Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 23 April 1927 - 1

CRICKET

North Staffordshire and District League

To-day, weather permitting, club cricket will enter upon another season in North Staffordshire, and 523 players will take the field under the auspices of the premier league of the district, and the oldest league in the game. For Mr. W. C. Hancock was the first to conceive the idea of applying the league principle, which had already taken firm root in the sister game of Association football, to the summer pastime. The N.S. League competition made a successful beginning in 1890, and the season inaugurated to-day will be the 34th of actual play, leaving out the war years. Last season was the pleasantest in the matter of weather conditions since the wonderful summer of 1921, and all sections of the league provided much enjoyable cricket, with some improvement in the standard of play. With more attention being paid to the all important question of professional coaching, and professional assistance in the field, there is solid ground to hope for a continuance on the upward grade. The years following the war saw a rather sad decline in the standard of play, for which the absence of coaching and the lack of practice against professional bowling, were quite sufficient to account. The clubs are coming back to an appreciation of the value of these things, and the downward tendency has been arrested. There is a long way to go before the best pre-war standard is reached, but there is satisfaction in thinking that the senior club cricket of North Staffordshire is now probably getting better rather than worse. May the coming season provide substantial confirmation of this belief.

The race for senior honours last year was as stirring and sporting as could be wished, with Porthill staying the course better than the champions of the three preceding years, Bignall End, and taking the championship for the eighth time, with 35 points out of a possible 44, and 16 victories. Porthill's reserves also took the championship of their division for the eighth time, and the third year in succession, with 35 points. Madeley's first season in the senior rank was rather disastrous, and they would have given way to Alsager's Bank, who won the championship of section B, and would have gained promotion, but that their ground was adjudged not to be suitable for the top class. Owing to this circumstance, Alsager's Bank remain in the lower section, and Madeley must be accounted fortunate to have another chance of consolidating their position in section A.

The new season gives every promise of a stern and interesting contest amongst the senior clubs, and he would be rather a bold man who ventured upon a forecast of the result. That Porthill will not be easily dethroned may be taken for granted, for they will again have at command a powerful side, especially in batting. Stanley Heath is to skipper the team again, with Arthur Bickerton as "vice," and Heap has been re-engaged. Last season he topped the hundred wickets in a very fine performance—and he and J. Durbar, both left-handers, but one slow and the other fast, were a match-winning pair. Durbar has taken a professional engagement at Llanelly, and his departure will materially weaken the Porthill attack. If Heap should not meet with quite the same measure of success as last year, this may be the champions' weak spot, but they have, as I think, a useful bowler in J. Evenson, and several change bowlers in the side. They may also discover talent amongst their legions of young players. Still, I fancy they will miss Durbar, who was very destructive on a number of occasions last season. He carries with him the best wishes of a host of cricketers and cricket followers in North Staffordshire. Watching Durbar bowl as a youth in a very minor match several years ago, I was really impressed, and expressed a confident opinion that with ordinary development he would be bowling for Staffordshire in a few years. Three years later he was bowling for Staffordshire at Porthill. On his few appearances for the county he has been too erratic for marked success, but a good coach might conceivably have made a first-class bowler of him if he had been willing to learn. Durbar is still quite young, and his progress as a professional will be observed with interest.

No club in the league can place seven batsmen in the field to equal J. S. Heath, A. A. Bickerton, N. W. White, W. H. Fitchford, K. Gleaves, G. A. F. Bagguley, and H. F. Wood, jun., and Porthill have other run-getters to go on with in such players as J. J. Evenson, C. R. Heath, and W. Mountford. As a fielding side these men would also be rather hard to beat, and the ten names given furnish a fair variety of bowling to assist Heap, with Evenson, White, Bickerton, and the brothers Heath to take a turn. Another good bowler would make Porthill fairly strong favourites for the championship again, for C. R. Heath can take the wicket quite well.

Bignall End will have their erstwhile championship eleven further depleted. Last year the loss of Aaron Lockett naturally made a difference, and this time A. W. Ikin has also left them to take up professional duties, and the brothers E. and W. Downing have migrated to neighbouring Silverdale. Ikin is a fine Saturday afternoon player, and the diminutive Downings exceedingly useful all-rounders. The loss of the trio will inevitably make a hole in the side. And one wonders whether enough attention has been paid at Boon Hill to the budding talent generally to be found in that district. The fact that the second XI. finished last season at the bottom of their section, four points behind anyone else, does not suggest it. One useful recruit was discovered last year in D. White, a slow-medium right-arm bowler, and other latent ability could probably be found and developed if the right means were taken. But Bignall End may be in for a rather lean time unless they adopt a definite policy of coaching and encouraging their young players. The brunt of the bowling will probably fall upon F. J. Dale, D. White, and Dr. A. Riley, who constitute a trio of considerable possibilities, but more bowling of First Division class is an urgent need. The batting must be weakened by the defections named above, but there is still a good nucleus, with such players as L. McEllin (who should get another trial with Staffordshire), W. Beech, J. H. Mayer (captain), Dale, A. E. Bratby, F. Nixon, and Dr. Riley. With other teams improving, it will be a little surprising if Bignall End should prove equal to as many victories as in recent years. It is gratifying to know that the popular and hard-working Captain has made such a good recovery from an accident which cost him a broken ankle a few months ago that he is reported quite fit for the opening of the season.

Nantwich, after an indifferent start, put up a fine sequence of wins last season, including defeats of both Porthill and Bignall End when the pair were running neck and neck for the championship. It was their bowling that carried them through in spite of moderate batting time after time, and the engine of destruction was generally the combination of E. H. Steventon and W. T. Maybury. These amateurs rivalled, and probably surpassed, Heap and J. Durbar, of Porthill, as the most effective club pair of bowlers in the league. The side consistently totalled round about 100 per innings week after week, scores which would spell defeat for most clubs, but their clever bowlers rarely failed to do what was necessary, and they will be there again to prove the undoing of a good many teams in the coming season. There is not exactly a plethora of talent to support the two leading bowlers, but L. Haighton did well once or twice last year, and got a lot of wickets in the 2nd XI., and he will probably get more chance with the seniors this time, whilst another junior who is well spoken of is H. Garner. The batting may be stronger this year, with the addition of A. Price, of Crewe, and a highly promising boy from the Aston Club in L. Norton, and the re-appearance of last year's run-getters, including F. W. Slight. The club is fortunate in having a "stumper" of real class in the Cheshire County player, F. E. Hough. E. H. Steventon is captain, with Maybury as deputy.

Silverdale are definitely on the up grade, and are hoping to make a bid for honours this season, but their batting has not proved as reliable as, on paper, it looks, and their bowling is often rather lacking in sting on a good wicket. The Downings, from Bignall End, will strengthen the batting, and add to the already large number of useful bowlers without bringing that bit of extra class into the attack which it seems to need. Their rather erratic fast bowler, A. Charlesworth, has gone to Madeley, and one fears the bowling will suffer from some lack of variety. J. Cocks will skipper the side once more, and the old stalwart, J. C. Cooper, is re-engaged as pro. C. F. Rushton is a left-hand batsman, whose inability to spare time for county cricket is probably a loss to Staffordshire, and J. Whalen, the left-arm county bowler, is also a dependable right bat. If these two, with Cooper, strike their best form, there are plenty of batsmen to follow who are very likely to get runs when the edge has been taken off the bowling. G. Green is good behind the wicket, and the fielding of the side is generally keen, so that Silverdale may be expected to repeat their good showing of last year and take a worthy place in the league table.

Leek were a disappointing side last season, cracking up badly in the later stages. The fact of the matter was that the young players coming forward to recruit the first XI. were not up to the standard of the old, so that the batting became independable, whilst the fielding was often much below par, and discounted some good bowling. There is no excuse for loose fielding, which loses a great many matches. Many clubs pay by far too little serious attention to it. I understand that the services of Herbert Sedgwick, as professional, are not to be engaged this year but that there is a likelihood of the club's former pro., C. J. Taylor, being available as an amateur. Otherwise there is not likely to be any great change in personnel, and a good deal of responsibility for getting opponents out may be expected to devolve upon H. Birch and J. Pointon, though there are great possibilities about young Gordon Sedgwick, the 17 year-old son of the popular county bowler. Judging from only a single opportunity of seeing this strapping boy in action, he impressed as about the most promising youngster in North Staffordshire. Both as bat and bowler he should be of signal service to Leek. Arthur Rider is still good for a lot of runs, I make no doubt, and V. Astbury ought to have a better season, for, good bat as he is, my impression is that he played below his form last year. Dr. C. Harris is a newcomer, whose prowess has yet to be revealed. With improved fielding, Leek should still be at least in the top half, and for the future there is not likely to be any dearth of the raw material in that district, which proper coaching and practice could satisfactorily develop.

Norton disappointed me considerably last season, and I fear they will not have a smooth journey this time. For, after losing one or two players to Great Chell

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 23 April 1927-2.

a year ago and being hard hit by the departure of R. S. Hunt from the district, they will be further depleted by the transfer of four other men to Burslem. As these include J. Jolly, their biggest run-getter, and F. Bailey, perhaps their most promising bowler, together with L. H. Crump, another 1st XI. batsman, there will be vacancies that may prove hard to fill. Veteran J. Smith will captain the team once more, and with an abundance of young players coming on, quite a useful side may be got together, especially if a professional of good class is engaged. I understand the club has been seeking one, but at the time of writing have not heard the result of their search.

Longton may give the best some trouble this year, especially if J. W. Johnson, the County and Oakamoor batsman, is able to give fairly regular assistance. He only played nine innings last year, and headed the averages. With Johnson, Alfred Smith (the professional), and C. J. Edwards to head the batting order, a good many league bowlers would be likely to lose something of their vim before the rest of the team have to face them. J. Preece, formerly captain of Denstone College, should be a useful addition to the batting, and of the others the left-hander, A. Hawker, and C. Steele will be watched with interest. The latter impressed me last season as a boy of real promise, and a run of non-success in his first season with the 1st XI. may have done him no harm. Alf. Smith is quite the right coach to develop his game. A. H. Poate, slow left-hand bowler, who was successful with Caverswall last year, has joined Longton, but otherwise the bowling resources will be the same. A. Kent resumes the captaincy after an interval. Last year there was something wanting in the management of the bowling when I saw the team in the field, and it will be all to the good if this is corrected. How few captains seem able to judge the right moment to bring their best bowler or bowlers on again after a rest. One not infrequently sees the first pair of bowlers dispose of some of the most dangerous batsmen of the other side quite cheaply, and then taken off, perhaps correctly, when a stand is made, not to be brought back until half-a-dozen change bowlers have served up inferior stuff, which has enabled later batsmen to make lots of runs, and perhaps gain a winning position, without the original bowlers having an opportunity to get them out. The judicious use of Alf. Smith's bowling would have saved Longton a lot of runs each time I saw them, and would almost certainly have turned defeat into victory on one occasion.

There is much enthusiasm at Burslem, and it seems likely that they will have a much improved team. They have the biggest following of any club in North Staffs., and have done wonders in the way of the re-equipment of their ground at Cobridge since the club's resuscitation after the war. Last season a roomy new pavilion and paddock were opened, and the season showed a profit of over £200. J. Jolley has again migrated from Norton, and with him have come F. Bailey, L. H. Crump, and W. Beddows (a wicket-keeper). Jolley and Crump will add very materially to the run getting quality of the side, and Bailey will strengthen the bowling considerably. As Roy Hollowood, who was in South Wales a good part of last season, expects to be available throughout, and Evans Cook, again elected captain, is in much improved health, Burslem's attack should also be more effective than last year, with decidedly useful youngsters in A. Cartlidge and E. A. Oliver to help. One or two left-hand bats of ability are always an asset, and Burslem have "Billy" Briscoe, of Port Vale fame, and A. Birch, a young player who seems only to need correct coaching to become a prolific scorer. Burslem may be found making a bold bid for the championship this time.

The Alexandra at Crewe have lost A. Price to Nantwich and J. J. Steele, owing to an accident at football, but they are hoping that new comers in the Rev. J. Beddow, J. F. Rees, and E. Greenwood will more than restore the batting strength, to say nothing of their new professional, C. E. Etheridge, who is an all-round player, and both bats and bowls left-hand. He is a young cricketer who comes from the ground staff of Worcestershire, and bowls slow-medium. The club has a large membership, and juniors who give considerable promise are S. Hare, E. Woodhall (who got a lot of wickets last term), W. Kirkham, A. McTurk, and G. Prince. The old club should have an improved side. The bowling was too weak last year to reap the reward of some capital batting displays, and much will probably depend upon the effectiveness of Etheridge this time. The excellent ground has had expensive attention, a large part of the outfield having been returfed.

That old stalwart, E. J. Barber, will captain Great Chell, and "Jimmy" Gibson, in his second season at Chell, will be deputy. J. A. Butler has followed Gibson from Knypersley, and others who have transferred to Chell are Stanley Crump, another defection from Norton, and E. Hall, of Goldenhill Wesleyans. A. W. Ikin, of Bignall End, is the new professional, and the team should be quite up to the average in batting, if not too strong in bowling. Two young players whose progress will be watched with more than ordinary interest are A. Smith and W. Warburton. The former batted so well last year as to suggest a trial with the county in the near future. This will probably come if he develops on the right lines more especially as he approaches brilliance in the field. Warburton is reported to be something of a stylist, and opened the innings with success last year, but on the one occasion when I had the opportunity of seeing him he was unfortunate enough to be out first ball.

The Knypersley men have my best wishes for a successful season, but one fears they may have a struggling time. Though they have lost a few players in the last season or two, they have a number of young ones who have learnt that cricket in a fairly good school, and they may create a few surprises before the season is over. E. Mosedale is again captain, and will probably have to bear the brunt of the bowling once more, for the resources at his disposal seem to lack First Division quality. T. Bilby has hardly realised the promise he seemed to give a few years ago as a left-arm bowler, but both W. and J. Boon may develop, the latter as a "speed merchant." H. E. Bourne will, no doubt, be the side's most tenacious batsman, as he has been for a good many years—always hard to get out and always playing correct and skilful cricket, though he has got slower this last year or two. Of the younger brigade W. Boon, W. Whitehead, and J. Bedson were revealing distinct promise last season, and with increasing confidence should entertain the club's supporters to some good batting this time. Boon, in particular, struck me last year as a likely lad, well built for cricket, with a good style, and plenty of reach and power. I fancy there was room for improvement in the fielding of the side.

Madeley have another chance, as explained above, and if courage and keenness would suffice, they would take full advantage of it. I understand they will again have the services of J. Ankers, and the transfer of A. Charlesworth from Silverdale should help their bowling, which is of fair average quality, with some sameness about a good deal of it. There will be very little change in personnel, and the hope of getting away from the bottom of the table rests on the satisfactory development of their younger players. In this direction the tuition of Ankers may be bearing fruit. A whole-hearted band of cricketers, it would be pleasant to see real improvement in the batting this season.

Stone will make another bid for promotion, and seem to have talent enough to succeed with loyalty and ordinary luck.

Since these notes were written I have received authentic information that the Norton Club have engaged as professional, Herbert Sedgwick, the Staffordshire fast bowler, who was last season with Leek after a considerable spell at Walsall, in the Birmingham League. The big and genial Yorkshireman has resided at Leek, where he is in business, for a number of years. His assistance is likely to prove of great value to Norton at a time of rather severe losses.

The Critic

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 21 May 1927-1

STAFFORDSHIRE CRICKET

New Season's Prospects

(By The Critic)

On the threshold of another season of county cricket the Staffordshire County Club stands in a much more stable position than it did a year ago. Its membership has been increased by nearly 150, and last year, for the first time for quite a long period, its income, apart from a substantial grant from the Test Match profits, rather more than met its outgoings. These are signs of reviving interest, and strong hopes of a further and progressive increase in the number of members are entertained. Last year the share of the Test Match proceeds enabled the adverse balance to be reduced from just over £700 to just under £500, and the depressing accumulation of debt at the rate of about £150 a year was thus effectively checked. But at least another 100 members are required to stabilise the position, entirely apart from the annual accretion of new subscribers which is necessary to make good the normal loss by death and other causes. At the recent annual meeting Stafford was again included in the several districts of the county which furnish practically no support to the county club, and Lord Lichfield undertook to use his personal influence to secure a better representation of the Stafford district in the membership role. One would like to appeal for a few lovers of our great pastime in the vicinity of the county town, to back up Lord Lichfield's endeavours, so that the centre of the county may take its reasonable share in the support of county cricket. Last year's improvement was the outcome of much hard work, particularly in North Staffordshire, and the results prove that effort is fully worth while, and, if rightly directed, commands success. Now is the time to crown the good work already done, which has brought the realisation of long-deferred hopes of placing the county club on a really sound footing within the possibility of early attainment. One year of increased support has, for the time being at all events, dispelled the gloomy menace of possible demise which was really threatening the county club, but more general interest is still needed, and Central Staffordshire should "pull its weight."

All associated with county cricket will be heartened for the new campaign by the increased support last year — subscriptions rose by £87 (including £27 in special donations), and gate receipts were up by £117.

The programme for 1927 is as follows:

June 8, 9—Cheshire ... ... Macclesfield
15, 16—Lincolnshire...Westbromwich
22, 23—Leicester II....Wolverhampton
29, 30—Lancashire II. ... Blackpool
July 4, 5—Cheshire ... ... Porthill
11, 12—North Wales ... ... Stoke
13, 14—Leicester II....Loughborough
20, 21—Notts II. ... ... Mansfield
Aug. 1, 2—Notts II. ... ... Porthill
3, 4—Lancashire II. ... ... Stoke
11, 12—Lincolnshire ... Frodingham

The absence of Norfolk from the list is to be regretted, but this was unavoidable, and the Second XI. of Leicestershire take the place of the eastern county. Otherwise, the competition programme is unchanged, but an addition to the engagements that will be welcomed in North Staffordshire is a friendly match with North Wales. The North Wales club can place a strong and attractive side in the field, usually with several University men of Oxford and Cambridge fame, and on this occasion, in July, at the old county ground, Stoke, they will have the assistance of Barnes, who will thus for the first time be seen operating against his native county.

"Stars" of the Future.

The ten championship matches will test the Staffordshire team to the full, for the second strings of Lancashire, Notts, and Leicestershire are composed mainly of young players considered worthy to be trained on for the respective First XI.'s, and quite a number of those who are now making fame in first-class cricket have played against Staffordshire within the last two or three years. As an instance of this, one might take the Notts 2nd, XI., which opposed Staffordshire at Trent Bridge two years ago. That side included Walker, Lilley, and Larwood, who in a month or so were successful members of the 1st XI., whilst Larwood was bowling for England in little more than 12 months. A. Staples has also won his way into the Notts team, and he played against Staffordshire twice last season. Similarly, in Lancashire, Watson, Iddon, Sibbles, Taylor, Farrimond, P. T. Eckersley are names that come readily to mind of young players who have in the last few years graduated in the Second XI., which is the nursery of each of these great cricketing counties, and generally contains young players destined to make a name and fame in first-class cricket. Leicestershire will, no doubt, oppose Staffordshire with as interesting and capable a side of young players as have Notts and Lancashire for a number of years. Cheshire can always be relied upon to field a side that will provide good cricket, with about an even chance against Staffordshire's best; and Lincoln, weaker opposition because of the absence of professionals in the county, are not an unattractive side, with a great hearted cricketer in Major Wilson as captain, and one of the stars of the Minor Counties in R. E. Frearson, a fine bat and one of the best cover-points in the country. So the programme furnished six attractive home matches, which will provide thoroughly interesting cricket for those who patronise them.

An Interesting Experiment

It will be seen that two of these are to be played, as usual, at Porthill, and two at Stoke. Wolverhampton is to have one match this year, instead of two, but last year's allotment of two matches was exceptional, and arose from the poor support accorded the match allocated for several years to Old Hill. This time another experiment is to be inaugurated in the south of the county by the playing of a match for the first time on the ground of the Dartmouth club, at Westbromwich. Strong hopes are entertained that this will prove successful. Linked up so closely with Birmingham, this area has been left to give all its support to Warwickshire, but officials of the club and prominent supporters of the game at Westbromwich cordially welcome the idea of playing Staffordshire cricket there, and anticipate adequate support so long as the date does not clash with a home fixture of Warwickshire at Edgbaston. This, of course, has been avoided, and it is up to the followers of the game in the populous neighbourhood of Westbromwich, remembering that they are Staffordshire people, to accord to the Staffordshire team such a reception as will ensure the repetition of the experiment. If there should be any tendency on the part of some who are more or less accustomed to first-class cricket to think the second class not worthy of their attention, one can repeat with strong emphasis the remark of Mr. W. C. Hancock at the annual meeting, that Westbromwich people will find that their own county can play good cricket and always has enjoyable matches. Westbromwich players have been included in the county team latterly, and there will, no doubt, be local representatives in the side on June 15 and 16. This innovation is one of exceptional interest as being perhaps the first attempt to exploit for Staffordshire cricket one of those thickly populated areas in which club cricket is strong, but which lie in close proximity to a neighbouring first-class county.

Playing Resources

Last season's results were an improvement on 1925, and but for the loss of points owing to weather interruptions in the late matches, the right to challenge Durham for the championship might have been earned. And yet the form shown was not satisfying, and the measure of success attained was due more to Barnes's remarkable bowling than to all-round excellence. The general standard of batting was not high, even allowing for the fact that on a number of occasions rain-damaged wickets made matters difficult for batsmen. On several of the pitches encountered a dozen was a good score, and such conditions, of course, make a mess of batting averages. Some players had no opportunity to bat except when the conditions favoured the bowlers, and consequently the average table is no criterion of their ability or value. But there were failures when conditions favoured run-getting. There were occasions when sheer inability to time the ball on a fast pitch was the chief cause of failure. Such batsmen as H. Goodwin and J. W. Johnson each got going only once, and P. O. Yates and A. Lockett had a lean time, whilst others higher up the table were less consistent than usual. In looking forward it is reasonable to assume that the leading batsmen will get more runs this season. The men who played eight or more innings last year were H. W. Homer, C. Howl, Barnes, Sedgwick, J. W. Johnson, H. Goodwin, Platt, J. B. Russell, and A. Lockett, and this was their order in batting averages, and F. D. Perks, playing in the later matches, made a promising debut, averaging 18.60 for six innings without having one really plumb wicket to bat on. These ten players will probably be the most regular members of the side again, for it seems useless to hope for more than one or two appearances from such players as E. W. Page and G. H. Thorneycroft. I hope P. F. Stubbs and P. O. Yates will not have to be included in that category. Yates's luck was dead out last season, when he went to the wicket five times for 20 runs, but in 1925 he averaged 28, and is good enough to get runs with ordinary luck. Stubbs, the young Stone amateur, only played three innings last year, which included one stylish effort of 37. He is a county batsman without doubt, and it is to be hoped he will make a serious effort to spare the time for at least a good proportion of the matches. J. S. Heath is batting so well that he would be of considerable service if his qualification is good for this season, which is, I understand, rather a nice point. A. A. Bickerton and W. H. Fitchford were never in the team last season, and their absence also is a serious loss. W. Lee and J. Whalen are change bowlers who have improved so much in batting as to become useful all-rounders, when the need for their services should arise. There are other players in North Staffordshire who are worthy of a good trial, and would, I believe, receive it but for the difficulty that they cannot afford to leave their work unless payment for broken time is forthcoming. It is a pity that something cannot be done to meet such cases. Happily, some employers are sufficiently interested to allow leave of absence for county cricket without loss of wages, but not all. As to likely new players, I hear of possibilities in several directions, but one must await events. One likely recruit, however, may be mentioned, as he becomes qualified and is pretty certain to have his change. I refer to N. W. White, of Porthill, a batsman of forcing type and quite useful as a change bowler. Before coming to North Staffordshire he had several games with the Lancashire 2nd XI.

The brunt of the bowling seems likely to fall upon the old quartet—Barnes, Sedgwick, Platt, and Lockett, and it will be well for Staffordshire if the season should reveal another bowler of class to assist them. Arthur Jolley, of Norton, has started the season well, but whether he will be available for another trial I am unable to say. J. Durbar has accepted a professional engagement at Llanelly; otherwise, he bowled well enough at Porthill last season to arouse fresh hopes of his usefulness to the county. Personally, I had some hope of a good slow bowler being available from the southern end of the county, but inquiries throw doubt on his qualification, which is a pity, as I believe he would have been able and pleased to assist Staffordshire. So we shall have to accept a famous politician's advice, and "wait and see" what the season brings forth.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 21 May 1927 - 2.

Testimonial for Barnes

The great services of Sidney F. Barnes to Staffordshire are to be recognised during the coming season by an official testimonial in celebration of two events which synchronised last year, viz., the attainment of his 50th birthday and the completion of 1,000 wickets for Staffordshire. An appeal for subscriptions to make this effort worthy of the county, and as far as possible worthy of the truly great cricketer it is desired to honour and in some measure reward, is to be launched by Lord Dartmouth, as president of the club. Barnes was granted a benefit by the Staffordshire club about 15 years ago, and I believe the reward he received was about £390. Had he been a native of Yorkshire, or Notts, say, he would have had £2,000 or £3,000 added to that figure. Or if he had been an Australian, and had performed for the Commonwealth what he did for England, he would probably have been even more handsomely rewarded. The question of making the testimonial a national one, as well as a county one, was discussed at the annual meeting, and left for decision to the committee. There seemed to be a feeling in some quarters that this should be a county tribute, and the idea has a nice spirit behind it. But the interests of Barnes should be the primary consideration in this matter, and these will, of course, best be served by inviting the co-operation and assistance of the other counties and the governing body. An authoritative writer on the game in the "Athletic News" recently referred to the proposal as "one which will interest and should receive the support of cricketers in all parts of the world." "It is hoped," added this authority, "that the proposed fund will take the form of a National Testimonial," and he proceeded to record the fact that the late A. G. Steel expressed the opinion that Barnes was the best bowler the game had ever known, surpassing even Spofforth himself, since when other very sound judges have agreed with that estimate. His extraordinary feats would fill a good-sized volume, but let me recall his bowling on two consecutive days last August, at Grantham and Norwich. In the two innings of Lincolnshire he delivered 33 overs for 31 runs and 14 wickets on one afternoon, and the next morning took seven Norfolk wickets for 24—21 wickets for 55 runs in the three innings. In Lincolnshire's first innings his last nine overs produced one run and five wickets, and when Lincolnshire followed on he took two wickets in his first over, making 10 consecutive overs for one run and seven wickets. His next 10 overs produced 7 runs and 4 wickets—20 overs for 8 runs and 11 wickets. And this at 50 years of age.

The full record of his bowling for Staffordshire may appropriately be reproduced, and is as follows :—

Year	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.	Avge.
1904	269.4	62	679	66	10.23
1905	193.2	44	508	44	11.54
1906	373.1	100	932	119	7.83
1907	246	82	505	79	6.39
1908	397.4	139	817	92	8.18
1909	285	85	676	93	7.26
1910	363.5	99	879	90	9.76
1911	337.2	113	750	104	7.21
1912	191	75	376	70	5.37
1913	196.3	48	397	65	6.10
1914	159.3	57	297	48	6.18
1924	256.5	79	525	73	7.19
1925	184.5	57	417	31	13.45
1926	312.2	98	624	76	8.21
Aggregate	3767	1138	8382	1050	7.98

Further reference to Barnes's records in International, county, and club cricket must be left for another occasion, and one need only add a sentiment which will be echoed by all followers of cricket in Staffordshire, that another successful season is in store for him in 1927.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Monday 23 May 1927-1.

SATURDAY'S CRICKET.

Wet Wickets Assist the Bowlers.

Equal Scores in a Junior Match.

The heavy showers of rain which fell on Saturday morning and early afternoon rendered the wickets in a condition favourable to bowlers, and in several cases late starts were made in the North Staffordshire and District League matches. In spite of the wet wicket, however, heavy scoring took place at Crewe, where the Alexandra played a drawn game with Great Chell, A. W. Ikin hitting up 72 (not out) for the visitors, and F. Walker compiling 67 for the Alexandra. Quite a number of bowlers secured good averages in both the senior and junior divisions of the League.

There was a remarkable result to the Cheadle and Burslem High Lane match in the Junior Division, both teams scoring the same number of runs, viz., 43. In other junior matches, E. Tunstall scored 80 for Knypersley, H. Byrne 79 for Leek, and J. Jennings 66 (not out) for Crewe Alex.

The results of Saturday's matches were as follow:—

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

Norton, 93; Bignall End, 69.
Leek, 94 (for 9 wkts); Silverdale, 141 (for 9 wkts, declared).
Knypersley, 72; Nantwich, 138.
Porthill Park, 142 (for 6 wkts); Burslem, 114 (for 8 wkts).
Madeley, 110 (for 8 wkts); Longton, 116.
Crewe Alexandra, 177; Great Chell, 94 (for 9 wkts).

SENIOR DIVISION.—Section "B."

Burslem High Lane, 133; Cheadle, 50.
Caverswall, 178 (for 9 wkts); Stone, 48 (for 7 wkts).
Fenton, 24; Sandyford, 50.
Alsagers Bank, 149; Batley, 49.
Kidsgrove, 48; Ashcombe Park, 104.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "A."

Silverdale, 101 (for 2 wkts); Leek, 206 (for 8 wkts, declared).
Nantwich, 96; Knypersley, 122.
Burslem, 82 (for 5 wkts); Porthill Park, 78.
Longton, 142 (for 6 wkts); Madeley, 25.
Great Chell, 111; Crewe Alexandra, 118.

JUNIOR DIVISION.—Section "B."

Cheadle, 43; Burslem High Lane, 43.
Stone, 59; Caverswall, 49.
Sandyford, 132; Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 75.
Batley, 97; Alsagers Bank, 56.
Scot Hay, 71; Kidsgrove, 45.
L.M.S. (Stoke), 131; Audley, 67.

The best individual performances were:—

BATTING.

A. W. Ikin, Great Chell (v. Crewe Alex.)	*72
F. Walker, Crewe Alex. (v. Great Chell)	67
E. Tunstall, Knypersley II. (v. Nantwich II.)	80
H. Byrne, Leek II. (v. Silverdale II.)	79
J. Jennings, Crewe Alex. II. (v. Great Chell II.) ..	*66

*Not out.

BOWLING.

A. Poate, Longton (v. Madeley)	3 for 6
S. Heath, Madeley (v. Longton)	4 for 20
H. Sedgwick, Norton (v. Bignall End)	7 for 58
E. H. Steventon, Nantwich (v. Knypersley) ..	7 for 54
H. White, Silverdale (v. Leek)	4 for 20
S. Durber, Burslem High Lane (v. Cheadle) ..	6 for 26
A. Bourne, Sandyford (v. Fenton)	6 for 11
H. Holland, Sandyford (v. Fenton)	3 for 6
J. Wood, Fenton (v. Sandyford)	5 for 8
S. H. Jackson, Caverswall (v. Stone)	4 for 17
R. Woolley, Longton II. (v. Madeley II.)	4 for 9
A. Bradbury, Longton II. (v. Madeley II.) ..	5 for 18
E. Davies, L.M. & S. II. (v. Audley II.)	5 for 18
G. Malbon, Cheadle II. (v. Burslem H.L. II.)	8 for 16
G. Mellor, Burslem H.L. II. (v. Cheadle II.)	6 for 19
W. W. Wood, Stone II. (v. Caverswall II.) ..	4 for 16
F. Higginbottom, Scot Hay (v. Kidsgrove II.	4 for 1
E. Downing, Scot Hay (v. Kidsgrove II.) ..	5 for 18

Senior Division.—Section "A."

PORTHILL v. BURSLEM.

PORTHILL.—A A Bickerton c Fenton b Oliver 41, K Gleaves c B Cook b Tunnicliffe 25, N W White c Fenton b Bailey 3, J S Heath c Beddowes b Tunnicliffe 28, W H Pitchford c Briscoe b Oliver 2, J R Parkes b E Cook 18, G A F Barguley not out 26, O E Heath not out 4, extras 6; total (for 6 wkts), 142.

Innings declared.

BURSLEM.—L Crump c Pitchford b Heath 28, E Cotton b Heap 13, J Fenton st C R Heath b Heap 1, F Bailey c White b Bickerton 1, W Briscoe not out 44, E A Oliver c Billington b Heap 0, A Birch not out 21, extras 10; total (for 5 wkts) 118.

BIGNALL END v. NORTON.

NORTON.—D Worthington b D White 6, J Smith c Mayer b F J Dale 4, D Massey c Mayer (H) c McEllan b Dale 27, A Evans lbw b Dale 6, R Tatton b D White 10, E Payne b D White 11, A Jolley run out 2, I Waterfall c Beech b F J Dale 4, J Martin not out 0, extras 10, total 93.

BIGNALL END.—A E Bratby b Sedgwick 6, L McEllin c Worthington b A Jolley 5, J H Mayer c Worthington b Sedgwick 11, W Beech c Tatton b Sedgwick 29, A Poole b Sedgwick 0, F Nixon c Evans b A Jolly 1, S Hassall b Sedgwick 0, F J Dale c S Smith b A Jolley 8, K Platt c A Jolley b Sedgwick 0, L Burgess b Sedgwick 1, D White not out 6, extras 2; total 69.

MADELEY v. LONGTON.

LONGTON.—A Smith run out 47, C Steele b Jolley 7, A E Bennett run out 2, H Brassington c Heath b Mayer 8, J V Toney c Malkin b Heath 17, J Preece b Heath 1, A Hawker c Hazeldine b Malkin 13, R Allen b Heath 0, A Poate not out 11, A C Hawkins c Beech b Malkin 2, A Meigh b Heath 4, extras 4; total, 116.

MADELEY.—Jolley (J.) c Hawkins b Smith 39, F Beech st Meigh b Smith 0, A Beech c Brassington b Smith 3, E Mayer c Hawkins b Smith 6, J Hazeldine not out 45, T Stubbs run out 1, S Heath b Poate 12, T Jones hit wkt b Poate 0, J Glover c Hawker b Poate 2, extras 5; total (for 8 wkts), 119.

KNYPERSLEY v. NANTWICH.

NANTWICH.—W T Maybury b Boon 9, F W Slight c Boon b Mosedale 23, L Norton c Bobby b Millward 5, T W Steventon c Bibby b Mosedale 10, J E Smith c Bibby b Millward 6, A Price st Finney b Millward 7, H Gidman run out 34, E H Steventon c Bibby b Millward 5, A Hinde c and b Boon 21, F E Hough c and b Mosedale 10, H Garner not out 0, extras 3; total, 138.

KNYPERSLEY.—H E Bourne b E H Steventon 12, T Bibby b Maybury 0, A Cooper b E H Steventon 20, W Boon b E H Steventon 10, W Whitehead st Hough b E H Steventon 13, E Mosedale b Maybury 0, J Bedson b E H Steventon 1, M Millward st Hough b Maybury 1, W Lonsdale b E H Steventon 8, G Bedson not out 1, F Finney c Slight b E H Steventon 0, extras 6; total, 72.

LEEK v. SILVERDALE.

SILVERDALE.—J Cooper c and b Birch 22, A Ward c Allcock b Birch 4, C F Rushton, c Astbury b Birch 28, J Whalen c Allcock b Birch 10, E Downing c Pointon b Taylor 4, B Griffiths hit wkt b Birch 1, E White c and b Birch 17, W Downing c Sedgwick b Taylor 9, G Green c Dr Harris b Birch 4, J Cocks not out 15, E Groom not out 15, extras 12; total (for 9 wkts) 141. Innings declared.

LEEK.—A Rider b Griffiths 1, V Astbury c E Downing b Griffiths 23, H Hassall c Green b White 4, J Pointon lbw b White 2, Dr C Harris c Ward b W Downing 5, G Sedgwick c Cooper b J Whalen 8, P Daintry c Green b White 11, H Allcock run out 0, J H Ellerton b White 0, H Birch not out 0, extras 14; total (for 9 wkts), 68.

CREWE ALEX. v. GREAT CHELL.

CREWE.—W M Norman b Worthington 0, M Walker b Worthington 3, F Walker c Ikin b Crump 67, C Etheridge b Fitchford 0, J Dickenson c Copeland b Ikin 13, J Brownridge c Ikin b Fitchford 39, C Coffin run out 23, A Sandlands c Warburton b Crump 1, D Kirkham run out 18, S Hare not out 3, F Sylvester c and b Fitchford 4, extras 8; total 177.

GREAT CHELL.—A W Ikin not out 72, F Vodrey not out 16, extras 6; total (for no wkts), 94.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

FENTON v. SANDYFORD.

SANDYFORD.—G Bourne c J Wood b W Wood 7, J Dean b W White 10, C Cotton c Mellor b W White 1, H Holland b W White 3, A Bourne run out 22, M Baker lbw b W Wood 0, V Tams b J Wood 2, F Jones b J Wood 0, S Dean st P C White b Houseman 0, F James not out 1, W Parr b J Wood 1, extras 3; total 50.

FENTON.—A Mellor c A Bourne b Holland 0, C White run out 5, G Hammersley b A Bourne 2, F Colclough c J Dean b Holland 1, J Sutton b A Bourne 2, F Osborne b A Bourne 5, W Wood c and b A Bourne 1, T Naylor b A Bourne 0, W White c Parr b A Bourne 2, J Wood not out 1, E Housemane Parr b Holland 0, extras 5; total 24.

CAVERSWALL v. STONE.

CAVERSWALL.—W Colclough c and b Johnson 8, R Dunn b Wormington 0, J Turner b Fernie 31, F Barber b Johnson 21, A Pickard lbw b Johnson 4, E Wakelin run out 18, I Hadley b Fernie 12, F Ollier lbw b Wormington 1, S H Jackson c Smith b Wormington 5, H S Roberts not out 22, F Hannett not out 38, extras 14; total (for 9 wkts), 172. Declared.

STONE.—P F Stubbs lbw b Wakelin 2, R C Wormington b Dunn 8, B Meakin not out 19, J Cooper b Jackson 6, A M E Smith c Dunn b Pickard 6, G Reece st Hannett b Jackson 1, E Slynn lbw b Jackson 0, C H Matthews c Roberts b Jackson 5, F Ravenscroft not out 4, extras 2; total (for 7 wkts), 55.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE v. CHEADLE.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE.—W Vodrey hit wkt b Critchlow 46, T Johnson c A Shaw b Keates 2, F Wood c Wetwood b Keates 24, A Robertson b Keates 23, J Machin b Fieldhouse 0, T Hancock c J Shaw b Critchlow 1, G Skellam c Keates b Critchlow 4, J Henshall c Capewell b Critchlow 5, J Clayton b Critchlow 13, A Hurd c A Shaw b Keates 6, S Durber not out 3, extras 6; total 133.

CHEADLE.—E Capewell c Johnson b Skellam 17, J A Hurst b Skellam 7, J Shaw c Johnson b Skellam 3, E Critchlow c Machin b Durber 10, J Fieldhouse b Durber 4, V Pepper b Durber 0, A Wetwood b Durber 0, R Whitehurst lbw b Durber 0, A Shaw c Machin b Durber 8, W Brough c Vodrey b Skellam 0, J Keates not out 0, extras 1; total 50.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

BURSLEM v. PORTHILL PARK.

PORTHILL PARK.—W Mountford b Fenton 6, H C Renshaw c Sharp b Kirkham 0, C Bickerton b Fenton 38, W Washington run out 0, M S Showan c Kirkham b Fenton 5, S Billington b Kirkham 13, P S S Briggs b Fenton 8, H L Littlepage lbw b Fenton 0, S R Cooper c Hackney b Fenton 1, H Gleaves b Fenton 0, E Poole not out 5, extras 5; total 79.

BURSLEM.—J Fenton c Poole b Cooper 8, A Hackney b Gleaves 3, G Smith not out 18, H Sharpe c Poole b Cooper 0, T Johnson c Cooper b Gleaves 8, E Baker c Showan b Washington 44, extras 1; total (for 5 wkts) 82.

NANTWICH v. KNYPERSLEY.

KNYPERSLEY.—H Green c R Willett b J Bell 37, J W Hancock b J Allsop 9, E Tunstall lbw b T W Hope 30, L Lowe lbw b Walker 13, J Mothershaw lbw b Walker 11, P Green b J H Myer 20, J Green st R Willett b Walker 5, E Bates c Jackson b Walker 2, H Tue run out 7, W A Goodwin c Swindale b J H Mayer 6, E Haliburton not out 0, extras 2; total, 182.

NANTWICH.—J B Swindale lbw b H Tue 36, J H Mayer b H Tue 6, F Borton lbw b H Tue 1, B T Dutton b H Tue 12, J B Jackson c J Mothershaw b Goodwin 1, W Walker st Haliburton b Goodwin 0, B Mills c Tunstall b Hancock 11, T W Hope c Lowe b Goodwin 19, R Willett run out 0, J Allsop lbw b Goodwin 0, J Bell not out 0, extras 3; total, 96.

LONGTON II. v. MADELEY II.

MADELEY.—H Wilkinson c Blurton b Woolley 5, H Buckley lbw b Bradbury 3, C Davies b Bradbury 0, S Young c Bradbury b Woolley 1, E Barton c Bold b Bradbury 2, E Griffiths c and b Woolley 7, W Buckley run out 5, J Harrison b Woolley 1, J Ousley st Dennis b Bradbury 1, A Holland not out 1, J Millington c Dennis b Bradbury 0, extras 2; total 28.

LONGTON II.—J Obrien b Ousley 4, A Hodson b Ousley 18, E Blurton c Young b Griffiths 13, W Peers b Buckley 16, A Bentley b Davies 6, J Siddons b Wilkinson 26, C Hodson c Young b W Buckley 2, A Bold not out 24, J Dennis b Wilkinson 15, A Bradbury not out 3, extras 17; total (for 6 wkts) 142.

SILVERDALE v. LEEK.

LEEK.—R Plant b W Lowe 0, C Hambleton c Harrison b Brookes 30, W R Ryder b Brookes 28, H Byrne c Edge b W Lowe 72, S Pointon c Edge b Kelsall 10, F Mason st Cooke b Barnett 9, A Kidd b E Lowe 11, J W Ellerton not out 4, W S Hutchinson b E Lowe 19, extras 16; total (for 8 wkts) 206. Innings declared.

SILVERDALE.—E Lowe b Ellerton 14, J Cooke lbw b Kidd 14, W Lowe b Ellerton 2, C Edge c Pointon b Kidd 8, P Bloor c Rider b Ellerton 12, R Harrison b Kidd 9, J B Street c Hambleton b Ellerton 0, S Brookes b Kidd 1, F Burgess not out 2, J Barnett c and b Hutchinson 13, T Kelsall not out 0, extras 16; total (for 9 wkts), 101.

GREAT CHELL v. CREWE ALEX.

GREAT CHELL.—A E Pitt c Corbett b Woodhall 16, L Herne b Woodhall 8, Roy Smith c Woodhall b Banks 27, J Taylor run out 0, R Harries c Banks b Wilbraham 7, A Birtles b Wilbraham 4, W Mould c McTurk b Banks 5, W H Mere b Prince 18, J Ferneyhough lbw b Wilbraham 18, H Oliver c Dutton b Wilbraham 1, L Birchenough not out 0, extras 13 total, 111.

CREWE.—J Corbett lbw b Taylor 22, J Jennings not out 66, W O Dutton c and b Taylor 0, F Wilbraham run out 0, E Woodhall b Ferneyhough 8, H Chesters b Ferneyhough 9, J McTurk run out 0, J Prince c Oliver b Ferneyhough 2, J W Doig c Horne b Ferneyhough 2, W Lee b Taylor 4, O Banks run out 2, extras 4; total, 118.

Junior Division.—Section "B."

L.M. and S.R. (STOKE) v. AUDLEY.

L.M. and S.R.—R Ford b Bateman 3, F Calcott c Bateman b Taylor 0, C Binns b Taylor 12, R Wilbraham c McEllin b Bateman 47, R Davies lbw b Shuker 12, E Barguley lbw b Bateman 7, J Peace c McEllin b Bateman 25, A Williams lbw b Bateman 5, F Morrall b Bateman 16, R Edwards b Bateman 0, A Hollins not out 1, extras 1; total, 131.

AUDLEY.—L Riley b Morrall 18, A Broadbent b Ford 8, C C McEllin b Morrall 14, H Sproston c Edwards b Morrall 6, J Taylor b Davies 0, J Shuker lbw b Davies 2, J Bateman not out 7, F Jervis c and b R Davies 7, F McEllin not out 0, extras 9; total (for 7 wkts), 87.

SANDYFORD v. BRINDLEY FORD WESLEYANS.

SANDYFORD.—J Holmes b Machin 7, W Caton b J Slaney 26, H Mollart b G Caddy 39, W Downs b G Caddy 28, A Baddeley c G Slaney b B Caddy 0, C Rosie b Machin 2, J Hammond b Machin 5, G Turner b Caddy 6, T Brooks c A Whalley b Machin 9, W Butcher not out 0, W Martin b Machin 0, extras 10; total, 132.

BRINDLEY FORD.—Amos Whalley b Baddeley 2, A Ayre b Butcher b Mollart 0, Arthur Whalley c Caton b Baddeley 1, R Machin st Caton b Mollart 8, J Slaney c Baddeley b Mollart 28, G Caddy b Baddeley 15, V Gregory st Caton b Mollart 1, C Slaney retired hurt 9, R Bowers b Mollart 0, F Hargreaves b Baddeley 1, B Slaney not out 4, extras 4; total, 75.

BETLEY v. ALSAGERS BANK.

BETLEY.—W Smith b Wainwright 1, J Moores c Scott b Proctor 44, C Johnson b Proctor 9, J Shaw c and b Stanier 17, F Brookes b Proctor 2, C Brookshaw c Sumnall b Stanier 9, G Aplin c Scott b Proctor 0, R Hughes st Scott b Proctor 4, B Madden b Proctor 1, J Carter c Sumnall b Proctor 1, J Burgess not out 1, extras 8; total 97.

ALSAGERS BANK.—R Proctor c Brookes b Carter 4, W Moores b Madden 0, J Taylor lbw b Madden 3, W Sumnall c Shaw b Carter 3, G Wainwright c Hughes b Carter 1, F W Tomkinson c Brookes b Madden 25, G Stanier c Burgess b Carter 0, A Scott c Shaw b Madden 9, T Birkin c Brookes b Madden 2, F Proctor not out 2, J Wainwright run out 4, extras 5; total 56.

STONE v. CAVERSWALL.

CAVERSWALL.—E Rowley c Devaney b Shenton 10, E W Poate c Devaney b Wood 7, C Turner c Devaney b Wood 0, G Freeman lbw b Shenton 0, W Stanley lbw b Wood 7, W Parker lbw b Wood 1, G R Francis c Poole b Shenton 1, T Hamnett b Poole 8, C Simcox c Hanking b Shenton 1, C Thorley not out 0, E Frost b Bagley 8, extras 6; total 48.

STONE.—B J Devaney st Thorley b Turner 7, L Chell b Poate 4, W Ravenscroft c and b Turner 7, J E Hanking c and b Poate 14, H W Hood c Poate b Turner 1, J W Hart c Poate b Turner 0, T Bagley b Poat 6, W Shenton c Simcox b Turner 8, W Hodgetts b Frost 9, J Hawkins not out 6, H Poole c Simcox b Frost 5, extras 4; total 86.

CHEADLE v. BURSLEM HIGH LANE.

BURSLEM HIGH LANE.—G Mellor c and b Malbon 10, H Stone c Smith b Malbon 4, C Rhead c Smith b Lowndes 9, F Goodwin b Lowndes 1, E Sambrooks c Lowndes b Malbon 3, A Gaskell c Whitehurst b Malbon 0, A C Cartwright b Malbon 0, W Fisher not out 8, S Porter b Malbon 8, T Clayton c Hollins b Malbon 0; total, 43.

CHEADLE.—A Brough c Jackson b Stone 5, A Holline c Jackson b Mellor 1, H Day b Stone 15, T Hawley c Porter b Mellor 5, V Wetwood run out 8, A Plant lbw b Mellor 6, E Sales b Stone 0, O Whitehurst c Fisher b Mellor 1, G Malbon b Mellor 0, G Smith b Stone 1, P Lowndes not out 0, extras 1; total, 43.

SCOT HAY v. KIDSGROVE.

SCOT HAY.—L Bloor c Dale b Broad 1, F Higginbottom c Baynham b Broad 2, A Furnival c Findley b Jones 0, A Viggars lbw b Broad 2, Joe Beswick b Jones 0, J Beswick c Baynham b Jones 21, S Bloor b Jones 10, G Brooks c Colclough b Broad 6, F Capper run out 3, H Downing b Jones 8, A Wainwright not out 0, extras 9; total 71.

KIDSGROVE.—E R Dale c Wainwright b Downing 3, S Broad c Viggars b Downing 6, E Findley run out 1, E R Baynham b Higginbottom 10, R E Jones c Higginbottom b Downing 2, E Colclough b Furnival 0, A Harrison hit wkt b Furnival 3, C Price b Higginbottom 8, A Hancock b Higginbottom 0, W Hadley not out 1, W Welcombe b Higginbottom 0, extras 10; total 45.

CALVERHALL v. CADBURY'S (KNIGHTON)

CALVERHALL.—F Gatensbury b Pitchford 14, J Shepherd c Hall b Harvey 20, G Tudor b Pickup 18, F Bebbington b Barnett 13, C Dennett c Pickup b Dalton 6, F Gatensbury, jun. not out 47, F Norris b Barnett 1, P Fearnall c Harvey b Pickup 3, D Lockett b Pitchford 5, J H Arkinstall c Barnett b Pitchford 23, A Andrews b Pitchford 2, extras 13; total, 165.

CADBURY'S.—J Pitchford lbw b Tudor 1, S Pickup c Gatensbury b Tudor 0, C Moore c Gatensbury b Tudor 0, W Parsons b Arkinstall 1, F Barnett not out 26, H Coker b Arkinstall 3, H Hall retired hurt 15, H Williams c Andrews b Shepherd 7, H Dalton c and b Shepherd 5, A Palmer c Gatensbury b Shepherd 0, extras 5; total (for 8 wkts), 66.

UTTOXETER AND BLYTHE BRIDGE LEAGUE.

Division II.

FLORENCE v. KINGSLEY.

FLORENCE.—H Blurton run out 0, J Tooth c Carr b Lowell 23, H Malbon c Goodwin b Coe 0, T Steele c Coe b Lowell 1, E Bull run out 0, E Seaton b Coe 0, A Turner b Lowell 0, D Wootton b Lowell 2, W Robinson st Critchlow b Lowell 3, W Blackburn not out 3, E Podmore b Beardmore 0, extras 2; total, 34.

KINGSLEY.—W Carr b Blurton 6, H Beardmore b Blurton 8, G Critchlow b Blurton 1, E Bently b Seaton 0, G Goodwin c Blackburn b Blurton 5, D Lowell c Podmore b Seaton 1, T Hall b Seaton 0, J W Carr not out 9, R Coe b Seaton 2, J Tideswell b Blurton 0, W Carr b Robinson 13, extras 1; total 46.

CRESSWELL v. FOXT.

FOXT.—W Barker b F Taylor 0, E Campbell b H Bowler 18, S Barks run out 22, A Bull c R Bagnall b A Taylor 1, H Wilson b A Taylor 4, A Gibson b F Taylor 6, W Barks b F Taylor 10, T Clowes b A Taylor 3, A Burston not out 5, R Burston b F Taylor 0, F Burston b F Taylor 1, extras 8; total 78.

CRESSWELL.—E Dale b W Barks 3, F Goodwin b W Barks 6, R Bagnall b S Barks 1, A Taylor c S Barks b W Barks 16, W Eaton run out 0, C Goodwin c S Barks b T Clowes 9, F Taylor b T Clowes 0, E Tongue lbw W Barks 0, H Blower c W Barker b Clowes 0, L Millward not out 0, G Mayer c Bull b Clowes 0, extras 6; total 43.

CHESTERTON WESLEYANS v. COBRIDGE GOSPEL MISSION.

CHESTERTON WESLEYANS.—J Whewall b Malpass 0, M Blackshaw c Warrilow b Malpass 4, S Howard b Malpass 4, H Booth b Warrilow 4, E Barrowdale b Warrilow 5, A Ollier b Malpass 1, R Howard b Malpass 6, G Lawton b Warrilow 1, C Howard c and b Brookes 0, F Platt b Warrilow 1, G Howard not out 0, extras 6; total, 32.

COBRIDGE G.M.—G Thorneycroft c S Howard b R Howard 7, H Arnett b Ollier 0, H Brookes b Ollier 0, N Salt b R Howard 1, A Thorneycroft c Barrowdale b R Howard 1, W Malpass b R Howard 3, L Warrilow c Barrowdale b Ollier 0, G Gough c Lawton b R Howard 0, H Richards b Ollier 2, W Cooper c C Howard b R Howard 2, F Gough not out 0, extras 1; total, 17.

SANDBACH v. CONGLETON.

SANDBACH.—M Brereton b Winterbottom 22, E Stonier b Elkin 59, C J Farr c Elkin b Gee 14, G Riddell b Reynolds 10, W Booth b Elkin 6, H Trueman b Reynolds 0, A Dickinson c Standeven b Reynolds 16, A A Goodwin b Reynolds 6, R Riddell b Elkin 18, L Parkes b Reynolds 0, J D Williams not out 0, extras 7; total 158.

CONGLETON.—W B Norris b Goodwin 6, J Elkin c Parkes b Stonier 0, A Holden c Brereton b Stonier 1, R Gee lbw b Stonier 2, J Reynolds c Trueman b Goodwin 14, J Standeven c R Reddell b Goodwin 15, A Gallimore c Booth b Goodwin 1, R Ward c Trueman b Goodwin 6, A Winterbottom b Goodwin 1, E Wood run out 4, H Goodall b Goodwin 0, extras 7; total 57.

NEWPORT v. MARKET DRAYTON.

NEWPORT.—G Pugh c Jones b Marshall 46, A Brotherhood b Partridge 0, A Pitchford b Partridge 5, W Cooper b O'Brien 1, E Davies b Partridge 1, E Moorhouse b Marshall 5, E Hamnett b Partridge 16, F Brooks c Suttbery b Partridge 8, N Saunders not out 15, F Fowler b Jones 9, J B Borough c Hilditch b Partridge 11, extras 8; total 125.

MARKET DRAYTON.—M Suttbery c Hamnett b Moorhouse 2, E E O'Brien c Brotherhood b Moorhouse 14, G Barnes b Pugh 11, J Ball b Pugh 3, J J Jones c Hamnett b Brooks 13, B Partridge c Brotherhood b Brooks 0, H Harper b Brooks 1, E R Davies c Cooper b Moorehouse 18, R V Eardley not out 11, extras 30; total (for 8 wkts) 103.

LEEK "A" v. BIRCHES HEAD C.C.

LEEK.— Fumniston c and b Wood 3, F Sheldon lbw b Wood 9, J Hulme b Wood 1, F Furmiston b Jones 8, H Kidd b Jones 3, E Wakelin b Wood 0, Williamson lbw b Wood 2, A Bullock b Jones 2, J Heath c Knight b Jones 1, E Hunt b Jones 5, C A Brookes not out 2, extras 4; total 42.

BIRCHES HEAD.—H Morten b T Furmiston 10, G C Walker b T Furmiston 4, T Coates c and b Wakelin 32, W Oakes b F Furmiston 23, H Sage c Brookes b F Furmiston 5, H N Wood run out 11, B Knight b F Furmiston 0, C Meakin (jun) b F Furmiston 0, E Knight b Wakelin 3, J Brandrick c Kidd b Wakelin 0, G Jones not out 14, extras 8; total 110.

TRENTHAM v. UTTOXETER.

UTTOXETER.—J Cruikshanks not out 18, E Hutchinson b Adams 12, T Hobson c Bourne b Adams 0, E Cope c Jones b Sargeant 0, J Merrick run out 1, C Sandham c Bourne b Watkin 4, O Doran c Sefton b Bourne 5, F Doran c Jones b Bourne 0, H Davies b Chesworth 1, H Baxter run out 4, A Mellor c Watkin b Bourne 0, extras 7; total, 53.

TRENTHAM.—J Drake c Sandham b Baxter 36, G Sargeant run out 4, F Watkin b Baxter 0, G S Peake b Baxter 0, W E Bourne c Robson b Baxter 0, E C Jones b Baxter 0, W H Sefton c Sandham b Baxter 10, W Bower c Sandham b Baxter 0, R Chesworth b Baxter 1, W Jackson b Sandham 0, E F Adams not out 0, extras 1; total, 53.

UTTOXETER "B" v. TRENTHAM II.

UTTOXETER.—G Whitehurst b Boullemier 12, J Beckwith c Dennis b Bourne 28, W Heaseman c Barnet b Davis 7, W Harper c Dennis b Boullemier 0, G Hanks c Boullemier b McNeal 6, W Elkes b McNeal 2, H Wildsmith c and b Bourne 2, T Smith c Bourne b McNeal 13, A Chatfield run out 2, F Allen run out 1, W Astbury not out 3, extras 2; total, 78.

TRENTHAM.—H Davis lbw b Heaseman 7, L Boullemier lbw b Hanks 4, J H Barton b Heasman 10, S Bourne b Wildsmith 5, R Poulson lbw b Harper 0, W P Boullemier c Smith b Whitehurst 6, Blackhurst b Whitehurst 2, J McNeal b Hanks 6, Taylor c Chatfield b Whitehurst 1, Dennis not out 13, W Barnett c Beckwith b Wildsmith 9, extras 8; total, 71.

CONGLETON v. SANDBACH.

SANDBACH.—J W Hilditch (retired hurt) 10, F Maskelyne c Preston b Whittaker 0, A Orme c and b Preston 15, H P Rigby not out 38, W G Cooke run out 6, C Ramsell c and b Broadhurst 1, W J Rosson c Hancock b Broadhurst 0, W Sherwin b Preston 0, R Lunt not out 0, extras 10; total (for 7 wkts) 70.

CONGLETON.—G O Biggs st Hilditch b Dean 35, H Compston c Rosson b Trueman 7, G E Cooper c Rosson b Dean 53, G Broadhurst c Rigby b Dean 2, J Preston c Hilditch b Dean 9, M Harper jun. b Sherwin 0, F Whitaker c Lunt b Dean 21, J B Winson not out 38, J Hancock c Lunt b Dean 6, G L Cooks b Sherwin 7, S Clarke run out 13, extras 7; total, 198.

KEELE v. BURSLEM I.L.P.

KEELE.—A Green c Eccles b Boulton 8, W Bank c Kelsall b Docles 0, T Minshall run out 0, H Bailey b Boulton 2, T Macham c Kerrigan b Boulton 14, W Bailey b Boulton 12, N Watkin b Moseley 10, C Banks c Curwin b Moseley 15, G Ballance b Boulton 0, F Parton not out 2, A Watkin b Moseley 1, extras 3; total 66.

BURSLEM I.L.P.—Kelsall b H Bailey 2, Moseley b W Bailey 3, Kerrigan b H Bailey 0, Curwin b H Bailey 0, Tadler c Parton b H Bailey 3, Edwards b W Bailey 5, Eccles b W Bailey 0, Stringer b W Bailey 0, Pass b W Bailey 4, Boulton b H Bailey 0, Bloor not out 0, extras 2; total 16.

HANLEY TABERNACLE v. LONGPORT U.M.C.

LONGPORT U.M.C.—S Fell b Pedley 3, S Mitchell c Salisbury b Pedley 4, A Edwards b Smith 8, J Owen b Smith 3, J Hargreaves b Pedley 2, R Rutter b Pedley 1, H Mitchell c Salisbury b Pedley 0, F Mitchell c A Pedley b Smith 4, W Shaw b Pedley 0, Handley b Pedley 0, H Whitehead not out 0; total 25.

HANLEY TABERNACLE.—H Jones b S Mitchell 2, H Lovatt c Porter b Owen 2, I Lovatt c Edwards b F Mitchell 1, A Pedley c F Mitchell b Owen 0, F Hayes c Hargreaves b Owen 13, J Till c sub. b S Mitchell 2, F Pedley b S Mitchell 6, F Salisbury c Owen b F Mitchell 3, S Bebbington b S Mitchell 4, S Glover not out 1, A Smith b S Mitchell 4, extras 5; total 43.

BUCKNALL v. PARKHOUSE COLLIERY.

PARKHOUSE COLLIERY.—W Nixon b Davies 0, H Rowley run out 0, T Grocott c Hayward b Clarke 7, S Johnson b Davies 1, C Vyse b Clarke 1, F Picken not out 21, G Turner b Biddulph 0, A Mountford b Biddulph 2, T Cooper b Clarke 0, J Cork b Williams 4, H Birchall c Hayward b Clarke 7, extras 6; total 51.

BUCKNALL.—W Biddulph c Picken b Turner 0, J Williams lbw b Cork 0, W Davies b Cork 3, H Clarke b Cork 4, G Forrester c Rowley b Mountford 4, E Buxton c Grocott b Turner 3, J Mellor c Rowley b Cork 0, J Vyse b Cork 0, Hayward c Rowley b Mountford 0, Tinsley not out 0, Hough b Mountford 0, extras 1; total 15.

WOORE v. CHESWARDINE.

WOORE.—G W Timmis b Pritchard 5, H Bedson b Sambrook 14, W Heath lbw b Pritchard 7, H Timmis b Pritchard 17, R Cole run out 2, T Lightfoot hit wkt b Sambrook 0, H Wallis c Swinnerton b Pritchard 2, G Rowley b Sambrook 8, E Powell c Hamer b Pritchard 1, E Bailey c and b Pritchard 6, J Weston not out 0, extras 1; total, 65.

CHESWARDINE.—W Sambrook run out 3, B Podmore c Weston b Bedson 0, J Pritchard st Timmis b Bedson 2, C Swinnerton b Heath 0, H Hamer c G Timmis b Heath 0, O Sambrook c Weston b Bedson 1, F Gregory b Heath 0, E Swinnerton st Timmis b Bedson 1, H Sambrook not out 6, T Davis b Heath 0, J Davis st Timmis b Heath 0, extras 2; total, 16.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Monday 23 May 1927-3.

FENTON AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

ROUGH CLOSE C.C. v. FENTON II. C.C.

FENTON II.—A White c Read b Toft 1, P Taylor c Bratton b Wootton 19, H Skellern b Bradshaw 2, T Tompkin c Land b Bradshaw 6, J Pennington c J Cheshire b Bradshaw 10, F Barnett b Wootton 1, V Dennis b Toft 8, R Cooke b Toft 0, G Wood b Bradshaw 5, H Naylor b Wootton 10, S Fletcher not out 2, extras 4; total 67.

ROUGH CLOSE.—J Hixon b Fletcher 0, J Cheshire b Naylor 0, J Bratton b Fletcher 0, W Bradshaw c Fletcher b Cooke 14, A Toft c and b Naylor 14, G Wilson c Naylor b Wood 0, L Wootton lbw b White 2, T Read lbw b Fletcher 0, R Land b White 0, S Dring b White 5, A Cheshire not out 1, extras 4; total 37.

MARKET DRAYTON II. v. MARKET DRAYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

SCHOOL.—Tompkins c Healey b Ridgway 51, Percival b Hill 7, Beeston b Hill 0, Ledger b Hill 1, Trickett run out 3, Farnell b Hill 15, Scott b Hill 2, France b Hill 5, Beeston b Hill 0, Davies b Hill 0, Ratcliffe not out 0, extras 4; total 86.

MARKET DRAYTON.—C B Etches b Percival 5, C Ridgway b Percival 25, J Hollins b Percival 1, A Dixon b Tompkins 5, E S Hill b Tompkins 1, J H Harper lbw b Tompkins 0, R Missett c Farnell b Tompkins 0, S Wood c Trickett b Tompkins 1, J Healey c Scott b Tompkins 7, W Shuker not out 15, Preston b Percival 1, extras 14; total 75.

J. AND G. MEAKINS v. COPELANDS C.C.

COPELANDS.—J Booth b Bailey 3, J Uttendall b Lockett 0, W Brough hit wkt b Booth 0, S Bates b Bailey 21, G Morrison c Worthington b Booth 0, T Askew run out 1, J Griffith c Worthington b Millward 14, F Rawlins b Booth 5, J Smith b Booth 1, B Eccles c Worthington b Booth 3, B Beech not out 0, extras 5; total 53.

MEAKINS.—C Ainsworth c Booth b Bates 13, N Worthington c Brough b Griffith 4, J Lockett c Brough b Griffith 10, J Waddell run out 3, E Booth b Bates 11, W Bailey b Morrison 22, F Edge c Eccles b Bates 0, J Boulton b Morrison 16, Millward not out 5, Greyoox not out 5, extras 11; total (for 8 wkts., dec.) 101.

BUTT LANE v. PORTHILL "A."

PORTHILL "A."—G Pickerill, b M Talbot 3, R Howard c A Boulton b E Talbot 4, M W Lea, b E Talbot 4, G Beech b S Edwards 5, J Fenks b E Talbot 0, F S Wood b G Boulton 5, S A Cooper b G Boulton 2, F A Hall not out 17, J Edwards b G Bailey 10, C Brookes c A Boulton b G Bailey 2, F Archer b G Dale 4; total, 52.

BUTT LANE.—S Watts b Pickerill 16, J Cumberbatch c Beech b Pickerill 2, F Whalley c Hall b Pickerill 4, A Boulton c Hall b 11, G Dale b Beech 19, E Talbot c Howard b Pickerill 3, G Bailey b Pickerill 4, W Cumberbatch b Pickerill 5, G Boulton not out 5, S Edwards not out 10, extras 11; total for 8 wkts) 96.

CHESTERTON CONGREGATIONAL v. WOLSTANTON ALEXANDRA.

WOLSTANTON ALEX.—Ralphs c H Pickerton b Jas Scragg 1, Tunnock c Pickerton b Jas Scragg 1, Fox run out 2, Lewis junr b Jas Scragg 7, Lewis senr c Bates b Jas Scragg 1, Dunn c Hicks b Jas Scragg 1, Beckett run out 11, Copestick c Bowley b Jas Scragg 0, Tompkin b Jas Scragg 2, Till b Jas Scragg 2, Cornwell b Ollier 5, extras 3; total 36.

CHESTERTON CONGREGATIONAL.—Bowley c Cornwell b Copestick 1, Hicks c Copestick b Beckitt 0, Scragg (Jas) b Lewis junr 0, Pickerton not out 5, L Platt not out 22, extras 0; total (for 3 wkts) 28.

BERRY HILL v. COPPENHALL.

BERRY HILL.—W V Heaton lbw b H Leech 4, F Marshall c Robinson b H Leech 1, E Mayer b Shaw 14, A Brown c H Leech b Malpas 2, E Bowley c Page b Malpas 0, F Drake not out 10, A Chidlow b H Leech 3, W Cantmore b H Leech 0, E Wallis run out 0, J Johnson c Bostock b Shaw 1, S Clowes c Malpas b H Leech 1; total 36.

COPPENHALL.—F Leech run out 0, F Bostock c and b Brown 4, H Smith run out 4, G Shenton not out 18, H Bostock run out 0, H Leech not out 1, extras 10; total (for 4 wkts) 43.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Saturday 28 May 1927-1

COUNTY CRICKET NOTES.

Staffordshire's Bright Prospects.

The Need for Greater Support.

IN JUST over a week the Staffordshire County Cricket Club will be embarking on their Minor Counties Cricket programme with justifiable optimism, for them prospects are certainly more rosy than they have been for many years. The reason for this optimism is the fact that the Club is very successfully weathering the stress and storm of financial difficulties, that most of the old players will again be available, and at last there are signs of a returning interest in the Club's doings.

Last year the Club more than paid its way, at the same time increased its membership, and put up some really good performances on the field, and when these facts are remembered, it is not too much to assume that a big effort is being made to regain its old status among the cricketing counties of England. But there is, however, still room for a greater membership. Although the numbers are on the upward grade, the 500 mark has not yet been reached. Last year there was an increased membership of 140, and up to the time of writing 50 new members have been obtained, mainly through the instrumentality of that very keen supporter Lord Lichfield.

LARGER MEMBERSHIP NEEDED.

In a county like Staffordshire, there ought not to be any dearth of supporters of such a fine national game. Whilst it is true that there are signs of a more healthy interest in the club, players and officials and those who take a keen and lively interest in county cricket, would be even greater optimists than they are at the moment if they could see the membership figure nearer 1,000 than 500. After all, the club is not out to make money—it is, in point of fact, out to spend money in giving the county some excellent cricket, and this season lovers of the game will find that they have been extraordinarily well catered for. Without doubt Staffordshire men have played great cricket in the past, and will do so in the future. Is it then too much to ask for continued moral and financial backing for the honour of the county?

In recent years the club has not always been blessed with a super-abundance of material to select from, but that which they have possessed has been good. Besides having practically all the old players to fall back on, there are one or two promising new comers, but they have yet to prove that they are of the right temperament. One of the chief difficulties the Club has to contend with is the inability of some players being able to get away when required. If this could be obviated there is no reason why the team should not finish at the head of the table, instead of seventh as they did last year. That genial skipper Mr. J. B. Russell, will be very familiar with the material at his disposal, but if he could be sure of a regular team, with the occasional introduction of any new blood that might come along, his task would be made all the lighter, and achievements all the greater. Few, if any, in the county could better him in the art of knowing how to utilise his men.

BOWLING STRENGTH.

In regard to bowlers, the club is singularly fortunate, for they will once again have the services of Sydney Barnes, who is still one of the greatest bowlers of the day. Much has been written of Barnes' remarkable performances in the past, but no more apt description could be applied to him than "the wicket wizard." This title suggests itself when one finds that he has taken 1,050 wickets at a cost of 7.98 runs, a wonderful record which every lover of cricket will be glad to know is going to be recognised. Already this season Barnes has found deadly form, for in a recent match he took 7 wickets for 26 runs. At this early stage one can almost hear Barnes murmuring "What will the harvest be." A reproduction of this form suggests that the harvest will be a rich one. Barnes will be well supported by other stalwarts in Aaron Lockett, H. Sedgwick and G. Platt. Lockett is the old Bignall End player and now professional at Old Hill. Since the war he has been a consistently good bowler, and on several occasions has opened in real sensational style. Sedgwick, who is now professional for the Norton club, is also bowling in excellent form, having already this season taken five wickets for 24. G. Platt, who is another good bowler, comes from West Bromwich Dartmouth. As will be seen, the number of bowlers available are not many, but there is "class." It is to be hoped that each will be there when his services are needed.

BATSMEN'S TASK.

The general standard of batting last year was not particularly brilliant, but there were many occasions when matters were made very difficult by rain-soddened wickets. At other times there were instances of batsmen never being able to settle down, but if they reproduce the form they showed against Lincolnshire, the team's followers will have little to criticise. On the whole, however, there should be a return to bigger scoring. Batting should be as consistently good as the bowling, for one cannot rely solely on wonderful bowlers, yet, as is so well-known in sport, and in other things, there are days when a man's luck is "dead out," and try as he may, cannot get any good result.

Those who are likely to figure prominently in the batting list this year are H. W. Homer, who headed the batting averages last year, C. Howl, Barnes—who can play a ball with marked success—G. H. Thorneycroft, J. B. Russell (the captain), H. Goodwin, E. W. Page, P. F. Stubbs and P. O. Yates. Everyone will hope that Thorneycroft's appearances will be many. He, too, is showing good form this season Playing for Wolverhampton, he put up a remarkably fine stand, scoring a double century. Last year his highest figure for Staffordshire was 133. Another batsman who should do well is Goodwin, the left-handed player, who has been making runs for Birmingham University. He did not have such a successful season last year, but he has shown promising form this year. The popular and able skipper, J. B. Russell, will again pay hawklike attention behind the wicket.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

This year the club are embarking on an extra match, which will take the form of a friendly fixture with North Wales, at Stoke. North Wales will come to the Potteries with a very fine reputation for good cricket. In the Minor Counties competition there is no fixture with Norfolk on account of the great expense involved, but Leicester II. will be substituted, and this match will be played at Wolverhampton. Another new departure this year is in playing Lincolnshire at West Bromwich for the first time.

BARNES' TESTIMONIAL.

As has already been announced in the "Staffordshire Sentinel," the Earl of Dartmouth has issued an appeal in connection with the Sydney Barnes' Testimonial Fund. It is intended to show in a practical way the Club's appreciation of the great services rendered by Barnes for the last few years. In his letter to the Editor of the "Sentinel," the Earl of Dartmouth says:

Dear Sir,—As President of the Staffordshire County Cricket Club I shall be glad if you will permit me, through your columns, to bring to the notice of those of your readers who may be interested in cricket, the fact that, during last summer, Sydney Barnes attained the age of 50, and also took his 1,000th wicket for Staffordshire. The County Club are anxious that this double event shall have due recognition. They have already circularised the members of the Club, but there must be a large number of the general public who have witnessed or read of Barnes' wonderful feats for his Club, County and Country, who would desire to be identified with the proposal to present him with some token of appreciation on this occasion.

When one considers that Staffordshire never play more than ten matches in a season, it will be realised that Barnes' performance of taking 1,050 wickets at a cost of 7.98 runs is a wonderful one, and worthy of the finest bowler that Staffordshire has ever produced.

Any contribution, however small, will be acceptable, and should be sent to Mr. A. C. Hawkins, Incorporated Accountant, 52, Liverpool-road, Stoke-on-Trent. Due notice of the occasion of the presentation will be given. —Yours, &c.,

(Signed) DARTMOUTH.

The fixtures for the season are as follows:—

June	8, 9	Cheshire	Macclesfield
,,	15, 16	Lincolnshire	West Bromwich
,,	22, 23	Leicester II.	Wolverhampton
,,	29, 30	Lancashire II	Blackpool
July	4, 5	Cheshire	Porthill
,,	11, 12	North Wales	Stoke
,,	13, 14	Leicester II	Loughborough
,,	20, 21	Notts II.	Mansfield
Aug.	1, 2	Notts II.	Porthill
,,	3, 4	Lancashire II.	Stoke
,,	11, 12	Lincolnshire	Frodingham

Senior Division.—Section "A."

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

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Norton, 93; Bignall End, 69.
Silverdale, 141 for nine (declared); Leek, 68 for nine.
Nantwich, 138; Knypersley, 72.
Porthill Park, 142 for six (declared); Burslem, 118 for five.
Madeley, 119 for eight; Longton, 116.
Crewe Alexandra, 177; Great Chell, 94 for none.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Alsagers Bank	5	4	0	1	9
Burslem High-lane	5	4	1	0	8
Cheadle	5	3	1	1	7
L.M. and S. Rly. (Stoke)	5	3	2	0	6
Audley	5	2	2	1	5
Stone	5	3	1	1	5
Sandyford	5	2	2	1	5
Fenton	5	2	2	1	4
Caverswall	5	0	2	3	3
Ashcombe Park	5	1	4	0	2
Batley	5	1	4	0	2
Kidsgrove	5	1	4	0	2

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem High-lane, 135; Cheadle, 50.
Caverswall, 172 for nine (declared) Stone, 53 for seven.
Sandyford, 50; Fenton, 94.
Alsagers Bank, 149; Batley, 49.
Ashcombe Park, 104; Kidsgrove, 48.
L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 126; Audley, 56.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

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

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Norton, 126; Bignall End, 75.
Leek, 206 for eight (declared); Silverdale, 101 for nine.
Knypersley, 193; Nantwich, 96.
Burslem, 83 for five; Porthill Park, 79.
Longton, 142 for eight; Madeley, 28.
Crewe Alexandra, 118; Great Chell, 111.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Stone	5	5	0	0	10
Cheadle	5	4	0	1	9
Brindley Ford Wes.	5	3	1	1	7
Audley	5	3	1	1	6
Batley	5	3	2	0	6
Sandyford	5	3	2	0	6
Scot Hay	5	3	2	0	6
Burslem High-lane	5	2	2	1	5
Alsagers Bank	5	1	4	0	2
Caverswall	5	1	4	0	2
L.M. and S. Rly. (Stoke)	5	0	4	1	1
Kidsgrove	5	0	5	0	0

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem High-lane, 45; Cheadle, 43.
Stone, 63; Caverswall, 49.
Sandyford, 152; Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 75.
Batley, 97; Alsagers Bank, 68.
Scot Hay, 71; Kidsgrove, 45.
L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 131; Audley, 57 for seven.

Run, run, run, the ball's a-rolling,
Scarcely to the boundary she'll go;
And the throwing's getting wild, and the wicket-keeper's riled,
So we'll try to steal another for the throw.

H. G. Hutchinson.

"CLIMATE None and weather disgusting" was a disgruntled criticism of an English summer made in the long ago, and in relation to cricket affairs the stricture might well have been applied last Saturday. No local game was exempt from pluvial upset, and the attentions of rude Boreas made conditions about as bad as they could be for players. With so much devastation and discomfort obtruding, the amount of progress made with the matches was surprising, the drawn games due to interference being just a fourth of the series. As pitches dried slowly there were few cases in which they were really difficult and rungetting was almost equal to that of an average afternoon.

The biggest event of the day was the first win of Madeley's seniors, who were certainly not expected to hold the beating of Longton, even when due consideration was given to the unsatisfactory and disappointing form of the Dresden players. Other teams to have the first taste of success were Ashcombe Park and the reserves of Crewe Alexandra and Norton; whilst the opposite side of the favours of fortune came to Cheadle, the Nantwich juniors and Brindley Ford Wesleyans. Nothing occurred to disturb the onward march of Norton and the second elevens of Longton and Stone, who can still plume themselves on having acquired all points possible. The second "tie" match of the season was seen at Cheadle, where the High Lane juniors equally shared 86 runs—a good performance in view of the previous dominancy of their opponents.

BOWLERS UNCHANGED.

Weather conditions delayed the start at the New Ford ground, and it was found necessary to prepare a new pitch, with the result that bowlers got considerable assistance from turf which had not received the lengthy and careful attention which is usually bestowed on wickets set apart for match play. The attackers had things so much their own way that no changes were needed, F. J. Dale and D. White going all through the innings for Bignall End, and H. Sedgwick and A. Jolley operating similarly for Norton. The home team had the benefit of first batting, and they owed a lot to the merry innings of Sedgwick, who came on the scene after three wickets had dropped for 11, and quickly hit up 27, being especially severe on Dale's deliveries. Only two other players reached double figures, R. Tatton getting 10 and E. Payne 11. Five wickets fell to Dale for 46, and White had four for 34—one man being run out. The feature of Bignall End's batting was the great effort made by W. Beech, who went in at the fall of the second wicket and was the last man out, after collecting 29 by very sound and skilful play. His one helper of moment was the last batsman, White resisting steadily while 19 runs were put on for the tenth wicket, Sedgwick's onslaught got him seven wickets for 38, and Arthur Jolley abetted with three for 29.

DRAW AT LEEK.

At Leek cricket was not possible until 4 5 p.m., and Silverdale got a telling advantage by having first innings, the light being extremely poor when the home team commenced their reply at 5 40. Silverdale built up their score in quiet but steady fashion, their runs coming at the rate of just one per minute. The biggest stand was for the second wicket, J. C. Cooper (22) and C. F. Rushton carrying the score from 13 to 53 while in company. Of the middle men E. White hit briskly for 17, and a serviceable and bright last partnership was not terminated, J. Cocks and E. Groom each scoring 15 before the closure was put in force, their joint connection putting on 35 runs. Bowling all through, H. Birch sent down 27 overs, and did well to account for seven wickets for 59. C. J. Taylor was not suited by the conditions, and suffered abnormally, his two wickets costing 54 runs. In the bad light Leek fared poorly. Although V. Astbury played a good innings of 23, and five wickets were down for 40, with half-an-hour to go, a critical situation which was finely surmounted by two young members of the team; G. Sedgwick and P. Dainty staying together for 25 minutes, and adding 28 runs. "Last over" was called with four wickets standing, and it disposed of three of them the first and fourth balls accounting for a couple of groping batsmen, and a third being run out after Birch had successfully played the fifth and sixth deliveries. White had four wickets for 20, B. Griffiths two for 18, and J. Whalen one for one. The finish was a curious one and, as the game was played, Leek were rather lucky to avoid defeat.

SEVEN FOR STEVENTON.

On a typical Knypersley wicket both sides found the quest for runs a very difficult affair, and few of the batsmen were able to cope with the bowling for lengthy periods. The majority of those who did have an appreciable measure of success were on the Nantwich side, and as this also contained the most effective bowler it follows that the Cheshire team were winners. But they had to work hard for their victory, which did not materialise until ten minutes from "time." Two promoted players made a very valuable stand for Nantwich, H. Gidman (34), and A. Hinde (21) taking the aggregate from 80 to 118 for eight wickets, but the best batting came from F. W. Slight, who made 38 in the early stages of the innings. Three Knypersley bowlers got wickets, A. Millward four for 35, E. Mosedale three for 22, and W. Boon two for 45. J. A. Boon was a much missed man. The feature of Knypersley's outwork was the brilliant fielding of T. Bibby, whose grand doings at mid-off included the taking of four catches. The one which disposed of J. E. Smith was dubbed "a beauty," a terrific drive being held and thrown up in the same movement. Following the early fall of their first wicket, Knypersley made a brave show for a considerable time, H. E. Bourne (12), A. Cooper (20), W. Boon (10) and W. Whitehead (13) all batting very carefully, but as the pitch dried the "spinners" of E. H. Steventon became very effective, and the later batsmen were helpless before the attack of the Nantwich captain and W. T. Maybury, who bowled throughout. Seven wickets fell to Steventon for 34 runs, and Maybury had the other three for 32.

"DERBY" MATCH SPOILT.

What promised to be a good struggle between Porthill Park and Burslem was ruined by the playing conditions, and the cricket which was seen did not arouse much enthusiasm amongst the sparse crowd. Play did not open until 4 27, and only at one period was there any suggestion that a definite result might be arrived at. The cold wind made fielding a matter of endurance, and its force not only continually swept off the bails but also upset one of the sight screens. Porthill got first turn with the bat, and were given a good send-off by A. A. Bickerton and K. Gleaves, whose subdual of the attack during a partnership which furnished 58 runs gave their successors the opening to utilise bowling which was none too convincing. The first wicket to fall was that of Gleaves (35), and as four men, including Bickerton, were out with 80 reached the batting side had not made a really gay start. Bickerton had played an excellent innings of 41, terminated by a bad shot. A stand by J. S. Heath and J. R. Parkes put Porthill in a better state, the captain playing free cricket, and having six fours in his 28. Other useful items were those of Parkes (19) and G. A. F. Haggulcy (16, not out), and at 6 25 the total was regarded as sufficient, with four wickets standing. The most troublesome bowler was E. A. Oliver, who was able to make the ball rear on occasions, but his two wickets cost 28 runs. In the absence of J. J. Evenson, Porthill's bowling was first entrusted to Heap and N. W. White, and its quality did not unduly embarrass L. H. Crump and E. Cotton, the former Norton player scoring freely from the professional's deliveries. The wicket put on 34 before Crump left for 28, which included five fours and three couples. With Bickerton bowling vice White Burslem had a bad time, four wickets going very cheaply, three to Heap and one to Bickerton, and as half the side had gone for 55 Porthill were clearly on top. They might have remained there if an easy chance to get rid of W Briscoe had been taken at 60. But the incident resolved itself into a case of too many cooks and no chef, and when White took up the required role he was too late to repair the muddle. So Briscoe and A. Birch embarked on a merry career which saw some 60 runs added, and caused no little agitation in the breasts of the home supporters. Both players appeared to give chances of stumping, but there was more purpose than recklessness about their play, and they fairly bustled the fielders. Briscoe had eight fours in his vigorous 44 (not out), and in quieter style Birch played very well for 21 (not out). Heap's four wickets cost 60 chalks, and Bickerton's one 29, the last-named being most useful during the last few minutes, when the need for checking the spate of runs was very acute. With few exceptions the fielders performed poorly, probably because their limbs were benumbed by the extreme cold.

Mr. K. Gleaves, Porthill.

MADELEY'S COUP.

Madeley surprised themselves by beating Longton, and their first win should encourage them in trying to put a better appearance on their circumstances. Longton batted first, and the feature of their venture was the fine play of A. Smith, who embellished the score sheet with 47 runs. These he obtained in characteristic style, aggressive but discriminating, and he was very unfortunate in being run out. He had able assistance from J. V. Toney, who had a painful experience of the vagaries of the pitch whilst compiling 17. The wicket was disturbing to all the batsmen, who were puzzled by the rearing of well pitched deliveries. A Hawker (13), and A. H. Poate (11, not out) were the other players to reach doubles. Dropped catches numbered nine, so that what Longton lost on the roundabouts they gained on the swings. To face a total of 116 was enough to create a pessimistic feeling in the Madeley camp, but J. Jolley's confident display aroused high hopes. Jolley gave an easy chance in the slips when he was in the twenties, and was eventually taken there from a rearing ball, for a vigorous 39. After he left Longton could visualise the laurels of the victory on the game's horizon, but the partnership of J. Haseldine and S. Heath dissipated the milage. Being young and adventurous these batsmen donned the mantle of courage, and risking the state of the wicket they had a connection which practically won the game. Haseldine, who was the shining star, scored ten in one over from A. C. Hawkins, and finished up with an invaluable 45 (not out). Heath's 12 was also a praiseworthy effort. Smith was Longton's best bowler, claiming four wickets for 32, and Poate, the last change, came out with three for 6, and might have done even better if he had imparted variety to his attack by bowling the type of "wrong 'un" which he exploited so successfully when playing with Caverswall.

BOWLERS FARE BADLY.

The start of proceedings at Crewe was slightly delayed, but there was sufficient time available for the game to run the prescribed length. Obtaining first use of the pitch, the Alexandra made a woeful start by losing four men for 32, but from that point batsmen were always on top, and their dominancy is indicated by the facts that only ten wickets fell throughout the game and the cost of them worked out at 25 runs each. Crewe's reformation was effected by F. Walker and J. Brownridge, who by sterling batting put on 75 for the fifth wicket. Walker was much quieter than ordinarily, but his 67 runs were obtained by cricket of quality, and Brownridge had many fine strokes in his 39. Other serviceable scores came from C. Coffin (23) and D. Kirkham (16), not managed to get run out. Great Chell rang the changes on six bowlers, and the one to have the best average was S. Crump, who took two wickets for 16. The other bowlers were expensive. G. Fitchford's three successes costing 44 chalks, whilst 44 was the toll for A. Worthington's two victims. With little prospect of snatching a win, Great Chell were content to adopt safety tactics, and the outcome was a plethora of singles and maidens, fourteen of the 34 overs sent down by G. Sylvester and Etheridge going unpunished. The function of resister-in-chief was taken by F. Vodrey, who put forth a straight bat to everything, and finished with 16 (not out). A. W. Ikin was also in sedate mood, and he never suggested the dazzling hitter whilst scoring 72 (not out). His score contained the unusual

proportions of 26 singles, but he played good cricket for all that.

CHECK FOR CHEADLE.

Conditions at High Lane were all against good cricket, and the velocity of the wind was such that the bails were continually blown off the stumps, and eventually it was agreed to play without them. A further handicap was the shortage of sawdust, the handful that was available soon being used up. Obtaining the advantage of first innings, High Lane scored very quickly for the first hour, W. Yodrey, who was the top-notcher of the game with 44, making a number of good cuts to the boundary, and F. Wood hitting hard for 34, and after their second wicket partnership had been concluded A. Robertson followed with a capital 23. Rungetting slackened after the fall of the third wicket, and E. Critchlow bowled so effectively that the last seven wickets were captured for 43 runs. Five men fell to Critchlow for 25, his slows having all his opponents in trouble. W. Brough had a bad day, but partner J. Keates claimed four wickets for 46. The High Lane bowlers had the benefit of a drier ball, and Cheadle were rattled out without ceremony after H. Capewell (17) and J. A. Hurst had put on 23 as the opening pair. Bowling throughout, S. Durber took six wickets for 26 and G. Skellam four for 23.

STONE WELL HELD.

The honours of the game at Caverswall rested with the home club, whose young players tackled their more experienced opponents very courageously, and they might have created a surprise if the declaration had been put in force earlier. As it was, Caverswall batted 160 minutes, leaving their opponents five minutes over the hour for their rungetting. Conditions were of the arctic variety, and no doubt the severe cold had a lot to do with the number of catches not held by Stone's fielders. The foundation of Caverswall's partial success was laid by the third wicket connection of J. Turner and F. Barber, who came together at 23 and took the total to 59. Turner played steadily for 31, and Barber hit lustily for 21. Stone's real travail occurred when the last pair were together, H. S. Roberts (22, not out) and F. Hamnett (38, not out) gathering 60 without being parted. The two juniors got their runs in quite good style, and their success, coupled with fear of Stone's batting strength, was doubtless the reason why the declaration was delayed until 6 40. With no chance of winning the visitors departed from the usual batting order, and their general tactics were such that they came very near to being beaten, an upshot which was warded off by the clever play of B. Meakin, who went in at the fall of the first wicket and remained until the end for 19 (not out). S. H. Jackson's enticing deliveries got four wickets for 17 runs; whilst for Stone E. J. Johnson had three for 45 and R. C. Wormington three for 58.

RUNS AT A PREMIUM.

The game at Fenton was an affair of short commons, neither side showing much ability to produce runs on the difficult pitch. Sandyford's batting was only distinguished by the clever work of A. Bourne, who scored slowly but surely until he had the bad luck to be run out, after gathering 22. The one other player of the match to attain double figures was also a Sandyford man, J. Dean batting carefully for 10. Four Fenton bowlers shared the wickets, J. Wood having three for two, W. White three for 20, W. Wood two for 20, and R. Houseman one for five. Whilst Sandyford's batting had been mediocre Fenton's was shocking, and it produced a mere 19 runs; and the five of "Mr. Extras" was equal to any other individual score The batsmen could make no headway against the good length bowling of A. Bourne, and that worthy was so well backed by H. Holland that 16 overs, less one ball, were enough to tumble out the whole side. Bourne had six wickets for 11, Holland three for 8, and one player was run out.

BETLEY ROUTED.

Alsagers Bank carried far too many guns for Betley, who were outplayed at all points. The Bank's batting was marked by consistency and whereas the first five wickets put on 70 runs the last five gathered nine more. Seven players reached double figures, the leading scorers being F. Procter 33, A Green 26 and E. Jones 25. Of six Betley bowlers E. Ashley and F. Sutton did the most execution, with four for 36 and three for 30, respectively. The visitors' innings was played to quite another tune, three singles representing the productiveness of six of the first seven batsmen, and the best stand was 13 for the last wicket. Of the early men F. Lyth reached prominence by scoring 14, and the only other man to rise to doubles was W. Chell, who got 10 by three hits. The bowlers who revelled were A. Amson and G. W. Beech, and on this occasion Amson was the senior partner, having seven "scalps" for 23. The remainder were lifted by Bach at the cost of 16 runs. No change of bowling was needed or made.

ASHCOMBE PARK'S FIRST.

Following four successive defeats, Ashcombe Park had a happy experience at Clough Hall, where they smote Kidsgrove hip and thigh, though the home team made a start which was by no means short of promise. P. Strong and R. Eplett (10) put on a dozen chalks for the opening partnership, but the batting petered out so considerably afterwards that apart from Strong no player could muster more than four runs. Strong went all through the venture for 21 (not out), and his sound play was in marked contrast to the feebleness of his colleagues. Two bowlers were responsible for all the mischief, C. Davies, who concluded with a hat-trick, having six wickets for 14, and O. Brassington four for £6. P Bloor (10) and J. Rutter (18) put the Park on the way for a win by eight wickets, and by way of making the victory a conclusive one, J. Rane afterwards rattled up 42. F. Timmis and H. Cooper each took three wickets, the respective cost to them being 20 and 27 runs.

RAILWAY RISING.

Three successive wins have appreciably altered L.M. and S. Railway's outlook, and current form suggests that they may have a say in the fight for championship honours. Audley were badly outplayed, their batting being particularly weak. The feature of the match was the excellent run-getting display of V. Rouse who got 56 runs in skilful fashion, and had six boundaries as his chief strokes. Four of his comrades also reached doubles, the top-notcher of the quartet being W. Hill who hit up 20 by six shots. H. McEllin bowled very steadily for Audley, sending down 20 overs for six wickets and 34 runs. Audley lost two wickets in the second over, and they made no recovery from this bad start, though R. Proctor (17) made a capital attempt to improve matters ere having his stay terminated by a run out. The winners tried three bowlers and all came off, J. Cummings having four wickets for 23, G. Llewellyn two for 14, and W. Hill two for 15. Audley batted a man short.

JUNIOR SECTIONS' GAMES.

After four failures Norton managed to get on the winning course, beating Bignall End by a decisive margin. The early stages of their batting were not calculated to arouse a lot of hope, but A. Smith (24) and E. Waterfall (23) came along with a fourth wicket stand which steadied affairs, and the last six wickets were useful to the extent of more than doubling the total. Placing more trust in defence than defiance the Bignall End men lacked enterprise in essaying to hit off the runs, the only player to go for the bowling being F. Green, who had six fours in his 33, and along with A. Wareham (14) took the score from 20 to 57 for the fourth wicket. The severance of the connection was followed by a series of disasters, six men going back for 18 runs. Seven wickets fell to H. Higgins for 37, a performance which settled the issue. For the losers, F. Whalley took four wickets for 27, and F. Colclough had three for 38.

SILVERDALE'S SURVIVAL.

The Silverdale second team had an experience the reverse of that of their Seniors, their last wicket pair being at the creases when the end arrived, with the home men more than 100 runs behind. Leek's substantial total was largely the product of three players, though only one man failed to help usefully. The pace was set by C. Hambleton (30) and W. R. Rider (23), who carried on whilst 56 were gathered by the second wicket, and when they were done with the Silverdale bowling was effectively tackled by H. Byrne, who had 14 fours in an entertaining innings of 79. E. Lowe, with two for nine, fared best of seven bowlers and was the fifth of the seven to get results. The home team's innings had a brisk start by E. Lowe (14) and J. Cooke (14), but the later play was a struggle to stave off defeat, which was badly accomplished. Nearly all Leek's bowling was done by J. W. Ellerton and A. L. Kidd, and they had four wickets each, for 34 and 44 runs respectively.

CLOSE FINISH AT NANTWICH.

A keen fight between Nantwich and Knypersley was associated with a close finish, the last of the home team's wickets being captured five minutes off "time," The feature of Knypersley's innings was the batting of E. Tunstall, who had the good luck to have a chance unaccepted when his score stood at nine, and afterwards batted freely and soundly until he reached 80—twelve fours. Four other players reached doubles, H. Green (37) being the most prominent of them. playing good cricket whilst helping Tunstall in a second wicket resistance which furnished 89 chalks. The next best scorer was P. Green, with 20. Of six Nantwich bowlers the most useful was W. Walker, who claimed four wickets for 46. Most of the home batsmen were sorely bothered by the Knypersley bowling, which was well managed by J. W. Hancock, and half the side had made the return journey with the aggregate at 31. At this stage J. B. Swindale found a good backer in B. Mills, but their stand of 39 runs for the sixth wicket was succeeded by further troubles relieved only by the stay of T. W. Hope which got him 19 notches. Swindale showed capital defence whilst collecting 38. Varying his pace well, E. H. Tue had four wickets for 30, and W. A. Goodwin's wily work got four for 40. Knypersley's new wicket-keeper, E. Haliburton, gave promise of being a very useful asset to the club.

BAKER'S BEANFEAST.

Burslem had the satisfaction of gaining a good win over their Porthill Park neighbours, whose batting produced little that was commendable, and had but two stands of material duration, W. Mountford and C. Bickerton (38) putting on 32 for the second wicket, and L. Billington (13) helping Bickerton to add 18 for the fifth. The chief agent in Porthill's downfall was W. Fenton, who had eight boundaries hit off deliveries, but, for all that, finished with seven wickets for 42. There was not much in the game when Burslem had lost four wickets for 24—three of them at 11—but E. Baker came to the rescue in breezy style, and stayed with G. Smith (18, not out) until the match was won. Baker trounced the bowling impartially and unmercifully and galloped to 44 by nine fours, two couples and four singles. Two wickets each were obtained by H. Gleaves and S. R. Cooper, and the bowling figures suggest that the first named was retired rather prematurely.

CONSISTENT LONGTON.

Longton's play against Madeley had the mark of the consistency which is associated with their up-to-date record, the steadiness of their bowling being far too well maintained for Madeley's comfort, and all their players who batted contributing something to the aggregate. The Madeley batting was also constant, but in an unfortunate way, not one player reaching dual figures, and six having four singles between them. R. Woolley and A. Bradbury were responsible for bowling which completely dominated the position, four wickets falling to Woolley for eight and Bradbury having five for 16. A. Hodson (18) and E. Blurton (13) gave Longton a victory of nine wickets, and in the remaining play J. Siddorn (26) and A. Bould (24, not out) made the leading scores of the game. The losers had seven bowlers on view, and J. Ousley, W. Buckley and H. Wilkinson each took two wickets.

THE PROWESS OF JENNINGS.

That Great Chell suffered their fifth defeat was due to the prowess of J. Jennings, who went all through Crewe Alexandra's innings, and showed fine skill and resolution whilst collecting 65 (not out). Chell had no batsman who approached such prominence, and their best rungetter was R. Smith, with 27, whilst W. H. Meir (18) and J. Ferneyhough (18) figured in a very useful eighth wicket stand. The most effective of the Cheshire bowlers was P. Wilbraham, with four for 26. J. Corbett (22) and Jennings promised a very easy win for Crewe, when as the first wicket pair, they ran up 43 before being separated, and the change that followed was rather startling, and is indicated by the fact that 13 runs were wanted when the last man came on the scene. Six chalks more than actual requirements were put on before C. Banks, "the hope of the side," was run out, thus sharing the fate o ftwo of his comrades. The bowlers who had created the Alexandra's anxiety were J. Taylor and Ferneyhough, who finished with three wickets for 36 and four for 33, respectively.

LEVEL PEGGING.

Wickets were worth four runs apiece at Cheadle, and if chalks got by the bat had only counted High Lane would have been winners by a single. The bowling of G. Malbon, which secured eight wickets for 16, was the chief factor in getting rid of the visitors for 43, to which J. Mellor contributed 10, and as Cheadle wanted but 13 runs for a win when their fourth wicket fell their success seemed assured. A run out incident probably cost them a point, as from that stage Mellor—five for 19—and H. Stone—four for 23—took control of affairs, though there was still a chance when the last man came in with the totals level. The finish was exciting enough, Stone's second delivery of his eleventh turn hitting the stumps of the tehth batsman.

STONE'S FIFTH.

Stone recorded their fifth successive victory by defeating Caverswall, in a capital game, by two wickets. E. Bowley (10) was the only batsman to reach double figures in Caverswall's innings, the bowling of W. Shenton—four for 20—and H. H. Wood—four for 18—proving difficult to score from. Stone lost eight wickets before getting the required runs, J. S. Hunking being the leading scorer with 14. E. W. Poate dismissed four of his opponents for 25, and C. Turner four for 22. Stone now figure in solitary state as the possessors of all possible points.

WESLEYANS OVERTHROWN.

Sandyford had a surprise for Brindley Ford Wesleyans, who had the unusual experience of being completely outplayed. Their bowlers found three of the home batsmen in prime rungetting form, W. Caton, gathering 28, H. Mollart 39 and W. Downs 28. This productiveness caused Sandyford's total to be 104 when the third wicket fell, and although Brindley Ford's bowlers afterwards asserted themselves the mischief had been done. The champions made a sorry start by losing four men for 14, and the only period of resistance to the bowling was during the fifth wicket partnership of J. Slaney (29), and G. Caddy (15), the pair conveying the score to 50. Five wickets fell to Mollart for 24 runs, and four to A. Baddeley for 36.

MORE BOWLING SUCCESSES.

Betley's winning score was for the most part gleaned by their early batsmen, and as things turned out it was, perhaps, well for the side that the last bowler tried by Alsagers Bank was not put on earlier. A capital forcing innings of 44 by J. Moore, and a useful 17 from G. Shaw, caused 71 runs to be recorded before Betley's third wicket fell, but a striking change followed the introduction of R. Procter to the attack, for that bowler proceeded to take six wickets, in six overs, for 15 runs; and G. Stanier helped usefully with two for 11. The Bank commenced disastrously, and continued so, the only serious opposition to the bowling of B. Madden and J. Carter occurring when F. W. Tomkinson (26) and A. Scott came together after six wickets had dropped for 27. Madden claimed five victims for 32, and Carter had four for 21. Bowlers also had matters much to their liking at Scot Hay, where the home team made a sorry start by losing four men for three runs. The recovery which led to ultimate success was chiefly due to J. Beswick, who hit up 21, twice as many as any batsmen of either side. Five wickets were taken by R. Jones at the cost of 32 runs, and S. Broad had four for 30. The Kidsgrove visitors made a slightly better

beginning than their hosts, but their batting had no staying power, and 10 from E. R. Baynham was the top score. F. Higginbottom hit the sticks of four of his opponents in the course of 21 deliveries, the cost being a lone single. This havoc finished the procession which had been started by H. Downing, three for 12, and A. Furnival—two for 10. In the inconclusive game at Stoke the bulk of the run-getting for L.M. and S. Railway was to the credit of D. W. Wilbraham (47) and J. Peace (25), and on behalf of Audley L. Riley (16) and C. McEllin (14) made a useful second wicket stand. F. Morrall and R. Davies each captured three Audley wickets, but the most effective bowler of the game was J. Bateman, who sent back seven Railway players for 49.

NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES AND UMPIRES.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

Norton v. Longton; Messrs. Byrne and Latham.
Leek v. Burslem; Messrs. Birtles and Rogerson.
Knypersley v. Bignall End; Messrs. Timmis and Bowers.
Nantwich v. Silverdale; Messrs. Cooper and Bagley.
Porthill Park v. Great Chell; Messrs. Jones and Holmes.
Crewe Alexandra v. Madeley; Messrs. Whittingham and Taylor.

Senior Division.—Section "B."

Burslem High-lane v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. F. Smith and Portch.
Caverswall v. Betley; Messrs. Butters and Skellam.
Fenton v. Cheadle; Messrs. Rowlands and Johnston.
Sandyford v. Stone; Messrs. Bennett and Keeling.
Alsagers Bank v. L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Gibbs and Holdcroft.
Audley v. Kidsgrove; Messrs. Brough and Groom.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

Longton v. Norton; Messrs. Clowes and Shenton.
Burslem v. Leek; Messrs. Swindley and Wright.
Bignall End v. Knypersley; Messrs. Gregory and Cartlidge.
Silverdale v. Nantwich; Messrs. Billington and Salmon.
Great Chell v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Chesters and Boulton.
Madeley v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Pennell and Nixon.

Junior Division.—Section "B."

Scot Hay v. Burslem High-lane.
Betley v. Caverswall.
Cheadle v. Brindley Ford Wesleyans.
Stone v. Sandyford.
L.M.S. Railway (Stoke) v. Alsagers Bank.

BLYTHE BRIDGE & UTTOXETER DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Division I.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Stallington	4	4	0	0	8
Kingsley	3	3	0	0	6
Tean	3	3	0	0	6
Meir	4	3	1	0	6
Fulford	4	2	2	0	4
Draycott	4	1	3	0	2
Florence	4	1	3	0	2
Oakamoor	4	1	3	0	2
Rocester	4	1	3	0	2
Alton	4	0	4	0	0

Oakamoor 92, Rocester 109; Stallington 101, Meir 50; Fulford 27, Draycott 23; Alton 71, Tean 76 for six; Kingsley 99, Florence 19.

Division II.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Cresswell	4	3	1	0	6
Foxt	4	3	1	0	6
Leigh	4	3	1	0	6
Tean	4	3	1	0	6
Dilhorne	4	2	2	0	4
Kingsley	4	1	2	1	3
Meir	4	1	2	1	3
Florence	4	1	3	0	2
Hollington	4	1	3	0	2
Stallington	4	1	3	0	2

Tean 31, Stallington 32; Florence 34, Kingsley 46; Cresswell 43, Foxt 78; Meir 70, Hollington 80; Dilhorne 36, Leigh 66 for five.

CHESTER AND DISTRICT CRICKET.

Great Bowling Feat by L. N. Jones.

(By "CESTRIAN.")

HUYTON were not good enough to extend Boughton Hall at Chester on Saturday, and the Hall's easy win provided further evidence of their all-round strength. L. N. Jones, the County fast bowler, was in form, and his six wickets for 12 was the result of great bowling. After dismissing Huyton for 69, the Hall went in to knock up 89 for the loss of four wickets. T. C. S. Linaker, the young left-hander, was the chief scorer with 22 not out and he again got his runs in good style.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

The Boughton Hall Knockout Competition commenced this week and preliminary matches were played On Monday evening Brown's and Christleton gave us some interesting cricket. The villagers scored 81 in the prescribed time, Roberts (27) being their top scorer. Heap bowled well, taking four wickets cheaply. Brown's were given a good start by Mathias and Heap and then Godwin hit finely for 31. The innings eventually closed for 96. On Tuesday, however, we saw a very different game. Crescent, one of the new clubs in the competition, were no match for St. John's. The Saints hit up 94 (for seven wickets) and then dismissed Crescent for 37. W. J. Breakwell (21) and G. Williams (22) were the most successful St. John's batsmen. It looked unlikely at the start of their innings that Crescent would reach 37 as they lost their first eight wickets for only 12. But the three last batsmen hit out in desperation and managed to raise the score to a more respectable figure. Gerrard was practically unplayable and took eight wickets for 12.

EATON PARK'S SUCCESS.

Eaton Park entertained Penyffordd on Saturday and once more enjoyed a fine win. The Welshmen scored only 66 against the bowling of Bowne, but Eaton lost I'Anson, the old Lancashire player, and Colonel Lyon for very few. Penton (23) and G. A. Jones (25) came to the rescue and with Col. Priestman (18) and Browne (34) in form Eaton reached 133. Only one match was played in the Chester and District League. Ellesmere Port Cement had the unhappy experience of being dismissed for eight runs on their own ground by Clay Main. Clay Main, batting first, scored 56, of which Rev. B. Jones scored 23. Cement were all out in sixteen overs, Emlyn Jones taking five wickets for two runs and W. Roberts four for four.

D. W. Wilkinson (50), T. N. Braine (45) and H. P. Crabtree (21) put Chester College in a good position at Bangor where they declared at 152 for 4 in their match with Bangor University College. The match was drawn with Bangor having lost 9 men for 99. The closing stages of the game were exciting and Bangor managed to play time out despite the fact that the Chester Collegians were clustered round the wicket.

SHOTTON'S HEAVY SCORE.

Shotton batsmen, to, had a happy afternoon. At Shotton they scored 225 (for 5) against Hawarden before declaring. Hall, the pro., hit twelve fours in his score of 60 but E. Dowsell was an even greater hitter. He hit fifteen fours in 85 (not out). Hawarden replied strongly and scored 128. This match shows that Shotton have batting strength which will have to be reckoned with by opposing teams. Frodsham and Ince took part in a low scoring match at Ince. Frodsham lost five wickets for 47 but the remaining five wickets could only add two more runs. Ince lost six wickets for 18 and were all out for 31. The bowling of H. Tudor (5 for 17) and B. Davies (3 for 11) was responsible for this collapse on the part of Ince. Evidently Frodsham have two good bowlers, but will have to improve their batting strength.

THE Y.M.C.A. TEAMS.

Chester Y.M.C.A. run two elevens—an Evening XI. and a Saturday XI. Strangely enough, while the Saturday team has not yet tasted the sweets of victory the Evening team have won all their games. On Saturday the "Y.M." found Brook Hirst too strong but on Wednesday evening the Evening eleven hit up 55 (for 7) under Knock-out rules and then dismissed a Reliance XI. for 13!

FENTON AND DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Longton A	3	3	0	0	6
Fenton II.	2	2	0	0	4
Leycett	3	2	1	0	4
Bucknall	2	1	1	0	2
Wolstanton Marsh	2	1	1	0	2
Rough Close	4	1	3	0	2
Ashcombe Park II.	2	1	1	0	2
Florence Colliery A	2	0	2	0	0
Caverswall A	2	0	2	0	0

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Ashcombe Park II. 28, Leycett 25; Rough Close 67, Fenton II. 67; Wolstanton Marsh 66 for five wickets, Caverswall A 47; Longton A 46 for eight wickets, Bucknall 35.

CHEADLE AND DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS LEAGUE.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Cheadle Council	2	2	0	0	4
Kingsley	2	2	0	0	4
Cheadle C.E.	1	1	0	0	2
Cheadle R.C.	2	1	1	0	2
Ipstones	2	1	1	0	2
Hollington	1	0	1	0	0
Dilhorne	2	0	2	0	0
Foxt	2	0	2	0	0

RESULTS.

Cheadle Council 41, Cheadle R.C. 16; Ipstones 41, Foxt 26; Kingsley 69, Dilhorne 16; Cheadle R.C. 67, Foxt 39; Cheadle C.E. 35, Dilhorne 29; Cheadle Council 50 for no wicket, Hollington 26; Kingsley 23, Ipstones 22.

Batting Performances: W Shaw (Cheadle R.C.) 30, W. Gregory (Cheadle C.E.) 18.

Bowling: L. Shufflebotham (Council), 7 wickets for 8 runs; J. Massey (Ipstones), 7 wickets for 9 runs; S. Heaton (Ipstones), 5 wickets for 1 run; R. Wood (Kingsley), 5 wickets for 4 runs; B. Johnson (Foxt), 5 wickets for 4 runs.

MID-WEEK CRICKET.

DENSTONE COLLEGE v. STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.

Played at Denstone on Thursday, and won by the school by 84 runs.

DENSTONE.—C W Timmis b Johnson 23, J G Garman lbw b Platts 5, P F Bluett lbw b Twigg 23, H N Place b Platts 63, A H Lloyd b Twigg 0, N K Stott b Twigg 1, F M Short b Platts 15, W A M Davis b Johnson 2, T B Carey c Meakin b Platts 1, C K Thacker not out 0, J B Place c Stubbs b Platts 4, extras 14; total 161.

STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.—P F Stubbs c and b Timmis 10, Lt Jones c and b Bluett 6, B Meakin b Timmis 4, W H Twigg b Stott 9, C F Huyshe b Bluett 14, Major Edwards b Stott 0, A Platts lbw b Timmis 12, Hon H Legge c Carey b Bluett 6, E J Johnson c H Place b Timmis 0, J F Forsie c H Place b Timmis 2, R C Rogers not out 1, extra 1: total 67.

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL v. WILLASTON.

Coming after three successive wins, the draw at Willaston broke Newcastle's run of success. Scores:—

WILLASTON.—Codlin b Dearing 20, Biggs st Gossling b Emery 28, Hall b Dearing 1, Wade c Gossling b Walley 0, Barker c Emery b Walley 7, Worthington c Sergeant b Walley 5, Vaughan c Dearing b Walley 0, Wynn-Jones lbw b Dearing 0, Dolphin not out 0, Atkinson run out 1, extras 6; total 69.

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL.—Harrison b Vaughan 12, Benson c Wade b Biggs 7, Dearing b Biggs 2, Davies b Biggs 0, Poluton not out 7, Crimes c Wynn-Jones b Vaughan 10, Ball not out 2, extras 1; total (5 wkts) 41.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Saturday 4 June 1927 - 1.

STAFFS. COUNTY CRICKET CLUB.

Next Week's Match at Macclesfield.

Inclusion of Two New Batsmen.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S OPENING MATCH of the season with Cheshire, in the Minor Counties competition, at Macclesfield, on Wednesday and Thursday next week, should prove a particularly interesting fixture, especially if weather conditions are something in the nature of what they should be for cricket. Last year, when the clubs met at Wallasey, the wicket was both bad and difficult, with the result that it was a remarkably low scoring match, the four innings only realising 281. That occasion was marked by some sensational bowling by Barnes, who claimed 11 wickets for 37 runs in the two innings. A reproduction of such form would certainly rank as something spectacular and thrilling, for the match with Cheshire is quite a local "Derby."

WELL REPRESENTED.

There were plenty of thrills in the first meeting of the teams last year, and an uphill fight brought victory to Staffordshire by the narrow margin of 11 runs. But Cheshire had their revenge when they visited Porthill, and incidentally that happened to be the home team's first defeat of the season.

It is difficult to contrast the teams for next week's match, but being very well represented, the visiting county can be relied upon to see that the "pipe-opener" is no lifeless effort. With keen rivalry existing between the two clubs, one can be assured of some interesting cricket so long as the weather remains on its best behaviour.

THE TEAM AGAINST CHESHIRE.

Two new-comers to the Club will be tried, but unfortunately Aaron Lockett will not be available on account of his playing for the North against the South in the Minor Counties match at Lord's. His presence will be missed for he is a bowler and batsman of merit. The brunt of the bowling will most probably fall on Sydney Barnes, who, by the way, has been playing for Wales against the M.C.C. this week, Sedgwick and Platt, all of whom are "probables" for the venture at Macclesfield. Other members of the team are J. B. Russell (the popular skipper), C. Howl, H. W. Homer, F. D. Perks, A. W. Ikin, E. J. Gothard and E. Perry.

BATTING STRENGTHENED.

The two new members in the home club are Ikin and Gothard, and, fortunately they are batsmen. They should greatly strengthen the side as regards run-getting. Ikin is a former Bignall End player, but is now professional to Great Chell. Gothard has a first-class reputation with the Burton Club. The inclusion of E. Perry is a welcome one. He comes from the West Bromwich Dartmouth Club.

THE RIVALS.

Although during the last three years Staffordshire have beaten Cheshire on four occasions and have lost two matches to them, they are rivals to be respected. They are capable of putting up some very good performances, and indeed have excellent material on which to rely. But like many other clubs their chief strength lies in their bowlers. Steventon is their star performer, and it was in the match at Porthill last year that he took six wickets for the same number of runs. Dennis is their fast bowler, whilst Hopwood is a good left-hander. A smart man at the wicket is A. E. Bratby, who on one occasion stumped three players with three consecutive balls from Hopwood.

The following team will represent Cheshire: W. E. Jones (capt.), L. N. Jones, P. L. V. Astle, J. K. Edmundson, W. L. Wilson, C. Dawson, C. B. Twemlow, H. Eyre, E. H. Steventon, W J Maybury and Wilson.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

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

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 178; Norton, 134 for nine.
Bignall End, 217 for eight (declared); Leek, 86.
Silverdale, 189; Knypersley, 140.
Nantwich, 285 for four (declared); Crewe Alexandra, 71.
Porthill Park, 201 for nine (declared); Longton, 148 for nine.
Great Chell, 166; Madeley, 167.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Burslem High-lane	6	5	1	0	10
Alsagers Bank	6	4	1	1	9
Cheadle	6	4	1	1	9
L.M. and S. Ry. (Stoke)	6	4	2	0	8
Stone	6	3	1	2	8
Audley	6	3	2	1	7
Fenton	6	2	3	1	5
Sandyford	6	2	3	1	5
Ashcombe Park	6	2	4	0	4
Caverswall	6	0	3	3	3
Betley	6	1	5	0	2
Kidsgrove	6	1	5	0	2

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem High-lane, 167 for seven; Betley, 59.
Cheadle, 81; Caverswall, 59.
Stone, 215 for eight (declared); Fenton, 210 for seven.
Audley, 102; Sandyford, 78.
Ashcombe Park, 63; Alsagers Bank, 41.
L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 151; Kidsgrove, 85.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

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

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem, 148 for seven; Norton, 117.
Leek, 78 for five; Bignall End, 70.
Knypersley, 152 for six; Silverdale, 136.
Nantwich, 184 for nine; Crewe Alexandra, 36.
Porthill Park, 169; Longton, 138.
Great Chell, 177 for eight (declared); Madeley, 107.

Section "B."

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Cheadle	6	5	0	1	11
Stone	6	5	1	0	10
Brindley Ford Wes.	6	4	1	1	9
Audley	6	3	1	2	8
Burslem High-lane	6	3	1	2	8
Betley	6	3	1	2	8
Sandyford	6	3	3	0	6
Scot Hay	6	3	3	0	6
Alsagers Bank	6	2	4	0	4
L.M. and S. Rly. (Stoke)	6	1	4	1	3
Caverswall	6	1	5	0	2
Kidsgrove	6	0	6	0	0

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Burslem High-lane, 104; Betley, 53.
Cheadle, 126 for five; Caverswall, 36.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans, 51; Stone, 28.
Audley, 79; Sandyford, 36.
Alsagers Bank, 81; Scot Hay, 45.
L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke), 91; Kidsgrove, 75.

When the slips are asleep,
And the "keeper" can't "keep,"
And the sticks your efforts are flouting,
You scarcely can walk,
And you don't want to talk
At the end of the long day's outing!

—D. L. A. Jephson.

WITH NO HINDRANCES to spoil or delay play last Saturday's matches provided some very entertaining cricket, in which batsmen generally held the dominancy, though in some of the junior games rungetting was at a low ebb, no doubt because of the imperfect state of the pitches. The number of undefeated clubs underwent further reduction by the overthrow of Alsagers Bank and the second teams of Longton and Stone, whilst Norton's major side had the first scratch of vulnerability. Five instances of innings running beyond the second hundred were recorded, and of individual centuries there were two, A. A. Bickerton getting 111 for Porthill Park against Longton, and C. White, of Fenton, running up 122 off Stone's bowling. The fight for the Cheshire championship again went in favour of Nantwich, who had two very convincing successes over Crewe Alexandra, whose two teams were put out for a joint total of 110. Five other clubs also had double satisfaction, to wit, Great Chell, Audley, Burslem High Lane, Cheadle and L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke). The best win of the afternoon was to the credit of the Bignall End seniors, who utterly outplayed Leek, and there was considerable merit in the victory of Ashcombe Park over the champions of their section.

TIME-SAVING HINT.

As usual there were several close results, and some cases in which shortage of time meant drawn games. In this connection it may be useful to point out that time would be saved if players loyally conformed to the regulation which provides that the ingoing batsman shall meet the outcoming batsman at the pavilion gate. This regulation is invariably more honoured in the breach than the observance, and the time lost is considerable in the sum, though it may appear trifling as each player squanders his little bit. So far, the evil has had no antidote, but it may possibly be checked when some strong-willed umpire decrees that the delay of a laggard individual amounts to the refusal of a batting side to play. The power of umpires in this respect is probably overlooked just as captains forget that it is their duty to see that the rule is observed.

Another point that is worth the calm consideration of both spectators and player is the growing disposition to question the decisions of umpires, and allow natural prejudice and partisanship to develop into unjust imagination that umpires have partiality for one side or the other. The fallibility of umpires is as patent as the difficulties attending their onerous duties, but it is not helpful for the arbiters of the game to be badgered by snatch appeals, and subjected to the criticisms and sarcasms of onlookers whose position for judging is often about as adequate as that of the man in the moon. Few errors of real gravity are made by umpires, and it is well to remember that not only are they better positioned but their knowledge of the game and its laws is many greater than that of their critics. Much of the trouble arises from thoughtlessness and excitement— a little reflection should prevent incidents which are not in keeping with the accepted atmosphere of cricket.

GREAT GAME WITH COBRIDGE.

The eagerly awaited conflict between Burslem and Norton attracted a big crowd of the supporters of both clubs, and the "gate" gladdened the eyes of Burslem's honorary treasurer, Mr. W. Shenton, and the colleagues who assisted him in the duties of his exchequership. Interest in the match was more than usually intense, as the constitution of the Cobridge team introduced an aspect of fratricide into the proceedings which was much to the liking of the "whole-hoggers" who were keen to see what fate had in store for the ex-Norton members of Burslem's team. Fortunately, the players of both sides were not affected by the promptings of their more exuberant backers, and the match was contested in the best possible spirit, with serenity and fair-dealing which were creditable to all concerned. The game unfolded a fine panorama of sport, and the most exacting panjandrum could not fail to be pleased with the fare provided. That a definite result was not arrived at was, perhaps, slightly disappointing, but no one who viewed the match in the light of real sport could grumble at either the frustration of Norton's periodic ascendancy or the inconclusiveness of Burslem's grand recovery. No better local match has been seen for years, and a repetition in the next meeting of the clubs will be most acceptable. Play started and finished on a perfect pitch, which left bowlers with nothing to rely on save their own devices and skill, and afforded batsmen every chance to display their cleverness.

BURSLEM'S BATTING.

The advantage of setting the pace by taking first innings fell to Burslem, and they had a piece of luck from the first ball sent down by H. Sedgwick, a straightforward chance proferred to mid-on by L. H. Crump being badly fooled. The mishap was of consequence, for Crump and E. Cotton settled down to steady scoring, and were not separated until the eleventh over, the last ball of which was too much for Crump, who had scored 19 of the 26 put on for the wicket. This was a satisfactory start for the batting team, but it was neutralised by the quick despatch of other players. Four overs from A. Jolley had been followed by the shunting of that bowler in favour of A. Evans, who had success in his second turn, bowling J. Fenton off his pads, and after Sedgwick had conceded a boundary and a single to Cotton he had F. Bailey as a lbw victim, the third wicket going at 82. W. Briscoe came in to steady the position, and as he looked like accomplishing his mission—ere setting out on the adventures—Jolley was given the ball, vice Evans, and he did the trick straightaway, a fine delivery hitting the pinnacle of the off stick. Burslem's partisans were now chastened, and some of them showed their feelings by vociferously cheering the call "no-ball" which succeeded the dismissal of Cotton, who had gathered 22 out of 50 by sound play—and was unfortunate in dragging the ball on to his stumps. Burslem's prospects were brightened by the partnership of A. Birch and E. Cook, a promising stand of 17 runs being concluded when the left-hander was splendidly caught by J. Smith, who at the second attempt held a fierce shot at mid on. With six men got rid of for 67 Norton were clearly on top, but they were bothered before any further satisfaction came their way. The absence of E. A. Oliver from the home side made room for E. Baker as a man likely to supply "the thunder," and with a bit of luck to help him he had an adventurous spell which was grateful and comforting to Burslem's supporters. His first four was a drive in embryo which spun away to square-leg, but his next, also off Sedgwick, was of a better pattern, and landed well away from the spot where long-off might have been,

W. T. Maybury,
Vice-Capt., Nantwich.

and the symptoms caused the fast bowler to employ a scout in the outfield. Other fours—one a lucky snick which flew past the stumps to long leg—and some well directed shots by Evans Cook made the score rise rapidly, but at 99—32 runs for the wicket—Baker was run out in going for the impossible, and retired for a brave 20, which included four boundaries. At 111 Cook was the next to retire, another change of bowling bringing on Evans, who beat the batsman with a plain ball.

THE CAPTAIN'S EFFORT.

The Burslem captain had played soundly for 27, and his stay was the chief factor in his team's consolidation. R. Hollowood and C. Tunnicliffe held out hopes of a merry career, but having put on 17 notches their connection ceased, Tunnicliffe (10) being run out in going for a second run which was rendered unsafe by hesitancy, and was dished by smart fielding. W. Beddows was the last man, and he helped to illustrate the uncertainty of cricket, his stay being associated with the most prolific stand of the innings. Hollowood had started confidently, and he continued so, whilst his partner was intent on keeping one end closed. Changes of bowling only served to provide runs, though J. Smith had the bad luck to see a catch dropped by a carefully placed fielder, and by way of adding insult to injury the ball found its way over the boundary. The batsman to benefit was Hollowood, who was attacking all the time, and scoring by good shots, his forcing strokes in front of the wicket being especially well executed. At 172—44 for the stand—Beddows (10) was lbw to Jolly, who had changed ends, and the innings terminated. Three wickets fell to Jolley for 39, Evans had two for 14, and Sedgwick's three cost 71—although he bowled remarkably well for a long period. Apart from the dropped catches and a few slips in the outfield Norton's scouting had been good, and the one pronounced weakness of the team was the change bowling, five overs of which furnished 44 runs. Hollowood had eight fours in his valuable 47 (not out).

NORTON'S RESPONSE.

Norton's retort was commenced by J. Smith and D. Worthington, in opposition to Hollowood and Cook, and Burslem quickly had reason to chortle, Smith being easily caught from the last ball of the fourth over, with the score at 5. The incident brought out S. Smith, who opened a trifle shakily, but soon found his form, and he and Worthington settled down to a stand which put Burslem's bowling in a tangle, and threatened to produce a great victory for Norton. Worthington adopted restrained tactics, though scoring off anything that invited run-getting, whilst Smith played in freer fashion, and showed that he owns most of the strokes of a really good batsman. Bowling changes were ineffectual for a long period, and the nearest approach to a separation was a chance of a run out, which was thrown away by a bad return, made when the batsman was yards away from his sanctuary. The incident took place with the score in the seventies, and its immediate sequel was a fine boundary to Worthington. At 97 the partnership was closed, Smith cocking up a ball from Cook to mid-on, and being easily taken. His share of the run-getting was 45, obtained by bright and classy cricket. Sedgwick got the next three runs, and was then bowled by Baker, to the great delight of the bulk of the crowd, who were fearful that the previous taming of the bowling might be followed by some heavy hitting. The same idea may have occurred to Norton, for Jolley came in next, and soon had three fours and a single to his name, bringing Hollowood back as a bowler. This change operated, for Jolley was bowled in having a swipe with a cross bat. Worthington had kept going without fuss but purposefully, and it was evident that Norton were winning so long as he remained, and his continued tenure seemed so probable that his end came as a shock. The stroke that brought it was a feeble one, and gave an easy catch to short leg. It was a pity that the first real mistake meant downfall, for Worthington had played a great innings, not picturesque but full of grit and skill in defence. His score was 49, out of the 139 put on during his long stay. With the second of their bugbears out of the way, Burslem pulled themselves together for a big effort, and it was almost successful. Cook and Tunnicliffe bowled as new men, and wickets fell rapidly. J. Martin was caught at 143, Evans bowled at the same total, Massey out to a well-judged catch at leg at 146, and E. Payne out without addition, after a run which would have taken him from the danger zone had been declined. The last man was I. Waterfall, who has more frequently been a first batsman, and he and R. Tatton set up an impregnable defence, which had one note of defiance when Tatton hit Cook for a fourer. The last two overs found the fielders a very inquisitive band, but old hands, and stayed to the end. Cook had five wickets for 55 and Tunnicliffe two for 17, and both bowled finely during the period of suspense. An injury caused Hollowood to be unusually subdued, but his one wicket was got for 19 runs. Burslem gave little away in the field, and Briscoe, Birch and Crump were particularly prominent. The game should be long remembered for its changes of fortune and its honourable pursuit.

LEEK'S DISCOMFITURE.

Bignall End's supporters saw a decided improvement in the doings of their team, and the upshot was the discomfiture of Leek. The batting of the Boon Hill men was very much on the up grade, and in the charge of D. White and Dr. A. Riley the bowling was at its best, the medical gentleman having completely recovered from the strain sustained in the early matches. Batting first, Bignall End had a

respectable start by L. McEllin and A. E. Bratby (11), terminated at 29 when Brathy was caught off H. Birch. The breach was filled by J. H. Mayer and he and McEllin completely mastered the bowling. By good cricket runs came at a fair rate, and 102 was reached before McEllin was caught in the long field, for a fine 49. Two other wickets were quickly accounted for but another appreciable stand followed the advent of Riley, who hit very forcefully. At 147 Mayer was bowled by Birch, and retired for an excellent contribution of 48. Further trouble to the bowlers was caused by F. J. Dale and the doctor, both hitting powerfully, and the total was swelled by 45 ere Dale was run out. Riley played on with his personal score at 56, which included ten boundaries, several of which came by huge hits clean out of the ground. Leek's bowling had a very bad afternoon, and the best figures were the three for 57 of O. J. Taylor. The visitors made a very promising beginning by the agency of A. Rider and Dr. C. Harris, but at 13 the last-named gave McEllin a hot drive to hold at mid-off, and it was safely taken.

Wickets fell steadily afterwards, the seventh man to return being Rider, who had played solidly for 24, out of 53. The most productive partnership of the venture was for the last wicket, Birch and J. H. Ellerton adding 29, a good portion of which were extras. The prime feature of Bignall End's outwork was the wonderful fielding of McEllin, who made another great catch at mid-off which disposed of P. Daintry, and was always prominent with his brilliant chasing and picking up.

KNYPERSLEY'S GOOD FIGHT.

Knypersley made a brave fight against Silverdale, who batted first for the sixth time. A big score seemed in prospect when the century was passed with only four wickets down, but the innings eventually closed at 159, and although the total proved to be sufficient for victory the home team had many anxious moments before the last Knypersley man was got rid of. Silverdale began with the usual pair, J. C. Cooper and A. Ward, but both had returned to the pavilion with the score at 35. C. F. Rushton and J. Whalen took the total to 67 before Rushton was caught, but up to this point the cricket had been rather tame. The arrival of E. Downing enlivened play considerably, the newcomer timing his drives finely and scoring quickly, whilst Whalen was content to play a defensive game, though he never failed to punish the loose deliveries. The stand appeared to have subdued the bowling, but after the twain had been disposed of the bowlers came into their own and the last five wickets dropped after 35. Downing hit well for 24, and Whalen played stylishly for 41, but was several times beaten by W. Lonsdale, and on one occasion he played the ball on to his wicket without dislodging the bails. Lonsdale bowled finely for a long period, and deserved a much better reward than four wickets for 60. A. Millward also did well, getting four wickets for 33. Knypersley batted in a poor light, and were quite out of luck. They started well enough, but H. E. Bourne (19) dragged an off ball hard on to his wicket, and T. Bibby (17) gave the stumper an easy job. These wickets fell to E. White, who also claimed the third, and it was unfortunate for Silverdale that he was called away from the field, as the bowling was afterwards short of sting. Useful scores came from A. Cooper (19), W. Whitehead (12), E. Mosedale (21) and J. Bedson (16), and with 130 on the board and three wickets to fall Knypersley had a chance, especially as Millward (16, not out) and Lonsdale were shaping well. But after a short spell of hitting Lonsdale was bowled by J. Cocks, and W. Downing soon claimed the remaining two wickets, as the result of smart slip catching by Rushton. Three wickets fell to White for 13, three to W. Downing for 38, and a couple to Whalen for 21. Knypersley are anxiously waiting for the turn in their fortunes.

CREWE CRASH.

An excellent attendance watched the match between the Cheshire rivals, and the teams had a good fast wicket to perform on. Nantwich were fortunate enough to get first use of the pitch and W. T. Maybury and F. W. Slight (19) opened for them in confident style, the Crewe bowling being made to look quite harmless by these and succeeding batsmen. The first pair put on 40 runs, and L. Norton (18) and Maybury added a further 43 for the second wicket, and these stands were followed by some good clean hitting by T. W. Steventon, who got 40 runs in twenty minutes. Further rapid scoring was accomplished by J. E. Smith (25) and H. Gidman (34, not out), and their respective partnerships with Maybury furnished 40 and 51 runs. Maybury was on view throughout, and this grand innings of 78 (not out) had but one very difficult chance to third man to slightly mar its perfection, and this episode occurred at an advanced stage. The Crewe fielding was very slack, and the bowling mostly poor, the best coming from Etheridge, even though he failed to get a wicket. Despite 21 from W. H. Norman, the Alexandra lost four men for 40, and after A. Sandlands (19) and J. Dickinson (19) had made some little amendment, the last five wickets crashed for seven runs, the last three going at the same total—with F. Sylvester unable to bat because of an injury. Crewe's collapse was caused by the great bowling of L. Haighton, who was undoubtedly the man of the match in respect of attack. Making the ball swing in from the off, with variety in the shape of an occasional leg break, Haighton bowled wonderfully well on the perfect pitch, and, hitting the stumps five times, he had six wickets for 30, and deserved all his success. He had a good helper in Maybury, who sent down four overs for four runs and two wickets.

DRAW AT DRESDEN.

A drawn game was the outcome of the meeting of Longton and Porthill Park, the home side lasting out time after seeming to be well beaten, and this might have been their fate but for precious minutes lost whilst one of the final wicket pair was nursing hurts, although, as, apart from this, the visitors had quite a lengthy period in which to dispose of the wicket it is not safe to assume that the wasted time had absolute bearing on the result. Starting with A. A. Bickerton and N. W. White (30) Porthill scored so easily and quickly that a very long stand appeared in prospect, but H. Brassington, coming on as first change, altered the outlook considerably by getting two wickets in his third over and another in his fourth—the third man being out at 63. White's was a good forcing innings, but Bickerton's batting quite overshadowed everything else, and it was well for his side that he was at his best, for after the first pair only C. R. Heath (21, not out) reached doubles. Heath gave a capital exhibition of how to drive, hitting very cleanly. Bickerton had 16 fours as the main strokes of his 111, and his display was accounted one of the best ever seen on the Dresden ground. His placing on the leg side was perfection, and all his strokes were accomplished with the sureness and ease of the master craftsmen, the only semblance of error occurring from a shot which "might" have been a very difficult chance in the slips. Brassington had five wickets for 29, and, coming rather fast from the pitch, his bowling was the best of the game. J. V. Toney's short spell got him three wickets for 10, including the stumps guarded by the big rungetter. Longton had little expectation of getting the runs required, especially after losing a man in the third over, and in the event they were hard put to to save the match. A. Smith (34) and C. Edwards (15) made a stand of 40 runs for the second wicket, and afterwards Toney (12), J. Preece (15) and A. Poate (17) stayed usefully, but nine wickets were down for 127 with nearly half an hour to go. Fortunately for Longton A. Hawker (27 not out) and W. Hine (6 not out) were equal to the occasion, and the Dresden people had their first slice of good luck this season. J. S. Heap had four wickets for 48 and J. J. Evenson three for 55, both bowlers being allowed every opportunity.

CHELL'S CLOSE CALL.

Madeley's reformation was finely maintained at Great Chell, and although the home team were never in actual danger of defeat they were hardly pressed in actual danger of defeat they were hardly pressed throughout the match. The Madeley batting had an element of unusual consistency, which had its genesis in the excellent first wicket stand of J. Jolley and F. Beech (12), who put on 70 runs whilst together. Jolley played impressive cricket for 58, and the best of his several useful helpers was E. Mayer, who got 36 by capital batting. Thanks to Jolley and Mayer the visitors had 140 on the board with six wickets standing, and the falling from grace which ensued was primarily due to the bowling of A. W. Ikin, whose second trial got him four wickets for eight runs—his full figures being five for 33. The other usher of trouble was E. J. Barber, who lost 13 chalks whilst showing two players to the pavilion. Great Chell opened strongly when Ikin (30) and F. Vodrey (14) collected 51 for the partnership, but both had returned at 55, and with four wickets down for 82 the balance seemed in Madeley's favour. The turn was the work of W. Warburton and U. Worthington (19), their connection bringing 40 runs of great price, and Warburton stayed on to get a personal score of 35, an innings which surmounted the crisis. For all that, Great Chell needed 12 runs when their eighth wicket dropped, and as the outstanding wickets were secured immediately after the chalks were got it will be gathered that Madeley showed grit to the very end. It is interesting to note that the winners counted 25 "extras" as against 16 to the account of the defeated team. Mayer bowled very effectively having four wickts for 22, whilst F. Clarke had two for 24, and Jolley two for 22. Altogether, honours were about even, though Chell took both points.

BETLEY BADLY BEATEN.

The country air of Betley appeared to suit the Burslem High Lane players, who had no mercy on their old friends, and administered to them a sound drubbing. Betley's batting was a painful exhibition of mediocrity, not one player showing any run-getting faculty, and not one of their strokes was virile enough to produce a boundary. The biggest stand of the innings was 11 runs for the first wicket, and 10 from J. Ampa was the top score. G. Skellam got a wicket in his fourth over, and had success in all but one of his seven succeeding turns, making up for the omission by having two victims in his tenth over. Twelve chalks made the nominal toll for his eight wickets. High Lane lost a man in the first over, but T. Johnson (15) and F. Wood (30) all but won the game with their second wicket connection, and A. Robertson (50, not out) and J. Machin (51) afterwards had a good time whilst rapidly gathering 86 for the fifth wicket. E. Aplin came out of the fray with a diploma by accounting for 4 wickets for 36 runs.

CAPEWELL'S CLEVERNESS.

The meeting of the Cheadle and Caverswall rivals produced a good and keen game, although neither side was distinguished for batting ability. Good fielding came from both teams, and Caverswall attribute their overthrow to the cleverness of Herbert Capewell, who was in his best mood as a wicket-keeper. Two visiting players fell to his stumping ability, and he dexterously assisted in the running out of three other batsmen, incidents which arose from complete lack of understanding in going for runs. Cheadle won the toss and batted first, and Capewell (15) and J. A. Hurst (17), the customary opening pair, commenced all right by running up 27 before they were separated, and the second wicket put on 16. This good going was, however, followed by a sequence of disasters, and no other player attained doubles. The main cause of the trouble was the slow bowling of S. H. Jackson, which accounted for five unwary batsmen for 21 runs, whilst A. Pickard had two wickets for 11. Caverswall were in a bad plight when their first two wickets fell at six, and although F. Barber hit up 15 and G. Wakeline 14—after being missed from the first ball he had—the batting broke down, as it was likely to do with so much bad judgment in evidence. Cheadle fielded and bowled well throughout, J. Keates having four wickets for 28 and W. Brough three for 28. Caverswall are still without a win, but should do better as their young team acquires experience.

FRIGHT FOR STONE.

A great game was witnessed at Stone, where Fenton made a magnificent effort, after being faced with such a formidable total as 215, came within an ace of snatching the spoils. The outstanding feature of their cricket was the splendid wicket stand of C. White and G. W. Hammersley, who put on no less than 161 runs before being parted. A. M. C. Smith (59) and E. C. Fernie (34) laid the foundation of the home team's big aggregate, and the consolidation came from P.C. Dutton (44, not out) and J. C. Charlwood (16). When Stone declared with eight wickets down, the only question appeared to be as to whether Fenton could be got out in the 130 minutes left for play, and there was nothing at the beginning of the visitors' innings to suggest the bold bid for victory which came later, the first wicket falling at 16. But it was soon evident that in the absence of E. J. Johnson the Stone bowling was short of sting, and it was not until F. Ravenscroft was tried as a late change that it presented the slightest difficulty to the batsmen. Both given a life before reaching doubles, White and Hammersley (30) batted with great effect, and the ultimate severance of their partnership was no doubt due to the instructions to "go for the runs" which were sent out when it was realised that Fenton had a great chance of gaining an unexpected victory. By that time White, after again being missed, had passed his century. Succeeding batsmen, losing no time in getting to the crease, went out to everything, with the result that wickets fell rapidly—two men being run out—and when the last ball of the game had been delivered Fenton were wanting but four runs for a win. Their effort was a grand one, and they would only have had their deserts had they obtained the full quota of points. C. White found the boundary no fewer than 23 times during the fine display of hitting which brought him 122 run in all. W. Wood, of Fenton, had the best bowling returns of the match, four wickets for 75 runs.

F. W. Slight, Nantwich.

SANDYFORD MASTERED.

A shocking start put Sandyford in a position of peril which they never got over, in spite of the efforts of their bowlers, who brought about the downfall of eight Audley men before the match was won and lost. The home team lost three wickets for 9, and for a lengthy period only H. Holland (19) showed any run-getting form, his colleagues failing so badly that eight men had made the return journey with the total at 57. That the last two wickets increased the aggregate by 21 was due to T. Jones (10) and F. James (18, not out). J. Darlington—five for 42—and L. Beech—four for 33—bowled unchanged for Audley, the pair sending down 25 overs, less one ball. The visitors began none too well, and were in jeopardy when their fourth wicket went at 25, but R. E. Procter (28) and C. B. Maddock (16) made a most serviceable stand, which was consummated by the good deeds of E. Rowley (19) and Beech (11). A. Bourne bowled all through the innings with his wonted steadiness, and five wickets made his portion, at the cost of 36 runs. His most useful helpers were E. Baker, with two for 6, and Holland, with two for 32, half of which came from his last four ineffective overs.

ASHCOMBE BREAK THE BANK.

Roused by their unlooked for victory at Kidsgrove the Ashcombe Park men were responsible for a further sensation by taking full spoil from Alsagers Bank, their bowling being far too deadly for the champions, whose first three wickets went for 9, and the only batsman to defy the attack was G. W. Beech, who had the misfortune to be run out after hitting up 18. The pernicious personage of the Park's onslaught was C. Davies, who delivered nine overs for 12 runs and seven wickets—the debit coming by one four, one three, a couple and three singles. His onslaught needed little assistance, but O. Brassington chipped in with two wickets for 26. As the Bank are known to possess deadly bowlers in Beech and A. Amson the Park were none too confident of victory, but P. Bloor set them on the royal road by scoring 11 from the first two overs, and as J.

Rane and G. Peacock followed with 14 and 7, respectively, there was not a lot left for their colleagues to accomplish. Nevertheless, six wickets were finished with ere the match was won, and there was not much decoration of the victory afterwards. Beech required a lot of watching, and finished with four captures for 14, the other six wickets being claimed by Amson, who was comparatively expensive, the toll being 40 notches.

RAILWAY ALL CLEAR.

For the fourth successive time L.M.S. Railway were able to show the "all clear" signal, and their fourth excursion into the realms of victory was a very comfortable one. Their batting was invested with consistency, with one striking punctuation in the shape of a capital innings by W. Hill, who scored 56 in brisk fashion, and was concerned in stands for the fourth and sixth wickets which each furnished 32 runs. Four other players reached double figures, with R. Partridge (22) and V. Rouse (20) as the best of the quartet. The leading Kidsgrove bowler was H. Cooper, with five wickets for 32, whilst F. Timmis and R. Dakin each had a couple of successes. In their attempt to hit off the runs Kidsgrove lost six wickets for 28, a feeble start which the plucky effort of Dakin and O. Johnson failed to counteract. These two batsmen gathered 41 for the seventh wicket, and had 33 and 21 as their respective scores. Four wickets fell to J. Cummings for 17 runs, and the fear which his bowling induced is signified by the fact that half the 20 overs he delivered were maidens. Partridge was another awkward opponent, delivering seven consecutive maidens in the course of ten turns, and having two wickets for half-a-dozen singles.

MINOR MATCHES.

A capital innings of 52 by A. Wright saved the credit of Norton's batting against Burslem, who had an extremely penetrative bowler in P. Kirkham, who hit the sticks five times, and concluded with eight wickets for 19. Burslem were put on the right tack by J. Fenton (28) and J. H. Hodgkiss (39), who collected 48 for the first wicket, Fenton being particularly aggressive. A collapse followed the fall of the second wicket, but H. Sharpe, with 34 (not out) and G. C. Harris, with 32, made the win a convincing one.

LEEK STILL UNDEFEATED.

Opposed by Bignall End the Leek team had no difficulty in preserving their unbeaten record, their bowling being far too troublesome for a side which in rungetting accomplishment was nearly all "tail." The first three wickets put on 62 runs—of which I. Durber had 28 and K. W. Platt 17—the last seven dropped for 8! The wickets were equally shared by A. L. Kidd and J. W. Ellerton, who gave away 12 and 28 runs respectively, Kidd delivering 16 overs and Ellerton 19. Bignall End's fate was settled by W. R. Rider, who hit up 35 (not out), and C. Hambleton (14) and H. R. Plant (13) also arrived at double figures. The best returns of five Bignall End bowlers came from F. Colclough, with two for 14, whilst Platt had two for 24.

KNYPERSLEY'S SMART SUCCESS.

Helped by loose fielding Silverdale threatened to run up a big score against Knypersley, their aggregate reaching 80 with seven wickets standing, with E. Lowe (25) and P. Bloor (28) as the main rungetters. That the rungetting was checked was largely due to W. A. Goodwin, who plodded along in spite of dropped catches, and finished with six wickets for 55. The other four wickets were cheaply obtained by J. Mothershaw, the cost of them being 22 runs. Silverdale had big hopes of success, but H. Green (25) and E. Tunstall (26) batted well in a second wicket stand which put Knypersley in a strong position, and the good work was followed up by L. Lowe, with a fine 39, Mothershaw (15), G. Bodson (14, not out) and P. Green (19, not out). The fielding of the losing team was excellent, as regards both catching and throwing. S. Jones had three wickets for 55, and R. Harrison showed promise whilst getting two for 20.

CREWE PULVERISED.

Nantwich's day of joy had one of its features in the effective bowling of S. W. Cooper and H. Garner, who rattled out the Alexandra for a beggarly 39, of which H. D. Chesters made 15. Cooper disposed of five men for 22, and Garner was equally prominent with four for 17, one man being run out. Nantwich's easy task was first entrusted to J. E. Swindale and H. Smith, and they managed it without assistance, Swindale running up 31 and Smith 19. The rest of the play was mostly perfunctory, though it had some atmosphere from the bowling of C. Banks, who accounted for six wickets for 28.

LONGTON'S FIRST DEFEAT.

Porthill Park showed a return to form by administering Longton's first defeat in a finely contested game. Both clubs fielded strong sides, and some excellent cricket was played, although the batting of each them fizzled out badly. Porthill had a most acceptable start by the fine play of W. Mountford (46) and H. F. Wood (35), and as C. Bickerton (22) and W. C. Washington (17) backed up well, a tall aggregate seemed probable. But there was a breakdown after the third wicket had been accounted for, and the slump was only relieved by a plucky stand by S. Billington (11) and E. Poole (13, not out.) E. Blurton was Longton's best bowler, having five wickets for 53. T. O'Brien (20), F. Audley (32), and A. Hodson (27) gave the visitors a decided chance of success, but their successors cut up badly before the bowling of S. K. Cooper and H. Gleaves, who had six wickets for 40 and three for 44, respectively.

CHELL'S START.

The match at Madeley proved to be Great Chell's opportunity for getting a first win, though at one stage the spoils looked to be going to the other camp. The foundation of Chell's success was laid by R. Harris, who played a very patient innings of 52—27 singles. His chief supporters were J. Worthington, with 24, and L. Horne, with 29, the aggregate being augmented by 42 runs during the second wicket partnership of Worthington and Harris. Madeley's most effective bowling came from W. Buckley—three for 30—and J. Millington—two for 16. Due to a capital stand by H. Wilkinson and E. Griffiths (15) the home team were well placed when their third wicket was captured at 95, but J. Taylor and R. F. Beardmore put out the rest for a paltry dozen runs, Taylor claiming five wickets for 39 and Beardmore four for 25.

"B" SECTION GAMES.

At High Lane the home team's bowlers were too good for Betley, who, after T. Whitby had hit up 18, were mostly at the mercy of H. Stone and W. Fisher, the only break occurring when G. Aplin (11) and B. Madden put on 17 for the eighth wicket. Stone had five victims for 24, and Fisher four for 14. High Lane were all but winners when C. Rhead (35) and A. Gaskell (22) took the score from 10 to 56 for the third partnership. M. Jones was by far the most persuasive of Betley's six bowlers, disposing of half the wickets for 29.

The match at Caverswall was played under ideal conditions, on a "stamian's wicket. The utter failure of the Caverswall players was, therefore, surprising, and can only be attributed to poor play in face of good bowling and fielding. P. Lowndes took five wickets for 12, A. Brough had two for 14, and R. Whitehurst two for one. The required runs were obtained by Cheadle for the loss of one wicket, and some capital batting followed. J. Whitehurst playing very soundly for 64, and H. Day showing good form for 38 (not out). C. Turner had three wickets for 24.

STONE'S FIRST DEFEAT.

Stone's run of success was summarily checked at Brindley Ford, in a game which was reckoned the most interesting ever played on the Wesleyans' ground. After getting rid of the home team for the moderate total of 51 Stone were confident of success, as their side was considered to be the strongest turned out this season, but they had to face a resolute side, and were 23 runs behind when the game ended. The ultimate end had importent when Brindley Ford's bowlers sent down seven overs for a single and one wicket, and L. Chell was the only batsman to cope with the attack, his wicket being the seventh to go, after he had made 13 by cautious play. Three overs finished the match after Chell's dismissal. E. Sumner had five wickets for nine, and R. Macnin four for 19.

For Stone H. Wood took six wickets for 19, the men to do best against his attack being A. Wailey (13) and G. Caddy (12). The fielding of both sides was well nigh faultless.

Audley's win over Sandyford was largely due to three players, J. McEllin (22) and G. Taylor (18) having a very useful second wicket connection of 38 runs, and D. McEllin getting rid of nine batsmen for a mere 14 runs—an excellent performance. Sandyford were best represented by their bowlers, A. Baddeley taking six wickets for 35, and H. Mellart having three for 31.

Alsagers Bank had a handsome success over their Scott Hay neighbours, whose batting had but one redeeming feature, the innings of 17 played by F. Higginbottom. The rest of the team could make little headway against the bowling of W. T. Sumnall—five for 12—and G Wainwright—four for 11. The Bank had previously been consistent in their run-getting with Sumnall (17) and J. Taylor (13) as the leading scorers. H. Downing did well with the ball for the losers, taking six wickets for 32.

A timely eighth wicket stand by N. Blood (33) and A. Williams (22, not out) was the basis of L.M. and S. Railway's win at Clough Hall, and the bowlers to supply the finishing touches were Blood—for for 24—J. Tibbets—three for 21—and F. Morrall—three for 25. S. Broad was a good all-rounder for Kidsgrove, taking four wickets for 40 and scoring 22. E. H. Broad was another useful bowler, claiming three wickets for 23.

Next Week's Matches and Umpires.

WHIT MONDAY.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

Great Chell v. Norton; Messrs. Cox and Plant.
Longton v. Leek; Messrs. T. Smith and Forster.
Burslem v. Knypersley; Messrs. Holmes and Bradbury.
Bignall End v. Nantwich; Messrs. Condliffe and Mould.
Silverdale v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Downs and Worthington.
Madeley v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Manifold and Taylor.

Section "B."

L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke) v. Burslem High-lane; Messrs. Cantrill and Gibbs.
Ashcombe Park v. Caverswall; Messrs. Rigby and Rowlands.
Betley v. Fenton; Messrs. H. Buckley and Pennell.
Cheadle v. Sandyford; Messrs. Bennett and Salmon.
Stone v. Audley; Messrs. Johnston and Buttery.
Kidsgrove v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. Tibley and Holdcroft.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

Norton v. Great Chell; Messrs. W. J. Buckley and Shingler.
Leek v. Longton; Messrs. Gregg and Shenton.
Knypersley v. Burslem; Messrs. Aston and Swindley.
Nantwich v. Bignal End; Messrs Lyth and Brown.
Crewe Alex. v. Silverdale; Messrs. Barsted and Gregory.
Porthill Park v. Madeley; Messrs. Naylor and A. Smith

Section "B."

Burslem High-lane v. L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke).
Caverswall v. Scot Hay.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans v. Betley.
Sandyford v. Cheadle.
Audley v. Stone.
Alsagers Bank v. Kidsgrove.

WHIT TUESDAY.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

Norton v. Madeley; Messrs. Byrne and Bagley.
Leek v. Great Chell; Messrs. Whittingham and Cooper.
Knypersley v. Longton; Messrs. Bowers and Rogerson.
Nantwich v. Burslem; Messrs. Forster and T. Smith.
Silverdale v. Bignall End; Messrs. Jones and Bradbury.
Crewe Alexandra v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Timmis and Condliffe.

Section "B."

Burslem High-lane v. Kidsgrove; Messrs. Boulton and Swindley.
Caverswall v. L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke); Messrs. Naylor and Bennett.
Fenton v. Ashcombe Park; Messrs. Tilsley and Barsted.
Sandyford v. Betley; Messrs. A. Smith and Rigby.
Stone v. Cheadle; Messrs. Skellam and Aston.
Audley v. Alsagers Bank; Messrs. Portch and Lyth.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

Madeley v. Norton; Messrs. Nixon and Pennell.
Longton v. Knypersley; Messrs. Wright and Brown.
Burslem v. Nantwich; Messrs. F. Smith and Green.
Bignall End v. Silverdale; Messrs. Cartlidge and Mayer.
Porthill Park v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Clowes and Gregory.

Section "B."

Kidsgrove v. Burslem High-lane.
L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke) v. Caverswall.
Scot Hay v. Brindley Ford Wesleyans.
Betley v. Sandyford.
Cheadle v. Stone.
Alsagers Bank v. Audley.

NEXT SATURDAY.

Senior Division.—Section "A."

Porthill Park v. Norton; Messrs. Birtles and Plant.
Madeley v. Leek; Messrs. Downs and Latham.
Great Chell v. Knypersley; Messrs. Mould and Taylor.
Longton v. Nantwich; Messrs. Furnival and Stevenson.
Burslem v. Silverdale; Messrs. Cox and Holmes.
Crewe Alexandra v. Bignall End; Messrs. Manifold and Worthington.

Section "B."

Alsagers Bank v. Burslem High-lane; Messrs. Johnston and W. J. Buckley.
Kidsgrove v. Caverswall; Messrs. Groom and Butters.
L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke) v. Fenton; Messrs. Skeaton and Skellam.
Ashcombe Park v. Sandyford; Messrs. Brown and Rowlands.
Betley v. Stone; Messrs. Boulton and Cartlidge.
Audley v. Cheadle; Messrs. Pennell and Brough.

Junior Division.—Section "A."

Norton v. Porthill Park; Messrs. Cantrill and Keeling.
Leek v. Madeley; Messrs. Holdcroft and Wright.
Knypersley v. Great Chell; Messrs. Gibbs and Shingler.
Nantwich v. Longton; Messrs. Billington and Mayer.
Silverdale v. Burslem; Messrs. Chesters and H. Buckley.
Bignall End v. Crewe Alexandra; Messrs. Salmon and A. Smith.

Section "B."

Burslem High-lane v. Alsagers Bank.
Caverswall v. Kidsgrove.
Brindley Ford Wesleyans v. L.M. and S. Railway (Stoke).
Sandyford v. Scot Hay.
Stone v. Betley.
Cheadle v. Audley.

Staffordshire Sentinel : Saturday 4 June 1927 - 5.

CHESTER AND DISTRICT CRICKET.

Boughton Hall's Hurricane Hitting.

Two Hours' Batting Realises 230 at Crossley.

(By "CESTRIAN.")

TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY runs in two hours was the hurricane rate of scoring by Boughton Hall batsmen in winning their match with the Northern Club at Moor Park, Crosby, on Saturday. When Northern had scored 228 (for 9) they declared, and Boughton required to score at the rate of 100 runs an hour to win. On a perfect wicket W. E. Jones and G. A. Pratt opened strongly. Though the Cheshire captain was missed early from a hard chance, he played exhilarating cricket, and the century was reached without the partnership being broken. The 100 was up on the board in 50 minutes! After L. N. Jones and Moore-Dutton came L. G Hales, who again played a clever innings of 55 (not out). After W. E. Jones had been dismissed for 88, Hales and H. D. Roberts carried the score past the Northern total for the loss of only four wickets. This was probably Boughton's finest performance to date Now that "W.E." has got going, one can confidently anticipate further big scores from his bat. L. N. Jones, his brother, again won the bowling honours, his five wickets being obtained for 74 runs.

ST. JOHN'S EASY WIN.

Chester St. John's entertained Brook Hirst at Bumper's Lane on Saturday, and thanks to another fine bowling performance by Gerrard, who took 7 for 15, the Saints dismissed their visitors for 27. St. John's followed this up by scoring 71, Gunson hitting two sixes off Greatorex in a score of 22. Eaton Park had another win on Saturday, this time at the expense of Upton (Birkenhead). Upton scored 83, a meagre total when one considers they were 65 for three. Fearnall bowled well in taking four for 15. Eaton quicky lost Col. Lyon and Thomas but I'Anson and the Rev. F. J. Okell stayed together at a critical period. Browne hit out with his customary enterprise and he and I'Anson made themselves absolute masters of the bowling. They each scored 61. The Eaton total reached 181.

GOOD BATTING.

Eaton provided another fine exhibition of batting on Wednesday when they met Ince. Each side batted one hour. Eaton took first knock and hit up 171 (for one) in the hour. G. A. Jones scored a terrific 102 (not out), including three sixes and 15 fours and Browne gave another enterprising display, scoring his second half-century in a week. In his 55 (not out) he hit nine fours. Ince followed with another fine batting display, their hour at the wicket realising 118 for the loss of three wickets. Slater batted finely for 77 (not out) and C. Greenway hit up 31. Eaton are undoubtedly one of the strongest batting sides in the district as they have shown by their recent displays.

HIGH SCORING AT BUCKLEY.

Buckley and Shotton both passed the hundred mark at Buckley on Saturday. Buckley scored 224 (for 3), Williamson (48 not out) carrying his bat through the innings, and thus beat Shotton's score of 122. Sheargold made a smart 33 for Shotton. At Handbridge Sanghall hit up 72 against the home side, G. Cox scoring 42 not out, and then Handbridge lost 9 wickets for 50. Frodsham won at Ashton Hayes when G. M. Forster batted well for 21 out of their total of 71. Ashton Hayes were dismissed for 45.

THE KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

Brown's are a young and enthusiastic side and following their victory over Christleton in the Knock-out Competition they have defeated Helsby in a "friendly" at Helsby. This surprise took place on Wednesday when the villagers found the attack of Longster too good for them. Helsby were all out for 42, Longster's bowling being backed up by exceptionally smart fielding. Longster hit the stumps seven times in taking 8 for 23. He has seldom bowled in more deadly vein. Mathias behind the stumps did not let Helsby have a single bye and he followed up this by scoring 51 (not out) out of Brown's score of 92 for 4. There were nine boundary hits in his total. This is a great performance for a young team and on this form Brown's will go a long way in the Knockout Competition.

BLYTHE BRIDGE & UTTOXETER DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Division I.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Team	4	4	0	0	8
Meir	5	4	1	0	8
Stallington	5	4	1	0	8
Kingsley	4	3	1	0	6
Fulford	5	3	2	0	4
Florence	5	2	3	0	4
Oakamoor	5	2	3	0	4
Draycott	5	1	4	0	2
Alton	5	1	4	0	2
Rocester	5	1	4	0	2

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Rocester 47, Alton 50; Draycott 45, Oakamoor 76; Team 109, Stallington 34; Meir 50 Kingsley 34; Florence 96, Fulford 24.

Division II.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Cresswell	5	4	1	0	8
Foxt	5	4	1	0	8
Leigh	5	3	1	1	7
Team	5	3	2	0	6
Kingsley	5	2	2	1	5
Dilhorne	5	2	3	0	4
Florence	5	2	3	0	4
Hollington	5	1	3	1	3
Meir	5	1	3	1	3
Stallington	5	1	4	0	2

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Stallington 35, Florence 38; Kingsley 98, Dilhorne 21; Cresswell 52 Team 36; Foxt 55, Meir 27; Leigh 43, Hollington 43.

FENTON AND DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Fenton II.	3	3	0	0	6
Longton "A"	4	3	1	0	6
Bucknall	3	2	1	0	4
Leycett	3	2	1	0	4
Wolstanton Marsh	3	2	1	0	4
Ashcombe Park II.	3	1	2	0	2
Rough Close	5	1	4	0	2
Caverswall A	2	0	2	0	0
Florence Colliery A	2	0	2	0	0

LAST SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Fenton II. 74, Ashcombe Park II. 39; Bucknall 71, Rough Close 54; Wolstanton Marsh 55 (for 8 wickets), Longton A 53.

CHEADLE AND DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS LEAGUE.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Pts.
Cheadle Council	4	4	0	0	8
Cheadle C.E.	3	3	0	0	6
Cheadle R.C.	4	2	2	0	4
Kingsley	3	2	1	0	4
Ipstones	3	1	2	0	2
Dilhorne	4	1	3	0	2
Foxt	4	0	4	0	0
Hollington	1	0	1	0	0

RESULTS.

Dilhorne 40, Foxt 34; Cheadle C.E. 66, Cheadle R.C. 15; Cheadle C. 57, Kingsley 16; Cheadle C.E. 123, Foxt 3; Cheadle R.C. 56, Dilhorne 45; Cheadle C. 104 (for 9 wickets), Ipstones 29.

BEST PERFORMANCES.

Bowling.—H. Sedgwick (Dilhorne), 6 wickets for 11 runs; F. Malbon (Council), 3 for 4; L. Shufflebotham (Council), 6 for 9; C. Bloor (Dilhorne), 3 for 6; J. Moss (Ipstones), 5 for 19.

Batting.—L. Harris (Cheadle Council), 55; E. Shaw (Cheadle C.E.), 59, not out; F. Whitehurst (Cheadle C.E.), 27; L. Shufflebotham (Cheadle Council), 21; W. Gregory (Cheadle C.E.), 16; J. Brattley (Cheadle R.C.), 17.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday, 8 June 1927.

CHESHIRE MAKE FINE RECOVERY.

Good Innings by L. N. Jones.

Staffordshire Start Well.

MACCLESFIELD, Wednesday.

Staffordshire met Cheshire to-day, at Macclesfield, in their first Minor Counties match of the season.

With an invaluable innings of 70 (not out) by L. N. Jones, Cheshire reached a total of 153, but Staffordshire made a good start to their innings this afternoon.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W E Jones c Russell b Barnes	6
Wilson b Barnes	12
P L V Astle b Barnes	7
H Eyre lbw b Platt	10
L N Jones not out	70
J K Edmundson b Platt	0
W T Maybury c Perry b Platt	0
C Dawson c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
W L Wilson c Homer b Barnes	0
C B Twemlow c Sedgwick b Barnes	5
E H Steventon b Sedgwick	27
Extras	13
Total	153

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl c W E Jones b Wilson	2
Barnes c W L Wilson b Danson	25
H W Homer not out	43
F D Perks not out	3
Extras	1
Total (for 3 wkts)	74

Later.—Staffordshire, 83 for two wickets. (Homer not out 51).

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Cheshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	22	6	55	6
Platt	10	1	48	3
Sedgwick	12	2	37	1

Conditions were far from perfect for the opening of Staffordshire's Minor Counties programme here to-day. Heavy showers of rain during the night and early this morning soaked the outfield, but the wicket itself was fairly firm, a wet-top surface suggesting a little advantage to the bowlers. Heavy rain clouds threatened to mar an early start, but when play was commenced there was a brilliant outburst of sunshine.

Cheshire won the toss, and decided to bat first on a quickly-drying wicket. W. E. Jones, the captain, who was partnered by Wilson, the professional, opened the innings for the home team, playing very cautiously to the bowling of Barnes, who only had one run scored against him in the first over. Wilson also treated Sedgwick's bowling with respect for a couple of overs, after which he became more forceful and put two successive balls to the boundary.

AN EARLY CHANCE.

The next ball went very near to causing Him to be sent back to the pavilion, Sedgwick failing to hold the greasy ball. Wilson's innings, however, was short-lived. He could not master the bowling of Barnes, who began to find better form, after an indifferent start. On two or three occasions Wilson was beaten by Barnes, and after half-an-hour's play he went out to meet one from the same bowler, which proved fatal. The ball broke in from the off, and concluded his innings for a useful knock of 12.

W. E. Jones was then partnered by P. L. V. Astle, who batted defensively. He did, however, send a delivery from Sedgwick to the boundary. Jones, too, was playing very cautiously until he tried to deal harshly with Barnes. He clipped it, and the ball flew behind, to be held by Russell, the Staffordshire captain, who was in very good form.

H. Eyre went out to join P. L. V. Astle, but he played with little confidence. Almost every ball from Barnes saw him beaten. He had several lucky escapes, and Barnes was getting that wonderful spin on the ball. Sedgwick was giving trouble to the batsmen with a jumping ball.

Eyres was displaying a variety of useful strokes, but was decidedly fortunate in just managing to snick a beautiful breaking ball from Barnes for a 3. The snick shaved his off stump.

TROUBLESOME WICKET.

The drying wicket was causing not a little trouble to the batsmen, the turf at the same time showing signs of wear.

Barnes was keeping a perfect length, and his spin on the ball was as great as ever. Astle was never comfortable, and after hitting a boundary and securing three singles, he fell a victim to Barnes' deadly spin. L. N. Jones had previously sent three consecutive balls to the boundary from the bowling of Sedgwick.

After 35 runs had been scored off Sedgwick without a wicket, Platt was put on, and the change was a fruitful one, for the second ball he put down he had Eyre out l.b.w. J. K. Edmundson, who was the next batsman, only had two balls to deal with. The first he tapped gently and the second he missed and had the chagrin of seeing his stumps part company.

Up to now L. N. Jones was the only one who stood up to the bowling with any confidence. He made several fine drives to the boundary, and one splendid hit he sent into an adjoining field.

W. T. Maybury went out to join Jones, and that was all he did, for, just tapping the ball from Platt, Perry brought off a smart catch at short leg. Maybury was succeeded by C. Danson, but he was not allowed to settle down. He was soon in difficulties to Barnes' bowling, and after hitting three singles, was out to an extraordinarily fine catch by Sedgwick. Danson had stepped up to a slow ball but he only snicked it and Sedgkick held it in the slips.

BARNES' GOOD ANALYSIS.

Seven wickets had fallen so far for a total of 62 runs. In twelve overs Barnes' analysis showed three wickets for 13 runs.

L. N. Jones continued to face the bowling of both Barnes and Platt in a masterful way, and by the time the score had reached 90 his contribution was 41, which included eight 4's. He had become well set, and runs came more rapidly than in the opening stages of the game. At first C. B. Twemlow looked as though he would make a useful partnership with Jones but he attempted to flog the bowling, which was an impossibility. A feature in his innings of five, was a wonderful attempt by Ikin to hold a catch. He ran from second slip to cover point, caught the ball, and in turning a somersault, dropped it. It was a splendid effort.

Sedgwick brought off another great catch in third slip in dismissing Twemlow off Barnes without scoring a run W. L. Wilson suffered similar fate for clipping a delivery from Barnes. Homer then brought off a nice catch when the total was 89. Steventon was the last man in, and before the lunch interval, he had secured a single.

L. V. JONES' FINE INNINGS.

On play being resumed, Steventon faced the bowling of Platt, and after making a nice drive for two, followed with a great cut for a boundary. His next stroke did not quite reach the boundary, but the following stroke did. Runs were being freely made, and twice off Barnes, Jones made 4's and was heartily applauded when he brought his score to 50, after being at the wickets just an hour. In the following over Steventon delighted the onlookers with some more hard hitting. This partnership with Jones had mastered the bowling to a marked degree, realising 40 runs in 20 minutes. Jones was hitting with a freedom which was delightful to watch, lifting the ball into a field near by, then into the pavilion, and playing with great dash to other parts of the field. Platt then gave way to Sedgwick and with his second delivery, he dismissed Steventon for a score of 27. Jones, who was not out, had 70, his score including 14 fours.

The last half hour of Cheshire's batting was the brightest of the day up to this point, 63 runs having been compiled in the 30 minutes.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S GOOD START.

Staffordshire went to the wicket at 2 55, C. Howl facing the bowling of Wilson, and being partnered by H. W. Homer. The wicket was not so troublesome as it had been, but both the visiting batsmen played on the defensive for a time. Howl, however, made one or two crisp strokes, and then fell to the bowling of ilson. The ball came off Howl's foot on to his bat and he was caught by W. E. Jones when only four runs had been registered. This set back came within ten minutes of the opening of the innings.

When Barnes came in he met the bowling with confidence, first securing one or two singles off Wilson, and then driving one to the boundary off Steventon. Both batsmen were performing very creditably, each being responsible for some smart drives to the boundary. The scoring was fairly rapid, 30 runs having been made in half-an-hour.

After bowling several overs, Steventon was displaced by W. L. Wilson, but, for the time being, this did not have a great effect, for Barnes and Homer continued to master the bowling with drives to the boundary and to the pavilion. The bowling was changed at the other end, C. Danson taking the place of Wilson. Fifty runs had been hit up in the same number of minutes.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday, 9 June 1927

OPENING WIN FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Cheshire Defeated by an Innings.

Barnes and Sedgwick Share Bowling Honours.

Staffordshire to-day won their first Minor Counties match of the season, defeating Cheshire, at Macclesfield, by an innings and 18 runs.

After scoring 283 in reply to Cheshire's first innings of 153, Staffordshire dismissed the home county in the second innings for 92.

Barnes bowled splendidly, taking four wickets for 26, and Sedgwick took a similar number of wickets for 35 runs.

CHESHIRE.—First Innings.

W E Jones c Russell b Barnes	6
Wilson b Barnes	12
P L V Astle b Barnes	7
H Eyre lbw b Platt	10
L N Jones not out	70
J K Edmundson b Platt	0
W T Maybury c Perry b Platt	0
C Danson c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
C B Twemlow c Sedgwick b Barnes	5
W L Wilson c Homer b Barnes	0
E H Steventon b Sedgwick	27
Extras	13
Total	153

CHESHIRE.—Second Innings.

Wilson lbw b Barnes	4
W E Jones b Sedgwick	12
H Eyre b Barnes	9
N Jones st Russell b Sedgwick	21
P L V Astle b Sedgwick	0
J K Edmundson lbw b Barnes	11
W T Maybury run out	6
E H Steventon c Barnes b Sedgwick	6
C Danson run out	4
C V Twemlow st Russell b Barnes	4
W L Wilson not out	4
Extras	11
Total	92

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer b Wilson	53
C W Howl c W Jones b Wilson	2
Barnes c W L Wilson b Danson	25
F D Perks c L Jones b W Jones	40
E J Gothard c Twemlow b Danson	18
J S Heath c and b Danson	2
Sedgwick b W E Jones	9
A W Ikin not out	43
E Perry b W L Wilson	33
J B Russell b Maybury	15
Platt b Maybury	1
Extras	22
Total	263

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Cheshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	22	6	55	6
Platt	10	1	43	3
Sedgwick	12	2	37	1

Cheshire.—Second Innings.

Barnes	22.2	11	26	4
Sedgwick	22	5	55	4

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	23	10	76	2
Steventon	9	1	29	0
W. L. Wilson	14	2	46	1
C. Danson	17	5	31	3
L. N. Jones	15	1	31	0
W. E. Jones	7	4	22	2
W. T. Maybury	1.2	0	4	2

MACCLESFIELD, Thursday.

On entering upon their reply to Cheshire's total score of 153, Staffordshire put up a very creditable batting performance, and were in the healthy position of 170 (for 7 wickets) within ten minutes of the close of play last night. At the close of play the actual score had been taken to 174 for seven wickets. For the first match of the season the batting was surprisingly good, H. W. Homer soon finding exceptionally good form, and, following the dismissal of Barnes for a very useful 25, F. D. Perks joined Homer in some lusty hitting. Homer, however, had by this time put on 43, and he was deservedly applauded on reaching his half century with one of those nice cuts, which, however, eventually brought the end of his wicket.

Cheshire constantly changed their bowling, but the batsmen played with a confidence that was lacking in Cheshire's performance, until within half-an-hour of the fall of the last wicket. Homer continued to play some delightful strokes and after being nearly run out he snicked a ball on to his off-stump, retiring with a splendid 53 to his credit.

BRIGHT BATTING.

There was another refreshing attack on the bowling when E. J. Gothard, a new member, went in to assist Perks. This pair hit out in fine style, Perks performance being extremely pleasant to watch, for he forced many to the boundary.

Cheshire, however, fielded extraordinarily well. Perks went back to the pavilion with 40 to his credit, after being caught by L. N. Jones. Gothard shaped well, and though he was missed twice at point he made 18 and was then smartly caught behind the wickets by Twemlow. J. S. Heath, who was then partnering him, also took a fancy to flogging the bowling, and after making a couple he was caught and bowled by Danson. A. W. Ikin, another new Staffordshire member, made a good debut, justifying his inclusion in the team. He played sound cricket, batting in polished style for 12 (not out) when play ended for the day. Perry also had several smart cuts for a not out total of five.

When play was resumed this morning there was an overcast sky, but it permitted glimpses of sunshine.

The wicket was very firm, and without rain there was every appearance of it being a batsman's day. When Ikin and Perry went in the latter faced the bowling of Wilson, but the first over was a maiden. At the other end, to the bowling of L. N. Jones, Ikin got a single, as did Perry, the first four overs only producing three runs.

DULL OPENING TO-DAY.

It looked as though play was going to be dull and uninteresting when the first eight overs only produced 12 runs, but after this runs came more frequent, both Ikin and Perry hitting with vigour and timing the ball well. After three singles, Ikin pulled a nice one to leg, then followed with a series of singles, and a fine hit that deserved more than 2. Perry was showing considerable enterprise, first snicking a two, and then getting in three splendid drives—all to the boundary.

After half-an-hour's play the visitors' score had been brought up to 210, Perry, with a first-rate hit bringing his score to 29. Ikin had so far contributed a valuable 28. There was general consistency in the batting of both, and their partnership appeared to be very firmly established.

Cheshire continued the tactics of constantly changing the bowling, W. L. Wilson, Danson, and W. E. Jones all going on in turn but to no good purpose until Perry had brought his score to 43. It was then that W. L. Wilson put down a straight ball and the mistake of striking late saw his stumps part company.

The eighth wicket had yielded a very attractive 58 in about 50 minutes. J. B. Russell, on going in, put a delivery from W. L. Wilson to the boundary with his first hit, and in the same over, playing the ball very prettily, he secured a two and later drove another to the full extent of the field for another four.

IKIN'S SKILFUL DISPLAY.

Ikin was still playing a skilful bat, first cutting and then playing square, obtaining runs with considerable frequency.

After fifty-five minutes play this morning 250 runs were on the board and after contributing 15 Russell was bowled by Maybury with the latter's second ball. The score was 261 (for nine wickets). On Platt going out he hit a single, and then striking late, Maybury shifted his middle stump. Ikin gave a skilful display in scoring his 43 (not out).

In arrears to the extent of 110 runs on the first innings, Cheshire came out to bat at 12.30, W. E. Jones facing Barnes for the first over. At the other end Wilson opened the scoring for Cheshire with a two. The Staffordshire field was well placed, some brisk hitting by Jones being fielded in stylish manner. When the score had reached nine, Wilson was out lbw to Barnes. When Eyre faced the bowling of Barnes he looked uncomfortable, and it was not surprising to find the over non-productive of runs. Half-an-hour's batting had not produced 20 runs. There was little tendency towards any hard hitting, though W. E. Jones played a steady bat, with occasional cuts for fours. A well-pitched ball from Sedgwick eventually put the finishing touch to Jones's bright innings that had produced 14 runs. He was cleaned bowled when 29 runs were on the board.

CHEAP WICKETS.

L. N. Jones, who had done so much to save Cheshire in the first innings by scoring 70, went in to the bowling of Barnes, twisting the last ball of the over to the full extent of the field for four. Eyre's innings came to a dramatic close after he had scored nine. Barnes was again displaying wonderful control of the ball and put one down with a big spin. Eyre was astonished, when he allowed the ball to go by him without playing it, to find it break in from the leg. So far three wickets had been disposed of for 35. When P. L. V. Astle went in to join L. N. Jones, it is true that his bat did touch the ball once or twice but nothing more could be said of his display, for Sedgwick, with a ball on which he put amazing pace, soon found the centre stump.

After lunch J. R. Edmundson joined L. N. Jones, and in the first over each sent one to the boundary off Sedgwick, and in the following over Jones secured two more 4's, 19 runs having been added to the score in ten minutes.

HOME BATSMEN CAUTIOUS.

A fair amount of cautious batting followed, and when it looked as though Edmundson might get set, his wicket was taken by Barnes for lbw, after hitting up 14, the total then being 67 for five wickets.

A miss by Jones, who had been [illegible] sound and interesting cricket, caused [illegible] be sent to the pavilion when he had [illegible] On Sedgwick putting down the first [illegible] he was joined by Maybury, Jones lifted [illegible] bat as though to put the ball to the boundary, but he missed, and the ball flew back from Russell's pads on to the wicket. Sedgwick was getting both pace and length on the ball, and E. H. Steventon found it difficult to force the pace.

The caution with which the batsmen were playing can be gauged by the fact that only 35 runs were scored in about 50 minutes, when Steventon tapped the ball between square leg and mid-on and there was a call to run. Maybury, responding to the latter, was run out after making six out of a total of 78. Danson had no sooner come out to partner Steventon—there had only been an addition of two runs—when the latter sharply tipped the ball to first slip, but with cat-like agility, Barnes jumped to it and brought off a remarkably fine right-hand catch.

EXCITING FINISH.

The next incidents were quite of an exciting character, for no sooner had Twemlow taken up his position than he played a ball on to his off stump, but it did not knock the bail off. The very next ball from Barnes, Twemlow put to cover point and called on Danson, who had then made four, to run, and this he did. Perry, however, fielded smartly, and with a wonderfully accurate throw-in, had him run out. Twemlow had another piece of good luck when, after sending a ball high towards the boundary, the sun got in Howl's eyes and he missed the catch.

The end came with another exciting piece of play. Twemlow was stumped when making a short run.

On their merits Staffordshire won by an innings and 18 runs.

MINOR COUNTIES' MATCH.

NORTH v. SOUTH.

(At Lord's.)

Aaron Lockett, of Staffordshire, Top Scorer.

Teams representing North and South in the minor Counties competition, met at Lord's to-day in a two-day fixture. Included in the North team is Aaron Lockett, the former Bignall End player, who is professional to the Old Hill Club, and a well-known member of the Staffordshire teams.

The wicket was good when play commenced this morning, and up to lunch time Lockett had contributed 9 (not out) towards the North's total of 166 (for 8 wickets).

After lunch Lockett scored freely, and by hitting up 75 became top scorer for his side, the innings realising a total of 284.

North.—First Innings.

W Barber b C E Awdry	13
H O Perens b Amory	8
C Carnegie-Brown st Shepherd b Shaw-Baker	37
M Nichol c Amory b C E Awdry	14
A S Ling c Shaw-Baker b Baldwin	32
Granger-Leathes c Fulcher b Shaw-Baker	6
J Carr c Amory b Jennings	13
A Lockett c Gregory b Jennings	75
Maj Chichester-Constable lbw b Baldwin	0
H C Sagary not out	33
S Douglas c Shepherd b Walters	0
Extras	33
Total	284

The South.—First Innings.

D A Fulcher c Ling b Douglas	6
Shaw-Baker c Carr b Sagary	17
Baldwin not out	0
Extras	4
Total (8 wkts)	27

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday, 11 June 1927

COUNTY CRICKET

STAFFS. v. CHESHIRE

Interesting Play at Macclesfield

By THE CRITIC

Staffordshire's opening match of the season began on Wednesday against Cheshire at Macclesfield. The home side were without Hopwood, who was engaged with his club, and relied entirely on amateurs, except for the ground professional, Herbert Wilson, Dennis, the fast bowler, being omitted in favour of a pair of Oxton amateurs in W. L. Wilson (fast right-arm) and C. Danson (medium right-arm).

Staffordshire missed Aaron Lockett, who had been selected to play for the North against the South of the Minor Counties at Lords on Thursday and Friday. Cheshire had plenty of bowling, with a little doubt as to its quality. Staffordshire had undoubted quality, but very little change. A. W. Ikin was included in the side by virtue of his excellent form with Great Chell, and a new-comer to county cricket was E. J. Gothard, of Burton-on-Trent. Writing at the close of the first day's play, I have little hesitation in hailing the Burton man as a recruit of much value. His very first stroke created a favourable impression, which grew as he proceeded to play with confidence quite good bowling on a rather treacherous wicket. He seemed to have sound defence, to be strong in forward play, and to have plenty of scoring strokes. While he was in he was never in difficulty, except for a couple of balls that reared abruptly from a good length, and which no one could expect to keep down. Both of these bobbed up rather dangerously near the close-in fielders. Otherwise he was always middling the ball well, and he got it to the boundary three times—with a cut, an off-drive, and a leg hit. He was eventually caught at the wicket in trying to score from an off-ball, and though contributing no more than 18 he gave the impression that in him Staffordshire has found a promising batsman.

A SOFT WICKET.

When Cheshire took first innings the wicket was soft and dead, and though Barnes's finger-spin produced a prodigious break the ball "hung" so long that anything the least bit short could be watched and hit. By pitching well up Barnes made the batsmen play forward, and repeatedly beat the bat and broke right across the wicket. W. E. Jones, who has succeeded V. Hope as captain of the Cheshire team, and Wilson are an uncommonly sound pair of batsmen, and they played through six overs of Barnes and Sedgwick before the former completely beat Wilson with a break-back that hit the middle stump. Sedgwick was bowling finely, but the slow wicket made it hard work, and he was not favoured with any luck. He just failed to hold a fast return by Wilson to his right hand, and when Astle came in he put one up at short-leg, which was almost a catch to Platt. When Jones got near enough to one of Barnes's leg-breaks to touch it, and was smartly taken at the wicket, 12 overs had produced only 22 runs, and with 11 added Astle, trying to hit Barnes to leg, was beaten and bowled. L. N. Jones, who has often used the long handle with effect against Staffordshire, at once began to play the right game, and got three 4's in one over from Sedgwick, who had successfully performed his mission of keeping the batsmen quiet while the wicket dried sufficiently to suit Platt. The change was then made with instant effect, for Platt got three wickets with his first eight balls before a run had been scored from him. Thus six were down for 57, and Barnes secured three more victims before lunch—two simple catches close in at point and one equally simple at mid-on, all with well-pitched-up leg-breaks which the batsmen could not keep down. Jones had been hitting lustily, and lifted Barnes into the next field at square-leg. When the lunch interval was taken nine wickets were down for 90, and Cheshire did not look like reaching three figures. Barnes had then taken six wickets for 31 and Platt three for 10.

On resuming, however, Jones and Steventon enjoyed 25 minutes of glorious life. Both hit with delightful freedom, and thoroughly deserved their success. Barnes did not bowl as he had before the interval, and Platt was knocked off his length, and 63 were scored in the time stated before Sedgwick, coming on again, caused Steventon to play on in his first over. Jones's hits included another big one to leg off Barnes, far beyond the rather short boundary, and altogether he had 14 4's and only five singles in his 70.

GOOD BATTING BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

Staffordshire commenced batting at three o'clock, and C. Howl soon played a ball on to his pads, whence it glanced up to short-leg for an easy catch. But Homer and Howe played the bowling with great skill, putting on 50 before Barnes was out to a stroke that thoroughly deserved a boundary. It was a hard, low cut, and how W. L. Wilson at point managed to get his left hand to it close to the ground, to say nothing of holding it, was a marvel. As the wicket dried and its pace increased the ball often got up awkwardly, and Homer was fortunate to keep one from L. N. Jones off his face. As it was, he got a nasty blow on the hand, which cut his finger through the glove. Having reached an excellent 50 by watchful cricket, scoring most of his runs by his favourite leg strokes, neatly executed, he was bowled in trying to pull a short one that kept low. Then Perks and Gothard added 50 for the fourth wicket, and put Staffordshire well on the way for a first innings lead. Of Gothard's batting I have already written. Perks survived a shaky start, when he was non-plussed by a good many balls of good length, and later drove well. Stanley Heath was unlucky, returning a kicking ball to the bowler. Danson varied his bowling a good deal, but sent down a lot of tantalizing off-theory stuff and got three rather lucky wickets. W. E. Jones, on the other hand, bowling slow and flighting the ball well, kept the batsmen playing, and turning the ball both ways deserved his two wickets, though Sedgwick was unfortunate in chopping one on to his stumps. Ikin should have been caught at square-leg before scoring, and profited by the let off to see the Cheshire score headed, and stayed with Perry till the close, when Staffordshire had gained a lead of 21 with three wickets in hand.

CHESHIRE OUTPLAYED.

Gaining, perhaps, more than a slight advantage on Wednesday, the Staffordshire team completely out played their rivals on Thursday, and brought off a great win by an innings and 18 runs. The fact of the matter was that the Staffordshire bowling was too good for the Cheshire men, who, if the brave and meritorious stand by L. N. Jones and Steventon be excepted, and especially the dashing innings by Jones, were overwhelmed by the Staffordshire attack.

The last three Staffordshire wickets added an invaluable 89 runs on Thursday morning, and for this Ikin and Perry were largely responsible. Ikin profited by his let off the previous afternoon, and played sound if not enterprising cricket. At that stage it was important to take no risks, and he played with good judgment as well as skill. Perry soon settled down, and batted with a nice, free style until a quick ball that kept very low got under his defence. The captain got two or three capital strokes, but when Maybury was called upon for the first time at 257 he was beaten by a nice bit of break, and a similar ball hit Platt's middle stump, suggesting that the Nantwich bowler ought to have been given a chance earlier, as the wicket was always one likely to suit him.

Barnes and Sedgwick bowled for two hours and ten minutes to dismiss Cheshire a second time, and were always on top after the getting rid of W. E. Jones and Wilson cheaply. L. N. Jones played his natural forcing game again, but jumping in to drive Sedgwick was stumped by the ball rebounding from Russell's pads, sixth out at 67, and then Cheshire's chance of putting the visitors in again practically vanished. They did not improve matters by throwing two wickets away, but this only, perhaps, counteracted the effect of a couple of blunders in the field by Howl, who was unfortunate enough to let one off Sedgwick go through his hands at point and drop an easy one off Barnes near the on-boundary. Danson lost his wicket to a fine piece of fielding by Perry, who threw the wicket down from cover in great style. Barnes bowled with subtlety as well, as the remarkable accuracy which his analysis indicates, and 6 or 8 of the few runs scored from him were flukes. Except for a few leg balls which yielded boundaries, Sedgwick also bowled his best, sometimes making the ball come back appreciably, whilst the Cheshire captain was bowled by one that went a few inches with his arm. The fast bowler's analysis would have been better still but for several lucky snicks that went to the boundary. Barnes's slip catch off his colleague was a beauty, such as is only possible by concentration, and Russell took a nice catch on the leg-side off Barnes, and was very quick in stumping the Cheshire wicket-keeper and ending the match.

Scores and analysis :—

CHESHIRE.—1ST INNINGS.

W. E. Jones c Russell b Barnes	6
Wilson b Barnes	12
P. L. Astle b Barnes	7
H. Eyre lbw b Platt	10
L. N. Jones not out	70
J. K. Edmundson b Platt	0
W. T. Maybury c Perry b Platt	0
C. Danson c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
C. B. Twemlow c Sedgwick b Barnes	5
W. L. Wilson c Homer b Barnes	0
E. H. Steventon b Sedgwick	27
Extras	13
Total	153

2ND INNINGS.

W. E. Jones b Sedgwick	12
Wilson lbw b Barnes	4
P. L. Astle b Sedgwick	0
H. Eyre b Barnes	9
L. N. Jones st Russell b Sedgwick	21
J. K. Edmundson c Russell b Barnes	11
W. T. Maybury run out	6
C. Danson run out	4
C. B. Twemlow st Russell b Barnes	4
W. L. Wilson not out	4
E. H. Steventon c Barnes b Sedgwick	6
Extras	11
Total	92

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1ST INNINGS.

H. W. Homer b Wilson	53
C. Howl c W. Jones b Wilson	2
Barnes c W. Wilson b Danson	25
F. D. Perks c L. Jones b W. Jones	40
E. J. Gothard c Twemlow b Danson	18
J. S. Heath c and b Danson	2
A. W. Ikin not out	43
Sedgwick b W. Jones	9
E. Perry b Wilson	33
J. B. Russell b Maybury	15
Platt b Maybury	1
Extras	22
Total	203

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

CHESHIRE.—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	22	6	55	6
Sedgwick	12	2	37	1
Platt	10	1	48	3

2nd Innings.

Barnes	22.2	11	26	4
Sedgwick	22	3	45	4

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	32	9	70	2
Steventon	9	1	20	0
W. Wilson	14	2	48	1
Danson	17	5	31	3
L. Jones	15	1	31	0
W. Jones	11	4	22	2
Maybury	1.2	0	4	2

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday 15 June 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE LEAD LINCOLNSHIRE.

Visiting County Dismissed for 89 Runs.

Free Hitting by Barnes.

Staffordshire bowlers were in deadly form against Lincolnshire, at West Bromwich to-day, and the visiting side was dismissed for 89 runs, Aaron Lockett taking three wickets for six runs, Barnes three for 37, and Sedgwick four wickets for 38 runs.

Staffordshire soon passed that total, Barnes and H. W. Homer giving the home county a good send-off after C. Howl had been dismissed for nine. Barnes put on 43 before being sent back.

WEST BROMWICH Wednesday.

Staffordshire opened their two days' Minor Counties fixture with Lincolnshire here to-day. In the corresponding match last year, Staffordshire were successful by an innings. The weather to-day was beautifully fine, but there was a keen north-easterly breeze. There had been a heavy dew, but all signs of this had disappeared when play commenced. The wicket was very firm.

Lincolnshire won the toss, and decided to bat first. B. A. Bashforth went in to face the bowling of Barnes, and from the first ball of the over scored a single. No more runs came from that over, and at the other end F. Parker batted cautiously against the bowling of Sedgwick. The next two overs only produced another single, two runs having been made in twelve minutes.

Both Barnes and Sedgwick were keeping a good length, and the batsmen appeared to be playing with more than ordinary caution. After scoring three runs in about 15 minutes, Bashforth was sent back to the pavilion by Sedgwick, who made an easy catch from his own delivery. J. E. Searby then went out to partner Parker, but slow scoring was still the order, a total of nine overs only having produced five runs in 25 minutes. Just prior to hitting a two Parker narrowly missed playing on to his wicket.

SLOW SCORING.

The cautious manner in which the batsmen met the bowling, was probably in a measure due to the fact that Lincolnshire had not a strong side. Parker had been at the wickets half-an-hour for his couple when he was dismissed by Barnes, with one of his ingeniously designed deliveries.

When A. R. Turner went in, he, too, batted with care, treating the bowling with considerable respect. The first boundary of the match came in the 48th minute of play, but it was for byes. Up to this point a total of only twelve runs had been gleaned.

In an hour's play there had only been one really good scoring stroke, and that was made by Searby for three. After making five he was dismissed by Barnes, this wicket having produced an additional 19 runs. It had taken an hour for the total to reach 24 when W. A. Sutton went to the wicket, but his stay, too, was a brief one, for after scoring a single he was clean bowled by Sedgwick.

SMART FIELDING.

Staffordshire were fielding well and both Barnes and Sedgwick were in deadly form. With the exception of Turner, none of the batsmen had shown anything like enterprise up to this time.

After scoring six singles he drove one to the boundry, following this up with another single, and then a hit for two. His innings was closed after this, Barnes taking his third wicket for 14, and Sedgwick had taken a similar number of wickets for 17 runs, after Russell had smartly stumped Flatters.

So far, six wickets had fallen for the small total of 39. F. W. Day went in and hit a three from the first ball put down to him, and followed his with a two. He was joined by C. Wilson, following the dismissal of Flatters. Wilson's first hit was to the boundary for a 4, but after making a single Sedgwick sent him to the pavilion, seven wickets having fallen for 47.

Day stood up to the bowling very well. Following a cut for three, he made a good stroke for two, then a single, and later got the ball twice to the boundary. This he followed up with two successive fine drives to the boundary, this particular over off Sedgwick producing 16 runs.

Following this Lockett took over the bowling from Sedgwick, and with his fourth ball had Day out lbw, after the latter had made a useful stand for 25.

LOCKETT FINDS HIS FORM.

On play being resumed after the luncheon interval, Shaw drove one to the boundary off Barnes, but in the next over Aaron Lockett had found extraordinary form, and with his third ball had him out. W. H. Clifton was the visitors' last batsman, but no sooner had he gone to the wicket than Lockett put down a well-pitched ball, which concluded Lincolnshire's innings for a total of 89. Lockett had the very fine average of having bowled 2.4 overs, one being a maiden, and taking three wickets for six runs.

H. W. Homer and C. Howl opened Staffordshire's innings at 17 minutes to 3, and off Wright's first over the latter made a single.

Facing the bowling of Wilson from the other end, Howl hit out freely, driving two to the boundary. His stay, however, was comparitively short, for, snicking the ball from Wilson, he was out to smart catch by Shaw behind the wicket. A quarter of an hour's play had produced eleven runs, nine of which were from Howl.

BRIGHTER BATTING.

Homer had opened his innings with a two and a single when he was joined by Barnes. The latter made a hit for one, but bad fielding made it possible for him to make it a couple. The next ball he sent to the boundary. He continued to bat in a very skilful manner, and delighted the spectators by sending three consecutive balls to the boundary, after which Homer got a two. Up to now there had been seven boundaries, and 40 runs had been put on in about 30 minutes. Both batsmen played bright and attractive cricket, with a variety of strokes which quickly sent the score to 60.

Barnes batted soundly for an hour, when he stepped up to a slow ball put down by Clifton and missed it, and was out for 43. His innings included six 4's and several 3's and 2's.

Clifton, the visitors' slow bowler, was bowling well, but on F. D. Perks going out to bat, he knocked one of the bowler's deliveries for a 6, quickly following it up with a two, and then driving one to the boundary for four.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

B A Bashforth c and b Sedgwick	5
F Parker b Barnes	2
J E Searby lbw b Barnes	5
A R Turner b Barnes	13
W A Sutton b Sedgwick	1
R Flatters st Russell b Sedgwick	4
F W Day lbw b Lockett	25
C Wilson b Sedgwick	6
G Shaw b Lockett	22
G H Wright not out	1
D H Clifton b Lockett	0
Extras	8
Total	89

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl c Shaw b Wilson	9
H W Homer not out	35
Barnes b Clifton	43
F D Perks b Day	31
Extras	6
Total (for 3 wkts)	124

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	5	24	25	33	39	47	74	89	89

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	21	6	37	3
Sedgwick	18	6	38	4
A. Lockett	2.4	1	6	3

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday, 16 June 1927

HEAVY DEFEAT FOR LINCOLNSHIRE.

Staffordshire Win by an Innings and 169 Runs.

Century by Platt.

Staffordshire to-day defeated Lincolnshire by an innings and 169 runs.

After dismissing the visiting county for 89 in the first innings, Staffordshire, for whom Platt scored his first century, put on 402 (for eight wickets), and declared.

Lincolnshire's second venture realised 144 runs.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

B A Bashforth c and b Sedgwick	3
F Parker b Barnes	2
J E Searby lbw b Barnes	5
A R Turner b Barnes	13
W A Sutton b Sedgwick	1
R Flatters st Russell b Sedgwick	4
F W Day lbw b Lockett	23
C Wilson b Sedgwick	5
G Shaw b Lockett	22
G H Wright not out	1
D H Clifton b Lockett	0
Extras	8
Total	89

LINCOLNSHIRE.—Second Innings.

B A Bashforth lbw b Barnes	14
F Parker b Barnes	1
A R Turner b Lockett	1
W A Sutton lbw b Sedgwick	22
R Flatters st Russell b Barnes	23
J W Day b Barnes	2
J E Searby b Lockett	40
C Wilson b Barnes	17
G Shaw b Lockett	1
G H Wright c Homer b Barnes	2
W H Clifton not out	0
Extras	21
Total	144

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Wright b Sutton	66
C Howl c Shaw b Wilson	9
Barnes b Clifton	43
F D Perks b Day	31
A W Ikin b Wilson	24
G A Fitton b Day	14
S Jackson c Bashforth b Day	30
Platt not out	110
Sedgwick b Sutton	30
A Lockett not out	20
Extras	25
Total (for 8 wkts)	402

Innings declared.

J. B. Russell did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	5	24	25	33	39	47	74	80	89

Lincolnshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	35	38	80	112	114	136	140	144	144

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	70	124	175	189	225	260	317		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	21	8	37	5
Sedgwick	18	6	39	4
A. Lockett	2.4	1	6	3

Lincolnshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	17.2	3	31	6
Lockett	26	5	65	3
Platt	9	2	12	0
Sedgwick	9	3	25	1

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wright	23	3	99	0
Wilson	37	13	86	2
Clifton	22	9	57	1
Day	29	6	106	3
Sutton	14	5	33	2
Turner	3	0	17	0

Turner bowled one no-ball.

In their Minor Counties match with Lincolnshire at Sandwell Park, West Bromwich yesterday, Staffordshire took advantage of a wicket which favoured the batsmen, and hit up a big score after dismissing the visitors for the small total of 89. The result was that at the close of play Staffordshire were in a very commanding position. Six wickets had fallen for 235 runs.

The prospect of an easy victory was to the fine bowling of Barnes, Sedgwick and Lockett, and some powerful hitting by H. W. Homer, Barnes, F. D. Perks, A. W. Ikin and Stacey Jackson, all of whom punished the bowling. Homer made a very fine stand for 66, when, from a hard cut, he was out to a smart catch at point by Wright. His score included a 6, six 4's, and eight 3's. Perks also made a valuable contribution of 31 before being bowled by Day, his stand including three 4's and a 6. A. W. Ikin scored freely, and of his total of 24, five knocks were for 4's. Some powerful hitting was indulged in by Stacey Jackson, who in 30 minutes scored as many runs. He had the misfortune to be caught by Bashforth near the boundary when he made a fine drive for what looked like a certain 6. G. A. Fitton, the left-handed batsmen, who plays for Kidderminster was at the crease 55 minutes, in which time he had scored five runs. On Jackson being dismissed, Platt went in to knock up nine before the close of play.

When play was resumed this morning, the wicket was still favouring the batsmen. There was not such a keen wind as yesterday. Fitton opened play to the bowling of Day, and showed more confidence than he had done in the closing stages yesterday, putting on an additional nine runs in the first quarter of an hour. Shortly afterwards, however, he tried to pull one from Day and was out. He had taken an hour and twenty minutes to score 14.

PROFITABLE PARTNERSHIP.

Platt had, in the meantime, settled down to the bowling, making many good hits round the wicket, including several to the boundary. Sedgwick went in to score freely, first making two singles, then putting two to the boundary, and following this up with a 6. The partnership of Platt and Sedgwick continued to be a very profitable one, both punishing the bowling.

In forty-five minutes 65 runs had been added to the score, which now stood at 300 for the loss of seven wickets. Platt, with some fine strokes, had taken his score to 81 in just over fifty minutes. After a splendid display of batting, Sedgwick was bowled by Sutton, his 30 including a six and four 4's.

Platt was then joined by A. Lockett. In five consecutive strokes Platt made a great hit for six, followed by a two, then three to the boundary. When the score board registered 360, Platt had 86 to his credit. So far, he had played a faultless innings, with the exception of a chance to slip when he had made 41. It was, however, by no means an easy chance that was given to Bashforth.

Lockett opened his innings with a single, after which he sent one to the boundary.

PLATT'S CENTURY.

In an hour and thirty-five minutes, Platt had scored the first century of the season for Staffordshire. Incidentally, this was the first century Platt had scored for Staffordshire. When Lockett had hit up 20 and Platt had taken his score to 110, Staffordshire declared at 402 for eight wickets.

Lincolnshire entered on their second innings at 12 45, with Barnes bowling to F. Parker. The first over was unproductive of runs. B. A. Bashforth opened the score with a two off Lockett, but when only nine runs had been scored Parker was sent back by Barnes. He had made a single.

J. E. Searby joined Bashforth and this partnership was far more profitable, the score being taken to 35, when Bashforth was out lbw to Barnes when he had put on 14. Searby made several good hits but R. Turner was sent back to the pavilion after making a single.

After lunch W. A. Sutton joined Searby, but they had little inclination to hit out, both batsmen exercising caution. Staffordshire changed their bowling, Platt going on in place of Barnes.

It had taken half an hour to score an additional 22 runs when Lockett was taken off and Sedgwick put on, Searby making a hit for 2. So far, Sutton had contributed 14 and Searby 21.

CAUTIOUS BATTING.

Sutton continued to bat with caution, as did Searby, but before their partnership came to an end the former had put on a useful 22 in 55 minutes, when he was out lbw to Sedgwick. On R. Flatters going in, his first hit was for a four, and shortly afterwards he had a lucky snick to the boundary. Searby appeared to have gained the mastery over the bowling, hitting out for an occasional four and three, but it had taken an hour and 50 minutes to bring the score to 100, this for the loss of four wickets.

On Barnes going on from the pavilion end, Flatters' innings came to an end, Russell smartly stumping him. J. W. Day was the next batsman, and within less than five minutes, after making two singles, Barnes had him out.

C. Wilson played attractive cricket for 17 before being bowled by Barnes, and no sooner had G. Shaw got to the crease and scored a single that he was out to Lockett. After batting for two hours and forty minutes, Searby was dismissed by Lockett for forty.

The innings closed for 144, and Staffordshire won by an innings and 169 runs.

West Bromwich Midland Chronicle: Friday 17 June 1927

COUNTY CRICKET.

First Match at West Bromwich.

Dartmouth Batsmen do Well.

The first County cricket match to be played at West Bromwich was commenced on Wednesday, when Staffordshire met Lincolnshire in the Minor Counties Competition. The home county included S. Jackson, F. W. Perks, and Platt, of the Dartmouth, and Fitton, of the Albion F.C., and also the famous bowler, Sidney Barnes, and these personal circumstances were confidently expected to prove very attractive to West Bromwich sportsmen. Unfortunately, these anticipations were not realised, for although elaborate preparations had been made to accommodate a big crowd, the attendance was very moderate, and did not attain the dimensions of ordinary Dartmouth matches.

The weather was fine, although on the bleak Sandwell Park ground there was a bite in the wind, which was rather uncomfortable for fielders and spectators alike. An excellent wicket had been prepared, so excellent, in fact, that Barnes humorously suggested that it would suit him better if they played a few yards away. Lincolnshire, who fielded an all-amateur side, won the toss and took first inning, but made very poor use of it. Against the bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick, their batsmen played very feebly, and seven wickets went down at regular intervals for 47 runs. Day hit Sedgwick for four boundaries in one over, and W. Shaw making 22, the total reached 89, Lockett finishing the innings off summarily by taking three wickets in ten balls for six runs.

Staffordshire commenced their innings shortly after lunch (which was served in the Sandwell Golf Club pavilion), Homer and Howl being the opening batsmen. They had scored 11 when Howl was given out on an appeal for a catch at the wicket, but on Barnes joining Homer the game ran consistently in Staffordshire's favour, whilst Homer batted with a doggedness and caution which aroused the ire of the crowd (he took an hour over his first 11 runs). Barnes, Perks, Ikin, and Jackson all made useful contributions, and the score reached 234 for six, when stumps were drawn for the day. Homer batted two hours and fifty minutes for 66, but this was exhilarating scoring compared with Fitton, who, after spending over an hour at the crease, had only scored five singles. Jackson and Homer were both out to splendid catches, whilst the Staffordshire captain, J. B. Russell, was responsible for a smart bit of stumping during the Lincoln innings. The day's cricket was fairly interesting, but it must be said that the bright batting of the Dartmouth pair, Perks and Jackson did a lot to relieve it from boredom at times. Scores:—

LINCOLNSHIRE.

F. Parker b Barnes	2
B. A. Bashforth c and b Sedgwick	3
J. L. Searby lbw b Barnes	5
A. R. Turner b Barnes	13
W. A. Sutton b Sedgwick	1
Major C. Wilson b Sedgwick	5
R. Flatters st Russell b Sedgwick	4
J. W. Day lbw b Lockett	25
G. Shaw b Lockett	22
G. Wright not out	1
W. H. Clifton b Lockett	0
Extras	8
Total	89

STAFFORDSHIRE.

H. W. Homer c Wright b Sutton	66
C. Howl c Shaw b Wilson	9
Barnes b Clifton	43
F. D. Perks b Day	31
A. W. Ikin b Wilson	24
S. Jackson c Bashforth c Day	30
G. A. Fitton b Day	14
Platt not out	110
Sedgwick b Sutton	30
A. Lockett not out	20
Extras	26
Total (for 8 wkts)	402

Innings declared close

After luncheon on Thursday the Staffordshire bowlers met with unexpected resistance from Searby, Sutton and Flatters, who between them brought the score to 112 for the loss of only one more wicket. Barnes returned to the attack, and got Flatters stumped in his first over, and bowled Day with an unplayable ball in his next, and the batsmen were soon in difficulties again. Major Wilson had the audacity to hit a ball from Barnes into an adjoining field for six, but was bowled by the next delivery. The total reached 144, leaving Staffordshire victorious by an innings and 169 runs.

LINCOLNSHIRE (Second Innings).

B. A. Bushforth lbw b Barnes	14
F. Parkes b Barnes	1
J. E. Searby b Lockett	40
A. R. Turner b Lockett	1
W. A. Sutton lbw b Sedgwick	22
R. Flatters st Russell b Barnes	25
J. W. Day b Barnes	2
G. Shaw b Lockett	1
Major Wilson b Barnes	17
G. Wright c Homer b Barnes	2
W. H. Clifton not out	0
Extras	21
Total	144

DARTMOUTH WIN AT MOSELEY.

Although strengthened by the return of G. W. Stephens, Moseley collapsed in surprising fashion against the Dartmouth at the Beddings. Owing to the wet state of the wicket the start was delayed until 3.15. Batting first, the home side, with few exceptions, were rarely comfortable against the bowling of C. Mitchell and Platt. Scorer, G. W. Stephens, Blaylock, and Cross tried hard to pull the game round, and Blaylock, who was undefeated at the end, showed a sound defence. Although facing a moderate total, the Dartmouth commenced their innings in shaky fashion, losing three wickets for 16 runs. R. I. Scorer was responsible for this downfall, performing the "hat trick." However, with the association of F. D. Perks and Platt, Moseley's hopes of a victory were soon dashed, as these two batsmen attacked the bowling in vigorous fashion. Perks hit two 6's and seven 4's, while Platt secured one 6 and seven 4's. Scores:—

MOSELEY.		W.B. DARTMOUTH.	
W. Baines b Mitchell	12	F. D. Perks not out	77
H. A. Tyler b Mitchell	6	G. Hickman c F. G. Stephens b Scorer	2
E. C. J. Sheppard run out	2	L. J. Taylor b Scorer	0
F. G. Stephens b Mitchell	1	S. Jackson b Scorer	6
Dr. J. F. Shrewsbury c & b Platt	1	Platt not out	50
R. I. Scorer c and b Platt	17		
G. W. Stephens c Platt b Dodd	22		
G. E. Tyler c D. Perks b Platt	0		
P. Blaylock not out	18		
E. P. Cross c D. Perks b Mitchell	17		
A. W. Speed c Dodd b Platt	3		
Extras	5	Extras	4
Total	104	Total (3 wkts.)	133

EXCITING FINISH AT WEST BROMWICH.

Although the Dartmouth won their home game with Moseley, they owed nearly everything to Gordon Field and Law, who scored 170 out of 198—Field getting a century. The last Moseley wicket was not captured until the last over of the match, two minutes from time.

West Bromwich Dartmouth.—H. Thursfield c Turner b Langley 0, T. H. Law lbw b Caird 70, E. F. Sparkes c Howell b Langley 2, G. W. Field c Langley b Caird 100, H. Hawkes b Caird 0, F. Neale c Keats b Holloway 0, L. Arnold c Chapman b Holloway 13, F. Lamb lbw b Caird 1, A. Heading not out 0, J. Orr b Caird 6, H. Cockin b Caird 0, extras 6, total 198.

Moseley.—A. V. Denning c Neale b Lamb 23, F. W. Chapman c Thursfield b Cockin 26, W. H. Dare c Thursfield b Cockin 1, B. H. Howell c Arnold b Cockin 0, F. C. Keats b Sparkes 12, C. K. Langley b Cockin 6, L. Caird c Cockin b Lamb 18, G. A. Holloway b Lamb 9, J. L. Jones b Cockin 8, H. S. Beresford not out 6, W. Turner run out 16, extras 2, total 126.

WEST BROMWICH DARTMOUTH C.C.

The following are the teams chosen to play to-morrow (Saturday) against Smethwick:—

First Team (Home): S. Jackson (capt.), D. Perks, G. Hickman, G. Skidmore, L. Taylor, B. Langwell, C. Mitchell, E. Perry, H. Deeley, C. Rogers, and Platt.

Second Team (Away): L. Arnold (capt.), H. Thursfield, A. Heading, F. Neale, T. Law, G. Field, R. Perks, G. Dodd, H. Cockin, F. Lamb, and F. Sparks.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 18 June 1927

CRICKET

STAFFS. v. LINCOLNSHIRE

AN INNINGS VICTORY FOR STAFFORDSHIRE

The first county match ever played at Westbromwich was begun on Wednesday, on the Dartmouth ground at Sandwell Park, when Lincolnshire were the visitors. Beautiful weather favoured the fixture, but the attendance was not large. Staffordshire, after declaring with eight wickets down, defeated Lincolnshire by an innings and 169 runs. Platt played dashing cricket for an hour and three-quarters, making his first century for Staffordshire in ninety-five minutes. His only chance was a difficult one at 41. In forcing the game he edged a few balls but his cuts, drives, and leg glances were crisp and well timed. He hit two 6's and sixteen 4's. Lincolnshire, in their second innings, found Barnes (six for 31) too good for them, though Searby stayed two hours and a half.

Lincolnshire—First Innings.

B. A. Bashforth c and b Sedgwick	3
F. Parker b Barnes	2
J. E. Searby lbw b Barnes	6
A. R. Turner b Barnes	13
W. A. Sutton b Sedgwick	1
R. Flatters st Russell b Sedgwick	4
J. W. Day lbw b Lockett	26
C. Wilson b Sedgwick	6
G. Shaw b Lockett	22
G. H. Wright not out	1
W. H. Clifton b Lockett	0
Extras	8
Total	89

Second Innings.

B. A. Bashforth lbw b Barnes	14
F. Parker b Barnes	1
J. E. Searby b Lockett	40
A. R. Turner b Lockett	1
W. A. Sutton lbw b Sedgwick	22
R. Flatters st Russell b Barnes	23
J. W. Day b Barnes	2
C. Wilson b Barnes	17
G. Shaw b Lockett	1
G. H. Wright c Homer b Barnes	2
W. H. Clifton not out	0
Extras	21
Total	144

Staffordshire

H. W. Homer c Wright b Sutton	66
C. Howl c Shaw b Wilson	9
Barnes b Clifton	43
F. D. Perks b Day	31
A. W. Ikin b Wilson	24
G. W. Fitton b Day	14
S. Jackson c Bashforth b Day	30
Platt not out	110
Sedgwick b Sutton	30
Lockett not out	20
Extras	25
Total (inns. closed)	402

Bowling Analysis.

Lincolnshire—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	21	8	37	3
Sedgwick	18	6	38	4
Lockett	2.4	1	6	3

Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	17.2	3	31	6
Sedgwick	9	3	25	1
Lockett	22	6	55	3
Platt	9	2	12	0

Staffordshire.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wright	23	3	99	0
Wilson	27	13	66	2
Sutton	14	5	32	2
Day	29	6	106	3
Clifton	22	9	57	1
Turner	3	0	17	0

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday, 22 June 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

Leicestershire II. All Out for 65 Runs.

Barnes' Deadly Bowling.

The Staffordshire bowlers were again most successful to-day at the opening stage of the match with Leicestershire II., the visitors to Wolverahmpton being dismissed for 65 runs. Barnes was particularly deadly, and took seven wickets for 22, Sedgwick taking the other three for 41 runs.

Up to the tea interval, Staffordshire had more than doubled their score for the loss of two wickets, a good partnership being put up by C. Howl and Barnes.

For their third match of the season in the Minor Counties Competition, Staffordshire entertained Leicestershire II. on the delightfully situated ground at Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, to-day.

Leicestershire came with a good batting reputation, and, winning the toss, decided to have first knock on an easy pitch. They were strongly represented, no less than seven professionals figuring in their team.

There was very little attractive cricket in the opening stages. G. A. Broughton went in to tackle the bowling of Barnes. The first over was unproductive of runs. At the other end Coulson faced the bowling of Sedgwick, and this produced a single. The next over by Barnes was also a maiden. The batsmen were mainly on the defensive, for both Barnes and Sedgwick were bowling well.

Once G. A. Broughton tried to turn one to the leg but it went through the slips for a single. Sedgwick was bowling to the leg, and from two successive deliveries there were appeals for l.b.w.

They were not given, but it was not long before Broughton was sent back, after sending one to the boundary. He had played with patience for 16, when he was out l.b.w. to Sedgwick.

Broughton was followed by E. G. Hayes, who tried to pull one round to leg from Barnes. It got up smartly and presented Ikin, at short leg, with a simple catch.

No sooner had Brown gone in to join Coulson than he went to drive one from Sedgwick. He played late, and he, also, was out l.b.w.

CHEAP WICKETS.

The bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick continued to puzzle the batsmen, the former making the ball turn appreciably. Taylor was the next to go to the crease. He had not been there many minutes when he lost Coulson who was sent back l.b.w. off Barnes.

On Riley joining him, it looked as if the position might be consolidated, but the hopes were short-lived, for, after driving one to the boundary and making three singles, he too was out to the bowling of Barnes.

So far, five wickets had fallen for the small total of 38 runs, Barnes having taken two for 13, and Sedgwick three for 24.

The Leicestershire "tail" was certainly down. They could do little or nothing with the bowling, even though the wicket was comparatively easy. Riley went on to make a contribution of nine. He batted with a certain amount of confidence, but over-confidence sent him back to the pavilion. Barnes put down a full-pitched ball, and he was tempted to step up to drive it, and was smartly stumped by Russell.

E. W. A. Brown, the left-handed batsman, was then partnered by Starmer, and he, too, soon fell to the wiles of Barnes after scoring two. On J. W. Dixie Smith going to the crease he made one or two nice hits before E. W. A. Brown was dismissed by a beautiful catch behind the wicket by Russell off Barnes.

Dixie Smith was playing a bright innings as compared with those who had already been dismissed, but on taking his score to 14 he was bowled by Barnes with a splendid delivery. Barnes was reproducing some of his form, batsmen finding him almost completely unplayable. R. Astill had so far made three runs, but on Carrold going in, the latter was clean bowled by Barnes with the first ball.

Leicestershire were all out in an hour and a half for the total of 65.

Barnes had the splendid average of seven wickets for 22 runs.

Lord Dartmouth, President of the Staffordshire County Club, was an interested spectator of the match from the pavilion.

There was only one over before lunch when H. W. Homer and C. Howl went in to open the innings for Staffordshire, one run being the only score prior to the adjournment.

QUICKER SCORING.

Following luncheon there was some powerful hitting by Homer and Howl, their judgment and method of stroke production being admirable. Both found gaps in the field and hit out to the boundary. In ten minutes their partnership had produced 20 runs. Howl's performance included a delightful square pull from Hayes which landed in the Press box. Just as it appeared that Homer had become set, he hit at one and was taken in the slips by C. Tyler, after having scored 18.

The first wicket had fallen for 31 when E. W. Page went in. He also sent a ball travelling at a smart pace to the boundary.

Page continued to put his bat out hard, sending the ball away to the boundary. Together with Howl he played fine and attractive cricket. In less than an hour the score had been taken to 60. After playing an enjoyable innings for 16, he got under the ball in an attempt to drive, and Astill made a well-judged catch.

On joining Howl, Barnes made several good strokes, but for a time runs came slowly, 80 having been reached in an hour and a half. After sending one to the boundary, Barnes lifted another which was deserving of more than a single. He followed this up, however, with two good hits for two.

The visitors were constantly changing the bowling which had little effect. The rate of run-getting then brightened up, Barnes in about 20 minutes hitting up 22. Batting for an hour and 40 minutes, Howl had taken his score score to 35.

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

G A Broughton lbw b Sedgwick	16
Coulson lbw b Barnes	5
E G Hayes c Ikin b Barnes	0
Brown lbw b Sedgwick	0
Tyler lbw b Sedgwick	7
Riley st Russell b Barnes	9
E W A Brown c Russell b Barnes	7
Starmer b Barnes	2
J W Dixie Smith b Barnes	14
Astill not out	3
Carrold c Gothard b Barnes	0
Extras	2
Total	65

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Tyler b Hayes	18
C Howl not out	45
E W Page c Astill b E W A Brown	16
Barnes not out	52
Extras	11
Total (for 2 wkts)	140

Fall of Wickets.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	21	22	22	30	40	42	51	65	65

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2
31	60

Bowling Analysis.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	13.4	7	22	7
Sedgwick	13	3	41	3

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday, 23 June 1927

ANOTHER WIN FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Leicestershire II. Defeated by an Innings.

Barnes' Success With Bat and Ball.

Staffordshire secured their third successive victory by an innings to-day, Leicestershire II. being defeated at Wolverhampton by an innings and 238 runs.

Barnes was the hero of the match, scoring 70 runs, and taking an aggregate in the two innings of 14 wickets for 52 runs.

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

E A Broughton lbw b Sedgwick	16
Coulson lbw b Barnes	5
E G Hayes c Ikin b Barnes	0
Brown lbw b Sedgwick	0
Tyler lbw b Sedgwick	7
Riley st Russell b Barnes	9
E W A Brown c Russell b Barnes	7
Starmer b Barnes	2
J W Dixie Smith b Barnes	14
Astill not out	3
Carrold c Gothard b Barnes	0
Extras	2
Total	65

Leicestershire II.—Second Innings.

G A Broughton c Sedgwick b Barnes	8
Coulson c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
Brown lbw b Barnes	10
Tyler st Russell b Barnes	0
Riley c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
E G Hayes c Thorneycroft b Lockett	45
C W A Brown c Ikin b Lockett	0
Starmer b Lockett	11
J W Dixie Smith not out	1
Astill b Barnes	1
Carroll c Howl b Barnes	0
Extras	14
Total	92

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Tyler b Hayes	18
C Howl b Hayes	66
E W Page c Astill b Hayes	16
Barnes c Tyler b Hayes	70
G H Thorneycroft b Tyler	23
E J Gothard c Broughton b Starmer	32
A W Ikin not out	69
E Perry c Riley b Tyler	33
J B Russell lbw b Tyler	2
A Lockett st Carroll b Dixie Smith	50
Extras	16
Total (for 9 wkts)	395

Innings declared closed.

Sedgwick did not bat.

Bowling Analysis.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	13.4	7	22	7
Sedgwick	13	3	41	3

Leicestershire II.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	15.1	6	30	7
Sedgwick	4	1	7	0
E Perry	3	1	12	0
A Lockett	8	1	29	3

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Tyler	32	5	117	3
Hayes	33	9	85	4
C W A Brown	8	0	31	0
Riley	17	2	62	2
Starmer	11	1	40	1
Astil	7	0	33	0
Dixie Smith	4.2	0	11	1

The feature of the cricket in the match between Staffordshire and Leicestershire II., which opened so disastrously for the visitors, at Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, yesterday, was the great bowling of Barnes, who took seven wickets for 22, and the fine partnership between Barnes and Howl when these two came together in the Staffordshire innings. Two wickets had fallen for the very useful contribution of 60, but in an hour Barnes had made his total 70 before he was taken in the slips by Tyler. It was a splendid innings. These two alone had placed Staffordshire in a position of safety. Barnes's was a fine exhibition of cool and courageous batting. His stay at the wicket was a faultless one, and he delighted the spectators with the free and easy way in which he dealt with the deliveries from the Leicester bowlers. He hit seven 4's and five 2's, but many more of his strokes deserved a greater addition of runs. Howl had, however, also hit hard and cleanly for 66, batting with great patience for two hours and 50 minutes.

Previous to this E. W. Page, the Wolverhampton player and H. W. Homer had made useful contributions of 16 and 18, respectively. G. H. Thorneycroft punished the bowling for a time, some attractive strokes sending his score to 23, before he was bowled by Tyler.

ANOTHER GOOD PARTNERSHIP.

When A. W. Ikin joined E. J. Gothard, the latter had also mastered the bowling and hit out freely for 32. He was then caught in the slips. A good partnership was that between Ikin and E. Perry. Once again they served up something which the average spectator welcomes, bright batting and quick rungetting. Leicester's bowling was weak, and off Astill's slow deliveries many boundary hits were made.

Six wickets had fallen for 246. The attractive batting of Ikin and Perry had brought the total to 294 without further loss, when stumps were drawn. Perry scored the first 6 of the day.

During the night a considerable amount of rain fell, which affected the wicket, and delayed the start this morning for half an hour. There was, however, a strong drying wind with a keenness suggestive of autumn like weather. The pavilion end wicket was fairly soft, and after the application of the roller, sawdust was used at both ends. A. W. Ikin and E. Perry went in to resume their partnership, which had so far produced 48 runs. In the first two overs both hit out freely and sent the ball to the boundary. After having added seven to his overnight score of 26, Perry got under one from Tyler, and from this sky-drive was out to a catch by Riley. Ikin continued to play carefully and soundly, making a variety of strokes. J. B. Russell, the skipper, joined Ikin but after a hit for two he struck across at a ball and was out l.b.w. to Tyler. The seventh wicket stand had been responsible for the putting on of 67 runs. In twenty minutes, 19 runs had been made for the loss of two wickets.

A MISSED CHANCE.

When Aaron Lockett went in he played all the bowling with confidence, pulling two consecutive deliveries to the boundary, following this up with several other good hits for 2's, 3's and 4's. He was well partnered by Ikin, but on Dixie-Smith going on at the Tettenhall end, he gave a chance to Tyler in the long field. Getting under the ball he sent one to the boundary, but Tyler dropped it.

Ikin and Lockett continued to give an excellent account of themselves, both batting well, with plenty of hard hitting. In an hour the score had been taken to 395 Lockett having by this time made his half-century and Ikin a splendid 69. From the next ball put down by Dixie Smith, Lockett was stumped by Carroll. With his dismissal Russell declared.

In his attractive innings, Lockett hit five 4's, four 3's, and six 2's only six singles being registered by him. Ikin had to his credit after hitting out to almost everything, five 4's, one 5 (four for an overthrow), one 3, and nine 2's. Staffordshire's innings had lasted five hours.

BARNES AGAIN!

The pitch had suffered somewhat, and Leicester went in to bat, after the pitch had been rolled, at 12 50. Staffordshire had established a lead of 330, and when Broughton and Coulson went in, they were early uncomfortable with the bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick. Coulson was the first to be dismissed for, after making two singles he was taken in the slips by Sedgwick with a left-hand catch off Barnes.

Brown went in to partner Broughton, but when the score had been taken to 13, the latter was out to another smart catch in the slips.

There was something really spectacular about Barnes' bowling. The wicket had become very difficult, and Barnes knew it, placing his field close in. He sent down those deadly leg breaks, which are a terror to the best batsmen, with two men close up in the slips and one at short leg — a favourite placing of the field by him when the wicket is difficult. He first had Coulson out to a catch by Sedgwick close in at point, and very quickly afterwards Broughton was taken in exactly the same way by Sedgwick.

Brown went in to stem the tide, and continued at the crease, but batted very defensively. Tyler was Barnes' next victim Russell stumping him from the first ball put down. This was from the fifth ball of the fifth over by Barnes. The latter, at this point, had taken three wickets for five runs.

WONDERFUL BOWLING.

Staffordshire's "star" bowler narrowly missed the "hat trick" when Perry made a valiant, but unsuccessful attempt to take a catch, with a full length dive into the middle of the pitch. It was the next ball, however, which sent Riley back to the pavilion Sedgwick making another beautiful catch.

So far, irresistible Barnes had four wickets to his credit for six runs! E. G. Hayes went in, and with Brown stood up to the bowling. For the fifth wicket 51 runs had been put on. Hayes made a gallant effort to pull the game round and received good support from Brown until the latter was dismissed for a valuable 10. C. W. A. Brown went in to partner Hayes, but from a ball from Lockett, Thorneycroft made an easy catch. Hayes having contributed a stylishly played 45.

Hayes downfall came after playing a great innings. He was caught at cover-point while trying to drive Lockett. Starmer and Dixie Smith parted company after the former had hit Barnes for a 4. It was Starmer who was sent back from a ball put down by Lockett for a knock of 11. Dixie Smith was content to remain on the defensive, but when Astill went in he fell to one of Barnes' leg breakes. The last wicket also fell to Barnes, C. Howl making a catch from a lift by Carroll.

Staffordshire won by an innings and 238 runs—their third consecutive innings victory.

IRRESISTIBLE BARNES.

SEVEN WICKETS FOR 22 AT TETTENHALL.

LEICESTERSHIRE II. COLLAPSE.

ALL OUT FOR 65 AGAINST STAFFORDSHIRE.

Three Wolverhampton players were included in the Staffordshire team which met Leicester II. in a two-days' Minor Counties' Championship match, which opened in beautiful weather at Tettenhall to-day. Originally two—E W. Page, the Wolverhampton captain, and G. H. Thorneycroft—were included, but owing to the inability of R. S. A. Harby to turn out C. Howl was also brought into the side.

Leicestershire played no fewer than seven professionals, including Astill, brother to the famous all-rounder.

The pretty ground at Tettenhall was looking its very best this morning, and play opened under ideal conditions. Unfortunately there was only a mere handful of spectators to see Leicestershire take first innings on a wicket which appeared to be of easy pace.

G. A. Broughton and Coulson were the opening pair, the former playing a maiden over from Barnes, who bowled from the Tettenhall end. Sedgwick's first over yielded two singles, and then came another maiden from Barnes. Broughton twice got Sedgwick away for two in the fast bowler's second over, and then survived two appeals for lbw off consecutive balls. The first boundary—an on-drive, off Barnes—came from Coulson, and then Broughton sent up the 20 with a beautiful leg glance to the boundary off Sedgwick. The latter got his revenge the next ball, however, his third appeal for lbw against Broughton being in his favour.

Barnes's field presented an unusual picture, for he had a silly point and a forward short leg almost under the batsmen's noses. E. G. Hayes, the newcomer, fell into this trap immediately on his arrival. He tried to pull to leg, but the ball got up a little, and he merely presented Ikin with a "dolly" catch, which the latter gleefully accepted.

Two wickets were thus down for 21, but worse was to follow for Leicestershire. Brown, who succeeded Hayes, also fell to Sedgwick for obstruction, and in the next over Barnes sent Coulson back in similar fashion, two more wickets having thus fallen for the addition of only one run.

The batsmen were far from being at ease with either Barnes or Sedgwick, the former being particularly puzzling.

IRRESISTIBLE BARNES.

Tyler and Riley managed to add eight runs to the score before the former fell to Sedgwick for obstruction. Four of the five wickets which had fallen up to this point had all been secured in this manner—an extraordinary state of affairs.

Half the side were out for a mere 30 runs, and Riley and E. W. A. Brown added ten more before the former provided Barnes with his fifth victim. He stepped out to drive a well-pitched ball, missed it, and was stumped by Russell. The sixth wicket fell at 40. Two runs later Barnes clean bowled Starmer.

Barnes was in irresistible form, and none of the batsmen could do anything with him. E. W. A. Brown was the next to go, well caught by Russell after scoring seven precious runs, which took the score past the half century.

With eight wickets down for 51 then came an invaluable stand by J. W. Dixie-Smith and Astill, who added 14 runs for the ninth wicket before Dixie-Smith was bowled by Barnes. Connolly, last man in, was caught in the slips off the first ball he received from Barnes, and Leicestershire were all out for 65 runs.

The innings lasted exactly an hour and a half, and the manner in which the side collapsed can be seen from the following table of runs at the fall of each wicket:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	21	22	22	30	40	42	51	65	65

Barnes returned the following remarkable figures: 13.4 overs, seven maidens, 22 runs, seven wickets. Sedgwick's three wickets cost 41 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE OPEN WELL.

Homer and Howl, who opened the Staffordshire innings, had one over before lunch, at which Lord Dartmouth, president of the Staffordshire County C.C., was present. His lordship afterwards watched the game from the pavilion.

Runs came freely on the resumption, and neither batsman appeared to be troubled by the bowling of Tyler and Hayes. Twenty runs were scored in the first ten minutes. Homer was the more enterprising of the two, but one of Howl's shots, a lusty pull to square leg, landed in the Press-box. The partnership was broken soon afterwards, Homer being well caught in the slips by Tyler off Hayes with the score at 31.

With E. W. Page in there was more attractive cricket, and the score was taken to 60 before the Wolverhampton captain was caught in the long field in attempting an on-drive. Frequent bowling changes slowed down the rate of scoring, but Howl continued to bat steadily. He found a useful partner in Barnes, and the century was reached after the innings had been in progress an hour and 40 minutes.

Barnes reached his 50 in an hour, and when the tea interval arrived he and Howl had put on 80 for the third wicket.

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

G. A. Broughton lbw b Sedgwick	16
Coulson lbw b Barnes	5
E. G. Hayes c Ikin b Barnes	0
Brown lbw b Sedgwick	0
Tyler lbw b Sedgwick	7
Riley st Russell b Barnes	9
E. W. A. Brown c Russell b Barnes	7
Starmer b Barnes	2
J. W. Dixie-Smith b Barnes	14
Astill not out	3
Carroll c Gothard b Barnes	0
Extras	2
Total	65

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1st Innings.

H. W. Homer c Tyler b Hayes	18
E. W. Page c Astill b Hayes	16
C. Howl b Hayes	66
Barnes c Tyler b Hayes	69
G. H. Thorneycroft not out	1
Extras	14
Total (for four)	184

STAFFORDSHIRE'S THIRD VICTORY.

LEICESTERSHIRE II. WELL BEATEN AT TETTENHALL.

BARNES AGAIN SWEEPS ALL BEFORE HIM.

Heavy rain during the night had made the wicket at Tettenhall very soft, particularly at the pavilion end, and consequently there was half an hour's delay before the game between Staffordshire and Leicestershire II. could be resumed this morning. A strong, cold blustering wind, slightly tempered by the sun, was working for improvement all the time, however. Still sawdust was required by the Leicester bowlers, Tyler and Hayes, when the overnight not outs, A. W. Ikin (46) and E. Perry (33) continued their innings.

Staffordshire placed themselves in an almost unassailable position last night for they were 92 runs ahead with four wickets still to fall. It was their policy this morning to get runs quickly and declare, leaving the wet wear for Barnes to launch his attack at Leicester before the wicket had had time to recover from its overnight soaking. That policy was adopted, and Ikin and Perry at once began to hit. Nineteen runs were scored in as many minutes before the Stourbridge man, in attempting an off drive from Tyler, skied the ball, and Riley took a well-judged catch at cover point. The partnership for the fifth wicket had realised 67 runs, and Perry had shown in his own careful manner how gracefully runs can be obtained. It was a pretty effort. J. B. Russell, who followed, provided Tyler with his second victim of the morning. The Staffordshire captain struck across at a half-volley and missed it. A unanimous appeal for obstruction was answered in the bowler's favour.

LOCKETT'S FIREWORKS.

The eighth wicket fell at 318, and then Aaron Lockett provided a little firework display which doubled the rate of scoring. He was particularly severe on Tyler, with the result that that bowler retired in favour of L. Smith, who was unfortunate in having Ikin missed by Tyler in the long field off the first ball he sent down. Lockett, meanwhile, was hitting out at everything, and the score mounted merrily. Aaron's "rod" was, indeed, inspired this morning. Ikin progressed steadily to his half-century, and Lockett was not long in following suit. He was stumped, however, immediately on reaching it, and with the fall of this wicket the Staffordshire innings was declared closed.

In all the innings lasted about five hours, and gave Staffs. a lead of 330 runs. Leicester tried seven bowlers, and of these Hayes (4 for 85) and Tyler (3 for 117) were the most successful.

The sun was chasing shadows across the field when Leicestershire entered upon their huge task just before one o'clock. E. A. Broughton and Coulson were again the opening pair who faced Barnes and Sedgwick. The manner in which Barnes set his field was significant. He had a close encircling ring near the batsman, consisting of a silly point, three slips, and a forward short leg.

The visions one instinctively had of disaster to Leicester came true. The first came with only four runs scored, Broughton presenting Sedgwick at silly point with an easy catch. Brown helped Coulson to add nine runs before the latter was out in exactly the same way as the result of playing forward at a going away ball. Tyler was smartly stumped by Russell off the first ball he received from Barnes. Riley prevented the hat trick, although Perry made a valiant attempt to reach a very difficult chance, but he was out immediately afterwards—another victim of the Barnes-Sedgwick combination. Four wickets were thus down for 21, and at this point Barnes had actually sent down six overs, two of which were maidens, for six runs and four wickets.

A. G. Hayes, who came next, actually had the temerity to hit Barnes for a four and a three in one over; and Brown, probably taking courage from his partner's daring, also hit a two, so that the over yielded nine runs, three more than the previous six overs together.

Meanwhile Perry had relieved Sedgwick at the other end, but Hayes and Brown added 22 runs before lunch was taken with the score at 43 for four.

STEADY BATTING.

On the resumption Lockett bowled instead of Perry, but Hayes and Brown continued to bat steadily, and showed that the bowling could be hit. Both declined to grope at the pitch of the ball, and they had put on 51 valuable runs for the fifth wicket before Barnes effected a separation by getting Brown l.b.w. Four runs later Hayes was caught by Thorneycroft at cover while trying to drive Lockett. He played a splendid innings for his side, showing great steadiness at a critical period of the game. His 46 included seven 4's, and was made out of a total of 76.

Starmer hit two 4's and a three, and was then bowled by Lockett, while Astill took a schoolboy's "swipe" at a ball from Barnes and met with a similar fate, nine wickets being down for 90. Two runs later Carroll skied a ball from Barnes and Howl effected a catch in the long field after quite a feat of juggling. Leicestershire were thus all out in an hour and 35 minutes for 92 runs, giving Staffordshire their third consecutive victory this season, this time by a margin of an innings and 238 runs. The Leicester wickets fell in the following order:—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	13	13	21	72	76	83	89	90	92

Barnes again swept all before him, his final analysis reading:—

Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.
15.1	6	30	7

a total of 14 wickets in the match for 52 runs. Lockett's three wickets were secured at a cost of 29 runs.

Staffordshire won by an innings and 238 runs.

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First innings, 65.

Second Innings:

E. A. Broughton c Sedgwick b Barnes	8
Coulson c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
Brown lbw b Barnes	10
Tyler st Russell b Barnes	0
Riley c Sedgwick b Barnes	8
E. G. Hayes c Thorney't b Lockett	46
C. W. A. Brown c Ikin b Lockett	0
Starmer b Lockett	1
J. W. Dixie-Smith not out	11
Astill b Barnes	1
Carroll c Howl b Barnes	1
Extras	14
Total	92

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H. W. Homer c Tyler b Hayes	18
C. Howl b Hayes	66
E. W. Page c Astill b Hayes	16
Barnes c Tyler b Hayes	70
G. H. Thorneycroft b Tyler	25
H. J. Gothard c Broughton b Starmer	38
A. W. Iken not out	69
E. Perry c Riley b Tyler	33
J. B. Russell lbw b Tyler	3
A. Lockett st Carroll b Dixie-Smith	50
Extras	16
*Total	395

*Innings declared closed.

Wolverhampton Express and Star: Wednesday, Thursday 22, 23 June 1927-2.

COUNTY CRICKETERS AT TETTENHALL

Staffordshire team taking the field against Leicestershire II. at Tettenhall to-day. Left to right: G. H. Thorneycroft, J. B. Russell (captain), H. W. Homer, E. W. Page, E. Perry, Barnes, C. Hewi, Sedgwick, E. J. Bothard, A. Lockett.

DUDLEY'S CHOSEN.

Dudley will entertain Smethwick at the County Ground, Dudley, on Saturday, and will be represented by J. W. Willinson (capt.), F. H. Adshead, Dr. W. E. Baine-Adshead, L. E. Gale, K. V. Hooper, A. Jones, H. Morris, J. Reynolds, J. Pearson, J. Wrightson, and Meunier. Reserve: A. Smith.

The second team will be: R. H. Morgan (capt.), W. H. Edwards, H. Mayhew, H. H. Pearson, B. E. Hobbs, A. Smith, J. W. Richardson, J. Wright, S. Wright, J. Stone, and B. Walker. Reserves: N. Hartill and A. A. Smith.

CRICKET.

H. GOODWIN'S RETURN TO WALSALL.

There will be three changes in the Walsall first eleven to visit Sandwell Park on Saturday, and as these include the re-appearance of H. Goodwin, of Birmingham University, their prospects of victory are perhaps brighter than they have been this season, particularly as Walsall's only win was at the expense of the Dartmouth in the opening game.

H. R. Haden, H. H. Idnop, and A. Humphry are left out of the team, and their places will be taken by J. Ashwell, who returns after an absence of a fortnight, Goodwin, and B. E. Davis, of Cannock, a former Walsall player. The selected team is: N. P. Howson (captain), J. Ashwell, E. St. J. Sheppard, A. Wheeler, H. Goodwin, J. Sparke, J. Chattin, A. Rose, G. Hemming, B. E. Davis, and Smith.

At Oorway Walsall's win was by the narrow margin of eight runs, the Dartmouth scoring 155 in reply to 163. Sheppard took seven wickets for 54 runs.

The second eleven to meet the Dartmouth seconds at Oorway will be: H. A. Tucker (captain), Dr. A. B. Davies, R. Gough, A. Humphry, S. Eglinton, H. N. Beebee, H. H. Martin, H. E. Haden, L. F Owen, W. E. Plant, and G. Taylor.

Walsall were victorious when the teams met at Sandwell Park, Hemming's six wickets for 57 runs being the chief factor in the Dartmouth's dismissal for 96 runs. Walsall scored 107 for seven wickets.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday, Thursday 29, 30 June 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE AT BLACKPOOL.

First Innings Realises 150 Runs.

Lancashire Bowling Changes.

Staffordshire, who were without Barnes for their match with Lancashire II. at Blackpool to-day, scored 150 in their first innings, and up to the tea interval the home county had replied with 45 for the loss of one wicket.

BLACKPOOL, Wednesday.

So far this season, Staffordshire have swept everything before them in the Minor Counties Competition, but none of their rivals have been so formidable as Lancashire II., whom they met at Blackpool to-day.

It was, however, very unfortunate that on this occasion the visitors were not at full strength. Barnes, who is playing for his own club, Castleton Moor, was the outstanding absentee, and one regretted that E. Perry's absence was due to the serious illness of his father.

The vacant positions were filled by C. G. Varcoe, the old Charterhouse cricketer, who did not find his way into the county team last year, and E. A. Fitton, the Kidderminster player. Practically the whole of the team arose before 5 o'clock this morning to witness the eclipse.

The weather was not altogether promising. There were early intermittent showers, with a biting south-easterly wind. Staffordshire won the toss, E. J. Gothard and H. W. Homer going in against the bowling of Oldroyd and Preston. In the opening stages both declined to take risks, but misfortune speedily came to the visitors, for after making a single Gothard attempted to drive a leg break from Oldroyd, and he was out in the first six minutes of play.

USEFUL PARTNERSHIP.

Homer then took on a partnership with F. D. Perks, and stubbornly held the bowling. After one or two defensive strokes, Perks endeavoured to send the ball away to the boundary, but it was well fielded. Preston's bowling he treated with little respect, at first, snicking one to the boundary, and following up another four shot with a delightful hit. After a short spell of defensive methods, Homer, too, went on to play a hard-hitting and enjoyable innings, some of the bowling being short pitched, and the batsmen dealing with it in a style it wanted. Homer appeared to be well set, and played free and attractive cricket. In one over he put one to the boundary, and with a very inviting full toss on the leg sent the ball to the roof of the old pavilion for 6.

Both continued to play the bowling with confidence, two consecutive 4's being registered against Oldroyd by Homer. Woolley went on in place of Preston, and in turn was replaced by Wilson when the Homer-Perks combination had taken the score to 43. In the next over Woolley was put on at the other end, but this did not prevent Homer making further good hits, including another 4. Fifty minutes' play had so far produced 50 runs. Some very useful strokes still came from the batsmen, one splendid hit by Perks off Wilson being a beautiful straight drive.

HOMER'S INNINGS.

This very enterprising second wicket stand came to an end after Homer had indulged in further hard hitting. It was Homer's intention to add to his hits of one 6 and five 4's, when he was out l.b.w. from a well-pitched ball. The partnership had put on 66 runs.

A sharp shower of rain had come on, but play was only delayed for a few minutes before A. W. Ikin went to the wickets with Perks, the bowlers being Oldroyd and Rushton. It was after Ikin had made two singles that Perks polished innings came to an end. He had put on an additional four runs when he turned to play to the leg and was out to Oldroyd, whose two wickets had been taken at the cost of 23 runs.

Ikin batted fairly soundly, and after turning a ball off the leg stump, put one to the boundary for four. W. Lee the other batsman, should have met with an early dismissal, when, off a delivery by Oldroyd, Higson missed what appeared to be a simple catch at mid-off. Ikin, however, was the next to be sent back. Spooning the ball high into the air, he was caught and bowled by Rushton, when his score stood at 16. There had been any amount of caution by Lee in his batting, he had been at the wickets 20 minutes before he scored two. Rain caused play to cease for a time.

Platt was at the wicket with Lee for a few minutes before rain interfered with play. The luncheon interval was then taken, and on resuming, Platt lifted a ball to the long field, but Houseman, although getting well under it, dropped it. The second ball down by Holroyd, following this incident, Platt edged up to the slips, and was well taken by Rushton. The batting appeared to have broken down for, having made one run, Sedgwick, who had gone in to join Lee, snicked one to the slips, and was brilliantly caught by Paynter, who fielded the ball close to the ground, and though falling, retained his hold.

Three wickets had fallen for seven runs in about ten minutes. Lockett, who followed, made a strenuous effort to put Staffordshire in a more commanding position, and in a short space of time had hit up 18, which included three 4's. Lee also batted to better advantage, putting on 14.

Lee had been at the crease for an hour and ten minutes for his 17, when he chopped at a ball from Woolley, which kept low and played it on to his wicket. Lockett had hit out freely for 24 when he, too, like Ikin, spooned one into the air to be taken by Booth. Prior to that G. A. Fitton had gone in, to be later joined by C. G. Varcoe, who, however, after making a nice hit to the boundary for four, was dismissed by a great catch by C. W. Wilson. Varcoe hit to cover point, and the catch was made about two feet from the turf. J. B. Russell went in to drive one to the boundary, and then to be dismissed by Woolley at 3 23, Staffordshire having batted just over three hours.

With the dismissal of the visitors, there were a number of applications with the roller, and the sun at last broke through. There was every prospect that if the sun remained out, it would be a difficult wicket, but the sky was cloudy.

C. W. Wilson and Houseman went in to the bowling of Sedgwick and Lockett, the first two overs from Sedgwick producing three singles, and those from Lockett seven. The partnership was full of attraction, especially the batting of Houseman, who went in for some hard hitting. At 35 Wilson was dismissed by Lockett, his contribution being 11.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H Homer lbw b Rushton	35
E J Gothard b Holroyd	1
F D Perks b Holroyd	34
A W Ikin c and b Rushton	16
Platt c Rushton b Holroyd	3
Sedgwick c Poynter b Rushton	1
W Lee b Woolley	17
A Lockett c Booth b Holroyd	24
G A Fitton not out	7
C J Varcoe c W Wilson b Woolley	4
J B Russell b Woolley	4
Extras	4
Total	150

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

C W Wilson b Lockett	11
Houseman not out	30
Booth not out	3
Extras	1
Total (for one wkt)	45

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Holroyd	30	14	51	4
Preston	5	0	20	0
Woolley	12.1	2	30	3
Wilson	3	0	9	0
Rushton	17	5	38	3

STAFFORDSHIRE AT BLACKPOOL.

Match With Lancashire II. Abandoned

Heavy Rain This Afternoon.

Little play was possible at Blackpool to-day in the Staffordshire and Lancashire II. match, and when a second heavy downpour of rain commenced after three o'clock, the game was abandoned.

Lancashire II. had replied to Staffordshire's score of 150 with 239 (for nine wickets).

The assumption that the soft wicket of the morning would turn into a difficult wicket in the afternoon never came off with Staffordshire, in their match with Lancashire II., in the Minor Counties Championship at Blackpool yesterday.

Staffordshire won the toss and batted first. The wicket was soft, and there were prospects that early in the afternoon it might become difficult if the sun came out. But there was little sun, and, if anything, the wicket became easier, with the result that the bowling was severely punished. Staffordshire had put on 150, and, on Lancashire going in, the first wicket fell for 35. But on Booth joining Houseman, there was a real lively display of good batting, and before the fall of the second wicket the score had been taken to 106. Houseman was responsible for this, playing all round the wicket in splendid style. In one over from Lee he hit out for 12, sending one ball bouncing over the heads of the spectators for four, followed by another to the boundary, then a three and a single.

The fielding of the visitors was clean and smart, and often earned the admiration of the spectators. Fitton and Varcoe were especially good, and it was the latter who brought Houseman's attractive innings to a close. Houseman had given a couple of chances, but when he had made 95 he had the misfortune to be run out, Varcoe throwing his wicket down. He had been batting two hours and a quarter, and his hits included nine 4's, four 3's and 14 2's. It was from the south end that Lee's bowling was punished, but when put on at the other end he bowled extremely well, and had he been kept there runs might very well have been kept down. Booth's innings came to an end from a beautiful leg break from Lockett the ball turning back very sharply. Paynter went in to hit up 42, and was at the crease with Preston, who had made six, when play closed for the day.

RE-START DELAYED.

Rain delayed play for three-quarters of an hour to-day, but the covers having been used, the wicket was not seriously affected. Play was resumed at 11 45 a.m., Lockett bowling to Paynter. With the third ball of the over, Russell had had luck in not sending Paynter to the pavilion. The ball ran up Paynter's bat and over his shoulder, but, in making a splendid effort for a catch, the wicket keeper slipped. Preston, his partner, was not allowed to settle down, though he got in two good hits before being sent back by a good leg break from Lockett. He had taken his score to 14.

By this time, When Woolley went to the wicket, the left-handed batsman, Paynter was playing the bowling with confidence, indulging in some hard hitting which kept the outfielders busy. In 25 minutes he had made 18 runs, and took is score to 60. His runs were made by drives, cuts, and pulls. Woolley only stayed long enough to hit a two, when he was bowled by Lockett, who was finding his form. Rushton's stay was also very brief. Intending to make a drive, from a ball sent down by Sedgwick, who, too, was bowling extremely well, he turned it off his bat to cover-point and was smartly taken by Ikin without making a run.

Farrimond was no sooner in than out again. He made a hit which was good enough for a single, and with Paynter started to run, then hesitated and started again. But in the meantime Russell had gathered the ball and smartly thrown the wicket down. Holroyd went in to bat cautiously, but Paynter's resolute batting was brought to an end with a beautiful ball from Sedgwick. His contribution of 60 included eight 4s, a 3, and four 2's, after being at the wicket an hour and 40 minutes.

The excellent bowling of Sedgwick and Lockett had kept the scoring down, and five wickets had been taken for six runs. In four overs Lockett had taken two wickets for two, while after 90 runs had been got off Sedgwick without a wicket, he took two wickets for five.

RAIN CAUSES STOPPAGE.

T. H. Higson and Wilson were batting when rain fell heavily. For nearly a quarter of an hour, play had been continued in the rain, but at 12 30 the players retired to the pavilion and the covers were used. Five wickets had fallen in three-quarters of an hour for the addition of 34 runs. A re-start was made at five minutes past one, and after the first ball of the over rain again came on, but play was continued in a downpour until the score had been taken to 239, when they again left the field.

Rain was still falling fast at three o'clock, making play impossible. There are little prospects of an early resumption.

The rain ceased, but the weather only flattered to deceive, and another downpour came on at 3 45. The pitch was by this time soaked and at four o'clock the game was abandoned.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H Homer lbw b Rushton	35
E J Gothard b Holroyd	1
F D Perks b Holroyd	34
A W Ikin c and b Rushton	16
W Lee b Woolley	17
Platt c Rushton b Holroyd	3
Sedgwick c Paynter b Rushton	1
A Lockett c Booth b Holroyd	24
G A Fitton not out	7
C J Varcoe c W Wilson b Woolley	4
J B Russell b Woolley	4
Extras	4
Total	150

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

C W Wilson b Lockett	11
Houseman run out	95
Booth b Lockett	37
Paynter b Sedgwick	60
Preston b Lockett	14
Woolley b Lockett	2
Rushton c Ikin b Sedgwick	0
Farrimond run out	0
Holroyd b Lockett	0
T H Higson not out	13
Wilson not out	2
Extras	5
Total (for 9 wkts)	239

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Holroyd	30	14	51	4
Preston	5	0	20	0
Woolley	12.1	2	30	3
Wilson	3	0	9	0
Rushton	17	5	38	3

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

Sedgwick	27	5	100	2
Lockett	27	6	65	5
Platt	10	2	29	0
Lee	11	1	40	0

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 2 July 1927

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Lancashire II.

BAD LUCK AT BLACKPOOL

It was unfortunate that Staffordshire, after so brilliant an opening to the season, should have had to meet the strong second eleven of Lancashire at Blackpool on Wednesday and Thursday with a depleted side. The most important absentee was Barnes, who was prevented by an engagement with his club from playing in this match. Several others who were invited to play were unable to do so, and the bowling particularly did not appear on paper strong enough for the occasion. It was curious that the experience against the same county two years ago was repeated, in that winning the toss proved to be a serious disadvantage. The wicket was soft and the weather very threatening, so that it would have been an unjustifiable gamble to put the home side in first. But as events happened this would have been a paying policy. Whilst Staffordshire were batting the wicket was decidedly tricky, and the Lancashire spin bowlers derived important help from it. Even Holroyd, the little left-hander, who had played with the first eleven during the preceding three days, and who is quite slow, not only made the ball turn a lot, but made it nip from the pitch in disconcerting fashion. From first to last the Staffordshire innings was a struggle for runs, and 150 was not altogether a bad score in the circumstances.

Thursday was a thoroughly wretched day, and little play was possible, owing to the rain. The Staffordshire bowling was so deadly that Lancashire lost six wickets for only 43 runs. Overnight they had scored 196 for three, and the six wickets that fell on Thursday added only 29 runs. Higson and Wilson, however, were stubbornly resisting the attack when rain finally stopped play. Lancashire took three points for a first innings win, and Staffordshire one point. Scores:—

Staffordshire.

H. W. Homer lbw b Rushton	38
E. J. Gothard b Holroyd	1
F. D. Perks b Holroyd	34
A. W. Ikin c and b Rushton	16
W. Lee b Woolley	17
Platt c Rushton b Holroyd	3
Sedgwick c Paynter b Rushton ...	1
A. Lockett c Booth b Holroyd ...	24
G. A. Fitton not out	7
C. G. Varcoe c Wilson b Woolley...	4
J. B. Russell b Woolley	4
Extras	4
Total	150

Lancashire II.

C. W. Wilson b Lockett	11
Houseman run out	96
Booth b Lockett	37
Paynter b Sedgwick	60
Preston b Lockett	14
Woolley b Lockett	2
Rushton c Ikin b Sedgwick	0
Farrimond run out	0
A. Higson not out	13
Holroyd b Lockett	0
Wilson (R.) not out	2
Extras	6
Total (9 wickets)	239

Staffordshire Sentinel: Monday, Tuesday, 4, 5 July 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE AT PORTHILL.

Early Batsmen Score Well.

Difficult Cheshire Bowling.

There was no play before lunch at Porthill to-day, and when Staffordshire commenced to bat the early batsmen did well. Then wickets fell cheaply, but later batsmen did better, and the tea score was 129 (for 7 wickets).

No play was possible until after lunch to-day in the Minor Counties match at Porthill between Staffordshire and Cheshire.

Overnight the wicket was in first-class condition, but with torrential downpours during the night the top surface became soddened, and after it had been inspected by the umpires and the rival captains, it was decided that there could be no play until 1 40. Staffordshire were again without the services of Barnes who was playing for his own club, Taylor, the former professional to Leek being brought in to take his place.

The weather was still threatening, and there was a high wind blowing to almost half a gale.

J. B. Russell won the toss and on an easy wicket A. A. Bickerton and H. Goodwin went in to bat, the former taking the bowling of Wilson which produced a single from the first over. Goodwin at the other end faced the bowling of Steventon, and the first two balls were sent, each to register a two.

After both batsmen had indulged in some defensive tactics, Bickerton showed a little more enterprise, but there was nothing of a sparkling nature. Twenty runs had been put on in nineteen minutes, the majority of these being from Bickerton, who, after turning one to the boundary from the leg, sent another for the addition of four. Goodwin had contributed seven singles when he narrowly missed being run out, but he had F. W. Slight to thank for throwing the ball to the end he was running to. When halfway up the pitch he doubled back. Almost directly afterwards he got hold of one from Wilson and with a delightful hit sent it to the boundary, where Edmundson made a splendid effort to bring off a spectacular right-handed catch, which he failed to hold. Previous to that, however, he had hit one to the leg for four.

LIVELIER BATTING.

The batting livened up considerably, and Hopwood took over the bowling from Steventon. His fifth delivery, however, was sent to the boundary.

The wicket continued to be on the soft side, and sawdust had to be brought into use. It was directly after 50 runs had been put on in forty-two minutes that Goodwin's innings again had a narrow escape of being brought to an end. Getting well under a ball from Wilson he sent it soaring skywards, but Midgeley, who went to make the catch had the chagrin to see it swerve away from him, through the high velocity of the wind. Soon afterwards, however, Goodwin's innings closed. He made an attempt to deal with a kicking ball, which could well have been left alone, and was out to a very fine left-handed catch, low fielded by L. N. Jones.

When E. J. Gothard went in to join Bickerton he, like his partner, tackled the bowling with confidence, his first strokes being sound hits for a 2, two 4's, and a single. Bickerton, who had batted in free and attractive style, for an hour and ten minutes, eventually fell a victim to the bowling of Hopwood after he had put on a valuable 37. He was clean bowled by a ball that got up from the leg side. His principal hits had been three 4's and six 2's and the two wickets had fallen for the useful total of 76.

CHEAPER WICKETS.

F. D. Perks was next to go to the wickets, but after he had pulled one to the boundary from the last ball of Wilson's over, Gothard, who had given quite a good account of himself, was sent back for a smart catch behind the wicket by Twemlow. Of his contribution of 16, three hits were for 4's and one for a 2. Short partnerships seemed to be the order of the day, for A. W. Ikin had only been at the crease 12 minutes before Perks was dismissed with only the addition of two runs, for the fall of the fourth wicket.

Wilson and Hopwood were bowling extremely well, and for several overs there had been some very cautious batting. In three overs Wilson had taken a wicket with only one run scored off him and off Hopwood a single had been made in five overs. N. W. White, the Porthill player, who on Saturday made 75 not out against Nantwich, went in to make a single, and then to put over to the boundary, but in an attempt to send another away he was bowled by another of Wilson's leg breaks.

A ten-minutes partnership between Ikin and Lockett had produced no runs when the latter was out lbw to Hopwood. Ikin had been at the crease for half an hour, having made two singles. In eight overs Wilson had had three runs scored against him.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton b Hopwood	37
H Goodwin c L N Jones b Wilson	26
E. J. Gothard c Twemlow b Hopwood	16
F D Perks lbw b Wilson	6
A W Ikin c Slight b Wilson	4
N W White b Wilson	5
A Lockett lbw b Hopwood	0
Platt not out	16
Sedgwick not out	13
Extras	4
Total (for 7 wkts)	129

Fall of Wickets.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
56	76	85	87	93	93	98

MATCH AT PORTHILL ABANDONED.

Rain Spoils Staffordshire and Cheshire Fixture.

Heavy rain this morning prevented a restart in the Staffordshire and Cheshire match at Porthill, and at two o'clock the match was abandoned.

All things taken into consideration, Staffordshire did fairly well to knock up 152 runs in their first innings against Cheshire, in the Minor Counties match at Porthill yesterday. Overnight rain had soaked the wicket to such an extent that play was not possible until five minutes to two, and then towards tea time a strong drying wind caused the wicket to play many tricks, with the result that the bowlers secured and kept the upper hand. It was in the early part of the afternoon that A. A. Bickerton, H. Goodwin and E. J. Gothard had stood up to the bowling, but after that batsmen became subdued and though caution was apparently exercised, five wickets fell for 22 runs. It was left to Platt and Sedgwick to pull the game round, and they did. Both played with any amount of vigour which contrasted strongly with the restraint exercised by some of their colleagues. They took risks, but they were successful and gave by far the most sparkling displays of cricket of the day. From the very first they batted with confidence and hit out with great freedom, and their performance pleased the spectators. Many of their strokes were deserving of more than singles, and both were heartily applauded when each sent the ball away for a six. It was a strong tail, and Sedgwick carried his bat out at the close for 23. The latter batsmen had to meet some excellent bowling, as can be seen from the analysis. Hopwood was particularly deadly, for out of 32 overs, 16 of these were maidens, and he took four wickets for 35 runs. At one time, after the tea interval, he had bowled seven overs with only one run having been made, and had taken a wicket.

Directly after Staffordshire had been dismissed, rain fell again, and though an attempt was made by Cheshire to open their innings, no further play was possible.

At lunch time to-day there was every prospect of the game being abandoned. Rain fell incessantly until just before lunch, and the pitch had been rendered almost a quagmire, with standing pools of water. For twenty minutes the sun came out, but later rain again fell.

At two o'clock the match was abandoned, the heavy rain which fell after one o'clock precluding any chance of a restart being made to-day.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton b Hopwood	37
H Goodwin c L N Jones b Wilson	26
E J Gothard c Twemlow b Hopwood	16
F D Perks lbw b Wilson	6
A W Ikin c Slight b Wilson	4
N W White b Wilson	5
A Lockett lbw b Hopwood	0
Platt c Hopwood b W E Jones	18
Sedgwick not out	23
J B Russell c Patterasby b Hopwood	2
C J Taylor st Twemlow b W E Jones	7
Extras	8
Total	152

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
56	76	85	87	93	93	98	129	136	152

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	32	8	57	4
E H Steventon	7	0	23	0
Hopwood	32	16	35	4
W E Jones	9.5	4	18	2
L N Jones	8	0	11	0

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 9 July 1927

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Cheshire

BAD WEATHER AT PORTHILL

By The Critic

Bad weather robbed Staffordshire of a useful "gate" at Porthill on Monday, when the return match with Cheshire was commenced. There had been rain in the night, and the wicket was so soft that play was not possible until after lunch, whilst the weather outlook was so unpromising that there was a mere handful of spectators. The rain held off, however, while Staffordshire completed an innings in 3¼ hours.

For an hour after play started the wicket was so slow as to be easy, but thereafter the bowlers were able to make the ball turn sharply, and runs were difficult to get. Wilson bowled well on the slow pitch, but Bickerton and Goodwin steadily progressed, and when the latter was beautifully caught at short slip 56 runs had been scored for the first wicket. Steventon, who opened the bowling with Wilson, gave way at 44 to Hopwood, a clever left-arm bowler, formerly on the Old Trafford ground staff, but now with the Wallasey club. The two professionals maintained an excellent length. Wilson's in swinger was varied occasionally by a leg-break, and Hopwood's excellent break-back from leg was mixed with an occasional quicker ball that swung in with his arm. Bickerton's batting was very sound, but Goodwin after a time showed an inclination to force matters, and after giving a possible chance on the boundary from a big drive off Wilson skied one from the same bowler and escaped because Midgley at point saw the wind carry the ball away from him. The left-hander eventually fell to a rising ball which he made a half-hearted attempt to get away from, but it was a lovely catch close to the ground with the left hand. Gothard began at once to play in his usual confident style, putting weight behind his forward strokes, and getting a couple of nice square cuts to the boundary. At 76 a real "trimmer," that turned the width of the wicket at a good pace to knock back the off stump, sent back Bickerton.

Then ensued a lean time for the batting side, and in an hour five more wickets fell for 22 runs. Gothard was caught at the wicket, Perks leg before to an in-swinger; Noel White, making his first appearance with Staffordshire, played all across a ball that was right up to him; Lockwood stepped in front to Hopwood; and Ikin, after batting 50 minutes for four runs, was neatly taken low down at second slip. Platt and Sedgwick played just the game called for by the conditions, both hitting out merrily. Sedgwick opened with a six to the "on" from Hopwood, and the pair caused a double change of bowling ten minutes before the tea interval, the brothers Jones relieving the professionals, who had sent down 50 overs without a change for 72 runs. Wilson had bowled without a break for two hours and a-half. Platt got six for a fine drive over the sight screen from L. N. Jones, and at tea-time the eighth wicket had added a valuable 31 runs.

On the resumption Platt was easily caught at mid-on without any addition. Russell was too eager, and was caught on the on-boundary, but the last wicket added 16 and sent up 150. Taylor, of Leek, playing in the place of Barnes, whose club again required his services in a cup-tie, was tempted by one of the Cheshire captain's slow ones, and the innings closed at 5-30. Hopwood since the tea interval had bowled seven overs for one run and one wicket, and his record for the innings was an exceptionally good one.

Cheshire should have had three-quarters of an hour's batting before the close of play, and with the wicket now affording the bowlers considerable help, the visiting batsmen might have had a troublous time, but before the game could be resumed a shower of rain fell and the light became bad. When the rain stopped the Staffordshire team took the field, and W. E. Jones and F. W. Slight came out to open the Cheshire innings at 6.5. Before a ball had been bowled, however, the Cheshire captain appealed against the light, and the umpires decided in his favour. A further quarter of an hour's wait brought little improvement, and the stumps were then pulled up for the day. Thus the visiting county were relieved of a difficult task, and were materially favoured by fortune. There was every prospect of more rain and a likelihood of an easier wicket, at all events for a time, on Tuesday morning. There was the further advantage that Wilson and Hopwood, two of their best bats, who had bowled all the afternoon, would be able to go in fresh the next morning. Scores:—

Staffordshire

A. A. Bickerton b Hopwood	37
H. Goodwin c L. N. Jones b Wilson	26
E. J. Gothard c Twemlow b Hopwood	16
F. D. Perks lbw b Wilson	6
A. W. Ikin c Slight b Wilson	4
N. W. White b Wilson	5
A. Lockett lbw b Hopwood	0
Platt c Hopwood b W. E. Jones	18
Sedgwick not out	23
J. B. Russell c Pattershy b Hopwood	2
C. J. Taylor st Twemlow b W. E. Jones	7
Extras	8
Total	152

Bowling Analysis

Staffordshire.—1st Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	32	9	57	4
E. H. Steventon	7	0	23	0
Hopwood	32	16	36	4
W. E. Jones	9.5	4	18	2
L. N. Jones	2	0	11	0

As Tuesday was a complete wash-out, the loss of the opportunity of getting a few Cheshire wickets down on Monday evening did not matter. Any resumption of the game was utterly impossible. After four solid hours' rain on Tuesday morning, there was a brief interval of sunshine, followed at 1-30 by a miniature deluge, which flooded the ground and rendered further waiting unnecessary. The match, therefore, is not reckoned in the Minor Counties' competition. Staffordshire have completed half their championship programme, and have gained 16 points out of a possible 20, giving them a percentage of 80.

North Staffordshire and District League

Four of the six matches in the premier division of the League were finished on Saturday, the victorious quartet being Nantwich, Great Chell, Crewe Alexandra, and Longton. The success of the last-named over Burslem would be particularly grateful to themselves and their supporters. Perhaps it marks the turning point. Anyway, a change for the better was overdue. Their batting maintained recent improvement, and though again without C. Edwards and J. W. Johnson, they ran up the respectable score of 162 for seven wickets and declared. A. C. Hawkins played a capital innings of 63 not out, and this season's recruit from Florence, A. E. Bennett, reproduced the good form he has been showing to score 38 before being run out. The left-hander, A. C. Hawker (29) also played well. Burslem were dismissed for 93, and as Madeley only got one point, Longton drew level with them at the bottom of the table.

Norton were only able to share the points at home with Knypersley, who responded in gallant style to the leaders' 183 for nine (declared) with 140 for three wickets. Sedgwick scored a sound 65 for Norton, but on the dead wicket he could make little impression on the visiting batsmen. H. E. Bourne, getting into the veteran stage now, is still a highly-polished batsman, and he defied the Norton attack throughout, scoring 69 not out. Young Bibby (27) made him a good partner until he was run out, and another young batsman in W. Whitehead held the fort for a long time to get 27 not out. The later stages were somewhat farcical, for the Norton captain called upon all his eleven players to bowl in turn, even D. Worthington taking off the pads and gloves to try his hand. All hope of getting Knypersley out had evidently been abandoned.

The most important match of the day was the meeting of Nantwich and Porthill at Wolstanton. The Cheshire men overplayed the champions to secure their third successive victory over them. The winning of the toss, no doubt gave the winners an advantage, for the slow wicket was gaining in pace as the afternoon wore on. E. H. Steventon had a big hand in his side's success, for he was top scorer with 56, and, with his brother and J. B. Swindale, redeemed a bad start, so that Nantwich reached a total of 176 against moderate bowling. Then he took eight Porthill wickets for 59, and so brought about the home team's dismissal for 111. The Porthill innings was a one-man show, for Noel White played a great innings of 75 not out, and G. Price (11) was the only other batsman to make more than 5—a sorry exhibition, even allowing for a drying wicket, for an eleven of Porthill's batting strength. By their win Nantwich strengthened their position of runners-up, though still three points behind the leaders.

Great Chell stepped into third place by means of a smart bowling feat by F. Vodrey, who was largely responsible for the igmominious rout of Bignall End. Vodrey bowls very slow leg breaks, right arm, and most of the attempts to play him were exceedingly crude, whilst things came off in the field for him. His excellent record was seven wickets for 28. G. Fitchford (three for 12) bowled a steady length, and Bignall End were bundled out for 40. J. Gibson (18) soon passed this score himself without a wicket down, and, later, W. Warburton played a pretty innings of 51, so that Chell got to 156 for seven wickets at the close. Bignall End, runners-up last season and champions in the three preceding years, have fallen upon evil times, and are now well in the danger zone.

Crewe entertained Leek and annexed two useful points. Etheridge created consternation in the visitors' ranks by doing the hat trick with the first three batsmen, but after this spasm he was innocuous. H. Birch (53) and J. Pointon (44) made a gallant effort to pull the game round, but they were not supported, and the side were out for 123, which was not enough, victory going to the Alexandra by three wickets. F. Walker was their leading scorer with 55. Birch is batting exceedingly well this season, but he and Taylor were for once ineffective with the ball.

Silverdale, champion drawists, were at Madeley, where the batting was needlessly slow and tedious. Cooper got 50 of the visitors' 124 for seven wickets (declared), but this moderate score occupied three hours. Madeley had time enough to get the runs with enterprise, but they fared badly at the start, and then set themselves to play out time, which they did, scoring 37 for seven wickets in an hour and three-quarters! The spectators have my sympathy.

The following is the table to date:—

	Pl'd	Won	Lost	D'n	Pts
Norton	13	7	0	6	20
Nantwich	13	7	3	3	17
Great Chell	13	5	3	5	15
Porthill	13	4	3	6	14
Burslem	13	3	3	7	13
Crewe Alex.	13	4	4	5	13
Leek	13	4	4	5	13
Silverdale	13	2	3	8	12
Knypersley	13	3	5	5	11
Bignall End	13	2	5	6	10
Longton	13	2	6	5	9
Madeley	13	2	6	5	9

The Critic.

Rangemore v. Lichfield 2nd XI.

With the assistance of E. J. Perry, who alone compiled 10 more runs than the opposing side, Lichfield 2nd XI. secured an easy victory on a rain-soddened wicket at Rangemore, on Saturday. E. George and E. R. Standley dismissed the home side for 32, and Lichfield responded with 62. Scores:—

Rangemore: C. Dukes c Chappell b George 1, B. Nisbet b George 6, W. Harrison b George 1, R. Nisbet b Standley 3, L. Savage c and b George 5, A. Cooper b George 1, S. Nisbet c Lees b George 5, T. Greatrix b George 2, R. Thompson not out 3, W. Smith c Wait b Stanley 2, F. Ford b Standley 0, extras 3; total 32.

Lichfield: N. Hartshorn lbw b Nisbit 3, E. Standley b Nisbet 1, E. J. Perry run out 42, J. S. Brown b Dukes 1, S. Knight c and b Dukes 2, E. W. Chappell b Dukes 0, C. Lees c Nisbet b Thompson 2, W. Wootton b Harrison 1, H. Arnold b Thompson 2, W. A. Wait not out 1, E. George c Greatrix b Thompson 0 extras 7; total 62.

Burntwood Hospital v. Hammerwich

Burntwood Mental Hospital entertained Hammerwich on Saturday, and defeated their local rivals by 30 runs, compiling 82 to Hammerwich 52. For the visitors, J. H. Carnwell took four wickets for eight runs, and E. C. Carnwell nine for 21, while for the hospital, J. Burton was the highest scorer, and A. Bisbey accounted for seven of the visiting batsmen. Scores:—

Burntwood: G. H. Hatfield b Carnwell 9, J. H. Nevill b Carnwell 0, J. Burton b E. C. Carnwell 28, R. Roberts b E. C. Carnwell 12, R. Button c Jarvis b Carnwell 0, H. Powell b J. H. Carnwell 15, P. Nutt b J. Matthews 1, A. Thacker c Gilbert b Carnwell 3, Dr. Taylor b Carnwell 0, A. Thirlby b J. H. Carnwell 2, A. Bisbey not out 8, extras 6; total 82.

Hammerwich: E. C. Carnwell c Powell b Bisbey 3, J. Edwards run out 1, A. Bradley b Bisbey 12, J. H. Carnwell c Thirlby b Bisbey 16, D. Jarvis lbw b Nevill 8, F. Kirkham not out 5, A. E. Gilbert c Thirlby b Bisbey 0, H. Hackett b Bisbey 4, P. T. Thompson b Bisbey 2, W. C. Ing c and b Bisbey 0, J. Matthews c Roberts b Burton 0, extras 1; total 52.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Monday 11 July 1927

NORTH WALES TEAM AT STOKE.

Weak Batting Against Staffordshire Attack.

Storm Stops Play.

There was every prospect of the friendly match between Staffordshire and North Wales, on the County Ground, Stoke, to-day (Monday) being a particularly attractive one, for not only was it a new fixture, but the visitors were very strongly represented. An additional interest was also created by the inclusion of Barnes in the Welsh XI. Staffordshire have so often had much to thank Barnes for, but on this occasion they had the promise of the unique experience of "tasting" some of the bowling which has more often than not caused disaster to their opposing batsmen. With the tropical-like rainstorms of the previous day, the chances of cricket commencing to time were almost frittered way, but at 12 10, after application of the heavy roller, play was possible on a pitch which held sufficient moisture to give the bowlers a chance. Fortunately the wicket had been protected from yesterday's downfall, but the outfield was very soft.

The visitors won the toss and C. A. Rowland went in to take the bowling of A. Lockett, the first over being non-productive of runs. At the other end A. E. Mallalieu edged one through the slips from C. J. Taylor for a two, but at first runs proved difficult to get. After scoring a single Rowland played forward, but the delivery from Lockett turned and bent him, his wicket being spreadeagled.

LOCKETT'S EARLY SUCCESS.

F. Morton went in to join Mallalieu, but though they batted with care, the partnership soon came to an end. Lockett's bowling had Mallalieu guessing for the most part, and it was after he had contributed eight runs out of a total of nine, that he too fell a victim to a turning ball from Lockett such as beat Rowland. There was little confidence about the batting, most of the strokes being of a defensive character. This can be well imagined when only ten runs had appeared on the board in 25 minutes.

In the meantime, Elsby, the Llanrwst player, had gone in to partner Morton, but there was little inclination to hit out, both treating the bowling of Lockett and Taylor with respect. Early on Elsby narrowly missed being sent back with his score at four, when a ball from Lockett came off his bat on his foot to miss the wicket by an inch or so.

Forty-five minutes' play had so far only produced 20 runs. Both Lockett and Taylor were bowling with considerable accuracy and for some time the latter kept swinging the ball away from the leg side. On several occasions the batsmen were almost within a hair's breadth of being dismissed, and it was eventually one such delivery that sent Morton back after it had taken him 35 minutes to hit up 6. The first real good hit came from Elsby, when he sent one almost to the boundary for 3 from a ball put down by Lockett, and a moment later with another fine hit he sent the ball to the boundary.

When Hall went to the wicket he too displayed a considerable amount of caution, his batting being chiefly on the defensive. Just before lunch Goodwin earned the applause of the spectators for a brilliant piece of fielding at point.

SLOW SCORING.

On play being resumed after the luncheon interval, Elsby was quickly dismissed. Lockett sent down a ball which got up a bit, and trying to play it, he sent it up for an easy catch by Hallowood at short leg. He had been at the wicket an hour for eight.

Barnes was heartily applauded on going out to bat, but fortune did not smile on him, and he was out to the second ball put down to him. Off Taylor, he edged the ball to first slip and was smartly caught by Lockett. Five wickets had fallen for the small total of 32 runs.

The bowlers kept up a vigorous attack, the deliveries being played with little confidence, with the exception of Hall, who put up a sound defensive game. Lockwood could do little or nothing with Taylor's bowling, for the wicket was becoming perhaps even more difficult than previously. Lockwood made a single and then from two successive balls put down by Taylor, was beaten all the way, but each time the ball just missed the off stump. With a third ball, however, he was out to Taylor. Soon after F. Dobson had gone in to partner Hall, the latter was out for lbw from a splendid ball by Lockett. The wickets had fallen with regularity, and one remarkable feature of Taylor's bowling was the fact that of 20 overs, after a two had been made off him from the first ball, the remaining 16 runs were singles. He had taken three wickets for 16.

STORM STOPS PLAY.

The old Cambridge Blue, S. T. Jagger, remained at the wicket to make four when he spooned one into the air from Taylor, and was caught by Gothard. Dobson and Edge were at the wicket when a thunderstorm broke over at 3 15 and caused play to be suspended. By four o'clock a good part of the field was flooded, and there was little prospect of further play to-day.

Play is timed to commence at 11 30 to-morrow (Tuesday).

NORTH WALES.—First Innings.

C A Rowland b Lockett	1
A E Mallalieu b A Lockett	8
F Morton b C J Taylor	6
Hall lbw b Lockett	14
Elsby c Hollowood b Lockett	8
Barnes (S. F.) c Lockett b Taylor	0
A L Lockwood b Taylor	1
F Dobson not out	10
S T Jagger c Gothard b Taylor	4
Edge not out	6
Extras	6
Total (for 8 wkts)	64

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday 13 July 1927

MODERATE SCORE BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

Leicestershire Bowler's Good Average.

Good Innings by H. W. Homer.

Staffordshire made a good start in their return fixture with Leicestershire II. at Loughborough to-day, the early batsmen doing well, but later wickets fell more cheaply, and by ten time the innings had closed for 174. H. W. Homer was top scorer with 42. The bowling honours fell to Bale, who took seven wickets for 62 runs.

LOUGHBOROUGH, Wednesday.

Weather conditions at Loughborough to-day (Wednesday), for the Minor Counties fixture between Leicestershire II. and Staffordshire, were very dismal, for not only was there a fine drizzle in the air for a time, but there was a chilly north-easterly wind across the splendid ground belonging to the Loughborough Club.

When the teams met at Wolverhampton Staffordshire won very comfortably by an innings and 138 runs, but to-day's encounter the home eleven had been slightly strengthened.

A heavy overnight dew made the outfield a trifle wet, and the opening of play was delayed for half an hour. This decision was a little surprising, for the wicket was in fine condition, being the firmest Staffordshire have played upon since the weather broke at the beginning of June. There really appeared little excuse for delay. Actually the start was made at 12 15.

Staffordshire having won the toss, C. Howl went in with H. W. Homer to take the bowling of Coleman, who sent them down the pitch at a rare speed. In the first over each batsman edged a ball away for a single. At the other end, Bale was on for the first time since June 21st, for, until he ricked his side, he had figured prominently in the first eleven, and to-day's match was in the nature of a trial for him. Only one run was made off his first over.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S GOOD START.

Coleman made the ball get up quite a bit, but this did not prevent Homer from turning his deliveries round to leg for a couple of 4's and a three. Bale's bowling, however, was treated with discretion, only nine runs being made off his first six overs.

Both Homer and Howl batted in consistently sound fashion, Howl also hitting out freely for a couple of 3's, followed by another to the boundary for a 4.

A. Hardy was put on at the pavilion end, after Coleman's bowling had been mastered, but his deliveries were also smartly dealt with, 15 runs being added in his first three overs. In three-quarters of an hour the opening partnership had realised 50 runs, many of the strokes having been both graceful and attractive.

Five minutes later, however, Howl, after making 19 was out to a ball from Bale. H. Goodwin, the left-handed batsman, who combines ease and grace with powerful driving, joined Homer, and following a single, he made a beautiful hit for 4, and then had the misfortune to be run out. He had played a ball to short leg and cried "No," but Homer was half-way down the pitch. Goodwin chanced the run, but the ball being smartly fielded by Coleman, who was fairly well in, his wicket was thrown down. Just prior to this Homer made a delightful hit to square leg off Bale for a 6.

HOMER'S SOUND DISPLAY.

Before the luncheon interval Barnes had gone in to score seven, including one stroke to the boundary. An early disaster befel Staffordshire, on resuming play after lunch. From the first ball put down by Bale, Homer turned it to leg for what looked like a single, but he called Barnes for a second run, and his wicket was down just before he could get back. So far, his batting for 42 had surpassed everything else seen during the day. At frequent intervals he had hit out powerfully and with plenty of confidence.

E. J. Gothard joined Barnes, but was clean bowled off the third ball of Bale's second over. In three overs Bale had taken a wicket for two runs.

Barnes' batting was skilful, resourceful, and polished, his forward strokes being particularly attractive. He got two 4's, and later scored a 5, the latter including an overthrow to the boundary.

Ikin always looked comfortable, and some of his hitting was authoritatively lusty for 4's, instead of a series of singles. But later he put his bat better to the ball and sent two away, each for four. After scoring Barnes made another five, which included an overthrow to the boundary. Immediately following that Barnes tried to hit Bale to leg and gave an easy catch to Coleman at short leg, after a valuable contribution of 26.

R. S. A. Hardy, who was the next batsman, is an Oxford undergraduate, and last year gave considerable promise in the Freshmen's match. On going to the wicket he gave the impression of being a hard-hitter. His four hits, each for a single, had plenty of power behind them as did the cut which was well caught by Riley at cover-point. It was a very sharp cut, which would have gone to the boundary.

DEADLY BOWLING.

Ikin had batted vigorously for 23 when he stepped out to one from Bale and was stumped. Bale, who was bowling with deadly accuracy, had the remarkable average for eleven overs, of nine maidens, four runs, and three wickets.

A. Lockett and Sedgwick both showed fine hitting powers and quickly put on an additional 25 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howe b Bale	19
H W Homer run out	42
H Goodwin run out	5
Barnes c Coleman b Bale	26
E J Gothard b Bale	0
A W Ikin st Tyler b Bale	23
R S A Hardy c Riley b Bale	4
Lockett c Riley b Bale	23
Sedgwick c Riley b Bale	12
Platt b Riley	5
J B Russell not out	0
Extras	10
Total	174

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—E A Broughton not out 0, Coulson not out 5; total (no wkt), 5.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Coleman	13	3	27	0
Bale	40.5	16	62	7
A Hardy	6	0	24	0
Hayes	17	4	40	0
Riley	6	4	11	1

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday 14 July 1927

HOWL'S FIFTY FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Leicestershire II. Faced With Stiff Task.

185 Runs Required to Win.

Staffordshire secured a lead of 34 runs over Leicestershire II. on the first innings to-day, at Loughborough, and in their second innings Staffordshire reached a total of 150, thanks mainly to the patient batting of C. Howl, who scored 58. Colman took six wickets for 42 runs. Leicestershire II. were thus faced with the task of getting 185 runs to win. They made a poor start, however, and at tea-time had lost three wickets for 17 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl b Bale	19
H W Homer run out	42
H Goodwin run out	5
Barnes c Coleman b Bale	26
E J Gothard b Bale	0
A W Ikin st Tyler b Bale	23
R S A Hardy c Riley b Bale	4
Lockett c Riley b Bale	28
Sedgwick c Riley b Bale	12
Platt b Riley	5
J B Russell not out	0
Extras	10
Total	174

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

H W Homer c Broughton b Bale	28
C Howl c Tyler b Colman	58
Barnes c Bale b Hayes	5
H Goodwin c Broughton b Bale	2
E J Gothard c Colman b Bale	29
A W Ikin c Riley b Colman	1
A Lockett c Coulson b Colman	6
Sedgwick not out	6
Platt b Colman	8
R S A Hardy c Tyler b Colman	0
J B Russell c Coulson b Colman	2
Extras	5
Total	150

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

E A Broughton c Lockett	29
Coulson c Barnes b Sedgwick	7
Brown b Sedgwick	5
Tyler b Sedgwick	59
Riley c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
E G Hayes b Sedgwick	15
Coleman b Barnes	5
A Hardy st Russell b Barnes	13
Bale b Barnes	0
G W Dixie-Smith not out	1
Astill b Barnes	0
Extras	6
Total	140

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—Second Innings.

E A Broughton c Russell b Barnes	0
E G Hayes b Sedgwick	11
Coulson not out	2
Tyler st Russell b Barnes	1
Riley not out	1
Extras	2
Total (for 3 wkts)	17

Later.—Leicestershire II., 22 for three wkts.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Coleman	13	3	27	0
Bale	40.3	16	62	7
A Hardy	6	0	24	0
Hayes	17	4	40	0
Riley	6	4	11	1

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

Colman	27.3	10	42	6
Bale	28	10	70	3
Hayes	9	0	23	1
Astill	2	0	10	0

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

Barnes	12.5	5	30	4
Sedgwick	18	0	73	5
Lockett	6	0	31	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	21	104	105	110	119	139	139	140	140

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
36	51	54	106	107	124	136	144	148	150

On a wicket which gave bowlers little help to make run-getting a difficult matter, Leicestershire II., in their Minor Counties match with Staffordshire, at Loughborough, went in for an hour and forty minutes before the close of play yesterday, and in that time had knocked off 130 for the loss of six wickets, Staffordshire having been out just before tea for a total of 174. The healthy position in which Leicestershire found themselves was due to Tyler, for, coupled with extraordinary good fortune and costly errors in the field, he went on to make 59 before being bowled by Sedgwick.

TYLER'S INNINGS.

Before being dismissed he had more than ordinary luck in edging the ball through the slips and on the other side, but he also made some lofty hits to the outfield. Early on he skied a ball to the boundary and Gothard misjudged the flight of the ball and failed to run back far enough. It was, however, not an easy chance. Shortly afterwards he played one from Barnes right into the hands of Goodwin, who dropped it.

His was an attractive partnership with E. A. Broughton, for, after two wickets had fallen for 21, the score had been taken to 103 for the loss of another wicket. Broughton's hits at times were just as powerful as those of Tyler. The latter's best strokes were for a 6, two 4's, two 3's, and ten 2's. Coulson, who was out to a brilliant catch by Barnes, Brown, Riley and Colman played the bowling with little consistency and confidence, and had it not been for the stand made by Broughton and Tyler, the home eleven would have been in a sorry plight.

Riley was out to a great catch by Lockett, who smartly fielded a fast travelling ball almost on the turf. Hayes had just got the measure of the bowling after scoring 14 when stumps were drawn.

CHEAP WICKETS THIS MORNING.

On play being resumed this morning, Hayes was in a defensive mood to the bowling of Barnes, but at the other end from Sedgwick, A. Hardy, with a nice stroke, sent one along the carpet to the boundary. With the addition of nine runs Hayes was sent back from a good ball by Sedgwick. Directly Bale went in Hardy came right forward to Barnes, was beaten by a leg break, and was stumped by Russell. The remaining batsmen batted with excessive care but three wickets quickly fell.

Thirty-six runs were needed to pass Staffordshire's total but no sooner had Bale gone in than he was bowled by Barnes with a spinning ball without making a run. Astill went out for the last wicket but was immediately sent back by Barnes without any increase in the score. Four wickets had fallen in just over a quarter of an hour for ten runs.

Staffordshire's second innings was opened at 11 50, C. Howl taking the bowling of Colman, and Homer that of Bale. Runs were difficult to get, only seven being registered in the first twenty-five minutes and ten in the half-hour —a big contrast to the opening of their first innings. Play was featureless, and it was not until 35 minutes had elapsed that Homer got in anything like a hit for a four.

IMPROVED SCORING RATE.

When his score had been taken to 11, an easy catch from Homer was missed by Hayes at mid-on off the fast bowler, Colman, and after he had turned one round to leg for a 3, Colman gave way to Hayes. The rate of scoring quickened considerably, and Homer got a glorious square-leg hit for 6 off Bale, but at the total of 38 he edged a breaking ball to short slip to be caught by Broughton, after having batted an hour.

Howl had played very steadily and after a slow period, off drove Bale for a two, and then made a fine square leg hit for 4. There was an element of bad luck in Barnes being next dismissed. After making five, he was caught by Bale at short slip, from a kicking ball put down by Hayes. Early misfortune also befel H. Goodwin as, after making one hit for 2, he gave an easy catch to Broughton at first slip.

Howl continued to bat very steadily and hit up 30 in an hour and 35 minutes. After playing in more or less sluggish manner, Gothard became a little more lively, and put his bat hard to the ball for three hits to the boundary.

ACCURATE BOWLING.

After lunch Gothard sent the ball away for a boundary, following which there were a number of singles secured by both batsmen. Bale's bowling was for the most part accurate, and was often played defensively. So, too, were the deliveries of Colman, which were sent down the pitch with considerable speed. Gothard's form continued to remain good, and after making 29 runs, including five 4's, he was caught at second slip by Colman. The ball left Colman's hand in making the catch, but he caught it again. Fifty-two runs had been put on for this wicket.

A. W. Ikin, the next man in, made a single and then put the ball up to be caught by Riley.

There was no inclination to force the pace of runs and several chances of quick scoring were allowed to go begging. Howl did, however, take his score from 39 to 55 with a four, a three, and three 2's. He had been batting two hours and thirty-five minutes for this total, whereas it was the policy to get runs quickly to declare. Lockett got a lucky four over the heads of the slips, and after hitting a ball high over his head to fall safely, he tried another over his head from Colman and was caught by Coulson.

Sedgwick had been at the wickets to score a couple of singles. Howl's valuable innings of 58 was brought to an end when he tried to glide one from Colman and was beautifully held by Tyler.

The Staffordshire innings closed for 150, leaving Leicestershire 184 to get in their second innings to avoid defeat. The home county commenced their task at 4 o'clock, but made a weak start, three wickets being down by the tea interval for 17 runs.

Staffordshire Sentinel : Friday 15 July 1927

ANOTHER GOOD WIN FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Leicestershire Defeated by 113 Runs.

Fine Bowling by Barnes.

Staffordshire secured another good victory in the Minor Counties' Cricket Competition yesterday, when they defeated Leicestershire II. at Loughborough by 113 runs. The home county were set the task of getting 185 to win, but Barnes was responsible for some fine bowling, and the side were all out for 71. In the two innings, Barnes took ten wickets for 66 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl b Bale	19
H W Homer run out	42
H Goodwin run out	5
Barnes c Coleman b Bale	26
E J Gothard b Bale	0
A W Ikin st Tyler b Bale	23
R S A Hardy c Riley b Bale	4
Lockett c Riley b Bale	28
Sedgwick c Riley b Bale	12
Platt b Riley	5
J B Russell not out	0
Extras	10
Total	174

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

H W Homer c Broughton b Bale	23
C Howl c Tyler b Colman	58
Barnes c Bale b Hayes	5
H Goodwin c Broughton b Bale	2
E J Gothard c Colman b Bale	29
A W Ikin c Riley b Colman	1
A Lockett c Coulson b Colman	6
Sedgwick not out	6
Platt b Colman	8
R S A Hardy c Tyler b Colman	0
J B Russell c Coulson b Colman	2
Extras	5
Total	150

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—First Innings.

E A Broughton b Lockett	29
Coulson c Barnes b Sedgwick	7
Brown b Sedgwick	5
Tyler b Sedgwick	59
Riley c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
E G Hayes b Sedgwick	15
Coleman b Barnes	5
A Hardy st Russell b Barnes	13
Bale b Barnes	0
G W Dixie-Smith not out	1
Astill b Barnes	0
Extras	6
Total	140

LEICESTERSHIRE II.—Second Innings.

E A Broughton c Russell b Barnes	0
E G Hayes b Sedgwick	11
Coulson not out	24
Tyler st Russell b Barnes	1
Riley lbw b Barnes	15
Brown c Howl b Barnes	5
Coleman b Sedgwick	2
Hardy st Russell b Barnes	4
Bale b Barnes	0
J W Dixie-Smith b Sedgwick	0
Astill b Sedgwick	8
Extra	1
Total	71

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Coleman	13	3	27	0
Bale	40.5	16	62	7
A Hardy	6	0	24	0
Hayes	17	4	40	0
Riley	6	4	11	1

Staffordshire.—Second Innings

Colman	27.3	10	42	6
Bale	38	10	70	3
Hayes	9	0	23	1
Astill	2	0	10	0

Leicestershire II.—First Innings.

Barnes	12.5	5	30	4
Sedgwick	18	0	73	5
Lockett	6	0	31	1

Leicestershire II.—Second Innings.

Barnes	16	5	38	6
Sedgwick	14.5	4	34	4

Always showing real cricket intelligence, and bowling with a deadly accuracy, which, at times, was almost unplayable Barnes and Sedgwick brought about the complete collapse of Leicestershire II., in their Minor Counties match with Staffordshire, at Loughborough, yesterday (Thursday), Staffordshire achieving a very creditable win by 113 runs. This is the second occasion that they have won at the expense of Leicestershire—both times by a good margin.

Leicestershire were set to get 185 to avoid defeat, but from the commencement of their second innings at about 4 o'clock, they never looked like a winning eleven. E. A. Broughton and E. G. Hayes were the first pair to go to the wicket, but after making one or two pokes at deliveries which almost beat him, Broughton was soon out to a very fine catch by Russell. Hayes and Coulson, for a time, batted in nice style, and it eventually proved that but for the courageous innings of Coulson, Leicestershire would have fared even worse than they did. Coulson gave one hard chance, but beyond that he contented himself with defensive play, with occasional hard hits. After scoring a single, Tyler stepped out to one and was stumped by Russell.

With three wickets having fallen for 14, Riley made a gallant effort to stop the rot, but both Barnes and Sedgwick were in a riotous mood with the ball. He stayed long enough to hit up a valuable 15, and then was dismissed for obstruction from Barnes.

Brown never looked like making a stand, and when he turned a ball to leg, Howl, who had been fielding exceptionally well, fell in attempting a catch. He made up for this a few minutes later when he brought off a smart catch from Brown, falling full length to take it. Following this it was merely a procession of batsmen to and from the field, Coulson being the only one to remain at the wicket, and being not out for 24.

The honours of this innings were divided between Barnes and Sedgwick, the former taking six for 38, and the latter four for 34—performances of outstanding merit. Altogether Barnes took ten wickets for 66.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 16 July 1927

CRICKET

STAFFS. v. NORTH WALES

By The Critic

The Staffordshire County Club made an extra fixture this season with North Wales for the benefit of their supporters in the north of the county, and the match was played on the old county ground at Stoke on Monday and Tuesday. The game was quite an attractive one, for the visitors can put a useful side in the field, and on this occasion Barnes turned out against his usual comrades. The weather was, unfortunately, unsettled owing to the prevalence of thunderstorms. A heavy storm on Sunday made the ground very wet, but the wicket had been protected, and was quite fit for play at noon on Monday. The game progressed for two hours and 10 minutes, until 3-10 but a thunderstorm then broke, and the ground had such a drenching that further play that day was impossible. In three-quarters of an hour the wicket was under water. With the outlook in the morning so uncertain, only a small attendance could be expected. Sedgwick was unable to play, and Staffordshire gave a first trial to two young N.S. League players in D. Worthington, the Norton batsman and wicket-keeper, and Roy Hollowood, the Burslem bowler, son of the old county batsman, Albert Hollowood. P. F. Stubbs also appeared for the first time this season. The visiting team included several well-known players.

North Wales won the toss, and took first innings on a pitch that seemed to be moist enough to give spin bowlers some help, and the character of the play suggested that the batsmen found it difficult. Lockett and Taylor bowled accurately, and the play was slow to excess. C. A. Rowland and A. E. Mallalieu opened the innings, and Lockett's break-back beat the former at eight, and the latter at nine, the middle stump being knocked back in each case. A few runs were laboriously added, and then Taylor hit Morton's off-stump with a swinger. He had been making the ball swing away well, and occasionally get up awkwardly, and had never been played with any confidence. Elsby and Hall stayed together half-an-hour before lunch, and at the interval 31 had been scored in an hour and 20 minutes for the loss of three wickets.

On resuming, Elsby was easily caught at short leg in playing a kicking ball off his body, and Barnes only had two balls. The first was swinging right away, and he left it alone. The next made him play, and he edged it to Lockett at short slip. Elsby took an hour to score eight, and Hall was at the wickets five minutes longer. His defence was good, but both men observed undue caution. Hall was leg-before at 44, Lockwood having been bowled at the other end at the same total, whilst at 51 Jagger attempted a leg hit, and skied the ball to point. Dobson and Edge were inclined to be rather more aggressive, but the former was fortunate in one or two strokes from Lockett. When the thunderstorm broke, the total was 64 for eight wickets. Lockett had then bowled 24 overs for 34 runs and four wickets, and Taylor 22 overs for 23 runs and four wickets, whilst five overs from Platt and Hollowood before lunch yielded only one run. Taylor, who before he came to North Staffordshire a good many years ago, was a professional with Somersetshire, bowled exceedingly well, and without undue luck might easily have had an even better return. He was several times very near to the wicket, so much so twice that Russell gave it up and the ball went each time for a couple of byes. There were also several strokes off the edge of the bat that went safely between the slips. One of these was the first ball he bowled, which went just out of Lockett's reach for a couple, and from that point nothing but 14 singles were scored from him in 19 overs. At one point he sent down eight overs for one run and a wicket, and 14 consecutive overs yielded seven runs and three wickets. Bowling right arm, he had considerable pace in the days before the war, but does not now get above medium pace. His length and his swing made him a difficult bowler on Monday's wicket.

North Wales

C. A. Rowland b Lockett	1
A. E. Mallalieu b Lockett	8
F. Morton b Taylor	6
Elsby c Hollowood b Lockett	8
Hall lbw b Lockett	14
Barnes c Lockett b Taylor	0
A. L. Lockwood b Taylor	1
S. T. Jagger c Gothard b Taylor	4
Total (8 wkts.)	42

Bowling Analysis

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Lockett	24	9	34	4
Taylor	22	9	23	4
Platt	3	3	0	0
Hollowood	2	1	1	0

The thunderstorms of Monday afternoon and evening, with further rain on Tuesday morning, reduced the wicket to such a state that there was little chance of play on Tuesday, and after waiting until after lunch the game was abandoned.

The Staffordshire team was composed of J. B. Russell (captain), H. Goodwin, E. J. Gothard, J. S. Heath, A. W. Ikin, P. F. Stubbs, A. Lockett, D. Worthington, R. R. Hollowood, Platt, and Taylor.

Hammerwich v. Whittington

Whittington visited Hammerwich on Saturday, the home side being defeated by 33 runs. The game throughout was slow. For Whittington C. Mann carried out his bat with 16 runs to his credit, and W. Inge made a similar score. For Hammerwich, Hearne made 18 and Edwards 12. J. H. Carnwell, for Hammerwich, took five wickets for 14 runs. Scores :—

Whittington.—N. Davies c Carnwell b Matthews 2, T. Sandland b Carnwell 3, W. Inge c Edwards b Kirkham 18, R. Swain c Thompson b J. H. Carnwell 14, G. Wall b J. H. Carnwell 6, A. Cox c Edwards b Matthews 0, C. Mann not out 16, W. Goddard c Thompson b J. H. Carnwell 8, J. Withers c E. C. Carnwell b J. H. Carnwell 0, R. Moody b Inge 3, P. Sandland b J. H. Carnwell 1, extra 1; total 74.

Hammerwich.—J. Edwards c Goddard b Wall 12, J. H. Carnwell b Sandland 2, A. Hearne run out 16, A. Bradley b Wall 1, E. C. Carnwell b Wall 0, F. Kirkham b Wall 0, H. Hackett b Wall 2, W. C. Inge c Swain b Davis 0, W. J. J. Robathan c Withers b Davis 1, J. Matthews not out 3, P. T. Thompson lbw b Wall 1, extras 3; total 41.

Blymhill v. Church Eaton

Played at Church Eaton on Saturday, Blymhill winning by 6 runs. For the winners Burgoyne took six wickets for 8 runs, and for Church Eaton Sutton seven wickets for 11 runs. Scores :—

Blymhill.—W. R. Smith lbw b Sutton 3, H. Harper b Sutton 1, W. Tonkinson c and b Sutton 6, R. D. Smith b Fursman 9, J. Burgoyne b Fursman 4, R. Hitchen b Sutton 1, A. R. Craig b Sutton 1, T. C. Brooks not out 4, R. Allen b Sutton 0, N. Hill c Davies b Fursman 0, L. Goldsmith c Fursman b Sutton 0, extras 0; total 34.

Church Eaton.—J. W. Fox b Burgoyne 0, W. Cartwright lbw b Burgoyne 0, J. Fursman b Hitchen 10, W. Wright b Hitchen 1, W. Sutton b Burgoyne 1, H. Whittaker c Brooks b Burgoyne 1, T. Pugh b Burgoyne 5, C. Hitchens run out 0, C. Massey b Burgoyne 6, W. Davies c Goldsmith b Hitchen 0, J. Chesters not out 1, extras 3; total, 28.

King's Regt. v. Lichfield

A slow scoring game was witnessed at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, on Saturday, when the King's Own Regt. entertained Lichfield 1st XI. The King's Own batted first, and were dismissed for 104, Lichfield replying with 110 for the loss of five wickets. Col. Husildin opened the game for the King's, and slowly compiled 27 before being dismissed by Fitzgeorge. Capt. Levick, who made a stand with the aid of the aforementioned player, made 34, Fitzgeorge being also responsible for his downfall. Fitzgeorge and Brown opened the Lichfield innings and made 70 runs between them, Brown being responsible for 56, both the players being dismissed by Lieut. Short. R. Cooke, one of Lichfield's most steadfast batsmen, made 28. Oram was again well in front on the bowling average, taking three wickets for 18 runs, his 12½ overs including no less than five maidens. Lieut. Short was responsible for three of the Lichfield wickets, and Beale and Bates took one wicket each. Scores :—

King's Own: Col. Husildin b Fitzgeorge 27, Capt. Moorhead b Oram 0, Lieut. Stuart b Slater 9, Capt. Levick b Fitzgeorge 31, Lieut. Short b Fitzgeorge 1, Barlow st Cooke b Fitzgeorge 14, Q.M.S. Newton lbw b Brown 5, Pte. Huslum b Oram 4, Pte. Beale c Baxter b Fitzgeorge 0, Lce.-Cpl. Coffey not out 5, Pte. Bates c Moore b Oram 3, extras 3; total 104.

Lichfield: H. Fitzgeorge c Bates b Short 14, J. Brown lbw b Short 56, W. Plant lbw b Short 2, R. Cooke c Newton b Bates 28, F. Rudgard b Beale 6, R. Moore not out 1, S. Baxter not out 2, A. Slater, Lieut. Johnson, J. Wilson, and F. Oram did not bat, extras 1; total (for 5 wkts.) 110.

Weeford v. Lichfield Second XI.

Lichfield Second XI. visited Weeford on Saturday, the match resulting in a runaway win for Lichfield, Weeford replying with 65 to Lichfield's 136 for seven wickets. For Lichfield, N. Hartshorne made 35, Parker carried out his bat with 17 to his credit, and Ryan and Smith made a score of 15. Weeford's premier batsman was Beesley, who made 21, and F. Harrison carried out his bat with a score of 13. Special praise is due to E. Standley, who took five wickets for 18 runs for Lichfield and had the honour of being the first Lichfield bowler to perform the "hat trick" this season. Scores :

Lichfield.—A. J. Smith c Beesley b Harrison 15, L. Bates b Fothergill 11, E. Standley run out 10, N. Hartshorne b Twyman 35, G. Ryan b Fothergill 15, D. Parker not out 17, L. G. Perry b Fothergill 4, W. R. Wait b Fothergill 15, J. S. Brown not out 8; V. Bridgen, C. Lees, and Beauchamp did not bat; extras 6; total (for seven wickets) 136.

Weeford.—H. Fothergill c Parker b Smith 7, F. Crewess b Ryan 7, P. Beesley b Hartshorne 21, O. Brien lbw b Hartshorne 3, F. Twyman c Brown b Standley 0, M. Arnold b Standley 5, F. Partridge c Bridgen b Hartshorne 0, F. Harrison not out 13, A. Mear b Standley 0, Brinton b Standley 0, M. Croome b Hartshorne 0, G. Meade b Standley 1; extras 8; total 65.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday, Thursday 20, 21 July 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE'S LOW SCORE.

Only Two Batsmen Master Notts. Attack.

Clever Fielding.

Batting first in their fixture with Notts. II., at Mansfield to-day, Staffordshire were dismissed for the moderate total of 133. No fewer than seven of the visiting team were caught out, five falling victims to Wheat, the Notts. wicket-keeper.

But for fine performances by A. A. Bickerton and A. Lockett, the Staffordshire total would have been very small. Each batsman scored 49, A. Lockett being not out. For Notts. Matthews claimed six wickets for 51 and G. F. Heame three for 23.

At the close of the Staffordshire innings rain caused a stoppage. When play was resumed, the home team reached 20 for the loss of one wicket.

MANSFIELD, Wednesday.

Staffordshire were engaged with Nottinghamshire, by far the most formidable eleven they have met this season, in a Minor Counties fixture to-day, on the Mansfield Colliery Institute Ground, at Mansfield. The home eleven head the championship table with 100 per cent. points, having played and won four games. That they were out to retain the position was evident by the fact that they were strongly represented, Matthews, the fast bowler, and Richmond, the "googly" bowler, who have rendered yeoman service to the First Eleven, being included. Matthews has accomplished many fine performances, and Richmond, it will be remembered, played in a Test Match against the Australians, at Trent Bridge, in 1921.

The wicket was very fast, showing signs of cracking.

Staffordshire won the toss, and A. A. Bickerton went in to face the bowling of Matthews, the latter making the ball come off the pitch quickly. Nevertheless, Bickerton turned his second ball to leg for a delightful four. At the other end, H. Goodwin exercised marked care in dealing with deliveries from Heame. Very early on, however, he gave a difficult chance low down at cover-point, to Copley. Heame shortly afterwards penetrated his defence, clean bowling him after he had made a couple of singles. Bickerton, who was joined by Barnes, went on to bat in meritorious style after giving a hard chance in snicking one between the slips for a two. With a beautiful late cut off Matthews, Bickerton sent one away to the boundary, and followed this up with a fine square cut for another four.

BARNES SMARTLY CAUGHT.

A second early disaster befel Staffordshire, for Barnes, who is invariably a good bat, had not been at the wicket more than five minutes when he was smartly caught at second slip by Harris, without contributing to the score. Bickerton continued to maintain an even tenor, and but for his stout-hearted performance Staffordshire would have been in a worse position than they were, for E. J. Gothard went in to turn one to the leg for a two and then fell a victim to Matthews, and W. H. Ellerker had the very bad misfortune to be dismissed by a catch.

Matthews put one down outside the leg, which Ellerger barely snicked, and was caught by the wicket-keeper, Wheat, who was standing a long way back.

In this disastrous start Bickerton was the only one who had made bowlers work for his wicket. He bore a great responsibility, but this did not prevent him from going in for some bright hitting.

It was natural that A. W. Ikin should not hustle in the circumstances, so he played with a certain amount of restraint. This did not prevent him getting in three delightful hits, all to the boundary, as well as an overthrow for another four. Matthews was sending the ball down at a rare pace, which prevented any attempt at batsmen playing a forcing game.

Sedgwick's short stay at the wicket was brought to an end when six wickets had fallen for the meagre total of 85. He hit out at a delivery from Hearne, and skied it towards deep-off, for Kirk to make a splendid running catch.

Run-getting was no easy matter against Matthews' great bowling, and Platt found it to be true, for he, too, was sent back to the pavilion without having made a run. It was a brilliant catch by Wheat that brought about the fall of the seventh wicket. Platt lashed out to a ball from Matthews, but only snicked it. Wheat made a dive to the off to bring off a grand catch almost on the turf.

BRISKER SCORING.

It remained to be seen whether Aaron Lockett, with the invaluable assistance of Bickerton, would pull the game round. Almost from the beginning of this partnership there was a justifiable wave of optimism. Lockett started with a nice hit for 2, and then two singles. After this Richmond was put on in place of Matthews. But Lockett despatched one to the boundary for a 4, and immediately afterwards made another good shot which deserved more than a single.

The bowlers also found that they could not hold Bickerton captive, for he was in a very punishing mood, getting in beautiful leg shots for three more successive 4's. Lockett followed it up with a great leg hit from a full-pitched ball from Richmond, which was sent away for a six.

With one run short of the half-century, Bickerton's innings came to a close. He tried to glide a ball to leg and was caught behind the wicket after a characteristic innings, which included eight 4's and five 2's. This eighth wicket stand had produced a very attractive 43 in half an hour.

Staffordshire "tail" continued to wag, and R. S. A. Hardy backed up Lockett in an admirable manner, the latter's score being at the rate of one a minute.

Hardy batted in resourceful style for nine runs before being caught behind the wicket by Wheat. J. B. Russell also suffered a similar fate at the hands of Wheat, after Lockett had made a hit for four, directly the game was resumed after lunch.

An outstanding feature was the smart catches by Wheat, who claimed five victims. Just as Staffordshire's innings came to a close, rain fell very fast, and play had not been resumed by three o'clock.

Rain ceased, and after the wicket had been treated with sawdust, G. V. Gunn and Keeton went in to take the bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick at four o'clock. In fifteen minutes they put on ten, when Gunn played one from Barnes from off his pad to the wicket, after making seven.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton c Wheat b Harris	49
H Goodwin b Heame	2
Barnes c Harris b Heame	0
E J Gothard b Matthews	2
W H Ellerker c Wheat b Matthews	2
A W Ikin b Matthews	16
Sedgwick c Kirk b Heame	2
Platt c Wheat b Matthews	0
A Lockett not out	49
R S A Hardy c Wheat b Matthews	9
J B Russell c Wheat b Matthews	0
Extras	4
Total	133

NOTTS. II.—First Innings.

Gunn (G V) b Barnes	7
Keeton not out	6
Shipston not out	7
Total (for 1 wkt)	20

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Matthews	13.3	1	49	6
G F Heame	12	5	23	3
Richmond	9	0	33	0
Harris	7	1	22	1
Copley	1	0	2	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	18	25	29	52	55	55	98	129	133

No Play To-day Owing to Rain.

Early this afternoon the match between Notts II. and Staffordshire, at Mansfield, was abandoned. Rain had fallen heavily during the night and continued this morning, preventing resumption of play.

After dismissing Staffordshire for 133 yesterday, the home side scored 118 (for six wickets) before stumps were drawn. Towards this total Keeton contributed 46.

MANSFIELD, Thursday.

In their match with Staffordshire, at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire II. were in a favourable position at the close of play last night, having put together 118 for the loss of six wickets, in reply to Staffordshire's total of 133.

Rain had hampered play from the luncheon interval until 4 o'clock, when Notts went in to bat on a wicket which gave no assistance to the bowlers. At one time it looked as though the sun might break through, to make the wicket a little difficult, but this prospect was not fulfilled.

Gunn and Keeton opened the innings, but after the former had put on seven he was dismissed by Barnes, and later Shipston, having contributed nine, played back to one from Barnes, and was smartly caught behind the wicket by Russell.

When G. F. H. Heane also came to be dismissed for seven there appeared to be a possibility that the Notts batsmen might suffer a similar fate to that which befel the visitors, but it was left to Keeton to advance the total in an accomplished manner.

Heane was out to Barnes. He played forward as the ball turned to the off stump and broke the wicket.

FORCING THE PACE.

Keeton and B. A. Walkerdine proved a better cricketing combination. They forced the pace with some great hits, 32 being made off Lockett before Sedgwick was put on again. Elleker made a brilliant effort, to send Keeton back for a catch.

Keeton edged one along to the leg for Ellerker to make a full length dive, and miss very narrowly. With Keeton and Walkerdine still in a punishable mood Platt went on when the score had been taken to 82 for three, and it was from his second ball that Keeton was dismissed by a very fine catch by Lockett, at first slip. His score included five 4's, and six 2's.

Walkerdine's wicket was also taken by Platt, after having hit 21, which included four 4's. Copley went in to bat with resourcefulness, and at the close of play was not out for 25.

Rain had fallen heavily during the night and continued during the whole of the morning. At 2 15 this afternoon the game was abandoned.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

A A Bickerton c Wheat b Harris	49
H Goodwin b Heame	2
Barnes c Harris b Heame	0
E J Gothard b Matthews	2
W H Ellerker c Wheat b Matthews	2
A W Ikin b Matthews	16
Sedgwick c Kirk b Heame	0
Platt c Wheat b Matthews	0
A Lockett not out	49
R S A Hardy c Wheat b Matthews	9
J B Russell c Wheat b Matthews	0
Extras	4
Total	133

NOTTS. II.—First Innings.

Gunn (G V) b Barnes	7
Keeton c Lockett b Platt	46
Shipton c Russell b Barnes	9
G F Heame b Barnes	7
G A Walkerdine b Platt	21
L Kirk c Barnes b Sedgwick	1
Copley not out	25
Harris not out	0
Extras	2
Total (for 6 wkts)	118

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Matthews	13.3	1	49	6
G F Heame	12	5	23	3
Richmond	9	0	33	0
Harris	7	1	22	1
Copley	1	0	2	0

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	18	25	29	52	55	55	98	129	133

CRICKET

STAFFORDSHRIE V. LEICESTERSHIRE

Features of the Play

By the Critic

On resuming their competition programme with the return match against Leicester II. on the nice ground of Loughborough College on Wednesday and Thursday last week, Staffordshire were able to field a strong side, which included a new player in R. S. A. Hardy, of Marchington, who is now up at Oxford, and has a reputation as an all-rounder, but more especially as a bowler. As a public schoolboy, he was captain of Stoneyhurst. The home side was considerably stronger than that which suffered a hollow defeat at Wolverhampton by an innings and 238 runs, by reason of the inclusion of Bale, Coleman, and Hardy, vice C. W. A. Brown, Starmer, and Carroll. Tyler kept the wicket instead of Carroll, and did so very well, showing what a versatile player he is, for besides being a punishing bat, he is also a fast-medium bowler of some merit, and, with Hayes, bore the brunt of the attack at Wolverhampton. But on this occasion, Coleman, who has appeared in the First XI. twice this season and several times last year, was the fast bowler, and he is fast, with a beautiful action. Bale is, of course, a regular first team bowler, but has been nursing a strained side for several weeks, and had a try-out with the Second XI. He bowls left-arm slow, and mixes a considerable variety of bowling, with the left-hander's natural break-back from leg as his most effective ball. He stood his physical test well, for he bowled throughout the Staffordshire innings without tiring, kept a consistently good length, and captured seven wickets for 62. Hardy also bowls left-arm, so that the noticeable lack of left-arm bowlers at Wolverhampton was amply corrected on this occasion. There had not been much rain in that district, and the wicket was firm, but the heavy dew and some drizzle made the outfield so wet that the start was delayed until 12-15 on Wednesday. Staffordshire were able to take first innings, and Homer and Howl played the bowling so well that 50 appeared without loss. Both men watched the ball well, and the batting was attractive. Howl was freer in style than usual, and got some nice leg shots and cuts, and Homer was never in the least difficulty, and brought off his fine square-leg hit every time he got one a yard or so short. He also picked one from Bale up at half-volley to get a clean square 6. At 53 Howl played outside an in-swinger, and turned it on to the wicket with his pad. Goodwin was beginning confidently, and things were shaping for another big score by Staffordshire when a couple of disastrous mistakes in running completely altered the aspect. First Goodwin turned to play a ball from Hayes to leg, and was obviously surprised to find Homer running down the pitch. Both men were at one end and when Goodwin started to run he had no possible chance, for the ball had gone almost straight to short-leg, and the left-hander was run out by many yards. Barnes stayed with Homer till luncheon time, when the Old Hill man had scored 41, and the score was 79 for two wickets.

The first ball after the resumption was glanced to leg by Homer, who called Barnes for a second run and ran himself out. These two accidents made an incalculable difference, for, with Gothard bowled by a leg-break without addition, four good wickets were down for 80. Barnes and Ikin improved matters, and added 40, both playing the bowling comfortably, but just when he seemed settled for a big score Barnes failed to get properly hold of the ball in hitting to leg, and hit it straight to Coleman at short leg. Then matters went badly again, Hardy, who shaped quite well, being caught low down at third man from a fairly hard cut, and Ikin easily stumped through going out to a ball that was too short to smother. Bale was bowling with great accuracy now, and continued to string togther maidens. After sending down 22 overs for 43 runs and two wickets, his next 11 overs contained nine maidens, four runs, and three wickets. Lockett and Sedgwick added 36 by confident cricket, both putting power behind their strokes, as Ikin had done. The Leicester ground-fielding was excellent, and many very hard drives were cleanly picked up. Both men got out by hitting half-volleys from the imperturbable left hander into the hands of cover point. So the Staffordshire innings fell far short of early promise. Bale came out with excellent figures, and was bowling as well at the end of 40 overs as when he started.

Leicester had an hour and 40 minutes' batting, and if things had progressed normally would probably have been in a bad position at the close of the day, instead of which they had rather the better of the situation with 130 for six wickets when play ceased. Barnes and Sedgwick opened the bowling, the latter from the lower end. In Barnes's first five overs the only runs scored were a single and a fluky four through the slips. A few runs were hit from Sedgwick, but he secured two wickets. Coulson snicked one which touched the wicket-keeper's gloves and went to Barnes in the slips, and Brown was bowled off his pads, two wickets being down for 21. Broughton was batting soundly, but Tyler, hitting out from the first, had a charmed life. Like most men who "have a go" at Barnes, he had little idea of where they were going, and he also edged one or two very fortunately from Sedgwick. He lofted one off Barnes over the head of Gothard at mid off, and the fielder would have got under it if he had been able to judge its flight correctly. Then he hit one direct to Goodwin, near the on-boundary, and the catch was not held. In two overs, two 3's, two 2's, and four singles were made off Barnes, almost all by risky strokes, and then Lockett was put on vice Barnes, a change which seemed ill advised, for Tyler's method could hardly have survived long against Barnes's skill and craft. On the other hand, a few overs' rest appeared desirable for Sedgwick, for he was bowling up hill, and Tyler was severe on him, as he was on Lockett. The last-named was inclined to be short, and in his first over three 3's and a 4 were hit, and a leg-ball went for 3 byes. In all, 30 runs were hit from Lockett in five overs, including a fine on-hit by Tyler for 6, before he effected a separation by causing Broughton, who had batted really well, to play hard on to his wicket. Four overs from Sedgwick had yielded 24 runs, so that mainly by the hitting of Tyler, who reached 50 in fourty-three minutes, the third wicket had added 83 in three-quarters of an hour, and put the home side definitely on top. However, matters were improved when Sedgwick got Riley caught in the slips and bowled Tyler with a swinger. Barnes came on again to bowl Coleman, but Hayes and Hardy played out time, though the old Surrey man was fortunate that a snick from Barnes went between the slip fielders for 4 instead of going to hand.

Staffordshire's Fine Victory

On Thursday (the 14th inst.) Staffordshire won a fine victory by 113 runs, which did not overstate their superiority. The home county's chance of taking the first innings' lead depended largely upon Hayes, and when Sedgwick bowled him with a ball that kept low Staffordshire took a grip of the game which they never relaxed. Barnes finished off the innings in summary fashion by taking three wickets in five balls. Hardy was smartly stumped off the first ball of the over, Bale left-hand, beaten by the fourth—a beauty that pitched six inches outside his off stump and hit the middle and leg—and Astill bowled by the fifth, another trimmer that nipped from the leg to bowl the off bail. With a lead of 34, Staffordshire needed runs as quickly as possible if they were to force a win, but were not in a position to throw anything away. So the order was not to take risks for a time, at all events, in forcing the game. Coleman and Bale bowled well enough to keep Homer and Howl effectively pegged down, but runs came steadily after a time, though Howl was always going very slowly. It is his natural game, however, and he did the side great service by holding up against some good bowling. After Homer's departure (his best stroke was a glorious square-leg hit for 6 off Bale) things went badly, but Gothard hit well, getting four crisp boundaries, and the fourth wicket added 52. Howl hung on to reach his 50 in 2 hours and 25 minutes, and when eventually he was caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back, in trying to glide the fast bowler, he had been at the wicket only 10 minutes short of 3 hours. Most of the later batsmen were out in trying to force the pace against bowling that was too good for liberties, and Leicester were ultimately set 185 to get to win in rather more than 2 hours and a half. In this innings, Coleman maintained a good pace and an excellent length, and obtained meritorious figures, and great praise is due to Bale, who bowled unchanged through both the Staffordshire innings, sending down the prodigious number of 79 overs all but one ball.

That Leicester never looked like even saving the game was due to an inspired piece of bowling by Barnes and Sedgwick, supported by keen fielding, with Russell at his best behind the wicket. Hayes opened the innings this time, and collected the first 11 runs before losing Broughton, finely caught at the wicket on the leg side, but then Sedgwick got one quick and low off the pitch and he chopped it on to his wicket, so that he succumbed to the fast bowler in each innings. Tyler failed to repeat his first innings' success, for he went right out to the first ball he received from Barnes, was beaten by the spin, and was given no chance to get back by the Staffordshire captain. Then Coulson and Riley added 26, the latter getting three nice 4's off Sedgwick, all on the leg side. But Barnes trapped him leg-before, and got Brown brilliantly caught by Howl in "the gully" after being let off from a less difficult chance in the same position just before. Coleman attempted a big drive from Sedgwick, and paid the penalty, and Hardy, for the second time in the match, walked out to Barnes to be beaten by the "bend," and fall a victim to the stumper. Though Coulson was batting well, and escaped from one or two lucky shots off Barnes, the rot could not be stopped. Bale again had his leg-stump knocked back by Barnes, and gained the dreaded "pair," and Sedgwick got clean through the defence of the Leicester captain, and Astill, to finish off the match at 6-10, with 50 minutes to spare, including extra time. Barnes bowled his wonderful leg-break with such accuracy of length and such "devil" from the pitch that he would have had any side in difficulties, and Sedgwick took a lot of stopping.

LEICESTERSHIRE II. DEFEATED BY STAFFORDSHIRE

Staffordshire gained their second victory of the season at Loughborough, on Thursday, Leicestershire II. being beaten by 113 runs. Leicestershire failed completely against Barnes and Sedgwick, who bowled finely to dismiss the home side in an hour and Three-quarters. Barnes took 10 for 66 in the match.

Staffordshire.—1st Innings

H. W. Homer run out	42
C. Howl b Bale	19
H. Goodwin run out	5
Barnes c Coleman b Bale	26
E. J. Gothard b Bale	0
A. W. Ikin st Tyler b Bale	23
R. S. Hardy c Riley b Bale	4
A. Lockett c Riley b Bale	25
Sedgwick c Riley b Bale	12
Platt b Riley	5
J. B. Russell not out	0
Extras	10
Total	174

2nd Innings

H. W. Homer c Broughton b Bale	28
C. Howl c Tyler b Coleman	58
H. Goodwin c Broughton b Bale	2
Barnes c Bale b Hayes	5
E. J. Gothard c Coleman b Bale	29
A. W. Ikin c Riley b Coleman	1
R. S. Hardy c Tyler b Coleman	0
A. Lockett c Coulson b Coleman	6
Sedgwick not out	6
Platt b Coleman	8
J. B. Russell c Coulson b Coleman	2
Extras	5
Total	150

Leicestershire II.—1st Innings

E. A. Broughton c Lockett	29
Coulson c Barnes b Sedgwick	7
Brown b Sedgwick	5
Tyler b Sedgwick	59
Riley c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
E. G. Hayes b Sedgwick	16
Coleman b Barnes	5
Hardy st Russell b Barnes	13
Bale b Barnes	0
J. W. Dixie-Smith not out	1
Astill b Barnes	0
Extras	6
Total	140

2nd Innings

E. A. Broughton c Russell b Barnes	0
Coulson not out	24
Brown c Howl b Barnes	5
Tyler st Russell b Barnes	1
Riley lbw b Barnes	15
E. G. Hayes b Sedgwick	11
Coleman b Sedgwick	2
Hardy st Russell b Barnes	4
Bale b Barnes	0
J. W. Dixie-Smith b Sedgwick	0
Astill b Sedgwick	3
Extras	1
Total	71

BOWLING ANALYSIS

	Staffs.—1st Inns.				2nd Inns.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R	W.
Coleman	13	3	27	0	27.3	10	42	6
Bale	40.5	16	62	7	38	10	73	3
Hardy	6	0	24	0	—	—	—	—
Hayes	17	4	40	0	9	0	2.	1
Riley	6	4	11	1	—	—	—	—
Astill	—	—	—	—	2	0	10	0
Leicestershire II.—1st Inns.					2nd Inns.			
Barnes	12.5	5	30	4	15	5	36	6
Sedgwick	18	0	73	5	14.5	4	34	4
Lockett	6	0	31	1	—	—	—	—

Comments by "The Critic" are held over till next week.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 23 July 1927-2.

NORTH STAFFS. & DISTRICT LEAGUE

Saturday furnished rather a remarkable turn-up, for the leaders were defeated for the second week in succession, after surviving 13 matches without defeat, Silverdale gaining a surprise victory at Norton; Longton upset calculations by defeating Great Chell at Chell; Bignall End achieved at least a momentary recovery of their old glory in beating Porthill soundly at Wolstanton, and Knypersley surprised many by defeating the Alexandra at Crewe. The only decisive result that was more or less in accord with expectation was the victory of Burslem at Madeley. Leek were saved from defeat at the hands of Nantwich on the Highfield ground by a wonderful 10th wicket resistance after the match appeared hopelessly lost, but by gaining one point the Cheshire men took joint leadership with Norton, having gained three points on their rivals in two weeks. Burslem stepped over the heads of the champions into the third place, and the only other change in the merit chart was the success of Longton in handing the wooden spoon once more to Madeley.

Silverdale found Sedgwick troublesome at Norton, and were dismissed for 104, which did not seem to be a winning score, even though the wicket was probably getting more difficult as the afternoon wore on. But it proved so, for the home side was bundled out for 51. W. Downing, one of the ex-Bignall End twins, bowled so well as to take seven wickets for 24, and the Norton batting was made to look feeble. Downing also made top score of the match, 28, so his afternoon's work was a pretty useful one. Sedgwick had a long spell of bowling and took seven for 41. The result was a shock to Norton's supporters.

Nantwich took three hours at Leek to hit 157 for six, W. T. Maybury (33) and F. W. Slight (29) making a useful start with 58 for the first wicket. Though they batted so long it looked as though the Nantwich bowlers would accomplish the needful with plenty of time to spare, for L. Haighton (five for 25) and E. H. Steventon (four for 34) had nine Leek wickets down for 44 three quarters of an hour before the expiration of the allotted time. But then came a totally unexpected stand by A. L. Kidd and J. W. Ellerton, and the pair held out to the end to make a draw. Against the Nantwich bowlers it was no mean achievement. Kidd is a seasoned player, though more successful in bowling than batting, but Ellerton is one of the youngsters of the team, who has only recently won his place in the Eleven so long skippered by his father, and his nerve and pluck, as well as his skill, were highly praiseworthy. Though there was, of course, little endeavour to get runs, he had 19 to his credit when stumps were pulled up. It was, perhaps rather bad luck for Nantwich to be thus robbed of the full points, which would have given them a clear lead in the championship race.

At Porthill, Bignall End started badly, losing half their wickets for 42. The veteran stumper, A. E. Brathy, going in first, as usual, was still holding out when Dr. Riley went in and hit the Porthill bowling with great effect. He got 25 in two overs from Heap, and knocked up 42 in quick time. This cavalier treatment of the bowling begat confidence in those who followed, and R. J. Marlot contributed 48. Brathy's long stay produced 37, and the visitors got within 2 of the second hundred—a good score in the circumstances. It was much too good for the champions, though A. A. Bickerton (21) and N. W. White (35) made things look promising up to a point. But the rest of the team slumped, and Bignall End won by 90 runs. F. J. Dale made the ball turn a lot, and got five wickets for 42.

Burslem are going strongly just now, and easily overcame Madeley, who were disposed of for 58. Burslem passed this with six wickets in hand, and scored 93 for nine. C. Tunnicliffe's slow bowling was effective for Burslem to the tune of seven wickets for 32, and S. Heath got five for Madeley for 21. As Longton scored a capital win at Chell, Madeley once more found themselves at the bottom of the table. Longton managed a total of 132, and then Harold Brassington went through the home team. He bowled finely, and captured seven wickets in 16 overs for 13 runs. I am bound to say, after watching him a week before against Crewe, I am not surprised at his success. He is bowling remarkably well. Vodrey's slow leg breaks got him four Longton wickets for 26. These two points were of great value to Longton.

Congratulations to Knypersley on a clever performance in winning at Crewe, though they had second use of the wicket, which did not get easier. They seem to find useful bowlers at Knypersley with a facility that some clubs must envy. It was no light matter to lost young J. Boon just when he was developing into a successful fast bowler, but they seem to have unearthed another clever performer in W. Goodwin. He has shared the honours once or twice with his captain, E. Mosedale, and on Saturday he was the dominating force, for he took eight Crewe wickets for 36 runs. Though I don't think much of the Alexandra's batting at present, it was an excellent performance, and enabled the visitors to secure a seven-wickets' victory. The Crewe total was only 84, and Knypersley had replied with 119 for five when H. E. Bourne reached a model 50, and stumps were drawn. Bert Bourne has been batting in quite his old form of late, and his success is particularly gratifying.

The struggle for promotion in the Senior B Division has developed into a tense triangular contest. Prior to Saturday Burslem High Lane, although defeated by a single run a week earlier, held pride of place, two points ahead of the Railway Club at Stoke, and Stone, who were bracketed equal second. The leaders had a visit from Stone, and the latter did themselves an excellent turn by beating the home side by 114 to 95. As the L.M.S. won a good match with Ashcombe Park, at Stoke, the three promotion candidates are now bracketed level at the top of the table with 24 points each. As Audley were defeated at Fenton and Sandyford beat Caverswall, the last-named took the fourth place, but being four points behind the leading trio their chance must be regarded as negligible.

Looking at the remaining programmes of the three joint leaders, there does not appear on paper to be any great difference in the severity of their respective tasks, except that High Lane and the Railway have to meet at High Lane on August 13. One or other, or both, must drop one or more points then. Stone's success or otherwise in yet another gallant effort to get back to the senior rank will probably depend upon their ability to play something like a representative side from now to the end of the season. If their players are prepared to make some sacrifice in a supreme effort to clinch matters this time, they may quite probably gain the boon of playing next season on grounds of similar excellence to their own. But High Lane are a dangerous team, perhaps the more so, by the law of averages, because they have dropped four points by narrow margins in the last two weeks, and Fernie and his men cannot afford any of the old familiar lapses if they are to realise their hopes this time.

The following is the League table to date :—

	Pl'd	Won	Lost	D'n	Pts
Nantwich	15	8	3	4	20
Norton	15	7	2	6	20
Burslem	15	5	3	7	17
Porthill	15	5	4	6	16
Crewe Alexandra	15	5	5	5	15
Great Chell	15	5	5	5	15
Knypersley	15	5	5	5	15
Leek	15	4	5	6	14
Silverdale	15	3	4	8	14
Bignall End	15	3	5	7	13
Longton	15	3	7	5	11
Madeley	15	2	7	6	10

The Critic.

Tutbury v. Netherseal Colliery

Played at Tutbury on Saturday.

Tutbury : T. P. Eaton b H. Ball 10, W. C. Johnson st Bradford b H. Cox 0, H. Wilson b H. Cox 9, Major Wordsworth c Ball b H. Cox 5, F. Woolley run out 0, T. H. Oakden b H. Cox 12, W. S. Oakden b H. Cox 1, J. Bryant b H. Cox 0, A. Walkerdine c G. Cox b N. Hill 1, H. W. Stevens c and b N. Hill 0, F. Russell not out 0, extras 1; total 39. H. Cox took six wickets for 24 runs.

Netherseal Colliery : J. Hancock c H. Wilson b T. H. Oakden 0, W. E. Causon b T. P. Eaton 0, H. Ball b T. H. Oakden 3, T. P. Peasegood b T. P. Eaton 1, S. Cox c T. H. Oakden b T. P. Eaton 0, J. Bradford c Wilson b T. H. Oakden 7, H. Cox b T. P. Eaton 19, J. Winfield c T. H. Oakden b T. P. Eaton 2, G. Cox not out 15, N. Hill b T. H. Oakden 8, E. Smith c Wilson b T. H. Oakden 1; total 56. T. P. Eaton took five wickets for 27 runs, and T. H. Oakden five for 29.

Walsall Wesley v. Hammerwich

In a low-scoring game at Ryecroft, Walsall, on Saturday, Hammerwich added to their list of victories by defeating Walsall Wesley by 61 runs to 38. For the home side R. Cannon took seven wickets for 17 runs, while for the visitors A. Hearne accounted for six wickets for 12 runs, J. H. Carnwell two for six, and J. Matthews the remaining two for eight. Scores :—

Hammerwich : E. C. Carnwell b Cannon 22, D. Jarvis c Pritchard b Walker 11, A. Hearne c Webster b Cannon 2, J. Edwards b Cannon 0, A. Bradley c Bullen b Cannon 3, J. H. Carnwell c Cannon b Walker 9, F. Kirkham b Walker 0, A. E. Gilbert b Cannon 2, J. Matthews b Cannon 3, P. Thompson b Cannon 4, H. Hackett not out 1, extras 4; total 61.

Walsall Wesley : W. Pritchard c Thompson b J. H. Carnwell 9, H. Walker c Thompson b Matthews 0, W. Walker c Jarvis b Matthews 4, E. Haden c Kirkham b J. H. Carnwell 10, L. Ross b Hearne 0, J. Webster b Hearne 0, R. Cannon b Hearne 9, H. Brooks not out 2, A. E. Green b Hearne 0, W. Edwards c Jarvis b Hearne 0, J. Bullen c Edwards b Hearne 0, extras 4; total 38.

Lichfield v. Warwickshire Club and Ground

Warwickshire Club and Ground paid a visit to the Birmingham Road ground, Lichfield, on Wednesday, when there was rather a small attendance, due no doubt, to the inadequate publicity given to the contest. Broadbent and Fitzgeorge opened the scoring for Lichfield. Fitzgeorge was quickly dismissed by Mayer, and Brown was dismissed by Roll. Capt. Howard and Broadbent made 92 between them. Ogle made 27, and Rudgard contributed 19. Warwickshire's total was made up of small scores, Walton making the highest score, which was 20. For Lichfield Capt. Howard took two wickets for 15 runs, and for Warwickshire Perkins took two for 20. Scores :—

Lichfield.—H. Fitzgeorge b Mayer 1, F. Broadbent b Payne 40, J. Brown c Clugston b Roll 0, Capt. Howard c Perkins b Paine 52, W. Ogle c Paine b Perkins 27, R. Cooke c Mayer b Roll 15, F. Rudgard b Perkins 19, C. Watson not out 3; extras 19; total (for 7 wickets), 178. G. Ellett, A. Slater, and F. Oram did not bat.

Warwickshire Club and Ground.—Walton c Brown b Broadbent 20, Hickman run out 0, Bennet b Watson 4, Garman b Howard 3, Tatlow st. Cooke b Howard 4, Clugston run out 4, Walker c Fitzgeorge b Broadbent 2, Roll not out 5, Perkins not out 5; extra 1; total (for seven wickets), 48. Paine and Mayer did not bat.

Lichfield v. Burton-on-Trent

The Birmingham Road ground, Lichfield, was on Saturday the scene of a lively tussle between Lichfield 1st XI. and Burton-on-Trent, a keen contest resulting in a draw. A. P. Wilson was the premier batsman of the day, carrying out his bat with 58 to his credit, including five 4's. Corbett and Blanland contributed 26 and 38 respectively towards Burton's total of 186. For Lichfield, J. Brown, one of the club's youngest batsmen, made a capital score of 39. G. Ellett disposed of three wickets for 22 runs. Scores :—

Burton.—E. J. Gothard lbw b Oram 9, C. J. Corbett b Howard 26, L. B. Blanland b Fitzgeorge 38, A. P. Wilson not out 58, L. J. Crow-Brown c Oram b Ellett 18, J. A. Ireland c Plant b Ellett 3, K. J. Toplis, c Slater b Howard 4, D. S. Hughes c Rudgard b Ellett 7, L. A. Cattley not out 5; extras, 18; total (for seven wickets), 186. S. A. Jones and F. Evershead did not bat.

Lichfield.—Capt Howard b Jones 17, H. M. Fitzgeorge run out 0, J. Brown b Hughes 39, W. Plant c Brown b Jones 0, R. Cooke c Evershead b Corbett 10, F. Rudgard b Corbett 0, F. Oram b Corbett 6, G. Ellett c Brown b Hughes 3, Lt. Johnson not out 13, S. Baxter b Jones 5, A. Slater not out 0; extras, 4; total (for nine wickets), 97.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 30 July 1927

COUNTY CRICKET

STAFFS. v. NOTTS II.

By THE CRITIC

It was a pity that bad weather rendered the first meeting of these minor counties' sides at Mansfield, last week, futile, for they are rivals for the leadership in the championship competition. Notts, having won all their four matches to date, are at the head with a full 100 per cent. of possible points, and Staffordshire, with 21 points out of 25, are second with 84 per cent. Notts had rather the better of the first day's play, but the weather was an important factor, for an hour's rain after Staffordshire had batted, gave the visiting bowlers a greasy ball to bowl with, without affecting the wicket appreciably. The second day was blank, and the match does not count in the competition. Staffordshire gave a trial to W. H. Ellerker, of Smethwick, and Notts had a strong team, including two well-known first-class bowlers in Matthews (fast) and Richmond (googly).

Batting Failures

Batting first on a fast wicket, Staffordshire did badly against two "swing" bowlers in Matthews and G. F. H. Heane. H. Goodwin (who so far has been unable to get properly going) was bowled by a swinger at 11, and Barnes caught in the slips from another at 18, both wickets going to the amateur. Gothard and Ellerker fell to the fast bowler, the former bailed by a "trimmer" that swung from leg, but might, perhaps, have been smothered if he had gone forward, and Ellerker caught by the wicket-keeper standing back in trying to glide a ball that was outside his legs. The new-comer shaped well, and was unlucky. Four wickets were down for 29, and after Ikin had hit four fours he was bowled off his pads. Sedgwick and Platt failed to score, so that the three professionals failed to get a run between them, and seven wickets were down for 55. This debacle was, to some extent, due to the fact that some of the batsmen failed to accommodate themselves to a fast wicket, to which they have been unaccustomed for four or five weeks.

Bickerton and Lockett Excel

Bickerton was an exception. He played excellent cricket, and exploited his favourite leg shot with great certainty, except that he missed one from Heane outside his legs, and might have been stumped, and he eventually fell to a catch at the wicket by sticking a similar ball from Harris, when only one short of his fifty. He and Lockett had added 43 in half an hour, and after his departure Lockett dominated the scene, hitting finely on both sides of the wicket, and lifting a full pitch from Richmond for six. He also was unfortunate to miss his half century, being still not out with 49, when the innings closed for 133. R. S. A. Hardy and Russell both gave catches to the wicket-keeper standing back to Matthews, so that Wheat caught five men during the innings. Hardy showed quite good form, his strokes on the offside being crisp and wristy.

The Notts. Reply

After the rain Barnes bowled wonderfully well with the wet ball, and got three wickets for 11 in 10 overs. Gunn, son of the famous international, George Gunn, has improved out of recognition since last year, and though he was soon deceived by an in-swinging yorker from Barnes, his off strokes were so delightfully free and forceful that I fancy he is destined to carry on the wonderful traditions of his family. Barnes also got Shipston caught at the wicket, and bowled the left-hander, Heane, three wickets being down for 38, and Keeton might have been caught at short leg, but it was a difficult chance. He and Walkerdine took the score to 85, Platt coming on to dismiss both of them. Keeton played a stubborn innings of 46 in an hour and 55 minutes. Copley made some nice shots, and was still in with 25 when the day's play ended with Notts 118 for six wickets. Platt had two wickets for 14, and Barnes three for 39. The Staffordshire Captain, for the fourth time this season, did not allow a single bye. The return match at Porthill on August 1 and 2, may have a decisive bearing on the championship.

CRICKET

Minor Counties' Championship

STAFFORDSHIRE v. NOTTS. II.

Staffordshire gave a first trial to Ellerker, the Smethwick amateur, in their match against Notts. II., at Mansfield, on Wednesday. Notts. have won all their first four matches, and head the Minor Counties table with 100 per cent., Staffordshire being second with 84 per cent. Notts. played a strong side, including Richmond and Matthews. Staffordshire took first innings, but could only total 133. Rain delayed the start of the Notts innings till four o'clock, and the Staffordshire bowlers had a wet ball to contend with. Barnes, however, secured three wickets in eight overs for 10 runs. At the close of play Notts. II. had totalled 118 for six wickets.

On Thursday rain fell from an early hour, and the wicket became very wet, with the outlook showing no improvement. The match was abandoned at two o'clock without any decision, so that it does not count in the championship. Scores:—

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1st Innings.

A. A. Bickerton c Wheat b Harris	49
H. Goodwin b Heane	2
Barnes c Harris b Heane	0
E. J. Gothard b Matthews	2
W. H. Ellerker c Wheat b Matthews	2
A. W. Ikin b Matthews	16
Sedgwick c Kirk b Heane	0
Platt c Wheat b Matthews	0
A. Lockett not out	49
R. S. A. Hardy c Wheat b Matthews	9
J. B. Russell c Wheat b Matthews	0
Extras	4
Total	133

NOTTS. II.—1st Innings.

Gunn (G. V.) b Barnes	7
Keeton c Lockett b Platt	46
Shipton c Russell b Barnes	9
G. F. Heane b Barnes	7
G. A. Walkerdine b Platt	21
L. Kirk c Barnes b Sedgwick	1
Copley not out	25
Harris not out	0
Extras	2
Total (for 6 wickets)	118

Wheat, Richmond and Matthews did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Matthews	13.3	1	49	6
G. F. Heane	12	5	23	3
Richmond	9	0	33	0
Harris	7	1	22	1
Copley	1	0	2	0

NOTTS. II.—1st Inns.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	16	3	39	3
Sedgwick	7	0	31	1
Lockett	10	2	32	0
Platt	6	2	14	2

North Staffordshire and District League

Rain again threatened to stop all cricket in North Staffordshire last Saturday, but the weather cleared in time to allow of play in five of the six senior matches in the League. At Chell the ground was so saturated that no play was possible in the fixture with Crewe Alexandra, and owing to late starts two other matches were drawn. Both the joint leaders, Nantwich and Norton, were able to secure full points, and as the only other finished game concerned the other end of the table they drew a point further ahead of their nearest rivals. Enjoying a clear lead of four points at this stage of the season, the championship appears to have developed into a duel between the two top clubs, with very little chance of their being overhauled, although, of course, Burslem and Porthill have still just a chance. If Nantwich and Norton maintain their form to the end, however, the issue seems to be between them, and a rare struggle it promises to be. The defeat of Madeley at Longton made their position extremely precarious, with a leeway of three points and only six matches to play.

Knypersley were not equal to the task of lowering the colours of Nantwich on the Cheshire club's ground, for though H. E. Bourne (29) and T. Bibby gave them a useful start, when W. T. Maybury and E. H. Steventon once got amongst their wickets there was no stopping the clever Nantwich pair, and the visitors were disposed of for 76, for which they laboured 2½ hours. Maybury took five wickets for 23, and the captain five for 37. Mainly thanks to the batting of F. W. Slight (56), Nantwich won by nine wickets, though five were down for 90 at the close.

Norton were at Boon Hill, and had a fright before they achieved victory. The home team compiled a slow 75, and when Norton had lost six wickets for 28 they appeared to be in for another reverse. They fought hard, and P. Massey putting together an invaluable 33 they had got within three runs of Bignall End's total when the ninth wicket fell. Amidst much excitement the needed runs were obtained and a one-wicket win recorded. F. J. Dale had six Norton wickets for 41, and the Norton fast bowlers, Sedgwick (5 for 35) and A. Jolley (4 for 36) bowled unchanged.

The bad weather no doubt affected the attendance at Cobridge, where the meeting of Burslem and Porthill is the biggest attraction of the season, but there was a good gate when the game was started late. The position was a piquant one when time expired, for against the home side's total of 127 (Heap 6 for 50), Porthill had scored 108 for 7 wickets (N. W. White 38). A. Birch, the young left hander, batted well in scoring 31 for Burslem.

Longton had Madeley as visitors, and the result had an almost vital bearing on the relegation problem. Longton won, but it was a sensational piece of bowling which pulled the match out of the fire when it looked as good as lost. Longton only reached a total of 85, and for that moderate score they were greatly indebted to Smith (23) and H. Brassington (35). With 72 on the board and 5 wickets in hand Madeley looked all over winners, but with Alfred Smith and H. Brassington resuming the attack the last five wickets fell without any addition to the score, Smith performing the hat trick. In all he took seven wickets for 25. J. Jolley made 36 for Madeley, but seven men failed to score.

A start was only possible at 4-45 at Silverdale who scored 104 for three wickets (E. Downing 47 not out) and declared against Leek. The visitors lost six wickets for 47, but the match was drawn.

In the Senior B section, Stone floundered badly in the promotion race, and as Burslem High Lane also collapsed at Cheadle the L.M.S.R., Stoke, went ahead by easily defeating Audley. As the three aspirants were level at the head of the table, the Railwaymen took a two-points lead of both their rivals. Stone were surprisingly beaten at home by Caverswall, who had previously won only one match of 15 played. The home team gave a feeble display of batting, and were out for 56. Caverswall also started badly, but E. Wakelin, after surviving a very confident appeal by E. J. Johnson for l.b.w., stayed to see the match won and scored 41 not out. As he also took 4 wickets for 14 he had the lion's share in the victory.

The First Division table now stands as follows, and it was curious that Saturday's matches involved no change in the positions of the clubs:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Nantwich	16	9	3	4	22
Norton	16	8	2	6	22
Burslem	16	5	3	8	18
Porthill	16	5	4	7	17
Crewe Alexandra	16	5	5	6	16
Great Chell	16	5	5	6	16
Knypersley	16	5	6	5	15
Leek	16	4	5	7	15
Silverdale	16	3	4	9	15
Bignall End	16	3	6	7	13
Longton	16	4	7	5	13
Madely	16	2	7	7	11

The Critic

Blymhill v. Church Eaton

Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, the home team winning by 22 runs. Scores:—

Blymhill.—W. R. Smith not out 35, W. Harper b Fursman 0, F. Averill c and b Fursman 0, G. V. Jones b Tildesley 12, J. Burgoyne run out 7, W. Tomkinson c and b Hitchens 5, D. J. Scott c Wright b Tildesley 10, C. W. Scott b Fursman 0, R. Hitchen b Fursman 11, G. E. Owen b Fursman 0, A. R. Craig c Hitchens b Fursman 6; bye 1, total 87.

Church Eaton.—W. Wright run out 0, L. Robinson c Craig b Burgoyne 0, J. Fursman c Smith b C. Scott 17, S. Tildesley b Burgoyne 5, W. Sutton run out 0, H. Whittaker b Harper 10, T. Pugh b C. Scott 8, W. Cartwright not out 13, C. Hitchens b Harper 4, C. Massey c and b Harper 0, W. Davies b Hitchen 2; byes 4 leg-byes 2—6; total 65.

Staffordshire Sentinel : Monday 1 August 1927

MODEST SCORE BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

Notts. II. Fighting Hard at Porthill.

Gothard's Masterly Innings.

Staffordshire made a poor start at Porthill to-day in their Minor Counties' cricket fixture with Notts. II. With six wickets down for 61, matters looked pretty desperate, and only the Gothard--Platt partnership retrieved the situation to some extent. Gothard played a masterly innings against good bowling, and was highest scorer with 36—a valuable contribution to the home county's modest total of 119. Notts. II. opened brilliantly, and it was not until 80 had been scored that the first wicket fell. But the next three wickets cost only seven runs. Thus the fight for the first-innings lead became much more open again.

The holiday cricket call to Porthill to-day was more than ordinarily alluring, for special interest attaches to the meeting of Staffordshire and Notts. II., in the Minor Counties' Championship. Success for Staffordshire will place the championship almost within their grasp, whilst on the other hand, even on first innings points only, a win for Notts. will put them in an almost unassailable position.

Staffordshire have played five matches, won four and lost one on the first innings, whereas Notts. have won all four of their matches, and have, therefore, 100 per cent. of possible points against Staffordshire's 84. It does not appear possible for any other county to approach these figures. If Notts. are able to beat Staffordshire, and retain their 100 per cent., Staffordshire will drop to 70; if Notts. secure first innings' points they will fall to 92 and Staffordshire to 73.33. If Staffordshire win they will go to 86.66 and Notts. drop to 80; and, if the first innings points go to Staffordshire, their percentabe will be 80, and that of Notts. 84.

In the corresponding match last season Staffordshire achieved a remarkable performance, defeating Notts. by an innings and 13 runs in one day. To-day neither side was at full strength, Staffordshire's disadvantage being the absence of H. W. Homer and A. A. Bickerton, both fine batsmen, and Notts. being without their fast bowler Matthews, who caused considerable damage at Mansfield this year.

CAUTIOUS OPENING BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

Staffordshire won the toss, and hearty applause greeted C. Howl and Barnes on going to a wicket which held sufficient moisture to give some assistance to the bowlers.

Barnes took the bowling of Hodgkinson, and though the latter did not put them down with the same speed as Matthews, for whom he deputised, there was sting in his attack, which necessitated a certain amount of caution by the batsmen. Barnes was the first to get the measure of the bowling, and he opened his score with some nice strokes for four singles and a 2. G. F. Heane and Copley were in turn put to bowling, and it was not until 17 minutes had elapsed that C. Howl opened his account for a single, after giving a chance of stumping which Wheat failed to accept. He played with much restraint, but was soon sent back without making further addition to his score. He went forward to play one from Heane, threw his foot over the crease, and was smartly stumped by Wheat.

There was a little more enterprize when N. W. White joined Barnes. White opened his score with a beautiful hit for 2, and followed this up with a lucky snick to the slips after trying to make a cut.

On Richmond, the "googly" bowler, going on, Barnes made a delightful late cut to the boundary, which rightly earned him the enthusiasm of the big crowd of spectators. The spectators were still further pleased when White made a vigorous square-leg hit and put the ball out of the ground for six. Following this came an on drive by Barnes to the boundary.

After batting very attractively for nearly three-quarters of an hour, Barnes was dismissed with a catch by Harries, his contribution having been 18.

H. Goodwin again found his luck out, for disaster quickly befel him. After making a hit for two and then a single, he fas stumped by Wheat, the third wicket falling for the small total of 43.

WHITE'S CONSISTENT BATTING.

From a short ball put down by Richmond, White, with a square-leg hit, sent one to the boundary and narrowly missed hitting some spectators. It was in consequence of this that the umpire stopped play for a brief period to order some spectators to refrain from encroaching on the turf.

White was batting in consistently good style, but eventually fell to the wiles of Richmond, who was making the ball spin very appreciably. He was clean bowled when he had put on a valuable 21, Richmond up to this point having taken three wickets for 24.

When A. W. Ikin went to the crease, he also found that his luck was out. With the first delivery sent down he just failed to get hold of the ball, and was caught by Copley, who was fielding at fine leg. Copley did not have to move an inch to make the catch, the ball travelling straight into his hands.

J. F. Heath was then partnered by Gothard, but it was a short-lived affair. The former put his bat hard to the ball for four singles, after which he got little power behind a stroke, to be caught by L. Kirk at mid-on.

The rot appeared to have well set in, for six wickets had fallen for the meagre total of 61. Sedgwick was fated to make a single and then be dismissed by a brilliant catch by Harries, who dived down low and fell backward as though to make a somersault, but retained his hold on the ball.

A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP.

Meanwhile Gothard had set about the bowling with splendid confidence, as did Platt on going to join him. Both sent the ball away for boundaries. At it happened, it was this partnership that altered the aspect of the game considerably, for they quickly piled up a very valuable 30, Gothard hitting out for four 4's, and Platt sending a couple to the boundary.

At the lunch interval Staffordshire's score stood at 103 for seven wickets.

Soon after play had been resumed, Platt gave the crowd a thrill. Playing from Heane, he sent the ball spinning to the leg stump. It touched the stump and slightly dislodged the bail. There was an immediate call for "out," and every player and the two umpires made an inspection, with the result that the decision, "Not out," was given, to the great delight of the spectators.

HOW GOTHARD WAS CAUGHT.

Gothard's aggressive innings came to a close in quite sensational fashion. He went to hit one way from Heane, and Harries, at second slip, half caught the ball, and in doing so knocked it into the hands of Gunn. Gothard's masterly batting display had included five 4's and three 2's, but many of his other hits were worthy of more than singles.

Platt continued to bat well. J. B. Russell went in to hit two singles and a splendid shot to the boundary before being cleaned bowled. Taylor, on going in, skied the ball, to be caught and bowled by Heane, who had the very fine bowling average of five for 29. Thus the Staffordshire innings closed for 119.

VISITORS' CONFIDENT BATTING.

Notts. opened their innings at 2.56, Gunn (G. V.) and Keeton showing much confidence against bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick. They obtained runs with regularity, both showing fine hitting powers, and sent the score of 30 up after 29 minutes. Seven scoring efforts by Keeton produced 17 runs, these hits including two 4's, a 3, and two 2's, whilst eleven hits by Gunn produced 19. Although the bowling was changed at intervals, both batsmen showed perfect freedom in hitting out.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl st Wheat b Heane	1
Barnes c Harries b Richmond	18
N W White b Richmond	21
H Goodwin st Wheat b Richmond	3
J S Heath c Kirk b Richmond	4
A W Ikin c Copley b Richmond	0
E J Gothard c Gunn b Heane	36
Sedgwick c Harries b Heane	1
Platt not out	20
J B Russell b Heane	6
Taylor c and b Heane	0
Extras	9
Total	119

NOTTS. II.—First Innings.

Gunn (G. V.) run out	39
Keeton c Platt b Barnes	39
Shipston not out	5
Harries c Goodwin b Barnes	1
L. Kirk c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Copley not out	0
Extras	3
Total (for 4 wkts)	87

Later.—Notts. II., 100 for eight wickets.

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	39	43	54	54	61	62	109	119	119

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hodgkinson	9	3	10	0
G F H Heane	23.4	8	29	5
Copley	5	2	9	0
Richmond	19	3	62	5

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday 2 August 1927

ANOTHER WIN FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Notts II. Defeated by 46 Runs.

Remarkable Bowling by Barnes.

Staffordshire to-day defeated Notts II. at Porthill by 46 runs.

With a lead of four runs on the first innings, Staffordshire totalled 107 in their second innings this morning, which left Notts with 112 to get to win. Barnes, however, was in his best form, and taking seven wickets for 17 runs, he was mainly responsible for Notts being dismissed for 65 runs.

Plenty of bright and attractive cricket put a large holiday crowd in a happy mood at Porthill yesterday where Staffordshire made a brilliant rally and established a lead of four runs on the first innings over Notts. II. in the Minor Counties Championship. Altogether they deserved the lead, but they would only have had themselves to blame had they not have accomplished this, for, good bowler as he is, Taylor was not put on until late in the afternoon, and their batsmen found runs difficult to get. Barnes as usual bowled with all his old time skill, and at the close of play Staffordshire were 66 on with eight wickets to fall in the second innings.

The first innings of Notts. provided the spectators with all the essentials which go to make cricket really interesting. Gunn (G. V.) and Keeton who opened the innings, made a great partnership, and at first it looked as though Staffordshire's modest total would be overwhelmed. They set about the bowling in delightful style making powerful hits to the boundary, and quickly bringing the score to 80 without any loss It was then that Ketton was dismissed, after hitting up 39. Platt caught him at short leg. On Shipston going in there was a fatal misunderstanding in making a run. Both got to the centre of the pitch for A. W Ikin to return the ball to Russell who promptly threw Gunn's wicket down. With 36 runs required to establish a first innings lead it looked a certainty that they would easily accomplish this, but the bowling became more deadly.

CHEAP WICKETS.

Harris went in to make a single, and getting well under one he sent it to long-on where Goodwin made a beautiful catch. This pleased the crowd, but there were further delights for them when L. Kirk was out to a very fine catch by Sedgwick at point without any addition to the score. Taylor was then put on, and together with Barnes made the batsmen play with caution, but this had no effect, however, for Shipston was out lbw to Taylor after making 5, and Copley was bowled by Taylor for two. G. J. Heane also had a short stay for six when he, too, was out l.b.w. to Barnes. Hodgkinson only hit up six before being sent back from a catch by Heath, and Wheat was unfortunate to be dismissed l.b.w. The last wicket also fell to Taylor; thus 10 wickets had fallen for 36 after the score had at one time stood at 80 for no wicket.

C. Howl and E. J. Gothard went in for the first partnership in Staffordshire's second innings, to the bowling of Richmond and G. F. Heane. They quickly settled down. Once Gothard gave a hard chance to Kirk through the slips, but with that exception gave a nice display. When the score had been taken to 43, Howl was out to a catch by Copley at second slip. N. W. White's first hit, on going in, was through the slips for a boundary, and then E. J. Gothard was dismissed by Hodgkinson, who made a smart catch off his bowling. White was joined by J. S. Heath, and before the close of play the score had been taken to 62 (for two wickets).

HOME TEAM'S POOR SHOW.

The wicket this morning was slightly wet from overnight rain when N. W. White and J. S. Heath went in to resume batting. Heath put a lot of energy into his strokes, but all were not productive of runs. He sent one away to the boundary for 4, and followed it with a single and a nice stroke for a 2.

After this White was dismissed without making any addition to his overnight score of 9. He was caught at first slip by Gunn. A. W. Ikin made an aggressive start, and looked as though he might remain to take some of the sting out of the attack of Richmond and Heane, but after making three scoring strokes—one to get the ball away for 4—he stepped forward to one from Richmond and missed it, to be clean bowled.

Barnes opened his score with a couple of singles, and after again sending his ball to the boundary Heath had the very bad luck to be sent back through a curious incident. In turning the ball to leg it caught his glove, lobbing it into the air to be caught by Wheat, after scoring a valuable 22. Not five minutes later Barnes appeared to fall into one of those traps he likes to set others, and was caught at short leg, four wickets having fallen for 20 runs in 25 minutes.

Both bowlers were making the ball turn a lot, and when H. Goodwin went to the wicket he batted with a certain amount of caution, which was justified. Platt, too, did not show any disposition to hustle, and this was natural under the circumstances. His stay at the crease was, however, a short one, for after making a good hit for four, he was out lbw to Richmond. The visitors' bowling, backed up with smart and keen fielding, made runs hard to get, and after a series of singles and a nice hit to the boundary, he was splendidly taken by Gunn at first slip.

Russell went in, but was out to the first ball put down. It was a ball that kicked up, and glanced off the shoulder of his bat into the hands of Harris.

Staffordshire were in a precarious position when Taylor went in, and no sooner had he got to the crease than Sedgwick, with a square-leg hit, skied the ball, which Hodgkinson failed to hold. Directly after this Sedgwick made a great hit, sending the ball out of the field for six.

A breaking ball from Richmond beat Taylor after he had put on 4, Notts. being set to get 112 to win. All along the wicket had been playing very awkwardly, giving the bowlers and amount of assistance.

GOOD AVERAGES.

Richmond and Heane bowled extremely well, the former taking four wickets for 46, and Heane four for 37.

Gunn (G. V.) and Keeton, who were the only pair to make anything like a stand in the first innings, went in to take the bowling of Barnes and Sedgwick. In his first over Barnes put down one which Keeton had difficulty in dealing with. Sedgwick made a smart catch, but the ball had bounded off the turf.

Later, faulty fielding on the part of Goodwin allowed one to travel to the boundary. Gunn made a single and then a nice stroke for 2, after which he went out to play forward to a ball from Barnes and was smartly stumped by Russell.

Shipston went to the crease to hit a couple of singles, and then, cutting the ball straight to point, C. Howl caught him at the second attempt.

The same rot that set in in the Notts. first innings following the dismissal of Gunn and Keeton yesterday, appeared to have set in again, for Harris was only able to make a single before being caught at mid-off by Gothard, off a delivery from Barnes. Taylor went in to be sent back immediately by a beautiful ball from Barnes, who had taken these two wickets for consecutive balls, and gained the well-merited cry from the crowd "Well done Barnes." He had taken three wickets for 6.

Keeton, however, stood up to the attack in real masterly style, contributing a very valuable 20 runs in 33 minutes, two of his hits being to the boundary and four others for 2's. Copley, who was his partner, was uncomfortable to the bowling of Barnes, always playing him with caution.

Fifty runs were up for no further loss, and of this number Ketton had contributed the lion's share of 35. One more run was made before Copley was out to a great catch by Heath at second slip. He caught it, but the ball, travelling at a fast pace, slipped from his grasp. He held it at the second attempt, however. There was little enterprise about the batting of G. F. Heane, who contented himself with a few singles while Ketton hit out.

The bowling was changed just before lunch, Sedgwick coming off and Taylor going on at the pavilion end. No sooner had the change been made than Ketton, who had batted very courageously, was out to a very fine catch by Russell behind the wicket from a ball put down by Taylor. The next wicket also fell quickly, for, playing forward to one from Barnes, Heane was stumped by Russell, and when L. Kirk went in Barnes "set his trap," and Sedgwick caught him at point, fielding very close.

COLLAPSE COMPLETE.

The sensational collapse of Notts. was made complete by Barnes, who once again demonstrated the great bowler he is. Before lunch he had taken two wickets with two successive balls. The downfall of Kirk was brought about after Barnes had set his field, two men fielding at short slip, one at point, one at silly point, one at forward short leg, and one at fine short leg, all close in together with the wicket-keeper, Russell. In point of fact, the batsman was basketed in and, just touching the ball, Kirk put it into Sedgwick's hands. The second ball put down after lunch saw Wheat dismissed—clean bowled, and the very first ball put down to Richmond was caught by Sedgwick in similar circumstances to those that brought about the dismissal of Kirk. Only three balls had been sent down after lunch, no score made, and two wickets had fallen. Barnes' brilliant achievement was seven wickets for 17 runs.

Thus Staffordshire scored a wonderful victory by 46 runs, which puts them at the head of the championship table. Should success come to them in to-morrow and Thursday's match with Lancashire II., they will be well in the running for the championship.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

C Howl st Wheat b Heane	1
Barnes c Harries b Richmond	16
N W White b Richmond	21
H Goodwin st Wheat b Richmond	3
J S Heath c Kirk b Richmond	4
A W Ikin c Copley b Richmond	0
E J Gothard c Gunn b Heane	36
Sedgwick c Harries b Heane	1
Platt not out	20
J B Russell b Heane	6
Taylor c and b Heane	0
Extras	9
Total	119

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

C Howl c Copley b Harris	15
N W White c Gunn b Heane	9
J S Heath c Wheat b Heane	22
E J Gothard b Hodgkinson	26
A W Ikin b Richmond	6
Barnes c Copley b Richmond	2
H Goodwin c Gunn b Heane	9
Platt lbw b Richmond	4
Sedgwick not out	8
J B Russell c Harris b Heane	0
Taylor b Richmond	4
Extras	2
Total	107

NOTTS. II.—First Innings.

Gunn (G V) run out	39
Keeton c Platt b Barnes	39
Shipston lbw b Taylor	5
Harries c Goodwin b Barnes	1
L. Kirk c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Copley b Taylor	2
G F Heane lbw b Barnes	6
Hodgkinson c Heath b Barnes	8
Taylor c Russell b Barnes	4
Wheat lbw b Taylor	2
Richmond not out	2
Extras	3
Total	115

NOTTS II.—Second Innings.

Gunn (G V) st Russell b Barnes	3
Shipston c Howl b Sedgwick	2
Keeton c Russell b Taylor	41
Harris c Gothard b Barnes	1
Taylor b Barnes	0
Copley c Heath b Sedgwick	9
G F Heane st Russell b Barnes	4
Hodgkinson not out	0
L Kirk c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Wheat b Barnes	0
Richmond c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Extras	5
Total	65

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	39	43	54	54	61	62	109	119	119

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
43	47	69	76	82	82	90	96	98	107

Notts. II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
80	84	85	87	90	93	97	108	111	115

Notts II.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	13	16	16	51	65	65	65	65	65

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hodgkinson	9	3	10	0
G F H Heane	23.4	8	29	5
Copley	5	2	9	0
Richmond	19	3	62	5

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Richmond	19.1	3	46	4
G F Heane	16	2	37	4
Harris	7	1	15	1
Hodgkinson	4	2	7	1

Notts. II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	17.4	3	46	6
Taylor	11	3	12	3
Sedgwick	8	1	36	0
Platt	5	1	14	0

Notts II.—Second Innings.

Barnes	12	4	17	7
Sedgwick	11	0	43	2
Taylor	1	1	0	1

Staffordshire Sentinel: Wednesday 3 August 1927

MODERATE SCORE BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

Difficult Lancashire Bowling.

Poor Start by the Visitors.

Staffordshire only reached the moderate total of 122 in their last home match of the season to-day against Lancashire II., at Stoke. The visitors' bowling was difficult, and Horridge secured the good average of five wickets for 14 runs.

Lancashire II. also made a poor start, and at the tea interval had lost four wickets for 30 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Horridge	25
C Howl b Booth	12
Barnes b Preston	6
E J Gothard b Preston	0
A W Ikin st Farrimond b Holroyd	21
H Goodwin b Preston	7
A Lockett c Butterworth b Horridge	19
Sedgwick b Horridge	8
Platt c Metcalf b Horridge	0
R S A Hardy not out	1
J B Russell c Preston b Horridge	4
Extras	17
Total	122

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Houseman not out	13
Halliday c Sedgwick b Barnes	1
Paynter c Goodwin b Sedgwick	5
H R Butterworth c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
Farrimond c Russell b Lockett	6
Horridge lbw b Lockett	0
Extra	1
Total (for 5 wkts)	30

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
27	48	48	65	78	98	117	117	118	122

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Preston	22	3	45	3
Booth	10	4	10	1
Holroyd	10	5	35	1
Horridge	6.4	2	14	5
Metcalfe	5	3	3	0

For their last at home match in the Minor Counties Championship, Staffordshire entertained Lancashire II. on the Stoke County Ground to-day. Formidable opponents as Lancashire are, Staffordshire, refreshed by yesterday's brilliant win over Notts. II., which sent them to the top of the table, entered upon their task with justifiable optimism. If form is anything to go by Staffordshire stand a remarkably fine chance of retaining the lead for on two occasions this season Notts. have beaten Lancashire. Form, however, sometimes gets an upset.

The Lancashire eleven includes two fine hitters in Houseman and Paynter, who, when Staffordshire met them at Blackpool, played attractive cricket for 95 and 60 respectively. Staffordshire made three alterations in the team that defeated Notts., H. Homer taking the place of N. White, R. S. A. Hardy displacing J. S. Heath and Aaron Lockett, who had sufficiently recovered from an attack of influenza, being brought in in place of C. Taylor.

A SLOW BEGINNING.

Staffordshire won the toss, and C. Howl and H. W. Homer went in to bat on a fairly fast wicket. Howl was the first to attack the bowling of Preston, making a nice hit for a two off the first ball sent down and then a single. Booth at the other end bowled a maiden over, after which Homer opened his score by edging one away, also for a single. He then went on to make some admirable strokes, but these were well fielded by Butterworth. The rate of scoring was, on the whole, fairly slow, seventeen minutes being taken to put on ten runs. After this, however, Howl forced the pace a bit, and hit out for two two's and a number of singles. Booth put the ball down at a rare pace, and twice in succession the ball beat the wicket-keeper and travelled to the boundary. The first swung in a little and went outside the leg, Homer making no attempt to play it. The second ball pitched on the off-stump and went right away to the off, beating both batsman and wicket keeper. After half an hour's play, in which 27 runs had been hit up, the home county lost their first wicket, a ball from Booth coming fast off the pitch for Howl to be clean bowled after scoring 12. Homer continued to play himself in, tackling the bowling with greater confidence.

A MISSED CHANCE.

Barnes commenced in resourceful style, scoring two singles and then making a splendid hit for two. The next delivery from Rushton he edged to the slips, giving Horridge a chance which he failed to take. Play was delayed for some minutes while one of the sight screens at the pavilion end was removed to the other end where the sheet, used as a sight screen proved ineffective to the batsmen.

On play being resumed the light was not improved by a dense volume of smoke which swept over the field from the railway, but this did not prevent Homer making a delightful cut for a two. The ball travelled very slow in the outfield. Barnes followed this up with a good hit which was deserving of more than a single, but shortly afterwards he missed a delivery from Preston and was bowled.

Gothard, who next went to the crease, was beaten by the first ball put down to him, an early reverse when things appeared fairly bright for the home county.

BOWLING CHANGES.

With his departure Lancashire changed their bowling, Holroyd relieving Booth. This caused the batsmen to play with a fair amount of caution. A. W. Ikin went in to play steadily, but many defensive strokes had to be made to the deliveries sent down by Holroyd. Homer continued to withstand the bowling, making additions to his score by means of singles and two's at regular intervals. He must have had a strong presentiment that he was going to "flog" one from Preston, for before he put his bat hard to the ball he called Ikin to run. The ball went to the boundary. After treating Holroyd with much respect, Ikin sent him away for a three.

The score had been taken to 65 in an hour and twenty-five minutes when Homer tried to play one from Horridge, who had been put on in place of Preston, and failing, covered up with his pads, to be given out l.b.w. He had hit up a very attractive 25. When Ikin appeared to have the beasure of the bowling Metcalfe went on at the pavilion end, but the batsman continued to send the ball away for singles. H. Goodwin also batted well, his method of stroke production being admirable.

Preston had been put on to bowl at the bottom end, and five minutes before the luncheon interval Goodwin was clean bowled by him, with the total standing at 78 (for five). Had Homer during his innings shown a greater disposition to run more freely, the century would have been passed. It remained to be seen whether Ikin and Lockett could force the pace.

SHORT-LIVED PARTNERSHIP.

After the luncheon interval Lockett and Ikin set about their task in characteristic fashion, both hitting out to all parts of the field. Ikin delighted the spectators with a well-timed drive to the boundary, after he had opened his shoulders for two 2's. Lockett made four singles, and then a three with a splendid cut. Their partnership however was doomed to be a short one, for in playing forward Ikin stepped out of the crease and was stumped by Farrimond.

When Sedgwick went in, Lockett rightly maintained the same tactics as hitherto—forcing the rate of run-getting. He found that he was well backed up by Sedgwick. Strokes which carried the ball half way to the fieldsmen, comparatively close in, brought quickly-run singles to both. Lockett always looked comfortable, and played thoroughly good cricket; his was the most entertaining feature of the play and one could safely assume that none were more sorry than the spectators to see him dismissed by a fine catch at long-off by Butterworth after having scored 19.

Platt was out of luck. He had two hits, from the second of which he was caught by Metcalfe at short leg, without any addition to the score. On Hardy going out to join Sedgwick, the latter had the misfortune to play one from Horridge on to his wicket.

J. B. Russell made on good hit to the boundary for four, and then skying the ball he was caught by Preston at mid on.

LANCASHIRE'S BEST BOWLER.

Horridge, who had been bowling consistently good, took five wickets for 14 runs.

When Lancashire commenced their innings, Houseman went in to take the bowling of Barnes, and batted with rare caution. He did however manage to make a single. Off Sedgwick's first over Houseman scored a single as did Halliday, but in Barnes's second over, Halliday was out a beautiful catch at point by Sedgwick.

Although when Paynter went in, he hit Barnes for a couple of 2's, he showed little of the same inclination to hit out as he did at Blackpool. Perhaps Barnes was the reason. Houseman, too, was the acme of cautiousness, putting on three singles in 26 minutes, a total of ten runs having been made in 30 minutes. Paynter was at the wicket sufficiently long to put on five when he made a bad stroke to be out to a great catch by Goodwin. It was only a short while after H. R. Butterworth had gone in that Houseman came within an ace of falling into Barne's "trap." He had difficulty in playing the ball, which dropped about six inches from the waiting hands of Sedgwick. It was left to Butterworth to find the means of an early retreat to the pavilion.

After scoring two singles Barnes put down one of his "deadlies" which had the effect of transferring the ball to Sedgwick's hands.

Farrimond had an early escape when attempting a snick through the slips, Barnes making a great effort for a catch which fell short of him by inches only.

Lockett had taken two wickets for no runs and Barnes two for 14.

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday, 4 August 1927

ANOTHER WIN FOR STAFFORDSHIRE.

Lancashire II. Defeated by 210 Runs.

Bid for Championship Honours.

Staffordshire greatly improved their prospects of securing championship honours in the Minor Counties' Cricket Competition by a convincing victory to-day at Stoke over Lancashire II. by 210 runs.

The visiting batsmen gave an indifferent display in both of their innings, the first realising only 41 and the second 61, while Staffordshire totalled 122 and 190. A. W. Ikin batted well for the home county in the second innings for 55. The bowling honours were shared by A. Lockett and Barnes in the first innings, and Barnes and Sedgwick in the second.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer lbw b Horridge	25
C Howl b Booth	12
Barnes b Preston	8
E J Gothard b Preston	0
A W Ikin st Farrimond b Holroyd	21
H Goodwin b Preston	7
A Lockett c Butterworth b Horridge	19
Sedgwick b Horridge	8
Platt c Metcalf b Horridge	0
R S A Hardy not out	1
J B Russell c Preston b Horridge	4
Extras	17
Total	122

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

C Howl c Preston b Holroyd	24
H W Homer c Farrimond b Preston	16
E J Gothard lbw b Preston	5
A W Ikin b Holroyd	55
R S A Hardy c Higson b Holroyd	1
Barnes st Farrimond b Horridge	28
H Goodwin b Booth	14
A Lockett lbw b Higson	10
Sedgwick not out	9
Platt lbw b Horridge	10
J B Russell c Higson b Horridge	6
Extras	12
Total	190

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings.

Houseman st Russell b Barnes	14
Halliday c Sedgwick b Barnes	1
Paynter c Goodwin b Sedgwick	5
H R Butterworth c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
Farrimond c Russell b Lockett	8
Horridge lbw b Lockett	0
P Higson b Lockett	0
Metcalf not out	3
Booth c and b Lockett	1
Preston c Ikin b Lockett	6
Holroyd b Barnes	0
Extra	1
Total	41

LANCASHIRE II.—Second Innings.

Houseman c Sedgwick b Barnes	7
Halliday lbw b Sedgwick	26
Paynter lbw b Barnes	10
Booth b Sedgwick	5
H R Butterworth c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
Farrimond c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
Horridge lbw b Barnes	2
D Higson b Barnes	5
Metcalf not out	1
Halroyd c Russell b Barnes	1
Preston c Goodwin b Barnes	0
Extras	2
Total	61

FALL OF WICKETS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
27	48	48	65	78	96	117	117	118	122

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34	45	59	63	109	138	165	165	178	190

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	10	19	30	30	30	32	33	41	41

Lancashire II.—Second Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	34	43	52	52	52	56	59	61	61

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Preston	22	3	43	3
Booth	10	4	10	1
Holroyd	19	5	35	1
Horridge	6.4	2	14	5
Metcalfe	5	3	3	0

Staffordshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Preston	14	5	14	2
Booth	16	5	37	1
Holroyd	25	4	50	3
Metcalf	15	6	22	0
Horridge	13	2	45	3
Higson	4	1	10	1

Lancashire II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	15.2	5	19	4
Sedgwick	9	4	15	1
A Lockett	6	4	6	5

Lancashire II.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	12	3	27	7
Sedgwick	10	2	29	3
Lockett	1	0	3	0

With the home county's bowlers in riotous mood with the ball, Lancashire II., in their match with Staffordshire on the Old County Ground, Stoke, in the Minor Counties Championship, fared badly yesterday, collapsing for the very small total of 41. This was brought about by the wonderful bowling of Barnes and Aaron Lockett, the latter's performance overshadowing that of Barnes'. Both bowlers became almost unplayable, only one batsman remaining at the wicket for any length of time. This was Houseman who is generally in a punishing mood, but he could do little or nothing for nearly three quarters of an hour, and in an hour and fifteen minutes had taken his score to 14. Shortly after the tea interval he had sent Barnes away for a single, but at long last he stepped out to play what he evidently thought was an inviting one, and was promptly stumped by Russell. Horridge had been dismissed by Lockett without making a run. P. Higson's wicket was next spreadeagled by the same bowler also for no score, and the next to be sent back was Booth. In this case Lockett bowled and caught him with a magnificent full-length dive half way down the pitch. With this fine piece of work, Lockett had taken four wickets without a run having been scored off him. Off Lockett's bowling, Ikin made an admirable catch to send Preston back for six, and Barnes caused Holroyd's stumps to part company before any addition had been made to the score. Metcalf, who had seen these many departures, was not out for three. Lockett's great achievement with the ball was as follows:—

O.	M.	R.	W.
6	4	6	5

HOME COUNTY'S GOOD START.

At 5 30 C. Howl and H. W. Homer went in to commence Staffordshire's second innings, and despite the frequent changing of bowlers, they got the measure of the attack. Both batsmen cut Holroyd to the boundary. They played very steadily for a time, and then Howl forced the pace considerably. When Homer had reached 16 he was out to a catch by Farrimond and at the close of play Howl was not out 18, and E. J. Gothard was also not out for a contribution of four. Thus Staffordshire were in a very strong position, being 124 runs on with nine wickets in hand.

When play was resumed this morning Howl took the bowling of Holroyd, and following a leg bye Gothard hit him for a single. With the first ball down from Preston at the Pavilion end, Gothard was out l.b.w. Howl was then partnered by A. W. Ikin, and for a time both adopted defensive tactics, contenting themselves with an occasional single. The bowling, on the whole, was accurate, but every opportunity for a run was taken advantage of.

Preston had so far bowled 12 overs in Staffordshire's second innings, for nine runs and two wickets. He was sending down deliveries which were difficult to deal with, and giving the batsmen little chance of hitting out with any freedom. Consequently, for a time, play was dull and monotonous. Ikin put his bat hard to a no-ball from Preston to send it away to the boundary.

Howl's innings was brought to a close after he had been batting an hour and a half for 24. He played forward to one from Holroyd and was caught by Preston at first slip. Ikin continued to make some singles, but Hardy, on going to the crease, found his luck was out, for after making a single he put one up from Holroyd to be caught by Higson at mid-off.

LIVELIER BATTING.

Barnes, who joined Ikin, made some nice strokes for singles and a couple of two's. Ikin also made a delightful hit for a well run three, and both placed the ball nicely for quickly run singles. They backed each other up and livened things considerably. Barnes made a beautiful drive to the boundary off Horridge, and later turned one to leg for four off Metcalf.

After Ikin had made another fine hit—but only to score a single—Barnes again drove Horridge to the boundary and followed this up with another drive for two.

Preston, who had been limping on the right leg, retired from the field with a strained muscle, and R. S. A. Hardy went out to field. Following this Barnes played forward to Horridge and lifting his toe barely perceptibly was stumped by Farrimond after an attractive innings which sent the score up by 48 for the fifth wicket.

H. Goodwin opened his account with a single, a fine brace of 2's and then a delightful hit for 3. Ikin had taken some of the sting out of the attack and with a forceful stroke sent Horridge away to the boundary. Nine runs had been gleaned off the over. Both batsmen continued to please with some wonderfully good shots for 2's and singles, and then Ikin put another to the boundary. Shortly after this, however Goodwin played at one from Booth and missed it for the ball to displace the middle stump. His was a bright display for 14.

IKIN'S HALF-CENTURY.

Ikin was joined by Lockett, for the latter to make a 2. A little later on Ikin, having taken his score to 42, edged one to the slips from Booth, giving Horridge a splendid chance at first slip which he failed to take. Immediately afterwards he delighted everyone with two great hits to the boundary to send his score to the half century. The next ball down from Booth he treated in a like fashion sending it away for another four. Lockett was not allowed to become set for, after hitting out for 10, including two 2's and a 4, he was dismissed l.b.w. by Higson. No sooner had Sedgwick gone out to join him than Ikin stepped out a yard or two to have a "swipe" at one from Holroyd, missed it and was bowled. He had batted splendidly for 2 hours 10 minutes.

Prior to the luncheon interval, Platt joined Sedgwick, and with powerful hitting sent the ball away for four, and two similar hits being fielded on the border of the boundary for 2's. Sedgwick made a single and then hit hard for a 2.

Immediately after lunch Platt was out l.b.w. to Horridge. When Sedgwick was partnered by Russell, both hit out freely, sending the ball to the boundary. Eventually Russell skied the ball and Higson at the third attempt held the catch.

Faced with the task of getting 271 to avoid defeat, Lancashire commenced their second innings at 2 40, Houseman taking the bowling of Barnes to put on a 2 and a 3 in the first over.

ANOTHER BOY SETS IN.

Houseman made another good hit for two, but the "trap" was set by Barnes in his second over, and Houseman was the first victim, Sedgwick making a nice catch at point. Sedgwick was put on to bowl from the pavilion end, and Halliday treated him with considerable respect. Paynter found Barnes very difficult to play and resorted to defensive methods, for the over to be a maiden. In the following over Halliday first sent Sedgwick away for a two, and then to the boundary. Paynter, at length, found a suitable one from Barnes to despatch it for a four, twenty runs being put on in three-quarters of an hour. He also glided another away to the full extent of the field, and a loose ball from Sedgwick saw Halliday send it to the rails. With Halliday having put on 16, and Paynter 10, the latter was dismissed l.b.w. to Barnes. With Booth as his next partner Halliday continued his good work with a series of singles. Booth did not remain at the wicket long. He made three hits for a total of 5 when he was clean bowled by Sedgwick. After making a great off drive for 6, Halliday had the misfortune to be out l.b.w. when he appeared to be set, after scoring a well-merited 26.

Three wickets quickly fell for the same total —52. With the dismissal of Halliday, Butterworth became another victim of Barnes, Sedgwick making the combination complete with the use of his hands at point.

Without making any score Farrimond was sent back from a good catch by Lockett in the slips off one of Sedgwick's deliveries When D. Higson went in to see if he could stem the tide with Horridge, he narrowly missed being caught, he put one up in the air, but though both Sedgwick and Hardy ran hard to get to it, they just failed.

Horridge made two and was then out lbw to Barnes, and Higson having put on five runs was clean bowled by Barnes. Holroyd went in to make a single, then to be dismissed by a smart catch by Russell behind the wicket. Preston had one good hit and was out to a fine catch by Goodwin.

Staffordshire thus won by 210 runs and remained at the head of the championship table with a percentage of 66.57.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 8 August 1927

COUNTY CRICKET

STAFFS. v. NOTTS II.

By THE CRITIC

The success of Notts. in the county championship this season is due to the excellence of their 2nd XI. nursery during recent years. From that nursery they have, in two years, recruited the 1st XI. with such players as Larwood, Walker, Lilley, Arthur Staples, and Voce, all of whom played against Staffordshire within that period. And at the present moment they have quite half-a-dozen more youngsters ready to step up whenever they may be required. Gunn (son of the famous George), Keeton, Shipston, Wheat, Copley, and Harris are all young professionals who are knocking at the door, and G. F. H. Heane is an amateur many counties would be glad to have, a medium-pace, right-arm bowler, who can both breakback and swing away, and a sound left-hand bat. The quality of the team is indicated by their season's record. They have played four matches, including Lancashire II. (twice) and Yorks II., and won them all outright, standing at the head of the Minor Counties' table with 100 per cent. of possible points. The first meeting of Staffordshire and Notts. II. resulted in an abortive match at Mansfield owing to bad weather, and the home side had rather the better of the argument when the game had to be abandoned. They met again at Porthill on Monday, with the destination of the championship practically depending on the issue. For against the 100 per cent. of Notts, Staffordshire had gained 21 points out of a possible 25, and stood second in the table with 84, and it did not appear possible for any other county to seriously challenge the winners of this game. Certainly, if Notts. were successful, the championship would be in their safe keeping, and even first innings points would give them an enviable position. But if Staffordshire could win they would go to 86.66, and Notts. drop to 80, and first innings points would reduce Staffs. percentage to 60, and that of Notts to 84. In either event an interesting struggle for the honour would be carried on to the remaining engagements of the two teams. But if Staffordshire failed to at least gain first innings points, their challenge for the championship would be at an end. Such was the intriguing position, and being favoured by fine weather, there was a capital "gate" at Porthill on Monday. And those who spent Bank Holiday there were treated to as entertaining a day's cricket as anyone need wish for.

Staffordshire were considerably handicapped by the absence of such dependable players as H. W. Homer, A.A. Bickerton, and A. Lockett, the latter of whom was just recovering from a severe attack of influenza and tonsilitis. C. Howl resumed his place, and N. W. White and J. S. Heath, both of Porthill, were again included, whilst Taylor, the Leek bowler, took Lockett's place. Matthews being required for the Notts. 1st XI. owing to Larwood's injury, the visitors played Hodgkinson, a young fast bowler, and as at Mansfield, Richmond, the all-England googly merchant, was in the team.

Uneven Batting

Staffordshire had choice of innings, and lost Howl, easily stumped at eleven, but Barnes and Noel White played really well, and added 28 for the second wicket. Heane was, as usual, bowling a fine length, and making the ball swing away a lot, and scoring was slow until Richmond relieved the fast bowler, and White hit him square for four and six. However, he got Barnes caught in the slips, and Goodwin stumped bowled Gothard, and got Ikin taken on the long leg boundary first ball. Ikin treated a short one as it deserved, except that he did not quite get hold of the ball properly. Heath batted half an hour for four singles, and then fell at mid-on in trying to drive, and Sedgwick was brilliantly caught in the slips at the other end, so that seven wickets were down for 62, and the game had undergone a dramatic change, mainly owing to the skill of the googly bowler. Gothard was, however, batting so well as to make other failures look inexcusable, and Platt made him an excellent partner. This pair stopped the rot, and by adding 47 for the eighth wicket greatly improved the position. The lunch interval was fatal to Gothard, and Heane quickly finished off the innings, Russell being bowled in trying to drive a swinger, and Taylor skying the ball with similar good intentions. Gothard hit five fours, which included several beautiful off-drives, and Platt was playing the bowling with confidence.

A Sensational Collapse

The effect of the roller was very evident when Notts. commenced batting, for even Barnes could do little with the ball, and Gunn and Keeton, playing the brightest and best cricket of the day, scored with ease all round the wicket. Barnes and Sedgwick started the bowling, and Platt took a turn at 30, Sedgwick displacing Barnes at 46. At 70 Taylor bowled vice Sedgwick, and Barnes resumed at the other end. An hour and five minutes saw 80 on the board, with the first pair still together, and a substantial lead for Notts seemed certain. But the ball was just beginning again to "nip" a little, and a sensational collapse ensued. Barnes got Keeton caught at short leg at 80, and four later Gunn was run out owing to a shocking blunder, both batsmen being in the middle of the pitch together. From this blow Notts. could not recover. Barnes got Harris caught on the boundary, and Kirk snapped up close in at point, and Taylor clean bowled Copley and got Shipston leg before. When Heane was trapped lbw by Barnes at 97, Staffordshire had pulled the game round completely, and an exciting struggle for the first innings lead ensued. Hodgkinson lifted Barnes for four, but skied the ball in trying to repeat the shot at 106, and five runs later Wheat was out for obstruction. Thus nine were required when Richmond went in last. Four of these were obtained from Barnes, but he then drew out Taylor, who was batting stubbornly, to beat his forward stroke with leg-spin, and get him nicely stumped. So Staffordshire achieved what had appeared impossible, and secured the important first innings lead by four runs. Great credit was due to Barnes and Taylor. The latter kept so good a length that he could not be hit, and his swing was at times pronounced.

Staffordshire had an hour's batting before the close, and Howl and Gothard gave the side a heartening start, by scoring 43 in good style before they were parted. Gothard is an attractive batsman at any time, and Howl, whose method is generally more effective than picturesque, showed unwonted freedom, and was quite flexible in his forward play. After a double change of bowling, Howl edged a swinger up in the slips, and four runs later Gothard failed to keep down a kicking ball, and was caught close to the ground by the bowler, who made a brilliant dash, and turned a somersault in taking the ball. White and Heath rendered good service by remaining steady until the close, when Staffordshire had established a lead of 66, with eight wickets standing.

Tuesday's Sensational Cricket

There was heavy rain on Monday night, and its effect was to make the Porthill wicket more difficult than it was on Monday. The up-shot of it was that Notts. had to face Barnes on one of those pitches on which I verily believe he is still the greatest bowler. Their own bowlers took full advantage of it, and if Richmond can ever be difficult (of which his record is sufficiently convincing) it must surely be on just such a pitch as that of Tuesday. He and Heane did well, but Barnes did better. The home batsmen were in perpetual difficulties, so that the eight outstanding wickets went down in an hour for 45 runs, and Notts. were set to get 112 to win. It sounds a light task for an undoubtedly strong batting side, but my only doubt about the home team's success centred in the question of whether the roller would take the venom out of the pitch for a time and enable the masterful young batsmen of Notts, with their ability to force the game and their alert running between wickets, to get too far on the way to victory before the effect of the roller wore off. But there is nothing so unaccountable as a cricket pitch that has been affected by rain, and as it happened rolling had no such pronounced effect as in the first innings. From the first the ball would "bite," and came off sharply, and from the first Notts were doomed.

But first a brief word about the Staffordshire innings. Richmond and Heane bowled unchanged. White was caught in the slips without adding to his overnight score, but Heath, watching the ball well, and scoring by good strokes as opportunity offered, added a dozen before being unluckily caught at the wicket off his glove. Goodwin was also batting well when he was caught low down in the slips; Sedgwick, after surviving from a skier on the leg side from Richmond, hit Heane square on to the Marsh for six; Russell was also unlucky, being caught in the slips from a ball that popped up almost perpendicular, and Taylor was bowled in trying ineffectively to defend his wicket with his pads.

Barnes's Wonderful Bowling

Notts. had eighty minutes' batting before lunch, and lost eight wickets in the time, so that 16 wickets actually fell before lunch, an unprecedented number so far as my memory serves. Barnes (pavilion end) and Sedgwick bowled, and Gunn and Keeton had only scored 10 when the former went confidently out to smother Barnes's spin, but failed to do so, and was easily stumped. I say easily because he was a yard or two out, but the Staffordshire captain was very quick in his work. Keeton, who was within inches of being caught at point in Barnes's first over, batted with great skill, but Shipston was held at the second attempt by Howl in cutting the fast bowler. Harris "had a go" at Barnes, and was easily caught at mid-off, and Taylor bowled by a beauty first ball, four wickets being down for 16. But Notts were not done with yet. Keeton continued to play a heroic game, mostly defending skilfully against Barnes, and scoring with some freedom from Sedgwick, though indifferent fielding was responsible for some of the runs he got from the quick bowler. And Copley managed to stay half an-hour, and help his colleague to add 35 for the fifth wicket before Sedgwick got him well caught in the slips. Heane, the left-hander, came in, and 14 more were added. The state of the wicket called for finger-spin rather than pace, and 43 of the 65 runs had been obtained from Sedgwick, so that one wondered to see him kept on so long. Two alternatives were open to the captain, either to try Platt at Sedgwick's end, or move Barnes to that end and give Taylor the end likely to suit him. The latter course was adopted with the score at 65 for five wickets, and in two overs the whole side was out for the same total. Taylor, with the wind to help his swing, got Keeton caught at the wicket after batting an hour and a quarter without mistake, except that a few balls from Barnes went off the edge of his bat without going to hand.

An Extraordinary Over

Barnes's succeeding over was the last of the match, and it was cut in two by the lunch interval. Bowling to Heane, he beat him ineffectually with the first ball, and going forward to the next, the left-hander was again beaten by the spin and stumped. The Notts captain followed, and faced the task of avoiding "a pair" with seven fielders clustered round him. The positions of forward short leg, point, and silly point would be highly dangerous with almost any bowler but Barnes, but his uncanny accuracy renders the fielders comparatively safe, and the batsman highly uncomfortable. It was something like a comedy when the first ball popped from the bat straight to Sedgwick about four yards off at point, exactly as in the first innings. Who else could do it? I have seen Barnes get dozens of wickets in exactly the same way. The ball pitches on the leg stump: it must be played. The length creates a problem, whether to play forward or back. To go right to it would be dangerous, with the wicket-keeper waiting for his chance. If you go back it is so quick off the pitch and the angle so uncertain that the danger is no less. The batsman plays a "half-cock" shot, trying to keep it down. But that is just what he can't do. He gets it fairly high up the bat, and fails to middle it, and off pops the ball to one or other of the expectant pairs of hands spread like a net round him. That was how the Notts. captain "bagged a brace" for the second time against Barnes.

Then came lunch, and on the resumption Barnes continued this sensational over. Wheat, the little left-hander, full of the best intentions of showing his colleagues how to hit Barnes, survives one ball, and then hits the air. The ball is not there. But it has somehow found his leg stump. And Richmond finds himself in like case with his captain, and Sedgwick snaps another catch, to end the match and complete Barnes's maiden with four wickets in it. Four wickets in the last five balls was the thrilling climax of this entrancing contest, which sent the spectators away in a state of excited jubilation, to treasure the memory of it for many a long day.

Barnes had the extraordinary record of seven for 17, and 13 for 62 in the match, and Taylor bowled 12 overs for 12 runs, and four wickets. Some of the Staffordshire fielding was not up to the mark, and the dash of the young Notts. professionals was a lesson in how to save runs by speed in getting to, and rapidity and accuracy in returning, the ball. One must add, however, that Ikin at cover point, as usual, put spirit into his work, though his throwing was occasionally wild.

The following are the scores and analysis:—

Staffordshire.—1st Innings

C. Howl st Wheat b Heane	1
Barnes c Harris b Richmond	18
N. W. White b Richmond	21
H. Goodwin st Wheat b Richmond	3
J. S. Heath c Kirk b Richmond	4
A. W. Ikin c Copley b Richmond	0
E. J. Gothard c Gunn b Heane	36
Sedgwick c Harris b Heane	1
Platt not out	20
J. B. Russell b Heane	6
Taylor c and b Heane	0
Extras	9
Total	119

2nd Innings

C. Howl c Copley b Harris	15
E. J. Gothard c and b Hodgkinson	26
N. W. White c Gunn b Heane	9
J. S. Heath c Wheat b Heane	22
A. W. Ikin b Richmond	6
Barnes c Copley b Richmond	2
H. Goodwin c Gunn b Heane	9
Platt lbw b Richmond	4
Sedgwick not out	8
J. B. Russell c Harris b Heane	0
Taylor b Richmond	4
Extras	2
Total	107

Notts II.—1st Innings

Gunn run out	39
Keeton c Platt b Barnes	39
Shipston lbw b Taylor	5
Harris c Goodwin b Barnes	1
L. Kirk c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Copley b Taylor	2
G. F. H. Heane lbw b Barnes	6
Hodgkinson c Heath b Barnes	6
Taylor st Russell b Barnes	4
Wheat lbw b Taylor	2
Richmond not out	3
Extras	8
Total	115

2nd Innings

Gunn st Russell b Barnes	3
Keeton c Russell b Taylor	41
Shipston c Howl b Sedgwick	2
Harris c Gothard b Barnes	1
Taylor b Barnes	0
Copley c Heath b Sedgwick	9
G. F. H. Heane st Russell b Barnes	4
Hodgkinson not out	0
L. Kirk c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Wheat b Barnes	0
Richmond c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Extras	5
Total	65

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffs.—1st Inns.	O.	M.	R.	W.	2nd Inns.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hodgkinson	9	3	10	0		4	2	7	1
Heane	23.4	8	29	5		16	2	37	4
Copley	5	2	9	0					
Richmond	19	3	62	5		19.1	3	46	4
Harris						7	1	15	1
Notts.—1st Inns.	**O.**	**M.**	**R.**	**W.**	**2nd Inns.**	**O.**	**M.**	**R.**	**W.**
Barnes	17.4	4	45	6		12	4	17	7
Sedgwick	8	1	36	0		11	0	43	2
Platt	5	1	14	0					
Taylor	11	3	12	3		1	1	0	1

North Staffordshire and District League

For the second successive Saturday the weather in North Staffordshire repented at the last minute, and permitted cricket to be played, though on wet wickets, and with some late starts. The measure of assistance which bowlers were able to derive varied in the different matches according to the volume of rain which fell in the several localities and the drying powers of the grounds. In some cases wickets were dead easy throughout; in others the ball was beginning to "nip" in the later stages; and some pitches were always difficult.

The results of the matches constituted a complete "turn-up," for the joint leaders were both beaten, and the two bottom clubs both won praiseworthy victories. As Burslem took both points from their near and dear neighbours at Norton, and Crewe obliged by quelling Nantwich in another so-called local Derby, Burslem have launched a distinct challenge to the top clubs. To gain two points on each of them in one day was a great advance, and a genuine surprise. I understand hopes run high at Cobridge, but the task before Evans Cook and his men is not likely to be a light one, for though either Nantwich or Norton might crack up it would be astonishing if both of them fell away at the end after playing so consistently well through two-thirds of the season.

The Fall of the Mighty

Nantwich came a cropper at Crewe by reason of the failure of their best batsmen on a tricky pitch. With the ball "nipping" at varying pace from the pitch, and Etheridge turning it from the leg, and F. Walker from the off, Nantwich were always in trouble. Three good wickets were down for a mere bagatelle, and though W. T. Maybury and E. H. Steventon (the famous pair of bowlers) improved matters a little by taking the score to 37, there was no further resistance to the bowling, and the side was out for 68. Etheridge had five wickets for 34, and Walker five for 31. Crewe also lost three wickets cheaply, but then F. Walker, who was quite the hero of the victory, and J. Dickenson put the home team well in the way of victory, and the Nantwich score was passed with five wickets in hand. E. H. Steventon caused a collapse thereafter, and the Crewe total only reached 78. The Nantwich captain had five wickets for 33, and Maybury four for 22.

Norton started badly against the Burslem attack, made a partial recovery through Sedgwick (33), P. Massey, and A. Smith, and then collapsed before Evans Cook, who resumed bowling to take four wickets for 5 runs, and performed the hat trick. Burslem passed the Norton total of 84, with eight wickets standing, and went on to complete their innings for 151. The winning stand was made by L. H. Crump (41) and A. Birch (36), the former batting particularly well against his old colleagues. A. Evans had six wickets for 28 for Norton.

Bottom Dogs on Top

Longton put up a useful score of 171 at Porthill. Smith (37) hit hard and often, and A. Hawker (44) and A. C. Hawkins (40) carried out good work, but the Porthill fielding was faulty. The Champions had a weakened side in the absence of Bickerton, Gleaves, Fitchford, and others, but they seemed to have victory within their grasp when the hundred went up with only one wicket down, N. W. White (48) and G. A. F. Bagguley (38) having added 98 in a fine partnership. But then Longton's two premier bowlers, Smith and Brassington, resumed, and the Porthill structure fell like a house of cards. Smith dismissed both White and Bagguley, and the rest offered no resistance, the whole side being out for 117. Such is the value of making good use of your best bowlers, though they may not have been able to get rid of the early batsmen.

Runs were as precious as pearls at Madeley, where the wicket gave batsmen little chance. Great Chell batted first, and were bundled out for 37 by S. Heath (five for 13) and E. Mayer (five for 23). But Madeley had to scratch for victory, which they secured by a margin of 3 runs. F. Vodrey was again the destructive agent, for he captured six wickets for 15.

Two Drawn Games

Silverdale went to Knypersley and hit 191 off the home bowlers. C. F. Rushton came into his own for once, and played a polished innings of 63, and J. Whalen made a sound 48. The visitors could not force a win, however, for with A. Cooper playing a timely and skilful innings of 51, Knypersley reached 122 for seven wickets, and saved the game comfortably.

There was a late start at Leek, where Bignall End declared at 109 for eight (J. H. Mayer 42, Dr. Riley 30), and Leek replied with 48 for four, Dr. Riley taking four wickets for 22. C. J. Taylor had five for 30 for the home team.

The Critic

Tutbury v. James Eadie, Limited (Burton)

Played at Tutbury on Saturday.

James Eadie, Limited. — G. Astle b Oakden 0, E. W. Minter b Wilson 1, T. G. Simmett b Alcock 17, H. Beeby lbw b Wilson 12, Capt. Hearn b Wilson 3, S. Dicken c Wilson b Oakden 8, J. R. Topliss c Woolley b Alcock 7, W. Hoose b Alcock 1, J. Ife c and b Alcock 0, E. May b Alcock 0, C. Tomlinson not out 1, extras 3, total 53.

Tutbury.—F. Woolley c Hearn b Topliss 0, T. H. Oakden b Dicken 10, W. E. Thorn b Dicken 5, H. Wilson b Topliss 0, S. Walker c Topliss b Dicken 7, E. Clark b Topliss 0, T. Coxon b Topliss 2, F. Russell b Dicken 7, W. Oliver b Topliss 0, W. Alcock not out 6, E. Wright run out 0, total 37.

Chester Road Second XI. v. Lichfield Second XI.

Six of the Lichfield Second XI. players failed to score in their match with Chester Road Second XI. on the latter's pitch on Saturday, the home side winning a rather low scoring game by 95 runs to 46. Scores:—

Chester Road.—A. F. Jones b Ryan 6, R. Jones b George 10, F. Gwynn run out 3, W. Moore b George 11, H. Hadley b George 2, S. Hadley c Bates b George 4, C. Clements b Cooper 3, F. J. Jones not out 18, R. Dicks c George b Wait 29, G. W. Jones b Cooper 0, W. Crowther c and b Wait 2, extras 7, total 95.

Lichfield Second. — L. Bates c and b Jones 3, A. J. Smith b Jones 12, N. Hartshorn c Gwynn b Jones 0, J. S. Brown c Gwynn b Jones 0, J. Herbert lbw b Jones 0, G. Ryan b Jones 0, H. Arnold c Hadley b Jones 14, F. L. Cooper b Jones 2, E. George c F. Jones b E. Jones 15, W. A. Waitt c G. Jones b R. Jones 0, F. Hodson not out 0, extras 0, total 46.

Lichfield v. Chester Road

Lichfield entertained Chester Road at Lichfield on Saturday, an interesting match ultimately resulting in a draw. Lichfield batted first, and their "star" batsman, Capt. Howard, was quickly dismissed for 2 runs. Broadbent took Capt. Howard's place, but this batsman was also dismissed for the negligible score of 3. W. Plant then joined Cook, and ran the score up to 54, Cook making 34. A feature of the match was a 6 hit by Fitzgeorge, which landed in the New Road. Chester Road's score was made up of small, but useful, scores, the highest being made by O. G. Jones, which was 23. For Lichfield, Ellett took five wickets for 34 runs. Scores:—

Lichfield.—Capt. Howard c Hartshorne b Sanders 2, R. Cooke c Sharman b Sanders 34, F. Broadbent b Hartshorne 3, W. Plant st Whitby b Sanders 9, H. Fitzgeorge c and b Hartshorne 46, F. Rudgard b Jones 20, R. Moore c and b Sanders 1, Walter Plant b Jones 16, G. Ellett lbw b Hartshorne 2, A. Slater b Hartshorne 13, F. Oram not out 0, extras 7, total 152.

Chester Road.—F. Mills b Ellett 11, N. Hartshorne c Cooke b Broadbent 11, B. Sanders b Ellett 9, Harrison b Ellett 4, L. Jones b Ellett 0, G. Jones b Ellett 23, W. Jones c Ellett b Oram 12, Stewart run out 5, Parkin not out 13, Sharman not out 11, extras 6, total (for eight wickets) 104. Whitby did not bat.

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 6 August 1927-3.

COUNTY CRICKET

STAFFS. v. LANCASHIRE II.

More Remarkable Bowling

By THE CRITIC

The opening of this match on Wednesday was favoured by the weather, and a good crowd was attracted to the old County Ground at Stoke. There was any amount of incident, and more remarkable bowling gave the home county a big advantage on the day's play. Staffordshire made three changes, viz., H. W. Homer, A. Lockett, and R. S. A. Hardy, vice J. S. Heath, N. W. White, and Taylor. Lancashire were without Rushton owing to illness, but had a strong side, especially in batting. Ten of the young players are run-getters, and the team had scored nearly 400 on Monday, against Yorks. II. Their experience at Stoke was vastly different. The wicket was deceptive, for it looked firm enough for a lot of runs, but it gave the bowlers unexpected assistance until late in the day, when it was playing rather easier.

Batting first, Staffordshire had no easy task to get runs against some good bowling. Preston and Booth, both fast-medium, made the ball swing about so much that Homer and Howl had to observe great caution. They rendered good service in holding up half-an hour and scoring 27 for the first wicket, and Homer and Barnes added 21 before the professional and Gothard were bowled by consecutive balls. Preston showed that he can swing both ways, for he had been chiefly going away, and an in-swinger quite deceived Gothard. Homer remained an hour and a quarter, and hit the only boundary obtained in an hour and 55 minutes before lunch, a fine square cut. Homer was eventually leg before to Horridge, a slow, leg-break bowler, and Goodwin was beaten by a quick in-swinger, so that five wickets were down for 80 at the interval. Ikin and Lockett batted well, but Horridge coming on a second time, got four wickets in 10 balls, and finished the innings abruptly. He had a fine analysis, but he did not bowl so well as some of his comrades, and was distinctly lucky. For example, Platt was out to a brilliant catch at short leg from a hard hit; Sedgwick played one on to his foot, from which it rebounded and just dislodged a bail, and Russell was caught at mid-on from a good, clean hit that deserved a better fate.

Lockett's Great Feat

A score of 122 did not look satisfying, but subsequent events proved that it was a good performance, for the wicket was certainly not more difficult when Lancashire batted, and their run-getting side was made to look like a collection of novices, and put out for 41 in an hour and 35 minutes. Not only Barnes, but Sedgwick also bowled splendidly, and the fast bowler had no luck or he would have got several wickets. With only three scored, Halliday, who has played a number of times in the first team, popped one to Sedgwick, just as Butterworth did a little later, and both were smartly taken, one with the left hand and one with the right. Few men would be so sure as is Sedgwick with these quick catches at right angles from the bat at scarcely four yards distance. Between these two Barnes' wickets, Goodwin had brought off a glorious left hand catch, running wide at mid-on, off Sedgwick, to dismiss the dangerous left-hander, Paynter. Both Houseman, who scored 95 against Staffordshire at Blackpool, and Farrimond had luck. Houseman was almost caught in the slips in Barnes's first over, and another only touched the ground inches from Sedgwick's right hand, whilst Farrimond edged Barnes between the slips for three, and snicked Lockett only inches short of Barnes in the slips. Lockett had superseded Sedgwick at 27, and actually took four wickets in four overs, and five balls without a run being scored from him. Farrimond was neatly taken at the wicket on the off-side, and two more wickets fell to Lockett with following balls. Then Barnes got Houseman very smartly stumped, and Preston, after hitting Lockett for two and four, was caught at cover. Holroyd had a swipe at Barnes, and was bowled middle stump, and the innings was over, Staffordshire having gained a lead of 81. Turning the ball back sharply, Lockett had the extraordinary figures of five for six, and Barnes might easily have had a better analysis than four for 10.

The Staffordshire captain kept a perfect wicket, and for the fifth time this season did not give a single bye. Lockett brought off a great catch to dismiss Booth, diving full length to take the ball close to the ground with the left hand.

In the last hour Staffordshire scored 47 for the loss of Homer's wicket.

Another Splendid Victory

On Thursday Staffordshire forced home their advantage in no uncertain manner, and, completely out-playing the young Lancastrians, won by 210 runs. The task of the Staffordshire batsmen never was an easy one, much of the bowling was good, and the wicket was always difficult. Three wickets went down for an addition of 20 runs, and it was unfortunate for Lancashire that Preston strained a thigh muscle and had to retire, though, of course, the mishap did not affect the result. Ikin and Barnes batted very well together, and put on 46, and Ikin altogether stayed two hours and 10 minutes, passing his 50 after escaping from a difficult chance in the slips at 42. He showed his appreciation by hitting three fours in the same over from Booth, two to square leg, and one through the covers. He was out in forcing the game, as several of the later batsmen were.

Superb Bowling

Barnes and Lockett opened the bowling when Lancashire essayed their hopeless task, but after one over the latter gave way to Sedgwick, the wicket evidently being considered less suitable to Lockett for a time after the application of the roller. Barnes and Sedgwick bowled brilliantly, and though Halliday (a really fine bat) stayed nearly 50 minutes, and off-drove an over-pitched ball from Sedgwick for six, the bowlers were never checked, and when six wickets had fallen for 52, Barnes had three for 22, and Sedgwick three for 25. The last four went to Barnes in two overs for two runs, and so he came out with another astonishing analysis. In the match he had eleven wickets for 46 runs, and altogether in four days against two particularly strong batting sides, he took 24 wickets for 108 runs. Sedgwick took seven catches close in at point in the four innings, and Russell stumped three and caught two off Barnes, and caught another off Lockett.

The result of the dual success is to give Staffordshire a great chance of regaining the championship. Their percentage now is 66.57, and their one remaining fixture is with their weakest opponents, Lincolnshire. Whilst there is never any certainty in cricket, all the chances are in favour of their avoiding defeat at Frodingham next week, and in that event they cannot be overhauled by any other county. Scores:—

Staffordshire.—1st Innings

H. W. Homer lbw b Horridge	25
C. Howl b Booth	12
Barnes b Preston	8
E. J. Gothard b Preston	0
A. W. Ikin st Farrimond b Holroyd	21
H. Goodwin b Preston	7
A. Lockett c Butterworth b Horridge	19
Sedgwick b Horridge	8
Platt c Metcalf b Horridge	0
R. S. A. Hardy not out	1
J. B. Russell c Preston b Horridge	4
Extras	17
Total	122

Staffordshire.—2nd Innings

H. W. Homer c Farrimond b Preston	16
C. Howl c Preston b Holroyd	24
E. J. Gothard lbw b Preston	5
A. W. Ikin b Holroyd	55
R. S. A. Hardy c Higson b Holroyd	1
Barnes c Farrimond b Horridge	28
H. Goodwin b Booth	14
A. Lockett lbw b Higson	10
Sedgwick not out	9
Platt lbw b Horridge	10
J. B. Russell c Higson b Horridge	6
Extras	12
Total	190

Lancashire II.—1st Innings

Halliday c Sedgwick b Barnes	1
Houseman st Russell b Barnes	14
Paynter c Goodwin b Sedgwick	5
H. R. W. Butterworth c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
Farrimond c Russell b Lockett	3
Horridge lbw b Lockett	0
P. Higson b Lockett	0
Metcalf not out	3
Booth c and b Lockett	1
Preston c Ikin b Lockett	6
Holroyd b Barnes	0
Extras	1
Total	41

Lancashire II.—2nd Innings

Halliday lbw b Sedgwick	26
Houseman c Sedgwick b Barnes	7
Paynter lbw b Barnes	10
Booth b Sedgwick	5
H. R. W. Butterworth c Sedgwick b Barnes	2
Farrimond c Lockett b Sedgwick	0
Horridge lbw b Barnes	2
P. Higson b Barnes	5
Metcalf not out	1
Holroyd c Russell b Barnes	1
Preston c Goodwin b Barnes	0
Extras	2
Total	61

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffs.—1st Inns	O.	M.	R.	W.	2nd Inns.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Preston	22	3	43	3		14	5	14	2
Booth	10	4	10	1		16	5	37	1
Holroyd	19	5	35	1		25	4	50	3
Horridge	6.4	2	14	5		13	2	35	3
Metcalf	5	3	3	0		15	6	22	0
Higson						4	1	10	1

Lancs. II.—1st Inns.	O.	M.	R.	W.	2nd Inns.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	15.2	5	10	4		12	3	27	7
Sedgwick	9	4	15	1		10	2	29	3
Lockett	6	4	6	5		1	0	3	0

Staffordshire Sentinel: Thursday 11 August 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE'S LAST MATCH.

Lincolnshire Recover After Collapse.

Poor Start by Visitors.

Staffordshire opened their last match of the season to-day against Lincolnshire, at Frodingham. The home county made a poor show until the last two batsmen were in, when a partnership of 39 enabled the moderate total of 126 being reached.

A weak start was made by Staffordshire, who had lost three wickets by tea-time for 43 runs.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

P A Bashforth c and b Lockett	29
R E Frearson run out	6
J E Searby b Sedgwick	1
J Tomlinson c Russell b Lockett	8
W A Sutton b Barnes	17
R Flatters b Barnes	2
J Robinson b Barnes	0
A Holt b Barnes	12
C E Drakes b Lockett	6
C Wilson b Platt	19
G Shaw not out	20
Extras	6
Total	126

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer not out	10
C Howl b Drakes	3
Barnes c Robinson b Wilson	13
E J Gothard b Sutton	2
A W Ikin not out	5
Extras	12
Total (for 3 wkts)	46

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	3	60	4
Sedgwick	12	2	29	1
Lockett	14	4	26	3
Platt	2	0	5	1

FRODINGHAM, Thursday.

Although the sun shone at intervals, the weather generally was a little threatening at Frodingham to-day, when, visiting Lincolnshire, Staffordshire embarked upon their last match of the season, in their very successful fight for the Minor Counties Championship.

In every sense of the word, the season has been a bright and attractive one for Staffordshire, excellent form having been displayed throughout. The club has only suffered one lapse—that against Lancashire II.—when they had the misfortune to lose on the first innings, at Blackpool. With that exception, they have won every match, and to-day they entered the field with the championship in view. They had to win outright in this match to make certain of the honour, and the chances appear very bright, so long as rain does not interfere.

There had been a fair amount of rain yesterday, but the wicket had been covered. While the wicket was fairly firm, the outfield was on the soft side.

The home county won the toss, and R. E. Frearson accompanied P. A. Bashforth to the wicket, the latter taking the bowling of Barnes. He was very cautious at the outset, and was unable to make any score off Barnes' first over.

ROBUST BATSMAN.

Later on, however, he cut one away from Sedgwick for a two, and then made a fine hit, which would have been a four, had not Homer successfully chased the ball. After a brief period of caution Bashforth got the measure of the bowling, and showed himself to be a batsman of the robust type. He twice sent Barnes away for two, and then turned one to leg off Sedgwick for an easy three. Frearson contented himself more to defensive methods; but once made a nice stroke for three. After Bashforth had turned another to leg for three, he called Frearson for an impossible run, and Lincolnshire suffered their first loss, Frearson being easily run out. J. E. Searby went in, to be missed off the first ball put down to him by Barnes. He just snicked it for Russell to deflect it to Lockett, who found it impossible to get a grip on the ball.

Searby's innings, however, was quickly brought to a close, for, after making a single, which gave Russell an almost impossible chance, he was clean bowled by Sedgwick. Bashforth was joined by J. Tomlinson, who opened his account with a quickly run single.

Bashforth became a little more subdued, probably batting with a little more care, on account of the two early dismissals. A nice glancing shot, however, sent the ball away for two.

After a quarter of an hour, Bashforth became more lively, and with a nice square pull sent the ball away for a three to be followed by a two.

BOWLING CHANGES.

Staffordshire's attack was then changed Barnes going on at the other end to displace Sedgwick, and Lockett going on at the end at which Barnes first commenced his attack. Tomlinson sent the ball spinning away out of the reach of Sedgwick at point, off Barnes, but only for a single. A splendid hit off Lockett, however, brought him a couple. In an hour 44 runs had appeared on the scoreboard and of this number Bashforth had hit up 29, his strokes to leg having been most profitable. It was after Tomlinson had made another fine stroke for two that Bashforth tried to pull one from Lockett, when he mistimed it, for Lockett to make an easy catch. He had played a typical innings. No sooner had W. A. Sutton gone to the crease to make a single than Tomlinson was out to a smart catch by Russell behind the wicket. Flatters found the bowling of Barnes very difficult, but after one or two defensive strokes, he made a hit for two and was then clean bowled. This was Barnes' first wicket, but he soon had another to his credit, for Robinson going out, was immediately sent back, Barnes having spreadeagled his wicket before he had a chance of breaking his "duck."

After this unpromising start, A. Holt and Sutton looked as though they might pull the game round a bit, for at short intervals both put their bats hard to the ball. Once Holt drove the ball along the carpet with sufficient force to take it to the boundary, but very smart fielding on the part of Barnes prevented even a single. In fielding the ball he deflected it on to the wicket. Both batsmen got in drives for 2's, and Holt made a beautiful late cut off Lockett for a three, which Homer had to chase almost to the edge of the boundary.

USEFUL PARTNERSHIP.

He next turned one to leg for two, and then skied another to mid-on, but though Ikin made a desperate effort to reach it, it was not a chance. A short while afterwards Sutton got well under a delivery from Barnes to make a great hit for three. This attractive partnership was then brought to a close Holt being bowled from a beautiful leg break off Barnes. The partnership had put on a valuable 20. The first boundary fell to Sutton with a hit through the slips.

This was off Barnes, but the latter had his revenge a moment later when he put down one which completely beat the batsman and disarranged the stumps.

C. E. Drakes opened with a two, and after C. Wilson had been similarly treated Platt dropped a catch off the latter. Drakes was soon out to a delivery from Lockett after having scored half a dozen.

After lunch Shaw twice turned Barnes to leg for 2's, and Wilson, after sending the ball away for two, secured a three. They played attractive cricket, making quite a plucky last-wicket stand. In twenty-five minutes they had hit up 20, both batsmen having made a couple of 2's and a three. When needed they played on the defensive, but this was not often. Barnes and Lockett were both getting a lot of spin on the ball and only just missing the stumps. Sedgwick was again put on the bowling, and in his first over had Wilson completely guessing with one that popped up quickly.

The weather was remaining fine and the wicket wearing well, and the batsmen remaining stubborn.

LAST WICKET STAND.

There were some quickly run singles and a really good hit off Barnes, by Shaw for three. This was the best stand of the innings, the partnership in thirty-five minutes having put on 32. At this period of the game Platt took on the bowling from Barnes, his first over being a maiden.

After making a last-wicket stand of 39 the partnership was broken by Wilson being out to a fine delivery by Platt. With the exception of Bashforth, they had resisted the attack of the bowlers more stubbornly than any others.

Barnes had to be content with four wickets for 60, and Lockett three for 26, whilst Sedgwick and Platt both took a wicket, the former for 29, and the latter for five.

Staffordshire went in to bat at 3 13, when the weather became very threatening, Howl and Homer opening the innings.

The former took the bowling of Drakes—a new comer to the home county's team. He is a 17-years-old Stamford Grammar School boy and is reckoned by some to be the fastest bowler in the Minor Counties. He sent the ball down at amazing speed, but this did not prevent Howl placing him to leg for the first single. Following this, one again saw the same disposition on the part of batsmen not to run when they appeared easy to get. A bye in the direction of the boundary—and Homer and Howl simply jogged along the carpet for a single.

A POOR START.

Homer made a splendid late out which was going away at top speed, but it was smartly fielded by Robinson. In Drakes' next over he had Howl's middle stump with a ball that went down with almost lightning rapidity. Four runs for one wicket, of which Howl had scored three singles!

When Barnes went in, he edged one of Drakes' deliveries through the slips, Bashforth refusing to take the chance given him, and the ball went travelling to the boundary.

Immediately afterwards Barnes made a beautiful off drive for three, to be followed with a square cut for two, off Wilson, who had gone on in place of Drakes. Twenty runs had been put on in 27 minutes, Barnes having contributed twelve, and Homer one. Having made an additional run, Barnes was sent back to the pavilion from a good catch by Robinson at first slip. This occurred just when he appeared to have played himself in.

The rate of scoring was painfully slow, only 34 runs being made in 55 minutes. Gothard came within an ace of taking his departure with a ball that got up very quickly from Sutton. His dismissal was only delayed by the space of an over, however, for, after batting for 25 minutes for two runs, he was clean bowled by a splendid ball from Sutton.

Staffordshire Sentinel · Friday 12 August 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE WIN AGAIN.

Lincolnshire Defeated by Seven Wickets.

Another Bowling Triumph for Barnes.

By defeating Lincolnshire to-day by seven wickets, Staffordshire stand a good chance of winning the championship of the Minor Counties' Competition.

At one period yesterday, the game was in doubt, for Staffordshire had lost seven wickets in the first innings for 50 runs. Platt and later batsmen, however, took the total to within seven runs of Lincolnshire's total, and that county were dismissed to-day for 56. Barnes again bowled remarkably well, taking seven wickets for 19 runs. H. W. Homer contributed 44 (not out) towards the 64 runs required by Staffordshire.

LINCOLNSHIRE.—First Innings.

P A Bashforth c and b Lockett	29
R E Frearson run out	6
J E Searby b Sedgwick	1
J Tomlinson c Russell b Lockett	8
W A Sutton b Barnes	17
R Flatters b Barnes	2
J Robinson b Barnes	0
A Holt b Barnes	12
C E Drakes b Lockett	6
C Wilson b Platt	19
G Shaw not out	20
Extras	6
Total	126

LINCOLNSHIRE.—Second Innings.

B A Bashforth b Barnes	0
R E Frearson b Sedgwick	0
J E Searby c Lockett b Barnes	6
J W Tomlinson c Sedgwick b Barnes	4
W A Sutton c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
R Flatters b Lockett	19
J Robinson b Barnes	7
A Holt c Goodwin b Barnes	0
T E Drakes b Lockett	0
C Wilson c Gothard b Barnes	2
G Shaw not out	9
Extras	6
Total	56

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings.

H W Homer c Shaw b Drakes	12
C Howl b Drakes	3
Barnes c Robinson b Wilson	13
E J Gothard b Sutton	2
A W Ikin c Shaw b Wilson	5
H Goodwin c Flatters b Wilson	7
A Lockett c Frearson b Holt	18
Sedgwick b Drakes	1
Platt c Bashforth b Frearson	27
R S Hardy not out	11
J B Russell b Drakes	1
Extras	19
Total	119

STAFFORDSHIRE.—Second Innings.

H W Homer not out	44
C Howl c Bashforth b Drakes	0
Barnes c Searby b Drakes	17
E J Gothard c Bashforth b Drakes	1
A W Ikin not out	1
Extras	2
Total (for 3 wkts)	65

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24	3	60	4
Sedgwick	12	2	29	1
Lockett	14	4	26	3
Platt	2	0	5	1

Lincolnshire.—Second Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	17	8	19	7
Sedgwick	9	4	8	1
Lockett	12	4	25	2

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
T E Drakes	17	1	44	4
A Holt	8	3	16	1
C Wilson	17	7	26	3
W A Sutton	11	8	3	1
R E Frearson	2	0	11	1

FALL OF WICKETS.

Lincolnshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25	27	48	49	52	52	52	81	87	126

Staffordshire.—First Innings.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4	23	38	45	47	55	59	82	117	119

Contrary to expectations, Lincolnshire made a stubborn fight against Staffordshire yesterday, and after both 'tails' had wagged pretty freely, the home county established a first innings lead of seven runs. But with only five minutes to go before the close of play, they had suffered the loss of two of their best batsmen in the second innings for no runs. This quick change in events put Staffordshire in quite a healthy position, Lincolnshire being seven runs on with eight wickets to fall. During the day play fluctuated somewhat, and though at times there were dull periods, at others there had been plenty to interest. Lincolnshire are a much improved eleven, and, at the outset of Staffordshire's first innings, it was perfectly clear that the bowling of Wilson would be difficult to tackle, to say nothing of the deliveries of Sutton, who was very deadly, and the pace with which Drakes sent the ball down. Three of Staffordshire's wickets had gone for 38, and after the tea interval four more wickets fell for the addition of 14 runs. Ikin was smartly taken behind the wicket by Shaw, after which Homer was joined by Goodwin, but the partnership was almost immediately dissolved, Homer being caught behind the wicket after batting an hour and a half for twelve. For a time Goodwin was not in a happy mood with Wilson, but off Drakes he made a delightful hit for three, and then hit a full-pitched ball from Wilson to the boundary.

With Lockett playing himself in, it looked as though the turn for the good might be accomplished, but it was not to be. Goodwin was again out of luck, for, turning one to leg, he had the great misfortune to be caught at fine leg.

Sedgwick went in with the intention of sending Wilson to the boundary, and narrowly missed disaster from the first ball. Drakes put down one of his lightning deliveries to spreadeagle Lockett's wicket, but the umpire had shouted "no-ball."

PLATT TO THE RESCUE.

Following this Sedgwick made a single, and then Drakes claimed his wicket. Things looked pretty desperate and any hopes of a first innings lead were almost forlorn, but a new lease of life was forthcoming from Platt. He made a well-timed shot off Drakes for three, and then a quickly run single off Wilson. Lockett hit three singles, and then put Wilson away for three, following it up with a two off Drakes, and driving Wilson to the boundary. A slow ball from Drakes was lifted clean out of the ground for six.

Platt was also playing a masterly innings, but the partnership came to an end when Lockett failed to get hold of one from Holt in trying a big drive, and was caught at cover-point. Joined by Hardy, Platt hit out in fine style and sent the ball away at top speed He was ably backed up by Hardy, who batted courageously. Platt was eventually out to a catch at square leg, and Russell was only allowed to contribute a single before Drakes dismissed him, giving Lincolnshire a seven runs' lead.

It was then 6 15, and, to many of the spectators, it seemed hardly worth while for Lincolnshire to bat for five minutes after the pitch had been rolled, but, as it happened, those five minutes were of the greatest value to Staffordshire. With a great delivery from Sedgwick in his first over, he had sent Frearson back for no score, and with the last ball of the over before the close of play, Barnes had dismissed Bashforth with an equally great ball.

CHEAP WICKETS.

The covers having been used, the wicket was not affected by overnight rain, when play was resumed this morning. J. E. Searby went in with J. W. Tomlinson, to make a single off Sedgwick's first over. Barnes bowled a maiden over, and Sedgwick did likewise, following which Tomlinson sent Barnes away for two. The batsmen played with any amount of caution, nine overs in half-an-hour only realising six runs. Both bowlers showed perfect length to make run-getting a difficult matter, and after 35 minutes play Tomlinson endeavoured to deal with a ball that reared up from Barnes, and was nicely taken at point by Sedgwick. On going to the crease Sutton had an early lucky escape, for Sedgwick put down a ball for Howl to bring off a low-fielded catch in the slips, but the umpire had given a "no-ball" decision. Off Barnes, Searby put one dangerously near to Sedgwick, following which Sutton made a good hit for a two. But after making a single he did the same as Tomlinson had done—endeavoured to play a difficult one from Barnes, and put it up for Sedgwick to make an easy catch. In 55 minutes Barnes had bowled ten overs, and, including the wicket he took with the last ball before the close of play yesterday, he had taken three wickets for three runs.

Before he had made a single, Flatters narrowly missed being stumped. He played forward to Barnes and missed, but the ball popped up too high for Russell to nip the bails off. Searby, after batting cautiously for six, was out to a very fine catch by Lockett. He edged one from Barnes, and Lockett made a full length dive to take the catch a few inches from the ground.

Up to now the bowlers had been in the ascendancy and the batsmen in a very subdued mood. Sixty-eight minutes of play had resulted in 20 runs.

Flatters was the first to show any enterprise to send Lockett away to the boundary. Robinson opened his shoulders for a two, after which a heavy shower of rain drove the players to the pavilion. Play, however, was only delayed for about eight minutes.

ANOTHER COLLAPSE.

On resuming play, Flatters made a big off-drive for four, and then a splendid one for two, but he could find no one to remain with him. Robinson made seven, and then stepped out to one from Barnes. It was fatal, for the ball broke on to the wicket. A. Holt made a fruitless journey to the crease, for in edging a ball away from Barnes, he was smartly taken by Goodwin at first slip. Without making an addition to the score Drakes was out to Lockett, after making three defensive strokes. Wilson made two singles and then fell to a nice catch by Gothard in the slips.

For the last wicket Shaw made a great hit for three off Lockett, and later sent Barnes to the boundary for four. Immediately after this Flatters was bowled by Lockett, having played a plucky innings for 19.

Barnes' bowling throughout was remarkable, always getting the batsmen into difficulties they could seldom get out of. His last great bowling feat of the season for Staffordshire reads: 17 overs, 8 maidens, 19 runs, 7 wickets. Once again he showed himself a demon with the ball.

Another heavy shower of rain prevented an immediate start being made by Staffordshire, to get 64 to win the championship, Howl and Homer went out to bat at 17 minutes past one, after a second heavy shower, but Howl, in making a cut from Drakes' second delivery, was out to a good catch by Bashforth in the slips. Barnes joined Homer, and sent Drakes away for a single. Barnes made a quickly run single, and Homer did likewise, but there was a lot of sting in Drakes' attack.

HOMER-BARNES PARTNERSHIP.

Just before lunch Barnes got hold of a "no-ball from Wilson and despatched it for a three. Immediately following lunch Homer had a narrow escape, gliding one to the boundary just over Bashforth's head in the slips. Barnes was responsible for the best shot of the match before it came on to rain again. Drakes put one down for him to get a glorious square cut to the boundary for four. It was a magnificent shot which was deservedly applauded. He followed this up with another fine hit for two, and Homer then made a cut to the boundary off Wilson.

Finding the batsmen had the measure of his bowling, Wilson took himself off and put on Sutton who yesterday bowled eight maidens out of eleven overs. His first effort was a maiden. Again taking the bowling of Drakes, Barnes cut him to the slips to give Robinson a chance which he failed to accept.

From the next ball down he made a beautiful cut to the boundary. At the other end Homer was well under one from Sutton to place it to the boundary, and his next shot was a similar one—again to the boundary.

Barnes gave a chance to Robinson in the slips, who had hard luck. He made a fine attempt to make the catch and knocked it up over his head. He again tried to catch it and though he came within an ace of doing so he just missed it. Barnes left the field with a smile when Searby caught him at point from the next ball down. Gothard got a single directly he got to the crease, and Homer, who was batting in great contrast to what he was yesterday, again sent the ball away for 4, and then drove Drakes once more to the boundary.

With only six runs required to win Gothard had hard lines in being caught in the slips by Bashforth. On Ikin going in he made a single, as did Homer, and then the latter concluded the game with another fine hit to the boundary.

Staffordshire won by seven wickets.

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 20 August 1927-1.

COUNTY CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Lincolnshire

CHAMPIONSHIP PROBABLY WON

When Staffordshire went to Frodingham to play the last match on their fixture list with Lincolnshire on the 11th and 12th inst., they required to win the match in order to make certain of heading the table in the Minor Counties' Championship competition. Only Notts II. could overtake them in any event. With two matches to play, Notts could by winning both reach a percentage of 85.71. If Staffordshire won their last match their percentage would be 90, but first innings points would give them only 85.00, so that they could be just headed by Notts unless they won outright. This they did, and so head the table with 90 per cent. It appears highly probable that Notts will occupy the second place. While Staffs. were beating Lincolnshire, they took full points from Yorks II. for the second time, and at the time of writing had only Lincolnshire to meet.

If Notts should lose this match, either outright or on the first innings, they might possibly lose the position of runners-up. This has a direct interest for Staffordshire, for if Notts are second there can be no challenge for the championship, as the teams have already met. But if one of the counties whom Staffordshire have not met should wrest the second place from Notts that county would, under the rules of the competition, have the right to challenge Staffordshire to play off the championship. In that event, a three-days' decider would be played in Staffordshire. But it appears highly improbable that Notts will lose their position.

Staffordshire made no change in the team which defeated Lancashire II. at Stoke, but Lincoln had the best side which they have fielded against Staffordshire for some years. They made five changes from the side which opposed Staffordshire at Westbromwich in June, and three of these were important. R. E. Frearson re-appeared, and two newcomers were T. E. Drakes and A. Holt. Drakes, at 18 years, is a fast bowler of real promise. He has just left Stamford Grammar School, and next year will be up at Cambridge. Holt is a club professional in Wales who has a birth qualification for Lincolnshire, and he is a useful fast-medium bowler, of whom, perhaps, hardly enough use was made in this match, and he can also bat.

The Frodingham Institute ground is a good one, and a capital wicket had been prepared. It had been protected from the rain of the previous day, and except that it looked rather bare, seemed fast enough for a lot of runs. That few runs were scored was probably due more to the fact that the bowling was better than the batting than to any great assistance offered to the bowlers by the pitch. True, it was more to Barnes's liking than a slow wicket, for he could generally make the ball turn, and it always came quickly from the pitch.

Slips in the Field

Bashforth and Frearson, who opened the batting for Lincolnshire, are a strong pair of batsmen, but both were in difficulties with Barnes and Sedgwick, and had the Staffordshire fielding been up to par both would early have been out. But several sharp chances close in off Barnes were not snapped up, and several other near things escaped the fielders by good luck and counted runs instead of wickets. Sedgwick also had vile luck, for he was bowling finely and missed Bashforth's wicket by the narrowest margin three or four times. However, the two stuck together 25 minutes to score as many runs, and then Bashforth ran his partner out by calling for too short a run for an on-stroke of his own. Gothard got to the ball smartly, picked up and bowled it in under-hand all in one motion, and Russell pulled it on to the wicket from a yard wide so quickly that Frearson's valuable wicket was sacrificed.

Then things set against the batting side. Barnes could not get a wicket, though he had plenty of near things, and repeatedly beat the bat without hitting the wicket. Sedgwick bowled Searby with a swinger at 27, but Tomlinson stayed with Bashforth to add 21. At 39 Barnes had changed ends, and Lockett was introduced. Bashforth eventually put up a simple return to Lockett, who got Tomlinson caught at the wicket from his quick ball in the same over. Then Barnes at length reaped some reward of much good bowling by hitting Flatters's off stump with a leg-break, and beating Robinson with a beauty turning the other way, both at 52. Sutton and Holt got some nice leg shots, and 20 were added. Holt then succumbed to one that turned from leg and nipped very quickly from the pitch, and after Sutton had got a boundary by the luckiest of snicks through the slips off Barnes, he "let off" at the next ball and was bowled. Drakes succumbed to Lockett, and nine wickets were down for 87.

Major Wilson and G. Shaw effected a totally unexpected stand, and the former had a charmed life. He should have been caught by Platt at mid-on off Lockett after scoring a single, and he spooned Barnes up in the air all over the place, shot after shot falling just clear of the fielders, and adding to the score. Shaw was batting well, and the last wicket added 39. Sedgwick superseded Lockett at 107, and at 120 Platt relieved Barnes, who had bowled throughout with the worst of luck, but not quite at his best. Platt eventually bowled the Lincoln captain with a nice break-back.

Staffordshire Batting Breaks Down

When Homer and Howl opened the Staffordshire innings, the bowling was entrusted to Drakes and Holt. Both batsmen were uncomfortable with the fast bowler, and with 4 scored in almost a-quarter of an hour, Howl was bowled off his pads. Barnes enlivened things a little, but Homer was wholly occupied with defence. At 19 Wilson bowled in place of Drakes, who changed over to the other end, and 4 later the Lincolnshire Captain got Barnes taken in the slips. Major Wilson has often bowled well against Staffordshire, keeping a fine length, and sometimes making the ball go appreciably with his arm, and he has latterly added the in-swinger to his repertoire.

Homer and Gothard took nearly half an hour to add 15, and most of these were extras, and then Sutton, who had superseded Drakes, bowled Gothard by means of a little extra speed cleverly veiled. This amateur has a low delivery, spins a little from the off, and his quicker ball generally keeps low. Gothard, playing back, was deceived by this. Ikin was playing himself in when he fell to a catch at the wicket, and Goodwin, starting with a confidence that promised well, again found his luck out. He got 3 for a beautiful on-stroke, and hit a full-pitch from Wilson to the boundary, but, turning to glide the next ball, was caught at fine leg from a stroke that deserved 4, and would get them 19 times out of 20. The ball went sweetly off the face of the bat, and it was only a possible catch because the fielder was in an unusual position. Prior to this, Homer, after batting an hour and a-half for 12, was given out caught at the wicket, a mistaken decision, the ball having touched his pad. Drakes was bowling again, and he got through Sedgwick's defence, seven wickets being down for 59, and 68 still required for a first innings' lead.

Lockett and Platt set about improving the position, and added 23 in sixteen minutes, during which Lockett made several good hits, including a lusty off-drive for 6 off Drakes. This youngster occasionally tried a slow one, and Lockett was prompt in picking it out. At 82 Holt relieved Wilson, and Lockett was caught at cover in trying to drive him. Platt and Hardy provided the best partnership of the innings, both playing so well that Staffordshire's hopes rose rapidly. At 101 Frearson was put on to bowl "donkey drops" in the hope of effecting a separation in time, and the ruse was successful, for though 11 runs were scored from him in two overs Platt failed to get well hold of a full-pitch, and was cleverly caught at short square-leg. He had made top score, played good cricket, and rendered invaluable service. Drakes was at once re-called in place of Frearson, and bowled the Staffordshire captain to give Lincoln the first innings' lead of 7 runs. That they deserved it for their excellent team work, uniformly good bowling, and astute captaincy could not be gainsaid, although the unfortunate decision which cost Homer his wicket probably made all the difference. Sutton's mechanical accuracy of length was shown by his analysis of 11 overs for 3 runs.

Barnes, the Wonder-Worker

Unhappily for Lincoln, there was just time to start their second innings before the close of play. With only about seven minutes to play, the policy of sending in their best bats was open to question. As it happened, the policy was fraught with disaster, for both Bashforth and Frearson were dismissed without a run being scored. Barnes bowled a maiden, and Sedgwick's third ball came back sufficiently to beat Frearson's stroke, touch his pad, and bowl him—a fine ball, indeed. From the next ball, Searby might have been caught in the slips. He edged the ball between Barnes and Lockett, and the latter got his left hand to it, but did not hold it. Frearson was bowled by the last ball of Barnes's next over, which he did not attempt to play. Apparently expecting it to break away, he stepped in front, but did not prevent it taking the bails. If he had, he would assuredly have been leg before, for the ball went straight through.

The next morning Barnes went through the team. Bowling his best, he had man after man at his mercy. Many times he beat the batsman completely, and was only just wide of the off stump, and the majority of the runs scored from him came from snicks which went between the slip fielders. The last ball he bowled was a full-pitch, and Shaw drove it for 4, and it was the only real scoring stroke made from him in 17 overs. Flatters stayed some time, and made one or two hits, but what runs he got from Barnes were flukes.

Staffordshire were set to get 64 to win, and Homer and Barnes made the issue safe after the loss of Howl's wicket by scoring 46 for the second. Homer hit finely, and played one of his best innings of the season. Fortunately, the threatening rain kept off until Staffordshire had won by seven wickets. Homer had seven boundary hits in his 44.

The Critic

Scores and analysis:—

LINCOLNSHIRE

First Innings

B. A. Bashforth c and b Lockett	29
R. E. Frearson run out	6
J. E. Searby b Sedgwick	1
J. Tomlinson c Russell b Lockett	8
W. A. Sutton b Barnes	17
P. Flatters b Barnes	2
J. Robinson b Barnes	0
A. Holt b Barnes	12
T. E. Drakes b Lockett	6
C. Wilson b Platt	19
G. Shaw not out	20
Extras	6
Total	128

Second Innings

B. A. Bashforth b Barnes	0
R. E. Frearson b Sedgwick	0
J. E. Searby c Lockett b Barnes	6
J. Tomlinson c Sedgwick b Barnes	4
W. A. Sutton c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
P. Flatters b Lockett	19
J. Robinson b Barnes	7
A. Holt c Goodwin b Barnes	0
T. E. Drakes b Lockett	0
C. Wilson c Gothard b Barnes	2
G. Shaw not out	9
Extras	6
Total	56

STAFFORDSHIRE

First Innings

H. W. Homer c Shaw b Drakes	12
C. Howl b Drakes	3
Barnes c Robinson b Wilson	13
E. J. Gothard b Sutton	2
A. W. Ikin c Shaw b Wilson	5
H. Goodwin c Flatters b Wilson	7
A. Lockett c Frearson b Holt	18
Sedgwick b Drakes	1
Platt c Bashforth b Frearson	27
R. S. Hardy not out	11
J. B. Russell b Drakes	1
Extras	19
Total	119

Second Innings

H. W. Homer not out	44
C. Howl c Bashforth b Drakes	0
Barnes c Searby b Drakes	17
E. J. Gothard c Bashforth b Drakes	1
A. W. Ikin not out	1
Extras	2
Total (for three wickets)	65

BOWLING ANALYSIS

LINCOLNSHIRE

	1st Inn.				2nd Inn.			
	O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
Barnes	24	3	60	4	17	8	19	7
Sedgwick	12	2	29	1	9	3	8	1
Lockett	14	4	26	3	7.2	1	23	2
Platt	2	1	5	1				

STAFFORDSHIRE

	1st Inn.				2nd Inn.			
	O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
Drakes	17	1	44	4	11.2	1	38	3
Holt	8	3	16	1				
Wilson	17	7	26	3	5	0	12	0
Sutton	11	8	3	1	6	4	13	0
Frearson	2	0	11	1				

Tamworth v. Kingsbury Colliery

At Tamworth. Scores:—

Kingsbury.—G. H. Mayer c Stretton b Beard 0, E. Lawley c Watson b Ford 26, F. White b Ford 0, R. James c Morris b Beard 80, E. Bettaney c and b Ford 12, J. Wileman c Lawrence b Chalmers 7, J. Illsley lbw b Birt 4, S. Mayer c and b Chalmers 0, C. Cartwright b Chalmers 0, H. Tate not out 10, G. Mayer not out 3, extras 10; total (nine wickets, innings closed) 152.

Tamworth.—J. E. Ford b Bettaney 5, P. Morris c Illsley b Bettaney 5, C. Chalmers run out 32, A. Watson c and b G. H. Mayer 39, A. Beard not out 42, L. J. Birt b G. H. Mayer 1, J. Tomson c James b G. H. Mayer 10, A. Stretton b Bettaney 2, S. T. Bourne b S. Mayer 5, R. Lawrence b White 4 (L. J. Johnson did not bat), extras 11; total (nine wickets) 156.

Market Drayton v. Porthill Park

At Market Drayton. Scores:—

Porthill.—R. Warburton c Ridgway b Winser 2, J. White c Hill b Winser 1, L. Beech run out 0, A. Dale c Marshall b Winser 2, E. Poole b Winser 0, A. Lloyd b Hill 3, G. E. Poulson c Marshall b Winser 0, J. Wood c Eardley b Winser 0, W. Lawton not out 2, L. Baddeley b Hill 0, J. Wilkinson b Winser 1, extras 6; total 17. The Rev. A. A. Winser took seven wickets for 7 runs.

Market Drayton.—J. Boughey c Poole b Poulson 12, C. Ridgway c White b Wood 6, M. Sutthery not out 38, H. Harper b Lloyd 18, R. V. Eardley b Wood 0, Rev. A. A. Winser not out 19 (J. J. Jones, J. A. Hilditch, P. Marshall, R. S. Hill, and W. Wood did not bat), extras 12; total (four wickets) 105.

Olton v. Wolverhampton

At Olton. Scores:—

Olton.—B. W. Quaife c Howl b J. J. Moore 4, W. G. Odell c Moore b H. Hacking 2, E. Neal c Harris b Thorneycroft 45, R. Horton c Howl b Thorneycroft 32, E. F. Odell c Stay b J. J. Moore 0, J. Doherty b Hacking 25, R. Broberg b J. J. Moore 2, W. H. Else c Moore b Hacking 9, J. Phillips run out 0, C. H. Ford b Reed 16, C. R. G. Heseltine not out 13, extras 17; total 165.

Wolverhampton.—E. H. Thorneycroft c E. W. Quaife b Broberg 11, C. Howl c Phillips b Else 85, N. A. Reed c B. W. Quaife b Broberg 8, J. Stay run out 11, J. J. Moore b Else 0, R. J. Moreton c Phillips b Else 11, Dent not out 33, B. Butler c E. F. Odell b Else 6, H. Hacking not out 8 (G. E. Harris and Bailey did not bat), extras 22; total (seven wickets) 195.

CRICKET

North Staffordshire and District League

KEEN STRUGGLE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The fight for the championship of the North Staffordshire League continues to be an open and exciting one, and the ultimate destination of the League flag remains highly speculative. The three clubs still in the running gained full points last Saturday, and may be said to have "entered the straight," with Nantwich and Norton racing neck-and-neck a length in front of Burslem, who are pushing the joint leaders hard. Which of these three will stay the course best and force their colours to the front at the finish is a pretty speculation for the prophets. I shall not enter the lists in that capacity, but content myself with the pious wish that Dame Fortune may be impartial in her favours, and that the best cricket may win the honours. At the other end of the table Madeley gained a point on both Bignall End and Longton, and the former of these will not have to make many more slips, or relegation may be their unhappy experience. They have now only two points the better of the "wooden spoonists," who stood up to Porthill with rare pluck and grit to earn a point.

Bignall End held their own at Nantwich up to a point, but when the critical stage was reached they crumpled up in sensational fashion. Nantwich were dismissed for 119, D. White and F. J. Dale both bowling well. L. Norton (a young player whose batting impressed me the previous Saturday at Silverdale, though he did not stay long) played good cricket in scoring 26, and H. Smith contributed 25. When the visitors had reached 47 for four wickets the chances seemed fairly even, but the rest of the side failed so completely that not another run was scored, and the Nantwich captain, E. H. Steventon, came out with six wickets for 23.

Norton were not free from anxiety in their home game with Great Chell, for though, thanks to Herbert Sedgwick, they got rid of the visitors for 53, they nearly made a hash of it. Their early batsmen were easy victims to F. Vodrey, the slow bowler, who has been strikingly successful lately, and five wickets fell for 11 runs. Still 42 runs in arrear, the home men had their backs to the wall, and the steadiness of J. Martin was the chief factor in pulling the game out of the fire. Martin got a priceless 24, and victory was achieved by three wickets. The side were all out for 69, and Vodrey had seven wickets for 36. Sedgwick's bag was seven for 18, and he bowled at something like his best.

Burslem also had their momentary anxieties, for though they hundled Knypersley out for 61, four of their own wickets went for 29, and it was the enterprising left hander, W. Briscoe, of football fame, who made victory secure. After this had been done Briscoe enjoyed himself thoroughly, hitting some indifferent bowling all over the field to score 101 not out. Burslem's total reached 201 for six wickets. R. Hollowood (five for 19) and E. Cook (five for 29) went through the Knypersley team, both using leg-spin effectively.

Silverdale were rather too strong for Crewe Alexandra at the railway town, and for once were suffered to reap the spoils before the threatening rain came down to put an end to the game. Ben Griffiths bowled so well that he secured eight Crewe wickets for 33, and the home side fell five short of the hundred. A. Ward played a correct and pleasing innings of 38 for Silverdale, who won by three wickets, scoring 101 in 90 minutes before the downpour.

Madeley's draw at Porthill was creditable. The home team declared at 173 for eight, which included a fine innings of 65 by Arthur Bickerton. Mainly owing to the stubborn batting of E. Barlow (48), who was making his first appearance in the team, and the captain, E. Mayer (32), Madeley held out to the end with a score of 142 for seven wickets.

Leek defeated Longton by 116 to 47. Arthur Ryder (25) and C. Hambleton gave Leek a useful start. Longton could make nothing of Leek's regular pair of bowlers, H. Birch (five for 17) and C. J. Taylor (five for 24). When eight wickets had fallen for 47, rain caused a long delay and threatened to rob the home side of victory. But after a protracted wait the game was resumed, and the remaining wickets fell with no addition to the score. The table now stands as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Nantwich	19	10	4	5	25
Norton	19	9	3	7	25
Burslem	19	7	3	9	23
Crewe Alex.	19	7	6	6	20
Leek	19	5	5	9	19
Porthill	19	5	5	9	19
Silverdale	19	4	4	11	19
Great Chell	19	5	7	7	17
Knypersley	19	5	7	7	17
Longton	19	6	8	6	18
Bignall End	19	3	7	9	15
Madeley	19	3	9	7	13

The promotion race in the Second Division took a turn in favour of the L.M.S.R. on Saturday, for they secured a capital victory over Burselm High Lane, and wrested the lead from them. Stone could only draw with Audley, and by their indifferent performances in the last few weeks have apparently once more allowed the much-desired re-entry into the senior rank to elude them. The Railway side now lead with 26 points, High Lane having 25 and Stone 23. With only three matches each to play the latter's chance is extremely remote. If the Railway team achieve their object first division cricket will again be played on the old County Ground, which is as it should be.

The Critic

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

Walsall Defeated by Old Hill

In a Birmingham and District League fixture, on Saturday, after Walsall had been dismissed for the poor total of 92 runs, Old Hill had just time to make 97 for the loss of four wickets when rain stopped play. Walsall started badly and lost four wickets for 23 runs. Smith, however, batted ninety minutes for 31 runs, and helped D. Robinson to put on 46 runs in just over half an hour. Yates and Woodhouse put on 46 runs for Old Hill before Woodhouse was caught, and though Lockett and H. H. Millichip failed to score—the latter being splendidly caught and bowled—H. W. Homer followed up with a splendid not out innings of 28.

Other scores in the League were:—Aston Unity 166 (R. E. York 41), Kidderminster 86 (C. S. Anton 26); Smethwick (innings closed) 236 (W. H. Ellerker 66), Mitchells & Butlers (for nine wickets) 116 (J. F. Stevenson 44); Stourbridge 110 J. Brookes 47), Moseley 103 (Dr. J. F. Shrewsbury 26); Dudley 86 (A. Smith 24), Westbromwich Dartmouth 84 (G. Hickman 23).

Wednesbury Second XI. v. Lichfield Second XI.

Although Lichfield Second XI. compiled 125 runs at Wednesbury, on Saturday, they were hopelessly outclassed by the home side Second XI., who responded with 248 for the loss of only three wickets. For the visitors R. Moore was the "star" batsman with 43 runs, while for the home team W. Davies carried out his bat with 133. Scores:—

Lichfield.—J. D. Parker b Tonks 15, L. Bates c Tonks b Davies 5, J. H. Barrow c Brown b Davies 0, N. Hartshorn c Brown b Tonks 23, F. L. Cooper c Morgan b Brown 6, R. Moore b Davies 43, G. Ryan b Brown 0, E. W. Chappell b Davies 10, J. S. Brown b Davies 0, L. J. Perry b Morgan 17, E. Standley not out 0; extras 6; total 125.

Wednesbury.—A. Tonks run out 39, A. E. Taylor b Standley 6, W. Davies not out 133, F. Tooth not out 37, J. Brown b Standley 20; extras 13; total (for three wickets) 248. S. Harold, V. Davies, A. Bowdler, T. Morgan, J. Pym, and H. Sendfield did not bat.

Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel: Saturday 20 August 1927

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB.

Champions of Minor Counties Competition.

Record of the Season.

So far as actual cricket is concerned the Staffordshire County Club have had a wonderful season, and it would have been even a more wonderful season had the Club had greater financial backing than it has had. When one comes to consider the achievements gained, and then analyse the moral and financial support which has been given, it rather leaves one cold, and forces one to ask

J. B. RUSSELL, Captain.

the question why the Club does not get the support it deserves. To have won the Minor Counties Championship with the excellent percentage they did, is a worthy and outstanding accomplishment, but, as was pointed out in these columns on two or three occasions during the season, the Club cannot be run as it should be run unless it has financial support. It is true that during the season 80 more members have been gathered in, but in a county like Staffordshire, where there is an abundance of talent, it seems almost incredible that the membership should be less than 1,000 It is far from that at the moment, and cricket enthusiasts in all parts of the county could at least show some

AARON LOCKETT.

appreciation of the Club's performances by joining forces to see that when the annual meeting comes round the County Club is as creditably to the fore financially as it is in achievements in the Minor Counties Championship.

NOT A LUCKY HONOUR.

There have been some critics who have expressed the opinion that Staffordshire have been lucky in winning the championship, but the general consensus of opinion is against that view. It is true that they have not had bad luck so far as play is concerned, but they have in the matter of finance. For the first time since the war, Cricket Week at Stoke and Porthill was favoured with good weather, and but for this godsend they would not have done so well as in former years, from the point of view of gates, for the match with N. Wales, and that with Cheshire were washed out by rain.

But in regard to the championship of the Minor Counties, there has been no fluke. It was achieved through team spirit, that spirit which is essential in most things, but never more necessary than in sport. Without it, to use very common parlance, one might "pack up." But it has been one bright spot throughout, each and all striving for one thing—success. And having gained it, without any great amount of luck, they deserve all they have won, and that is the championship.

THE BRILLIANCE OF BARNES.

When one comes to refer to the past one cannot refrain from expressing regret that the season has ended so early. Much has been written in these columns concerning play and players, so that it is quite unnecessary to dwell at length on personal successes, but first of all one must refer to the dominating feature in Staffordshire cricket this season. That has unquestionably been the bowling of Sydney Barnes. To-day he still stands out as one of the greatest bowlers the world has known. Still retaining that wizardry with the ball that made him famous, he is as virile as ever, and the skill and judgment with which he can vary the flight and pace of the ball, together with that finger spin of his, has been the bane of a host of batsmen. This year he has taken part in eight County matches, and here is his wonderful record, which beats those he put up in 1924, 1925 and 1926::—

O.	M.	R.	W.	Avge.
253.2 ...	81 ...	493 ...	81 ...	6.08

More often than not this season he has bowled with all the brilliance of his earlier days

SEDGWICK DEVOID OF LUCK.

In regard to other bowlers, it can be said of Sedgwick that he has been entirely out of luck, though this does not mean that luck has been on the side of Barnes. But times out of number Sedgwick has seen the ball miss the stumps by a hair's-breadth. He bowled consistently well, but if it be any compensation for some of the bad luck he has experienced, he can console himself with the fact that he has sent back more batsmen as the result of catches than anyone else in the team.

Aaron Lockett has come out with a good average; he too has been a thorn in the side of many a batsman.

HOMER THE CONSISTENT BAT.

The most consistent batsman of the season has been H. W. Homer with an average of 33.90. When occasion demands, he can show how runs can be got, but once or twice this season he showed signs of not wanting to gather all the runs he might have had. More often than not he played brilliant cricket, and this remark can also be applied to Sydney Barnes, who showed himself to be a capable batsman. Lockett, too, showed good hitting powers, but one was sorry to find that A. A. Bickerton and F. D. Perks could not play more regularly. They are two extremely fine batsmen, as can be judged when it is pointed out that with four innings to his credit, Perks comes second in the batting averages with a percentage of 27.75, and on the two occasions Bickerton played he scored 49 and 37 respectively. As was forecast in these columns at the beginning of the season, A. W. Ikin proved a batsman of considerable

SYDNEY BARNES.

merit, being third in the matter of highest scores. Platt has the distinction of being the only player to score a century: he batted extraordinarily well for his 110 (not out). Sydney Barnes hit up a 70 and Ikin 69.

SPLENDID WICKET-KEEPING.

The rest of the batsmen made some fairly good individual scores, C. Howl being well to the fore with a 66, and a percentage of 19.00. Platt always seemed to bat better when the side appeared to be in a little difficulty, but Gothard, White and Goodwin were more often than not out of luck. Although J. B. Russell does not figure advantageously in the batting averages, he has kept wicket with all

G. PLATT.

that customary alertness of his, and has sent 21 batsmen back to the pavilion, twelve having been stumped and nine caught.

THE SEASON'S RECORD.

The following is Staffordshire's record for the season, including a friendly fixture with North Wales, which was abandoned owing to wretched weather:

Played 11, won 7, lost on first innings 1, no result 3.

June 8th and 9th, Cheshire, at Macclesfield.—Staffordshire won by an innings and 18 runs. Staffordshire 263. Cheshire 153 and 92.

June 15th and 16th, Lincolnshire, at West Bromwich.—Staffordshire won by an innings and 169 runs. Staffordshire 402 for 8. Lincolnshire 89 and 144.

June 22nd and 23rd, Leicestershire II., at Wolverhampton.—Staffordshire won by an innings and 238 runs. Staffordshire 395 for 9 (innings declared). Leicestershire II. 65 and 92.

June 28th and 29th Lancashire II., at Blackpool.—Lancashire won on first innings, play abandoned through heavy rain. Lancashire 239 for 9. Staffordshire 150.

July 4th and 5th, Cheshire, at Porthill.—Match abandoned owing to rain. Staffordshire 152. Cheshire did not bat.

July 11th and 12, North Wales, at Stoke.—Match abandoned owing to rain. North Wales 64 for 8. Staffordshire did not bat.

July 13th and 14th. Leicestershire II. at Loughborough.—Staffordshire won by 113 runs. Staffordshire 174 and 150. Leicestershire II. 140 and 71.

July 20th and 21st, Notts. II., at Mansfield. Match abandoned owing to rain. Staffordshire 133. Notts. 118 for 6.

August 1st and 2nd, Notts. II., at Porthill.—Staffordshire won by 46 runs. Staffordshire 119 and 107. Notts. 115 and 65.

August 3rd and 4th, Lancashire II. at Stoke.—Staffordshire won by 210 runs. Staffordshire 122 and 190. Lancashire 41 and 61.

August 11th and 12th, Lincolnshire, at Frodingham.—Staffordshire won by seven wickets. Staffordshire 119 and 65 for 3. Lincolnshire 126 and 56.

Batting Averages.

	Inns	Runs.	Highst Not Inns.	Not outs.	Avge.
H. W. Homer	10	339	88	0	33.90
F. D. Perks	4	111	40	0	27.75
A. Lockett	10	234	50	2	23.40
Barnes (S. F.)	12	255	70	0	21.25
A. W. Ikin	14	284	69*	3	20.28
C. Howl	11	209	66	0	19.00
Platt (G.)	12	206	110*	2	17.16
E. J. Gothard	13	168	36	0	12.92
N. W. White	3	35	21	0	11.66
J. S. Heath	3	28	22	0	9.33
Sedgwick (H.)	12	108	23*	3	9.00
H. Goodwin	9	75	26	0	8.33
R. S. A. Hardy	6	26	11*	1	4.33
C. J. Taylor	3	11	7	0	3.66
J. B. Russell	12	40	15	1	3.33

The following also batted for Staffordshire: A. A. Bickerton, 49 and 37; E. Perry, 35 and 33; S. Jackson, 50; G. H. Thorneycroft, 23; W. Lee, 17; F. W. Page, 16; O. A. Fitton, 14 and 7*; C. J. Varcoe, 4, and W. H. Ellerker, 2.

* Signifies not out.

Bowling Averages.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avge.
Barnes (S. F.)	253.2	81	493	81	6.08
A. Lockett	129	33	310	30	10.33
Sedgwick (H.)	205.5	41	601	53	16.21
Taylor (C. J.)	34	15	55	6	4.37
Platt (G.)	45	11	132	6	22.00

Catches.

There have been 54 catches during the season, made up as follows:—Sedgwick 15, J. B. Russell 9, A. Lockett 6, A. W. Ikin, E. J. Gothard and H. Goodwin 4 each, Barnes and C. Howl 3 each, H. W. Homer and J. S. Heath 2 each, and E. Perry and Platt one each.

J. B. Russell has also been successful in dismissing 12 batsmen by stumping them.

Staffordshire Advertiser : Saturday 27 August 1927 - 1.

MINOR COUNTIES' CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP

Won by Staffordshire

REVIEW OF A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

(BY THE CRITIC)

By consistently good all-round play Staffordshire have succeeded once more, after an interval of five seasons, in winning the championship of the Minor Counties. The season's record is one to be proud of, for the percentage of possible points gained is the highest the county has ever secured, viz., 90 per cent. The official list of winners of the championship since 1901, when the competition was first officially recognised by the M.C.C., gives Staffordshire as the winners on five previous occasions in 1906, 1908, 1911, 1920, and 1921. But 1914 ought certainly to be added to these successes, and Staffordshire thought they were entitled to the honour in 1912. Leaving out the latter year, when the committee of the Minor Counties' Association decided that the championship should remain in abeyance, but including 1914, the present is Staffordshire's seventh championship, and as no other county has won it more than three times, the record is one of outstanding merit. My present and pleasant task is to review the season just ended, and I propose to give a short survey of Staffordshire's record since the institution of the official championship next week.

After experiencing bad luck in the matter of interference by rain for several seasons, and especially so last year, the swing of the pendulum has come this time, and Staffordshire have been favoured in the matter of weather. That is to say, they have never been prevented from reaping the fruits of their good work by the intervention of rain. Both the matches which were drawn without any decision were in an open state when abandoned. One of these was against Cheshire at Porthill, when only one innings was played, and had the match proceeded the probabilities are that Staffordshire would have won, judging by relative form. The other case was the Notts match at Mansfield, and the position in which the game was left might suggest that Staffordshire were fortunate not to lose points on that occasion. But though if the match had continued Notts would probably have gained a first innings lead, they were never in anything like so strong a position as they had at one point of the return match at Porthill, and yet were well beaten. So it cannot be said that the rain saved Staffordshire from defeat. Furthermore, Notts owed their favourable position at the close of the first day very largely to rain, which fell for an hour at the close of the Staffordshire innings and seriously handicapped the Staffordshire bowlers. All that can justly be said as to the luck of the weather is that in a season in which rain has made things so chancy, and first class counties have frequently been robbed of victory, and suffered loss of percentage by its untimely intervention, Staffordshire have been fortunate in being permitted to complete so many of their matches. It is seven years since Staffordshire previously won so many as seven matches in a season. In 1920 they did so, and the only other occasions are as follow :- In 1911 they won eight, including a challenge match with Surrey II.; in 1909 they won seven; in 1908 they won seven, including semi-final and final matches; and in 1906 they won eight. Thus only in five previous seasons have they won as many matches as this year. It is Mr. Russell's first championship as captain of the team, and to him especially congratulations are due. His popularity with the men he has led is hearty and well deserved. He has striven first of all for a high ideal in sportsmanship, and secondly for the success of his side, with impartiality and self effacement. It is not to be expected that one could invariably agree with his dispensations on the field. Great minds do not always think alike. But the captain has discharged a responsible task, which often must be difficult and perplexing, with success, and his captaincy has been of great value to the county, whilst behind the wicket he has been indispensable.

The matchless bowling of Barnes will be dealt with later in this review, but I desire to call special attention to the testimonial which is being promoted in celebration of his 50th birthday and his 1,000 wickets for Staffordshire, which two events synchronised last year. Personally, I agree with the suggestion of a well-known writer in the "Athletic News" earlier in the summer, that Barnes is worthy of a national testimonial on a scale more in keeping with the rewards of other great players in this country and Australia, but the present effort is, I understand, primarily a Staffordshire effort, and, as such, it is up to Staffordshire to make it a success. It is announced that the fund will shortly be closed. With another season of phenomenal bowling by the great artist fresh in mind, the testimonial calls for the generous support of the county, and all clubs and individuals who are willing to join in this recognition of a Staffordshire-born genius of the game and his incomparable service to the county, should act promptly.

Summary of Results

The following is a summary of the matches played during the past season :

June 8 and 9, v. Cheshire, at Macclesfield. Staffordshire 263 (H. W. Homer 53, A. W. Ikin 43 not out), F. D. Perks 40); Cheshire 153 (L. N. Jones 70 not out), and 92 (Barnes 4 for 26). Won by an innings and 18 runs.

June 15 and 16, v. Lincolnshire, at Westbromwich. Staffordshire 402 for 9, declared (Platt 110 not out, Homer 66, Barnes 43); Lincolnshire 89 (A. Lockett 3 for 6) and 144 (Barnes 6 for 31). Won by an innings and 169 runs.

June 22 and 23, v. Leicestershire II., at Wolverhampton. Staffordshire 395 for 9, declared (Barnes 70, Ikin 69 not out, C. Howl 66, A. Lockett 50); Leicester II. 65 (Barnes 7 for 22) and 92 (E. G. Hayes 45; Barnes 7 for 30). Won by an innings and 238 runs.

June 29 and 30, v. Lancashire II., at Blackpool. Staffordshire 150; Lancs. II. 239 for 9 (Houseman 95, Paynter 60). Lost on first innings; rain.

July 4 and 5, v. Cheshire, at Porthill. Staffordshire 152. No decision; rain.

July 11 and 12, v. North Wales (friendly), at Stoke. North Wales 64 for 8 (Taylor 4 for 23, Lockett 4 for 34). Rain.

July 13 and 14, v. Leicestershire II., at Loughborough. Staffordshire 174, (Homer 42) and 150 (Howl 50); Leicester II. 140 (Tyler 59; Barnes 4 for 30) and 71 (Barnes 6 for 36, Sedgwick 4 for 34). Won by 113 runs.

July 20 and 21, v. Notts. II., at Mansfield. Staffordshire 133 (A. A. Bickerton 49, Lockett 49 not out, Matthews 6 for 49); Notts. II. 118 for 6 (Keeton 46). No decision; rain.

August 1 and 2, v. Notts II., at Porthill. Staffordshire 119 (E. J. Gothard 36, G. F. H. Heane 5 for 29) and 107; Notts. II. 115 (Gunn 39, Keeton 39; Barnes 6 for 46, Taylor 3 for 12) and 65 (Keeton 41, Barnes 7 for 17). Won by 46 runs.

August 3 and 4, v. Lancs. II., at Stoke. Staffordshire 122 (Horridge 5 for 14) and 190 (Ikin 55); Lancs. II. 41 (Lockett 5 for 6, Barnes 4 for 19) and 61 (Barnes 7 for 27, Sedgwick 3 for 29). Won by 210 runs.

August 11 and 12 v. Lincolnshire, at Frodingham. Staffordshire 179 (Platt 27) and 65 for 3 wickets (Homer 44 not out); Lincs. 126 and 56 (Barnes 7 for 19). Won by seven wickets.

These statistics show that Staffordshire had two competition matches rendered void by rain, no decision being reached on the first innings. Of the other eight, seven were won outright and one lost on the first innings. The points gained have, therefore, totalled 36 out of a possible 40, giving the remarkably fine percentage of 90. The yearly percentages since the competition was re-started after the war have been as follows :—1920, 80 (championship); 1921, 77.50 (championship); 1922, 40; 1923, 72.50; 1924, 57.77; 1925, 55.55; 1926, 66.66.

Staffordshire's Marked Superiority

The programme this year was varied by the inclusion of fixtures with Leicestershire II. instead of Norfolk, who had reluctantly to decline the renewal of fixtures, as they found the distance too great to travel for one match, and could not conveniently arrange another which could be taken in the same journey. Leicester II. have been met before, but it was in pre-war days. As last year, Staffordshire have batted 14 times and have scored 2,541 runs for the loss of 130 wickets, as against 2,049 runs for 122 wickets last year. This gives an average score per completed innings of 195, and an average per wicket of 19.54. Their opponents have batted 17 times (including the North Wales match), and have scored against Staffordshire 1,751 runs for the loss of 163 wickets, or an average per completed innings of 106 and an average per wicket of 10.61. This is a brilliant record. It shows that the Staffordshire team have scored on the average almost twice as many runs per wickets as have been scored against them. It is not the best they have ever done in that respect, for, their record in 1911 and 1912, when the county was at the zenith of its pre-war ascendancy, was better, though the opposition was undoubtedly stronger. But those were days when Staffordshire's team was out of its class amongst the minor counties, and the county could doubtless have had the entry into the first class by applying for fixtures if it had been desirable and practicable. In 1911, though the programme included matches with Yorkshire 1st XI., All India, and Glamorgan (two), in addition to the competition matches Staffordshire averaged 24.35 runs per wicket, and their opponents 13.95; and in 1912, 23.72 against their opponents' 11.24. In the latter year they more than doubled their opponents' score on the average, which I believe was and is unique. When at full strength Staffordshire have a good team at the present time, but we can hardly match such bowling might as is represented by Barnes (at his greatest), Deyes, Wilson, Bucknell, Nichols, and J. S. Heath, or such batting power as was possessed by B. Meakin, F. Briggs, L. F. Taylor, W. H. Twigg, E. H. Bourne, Barnes, Hollowood, Fereday, Nichols, and Vost (Brown must not be included, as his brilliant service to Staffordshire had just previously ended). Pick your eleven from these names, W. H. Dearing or C. L. Winser to keep wicket, and I ven-

ture to say that not many first-class counties to-day would stand an even chance against them as they were playing in 1911 and 1912. Small wonder that they more than doubeld the scores of their Minor Counties' opponents.

To return to 1927, the figures quoted above compare very well with immediately preceding years. In 1926 the average score per completed innings was 168, and that of opponents 140; in 1925 the respective figures were 184 and 187; 1924, 170 and 131; 1923, 149 and 121; 1922, 171 and 159; 1921, 211 and 165; and 1920, 207 and 137. Even by comparison with the two last quoted years, in both of which the championship was won, this year's figures show a more marked superiority over opposing teams, the average cost of the wickets taken by Staffordshire bowlers being the lowest for many years, if not an absolute record, which cannot easily be ascertained.

The highest scores obtained by Staffordshire were 402 for 8 wickets, 395 for 9, and 263, made in the first three matches, before the weather broke, and when wickets were in favour of run-getting. Since then they have not reached 200, but neither have they ever failed to reach 100, except in the last innings, when only three wickets fell. Not to have been dismissed for less than 100 during the season may quite possibly be another record. Their lowest scores are 107, 119 (twice), 122, and 123. By contrast, opponents have been dismissed nine times for under 100, and North Wales lost 8 wickets for 64, so that they would probably have made the number 10. Only five times has 100 been exceeded, and the 239 for 9 of Lancs. II. was the only score of 200 taken from Staffordshire bowlers, the next highest being 153 by Cheshire. How deadly Staffordshire bowling has been is revealed by scores against them of 41, 56, 61, 64 for 8, 65 (twice), 71, 89, and 92 (twice).

Features of the Matches

The season opened at Macclesfield, where our neighbours and honoured opponents of many years, Cheshire, were decisively defeated by an innings. The home county lost nine wickets for 89, but L. N. Jones, the courageous, found so good a partner in E. H. Steventon that 64 were added for the last wicket, and the Broughton Hall man took out his bat for 70. His clean hitting has often come off against Staffordshire, when his colleagues could do liffle, and this was about the biggest-hearted and most meritorious innings played against our county bowling this season. By good, even scoring Staffordshire took a lead of 110, and Ikin commenced his successful first full season of county cricket with a fortunate escape before scoring and a well-played 43 not out thereafter, whilst Homer gave promise of another good year by getting 53 of the first 87 in pleasing style. Perks, Perry, and Barnes were the other principal scorers. Cheshire were disposed of for 92 at the second attempt, and Barnes claimed 10 wickets in the match for 81, in spite of L. N. Jones's dashing cricket in the first innings.

Lincolnshire were next met at Westbromwich, on probably the best scoring wicket of the season. The visitors were not at full strength, and they totalled only 89 at the first attempt against Barnes, Sedgwick, and Lockett, the latter coming on late to get three wickets for six. Staffordshire scored with great freedom off the Lincoln bowling, and declared at 402 for eight wickets. Homer, slower than usual, made 66, and Platt, getting a lift in the batting order, delighted everyone with a sumptuous innings of 110 not out, the only century hit in Staffordshire matches during the season. His off-driving and cutting were par excellence. Lincoln managed to total 144 at the second attempt, J. E. Searby being seen at his best in the top score of 40. Barnes had the fine record of 6 for 31 and 9 for 68 in the match.

The third consecutive victory with an innings to spare was registered at Wolverhampton against Leicester II., who were fairly mesmerised by Barnes. The great bowler took 14 wickets for 52 runs on a wicket which Staffordshire found good enough for nearly 400 runs in between the two Leicester innings. This must take rank as Barnes's greatest bowling feat of the season. Leicester were bundled out for 65. Staffordshire hit up 395 for 9 and again declared, and Leicester were put out a second time for 92, despite a praiseworthy effort of 45 by the old-time Surrey and England player, E. G. Hayes. Howl batted nearly three hours for 66, and the captain was the only batsman to fall short of double figures; Barnes got a beautiful 70, Ikin 69 not out, and Lockett 50 in as many minutes.

The First and Only Check

So far Staffordshire had carried everything before them, but at Blackpool they met with a check. Against some good bowling the batting partially failed, and the total of 150 was passed by the young Lancastrians with only two wickets down. When rain eventually put an end to the match nine wickets were down for 239, and Staffordshire lost four of the five points at stake, which proved to be the only points dropped during the season. The batting of Houseman (95), Paynter (60), and Booth (37) was good, but in the absence of Barnes the management of the limited bowling available was not very happy. The wicket was too dead to suit Sedgwick, and he was, as I thought, bowled far too much. Before he got a wicket 92 runs were scored from him.

The return with Cheshire at Porthill was also spoilt by rain, and only one innings was played. Bickerton (37) and Goodwin (26) put up 56 for the first Staffordshire wicket; then there was a collapse, and 7 were down for 98. Platt and Sedgwick stopped the rot by some vigorous batting on a difficult pitch, and the total reached 152. Cheshire were unable to bat. Barnes was again an absentee, owing to the claims of his club, and in the following engagement, a friendly with North Wales at Stoke, he assisted the opposition. When the Welshmen had scored 64 for 8 wickets a thunderstorm, which occasioned memorable floods in the North Staffordshire area, summarily ended the game. Taylor and Lockett bowled well, the former exploiting a dangerous "swing." His first 20 overs yielded 16 runs, and he finished with 4 for 23 in 22 overs. Lockett delivered 24 overs for 34 runs and 4 wickets. Barnes did not have the opportunity of bowling against his Staffordshire colleagues, and so missed the chance of wreaking vengeance for his own dismissal without scoring. Taylor secured his wicket, for he edged a "swinger" and was cleverly caught in the slips by Lockett, who has so often obliged in a similar way when "S.F." has been the bowler instead of the batsman.

Enjoyable Match at Loughborough

Staffordshire went on to Loughborough for the return engagement with Leicester II. the same week, and had a pleasant match on the pleasant ground of Loughborough College. The home county had a much stronger side than at Westbromwich, for it included Bale, the left-hander, who has had a regular place in the 1st XI. for years, and another good bowler in Coleman, who has been in the 1st team several times this season. This pair made a great difference to the strength of the side, and they bore the brunt of the bowling. Perhaps one ought to say Bale bore the brunt, for he bowled unchanged through both the Staffordshire innings, sending down 40.5 overs in the first and 38 in the second, 79 overs all but a ball in the match. Homer was top scorer in Staffordshire's opening innings of 174, with 42, and he and Howl put up 53 for the first wicket. Barnes, Ikin, and Lockett contributed usefully, but the total would probably have been much more substantial but for two bad mistakes in running by Homer, by which he first ran out Goodwin just when the left-hander was settling down and batting very well, and afterwards ran himself out when he looked rooted for a long stay. Bale had seven wickets for 62. Leicester lost two wickets for 21, both to Sedgwick, and then, with E. A. Broughton batting carefully and well, that light-hearted hitter, Tyler, took his courage in both hands and used the long handle both to Barnes and Sedgwick. Barnes had opened with 5 overs for 5 runs, including a lucky snick for 4, and in the next two overs Tyler should twice have been caught off him. First a skier on the off was misjudged by Gothard, and then Goodwin dropped a plain catch at long on. With these favours the two overs yielded 14 runs, but Tyler's method of lashing out at Barnes pointed to his downfall any moment. It was, therefore, surprising that Barnes was taken off and also expensive, for Tyler hit the other bowlers freely until he had got 50, and the third wicket added 83. This was another of the few occasions when one did not agree with the skipper's judgment, and though three more wickets fell before the close Leicester then required only 45 for the first innings' lead with four wickets in hand. Fortunately, next morning, Barnes and Sedgwick rattled these four wickets down for 10 runs, so a lead of 34 was obtained after all. Staffordshire made 150 at the second attempt, mainly owing to Howl's best innings of the season—59, Homer and Gothard also batting well. Coleman did well with the ball this time. Barnes and Sedgwick then bowled out the home team for 71, so that victory was comfortably achieved. Barnes in the match secured 10 wickets for 64.

Against Notts II. at Mansfield, A. A. Bickerton (49) and Lockett (49 not out) relieved a poor batting display, which produced only 133, the fast bowling of Matthews being the undoing of most of the Staffordshire men, and Notts would probably have led on the first innings if rain had not prevented any play on the second day. An hour's rain between the innings gave the Staffordshire bowlers a wet and greasy ball, and the home team scored 118 for six wickets, Keeton, of course, doing well with 46. He is a fine bat, and generally shines more brightly than his colleagues against Staffordshire. With another full day's play, anything might have happened, though Notts had the better of the position.

A Memorable Wakes' Week

Then came the triumphs of Stoke Wakes week, which furnished four fine days for cricket for the first time for many years, and also the most successful "cricket week" from every point of view for a long time. Notts II., who came with a par record of 100 per cent. of possible points and the leadership of the competition, were beaten at Porthill by 46 runs; and Lancs. II. were outplayed at Stoke and defeated by 210 runs. The Notts. match was packed with thrills, had its violent fluctuations, and produced sensational feats. The wicket was difficult throughout, except for perhaps an hour at the opening of the Notts. first innings, when the effect of rolling was to make the ball come along at an easy pace and finger-spin almost imperative. Staffs. began by losing seven wickets for 62 against Richmond's googlies and the fine length and swing of Heane. Then Gothard (36) and Platt (20 not out) made an invaluable stand of 47, both playing the best of cricket. Against the home team's total of 119, Gunn and Keeton put 80 on the board without a wicket down, and their confident forward play made it evident that the pitch had undergone a subtle change. But its original trickiness was then returning, and so startling a transformation occurred that the whole side was out for 115. Gunn and Keaton compiled 39 each, but no one else got more than 6. Barnes (at the opposite end to that at which he started) and Taylor (swinging with the wind) were the instruments of destruction, and from the time they went on at 79 Barnes took six wickets for 27 and Taylor three for 12. Gothard, Heath, and Howl were the only batsmen to reach double figures in the home county's second innings, but the hundred was passed, and Notts set 112 to get. In spite of another masterly innings of 41 by Keeton, who went in first and was sixth out at 65, the task was too much for the young Notts batsmen. The end was sensational. With Barnes and Sedgwick bowling, the total reached 65 with five wickets down, and the issue distinctly open. Then the same change as in the first innings was made, Barnes changing over and Taylor going on. One over from each precipitated the end, for Taylor got Keeton caught at the wicket, and Barnes took the remaining four wickets in five balls, the five wickets falling without any addition to the score. Barnes returned a record of seven for 17.

Lancashire II. Trounced

The wicket at Stoke looked faster, but it proved to be uneven in pace, and always gave the bowlers a chance. Preston and Booth bowled remarkably well, and Staffs. did not do badly to score 122, though a slow, leg-break bowler in Hor-

ridge was very fortunate in dismissing the later men cheaply and taking five wickets for 14. The Lancastrians were in sore straits with Barnes and Sedgwick, and when Lockett, recovered from influenza which kept him out of the previous match, took over from the fast bowler, his break-back caused such havoc that he got four wickets for no runs and five for 6. With a lead of 81, Staffs. compiled 190, being aided by a strain which caused the retirement of Preston after bowling 14 overs for 14 runs and two wickets. Ikin got his 50, a meritorious innings, with only one mistake, this being a difficult slip chance at 42. Barnes, Howl, Homer, and Goodwin also batted well. The task of making 272 to win was a hopeless one for the visitors. Barnes and Sedgwick bowled irresistibly, and the last seven wickets fell for 9 runs. Barnes had the last four in ten balls for 2 runs. In the match he took eleven for 46, and in the four days twenty-four for 108. Sedgwick deserved better figures than his four for 44 in this match.

Just in Time

The final engagement was the return match with Lincoln at Frodingham, a nice ground close to Scunthorpe. With bad weather interfering with cricket in almost all parts of the country, and rain storms hovering all round, particularly on the second day, Staffs. were highly favoured in being able to finish the match and wind up the season in triumph. To be headed on the first innings by Lincoln was not creditable, and would not have happened if the fielding had been up to par. Barnes bowled with wretched luck, and well enough during the first hour or so to have got the bulk of the side out. But things did not come off for him, and amongst the many "near misses" were two or three sharp chances to the close-in fielders. The details of one over bowled to Tomlinson will illustrate the sort of luck Barnes experienced. Four balls in succession turned from the leg to utterly beat the batsman and flash past the off-stump or over the wicket, the next the batsman fent out to and snicked it, giving a catch at the wicket and a chance of stumping, but the captain, trying to stump, missed the catch. He could not be blamed. The turn of the ball was sufficient to prevent his taking it with the quick movement necessary for stumping, but otherwise he would probably have taken the catch. And the last ball again went off the edge of the bat and was touched by Howl in the slips, but instead of a catch yielded two runs. This over was a type of Barnes's luck. At the same time Sedgwick had his share of hard lines, for he beat Bashforth and literally shaved his wicket half a dozen times, and was within a foot of getting a catch off his own bowling. Even so, nine Lincoln wickets were down for 87, and with one run added the home captain, Major Wilson, gave an easy catch to Platt at mid-on off Lockett, and was let off. The last wicket added 39, and Wilson scored a good many runs off Barnes, who was not bowling so well as earlier, by upish strokes, which by sheer good fortune were out of the reach of the fielders. So the home county were extremely fortunate to reach a total of 126, which proved 7 runs more than Staffs. could make. After losing seven wickets for 59, the visitors made a bold bid for the lead, Platt, Lockett, and Hardy batting well. T. E. Drakes, just 18, and just left Stamford Grammar School, though not at all robust in appearance, showed himself a fast bowler of parts, taking four for 44 and three for 38. He is, perhaps, the most interesting young bowler who has appeared against Staffs. during the season, and his career at Cambridge, whither he goes next year, will be worth noting.

In the Lincoln second innings, Barnes came into his own. Taking seven wickets for 19, he had three men caught in the slips and two close in at point. A score of 56 left Staffs. 64 to get, and Homer played highly attractive cricket to carry out his bat for 44, Staffs. winning by seven wickets. Rain had fallen several times before the end, and not long afterwards there was something like a deluge. Had this come an hour sooner it would almost certainly have given Lincoln first innings' points, and Staffs. would have finished with a percentage of 80, instead of 90.

Individual Achievements

The batting and bowling averages are as follow:—

Batting

	Ins	Not out	Runs	Highest score	Average
A. A. Bickerton	2	0	86	49	43.00
H. W. Homer ...	10	1	339	66	37.66
E Perry	2	0	66	33	33.00
A Lockett	10	2	224	50	28.00
F. D. Perks... ...	4	0	111	40	27.75
A. W. Ikin	14	3	284	69*	25.81
Barnes	12	0	255	70	21.25
G. A. Fitton ...	2	1	21	14	21.00
Platt	12	2	206	110*	20.60
C. Howl	11	0	209	66	19.00
Sedgwick	12	4	108	30	13.50
E. J. Gothard ...	13	0	168	36	12.92
N. W. White ...	3	0	35	21	11.66
J. S. Heath ...	3	0	28	22	9.33
H. Goodwin ...	9	0	75	26	8.33
R. S. A. Hardy	6	2	26	11*	6.50
J. B. Russell ...	12	1	42	15	3.81
Taylor	3	0	11	7	3.66

Also Batted: S. Jackson 30, G. H. Thorneycroft 23, W. Lee 17, E. W. Page 16, C. G. Varcoe 4, W. H. Ellerker 2.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge
Taylor	34	13	35	8	4.37
Barnes	253.2	81	493	81	6.08
Lockett	128	33	310	29	10.89
Sedgwick	203.5	39	601	33	18.25
Platt...	45	12	122	6	20.33

Also Bowled: W. Lee 11—1—40—0. E. Perry 3—1—12—0. R. R. Hollowood 2—1—1—0.

Sedgwick bowled 16 no-balls, Lockett 9, and Platt and Lee 3 each, and Barnes bowled one wide.

A More Regular Team

In a survey of the doings of the players individually, one's first observation is that the batting of the team has gained in stability by the fact that the committee have been able to command a more regular side than for some years past. There have been disappointments, but the wet season has had something to do with these. For the last year or two the same eight players have appeared with sufficient regularity to constitute a fairly stable nucleus. They are the Captain, J. B. Russell, the three professionals, Barnes, Sedgwick, and Platt, A. Lockett, C. Howl, H. W. Homer, and H. Goodwin, the last-named playing regularly after the commencement of the University vacation. To these two more have been added this year, A. W. Ikin and E. J. Gothard, making ten fairly regular players. There are others who are sure of a place in the team whenever they can play, as, for instance, A. A. Bickerton and E. W. Page, but the inclusion of two more regular players has been a distinct gain. It was, perhaps, unfortunate that a place could not be found in the later matches for the Westbromwich batsman, F. D. Perks, who justified his inclusion in the team during the latter part of last season and the early part of this. He was unable to play in two or three matches after taking part in the first three, and one heard some criticism of the committee for his non-selection thereafter, but in the meantime the team had become more or less settled, except for one or two emergency changes, and, personally, one was inclined to agree with the committee's judgment in not disturbing the Eleven any more than was absolutely necessary. The Westbromwich player, like his clubmate, E. Perry, had the pleasure of batting on the plumb wickets of the first weeks of the season, so that their figures cannot fairly be compared with those of the men who often had to struggle for runs on a rain-affected pitch. At the same time, it is fair to add that in 1926, when he came into the team for the first time, Perks rendered valuable service on difficult wickets. He has proved himself a run-getter, and will doubtless get plenty of chance to participate in county cricket in the years to come, though one would like to see him develop a freer back stroke. He is young enough to overcome a tendency with a ball of awkward length to hold the bat stationary for the ball to hit it.

Successful Players, New and Old

The two new-comers, A. W. Ikin and E. J. Gothard, have played more innings than anyone else, and Ikin shares with the captain the distinction of having played in every match, whilst the Burton man was absent only once, when he missed the best wicket of the year at Westbromwich. The advent of these two batsmen has been one of the season's interesting features. Ikin has been a prominent batsman with Bignall End in the North Staffordshire League for a good many years, and, taking a Saturday afternoon professional engagement with Great Chell this year he opened the season in such brilliant form that he was selected at once for the county. He started with such success on the fast wicket's of June that he scored 136 for once out in the first three matches. Like others, he has had a chequered experience since, but has played other excellent innings, notably his 55 at S'oke against Lancs. II., and finished with the third best average amongst the more regular players. Though not an orthodox batsman, playing many of his forcing strokes with a slanting bat, he has proved that his defence is good, and he can put tremendous power behind his front-of-the-wicket shots. Neither is Gothard quite what one would term a correct batsman in all his strokes, and is rather apt to be beaten in playing back if the ball comes a little quick and low off the pitch. But he impressed by the freedom of his forward play, and I think the committee were well advised to give him a regular place. His two meritorious and timely innings of 36 and 26 against Notts II. at Porthill fully vindicated their judgment. Though 36 was his highest score, he averaged over 18 for his first nine innings, but rather spoilt his figures in the last two matches. As he had scored over 900 runs for his club in each of the last two seasons, and has a chance of reaching the thousand this time, there is ground for hoping that his association with Staffs. cricket, begun with fair success this year, may prove highly beneficial in the future.

H. W. Homer is the county's sheet-anchor, so far as batting is concerned. Here are his scores this season:—53, 66, 18, 35, 42, 28, 25, 10, 12, 44*. Double figures every time he has gone in, and only three times less than 20. And, it must be remembered, generally on wickets favouring the bowlers, and always in first, when the bowlers have been operating with a new ball. He has a fine average for such a season, and it would have been better but for being once run out when well set, and once (his lowest score) out to a mistaken decision. His batting has been characterised by great skill in defence and fine hitting powers. Sometimes he has been patient to a fault, but his sense of responsibility and the difficult conditions afforded some justification. He does not greatly favour the drive, but cuts and glides beautifully, and his leg hit is, to quote his admiring captain, a gorgeous shot. One criticism I have against him. He wastes many runs by what I should call slovenly running between wickets. This has been more noticeable since he made two unfortunate errors at Loughborough, which cost the wickets of himself and Goodwin. After that experience he may be excused some caution in running, but it was carried to excess, and, in any case, it is an axiom to run the first run hard to be ready for a second, if possible. The difference between the running of the Staffordshire batsmen and that of their opponents has been represented by 20 or 30 runs in the innings on some occasions. Homer first played for the county in 1923, and he headed the averages the next year, and has remained at the head ever since. Here are his figures:—

1923: 9 innings, average 17.14.
1924: 6 innings, average 29.33.
1925: 9 innings, average 39.22.
1926: 10 innings, average 27.66.
1927: 10 innings, average 37.66.

In the five years he has scored an aggregate of 1,237 runs, with an average of 30.92.

A 'Varsity Recruit

Aaron Lockett has undoubtedly improved his batting, and is virtually second with a fine average. His defence has been good, and he can hit as well as anyone in the team. His fault is, perhaps, a little recklessness, but he has this time shown more discrimination than was his wont. He has improved on last year to the extent of practically 20 runs per innings, but then 1926 was one of his poorest with the bat. Platt comes out with an average nearly ten runs an innings better

Staffordshire Advertiser: Saturday 27 August 1927-4.

than last year, and though this is mainly due to his not out century at Westbromwich, he has on other occasions justified the slight lift he has had in the batting order, and has batted really well just when most wanted. Barnes has played several most attractive innings, and improved on his last year's figures, but has often fallen in the slips; and C. Howl has rather a better average, and has played better cricket than a year ago. His dogged defence and curious method have bothered quite a good many bowlers, and but for an unfortunate last match he would have averaged about 23. He and Homer have opened the innings nine times, and on the average have put up 22 for the first wicket. Sedgwick has not done quite so well as last season, and the Captain, taking the eleventh place, has a dreadful record. He can bat much better than this, but he has always been trying to get a few runs quickly, and ill-luck has dogged his efforts. Similarly, misfortune has clung to Goodwin. A brilliant left-hand bat, he has been fairly under a spell. Always something has happened, although he seemed to be batting well. Either the unplayable ball has come along, or a really good stroke has yielded a surprise catch instead of adding to the score, whilst he was once run out when batting with great confidence. Every innings one felt he might break the spell, but it stuck to him to the end, and after his first innings of 26 he only once reached double figures. By the law of averages he should enjoy himself next year.

The young Westbromwich football player, G. A. Fitton, who figures in the Stourbridge Eleven, played twice for Staffordshire, and though painfully slow on the first occasion on a good wicket, impressed me as a young player who might be of great service to the county. His out fielding was by far the best that has been seen in the Staffordshire team for years. He covered so much ground at high speed, and picked up and threw in so well, that he added very materially to the runs he scored with the bat. And he has a sound defence, and can hit the ball hard in front of the wicket. With better placing of his low drives he would have got considerably more runs than he did. I fancy he would repay an extended trial next season.

The last addition to the side was R. S. A. Hardy, whose parents live at Marchington, who captained Stoneyhurst College, and who is now at New College, Oxford. Playing in four of the last five matches, he did not secure impressive batting figures. But he revealed a fluent and well-taught style, and he was always batting under adverse conditions. It was understood that his reputation is more particularly as a bowler, and it was unfortunate that the skipper found no opportunity to test his powers of attack. His exceptional height might be an aid to him in bowling, as it certainly is in batting, for he enjoys a great reach. As the chiefest need of Staffordshire in the near future will be a new bowler of class, considerable interest will centre in this young giant when next season comes round. N. W. White is a batsman of class who became qualified for Staffordshire this season and played in the two Porthill matches, but is not apparently free to take a regular place in the team, like A. A. Bickerton, W. H. Fitchford, and others. Mention must also be made of W. H. Ellerker, now playing with Smethwick, who made his first appearance for Staffordshire at Mansfield, shaped exceedingly well, and was unluckily out. Here is another young player the committee should keep in mind.

Barnes Improves!

Once more reference to Staffordshire's bowlig must be primarily a eulogism of Sidney Barnes. Last year he had a brilliant season, and passed his 1,000 wickets for the county after passing his 50th birthday. In 1926, 76 wickets, at an average cost of 8.21 runs, was his wonderful record. Just prior to this season he passed the 51st milestone, but he brought to his task the same astonishing energy and endurance, and the same incomparable skill, and though playing in two matches fewer than last year—namely, eight—he went one better than 1926 by taking 81 wickets for an average of 6.08. Indeed, he has only once beaten this average—in 1912, when he took 70 for 5.37 a-piece. He has several times been very near, with 6.10 for 65 wickets in 1913, 6.18 for 48 wickets in the incomplete season of 1914, and 6.39 for 79 wickets in 1907. There is nothing new to be said in praise of Barnes's bowling. One can only marvel at such a record at 51 years of age. In the matches in which he played, 142 wickets were taken by the bowlers, so that his bag of 81 is something more than a remarkable proportion. He has bowled his famous leg-break with as much snap and fire as ever, has varied its pace, and sometimes accelerated it from the pitch, and sometimes distinctly checked the ball, so that the batsman was left helplessly guessing. With fielders close in, he has made accomplished batsmen pop the ball into their hands in a way that the uninitiated might have thought intentional. He has used off-spin occasionally, and he has bowled a fast straight one, and made the ball swing in and, now and again, swing away. And with it all he has maintained so perfect a length that to hit him with any safety was impossible. Nearly all the runs scored from him, except for snicks, have been got on the leg side, and generally from balls intentionally bowled on that side either to feed a leg trap or to hit the wicket with leg-break. Barnes delivered 1,520 balls in all, of which 277 were scored from, and 1,243 were not. The scoring strokes obtained from him were one six, 39 fours, 8 threes, 78 twos, and 151 singles. How many of these were scored off the edge of the bat or by half-hits and mis-hits which did not go to hand, I cannot say, but certainly a very considerable proportion. Amongst his remarkable performances he took 14 wickets for 52 runs against Leicester II. on a wicket on which Staffordshire made 395 for nine wickets between the two Leicester innings. In the first innings he took the last five wickets for 9 runs, and started the second innings with four for 6. He finished the Leicester first innings at Loughborough with three wickets in five balls. He took 13 wickets for 62 against Notts II. at Porthill, including seven for 17 in the second innings, which he finished off with four wickets in five balls. He took eleven wickets for 46 against Lancs. II. at Stoke, and finished the second innings with three wickets in an over and four in ten balls. And he took seven for 19 in the second innings of Lincoln at Frodingham, starting with three wickets for 3 runs in ten overs. Of Barnes's wickets, 27 were bowled, 34 caught, 11 stumped, and nine leg before wicket. Of the catches, six were at the wicket, seven in the slips, and 14 at point. Barnes's complete record for Staffordshire is now as follows:—Overs 4,020.2, maidens 1,219, runs 8,875, wickets 1,131, average 7.84.

Good Bowling and Fielding

Where Barnes has stood out so brilliantly, it would be easy to do less than justice to the other bowlers. But they have bowled really well, and there is no jealousy of Barnes's greater prowess, but a hearty spirit of co-operation and goodwill. There has been far more merit in Sedgwick's bowling than his figures suggest. They are spoilt by such experiences as his two wickets for 100 at Blackpool, when he bowled 27 overs on a wicket that was altogether too dead for a fast bowler. And he has several times had to face a wind which has taken the edge off bowling. He has also bowled at times with unusually bad luck. He has some capital performances to his credit, and has taken 13 more wickets than last year, though at nearly three runs a-wicket greater cost. Lockett has improved his average, though taking eight fewer wickets. He missed two matches this time, one owing to illness and one because he was playing at Lords for the North v. South of the Minor Counties, in which match he was an outstanding performer, both with bat and ball. For Staffordshire he has bowled finely at times, though once or twice his length has not been so good as usual. His best feats were five wickets for 6 runs against Lancs. II. at Stoke, and three for 6 against Lincoln at Westbromwich. Platt has had the thankless task of an emergency man, and has performed it well and in good humour, but he has had practically no chance to make a record worthy of him. Taylor, who stands at the head of the table, bowled remarkably well on his two appearances. He has only played for Staffordshire a few times previously, and has done much better this season than ever before. He was formerly a fast bowler, and played a short time with Warwickshire, and afterwards with Somerset until he left county for League cricket, and came to Leek as professional before the war. He is now assisting Leek as an amateur, and has quite altered his bowling. With a much shorter run, he bowls chiefly a slow-medium, swings the ball very well from leg, and occasionally uses the off-spin, which made his fast bowling effective in first class cricket. He has kept a disconcerting length, and is a very useful bowler to have at call.

Of the fielding, one hardly knows what to say, because there has been much to praise, and something to criticise. The close-in fielding has, generally speaking, been very smart. Sedgwick, at point (almost within reach of the bat), has done well for Barnes, and Lockett, Howl, and others have at times excelled in the slips. Ikin has fielded with refreshing dash at cover-point, but might be more accurate in throwing in. And others have done well, but some of the scouting and throwing in have been too leisurely, and have given away runs. The fielding of the Notts players was an object lesson in this respect. The Captain has kept the wicket as well as ever he did in his life, and that is saying quite a good deal. He does his work with relish, stands right up to all the bowling, and has gone through the innings without conceding a bye five times this season. He has missed singularly few chances, and has caught nine men and stumped 13. Two of these latter have been off Sedgwick's fast bowling, and eleven off Barnes. The 48 catches in the field have been taken by Sedgwick 15, Lockett 7, Ikin, Hothard, and Goodwin 4, Barnes and Howl 3, Homer and Heath 2, Perry, Thorneycroft, Platt, and Hollowood 1 each.

For several seasons the number of players called upon has been gradually reduced. In 1924 there were 28, 1925 28, 1926 25, and this year 24, of whom six played in one match only, and six in two.

It only remains to compliment the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Assistant Secretary, Messrs. G. A. F. Bagguley and Laurance Hancock, and the Hon. Treasurer, Major John Kent, on the courtesy and efficiency of their work, and to commend the appeal for a further increase of membership to enable the County Club to carry on successfully and wipe out its accumulated debt.