 205 (for 3).  
Stoke, 53; Longton, 101.

### DIVISION II.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Oldfields II.	4	4	0	0	8
Knipersley II.	4	2	0	2	6
Crewe Alexandra II.	4	2	1	1	5
Norton II.	4	2	1	1	5
Porthill Park II.	4	2	1	1	5
Great Chell	4	1	1	2	4
Longton II.	4	1	1	2	4
Burslem II.	4	1	2	1	3
Silverdale II.	4	1	2	1	3
Fenton II.	4	0	2	2	2
Stoke II.	4	0	2	2	2
Tunstall II.	4	0	3	1	1

### LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Fenton, 229 (for 7); Knipersley, 223 (for 9).  
Porthill Park, 131 (for 9); Burslem, 29.  
Oldfields, 155 (for 4); Crewe Alexandra, 108.  
Great Chell, 146; Longton, 80.  
Norton, 96; Stoke, 53.  
Silverdale, 122; Tunstall, 87.

### LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Longton, 163 (for 8); Fenton, 98 (for 5).  
Knipersley, 177; Porthill Park, 129 (for 8).  
Burslem, 83; Crewe Alexandra, 91.  
Tunstall, 89; Norton, 94.  
Stoke, 55; Great Chell, 55.  
Silverdale, 52; Oldfields, 57.

### LONGTON MAKE HISTORY.

The Whitsuntide vacation was again turned to advantage by cricketers, and in this League no fewer than 26 matches were played. With the weather in favourable mood some interesting games were forthcoming, and the unexpected results of some of them tended to make the proceedings the more spicy. With five points from three matches, Longton got to the top of the table, and though not hitherto considered quite in the first flight, their doings so far fairly entitle them to the position. Two victories to Silverdale have put them in second place, and the Villagers have got so well off the mark that their future work should be eagerly followed. Another win will give them as many victories as all last season could bring, and gratification would be general if the exploits of 1896 and 1897 were repeated. Silverdale and Longton share the merit of being the only undefeated clubs, and Leek Highfield, Stoke, and Stoke have the distinction of not having been successful. The last-named had a very rocky week-end, losing on three occasions, and though they made a good fight with Norton they were easily beaten by Leek and Longton.

Leek Highfield were outmatched by the champions, and only a fine 26 not out from A. Rider saved them from utter extermination. His comrades were mostly at the mercy of Gill and H. Downs, and the only stands of any moment were for the first and last wickets. Fenton had the game won with but one wicket down, and E. H. Bourne and Gill jointly had more notches than all the Highfielders could muster. Rickson was again out of luck with the bat, but six wickets for 46 runs indicates good work with the ball.

With concern in cricket not yet properly excited there was hardly the usual furor in the meeting of the Burslem and Porthill Park rivals, but for all that the attendance was easily the best the season has yet produced. The play was by no means equal to what this particular match has often provided, and generally speaking the batting was deplorably poor.

It is true there was good bowling to be faced, but the pitch was so favourable to run getting that batsmen should have been much more in the piece than they were. There was no question as to which was the better side, for in all departments the Cobridge men outplayed the opposition. A Cook put his team in the path of victory with a slashing display of hitting. He certainly took his life in his hands, but his tactics were proper to the occasion, and, in the circumstances, a few accidental scoring strokes were not detrimental to a courageous display.

The visitors had a further taste of the home captain's prowess when they batted, and but for 18 extras their total would have been ludicrously meagre. Bowling from the end that had suited Eardley, Cook had most of them in sore trouble, as six victims for three runs each clearly shows.

There was only six minutes to go when Crewe Alexandra captured Stoke's last wicket, and probably the Alexandra owe a point to the manner in which the chances were running in their bowling strength. The feature of the match was the fine batting of Frank White whose 81 not out ranks as the highest and best innings of his career. As J. Dickinson was also to the fore with 42 there was little wonder that Crewe were able to declare with but five wickets down. Stoke had only a draw to play for, and they worked well for it, but some of the spectators were of opinion that a little more alacrity should have been exhibited by incoming batsmen. The fast bowling of J. P. Groom was again a big factor in the in the Alexandra's success. In thirteen overs he only sacrificed ten runs, and four wickets fell to him. A. Cope, F. Bennett and W. Lea equally shared the others, and the last named's first appearance was indicative of coming usefulness.

An unbroken last wicket partnership by H. Mellor and H. R. Brunt, which produced a score of runs saved Leek from defeat by Longton, who had declared with four wickets in hand. That this declaration was possible was chiefly due to the fine batting of H. J. Plant, whose association with J. J. Awty produced sixty runs. For the other side G. M. Fenton (33), and F. Walker (27), did best, and their sixth wicket stand realised just half a century.

Norton's success over Stoke was gained with rather more ease than the scores suggest, for they had the match practically won with five wickets standing. The ground team started badly before Wilcox and H. Matthews, and though W. D. Kirkby and F. M. Grose made fifth wicket stand for 44 runs, Stoke never got a grip of the game. The winners had a much better start, but they found trouble when G. H. Powell had a turn with the ball. This recruit from South African cricket came out with the best bowling figures of the match, for his six wickets cost but 34 runs, whereas Wilson's half dozen were debited with thirteen more.

When Tunstall lose five wickets for 12 runs and eight for 14 more they can only expect defeat. This was what happened in their meeting with Silverdale, and the pluck of J. Gregory and J. Johnson, who actually put on 45 runs for the last wicket, was unavailing. Brown and J. C. Cooper determined the result by hitting up 71 for Silverdale's first wicket. The amateur was the dominant man of the game, for bowling that got him seven wickets for four runs each was supplemented by a batting display that earned him 51 chalks. The fielding of the winners was very fine.

The outstanding occurrence of the beginning of the week games was the thrashing administered to Fenton by their Longton rivals, and the winners have been not a little elated thereby. Writing without the book, and at the risk of future contradiction, one may hazard the statement that Longton have never previously beaten Fenton in First Division cricket. If that be so, there is real cause for jubilation. The opening partnership of H. J. Plant and E. J. Baxter had not a little to do with Longton's success, even though it realised but 28 runs. In getting the runs, however, they quite took the sting out of some good bowling, which they defied for practically an hour. Awty had seven fours in a meritorious 49, and Smith had two more in his 51, not out. When Fenton took 20 runs off five overs they seemed like showing fight, but when H. Dearing was bowled in trying to hit Awty to leg, and E. H. Bourne unluckily played a ball from his foot to his wicket, any visions of success were dispelled, and afterwards the champions could not even play for a draw. Longton's win was the outcome of good cricket, and clever captaincy, six bowlers being tried in the last seven overs of the game.

In Second Division matches Oldfields and Norton each got four points from two games, and the former rank as the only club in either division not to have sacrificed a point. They were easily successful over Crewe Alexandra, but in a match of small scores they almost came a cropper at Silverdale, and they were three runs behind when their last man went in. In this game C. A. Nicholls got three

wickets for no runs. Norton had not a deal of trouble in disposing of Stoke, but they were hardly pressed by Tunstall, who wanted but ten runs for victory when their sixth wicket fell. Great Chell and Porthill Park each earned three points in their two matches, and Knipersley are similarly credited in the table, but the result of their heavy scoring bout with Fenton is at present in dispute, as there is some uncertainty as to whether a four credited to the champions was actually scored. However, the points may be awarded this was a rattling good game, and Fenton have no cause for chagrin that their declaration was not attended with more success. But for it, the fine finish that occurred would not have been possible.

Burslem and Tunstall could get nary a point, and the former were well thrashed by Porthill, but thanks to a capital 45 not out from H. Rowe, they gave Crewe Alexandra much more trouble. Stoke and Great Chell participated in a tie match, and as Stoke's last three wickets fell at the same total the Chell team may be accounted fortunate to have shared the spoils.



LONGTON.

Fenton Flabergasted.

(BY "VIGILANT.")

The question that is being asked on every hand is: Have Longton ever been represented by a better side than the one they have to represent them this season? It is a difficult matter at this early period to answer a query of this description, but if the willow wielding of this description is a specimen of that during Whitsuntide is a specimen of that during which the side are going to serve up during the remaining part of the tourney, then the side that beats them will be a good one indeed. They have accomplished during last week-end that which they have been striving to do ever since they became members of the First Division of the North Staffordshire and District League; that is to say they have defeated their neighbours at Fenton! It is a singular thing that no matter how well Longton have been playing they have always failed previously to capture a brace of points at the expense of the Champions, and the jubilation of the players and their followers on this occasion were well merited.

The victory was no fluke, and the home side were beaten at almost every point. I must give Fenton the credit of being the smarter side in the field, and the way they picked the ball up and shied at the wicket was practically faultless, and the most surprising point was that they never relaxed their efforts when the score against them began to appear formidable. I do not wish it to be thought that the Longton fielding was bad, for that would be a long way from correct, for seldom have I seen the visitors field better, but I just mentioned the home side's fielding as being the only point. In my opinion, where they excelled.

The first-wicket stand by E. G. Baxter and H. J. Plant without a doubt laid the foundation of the victory, and although the attitude of the batsmen in showing the face of the bat to the good balls and then picking out the loose ones, which were few and far between, did not at the outset meet with the approval of a large proportion of the spectators, they would certainly have to candidly admit that cricket of the "fireworks" type is not the proper thing to indulge in when playing against such bowling as that served up by the Fenton side. The first wicket fell at 28, and A. Bradbury left at 53. The 34 obtained by H. J. Plant were worth three times that number to his side. The partnership of A. Smith and J. J. Awty realised 100 runs in as many minutes, and when Awty was caught off the eighth ball of an over, the innings was declared at 169 for four wickets.

The declaration was a sporting one, considering the reputation the Fenton side have for making runs quickly, but, anyhow, it proved to be all right, and when the home side's last wicket fell there was still 20 minutes to spare.

Owing to the Rev. L. G. Brown being indisposed, A. Smith captained the side, and right well he did it. I must congratulate him upon the way he worked his bowling near the end; it was certainly magnificent judgment. Fenton were all out for 83, and the catch made by P. Thorley at the close was a crowning effort to the victory.

The other matches fade in comparison to the one with Fenton, and I shall only briefly refer to them. Leek were fortunate to carry away a point; Longton, as on Monday, declaring with 164 to their credit, with only six wickets down. J. J. Awty was again associated in a long partnership, but on this occasion H. J. Plant was the batsman at the other end, and 60 runs were added before a separation was brought about. Mr. Plant was eventually run out with a well obtained 65 to his credit. Leek obtained 134 runs for nine wickets, and the last pair, Messrs. H. Mellor and H. R. Brunt, successfully withstood the attack for 25 minutes. It is quite possible that if a few bowling changes had been made during this period another victory would have been recorded.

At Stoke, on Tuesday, further laurels awaited the Longtonians, who won in comfortable fashion, with 48 runs in hand. A. Smith and J. J. Awty, who, apparently, have a liking for each other's company at the wicket, took the score from 15 to 83, and Alf. Smith, by scoring 52, brought his total up to 117 for two completed innings, which is quite a promising start. Trees was in deadly form, and captured the first four wickets at a cost of only a couple of runs, and his final average was six for 18. He also experienced hard luck, missing a catch himself, and another was missed behind the wicket; had the latter been held it would have given him the "hat trick." F. Stephenson proved a successful change bowler, taking the last three wickets without a run being knocked off him. At the time of writing the side are still undefeated.

STONE.

THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT.  
(BY "UMPIRE.")

It is obvious even to the most enthusiastic supporter of Stone cricket that the club just now are doing badly, so badly that unless an improvement is at once shown the club will once again be struggling at the bottom of the table. Four points have gone this Whitsuntide, in each case the victors won deservedly, in neither case did Stone look like gaining a victory. At Crewe Stone had a weak side, but the Railway team, being without Moorhouse, rather equalised matters in this respect. Crewe took advantage of their luck in winning the toss by putting on a capital score and declaring at 163 for five. Stone lost the match in the first two overs, for J. Groom and A. Cope each got a wicket without a run being scored. Towards the end Stone looked like having the game, and but for an accident to H. Holmes would probably have done so, but this promising young bat had his thumb injured. (Otherwise) he would probably have kept up his end for the two remaining overs of the match.

Silverdale conquered on Monday, and quite deserved to do so. J. C. Cooper and Brown made a splendid start, for the first wicket fell at 49, of which 42 were made by the amateur, who played bright and attractive cricket after a rocky start. With F. Ellams as a partner, he woke up, and the pair carried the score to 105 ere the second wicket fell, and with the score at 122 the professional was out. But Brown's cricket, whilst invaluable to his side, was uninteresting to watch. The veteran professional took an hour to make his first seven runs, and his 52 was compiled in two hours and twenty minutes. At 135 for seven Silverdale closed their innings.

Time was when 135 would have proved a fairly even chance of Stone winning, but with the batting in its present form, it was much too late a task. Once again the match was lost in the first few overs. Only Anthony seemed at home with the Silverdale bowling, and the Stone professional made a brave effort to rescue the side from disaster. Just when a haze seemed a certainty, his wicket was spread by C. Cadman. Even then, Stone had only to have a chance, and G. H. Harris did only to survive the last over of the match. Four balls he got through all right, but the fifth was fatal, for he popped it up to Rushton who had crept close up at square leg, and Silverdale thus won the match, as indeed they quite deserved to do.

In both these contests Harry Anthony came out with distinct credit. He bowled very well at Crewe, but got little or no assistance, whilst at his 17 was obtained under great difficulties. Stone threw the match away against Silverdale by bad fielding. Several easy catches were missed, and if the Stone club are to figure in a respectable position, this important department of the game must be improved. Rarely is there anything in the shape of fielding practice, and some, at any rate, of the players scarcely touch a ball from Saturday to Saturday. Stone have not a bad side if the best is made of the players at command, and this can be done if a little more enthusiasm is introduced.

NANTWICH.

"SENTINEL" CUP TRIUMPH.

The Nantwich team opened the season with a visit to Boughton Hall, but their side was a representative one, owing to several members selected being unable to make the journey, and, in consequence, they suffered defeat. But they may be complimented upon making a good fight against their formidable opponents. Going to the wickets first, Nantwich put together 77. Boughton Hall replied with 111.

The second eleven entertained Tarporley, who had the assistance of H. Maybury and J. Robinson. Tarporley, batting first, compiled 110. Maybury obtained six wickets. In reply to this score, the home side made a bad start, on the board. The association of C. Hope and Peck ran a better complexion on the game, both adding 15. H. Maybury materially assisted his side in effecting a draw by his careful cricket, and time arrived with the score 77 for eight wickets.

On Whit-Monday the first eleven journey to Nantwich to play their first round tie in the "Sentinel" Cup competition, and the match was remarkable, if only for the low scoring which either side and the narrow margin of six runs which gave the visitors a victory.

STAFFORD.

Hurricane Hitting.

(BY "CLICKER.")

The conditions for the resumption of the game on Saturday were much more congenial than had previously prevailed. The sun had apparently been saving himself for the holidays for both on Saturday and Monday he came out with most generous refulgence, and, given a friendly shelter from the breeze, which still had a distinct penetrative power, one was absolutely able to "bask" like the rural guardian of the law of old and enjoy the first taste of what it is to be hoped may be entitled summer without such an economy of truth as was the case last year. Then I remember the question being asked "Did you ever know such a summer?" "Not since last winter," was the reply.

The first team were at Wolverhampton with which club home and home games were being played, the second string being at the Hough. Both put up a decent score, but in neither case was it high enough, so a double defeat has to be recorded as a start of the season. With the weather as it has been, the wickets were naturally in favour of the bat. At Tattenhall, Stafford's total was just a gross, to which Robins, Gilling, and Ellsmoor were the principal contributors. The home side, however, effectually put the Stafford aggregate in the shade, some hurricane hitting being witnessed, and for the loss of only three wickets no fewer than 264 runs were amassed—a very fine performance. Outstanding was the great compilation of 121 by E. W. Page, while Beddows' 48 would also look remarkably well in less overshadowing company.

As away, so at home, Stafford had first knock and put up what looked a tolerably safe score of 117. This was a much better figure than looked likely to be reached during the earlier portions of the game, for a distinctly poor start was made. Four wickets which usually produce at least useful scores were got rid of for 25 runs, and the outlook was black indeed until Brinson and Packer became associated. They stopped the rot which appeared to have set in, and made a most welcome stand. Packer allowed his partner to do the aggressive work, and he took full advantage of the opportunity. He simply defied the bowling which had hitherto carried all before it, and, frequently finding the boundary, the score quickly rose to respectable proportions. Packer's dozen was worth double its ordinary value by the opportunities it gave Brinson. The latter had only one other double figure partner—Wright—who made an invaluable 14, but plodding on he at last reached his fifty—an accomplishment upon which he was heartily cheered, for unless I am misinformed it is the first half-century he has made for the club. It was a pity he did not carry his bat out, especially as he was the last to go, and it was perhaps due to his own recklessness. Nevertheless, without him Stafford would have made a poor show indeed, and the worst wish will be that he may "keep it up."

Stafford really ought to have won the game, for they had disposed of nine wickets for 101, which looked odds on their victory. Reynolds, the last man, however, played the stone-wall game to perfection, and, with Hawkswood, who had been going strong for some time, actually put on 30 runs without being paired. It is a credit to a last pair to do this, but is exceedingly tantalising to the opposition. It should certainly be mentioned that after his excellent batting display Brinson was also top sawyer in the bowling department, capturing seven wickets for 35 runs.

The Whit-Monday match with Bostock's was brought off under beautiful conditions. This game was likewise notable for the predominance of bat over ball. Bostock's put up the moderate total of 97, but this was easily superseded. W. Sheldon and J. W. Eaton Shore laid a good foundation as the first pair, and two fine scores of 78 and 50 respectively were piled on by A. J. Ward and V. H. Robins. In the end the aggregate reached 230 for eight wickets, which thus left Bostock's hopelessly in the rear.

MACCLESFIELD.

Poynton's Punishment.

(BY "WEAVER.")

At last Macclesfield have opened their season. They began it at Poynton last week. The result was a most auspicious and satisfactory start, inasmuch as their old rivals were beaten by a comfortable margin of 40 runs. This result came as a fine tonic, after some of the less successful struggles that have taken place between Poynton and Macclesfield in seasons past, and it will have a beneficial effect on the interest of the supporters of the club this season. The weather was all that could be desired, the first prolonged appearance of a long-delayed summer sun making the fast Poynton wicket even faster than usual.

Macclesfield batted first. H. Leigh and F. V. Hall being the first partners at the wicket, but neither of the men stayed very long. Spencer, the new professional, came to the rescue, and with J. A. Harrison and J. Sheldon changed the waning fortunes of the club. Spencer batted with great care, and although his innings did not show any great hits he nevertheless gave a creditable account of himself, and left his mark on the score sheet. J. Harrison was the next batsman of note. I rather like Harrison's style. Tall, with a long reach, he put the bowlers about in good style. But, after all, Jack Harrison would be wise to go in for a bowler and in that position he would be appreciated by the club. He took two wickets in four overs for four runs, and a little serious practice would give a good return.

As a bowler, J. Sheldon promises good things. He made his debut last week, and, with an opening performance, his innings of 31 runs reflected great credit on him. He lashed the Poynton bowling about in graceful fashion, which is saying a good deal, inasmuch as some rather queer stuff came down from J. R. Potts, who, by the way, accounted for six Macclesfield wickets. W. Compston was the highest scorer, with 33 runs. Being lucky in the early stages, he spiced his innings with variety, 30 runs being compiled in fours and twos.

Considering that many of the Macclesfield players had hardly had a bat in hand this season, they did very well, and I hope they will, having made so good a start, practice assiduously. They did very well, but there is ample room for improvement—a fact which I think most of them already recognise. To the bowlers, Spencer, Sam Millward, W. Compston and J. A. Harrison, every praise is due, although the captain would have found Spencer more effective if he had changed him at the ends and rested him earlier. The score of 126 runs tells its own story.

Poynton then went to the wickets. T. Potts and A. Farquharson being the first to defend the pegs against the bowling of the Macclesfield professional and Millward. Farquharson had a short life, owing to his desire to make it a merry one, and having scored one run, he played into the hands of the Macclesfield skipper, who held the ball very firmly. Praise is due to Sam Millward for his successful delivery. Spencer at once became infected with the desire for wickets, and D. Birch, Poynton's splendid wicket keeper, who at the beginning of the season was invited to assist Macclesfield, found himself in difficulties and, eventually, a prey to Spencer, who knocked his middle wicket well back. G. Poole then joined Tom Potts, who, playing with great care, was helping the Poynton score ahead. Poole came out to a full-tossed ball from Sam Millward, and lifted it into the hands of Downes, who downed it quickly. Something in the nature of a bereavement for Poynton immediately followed, the valiant Tom Potts being run out. He left a score of 22 runs behind him. In the enjoyment of his survival, Poole hit out for a useful trio, and then saw H. Potts disappear without scoring. Poole and Booth were next together, and both men were caused much discomfort by the varying pitch of Millward. The brilliant sun had baked hard the surface of the crease, which, at Poynton, is fast in ordinarily fine weather. Spencer, taking advantage of the gift of the elements, swung down some quick stuff, and instead of driven runs, cuts were more popular with the Poynton batsmen.

A change of bowlers was effected by Compston relieving Millward, but it did not bring immediate results. The Poynton bats were very steady, and scored seven runs off Spencer's last five overs. At last Compston, with the second ball of his second over, bowled Poole, who had compiled 13 runs in twice as many minutes. Corbishley then brought off a clever catch at the expense of Booth, from Compston's bowling. Immediately afterwards Compston bowled Ridgway—which made three wickets for six runs in five overs, three being maidens. The Poynton batsmen then settled down, and a rest would have been beneficial to the Macclesfield professional. W. Eidler was the last of the Poynton stalwarts to make anything like a serious stand, and he was dismissed by a very fine catch by Harrison from one of his own deliveries.

The match between the Macclesfield second team and the Poynton Reserves on the Victoria-road ground proved to be a very poor one. The weather was beautiful, and the Poynton team went to the wickets first. The scoring throughout the innings was very slow, and the fielding and bowling of the Macclesfield players, with one or two exceptions, was bad. Catch after catch was missed. Nine players had a turn at bowling, S. Whitaker coming out on top by capturing two wickets for the small margin of three runs. J. Needham and J. Wild opened the Poynton innings, and in the first over the latter was missed by F. Whitaker, but, this mistake was made good in the second over, by Kearsby, who caught Wild in the long field. E. Singleton filled the vacancy, but his stay was very short, for he had only scored four when he was dismissed leg before wicket by Haywood. The principal scorer of the match was J. Daniels, who obtained 32 runs, but during his innings he was missed being caught no less than five times, the first being when he had only scored three. The Poynton innings closed for a total of 103 runs. Macclesfield then batted, and made a poor show, being dismissed for a total of 35, the highest score being nine, which was accomplished by the captain (S. Whitaker).

Macclesfield entertained Levenshulme on Bank Holiday and were well beaten. Last year the local team pulled off a victory after an exciting game, and had it not been for the invaluable services rendered by the county cricketer, Dr. E. M. Ashcroft, with 57 and J. Parkinson, with 54, Macclesfield would have been more than a match for the proud lads from the Manchester suburb. Macclesfield batted first, and put up a total of 70 runs, W. Compston being the highest scorer with 21. Spencer was not on the form which he showed at Poynton. There was a noticeable sameness about his deliveries and that, no doubt, accounted in some degree for the punishment he suffered. To him, however, belongs the credit of having closed the innings of Dr. Ashcroft, while J. A. Harrison was equally successful with J. Parkinson at 54. This youth is very favourable spoken of in the Manchester district as a coming cricketer. His performances from the beginning of this season have won for him unstinted praise and assisted Levenshulme very materially in their struggles for victory. Possessing a long reach, he causes trouble to the best bowlers outside league cricket.

SANDBACH.

THE HILDITCH FAMILY SUCCESSFUL.

The first team on Saturday went to Alderley Edge, and had the better of a drawn game. Batting first the visitors knocked up 127 for six, at which stage they declared. The captain, H. P. Rigby, again displayed fine form, making 52, and good cricket was also played by J. R. Sheffield (24 not out), and G. Cooke (19). Alderley Edge were a long time in becoming comfortable against the bowling of Cotton and E. Moses, seven wickets being lost for 24, but then A. Shute got set and when time arrived he was 46 not out, and the total 78 for eight. E. Moses took four for 13, and S. Caton four for 40.

On Monday an interesting game between the club and the Hilditch Family eleven, which included eight of the Hilditch's, was witnessed on the Sandbach ground. Some excellent cricket was shown by both sides, and the Hilditch's won by thirty runs. A feature was the admirable innings of 104 by T. A. Hilditch. On the club side H. Ferrand with 32, was the highest contributor.

The Sandbach second team were badly beaten at home, on Saturday, by Crewe Tourists. The Sandbachians only made 60, and that total was passed by the visitors without the loss of a wicket, the Crewe innings being closed at 209 for nine. Evanson for Crewe made 89, and Abram 45, and these two being the first men in the first wicket was productive of 124. Brownridge had a bowling average of six for 31, and he took three of the wickets in one over.

SILVERDALE.

MAKING SPLENDID PROGRESS.

(BY "LONG STOP.")

Two important holiday fixtures have brought in the maximum number of points for Silverdale, who were the guests of Tunstall and Stone respectively. It is a long time since the team accomplished such a smart performance as they did on Saturday against Tunstall. Thanks to the excellent bowling of J. C. Cooper, who, keeping a splendid length, was enabled to secure in 14 overs seven wickets for 29 runs; Tunstall were disposed of for 42. Cooper supplemented his efforts with the ball by contributing a dashing 51 out of a total of 123 for seven, when the innings was declared closed, and victory was achieved. Brown (29), and F. H. Wynne (31 not out) also treated the onlookers to an attractive display of batting.

With practically the same team to oppose Stone on Whit Monday, Silverdale entered into the contest with a certain amount of confidence, and won on the stroke of time by a large margin. As a matter of fact Stone, who had nothing to play for but a draw, only just missed attaining their object, young Rushion succeeding in holding a catch offered by Harris at square leg, from the fifth ball of the last over. Brown led the way in batting with a score of 52, but it was not one of his best displays, as he thrice gave the fielding side opportunities of bringing about his retirement. Cooper again distinguished himself by compiling a meritorious 42, while a useful 20 by F. Ellams helped to swell the aggregate to 133 for seven wickets. Having regard to the calibre of the team, Stone's response of 57 was, to say the least, disappointing. Anthony batted well, but his colleagues lamentably failed against an attack which promises to be more effective than for several seasons. Cooper obtained four wickets for 23, Cadman two for nothing, and E. Groom one for three.

Though not by any means so successful as the senior eleven, the Silverdale second team gave creditable displays against Tunstall and Oldfields—a victory and a defeat being the outcome. On a wicket which apparently rendered the bowlers little assistance, Tunstall were dismissed for 87, which was redeemed by an innings of 46 by T. Naylor, when runs were badly needed. Silverdale responded with 122. H. Ford (37), J. Morris (16), E. Lowe (16), and C. Benson being the most consistent batsmen. The visit of Oldfields on Monday attracted local enthusiasts in large numbers; an exciting match ending in Oldfield's favour by five runs. E. Lowe again justified his inclusion, as an all-round player of average ability, his 15 being an invaluable contribution to a total of 52. Oldfields replied with 57, but, in getting the necessary runs, they found it a matter of difficulty, with the bowlers keeping an excellent length. W. Beeston, who latterly played with Chesterton, made a welcome re-appearance for his old club, capturing five wickets at a cost of less than three runs per wicket.

**TUNSTALL.**

**SHARP'S SPLENDID SUCCESS.**

(By "FIRST SLIP.")

Silverdale were certainly masters of the situation at Brownhills last Saturday. Their bowling—especially that served up by Brown and Cooper—was of excellent quality, their fielding admirable, whilst in the batting line they easily passed the score amassed by Tunstall for the loss of two wickets. Luck was against the home side right from the commencement, for it was very unfortunate to lose Sharp ere he had scored. The dismissal of Barlow by a catch by Ellams at mid-off caused much comment, it appearing to the onlookers from the pavilion that the batsmen hit the ball hard on to the ground before it rose to the fielder. The batsman, however, was perfectly satisfied with the decision, and so no more need be said.



BERT SHARP, Tunstall.

With these things taken into account, sufficient cause can hardly be shown for the weakness of the Tunstall opening batsmen. Broad, Gregory, and Johnson demonstrated the possibility of run getting in spite of excellent bowling and fielding, and had these players failed the home score must indeed have been a sorry total. As it was, the two latter made an excellent stand for the last wicket, adding 45 before being separated. Cooper, who had the capital bowling analysis of seven wickets for 29, proved Silverdale's most capable batsman, and had passed the half-century before being dismissed. Hart, with two wickets for 11, Allman, with two for 13, and Sharp, with three for 39, did good service with the ball, but the bowling was not anything like so good as Silverdale's.

Tunstall were in much better form on Monday, when they met Norton, at Norton, for, after scoring 131, they managed to dismiss their opponents for 124, thus securing a fine victory by seven runs. The player mostly responsible for this was the new professional, Sharp, who, after compiling 56 in capital style, did such good service with the ball that he secured eight wickets at a cost of only 41 runs—a most meritorious feat. One is very pleased to find him in so happy a vein so early in the season, and Tunstall well-wishers will hope that Monday's success is only a prelude to further successes in the near future. It will not be out of place to give a few particulars as to his history and antecedents. He has a record of which any player might well be proud, for during the four years immediately preceding the present, playing for Prescot, he secured top place both in the batting and bowling averages. Prior to joining Prescot he was with Leyland, and during the time of his connection with this club, three years, they were uncontented, although their programme was so strenuous that it sometimes necessitated the playing of two or three matches a week. Last season, when not engaged with Prescot he assisted Leyland in mid-week matches.

Both with bat and ball he did good service for his club and the following are some of his best performances. His highest score was 73 against St. Helens Recreation, and in four innings he made more than 40. Curiously enough another St. Helens club provided him with his best bowling averages for against St. Helens Town he secured eight for 31 and six for 45, whilst against St. Helens Recreation he had four for 27. West Derby also provided him with seven for 30. In a two days' match at the Shavington cricket festival, when a member of the Athenians, who were playing Major Lonsdale's Eleven, he did exceedingly well, for, after capturing five wickets for 33 in the first innings, he capped his performance in the second innings by securing seven for 30. When it is remembered that he is a brother of Jack Sharp, the celebrated International and Everton footballer and Lancashire County cricketer, there is little need to wonder at the versatility of the Tunstall professional. He is a footballer of no mean ability, having assisted Aston Villa, Everton, and Southampton.

The improvement manifested at Norton on Monday was not maintained on Tuesday, when Fenton visited Brownhills. The batting, which accumulated 119, was fairly evenly divided among the eleven, Farrell leading the way with a useful 22. Such a score proved no serious obstacle to Fenton batsmen, for after Dearing and Bourne had laid a sure foundation, Drake and Baginley did so well that the second century was passed ere play ceased. These latter players fairly collared the bowling, Hart being the only trundler to secure wickets, his three costing 17 runs. Holderoft, Sharp, Gregory, Higgins, and Allman were all tried, but met with no success.

**LEEK HIGHFIELD.**

**CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS-UP CONQUER.**

(By "SILK-SPINNER.")

Highfield's Whitsuntide task has indeed been a hard one, for the champions and runners-up have been met in successive matches, with the result that all four points have been lost. One of the causes of these defeats is the small amount of practice which has been indulged in by the members. In the first place the weather was not fit, and when the weather improved nearly all the players had to put pleasure on one side and spend several hours at work in the mills and factories after the usual time for departure. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that each match ended disastrously.

The visit of the champions attracted a fair attendance, and the home team had first use of a fast wicket. Indeed it proved too fast for them long before the close of their innings, for the batsmen could not time Gill's bowling with any degree of accuracy. J. Pace was an absentee owing to an injured thumb, and his place was occupied by W. Bull. A fair start was made, but after H. Hulme had left for a carefully played 12, Downes performed the "hat trick," and with Gill bowling at the top of his form, no one was able to stay with Ryder any length of time. The latter gave a splendid exhibition of defensive tactics, and carried his bat right through the innings for half the home team's total of 52.

Dearing and Bourne gave the visitors a good send-off, and with the advent of Gill the runs were quickly hit off. Fenton continued their innings and the last man was not dismissed until 132 runs were on the board. Rickson took six wickets for 46 runs.

Twice in their history have Leek Highfield provided Barnes with all their ten wickets, but on the occasion of their last visit to Porthill, the great bowler was only successful in capturing seven. This was a good afternoon's work, but when it is remembered that previously he had obtained 50 with the bat, Highfield have cause to remember their visit to Porthill. Beech, who last season played for the visitors, showed them how to score runs, and he was not got rid of until he had scored 52. A Ryder again showed sterling form, and one was pleased to see that Rickson was at last able to do himself justice with the bat. These two players collected 25 runs each, and extras numbered 10, so that the other nine batsmen were responsible for 20 runs.

The second team were hopelessly outclassed at Stallington on Saturday, but somewhat relieved themselves on Monday, when they beat Uttoxeter by more than 100 runs, Mycock being the highest scorer with 53.

**OLDFIELDS.**

**CREWE ALEXANDRA CONQUERED.**

(By "NEWMAN.")

The Oldfields team entertained Crewe Alexandra on Saturday, in ideal cricket weather. Going to the wicket first, the Crewe batsmen made the decent score of 108 runs, a score, however, which Oldfields had no difficulty in passing with the loss of only four wickets. Meadowcroft and Neild opened the visitors' innings, the former making the highest individual score of the innings with 40, but his companion had no sooner secured four than he sent into Naylor's ever ready hands. History repeated itself when Hares went to the wicket and Whittaker was unfortunate to be run out for a single. Appleyard and Bates made the next highest scores with 16 and 15 respectively, but the rest of the side did not render any material assistance. Wormington took three wickets for 14 runs and Redden two for 17.

Judging by the start, the home side made, they looked like making a hash of things. Walker returned to the pavilion without having scored, but his partner, Redden, took the total past the half century, and was not out for 64. Murray added 46 by a delightfully skillful performance, and extras realised 27. Thus the side were soon out of danger.

Oldfields were Silverdale's visitors on Whit Monday, but they only succeeded in winning by the narrow margin of five runs. The batting on either side was not of a particularly brilliant character. E. Fletcher was the highest scorer for Oldfields. Walker and Redden opened the visitors' innings, the partnership yielding only ten runs, and the whole side were out for 57.

The second eleven met Checkley at Lower Tean on Saturday, whom they managed to vanquish with comparative ease. The visitors sent their hosts to the wicket first, Critchley and Ashmore being the trundler. Checkley were dismissed for 33, Woolridge and Taylor just saving what appeared to be a decided rot. Critchley took four wickets for eleven runs and Ashmore five for twelve. Oldfields only wanted seven to win with four wickets to fall, but three runs were still necessary when Critchley, the last man went to the wicket. Richardson nearly held his first ball, but, luckily or unluckily—according to point of view—he failed to hold the ball, and the score was taken to 47.

N.S. & DISTRICT COMBINATION.

DIVISION I.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Madeley	4	3	0	1	7
Audley	5	1	2	2	4
Hall Green	4	1	1	2	4
Newchapel	3	2	1	0	4
Knypersley	3	1	1	1	3
Leyceet	3	1	1	1	3
Pittshill	4	1	2	1	3
Sandyford	4	1	2	1	3
Bignall End	2	0	1	1	1

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Audley, 66 (for 6); Bignall End, 64.  
 Madeley, 96; Sandyford, 62.  
 Knypersley, 107; Leyceet, 96.  
 Hall Green, 82; Newchapel, 70.

WHIT-MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Newchapel, 67 (for 6); Pittshill, 41.  
 Madeley, 120; Audley, 57.

Several results have not come in, and club secretaries would much oblige by sending the results of their home matches more promptly to the League Secretary.

DIVISION II.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Pittshill	5	3	2	0	6
Woodland Pottery	3	2	0	1	5
Audley	3	2	1	0	4
Sandyford	4	2	2	0	4
Tunstall U.M.	3	1	1	1	3
Bignall End	2	1	1	0	2
Chell Reserve	3	1	2	0	2
Knypersley "A"	3	1	2	0	2
Leyceet	4	1	3	0	2

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Audley, 59; Bignall End, 42.  
 Tunstall, 56; Sandyford, 54.  
 Leyceet, 51; Knypersley "A", 35.  
 Woodland, 39; Pittshill, 31.

WHIT-MONDAY'S RESULT.

Sandyford, 47; Knypersley "A", 33.

WHIT-TUESDAY'S RESULT.

Pittshill, 69 (for 6); Chell, 33.

Not until last Saturday did it seem that the cricket season had really started. What with bad weather and other unavoidable causes, the lot of cricketers had been an unenviable one, and, as if to make some sort of atonement, the sun did his best to make the conditions as nearly ideal as possible, and the outcome was some splendid cricket.

The match which naturally attracted most attention was that between those near and dear rivals, Bignall End and Audley. Whatever their respective positions happen to be, there is sure to be an element of keenness in the game whenever they meet, and that was again in evidence last Saturday. The end of the game saw Audley the winners by four wickets; a result which was a big surprise for all, not excepting Audley themselves, and the victory should do a great deal towards enabling them to turn Dame Fortune a little more in their favour than has latterly been the case, financially as well as otherwise.

To beat Bignall End is never at any time an easy task, and the team who accomplish that have usually achieved one of their great ambitions. Audley must be congratulated on a very smart performance. The champions were entirely nonplussed by the deadly bowling of Dale and Bailey, who, with only one exception, hit the stumps every time. There would have been little fight left in the game, but for the stand made for the last wicket by the Bignall End veterans, Joe Mayer and Tom Burgess, who, between them, took the score from 39 to 66 before being separated.

And Audley, too, were also greatly indebted to their veteran, for the way in which he resisted the deliveries of the Bignall End attack, during such time as he was collecting his 30 runs, and as in addition he took five wickets for 20 runs, great credit is due to J. Dale for the victory to his side.

He was ably assisted by G. Bailey with the ball, whose share of the spoils was five wickets for 24, and by F. Howell with the bat, who contributed a valuable innings of 14 runs.

Last week end was a very happy time for Madeley, seeing that they beat Sandyford on the Saturday and Audley on the Monday. It was not a very representative team which Sandyford took to Madeley, and but for a grand display of batting by M. Cotton, who claimed 36 of the 62 runs made by the visitors, they would have been in a most hopeless plight. The lack of success on the part of the majority of the other batsmen was due to the effective bowling of H. Buckley, who took four wickets for 15 runs, and to C. Addeley—a recruit, who should do Madeley a lot of good—who made a successful first appearance by getting four for 15. Bph. Griffiths and Buckley soon helped to place the issue out of doubt. Mention should be made of the bowling of L. Dean, for Sandyford, which was responsible for the dismissal of seven of his opponents. Unfortunately for Madeley, the late start made in this match interfered with the attendance, a point which is well worth bearing in mind by visiting teams to all grounds.

Monday saw the conquerors of Bignall End at Madeley, and the encounter was looked forward to with added interest. Audley batted first, and made a good start, but that proved to be the best part of their innings, the other wickets falling as short, regular intervals. Madeley soon collared the Audley bowling, and by the time the second wicket was down the scores were level. Malkin made use of this opportunity to run up the splendid total of 45, and a word of praise is due to G. Griffiths who commenced his practice by knocking up 27 in quick time.

A remarkably even game was witnessed at Knypersley, where Leyceet provided the opposition, and though the home team managed to top the century, there were times when it looked as though the visitors were going to rub off the arrous. In coming to within 11 of the required number, they provided that sort of a finish which is so delightful to the onlooker, and if the visitors just lost they had the satisfaction of having given full value for money. Knypersley's success was due to the splendid innings of J. Gibson, which realised 42, backed up by three other two figure contributions, and to the effective trundling of E. Round, whose seven wickets, at a cost of four runs each, was in striking contrast to the efforts of the other bowlers. There was not a big innings on the Leyceet side, but there was a fair distribution of the runs amongst them, five of them managing to reach double figures.

Hall Green drew their first blood this season with a clever victory at Newchapel. Both teams had this experience in common, that their later batsmen were more successful at the wickets. The outstanding feature of the game, and the one which gave Hall Green the winning advantage was the innings of T. Aston. He came to the wicket when the visitors' outlook was anything but hopeful, and, by dashing cricket, led his side to victory with a not out contribution of 41. Partridge, the ex-Ranford player, was included in the ranks of the Hall Green contingent and in taking half of the wickets he gave promise of being a most welcome acquisition to his new club.

The visit of Newchapel to Pittshill provided the former with an opportunity of making amends for their failure at home on Saturday, and they did it in no half-hearted fashion as, with only one wicket down, they wiped out the Pittshill total. The home side were not strongly represented, but after getting 32 runs for the loss of only three wickets, they ought to have done better than stopping short at 41. When Newchapel took their turn at the wicket they demonstrated the possibility of getting runs, and by hard hitting they soon became masters of the situation.

The Audley Reserve team emulated the success of their seniors by winning in good style at Bignall End. The batting was not of a very high order, but in the case of Bignall End that was due to the remarkable bowling of E. Heath who captured nine wickets for 18 runs. What a pity he did not get the other one and thus have created a record for the Combination!

Sandyford had the mortification of losing by only two runs to Tunstall. Still, it was a game worth watching; especially as the winning hit had yet to be made when the last of the Tunstall batsmen took up his position at the crease.

Low scoring was the order of the day in the game between Pittshill and Woodland, and the latter won when only two wickets remained to go down.

Leyceet gained their initial success at home at the expense of Knypersley A, and at home, on Monday, the latter fared no better against Sandyford.

Largely as the result of a splendid innings of 40 by F. Blaize, Pittshill ran out easy winners against Chell on Tuesday.

UTTOXETER, BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Oakmoor, 65; Florence, 47.  
 Hollington, 62; Caverswall, 63.  
 Woodhead, 75; Cheadle, 31.  
 Checkley, 33; Oldfields, 45.  
 Meir, 116; Uttoxeter, 107.

LAST MONDAY'S RESULTS.

Cheadle, 168; Meir, 51.  
 Checkley, 46; Uttoxeter, 15.  
 Florence, 53; Woodhead, 20.

Oakmoor accomplished a capital performance in lowering the colours of the champions. The batting of Pattison, who contributed 47, and the bowling of Collier (seven wickets for 29) were the main factors in the success. The Florence batting was much below their usual standard.

The match between Hollington and Caverswall provided an exciting finish, the visitors gaining the verdict by one run. Skelthorne (25) and Tinsley (19) were top scorers for the winners, whilst Hall headed the list for the home side with 16.

Oldfields had great difficulty in getting the necessary runs for victory at Checkley, and had fielding alone cost the home side two points. The batting on both sides was very feeble. Ashmore had five wickets for 12, for Oldfields, and D. Howe had six for 20 for Checkley.

Meir were at home to Uttoxeter, and, after a good game, were returned winners, the scores reading 116 to 107. Some good batting was seen in the match, four players on each side reaching doubles; Challinor (25), Barnett (24), being most successful for Meir, and Ball (28) and Allen (27) for Uttoxeter.

Three matches were down for decision on Monday. A splendid stand by Cook (64) and Faulkner (39) enabled Cheadle to run up a total of 168 against Meir, to which the latter could only reply with 51. Only one player failed to score in the game.

Uttoxeter failed in a most unaccountable manner against Checkley, the whole side being dismissed for the pitiful score of 15, in response to the latter's total of 46. This was due to the excellent bowling of Rowe, who came out with the remarkable figures of seven wickets for four runs. Ford bowled well for Uttoxeter, obtaining six wickets for 23 runs.

Florence did not experience much difficulty in disposing of Woodhead, although the visitors had only to face a score of 53. They made a poor show against the bowling of Toft, whose seven wickets were obtained at the small cost of six runs. Travers showed good form, carrying his bat through the innings for 34.

KNYPERSLEY.

SENSATIONAL FINISH AT FENTON.

(By "JOHN BULL.")

Last Whit Monday Fenton provided quite the feature of the season by administering the first and only defeat sustained by the Knypersley team in their championship year, and now, on the Saturday preceding the present Whitsuntide holiday, the Fenton enclosure was again the scene of a sensational match between those rival clubs. Fenton had the honour last year of being the highest scorers against the Knypersley men in both engagements, their 183 for eight at Fenton being numerically exceeded by ten at Knypersley on August 14th. On that occasion the home team played a creditable draw of 141 for nine wickets, but they had a far stiffer task set them on Saturday. The Knypersley skipper's bold policy of putting a strong batting side in on winning the toss was hardly justified by the result, and the home total of 219 for seven wickets was a big order for men who had undergone two hours' hard work in the field. Captain Harding's sporting venture looked well when the first three wickets fell cheaply, but some brilliant balling by J. Dyke (64) and A. Mellor (55) quite altered the aspect of affairs, and 100 runs were put on ere Mellor was bowled by F. H. Godall.

Knypersley had about two and a quarter hours in which to get the runs, and their first pair of batsmen, H. E. Bourne (46) and E. Tunstall (55) played a fine forcing game. E. Awty (30) also gave a glimpse of his best form, and the first two wickets put on 119 runs. H. Simpson hit freely and well for a grand 66 not out, but he could get no one to stay with him long enough, and the result was in doubt, when the last over was called with two wickets still to fall. A. Edwards bowled, and Simpson hit the first two to the boundary, scoring a single off the third. G. Bedson played the fourth, but was bowled by the next, and the Knypersley captain came in to play the last ball of the over. This he safely negotiated, but on returning to the pavilion a discrepancy was discovered in the score books. The total in each book gave Knypersley a win by four runs, but the bowling analysis figures in each book totalled 219 for each side. Under the circumstances the actual result remains in abeyance until the League secretary has examined the score books.

Porthill also provided the holiday crowd with some sensational cricket at Knypersley on Whit-Monday, and their defensive batting against the strong Knypersley attack was rather a revelation. The visitors had proved such easy victims last season that Knypersley's total of 177 appeared all sufficient, but ample time remained to make sure of victory. It was not to be, and some remarkably steady batting by A. Hollins (29) and F. Heath (29) for the third wicket laid the foundation of a creditable draw. This was supplemented by a fine defensive innings by P. N. Lowndes (32) not out, and though Knypersley had a fair grip on the game when the third, fourth, and fifth wickets fell for but three runs, and again when the sixth and seventh fell at 104, G. A. Taylor helped Lowndes to put on 20 runs for the eighth, and Lloyd played out the last over, the innings realising 129 runs. Knypersley tried seven bowlers.

The principal feature in Knypersley's innings was C. Tunstall's brilliantly hit 68. He hit well all round the wicket, and though aided by slices of luck, played a really sound game. His score included ten fours, and he was at the wickets 70 minutes. H. E. Bourne knocked up a useful 27, and Awty accelerated his return to form with a nicely-played 29. The weather was perfect, and there was a very

H. SEDGWICK, LEEK.

Another Yorkshire County Man of the First Class.

(BY "CONRAD.")

The loyal enthusiasts of the Leek Cricket Club are deservedly proud of their professional. His suave and kindly disposition, displaying no trace of affectation or side, are traits which have assisted his cricketing abilities to gain for him their esteem and approbation. Herbert Sedgwick first made his acquaintance with this world of joys and sorrows at Leeds, in 1882, and sufficient years having passed over his head, was duly apprenticed as a mechanical engineer, in which profession he has become duly eminent. Strange to relate, although his elder brother was displaying his prowess as a batsman with one of the leading Leeds clubs, the craze of cricket had not in such capacity developed in him as to merit his devoting much attention to the game, until in 1891 Leeds Wesleyans invoked his aid, and taking up the role of bowler, he took half a dozen wickets for a like number of runs in his first game. This startling success created a thirst for further adventure, and during the season he claimed a fair number of wickets at small cost that the Armley club requested him to join them for the season 1902. Acquiescing, he played for their second team in the Leeds Cricket League, second division, for a couple of seasons, and possesses a brace of medals awarded to the leaders of the league on both occasions. His work with the ball during this period thoroughly warranted his advancement, and so we find him aiding the Armley first team in the higher division of the Leeds League during the earlier portion of the summer of 1904.

About the middle of this season the club of his native town, Leek, playing in the Yorkshire County, wished for his services, and he played for them until the end of the 1905 season. It is a matter of regret that Sedgwick, never dreaming of taking up cricket professionally, did not deem it necessary, during his embryonic period, to keep particulars of his best performances with bat and ball, so we must rest content with the assurance that excellent work must have been done to merit such rapid promotion. We now approach the period when our subject deviated from the tenets hitherto believed in. On the recommendation of the Leeds professionals, J. Greenwood and Broadbent, the latter of whom is still playing for the many-acred county, Sedgwick was engaged as Saturday professional by Threlkborough, members of the Lancashire League, for the 1906 period. During the season he captured 37 wickets, his best performance being against Milnrow, when for a paltry 15 runs he dismissed seven of his opponents, and for which feat he was presented with the match ball, suitably inscribed. The committee of the White Rose county had for some time been testing his capabilities, and he was called upon to represent them in the match between Yorkshire II. and Northumberland. The game took place at Ripon, and Sedgwick took exactly half the wickets in each innings. George Deyes, the Burslem professional was associated with Yorkshire at the same time. A little later, his initial first-class county engagement came along. In the game versus Worcestershire, the first choice of eleventh man rested between Sedgwick and Deyes, and the former was chosen.

He proved his worth by taking five wickets for eight runs in the first innings and four for 27 in the second essay, the latter including the "hat-trick." He also made 17, not out, in this particular match. He proudly treasures the ball of this contest, which was presented to him as a memento of his praiseworthy feat. It stands on an oak pillar, and bears a circular silver shield with the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr. H. Sedgwick by Mr. John Tunnicliffe, Captain, for his successful debut with Yorkshire v. Worcestershire: July 30, 31, and Aug. 1st, 1906." Yorkshire made 271 in their first attempt, and as Worcestershire compiled 25 and 236, they were defeated by an innings and ten runs. His next great game was J. T. Tyldesley's snuff, between Lancashire and Yorkshire, at Old Trafford. He opened the bowling, and to the satisfaction of taking A. C. MacLaren's wicket in his initial over. But R. H. Spooner proved him so mercifully that he was taken out and reguillotaged down four overs, and was however, compelled again during the game. He, however, compiled 48 with the bat—no mean feat against such doughty opponents. He also

represented the premier side of the shire of his ability against the West Indians at Harrogate. This was the most successful season of his career, as calculating the whole of his efforts in club and county cricket, the total of 1905 found over 150 wickets to his credit. His enormous success induced Littleborough a few weeks before the end of the year just referred to, to engage him as a professional for the succeeding term. Yorkshire requested him to obtain his release and join their allocation staff. This time he was assigned to Bradford, playing in the Yorkshire Council. Here a great misfortune overtook him, as he severely strained the muscular guides of his right calf and ankle, and for a time had to cease active participation in the game he was becoming so eminent an exponent of. Yorkshire have once since called upon him, ere he had soundly recovered, and he was therefore compelled to decline.

Retaining his lost limb-power, he joined with Kirkby Colliery Athletic, members of the Hexthorpe League, in 1908, and was mainly instrumental in their gaining the championship by one point from Monk Bretton. To mark the occasion he exhibits a massive gold medal, emeralded with the Yorkshire coat-of-arms. During the season he took 93 wickets at an average cost of a fraction over six runs. While with this club he made the highest score of his career, viz., 86, versus Wombwell, another mining team. As is well-known locally, he joined the Leek club last season, and his record of 79 wickets for eight runs each, with a batting average of 15, was highly satisfactory. His best performance was claiming the whole of the wickets taken against Norton—nine for 28—the tenth being run out, and making 34 with the willow in the same game. This match he claims as his own. He also took six wickets against Longton for 15 runs, inclusive of the "hat-trick."

So far this season his work in the bowling department may be thus summarised:—Versus Crewe, seven for 28; v. Burslem, three for 10; v. Longton, three for 27; v. Stoke, six for 21; giving the splendid total of 19 wickets for 84 runs, showing an average of 4.4. With confidence, we may look forward to this record being materially enhanced as the season progresses.

Mr. Sedgwick is of the confident opinion that North Staffordshire League cricket is superior to that displayed by the majority of teams in the Lancashire League, though not satisfactorily comparable to that exhibited by members of the Yorkshire Council. Here, he maintains, is shown the finest Saturday cricket he has yet witnessed, due to the fact that the wickets are more in favour of the batsmen, and the grounds better appointed than those generally met with, inasmuch as at least eight of the clubs look forward to the honour of a county fixture each year being allotted to them.

Football has also claimed the attention of the Leek professional in the years that have passed. As a forward he played with the

Dewsbury and Wakefield clubs under Rugby rules, and he possesses a velvet cap with silver ornamentation for representing Yorkshire in their inter-county games during 1903-4-5. To further demonstrate his versatility, he has for many years been a devoted admirer of the fascinating pastime of rinking. He practised the art while with the Leeds cricket club in 1904, and at present is one of the Leek Salisbury rink-hockey team, who are to meet Tunstall Regent in a deciding game for the championship of North Staffordshire next Thursday, on neutral territory.

His magnificent physique makes him an outstanding feature of the Leek team whenever they take the field, and, as next year he will be residentially qualified for Staffordshire, his numerous admirers will be glad to know that he has attached his signature to an agreement to stay in the Moorland town till the end of the 1911 season. I do not consider that I shall be divulging any secret when I state that Sedgwick has grown tremendously fond of Leek, its inhabitants, and its local associations, and in all probability will permanently settle there in the years to come. One trusts that his prowess as a trundler will not only be maintained, but further develop, and that his patient coaching will bring into greater prominence those latent powers that some of the younger generation of Leek cricketers undoubtedly possess.

**H. DEARING, FENTON.**

**Partner in the Record Local First Wicket Stand.**

(By "NOMAD.")

Harry Dearing, when a boy of 16, was given his first chance as a wicket-keeper for Fenton, in the year 1899, and, if my memory serves me aright, it was in a benefit match, late in the season, at Burslem. It was at once apparent that Fenton had a "find," and the gloves were handed to him for the opening League match of season, 1900. He still wears them, after ten years' magnificent service, and, without exaggeration or fear of contradiction, he must rank as one of those stalwarts who have raised the old Fenton Club to its present lofty pinnacle of exaltation. Born in Shelton, within sound of a rousing drive on the home of Staffordshire cricket, it may be that his first breath of an east wind, laden with the dew from the County Ground, imbued him with that genius for playing "wickets" which he undoubtedly possesses. In his early youth he had exceptional opportunities for practising the game, of which he is now such a bright ornament, for at his back door, speaking metaphorically, a vast expanse of open space stretched right away to the newly formed Hanley Park, where scores of sportive lads indulged in our grand summer pastime at every opportunity.

It has always been a surprise to the writer that so little has been seen of the products of this nature's nursery in the premier elevens of our district, for I knew it intimately, shared its joys, and well remember its youthful prodigies, such as Harry Taylor, Tom Heath and Will Hales. Yet, strange to say, practically nothing has been seen of them or their contemporaries in the higher fields of play. Of course, interest in league cricket in those days was almost exclusively confined to the players themselves, more was thought of the social side than the encouragement of the "young idea," and may be this is the solution of a mystery ever puzzling to me. Harry Dearing captained St. Jude's previous to joining Fenton, and it was during his sojourn with this Club that word of his exceptional ability reached Fenton.

In his initial game, on the old ground, against Crewe Alexandra, he was confronted with his first ordeal, for when he, as the whipper-in, took guard, Fenton were a run behind, but with that sang froid which has ever been his characteristic, he promptly relieved the tension and won the match by cutting his first ball for a brace. Now he is

first man in, and is quite a substantial portion of the backbone of Fenton's admitted batting strength, and the number of occasions on which he and Ted Bourne have given the side a happy send-off is too big a problem to wrestle with here. Still, one performance is ever worth recalling, and it is the league record which these two batsmen established against Leek Highfield, at Fenton, on August 14th of last year—238 runs without either losing his wicket. The subject of my sketch had 128 as his share of the spoils, his only century up to date, but he has more in his bag, as he is still in the prime of early manhood.

In the season 1908, he headed the Fenton averages with the fine figures of 28 per innings, and when one considers that he has to make the running from so accomplished a rival as Ted Bourne, not to mention the skipper and other useful willow-wielders, his performance is indeed one of which he may be pardonably proud. He is a ripping batsman to watch, with any amount of good strokes at command, and when "keeping" he is the personification of neatness, has a natural stance, and performs his duties without the slightest trace of that ostentation so apparent in many professors at this branch of the game. His appeal for a "stump" or catch is rarely heard, but still less rarely made in vain, and the fact that he has bagged no fewer than 250 victims in league matches for the club of his adoption proves what a help he is to the trundlers. He first played for his county in 1902, and has played as often since as his business would allow. By many he is looked upon as Staffordshire's first choice for keeper, and the best our shire has had. One remarkable feature of his County career has been his lack of success with the bat, but perhaps the lowly position allotted to him in the order of going in goes against the grain, and it is certainly a big drop from first for his club to about tenth for the county. He has been Skipper England's deputy since 1905, and so diligent and painstaking a pupil has he been, that when the genial Yorkshireman does hand over his mantle, he will have the satisfaction of knowing that it will hang from the shoulders of a worthy successor, and one who has, and will have, richly merited the honour. His worth to the club is not measured by his success as a player alone, for he has been a faithful and valuable member of the committee since 1905, and when a year or two back it was decided to run a third eleven with the idea of fostering young talent, he cheerfully undertook the duties of honorary secretary, a position he still holds.

Always cheerful company, and possessing the happy faculty for making friends, Harry Dearing is a man Fenton has need to be proud of, both for his cricket and as a citizen. Although the champions procured their stumper from the very doorstep of the Stoke Club, he is quite a naturalised Fentonian, and has married into one of the best respected of its families. The interest taken by the good ladies of the playing members in the welfare of the club is second only to that of the husbands themselves, and if it is only reflected in the progeny, what cricketers we shall have in the good days to come!



H. DEARING, Fenton.

[Photo by S. B. Ashworth, Fenton.]

**A. COOK, BURSLEM.**

**Remarkable Achievements on Cricket and Football Fields.**

(By "GOGLIE.")

Mr. Albert Cook is truly a Burslem man, being born within a stone's throw of the ground occupied by the Burslem Club, who have just reason to be proud in choosing him, for the second time, as captain of the side. This choice is a most popular one with players and spectators, too, who love to see him don the flannels, and although he has a long way to go before he reaches 30 years of age, he has participated in as much sport of the first order as men who have lived twice that long. He is a well-developed young man, scaling just one pound short of twelve stones, and is 5ft. 11 1/2 in. in height. His early school career was at Earl Granville's, Cobridge, where he early showed much ability both in educational matters and sport. Whilst he was at school, Burslem had a Schools' Cricket League—all the games being played on the Grange, Cobridge—and some most exciting encounters were witnessed. Never were there less than 600 spectators present at a match at the local "Lord's"; and Bates, then professional for Burslem, and Turner were regular onlookers. The chief organiser of the movement was Mr. Fred Beech, father of F. W. Beech, of Porthill Park, and A. H. Beech, of Burslem, to whom Mr. Cook gives the credit for teaching him correct cricket. Mr. Beech had a cricket pitch laid by Jack Brown, professional of the Burslem club, at Abbey House, Cobridge, and on this A. Cook and the brothers Beech were given much practice. The results of this coaching have been exemplified times innumerable by this trio



A. COOK, Burslem.

(Photo by Philemon Swift, Burslem.)

since. Mr. Cook was responsible for many fine performances as a boy when opposed to Cobridge Catholics, Middleport, Burslem St. John's, Cobridge National, Sneyd, Hill Top and North-road schools, who constituted the league. Bates stood umpire when the subject of this sketch took five wickets for two runs, against St. John's, and remarked that he had been surprised at the quality of the batting and bowling of the youngsters. Schools cricket is regarded by Mr. Cook as splendid training for boys, and he advocates that each town should have a Schools League. Respecting grounds, the various town authorities could easily be approached with regard to laying a pitch in their parks, where these games could be played. When 13 years of age Albert Cook played for Mr. A. H. Heath's eleven, against Burslem, and was complimented by Mr. Heath for catching a lightning shot from Jack Brown's willow. For five years the present Burslem skipper was in college at Beccles, in Suffolk, and, although only fifteen, he got his place in the first eleven in his initial year. He also got his colours with the football team, only three of the boys being given a place. In his second year he played in the final of the Suffolk Senior

Football Cup competition for the College, against Ipswich, who had the assistance of Dan Mills, of Middlesex, and Caudley, the then centre half-back of Cambridge University. He assisted Suffolk County when they beat Norfolk County by two to one, playing at inside right and scoring the winning goal. He played also against Cambridge University, for whom the great Howard Smith was playing.

One of Mr. Cook's masters at Beccles was the celebrated cricketer, Mr. G. L. Jessop, whose style Mr. Cook has, to a degree, developed with success. The "Croucher," as Mr. Jessop is designated, left Beccles for Cambridge University in the season following, his fame then becoming world wide. The college side was a very formidable one, including Haylor, who has done so remarkably well for Kent, and several other cricketers of great prominence. For three seasons in succession Mr. Cook was top of the bowling averages for his college. In one game against Yarmouth—who had A. E. Relf, the Sussex professional and Shaw (the great Nottingham bowler)—he did exceptionally well, taking six wickets for 15 runs and scoring 66 not out. Harry and William Beeton, two of England's fastest amateur sprint runners, were in college with Mr. Cook; the former being the fastest of all amateur sprinters for a couple of seasons. Mr. Cook is a very speedy runner and would have made his mark in the athletic world had he given his mind to it. From the age of 13 he

has been a prominent player for the Burslem club, and cites as his best performance that in the game of Whit Tuesday a few years ago, when he captured six of Stoke's best wickets for only two runs. Jack Mee bowled at the opposite wicket, and the whole of the Stoke side were out for the meagre total of eleven. Once he took three wickets with consecutive balls against Silverdale, at Cobridge, and another feat, of which he is justly proud, was his seven wickets for five runs against Leek, at a time when Leek were a very strong batting side. Another instance worthy of special mention was the partnership of himself and J. Hodgkiss against Norton. The latter obtained exactly the half century, before Cook could claim even one; then things turned completely round, and Cook obtained 42 without his partner having a single to his credit. Five times consecutively he knocked the ball clean out of the ground—a performance that is almost without a parallel. Mr. Cook was captain of the Burslem side when they won their memorable victory in the final of the Staffordshire Cricket Cup Competition over Oldfields.

Joe Hulme, who a few years ago was the Burslem professional, was a great aid to Mr. Cook as a coach, but Mee, the captain considers, is the best practice bowler he has ever met. The Rev. R. B. Southwell, M.A., is held in the highest possible esteem by the Burslem amateur, who was a prominent member of the reverend gentleman's football team, Burslem Park, which included in its ranks Ernest Mullineux, Len Bridgett, Arthur Bridgett, Frank Stokes (Birmingham), Bowman, Harry Croxton, and many other prominent stars of the football world. Whilst assisting the Park club, Mr. Cook had the misfortune to break his collar-bone, but from this accident he rapidly recovered and helped his side to defeat Glasgow Barr Head, which team included Brownlie, the celebrated Scottish International goalkeeper. The story of the reverend gentleman's puddings is one of Mr. Cook's happy memories. Mr. Southwell had a joke of placing in the puddings valuable nuggets, and those who were the lucky recipients were allowed to retain them. That the pudding course was very popular with the boys goes without saying.

Albert Cook has had many enjoyable games with the Northern Nomads, of which he was, for one year, president, and, for two seasons, captain. The cap he dons while cricketing bears the Northern Nomads' badge, while the one on his sweater is that of the Civil Service Club. With the latter club he had an enjoyable tour on the Continent, visiting Dresden, Prague, Vienna, Baden, and Berlin. He played left full back during the tour, and at Berlin the game was witnessed, three weeks before his wedding, by the Crown Prince of Germany. The visitors lost by two goals to one, the Germans showing much skill. Banquets at the cafes followed each game, and all had a right royal time. Mr. Cook considered Prague the best individual eleven, and will never forget the kindly interest taken in them while out there by Captain Wentworth Forbes and Herr Schwartz, Mr. Forbes's private secretary. He will never forget a game between the Northern Nomads and Darlington. Common, of Middlesbrough, declared he had never seen a finer struggle in all his experience. The Nomads at this time were exceptionally strong, and in one encounter, against Oxford University, they had in their ranks such real

tip-toppers as L. R. Roose, A. Berry, A. S. Owen, W. P. Grundy, E. Yuill, and Horacio Blew. Mr. Cook played for five years with Burslem Port Vale, in the Second Division of the Football League, filling all positions except that of goalkeeper during that time. His first game for the Vals was against Witton Albion, when he partnered Tommy Davies in the back division. He also assisted Stockport County in six successive Second League matches against Oldham Athletic, Derby County, Leeds City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Burnley, and Glossop, and bore their colours in a Football Association Cup-tie against Aston Villa.

He assisted Stoke in the First League at left full-back against Bristol City. The City ranks in this game included Maxwell and Bennett. He partnered Burgess, with Roose in the goal. Baddeley, Holford, Sturges, and Fielding were in the team at this time. This was his only First League match.

Last season he was at the top of the bowling averages of the Burslem Cricket Club, and his great performance a fortnight ago against Porthill Park, both with bat and ball, will long be remembered. Mr. Cook, who is an accountant with Alderman F. Geen, the Deputy Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, is a genial spirit, and is a favourite with all with whom he comes in contact.

**C. H. PRICE, STONE.**

**Cricketing Son of a Cricketing  
Father.**

(BY "UMPIRE.")

Charles Harry Price, of the Stone club, is much better known as Harry Price, jun. and is the name in which he has always been registered in the score book. He is the cricketing son of a cricketing father, for the latter is easily the veteran of Stone cricket. When the history of Stone cricket comes to be written, H. Price, sen., will figure very largely in it, for he has wielded the bat and trundled the ball for a period of 36 years, and has not quite finished yet. However, it is with his son we are now concerned, and he commenced his career with Stone, when 14 years of age, and commenced to play with the second team when 16.

In 1904, the second eleven lost not a single match, and Price jun., topped the averages with 249 for 13 innings, and his highest score was 80 not out. This brought him to the front, and in the following year he was drafted into the first eleven—a position which he has retained ever since. He had his best season in 1908 when he made his highest score—86 not out—against Crewe. He is a smart and capable fieldsman, and is infinitely more at home on a fast wicket than on a soft one. He is one of the few local products in the first eleven, the bulk of whom have learned their cricket at public schools.

Apart from cricket, Mr. Price was a fair footballer. He possesses a "Sentinel" Cup medal, gained when Stone Town won the "Sentinel" Cup, and he is at present acting as hon. secretary to the Christ Church Institute Club. He is an expert photographer, and has captured a number of prizes at local exhibitions by his art.

**E. RICKSON, LEEK HIGHFIELD.**

**A Recruit to the Ranks of  
Professionalism.**

(BY "SILK-SPINNER.")

Edwin Rickson, Leek Highfield's new professional, was secured from the Rochdale Club, in the Central Lancashire League. He first commenced to take part in serious cricket when he became a member of Rochdale's third team in 1893. Although not responsible for sensational feats, his work was marked by consistency, and he gradually improved his position until he became captain of the first eleven. This position he held for four years, and during that time Rochdale held high positions in the league. So well was the captain thought of that several other clubs were desirous of enlisting his services as professional. This came to the ears of his own club, and he was prevailed upon to sign a professional form for his old club in 1909. In the last season he captained the side he scored 570 runs, with an average of 25, and he also took 90 wickets at a cost of 12 runs each. His best performance in that year with the bat was in a friendly match against Castleton. Going in second wicket down, he was undefeated at the close of the innings; his hitting was hard and clear, his offdrives being particularly strong, and in a score of 107 (not out) he only gave one chance—a very hard one—at 55. His score included one 5, twenty 4's, one 3, and one 2.

In the season 1909 he put together 310 runs, with an average of 17, and his highest score was 71. His 60 wickets were obtained at a cost of 12 runs each, although in one match, against Heywood, he took seven wickets for 13 runs. Rickson's best performance with the ball, however, was in 1904, when, playing against Moorside, he took nine wickets and caught the tenth man, so that he had a hand in all the wickets.

So far this season he has sent down 53 overs for 101 runs, and has captured ten wickets, but, with the prospect of finer weather and harder wickets, he should prove a useful member of his new club, both with bat and ball.



C. H. PRICE, Stone.



J. G. DRAKE, Fenton.

[Photo by S. B. Ashworth, Fenton.]



E. RICKSON, Leek Highfield.

[Photo by Wright and Co., Blackburn.]

**J. G. DRAKE, FENTON.**

**A Batsman Who Gives of His Best When It  
Is Most Wanted.**

(BY "NOMAD.")

James G. Drake was born at Wortley, Leeds, in 1885, and is a typical "Tyke" from his broad shoulders to his finger tips. To the denizens of the Potteries it seems inconceivable that any person should learn a branch of their staple trade beyond its mythical walls, yet the hard fact stares us in the face that Jim Drake came here in 1905 to follow his employment in the sanitary line, and it was indeed a fortunate day for the Fenton club when he was persuaded to become one of its members. When in the city of his nativity he was associated with the Leeds Leamington and Leeds Buckingham clubs, and while with the former he assisted in winning the Hepworth Cup, for which each player received a silver tankard. He is also justly proud of a medal presented to him for fielding, when with the Buckingham Club. He has just entered upon his sixth season with the present Champions, and in every sense of the word he is one of the best members the club ever possessed. I do not think he has missed half a dozen League matches since he came, and only then when visiting his native shire at holiday times. In fact, he has been known to curtail his holiday or come purposely from Leeds to assist his adopted club, if he felt that his presence was desirable.

Many harsh things are said and similes made about the men from the county of broad acres, some in jest, some in all sincerity, but if any other Yorkshireman comes Fenton way with no more vices than the present two are afflicted with, they will be received with open arms. One of the attributes of the members of the Yorkshire County eleven is grit, and James Drake has it. A batsman of a quiet order, he is at best when occasion demands it, and the graver the situation the stouter is his opposition. His defence is well nigh perfect, and although apparently a slow scorer, he misses few opportunities and gets the bulk of his runs with leg strokes and a shot past point. He invariably finishes well up in the Fenton averages. At short slip he has no superior in this district, and takes everything that comes his way in the coolest manner imaginable.

Albeit quiet and unassuming in his manner, he has a rich fund of humour and is most excellent company. On one occasion, at Burslem, when everything was going wrong with the Fenton batting—six of the best were out for less than 30—he turned to Alf Mellor and quietly said "Thee and me has got to make a stand to-day Alf, so bat steady first hour." And the sequel is amazing, for there two lads put their backs to the wall to such an extent that Fenton were in a winning position before they were parted. Tidings of his prowess had evidently spread to his native shire, for a year or so back he was spoken of as a likely starter in the Yorkshire trial games, but his work would not allow him to go, and maybe this will be Staffordshire's gain.



**J. B. ALLMAN, TUNSTALL.**

**Consistent on the Field and Zealous for His Club.**

(BY "WANDERER.")

The Tunstall Club must consider themselves to be very fortunate in that while losing the assistance of Mr. J. B. Allman from the secretarial office, they still have his valuable help on the field. I believe it is a fact that it was the pressure of work generally which led Mr. Allman to resign office, in order that he might devote a little more time, at any rate, to practice. But just as he was a worthy successor to Mr. Beach, so has he given the reins to one who will be very much on the alert in looking after the interests of the club. I refer to Mr. B. E. Moore, the present secretary, whose devotedness to duty will relieve Mr. Allman of all anxiety that a secretary must to a certain extent feel in giving way to another. Mr. Allman was born in Knutton on May 21st, 1892, so that on his birthday, last Saturday, he would enjoy himself just as much as a cricketer can when his Saturday afternoon's sport is denied. As one who knows what it is to have fireworks for a birthday present, I sympathise with Mr. Allman in his experience of a week ago.

It was in the year 1888 that this careful and correct batsman of the Tunstall team joined the club for which he has since done so much. He was at the head of the second team batting averages in 1900, with an average of 21.6 for 15 innings; his best scores being 56, not out, against Hanford, and 42, not out, against Chell. His highest contribution in the next term was 58, not out, against the Fenton Reserves. In the campaigns of 1902 and 1903 he figured in both first and second teams, and he has it on record that on the occasion of his first appearance in the senior eleven of his club he was bowled first ball! His best scores in the two seasons referred to was 46, again not out, for the Tunstall Thursday team against Caverswall. In 1904 he commenced to play regularly in the first eleven, and his chief performance that year was a score of 29, out of a total of 63, against Norton. He topped the amateur batting averages in 1905 with a total of 368 runs for 21 innings, giving an average of 18.4. The best scores he made were 77 against Silverdale—on his 23rd birthday—65 against Stone, 32 against Burslem, and 31 against Crewe Alexandra.

After being second in the averages in 1907, he was on top again in 1909, with a total of 344 runs for 19 completed innings, which is equal to an average of 18.1. During that season he made 60 against Fenton, 46 against Stone, 39 against Crewe Alexandra, and 35 against Burslem. As a bowler he has taken an odd wicket occasionally, but four or five years ago he bowled 13 overs without a rest, against Burslem, taking three wickets for 41 runs.

Mr. Allman's father, who is captain of the Tunstall Park Bowling Club, played cricket for the Tunstall Excelsior Club during the early seventies, and he also played for Silverdale in 1875, 1876, and 1877. At that time he was considered to be the best cricket ball thrower for many miles round; he was never beaten, and his record throw was 1234 yards. Last season Mr. Allman, jun., did not have a successful time, but with more time for practice he is hopeful of finding his form again. In saying I wish him every success I know I am voicing the feelings of his numerous friends in local cricket circles. He is a consistent and reliable batsman when in form, and is most zealous for the success of the Tunstall Club.



J. B. ALLMAN, Tunstall.

[Photo by H. H. Dudley, Stoke.]

**A. E. SPENCER, MACCLESFIELD.**

**From the North Staffs League to Friendly Cricket.**

(BY "WEAVER.")

Albert Edward Spencer is the full name of the Macclesfield professional, and he has been engaged by the committee for his reputation as a bowler. He began to play cricket almost as soon as he could walk, and ten years ago, at the age of 14, got his place in the Retford team. He remained with them for six years, during which time they were members of the Hallamshire and Bassettlaw League. The last season that he was with Retford, he took 117 wickets, at a cost of eight runs per wicket, and had an average of 23 runs with the bat. From Retford he became attached to the Notts County ground staff, and took 87 wickets. Having made a reputation, he went to Leek Highfield, and, in his first season in the North Staffordshire League, he took 60 wickets, at a cost of ten runs per wicket.

His best performances were against Norton, when he took six wickets for 12 runs, and against Silverdale and Stone, when, in two successive weeks, he took five wickets for 18 runs, besides making 61 not out against Stone.

**S. C. MILLWARD, MACCLESFIELD.**

**One Who Believes in the Value of Good Fielding.**

(BY "WEAVER.")

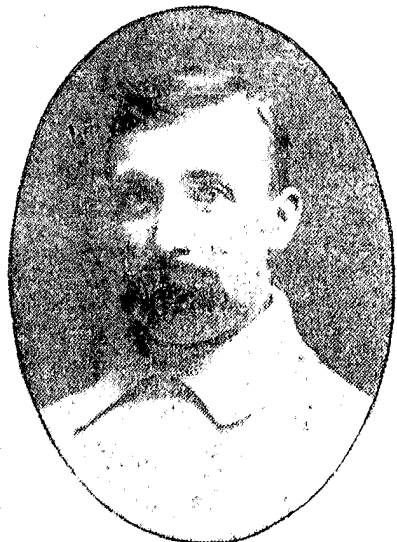
Mr. S. C. Millward is one of the good all-round cricketers in the Macclesfield Club. The game runs in his blood; his father having been captain of the old Langley Club many years ago. In those days the "Sammy" Millward of to-day used to watch his father's performances with a critical eye, and there was no doubt that the observations of his early boyhood laid the foundation of his present proficiency in the game, and his genuine love for the sport. When big enough to stand up to fast deliveries, being still a boy, he figured in the Langley second team, and, giving a good account of himself during his probation, he was elevated to the village first team.

Ambition to play in better company brought him to Macclesfield in 1905, and since then he has been a consistent and familiar figure in the Macclesfield team. A good all-round man with the ball, bat, and in the field, he has proved himself a useful accessory. His latest achievement was in taking the first wicket and getting the first "duck" in the initial match of this season, at Poynton. In the field he is a live fielder, and thoroughly believes that good fielding is as essential to success as batting or bowling.



A. E. SPENCER, Macclesfield.

[Photo by West End Royal Studio, Macclesfield.]



S. C. MILLWARD, Macclesfield.

[Photo by West End Royal Studio, Macclesfield.]



A. BRADBURY, Longton.  
[Photo by Latham and Bott, Longton.]

which is sometimes essential, and the visitors were able to stall off defeat.

Another praiseworthy effort was his 46 at Stone. On this occasion the home side were defeated in consequence. Mr. Bradbury, when he gets going, soon gathers runs together, but when occasion arises he can play the "stone-walling" game to perfection and, during the season now under review, Fenton and Norton had cause to remember that fact, for he baited out time when at one period his side were apparently hopelessly beaten. A little more than a year ago he created a record for the Longton Club, being the first amateur to make more than a century; this contribution being compiled at Silverdale on May 8th, 1909, when he put on 103 not out, and his partnership with J. W. Allen—who obtained 85—will, no doubt, stand for a long time before being surpassed in Longton cricket. His confidence when facing some of the lightning-like bowling, for which the North Staffordshire League is undoubtedly becoming famous—is perfect, and his 38 against Fenton, out of a low total, and 32 out of 85 against Leek, clearly demonstrates that the "demon" bowlers have no terrors for him.

He started this season in promising fashion, making 30 at Tunstall on the opening day. One fact that strikes the writer is that his services are seldom utilised in the trundling department, for he has accomplished some smart performances with the ball, and such bowling as his five for 22, at Silverdale, speaks for itself.

In the local billiard leagues, Mr. Bradbury has also been a prominent figure, being a playing member of Meir Institute, who, in the season recently concluded, finished as champions of the second division of the North Staffordshire Church Institutes League.

**A. BRADBURY, LONGTON.**

**First Player to Win a "Sentinel" Bat.**

(BY "VIGILANT.")

Mr. A. Bradbury is the youngest but one of four brothers who have been found in the ranks of the Longton Cricket Club. He was born at Longton in 1883, and will be 27 on the anniversary of his birthday, before which he hopes to have accomplished a few interesting feats similar to the ones detailed in this article. His only connection with the cricketing world has been with his club, for whom he started playing at an early age of 16, and at that time the side was known as Dresden Church. When the club was transferred to Longton and District he continued to play with the second eleven, but it was not until the 1905 season was half over that he was called upon to assist the first eleven.

How well did he wield the willow and trundle the ball in the first half of the season for the second division side, that his claims for inclusion among the "seniors" could not be over-estimated, but the batting strength of the first eleven was so prolific that he was given few chances to demonstrate his abilities, in consequence of the fact that in the greater portion of the matches only about six batsmen were required to collect the necessary runs. Regarding his exploits with the second team, he had the distinction of winning the first bat for the proprietors of the "Sentinel" against competitors, and he achieved this notable success in the opening match of the season, at Chell, when he compiled 73 runs.

In the same year he headed the bowling averages, taking 31 wickets at a cost of six runs each, his best performance being six wickets for one run, against Silverdale second eleven at Longton. This was, undoubtedly, his all-round season with the second team, his batting performances of note being 50 at Chell and 60 against Norton.

For the first two years with the premier eleven he did not bring the best out of him, in consequence of being given few opportunities, but, nevertheless, he saved as many runs in the field as they had been credited to him as a batsman, would have put him well up in the list in the county. A couple of years ago when more came to the front in the batting department, and one of his best innings was at Northill, when he made 46, not out; resisting the efforts of Barnes so confidently that the batsmen to follow were given that impetus

H. R. BRUNT, LEEK.

One of North Staffordshire's Most Popular Leaders,

(BY "CONRAD.")

Mr. H. R. Brunt, of the Leek Club, has spent a little lifetime in playing and fostering the sport he is so heart and soul wrapped up in. To him cricket is of all games "King." No other pastime or exercise appeals to him so much as does the wielding of the willow or the driving of the rampant ball. For 26 years—indeed he is only now in the prime of life—he has had a close association with cricket in Leek and its near neighbourhood. His father, Mr. Henry Brunt, will be remembered by all old cricketers of North Staffordshire, as a most enthusiastic supporter of our national summer pastime. But whilst the father indulged in various other pastimes, the son confined his attention to King Cricket. Mr. H. R. Brunt made his initial acquaintance with the game in properly controlled encounters with Leek Church, and though sometimes he was to be found assisting Ashcombs Park, still he has devoted the major portion of his time and support to teams of his native town. When the senior club of Staffordshire's silk centre, which he had for many years been a member, became divided as to its methods of management and control, Mr. Brunt remained loyal to his first love in senior company, but he appreciates those who, for their love of sport and conviction of opinion, deemed it wise and necessary to break away and commence a new club for themselves. Seven or eight years ago, Mr. Brunt went to reside at Alton, and Oakamoor, fortunately, utilised his services available, utilised in gaining the championship of the Churnet Valley League, whilst in the following season they were runners-up in the same competition, Mr. Brunt being still with them. After these two seasons with Oakamoor he returned to Leek and was elected captain. It is now fulfilling his sixth year as leader, and none, I imagine, can gainsay the fact that he is the right man in the right place, and he is the committee and team so desirous, to have the team of his choice for many seasons to come. Modest in the extreme, it is impossible to persuade him to acquaint one of his friends of derring-do, or to speak of his abilities and accomplishments on the field of play. As batsman pure and simple, he has had the pleasure of representing his county, scoring 39 runs in his first match for the shire, against whom. His keen fielding at all times shows the ardency of spirit with which he meets every encounter. His highest score was four runs short of the century, and it was made at Leek against Burslem, in R. J. Mee's season with that club. Many times has he exceeded the half-century, but one of his best services he ever rendered Leek in his career was last season, when he completed 53 against those near and dear rivals, Highfield. In this game he went in first and was the last to yield his wicket. In the same game between the same contestants he was out 19 not out, going to the crease first, but down and being undefeated at the close. A gentleman who does not desire to loom greatly on the cricket horizon, there is no doubt that it is due to his magnanimous actions from time to time that the Leek Club has been kept together. As the old stalwarts such as H. Vickerstaffe, the brothers Wardle, McClew, H. Wright, T. Cantrell, W. H. and many others—have had to withdraw their active support, Mr. Brunt has maintained the flying of the flag. His devoted attachment to the game is not merely a gratification of pleasing emotion or from any desire for command, but it is indulged in, as he fully asserts, to preserve youth, clearness of vision, and elasticity of body so long as it is possible, and this can only be accomplished by participating in games which bring into play those qualities of preservation. I question if it is possible to find a sportsman broader in mind and more tolerant in spirit than Mr. Brunt. He is willing to take a sporting chance, he is valued and appreciated by all who come in contact with him, his gentility and urbanity are proverbial. Though his actions are sometimes resented by onlookers, yet, when his actions come to be analysed, the basis will be discovered to be the game, pure and unadorned.



H. R. BRUNT, Leek.

[Photo by W. H. Horne, Leek.]

When actions come to be analysed, the basis will be discovered to be the game, pure and unadorned. A son, F. H. G. Brunt, who is at present a schoolboy, shows great promise as a cricketer, and probably he will soon be able to assist the Leek team as his forebears have done. It is in conclusion, he mentioned that several years ago, Mr. H. R. Brunt played Soccer in their junior representative games; a series of matches that have since become extinct owing to league and cup competition. I have omitted to remark that Mr. Brunt has during his connection with the Leek Club carried out the duties accompanying the office of secretary and treasurer, and he was a very active member of the Leek team when they won the North Staffordshire League championship.



J. C. COOPER. Silverdale.

(Photo by H. H. Dudley, Stoke.)

### J. C. COOPER, SILVERDALE.

#### A Left-Hand Batsman and Bowler of Much Ability.

(BY "LONG-STOP.")

John Charles Cooper, of the Silverdale cricket club, first commenced to play serious cricket as a member of the Silverdale New Connexion club in 1897, in which year he headed the list of averages in both departments. He subsequently, in 1900, threw in his lot with Silverdale Nonconformists—the New Connexion and Primitive Methodist clubs having amalgamated—and helped materially in the achievement of the championship of the Potteries and District league, in recognition of which each player received a silver medal. In 1901 the management of the premier club in the town were instructed to give Mr. Cooper a trial with the second eleven, and he made such steady progress that, while a month of the season yet remained to be played, he was selected to participate in a first league match against Fenton, at Silverdale. In reply to Fenton's total of 120, Silverdale had lost eight wickets for 80 when Mr. Cooper emerged from the pavilion to take up his stand at the wickets, and his sound defensive tactics, while runs came readily from the other end, so altered the aspect of the game that Silverdale pulled off a sensational victory by three runs.

Except for one brief season in 1906, when he figured in the Norton eleven, Mr. Cooper has, by his consistent, all-round ability regularly appeared in the ranks of the Silverdale club. He obtained his first fifty against Fenton, when J. Bourne and M. Gravett provided a particularly strong attack. In 1907, and again in 1909 he was at the head of both batting and bowling averages, obtaining respectively, 36 wickets at a cost of 10 each, and 32 wickets at a cost of 14 per wicket. Appended are some of the results of his best efforts since 1907:—Against Burslem, five wickets for 39, and 42 runs with the bat; against Stoke at Silverdale, in 1908, eight wickets for 25 runs, and in the return fixture, five for 27; against Norton, at Silverdale, 37 runs out of a total of 80; and playing for Mr. J. S. Scott's team against Staffordshire, he took five wickets for 62.

Later, he scored 61 runs against Longton, out of an aggregate of 112, supplementing this by an equally clever effort with the ball, against Leek, claiming seven victims for 12 runs. The present season has found this popular player in good form, for he has already scored 103 runs in his three visits to the crease, and secured 13 wickets for a little more than five per wicket. Under the able tuition of W. Brown, the late Longton professional, Mr. Cooper is making big strides, and as a left-hand batsman and bowler of his ability is always useful, one would not be surprised to see him in the County eleven this season.

**H. ELLERTON AND J POINTON, LEEK**

**Two stalwarts who have won fame  
With the Moorland Club.**

(BY "WICKET-KEEPER.")

Next to Mr. Brunt, probably the best known Leek cricketer is H. Ellerton, who has assisted the Leek team for a period of twelve years. For four years he was assistant secretary, and is now the vice captain of the first team. He generally opens the innings for his side, and when once he gets going he keeps both the fielders and scorers fully occupied, his batting being both free and forceful. His highest scores are 80 at Silverdale, 80 at Longton, and 58 at Tunstall, besides numerous others in the 40's.

As a bowler he has also claimed some success and were his services claimed a little oftener in this department he would, I am sure, give a good account of himself. On many occasions he has kept wicket very creditably, and, as a matter of fact, he can do himself justice in any position on the field.

It was at Congleton that J. Pointon, the Leek cricketer, was born and learnt his cricket. His first club was the Congleton Brook Mills,

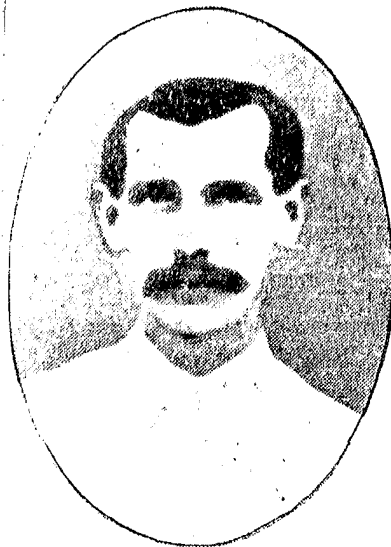
and on the occasion of his first appearance with this team he had the satisfaction of taking nine wickets for 1 run, at Macclesfield. For two or three seasons subsequently he was a member of the Congleton Forge Mills team, and later he was selected to play in Captain Parke's eleven against the Cheshire Gentlemen at Chelford. In this match he took six wickets for 15 runs, and with the bat made 40 not out. Mr. Pointon joined the Leek Club nearly six years ago. Playing against Porthill Park, four years ago, he succeeded in taking all ten wickets for 19 runs, and in recognition of this remarkable achievement he was presented with the ball, mounted on a silver stand. In the same season he took six wickets at Fenton very cheaply and scored 50 not out.

He is one of the many first-class amateurs of the district who have been honoured with a place in the Staffordshire team, and he has been regarded as one of the best all round cricketers of North Staffordshire ever since he began to figure in the local league.

Mr. Pointon has twice won a "Sentinel" bat for bowling—against Silverdale and Stone—and he has been the one to take off the honours for the best bowling average in his club throughout his association with Leek cricket. Last season he was at the head of both bowling and batting averages, and in 1908 missed the double event by a few runs in the batting department.

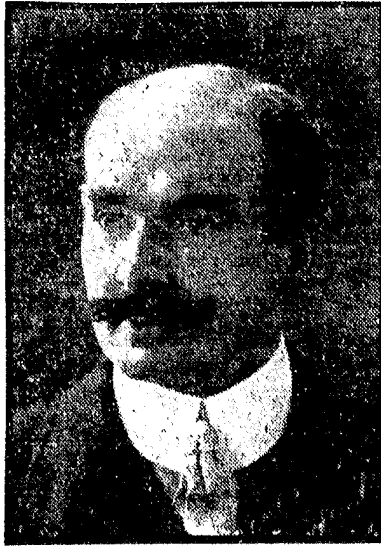


H. ELLERTON, Leek.



J. POINTON, Leek.

[Photo by W. H. Horne, Leek.]



W. D. KIRKBY, Stoke.  
[Photo by W. Bentley Humphreys, Hauley.]

W. D. KIRKBY, STOKE.

Worthy Sire of Former Trentham and Fenton Cricketers.

(BY "NOMAD")

William Dav Kirkby first saw the light of day in the wane of the year, in Fenton, within hail of the old cricket ground. The very mention of the name will cause the old devotees of our noble summer pastime to cast their memories back to the early sixties, when the self same name was a household word throughout the length and breadth of the county. It

was borne by the grandsire of the present Stoke player, a gentleman of noble mien, a giant in stature, imbued with an undying affection for the game he loved so well, and richly endowed by nature with all the inherent qualities of an outstanding player. Although on occasions he assisted the old Stoke Victoria side, his club was Trentham, where he held a responsible position under the late Luke of Sutherland, and it was through his untiring efforts that cricket lovers in North Staffordshire were enabled to witness the prowess of such stalwarts of two generations ago as Wycroft, Alfred Shaw, Tarrant, Jackson, Freeman and a host of other celebrities. I have before me a record of a match between twenty-two locals, playing at Trentham, and an all England XI., which took place in Trentham Park in 1865, in which the aggregate of the Staffordshire men was 121, against their rivals' own innings of 139. Mr. Kirkby was the highest scorer with 21, and Freeman and Alfred Shaw captured 21 and 15 wickets, respectively. The averages are not chronicled, but must have furnished some very interesting reading. On one occasion Mr. Kirkby took 61 not out from J. Wycroft's bowling, a great feat in those days. Such was the esteem in which he was held in the district that several gentlemen inaugurated a testimonial fund for him, and he was presented with a silver tea and coffee service and a purse of 100 guineas, with the proviso that the former should be handed down to the generations of Kirkbys to follow.

The father of the subject of my sketch, still hale and hearty, was also a prominent figure in local cricket, wearing the flannels for many years in the Trentham eleven, and often for Fenton, and doubtless feels pardonably proud of the doings of his offspring. That the Kirkby of the third generation cherishes a deep regard for the memory of the deeds of his sire and grandsire is abundantly proved by a visit to his home, for there, on the walls, hang two bats, beautifully preserved—silent reminders of many deeds of prowess in the years that have fled from us. The names of Trentham and Kirkby are synonymous, for it was an innings of 73 not out, on the Ducal ground, against Fenton's second string, that caused the men there at the helm of the club, which in this year of grace has the League banner

proudly floating in the breeze at the entrance to its ground, to invite young Kirkby to join them, and I believe Charles Merritt was the successful emissary. The date of his first match with Fenton is somewhat uncertain; it may possibly have been in 1895, but it is indisputable that he was a regular and valuable member of the first eleven from 1896 to the end of 1901, when he decided to throw in his lot with Stoke, then newly formed from the ashes of the old County Club and Ground eleven.

That he was not actuated, in taking this step, by any spirit of animosity towards his old comrades is shown by the bond of friendship that does now and has ever existed between the parties concerned, his sole reason, frankly stated, was that he could see so much promise in the rising generation at Fenton that he knew he could easily be spared, and he was under the impression that he could be far more useful to the club in the town in which he resided. Like his distinguished grandfather, and unlike his father—who had quite a Jessopian strain in him—he is a batsman of a quiet order, with a well nigh perfect defence. Yet he can hit with much power when in the mood or occasion demands it. His highest score for Fenton was 107, at Norton, in July, 1899, when Beckwith and Madeley were professionals for the latter club, and it was an innings of much brilliance. In the same month he went through the Trentham innings against Newport for 112 not out, and accounted for 46 at Tinstall in the very match in which poor Jimmy Bourne made his one and only century in league cricket. Occasionally "Billy" Kirkby has been the victim of much senseless barracking, but he is never perturbed; in fact, he is quite proud of some of his "stone-wall" innings, as he has every right to be. He once stuck in for two hours at Crewe, for 19, when things were going very rocky for Fenton, and, finding one or two partners who took all the risks successfully, placed his side in quite an unassailable position. He was, of course, a member of Fenton's first championship side, and a glance at the averages finds him always well placed—a sure tribute to ability. For two years he acted as deputy-captain to the late Jim Turner, a position he has likewise held at Stoke.

Again likening him unto his grandsire, he has on occasions bowled "lobs" successfully, and in May, 1899, playing for Huntbach's eleven at Caverswall, he did the "hat trick," his victims being Percy Briggs, George Booth, and E. Valdar. His highest score was 133, obtained when a boy, at Cotes Hall School, and his reward two eggs for tea, which only those who have partaken of the perpetual bread and butter in these establishments can fully appreciate. He is now in his ninth season with Stoke, and he has been of inestimable service, for without any big scores he has made 30's and 40's galore, and by many long and profitable first wicket partnerships with Percy Briggs has often paved the way to victory. A man is as old as he feels, and "Billy" Kirkby avows that he is good for at least ten more seasons. Although of a quiet and unassuming disposition, I do not think I am letting the cat out of the bag when I whisper that he contemplates marriage at an early date, nor can I but think, nay I am sure, that I am voicing the heartfelt wish of his legion of cricketing acquaintances in wishing him all the happiness in the world, and a little added. He has two ambitions. I know one is to see Stoke the league champions, and I believe the other is to rid himself of the worry as to the destination of that veritable tea and coffee service when he has lived the allotted span. May each be realised!

H. J. PLANT, LONGTON.

Consistent Batsman and Popular Sportsman.

(BY "VIGILANT.")

Ever since its inauguration, Mr. H. J. Plant has been a member of the Longton Cricket Club. He commenced his cricketing career whilst attending the Victoria College at Congleton, and so prominent with bat and ball was he, that in the season 1894 he was unanimously chosen to fill a position which is the ambition of most boys whilst in their teens, and that is to officiate as skipper of their school eleven. Leaving school and returning home, he joined the club which was run in connection with the church which his family attended, namely, Longton Wesleyan, who were members of the Sunday School League. He was their principal runder for several seasons, one of his best performances with the ball being enacted whilst playing against Longton Zion, when he captured no less than six wickets for three runs. Subsequently Mr. Plant was prevailed upon to join Dresden Church, who at the time were the senior club in the Longton district, and he was at the top of the batting averages in his initial season. The next year he blossomed out in the attacking department, and at the end of the season he carried off the bowling prize. He was one of the principal factors and was largely instrumental in persuading the officials of the Dresden Club to sink their name and hand over themselves, players, reputation, and secretary—Mr. W. E. Trickett, who still acts in that capacity—to a committee desirous of forming a new club for Longton.

Mr. Plant was a leading batsman during the championship year of 1905, and he and the county professional, Brown, had the honour of passing the century on several occasions for a first wicket stand. The distinction of being captain of the side during the three years which included championship year also fell to the lot of Mr. Plant, and many were the regrets when he handed over the reins of office to a worthy successor; he feeling that he would perhaps do better for his club as an ordinary playing member. Three times in the last four years Mr. Plant has finished at the top of the batting averages, and altogether he has held this position oftener than any other amateur in the team.

Until last year he held the record for being Longton's highest individual scorer in a single innings' match; his 95 against Tunstall a few years ago only being surpassed by A. Bradbury with 103 last season. One well remembers his brilliant innings at Fenton a couple of years ago, when, after Brown had been dismissed with the first ball of the match, Mr. Plant went to the wicket and hit up 86 in a delightful manner. This also recalls another magnificent innings on the same ground, only a few weeks ago, when he stood for considerably over an hour for 34 runs, against Gill's expresses, and that splendid defensive play was no doubt one of the chief factors in his side recording a brilliant victory. Two days previously he had delighted the hearts of the Longton crowd by hitting up 85 against Leek, and in that innings he demonstrated his wonderful powers on the leg side. Last season his highest score was 83 not out against Norton, and he also obtained 50 at Crewe, but his best achievement of the year was accomplished at home, against Stoke, when, batting against time, he scored 47, and Longton won in the last over by a single run. He is a most consistent batsman, and on only one occasion last year did he fail to score, and out of his sixteen visits to the crease he gathered a total of 339 runs.

Mr. Plant also takes a keen interest in the welfare of the younger generation, being captain of the Wesleyan Boys' Brigade, in connection with which he has a swimming class. The Longton Swimming Club felt his loss most keenly when he gave up the captaincy a few years ago, and I am given to understand by a gentleman who should know that the polo team and the club generally have never before nor since been so popular as under his regime. He twice, in succession, won the Swimming Club Cup for the championship of Longton, and this alone demonstrates his abilities in the art of natation. Mr. Plant is a member of the firm of Messrs. R. H. and S. L. Plant's, manufacturers, of Longton, and is highly respected by his employees. In fact his genial spirit makes him a favourite with all whom he comes in contact.



H. J. PLANT, Longton.

## A. SMITH, LONGTON.

## Famous Local Devotee of Cricket and Football.

(By "VIGILANT".)

There is no player more popular with the cricket and football enthusiasts of North Staffordshire than Mr. Alfred Smith, the genial vice-captain of the Longton Cricket Club. He was born 26 years ago, and he has dwelt at Longton, the place of his birth, ever since. He commenced his serious cricketering career at the early age of 15, when he became a member of the club connected with Dresden Church, and, playing with the second eleven, he met with marked success, topping the batting averages for his side. This early ability with the willow soon brought him into prominence, and in the next season he was called upon to assist the first eleven, who were members of the second division of the North Staffordshire League. He again had a most successful season, both with bat and ball, but the records of the doings of the side are not available. However, Dresden carried off the championship for the first time, having to play off with Middleport, who finished with an equal number of points, viz., 24, and the victory was well merited.

During the same year a movement was set on foot to obtain a suitable ground on which to build up a side capable of taking its place amongst the elite of the North Staffordshire clubs, and the present enclosure in Cocknageroad was opened in the season 1901, and a club which was the outcome of the amalgamation of Dresden Church and a few players from other clubs in Longton, was started in the name of Longton and District, with membership in the second division of the North Staffordshire League. Mr. Smith transferred his services to the new organisation, who, in their initial season, topped the league, without once being defeated. I believe this stands as a record for the league; the figures being: Played 18, won 15, lost none, drawn three, points 33. This notable performance on the part of his club so impressed the clubs constituting the first division that, in the next season, the side were admitted amongst the seniors, a position which they have retained ever since. Mr. Smith has twice finished at the top of the batting averages since Longton were included in the first division, and one of his best characteristics is that he generally rises to the occasion when it is required. When he gets going, he is a veritable terror to bowlers, and treats all kinds of bowling with little respect, and his powerful driving has on more than one occasion brought victory to his side, when apparently there was not sufficient time in which to get the runs.

In 1909, he was the means of upsetting the calculations of the Crewe Alexandra skipper, who, on the well-appointed ground of the Cheshire club, declared with 140 to the credit of his side. Longton were given about an hour and a half in which to bat, and Mr. Smith wielded the willow so judiciously that he compiled no less than 65 runs in 45 minutes, and his side won with ten minutes or so to spare. At Stone last year, Longton were without Brown, and so well did the visiting vice-captain bowl—taking six wickets at small cost—that only the interference of the rain robbed the visitors of victory. His best batting performance in 1909 was against Norton, when he compiled 65 in quick time, and Adrian Capes will no doubt remember for some time the punishment his bowling received on that occasion. During the present campaign he has been remarkably successful with the bat, making 14 against Leek, 51 not out against Fenton, and 52 against Stoke, on successive days. Deputy to the Rev. L. G. Brown, he has occasionally been called upon to captain the side, and his abilities as a skipper have been more than once demonstrated.

In the soccer world, Alfred Smith is probably better known than as a cricketer, for in one so young he has had a long and varied experience. He started playing like most of our notable footballers, when a boy at school, playing for Florence, under the auspices of the North Staffordshire Schools Association. As a full back he first caught the eye of the "schools" Selection Committee, and was a member of the team—which included Arthur Bridgett, now of Sandorland—that visited Sheffield, and lost by the odd goal in three, at Bramall Lane. He then joined the ranks of Dresden Celtic, who were members of the Longton and District League, and for his new club he played in the centre-forward position, and so well did he perform in the middle that he obtained a large crop of goals, which were mainly responsible in placing his side at the top of the League; a position which they maintained until the close of the season. Another member of the side was Stanley, now Bolton Wanderers. During the same season, which was in 1903, he also assisted Newcastle Swifts in the "Sentinel" Cup Competition, and the writer well remembers witnessing the final struggles for possession



A. SMITH, Longton.

[Photo by F. B. Richardson, Scarborough.]

of the trophy, which took place on the Victoria Ground, Stoke. The first match was abandoned a few minutes from time through fog enveloping the ground, and in this encounter Mr. Smith had scored a magnificent goal, by which his club were leading. In the replay neither side could score, and so Ashwood Villa and Newcastle Swifts became joint holders.

Like a number of other players who have caught the eye of senior clubs whilst participating in the final rounds for possession of the "Sentinel" Cup, the subject of this sketch was invited to throw in his lot with Stoke, for whom he played for a couple of seasons, at centre forward, principally as a member of the Birmingham League team, and in both years the side were runners-up to Aston Villa Reserve. During his second season at Stoke he was selected to fill the centre-forward position in the junior international match against Scotland, which took place at Villa Park, Birmingham, when the English youngsters were victorious by two goals to one. England's team were presented, for their gallant victory, with a medal each and a photograph of the team, both mementoes of which are amongst the most treasured possessions of the Longton representative. On two occasions only has he participated in First League football—once at Stoke, against Aston Villa, and on the other occasion at Bury—playing at inside left, the position which he filled against the Corinthians at Queen's Club. In season 1907-8, he transferred his services to Wrexham, for whom he figured at centre forward and inside left until the end of April, 1909. He continued to play with marked success, and was one of the Welsh club's most consistent goal scorers. His team were winners of the Welsh Cup, defeating Chester in the final round. Although sought after by many prominent clubs and offered many tempting remunerations, he would not accede to anything that interfered with his scholastic profession, so, when severing his connection with the Welsh club, he came nearer home, no doubt influenced by his friend, W. Williamson, and threw in his lot with Crewe Alexandra.

The Cheshire club were fortunate in being able to command his services, for, playing at inside right with the son of the Stoke director for a partner, he has scored 21 goals for the Alexandra, and at the same time was the prime mover in many onslaughts that created the opportunities for the men on each side of him to obtain a large crop of goals. Crewe again carried off the Keys Cup and the Cheshire Senior trophy, and so, up to date, Alfred Smith should be in possession of a splendid collection of medals, of which he must feel justly proud. A thorough sportsman—playing the games of cricket and football because he loves them—of a genial disposition, he makes friends wherever he goes. He stands 5ft. 10 1/2 in. high, and weighs between 11 and 12 stone, and is at all times a sportsman and gentleman on the field of play and, in fact, at all times.



F. H. WYNNE. SILVERDALE.

School, College, County, and Club Representative.

(BY "LONG-STOP.")

Mr. F. H. Wynne, whose name has been long and honourably connected with Silverdale cricket, in his early school days possessed a keen instinct for sport. Commencing to play cricket in the year 1890, at the Newcastle Middle School, he showed considerable promise as a batsman. In the following year he attended the Newcastle High School, and later, in 1892-3, having been coached by Mr. Charles Johnson (the Silverdale and County bowler) and Mr. G. S. Booth, found a regular place in the school first eleven team. Playing on one occasion against Whitmore, Mr. Wynne made a powerful hit for which eight were run—two being the result of an overthrow. While still a pupil at this school, he participated in a fielding competition, initiated by the headmaster (Mr. G. W. Rundall) of which he was the winner.

Subsequently, in 1895, Mr. Wynne went to Silverdale, where, following a season with the second string, he was drafted into the senior ranks, and from that time has always been identified with the club of his choice. The campaigns of 1896 and 1897 still leaves pleasant recollections of the doings of the local cricket club, for they successively won the championship of the North Staffordshire District League. The team comprised many members of the old school, who, more or less, played for the County; the secretary, who was the then secretary of the League, being Mr. R. Downing, to whom Mr. Wynne offers a eulogy for his encouragement and advice. In 1898 Mr. Wynne went to Durham University and was not actively engaged in cricket again until 1901, when he found his way into the University eleven. He was conspicuously successful against such teams as Edinburgh University, the Yorkshire Gentlemen, Wearside Wanderers, Victoria University, and Carlisle. In that year he played against Burnmoor, the then champions of the Durham League, who had secured the services of John Butler, who he met on several occasions.

Mr. Wynne's aggregate for the season in that class of cricket was 340 runs, for 12 completed innings, working out at an average of 28.4. During the season 1901, when he came home for the summer vacation, Mr. Wynne was invited to play for Staffordshire and he took part in matches against Northumberland and Durham. During the same season he regularly appeared for the County, and also, on occasion, he was in the team in the succeeding campaign. Mr. Wynne's best efforts in matches of importance were the 122 he obtained on the County ground at Stoke, whilst playing for a team of County amateurs against the Eccletics, and a masterly innings of 101 against Leek Highfield, in 1904. This performance in making 96 against Burslem, in the initial round of the North Staffordshire Challenge Cup Competition in 1903, the year in which the competition started, also is worthy of mention. In the final stages Silverdale were down to meet Longton, and, by dismissing their opponents for nine runs, gained a sensational victory and the trophy.

From 1904 until last season Mr. Wynne has filled the position of captain to the Silverdale Club with dignity and credit. He did much in bringing about the ground extensions and improvements, and he has always had the interests of the club at heart. In addition to his abilities as a cricketer, he is a fine all-round athlete, and, during the time he was at Durham University, assisted the college team in such pastimes as football—Association and Rugby codes—and tennis. He is fond of the game of fives, which he considers the next best ball game to cricket, and has played in matches between the Old Boys and the School, at Newcastle, on numerous occasions.



F. H. WYNNE, Silverdale.

## SATURDAY'S CRICKET.

### NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.

#### DIVISION I.

#### STOKE v. CREWE ALEXANDRA.

CREWE ALEXANDRA.		
E Osborn run out	5	
F White b Johnson	19	
C E Gresty run out	75	
Moorhouse b Johnson	64	
S Cottrell b Butler	4	
F Bennett not out	9	
Extras	17	

Total (for five wks) .....193  
Innings declared.

STOKE.		
P Briggs lbw b Groom	19	
W D Kirkby c Dickenson b Groom	26	
C Beavers c Osborn b Moorhouse	1	
F M Grose c Dickenson b Moorhouse	0	
F H Parker b Groom	3	
G H Powell c Walker b Groom	0	
Butler (J) c Cottrell b Moorhouse	47	
R H Timmis b Moorhouse	3	
A G Jones not out	0	
E J Johnson not out	1	
Extras	12	

Total (for nine wks) .....112  
Dr. Hopwood did not bat.

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Crewe Alexandra Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Butler (J.)	24.4	3	87	1
E J Johnson	19	4	40	2
A G Jones	2	0	8	0
G H Powell	13	1	46	0
F H Parker	3	0	15	0

#### Stoke Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Moorhouse (F.)	15	1	45	4
J F Groom	14	2	37	4
W Lea	4	1	6	0
A Cope	3	1	12	0

#### TUNSTALL v. PORTHILL.

PORTHILL.		
Barnes (S F) c and b Sharp	82	
F Beech c Sharp b Hart	23	
P N Lowndes c Hopkins b Harris	43	
W H Wood b Harris	12	
C Bickerton run out	6	
R Mawdesley c Sharp b Harris	23	
A P Wood b Crump	11	
J S Heath not out	0	
Extras	14	

Total (for seven wks) .....220  
Innings declared.

TUNSTALL.		
P Farrell lbw b Barnes	0	
J B Allman c Beech b Eardley	3	
J Gregory b Barnes	8	
H Sharp b Eardley	5	
T Hart c W H Wood b Eardley	18	
F Crump b Barnes	2	
J Broad b Barnes	37	
J Johnson b Eardley	1	
H Harris c Barnes b Eardley	0	
H Hopkins c J S Heath b Barnes	65	
E Bailey not out	2	
Extras	5	

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Porthill Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sharp (S.)	18	4	69	1
J. Johnson	8	1	35	0
S. J. Gregory	6	0	18	0
T. Hart	5	0	29	1
F. Crump	8	1	29	1
H. Harris	4	0	25	3

#### Gregory bowled a no-ball.

Tunstall Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes (S. F.)	21.1	4	56	5
H. Eardley	17	1	42	5
J. S. Heath	4	0	43	0

#### LONGTON v. BURSLEM.

BURSLEM.		
A Hollowood not out	82	
A H Beech b Trees	0	
J H Hodgkiss b Trees	10	
E Cook st Harrison b Trees	37	
J W Allen c Smith b Trees	25	
A Cook b Baxter	28	
Extras	11	

Total (for 5) .....193  
Innings declared.

LONGTON.		
H J Plant c and b Allen	1	
F J Baxter c and b Daves	0	
A Smith b Daves	22	
J J Awty c Allen b A Cook	3	
A Bradbury c E Cook b A Cook	0	
Rev L G Brown c and b Allen	12	
A Kent not out	12	
Trees (W D) b Daves	0	
P Thorley lbw b Allen	1	
P Stephenson b Allen	0	
A Harrison c Hollowood b Fletcher	10	
Extras	3	

Total .....64

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Burslem Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Trees (W D)	18	3	67	4
J J Awty	10	0	36	0
P Stephenson	5	1	22	0
E G Baxter	8.4	1	32	1
P Thorley	3	0	15	0
A Smith	4	1	10	0

#### Trees bowled two no-balls.

Longton Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Daves G	14	5	27	3
J W Allen	9	2	23	4
A Cook	5	2	11	2
E Fletcher	1	1	0	1

#### Allen bowled three no balls.

#### NORTON v. LEEK.

NORTON.		
J Smith b Pointon	10	
F Crump lbw b Pointon	9	
H Wright c Walker b Pointon	28	
A Smith c Sedgwick b Pointon	11	
Wilson (G A) c Fenton b Pointon	10	
E Tatton not out	45	
H Martin c Walker b Birch	6	
A Capes b Sedgwick	2	
J R Deane c Byrne b Birch	19	
J Malkin b Birch	0	
H Matthews c Fenton b Birch	20	
Extras	20	

Total .....169

#### LEEK.

H Ellerton c Malkin b Matthews	1
Sedgwick b Wilson	36
G M Fenton c Matthews b Wilson	4
J Pointon c A Smith b Malkin	3
A Knight c Capes b Wilson	0
F Bradley b Wilson	24
F Walker b Wilson	2
H Mellor c A Smith b Matthews	53
W Bryne not out	4
H Birch b Matthews	1
H R Brunt b Matthews	0
Extras	13

Total .....139

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Norton Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sedgwick (H)	15	0	63	1
J Pointon	22	10	45	5
H Birch	7.5	0	36	4

#### Leek Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson (G A)	21	4	56	5
H Matthews	13	3	49	4
J Malkin	4	3	1	1
A Capes	2	0	20	0

#### SILVERDALE v. FENTON.

SILVERDALE.		
Brown b Gill	2	
J C Cooper c Hawley b Skellern	38	
F Ellams c Dearing b Skellern	15	
F H Wynns c Bagguley b Gill	5	
E Groom b Skellern	10	
G W Hamner lbw b Gill	8	
C Cadman run out	5	
J S Scott b Gill	0	
H Groom b Skellern	9	
G Ellams c Drake b Skellern	0	
C Rushton not out	1	
Extras	9	

Total .....102

FENTON.		
H Dearing c Hamner b Cadman	32	
C Dearing b Brown	7	
J G Drake c Scott b E Groom	12	
P W Bagguley c and b E Groom	28	
Gill (G C) lbw b Brown	30	
H Roscoe c Cooper b Brown	0	
H Eagland not out	5	
H Hawley b Brown	0	
T Gordon b Brown	4	
S E Collis c Wynne b E Groom	8	
Extras	6	

Total .....132

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Silverdale Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Gill (G C)	22	5	47	4
P W Bagguley	4	0	19	0
H Skellern	17.2	8	27	5

#### Gill bowled two no-balls.

Fenton Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Brown (W)	12	3	39	5
J C Cooper	4	0	28	0
C Cadman	4	0	17	1
F Ellams	4	0	16	0
E Groom	7.5	0	27	3

#### E Groom bowled a wide.

#### LEEK HIGHFIELD v. STONE.

STONE.		
H Halmer b Pace	0	
Anthony (H) b Pace	4	
N E P Harris lbw b Rickson	5	
C H Price c Wilkinson b Pace	3	
S F Fernie st Wilkinson b Pace	0	
E R H Woodcock b Pace	0	
K W G Meakin b Pace	0	
J Belcher c and b Pace	5	
J Blakeman c Rickson b Pace	16	
G H Harris run out	3	
A Chapman not out	0	
Extras	3	

Total .....39

#### LEEK HIGHFIELD.

A Rider b Fernie	20
A Hulme lbw b Anthony	0
H Hulme not out	35
Rickson (E) not out	29
Extras	6
Total (for two wks)	90

#### Innings declared.

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Stone Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Rickson (E)	8	2	20	2
J Pace	7.1	2	16	7

#### Leek Highfield Innings.

Anthony	0	4	17	1
N E P Harris	3	0	8	0
E R Woodcock	6	1	13	0
J P Fernie	4	1	15	1
G H Harris	3	2	2	0
J Belcher	3	3	0	0
K Meakin	2	0	18	0
J Blakeman	1	0	11	0

#### Anthony bowled one no ball.

#### NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE LEAGUE. (Division II.)

Burslem II, 194; Longton II, 175 for eight.  
Norton II, 96; Great Chell, 102.  
Knypersley, 178; Oldfields, 123 for six.  
Tunstall II, 81; Porthill Park II, 203.

#### NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE COMBINATION. (Division I.)

Audley, 174; Knypersley, 84.  
Bignall End, 130; Pithill, 63.  
(Division II.)  
Hall Green, 44; Leycott, 52.

#### CHURNET VALLEY LEAGUE.

Uttoxeter, 78; Cheadle, 105.  
Leek II, 151 for eight (dec); Tean, 168 for three wickets.  
Roocester, 134 for nine (dec); Stallington, 51 for six wickets.

#### UTTOXETER AND BLYTHE BRIDGE LEAGUE.

Oakmoor II, 82; Caverswall II, 34.  
Meir, 54; Woodhead, 21.  
Uttoxeter II, 36; Cheadle II, 162 (for 7).

#### LEEK AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Brough's Warehouse, 27; Ball Haye Green, 33 (for 5).  
Scott Hay, 47; Butt Lane, 58 (for 8).

#### SENTINEL CUP.—FIRST ROUND.

Oakmoor, 181 (for 7 dec.); Caverswall, 73.

#### FRIENDLY MATCHES.

Macclesfield, 93; Cheadle (Ches.), 67.  
Sandbach, 177 (for 9, dec.); Wilmslow, 41.  
Crewe Earle-street, 34; Ilmstall King-street, 119.  
Mossley, 175; Cobridge, 87 (for 5).  
North Rode, 104; Congleton II, 97 (for 9).  
Kingsley, 32; Cheddleton Asylum, 151 (for 5).  
Bely, 59; Rode Park, 84.  
Maer, 89; Stone II, 116 (for 4).  
Stone Workingmen, 71; Darlaston, 28.  
Newchapel II, 106; Birches Head, 50.  
Alsager II, 32; Mow Cop St. Luke's, 159 (for 9).  
Alton, 46; Cotton College, 116 (for 7).

BURSLEM.

Breezy Batting.

(BY "GOOLIE.")

One of the most exciting encounters that it is possible to witness was the game at Cobridge last Saturday against Stoke, when only five short of 400 runs were scored in four and a quarter hours. The first fifty of the game were made in 50 minutes, but the second and third half centuries averaged 24 minutes each. There was some hitting, and no error, and men from whom the least was expected seemed to obtain runs off the best bowling just as they pleased. There were two outstanding innings that were obtained in really brilliant style—those of P. Briggs and A. Hollowood. Although Briggs was not top scorer, for he was exceeded by Grose, Boullimier, and Gallimore, his opening of the venture was a treat. His 27, which was terminated by a clever catch at the wicket, off Deyes, was a classic foundation. It was hard luck, too, on Briggs, for the ball which sent him back was a "no-ball," but it missed the observation of the umpire. The other innings referred to was that of Hollowood. He was top scorer of the whole match, making 56, which included eight masterly strokes to the boundary rails. He gave the venture a stimulating send-off, and left when he had laid a sound foundation at 118, the third man out. He bewitched the throng by his robust driving, his flicks to the leg, and his crisp cutting. He gave the spectators the idea that he was on the field for runs, and a few more men like Hollowood would be very useful, and undoubtedly popular.

The actual figures of the encounter were:—Stoke, 204; Burslem, 191 for the loss of seven wickets. Thus the match ended in a draw, slightly in favour of the home eleven. A total of 395 runs for the loss of 17 wickets yields a good average per wicket. With six of the best Stoke players out for 72, it looked long odds against them even reaching the century, but Boullimier and Grose became associated, and put on 71 runs ere the former left to a capital piece of fielding by E. Cook. Grose left at 162. In at 23, he remained while 134 runs were pencilled by the scorers. Both Grose and Boullimier obtained eight fours, but they appeared to be lucky. Still all such runs count, and one must congratulate them on their 49 and 45, respectively. Gallimore made 31 in happy-go-lucky style, and Jones (16) showed strength behind the willow. Butler was out to a catch, verging on the miraculous, by Fletcher. The ball was driven over the fielder's head, and he, running under and in the same direction that the ball was travelling, by a superhuman effort grasped the ball. The Burslem bowlers only found the sticks of the visitors once—when Deyes bowled Powell—whilst the Stoke trundlers upset the wicket on four occasions out of the seven.

For Burslem, A. H. Beech followed Hollowood in order of merit for a nice batting display of 35, whilst Deyes, who also made 35, showed muscular power behind the bat. A. Cook and Hodgkiss each obtained useful scores of 15, the latter being not out. The game was so interesting and exciting that scarcely a spectator left until stumps were drawn, and time was up.

Deyes came out the best in the bowling with seven for 65, and Butler was the best bowler for the visitors, taking four for 58. A. Cook captured three wickets for 69.

The attendance was about 2,500, and the receipts realised about £30, while all had good value for their money.

Burslem followed up this moral victory over Stoke by another one at Silverdale, on Monday: Burslem, scoring 168 against Silverdale's 99 for the loss of eight wickets. There is little doubt as to what the result would have been had time allowed. Burslem were short of the brothers A. and E. Cook, and J. H. Hodgkiss. Duncuff (35) was top scorer, and he played delightfully. Deyes came next with 30. Hollowood made 23, and Mountford made 15, and was not out. Robinson, Allen, and Fletcher each contributed 14. For Silverdale Brown and Lowe did best. Deyes bowled 20 overs, 12 of which were maidens, and took three wickets for 27. Fletcher, who seems to be developing into a good cricketer, got two for 16, and Allen had two for 23.

The second eleven won at Stoke in easy fashion, Stoke getting 90, and Burslem 108 for nine wickets. J. Bagguley got 31 out of Stoke's 90. The home side found E. Cotton, sen., too tricky a trundler for them, for he took five wickets for 12 runs. In the Burslem total J. Mountford got 37, and E. Cotton, junr. made 31; both players being very free, and exhibiting such style as shows much promise for the future.

John Mee, who for so many years was such a splendid professional for Burslem, and afterwards for Norton, is keeping himself well in form, and may be seen on the Burslem ground practising his running finger spin and break two or three nights in each week. He is partaking in several friendly matches, and is making his presence felt, both with bat and ball. He will be a useful acquisition next season, when he will be able to turn out as an amateur.

There are several points in the laws of cricket that many of the Burslem spectators are not quite clear about. Every time a no-ball is called, and the ball either goes to the boundary untouched, or is played by the batsman for one, two, three, or to the rails, arguments arise right and left, and the scorers are appealed to to settle the matter—often when these gentlemen are busy. When a run is made by the batsman off a no-ball, only the run to the batsman is scored, and not the no-ball as well. If the ball goes to the boundary untouched, four no-balls are counted. If one run is attempted and the batsman is run out, only the no-ball is counted, and the batsman is out. There are several other interesting points that will be dealt with weekly.

George Deyes, the Burslem professional will take his benefit on August 3rd, when Mr. A. Cook will captain a very strong eleven to oppose Burslem.

Next week Burslem will receive a visit from Silverdale, who are among the chief favourites with the Cobridge crowd.

NORTON.

E. H. BOURNE AND WILSON IN FORM.

(BY "COVER POINT.")

The meetings with the Fenton Club have invariably been of a very pleasant nature, and the game at Fenton was probably the most enjoyable match in which these clubs have engaged during many seasons. Fenton had first use of the wicket, but while four players contributed double figures, the outstanding feature of the home innings was the valuable contribution by E. H. Bourne. When he fell to Wilson he had compiled 63 in faultless fashion. Bourne has scored more runs in an innings, but of this it can be said that he never played better. It was a real treat to see the batsman in such brilliant form, and the Fenton supporters were highly delighted with the success of this popular player. After losing six wickets for 166 runs, Fenton declared, and they certainly left Norton with a fair sporting chance. The attack of the visitors was made to look feeble, for with the exception of Wilson none of those tried met with any great success.

A. Capes's two wickets were obtained at a cost of 58 runs, and it appears a rather strange coincidence that Wilson's four wickets were obtained for the same number, namely 66, and that there were four batsmen on the Norton side beside Wilson who contributed double figures, but Wilson's innings stood out by itself. It was a great innings; while Wilson was at the wickets there was not a dull moment. There appeared every probability that Norton would hit off the runs and win the match, and it was a disappointment when the professional was given out, for with his dismissal nearly all interest went out of the game. When time was called Norton had lost six wickets for 132. It was a fitting finish to a most enjoyable match.

The second eleven met at Norton. Remembering what they have been set to do in previous seasons, Fenton left nothing to chance, but placed on the field the strongest side possible, and they have at last accomplished what they have desired to do, after dismissing the home side for 137, they scored 162 for eight wickets and then declared. That they deserved the victory none who saw the game would deny, for they were the better side, even if one is compelled to admit that G. E. Roberts, who scored 47, was a lucky batsman, for he gave four chances which were all neglected. It was a matter of surprise that so many chances were lost. The general work of the home side in every department of the game was weak in comparison with the visitors. Though S. Worthy and H. Martin scored 32 and 33 respectively, J. Goodwin's 22 not out was compiled in better and more convincing style. Leadley bowled well for the visitors.

FENTON.

Bourne Brilliant.

(BY "JUNIUS.")

The display of Fenton, though good, was not altogether what it should have been. Norton, it must be remembered, are a greatly improved side this year, and, with George Wilson as the

professional, they are a team which are to be taken quite seriously. Can it be said that Fenton realised this? I think they did, but, at the same time, when in the field three catches were missed which, to my mind, had a very important bearing on the result. We saw George Wilson on the top of his form. He bowled throughout the Fenton innings, and in all sent down 24 overs, securing four out of the six wickets captured at a cost of 58 runs. In due time he proved equally successful as a batsman, his contribution being 57 out of a total of 132, for six, when stumps were drawn. But it cannot be said that his innings was a perfect one, because, before he had many to his credit, he was missed at the wicket, and, of course, Fenton paid the penalty. Granted it was a difficult chance, but it is not often H. Dearing is found at fault in this respect. Still, he did fail, and it was largely on account of this mistake that the match was left a draw. And he was not the only offender, because we find H. Eagland, perhaps one of the best fielders Fenton possess, and J. G. Drake, another excellent player, also missed a chance each.

For cricket the weather was favourable, excepting that perhaps the light was rather bad at the outset. When this had improved somewhat H. Dearing and E. H. Bourne opened the Fenton innings, and truly their display was of the best. They were not parted until 57 runs had been chronicled, when Dearing, who at no time during his innings was as contented with the bowling as his partner, fell to a delivery from Wilson, the ball swerving from the off, across his bat, on to the leg stump. It was an excellent ball, and one to which most batsmen would have succumbed. Gradually the score was increased with the advent of subsequent batsmen, but what caught the public eye most was the brilliant batting display by E. H. Bourne. He obtained, by cricket of an asserting character, 65 runs. But this bald statistical statement does not give an accurate idea of the real merit of his innings. He did not cut so often as usual, and the majority of his runs were the outcome of lusty pulls and powerful, perfectly-timed on drives. Not once did he give a chance, and when he was bowled Norton captured his wicket rather luckily. At the time of his dismissal he was dealing with bowling by Wilson, which, from the very commencement, he had played with the utmost confidence. The ball which dismissed him he had played, but somehow it happened to get under his bat and hit the wicket sufficiently hard to knock off one of the bails. The player, noticing what was happening, attempted to stop the progress of the ball a second time, but was too late; hence his dismissal.

To the Fenton total, Gill had also contributed 23 and when six wickets had been lost H. Eagland and H. Hawley were together. The captain declared the innings closed at 166, the two batsmen having scored 18 and 19 respectively. It is always a difficult matter, under such circumstances, for a captain. In league cricket, if by any possible chance, the match must be won; therefore a tactful skipper is required, and in Harry England Fenton could not have a better head. He left his opponents almost a couple of hours to bat, realising that it was almost an impossibility for Norton to win, while Fenton were in an excellent position for victory. But win they did not for the reason we have already seen. Had all the chances been snapped up there would undoubtedly have been an exciting finish, because the Norton players would have had to have done all they possibly could to avoid defeat. As it was, with the missed chances, they were enabled to compile a score, and at one time they seemed in a winning position. When stumps were drawn they had 132 to their credit, having lost six wickets, and from that it can be recognised that the Fenton captain was pretty accurate in his calculation. However, I should like to have seen Fenton win, because, in my judgment, they played the better cricket.

Their position in the league will still stand improvement. Since their reverse at Longton the club have made some headway, and one consolation is that they have not once been defeated, but won 12-0. So far every victory to their credit has been secured away from their own ground, they winning at Leek High field, then at Tunstall, and lastly at Silverdale. Next week they will again have an opportunity of improving their home record. Stone will be their visitors, and, given fine weather, I cannot think anything else but that Fenton will win. Candidly, I am anxious they should. The season is advancing, and with its advance I want to see them climb to the top of the ladder and occupy the championship position. Following their match with Stone they are due at Porthill, when the time will have arrived for them to avenge their defeat sustained at the hands of these opponents, in the initial match of the season. May they be successful and win handsomely!

**LEEK HIGHFIELD.**

LONGTON LOSE: TUNSTALL DRAW.

(By "SILK SPINNER.")

The victory obtained by Highfield against Stone acted as a grand stimulant to the players in their matches with Longton and Tunstall. Three points were added to the team's total and all the players must be congratulated on their fine performances. Longton came with good credentials, but were hopelessly out-classed in every department of the game. Highfield batted first, and after a poor opening A. Hulme and Wilkinson laid the foundation for a good score. The captain was unfortunately bowled when only one short of his fifty. Later on V. Astbury (34, not out), A. Hambleton (21), A. L. Kidd (11) and last, but not least, Pace, with 13 to his credit, enabled the closure to be applied at 172 for nine wickets. With no chance of victory, Longton's only hope was to try to play out time.

Wilkinson, however, used his bowlers with good judgment, and never allowed the batsmen to settle down. After the Rev. L. G. Brown had been bowled by Pace, a remarkable effort by Rickson, who kicked the ball on to the wicket, before Awty could gain his ground got rid of a dangerous batsman, and J. Plant was the only one to stay long, but a bad misunderstanding between him and Smith caused the latter to be run out. Matters continued to go badly with Longton, but so steadily did Plant shape that it seemed likely that the visitors would take back a point. The bowling during this stage was steady, and the fielding was magnificent. A loud shout proclaimed the fact that Rickson had caught Plant—one of the finest catches taken on the ground—and Highfield won with seven minutes to spare.

Rickson's analysis was remarkable, in that out of twelve overs no less than eight were maidens. Pace had four wickets for 21, while V. Astbury and H. Hulme had one for one and two for five, respectively.

Another fine batting performance was recorded at Tunstall on Monday. Rider and A. Hulme took the score to 89 before the former left, and a little later Rickson and A. Hulme added 35 for the third wicket. After Hulme left, the professional laid on the wood and, although not giving a stylish display, his innings was of rare value to his side. He and Mycock, who improves every match, got together at 178 and were not separated when the closure was applied at 235 for four wickets. This is the highest total compiled by Highfield in league cricket. Rickson was the highest scorer with 76 not out, while A. Hulme made 70, A. Rider 40, and J. Mycock 10, not out.

Tunstall made a wretched start, losing three good wickets for ten runs. W. J. Crump was then badly missed in the slips, and this mistake probably cost the visitors a point. He and Sharp batted magnificently, and it was not until the score stood at 88, that one of Wilkinson's extra special catches behind the wicket got rid of Sharp. Changes of bowling were frequently resorted to, but when time was called, only six men had been dismissed for 124 runs. Crump was just 50, not out, and was deservedly cheered by friend and foe at the close. Pace was again the most successful bowler, his four wickets being obtained for 42 runs.

The second team paid a visit to Oakmoor, and surprised the home team by getting them out for the small total of 68. Higginbottom and Walmsley were responsible for their downfall. The former had four wickets for 30, and the latter six for 34. This total at one time seemed to be too large for the visitors, for when Walmsley, the last man, joined Higginbottom, thirteen runs were wanted for victory. Twelve of these were safely obtained, and then Higginbottom lifted a ball from Smith clean out of the ground. The latter finished up with 39 not out, while Walmsley's score was 13.

Fenton Park were at home to Fenton "A." The home side, batting first, realized 124, the first wicket falling in 30 minutes, Bradbury and Collier being masters of the situation. The chief scorers were Bradbury (42), Collier (34), Lloyd (18), and Bray (13 not out). The "A" team were all out for 40. Collier and Dean bowling well, Collier taking four for 18 and Dean four for 21. The fielding of the Park was very keen.

**STOKE.**

Instant Improvement.

(By "RECORDER.")

Well done, Stoke! The long expected return to form has come at last. Although they did not secure a complete victory, the sharing of points may be regarded as quite satisfactory. To have accomplished such a performance of scoring over 200 runs against the strong bowling of the Burslem team is indeed highly creditable. It is pleasing to note the introduction of new blood into the team. The experi-

ment proved more successful than was anticipated. The substantial contributions of 45 and 31 by L. Boulllemier and F. W. Gallimore, at a critical part of the game, were invaluable, and more than justified their inclusion in the first eleven. I have always regarded the former as out of place with the junior team, and it is to be hoped that the transfer will be of a permanent character. Gallimore would also be a desirable acquisition if he can be relied upon to repeat his splendid exhibition of last Saturday. W. Pointon, who can bowl a tricky leg break ball that will puzzle the most experienced batsmen, was also included in order to give him a trial, but his services were not requisitioned.

The most notable scorer, however, was F. M. Grose, who compiled 48 in a delightful fashion. I am inclined to believe that this is only the forerunner of many similar contributions, for he has improved wonderfully this season. Singularly enough, the two most promising batsmen in the team—Taylor and Powell—failed to score. The former was given out leg-before-wicket to the first ball he received from A. Cook, and Deyes was not long in finding the way through Powell's defence. I must not omit to mention Briggs' fine innings, for his 27 was really better than the score book would indicate. After seeing the departure of Kirkby, Johnson and Taylor, he was eventually caught behind the wicket.

On the whole the batting was a decided improvement on anything seen previously this season, and it inspires more confidence that the team will give a better account of themselves in future encounters.

Coming to the Burslem innings, they certainly made a brilliant effort to gain the victory, and when time was called they only required 14 runs to pass the Stoke total, with three wickets still in hand. Contrary to the usual procedure, Johnson and Powell commenced the attack. Early in the innings Beech, who was first partner to Hollowood, was given out for a catch behind the wicket, but the umpire changed his decision when he saw that Briggs had failed to hold the ball. Shortly afterwards a confident appeal for leg before wicket against Hollowood, when he had only about 20 runs credited to him, was made, but this was over-ruled. If either of these decisions had been otherwise, it would have had a material effect on the issue, for it would undoubtedly have placed Stoke in a strong winning position. This pair were the best contributors, together with Deyes (35). The sharing of the honours, however, was a fitting conclusion to a most enjoyable afternoon's sport.

Butler came out best in the bowling analysis with four for 58, which included the wickets of Hollowood, Beech, and Deyes, whilst Johnson was responsible for the dismissal of three others for 68.

The team are to be heartily congratulated for putting up such a creditable fight, but what is still to be desired, however, is a better understanding amongst the players. The unanimity and friendliness that exists amongst other clubs seems to be lacking, and unless there is an entire absence of dissension there cannot be that whole-hearted enthusiasm and support which is absolutely essential to the well-being and progress of the club. In stating this I am only voicing the general impression that exists amongst a large number of supporters, who are not slow to criticise the actions of players in the field, and to express their opinions accordingly.

The second team are still in the rut. They failed again last Saturday at home, Burslem's second eleven proving just too good for them. After knocking up 90, of which J. Bagguley made 31, they allowed the visitors to reach 108 for nine wickets.

**LEEK.**

HEAVY SCORING AT STONE.

(By "WICKETKEEPER.")

Leek were again on foreign soil last Saturday, Stone being visited, and a very interesting and exciting game resulted in a draw, the allotted time being played out. Leek batted first, Sedgwick and Ellerton being the first pair of batsmen in, and it was mainly due to the splendid work of these two and a little later a stand by Mellor, that the sting was taken out of the home attack, and when the score had been taken to 223 for eight wickets, the Leek captain decided to declare the innings closed. The chief scorers were: Sedgwick (102), Mellor (40 not out), and Ellerton (21).

The home team commenced their hard task by sending J. F. Farnie and Harris to the wickets, Sedgwick and Pointon sharing the attack. By steady, cool cricket the home side were able to play out the full time allowed, the score then being 162 runs for eight wickets, and thus the match was drawn.

The chief feature of the game was the fine display of the Leek professional, and although he had one or two lives during his long innings, it was mainly through his stand that the sting was taken out of the home attack. He

also did fairly well with the ball, taking four wickets for 61 runs, and Pointon was credited with three for 40.

**OLDFIELDS.**

FIRST DEFEAT OF THE SEASON.

(By "NEWMAN.")

It must have been a bitter pill to Oldfields to have suffered their first League defeat on Saturday by nine runs only. Chell were their opponents, and although Oldfields won the toss, they allowed the home side first use of the wicket. Tipping and Pope formed the first partnership, but the latter had his stumps disarranged by Cadman, after contributing eight runs. His partner, however, playing splendidly, was only three runs off the half-century when he became a victim to Heasman. Three of the home side failed to score, and nothing of a very definite character was seen until Lawton and Baddeley visited the crease, their scores being 20 and 39 respectively. The only remaining player to do anything of note was Clowes, and the innings concluded for 149 runs.

The visitors appeared to have every chance of wiping off this total, and why they did not succeed is a mystery. Redden and the Rev. Mr. Barber made a capital start, and although the former was disposed of at 29, the latter was only two off his century when he was stumped by Baddeley. Cadman was the only other player to make anything like a show, and his 17 proved a welcome addition. A rot seemed to set in towards the end of the innings, there being a constant procession back to the pavilion. The dreadful character of the scoring can be judged from the fact that the last six players could only knock up five runs between them. The visitors were thus all out for 140.

**SANDBACH.**

POYNTON CONQUER BY SIXTEEN RUNS.

The first team experienced hard lines at Poynton in being beaten by 16 runs. The home side made 112 and the Sandbach innings closed at 96. And, it seemed to close rather prematurely, the last man being run out when there was promise of a good final stand ensuring victory. Many of the Sandbach batsmen failed to contribute satisfactory scores, but good service was rendered by Scott and Hayton, of the Sandbach Grammar School, who, of late, have been giving creditable accounts of themselves in the school team, Scott having recently created a record by knocking up 115.

The second team were at home on Saturday to Rode Park, and a draw was a sequence to some heavy scoring. Sandbach batted first, and declared at 156 for nine. A poor start was made, four wickets being down at 23, but J. Sheffield and J. Clowes gave a fine exhibition that caused the fifth wicket to be productive of nearly 80. Clowes who was the first to leave, made 51, and Sheffield, who had to return to the pavilion two runs later, compiled 25. The ninth wicket was lost at 116, and then another capital stand was made, this time by the captain, G. Halden, and G. Prophet, both of whom carried their bats. Halden made 38 and Prophet got 24.

Rode Park quickly ran up an admirable total, A. Wallis compiling 65 and J. Fox 34, but their several successes were speedily disposed of, and time arrived with the score at 167 for seven. Hookenhull took four wickets for 40.

**NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.**

(NOTES BY "INCOGNITUS.")

**DIVISION I.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Porthill Park	8	4	1	3	11
Burslem	8	4	1	3	11
Crewe Alexandra	8	3	3	2	10
Norton	8	3	3	2	10
Fenton	8	3	3	2	10
Longton	8	3	3	2	10
Leek Rishfield	8	2	3	3	9
Silverdale	8	1	4	3	7
Leek	8	1	4	3	7
Stoke	8	1	4	3	7
Tunstall	10	1	5	4	6
Stone	8	0	5	3	5

The doings of last week-end had the effect of putting Porthill at the head of the First Division table, and as they have lost fewer points than any other club, the position is not a nominal one. Burslem have the same pointage, it is true, but have played a match more, and two draws in games which were considered well within their grasp have rather discouraged the notion that they will finish as leaders. Absenteeism may have cost them a point on Monday, though it must not be forgotten that Silverdale were also short of good men and true. Of the eight senior matches got through, only three arrived at a definite issue, though at all the grounds the weather conditions were favourable, and the dominance of the bat over the ball is proved by the fact that there were only five completed innings. Longton were the only club not to get a point, but they only had one attempt. Stoke and Stone are still without a win to their credit, but, relatively, Tunstall hold the worst position, and are likely to do unless they can find the bowling that means match winning.

Silverdale lived up to their reputation of being able to give Porthill a hard game, and the doggedness of some members of the team almost staved off defeat. Indeed, the match was only won some twelve minutes from "time," and probably no other bowler in the League could have done the trick as Barnes did. It must be said, however, that generally speaking the batting of the losers was disappointing, and it was almost entirely due to two players that they came so near to halving the match. The failures of Frank Ellams and F. H. Wynne for the second and third wickets made Silverdale's batting venture an uphill one from its early stages, but the sturdiness of Brown and G. W. Hamner so neutralised these misfortunes that the subsequent succession of failures was distinctly disappointing, both to supporters of the visitors and those who had sympathetic admiration for the efforts of their two strong men. J. Poole deserved well of his comrades when he so smartly stumped Ellams and Wynne, for both can exploit the obstinate faculty when occasion demands. Ellams had no sooner arrived at the wickets than his slight indiscretion was his undoing, and the vice-captain—whose vulnerability is rarely in this direction, had only a slightly longer stay ere the stumper's magic just found him out—and only just. With three wickets down for 33 runs, William Brown had a big responsibility, and right well he accepted it; and he was fortunate to find a gallant partner.

The Porthill bowlers found both ends closed to them for an exasperatingly long period, what time the score was augmented by 48 runs. The out side had had quite enough of the two Silverdale stalwarts when at last the round-the-wicket devices of the All-England bowler broke through Hamner's defence. As is so often the case after a long partnership, Brown was not long in following his colleague to the pavilion, and with Porthill keenly alive to the situation one felt that Silverdale's case was hopeless, and so it turned out. Against the Silverdale backmarkers Harry Eardley's second turn with the ball was more potent than his first had been, and the skill and determination of Barnes brooked no resistance. The last six wickets produced but eleven runs, and the last three fell at the same total. The sort of attack thus indicated means matches won—probable draws converted into victories. In accrediting himself with 42 runs, the Silverdale coach batted in fashion that he can rarely have surpassed when at his zenith, but his manner of getting out—easily caught off W. H. Wood—was not in keeping with such a display. There may still be room for Brown amongst Staffordshire's selected. Barnes has often accomplished more astounding performances than what this game provided, but in getting seven wickets for 42 runs he treated the crowd to the craft and workmanship that have made him chiefest amongst bowlers. Great is S.F.B.I. With only occasional lapses, the Porthill fielding was quite acceptable, and John Poole's keeping earned unstinted praise.

This tale has commenced in the second act, but harking back one may say that Captain H. F. Wood nicely reckoned up the position when he declared at 158, with four wickets to fall, though his decision failed to meet with the approval of those with thoughts only for "the bird in the hand." A declaration loses a considerable proportion of its possibilities, when the incoming side possess the idea that they have nothing but a draw to play for, and from all points of view 'tis far better that they

should be given a chance. The Porthill score was practically the work of three men, and Barnes was top contributor with 51. His innings was too slow to be really captivating, but it was a sound display, and with W. H. Wood (36) and H. F. Wood (38 not out) in such militant humour, there was no need for every one to be in a hurry. The younger of the Woods was all fire, as is his wont, and though once badly missed, there was little else that was lucky about an effort that put the Wolstanton club on the high road to success. The captain was more than usually forceful, and his quota was his share of 67 runs subscribed whilst he was in possession. Without being absolutely poor, the Silverdale bowling was not convincing, and it really seemed that Brown was off too long. The fielding was good, but for the most part not brilliant. The skipper was dependable behind the stumps, and C. F. Rushton took a couple of capital catches, but the pick of the bunch was Frank Ellams. This player scored never a run with the bat, but he completely filled the breach at mid-off, and with feet together and hands at "the give," saved dozens of runs, as Barnes, the Woods, and R. Mawdesley could well testify.

May Silverdale continue to produce his kind! The Collier, were somewhat overplayed in this match, but they will not meet the Barnes brand every Saturday. Both the players and supporters took the beating with excellent grace, and the former led the applause that signified that the Porthill professional had reached the half-century mark. Such is sport!

**DIVISION II.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Crewe Alexandra II.	8	4	1	3	11
Knypersey	8	3	0	5	11
Porthill Park II.	8	4	1	3	11
Great Chell	8	3	1	4	10
Burslem II.	8	2	2	4	8
Fenton II.	8	2	2	4	8
Longton II.	8	1	2	5	7
Norton II.	8	2	3	3	7
Silverdale II.	8	1	4	3	6
Stoke II.	8	0	4	4	4
Tunstall II.	8	0	5	3	3

In the Second Division all other happenings had to give way in favour of the match at Chell, for not only did Oldfields sustain their first defeat of the season but the game was full of variations that were quite nerve-trying. When the home club lost six wickets for 32 runs, Oldfields appeared certain of the points, but W. Tipping (47), inspired the Chell tail to wag to such purpose that 117 more runs were forthcoming, of which A. Baddeley claimed 39, G. Lawton 20, and J. Clewes 15. The visitors were, therefore, set a problem of considerable proportion, but they seemed to have it well solved when their fourth wicket fell at 132. Then came the debacle, for the remaining six wickets were only able to augment the score by eight runs! The cause of the collapse lay in the bowling of S. Leese and J. Ferny-hough. The tragedy of the match was found in the experience of the Rev. H. S. Barker, whose score was but two short of the century, and yet he figures on the losing side!

Whilst the Uttoxeter club were being made acquainted with adversity, the champions were getting on level terms with them by putting Longton through their paces, and they did it with nine wickets to spare. Knypersey's attack was commenced by the brothers Bedson, and this pair wanted no help.

At Tunstall, Crewe Alexandra had a bowler, one J. Hill, who disposed of six wickets for 17 runs, and they had two batsmen, A. E. Meadcroft (38) and A. Moss (60), who had an unbroken fourth wicket partnership of 105. Tunstall were completely out-pointed, though W. Taylor was responsible for a brave 44. Meadcroft appears to be fulfilling his mission with the young bloods of the Alexandra.

In recent years the reserves of Stoke and Burslem have usually figured, notably in the fight for the wooden spoon, and the Cobridge men have generally been able to account for their rivals. They did so on Saturday, and have now left them well in the rear. One may say that they gave them "cotton," for E. Cotton, sen., had five wickets for a dozen runs, and E. Cotton, jun., employed the scorers to the tune of 31. Mountford hit well for 37, the highest score of the match, and J. Baguley (31) gave the losers a capital lead, which was not followed.

Norton had five dual figure scorers against Fenton, but the other six players could only muster ten runs amongst them. Hence their defeat. G. E. Roberts (47) was leading scorer for Fenton and of the match, but no player on the side failed, and no one got less than six.

Silverdale and Porthill had an engaging struggle, with the visitors slight winners. The leading thing of the six wickets for 34 runs of F. winners.

**N.S. COMBINATION.**

**DIVISION I.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Madeley	8	6	0	2	18
Sandyford	8	3	2	3	9
Audley	8	2	3	3	7
Leek	8	2	3	3	7
Hull Green	8	2	3	3	7
Bignall End	6	1	2	3	5
Nottingham	5	2	2	1	6
Pittshill	7	1	3	3	5
Knypersey	6	1	3	2	4

It may be premature to discuss where the championship is likely to go this season, but there seems little doubt that the result of the match between Madeley and Bignall End will turn out to have an important bearing on that all in potent question. In any case, Madeley now enjoy a pretty substantial lead, and their decisive victory last week will make it extremely difficult for the champions to overtake them. It is not easy to account for the lack of form of some of the Bignall End batsmen, for up to the present their play has been fitful and a long way off the reputed abilities of some of the more important members.

On the other hand the performances of Madeley have been as consistently good this season as they were disappointingly poor last summer, and their present position is a true index to the merit of their performances. Last Saturday's game is a fair example. They batted first and put together the good total of 137, and then dismissed their opponents for less than half that number. In the achieving of this result they were helped in a striking manner by their stumper, Eph. Griffiths, who took five catches, and did not allow a single extra.

Malin was also prominent by the taking of five wickets for 20 runs, and in the batting department W. Gilford and Ern. Griffiths, who came together late in the innings, made a noteworthy stand and added contributions of 27 and 35. Bignall End never batted like a winning team, and though three of them made a respectable show, the rest were not much better than passengers.

Leyceet met Audley for the second time this season, and had the satisfaction of repeating their victory, thus taking four points out of Dale and Co. To get Audley out for a paltry 37, after such a batting display as the latter gave on the previous Saturday, speaks volumes for the opposing bowlers and fielders; and it was in this department where they really excelled. It was a good performance, of course, for Leyceet to get 78, but it should not have proved such a formidable task for Audley to overtake it as was the case.

Great credit was due to the bowling of E. Clarke, whose eight wickets were taken at small cost for Leyceet, as this was undoubtedly the chief cause of their victory. The batting of the winners was consistent, but not brilliant, while that of Audley was execrably bad. One player on the Audley side had reason to be pleased with himself, and that was F. Howell, who took eight wickets for only 15 runs.

A good game was witnessed at Sandyford, where Hall Green were the visitors but in this match also it was the bowling rather than the batting that was prominent. Sandyford emerged successfully by 19 runs, and in securing this verdict they were best served by G. Bourne (27), L. Dean (14), and J. Moss (14 not out), while Dean also proved to be in irrefragable form with the ball, seven wickets for 20 runs being his share of the spoils. On the other side Partridge again gave a good display with the ball, seven for 20 being the result of his efforts, and as he also made 16 runs off the bat, he could not be blamed that the victory went to the other side. Yarnall (16 not out) and J. Murphy (14) also did a fair share of the run-getting for the losers.

**DIVISION II.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Bignall End	6	5	1	0	10
Woodland Pottery	6	4	0	2	10
Audley	7	4	2	1	9
Pittshill	9	3	5	1	7
Tunstall U.M.	6	3	2	1	7
Sandyford	7	3	4	0	6
Knypersey "A"	6	2	3	1	5
Chell Reserve	6	1	4	1	3
Leyceet	7	1	5	1	3

Tunstall came a cropper at Bignall End, and there was only one team in it from start to finish. Riley and Taylor opened the innings for Bignall End, and laid the foundations of victory by their productive partnership, which saw 64 on the board for the first wicket. By the way, this same pair beat Pittshill on the previous week all by themselves, and on that occasion they subscribed 68 between them without being separated. Taking both performances together, they constitute a unique record. Against Tunstall, Riley made 18 and Taylor 45, and Whalley also contributed 24. Burgess and Riley between them put the Tunstall batsmen out of action, the former having the particularly fine average of six wickets for 12 runs.

**CREWE ALEXANDRA.**

**Three Triumphs.**

(BY "VETERAN.")

Notwithstanding all the disadvantages which beset the path of Crewe Alexandra at the beginning of the cricket season, the railway representatives have done remarkably well. It is not probably within the range of many clubs to muster three teams in one afternoon and score a trio of successes into the bargain. That feat was accomplished last week with comparative ease, both League teams being successful against Tunstall, while the Tourists also won, at Moore. Of course, most importance was attached to the match at Crewe, where H. Hopkins and his men opposed the full strength of the Alexandra. Previous to fulfilling their annual engagement at Crewe, the visitors had not accomplished anything of an extraordinary character. Still, no doubt they cherished the hope that the unexpected might happen on this occasion. Unfortunately, however, that anticipation was not realised, for although they had the privilege of batting first on a splendid wicket, very poor headway was made against the deliveries of Moorhouse.

The fielding of the team generally was distinctly creditable, for some of the chances accepted in the out-field was taken in brilliant fashion. M. Walker, F. White, A. Cope, and E. Osborn were all worthy of special distinction in this direction. Tunstall fared very poorly at the start, as they had five wickets down for 26. The arrival of W. J. Crump and H. Hopkins made a vast difference, as they took the score to 53 before a separation was effected from a clever return by J. Meakin. In making an effort to reach the crease, Crump severely strained himself, and medical aid had to be sought. Still he had the credit of making a score of runs, which came at a very opportune period. Upon the arrival of the next batsman, the Tunstall skipper appeared to gain more confidence, and opened his shoulders in a fashion which brought runs. In attempting to reach the boundary, however, he fell a victim to Munro Walker, who exercised splendid judgment in bringing about his dismissal in the long field. The remainder created little trouble, and the Tunstall total closed at 90.

The bowling honours went to Moorhouse, who was credited with eight wickets for 41 runs; not a bad performance when the perfect state of the wicket was taken into consideration. Needless to say, the Crewe men were not long in securing the required number of runs, and but for Gresly being run out they might have been obtained earlier than they were. Never was Edgar Osborn seen to greater advantage, and his display in this match was quite in keeping with his great reputation. Eighty runs needs some compiling, but the easy manner in which he treated the Tunstall bowlers was worth witnessing. Arthur Cope also distinguished himself in this game, and for once he did himself justice with the bat. Cope has shown himself to be a good all-round cricketer. His contribution of 72, not out is, to the best of my recollection, one of his finest records. Several others were responsible for small totals, but only seven wickets had fallen when play ceased, the Crewe score being 228.

The second team gave an excellent account of themselves at Tunstall, where they gained an easy victory. A. E. Meadowcroft was a great factor in Crewe's victory, and his total of 88 not out stands out as the most prominent feature of the match. Arthur Moss also commenced a successful career by contributing 50.

Under the able coaching of Arthur Evanson, the touring team are doing remarkably well. Their latest achievement was secured at the expense of Moore, who were all dismissed for 48 runs. J. Brownridge was very prominent in this match, as he secured four wickets for 11 runs. Charlesworth had three for three, and Cotterill had three for 22. In the batting line Brownridge was again to the front with 18, G. Chesters was not out with 23, and R. Walker got 18. These aspirants are making a name for themselves, and in the future they should prove valuable recruits for the Alexandra.

The representatives of Crewe Permanent Way paid a visit to Nantwich, where they found the home team in good form. The visitors were all dismissed for 46 runs, while Nantwich were credited with 166. H. Maybury and E. H. Steventon were most deadly with their deliveries, the former being credited with five wickets for 29, and his colleague with five for 15. The Rev. F. B. Corfield established his reputation as a reliable cricketer by compiling 44 in really good fashion. H. Hope (31), H. Peerman (19), and G. Hinde (14) also played well for their respective totals. Cricket looks like improving in the old town. At one period Nantwich could boast of being one of the best clubs in the Cheese county.

**KNYPERSELEY.**

**EASY VICTORY AT LONGTON.**

(By "JOHN BULL.")

A fine bowling performance by the brothers E. and G. Bedson enabled the champions to score an easy nine wickets victory at Longton on Saturday last, and with Crewe Alexandra and Porthill also victorious, the unexpected defeat of Oldfields at Chell has placed the four clubs at the top of the table level with eleven points each. This is a very interesting position, and with Chell in such great form, only one point behind, the struggle for this season's honours promises to be unusually keen and exciting. The wickets at Longton was just to the liking of Knyperseley's fast bowlers, and though fast and true enough to appear an easy scoring wicket, few of the home batsmen made any show against the deadly accuracy of the attack. The second ball of E. Bedson's first over saw G. Breton dismissed without scoring, and with the score taken to seven for two wickets, three batsmen left at the same total. F. Bradbury and A. Gregory made something of a stand, but the bowling and fielding was too good, and half the side were out for 23. The remaining batsmen gave little trouble; the sixth wicket adding a couple, and with the next two falling at 20, the last two managed to raise the total to 33.

This was a very poor score considering the pace of the wicket, but there is no doubt that the excellence of the bowling was largely responsible for such an indifferent display. Both the Bedsons bowled at a great pace, and with totally different actions, so that the batsmen were continually nonplussed.

Few loose balls were sent down, and the fielding was smart and clean. E. Awby being in rare form behind the stumps. E. Bedson's figures were 13 overs, four maidens, 16 runs, five wickets. G. Bedson clean bowled each of his victims, and his figures were 12 overs, three maidens, 17 runs, five wickets.

Opening with their usual pair, Knyperseley lost E. Tunstall with only five runs on the board, but on E. Mossdale joining H. E. Bourne the runs were hit off without further loss. The game was continued until the score had reached 81 for five wickets, when the innings was declared. D. Bloor accomplished quite a sensational bowling feat for Longton, as, going on when the score was 58 for two wickets, he captured three wickets in seven deliveries for only two runs.

The Knyperseley A team completed the double event at Pittshill on Saturday, and supplemented their earlier home success by a fairly easy victory. Their score of 60 was not a bad one considering the wicket, which was decidedly dangerous at one end, the ball flying over the batsmen's heads in most disconcerting fashion. W. Redfern (15) and J. Wrench (17) were the chief scorers for Knyperseley, and the former was again in fine form with the ball, capturing half the Pittshill wickets at a very small cost. T. Wallcut also rendered capable assistance with the ball, and after a very interesting game the home eleven were beaten by 18 runs.

Longson had the honour of playing Endon their first match, and this privilege was fully appreciated by the manner in which they introduced cricket to the new club. By very careful batting Endon raised the score to 82, S. Meakin being the principal contributor, with 18 to his credit. The first Longson wicket fell at 36, and Longson eventually won with three wickets down, but the tail end dwindled away and the innings closed for 76. A. Wright knocked off 41 in a vigorous style. A. B. Bailey was the most successful bowler, taking five for 17.

Sandford Hill Primitive Methodist played their first home encounter, having Longton St. Chad's as visitors. Till bowled in splendid style for the home team, keeping an excellent length, and he had the fine average of five wickets for only eight runs. The whole side were dismissed for the small total of 16. Sandford Hill opened their innings with Myatt and Cumberlandidge, and commenced poorly, losing a wicket in the first over. But upon Boston joining Myatt a different complexion was put on the game, these pair of batsmen taking the score to within four of their opponents' total. Sandford Hill gained the victory with five wickets to fall, Myatt being the best batsman, and finishing with 18 to his credit.

**SILVERDALE.**

**Porthill Prevail.**

(BY "LONG-STOP")

The Silverdale Club have had anything but a pleasant experience during the past few days, and the fact that they were only able to pick up one point in a couple of matches somewhat prejudices their chances amongst the first flight of clubs associated with the North Staffordshire League. At Porthill, on Saturday, where history repeated itself, an inglorious display led to a heavy defeat, and the loss of valuable points. Barnes proved himself a hero, for he followed up a capital batting performance—in which he exceeded the half-century—by dismissing seven of the visitors for 42; thus claiming the lion's share in the victory. Porthill's favourable position was evident when, with six wickets disposed of for 158, they were able to apply the closure and give the Silverdale team an opportunity of exercising their skill at the crease.

With the telegraph board at 80, and only three wickets down, everyone could afford to be pretty well satisfied, but a collapse subsequently ensued, and the whole side were out for 80; the last seven wickets yielding only ten runs. Brown, whose contribution was 42, was an easy first in the matter of scoring, and also from the point of view of the confidence with which he faced the bowling. G. W. Hamner made 20, and J. C. Cooper got 11; both batsmen being victims to effective deliveries from Barnes.

In a prolific scoring match the reserves came out second best again at the Porthill second team; but the home team have only themselves to blame that they did not avenge the defeat sustained in the "Sentinel" Cup Competition. Batting first, Silverdale ran up a total of 156, towards which F. H. Cork (21), J. B. Street (33), T. Ward (21), A. Kirkham (20), and H. Sutton (11) were the chief scorers. Porthill were assisted by the failure of the home side in the field—many catches being missed—and responded with 185. A. Charlesworth, a recruit, bowled finely for the losers, and with a little coaching he should develop into a really useful fast bowler.

For their fixture with Burslem, on Monday, Silverdale were represented by a weakened eleven, and were admittedly fortunate to snatch a point in the concluding stages. The visitors, who also entered the fray lacking their usual strength, gave a fine example of spirited batting, and, thanks to the efforts of A. Hollowood (23), Deyes (39), W. Dunouff (33), and an invaluable last wicket partnership by E. Fletcher and J. Mountford, their total reached 168. During the Silverdale innings several of the batsmen were hit with rising deliveries from Deyes, who, bowling well on the off side, with a crowd of fieldsmen in the slips, endeavoured to tempt the batsmen, with the result that runs came but slowly. A wonderful catch by Fletcher, off his own bowling, sent Brown to the pavilion, the professional having exercised unusual care and restraint in aggregating 25.

The game was apparently lost when E. Lowe and E. Groom entered into a seventh wicket partnership, and this pair defied the fielding side until a draw was inevitable. Lowe, who has assisted the second eleven for two seasons with a fair amount of success, was not out 23, and he was deservedly cheered for his achievement on his return to the pavilion.

**CHURNET VALLEY LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Rocester .....	7	4	0	3	11
Oakmoor .....	6	4	1	1	9
Cheshire Town .....	6	3	1	2	8
Leek Highfield II. ....	6	3	1	2	8
Caverswall .....	6	3	2	1	7
Tean .....	6	3	3	0	6
Shalton .....	7	2	3	2	6
Leek II. ....	6	1	3	2	4
Uttoxeter .....	7	1	4	2	4
Denstone .....	7	0	6	1	1

Denstone visited Tean with a poor team, consequently losing, although at one time things were going none too well for the home side. Denstone made 84, and Tean lost four good wickets for 21. However, Yates and Dr. Brown got settled, and they easily won, the score being 88 for eight.

Uttoxeter are going none too well recently, for at Caverswall they could only muster 23, the bowling of Wilson and Simcox being too good for them. Caverswall made a grand start, F. Taylor and Bradbury putting on 80 for the first wicket, and later, Brassington and C. Simcox quickly pulled the score up, until it stood at 188 for four. All the batsmen batted exceptionally well.

**KNOCK-OUT CRICKET.**

**Smart Scoring at Congleton and Longton.**

Congleton Corporation, and the Pump Opening B'hoys" provided the entertainment on Wednesday evening, in connection with the second round of the Congleton Knock-out Competition. There attended a good crowd of spectators, and upon batting first, the Pump Opening aggregated a total of 57. The chief run-getters to this total were: J. Bally (14), L. Burgess (13), A. Johnson and W. Jackson (12 each). For the Employees, Harry Burt achieved a splendid performance by securing four of the Pump batsmen with successive deliveries. Similarly to their opponents, the Corporation players opened well with the bat, and they had made 24 before their first wicket fell. As the game proceeded, runs came fairly well, the full total amounting to 102.

Fred Lowe was the top scorer for the Corporation Employees with 36, not out, whilst valuable assistance was rendered by A. Jolley (14), W. Pemberton (13), and H. Burt (12). The fielding of the Pumpmen was faulty and a considerable contrast to that displayed by them in the competition last season.

At Longton, on Monday evening, the High School representatives took their knock and ran up quite a formidable score against their much older opponents the Bourne Primitive Methodists. Sherwin was sent back with the score at 12, but Chadwick and Rushton carried the total to 43 in quick time, before the former got his leg in front. Rushton, who was the highest scorer, was run out at 58, and his individual 28 were obtained by delightful cricket. With the dismissal of Lowe at 79 the school were apparently going to reach the century, but the remaining batsmen gave little trouble, the whole side being out for 89.

The Primitive made a poor start, the boys being keen on winning, and their large following made their presence known as the batsmen of the opposing side followed each other in quick succession to and from the pavilion. Five wickets were down for eight runs, and something of a stand was made by Hancock and Inley, but both these batsmen fell at the same total, viz., 26. Three wickets fell at this score, but the ninth wicket added ten more and the total only reached 38. W. Smith took seven wickets for 18, and Power had two for 18. On the other side A. Humphries took five wickets for eight runs, which included the "hat-trick."

On Thursday evening another match in the Longton competition was decided, and Longton Zion had no difficulty in accounting for Allerton's Park Works. The Work's team batted first, and their early batsmen met with little success, and three wickets were down for eleven runs. However, Arthur Walley put a different aspect on the score, and his knock for eight runs every ball he received, quickly hit up 26, which included five shots to the boundary. With his dismissal, at 50, half the side were out, and the other batsmen could only average a run each, and so their innings closed for 55.

Despite the fact that the opposing bowlers wasted time, and Zion eleven had no difficulty in gaining an easy victory. The first wicket fell at 14, and the other batsmen left with the score unaltered, but with Jones and Colclough associated, the Zion total was taken to within three of their opponents' score, and the next wicket making a brilliant stand, the runs were hit off and with plenty to spare. Colclough batted cleverly, and his 45 were obtained by delightful cricket.

The Brook Mills team, who, by the way, are captained by Alderman A. J. Solly, the Ex-Mayor of the borough, and Astbury, were the opposing sides in the Congleton knock-out competition on Thursday. The Brook Mills' contingent were the first to wield the willow. The Astbury bowling was severely punished, no fewer than seven bowlers being introduced. The total amounted to 112. The chief batsmen for the Mills were: T. Gately (45), J. Baker (38), A. Davenport (14), and G. Eaton (12). F. Hindley proved the most successive bowler for Astbury, as he took three wickets for only seven runs, in two overs. His three wickets were taken by successive deliveries. The Village team could only realise a total of 42, of which J. Shuttleworth accounted for 13. The fielding of the Mills team was fairly good, and one of their bowlers also accomplished the "hat-trick"—J. Baker, who secured four wickets for 12 runs. J. Wheelton took three wickets for five runs each. During the Astbury innings A. Davenport brought off three excellent catches.

The two matches which have been played at Crewe during the present week resulted in easy victories for the winning teams. The Newsagents rose to the occasion in grand fashion, and the scores were fairly good all round. J. Pearson made the highest total for the winners, with 33, not out, the innings closing at 101 for the loss of only seven wickets. The Shop Assistants very easily vanquished their united efforts only realising 34. The representatives of the Boiler Shop "B" team who were all disposed of for the insignificant total of 18. This feat can really be attributed to W. Austin, who, in five overs, captured no less than six wickets for four runs. A. Hill was also credited with four for ten.

The draw for the second round of the Crewe Competition has resulted as follows:—

- St. John's Institute v. Boiler Shop, June 22nd.
- Teachers v. Bachelors, June 27th.
- Electric Loco. v. Boiler Shop "A" team, June 29th.
- North Stann Shed v. Signal and Telegraph Department, July 4th.
- Copper Shop v. Wheel Shop, July 11th.
- Co-operative Employees v. No 1 Erecting Shop, July 13th.
- Fitting Shop, S.W. v. Steel Foundry, July 18th.
- Newsagents v. General Offices, July 20th.

**CORPORATION EMPLOYEES v. PUMP OPENING B'HOYS.**

Played on Wednesday evening. Scores:—  
Pump Opening B'hoys.—J. Bailey c Lowe b Burt 14, A. Johnson b Burt 12, T. Mason c Jolley b Burt 0, J. Shuttleworth b Burt 1, R. Pickering b Burt 0, W. Jackson c Ainsworth b Lowe 12, H. Johnson b Lowe 1, J. Blackhurst c and b Lowe 0, L. Burgess c A. Pemberton b Jolley 13, S. Bailey c W. Pemberton b Lowe 0, H. Bailey not out 0, extras 4; total 57.

Corporation Employees—G. Barrett c A. Johnson b H. Johnson 5, A. Jolley c and b J. Bailey 14, F. Lowe retired 36, H. Burt run out 13, J. Hough lbw b S. Bailey 3, F. Ainsworth run out 7, W. Brookes run out 3, W. Pemberton b Pickering 13, A. Pemberton b Mason 1, J. Blackshaw not out 1, F. Nicholls c and b Pickering 0, extras 7; total (9 wkts), 102.

**ASTBURY v. CONGLETON BROOK MILLS.**

Played on Thursday evening. Scores:—  
Brook Mills.—J. Baker c Thorley b Shuttleworth 26, J. Wheelton c Brindley b Shuttleworth 1, J. Douth c Shuttleworth b Thorley 14, A. Davenport b Shuttleworth 5, A. J. Solly b Thorley 1, T. Gately b Rowley 43, J. Ball c Percival b Brindley 0, A. Crowder b Brindley 0, G. Frost b Brindley 0, G. Eaton not out 12, extras 9; total, 112.

Astbury.—J. Shuttleworth b Wheelton 13, F. Bato b Wheelton 8, A. Lawton c Davenport b Wheelton 0, A. E. Percival b Booth 8, B. Kilborn c Holden b Booth 1, A. Charlesworth c Holden b Baker 8, S. Thorley lbw b Baker 0, J. Brindley c Davenport b Baker 0, J. Rowley run out 1, H. Dale c Davenport b Baker 2, F. Cartledge not out 0, extras 1; total, 42.

**BOURNE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS v. LONGTON HIGH SCHOOL.**

Played on Monday. Scores:—  
High School.—G. H. Sherwin b Morris 8, A. J. Chadwick lbw b Ratcliffe 15, A. Rushton run out 28, F. Lowe b Humphries 17, W. Smith c Lawton b Humphries 0, F. Power b Humphries 7, J. Hindell c Simmons b Will Beswick 1, G. Martin not out 0, J. Goodwin c Ratcliffe b Humphries 0, W. Jones b Will Beswick 6, G. Nicholls c Wright Beswick b Humphries 0, extras 7; total, 83.  
Bourne Primitive Methodists.—W. Ratcliffe b Power 4, J. Norris b Smith 1, A. Humphries b Power 0, Wilfrid Beswick c and b Smith 0, Wright Beswick run out 0, H. Hancock b Smith 0, J. Inley c Chadwick b Smith 0, F. Lawton not out 9, T. Davies c Sherwin b Smith 0, J. Simmons b Smith 1, J. Beswick b Smith 0, extras 3; total, 36.

**LONGTON ZION v. ALLERTON'S PARK WORKS.**

Played on Thursday evening. Scores:—  
Allerton's.—W. Barrett run out 1, B. Wright c Jones b Colclough 1, J. Skelthorne c Bradbury b Colclough 3, Arthur Walley b Bell 26, J. Stanway b Bell 9, H. Cliffe b Bell 0, G. Bradbury run out 0, W. Whalley c Jones b Colclough 4, Albert Whalley run out 0, W. Kirk b Bell 1, A. Moss not out 0, extras 4; total, 55.  
Longton Zion.—H. Brown b Cliffe 7, S. Simpkin b Barrett 6, G. Bradbury b Cliffe 0, F. Jones c Barrett b Stanway 23, G. Colclough c Arthur Whalley b Skelthorne 43, H. Lewis not out 32, B. Simpkin not out 0, extras 2; total (5 wkts), 113.

**CREWE ALEXANDRA KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION. (FIRST ROUND).**

**NEWSAGENTS v. SHOP ASSISTANTS.**

Newsagents.—J. Taylor b Wright 10, W. Stanton run out 13, W. Southam c Grindley b Wright 2, J. Cotterill c Burke b Wright 0, F. Martin c Keeling b Fairclough 1, J. Pearson not out 33, W. Owen b Wright 14, T. Hossack run out 13, G. Hughes not out 1, extras 14; total (7 wkts), 101.

Shop Assistants.—W. Broadfield b Cotterill 0, J. Keeling c Elson b Cotterill 7, G. Grindley c Cotterill b Martin 0, B. Higginson b Martin 9, J. Clough b Martin 4, L. Fairclough b Cotterill 0, J. Jackson run out 2, W. Bosworth c Pearson b Martin 0, J. Burke not out 6, J. Wright run out 0, T. Lockett c Cotterill b Martin 9, extras 6; total, 34.

**BOILER SHOP "B" v. NORTH STEAM SHED.**

R. Bates c Cooper b Gidman 12, F. White c Greenwood b Gidman 8, G. Jones c Scoffin b Bickerton 3, R. Fenner b Hampton 9, B. Rogers c Hampton b Hobson 7, A. Reeco c Cooper b Greenwood 22, J. Simpson b Hobson 1, T. James b Ryder 6, A. Hill b Hobson 0, W. Austin c Bickerton b Ryder 1, W. Clews not out 0, extras 11; total, 80.

Boiler Shop "B".—F. Ryder c Fenner b Hill 2, W. Welch c White b Austin 0, W. Oldman c Simpson b Austin 5, W. Bickerton b Hill 0, H. Scoffin b Hill 0, J. Fox b Hill 4, J. Cooper c Rogers b Austin 1, H. Greenwood b Austin 0, W. Hobson b Austin 0, F. Sconce not out 0, W. Hampton c Hill b Austin 2, extras 2; total, 16.

**STAFFORDSHIRE'S NORTHERN TOUR**

**The Selected Team.**

The Staffordshire County Cricket Club will open their list of fixtures next week, when they meet Durham and Northumberland at Sunderland and Newcastle respectively. The team will leave Stoke to-night (Saturday), the eleven selected being:—

H. D. Stratton (captain), P. Briggs, J. Poole, J. W. Johnson, Barnes, Buoknell, Nicholls, Fereday, Gill, Doyes, and Vost. The first match will be against Durham, on Monday and Tuesday.

**SENTINEL CUP.**

**SMART VICTORIES BY KNYPERSELEY AND OLDFIELDS.**

**KNYPERSELEY v. PITTSBILL. FIRST ROUND.**

Played at Knypersley. Scores:—  
PITTSBILL.  
W. Davies run out ..... 14  
F. Blaze c Lowe b Naylor ..... 4  
J. Worthington run out ..... 4  
A. Birkett c Charlesworth b Hollins ..... 4  
T. Johnson b Rider ..... 38  
J. Barratt c Lowe b Rider ..... 2  
R. F. Beardmore not out ..... 40  
J. Jenck b Naylor ..... 11  
H. Baddaley c Hollins b Round ..... 5  
G. A. Rhodes b Round ..... 0  
Extras ..... 13

Total ..... 138

KNYPERSELEY.  
R. Pates b Birkett ..... 19  
J. Lowe c Baddaley b Rhodes ..... 10  
D. Rider b Birkett ..... 10  
J. Naylor run out ..... 38  
A. Wicket run out ..... 13  
J. Babby not out ..... 28  
R. Round c Davies b Worthington ..... 0  
G. Hollins c Barratt b Beardmore ..... 0  
Extras ..... 18

Total (7 wkts) ..... 150

**BOWLING ANALYSIS. Knypersley Innings.**

	O.	M.	R.	W.
R. F. Beardmore	13.1	3	55	1
J. A. Rhodes	0	2	18	0
T. Johnson	3	0	12	0
A. Birkett	4	0	8	2
W. Davies	2	0	6	0
J. Worthington	3	2	4	2

**Pittsbill Innings.**

	O.	M.	R.	W.
J. Naylor	7	2	27	2
E. Round	5	0	22	2
J. B. Gibson	7	0	26	0
G. Hollins	2	0	14	1
G. Ryder	4	0	22	2
T. Hartland	3	1	10	0

**OLDFIELDS v. TUNSTALL II. SECOND ROUND.**

Played at Uttoxeter. Scores:—

TUNSTALL II.  
T. H. Naylor st Naylor b Worthington ..... 6  
H. Boulton b Worthington ..... 13  
W. Blackwell b Worthington ..... 8  
W. Crump b Murray ..... 19  
R. Hares b Murray ..... 7  
A. Lindon b Cadman ..... 21  
A. J. Cadman b H. S. Cadman ..... 13  
D. Eardley c Cadman b Murray ..... 0  
A. Broad c and b Murray ..... 1  
G. Fitchford not out ..... 2  
Extras ..... 8

Total ..... 96

**OLDFIELDS.**

Rev. H. S. Barber c Boulton b Crump ..... 37  
H. Redden lbw b Boulton ..... 12  
O. A. Nichols b Crump ..... 5  
W. Naylor b Crump ..... 12  
L. Murray not out ..... 32  
H. S. Cadman not out ..... 5  
Extras ..... 3

Total (4 wkts) ..... 104

W. Heasman, W. Walker, R. Worthington, G. Sandham, and W. Green did not bat.

**BOWLING ANALYSIS. Tunstall II. Innings.**

	O.	M.	R.	W.
D. Eardley	2	0	8	0
A. Holdcroft	2	0	17	0
W. Crump	8	1	33	3
H. Boulton	7	0	39	1
G. Fitchford	1	0	4	0

**Oldfields Innings.**

	O.	M.	R.	W.
R. Worthington	10	5	20	3
W. Heasman	6	1	17	0
G. Sandham	4	0	9	0
L. Murray	9	1	31	4
H. S. Cadman	8.5	5	18	3

PORTHILL PARK.  
Silverdale Succumbs.

(BY "RACONTEUR.")

The Silverdale team have the reputation of having greatly improved this season, but they were not nearly good enough for Porthill Park on Saturday, having to accept defeat by 60 runs. Porthill had the advantage of playing on their own ground and also of winning the toss, which, I think they have done in every match this season. The match was a very enjoyable one. It was not only enjoyable in the nature of showing some good cricket, but it was an exciting one as well. It is the first match on the Porthill programme this season in which there has been a fight against time, and a fight against time is about the most exciting element that can be introduced into a match. Porthill had made 156 for six wickets and, with two hours to play, the skipper made a sporting declaration, which was emphasised all the more by the fact that H. F. Wood, who had made 39, had got well set, and was to all appearances safe for his 50. It was a bold step, for 156 has been made in two hours before now, and, in all probability, they will be made again. But, though there was a chance to lose, there was, with such trundlers as Barnes and Eardley, a bigger chance to win, which every minute's longer stay at the wickets



H. EARDLEY, Porthill Park.

was diminished. That Mr. Wood's policy was a right one, events soon proved; for there were only ten minutes to spare when the visitors' last wicket fell, so if the cautious captain had been at the head of Porthill, and had decided to make up the total to 200 before declaring, or, perhaps, even his own half century, a draw would have been the inevitable result.

For the third time in succession, Barnes topped his 50. There was some little doubt whether his 50 against Leek Highfield should not have been 49, but, never mind, it is near enough coming after 82 against Tunstall in the premier match, his 51 last Saturday is sending up his average to some tune. The professional played with extreme caution and it took him an hour and 50 minutes to complete his 50. He survived P. Beath, who was dismissed by Brown in his first over, P. N. Lowndes, who was not in such form as when batting against Tunstall, W. H. Wood, who knocked up 36 in slashing style, his first 19 including four fours; and R. Mawdesley, who contributed a useful dozen. There were frequent changes of bowling—Brown, J. C. Cooper, B. Groom, H. Groom, and C. Cadman, being tried in turn—but the splendid batting of Barnes, H. F. Wood, and W. H. Wood proved to be the triumphant note of the game.

At five o'clock the Silverdale team commenced their task of knocking up the required runs in two hours. Brown, and G. W. Hammer, however, were the only two who could make any real stand, and every credit is due to those players for playing such a great game under difficult circumstances. Barnes and Eardley, of course, shared the opening attack and, with the exception of J. S. Beath and W. J. Wood, who relieved Eardley at 43 and 65, the left hand bowler going in again at 86, they kept it up. It was off one of W. H. Wood's deliveries that Brown got caught by Eardley, who was then resting, and with Brown out of the way, the rest proved easy. The Silverdale professional stayed in for an hour and 25 minutes for his 42. It was never Silverdale's score that the Porthill Park supporters feared after then, but whether the Silverdale men could keep their ends up. This they failed to do, and as stated, lost in the last ten minutes. Bickerton's running catch, which dismissed Benson, was loudly applauded. Barnes took several wickets for 42—a fact

which speaks for itself. Harry Eardley was responsible for two wickets, and W. H. Wood got one. Poole was again in excellent form behind the stumps, and his dismissal of F. Fillans and F. H. Wynne, showed more than ordinary smartness.

The second eleven repeated their cup-tie victory over Silverdale, but not to the same extent. It may be said that it is a long time since the Porthill juniors bowled and fielded so badly. Catches were missed galore, and the ground fielding was poor, and it is hoped that there will be improvement in this respect.

The "A" team had a pleasant outing and a good game at Mossley. The home team batted first and made the respectable score of 107. R. Sudlow again did well with the ball, taking five wickets for 38. After a moderate start and a recovery, the later batsmen could not stay the course, and Porthill were all out for 84, losing by 23 runs.

The "B" team entertained Trent Vale Reserve on the Mile House-lane ground, and had an easy canter home. Trent Vale batted first, but only scored 31. Trueman took six wickets for nine runs. Porthill's reply was 83 for nine wickets.

Mr. Harry Eardley, the left-arm bowler of the Porthill Park first team, learned his cricket at the Middle School, Newcastle, and at the age of 15 played for Newcastle St. Giles. He early developed a deadly left-hand fast delivery, with a pretty high action, and with the natural break from the off. During his two seasons with Newcastle St. Giles he took 70 wickets, at an average of about four runs each. Against Basford, who at that time had a strong batting side, including men like Dawson and Stewart, Eardley took eight wickets for two runs. After his second season with St. Giles, he went to play for Basford, and finished the season with a record of 70 wickets for five runs each. Having gone to live in Longport, in 1902, he went to Tunstall for practice, and played once for the second team. In that match he took one wicket and made five runs, and never found his place again. That one match, however, caused his transfer to Porthill Park in 1903, and he has played for them ever since. Until the advent of Barnes he was the chief of the team's bowling strength, and it is only Barnes who is superior to him now. There must be at least two bowlers in a team, and Harry Eardley is certainly a most invaluable second, and nobody would mind being a good second to the erstwhile All-England. This season, it will be remembered, Eardley took four Burslem wickets with four consecutive balls, and up to this year has always taken the bowling prize.

His first appearance in county cricket was against Bedfordshire, four years ago. Perhaps his best county performance was against Northumberland in 1908. That was a most sensational match, and a personal triumph for Eardley. Staffordshire, going in first, made a total of 343. Northumberland made 155 for nine, but the last wicket put on over 80 runs. It came that they only wanted to make seven to save the follow-on, and, at the critical juncture, Eardley was put on to bowl at Barne end, and effected the long-wished-for separation, when only four runs were wanted. The innings had lasted four and a half hours, and the question was whether Staffordshire could get their opponents out in time to wipe off any arrears that might accrue. As it was a hot day and a splendid wicket, this appeared extremely doubtful. Here, however, Eardley upset all calculations for a sturdy fight against time. His bowling was practically unplayable, and he literally skittled the Northerners out, and at one time he had taken five of the best wickets for a single run only, his final average, in a big scoring match, being six for 30. The newspapers were full of the praises for Eardley the next morning, the London journals being particularly effusive over his achievements.

His best performance last season with the county was against Durham, on their own ground. In the match he took five for 47 and three for 23, and so was largely responsible for Staffordshire's first victory at Ashbrooke.

Mr. Eardley is a useful, if not, up till now, a brilliant bat, and sometimes makes a winning stand at the end, as for instance, when his side beat Fenton. He is going to give the batting side of his play more attention in future. Mr. Eardley is now in his cricketing prime, and even greater things may be expected of him this season than he has achieved before.



# STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER: SATURDAY 25 JUNE 1910-2.

## GENTLEMEN OF SHROPSHIRE V. GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE

The match took place on the Grove Ground, Market Drayton, on Monday and Tuesday. The Shropshire XI. had put together 116 runs when their fourth man was bowled, but there was a marked change when A. H. Batters took up the attack, and he accounted for two other batsmen in his first over. The innings closed for Shropshire with 235, Lieut. Mortimer giving a magnificent innings of two hitting in his score of 115 runs. Capt. Haxton and C. H. Haxton also batted well. In their second innings Shropshire put on 186, Capt. Haxton and the Rev. A. H. Thunby Peigham being the chief scorers, this leaving the visitors to obtain 384 runs. The consistent was the bowling of H. W. Ebbelston, however, what on the fall of the ninth wicket Staffordshire still required 27 runs to win. C. H. Campbell and W. W. Woodcock batted consistently, and the visitors won by the narrow margin of one wicket. E. H. Woodcock, Capt. Haxton, and C. H. Haxton being other leading scorers. H. W. Ebbelston took six wickets for 55 runs. Scores:—

Staffordshire		Shropshire	
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Capt. Haxton, c. Furber, b. Woodcock	17	C. Griffiths, b. Furber	51
E. A. Clark, st. Scott, b. Batters	41	c. Scott, b. Kirkle	0
The Rev. A. H. Thunby Peigham, b. Batters	50	c. Mortimer, b. Woodcock	24
C. H. Venables, c. st. b. Batters	0	c. Scott, b. Furber	8
The Rev. F. H. Mainwaring, c. Scott, b. Haxton	22	b. Kirkle	0
Capt. Haxton, c. Furber, b. Woodcock	8	run out	13
H. W. Ebbelston, b. Woodcock	8	b. Furber	7
E. H. Woodcock, b. Woodcock	8	c. Scott, b. Kirkle	10
H. W. Ebbelston, not out	116	c. Haxton, b. Woodcock	10
C. H. Haxton, b. Furber	3	c. Haxton, b. Woodcock	18
The Rev. A. H. Thunby Peigham, b. Furber	4	not out	3
Extras	11	Extras	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>
Staffordshire		Shropshire	
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Capt. Furber, b. Venables	14	c. Clark, b. Ebbelston	25
C. H. Haxton, c. Thunby, b. Peigham	37	c. Venables, b. Batters	22
The Rev. F. H. Mainwaring, c. st. b. Batters	116	b. Ebbelston	1
H. W. Woodcock, c. Haxton, b. Batters	0	c. Fawc, b. Batters	31
Capt. Haxton, c. Peigham, b. Kirkle	40	b. Ebbelston	12
C. Griffiths, c. Haxton, b. Ebbelston	1	b. Ebbelston	0
c. Scott, c. and b. Batters	0	run out	2
The Rev. F. H. Mainwaring, c. Clark, b. Batters	2	b. Ebbelston	8
H. W. Woodcock, b. Ebbelston	0	not out	15
H. W. Ebbelston, not out	4	not out	16
A. H. Batters, c. Ebbelston, b. Batters	8	b. Ebbelston	10
Extras	14	Extras	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>Total (9 wickets)</b>	<b>156</b>

TUNSTALL.

Fletcher's Fireworks.

(BY "FIRST SLIP.")

The interest aroused by the brilliancy of the Burslem batsmen and the phenomenal rate at which they scored never flagged afterwards until, with only three balls of the last over to be sent down, Robinson finished the match by catching Bailey in the slips. It was an ideal day for such a meeting, and the Tunstall exchequer would receive a welcome replenishment as a result of the attendance, which was easily the largest of the season. The action of Broad—in giving the visitors the opportunity of batting first, after winning the toss—had a great deal to do with the maintenance of interest in the game, but such a course was certainly open to criticism; all things considered, however, it was, perhaps, the wisest course to pursue, and certainly came very near providing his side with a much needed point.

The opening of the Burslem innings, by Hollowood and Beech, formed a fitting prelude to what followed. These batsmen certainly kept the scorers busy, but the advent of Fletcher, who came in after Beech's dismissal, seemed to make their rate comparatively slow. The new-comer was not at the wickets quite half an hour, but during that time he managed to accumulate 54 runs, including two hits out of the ground. His forceful play delighted the onlookers, and he received well merited applause on his dismissal. Hollowood who carried out his bat for 110 was the highest scorer in the game. His runs were compiled in five minutes short of two hours, and as the other players contributed 133 in the same time, the rate of scoring may be judged. He was a trifle lucky, in that he should have been stumped when he had scored 11 and gave two successive chances—one in the slips, and the other at square leg—before he had reached 60.

Tunstall started badly, losing Naylor at one, while four wickets were down for 35. An easy victory for the visitors seemed probable, but the association of Crump and Sharp changed the aspect of affairs. Both batsmen played delightful cricket, and together they added 80 runs, before the professional returned, one rather shortly to Evans Cook, which the latter was quick enough to accept.

For the second time within a week Crump completed his 50, and then went on until, with his total at 65, he was bowled by A. Cook. The value of his innings, which included ten 4's, can hardly be gauged by the number of runs he got, for he came in at a critical time, and had he fallen to a chance in the slips, which Allen missed, when he had only scored 3, Tunstall's score would have been considerably less.

Broad made four boundary hits and was then bowled. Gregory, however, played the correct game, and with time drawing near it looked as though Tunstall would yet save the game. But it was not to be, and Burslem secured a notable victory just on time. Eight bowlers were tried by the home team, but all were treated with scant courtesy by the Burslem batsmen. Naylor was the one who suffered most from slackness in the field, for it was off his two first deliveries that Hollowood was missed. Evans Cook secured the bowling honours on his side, with three wickets for 26. Deyes has seldom appeared to so little advantage, his bowling being chiefly remarkable for the number of no-balls sent down; five being given in one over. It will have been noticed that Tunstall were without the services of H. Hopkins and J. B. Alluan.

The second team were dismissed from the "Sentinel" Cup competition by Oldfields last Thursday. On Saturday they also proved unequal to the task of defeating the Burslem second string, at Burslem, the home team securing an easy victory by 97 runs.

CREWE ALEXANDRA.

Magnificent Moorhouse.

(BY "VETERAN.")

There is one day in the cricket season at Crewe when the athletic section of the club takes full possession of the ground. In some respects this is an absolute necessity, because the profits which accrue from the festival are needed to cover the financial responsibilities of this flourishing organisation. There was a

grand array of competitors, a large and fashionable attendance, beautiful weather, and the gate receipts, which amounted to something like £195. Notwithstanding this galaxy of sport at home, it is pleasing to know that there was sufficient loyalty prevailing amongst the cricketers who were called upon to fulfil a League engagement with Silverdale.

The "A" team having no match, and the touring party also being disappointed by Nantwich, who were engaged in a "Sentinel" Cup tie, little or no difficulty was experienced in getting an eleven to visit the colliery district. The absence of two players like Edgar Osborn and J. P. Groom was no doubt severely felt, for both gentlemen have been doing remarkably well lately in their respective positions in the field. Such, however, is fate, but happily good substitutes were found.

Fortunately or unfortunately, as the case may be, their services were scarcely required, as Fred Moorhouse got complete master of the situation. The Crewe professional has accomplished some fine batting records in the past, but from what I hear this was his greatest achievement, and 133 not out should certainly enhance the prospects of Moorhouse in the batting averages of the league.

C. E. Gresty and Frank White are both going strong this season, and in this match rendered valuable assistance. The Crewe skipper was able to declare the innings closed when the score registered was 207 for three wickets.

Without Brown's score of 43, Silverdale must have fared very badly. The bowling of the Crewe men was exceptionally good, the honours being divided between Hill, Cope, Bennet, and Moorhouse.

Crewe Alexandra at present occupy a very prominent position in the league. This is quite in keeping with the traditions of the Railway club, and, now that the team is getting fairly settled, something greater might be expected.

While assisting the Cheshire County Club against Notts II. during the week Moorhouse was responsible for an innings of 50 not out.

The representatives of the Permanent Way only fared moderately against Northwich. The game between the first elevens was won by the visitors, who compiled 196, which included no less than 26 extras. The principal scorer for Northwich was R. Miller, who made 45, while G. H. Neely also added 41, and T. Whalley 42. Crewe responded with 122. L. B. Phillips being very prominent with 35 and W. E. Thornhill 38.

The second elevens were more evenly balanced, the game ending in a draw, Northwich compiling 163, while the Permanent Way responded with 137 for five wickets.

Two of the two last-named increased the score by 96 runs, prior to which, Fenton's bowlers had dominated the situation to the extent of getting five wickets down for 24 runs. G. E. Roberts took six wickets for the winners, and G. Lawton (5), and J. Clewes (4) did good work for Chell.

Thanks to T. O'Brien (29) and A. Gregory (28), Longton got well past the century against Oldfields, but most of their batsmen found the bowling of W. Heasman—six wickets for 40 runs—too clever for them. H. Redden and H. S. Cadman—each 41—put on 74 runs for Oldfields' first wicket, and Longton's score was surpassed with only two men out.

Burslem are fielding a strong side just now and they made short work of Tunstall. W. Duncuff (52) and W. Hughes (31) started well by rattling up 71 for the first wicket, and the next best stand was made by the last pair, who augmented the score by 32 chalks. E. Cotton, son,—six for 33—and A. Rowe—four for 10—always had Tunstall in a tangle, and Burslem won with ease.

On Monday, Knypersley gained a great victory over a Stoke team which included several first teamers. The feature of the game was the magnificent batting of H. E. Bourne, whose score of 114 included 18 fours, and was made in less than two hours.

SILVERDALE.

Crewe Conquer.

(BY "LONG-STOP")

There was a crowd of considerable dimensions on the Sneyd Arms enclosure on Saturday, to witness the encounter between the local club and Crewe Alexandra. The wicket was almost a perfect one, and the Crewe skipper, on winning the toss, did not hesitate to give his side first opportunity of batting. Moorhouse, the professional, and F. White, were deputed as the opening pair, and at the outset they made matters warm for the fielding side. Moorhouse was particularly aggressive,

the batsman, with a variety of strokes, punishing the Silverdale bowling to the extent that he was enabled to notch a brilliant 133, and was unbeaten at the close. During his stay at the wickets an impartial crowd greeted his efforts, and he gave only one chance—a difficult catch on the boundary, when he had exceeded the century. After the partnership of Moorhouse and White, C. E. Gresty demonstrated that he can still get runs, the closure being applied at 207 for three.

When Silverdale went in, very few people doubted their ability to stay out time, and thus secure at least one point. They were not encouraged in their task when J. C. Cooper left with few runs on the board, but then came a lengthy partnership between Brown and F. Ellams, runs coming readily enough. The last-named, for him, had done but moderately this season, and it was a matter of regret when, having subscribed 27, he was adjudged leg before wicket to Cope.

Brown pursued the even tenor of his way until he had accumulated 45 runs by sound and attractive cricket. After his departure there was one of those collapses not unusual in cricket, the Silverdale captain, J. S. Scott, the last man in, being disposed of by Moorhouse when only two or three minutes were required to save the game, the total being 110.

As in batting, so Moorhouse proved a thorn to Silverdale in bowling, the outcome of his efforts being four wickets at about ten per wicket. Silverdale tried no less than seven bowlers, but none of them met with any measure of success.

STAFFORD.

Heavy Hitting.

(BY "CLICKER.")

It was truly a batsman picnic at Stafford on Saturday last, when Willenhall were the visitors. Stafford had a strong batting team out, and the appearance of F. W. Twigg was very welcome. Like his brother, W. H. Twigg, he is a very strong batsman, and his efforts, after being indisposed for some considerable time, fully demonstrated his skill. Commencing the innings, W. J. Eaton-Shore and V. H. Robins, a capital opening was made, the fifty being signalled with the partnership still intact. Likewise the century, in a little over 40 minutes, J. Eaton-Shore having passed the 50 mark. Robins was not allowed to make his half century, being well bowled with only 40 registered. His colleague, however, continued, and carried his score to 83. These were obtained in a brilliant manner. His free and masterly style of hitting was quite a feature of the encounter, and he received quite a happy ovation on returning to the pavilion.

The brothers Twigg were together for the third wicket. W. H. Twigg was stumped with only five to his credit, but F. W. Twigg continued, and had scored 66 in good style before he was compelled to return to the pavilion to a smart catch by Sherwin. F. P. Emberton very cleverly compiled 61, and in all the innings was declared closed at 304, only seven wickets having fallen. There was not sufficient time left for Willenhall to knock off the runs, but they responded with 155 for seven, and the match was drawn.

The second team managed to defeat the Willenhall reserves on the latter's ground. After dismissing the home contingent for 98, they compiled 145 for eight wickets. The principal scorers were A. J. Ward (76) and C. B. Wood and P. Webb (17 each).

St. Mary's Institute visited Gnosall, and won by 41. They aggregated a score of 80, while they dismissed Gnosall for 39.

The London and North-Western Railway eleven were also out to win, and beat Hoole on their ground by 23 runs, the winners' score being 123.

On Wednesday, the half-holiday, the first team beat the Birmingham Tramways, at Birmingham, while the second team lost, on the Hoole ground, to Ashbourne, whom they defeated last week at Ashbourne.

**NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.**

(NOTES BY "INCOGNITUS.")

**DIVISION I.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Burslem	10	4	1	5	13
Crewe Alexandra	9	4	1	4	12
Norton	10	4	1	4	12
Fenton	10	4	2	4	12
Porthill Park	9	4	2	3	11
Longton	10	3	3	4	10
Leek Highfield	10	2	3	5	9
Silverdale	10	2	3	5	9
Stoke	10	1	3	6	8
Leek	9	1	3	5	7
Stones	9	1	3	5	7
Tunstall	11	1	6	4	6

**DIVISION II.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Knypersley	9	4	0	5	13
Oldfields	9	5	1	3	13
Porthill Park II.	9	4	1	4	12
Crewe Alexandra II.	8	4	1	3	11
Burslem II.	9	3	2	4	10
Fenton II.	9	3	2	4	10
Great Chell	9	3	2	4	10
Norton II.	9	2	3	4	8
Longton II.	9	1	3	5	7
Silverdale II.	8	1	4	3	5
Stoke II.	9	0	5	4	4
Tunstall II.	9	0	6	3	3

Porthill's stay at the head of the First Division table has been a very brief one, and now Burslem reign in their stead, though relatively Crewe Alexandra and Norton are both slightly better off. Many people have held the idea that the struggle amongst the seniors would be confined to last season's champions, Burslem and Porthill, but apparently Norton intend to have a say in the matter, and the Alexandra are acquitting themselves in style that promises a good position, and so far they have quite confounded the forebodings of the close period. As Norton had beaten Burslem, and the latter had humbled Porthill these were grounds for the optimism with which the Norton men faced the Wolstanton club, and the good thing materialised, to the delight of a big proportion of a capital crowd. The wickets at Norton's new ground have already earned the reputation of being very much of the "sporting" variety, and there were indications last Saturday that a number of the Porthill men were impressed in a manner that was not helpful to their run-getting capacity.

George Wilson is not the sort of bowler to be faced with equanimity on any but really good wickets, and some of the visiting batsmen were not unduly depressed when they made the return journey to the pavilion. Conditions apart, however, Norton were quite value for their win, for their all round play was certainly in advance of that of the losers. In John Smith (68) they had a batsman who was unapproached by any of the opposition, and, with the exception of the third, each of their wickets made useful additions to the score sheet, even though Barnes was bowling in a fashion that could hardly have been improved upon, as seven wickets for 30 runs, from 125 balls, clearly demonstrates. Norton had no bowler equal to such a performance as this, but their attack was made from both ends, whereas the assistance afforded the Porthill professor was extremely co-and-so. If the Wolstanton club's real bowling strength was seen in this game, the department needs attention. Wilson had five wickets for 38 runs, and Adrian Capes three for 16, and the latter's first success—the bowling of P. N. Lowndes (24)—was the turning stage of the game, Porthill's next six wickets dropping for 22 runs. The losers' highest scorer was F. W. Beech (29), but he threw his wicket away after a commendable effort. Fred Crump (24) played soundly for Norton, and helped his captain to add 45 chalks for the second wicket. Singularly enough, both clubs lost their third and fourth wickets at 24 and 71 respectively.

A capital finish at Brownhills was marred by unpleasantness as concerns the time limit, which many of the Tunstall people considered had been overreached. The umpires, however, were men of unshakable experience, and one is disposed to think their timekeeping would be reliable. The alleged overplus is variously quoted as from two to five minutes, but whether time was adhered to or not the chagrin of the home supporters was a little excusable, seeing how nearly their team came to effecting what would have been a most creditable draw. Only by three balls did they fail to "hold the fort." Tunstall made a confession of weakness when they won the toss and decreed that the opposition should bat first, and though the reason why this unusual course was adopted can be guessed it is not easy to discern in what way the supposed benefit comes in. That it is advantageous to bat first is an established principle of cricket, and it is generally recognised that it is easier to stop runs than to get them. Burslem showed their appreciation of the move by knocking up 88 runs for their first wicket, and exactly doubling that score for the next. It goes without saying that Albert Hollowood was one of the participators in this run, and he enjoyed himself to the tune of a net out score of 110, and, though he had some inducement from the fielders, his general play

was quite worthy of his reputation. His chief helpers were A. H. Beech (42), and E. Fletcher (54). The latter was somewhat uncertain in his starting, but he quickly got to work and proved himself a natural hitter of no little ability. So far Fletcher has been the find of the Burslem season, and when he has added experience to his bent for the game he will doubtless blossom into an outstanding player, for in addition to his batting, he possesses a real zest for fielding, and is a most useful change bowler.

Tunstall started badly, losing four wickets for 29 runs; but W. J. Crump (65), and Sharp (28), made a really determined effort to save the game, and they added 80 notches to the score before they could be separated. With the Burslem attack again getting on top the game seemed well won until the last pair came together, but this couple caused the visitors many qualms by a partnership that produced 21 runs ere Deyes had E. Bailey caught in the slips. Fifteen bowlers took turns in this match, Tunstall having the odd one, but though quantity was there, quality was sadly lacking, especially as regards the home side. None did better than Evans Cook, and his three wickets for 26 runs made the leading figures of the lot. Generally speaking the fielding of both teams was below par, and the number of catches missed made a big blot on the proceedings.

With P. Briggs in humour to give them a good send-off Stoke ran up a useful score against Leek Highfield, and one that was much beyond the batting capacity of the visitors. Highfield, however, were unlucky in having two such players as H. Hulme and H. Rider run out, and there was little doubt that these incidents upset some of the players who followed. Rickson (38) was the only man to make any considerable stay, and he batted very nicely before being bowled by W. Pointon, whose three wickets in six overs for 16 runs practically settled the issue. Butler did his share by getting four for 23. W. D. Kirkby was leading scorer of the game and was well backed by P. Briggs (32), H. E. Taylor (30), and P. W. Grove (25). "Jerry" Pace took four wickets for the losers but was rather expensive. Gill and H. Downs were so well supported by their fielders that Leek were always in trouble against Fenton, and bowling changes were not wanted. The two men equally divided the wickets, but Gill's successos only cost him 22 runs as against the 41 scored from the deliveries of the amateur. H. Dearing (21), and E. H. Bourne gave Fenton a winning lead by getting 30 for the first wicket, and the latter afterwards hit with such gusto that the next partnership produced 83 runs, of which Harry England's share was a modest half dozen. Bourne was allowed to keep on until he reached his century, the outcome of very brilliant batting.

The biggest individual score of the afternoon fell to Fred Moorhouse, the Crewe Alexandra professional, for he took toll from the Silverdale bowlers to the extent of 133 runs, and was unapproached when the declaration was made with but three wickets down. Silverdale's bowling was again poor, though not much capital could be made out of Brown's deliveries. The Crewe attackers were far more potent, and only a stand by Brown (43), and F. Ellams (27), saved Silverdale's batting venture from utter failure. Moorhouse completed a good day's work by capturing four wickets, and H. Cope, and F. Bennett each got a couple cheaply.

Stone and Longton had a somewhat exciting bout, but the former were well worthy of their first win of the season, and after getting 128 runs they always seemed likely to run out conquerors. It was quite an event for them to have a pair of bowlers to bowl unchanged, as did Anthony, and G. H. Harris. Each of those players took five wickets, but Anthony's cost but 37 runs, whereas just double that number were debited against the Amateurs. J. Belcher (30), J. E. Fernie (26), and J. Blake-man (22 not out), fared well with the bat for Stone, and A. Bradbury (47 not out), fought gamely for Longton.

In the Second Division the match at Porthill furnished the only undecided game of the afternoon, and nearly 400 runs were scored. Norton, who had first knock, had six dual figure scorers, with F. Rushton (50) top scorer, and four others reached the twenties. Porthill were in sore trouble until W. Holdcroft (43) was joined by P. E. Wood (73, not out), but this pair added exactly 100 runs for the sixth wicket.

At Fenton, Great Chell wanted seven runs for victory when their last man went to the wickets, and by two runs they failed to get them, so that Fenton just won an exciting and interesting game. J. Dyke (40) batted finely for the winners, as did A. Baddeley (69) and E. Barber (30, not out) for Chell. The associa-

**LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.**

Bignall End, 180; Newchapel, 113. Knypersley, 149; Hall Green, 100. Audley, 91; Pitshill, 65. Leyceft, 85; Sandyford, 72.

Newchapel made their acquaintance with Bignall End last week, and found that they had met with their masters. It was a much better game than seemed probable when Newchapel, who batted first, had lost six good wickets for only 16 runs; but then occurred one of those surprising changes which makes cricket so wonderfully interesting, and before another wicket fell 51 runs had been added. The last three batsmen took the total to 113. With half their men out the necessary runs had been hit off by Bignall End, and the score had reached 180 when the innings closed with nine men out.

Knypersley were seen to advantage at Hall Green, where they gained a splendid victory. A fine partnership between Lowe and Naylor, which produced 80 runs, was the means of placing them in an invincible position, but Naylor did not confine his activities to run-getting alone, his bowling being responsible for the downfall of four of the home wickets. The great outstanding feature of the match was the batting of J. Lowe for Knypersley. He compiled the splendid total of 71, the highest innings in the Combination so far in the present season. Naylor was next best with 25. Against 149 for nine wickets, Hall Green could hardly be expected to triumph, but they did not throw up the sponge without a struggle, and they had the satisfaction of just reaching three figures ere their venture closed.

Audley's good fortune in returning from Pitshill with both points was a slice of luck, inasmuch as it was due more to the bad fielding of their opponents than to their own good batting. Pitshill only gave a moderate display with the bat, and apart from a good partnership by Barratt and Baddeley rather late in the innings there was nothing inspiring in their cricket. Audley were not long in benefitting by the poor quality of the home team's ground work, and Downing (25) and Dalu (17) left Audley in a safe position before they finally returned to the pavilion. Birkett, of Pitshill, had a try with the ball, and took four wickets for 14 runs.

Leyceft had some anxious moments before they ultimately knocked off the 72 runs which Sandyford set them to obtain, for although their first pair of batsmen took the score to 42 before being separated, the eighth wicket had fallen before the winning hit was made. F. Clarke is usually looked upon as a bowler more than a batsman, but on this occasion he reversed that and made the top score of the match, with 40 to his credit. And it was a good thing for Leyceft that this was so, for after Edwards left all the others except Meads and Holden took fright, and all but let Sandyford snatch the game from them.

**DIVISION II.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Woodland Pottery	7	5	0	2	11
Audley	8	5	2	1	12
Bignall End	7	5	2	0	10
Sandyford	5	4	1	0	9
Tunstall G.M.	7	3	3	1	7
Pitshill	10	3	3	1	7
Knypersley "A"	6	2	3	1	5
Chell Reserve	7	2	4	1	5
Leyceft	0	1	6	1	3

**LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.**

Sandyford, 180; Leyceft, 85. Woodland Pottery, 91; Tunstall, 65. Audley, 105; Pitshill, 54. Chell, 71; Bignall End, 58.

Sandyford had a splendid time of it at home, first of all in getting 180 runs and then in dismissing Leyceft for 85. There were several excellent batting displays, the best being T. Dean (48), S. Baker (56), Bollington (24), and Baxter (27).

There was some good-natured rivalry between Tunstall United Methodists and Woodland Pottery, and the play was of a very interesting description. Woodland secured a clever victory and strengthened their grip on the leadership. Llewellyn (37) was in good form with the bat for the winners, and Cartlidge also played a useful innings of 14. Tunstall offered a very stubborn resistance when their turn came to bat, but they ultimately succumbed by 26 runs, H. Green finishing off their innings by disposing of the last three wickets for only two runs.

Audley always had the upper hand in their game with Pitshill, and they gained a comfortable win by 47 runs. A. Dean pleased his friends by his display with the bat, which helped the score to the extent of 29 runs, and Riley also did well in getting 23 towards the Audley total of 105.

Chell surprised themselves, and Bignall End too, by getting both points out of the encounter; but they well deserved the win, and should now make a better show than has been the case up to now. F. Woods caused Bignall End a great deal of trouble with his deliveries, eight wickets falling to him for only 15 runs, and Perkins (16) and Smith (20) were most prominent in hitting off the runs.

**NORTH STAFFS COMBINATION**

**DIVISION I.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Madeley	8	6	0	2	14
Leyceft	9	4	3	2	10
Audley	9	3	3	3	9
Sandyford	7	2	2	3	7
Bignall End	9	2	4	3	7
Hall Green	7	2	3	2	6
Knypersley	7	2	3	2	6
Newchapel	6	2	3	1	6
Pitshill	8	1	4	3	5

## PROMINENT LOCAL CRICKETERS.

W. P. TREES, LONGTON.

A Professional of Many Clubs and Many Smart Deeds.

(BY "VIGILANT.")

It is a question if any club in the North Staffordshire district have had fewer professionals than the Longton Cricket Club, and when it was decided some months ago to engage a new man, and negotiations with W. P. Trees having been brought to a successful issue, it was generally believed, and rightly so, that a first class player had been secured. Trees first saw the light of day in the year 1882, at Ilford, in the county of Essex, and from his early days has participated in our great summer pastime. His father being a keen cricketer and president of the local club for many years, he gave his son every encouragement, and, in consequence of the ability shown by young Trees, he was at the early age



W. P. TREES, Longton.

of 14 called upon to take his place in the local eleven. Here he was given opportunities to demonstrate his abilities as a trundler, and Trees considers that a great deal of his success in this department was due to the fact that he always threw the ball round arm. When 15 he commenced bowling leg breaks, and with good coaching he soon established a reputation with that class of ball. After leaving school, Trees was intended for the law, but after a couple of years' training he decided to give it up and devote himself seriously to cricket.

His first engagement was on the Essex ground staff, at Leyton, where he played regularly in the Club and Ground matches. His initial season as a professional was an undoubted success, his batting average being 22, and he took 80 wickets at a cost of seven runs each. These excellent performances were speedily recognised, and in the following season he was given a trial with the county on three occasions, but did not show the same form as in club and ground matches, his highest score being 21 not out against the M.C.C.; and in the same match he captured three wickets for 35 runs. Against Sussex, his scores were 11 and 13, while with the bat he took a couple of wickets for 22 in the first innings, but in the second venture was not called upon to bowl. His average with the Club and Ground that same season was 34 for batting, and 93 wickets at the small cost of six runs each. Considering that he was not being given fair treatment on the ground staff, Trees did not re-engage for the following year, but accepted an engagement with the Tamworth Cricket Club, Staffordshire, with whom he had a most successful season, taking no less than 112 wickets at a cost of four runs each, and his batting working out at

26 runs per innings. His best performance with the Midland club was against Polesworth, for after taking seven wickets for 40 runs he followed this up by making 66 not out. Against a strong Warwick Club and Ground eleven, which included most of the county team, Trees secured four wickets for 15, and in his benefit match, against Frenshley, he sent back seven of their best batsmen for 20 runs. The Tamworth committee pressed him strongly to sign on for another season, but New Mills, members of the Derbyshire High Peak League, offered him such excellent terms that Trees could not very well refuse.

During his sojourn with the Derbyshire club it proved to be their most successful year, for only one occasion were they defeated, and Trees was mainly responsible for the excellent results attained. His best performance for them was against Loughborough, when he made 132 not out, and took five wickets for 45 runs. Against Stockport he secured six wickets for 11 runs, which included the "hat trick," and, when playing for New Mills and District, against a strong Lancashire side, captained by Mr. T. A. Higson, he obtained seven wickets for 42 runs. For the whole season he captured 90 wickets at a cost of seven runs each, and with the bat his average worked out at 32 runs per innings. In the following season he played as professional for Garswood Hall, Lancashire, where all the matches were "friendly." His best feat was against Bolton, when he took seven wickets for 11 runs, and his batting record worked out at 25 per innings and his 92 wickets at an average of nine runs each. This description of cricket not appealing to him, Trees refused to stay on after his agreement was fulfilled, and in the following year he went over into the adjoining county, to Birstall, who are members of the Yorkshire Council.

He opened the season with his new club in a most promising manner, for in their first match he took six wickets for 20 runs. Against Chickentley, in the Heavy Woollen District Cup competition, Trees took seven wickets for 36 and scored 46. In the same competition, against Adwalton, he did still better, securing seven wickets for a baker's dozen and hitting up 38 runs in ten minutes. His side reached the semi-final stage, and, on a fast, true wicket, against Batley, Trees sent back six opponents for 42 runs. His averages for the season were 24 with the bat and 106 wickets for eight runs each. Continuing his quest for additional laurels in the following season, Trees became first professional to Lord Exeter, at Burghley Park, in Northamptonshire. Included amongst the fixtures he played in were matches with such sides as the Free Foresters, Zingari, M.C.C., Leicestershire Gentlemen, Nottinghamshire Gentlemen, and Cundle Rovers. The class of cricket played was quite equal to most of the best counties, and frequently many of the best amateur batsmen in England assisted the Burghley Park eleven. Trees did not have much opportunity to shine here in the batting department, for he was frequently eighth or ninth man in. His highest score was against the Leicestershire Gentlemen, when he made 42 not out in the first innings and 28 in the second innings. He continued to bowl in magnificent form, and against the Free Foresters, on a perfect wicket, after bowling three and a half hours without a rest, he secured eight wickets for 120 runs, out of a score of 267. In the second innings he did still better, taking five wickets for 50 runs. Against M.C.C. he took 14 wickets for 120, and against the Nottinghamshire Gentlemen he captured 12 wickets for 125 runs. He eclipsed his performance against Peterborough and District, for he captured eight wickets for 2 runs, and bowled out the last batsman first ball when a couple of runs were required to win. Trees' averages for this season were 22 with the bat and 104 wickets at a cost of nine runs each.

In the following year he returned to his native county, and accepted a situation as coach and professional to the Chelmsford Club, who were captained by Mr. A. P. Lucas. The opening match was against his old club, the Essex Club and Ground, and Trees, capturing seven wickets for 40 runs, was principally responsible for the defeat of the staff eleven. During the whole season the Chelmsford Club were only twice defeated, and then it was only when the end was drawing near. Their record was:—Played 30, won 18, drawn 18, and lost two. His best performance was against Colchester, for after bowling straight through the innings, and making 69 out of a total of 110, he took seven wickets for 41 runs, which included the "hat trick." Other notable performances were: six wickets for 18, against Highgate; seven for 40, against Brentwood; and against the Gentlemen of Essex he took eight for 110, and was bowling for three hours. The Gentlemen's score was 267, and Chelmsford were allowed just over two hours in which to bat, and the runs were actually hit off with a few minutes to spare. Trees considers that exhibition of hitting the finest he has ever had the pleasure of witnessing, and there is no doubt that such prolific scoring would be worth going a long way to see. For the season he had an average of 28 with the bat and obtained 126 wickets, at the small cost of six runs each. He also did the "hat trick" on no less than five occasions. In the same year, Trees went to have a trial with the Philadelphia Cricket Club, in the Durham Senior League, and, playing against Boldon, he took eight wickets for 30 runs, and afterwards scored 30. The Boldon Club reported Philadelphia for playing

an unregistered player, and the League Committee fined them a couple of guineas according to rule. Trees eventually came to terms with the Philadelphia Club, who guaranteed him a benefit match of not less than £30, and the 1908 season duly found him installed as their professional. In his next match for his new club, against Durham City, he took every wicket, for 57 runs, and followed this up by being the highest scorer, with 33 not out. Other good performances were against Whitburn, when he took six wickets for 20 runs and made 39 not out, and against Wearmouth he made 70 not out and captured seven wickets for 40 runs. His batting average for the first 12 league matches was a fraction over 40, and he had taken 50 wickets at small cost. At that period of the season Trees had the misfortune to get his left arm severely crushed by the large round roller, and in consequence he was incapacitated for several weeks, and when he was able to once more take his place in the side, he was severely handicapped, especially for batting purposes. However, all things considered, he had a fairly successful season, his batting average working out at 29 per innings, and his 75 wickets being obtained at a cost of nine runs each.

Trees was strongly pressed to sign again at the end of the season, but the present Longton professional thought it best to see new pastures, and he joined Whitburn, members of the same league. In his initial match for them, against Boldon, he took seven wickets for 28 runs. South Shields next presented him with the same number of victims, at a cost of 40 runs, whilst against Eppleton he sent back nine batsmen, and caught the tenth in the slips, so he practically had a hand in the dismissal of the whole side. The Hendon Club provided him with perhaps his best performance last year, for at home he captured six wickets for 34 and scored 25, whilst in the return fixture he obtained eight wickets for 57. During the season Trees, who was considered one of the best fielders in the league, took no less than 30 catches, in the slips and off his own bowling. His average for batting was 18 per innings, and he captured 97 wickets at a cost of 11 runs each. Trees considers the Whitburn ground to be one of the prettiest in England. At the end of last season Trees decided to come to Longton and see for himself whether the North Staffordshire League, of which he had heard so much, was equal to those in the North Eastern counties. He is perfectly satisfied that it is, but considers the grounds are not, on the whole, equal to those of the Yorkshire Council or the Durham Senior League.

So far Trees has not obtained many runs for his new club and has certainly experienced some hard luck, but with the ball he has demonstrated his abilities in no uncertain manner. Some further interesting facts of his career must be added. He has made 232 not out, in a match, and made centuries galore, and done the "hat trick" on nine occasions. He on one occasion took four wickets with four successive balls, and was immediately afterwards invited to qualify for two first class counties. He is fond of sport of practically every description, and his favourite pastime outside cricket is shooting. He is also a footballer of no small ability and has kept goal in both the Southern and North Eastern leagues, and there is no doubt should he stay here during the winter, his services will be eagerly sought after.

# STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER: SATURDAY 2 JULY 1910-2

## STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN v. SHROPSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

Some interesting cricket was witnessed at The Hough, Stafford, on Monday and Tuesday, when a match was played between the Gentlemen of Staffordshire and the Gentlemen of Shropshire, the captains of the respective teams being Mr. A. F. Fernie and Mr. H. W. Edulston. The visitors brought twelve players, and as Mr. V. H. Robins chanced to be on the ground it was decided to play twelve a-side. The match commenced at about half-past twelve, Staffordshire batting first. The home side made a fairly good start, and when play stopped for lunch at 1.45 p.m. had scored 89 for the loss of two wickets. After lunch the runs came slowly, all the Staffordshire side being out for 158 at about half-past three. Shropshire responded with 210 for seven wickets before the close of the day's play, and concluded their first innings on Tuesday for 233. Staffordshire Gentlemen then went in a second time and scored 248, leaving Shropshire 95 to get to win. The visitors easily hit up the necessary runs, winning by ten wickets. Their score stood at 97 for two wickets when stumps were drawn at half-past five. A feature of the match was the "straw-walling" tactics of V. H. Robins, who on the first day went in second wicket, and, remaining to the close, carried out his bat for 25. On the second day he went in first and took three hours to compile 50. Messrs. A. F. Fernie and Beddows hit very freely in the second innings of the Staffordshire Gentlemen, and both passed the half-century. For the visitors, Mr. R. S. Hall played a fine innings of 83, and Capt. Kingston contributed 57 not out. Scores:—

STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.		SHROPSHIRE GENTLEMEN.	
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
J. F. Fernie, c. Dyas, b. Edulston	18	b. Venables, b. Venables	3
H. Page, c. Hall, b. Dyas	6	c. Felham, b. Venables	5
B. H. Woodcock, b. Hall	40	b. Venables	1
V. H. Robins, not out	25	b. Edulston	30
A. F. Fernie, b. Hall	6	b. Puckle	64
G. F. Beddows, c. Dyas, b. Hall	3	b. Puckle	54
S. G. Scott, c. Kingston, b. Dyas	1	b. Puckle	0
V. H. Robins, b. Venables	7	b. Barley	5
G. H. Harris, c. Venables, b. Hall	0	b. w., b. Venables	26
W. Grestock, b. Hall	2	st. Starkey, b. Venables	6
N. Hancock, b. Hall	7	b. Edulston	16
H. Boyle, run out	0	not out	4
Extras	24	Extras	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Capt. Kingston, b. Grestock	10	not out	57
R. A. Clarke, b. Harris	7	b. Grestock	28
W. G. Dyas, b. J. F. Fernie	41		
The Rev. H. A. Felham, c. J. F. Fernie, b. Grestock	16	not out	3
R. S. Hall, c. Grestock	6		
V. H. Robins	63		
The Rev. P. H. Barber, b. w.	0		
Woodcock	22		
G. R. Venables, b. Woodcock	31		
H. W. Edulston, run out	22		
L. B. Starkey, l. w., b. Woodcock	10		
G. Hutchinson, b. Grestock	13		
P. N. Durne, not out	20		
F. H. Puckle, c. Scott, b. Harris	1	b. Grestock	4
Extras	19	Extras	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>Total (two wickets)</b>	<b>97</b>

## LICHFIELD 1<sup>st</sup> AND ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT.

This match was played at Lichfield on Wednesday.

LICHFIELD 1 <sup>st</sup>		ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT.	
Score	167	Score	167
Capt. K. W. Fos. c. and b. Lee. 1 Capt. C. O'Neil. b. Lee. 1 Col. Beut. O'Neil. b. Lee. 1 Capt. Brown. b. Lee. 1 J. Carr. Thompson. b. Lee. 1 B. Ritchie. 1 Lieut. Schofield. b. Lee. 1 Lieut. Rogers-Harrison. c. Furber. b. Ritchie. 1 Furber. b. Ritchie. 1 Priv. Hayward. c. Vaughan-Williams. b. Lee. 1 Williams. b. Lee. 1 Lieut. Brock. c. Owen. b. Lee. 1 Lee. 1 J. Kemp. Kingsbury. c. Owen. b. Ritchie. 1 Lieut. Johnson. c. Keeley. b. Ritchie. 1 Ritchie. 1 Extras. 6 Total. 167	Lieut. Wood. b. Nevill. 58 Lieut. A. C. D. 25 F. H. Key. c. Brewis. b. 65 O. B. Vaughan-Williams. 1 Brewis. b. Rogers-Harrison. 2 Cecil. Ritchie. c. Brewis. b. 13 Kingsbury. b. 13 Lieut. G. H. W. Mortimer. c. Brewis. b. Rogers-Harrison. 14 Brewis. b. Lee. 11 B. Keeley. c. Kingsbury. b. 6 W. A. Lewis. 16 J. H. Barnes. 17 J. B. Butler. 17 Extras. 5 Total. 210		

## NORTH STAFFORD AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

A good deal of headway was made in the League tournament on Saturday and Monday, most of the matches postponed from May 1 in consequence of the late date. The only club to annex four points were last year's champions and runners-up, Fenton and Porthill, who improved their positions materially. The champions now appear to have pulled themselves up fully to concert pitch, and for the first time this season stand at the head of the table, one point above Norton and Porthill, both of whom, however, have a match in hand as compared with the leaders. Fenton registered smashing victories on Saturday and Monday on their own ground, each time passing the second hundred without losing all their wickets and dismissing their opponents for just over 70. Stone were the victims on Saturday, and the score was—Fenton 213 for four (F. W. Burslem 71 not out, H. Deakin 67, E. H. Bourne and H. Eagland 34 each); Stone 71 (E. H. Bourne 45 for 13, G. H. Price 25). On Monday Porthill were similarly favoured to their rivals at Fenton, for winning the toss Crews Alexandra sent them in first. Barnes hit 108 not out, and the innings was declared at 197 for two wickets. Barnes suffered a little from his exertions, and did not take a wicket, but Stanley Heath came along with seven for 27, and the last Crews wicket fell in the last over, the total being 87. Burslem and Silverdale enjoyed a stirring encounter at Fenton on Saturday, and divided the points. Silverdale batted exceedingly well, declaring at 203 for nine (Brown 33, J. C. Cooper 30, F. Williams 26, T. Ward 23, G. Williams 39). The best bowling record was made by Cook for 27 five Hurden wickets fell very quickly, but then F. Fletcher (55 not out) and J. W. Allen (111) pulled the match out of the fire by a great effort, which nearly ended in victory, the score standing 190 for six when time expired. It was a remarkable performance by the two amateurs. Brown had four wickets for 32. On Monday Silverdale came near to record breaking, Brown and J. C. Cooper scoring 223 for the first wicket against Stoke on the village ground. Stoke had previously been dismissed for 113 (A. G. Jones 43, H. E. Taylor 36). E. Groomer taking three wickets for 4 runs. All bowling came alive to Cooper and Brown, the former making 108 not out and Brown 95. Both are to be complimented on a memorable performance. The left-hander is batting and bowling exceedingly well this season, and the veteran professional has already proved his worth to the club. Stoke had a sorry time, for they were crumpled up by Lenston on Saturday. The home men declared after hitting up 90 for eight wickets (H. J. Plant 33, E. G. Baxter 26, A. Smith 23, J. A. G. G. 23, A. Bealby 24), and Trees bowled much too well for the Stoke batsmen, taking six wickets for 20. Butler contributed 38, and A. G. Jones 20 to Stoke's 75. Lenston's success was obstructed by a collapse at Norton on Monday, the side being dismissed for 42 (Wilson eight for 23, H. Matthews two for 17). Thanks almost entirely to a hurricane innings of 80 by the veteran, Harry Wright, and 43 by Wilson, Norton totalled 147. Trees contributed three wickets for 13 runs. Leek Highfield took two points from Tunstall on Saturday at Leek. Sharp hit 38 for the visitors, but their total only reached 82, against which the home men were up together 124 (H. Hambleton and F. Huszinhaticz each). Rickson and J. Pace took four wickets apiece at a cost of 24 and 27 respectively. The Highfield would have dearly liked to repeat their success on the score of their previous innings, the Leek club, on Monday, but had to be content with a draw, owing to a prolonged stand by H. Handley (29 not out) and H. R. Brunt (17), who redeemed the Leek team from collapse. Highfield totalled 127 (Rickson 53, A. Hambleton 26), and got eight Leek men out for 75. Pointon bowled well for the visiting side, and captured six wickets for 31, whilst Rickson and Pace again divided eight wickets equally for 30 and 28 runs respectively. The Norton and Crews match at the railway town on Saturday was drawn, so that Norton gained three points in the two days. They made 107 (J. Smith 27, Wilson 25, A. Smith 21 not out), and the Alexandra score was 96 for eight when time was up. C. E. Greedy contributed a very useful 34. J. F. Groom had five wickets for 34 for Crews, and Wilson five for 37 for Norton.

## BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Heavy showers of rain spoiled all the five League matches on Saturday, none of the games being brought to a conclusion. As a matter of fact, complete innings was only finished in one case, that being at the Four Acres, where Westbromwich Dartmouth compiled 123 (W. W. Langwell 34, J. Hingley 25, H. Wood 16, Hand not out 13) against Stourbridge. Rain then came on, and Stourbridge did not have the opportunity of showing what they could do in reply. Nicholls took six of the Dartmouth wickets for 44 runs. Walsall entertained Huddersfield Wood, and before the game was abandoned the visitors had scored 78 for six wickets (H. S. Everitt 39, S. M. Clarke 23, J. H. Cooper 11). Brammer had three wickets for 44 runs. The substantial score of 173 for nine wickets (Buckley 49, W. Donnan not out 39, F. Burgoyne 28, J. Pigott 16) was made by Smethwick against Mitchells and Butlers at Cape Hill. When the rain came on the players waited for some time in the hope of resuming, but the match had to be left drawn without any further play taking place. Dudley ran up a score of 197 for nine wickets against Aston Unity on the latter's enclosure, whilst Mossley visiting Kidderminster lost five wickets for only 11 runs. Skelking had two wickets for 4 and S. Gellin three for 6.

## CRICKET AT DENSTONE.

Stafford visited Denstone College on Saturday, but owing to bad light the match could not be brought to a conclusion. The scores were as follows—Stafford 151 (W. Eaton-Chapman, c. and b. Howe, 33; V. H. Robinson, l.b.w. b. Barton, 3; W. H. Twigg, l.b.w. b. Howe, 14; Twigg, c. Barton, b. Howe, 26; F. Emberton, c. Smith, b. Bowman, 18; V. J. Robins, c. Smith, b. Howe, 11; J. Eaton-Chapman, b. Knight, 4; F. Cook, b. Howe, 3; A. H. Gilling, b. Barton, 2; E. K. Wood, b. Barton, 4; H. Dutton, not out, 2; extras, 3; total, 169. Denstone: A. J. Wood, not out, 16; G. O. Pauer, c. F. Twigg, b. Eaton-Chapman, 0; G. R. Hall, b. Gilling, 13; J. W. Knight, retired hurt, 5; extras, 6; total, 38 for 3 wickets.—Denstone visited Abbotsholme School winning the match very easily by 183 runs for three wickets, in 68 runs. Scores: Abbotsholme: Mr. Zair, c. Bowman, b. Knight, 1; J. W. Quinn, b. Knight, 4; Hayward, b. Knight, 3; Dr. Barran, b. Howe, 4; Mr. Chapman, b. Wood, 24; Bennett, b. Howe, 4; Mr. Smith, b. Knight, 3; Trechmann, c. Howe, b. Wood, 4; Dewson, b. Smith, b. Wood, 0; Jackson, c. Chadwick, b. Howe, 0; Trechmann, not out, 0; extras, 7; total 58. Denstone: A. J. Wood, not out, 10; G. O. Pauer, b. Mr. Jones, 11; T. H. Bowman, b. Mr. Jones, 6; G. R. Hall, b. Pauer, 24; J. W. Knight, c. Hayward, b. Mr. Zair, 27; G. A. Anderson, not out, 3; extras, 16; total, 183 for three wickets.

In local matches, on Saturday, the following results were recorded:—Lichfield 146 (G. R. Coach 63, P. Brett 31, S. Edington 19, J. Parsons not out 17); Cannock 52 for two (A. E. Morris not out 19, G. Hutton 17, R. H. Morris 15). Camp Hill 0/0 Edwarsdale 218 for six (E. W. Norton not out 58, A. E. Whitaker 30, W. C. Hand 42, G. S. Ward not out 18; Wolverhampton 114 for three (T. L. G. Thompson 26); 65, H. D. Stanton 20. Market Drayton 188 (G. W. Old Hall Master 74, R. S. Hall 40, J. A. Elditch 19); (Bucknell 32); Wolverhampton Grammar 100 (Headall 16, Crickmas 15). Hurstwood School 65 (Whitaker 30, W. C. Hand 42, G. S. Ward not out 18); Churnet Valley League: Uttoxeter, 42; Oakamoor, 20 for two. Leek 11. 78; Stallington, 42; Chasdic, 81; Checkley, 82. Wolverhampton Bridge League: St. Dakamoor 11. 61; Uttoxeter, 65.—An all-day match was played at Stafford on Wednesday, the home side being Cannock Chase Golf Club. The latter batted first and hit up 124 (R. Cave Rogers 51, Reginald 27, H. Page 13). Stafford replied with only 72 thus losing by 52 runs. For the winners H. Barnall took five wickets for 31 and H. Page five for 33; while for the losers V. H. Robins obtained four two for 26. On the same day Stafford Wednesday II. were entertained by Somerset Park. Stafford obtained worse, being dismissed for 30. W. Bird taking five at home, on Thursday, Walsall defeated Sutton Coldfield 52, A. G. Frith 47, W. Burrows 29, W. G. Thomas 22; for the losers H. Lott hit up 37, J. B. Russell 35, S. C. Crookford 23.

NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.

(NOTES BY "INCOGNITUS.")

FIRST DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Fenton	12	6	2	4	16
Norton	11	5	1	5	15
Porthill Park	11	6	2	3	15
Burslem	12	4	2	4	14
Crewe Alexandra	11	3	3	5	13
Leek Highfield	12	4	3	5	12
Longton	12	4	4	4	12
Silverdale	12	3	3	6	12
Leek	11	1	4	6	8
Stoke	12	1	5	6	8
Stone	10	1	4	5	7
Tunstall	12	1	7	4	6

SECOND DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Knypersley	10	6	0	4	15
Oldfields	10	4	1	5	10
Great Chell	10	4	2	4	10
Porthill Park II	10	4	2	4	10
Crewe Alexandra II	9	4	2	3	11
Burslem II	10	3	3	4	10
Fenton II	10	3	3	4	10
Norton II	10	3	3	4	10
Silverdale II	9	2	4	3	7
Longton II	10	1	4	5	7
Stoke II	10	1	6	3	4
Tunstall II	10	0	7	3	3

For the first time this season, last year's champions figure at the top of the First Division Table, and if they have survived this afternoon's ordeal they are likely to take some moving, even though both Porthill and Norton are relatively better off. By beating Stone on Saturday the leaders gained their first home victory of the season, and they further pleased their own crowd on Monday with a ready success over a weak Burslem side. Porthill were another club to have two home matches during the week-end, and they took the opportunities to the extent of augmenting their pointage by the full measure.

Norton, Leek Highfield, and Silverdale each obtained benefit to the tune of three points, but Leek, Burslem, and Crewe Alexandra had experiences just the reverse, and the two latter are now severely handicapped in the race for pride of place. Burslem's experience at Fenton should be no mean lesson to those who advocate Monday matches in connection with League extension proposals. The Cobridge Club were compelled to start the game with nine players, and when the full tale was made up only five recognised first-team men were included. Stoke fell back to their bad ways, and suffered two crushing defeats, whilst they were not far from helping to make history in their bout with Silverdale. Considering the number of reputable players possessed by Stoke the form of the club has so far been the oddity of 1910.

The meeting of Crewe Alexandra and Norton made the big game of last Saturday's programme, and the pity was that a definite finish was not arrived at. With two wickets to fall the Alexandra required a dozen runs for victory, and, as J. Hill (17) and J. F. Groom had already had an undivided partnership of 21 notches, the draw was in no way against them. Groom had five wickets for 24 runs, which works out better than Wilson's five for 37 for the other side. The Norton professional also did well with the bat, and his association with J. Smith (27) was the most fruitful of the match.

The castigation administered to Stoke by Longton on Whit-Tuesday was repeated last Saturday, and the Stoke players will surely entertain appreciative notions of the merits of Trees, for in the two games the Longton professor has bagged a dozen wickets for a mere 38 runs, his tally on the later occasion being six for 20. For the most part Longton made merry with the Stoke bowling, as seven dual figure scores testify.

For a game of real surprises the one at Cobridge would take some beating, with the out-and-out thrills rather late in the afternoon. Few people credited Silverdale with batting ability sufficient to withstand Burslem's varied attack for three and three-quarter hours, but this is what occurred, and the stubbornness of the visiting batsmen found employment for seven home bowlers in the sending down of 53 overs and three balls. The Silverdale acting-captain must have had intuition of the hurricane hitting that was to follow! When four Burslem wickets fell for three runs, the visitors were a happy and keen band, but they were mightily sobered before the end arrived, and J. W. Allen was the player to effect the transformation, with E. Fletcher a rare backer. Allen went to the wickets with the score at three, and when he left the scorers had recorded a matter of 173 further runs, of which the ex-Longton player's share was 111, and, though the Burslem ground has been the scene of many brilliant batting achievements, it is questionable, all things considered, whether any have been quite as lustrous as Allen's astounding assault.

Stoke's improved form availed them little against the champions, who had one batsman, P. W. Baguley (71 not out), who exactly

neutralised the aggregate of all his opponents, and got his runs by cricket that delighted a crowd who have been taught to appreciate good batting. As Harry Dearing was a good second with 87—his most pronounced deed of the year—and three others reached double figures, Fenton had no qualms when the declaration was made with but three wickets down. With eight Stone men disposed of and but 38 runs on the board, the result was never in doubt, but the ninth wicket almost doubled the score, and Harry England had to take a turn with the ball to separate C. H. Fernie (20) and A. Chapman (13). The dissolution took place at 71, and the remaining wicket fell at the same total. E. H. Bourne had a big share in Stoke's undoing, his five wickets being debited with but 13 runs, and Gill had four for 25.

Leek managed to get a score of runs against Porthill, but their batting did not deserve even this meagre reward, and if Porthill's fielding had been perfect, it is questionable if the visitors' total would have reached the teens. H. Eardley and Barnes brought about the debacle of the visitors, and the amateur, who was more convincing than hitherto this season, had six wickets for 11 runs. Barnes had to be satisfied with three for nine, but he had two catches dropped, and J. Pinton was clearly allowed two innings at his expense. Generally speaking, Porthill's batting was little better than that of Leek, and only W. H. Wood could effectually cope with Sedgwick. Sedgwick secured six wickets for eight runs each, in spite of the punching he was subjected to by the Porthill acting captain.

Tunstall's total against Leek Highfield only included one score above seven, and that by Sharp, whose 38 figures well amongst so many failures. Highfield were not allowed to win without a struggle, for they lost eight wickets ere they surpassed Tunstall's 62, chiefly as the result of good bowling by J. Gregory, who took five wickets! Rickson and J. Price did well with the ball for Highfield, and both owed something to the smartness of J. Wilkinson behind the stumps.

On Monday, Fenton's match with Burslem attracted a good crowd, and they saw some capital batting from Gill (80), J. G. Drake (48), and E. H. Bourne (38). Thanks to A. Hollowood, Burslem made a decent start, but the advent of R. Houseman—who took five wickets for eight runs—quickly settled the issue. Longton fared poorly against Norton, who had two star performers in Wilson, who took eight wickets for 23 runs, and Harry Wright, who was unfortunate enough to be run out when within ten runs of a century. The game at Silverdale almost brought about the breaking of a league record, for Brown (95) and J. C. Cooper (106, not out) were only 14 runs off surpassing the great stand made by E. H. Bourne and H. Dearing last season. Stoke's score of 115 was almost entirely due to two players, A. G. Jones (43) and H. E. Taylor (36).

Crewe Alexandra were well beaten by Porthill, even though Barnes did not get a wicket. As he had an innings of 108 (not out) to his credit he did his share, however, and could be well content with bowling honours going to the amateurs. J. S. Heath, who has so far failed to realise expectations, had seven Alexandra wickets for 27 runs, and the other three fell to H. Eardley. The Leek and Highfield struggle was not a very exhilarating affair. Highfield were distinctly the better side, and had the game been finished they would doubtless have won.

In the Second Division Stoke gained their initial victory, Longton being the sufferers, and the winners' all-round work was much better than usual. Knypersley and Oldfields contrived their career of success, but the former had a fright when they lost seven wickets for 61 runs, in reply to Tunstall's total of 106. However, F. H. Goodall (60), and E. J. Shufflebotham (23, not out) proved to be the men for the occasion, and the champions won with a lot to spare. H. Simpson had five Tunstall wickets for 22, and D. Eardley took a similar number on behalf of the losers, but was rather more expensive. The vagaries of the weather had a lot to do with the heavy beating that Oldfield administered to Fenton. The latter had to bat on a difficult wicket, and this was made easy by a heavy shower before Oldfields essayed to knock off the required runs.

Porthill Park took a weak eleven to Great Chell and were beaten out of sight. J. Clewes took seven of their wickets for 33 runs, and eight Chell batsmen scored double figures. Norton maintained their improved form, and Crewe Alexandra were the sufferers. J. Stonehewer got six wickets for nine runs each, and in a level batting display J. Skellam came out best with 40. Silverdale could only muster 53 runs against Burslem, but that was three more than the latter could manage.

NORTH STAFFS COMBINATION

FIRST DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Madeley	9	7	0	2	15
Audley	10	4	3	3	11
Sandyford	10	4	3	3	11
Lajcett	9	4	3	2	10
Knypersley II	8	3	3	2	8
Bignall End	8	2	5	1	7
Hall Green	10	2	5	3	7
Newchapel	7	2	4	1	5
Pittshill	9	1	5	3	5

SECOND DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Woodland Pottery	8	6	0	2	14
Bignall End II	8	6	2	0	12
Audley II	8	5	2	1	11
Sandyford I	9	4	5	0	8
Tunstall U.M.	8	3	6	2	8
Chell II	11	3	6	2	8
Knypersley "A"	7	3	4	1	7
Lajcett II	9	1	7	1	3

There was little to choose between the teams who did duty last Saturday for Audley and Newchapel; the few runs that separated them at the close just about representing the difference in the performances of their respective "tail ends." When it is stated that the last three Newchapel wickets did not add a run to the score, it will be seen that the above remarks pretty accurately hit off the situation. No batsman on either side greatly distinguished himself, and yet there were very few failures. The most effective work with the ball was done by Howell, of Audley, who claimed four wickets for 12 runs, and J. Dale also did well in taking four for 29. But on this occasion the effort of Partridge (four for 29) was undoubtedly the best bit of work in the whole match, as he only bowled one ball short of 20 overs, and did not even have a rest.

The improved form which Knypersley began to show a few weeks ago has been well maintained, and was responsible last week for the downfall of the one-time invincible Bignall End team. Right from the start Knypersley struck a winning vein. J. Lowe and Bates played so well in opening the innings of the home side that 42 runs were on the board before the latter was caught for a useful 23, and the former took his contribution to 35 before getting clean bowled. Then J. Bibby followed up with a characteristic innings of 30, and the total eventually reached 118. Any chance of Bignall End knocking off these runs was practically lost when the first half of their wickets had gone down for only 22 runs. From this point Sutton (16), Lockett (36), and T. Burgess (17) effected a great change, but it came too late to neutralise the early successes which accompanied the bowling of Clewlow (five for 25) and Round (four for 29).

Newchapel are fast losing the name which they made for themselves at the beginning of the season, and they have yet to notch their first brace of points at home. They were completely overplayed by Sandyford last week, who thus made amends for the defeat they sustained in May. Newchapel found L. Dean in capital form with the ball; he was responsible for dismissing seven of them for 32 runs. Newchapel were also in the wars when their turn came to take the field, and they had the mortification of seeing their bowling badly handled by M. Cotton (55), J. Beech (30) and W. Horrocks (27). Cotton's display was particularly pleasing to his admirers.

When extremes meet there is no telling what is going to happen. Well, those extremes met last week, when Pittshill journeyed to Madeley for their return match; extremes in the sense that Madeley and Pittshill find their names for the time being at the respective ends of the table, and extremes also in the style of play adopted by the batsmen of both teams. Whereas Pittshill took about two hours to get 72 runs, Madeley only took about one hour to get the same number. It might also be said that the contrast did not end there, for while Madeley missed very little in the field—and perhaps their opponents thought that some decisions were hardly in keeping with the actual facts—Pittshill could do very little that was right in this department. The chief cause of Pittshill's slow batting was the very fine bowling of Malkin, who was so deadly all the time that he only had nine runs hit off him, while he took five wickets.

In the second division Knypersley made a gift of two points to Bignall End by their feeble display. A wicket that was good enough to enable Bignall End to score 159 runs should have been good enough for Knypersley to get more than a dozen runs on. For Bignall End, L. Taylor was again in fine form with an innings of 67, and with the ball H. Burgess (four for five) and W. Riley (five for six) did the needful.

Sandyford succumbed at home to Chell after an interesting game! All the honours went to the batsmen, the top scorers for Chell being G. Woods (20), Skidmore (15), Sherratt (13), and A. Smith (11). For Sandyford, J. Dean (18) and J. Baxter (14) were the highest scorers.

**KNOCK-OUT CRICKET.**

**Close Games in the Tunstall Competition.**

Interest in the Congleton knock-out competition is exceedingly great, and large crowds assemble at each of the matches. The supporters of the Wednesday and Liberal Club elevens gathered in large numbers to watch these teams play their tie. The Wednesday won the toss, and batted first, the sum total being 76 for eight wickets. F. Arnott, the captain, contributed 30 of the runs in capital style, and T. Gordon was responsible for 22. H. Burgess took four wickets for 25 runs, and A. Bayley had two for 29. The Liberals could not do much with the bowling of F. Cadman and F. Arnott, and they were all out for 36. Arnott took five wickets for 24 and Cadman took four for seven.

On Thursday evening the Congleton Town Band No. 1 team (finalists of last year) and Mossley Old Boys met under the auspices of the same competition, and the musicians won by 49 runs. Four of the Old Boys were dismissed before a run had been scored, and the next four wickets yielded nine runs, while the ninth partnership took the score to 32. The innings closed at the same total. J. Pierpoint took seven wickets for 18, including the "hat-trick" and D. Bowden had two for 13. The batsmen were not long in knocking off the required runs, and their innings realised 81. H. Foley being top scorer with 33. None of the bandsmen failed to score. L. E. Harrison took six wickets for 43 and J. Cotterill captured three for 16.

In the first round of the Tunstall competition Biggate (100 for 4) defeated Hollinshead and Kirkham's (95) in a very good match. Other results are: Sandford "A" 43, Pittshulph 42; Nowshapel 145 for eight, Burslem High-lane 110 for eight; Cobridge 149, Greengates Pottery 143. The draw for the second round is appended:-

Woodland Pottery v. Tunstall Christ Church.  
Cottage v. G. Butler's XI.

Chatterley-Whitfield v. Smallthorne Church.  
Greenfields v. Sandford "B."

Highgate v. Colridge.  
Brownhill's Pottery v. Peake's or Royal Albert.

Nowshapel v. Burslem Liverpool-road.  
Sandford "A" v. Wolstanton Marsh.

On Monday, in the Longton competition, Sandford Hill Primitives were opposed by Messrs. Taylor and Kent's (last year's runners-up). The Primitives, batting first, made a very poor start, three wickets being down for 15 runs. The bowling of Cooper and Kent was almost unplayable, and the batsmen quickly wended their way to the pavilion. The representatives of Taylor and Kent's made if anything a much poorer start, and the first five batsmen failed to make a run between them. The advent of C. Kent put a better aspect on the game, and he was the only batsman who could do anything against the Primitives' attack. He was eighth man out, being lbw., and his contribution was 31, out of a total of 37. Sandford Hill thus entered the second round.

The Crewe Alexandra competition still continues to occupy much attention. The game which was fixed for Monday, between the Teachers and the Butchers, had to be abandoned, through rain. The replay favoured the Teachers, who won rather easily at the second time of asking. A. E. Hesketh proved a tower of strength to the winning side, as he carried his bat through the innings, and was not out 31. The batting of E. J. Barratt was very attractive, and he would do well in better class company. H. Spence materially assisted the Teachers with his contribution of 25.

The representatives of the Electric Shop played havoc with the Boiler Makers for 56 was mainly due to the fine bowling of W. Williams, who accomplished the "hat-trick," and took six wickets for nine runs. Forster also handled well, for the losers, for he was instrumental in effecting the dismissal of five batsmen for 33, including the "hat-trick." The outstanding feature of this game was the fine batting display of T. Lockett and W. Williams. This pair opened the innings of the electricians, and they simply thrashed the bowling until Lockett was struck in the face with a rising ball, and he retired when at the half-century. Williams made 37, and J. Sephton got 21.

**RESULTS AND SCORES.**

**CONGLETON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.  
CONGLETON WEDNESDAY v. CONGLETON LIBERAL CLUB.**

Played on Wednesday. Score:—  
Congleton Wednesday.—E. Sprston c Dingley b Bayley 5, R. H. James b Burgess 3, T. Gordon c and b Bayley 22, T. Hulme b Burgess 4, F. Cadman b Burgess 4, F. Arnott run out 2, E. Norris b Burgess 0, W. P. Alcock not out 4, extras 2; total (8 wks), 76.

Congleton Liberal Club.—F. W. Potts b Arnott 4, A. Bayley b Cadman 2, A. Minshall b Arnott 5, H. Burgess, Cadman 0, H. Williamson b Cadman 9, J. T. Dingley b Arnott 0, F. J. Birks b Cadman 2, F. Goodwin not out 0, W. Andrew run out 5, W. Johnson lbw b Arnott 3, T. Axson st Hulme b Arnott 1, extras 3; total, 34.

**CONGLETON TOWN BAND NO. 1 v. MOSSLEY OLD BOYS.**

Played on Thursday. Scores:—  
Mossley Old Boys.—I. F. Harrison b Bowden 0, F. Bayley b Pierpoint 0, R. Cotterill b Pierpoint 0, J. Hulme b Pierpoint 0, C. Ashmore b Pierpoint 6, Clem. Ashmore b Sprston b Pierpoint 0, I. Cotterill b Pierpoint 4, A. Bayley run out 1, E. Dale b Pierpoint 20, G. Whitehurst b Bowden 2, J. T. Beech not out 0, extras 1; total, 32.

Town Band No. 1.—W. Turner c Clem. Ashmore b Harrison 3, G. H. Bayley b R. Cotterill 2, J. Pierpoint b Harrison 4, A. Koulsten b Harrison 6, H. Floyd b J. Cotterill 33, A. Tilley c A. Bayley b J. Cotterill 11, H. Sprston c Chris. Ashmore b J. Cotterill 0, D. Rowden c R. Cotterill b Harrison 3, C. Bunn not out 9, W. A. Gee b Harrison 1, G. Harding b Harrison 3, extras 2; total, 81.

**LONGTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.  
SANDFORD HILL PRIMITIVES v. TAYLOR AND KENT'S.**

Played on Monday. Scores:—  
Sandford Hill.—J. Myatt b Kent 7, H. Mycock b Kent 0, W. Sutton b Cooper 6, J. Sutton b Cooper 0, H. Bridgett c and b Kent 9, W. Johnson b Cooper 0, A. Cumberlidge b Kent 6, G. Barton not out 3, J. Mycock b Cooper 4, A. Dale lbw b Cooper 0, S. Tilt b Cooper 2, extras 6; total, 43.

Taylor and Kent's.—R. Smith st Johnson b Bridgett 0, W. Edwards 0, J. Cooper c and b Sutton 0, C. Kent lbw b Sutton 31, W. Edwards b Bridgett 0, J. Beardmore st Johnson b Sutton 0, G. Mountford c Tilt b Sutton 1, H. Beardmore b Bridgett 2, J. Worsdale b Bridgett 0, A. Archer not out 0, H. Barnett b Sutton 0, extras 3; total, 37.

**CREWE ALEXANDRA KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.**

Teachers v. Butchers.  
Played on Tuesday. Scores:—  
Teachers.—H. Spence lbw b Parton 26, A. E. Hesketh not out 31, E. J. Barratt retired hurt 20, W. Martin b Harding 10, T. Wilkinson b Harding 0, G. Spence b Harding 0, J. Charlesworth not out 0, extras 9; total (5 wks), 95.

Butchers.—T. Parton c Nield b Plant 17, H. Millwood b Hesketh 7, L. Millwood b Plant 5, F. Hurst b Hesketh 1, F. Woodcock b Hesketh 0, W. Welch c Powell b Plant 5, T. Harding c Martin b Hesketh 0, W. Consterdine c Powell b Hesketh 9, F. Balley c Nield b Hesketh 0, W. Hancock b Hesketh 1, H. Hopcroft not out 8, extras 1; total, 54.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT v. BOILER SHOP "B" TEAM.**

Electric Department.—T. Lockett retired 50, W. Williams b Forster 37, J. Sephton b Wheatley 21, H. Thompson b Forster 0, J. Murphy b Forster 2, A. Jones b Forster 0, J. Heaton b Forster 0, E. Edgley not out 0, extras 17; total (6 wks), 131.

Boiler Shop.—J. Evans b Lockett 12, H. Sidaway c Lockett b Williams 14, G. Heath c Thompson b Lockett 8, W. Henshall b Williams 0, G. Wheatley c and b Williams 6, A. Forster b Williams 0, J. W. Holland b Williams 0, G. Lowden c Sephton b Thompson 7, F. Boulton c Sephton b Williams 1, C. Fletcher b Thompson 0, A. Smith not out 4, extras 4; total, 56.

**SOMERSET'S GLOOMY POSITION.**

Judging from the admissions of Mr. Gerald Fowler, the hon. treasurer, the Somerset County Cricket Club is in a parlous state, and may have to retire from the list of cricketing counties at the end of 1910. But, asks the "Sportsman," is not the public apathy, which in conjunction with bad weather has unfavourably affected the receipts, increased by the poor teams placed in the field, the absence of last season's captain and other leading amateurs?

**RUSHBY AND SURREY CRICKET.**

Tom Rushby, the fast bowler whose absence from the Surrey team this season has been generally lamented, returned to Acorington after a special visit to London on Thursday, and informed a correspondent of the "Sportsman" that he had signed an agreement to play for Surrey County next season. Rushby will, therefore, terminate his engagement with the Lancashire League Club at Acorington at the close of the present season and return to Surrey.

**CHURNET VALLEY LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Rocester	9	6	0	3	15
Oakanoor	8	5	1	2	13
Caverswall	8	5	2	1	11
Leek Highfield II.	8	4	2	2	10
Ochadle Town	8	3	3	2	8
Stallington	9	3	4	2	8
Leek II.	8	2	4	2	6
Tea	8	2	5	1	6
Uttoxeter	9	2	5	2	6
Denstone	9	0	8	1	1

**UTTOXETER, BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Oakanoor	7	5	0	2	12
Melr	8	4	1	3	11
Oldfields	7	5	1	1	11
Checkley	8	4	2	2	10
Florence	6	5	1	0	10
Uttoxeter	9	3	6	0	6
Caverswall	7	2	4	1	5
Chendale	9	2	5	1	5
Woodhead	9	1	5	3	5
Hollington	9	1	7	1	3

**LEEK & DISTRICT LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Leek Liberal Club	3	3	0	0	6
Leek Broughs	5	2	1	2	6
Leek Alexandra	4	2	1	1	5
Kingsley	3	0	1	2	2
Leek Broughs Dyers	5	0	4	1	1

**STOKE-ON-TRENT FEDERATION.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Butt Lane	3	2	1	0	4
Clough Hall	1	1	0	0	2
Smallthorne	1	1	0	0	2
Scott Hay	3	0	3	0	0

**MARKET DRAYTON.**

**THE VISIT OF THE WELLINGTON OLD HALL MASTERS.**

Wellington Old Hall Masters are one of the most popular clubs who visit Market Drayton. Saturday's fixture was the return one, the first match ending in a draw, rain falling nearly the whole of the afternoon. The visitors made a very poor show on the Grove ground and were all out for 71 runs. P. P. Arkinstall, who is bowling wonderfully well this season captured six wickets for 18 runs. V. R. Eardley brought off one of the best catches seen for some time in local cricket. R. S. Hall and P. P. Arkinstall opened for the home side and runs came very easily. Arkinstall was the first to leave, and when G. W. Proctor joined Hall the runs were hit off without further loss. The cricket was lively in the extreme. Numerous changes were tried, but the batsmen batted with every confidence. The innings was continued after the visitors' total was passed. Hall retired at 40 and Proctor was not out 74.

Playing for the Shropshire Gentlemen against the Gentlemen of Staffordshire, R. S. Hall was again responsible for a score of 63 at Stafford, on Monday.

**CONGLETON.**

**MOSSLEY'S FAILURE: DISMISSED FOR A TOTAL OF TEN.**

(BY "CHESHIRE-MAN.")

Following their creditable victory over Macclesfield in the previous week, the Congleton players visited Mossley, their local neighbours, last Saturday. The Mossley batsmen completely failed against the bowling of J. Moffatt and F. Lee, who dismissed them for a paltry total of 10 runs. Seven wickets fell for only four runs, and no fewer than six of the home side failed to score. Moffatt took three wickets for three runs and F. Lee got three wickets for seven runs. The fielding of Congleton was exceptionally fine, four of the home side being run out. The Mossley fielders had a full afternoon's leather-hunting. In spite of numerous changes in the bowling the visitors compiled a total of 144 for the loss of nine wickets before time was called. W. Holland (67 not out) and R. H. Lowe (50) were in splendid form.

Whilst the premier team were administering defeat on Mossley, the Manchester, Liverpool, and District Bank Clerks were severely defeated in the Congleton second eleven on the West-street ground. The Clerks were the first to bat, and they punished the home bowlers to such an extent that 153 runs were registered before they were all out. In response, Congleton put together 75. W. B. Norris was top scorer for his side with 30, and W. H. Ingles contributed 21.

**SANDBACH.**

**DISAPPOINTING DISPLAY AGAINST NORTHWICH.**

A good team went to meet Northwich on Saturday, but, although the result was a draw, the way in which they fared did not realise anticipations. The home team went in first and so knocked the half dozen Sandbach bowlers about that they reached 171. Nearly all the team attained double figures, the best efforts being those of B. H. Doughty (32), F. W. Harper (26 not out), and the Rev. S. Cotton (23). The successful Sandbach bowlers were E. Moses, J. N. Hilditch and H. Ferrand. Sandbach opened their response with fair promise, but several wickets afterwards fell in rather rapid succession, and time arrived with the score at 75 for six. H. P. Rigby was the best with 24, but comparatively speaking, he was prematurely out.

The second eleven easily accounted for the Northwich second team. The visitors managed to compile only 68, of which Roberts made 17. Sandbach soon set their guests leather hunting, and soon after the fall of their third wicket they had won. The fourth wicket realised 74 runs, and when stumps had to be drawn, the home side had made 167 for six. Capital cricket was displayed by A. Dickenson (52 not out), and by J. Sheffield (30), whilst good contributions also were those of Hookenhill (21), and G. Halden (20).



SENTINEL CUP.

SECOND ROUND.

First Two Holders Pass Into the Next Stage.

After some bright and interesting cricket at Newchapel on Monday afternoon Knypersley proved successful in the second round of the "Sentinel" Cup competition, and on present form there are more unlikely things than this cup returning to its first custodian. R. Bates (39) and J. Bibby (48) were the principal scorers in Knypersley's total of 187, both maintaining their recent good form by a really sound display. They made a fine stand for the fifth wicket, after the first four had fallen cheaply, and, going in first wicket down at 20, Bates was eighth out at 175. Amos Baddeley and Amos Lawton bowled well for Newchapel, the latter also playing a nice defensive not-out innings of 55 out of Newchapel's total of 125. For the visitors T. Clewlow and G. Bedson divided the wickets, the former taking five for 30 and the latter four for 39.

Matters were more one-sided at Bignall End than the scores indicate, and Madeley were well beaten. The visitors reached a total of 55, towards which E. Haseldine (16) was the only double-figure scorer. J. Sutton bowled in great form, and took five wickets for 27. Bignall End won with half their wickets in hand, and the final score was 91 for six, G. H. Burgess being top scorer with 42 (not out) to his credit.

Knypersley were the first winners of the cup, and Bignall End defeated them in the second year's final, and as Oldfields, the third holders, have got through the second round, the prospect of a splendid finish is in view.

RESULTS AND SCORES.

BIGNALL END v. MADELEY.

Played at Bignall End. Scores:—

MADELEY.		
B Griffiths run out	.....	6
E Malkin b J Sutton	.....	7
F Beech c J H Mayer b J Sutton	.....	0
Eph. Griffiths b F W Burgess	.....	1
Ernest Griffiths b J Sutton	.....	0
W Rifford b J Sutton	.....	4
H Buckley c A F Nixon b J Sutton	.....	8
E Haseldine b T Burgess	.....	16
H Millington run out	.....	5
J Salmon not out	.....	1
T Watson b T Burgess	.....	0
Extras	.....	8
Total	.....	55
BIGNALL END.		
J Mayer b G Griffiths	.....	8
F Nixon lbw b Buckley	.....	9
F Burgess b Buckley	.....	0
J H Mayer b Malkin	.....	2
J Sutton c Salmon b G Griffiths	.....	6
T Burgess c Eph Griffiths b Ern Griffiths	.....	14
G H Burgess not out	.....	42
A Locket not out	.....	7
Extras	.....	3
Total (6 wkts)	.....	91

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Madeley Innings.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	
J Sutton	8	0	27	5	
F W Burgess	7	1	19	1	
T Burgess	5	0	1	2	
Bignall End Innings.					
E Malkin	11	3	24	1	
W Buckley	7	0	18	2	
G Griffiths	6	1	20	3	
G Salmon	3	0	9	0	
Eph Griffiths	3	0	17	0	
E. Griffiths bowled one wide.					

Bignall End won by four wickets.

NEWCHAPEL v. KNYPERSLEY.

Played at Newchapel. Scores:—

KNYPERSLEY.		
J Lowe c Barber b Cooper	.....	16
E Tunstall c Lawton b Leese	.....	14
E Mosedale c Machin b Leese	.....	1
R Bates b Baddeley	.....	53
A Waller c Heath b Leese	.....	9
J Bibby b Leese	.....	48
J Whiston c Tipping b Cooper	.....	20
S Clewlow b Cooper	.....	0
E Bedson not out	.....	7
G Bedson c and b Baddeley	.....	0
E Round b Cooper	.....	6
Extras	.....	13
Total	.....	187
NEWCHAPEL.		
W Tipping c Mosedale b Clewlow	.....	19
S Leese c and b G Bedson	.....	0
G Cooper c and b G Bedson	.....	13
E Barber b G Bedson	.....	14
A Lawton not out	.....	27
A Baddeley c Bates b Clewlow	.....	12
H Machin c E Bedson b Clewlow	.....	0
J Ash c Bates b Clewlow	.....	0
J Steadman b Clewlow	.....	14
E Adams c G Bedson b E Bedson	.....	0
G Heath c Whiston b E Bedson	.....	9
Extras	.....	15
Total	.....	123

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Knypersley Innings.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	
G Cooper	12.5	3	54	4	
S Leese	14	1	70	4	
J Ash	5	1	20	0	
E Adams	2	0	14	0	
A Baddeley	5	2	15	2	
Newchapel Innings.					
G Bedson	16.1	4	39	4	
E Bedson	12	2	39	1	
S Clewlow	13	5	30	5	

Knypersley won by 64 runs.

PROMINENT LOCAL CRICKETERS.

The Interesting Career of A. H. Beech, Burslem.

(BY "GOOGLE.")

Arthur Harold Beech, who was born 23 years ago, is a player of whom the Burslem Cricket Club are proud, and justly so, too. He is a capital all-round cricketer, and has been brought up in a cricket atmosphere. His father, Mr. Fred Beech, was the originator of the North Staffordshire League, the first cricket league formed in the kingdom—for Mr. Beech was the gentleman who first called a meeting

Mr. Beech wears two medals, one of which he is very proud of—the medal won in the final of the Staffordshire Cup competition in 1908, when Burslem won by 187 against Stafford's 54. In the first round, against Sandford, he won the game with a capital effort of 43 (not out), which turned a threatened loss into a narrow and clever victory. The brothers Fred and Harold Beech were responsible for a fine first wicket stand of 60 against Tunstall in the Cup competition. The subject of our sketch is a medium pace bowler, with an off-break, and his favourite position in the field is third man. He is a really smart fieldsman. This season he is as yet under a cloud, but his 22 for Burslem against Oldfields, in the "Sentinel" Cup Competition, shows promise of a return to form.



[Photo by D. B. Seaman and Co., Douglas.]

at the North Stafford Hotel to organise the league. Along with his brother, Mr. F. W. Beech—who now sports the colours of the Forthill Park Club—and the brothers Albert and Evans Cook, Mr. A. H. Beech was taught the correct game, on a properly-laid pitch, on his father's lawn.

Removing from Norton, where he was born, he came to Cobridge, and whilst at the Earl Granville School, Cobridge, his powers were early discovered, and it was not long before he was placed in the school eleven, where he soon obtained a cap, for being a member of the eleven who won the championship of the boys' league. Many memorable games he took part in at The Grange, Cobridge. When 16 years old he played for Wolstanton, who did remarkably well in a classy junior competition—the Hanley and District League—in which competition he won a runners-up medal. At 18 he was introduced into the Burslem eleven, and he has been prominent for many notable performances with that club. His best effort, he asserts, was his 34 not out at Crewe, when George Price was at his best. In 1906 he first became a regular player with the Burslem premier eleven, and scored a good innings of 38 not out, at Silverdale, and finished with an average of 13.42 per innings. In this, his first year, he was at the top of the Burslem averages until the very last match of the season, at Crewe, where he was dismissed without scoring, and the late Mr. Enoch Hodekiss, getting a capital 68 not out, reached top place, while Albert Hollowood, obtaining 15, became second, with Beech third in the list.

In 1907 he was again third in the batting averages of the Burslem club, Hollowood and Mee only being above him. His best performances during that season with the bat was 58 (not out) against the Leek Highfield eleven, on the Cobridge ground, and he made big scores at Stone and Silverdale. In 1908 he occupied the ninth position, being most unlucky right through the season, with the exception of a very valuable 25 against Fenton and 20 against Tunstall. Last season he spent with the Leek Highfield club, and he was able to boast second position in both the batting and bowling departments. The game between Leek Highfield and Norton, at Leek, was a red-letter day for young Mr. Beech, for he captured four wickets for six runs, and the result went to Leek by the narrowest of margins. He also batted Mee and Capes for one and three-quarter hours for a small score.

# STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER: SATURDAY 16 JULY 1910-2

## MR. S. R. C. BOSANQUET'S TEAM V. STAFFORD.

The annual match between a team selected by Mr. S. R. C. Bosanquet from the barristers of the Oxford Circuit, attending the Staffordshire Assizes, and a Stafford XI., took place in delightful weather on the Town Ground, at The Hough, on Monday afternoon. The barristers batted first and made a good start, Carmichael and Ward knocking up 51 for the first wicket. Both played excellent cricket, and Ward remained at the wicket until the score had reached 101, and was the seventh batsman to leave the field. De Salvo was the only other batsman who reached double figures, but the captain of the side compiled a useful 5 not out. Extras accounted for 14 runs, and the total was 119 all out. Stafford took full advantage of the weak bowling of the barristers. Scott and Miller opened the batting, and when the first wicket fell the score stood at 105. Both batsmen made merry with the bowling, and the visitors' fielding was also loose, many catches being dropped. Of the bowlers tried Bosanquet and Carmichael were the most successful. Besides the two batsmen already mentioned, G. C. Davy (35 not out) and A. J. Ward (20) were among Stafford's chief contributors to the score of 225 for eight wickets. The players and visitors were entertained at tea in the pavilion by Mr. Bosanquet. Scores:—

OXFORD CIRCUIT.		STAFFORD.	
E. G. M. Carmichael, b. Briscoe	33	A. W. Miller, b. Bosanquet	40
H. E. Ward, b. Birch	40	Bosanquet	60
H. V. de Salvo, b. Briscoe	14	A. J. Richards, c. Ward, b. Carmichael	13
F. Fitzgerald, b. Briscoe	9	A. J. Ward, c. Fowler, b. Carmichael	20
S. H. Burns, b. Briscoe	0	F. Elmsnot, b. Carmichael	7
H. F. Sell, run out	2	G. C. Davy, not out	35
F. W. Graham, b. Birch	3	J. Daly, c. and b. Burns	11
R. B. Bakstun, c. Bird, b. Briscoe	1	K. H. Bellis, b. Carmichael	0
B. E. C. Bosanquet, not out	8	A. H. Baine, b. Burns	18
K. E. Fowler, b. Birch	1	F. E. Lloyd, not out	12
C. D. G. Drayton, b. Briscoe	4	Extras	14
Extras	14	Total	225
Total	119	Total	119

## NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

The champions won again on Saturday in handsome fashion, Crewe Alexandra being the victims at Fenton. The visitors fell five short of the century, A. Cope playing a sound innings of 40. Fenton hit up 179 for seven wickets, Gill delighting the spectators with a characteristic display of hitting. He hit with remarkable cleanliness and power, and when the stumps were pulled up was still not out with 103 to his credit, his first century in the North Staffordshire League. Porthill kept on their rivals' heels with a victory over Stone. Again it was the bowling that did it, Stone being troubled out by Barnes (3 for 29) and Birch (3 for 19) for 44. Porthill made 104 for 9 (R. Mawdesley 22, and P. N. Lowndes 20). Silverdale again batted well, declaring against Longton with only 3 wickets down for 188. J. G. Cooper was once more form, contributing 68, and F. H. Wynne was not out 31, and G. Elms not out 27, and Brown made 28. Longton were saved from defeat by E. G. Baxter, the left-hander who appeared a second time for Staffordshire on his return from Australia some three years ago. He carried his bat through for 44, and the score at the finish was 103 for 7. There was an exciting finish at Leek, where Burnson were the victors. By even scoring, Leek put together 127 (G. M. Fenton 22, H. Birch 20), and Burnson just failed to get the runs in time. Sedgewick resorted to a "slip" device to prevent the visitors from winning. "Last over" was called, and when there were still two balls to be bowled Burnson required four runs to win. Sedgewick delivered two wides, so wide as to leave the batsmen impatient, and the match was drawn. Burnson wanting one run, with four wickets to hand, Holtwood made 37, E. Fletcher 26, and J. H. Hodgkiss 27 not out. Norton, at home, declared with seven wickets down for 181 against Leek Elmsdale, and won by exactly 100. Like Gill, Wilson gave a display of fireworks and hit a rousing 103, and followed this up with seven wickets for 37—a sufficiently effective afternoon's work. Stoke gave another abominably poor display, and succumbed in the tamest manner to Turstall. E. J. Johnson (21) was top scorer for Stoke, who were dismissed for 31, and the Turstall batsman then made light of the Stoke bowling, making up 594 for 4 wickets. Sharp played a sterling innings of 74, and J. Broad just reached the half-century. J. Gregory (3 for 36) and W. J. Crump (4 for 32) bowled with plenty of sting for the winning side.

## BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Beautiful weather favoured the League matches on Saturday. Walsall visited Dudley, a drawn game resulting. Dudley scored 240 (W. E. Hatfield not out 81, A. Pereday 60, C. E. Crawford not out 50, J. F. W. Bateman 21) for eight wickets, and then declared. Walsall went in to bat at about six o'clock, and knocked up 130 for four (L. Taylor not out 28, N. P. Elms 49, G. Cozens not out 18) in two hours. West Bromwich Dartmouth easily defeated Smethwick at the Harry Mitchell Park. The home team disposed of Dartmouth for the meagre total of 103 (G. S. Beeche 25, W. Evans not out 25, W. W. Langwell 12), and looked like gaining their first League victory this season. Bland, the Dartmouth pro., with the assistance of Baddley, far only 80 in about as many minutes. The bowling analysis showed that Bland took seven for 34, and five for 38. Mitchell and Baddley were entertained at the home side but up 275 for seven (S. J. Getbin 123, E. R. Hopwell not out 31, W. E. Wilkes 28, H. Tomkinson 12) in two hours and a-half. There was an exciting conclusion to the match, the latter batsman of the brewery team making a big effort to save the game. In this, however, they were unsuccessful, the last man being out on the stroke of time. The score was 161 (A. O. Parsons 25, A. Holloway 21, H. J. Bayley 21, A. J. Baskerville 21, J. F. Stevenson 16). Other matches resulted as follows:—Aston Unity, 161; Moseley 147; Stourbridge, 128; Handsworth Wood, 98.

There were a large number of local matches played on Saturday, and some heavy scores were recorded. Stafford are proving themselves one of the best teams in the county. On Saturday they entertained Tunstall, and gained a substantial victory by 203 for four wickets to 25. For the winners W. H. Twigg hit up the creditable total of 104, while A. H. Gilling contributed 89, F. E. Embserton not out 28, and W. W. Easton-Shute 37. F. W. Twigg took six wickets for 21. The principal scores for the losers were W. E. Jones 13, J. H. Furnival 18, J. W. Wright 17. Other local matches resulted as follows:—Stafford II., 134; Dunstall II., 84; Wolverhampton 237 for four (W. Page 65, R. C. Page 63, W. J. Baddows 42, H. D. Stratton 30, W. A. Tomkinson not out 17); Sutton Coldfield 137 (H. Lott 45); Lichfield 130 (C. E. Barnes not out 55, P. Barnes 41, P. Bryant 10); Chester Road 84 for nine (W. Walker 26, E. Cheate not out 23); Newport 283 for seven wickets (A. E. Whittingham 64, T. P. Pritchard 64, Booth 18, A. Lawrence 14); Macclesfield 41 (Bunney 31); Five Wars Old Watnallians 110 for seven (P. Cooke

NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.

FIRST DIVISION.

BURSLEM v. FENTON.

Table with 4 columns (Name, Runs, Wickets, Extras) for Fenton players.

Total (for 8 wkts) .....201
Innings declared.

BURSLEM.

Table with 4 columns for Burslem players.

Total (for 8 wkts) .....111
HOWLING ANALYSIS.

Bowling analysis table with columns for Name, O, M, R, W.

Burslem Innings.

Bowling analysis table for Burslem Innings.

STOKE v. SILVERDALE.

Table with 4 columns for Stoke players.

Total .....79
SILVERDALE.

Table with 4 columns for Silverdale players.

Total .....151
BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Bowling analysis table for Stoke Innings.

Silverdale Innings.

Bowling analysis table for Silverdale Innings.

LONGTON v. NORTON.

Table with 4 columns for Longton players.

Total .....156

Table with 4 columns for Norton players.

Total (for four wkts) .....141
BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Bowling analysis table for Longton Innings.

Bowling analysis table for Norton Innings.

CREWE ALEXANDRA v. PORTHILL.

Table with 4 columns for Porthill Park players.

Total (for three) .....201
Innings declared closed.

CREWE.

Table with 4 columns for Crewe players.

Total (for four wkts) .....162
BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Bowling analysis table for Porthill Innings.

Bowling analysis table for Crewe Alexandra Innings.

TUNSTALL v. STONE.

Table with 4 columns for Tunstall players.

Total (for 7 wkts) .....233
Innings declared.

STONE.

Table with 4 columns for Stone players.

Total .....152
BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Bowling analysis table for Tunstall Innings.

Bowling analysis table for Stone Innings.

LEEK HIGHFIELD v. LEEK.

Table with 4 columns for Leek Highfield players.

Total (for four wks) .....201
Innings declared closed.

Table with 4 columns for Leek players.

Total (for seven wks) .....95
BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Bowling analysis table for Leek Highfield Innings.

Bowling analysis table for Leek Innings.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE LEAGUE.

Division II.

Porthill II, 229; Crewe Alex. 161 for seven. Stoke, 110; Silverdale, 228 for three (declared). Tunstall, 70; Oldfields, 124. Burslem, 129; Fenton, 125. Chell, 190; Knyppersley, 194 for nine.

N.S. COMBINATION.

Newchapel, 120; Leycey, 102. Knyppersley II, 149; Sandford, 138. Bignall End II., 133 for 7 (declared); Woodland Pottery, 70. Leycey II., 57; Chell II., 58.

CHURNET VALLEY LEAGUE.

Rochester, 174; Caverswall, 78 for two. Uttoxeter, 158; Denstone, 41. Cheadle, 62; Tean, 61. Leek II., 106; Leek Highfield II., 83.

UTTOXETER AND BLYTHE BRIDGE LEAGUE.

Florence, 66; Woodhead, 40. Oldfields, 96; Meir, 49.

LEEK LEAGUE.

Leek Broughs, 104 for five; Liberal Club, 43.

FRIENDLIES.

Trent Vale, 154 for 5; Porthill "B", 69. Bostock's, 92; Sandon, 43. Tunstall King-street Wesleyans, 85 for five; Crewe Earl-street Wesleyans, 69. Dithorne, 15; Kingsley, 46. Walton, 28; St. Mary's Institute, 93. Chesterton Wesleyans, 54; Bedford S.S., 45. Sandbach, 111; Northwich, 201. Fenton "A.", 38; Swynnerton, 31. Sandon, 38; Doxey, 18. Gnosil, 28; Stafford Institute, 58. Clarence-street Old Boys, 99; Hanley Wesleyans, 41. Alsagers Bank, 65; Onneley, 44. Woodland Pottery, 51; Barratt's Tile Works, 31. North Rede, 57; Congleton, 66. Goldenhill St. John's, 35 for five; Goldenhill Wesleyans, 53. Northwich II., 190 for nine; Sandbach II., 99. Stafford, 115; Crewe Permanent Way, 201 for six. Nantwich, 123; Winsford, 51. Nantwich, 132; Congleton, 148 for six.

WORCESTERSHIRE GENTLEMEN V. STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

This two days' match was concluded on the County Ground at Worcester on Tuesday, and provided an exciting finish, the visitors winning by 2 runs. Scores:—

WORCESTERSHIRE GENTLEMEN		STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN	
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.	1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
E. C. Rogers, c. Fulton, b. Jewell 12	c. Taylor, b. Watkinson 6	J. H. Russell, l.b.w. b. Taylor 5	b. Jewell 38
A. C. Finnis, c. Williams, b. Jewell 16	c. and b. Crowe 18	S. H. Thompson, c. and b. Thomas 0	c. Hayward, b. Taylor 27
H. A. Page, b. Crowe 20	c. Jewell, b. Thompson 18	K. Denison, c. Jewell, b. Watkinson 78	b. Hayward 18
G. H. W. Mortimer, b. Thomas 18	b. Taylor 6	W. H. Woodcock, b. Thomas 16	b. Hayward 1
L. Dashwood, c. and b. Taylor 23	st. Fulton, b. Taylor 0	The Rev. R. A. Wilson, b. Hayward 9	not out 4
K. Boyle, not out 10	b. Taylor 6	Extras 10	Extras 5
Total 211	Total 186		

WORCESTERSHIRE GENTLEMEN		STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN	
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.	1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
F. A. W. How, c. Dashwood, b. Page 2	b. Woodcock 27	J. E. Jewell, c. Rogers, b. Page 17	b. Page 78
A. L. Thomas, c. Mortimer, b. Page 9	not out 20	G. H. Simpson, Hayward, st. Boyle, b. Page 43	c. Boyle, b. Finnis 1
G. L. Crowe, b. Page 3	c. Boyle, b. Page 1	G. L. Crowe, b. Page 36	c. Mortimer, b. Woodcock 27
A. W. Isaac, b. Finnis 3	c. Wilson, b. Woodcock 7	G. Croker Fox, b. Finnis 1	run out 1
A. Watkinson, not out 8	b. Woodcock 17	Extras 5	Extras 7
Total 157	Total 235		

MARKET DRAYTON V. GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

The final game of the Market Drayton Cricket Festival was completed on Saturday evening. After an interesting match, the home eleven beat the visitors, the Gentlemen of Staffordshire, by seven wickets. Scores:—

MARKET DRAYTON		GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE	
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.	1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
U. E. de Trafford, c. Bagnall, b. Boddowns 47	not out 48	A. A. P. Wilson, c. Sutthery, b. Bagnall 7	
A. F. Wharston, b. Bagnall 4		D. C. Collins, c. Stratton, b. Gilling 41	not out 6
I. W. Bridges, b. Sutthery 26		R. Chester Constable, b. Gilling 23	
H. W. Sparrow, b. Gilling 23		F. V. Kaylor, l.b.w. b. Sutthery 13	b. Gilling 4
The Rev. R. P. Eames, not out 13		J. A. E. Dyma, b. Sutthery 7	c. Woodcock, b. Boddowns 6
H. Johnson, c. Boddowns, b. Sutthery 8		Extras 28	Extras 14
Total 266	Total (8 wks.) 76		

GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE		MARKET DRAYTON	
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.	1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
F. J. Boddowns, b. Bridges 2	c. and b. Bridges 14	J. Gilling, c. Bridges, b. Eames 25	b. Constable 0
K. D. Stratton, l.b.w. b. Collins 47	b. Collins 32	W. H. Woodcock, b. Constable 5	b. Collins 0
M. C. Rogers, c. Johnson, b. Eames 0		E. E. Eames, c. Johnson, b. Eames 0	
L. Dashwood, b. Constable 7	run out 7	F. B. Woodcock, c. Collins, b. Constable 4	b. Collins 0
A. M. Sutthery, c. de Trafford, b. Bridges 22	c. Eames, b. Bridges 18	The Rev. W. Salt, b. Bridges 11	b. Collins 7
N. Mowbray, b. Bridges 0	b. Constable 6	R. G. Bagnall, not out 29	not out 45
Extras 16	Extras 16		
Total 151	Total 184		

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

In this League, the game at Cape Hill between Mitchell and Butlers and Aston Unity was for the benefit of the Jewellery Club's professional, Feraday. The home side batted splendidly and ran up the huge total of 281 (J. P. Stephenson 121, Feraday not out 100, W. S. Smith not out 43, H. G. Powell 22). When stumps were drawn the Unity had lost eight of their batsmen for 130 runs (S. Richardson not out 87, J. Devey 48). The match between Walsall and Kidderminster, which had been the one selected by Brammer, the Walsall professional, for his benefit, fell upon a fine day. Brammer consequently should be financially fortunate, but it so happened that he met with a bad accident during the match. The last deliveries of Skevington, the Kidderminster professional, got up dangerous, and Brammer was hit on the head and had to receive medical attention. Walsall compiled 210 for six (J. C. Eaton 80, N. P. Hewson 44, A. E. Hurst 47, Brammer 23, G. H. Cozens not out 23, L. F. Taylor 21). Six minutes remained when Kidderminster's last man went to the wicket, but this effected a drawn game, their score being 158 (W. H. Wilkes 39, E. J. Gore 35, S. J. Giffin 31, J. Barber not out 21). For Walsall, A. J. Burgess took five wickets for 47, and W. Pearman felled Dudley and once again succeeded twice. The home side only scored 118 (H. E. Mitchell 32, H. Sandhams not out 27), and Dudley replied with 16 (W. Ewe 11, T. Parsons not out 23, Grimshaw 30, W. E. Hatfield 28). In the other two League matches the scores were as follow:—Moorley, 29, for six; Handsworth Wood, 213; Smethwick, 216 for nine; Stourbridge, 136 for seven.

**NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.**

(NOTES BY "INCOGNITUS.")  
FIRST DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Fenton	15	7	2	6	70
Norton	14	6	1	7	39
Porthill Park	14	7	2	5	17
Burslem	15	4	2	9	17
Silverdale	15	4	3	8	16
Crewe Alexandra	14	4	3	7	15
Longton	15	4	4	7	15
Leek Highfield	15	3	4	8	14
Tunstall	16	4	7	5	13
Leek	14	1	4	9	11
Stoke	15	1	7	7	9
Stone	14	1	7	6	8

SECOND DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Oldfields	13	9	0	3	21
Knypersley	13	6	2	5	19
Crewe Alexandra II	13	5	3	5	15
Burslem II	13	4	3	6	14
Norton II	13	4	3	6	14
Porthill Park II	13	4	3	6	14
Great Chell	13	4	4	5	13
Silverdale II	12	4	4	4	11
Fenton II	13	3	5	5	11
Longton II	13	1	7	5	8
Stoke II	13	1	8	4	6
Tunstall II	13	1	8	4	6

With conditions greatly in favour of batsmen plenty of runs were forthcoming in last Saturday's games, and five of the dozen matches were left drawn. Four of these undecided bouts occurred amongst the seniors, and it was rather singular, though neither unexpected nor unfitting, that the two losers were the clubs occupying the two bottom positions. There was more finality about Second Division encounters, for only one was undecided, and even in this seventeen wickets fell. The First Division leaders were expected to be severely tried at Cobridge, but they held a big advantage when the game terminated, and had the declaration been put in force a little earlier they would probably have won. Captain England, however, appears to have entertained an exaggerated respect for the hitting powers of the home men, who only had some ninety minutes in which to bat, and no idea of going for the runs was entertained. P. W. Bagguley (69) and Gill (39) had a stand for Fenton's third wicket, which produced 75 runs, and H. Hawley (30 not out) had some compensation for a period of indifferent luck. George Deyes again showed his predilection for Fenton wickets by upsetting five of them for 55 runs, and the balls which accounted for E. H. Bourne and H. England were real triumphs. Most of the Burslem players were "all at sea" with Bourne's slows, and his five wickets cost him but 29 chalks. A leading event of the afternoon was the marvellous catch by which England disposed of the opposition captain. For a match of this calibre the number of extras (56) was abnormal. Something approaching a scene took place at Longton, and it was quite on the cards that there would be no game. Apparently, someone was responsible for an error of judgment, for it was pretty clear that the watering can had been too freely requisitioned. But the fact that fourteen wickets produced but three runs short of 300 is a telling argument in favour of Longton's contention that the pitch was a proper one. For some reason or other the visitors allowed Longton to have first knock, and as A. Bradbury, E. G. Baxter, and A. Smith all reached the thirties and J. J. Awty and Trees got into doubles, their score was a respectable one. Longton had just a chance when Norton's four wickets fell at 70, but E. Tatton (39) and T. Skellam (36) went on till time was called, and more than doubled the score. Another meeting of leading clubs took place at Crewe, and on a perfect wicket bowlers had a trying experience, for 362 runs were scored for the loss of seven batsmen, and one of these was run out. The two Leek clubs had the second of their annual flutters, and though the match was drawn Highfield clearly demonstrated that they are a stinger all-round lot than their neighbours. Undoubtedly the prime thing of the game was the batting of Arthur Rider, who only by a couple of runs missed the distinction that appertains to a centurion. As is well known, Rider in form can provide a real batting treat, and on this occasion he was at his best. When Leek batted they had only a draw to hope for, and thanks to Sedgwick and F. Walker this was accomplished. The professional was responsible for a capital 48, and the amateur (21 not out) kept up his end when failure would have spelt disaster, for none of the other men could stand before Ricketon and "Jerry" Pace. The last-named got five wickets cheaply, having a commendable abettor in J. Wilkinson, whose dexterity gave the bowler three of his victims. A year or two back the present Highfield captain was held to be a coming County man, and this season has found him in excellent fettle. Stoke continue to be the despair of their friends, and not often has a club had more cause to bewail the simultaneous lack of success of so many serviceable cricketers. Last Saturday the Silverdale Brown gave them a

mighty shock by dismissing P. Briggs and W. D. Kirkby with but seven runs recorded, and the side had no recuperative power with which to get over these disasters. The visitors found but one change of bowling necessary, for when H. Cooper joined Brown in the attack the pair went steadily through the opposition. Brown had half the wickets for 36 runs, and Cooper four for ten less. The twain afterwards settled Stoke's fate by running up 47 for Silverdale's first wicket, and the visitors earned the points with eight wickets standing. Not much fault could be found with the bowling of Butler and E. J. Johnson, for they had five for 38 and four for 47 respectively. On a good wicket there is not much chance of dismissing a self-respecting First Division team for less than 79. With J. Gregory—the bowler—recently exceeding the most sanguine notions, W. J. Crump continually exhibiting himself as a dependable all-rounder, Sharp almost invariably obtaining commanding scores, and other members of the side chipping in with useful efforts, Tunstall have developed into a dangerous team, and expectations were realised when they soundly trounced the Stone eleven. Their first wicket fell at 16, and the remainder of the innings represented continued progress, and at a quick rate, too, for they averaged almost two and a half runs per minute. Sharp's quota of 75 was the outcome of faultless batting, and there were seven double-figure scores. W. J. Crump and Gregory made their marks with 39 and 33 respectively, and Captain H. Hopkins furnished the fireworks with 51, and finished undefeated. P. C. Dutton (48) and C. H. Pries (54) made a courageous reply when they added 88 notches for Stone's second wicket, but after they had both fallen to Gregory the batting lapsed into mediocrity, and Tunstall's general superiority deservedly came to its own. Gregory had seven wickets for 40 runs, which in all the circumstances was a magnificent achievement. A really good judge of the game, and one who is a veteran at the sport, characterised the Crewe wicket as being too good for Saturday afternoon cricket, and the happenings of the Alexandra's match with Porthill supported his idea. Porthill had the luck of the loss, and J. Poole and Barnes foreshadowed what was to follow by running up 52 runs for the first partnership, of which Poole (28) claimed the biggest share. J. Dickenson only allowed five extras in the whole innings. Afterwards Barnes was the predominant partner, for P. N. Lowndes had to be content with just a score of the next 82, and though W. H. Wood is a punishing batsman his share of the 69 obtained for the third wicket was a modest 18. Save for one chance when in the fifties the All-England player was always master, and it is questionable if he has ever played a finer innings than this 129, not out. The freedom with which he scored all round the wicket was a revelation to people who had thought his strokes were strictly limited, and the ball rarely left the carpet. As Barnes was guilty of getting 103 not out, when the two clubs met at Woistanton he has set up a record against the Alexandra, and there is reason to think his double performance is a league record also. The match commenced at 2.37, and as Porthill declared at 4.45, they left their opponents with more time to bat than they allowed themselves. This was a good declaration, and it caused real interest in the game up to about the last ten minutes. The score shows that the Crewe bowlers sent down 44 overs, and the visiting bowlers one more, and incidentally, proves that the charges—vociferous and mutinous, according to class—levelled at the Porthill men of being guilty of time wasting were quite unjustified, and it should be borne in mind that whilst getting their last forty-five runs the Alexandra had a left and a right-handed batsman in possession. Porthill's prospects of getting the ground side out in the time were considerably damaged by Barnes being too fatigued—after his long innings—to start the bowling, and fifty was reached ere he had a turn, what time the batsman had got a good sight of the ball. No Porthill man would begrudge the professional his batting triumph, but methinks they have more regard for his potency as a bowler than his prowess as a run-getter. That as an aside, with the Alexandra engaged in an uphill game it was fitting and fortunate that they had two stalwart oldsters, Edgar Osborn and Charles Gresty in the van, and the pair quickly proved that the art of scoring was not confined to one team. The captain played a brilliant innings, his hits to leg being executed in the old-time way, and his cutting was safe and telling. He was so master of the situation as to appear bound to be the second centurion of the match when Baxley got at his off stump with one of the very few balls of the afternoon that kept low. When the skipper departed the score had progressed to 118, and the Alexandra's safety was practically established. Gresty stayed on whilst a further 45 chalks were collected before falling to a smart catch by J. S. Heath, and though he had luck—there were those on both sides to say he was bowled at a very early stage—his 38 was a highly useful effort. Frank White managed (somehow) to contribute 21 to the total, but Arthur Cope had no such luck, and his "egg" was a very anamic one, for one ball from Barnes sufficed. The crack bowler sent up 16 overs for 34 runs and two wickets, and with a less clever exponent to make one end good, Crewe would probably

have knocked off the runs, but it seemed that Porthill might have made more changes at the other end. The match attracted the biggest crowd of the season, most of whom were there to see the famous professional, and, whilst his work had appreciation, there was huge delight at the Alexandra's disputation of his superiority.

**SILVERDALE CRICKET AND THE SILVERDALE COMPANY.**

(To the Editor of the "Staffordshire Sentinel.")

SIR,—I acknowledge with much gratitude the very kind remarks of your cricket correspondent in last Saturday's "Sentinel," but, while I am quite prepared to take all the credit he gives me for being a lover of the game, I feel I ought to explain that the help given by the Silverdale Company, in improving the ground, is merely part of the policy of the directors of that company, and when I add that two of those directors are Mr. Ralph Sneyd and his brother-in-law, Mr. Mowbray Howard, it will be seen at once by the older generation that I am not the only cricket lover on the board.

The extended and improved ground is no doubt a boon to Silverdale, but to really appreciate this your correspondent should pay us a visit on an ordinary midweek evening. He would then see various forms of the "manly toil" and any amount of it; incidentally, he would also see "Brown's Nursery" in active operation, which is going to land us at the top of the league before very long.

One word more. The Silverdale Company would not have given their help so readily were they not encouraged to do so by the co-operation of the club. I believe that almost every member took his turn in the heavy navy work during the winter months, the one exception, I am ashamed to say, being yours, &c.,

JOHN S. SCOTT.  
Keele, Newcastle, Staffs.

**NORTH STAFFS COMBINATION**

FIRST DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Madeley	12	9	1	2	20
Sandyford	14	5	4	5	15
Awley	11	4	3	4	12
Leyceit	12	5	5	2	12
Knypersley II	11	4	4	3	11
Porthill	12	2	5	5	9
Blenall End	9	2	3	4	8
Newchapel	9	3	4	2	8
Hall Green	12	2	7	3	7

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Knypersley, 139; Sandyford, 153.  
Newchapel, 120; Leyceit, 102.  
Madeley, 120; Hall Green, 56.

Knypersley gained one of the cleverest victories on Saturday last. In having to face a total of 139, they seemed to be entering upon an impossible task against the Sandyford bowlers, but so well did the first pair of batsmen shape that victory was practically assured before a separation took place. This was due to what must be a record partnership of 120 runs by J. Lowe and J. Whiston, who with contributions of 49 and 56 respectively covered themselves with glory and kept two useful points at Knypersley. Strange to say, the Sandyford bowlers afterwards asserted themselves to such effect that the whole side were out for 149, but that is only giving additional lustre to the efforts of Whiston and Lowe. T. Clewlow bowled exceptionally well for Knypersley, much better than four wickets for 19 runs would suggest, seeing that he sent down 17½ overs. The batting of Sandyford was more consistent than that of the home team, G. Bourne leading the way with 38, whilst most of the others also subscribed useful scores.

Another clever game was that witnessed between Newchapel and Leyceit, and the latter did very well to get to within 18 of their opponents' total of 120. It was a game brimful of excitement, and Newchapel deservedly won. Each side contained innings of merit. For the winners, J. Steadman led the way with 43, and he was well-supported by four other double figure contributors, and for the losers, J. Edwards was prominent with 33.

Madeley's success at the expense of Hall Green was more pronounced than the above, only two wickets having fallen when the issue had been decided. The most noticeable feature of the game apart from the two innings of Malkin and Eph. Griffiths for 31 and 29 respectively, was the howling of J. Salmon, who in the course of ten overs claimed seven victims for 24 runs. This win gives Madeley such a long lead at the head of the table that they may now be regarded as safe.

**DIVISION II.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Bignall End II.	10	8	2	0	16
Woodland Pottery	10	7	1	2	16
Audley II.	10	6	2	1	13
Sandford II.	11	5	5	1	11
Fitts Hill II.	12	3	6	3	9
Tunstall U.M.	11	3	5	3	9
Chell II.	11	3	6	2	8
Knyperley "A"	9	3	4	2	8
Leycett II.	12	2	8	2	6

**LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.**

Leycett, 59; Chell, 58.  
Bignall End, 133 for seven; Woodland Pottery, 70.

Audley, 123 for seven; Tunstall U.M., 88.  
In this division some capital cricket was also seen. Leycett's win over Chell by one run is just the thing one likes to see.

Woodland lost their first match this season at Bignall End, and the result now places these teams on level pegging. Bignall End were strongly represented. E. Rowley's 52 not out and five wickets for no runs by T. Burgess for the winners were the tit-bits of the match.

Tunstall were overplayed by Audley, for whom A. Dean was in splendid form with the bat with a well-played not out innings of 61; also H. Hancock with 36 to his credit, whilst the bowling honours were carried away by H. Timmis, who took eight wickets for 45.

**CHURNET VALLEY LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Rocaster	11	7	0	4	18
Caverswall	12	7	2	2	16
Oakmoor	11	7	3	1	15
Leek Highfield II.	10	5	2	3	12
Cheadle Town	10	4	4	2	10
Tea	10	4	6	0	8
Leek II.	9	2	5	2	6
Stallington	11	3	6	2	8
Uttoxeter	11	3	6	2	8
Denstone	11	1	9	1	3

Last Saturday's match, Leek II. v. Leek Highfield, is not included in the above table.

All the teams were engaged on Saturday. The weather though threatening for a bad week-end, turned out to be glorious for cricket. The most interesting fixture was between Rocaster and Caverswall, the two leaders in the competition, the match being on the Castle ground. Perhaps many thought the home team would be the first to lower Rocaster's unbeaten record, but Rocaster took a strong team, and were able, chiefly by a grand innings from the bat of Captain Lyn of 111 not out, to save themselves from defeat. The veteran, T. Dwyer, also played a fine innings. Their final score was 175. Caverswall contented themselves with playing for a draw, and were successful. They had scored 78 for the loss of only two wickets. F. Taylor and Brassington playing fine cricket.

Oakmoor returned to their true form against Stallington. The visitors were not able to stand the fine deliveries of F. Walker and Cotton, and all were out for 25. Walker taking six for four, and Collin four for six. The home team commenced with James and Johnson. The latter was out at 20, but not before he had hit one over the Churnet, after this the cricket was very lively, James, Walker, and Alcock playing with great freedom. The former completed his 50, and later Alcock with 68, and Walker 38, the final score was 216.

Uttoxeter scored an easy win over Denstone with a score of 158. There were five double figure innings, Mills being top with 43, closely followed by Cox, who had 35 not out to his credit. Denstone replied with 63. Cockersole and Hogg bowled unchanged.

Cheadle appear to have had a very exciting game with Tea. Batting first, they did badly, losing nine wickets for 41, when W. Salt, by some spirited hitting, pulled the total up to 82. Tea commenced badly, the first three men making ducks. However, S. Johnson and Yates made a good stand, but this was the only profitable partnership, and when the last wicket fell they were one short of victory.

**NORTON.**

(By "COVER POINT.")

A visit to Longton has hitherto invariably been of a most pleasant nature, and it is to be greatly regretted that anything should have happened calculated to mar existing good feeling. Under the circumstances, it appeared strange that the request of the visitors to play the game on another pitch should not have been granted. Norton, winning the toss, sent Longton in to bat. There are many people who question the policy of putting your opponents in first, but the wisdom of this plan for this occasion seemed to receive some confirmation. At all events, Longton occupied the wickets longer than the visitors, and were much slower than usual, with the result that time alone robbed Norton of the victory.

The home side, who took two and a half hours to score 156 runs, must be deemed fortunate to have escaped defeat on this occasion, for the visitors got within 16 runs of victory, losing but four wickets in the process. The success of the Norton professional appeared to have got on the nerves of the Longton batsmen. They had, however, little cause to fear him in this game, for the wicket did not suit him. Three wickets fell to him, but at a cost of 67 runs. J. Malkin is coming to his best form, and he maintained the excellent form which he showed the previous week, again bowling splendidly—capturing three wickets at a cost of 12 runs each. Malkin's bowling can be judged by the fact that out of 16 overs six were maidens. A. Capes tested the patience and ability of the home batsmen, and as he had three wickets for 38 runs his success was well pronounced.

J. Smith, Wilson, and F. Crump all batted well, but it was left to E. Tatton and T. Skellam to defy all the efforts made by the home attack, and both were undefeated when time was called.

The Longton II. visited Norton, and they are not likely to forget in a hurry their experience. Six batsmen failed to score. Even T. O'Brien, who was out to the first ball he received, was amongst the failures. A. Jolly had the greatest share in bringing about this discomfiture of the visitors, for he had the remarkable figures of five wickets for eight runs. Jolly is one of the youngest of the Norton players, and this success should encourage him to continue on the same lines he has followed during the past few weeks. T. Winkle also had five wickets, but his analysis was not so remarkable, 14 runs being hit off his bowling. Still it was excellent—a performance of merit. The home side batted in fine style, Goodwin 46, F. Ruston 45, Evans 33, J. Skellam 24, W. H. Ruston 18, and Jolly 18, being chief scorers to the total of 250.

**SANDBACH.**

TWO TROUNCINGS.

Both the first and the second elevens experienced defeat at the hands of the representatives of Northwich on Saturday.

The first team, at home, were a strong set, but were beaten by nearly a hundred runs. Northwich went in first, and seemed to have no trouble with the bowling, hitting out well and scoring quickly, until a total of 201 was reached. F. W. Bailey, who was the highest scorer with 61, knocked five boundaries out of one over. Good displays were also given by Y. Gaukroger (26), B. N. Doughty (25), R. Miller (22), and F. Johnson (21).

The unusually large crowd of spectators were much disappointed in Sandbach's response. The best performance was that of Norman Hilditch, who went in towards the close. He rapidly made 34 of the total of 111, and certainly put a blemish on the average of Harper whose deliveries he repeatedly slogged out of the ground. H. P. Rigby's contribution was 23, and then came A. Dickenson with 19. Throughout, the home side were apparently very uneasy against the bowling of Harper and F. Johnson, and a feature was the neat fielding of the visitors.

At Northwich the second team lost to an almost similar extent. Northwich compiled 193 for nine, of which 108 came from the first two wickets, as a result, largely, of the batting of P. L. Orme, who made 79. He was followed by Slade with 42, and Minshall with 24. Cooke took four for 27. Sandbach replied with a total of 101, W. Booth (25), and J. Prophet (19), being the highest contributors.

Sandbach made their best score of the season on Friday, when, for nine wickets, they totalled 273, against Mr. T. Shepherd's eleven, who made only 93. Fine cricket was shown by A. Dickenson (79), J. W. Hilditch (43), and F. C. Hilditch (40 not out). H. Ferrand took five for 47, and T. A. Hilditch four for 34.

**NANTWICH.**

LOSE AT CONGLETON.

Following their indifferent display the previous week against Sandbach, Nantwich made a very creditable show at Congleton on Saturday, when they put together 132. This, however, was not sufficient to stave off defeat,

as the home side went sixteen better with only six wickets down, thus scoring an easy victory in the end. The visiting eleven were at a disadvantage through the enforced absence of three of their regular playing members, in the Rev. Corfield, G. A. Hinde, and H. Green, the latter meeting with what was thought at the time a serious injury, but happily he is making a speedy recovery.

Taking first knock the visitors commenced with J. H. Marbury and C. E. Jacobs. The start was anything but promising, as three good wickets fell for twenty-six runs. P. Ball (16), and B. Hope (12) were the only batsmen to give Jacobs any assistance. That player stayed on until he had amassed 66, when he was adjudged lby.

Congleton replied with 148, thanks to a fine display by Brady, the old custodian, who seems equally at home wielding the willow, or guarding the breach in goal. His innings resulted in 64. S. J. Forster (37), and F. W. Norris (23), helped to pave the way to victory for their side, who won as already stated with four wickets in hand.

At home, the second eleven entertained Winsford and gained an easy victory over their opponents. N. Hinde played a fine innings for 47 without the semblance of a chance. W. Blud (24), and F. Griffiths (11), also rendered valuable assistance, the total eventually reaching 123. In response to this, J. Chesters and B. Andrews were the only batsmen able to stand up against the deadly bowling of Ford and Croft, the latter obtaining four wickets for seven runs. The whole side was dismissed for fifty-one runs.

On Monday next, teams in the knock-out competition, representing St. Mary's and the Liberal Club, meet in the semi-final. The winner will meet Hardings Employees in the final at a date to be fixed.

**KNOCK-OUT CRICKET.**

**Second Round Complete.**

The last match in the second round series of the Longton competition took place last Monday, when Sandford Hill Primitives were opposed by Longton Zion. The Primitives, batting first, ran up a fairly decent score, viz., 87, of which J. Sutton was responsible for 35. He carried his bat right through the innings, and generally gave a good exhibition in doing so. The third wicket fell at 38, but with only 48 registered four other willow-wielders left. The last pair put on an additional ten runs. The Zion commenced in good style, the first wicket falling with almost half the runs obtained. G. Bradbury was the principal run-getter, he hitting out vigorously, and when he left at 63, with 39 to his account, only five runs were required for victory. With Simpkin and Brown associated, the winning hit was made by the former with still 17 minutes left for play, and in the time at their disposal afterwards runs were obtained quickly, time being called with 111 runs on for the loss of only eight wickets. J. Sutton was also the principal player for Sandford Hill in the attack, for he obtained five wickets at the small cost of 24 runs.

The first of the two semi-finals in the Longton Competition took place on Thursday, the opposing teams being Longton Zion and Melr Institute. The Zion had first use of the wicket, and were all dismissed for 76. The start was anything but promising, three wickets being down for nine runs, but with E. Tams and Mansell in partnership the score was taken to 30 for the fourth wicket. F. Jones hit out vigorously, making 16 in the over of A. Donkin, and when he left seventh man the score had reached 75. The next three batsmen only made a single between them, Hassall (who had the excellent average of six wickets for 12 runs) accounting for them. The Melr in their venture lost Donkin at six, and H. Tinsley was hit. However, with H. Hassall and Smith together, a series of mishaps on the field from the Longton point of view, inasmuch that both batsmen were missed being caught frequently, enabled the score to reach 38 for the third wicket. W. Webb was the only other batsman to obtain double figures, being not out at the close. When the last wicket fell it only wanted a couple of minutes to time, and the best side won deservedly.

Owing to the breakdown of the weather, the second round of the Crowe Competition has been prolonged through rain. As a consequence only one match has been played during the present week. In this engagement the representatives of the New Fitting Shop showed superior skill, and finally won in very easy fashion by 34 runs and several wickets to spare.

The following is the result of the draw for the third round:—

- General Offices or Newsagents v. North Steam Shed or Signal Department.
- Fitting Shop, S.W., v. Electric Shop.
- Teachers v. Copper Shop.
- St. John's Club v. No. 1 Erecting Shop.

**HOSPITAL EFFORT AT KIDSGROVE.**

A cricket knock-out competition at Kidsgrove in aid of the local hospital fund promises to be a great success. Twenty teams have entered, and four games have been played, great interest being taken in the matches. Each team consists of eight players, one of whom may have played in organized cricket during the present season. On Tuesday the Builders were opposed by the Brick Bank, and a very exciting struggle took place. Batting first, the Brick Bank scored 64, of which total F. Parker made 15 and T. Smith 12. The Builders came within eight of their opponents' score with only three wickets down, but the subsequent batsmen were easily disposed of, the Brick Bank winning an exciting game by two runs. W. Hancock carried his bat through for 25, and E. Major contributed 23.

PROMINENT LOCAL CRICKETERS.

JOHN SMITH, NORTON.

Oldest Playing Member: Several Past Performances.

(By "COVER-POINT.")

John Smith, the respected captain of Norton Cricket Club, is the oldest playing member of the team. When only 16 years of age he assisted them against Silverdale in the days when Lightfoot and Calkin were at their prime. Smith has therefore a very lively recollection of the game. He comes of a family of cricketers, and his brother, well known as Tim Smith, also assisted the Norton club for many years.

Smith has always been looked upon as a batsman, and frequently has he carried off the premier prize for the best batting average for his club. His sole ambition has always been the success of the Norton Cricket Club, and a



more loyal member of the team would be hard to find. He has played consistently for several seasons, and his repeatedly good performances have gained for him a high reputation.

No matter what position Smith occupies in the field, he fills it with distinction, and by his quick, smart, and safe manner he gives confidence to all his fellow players. As a batsman he has many good performances to his credit, having frequently scored 20, 30, 40, and 50. His highest scores are: 85 against Stone, at Norton; 70 (not out) against Fenton; 62 (not out) against Stoke; and 54 (not out) against Burslem. Against Stone he has also scored a 53 and 55; and in a match at Fenton he scored 45 and captured four wickets for 27 runs. Against Porthill this season he has scored 98 runs. He now captains Norton club, and his selection to the position has afforded his club mates every satisfaction.

MID-WEEK CRICKET.

MR. H. J. PLANT'S XI. v. DR. J. F. FERNIE'S XI.

ANTHONY'S BENEFIT.

DR. FERNIE'S SIDE.

A Hollowood run out	5
E J Johnson b Trees	7
Wilson (G.) b Trees	18
Rev H E Hubbard b Trees	5
E R Woodcock b J J Awty	2
A F Fernie b J J Awty	4
S G Scott b Awty	16
Butler (J) c Chapman b Trees	1
E H Price not out	20
C H Fernie b Awty	1
J F Fernie c Awty b F W Dagguley	10
Extras	10
Total	95

MR. H. J. PLANT'S TEAM.

E G Baxter c Hollowood b Wilson	7
H England b E J Johnson	21
W D Kirkby b Wilson	2
F M Grose c Scott b A F Fernie	24
P Dagguley c E J Johnson b Woodcock	9
A Horne c J F Fernie b A F Fernie	15
J J Awty b A F Fernie	0
H E Plant run out	0
Trees (W P) not out	8
A Chapman b A F Fernie	0
J Griffiths lbw b A F Fernie	14
Extras	50
Total	125

RESULTS AND SCORES.

LONGTON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

(SECOND ROUND).

SANDFORD HILL PRIMITIVES v. LONGTON ZION.

Played on Monday. Scores:— Sandford Hill.—J Myatt c Brown b Bell 7, J Sutton not out 33, H Myatt run out 0, H Bridgett c and b Colclough 7, A Cumberlidge run out 4, G Burton c Simpkin b Bell 0, W Sutton c Bell b Lockett 0, J Mycock lbw b Lockett 0, W Johnson c Colclough b Bell 7, A Dale b Bell 0, S Hill run out 3, extras 4; total 67.

Longton Zion.—G Bradbury b Hill 39, A Simpkin b J Sutton 8, C Colclough b Bridgett 3, F Jones c Mycock b J Sutton 4, H Brown b Hill 9, S Simpkin b J Sutton 12, F Tams not out 29, A Lockett b J Sutton 2, I Follows b J Sutton 4, J Bell not out 0, extras 6 total (8 wks) 111.

LONGTON ZION v. MEIR INSTITUTE.

(Semi-Final).

Played on Thursday. Scores:—

Longton Zion.—G Bradbury run out 3, A Simpkin b Tinsley 1, C Colclough c A Donkin b Murray 1, E Tams b Hassall 11, R Mansell b Hassall 11, F Jones c Hassall b Tinsley 30, S Simpkin b Hassall 2, H Brown b Hassall 4, I Follows b Hassall 0, A Lockett b Hassall 0, J Bell not out 1, extras 8; total 76.

Meir Institute.—S Smith b Bell 14, A Donkin run out 3, H Tinsley c Follows b Bradbury 5, C Hassall run out 23, J Poole lbw b Mansell 0, G Skelhorne c Mansell b Bell 2, W Webb not out 10, G Murray run out 1, J Millington c Tams b Mansell 0, H Bradbury b Mansell 0, G Donkin b Bell 1, extras 3; total 63.

CREWE ALEX. KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

A match was fixed up between the representatives of the Signal and Telegraph Department and the North Steam Shed at short notice on Thursday evening. The Signal and Telegraph Department cut a very sorry figure, as their unbed offcuts only realised 7 runs. The bowling of Austin, who took five wickets for two runs, and Hill, four for four, was the greatest feature of the match. For the Shed Men Austin also contributed 55 runs not out. Scores:—

North Steam Shed.—R Bates b Goodman 15, R Fenna c and b Bell 10, F White b Goodman 0, A Reeve b Goodman 1, W Austin not out 53, H Clarke run out 4, J Simpson c J Marsden b Goodman 10, T James b Smith 0, W Clewes not out 14, extras 12; total (7 wks) 117.

Signal and Telegraph Department.—H Langford run out 0, H Marsden b Austin 1, C M Hitchcock c White b Hill 3, P Bell c Bates b Hill 0, J Marsden c Jones b Austin 0, A Stevens b Austin 1, F Grundy b Hill 0, B Robinson c Simpson b Austin 0, J Smith b Austin 1, G Goodman b Hill 0, A J S Clarke not out 0, extras 1; total 7.

NEW FITTING SHOP v. STEEL FOUNDRY.

New Fitting Shop.—G Henshall c Rowlands b Cartwright 10, W Lockett b Cartwright 44, Webb c Evans b Clarke 0, G Barlow c Evans b Owen 21, A Harrison not out 18, J Hough c Owen b Cartwright 0, J Foster c Clarke b Owen 7, S Foxley not out 1, extras 22; total (6 wks) 123.

Steel Foundry.—W Clarke b Henshall 0, G Cartwright b Webb 0, H Evans b Webb 2, A Faulkner b Henshall 8, C Smith b Webb 95, J Collins run out 0, E Rowlands c Barnett b Lockett 0, T Owen b Webb 2, W Barkley not out 6, J Broomhall c Lockett b Henshall 0, extras 15; total (9 wks) 89. W Wheeler did not bat.

UTTOXETER, BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Oakamoor	10	8	0	2	18
Checkley	11	8	2	3	15
Oldfields	9	7	1	1	15
Florence	9	6	2	1	15
Meir	4	3	1	0	12
Caverswall	11	3	4	4	8
Uttoxeter	11	4	7	0	8
Cheadle	10	2	7	1	5
Woodhead	12	1	8	3	5
Hollington	10	1	8	1	3

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Oakamoor, 139; Hollington, 19.

Oldfields, 98; Meir, 49.

Florence, 66; Woodhead, 40.

Uttoxeter, 53; Checkley, 81.

Oakamoor made no mistake in their fixture with Hollington, for after putting together a total of 139, Woodward and Bottom dismissed the Hollington eleven for the paltry score of 19. Woodward had four wickets for four runs and Bottom five for eight. W. Alkins scored 43 by vigorous cricket, and was well supported by Gilbert (24) and G. Woodward (14).

Oldfields are the first team to take two points away from the Meir ground this season. Batting first, they compiled 96, in which were included 20 extras. The home side's innings fell short by 47. The feature of the game was the excellent bowling of Barnett and Cytchley for their respective sides, the former taking seven wickets for 37 and the latter seven for 28.

Woodhead put up a good show against Florence, but had to acknowledge defeat by 28 runs. Scoring was low, Travers's 18 being top score in the match. Toft came out with the best figures with the ball, his six wickets being obtained for 19 runs.

Checkley have not lost a match since May 14th, and a continuance of their present form will leave them in the running for the championship. Uttoxeter set them to get 64 to win on Saturday, and these were obtained for the loss of four wickets, and the innings eventually closed for 81. Richardson contributed 28 and D. Howe 19.

### PROMINENT LOCAL CRICKETERS.

#### H. E. Bourne : A Knypersley Star.

Herbert Edgar Bourne is a Fenton Bourne, the third of the family to write his name indelibly in the annals of local cricket. Bred, born, and reared in Fenton, he learned his cricket in a good school, with his brothers Jim and Ted as instructors in chief. When but a lad it was quite easy to detect the county man in embryo in the precocious youngster who would go for the bowling "baldheaded" and still does so, although bitter experience has doubtless ere this somewhat chastened his impetuosity. The remarkable successes of his family on the cricket field are often commented upon, and many are the suggested explanations, but it seems to me that the only rational one is to be found in the wonderful fondness each had for the game. Almost from the moment when they learned to toddle, they were to be seen hanging round the Fenton ground during practice in the hopes of fielding a stray ball or being sent into the seventh heaven when a tired bowler allowed them to toss a few up.

Bert Bourne found a place in the Fenton second string at the age of 17, and his first season was distinguished by a grand innings of 75 not out against Silverdale II, when four of the best of his comrades had gone for a paltry 11 runs. In the following year, against

In face and figure he bears a striking resemblance to his late brother Jim, and forcibly reminds one of the latter when at the wickets. Possessed of extremely flexible wrists, he is a delightful batsman to watch, using his feet very cleverly, and is quite a rapid scorer. He collects runs all round the wicket with equal facility, and the power he gets into his drive is amazing. As a boy he used to bowl a passable ball, but has wisely neglected this side of the game and thrown himself heart and soul into batting, although I believe, when occasion demands it, he bowls a few up, and sometimes captures a "rabbit." Keen and alert in the field, and the happy possessor of a safe pair of hands, it will be readily surmised that he has every attribute of the successful cricketer, from whom the best is yet to come.



Burslem II, he and Percy Bagguley made what I believe is the record first wicket stand for second division cricket—165 before being parted—of which our man got 69 not out, and supplemented this in the same season with consecutive scores of 65, 54, and 59.

To the general regret of Fenton people, the next summer saw him in the Knypersley XI, the offer of a lucrative position having tempted him to forsake his native heath and join the little colony of Fentonians who have found work of a more profitable nature in the neighbourhood of Biddulph, and have done much towards the building up of the Knypersley club. His first season with the club of his adoption was eminently successful, for he collected 612 runs, a record for Division II, at the time, but since beaten by J. W. Johnson, of Oldfields. He took 102 not out from the Silverdale bowlers—for whom he evidently has a special fondness—thereby winning a "Sentinel" bat, 88 not out against Tunstall, and 31 at the expense of the Porthill trundlers. He and E. Tunstall made 155 for the first wicket at Crewo, Bourne's share being 85 not out, and of course he was one of the main spokes in Knypersley's championship year. Only a week or two back he was responsible for a grand 114 against a strong Stoke side, and has since played his first match for his county against Cheshire at Birkenhead. As he got but one run his initial appearance can scarcely be written down as successful, but experts predict a brilliant future for this talented youngster, who has only just reached manhood.



BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

An exciting finish was witnessed at the Trinity-road ground on Saturday in the above tournament, when Aston Unity were opposed by Walsall. Walsall, batting first, compiled the comparatively small total of 150 (N. P. Howson 47, Brammer 33, W. Preston 23, A. Z. Runc 15, G. H. Cozens 10). When everyone thought the Unity would prove victorious, the last man was bowled, with the score standing at 151, and Walsall won by four runs. For the losers, B. N. Davis scored 24, George 23, J. H. Holland 18, and S. A. Marlow not out 13. There was some fine batting at Kidderminster, where Westbromwich Dartmouth were the visitors. The latter scored 223 (H. E. Mitchell 80, H. G. Bache 53, S. H. Taylor 50, C. S. Bache 23, H. Kent not out 11, W. Evans 10). Scolding took six wickets for 73. Kidderminster obtained a brilliant victory, passing their opponents' score with only four wickets down. S. G. Gethin carried out his bat for 132, while R. S. Brynion scored 52, W. Gethin 21 not out, and W. H. Wilkes 15. Mitchells and Butlers met with a heavy reverse at the hands of Moseley at the County Ground. The visitors were all dismissed for only 25 (H. J. Baxton 15, Boreday 17, J. P. Stevenson 11, P. W. Williams 11), P. Stephens taking five wickets for 24, and Byrne three for 35. Moseley responded with 254, for six (G. W. Stephens 98, J. F. Byrne 56, H. Harper not out 39, G. Hallam 22). The other matches resulted as follows:—Smethwick 229 for three, Handsworth Wood 113; Dudley 227 for two, Moorbridge 119.

Stafford visited Dunstall Park on Saturday and gained a noteworthy victory by 240 for nine, as against 134. Two centuries were credited to the county town team, F. W. Twigg scoring 118 and W. Lampugh 100, while W. H. Twigg contributed a useful 75. For the losers, the highest scorers were W. Hill 20, A. Howlands 22, F. Reynolds 19, J. W. Wright 14, R. Homeley 12. At home Stafford II gained an easy victory over Dunstall II, Stafford were able to declare with eight wickets down for 193 (O. L. Packer 61, V. G. Robins not out 31, C. A. Wood 27), and the visitors were all dismissed for under 50. Other local matches resulted as follows:—Wolverhampton, 196 (the Rev. E. M. Baker 27, G. H. Smith 38, H. A. Page 30, E. W. Page 28); Barnet Green, 138 (A. D. Bartlett 56, G. Taylor 17, S. W. Rodgers 11); Lichfield, 145 for seven (P. Key not out 37, A. Parsons 21, R. S. Hudley Owen 22, A. H. Barnes 18, P. E. Myratt 11); Tamworth, 56 (A. Smith 20, Lones 17); Bloxwich, 221 for eight (S. E. Thomas 77, E. F. Thomas 45, R. Hawkins 38, Bucknell 32, H. Frost not out 11); Walsall M.F., 144 (Ingham 86, G. Pickin 16); Siemens 80, Macclesfield, 37; Congleton, 100, Crowe P.W., 132; Sandbach, 99, Burslem, 84; Northall "A.", 48; Frentham Park, 78; Stafford Institute, 48; Walton, 96; Sandon 29 for four, Nantwich, 160 for five (declared); Market Drayton, 95 for seven; Hinton St. Leonard's "A.", 49; Falsham, 189; Wednesbury, 51 (P. Robinson 13); Cannock, 206 (J. Morris 70, C. Haxton 29, F. Morris 26, G. Davey 20, Bert Morris 20); Chambers, the Cannock pro., took six wickets for 19 runs, and Horace Morris three for 38, Stafford L. and N.W., 103 (O. Lymer 30); Wolverhampton L. and N.W., 43 for nine; Churnet Valley League: Leek Highfield, 108; Stallington 94, Rugeley, 137 for nine (declared); Uttoxeter, 45; Caverswall, 152; Tean, 49; Leek, 47; Ockamoor, 48; Uttoxeter and Birthe Bridge League: Obeside, 113; Hurlington, 103; Caverswall, 171 for eight (declared); Woodhead, 34; Meir, 77; Uttoxeter, 48. —A match took place on Tuesday afternoon on the Lichfield Cricket Ground between the Lichfield Board of Guardians and the Lichfield Corporation. The scores of the respective teams were as follows:—Board of Guardians: G. Haynes, o; Witham, b. Russell, 5; W. R. White, b. Andrews, 31; C. O. Rawston (district surveyor), b. Russell, 8; C. M. S. Hunter, run out, 1; Major E. E. D. Wise, b. Chancellor, 35; T. Baxter, b. Chambers, 1; A. W. Barnes, run out, 3; R. Barnham, not out, 31; E. Kendrick, l.b.w., b. Russell, 1; G. R. Timmis, c. Wood, b. Russell, 7; H. Morris, b. Russell, 0; extras, 15; total, 175. Corporation: T. Andrews, run out, 8; E. Weichman, b. Wise, 21; W. B. Chancellor (surveyor), b. Barnes, 0; G. Russell (under-sheriff), b. Wise, 0; G. Birch, c. Baxter, b. Barnes, 3; C. T. Witham, c. Baxter, b. Wise, 0; W. A. Wood, c. and b. Morris, 5; H. J. C. Winterton, run out, 2; H. G. Hall, b. Barnes, 3; A. Pilsbury, not out, 0; J. R. Deacon, b. Barnes, 1; extras, 7; total, 51. Messrs. A. W. Barnes and G. Ashmall acted as hon. secretaries, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen responded to their invitation to attend. The proceeds are to be devoted to taking the aged poor in the workhouse for a trip into the country.—Stafford Wednesday team beat the Police on Wednesday by 154 to 94. For the winners, J. Day 41, J. P. Elm Moor not out, 40, A. J. Richards 31, H. Battle 27; for the losers, C. A. Wood 31, G. C. Davy 24, D. Kushion 14.

**NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.**

**SILVERDALE v. STONE.**

SILVERDALE.

J C Cooper c Meakin b N E P Harris	40
Brown (W) b Anthony	45
F Ellams c Meakin b J F Fernie	29
G Ellams c Dodson b J F Fernie	13
R Sneyd b J F Fernie	3
J B Street lbw b J F Fernie	2
T Ward c and b Anthony	22
J S Scott not out	21
C Cadman not out	1
Extras	17

Total (for seven) ..... 184

Innings declared closed.

STONE.

A F Fernie b Brown	4
C H Price b Groom	0
P C Dutton c Sneyd b Groom	3
J F Fernie b Brown	2
Anthony (H) c Scott b Groom	1
T E Dodson b Brown	6
K Meakin c Cooper b Groom	14
N E P Harris b Brown	8
P H Fernie b Brown	0
G H Harris not out	13
A Chapman lbw b Cooper	5
Extras	6

Total ..... 62

**BOWLING ANALYSIS.**

Silverdale Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Anthony (H)	20	4	42	2
G H Harris	7	2	35	0
A F Fernie	5	0	23	0
N E P Harris	6	0	20	1
Dr F P Fernie	11	1	33	4

Anthony bowled eight no-balls.

Stone Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Brown (W)	15	6	25	5
E Groom	14	4	28	4
J C Cooper	5	0	5	1

**TUNSTALL v. NORTON.**

TUNSTALL.

J Gregory b Wilson	3
H J Crump b Wilson	20
Sharp (B) b Wilson	1
J B Allman b Wilson	1
J Broad run out	18
R Harris b Wilson	15
J Hart b A Capes	4
P Farrel st A Smith b A Capes	0
H Hopkins b Wilson	11
E Bailey not out	19
A E Lindop b Wilson	6
Extras	8

Total ..... 104

NORTON.

F Crump b Sharp (B)	18
E Tatton c R Harris b J Gregory	26
H Wright c W J Crump b R Harris	23
S Worthy c A E Lindop b J Gregory	18
Wilson (G A) c Allman b J Gregory	26
A Smith not out	10
T Skeilam b I Hart	0
Extras	15

Total (for six wkts) ..... 156

**BOWLING ANALYSIS.**

Tunstall Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson (G A)	15.3	6	41	7
H Matthews	7	0	23	0
A Capes	8	1	32	2

Norton Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
J Gregory	12	1	43	3
W J Crump	8	2	20	0
Sharp (B)	13	5	37	1
R Harris	4	1	18	1
I Hart	2.4	0	3	1

# STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER: SATURDAY 6 AUGUST 1910-2.

## OLDFIELDS (UTTOXETER) CRICKET FESTIVAL.

The annual cricket festival arranged by Mr. John Bamford began at Oldfields on the picturesque enclosure on the 28th ult. and continued the following day, a strong eleven met together Lady Coke being the opposing team. Some excellent cricket was seen, and although there was only a moderate attendance on both days the festival was a great success. An interesting game was played to a finish, ending in a substantial win for Mr. Bamford's XI. A. O. Jones, the Nottingham captain, and Tarrant, the Middlesex crick, were at the top of their form with the bat and delighted the spectators with their displays. The fine bowling of Simpson-Hayward, Barnes, and Tarrant was also a feature. Of the local men included in the home team H. Redden was the most successful, although W. Naylor, L. Murray, and E. Fletcher gave creditable displays. The Leiston Ironworks Band, under Bandmaster Brennan, played choice selections throughout both days. Scores and bowling analysis:—

Mr. JOHN BAMFORD'S XI.		LADY COKE'S XI.	
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
A. O. Jones, c. Foster, b. Jackson 64		G. J. Crutchley, b. Simpson 31	
H. Redden, run out 7		H. Redden, b. Moorhouse 3	
H. Redden, b. Moorhouse 3		The Hon. A. E. Hereford, b. Simpson-Hayward 6	
The Hon. A. E. Hereford, b. Simpson-Hayward 6		F. M. Jones, b. Simpson-Hayward 1	
F. M. Jones, b. Simpson-Hayward 1		Tarrant, not out 20	
Tarrant, not out 20		H. J. Bamford, b. Simpson-Hayward 14	
H. J. Bamford, b. Simpson-Hayward 14		Barnes, b. Simpson-Hayward 9	
Barnes, b. Simpson-Hayward 9		L. Murray, c. Foster, b. Jackson 7	
L. Murray, c. Foster, b. Jackson 7		W. Naylor, c. Simpson-Hayward, b. Jackson 2	
W. Naylor, c. Simpson-Hayward, b. Jackson 2		E. Fletcher, run out 2	
E. Fletcher, run out 2		Extras 7	
Extras 7			
<b>Total 111</b>		<b>Total 108</b>	

Mr. JOHN BAMFORD'S XI.		LADY COKE'S XI.	
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
G. J. Crutchley, c. Jones, b. Tarrant 0		A. J. Evans, b. Barnes 4	
A. J. Evans, b. Barnes 4		The Hon. F. B. Jackson, c. Jones, b. Tarrant 22	
The Hon. F. B. Jackson, c. Jones, b. Tarrant 22		R. E. Foster, c. Hereford, b. Barnes 1	
R. E. Foster, c. Hereford, b. Barnes 1		The Hon. E. Hereford, c. and b. Tarrant 4	
The Hon. E. Hereford, c. and b. Tarrant 4		C. H. Simpson-Hayward, b. Barnes 2	
C. H. Simpson-Hayward, b. Barnes 2		W. J. H. Curwen, c. and b. Tarrant 7	
W. J. H. Curwen, c. and b. Tarrant 7		E. E. Jordan, not out 14	
E. E. Jordan, not out 14		A. H. Lang, c. Ironmonger, b. Tarrant 7	
A. H. Lang, c. Ironmonger, b. Tarrant 7		W. Naylor, c. and b. Barnes 10	
W. Naylor, c. and b. Barnes 10		Capt. Gray, c. and b. Barnes 0	
Capt. Gray, c. and b. Barnes 0		Extras 3	
Extras 3			
<b>Total 74</b>		<b>Total 102</b>	

BOWLING ANALYSIS.												
Mr. JOHN BAMFORD'S XI.						LADY COKE'S XI.						
1st Innings.						2nd Innings.						
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
G. J. Crutchley	3	2	5	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Col. Moorhouse	7	1	26	1	8	0	0	28	0	0	0	0
R. E. Foster	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hon. F. B. Jackson	12	3	48	3	14	2	62	3	0	0	0	0
Simpson-Hayward	10	2	24	4	16	2	45	7	0	0	0	0
W. Curwen	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

BOWLING ANALYSIS.												
Mr. JOHN BAMFORD'S XI.						LADY COKE'S XI.						
1st Innings.						2nd Innings.						
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	16	3	58	5	20	4	46	5	0	0	0	0
Tarrant	15	4	49	2	19	4	48	5	0	0	0	0

**BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.**  
In this league on Saturday, Walsall appeared to great advantage in their home match, gaining a capital victory over Dudley. The latter's first five wickets only yielded 48 runs, but the innings concluded for 108 (B. G. Stevens 34, T. Parsons 23, C. E. Crawford 17, A. Fordey 13). The Walsall side gave a good all-round display and compiled 173 (N. P. Hewson 31, L. Taylor 31, Brammer 23, G. H. Correns 24, W. Jinks not out 13, W. Preston 10, W. J. Evans 10). In the match by five wickets, for the winners, A. J. Burgess took four wickets for 33, and Brammer had four for 42. Three weeks ago West-bromwich Dartmouth won at Smethwick in a low-scoring match, and in a similar encounter at the Four Acres they again proved successful, scoring 132 as against 97. The principal scorers for the home side were H. Garner 25, A. Jones 21, A. Adams 18, E. Wilson 16, and W. Evans 11, while Smethwick's chief contributors were Bucknell 28, F. Burdoyne 24, and W. Dorman 13. H. E. Mitchell took five of Smethwick's wickets at a cost of only 31 runs. The other matches resulted as follows: Moseley, 308 for nine; Aston Unity, 150; Stourbridge, 199; Handsworth Wood, 137.

## WALTON CRICKET FESTIVAL.

The Walton Cricket Festival concluded on Saturday, when the home club were opposed by the Western C.C. (Manchester) in a twelve-a-side match. Bating first, the visitors compiled 161, the best score being made by J. Thwaites 50. Mr. R. Morgan, a feature of the Walton fielding was a magnificent catch by R. G. Bagshall, who also opened of Thwaites. Walton, replying, had eight wickets down for 115, and it seemed probable that the home side would be beaten. J. F. Campbell (who is this week playing for his native county, Surrey) and J. T. Mee, however, hit up the necessary runs, and Walton won easily, their score being 183 for ten wickets. The highest total for the winners was made by J. F. Campbell and Capt. the Hon. H. T. Allsopp. Scores:—

<p><b>The Western.</b></p> <p>E. C. MacLaren, b. Wynne 18                  G. Woods, b. Bagshall 13                  C. A. Woodland, c. Allsopp, 4                  J. Thwaites, 50                  Sale 48                  H. O. L. Morgan, b. Wynne 2                  G. H. E. Morgan, c. K. E. Wynne, b. Wynne 40                  C. Maitreix, b. Sale 0                  Capt. Nugent, c. Campbell, b. Sale 1                  E. W. H. Biner, c. Campbell, b. Twigg 3                  H. E. Pilkington, c. Maitreix, b. Twigg 5                  E. Fischer, c. Aitham, b. Twigg 17                  W. Butler, not out 5                  Extras 5</p>	<p><b>Walton.</b></p> <p>Capt. the Hon. H. T. Allsopp, b. Thwaites 35                  J. F. Campbell, 28                  Woodland 11                  H. S. Aitham, b. Woodland 1                  P. F. Campbell, not out 59                  E. E. Wynne, c. Morgan, b. Thwaites 6                  R. G. Bagshall, c. Woodland, b. Twigg 8                  A. H. Kuman, c. Woodland, b. Twigg 1                  W. Marden, c. Nugent, b. Twigg 2                  J. T. Mee, b. Twigg 33                  W. Morgan, not out 6                  Extras 6</p>
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Total (10 wickets) 163  
 Total (10 wickets) 183  
 The festival, as a whole, was a great success. Walton did remarkably well in all the matches, winning five out of six, while the remaining one was drawn greatly in their favour. During the week the following ladies and gentlemen entertained the players and visitors on the Old Golf Ground.—The Dowager Lady, Mrs. the Hon. Mrs. H. T. Allsopp, Mrs. Allen Hughes, Mrs. Inge, Mr. W. Morgan, Mrs. Morton Phillips, Mr. H. Twigg, and the Walton Cricket Club.

## LICHFIELD F. DERBYSHIRE FRIARS.

The above match was played at Lichfield on Wednesday. Scores:—

<p><b>Derbyshire Friars.</b></p> <p>C. B. Berrington, c. Frank, b. Beauchamp 30                  Capt. O. H. Lyon, c. Keeley, b. Beauchamp 85                  The Rev. E. W. Sevan, c. Ritchie, b. Beauchamp 46                  G. H. Campbell, c. Owen, b. Beauchamp 46                  H. F. Campbell, c. Beauchamp, b. Mortimer 4                  Capt. C. Herbert-Stapley, c. Beauchamp, b. Mortimer 4                  A. T. Hodgson, c. Owen, b. Beauchamp 6                  Major G. T. Williams, not out 12                  Extras 14</p>	<p><b>Lichfield.</b></p> <p>Capt. H. Duckworth, b. Wilson 8                  Capt. G. Gervill, c. Evans, b. Thwaites 91                  F. R. Ker, c. Herbert-Stapley, b. Wilson 91                  F. A. A. Pease, c. Hodgson, b. Wilson 8                  J. S. Dunne Owen, not out 48                  Extras 6</p>
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Total (seven wickets) 278  
 The Rev. R. C. Thaley, E. W. Evans, and the Rev. J. C. Wilson did not bat.

**Lichfield.**

<p>Capt. H. Duckworth, b. Wilson 8                  Capt. G. Gervill, c. Evans, b. Thwaites 91                  F. R. Ker, c. Herbert-Stapley, b. Wilson 91                  F. A. A. Pease, c. Hodgson, b. Wilson 8                  J. S. Dunne Owen, not out 48                  Extras 6</p>	<p><b>Lichfield.</b></p> <p>Capt. H. Duckworth, b. Wilson 8                  Capt. G. Gervill, c. Evans, b. Thwaites 91                  F. R. Ker, c. Herbert-Stapley, b. Wilson 91                  F. A. A. Pease, c. Hodgson, b. Wilson 8                  J. S. Dunne Owen, not out 48                  Extras 6</p>
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## NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

There were five matches in this league on Saturday, and some surprising results were achieved, and the outcome of the afternoon is play was to place Norton in a strong position at the head of the table. They secured two more points by beating Stone, whilst Porthill, who were their most threatening rivals for the honour of the championship, suffered an unexpected defeat on the County Ground, where their batting was completely crumpled up by John Butler and E. J. Johnson. Burslem also collapsed in sensational fashion against Leek Highfield, whilst Longton scored a grand victory over Crewe Alexandra. There was a large attendance at the County Ground, where Stoke's success was very popular. They are the team of extremes this season. A short time ago they were losing every match with monotonous regularity, and giving some wretched exhibitions, but suddenly jumping to the other extreme they have now won four matches in succession, and have beaten the present leaders, Norton, the present champions, Burslem, and the ex-champions, Porthill. For this run of success they have in no small degree to thank their two leading bowlers, E. J. Johnson, the popular captain of the side, and Butler, who have not only bowled unchanged through all four matches. One would probably have to seek far to find a parallel in the League records to this performance of the Stoke bowlers. Butler first in the match, and Barnes, who Stoke totalled 114. Considering that both P. Briggs and W. D. Kirby were absentees, this was a creditable score against the Porthill bowlers, five of whom were tried. Barnes was played with the bowlers by E. Taylor, the ex-Caverswall player, who compiled an admirable 72, which will probably rank as the best innings played for Stoke this season. Butler hit 27, but no one else did very much, and Barnes came out with the good figure of seven for 47. Porthill had practically their full batting side, but not one of them could make anything of Butler and Johnson. The professional quickly bowled P. N. Lowndes, W. H. Wood, and Barnes, the two last-named failing to score. Catching H. F. Wood off his own bowling, he had the first four wickets, and when the ex-champions were all out for 48 Butler had taken seven wickets for 21. It was a fine performance, and quite the best thing he has done this season.—Stone cut a poor figure at Norton. They were tumbled out by Wilson and H. Matthews for 48, the professional taking four wickets for 25 and Matthews six for 18. The distinctive feature of the Norton innings of 125 was a well-played 51 by F. Crump. The brothers A. F. and J. F. Forrie got the last few wickets down cleanly, the former having two for four and the latter three for 15.—Alder again batted finely for Leek Highfield, and scored 55 against the Burslem bowling, whilst J. Wilkinson, with 24, assisted in a first-wicket partnership that laid the foundation for victory well. J. W. Allen took five wickets for 30 but Deyen failed to get a wicket, and had 30 scored from him in 10 overs. The Highfield total reached 130, and the odd 30 proved enough to win for Leek, for Rickson and J. Pace bundled Burslem out for 29. Rickson took five wickets for 13 and Pace four for 14, a very fine performance by the two Highfield men.—Longton were too good for Crewe, who were saved from annihilation by a prolific last-wicket stand by H. Appleyard (24) and J. Dickenson (48 not out), who scored 70 between them out of 97 obtained from the bat. As there were ten extras, the Crewe total in respect to Longton's victory was 107, though it promised to reach no more than 30 when the last man went in. Trees took five wickets for 28 and J. J. Awty four for 39. Longton were largely indebted to their strong bowlers to a fine opening partnership by E. G. Baxter (43) and J. J. Awty (59), which placed 115 on the board before the first wicket fell. The closure was applied at 174 for six, and a good win recorded.

## BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

West Bromwich Dartmouth visited the ground of Mitchell and Burslem, at Cape Hill, on Saturday, a keen game being expected. Eight of the visitors' wickets were down for 53, but a partnership between Bland and J. Orton greatly improved the position, the innings concluding for 124. J. Orton 34, Bland 31, H. E. Mitchell 12, W. W. Langwell 11, J. E. Stevenson had four wickets for 44 and H. J. Barclay three for 38. It appeared that the home side would be able to win easily, but the finish proved somewhat close, Mitchell only winning by 3 runs. Their total score was 132 (A. J. Parsons 50, J. F. Stevenson 48, A. Holloway 17). Baddley took three wickets in seven balls for 2 runs, and his final analysis was five wickets for 14. On both sides the holding was keen, and the Dartmouth men did not give a single extra. Walsall were entertained at the County Ground by Moseley, but the match was not brought to a definite conclusion. Rain and bad light caused play to be suspended, with the result that the game had to be left drawn. Moseley scored 219 for eight (F. G. Stephens 84, J. F. Byrne 54, G. J. W. Stephens 45, A. J. Thomson not out 15), and Burslem 126 for three wickets (W. Preston 43, Drummer not out 34, L. Taylor not out 23, N. P. Howson 15, J. C. Falton 15). The other matches concluded as follows:—Aldershot 128 for seven (W. J. Richards not out 98 for four, Dudley, 237 for four; Smethwick, 161 for four; Aston Unity, 219 for four; Stourbridge, 181 for four).

Playing on their own ground on Saturday, Stafford were unexpectedly defeated by Newport. Bating first, the home team, compiled 158 (W. K. Lamplugh 43, E. W. Twigg 20, V. J. Roberts 23, A. J. Richards not out 33). Newport hit up the necessary 97 for the loss of only two wickets, their score being 164 (Booth 45, the Rev. W. M. Salt 42, S. E. Rylands not out 40, J. Tucker not out 18). Visiting Sandon, Stafford II. were beaten by a single run, the respective scores being 43 and 44. For Stafford, W. Bird took five wickets for four runs. Other local matches played on Saturday resulted as follows:—Wolverhampton 277 (R. C. Page 49, W. J. Beddows 29, A. C. Platts 35, H. D. Stratton 28, P. S. Reynolds not out 22); Leamington 109 (C. K. Langley not out 59, S. S. Fosyth 11); Wolverhampton II. 150 for eight (J. Birnie not out 47, H. Yesman 29, A. Armitage 27); Shifnal 83 (N. W. Morris 24, F. G. Jackson 12); Lichfield 110 (G. R. Crutch 42, Capt. Leman not out 38, Capt. Duckworth 33); Chester-road 43 (J. F. Lawson 13, F. P. Harper not out 13, F. T. Aspinall 11); Cannock, 101; Dnnstall, 64; Shrewsbury 93 for three (J. Middle Wall 32, Bostocks, 118; Stafford Prison (M) 45; Sandbach, 79; Nantwich, 168; Congleton, 197 for seven; Middlewich, 68; Weeping Willow, 40; L. and N.W. Railway, 80; Oakmoor, 139 for five; Denstone, 28; Rochester, 77; Toan, 53; Caverswall 127 for seven; Leek Highfield II. 45; Leek II., 25; Cheshire, 51; Stallington, 68; Uttoxeter Town, 54; Oakmoor II., 20; Oldfields II., 49; Cheshire II., 133; Woodhead, 41.

A match between Wolverhampton and Warwickshire Gentlemen was played at Tettenhall on Monday and Tuesday. Bating first, the visitors scored 136 (G. E. Langley 56, Simpson 21, Ward 14, Taylor 11), R. A. Page taking six wickets for 32 runs. Wolverhampton made an excellent response, compiling 325 (H. A. Page 67, Armitage 49, Tomkinson 35, P. S. Bayliss 21, Dalton 21, R. C. Page 17). In their previous innings Warwickshire improved on their previous display, hitting up 279 (Dickinson 66, C. K. Langley 31, Huswell 45, Marfield not out 31, Hobson 23, Reynolds 17, Taylor 14). Wolverhampton were left with a good two hours to get the 154 runs that would win the game, and managed to do so through Ward hitting a boundary in the last minute of the game. The home side won by two runs, the principal scores being Ward not out 48, and Page 27, Hodgkinson 26, Armitage 15.

MARKET DRAYTON CRICKET FESTIVAL.

The second week's cricket festival at The Grove Ground, Market Drayton, concluded on Saturday, when the two-day game between the Old Cheltonians and Free Foresters resulted in a victory for the Free Foresters by four wickets. Play was very even in the first innings of both clubs, but in the Old Cheltonians' second venture F. H. Angleton bowled most effectively, capturing seven wickets for 35 runs. G. Colbeck distinguished himself in the batting, putting on 90 and 47 in the Free Foresters' first and second innings respectively. The scores were—Old Cheltonians, 141 (G. F. Collett 43) and 101 (F. H. B. Chapman 21); Free Foresters, 148 and 97 (for six wickets). In the latter's second innings, H. C. McDonnell carried out his bat for 72.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

In this League, on Saturday, considerable progress was made, four of the six matches being brought to a termination. The results had the effect of almost removing last season's champions from the running for honours this year. Following upon their remarkable failure with the bat at Loughton the previous week, Fenton again failed just where they have generally proved themselves strong. In match after match they have passed the second hundred without losing all their wickets, and their batting failures of the last two Saturdays appear inexplicable. They were at home on Saturday to Stoke, who put up a total of 123, which did not look at all formidable. But E. J. Johnson and Butler bowled so well that the home side were dismissed for 101, and Stoke gained their third consecutive victory by good bowling. P. Briggs scored an invaluable 59 for Stoke, and H. Hawley hit up 27 for Fenton. The bowling record of the two Stoke bowlers was curiously alike: each sent down 17 overs, each bowled two maidens, each had five wickets, and 47 runs were scored from Johnson and 48 from the professional. R. H. Bourne had the best analysis for Fenton, with four for 27, Gill's five wickets costing 68 runs. Porchill gained two useful points from Loughton, who conquered Fenton the previous week. A. J. Routledge (26) was the only double-figure scorer for Loughton, who were dismissed for 61 by Barnes (four for 30) and H. Hardley (five for 17). Porchill then made merry and hit up 218 for nine. H. F. and W. H. Wood made a capital second-wicket partnership, scoring 34 and 39 respectively, but Barnes found no one to keep him company very long, until the last man, J. Marsh, went in. The two batsmen were bowling all over the field. Barnes was not out 66 and Marsh not out 30 when stumps were drawn. Trees was very expensive, his three wickets costing 98 runs. Norton was doing strongly, and a candidate for championship honours. They took two points from Silverdale in spite of a really splendid batting effort by the veteran, Brown. Norton batted first and totalled 130 (E. Tutton 45, Wilson 38), E. Groom securing six wickets for 30, by some steady bowling. Brown carried his bat through the Silverdale innings of 103 for 65, and had not two men been run out just at the crucial stage of the game, his great effort might have been successful, for the home team's margin was only 17. H. Matthews had five wickets for 48 and Wilson's three cost 47. Tansall sustained another reverse at Leek, where they could only reply to the home team's modest score of 92 with 71. As Sharp hit 46 of that number, the bulk of the team offered a feeble resistance to Sedgwick, who scored seven wickets for 34. A. Knight was Leek's top scorer with 26. J. Hart bowled five balls for Tansall and took two wickets for three runs. J. Gregory bowled well and captured four for 27. Stone and Burnley played an even draw at Stone, the scores being Stone 140, Burnley 105 for six wickets. The Stone captain and professional led off well for the home side, but there was a collapse after they were parted. J. E. Fernie's contribution was 22, and Anthony played an excellent innings of 72. Doves sent down 14 overs for 10 runs and four wickets, and Hollowood had two for 10. The latter was again unlucky in being run out when well set, but not until he had made a pretty 37, whilst E. Cope put together 33. The remaining runs were at Crewe, where Leek Highfield shared the points with the Hallwaymen. Thanks to a big stand by F. Bennett (75) and A. Cope (31), Crewe were able to declare at 207 for seven. Bennett has been giving his best lately, and both he and Cope played good cricket. Highfield had scored 88 for seven, by defensive cricket, when the end came, A. Haine being not out 22. J. F. Groom took five Highfield wickets for 51.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

It appears more than probable that there will be a close contest for championship honours in the Birmingham and District League. With four matches to play, a quartet of clubs—Moseley, Aston Unity, Dudley, and Kidderminster—lie for top place. The Staffordshire clubs are not doing particularly well, with the exception of Walsall, who, like Stourbridge, are credited with 14 points. Handsworth Wood are at the bottom of the table with seven points, while their nearest neighbours, West-bromwich Dartmouth, have two points more. On Saturday, Walsall entertained Mitchell and Butlers, the chief feature of the match being a record first wicket stand by Brammer (105), the Walsall professional, and W. Preston (74). The rate of scoring was so good at the opening of play that 40 runs were registered in 15 minutes, and the hundred was completed in about an hour. Useful scores by E. G. Cozens (44), N. V. Howson not out (26), and J. C. Eaton (18) were made later, and Walsall declared when the score stood at 216 with five wickets down. Mitchell and Butlers apparently played for a draw, but with 20 minutes left were disposed of for 133 (H. J. Bayley 48, A. Holloway 20, S. Cox 18, H. G. Powell 12, C. M. G. Sykes 10). West-bromwich Dartmouth were defeated at the Four Acres by Aston Unity by 267 runs for five wickets, as against 144. For the winners, J. Devey not out scored 72, G. W. Bea 62, S. H. Richardson 48, B. N. Davis 41, E. T. Eddey not out 22; for the losers S. Jackson hit up 41, G. Budgeley not out 34, H. Gurney 12. The Dartmouth holding was not up to its usual standard. Other matches resulted as follow:—Dudley 170, Handsworth Wood 129; Kidderminster 233, Stourbridge 176; Moseley 224, Moseley 130 for four.

The principal local matches played on Saturday resulted as follows:—Wolverhampton 307 for six wickets (W. J. Goddows 89, E. R. V. Hemming 86, A. C. Pinnis not out 34, T. H. G. Ward 31, H. Vainman 19); Yardley 39 (A. H. Bickitt 10), Rugby 172 (H. W. Twigg 34, H. E. Aiton 25, A. D. Gardner 25), Twize 24, H. Gardner 18, E. Cox 14; Litchfield 87 for nine (Capt. Leman 28, P. Myatt 22, Capt. R. Duckworth 14), Lichfield 110 (H. W. Toomey 27, F. E. Brown 24, G. J. Derry not out 11); Sarnock 11, 61 for seven (F. Morris 10, T. Reaney 10), Cowley 166 for six (L. T. Whitehouse not out 100, W. Turton not out 34); West-bromwich 61 (J. Adams 18, S. Mills 12). For the winners H. Whitehouse took six wickets for 27 runs. Walsall 217 (A. S. Cartwright 24, W. Key 15, J. Ashwell 12, J. Lee 11); Willenhall 82 (T. Bryan 22, J. Somerville 19, A. Wright 12, T. Cartwright 10, F. Davyden 10); Blakenhall 121 (D. George 33, A. Hadley 23, W. Grayson not out 24, F. Tortan 11); Tealesley and Dunkealoe 59 (A. F. Quick 15, E. Bradford 10), Newport (Salter) 135 (A. Lawrence 26, Booth 22, the Rev. W. M. Salt 18, C. M. Elliot not out 15, T. Pritchard 13, W. W. 63 (W. Simpson 24, A. G. Eccleston 15). Churnet Valley League: Oakmoor, 127 for five (W. F. James 41, G. E. Bennett 29 not out, J. W. Johnson 27 not out, J. E. Goodwin 21), Litcheter Town, 46 (Duckley 20). Litcheter and Blythe Bridge League: Oldfields 11, 125 (T. Smith 22, A. Harrison 21, E. Hollowood 10, R. Ashmore 14, A. Cozzell 12); Caverswall 11, 87. For the winners, Walsall took eight wickets for 83 runs. Oakmoor 11, 136; Litcheter 11, 37. Patshull, 226 for eight (B. Molloy not out 103, H. M. Foster 34, T. M. Wells 29, A. L. Foster 37); Brynmill, 93 for six (J. H. Rutledge not out 42, A. R. Craig 25).

**NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.**

(NOTES BY "INCOGNITUS.")

**FIRST DIVISION.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Norton	18	9	2	7	25
Porthill Park	18	8	3	7	22
Burslem	19	5	3	11	21
Fenton	13	7	4	7	21
Silverdale	19	6	4	9	21
Crewe Alexandra	18	5	4	9	19
Leek Highfield	19	4	4	11	19
Longton	19	6	6	7	19
Stoke	19	5	7	7	17
Leek	18	3	5	10	16
Tunstall	19	4	10	5	13
Stones	18	1	10	7	9

**SECOND DIVISION.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Oldfields	17	13	1	3	29
Knyperley	17	10	0	7	27
Crewe Alexandra II	17	8	4	5	21
Great Chell	17	7	4	6	20
Norton II	17	6	4	7	19
Porthill Park II	17	6	5	6	18
Fenton II	17	5	6	6	16
Burslem II	17	5	7	5	15
Silverdale II	17	3	7	7	14
Longton II	17	2	9	6	10
Tunstall II	17	2	10	5	9
Stoke II	17	1	12	4	6

So Stoke continue to take the scalps of the mighty. After fulfilling fifteen engagements for a solitary win—extracted from Leek Highfield—they sail in with four victories in as many weeks, and with strict impartiality smite prospective champions, champions, and the club who made record by three successive firsts; and sandwiched between account for less ambitions but still worthy foes in Leek. No wonder enthusiasm was rampant on the County Ground, last Saturday, for in this season of disappointments, begotten of moisture, no other club can boast of such a fine sequence of triumphs. The Stoke result was also received with unanimous approval in Smallthorne and district, for by it Norton's most threatening rivals received a severe setback, and the present leaders will have to fail badly and Porthill face extraordinarily well for the positions of the two clubs to be reversed when the final table is made up.

In a nutshell, the situation at the time of writing is, that with four matches each to play, Porthill must get the maximum number of points and Norton lose at least half for the former to take precedence. Of course, Fenton are not out of the running, but Nortonians may regard their chance as a pleasing prospect.

At the other end of the table Stoke figures as being practically condemned to be again suppliants for votes, and Tunstall are so placed that they can hardly expect to rise even one step.

In the Second Division, Oldfields and Knyperley are still batting sternly, but, anticipating a draw as the outcome of to-day's great fight, one may venture the opinion that the Uttoxeter lot will hold pride of position to the end. Tunstall are as badly fixed in this division as amongst the seniors, and there will have to be some genuine surprises if they are to escape the necessity of seeking re-election. And Stoke will be their companions in distress as they were last year.

It has often been jestingly remarked that the greatest duty of a captain is to win the toss, and with the conditions that prevailed last Saturday the skipper who did so could be regarded as fortune's favourite. In two First Division matches, however, the gifts of the gods were not utilised, for, with opportunity for first knock, Stone and Burslem were both beaten. In the case of the former it was not expected that top would succumb to bottom under any circumstances, but the Burslem matter was a very different affair. In this instance the luck of the spin went by the board, for the Burslem captain elected that his opponents should bat first. His side were thus subjected to the handicap occasioned by the wear and tear of the wicket and light that was none too good, and so the Cobridge Club were well beaten. In taking the course he did A. Cook probably had regard for Highfield's recent succession of drawn games, and had notions of stopping the continuance of the sequence. He did so, but not in the manner intended!

Heartened by fortuitous opportunity, Arthur Rider and J. T. Wilkinson (24) commenced so well for the home club that the indicator stood at 53 when the first wicket fell, and though H. Hulme had to depart at the same total, the score was but one short of a century when Burslem claimed a third capture. The remainder of the innings was rather in the minor key, but, thanks to Rider's splendid 55, the Highfield aggregate reached 130, a comforting score under such conditions. The venture may be recounted a succession of double-event episodes, for the two wickets fell at 53, two at 99, two at 115, and two at 120. Apparently batsmen were inclined to be sympathetic! Burslem heard the crack of doom when Albert Hollowood was bowled by Rickson at six, and the debacle can be thus portrayed:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	12	12	14	16	16	19	20	27	29

The biggest stand is represented by seven chinks, and the 10 of George Deyes stand in bold relief as the only dual figure effort. Rickson had five wickets for 13 runs, cunning "Jerry" Pace four for 14 runs, and F. Higginbottom one for two. For Burslem, Deyes bowled ten overs for never a wicket, and J. W. Allen's five for 30 was the only performance that can be deemed worthy of so strong a side. The losers' batting was feeble, but the crux of the whole affair may be gathered from the fact that the last seventeen wickets, in an extraordinary match fell for 60 runs.

For their fixture with Porthill, Stoke were in such a pickle that the personnel of the team was actually unknown to the captain until the players left the pavilion, but he and his comrades "grasped the skirts of happy chance," and so secured a stirring success. Thanks to the capital batting of H. E. Taylor, Stoke were credited with 131 runs for the loss of but four men, and though the other half-dozen were disposed of for such a trifle as 13, it was generally recognised that the total was sufficient for victory. Such proved to be the case, but the magnitude of Porthill's downfall was certainly unexpected. When P. N. Lowndes, W. H. Wood, and Barnes had been clean bowled by Butler, with only two runs amongst them, spectators realised that defeat was indeed the visitors' portion, and the shout that signified the downfall of the famous professional night almost have lowered the walls of Jericho.

With Butler continuing to be quite irresistible, the end soon came, only two men reaching the dignity of double figures. Butler's seven wickets were captured for just three runs each, and though some of the batsmen flattered him, he bowled grandly for all that. As he was also second highest scorer of the match, the Stoke professional had a rare afternoon, and the honours of the game clearly belong to him and H. E. Taylor. The latter's 72 was just half of his side's aggregate, and even if he got a lot of his runs with the edge of the bat, he is entitled to unstinted praise for a noteworthy performance. Barnes had seven wickets for 47 runs, but of the other four bowlers tried by Porthill, only W. H. Wood was at all troublesome, and not one of them sent down an over that was unproductive of runs.

At Norton, Anthony and J. F. Fernie gave Stone a good start by running up 34 for the first wicket, but a dire collapse followed the bowling of the captain by Wilson, and the remaining nine wickets actually fell for 14 runs! The Norton bowlers needed no help, for every Stone player had his stumps removed "expeditiously and painlessly." The bag of Hiran Matthews worked out at six wickets for 18 runs, and he has probably never bowled better. For a change Wilson played second fiddle, but four wickets for 25 signifies execution, Norton had the match won with seven wickets standing, and the feature of their batting was a painstaking 51 from Fred Crump. Wilson and T. Skellam also contributed double figures, but the "help yourself" sort of bowling of the brothers Fernie seduced most of the later batsmen into carelessness that cost them their wickets.

Longton had a good win at the expense of Crewe Alexandra, but they were almost balked by time, for the last wicket was not secured until there were only five minutes to go. The conquerors never had other cause for anxiety, for E. J. Baxter (43) and J. J. Awty (69) put them "on velvet" by amassing 115 for the first partnership. Awty had a life at 30, but, nevertheless, both men batted finely, and were rarely in difficulties. The top scorer was in militant humour, and was responsible for some excellent leg hitting. Baxter was slower but played the game, and his only real mistake was when he was bowled by about the worst ball of the afternoon.

When the Alexandra batted, Trees and Awty had a pitch just to their liking to perform on, and they exploited it to such purpose that nine Crewe men left for 42 runs. J. Dickinson (43) and B. Appleyard (24) were not such easy prey, however, and this pair had an association that produced 68 more runs. Dickinson was undefeated, and his capital effort suggested the idea that he should have gone in earlier. Trees took five wickets for 28 runs, and the delivery with which he got at F. Bennett's stumps was a marvellous one.

Silverdale and Leek were unable to settle their differences, and the visitors had to be satisfied with a moral victory. Despite Sedgwick's 58, Leek lost nine wickets for 98 runs, and it was the last stand that broke the bowling's back, for H. Ellerton (56) and P. Bradley (18 not out) added a further 73. Silverdale lost eight men for 86 runs.

**UTTOXETER, BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Oakmoor	15	11	2	2	24
Florence Colliery	14	11	2	1	23
Chickley	15	9	3	3	21
Oldfields II	14	8	5	1	17
Moir	14	6	4	4	16
Caverwall II	14	6	7	1	12
Uttoxeter II	14	6	8	0	10
Chasels	14	1	9	4	9
Woodhead	17	3	11	3	9
Hollington	13	1	11	1	3

**RESULTS AND SCORES.**

**FLORENCE COLLIERY KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.**

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND.**

**JOINERS v. NO. 2 PIT (BLURTON GRANGE).**

Played on Thursday last. Scores:—  
Joiners—G. Bentley retired 58, S. Slynv st Fielding b Burgess 45, C. Aston b Fielding 0, J. Deakin b Fielding 14, J. Wilkinson b Fielding 1, L. Rushton not out 7, extras 10; total (6 wks), 135.

No. 2 Pit (Blurton Grange).—A. Fielding b Cook 39, J. Jephson b Aston 2, J. Burgess run out 0, G. Evans b Slynv 0, J. Baker b Aston 12, G. Barnes c Rushton b Bentley 5, H. Lear b Cook 5, S. Higgins c Jenkinson b Cook 5, J. Fields b Bentley 4, S. Beardmore not out 3, A. Pedley b Bentley 0, extras 11; total, 84.

**NO. 1 PIT v. NO. 2 PIT (H. W. YARD).**

Played on Friday last. Scores:—  
No. 2 Pit (H. W. Yard).—J. Wain run out 2, H. Brindley b Peers 8, T. Tomkins c S. Malbon b Baxter 3, G. Shaw c S. Malbon b Baxter 2, F. Travers b Peers 0, F. Wood b Peers 3, J. Dickerton b Peers 0, F. Green b Baxter 0, A. Tomlinson b Baxter 2, J. Pointon not out 3, J. Williams b Peers 0, extras 2; total, 23.

No. 1 Pit.—E. G. Baxter c Tomkins b Shaw 1, W. Malbon b Shaw 5, W. Peers b Shaw 0, B. Baker not out, 31, B. Wootton c Travers b Shaw 0, G. Hilditch b Travers 0, S. Malbon c Tomkins b Travers 0, G. Godfrey c Tomkins b Travers 0, J. Hilditch c Travers b Shaw 0, J. Heath st Tomkins b Shaw 0, J. Breeze st Tomkins b Travers 1, extras 1; total, 37.

**CONGLETON KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION. SEMI-FINAL.**

**MOSSLEY NOMADS v. MR. STANDEVEN'S XI.**

Played on Tuesday evening. Scores:—  
Mr. Standeven's XI.—George Goodall b James Hammond 0, J. Dale b James Hammond 17, F. Cobbe b James Hammond 4, R. Goodall b James Hammond 17, W. Dale b James Hammond 0, W. Cookson c Tomlinson b James Hammond 5, J. Standeven c James Hammond b Gorman 8, G. Dagnall b Gorman 8, J. Cjennell not out 2, D. Burgess b James Hammond 0, W. K. Lowe run out 3, extras 7; total, 72.

Mossley Nomads.—S. Mayer c and b Standeven 0, H. Tomlinson b J. Dale 0, W. Goodchild b J. Dale 5, James Hammond b Standeven 6, John T. Hammond c Burgess b J. Dale 0, G. Berry b J. Dale 0, H. Moores run out 0, A. W. Frost c Cookson b Cobbe 12, F. Gorman c Cobbe b J. Dale 18, F. C. Huband run out 1, W. T. Yates not out 1, extras 4; total, 45.

**NORTH STAFFS COMBINATION**

**FIRST DIVISION.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Madeley	14	11	1	2	24
Sandyford	15	5	5	4	16
Bignall End	15	5	4	4	14
Audley	12	4	4	4	12
Laycock	13	6	6	1	12
Knyperley II	12	4	6	2	11
Newchapel	12	4	5	3	10
Pitshill	13	3	6	4	10
Hall Green	14	3	8	3	9

**DIVISION II.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Bignall End II	12	9	3	0	18
Woodland Pottery	12	8	2	2	18
Sandyford II	14	7	6	1	15
Tunstall U.M.	14	5	5	4	13
Audley II	11	6	4	1	13
Chell II	13	4	7	2	10
Knyperley III	12	4	6	2	10
Pitshill II	12	3	8	1	9
Laycock II	13	5	8	0	8

**CHURNET VALLEY LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Rooster	15	11	0	4	24
Caverwall	15	11	2	2	24
Oakmoor	15	10	4	1	21
Leek Highfield II	15	7	5	3	17
Southington	15	6	7	2	13
Chasels Town	14	5	7	2	12
Tean	15	5	8	2	12
Uttoxeter	13	4	8	1	10
Denstone	16	1	13	1	3

**STOKE-ON-TRENT FEDERATION.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Butt Lane	4	3	1	0	6
Clough Hall	4	3	1	0	6
Smallthorne	5	2	3	0	4
Scot Hay	5	1	4	0	2

**LEEK & DISTRICT LEAGUE.**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Leek Liberal Club	7	6	0	1	13
Leek Alexandra	7	6	1	1	13
Leek Brough	8	3	5	0	6
Kingsley	8	3	5	0	6
Leek Brough Down	8	3	5	0	6

## PROMINENT LOCAL CRICKETERS.

E. G. Baxter, Longton: A Clever  
Left Hand Batsman.

(BY "VIGILANT.")



E. G. BAXTER.

It is now a little over two years ago since Mr. E. G. Baxter was introduced to the cricketing fraternity of the North Staffordshire district, and it was almost immediately after his arrival in this country from Australia. Born at Dudley he, along with other members of his family, when the subject of this sketch was only seven years old, went out to the Colonies, and settled at Lithgow, a town in the Western district of New South Wales, about 85 miles from Sydney. In common with most other cricketers he gained his early insight into the game whilst at school, and upon leaving his books he commenced to play for a junior club in the town in which he resided. He quickly became a left-hand batsman of much ability, and his cleverness was speedily recognised, for he was selected as a representative of the Western district of New South Wales, which covers a radius of 400 miles, to play against a strong Sydney team, at Sydney, in what is known in Australia as the Country Week. Just to give some idea of the strength of the sides, that the team of which Mr. Baxter was a member played against, a few of the names will be sufficient to illustrate the point, for included amongst them were: Trumper, Noble, Duff, Diamond, Tarnsley, Hickson, Black, McPhellamey, Carter, and several other well-known players.

Mr. Baxter holds trophies for his batting averages in 1899, 1901—when his averages were 45.9 and 68, respectively—and 1906, when he had the remarkable average of 97.8. For this wonderful achievement he was presented with a bat suitably inscribed by Mr. Victor Trumper, for the best average of the Association. The world's famous batsman writes of Mr. Baxter as follows:—

"I have known Mr. Ernest Baxter for two years or more. He is an enthusiastic supporter and follower of cricket and is one of the best left-hand batsmen in our western district, where he has met with continued success for many years. Mr. Baxter has also made excellent showing against our senior district clubs and I am confident that he would secure a place in the front rank of our batsmen had he been a resident of our district where regular opportunities would have been given him for practice and matches. He has also identified himself

with the management of the game, and I have much pleasure in introducing him to the cricket public of whatever district in the old country that he decides upon staying in, and feel sure that he will be an acquisition to any district or club who may secure his services."

The letter is dated at Sydney on January 28th, 1908. Mr. E. W. R. McMillan, president of the St. George's Cricket Association, also adds his appreciation of Mr. Baxter in the following terms:—

"I have known Mr. E. Baxter for the last five years, during which time I have met him frequently both in Sydney and the Western District. As a cricketer he has pronounced abilities, being one of the most promising left-hand batsmen I have ever met during an extended period of visits and observations. He is a sound organiser and secretary, and I strongly recommend him to any club who desire to acquire the services of a good sportsman, sound batsman, and energetic worker. Should he perform in the old land with anything like the marked consistency he has shown in New South Wales, I am confident that should he remain, a place will be found for him in the county eleven as soon as he qualifies. His knowledge of the game and his keenness would make him an excellent coach for school or junior cricket, and under him apt pupils would, I feel sure, make rapid strides in the knowledge and practice of the game."

On arriving in England in 1908 Mr. Baxter first went to Nottingham, but decided to take up his residence in the county of his birth. He played his first cricket in England as a member of the Oldfields club, who were then members of the Churnet Valley League, and was fairly successful, but found the wickets very strange after being accustomed to the hard, fast ones of Australia. Whilst with Mr. Bamford's team, he received an invitation from the Staffordshire County Club to play against the Yorkshire reserves and Durham, at Stoke, in Wakes week, and his scores in those matches were 22 not out and a single. Receiving an appointment at Florence Colliery, Mr. Baxter was, in 1909, a member of the Colliery team, which headed the Uttoxeter, Blythe Bridge, and District League, and were runners-up to Oldfields in the Sentinel Cup competition. In each campaign he took a large share in the honours attained.

Although during the present season he has occasionally been seen in the ranks of the Colliery team, he has missed only a few matches of those participated in by the Longton Cricket Club, in the fight for the championship of the first division of the North Staffordshire League. He has been one of their most consistent batsmen, and has proved that as a first wicket man he has few equals in the district. One of the best performances was at Fenton, when, in company with H. J. Plant, he stood for almost an hour against Gill's expresses, and although he only made a dozen runs, he tired the bowlers to such an extent that the players to follow had no difficulty in gathering the runs in; his early efforts undoubtedly paved the way to success. Going in first man at Silverdale, when a draw was the only thing for his side to play for, he put such restraint upon himself that, when time was called, he had accumulated 44 runs and was still undefeated. Against Crewe Alexandra he and J. J. Awty made 115 as a first wicket stand, and the left-hander eventually retired fourth wicket down, with a faultless 45 to his account. Other scores are appended:—36 against Stoke, at Longton; 24 at Stoke; 16 at Crewe; and 32 at Longton, against Norton.

No matter how fast the bowling, it has no terrors for him; and against the demon bowlers his late cutting and driving have been a source of enjoyment to numerous followers of the great summer pastime in this district. He has also been fairly successful as a change bowler, and on several occasions during the present season he has brought about the separation of batsmen who were apparently set. He has my earnest wishes for his continued success.

LICHFIELD V. STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

Played at Lichfield on Wednesday. Scores:—

STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.	LICHFIELD.
R. C. Page, c. Duckworth, b. Beauchamp.....	0
(1) Trankom, b. Brammer.....	10
H. C. Gardner, b. Brammer.....	7
H. A. Page, c. Brammer, b. Beauchamp.....	21
A. H. Gilling, c. Lyon, b. Beauchamp.....	5
J. H. Gardner, b. Brammer.....	9
R. Cave-Rogers, c. Lyon, b. Brammer.....	24
C. B. Spence, c. and b. Beauchamp.....	0
The Rev. H. Beresford, c. Neville, b. Beauchamp.....	2
A. Sellon, b. Beauchamp.....	2
C. Russell, b. Beauchamp.....	2
E. Boyle, not out.....	1
Extras.....	10
Total.....	86

LICHFIELD.	STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.
Capt. C. H. Lyon, b. Gilling 18	
Beauchamp, b. H. Page.....	16
F. E. Kay, c. H. Page.....	5
Gilling.....	3
Capt. C. Nevill, b. Gilling.....	3
Brammer, c. H. Gardner, b. H. Page.....	10
Capt. R. Duckworth, not out 22	
F. Barnes, c. H. Page, b. Spence.....	19
P. W. Foster, b. H. Page.....	10
Major H. E. D. Wise, not out.....	8
A. T. Hodgeson.....	2
A. H. Barnes, and B. Keeley did not bat.	
Extras.....	12
Total (seven wickets).....	182

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

All the matches played on Saturday under the auspices of the Birmingham and District League were drawn, this being due to the fact that the games could not be started till late in the afternoon owing to rain. West-bromwich Dartmouth, entertaining Walsall at the Four Acres, started disastrously and lost five wickets for 17 runs. Eventually, however, their innings closed for 148 (H. Gurney 59, H. F. Waterhouse 27, H. C. Cheshire 22). Walsall had an hour and a half to knock off the runs, but, like Dartmouth, they opened badly, three wickets falling for 10 runs. At the fall of the fifth wicket the score stood at 80, and when Walsall had lost seven wickets for 86 runs had light capped play. The only Walsall batsmen to reach double figures were N. P. Hewson, who hit on 36, and L. Taylor, who scored 18. Brammer took six of the Dartmouth wickets for 64 runs, while Hildon took five from Walsall for 50. Mitchell and Butlers visited Stourbridge, where a rather uninteresting game was witnessed. The home side only made 112 (J. F. Clare 38, J. S. Cadman 16, P. Davis 10, Nicholls 13, T. Aldchurch 10), W. C. Smith taking four wickets for 14. An unsatisfactory response was made by the visitors, who had scored only 45 for five (Foreday not out 13, A. Holloway 12) when time was called. A. Bates took four of the visitors' wickets at a cost of 25 runs. In the other matches the scores were as follow:—Aston Unity 142 for six, Handsworth Wood 82 for seven, Moseley 171 for nine, Dudley 70 for two, Smethwick 115 for seven, Kidderminster 29 for three.

On account of a heavy fall of rain in the morning, local cricket was seriously interfered with on Saturday. Among the results recorded were the following:—Newport 87, Shifnal 172 for seven (R. A. Clarke not out 101); for Shifnal, T. W. Morris took five wickets for 30 runs. Churnet Valley League: Tean, 125 for eight, Leek 11, 43 for three. Uttoxeter and Blythe Bridge League: Cheshire, 57, Niscompe Colliery, 34 for four. On Wednesday, Stafford beat the Birmingham Teamways eleven by 96 to 83. For the winners, V. H. Robins 25, W. Sheldon 16, A. J. Richards 12; for the losers, B. Reau 23, Saunders, not out, 15, Smith 13.

STATE OF THE MAIN ROADS.

LOCALITIES UNDER REPAIR.

STAFFORD DISTRICT.—Stafford and Wolverhampton road, Sat. to Tues., 2½ miles from Stafford. Watling Street, Wed. to Fri., Crown Inn, Stratton.

LEEK DISTRICT.—Leek and Ashbourn road, Sat. to Tues., near old Toll Gate, 1½ miles from Leek; Wed. to Fri., near Lowhill Bridge, 1½ miles from Leek.

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.—Newcastle and Betley road, Sat., Bowsey Wood, 8 miles from Newcastle; Mon. and Tues., County Bridge, Wrinchill, 6½ miles from Newcastle; Wed., Police Station, Betley, 7½ miles from Newcastle; Betley and Chesterton road, Thurs. and Fri., near Lake Farm, 2½ miles from Audley.

UTTOXETER DISTRICT.—Uttoxeter and Newcastle road, Sat. to Tues., 4½ miles from Uttoxeter, near Pole Cleeve and Upper Town road, Wed. to Fri., 2½ miles from Cleeve, near Anchor Inn.

LICHFIELD DISTRICT.—Lichfield and Burton road, Sat. to Wed., near the 9th milepost from Lichfield; Thurs. and Fri., 9½ miles from Lichfield.

SENGLEY DISTRICT.—Walsall and Birmingham road, Sat. and Mon., south of Toplock Wharf, 3 miles from Birmingham; Tues. to Thurs., south of Blue Bell Wood, 4½ miles from Birmingham; Fri., between Blue Bell Wood and Scott Arms, 3 miles from Birmingham.



**SILVERDALE.**

**BARNES BRILLIANT**  
(By "WICKETKEEPER.")

In the match with Porthill last Saturday the visitors had first use of the wicket, and Barnes and H. F. Wood commenced the innings. The score was raised to 70 when Barnes ought to have been dismissed, F. Ellams missing a very easy chance, but four runs later a parling was effected, Wood being caught and bowled by Cadman. With the advent of W. H. Wood, another good stand was made, and 117 runs had been recorded when the last corner was caught by Brown. Previous to this Barnes had completed his half century after batting for 90 minutes. With an addition of 20 runs the next wicket fell, Groome uprooting Mawdesley's off stump. P. E. Wood filled the breach, and the score was taken to 166 for three wickets when the innings were declared. Barnes was not out 84.

The home team were left with two hours in which to bat, and so well did they play the waiting game that it was the fourth ball of the last over of the match with which Barnes dismissed the last man. Several changes of bowling were tried, but the wickets were taken by Barnes and Heath, the former having six for 13 and the latter four for 25. The home total only reached 63 runs, and five of the batsmen failed to make any score.

**NANTWICH.**

**THE FINAL OF THE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.**

The knock out cricket competition inaugurated for the advancement of young players as well as the finances of the town club, has not met with that success the promoters desired or deserved. The weather conditions on many occasions has been cruel, and the cost of the medals provided will absorb almost all the money taken at the gate. As generally expected, Nantwich St. Mary's have emerged triumphant. They were opposed to Hardings Employees on Saturday in the final, but the game underwent many changes, and only for the timely appearance of the Rev. Mr. Corfield, when the game was going all against his side, one is inclined to think the medals may have slipped from his boys' grasp.

T. W. Hope fell to a brilliant catch by F. Bramhall at deep slip with only two runs on the board, and then a procession followed, and six wickets had fallen for only ten runs. It was then the rev. gentleman arrived and, ably assisted by G. Graen, the score rose rapidly. The total eventually reached 66.

Hardings' best batsman was quickly disposed of, and the attack continued to be too strong for them, as their effort only realised 30.

At the conclusion Mr. Wainwright, of Blake-low, presented the medals to the winning team, complimenting them on their victory. In the course of his response the Rev. Mr. Corfield said he had great pleasure in handing his medal to L. Tilley, the top scorer of his opponents. This kindly action was much appreciated.

The semi-final stage of the "Sentinel" Cup having been arrived at, Oakmoor came as visitors on Monday, but owing to intervening showers the game was left drawn. When play left off, it was very much in the visitors' favour, as with seven wickets down for 144 they had declared.

**CHARITY EFFORT AT FENTON.**

**INTERESTING CRICKET MATCH ON MONDAY NEXT.**

On Monday next, by the permission of the committee of the Fenton Cricket Club, a match between teams representing the police and the members of the Fenton Workmen's Club and Institute will be played, the proceeds from which are to be devoted to the Police Orphanage and the Fenton Nursing Institution. The teams will be selected from the following:—

Police: P.C.'s Salt, Bingham, Marshall, Kelley, Deany, Wilson, Woodings, Johnson, Thorndyke, and Cox; to be captained by Superintendent Grove, of Longton.

Workmen's Club: R. Clapham, J. J. Awty, W. Smith, A. Bewick, P. Furr, H. Cochran, J. Povey, J. Booth; with A. Povey, G. Hawkins, H. Page, J. Wood, and W. Salmon as reserves, to be captained by Dr. Hopwood.

**THE INTERESTING CAREER OF MR. T. ROBINSON.**

**Hero of Local Cricket.**

**A Bowler who was Never "Taken Off" for Two Seasons.**

(By "GOOLIE.")

Cricket has no greater worthy in the northern portion of the county of Staffordshire than Mr. Thomas Robinson, who, although in his 66th year declares that he would be playing to-day in the North Staffordshire League, but for his sight, which so suddenly and sadly failed him in one eye some years ago. He was born at Audlom, in Cheshire, but, when quite a tiny tot of three years, he was brought to the Potteries, where he has lived ever since—in Burslem and Smallthorne. It is thirteen years since Mr. Robinson retired from active service, but his interest in the great summer pastime is as great to-day as ever. For many years he was a member of the County Cricket Committee, and also of the League Committee. He is still a member of the Staffordshire County Club, and no one is better known on the county ground at Stoke than Mr. Robinson, who is a most regular visitor at all the county matches. He is a man of considerable "avoidupois," weighing at the present time nineteen stone twelve pounds, and during the last years of his active participation in the game, he scaled 19st. 7lb., and played in his last season, with Burslem, in every match. He is six feet in height, but his rotundity makes his 72 inches appear considerably less. His only son, A. L. Ham D. Robinson, is a prominent player with the Burslem team, and his son-in-law is Mr. Albert Hollowood, whose prowess is well-known throughout the county.



MR. T. ROBINSON.  
(Photo by Radiograph Co., Blackpool.)

Mr. Robinson learned his cricket over 50 years ago on what was then called the "Oxeney" in Burslem, which is now the "Syth." The team consisted of workmen from Mr. T. Till and Sons' manufactory. "Prison bars" was at this time the most popular pastime with the potters, the chief encounters being between the various works, and an effort was made to form cricket clubs. Mr. Robinson, then 15 years old, became a member of Mr. Till's club. One match, against Chesterton, was played on the Tronham Park ground, and Mr. Kirkby, house steward for the Duke of Sutherland, stood as umpire at one end, and so well did young Robinson perform with the ball that Mr. Kirkby asked him whether he would play for Trentham villagers in their "Derby" game against Swynerton. This Mr. Robinson gladly accepted. He was not put on first to bowl, but as runs came at a rapid rate, he was tried as first change—and the innings was soon concluded. This was his real start in good cricket, for his tricky underhand proved so effective that he decided to go a class higher, and he joined the Burslem Rangers, who played on Porthill Park. At that time, Stoke Victoria were the premier cricket eleven in North Staffordshire, and the Burslem Rangers challenged them, but the Stoke Club, who played where the Stoke football ground now is, only offered their second eleven to meet them. This Burslem refused, but, after three years, a full day's

match, which began at ten o'clock, was played against Stoke's first team. The Rangers batted first, and were out for eleven runs, and when Stoke batted they were dismissed for 17. The players in that game remembered by Mr. Robinson on the Stoke side were Messrs. Mart. S. Mountford, Kirkby, and two brothers Copeland, whilst his side was captained by Captain Henry Clive and included John Morris (son of Dr. Morris), Ted Cope, Jim Cope, and Alf Wedgwood. He was then 19 years old.

In 1867 and 1868 he played for Trentham in their important matches, which were then of the first class, against the Incoogs, Staffordshire Rangers, Walsall, Smethwick, &c. Staffordshire Rangers had at that time a great underhand bowler in Mr. J. Blagg, of Chesdale, who, Mr. Robinson says, was a thorough sportsman and gentleman and who it was a real pleasure to play against.

In 1869 Mr. Robinson joined the Norton Club, with whom he played for 22 years; but previous to playing for Norton, in a game for Burslem Rangers, against Norton, at Porthill, he captured seven wickets in nine consecutive balls, which he considers his best bowling performance. The Norton team included Messrs. John Cole, Robert Cole, T. Hand, and J. Mycroft. Though Mr. Robinson did so well, his side lost the match. In the early seventies he became a regular player in the Staffordshire County eleven, with whom he bowled with considerable success. In his last match with the County, in 1890, against Somersetshire, an interesting incident occurred. His usual order of going in was tenth or last man, but in this game Mr. A. H. Heath, who was then captain of the eleven, seeing his partners leave so quickly that five wickets were down for a very few runs, told the out-going batsman to send in Robinson, and together they remained until luncheon, Mr. Robinson being not out 19, and Mr. Heath also not out with a good score. On July 2nd, 1883, in a game at Norton, against Stafford, the whole of the Stafford eleven were out without a single run being made from the bat, their total, four, accruing from the first ball of the match, sent down by Cobb, which went to the rails for four byes. Mr. Robinson got seven wickets and Cobb two. In this match the genial veteran made 67 runs in partnership with Mr. Robert Heath, of Biddulph Grange. In those days Stafford were a force in the cricket world, and their collapse was something of a nine days' wonder. Whilst with Norton he went to open the Audley ground, and he and Cobb bowled Audley all out for 11; Norton replying with 250. Mr. A. H. Heath making 87. In the same season they got Team season Robinson and Cobb bowled unchanged season Robinson and Cobb bowled unchanged for Norton. In 1887, for Norton against Silverdale, Mr. Robinson took nine wickets for ten runs.

In 1890 the League was started in North Staffordshire, and it will be remembered that Norton were its first champions, and Mr. Robinson's fine bowling played a big part in achieving this honoured position. Season 1891 saw him playing with Burslem, and what is really wonderful, Burslem were champions of the League that year. Harry Briscoe was the Burslem professional, and he and Mr. Robinson bowled right through that season unchanged, with one exception, namely, when Will Garner, now the cricket umpire, bowled six overs at Briscoe's end. Mr. Robinson's average was that season 3.6 runs per wicket and Briscoe's 3.4 per wicket. In a memorable game at Norton, a year later, Mr. Robinson, playing for Burslem, bowled through the innings without a run being made off him, and captured four wickets; Jack Brown taking six wickets for seven runs. Norton's total was eight. This was very gallant to Norton, for whom he had performed so many glorious feats. One who had the "pleasure of playing many times against Mr. Robinson describes his bowling as follows:—"In his time he was undoubtedly the finest underhand bowler playing. Batsmen used to tremble at the very mention of his name, and the rising generation copied his style of trundling, but, unfortunately, there are none who can trundle as well as he did, and one of the charms of local cricket was lost when he had to retire. He bowled along the carpet, and the ball twisted about so much before it came within striking distance that the batsmen were completely deceived, and fell easy victims. It was impossible to score many runs off them, and it was very difficult to hit them off the carpet."

As long as the cricketering fraternity of North Staffordshire can be privileged to have the presence of their old friend Tom Robinson at their matches and social functions, he will always be a very welcome guest. He is a sportsman of whom all who know him are very proud, and it is sincerely hoped that he will long remain to see the younger generations demonstrating and developing the art of which he was so able a master.

CRICKET.

NORTH STAFFS. LEAGUE.

(NOTES BY "INCOGNITUS.")

FIRST DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Norton	22	11	3	8	30
Porthill Park	22	11	4	7	29
Fenton	22	9	9	4	26
Burslem	22	6	3	13	25
Longton	22	8	6	8	24
Silverdale	22	7	5	10	24
Leek Highfield	22	7	5	10	22
Stoke	22	6	7	9	21
Crewe Alexandra	22	5	8	9	19
Leek	22	4	7	11	19
Tunstall	22	5	11	6	16
Stone	22	1	14	7	8

SECOND DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts
Oldfields	21	16	1	4	36
Knypersey	21	12	0	9	33
Crewe Alexandra II.	21	10	5	6	26
Porthill Park II.	21	8	6	7	23
Great Chell	21	7	6	8	22
Norton II.	21	7	6	8	22
Fenton II.	21	6	7	8	20
Burslem II.	21	6	9	6	18
Silverdale II.	21	5	8	8	18
Tunstall II.	21	4	10	7	15
Longton II.	21	2	12	7	11
Stoke II.	21	2	15	4	8

CHAMPIONSHIPS WON.

After many years—twenty to be exact—Norton again figure as First Division champions, and they will doubtless be generally congratulated on their distinction. In several respects, season 1910 has been a Norton season, and whilst Dame Fortune has smiled on them they can take all possible credit for having made the most of their opportunities. Their new ground venture has been punctuated with successes that have meant financial prosperity, and in so wet a year they have had the extreme good luck to be able to play all their home matches to a definite issue. And in their vital game of last Saturday, lucky chance was still with them, for they not only caught their opponents with a depleted side, but they found them devoid of scruples as to finishing in light that can be mildly characterised as poor. An appeal to the umpires would probably have been upheld, but none was forthcoming. And so Norton won their crucial match, and, as the most consistent side of the season, they deserve the honours. Good luck to a good old club!

But whilst no one will begrudge them their distinction, there will surely be some sympathy for Porthill who for the second successive year are but a point behind the champions, and the happenings of last Saturday entitle them to commiseration, for without labouring the matter it can be truly said that Crewe Alexandra's desire not to imperil Norton's pleasing prospect blinded them on the score of what was due to the other interested club. Still, Porthill can well afford to be as generous as their Cheshire friends, and no doubt their congratulations to Norton will be equally as hearty as those of any of their colleagues. Two ideas arose out of the New Ford match, one of which has the merit of being practicable, the other may not be feasible. The first suggestion is that during the last few weeks of the season, when positions at the two ends of the table are being sternly contested, play might commence half an hour earlier: the second idea that the umpires might be invested with primary powers as to fitness of light.

The Second Division championship was also settled last Saturday—somewhat unexpectedly, and the lack of light was the reason for the premature end to the struggle between Oldfields and Knypersey. In a game of small scores Oldfields were able to claim two points from Fenton, but Knypersey lay to be content to divide with Tunstall, for play was abandoned before a definite issue could be arrived at. The concluding matches have still to be played, but Oldfields are now unapproachable, and if they win their last game they will have secured a record number of points for either division—and this is only their second season as leaguers. The duel between Oldfields and Knypersey has been long and keen, and with an unbeaten list there is little likelihood of its being bemirrored to day—last year's champions may well bemoan their fate. In the history of the whole League there are but two other instances of a club's going through the season without defeat. The First Division games at Leek and Stone ended as anticipated, and Fenton just climb above Burslem for third place. In the Second Division Longton provided Stoke with their second victory, and so sacrificed all possible chance of vacating the eleventh position.

The big match at Norton attracted a large crowd of spectators, most of whom experienced alternate thrills of doubt and jubilation, but the latter was upmost at the finish. The game was commenced punctually, and by batting first, the leaders were practically ensured from defeat, though they had one period of real anxiety. Their score sheet presents a very solid appearance, but they had done none too well when the sixth wicket fell at 84. Captain J. Smith (17) and Fred Crump (11) were responsible for a decent stand-off, before the former proffered a catch to point, which gave J. F. Groom his one wicket of the afternoon. Harry Wright (18) continued the good work, and the half-century went up after 40 minutes' play; but when F. Cross and J. Brownridge took up the bowling Norton stock experienced a decided fall. The colt had successive players quite stuck up, and at one stage had four wickets for 12 runs. Commencing by getting Crump caught in the slips, he next had Harry Wright well taken at the wicket, and followed up those deeds by bowling E. Tatton (15) and having S. Worthy caught. Meanwhile Cross had accepted a simple return from Wilson, and these happenings meant Norton's period of dejection. But the situation might have been worse, for Arthur Smith had two escapes off the same ball—caught and run out—and he stayed long enough to help T. Skellam in a very valuable seventh wicket partnership which produced 14 runs, a stand of greater account than its actual numerical value. Moorhouse found a trimmer for Smith at 98, and then followed a brave effort by Skellam and Levi Evans.

Both men got chalks they were not strictly entitled to, but they played the game for the occasion, and scored at a pace that caused the skipper to feel justified in declaring at 4 15, with the board recording 151. Skellam's share was 38, and his success was doubly popular, as he has hardly done himself justice this season. Evans claimed 16, so that his inclusion in the side was a decidedly happy move, though it meant the exclusion of Adrian Capes, whose bowling might have been useful later in the afternoon. But "all's well that ends well." The innings produced no better batting than that of Harry Wright, who again figures amongst champions after a lapse of 12 years, for he was in Leek's successful side of 1898. Brownridge finished up with four wickets for 34 runs, and should develop into a useful all-rounder, for he afterwards showed capacity to keep up his end. Moorhouse bowled better than his one wicket for 33 suggests, but the other bowling was of not much account, and Groom was completely off form. Edgar Osborn and Moorhouse started the Alexandra innings with gusto, and had a couple of dozen runs on the books quickly.

The captain was then smartly taken at the wicket with his own score at unlucky 13, but Fred Bennett (18) and Moorhouse batted well and confidently, and found such little difficulty in scoring that many of the onlookers experienced palpitations. They took the score to 65 ere a poor stroke gave J. Malkin Bennett's wicket, and then followed a slump. The Crewe professional batted like a Trojan, despite a couple of nasty knocks from Wilson, and deserved every run of his 40. Groom, Cross, and Arthur Cope were easy prey, but J. Dickinson (22) played a really great game under trying conditions, and there was huge delight when Wilson caught him off John Smith. Brownridge and W. Abraham strove gamely as passive resistors, but the task of "holding the fort" was too severe for the Crewe tail, who, however, need to make no excuses. Norton tried five bowlers, each of whom got wickets, Wilson (four for 31) having the lion's share. J. Malkin had three for 25, H. Matthews one for 27, S. Worthy one for nine, and J. Smith one for three. The last-named managed his bowling exceedingly well, and proved himself a live skipper. Opportunity may occur to make detailed reference to the doings that have made Norton champions. Meanwhile, congratulations!

At Leek, the home club turned out their very best side against Porthill, but the visitors were convincing winners. Leek had first knock, but fared badly against Barnes and H. Eardley, J. Poinson, with 21, being top notcher. Barnes had five wickets for 23 runs, and the amateur added three. W. H. Wood (21) and Barnes added 48 chalks for Porthill's second wicket, and the match was won with six wickets standing. The professional played finely for 36 (not out).

There was a possibility of Stone having a second win when they disposed of Fenton for 76, and when they had 43 on the slate with but four men out matters were decidedly in their favour. Two former clever bowlers, however, came on the scene to work their destruction, Harry England capturing three wickets for a single run, and W. S. White four for a dozen. For Stone, Anthony had eight for 37, but the losers could not hope for success with the side they fielded.

NORTH STAFFS COMBINATION

FINAL TABLE.  
FIRST DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
Madeley	16	12	2	2
Bignall End	15	7	4	4
Audley	15	6	5	4
Sandyford	15	6	5	4
Knypersey II.	15	5	5	5
Leyceet	15	5	5	5
Knoxchapel	15	5	5	5
Pittshill	15	3	7	5
Hall Green	15	4	8	3

SECOND DIVISION.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
Bignall End II.	15	15	3	0
Woodland Pottery	15	10	3	2
Sandyford II.	15	8	7	0
Tunstall U.M.	15	7	6	2
Chell II.	15	6	7	2
Audley II.	15	6	7	2
Knypersey "A"	15	6	7	2
Pittshill II.	15	4	8	3
Leyceet II.	15	3	11	2

PRESENTATION OF LEAGUE TROPHIE

The season's programme has been fitting brought to a close by the presentation of the league trophies to the champions in the divisions. A fortnight ago Bignall E. Reserves, champions of the Second Division played their last league match, their opponents being Leyceet Reserves, and during interval Mr. T. Morgan, a vice-president of the League, presented the flag to the Bignall captain. Mr. Morgan was heartily thanked for his kindness.

On Saturday last Madeley, champions of the first division, met a team representing the Oldfields of the League, and a remarkable game ensued in which both sides made 30 runs. The Oldfields of the League batted first, but apart from Clarke, who captained the side, no one was able to long withstand the deliveries of Buckley and Malkin. Small as was the score however, Madeley had to be satisfied with a drawing level, the last four wickets falling never a run. This remarkable state of things was due to an exceptional bowling performance by Beardmore, of Pittshill. He bowled at lightning speed, and, after having at one time claimed four wickets for no runs, finished up with six wickets for eight runs. The other end Riley, of Bignall End, who was put on when the scores were level, managed to get two wickets for no runs.

During the interval, the president of the league, Mr. E. A. Ashmall, presented the trophy to Madeley. He remarked that their achievement in gaining the championship with 32 points out of a possible 32 was very worthy. He eulogised the officials of the League for the enterprise they had displayed, and complimented the players on the consistency of form they had shown throughout their membership of the Combination, which had last been rewarded by their gaining the championship.

After the match, the players adjourned to the Old Swan—the Madeley team at the invitation of the host and hostess, and the players and officials of the league at the invitation of the Madeley club. An excellent repast was served, and between fifty and sixty were present. The evening was spent in a congenial manner. Mr. Ashmall was heartily thanked for his services, on the proposition of Mr. Morgan, seconded by the league secretary.

UTTOXETER, BLYTHE BRIDGE & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
Oakmoor	18	14	2	2
Florence Colliery	17	13	3	1
Checkley	18	10	5	2
Oldfields II.	17	10	5	2
Meir	17	9	5	3
Caverswall II.	18	7	9	2
Uttoxeter II.	18	6	12	0
Cheadle	18	4	13	1
Woodhead	18	3	12	3
Hollington	17	3	14	2

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Checkley, 41; Oakmoor, 48 for five. Caverswall v. Hollington, 62. Meir, 37; Cheadle, 53. Uttoxeter v. Oldfields, 64 for nine.

Coal is cheaper in China than anywhere else in the world.

The area of Lake Superior is about equal to that of Ireland.