

CRICKET

North Staffs. and District League

LOOKING FORWARD

Bright Prospects for 1932

By "THE CRITIC"

Though the winter which missed its way when it was expected seems to have arrived in April, when it was neither expected nor wanted, cricket clubs are busy getting things in order for another campaign, and the spirits of those who love our great summer game are as buoyant as usual on the threshold of a new season. After two abnormally wet summers our hopes run very high for favourable weather conditions in 1932, and other circumstances point to a tournament of exceptional interest under the auspices of the N.S. and District League. In spite of the persistent rain which robbed players and spectators of so much of their pleasure in 1931, the Competition lost nothing in keenness, and prolonged and thrilling struggles at both ends of the results table were sustained to the very end, with the ultimate outcome that Leek wrested the championship from Burslem by a single point, and Crewe Alexandra just failed in a long-drawn-out triangular contest with Longton and Caverswall to avoid relegation. For their application for re-election also failed by the narrowest possible margin, I believe, of one vote in the subsequent ballot, and their place will be taken this year by the other railway club, the L.M.S., Stoke, who play on the old County Ground, and who won the championship of the Senior B Section for the third time in five years. Whilst welcoming the L.M.S. one must repeat an expression of sympathy with the old Crewe club, who have been prominent members of Section A from the very early days of the League, having gained championship honours three times and been runners-up on seven occasions. The L.M.S. had one season in Section A four years ago, but fared disastrously and returned to Section B, only to again head that Table. Their application for promotion then failed, but they have now been more fortunate, and have another opportunity to make good in the top class, a task which they will not find easy.

The forthcoming season seems to hold out every promise of an improved standard of play and a competition of great interest. One player will be missing who has figured prominently in the League in recent years, viz., Roy Hollowood, Burslem's clever bowler, who has taken a professional engagement at Dukinfield. He may not be as seriously missed by the ex-champions as would have been the case with most clubs, owing to the richness of their bowling resources. On the other hand the advent of R. Tyldesley at Nantwich, and W. H. Ellerker at Chell, constitute notable additions which will certainly enhance the interest of the Competition, and may be expected to give a further lift to the standard of play. I look forward to a splendid fight for the honours.

CONFIDENCE AT LEEK

Herbert Sedgwick has skippered the Leek team for two years, and under the inspiration of his leadership they took two strides, first from equal eighth to fifth, and the second from the fifth place to the top. The championship was won by all-round efficiency, and with the same players available, and young aspirants naturally improving, there is a quiet confidence at Leek in their ability to remain at or very near the top. And so far as one can judge such confidence is justified, though Sedgwick and his loyal team of triers will certainly meet with stern opposition in the quest of the championship from more quarters than one. The Captain has, of course, been re-elected, with W. C. Charnock as vice-captain.

Last season only 10 players were called upon for first XI. duty, and two of these appeared only once. Only Burslem were able to get through the season without calling upon a large number of players. With nine double-figure averages in so wet a season the batting was remarkably level, and Harold Birch, Gordon Sedgwick, H. Sedgwick, W. S. Hutchinson, and H. Kidd did so well with the ball that Leek had much the better bowling record in the league with the single exception of Burslem. The two Sedgwicks, A. Rider,

J. Cotton, J. Pointon, W. C. Charnock, H. Birch, W. S. Hutchinson, H. Alcock, J. Williamson, and H. Kidd constitute a team that will not be easy to beat, and there are a number of promising young players in the club, some of whom will, no doubt, get their chance. Leek will "play the game," and play it both well and attractively, as becomes champions.

BURSLEM'S LOSS

Roy Hollowood has been the outstanding amateur in the Burslem team for the greater part of a decade, and the most consistently successful bowler in the league for several years. His departure would leave a tremendous gap in most teams, and it will, of course, be felt by his old club. How much it will be felt will depend upon whether Taylor and Percy Kirkham retain their form of last year. If the professional's powers remain unimpaired, as may be expected, and the left-hander continues to develop as he has during the last two years, Burslem will quite likely still have the most effective pair of opening bowlers in the league. Evans Cook, who is to captain the side again, has done very little bowling in recent years, simply because he has not been required, but I know of no reason why, given the opportunity, he should not be as effective a bowler as when he and Roy Hollowood were the regular opening pair, and generally had somewhat similar records. So even the loss of Roy may leave Burslem very strong indeed in bowling.

Had the batting been as good as the bowling since Taylor was engaged as professional Burslem would have simply farmed the championship. But the batting has been very ordinary, and one wonders whether this season will see a marked improvement. If it does they will take a lot of stopping. Though there are some promising young batsmen coming along, it seems as though the main hope of real improvement centres in the opening pair. Len Crump is so sound a bat that his persistent failure last season was inexplicable, and he may be a power this time, whilst Bernard Hollowood, who averaged over 33 in six innings during his vacation last season, will be available throughout this time. With this pair to open the innings Burslem's batting may be a very different thing from that of the last two years. The ex-Longtonian, A. Meigh, is keeping the wicket smartly, and the fielding of the side is not far off the best in the league.

Apart from young players, some of whom may win their spurs, W. Briscoe (vice-captain), A. Birch, H. Sharpe, F. Bailey, E. Cotton, J. Jolley, and J. Fenton, besides those previously mentioned, have all had plenty of first team experience.

SILVERDALE'S DISTINCTION

Silverdale is one of the oldest homes of cricket in North Staffordshire, and the colliery village possesses a strong, well-managed club, with a pleasant and well-appointed ground, and last season the team earned the distinction of having the best batting record in the league and the largest credit balance over opponents. Their own average per wicket was 18.71 and the average against them 12.92, giving a margin in their favour of 5.79 per wicket, or practically 58 runs per completed innings, which was rather better even than the record of the champions.

Mr. G. Morris, the club's president, is, I believe, approaching his 40th year in that position, and Mr. J. E. Rushton, who is a life member of the league, has held the hon. secretaryship for a quarter of a century. Mr. Rushton informs me that all last season's players are again available, including Arthur Ikin, who has been re-engaged as professional. In addition, E. Malkin, E. Griffiths, and J. Hazeldine, of the Madeley Club, have transferred their services to Silverdale. My recollection is that they are three quite useful players. J. Cocks will again be captain, with another respected colliery official as vice-captain in the person of J. O. Davies, whom I have seen bat well enough to warrant many more runs than he has scored in the last year or two. With such run-getters as J. Ankers, A. Ward, C. F. Rushton, J. Whalen, and Ikin, and hitters like Geo. Green and Ben Griffiths, heavy scoring is always likely, and G. O. Holland, B. Griffiths, J. Whalen, A. Salmon, E. White, and Ikin provide an attack which is not to be despised. Silverdale had deplorable luck in the matter of weather last year, or they might have been higher up than fourth.

PORTHILL PROSPECTS

Always amongst the leaders, and generally making a strong bid for the honours, Porthill's prospects look bright for the coming season. Their bowlers are often handicapped by loose fielding—a fault which has sometimes cost them dear.

Their last year's professional, Rex Wilson, was a slow left-arm bowler, who must of necessity depend largely on his field. On the one or two occasions on which I saw him he bowled with heart-breaking luck, and he would certainly have been a much greater asset to the club had the fielding been up to the mark. It is a fault which must be cured if the championship is to be won, and it should receive very serious attention. The new professional is Stanley Crump, a bowler whose spin is mainly the opposite way to that of Wilson, and probably rather less dependent on the field, but if the club is to reap the full benefit of his undoubted skill he must be supported by smart and reliable fielding.

Porthill's batting may regain its distinction as the strongest in the league, for all the old stars remain, and Crump is almost as good a batsman as he is a bowler. With J. S. Heath, A. A. Bickerton, K. Gleaves, N. W. White, G. A. F. Baguley, H. F. Wood, E. A. Oliver, and Crump to be got out Porthill's opponents will have something to do, even if W. H. Fitchford should again be unable to play. And there are considerable possibilities in a number of the young players who have been tried. Crump will have the assistance of J. H. Chadwick, K. Gleaves, and N. W. White in bowling, with Arthur Bickerton and E. A. Oliver to call upon if necessary, not to mention the young bowlers in the second and other teams. If R. Hammond, who was incapacitated by an accident last year is still unable to take the gloves, the wicket-keeping may be rather a difficult problem. The captain and vice-captain have changed places this year, Arthur Bickerton being the skipper, with Stanley Heath, after a long spell of captaincy, as his deputy. A change has also been made in the secretaryship, Mr. J. Marsh having resigned after nearly a quarter of a century of invaluable service, and having been succeeded by Mr. N. W. White.

STONE'S BEREAVEMENT

I use this word advisedly, for I am quite sure that everyone connected with the Stone Cricket Club felt the untimely death of one of the most popular captains the club ever had as a personal bereavement. A more perfect type of sportsman than Paul Stubbs I never met, and that he should have been cut off in the prime of early manhood was a tragedy which came upon his friends with the shock of a stunning blow. Described to me by the club's hon. secretary (Mr. C. H. Matthews) as an ideal captain to play under, he will be greatly missed and mourned by his colleagues. As a batsman he had not done full justice to his ability in recent seasons, and seemed to be under a spell of ill-luck; but one felt that he might come into his own at any time and prove one of the most prolific run-getters in the league. I have seen him play like a batsman of class for Staffordshire. I once saw him hit a gorgeous century for Stone, and not long ago I watched him pile up a brilliant 70 for the Staffordshire Gentlemen. So that one was always expecting big things from him in league cricket, and I am convinced they would have come if he had been spared.

A. M. C. Smith succeeds to the captaincy, with W. A. Adams as vice-captain. Except for the one big loss there will be little change in personnel from last season, when the team did remarkably well in tieling with Porthill for the sixth place. The club is fortunate in its professional (W. Lee), a keen and conscientious player, and a very good all-rounder, who will again be the mainstay of the team. F. Ravenscroft, H. H. Wood, and F. Middleton are batsmen who may improve on last year's figures, and the young players of promise who may find permanent places in the first team include sons of old players of distinction in R. W. Harris and F. S. Johnson.

The bowling can hardly be quite up to league standard unless the new vice-captain should develop into a successful fast bowler, but Lee may receive valuable support from A. Worthington, who joined the team last season, and should have benefited by his experience. The fast bowler, S. H. Pollard, is unfortunately incapacitated by a knee injury, which is a serious loss. E. C. Fernis may be available for a fair number of matches—the more the better.

If as good a position as in 1931 is to be secured one thing is, in my judgment, essential—viz., a big improvement in fielding.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NEW GROUND FOR CANNOCK CRICKET CLUB

Col. C. Hatton occupied the chair at the annual meeting, on Monday night, at the White Hart Hotel, Cannock, of the Cannock Cricket Club.

Mr. J. Buck, Jun., presented his annual report as secretary, in which he said the financial position of the club had improved during the year. There was an increase in the playing members' subscriptions, and there was a larger total receipts in general subscriptions. A pleasant feature of the accounts was the profit of £13 2s. 8d. made by the ladies who organised the teas. As six matches had to be abandoned because of the rain, this result of the ladies' efforts was especially gratifying. The total income, however, was down compared with the previous year. The expenditure was satisfactory, strict economy having been exercised, and there was a balance in hand of £11 12s. 3d., as against a previous balance of £8 11s. 5d. last year.

The club was leaving the Athletic Grounds, on which they had played for sixty years or more, and they all know what a lot they were indebted to their President in obtaining the use of the new Cannock park playing-pitch. He hoped they would be able to justify the action of the Urban Council in permitting them the use of the park.

Mr. Buck reported that last season the first eleven played 10 matches, of which 10 were won, 3 lost, and 3 drawn. One match could not be finished on account of rain, and six matches had to be abandoned because of rain. The first team scored 2,102 runs for 142 wickets, an average of 14.80 per wicket, as compared with 1,784 runs for 151 wickets by their opponents for an average of 11.81. W. H. Allen headed the batting list with an average of 42.50 for 14 completed innings, and C. Hawkyard topped the bowling with an average of 8.47 for 40 wickets.

The second eleven scored 1,400 runs for 92 wickets, an average of 15.86. L. Williams was at the head of the batting with an average of 47.11 for eleven completed innings, and F. Cowern topped the bowling with an average of 8.47 for 34 wickets.

With regard to matches for the coming season, only one first team fixture remains to be arranged, and the teams to be met included Sutton Coldfield, Friends' Hall (Birmingham), Trentham, King's Own, Kynochs, Bridgnorth, Erdington, Blakenhall, Netherton, Birmingham, Pickwick, and King's Heath. The second team had games with most of the same clubs.

In moving the re-election of Col. Hatton as president, Mr. Burrell Davis said the Colonel had done most valuable work in the negotiations with the Council about the new ground. His own view was that the Cannock club would have a better opportunity at the new park than it ever had of providing the public with good cricket in a centrally-situated ground. He believed the game would become more popular in the town, and that cricket would be encouraged throughout the Cannock Chase area.

Col. Hatton said as one who had played on the Athletic Grounds for 35 or 40 years it was with no little regret that he thought of the club going to new quarters. It was impossible, however, for the club to have carried on under the old conditions, and on the new park they would be able to make a very good pitch, one which would improve every year, if they would only put some work into it. It was this question of work on the ground he would like to impress on every member. They had got to adapt themselves to the new ground. Believing that play in the field was a great essential in the winning of matches he was going to offer a bat to the player who proved himself the most reliable man in the field.

The election of officers took place as follows:—President, Col. C. Hatton; treasurer, G. James; secretary and match secretary, J. Buck, Jun.; captain of first team, W. H. Allen; vice-captain, G. James; captain of second team, J. Buck, Jun.; vice-captain, E. Vernon; auditor, L. Hallechurch. Additions were made to the General Committee and the Selection Committee was also constituted.

RE-ENTER CRICKET!

League Matches in North Staffs. To-day

MORE CLUB PROSPECTS

By THE CRITIC

A new cricket season opens in North Staffordshire to-day, and one somehow has the feeling that there is a keener interest than usual in the advent of the summer game. If only the weather is favourable there will be a joyous send-off, tempered, of course, in some cases by the chastening effects of defeat. Wickets have been firmer than in most years for practice, and in spite of cool winds players have been able to "get down to it" without too much discomfort.

CHELL'S NEW CAPTAIN

Continuing my survey of the prospects of the clubs, begun last week, I find optimism very prevalent at Chell. In addition to a change of hon. secretary (Mr. F. Hulme has succeeded Mr. G. Averill, retired after eleven years of splendid work), a new captain has been elected, this time in the person of Arthur Smith. In honouring this county batsman the club is itself honoured, for there is no more popular cricketer in North Staffordshire, nor any better equipped for the task of leadership. He will have the backing as vice-captain of Frank Vodrey, who captained the team in its rapid rise to a high place in the League, though unable to prevent a considerable relapse last year.

Great interest naturally centres in the appointment of the Sneathwick and Staffordshire all-rounder, W. H. Ellerker, as professional. A batsman whom it is a delight to watch, and a right-arm medium-pace bowler who can make use both of leg-spin and swerve, and keep a length withal, Ellerker should be a big asset to the team.

It is rather remarkable that the opening match to-day will see two new professionals of note in opposition at Chell, for Nantwich are the visitors, and Richard Tyldesley will also be making his first appearance in the League, a dual attraction which is likely to draw a record crowd. And spectators will find themselves well catered for, since I am assured that improvements carried out during the close season have made the Chell ground the best in the League in the matter of seating accommodation.

With regard to playing strength, all last season's amateurs are available, and the team look impressive on paper. Roy Smith, who was handicapped by a painful wrist injury last season, is quite fit again, and it is safe to predict a much better season for the ex-Knyvetsley all-rounder, W. Boon. The only newcomer is R. Hodgkinson, a young batsman of promise from Porthill. But there are many young players from whom some first teamers will probably emerge.

Exceptional strength in batting should be allied with adequate bowling resources, with Ellerker, Stanley Welch, H. Hancock, F. Vodrey, and W. Boon in the team. And if the fielding needs tuning up the captain and professional may be relied on both for example and precept.

NANTWICH ENTERPRISE

The engagement of "Dick" Tyldesley, of international fame, is a courageous enterprise on the part of the Nantwich club, from which, whatever the upshot may be as regards their own finances, will benefit every club in the League. I greatly admire the go-ahead spirit and pluck of the Cheshire club, and hope the public of Nantwich and the surrounding district will justify the big adventure in the only way it can be justified, by providing the largely-increased support necessary. A great rally for the first few home matches while the novelty lasts, and then a falling-off, will not do. The enhanced interest must be sustained throughout the season if the club's bold policy is to be warranted. For whilst Tyldesley will be a potent attraction on every ground, it is Nantwich who will have to foot the bill.

Tyldesley's prowess is too well-known to need recapitulation here. Suffice it to say that he is practically in his prime as a cricketer, that he is one of the wildest, slow, right-arm bowlers of the day, and

that he may quite likely be one of the big batting successes of the League, for he can hit with tremendous power.

With E. H. Steventon and W. T. Maybury (still captain and vice-captain respectively), to assist the big man, and J. E. Smith, L. Haighton, and others to take a turn if required, the bowling looks very formidable, and on paper the batting carries conviction. But it must be remembered that scarcely one of the regular batsmen played up to his correct form last year, and the experience of some whom one knows to be good bats was dismal in the extreme. There will need to be an alteration this season if championship aspirations are to be realised, especially in view of the fact that Bert Bourne will not be qualified. One of the most dependable bats in the League, he will be missed, but then such players as T. W. Steventon, J. B. Swindale, L. E. Norton, may be expected to recover in some measure from last year's slump and the juvenile L. E. B. Smith should make good this time. The only newcomer is C. Collin, who has transferred from Crewe, and may be useful, but I understand that F. W. Slight, absent last year, will be available. If so, the absence of Bourne will be less severely felt. And then there is Tyldesley, whose hefty bat will soon account for some runs if he is allowed to remain.

For recruits as they may be required the club has generous resources. The fielding has generally been good, and A. McTurk continues a succession of expert wicket-keepers.

NORTON NOT DOWNHEARTED

Following the hard luck last year in losing their professional for more than half the season, Norton have decided to rely on their amateur talent, but are by no means downhearted, and hope to materially improve their position in the League table. They could only secure the services of Harris in 1931 subject to the prior claim of Notts. County if they required him. As long as he remained in the Notts. II. XI. he was free to fulfill his Saturday engagement with Norton. But Notts. met with a series of casualties, Harris was drafted into the 1st team, and was such an instantaneous success that Norton saw him no more. As the Captain, David Worthington, moved into Derbyshire, and S. Dawson was ill for half the season, Norton were hard hit.

The present season will nevertheless be entered upon with confidence, which is, perhaps, justified by the reputation of the club as a cricket nursery. The old fast-bowler, Arthur Jolley, not so fast now and playing with the second eleven until the last few matches in 1931, has been elected captain, and I. Waterfall continues as vice-captain. Worthington will be missed as batsman and wicket-keeper, but I am informed by the new hon. secretary, Mr. J. E. Martin, that the club has dropped on a class wicket-keeper in the making. He is T. Whittingham, of Porthill, who was discovered in the knock-out competition last season.

Without any stars of special radiance, there is an appearance of nice level quality about this list—S. Smith, S. Dawson, A. Wright, G. Bishop, H. Higgins, U. Worthington, R. Tatton, J. W. Ellerton, and A. Reynolds, with the Captain, Vice-Captain, and wicket-keeper. And the veteran J. Smith may still be useful, P. J. Massey, W. Martin, and R. Steele are amongst the most likely recruits, and G. M. Fenton, who has transferred from Leek, an excellent bat on his day, will probably have a chance with the 1st team.

Norton fielding is usually keen and efficient, and that fact should be of material assistance to the bowlers, who comprise A. Reynolds, G. Bishop, H. Higgins, U. Worthington, A. Jolley, and R. Steele.

The Miners' Welfare Fund has bought the ground for the club, and a scheme and the laying out and fencing of spare ground, I understand this is likely to

materialise after the present season, in which event Norton will have a sports ground equipped on similar lines to that at Bignall End.

BIGNALL END'S JUBILEE

With Bignall End things seem to be pretty much "as you were." Professional assistance is still eschewed, and popular "Jim" Mayer will skipper much the same side as last year. Whether it will prove good enough to take a fairly high position in the competition chart will be decided by the batting form of such players as Leo McEllin, A. Booth, W. Beech, S. Hassall, E. Downing, K. W. Platt, and the Captain, and, perhaps to a greater extent, by the potency of Douglas White's bowling. A great deal will certainly depend on this large-hearted and skilful bowler, who will have the assistance mainly of A. Booth and S. Hassall, with Dr. Albert Riley a valuable helper when he can find the time to play, and a couple of likely recruits in E. Lewis and N. W. White. C. Robinson, who promised well a couple of years ago, was ineffective last season, but, with his high delivery, he might yet prove a useful bowler. There are young batsmen in the club who may be heard of during the season, and D. White's younger brother, N. W., may win his place as an all-rounder.

The year 1932 will be marked in red letters in the annals of the club, for it is the jubilee year. I traced the history of the club when the new institute was opened, and space forbids any repetition here. But I understand the event will be suitably celebrated during the season.

LONGTON'S YOUNG BLOOD

The definite policy at Longton is to encourage their young players, and afford adequate opportunity to those who give evidence of ability to make good in the 1st team. Two really promising young batsmen emerged in the course of last season in E. Hewley and S. Degg, and one will watch their development with considerable interest. J. E. V. Tovey, a loyal and enthusiastic member of the team for a good many years, succeeds C. Edwards as captain. Two useful players have departed, A. T. Poate, the all-round left-hander, having been appointed professional to his old club at Caverswall, and E. Payne having left the district, against which can be set the advent of W. Bourne, the leading all-round player of the Stallington club, who, I understand, is following A. J. Chadwick from the Blythe Bridge and Uttoxeter District League to Longton. Bourne is a young cricketer who may have a bright future. A fast-medium, right-arm bowler, with a nice leg-break up his sleeve, he last season took about 80 wickets for Stallington at an average cost of a fraction over three. He also headed his club's batting averages, and his left-hand batting may, with practice on better wickets, prove more successful than his bowling. He will have the best wishes of his Stallington friends for success in the North Stafford League.

M. Smith continues his services as professional, and a great deal will again devolve upon him and Harold Brassington in the matter of attack. With Smith and C. Edwards out of form the batting was weak last year, but a definite improvement is looked for. R. Plant, son of an old captain and newly-elected president, Mr H. J. Plant, will be available for the whole season, and C. Edwards, Smith, A. J. Chadwick, R. Plant, E. Hawley, S. Degg, and W. Bourne, with the captain, ought to provide a satisfactory nucleus, with plenty of reserves bordering on 1st team standard to draw upon.

Mr. A. Hodson, an assiduous hon. secretary, informs that the club is taking an active part in the scheme for coaching school boys under the Oxford movement.

PLUCKY LITTLE "CARSA"

By a really meritorious effort in the final stages of the campaign Caverswall justified their promotion and retained their place in Section A. Faced with the loss of their professional, Stanley Crump, they engaged the Staffordshire player, Frank Woodhouse, in his stead, an excellent choice. But later came an application from the player to be released from his contract, and the club unhesitatingly acceded, making a big sacrifice rather than stand in the way of the player's interests. To replace him at that late stage was no easy matter but the emergency was faced with courage, and their old amateur, A. H. Poate, who left them several years ago for Longton, was signed up as professional. One hopes that Poate, a left-handed bat and bowler of considerable ability, will realise his best possibilities in the service of his old-new club, and that "Carsa" will have as good a season as their pluck deserves.

Congratulations and best wishes to A. Pickard, re-elected captain, on his recent marriage. He will again have the

aid of E. J. Wakelin as vice-captain, and all last year's players are available, with a few newcomers, including E. Jones from Bignall End. The batting and bowling depended too much last season on Crump and Wakelin, but there were signs of improved batting towards the end of the season, and better things may be expected this time from W. Stanley, W. Colclough, H. Whalley, and others. Poate and Wakelin will be useful opening bowlers, and the changes will include the captain and C. Turner, both of whom are likely to get wickets. But the bowling hardly looks up to the average League standard. Keen fielding will, therefore, be all the more essential.

The hon. secretary, Mr. M. Cotton, was able to make a gratifying announcement at a recent function that they had the assurance of Mrs. Bowers that in the event of the sale of the Castle she would use her influence to secure the tenure of the club, whose ground is in the Castle grounds, on the present terms.

THE PROMOTED CLUB

The L.M.S. Stoke club, on their election to Section A, have acted wisely in engaging as professional and coach, E. Mayer, who was last season with Great Chell. I believe C. E. Mason (captain), J. Turner (vice-captain), and all the players realise the sternness of the task that faces them, but they are not likely this time to yield their place without a struggle. All last season's players are stated to be available except J. Cummings, who is not likely to be fit, and newcomers include C. Rhead, a run-getter with Burslem High Lane last season, and W. Walker from Ashcombe Park, whilst occasional assistance is hoped for from A. E. Wilson, who has had experience of good class cricket in London.

All the bowling is right-arm, and the most effective last year was J. Wood, who is fairly fast, with G. Llewellyn, J. Martin, and J. C. Hulme as chief assistants. Together with Mayer these bowlers should be able to give a reasonably good account. The professional will be a sheet anchor in batting, and a good many runs may be expected from T. E. Ball, Llewellyn, Hulme, Mason, Turner and others. A Copland is the wicket-keeper, and the team has the reputation of fielding with keenness. A good deal will probably depend upon whether the fielding is consistently up to concert pitch.

FINALE

In closing this survey of the prospects of the clubs, I shall not venture too far into the realm of prophecy. The championship appears to me too open for any definite tip. Many people will regard Nantwich as favourites, but I like the chances of Porthill, of Burslem, of Great Chell, of Leek, and those of Silverdale are not to be despised. Given good weather I think 1932 should produce the best tournament since the War. And as to the other end of the Table, well, I will not be a prophet of ill.

COUNTY CRICKET PROSPECTS

Smaller but Interesting Programme

AWAKENED INTEREST AT STAFFORD

By "THE CRITIC"

Though the Minor Counties Competition programme for Staffordshire has been out down to eight matches in the name of economy, features of fresh interest are the inclusion of Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire II. amongst the county's opponents, neither of whom has been met for something like a quarter of a century. The young players from the county of Broad Acres, some of whom are pretty sure to play a prominent part in first-class cricket in the future, can always be relied on for a good game, and Cambridge, at full strength, can field a useful side. They did Staffordshire a remarkably good turn by stepping into the breach at a late stage, when Denbigh drew out. They are to play at Stafford late in July in what, so far as I know, will be the first county match ever played in the county town. As the long vacation will then have commenced, the visiting county will probably be strongly represented. Fixtures with Cheshire and Lancs. II. are continued, and the counties to drop out are Durham, Northumberland, and Denbighshire.

A counterpart to the visit of the New Zealanders to Stoke last season will be a two days' match with the All India touring team, on the old County Ground, in the first week of July. The Indians are already, in spite of unfavourable weather conditions, proving themselves a highly-capable side, and they should not be less attractive visitors than the New Zealanders. The last team of men of colour to be seen in Staffordshire was the West Indies Tourists, and they created so good an impression in 1928 by their fine qualities on and off the field, that their visit is a fragrant memory, and should serve to enhance the interest and attractiveness of this year's big match. Last year Staffordshire would undoubtedly have beaten the New Zealand Test team had there been another day to play, and may be relied upon to give the All Indians a good game, even if they are not able to repeat the sensational victory gained in one day in 1911 over the predecessors of the present Tourists. On that occasion Barnes took 14 wickets for 29 runs, one of the most thrilling performances of his great career, and it is likely that he will be the only participant in that match of 21 years ago who will be amongst the 22 players on July 6 and 7 next. First-class touring teams have visited Stoke in three of the last four seasons, and on all these occasions brilliant weather has been experienced, leading to a completely successful sequence. Will the sun shine through the smoke of the Potteries again, and make the fourth such occasion a joy to everybody, including the Treasurer? One can only hope so, and urge the people of North Staffordshire to roll up in thousands to welcome the dark-skinned experts with bat and ball from Britain's Asiatic empire.

The season opens on Wednesday next, the 25th inst., when Yorks. II. will be opposed at Bradford, and the prospects of a successful season on the field appear to be bright. It is all to the good that H. W. Homer, of Old Hill, has consented to again lead the team. His captaincy last year was a success from every point of view. So far as I know all last year's players will be available, though some less frequently than could be desired. There should, however, be no difficulty in securing a strong side for all matches. To take the bowling first, Barnes and Lockett will presumably have the regular assistance of Stanley Crump, who made good last year both as bowler and batsman, with W. H. Ellerker and L. E. Gale to help, and Taylor to come in if his services are required. And amongst young bowlers who may have strong claims to further trial are Stanley Welch, who has opened the season in irresistible form with Great Chell, P. J. Kirkham and G. Sedgwick, left-handers, and possibly T. J. Rutherford, of Wolverhampton. A. H. Poate, the young Caverswall professional, is also a left-arm bowler and left-hand bat, who may merit consideration. Herbert Sedgwick, who has just been elected to the committee, would no doubt come in for some matches if needed,

and there is also Douglas White, of Big-nail End. So that the bowling resources do not appear to give any cause for anxiety.

The batting should be stronger this year than last, if for no other reason because Arthur Smith will be available, whereas he was only able to play in one match last year. The men who seem to pick themselves are H. W. Homer, Barnes, Lockett, S. Crump, E. Mayer, W. H. Ellerker, L. E. Gale, A. Smith, and E. P. Cross, whose wicket-keeping is a big asset.

That leaves only two places to fill when these nine are available, and, considering only those who are likely to be able to play in most of the matches, the claims of L. H. Crump and Roy Smith are very strong. Crump has proved his worth as an opening batsman, and the younger Smith, now that he is free from the effects of a wrist accident that hampered him last year, has few, if any, superiors as a run-getter in the N.S. League, and is a good, dependable fielder. My own view is that Arthur Fitton, the football-player and Westbromwich Dartmouth left-hand bat, who is able to play regularly, and would be the most brilliant ground-elder in the team, should be given a chance to reproduce his form of a few seasons ago, especially as he has started the season well at Westbromwich. And Arthur Ikin can hardly be regarded as a back number, since he had by far the best average in the N.S. League last season, and has started again in great form. He also could probably be a regular player, and is above the average as a fielder. Whether Frank Woodhouse will be available, I have no information.

Of players who cannot spare the time for more than a few matches, J. S. Heath is an inevitable selection as often as he can play, and the same may be said of W. Lee, the Stone professional, whilst A. D. Wilkie, of Wolverhampton, who deputised for Cross behind the wicket on the northern tour last season, is worth his place as a batsman when there is a vacancy.

Then there are the young batsmen knocking at the door. Besides Roy Smith, A. B. Hollowood, Gordon Sedgwick, and A. Ward have already been tried, and are all worthy of further opportunity. Bernard Hollowood may now be prevented by his scholastic duties from playing until August. If Herbert Sedgwick's son can command the time he might develop into a valuable county player. Ward has not started the season well at Silverdale, but he is a capable bat, very strong on the off-side, and he will come into his own. Though I cannot write from knowledge, not having yet seen him, glowing accounts have reached me of the promise of R. Plant, of Longton, son of H. J. Plant, a former Longton captain who played for the county. If report speaks true, "Dick" Plant, who has had public school experience, and has also been coached by Aaron Lockett, will be a regular member of the county team in a year or two.

A hope was expressed at the annual meeting by Lord Lichfield that when Staffordshire play at Stafford, some local players will be included in the team, and that leads one to scrutinize the personnel of the Stafford club. I have seen E. C. Kenworthy, the left-arm, medium-pace bowler, get sufficient life out of an easy wicket to think that a trial for him would not be out of place, and if my information be correct, J. T. W. Neville is a greatly-improved and improving batsman, who might make good in county cricket. Of the older stalwarts I have seen M. H. Cocks and F. Page bat well, and both have had big averages for their club in the past. Whilst it is essential to field a strong side, the committee should be able to include one or two Stafford players without taking undue risks.

On the whole I am disposed to take an optimistic view of the prospects in so far as playing strength is concerned, though perhaps rather too much will depend upon the maintenance of their form with the ball of Sydney Barnes and Lockett. Barnes has already given proof, young as the season is, that time has not even yet impaired his extraordinary effectiveness, if eight wickets for 22 in a Lancashire League match is anything to go by. By the bye, those who have derived pleasure year after year from his wonderful cricket, will heartily wish success to a considerable business undertaking upon which he and Mrs. Barnes and their son Leslie, have entered since the beginning of the year. They have erected and equipped on lavish, up-to-date lines, a large cafe, garage, and pleasure resort, on the main Derby to Matlock road, two or three miles from Derby. The new rendezvous was opened in February, and I was pleased to learn from Sydney a short time ago that, though the season had not then commenced, it had had a successful inauguration.

RAIN MARS MATCH WITH YORKSHIRE II.

No Play After Lunch

HOME COUNTY'S GOOD START

Staffordshire County Cricket Club, who opened their season against Yorkshire II, eleven in the Minor Counties competition at Park-avenue, Bradford, to-day, were reviving a fixture which, though at one time most popular, had never been fulfilled since being dropped before the War.

They were fortunate in having dry, if dull, weather, and there were prospects of a full day's cricket.

Staffordshire lacked the services of Heath, Ellerker, Dykes and Barnes, and in their places E. Mayer (Stoke L.M. and S.), S. Welch (Great Chell), P. O. Yates (Old Hall), and Taylor, the Burslem professional, came into the side.

An interesting feature about the Yorkshire side was the inclusion of Walmough, the Bradford City football club winger.

A SLOW START

Facing the bowling of S. Welch and Taylor, W. E. Harbord and Halstead, though not in difficulties, did not find runs easy to collect, and 22 minutes were occupied in scoring the first 10. Welch kept an excellent length in his first three or four overs, and Harbord, especially, was unable to get the ball away. One or two loose balls gave the batsmen more confidence, and at 16 Welch was replaced by S. Crump, who immediately had both batsmen puzzled by his spin.

The bowlers were receiving no assistance from the pitch, but when Lockett superceded Taylor, Harbord, attempting to hit out, was deceived by the flight and skied a ball which fell clear of the fielders between mid-on and long-on. Lockett's trap was well set, however, and with the score at 45, Harbord was caught by Mayer running in from long-on.

Then followed a period of exceptional inactivity, the batsmen refusing to take the slightest risk against the steady bowling of Lockett and Taylor, so that another 35 minutes saw only eight runs added. The new batsman, Turner, was at the wicket for 20 minutes before opening his score with a single, and for a further 15 minutes before his next scoring stroke, a drive for four from one of the few bad balls sent down by Lockett.

When S. Crump replaced Taylor, runs came somewhat faster, but just before lunch Turner, playing back to Crump, disturbed his wicket. The second wicket had added 26 in 50 minutes.

N. Grimshaw had not opened his account when lunch was taken.

RAIN!

As the players were about to resume after lunch, an unexpected hail storm, followed by a heavy shower of rain, put play out of the question for an hour or two, at all events.

There was a distinct possibility of there being no further play to-day, though at three o'clock a strong sun indicated a possibility of the pitch recovering.

Rain was again falling at 3.30, making further play still more doubtful.

Rain continued intermittently and shortly after four o'clock, following an inspection of the wicket, play was abandoned for the day.

Yorkshire II.

Halstead not out	34
W. E. Harbord c Mayer b Lockett	23
Turner hit wkt b S. Crump	10
N. Grimshaw not out	0
Extras	6

Total (for 2 wickets)

72

No further play to-day.

CRICKET

Staffordshire v. Yorkshire II.

By "THE CRITIC"

There was little improvement in the weather when Staffordshire opened the season at Bradford on Wednesday, for though the morning was fine rain was always threatening, and a hailstorm during the lunch interval was followed by frequent showers, and no further play was possible. The two hours all but five minutes during which play proceeded produced only 72 runs from the home batsmen for the loss of two wickets.

Excellent captain though H. W. Homer has proved himself, he has been sadly lacking in the first duty of a captain—viz. to win the toss when it matters. Generally speaking, when the choice of innings appears to be an important, and, as it often is in broken weather, a vital factor, his luck has been out, and so it proved on this occasion. Yorks. had the advantage of batting on a slow wicket, which pleased easily for more than an hour and a-half, and just when it seemed likely to become difficult the rain (and hail) came to drench it afresh. The prospect, therefore, was that, given a fine day on Thursday, Yorks. batsmen would have a further spell before the pitch got quick enough to help the bowlers at all, and would be able to put Staffordshire in on a quickening and also a broken wicket. However, everything depended, of course, on Thursday's weather—a very doubtful quantity to judge by appearances.

Barnes was unable to play for Staffordshire, but with the inclusion of Taylor and Stanley Welch the bowling was not by any means weak. When Halstead and W. E. Harbord opened the Yorks. innings these two were the first pair of bowlers. Halstead is a "youngster" of 16, who promises to make another great Yorkshire batsman. He has a correct style and an excellent defence, and has the reputation of being a free scorer, though he was kept perpetually on the defence by consistently good, steady bowling on this occasion. He hit up a century in the team's previous match. He appears to relish a pull, and has a quick eye for anything at all short, but the Staffordshire bowlers gave him few opportunities for exploiting this stroke, and in trying it with a ball from Welch, which got off the pitch quicker than he anticipated, he was fortunate to escape being caught and bowled. The return was just wide of the bowler, who was unable to reach it. Both bowlers also got good balls past him, as they did with the amateur, without hitting the wicket, and Halstead edged one of Taylor's, which was only just out of the reach of Stanley Crump at first slip. The last named relieved Welch at 18, and at 35 Taylor changed over and Lockett bowled. Halstead appeared fortunate to survive an appeal by Taylor for lbw, for the ball was well up to him, and he seemed to be covering all the stumps, but Lockett effected a separation at 45, when Harbord fell to a nicely-judged catch nearby the long-on boundary, after escaping from one or two lofty hits which did not go to hand. With Turner, a left-hander, in, Crump resumed in place of Taylor, and both he and Lockett caused the batsmen considerable trouble as the wicket began to quicken. At 71 Turner hit his wicket in playing back to a good ball from Crump, which completely beat him, and lunch arrived with only a no-ball added to the score.

It was obviously Yorkshire's policy to score as many runs as possible while the wicket remained slow and easy, and the fact that only 72 were scored in an hour and 55 minutes was a testimony to the accuracy of the bowling.

As matters turned out, the loss of the toss did not matter, so the captain was rehabilitated. Bad weather continued on Thursday, and no more play was possible, the match being abandoned shortly after lunch.

Scores and Analysis—

YORKSHIRE II.

Halstead not out.....	34
W. E. Harbord c Mayer b Lockett	22
Turner hit wkt b S. Crump.....	10
N. Grimshaw not out.....	0
Extras	6
Total (for 2 wkts).....	72

BOWLING ANALYSIS

YORKSHIRE II.—First Innings.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Taylor.....	10	6	23	0
S. Welch.....	4	1	12	0
Crump.....	11	2	15	1
Lockett	14	7	13	1

LANCASHIRE RALLY AFTER POOR START

Bowling Successes For Lockett And Barnes

LATCHFORD HITS OUT

There were prospects of considerably more cricket in Staffordshire's Minor Counties fixture with Lancashire II. at Werneth to-day than there was in last week's match with Yorkshire II.

The game opened in fine and almost bright weather, and indications were that there would be a full day's play.

Having lost the toss, Staffordshire were unfortunate in having to take the field on a batsman's wicket.

Staffordshire had four changes from the side which turned out against Yorkshire II., mainly owing to the inability of players to take part. The presence of Barnes was the subject of many expressions of satisfaction among the crowd. Ellerker, who had been selected, was unable to play and G. A. Fitton came in to take his place, the other members of the side who did not play at Bradford being W. E. Bourne, the Trentham captain, and R. Smith, of Great Chell.

In a strong Lancashire side were Horrocks and Bennett, Lancashire's two Australians. Bennett, selected for the first eleven's opening match, was unable to play owing to influenza, and the Staffordshire match sees his debut as a member of either of the county's sides.

THE TEAMS

The teams were:—
LANCASHIRE II.—P. Higson (captain), F. D. Beattie, H. R. W. Butterworth, Farrimond, Taylor, Hawkwood, Horrocks, Wilson, Bennett, Latchford, and Bowers.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—H. W. Homer (Old Hall), captain, E. P. Croft (Moseley), G. A. Fitton (West Bromwich Dartmouth), A. Smith (Great Chell), R. Smith (Great Chell), E. Mayer (Stoke L.M. and S.), S. Welch (Great Chell), W. E. Bourne (Trentham), S. Crump (Porthill), Barnes (Rawtenstall), and Lockett (Oldham).

AN AUSPICIOUS START

Staffordshire, thanks to Barnes, made an auspicious start. When Lancashire opened their innings with Taylor, the former member of the first eleven, and Hawkwood, who scored a century against Cheshire last week, Taylor was far from comfortable against Barnes, and before he had opened his account, the veteran, in his fourth over, caught him in two minds and bowled him with the total at six.

Hawkwood was much more confident, but neither he nor his new partner, Beattie, took liberties with the bowling, and the first 45 minutes produced only 20 runs.

Lockett shared the attack with Barnes, and each had two maidens in his first six overs. The rate of scoring remained much the same when Crump displaced Lockett, but Barnes now had Hawkwood puzzled, the batsmen twice in successive deliveries playing forward and being beaten by the ball, to survive appeals for stumping. He showed his appreciation of these escapes by driving the next delivery for a splendid four.

Beattie had showed signs of giving the bowlers considerable trouble, but at 36 he played forward to another spinner from Barnes and was caught behind the wicket.

BOWLERS ON TOP

The bowlers were now definitely on top, and Horrocks was so kept on the defensive that 19 minutes brought him two runs before he was well caught close in by A. Smith, fielding at short leg, off the bowling of Lockett. One run later, Hawkwood went, also caught by A. Smith off Lockett. He opened his shoulders to a ball well away from his off stump, but pulled his stroke at the last moment, and appeared to strike his foot, Smith taking an easy catch. His 28 had taken almost an hour and a half to contribute.

When Farrimond was dismissed with another ten runs added the game could be said to be in Staffordshire's favour. Farrimond had treated the bowling of Barnes with great

respect, and a straight bat for several minutes, but when the batsmen tried to run two for what was only a good single, Mayer made a smart return for Cross to run out the Lancashire wicket-keeper. Bowers then batted confidently until lunch and reached double figures in quicker time than any of his predecessors.

IDEAL CONDITIONS

Bright sunshine improved the already pleasant weather during the lunch interval, and play was resumed in ideal conditions.

Barnes, who had bowled throughout the two hours before lunch, sending down 20 overs, retained charge of the attack at the pavilion end. Bowers continued to please the crowd, to whom he was well-known by reason of his connection with the Werneth club some years ago, by attractive cricket, his quickness on his feet enabling him to turn both bowlers well to leg.

Lockett, who is one of the best-liked professionals in the Central Lancashire League, also held an interest to the spectators, and he was heartily applauded when a ball tempted Higson from his crease; and then turned for the Lancashire captain to be stumped.

The regular fall of wickets continued, Barnes five runs later dismissing Bowers with a ball that went away from him to catch his off stump.

LATCHFORD HITS OUT

The by no means strong position of his side brought out Latchford's well-known hitting tendency, and, on the easy wicket runs now came faster than at any period of the game. Latchford soon sent up the hundred, and in his first 26 runs he had a six—an on-drive off Lockett—and only one single.

Bennett was doing his best to follow Latchford's example, but at 104 Welch, who, with Cross had taken over the bowling, clean bowled him. Latchford was still undaunted, and he and his new partner, Butterworth, put on runs steadily.

Lancashire II.

Taylor b Barnes	0
Hawkwood c A Smith b Lockett	24
F D Beattie c Cross b Barnes	15
Horrocks c A Smith b Lockett	2
Bowers b Barnes	16
Farrimond run out	4
P Higson at Cross b Lockett	4
Latchford not out	50
Bennett b Welch	13
Butterworth not out	7
Extras	0
Total (for 8 wks)	127

Later.—LANCASHIRE 137 all out. STAFFORDSHIRE 5 for 1.

SET TO SCORE 153 RUNS TO WIN

Six Wickets Fall For Sixty

BARNES' CLEVER BOWLING

Following a day of rather fluctuating fortunes yesterday, Staffordshire were faced with a stiff task when they again took the field at Werneth to-day, Lancashire II. opening their second venture with an advantage of 54 runs on the first innings.

Staffordshire had failed to follow up the advantage gained for them by their bowlers early in the day, and after Lancashire's total had reached a much higher figure than had at one time seemed likely, the Staffordshire batsmen were outplayed on a wicket which, for the first time during the day, became full of tricks through the influence of the sun.

Staffordshire seemed likely to challenge the home total when 40 runs were on the board for the loss of two wickets, but the parting of Mayer and Crump saw the beginning of the end, wickets falling with monotonous regularity.

On an ideal wicket for his bowling, Butterworth always had the batsmen puzzled, and his bowling was worthy of his splendid return of six wickets for 29 runs.

EARLY SUCCESSES

Lancashire resumed in brilliant weather this morning, and Hawkwood and Taylor scored freely in the opening overs, but before 20 went up Hawkwood was woefully late in playing back to Barnes and was bowled.

Two further successes followed within a few minutes Taylor, generally so stylish, was guilty of a bad shot in trying to hit to leg a ball going away from him, and had his stump

disturbed, and a beautiful left-handed catch by Lockett four runs later, with the score at 25 for three, dismissed Horrocks.

Beattie and Bowers proceeded cautiously to carry the score to 42, when another dramatic double success fell to Staffordshire, and made the game assume a more open aspect. Barnes, whose bowling frequently had the batsmen in difficulties, introduced a fast one which upset Bowers' stumps and with his next ball he captured another good wicket, having Latchford, the top scorer in yesterday's play, l.o.w.

Farrimond, who followed, had an escape before he had scored, cocking up a ball which fell just short of Welch, and Barnes might have had Beattie's wicket had the slip fielders been more agile.

SLOW SCORING

The batsmen had now gone well into their shell, and the return of Welch and the introduction of Crump saw the rate of scoring become even slower. These bowling changes were effective, for at 71 Beattie was l.b.w., and after a period of exceptional inactivity Farrimond's patient innings was ended by his being well caught low down in slips by Bourne off Crump. His 15 had occupied 68 minutes.

Bennett, Lancashire's new Australian, who was having his first real trial, suggested that he was going to force the pace, but he had added only a single when he was stumped in playing forward to Barnes, who had replaced Welch. With the total at 86, lunch was taken.

After lunch, Barnes, who before the interval had bowled eight maidens in nine consecutive overs, seemed to be fighting the ball better than ever, and he clean bowled Higson, who had batted an hour for 12, and then got Butterworth lbw to end the innings.

Lancashire had batted three hours for their 98, a total which left Staffordshire to get 153 runs to win on a wicket which was fairly tricky.

Including the extra half-hour Staffordshire had about 3½ hours in which to accomplish their task. Lockett and Fitton opened promisingly, but at eight, the professional was adjudged lbw. Mayer, who took his place, soon settled down to stylish cricket, but keen fielding prevented anything in the nature of rapid scoring.

Lancashire II.

Taylor b Barnes	0
Hawkwood c A Smith b Lockett	28
F D Beattie c Cross b Barnes	13
Horrocks c A Smith b Lockett	2
Bowers b Barnes	16
Farrimond run out	4
P Higson at Cross b Lockett	4
Latchford at Cross b Welch	31
Bennett b Welch	13
R H W Butterworth not out	12
Wilson c Smith b Lockett	3
Extras	0
Total	137

Second Innings

Taylor b Welch	7
Hawkwood b Barnes	8
F D Beattie lbw b Welch	25
Horrocks c Lockett b Welch	2
Bowers b Barnes	0
Latchford lbw b Barnes	9
Farrimond c Bourne b Crump	15
P Higson b Barnes	12
Bennett at Cross b Barnes	1
R H W Butterworth lbw b Barnes	3
Wilson not out	1
Extras	15
Total	98

Staffordshire

Lockett b Wilson	14
G A Fitton c Farrimond b Latchford	0
E Mayer at Farrimond b Butterworth	26
S Crump lbw b Higson	15
H W Homer not out	15
Barnes c Farrimond b Butterworth	1
A Smith b Higson	2
W E Bourne b Butterworth	6
R Smith c Bowers b Butterworth	2
E P Cross b Butterworth	0
S Welch lbw b Butterworth	0
Extras	2
Total	63

Second Innings

Lockett lbw b Wilson	5
G A Fitton b Butterworth	0
E Mayer b Butterworth	13
R Crump not out	11
H W Homer b Butterworth	14
Barnes not out	3
Extras	4
Total	49

Later.—STAFFORDSHIRE, 60 for 6.

CRICKET

Staffs. v. Lancs. II.

THE LUCK OF THE TOSS

A Tremendous Handicap

By "THE CRITIC"

I have no suitable words to describe the ill-luck which has clung to Staffordshire for years in the matter of the toss. Every time the conditions are such that the winning of the toss is practically equivalent to winning the match, the spin of the coin has gone against Staffordshire. I cannot recall an exception in recent years. The same thing happened at Werneth on Wednesday, when Peter Higson won the toss for Lancs. II. and batted on a wicket on which their total of 137 was a poor one, whilst Staffordshire had to bat on it when their score of 83 was not at all a bad one. To put it another way, I have great confidence in saying that if Staffordshire had batted first they would have made a good many more runs than Lancs. II. did; whilst if Lancs. II. had batted on the wicket as it was when Staffordshire were in, the strong probability is that against the Staffordshire bowling they would never have seen 50. As I have suggested, it was an occasion when winning the toss meant winning the match, given reasonably equal sides.

There had been so much rain that the ground was very wet. The outfield in places was almost slushy. The wicket was so soft that it played easily—dead easy is the most fitting description. Lancashire batsmen ought to have been able to put on runs at a good pace on it. But Barnes and Lockett bowled so well that the home men were completely pegged down, and took two hours and 50 minutes to score 100 and over 3½ hours to make their total of 137. For the first two or three hours the bowlers could get no help whatever from the pitch. On the contrary, their spin operated so slowly that it could be easily watched.

The effect of the warm sunshine and stiff breeze was that later, when Staffordshire were batting, the ball nipped off the pitch with an acceleration of pace that made the quite slow leg-break bowling of the Cambridge Blue, R. H. W. Butterworth, really difficult. I should dearly have liked to see Barnes and Lockett bowling on the pitch as it was between 4.30 and 6.30. In my opinion it would have been odds against any first-class county making 137 against them. The advantage of batting first was immense, and Staffordshire did well to be no more than 54 runs behind when their first innings closed at 6.25 on Wednesday evening. But even that appeared to be a winning lead, as the chance of picking up any of the arrears in the fourth innings looked almost hopeless. Even in the absence of any rain in the night the dew would be sure to make the wicket play easier again for a time the next morning.

Barnes bowled 26 overs before he was rested, and considering that the foothold was heavy and he was struggling all the time to get some life out of a dead pitch, it was a remarkable piece of bowling. Lockett also had long spells and bowled well, whilst Stanley Crump deserved a wicket or two in his first spell, but lost his form when called up a second time. Stanley Welch got good figures and thoroughly deserved them, for he was accurate and his pace was deceptive. The fielding of the team was excellent. There was more dash in recovering and returning the ball than I have seen for some time, and many runs were saved, whilst a fine bit of fielding by Mayer secured Farrimond's wicket in attempting a second run. Fitton, Mayer, and the brothers Smith are entitled to a special word of praise for their work, and Arthur Smith took three catches at short-leg, two of which were from hard hits, and one of them, which dismissed the Australian, Horrocks, as neat a catch as one need wish to see. Cross also kept a brilliant wicket,

his stopping on the leg side being equal to that for which Farrimond has made fame. In stumping Latchford he took a fast ball outside the batsman's legs and brought off a perfectly dazzling bit of work. I have not seen a piece of stumping to equal it for years.

When Staffordshire went in Fitton was unlucky to be a victim of Farrimond's leg-side magic, for he was caught from a glide that would have been a pretty boundary shot with any but a very select few wicket-keepers behind him. Lockett started well, but got a quick one that whipped back from the off to bowl the top of the off-stump, and then Mayer and Crump took the score to 57. Mayer played the right game admirably, seeing that the wicket was getting momentarily more difficult, and there were five capital boundary hits to his 26. But the tea interval was fatal to him, for he jumped in to the slow bowler without getting to the pitch of the ball and was easily stumped. A shooter had Crump l.b.w. just before tea. After the resumption it was more or less a procession, and only Homer's dour defence was equal to withstanding Butterworth's leg-breaks. The captain batted an hour without being beaten.

Events happened almost exactly in accordance with one's anticipation on Thursday. There was a heavy dew and the Staffordshire bowlers again found the pitch too slow to be difficult. It was gradually quickening, and after Lancashire had been dismissed in 2 hours and 50 minutes Staffordshire had once more to bat on it when it had been baked by the sun. Going in just before three o'clock, the visiting team had a struggling time against the leg-breaks of Butterworth, who, with the good fortune of bowling both days when the wicket was at its worst, secured the remarkable analysis of 13 wickets for 57 runs in the match. During the treacherous weather that has prevailed this season he has had a striking run of success, and it would not be surprising if the County Palatine decided to test him in the first XI. His length was good and he got a lot of spin on the ball, though with a very palpable action, and the drying pitch did the rest for him.

Barnes bowled exceedingly well during the morning, and his second innings record was a very fine one. Set to get 153 to win, Staffordshire had 50 on the board with only three wickets down. But Mayer was out, unfortunately, when batting with great skill, and with Crump being stumped and Homer yorked after hitting Butterworth for three fine fours, a collapse ensued. The later players, of course, had the worst of the conditions, but the batting was somewhat lacking in resource. It should be explained that Mayer turned to hit a loose ball to leg, but failed to time it. It hit his thigh well wide of the wicket, dropped just behind him and rolled into the wicket, just removing the leg ball.

In losing by 76 runs Staffordshire merely suffered a reverse that was the almost inevitable consequence of losing the toss.

LANCASHIRE II.—1st Inns.

Taylor b Barnes	0
Hawkwood c A. Smith b Lockett ..	23
F. D. Beattie c Cross b Barnes ..	13
Horrocks c A. Smith b Lockett ..	2
Bowers b Barnes	16
Farrimond run out	3
P. Higson st Cross b Lockett	6
Latchford b Welch	31
Bennett b Welch	15
R. H. Butterworth not out	12
Wilson c A. Smith b Lockett	3
Extras	10
Total	137

2nd Inns.

Taylor b Welch	7
Hawkwood b Barnes	8
F. D. Beattie lbw b Welch	25
Horrocks c Lockett b Welch	2
Bowers b Barnes	9
Farrimond c Bourne b Crump	15
P. Higson b Barnes	12
Latchford lbw b Barnes	0
Bennett st Cross b Barnes	1
R. H. Butterworth lbw b Barnes ..	3
Wilson not out	1
Extras	15
Total	98

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1st Inns.

Lockett b Wilson	14
G. A. Fitton c Farrimond b Latchford ..	0
E. Mayer st Farrimond b Butterworth ..	26
S. Crump lbw b Higson	15
H. W. Homer not out	13
Barnes c Farrimond b Butterworth ..	1
A. Smith b Higson	2
W. E. Bourne b Butterworth	8
Roy Smith c Bowers b Butterworth ..	2
E. P. Cross b Butterworth	0
S. Welch lbw b Butterworth	0
Extras	2
Total	83

2nd Inns.

Lockett lbw b Wilson	5
G. A. Fitton b Butterworth	9
E. Mayer b Butterworth	13
S. Crump st Farrimond b Butterworth ..	12
H. W. Homer b Butterworth	14
Barnes lbw b Higson	13
W. E. Bourne c and b Butterworth ..	5
Roy Smith b Higson	0
E. P. Cross c Bennett b Butterworth ..	1
S. Welch not out	0
Extras	4
Total	76

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Lancashire II.—1st Inns.		2nd Inns.	
	O. M. R. W.	O. M. R. W.	
Barnes	23 8 44 3	22 4 10 31 6	
Lockett	25 4 7 43 4	13 4 17 0	
Crump	13 3 31 0	7 4 3 1	
Welch	7 2 9 2	14 1 32 3	
Staffordshire.—1st Inns.		2nd Inns.	
Latchford	10 2 27 1	13 3 20 0	
Wilson	7 2 15 1	7 3 12 1	
Butterworth	17 3 6 29 6	14 4 5 28 7	
Higson	15 7 10 2	9 4 12 2	

CONFIDENT BATTING BY STAFFS.

Crump and Barnes in Good Stand

CHESHIRE ATTACK MASTERED

There was a delightful change in the fortunes of the Staffordshire county cricket team when they resumed their Minor Counties programme against Cheshire to-day at Oxton. For about the first time for two seasons, the weather was really ideal for cricket, and Staffordshire were further favoured when they won the toss and were able to bat first on a wicket that seemed full of runs. Cheshire had again made chances in their side, a newcomer to this grade of cricket being G. P. Hodson, of the Oxton Club. The Staffordshire team was as selected, except that R. Lawton, the West Bromwich fast bowler, was unable to take part and in his place H. J. Chadwick, of Forthill, was given a trial. Chadwick, like R. H. Plant, the young Longton batsman was making his debut for the county.

CONFIDENT START

Staffordshire opened with L. H. Crump (Burslem) and L. E. Gale (Dudley). At the start, they had to contend with accurate bowling and smart fielding, and although Davies, who shared the attack with Wilson, contrived to make the ball rise quickly at times, the batsmen opened confidently.

Crump was especially sound with his leg strokes, and he obtained the first boundary with a lovely ground shot. Gale followed his example by a glorious drive off Wilson, also for four. Later, Crump showed his versatility with a clever square cut off Wilson, and 30 was signalled in as many minutes.

Gale did not score quite so quickly as Crump, but he batted confidently and stylishly, and when J. K. Edmundson went on for Davies he got two boundaries off the new bowler—the first a perfectly timed leg stroke and the second a powerful drive to the off.

At 43, Wilson was also rested in favour of J. Lewis, who forced both batsmen to watch him closely, neither batsman being any too comfortable. When 25, Crump edged a ball from Lewis into the slips, where Wilson failed to hold a fast moving ball, which went to his left hand.

PARTNERSHIP BROKEN

It was Davies who broke the partnership, however, for coming back in place of Edmundson at 57, he bowled Gale in his first over. Gale had scored 22, including four 4's, and the partnership had realised 58 runs in 70 minutes.

Barnes, who followed, settled down at once, and showed that Lewis could be hit when he drove him straight for the first boundary off this bowler.

At 78, a double bowling change was made, Jones going on for Wilson, and Lewis returning to the opposite end from which he had previously bowled. In his second over Jones made a confident, but futile appeal for lbw against Barnes. Apart from this, there never seemed the slightest chance of their parting the batsmen, and the Cheshire attack and fielders were to be complimented on keeping such a brake on the scoring that in 40 minutes following the dismissal of Gale, only 24 runs were scored. At lunch, the pair were still together, the score at this stage, after two hours' play, being 80.

CENTURY REACHED

Resuming their innings against the bowling of Wilson and Davies, Crump and Barnes sent the score safely passed the century, a late cut by Barnes, his fourth boundary of the innings, sending three figures up.

Barnes was scoring faster than the Burslem player who, however, reached his individual 50 with the total at 100. Crump had played a careful innings, which had had a big part in Staffordshire's strong position at this stage. So far he had hit four 4's, and had batted 2 hours and 25 minutes.

A change of bowling which brought back Jones and Rodgers had no effect on the game except to allow the batsmen to accelerate their rate of scoring. Crump took six runs in one over from Jones, and another couple of fours put Barnes well on the way to his half century.

The second wicket was added so when the partnership should have been broken. Crump had taken his score to 66 when he knocked the ball straight into the hands of Davies at mid-on. The ball was travelling quickly, but Davies should have held the catch. As it happened, the mistake was not costly, for in Rodgers' next over, Crump played outside the ball which nipped off the turf and took his left stump.

The score at this point was 193, Crump having batted three hours but for five minutes, for 68 runs. His best strokes were 6 4's.

Two runs later Barnes too, was dismissed, though he appeared dissatisfied with the umpire's decision of being stumped. He had scored 43 almost solely from strokes on the leg side. His total included four 4's. This left H. W. Homer and E. Mayer together, the bowlers at this period being Edmundson and Rodgers.

MAYER'S DISMISSAL

Mayer did not last long, a ball from Edmundson dismissing him at 147, three wickets having fallen in ten minutes for the addition of eight runs. Thus R. H. Plant, who followed, had to make his debut in rather trying conditions, but he opened his account confidently. He later turned Davies over the head of point for a boundary, but, after scoring seven, was clean bowled by Wilson. The fifth wicket fell at 168.

Although strongly placed, Staffordshire had not been scoring quickly enough to win the match outright unless Cheshire unexpectedly failed. Thirteen in one over off Davies suggested that Homer and Ellerker were alive to their need. Homer, however, went at 180, the victim of an lbw decision.

Staffordshire

J. H. Crump b Rodgers	68
L. E. Gale b Davies	22
Barnes at Worthington b Edmundson	43
H. W. Homer lbw b Wilson	26
E. Mayer b Edmundson	2
R. H. Plant b Wilson	7
W. H. Ellerker not out	7
Lockett not out	7
Extras	10
Total (for 6 wks)	103

ADVANTAGE OF 110 RUNS

Barnes Takes Five Wickets

JONES' EFFORT

Staffordshire gained a first innings lead of 110 runs over Cheshire in the Minor Counties fixture at Oxton this afternoon.

In reply to Staffordshire's first innings score of 309, Cheshire could knock up only 199, and the follow-on was enforced.

PROLIFIC STAND

Jones and McIntyre Defy Bowlers

Staffordshire resumed their match with Cheshire at Oxton to-day in a very strong position, for Cheshire, with only six wickets standing, still required over 160 runs to avoid the follow-on.

In yesterday's play, Staffordshire were always building up an enviable position, but it was only after tea that they forced home their advantage. In four hours before tea yesterday, only 200 runs were scored, but in the last 2½ hours the score was increased by over another 100 runs, and there was still time for Cheshire to have nearly an hour's batting.

In this period the home county lost four wickets for 42 runs.

A CAPTAIN'S PART

There was a big change in the weather this morning, but, although dull, there was little prospect of rain, and Cheshire resumed their uphill fight on a wicket which was still full of runs.

At the start, L. N. Jones and Jefferson scored quickly against Chadwick and Barnes, but at 89 Jefferson was well beaten and bowled by Chadwick, who was bowling really fast. Before this wicket fell, Jones had had a narrow escape from being run out, and as soon as Wilson

joined him, he survived a confident appeal by Barnes for lbw.

After these escapes, Jones played a captain's part, scoring well off Barnes, a drive and a late cut both reaching the boundary. He was chiefly responsible for a sixth wicket partnership of 24 runs before Wilson was bowled by Ellerker, who had superseded Chadwick.

At 98, Ellerker, in stopping a fierce return by Jones, was struck on the forearm and had to retire, Lockett bowling in his place, and a Cheshire player fielding as substitute. Jones found a good partner in McIntyre, and quickly adding 30 runs, once more brought the game to an interesting position.

JONES' FIFTY

Jones reached his individual 50 after batting two hours with the score at 125, and so far had four boundaries and two 3's as his chief hits.

The stand which the pair were making caused another change in the bowling, S. Crump being called upon for the first time.

Staffordshire's hopes of forcing a follow-on gradually faded as Jones and McIntyre dealt with all the bowling with ease and confidence. Both batsmen were scoring at a steady rate, and it was not long after reaching his half-century that Jones made himself the highest scorer of the match, and a few minutes later, when they had taken the score past 170, they had achieved the highest partnership of the game, their association starting at 93.

With the last ball before lunch, however, Jones was clean bowled by Barnes for 78, including eight 4's, the total being 188. Thus, with three wickets to fall, Cheshire needed 24 runs to avert the follow-on.

There was some careful cricket on the resumption, and the slight progress which Edmundson and McIntyre made was nullified when Barnes bowled the latter at 193, McIntyre had five 4's in his 46, and now Cheshire required 17.

Lewis, who took McIntyre's place, nearly spooned the second delivery into Mayer's hands at mid-off. It was Edmundson who was first to go, however, Lockett bowling him at 199, and without addition, Lewis was brilliantly caught at mid-off by Mayer off Barnes.

Barnes had a record of five wickets for 10 runs each, but Chadwick conceded quite a lot of runs this morning and three wickets cost him 72 runs.

CHESHIRE FOLLOW-ON

Having forced a follow-on, Staffordshire had practically three and a quarter hours—including the extra half-hour—to try and win the match outright.

Worthington and Hodson defended their wickets before Barnes clean bowled Worthington, who had scored six of the seven runs.

It was, too, long odds against a decision being reached, as Hodgson and Rogers showed, and, though the later was bowled by Lockett after a dogged innings, Smith proved equally troublesome, and the score mounted slowly towards the half-century.

Staffordshire

J. H. Crump b Rodgers	68
L. E. Gale b Davies	22
Barnes at Worthington b Edmundson	43
H. W. Homer lbw b Wilson	26
E. Mayer b Edmundson	2
R. H. Plant b Wilson	7
W. H. Ellerker b Wilson	7
Lockett not out	7
S. Crump b Lewis	40
E. P. Cross lbw b Davies	46
J. H. Chadwick c Worthington b Davies	21
Extras	17
Total	309

Cheshire

J. D. Worthington b Chadwick	15
G. B. Hobson lbw b Barnes	13
J. H. Rogers b Chadwick	17
J. K. Smith lbw b Barnes	0
T. W. Jefferson b Chadwick	18
L. N. Jones b Barnes	78
Wilson b Ellerker	6
J. A. McIntyre b Barnes	20
J. K. Edmundson b Lockett	46
J. Lewis c Mayer b Barnes	7
Davies not out	0
Extras	10
Total	199

Second Innings

J. D. Worthington b Barnes	6
G. B. Hobson not out	20
J. H. Rogers b Lockett	6
J. Smith not out	17
Extras	4
Total (for 2 wks)	63

CRICKET

Staffs. v. Cheshire

GOOD DAY'S WORK AT OXTON

By "THE CRITIC"

The Staffordshire Captain had a stroke of good fortune at Oxtou on Wednesday, to set against a lot of the other sort, when he won the toss and secured first innings for the visiting county. But it did not appear from the conditions prevailing at the outset to be a vital matter, as in a number of matches in which the choice of innings has been lost. That would depend upon whether the fine weather held over Thursday and, if so, on whether the hard wicket would stand two days' play without breaking. It was an advantage; the extent of the advantage could only be revealed as the game proceeded. It was a distinct advantage to be able to bat all day, and put the home side in for the last 50 minutes, which is always a trying and hazardous task after a day in the field. As a matter of fact Staffordshire could not have arranged matters better. They made a capital start, and had 139 runs on the board when the second wicket fell, but with seven down for 138 one felt that they had not got enough runs. Then a timely stand by Lockett and S. Crump effected just what was required, the third hundred was past, and the innings closed just at the right time to give an anxious last hour, which proved disastrous to them.

Gale, who has scored 244 runs for once out on the two last Saturdays for Dudley, and Len Crump gave the side a useful start against the bowling of Wilson and Davies, and scored 55 before the Birmingham League player had a specially good one from Davies, which turned from leg nearly the width of the wicket to hit the off-stump. Wilson is a steady and rather subtle bowler, who keeps an immaculate length, can bowl an in-swing, turn the ball appreciably from leg, and cleverly veil the one that cuts straight through. Davies has not, I think, played against Staffordshire, though he is something of a veteran, and bowls a fast-medium ball with a nice action, sometimes making them swing away. Against this attack Staffordshire's opening pair were rather subdued, though both occasionally got a particularly good stroke. After the departure of Gale, Crump and Barnes remained till lunch, and continued their partnership afterwards until 84 had been added in an hour and 35 minutes. Barnes was an easy master of the bowling (which was changed a number of times) until he left his ground in trying to glide a wide leg ball and was very smartly stumped. Crump had left two runs earlier, playing outside a ball that swung in slightly. He had been at the wicket 2 1/2 hours, his defence being excellent, and nearly all his runs came on the leg side. Several of his glides were beauties, and he got a few good leg hits, but he had a little luck, as he might have been stumped twice, and gave a hard chance in the slips and an easy one at deep mid-on shortly before he was out. Homer hit five fours and a three before one from Wilson that cut through straight and low deceived him, and he was leg before, one had almost said as usual.

Then the fielding side had a heartening spell, for Wilson got past the defence of Plant and Ellerker by turning the ball from leg from an awkward length, whilst Mayer was beaten at the other end by one that kept low. It was then that Lockett and Stanley Crump gave us the brightest bit of batting of the day, and added 80 in an hour and a quarter. Excellent shots came from both, and each had seven boundaries amongst his hits. Crump eventually played round a straight ball at 276, but Cross showed that the side was not done with, and 31 were added for the 9th wicket. Lockett could not get enough of the bowling to complete his 50, and was unfortunate to miss the half-century for want of one run. Though the luncheon occupied 5 1/2 hours, the batting was satisfactory, for the Cheshire bowling was never loose, and the wicket was not one of the doped variety that gives a bowler no chance at all. It was possible to make the ball rear awkwardly at one end, and it did not seem to be absolutely even paced, though much faster than what batsmen have been accustomed to.

When Cheshire began their innings, Barnes bowled against the stiff wind in order to give all possible assistance to the fast bowling of J. H. Chadwick, of Porchill, who was making his first

appearance in county cricket. He started off at a fine pace, and in the course of five overs bowled Worthington and Rogers with straight workers, each batsman being beaten by the pace. Then he was rested, and Barnes changed over. He got a wicket from each end, and so the close of play found Cheshire in a dangerous position with four wickets down for 42.

There was another full day's cricket in delightful weather on Thursday, and though Staffordshire were always on top the time was not sufficient to enable them to force a win outright, and they had to be content with first innings points. The wicket did not deteriorate at all, and was playing quite as well at the finish as at the start, so that Staffordshire did well to make the home county follow on. When stumps were drawn Cheshire were only 39 runs on with seven second innings wickets down. As there was no chance of winning with extra time the half-hour's extension was not claimed.

The second innings was nearly all Hodson, who had a little luck, for both Barnes and Lockett almost bowled him, and the latter missed a quick catch in the slips of Ellerker, a most unusual favour to be given by Lockett. He batted well, however, and his 60, scored out of 114 for five wickets, saved Cheshire from defeat. Most of the Staffordshire bowling was steady, and never became at all loose, except that Chadwick was at times rather expensive, and in the last few minutes Gale, trying googlies, put up a few balls of bad length, and was hit for five fours in two overs. Not much was given away in the field, and only a little more time was required to consummate a smart victory.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1st Innings.

L. E. Gale b Davies	22
L. H. Crump b Rogers	68
Barnes st Worthington b Edmundson	43
H. W. Homer lbw b Wilson	26
E. Mayer b Edmundson	2
R. H. Plant b Wilson	7
W. H. Ellerker b Wilson	7
Lockett not out	49
S. Crump b Lewis	46
E. P. Cross lbw b Davies	21
J. H. Chadwick c Worthington b Davies	1
Extras	17
Total	309

CHESHIRE.—1st Innings.

J. D. Worthington b Chadwick	1
G. R. Hooson lbw b Barnes	15
J. H. Rogers b Chadwick	17
J. E. Smith lbw b Barnes	0
J. Jefferson b Chadwick	18
L. N. Jones b Barnes	78
Wilson b Ellerker	6
J. A. McIntyre b Barnes	46
J. A. Edmundson b Lockett	7
J. Lewis c Mayer b Barnes	1
Davies not out	0
Extras	10
Total	199

2nd Innings.

J. D. Worthington b Barnes	6
G. R. Hooson c Homer b Crump	60
J. H. Rogers b Lockett	6
J. E. Smith b S. Crump	18
J. Jefferson c Cross b Lockett	9
L. N. Jones c Barnes b Lockett	8
Wilson not out	10
J. A. McIntyre c S. Crump b Gale	16
J. Edmundson not out	8
Extras	8
Total (7 wks.)	149

BOWLING ANALYSIS

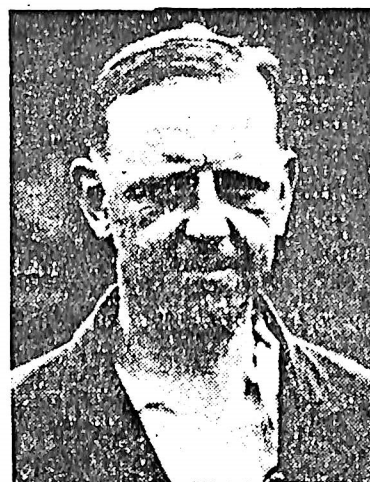
Staffordshire.—Wilson, 3 for 62; Davies, 3 for 88; Edmundson, 4 for 57; Lewis, 1 for 50; Jones, 0 for 25; Rogers, 1 for 10. Cheshire.—First Innings: Barnes, 5 for 60; Chadwick, 3 for 72; Ellerker, 1 for 14; Lockett, 1 for 22; S. Crump, 0 for 15; Gale, 0 for 36. Second Innings: Barnes, 1 for 28; Chadwick, 0 for 20; Ellerker, 0 for 15; Lockett, 3 for 38; S. Crump, 2 for 16; Gale, 0 for 34.

STAFFS. CRICKET

**FORCEFUL
BATTING BY
J. S. HEATH**

**Good Stand With
Mayer**

**CHESHIRE ATTACK
MASTERED**



J. S. HEATH, who played a fine, forcing innings for Staffordshire against Cheshire.

The return Minor Counties cricket match between Staffordshire and Cheshire began at Wolverhampton today in circumstances practically identical with those which prevailed for last week's match at Oxton.

The wicket was firm and true and very much in the batsmen's favour, the weather was glorious, and to continue the sequence, Staffordshire won the toss again and were able to bat first.

In contrast to last week's match, however, Staffordshire, instead of having a long productive first-wicket stand, soon suffered a set back. They opened their innings with L. H. Crump and Lockett, and only 16 runs had been scored when the professional was caught behind the wicket off Davies.

TEAM CHANGES

Both teams were slightly altered compared with last week. Cheshire were without G. P. Hodson, who did so much to save his side from defeat, and T. W. Jefferson. Staffordshire had three changes, Barnes being unavailable owing to his club, Rawtenstall, having a match, and Gale and Chadwick were also unable to play. Their places were taken by Taylor, the Burslem bowler, T. J. Rutherford (Wolverhampton), and J. S. Heath (Porthill).

Welch, the Great Chell player, who had been in the selected team was also unable to play owing to a knee injury, and S. Crump retained his place in the side.

Rutherford and Heath were making their first appearances of the season, and following Lockett's dismissal, Heath partnered Crump.

BATSMEN CAUTIOUS

The quick fall of the first wicket, however, made the batsmen cautious. Wilson delivered three maidens in succession, before Heath sent the score past 20 with a lusty drive to the boundary off Davies.

Heath settled down confidently and soon overtook his partner with the result that at 29, L. N. Jones superseded Davies in the attack, while at 37 Edmundson was given a trial. Crump pulled his first ball—a very short-pitched one—to the square leg boundary. Heath followed suit at the expense of Jones, but the latter had his revenge in his next over when a leg break dislodged Crump's off ball. The score at this point was 46, of which Crump had made 15, in exactly an hour.

Staffordshire were not, therefore, too well placed when H. W. Homer went in, and the position was not improved when at 54, Homer was l.b.w. to Jones.

HEATH'S ESCAPE

An improvement in the rate of scoring occurred when Mayer came in, both he and Heath scoring steadily on the leg side off both Jones and Davies, who had resumed.

At 76—scored in 90 minutes—Lewis superseded Davies in the attack, and in his first over Heath narrowly escaped being run out, when the batsmen hesitated about a short single.

Heath batted carefully for an hour and 25 minutes, but when he had scored 32, he took 14 runs in two consecutive overs. These included three 4's, and when he arrived at his 50, and with the score at 103, he had nine boundaries in his contribution. His rapid scoring was marked by forceful driving, and it was chiefly due to his efforts that Staffordshire had 108 runs on the board at lunch.

**FORTUNATE ESCAPE.
Success of Heath-Mayer
Partnership**

On the resumption, both batsmen played confidently, Heath in particular putting plenty of power behind his strokes, but at 125 the partnership should have been dissolved. Mayer was halfway down the pitch in an attempted run when he was sent back by Heath, and Lewis, the bowler, blundered badly when he allowed the ball, from a sharp throw-in, to pass through his hands, giving Mayer time to regain his crease.

The score mounted quickly at the rate of one run a minute, and now Mayer looked well fixed for emulating Heath.

Heath made himself the highest scorer among Staffordshire players this season, but at 76 he gave his first chance, Edmundson dropping a difficult catch at cover point. He showed his appreciation by adding eleven in two overs before being dismissed. Rather unluckily, he attempted to drive Davies, but failed and the ball came off the stumper's pads and on to the wicket. His 87, for which he had batted two hours 20 minutes, included 13 boundaries. His partnership with Mayer had added 105 runs, the first century partnership for Staffordshire this season.

BOWLERS' DIFFICULT TASK

Cheshire had tried six bowlers in an attempt to effect a separation, but it had been a heart-breaking task on such a wicket and several times runs had been given away by uncertain fielding.

Ellerker did not last long before providing Worthington with his first wicket at 172. With Plant as his partner, Mayer reached his half century, with the sixth boundary shot of his innings at 180. He was given a "life" however, when he had added another four, L. N. Jones missing a chance in the slips off Rogers.

Wilson, although the steadiest of the Cheshire bowlers, had not yet taken a wicket, and he suffered from weak fielding again when Davies failed to accept another chance given by Mayer when he had scored 69. Finally, however, just as Mayer was within sight of his century, he fell a victim to the vigil of Worthington. He had scored 84, including eleven fours, in two and a quarter hours. The total had now reached 229.

One run later, Wilson obtained the wicket he had so well earned, Worthington helping him to this end by stumping Rutherford, his fifth wicket of the morning.

Staffordshire

L. H. Crump b Jones	15
Lockett c Worthington b Davies	6
J. S. Heath st Worthington b Davies	87
H. W. Homer lbw b Jones	2
E. Mayer st Worthington b Lewis	84
W. H. Ellerker c Worthington b Rogers	6
R. H. Plant c Rogers b Lewis	23
T. J. Rutherford st Worthington b Wilson	0
S. Crump not out	0
E. P. Cross not out	0
Extras	11
Total (for 8 wkts)	234

STAFFS. IN STRONG POSITION

Cheap Cheshire Wickets

RAIN HOLDS UP PLAY

Staffordshire had a great chance of securing their first victory of the season in the Minor Counties cricket championship when their match with Cheshire was resumed in dull weather at Wolverhampton to-day.

Going in after the tea interval yesterday in response to a total of 244, Cheshire fared badly. They lost their first three wickets for ten runs to Taylor, the Burslem professional, who cleverly made the ball swing. Their position might have been worse, for J. E. Smith, who, with an effort of 31, tried hard to pull his side together, was twice missed by S. Crump in the slips before he had scored. When stumps were drawn last night Cheshire's score was still only 81 for eight wickets, and this morning they needed 64 runs to avoid the follow on.

FORCED TO FOLLOW ON

When Jones and Lewis continued Cheshire's innings, Taylor and Lockett had charge of the Staffordshire attack, but it was not until S. Crump displaced Taylor that a separation was effected, the young Porthill player bowling Jones at 102. Nine runs later the end came, Rutherford taking a fine catch in the long field to dismiss Davies.

The Cheshire innings had lasted 2½ hours, and the side had to follow on 133 runs behind. They changed their batting order for their second innings, Worthington being promoted to open with Pearson.

It was equally as bad a start as in the first innings, however, for Worthington was caught in the second over by S. Crump in the slips, only a single being scored at the time.

Pearson hit a ball dangerously near Crump in the slips off Taylor for the first four of the innings, but at 13 Rogers was l.b.w. to Ellerker and a similar decision was given against Beeley at 18, the successful bowler in this instance being Taylor.

There was more resistance by Pearson and Wilson, though twice Cross conceded byes from balls by Ellerker which were so near the stumps that the wicket keeper gave them up.

At 35, Rutherford was given a trial in place of Ellerker, and his slow leg spinners were very dangerous, Pearson, especially, being very unsafe against him.

ELLERKER'S FINE BOWLING

It was not until Ellerker returned for Taylor that a separation was effected. In his first over, Ellerker had Wilson caught at slips. This was at 58 and two runs later the fifth wicket fell, Jones being out to a brilliant catch at the wicket.

Cheshire received another blow when McIntyre also failed. He, too, was caught by Cross after playing one of Ellerker's out-swingers.

Since Ellerker returned he had taken three wickets for five runs, and at this point had five victims for 18. Meanwhile Pearson was holding one end up and he was still at the wicket at the lunch interval, when Cheshire had scored 75 for six. They, therefore, still needed 58 to avert an innings defeat.

PLAY HELD UP BY RAIN

During the interval the wind veered round, bringing with it dark, threatening clouds, and just after the players came on to the field a sharp shower drove them back before a ball could be delivered.

It needed a good hour's rain to affect the pitch, however, and as soon as the rain ceased, the game restarted after 25 minutes' delay. Only six runs had been added when there was another interruption through rain.

The weather was playing a pretty game with the umpires. Twice they set off from the pavilion, but each time they were sent back by the resumption of rain before the players could follow them.

Eventually the game started again at 3.15, and almost at once Smith was out to the Cross- Ellerker combination.

Staffordshire	
First Innings, 244.	
Cheshire	
L. H. Pearson b Taylor	0
J. H. Rogers c Cross b Taylor	3
J. M. Beeley lbw b Taylor	3
J. E. Smith c Cross b Taylor	31
J. A. McIntyre c Taylor b Ellerker	13
J. D. Worthington c Cross b Ellerker	7
L. N. Jones b S. Crump	22
Wilson c Cross b Taylor	0
J. K. Edmundson c and b Lockett	2
J. Lewis not out	15
Davies c Rutherford b Lockett	3
Extras	12
Total	111
Second Innings	
J. L. Pearson not out	58
J. T. Worthington c S. Crump b Ellerker	1
J. H. Rogers lbw b Ellerker	0
J. M. Beeley lbw b Taylor	1
Wilson c Rutherford b Ellerker	15
L. N. Jones c Cross b Ellerker	1
J. A. McIntyre c Cross b Ellerker	2
J. E. Smith c Cross b Ellerker	6
J. K. Edmundson c Cross b Ellerker	4
Lewis not out	13
Extras	16
Total (for 8 wks)	113

STAFFORDSHIRE BEAT CHESHIRE BY AN INNINGS

W. H. Ellerker's Fine Bowling

SEVEN FOR 37 RUNS

Staffordshire gained their first victory of the season in the Minor Counties Cricket Championship when they defeated Cheshire by an innings and 11 runs at Wolverhampton yesterday. At one period, just after lunch, it looked as if rain might prevent Staffordshire from playing, but the weather cleared later, and the cricket was not affected. Cheshire followed on 133 runs behind and were dismissed for 122, all the batsmen, except J. L. Pearson, being nonplussed by the fine bowling of W. H. Ellerker, who captured seven wickets for 37 runs. Pearson played a splendid innings, going in first and being unbeaten at the close with 68 to his credit. Cross, the Staffordshire wicket-keeper, caught out four batsmen in each innings.

Staffordshire	
S. H. Crump b Jones	15
Lockett c Worthington b Davies	6
J. E. Smith c Worthington b Davies	87
M. W. Hooper lbw b Jones	2
J. D. Worthington b Lewis	81
W. H. Ellerker c Worthington b Rogers	6
S. H. Piant c Rogers b Lewis	33
J. Rutherford c Worthington b Wilson	0
S. Crump run out	0
P. Cross c Jones b Wilson	1
Taylor not out	1
Extras	13
Total	244

Cheshire	
J. L. Pearson b Taylor	0
J. H. Rogers c Cross b Taylor	3
J. M. Beeley lbw b Taylor	3
J. E. Smith c Cross b Taylor	31
J. A. McIntyre c Taylor b Ellerker	13
J. D. Worthington c Cross b Ellerker	7
L. N. Jones b S. Crump	22
Wilson c Cross b Taylor	0
J. K. Edmundson c and b Lockett	2
J. Lewis not out	15
Davies c Rutherford b Lockett	3
Extras	12
Total	111

Second Innings	
J. L. Pearson not out	68
J. T. Worthington c S. Crump b Ellerker	1
J. H. Rogers lbw b Ellerker	0
J. M. Beeley lbw b Taylor	1
Wilson c Rutherford b Ellerker	15
L. N. Jones c Cross b Ellerker	1
J. A. McIntyre c Cross b Ellerker	2
J. E. Smith c Cross b Ellerker	6
J. K. Edmundson c Cross b Ellerker	0
Lewis lbw b Lockett	14
Davies c Heath b Lockett	0
Extras	16
Total	122

BOWLING ANALYSIS.				
Staffordshire.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wilson	26.1	10	45	2
Davies	14	2	41	2
Jones	10	3	32	2
Lewis	18	6	41	2
Eggers	9	0	47	1
Edmundson	9	3	35	0
Cheshire.—First Innings.				
Taylor	23	6	45	8
Ellerker	18	3	34	7
Lockett	18	6	14	2
Crump	3	0	6	1

YORKSHIRE'S TEAM

To Meet Staffordshire on July 11th and 12th

The Yorkshire II. cricket team to meet Staffordshire at Porthill on July 11th and 12th has been selected as follows:—
Major R. C. Chichester Constable, W. E. Harbord, J. A. Richardson, J. R. S. Raper, Grimshaw, Halstead, Turner, Fisher, Buller, Bedford and Hall.

Staffs. v. Cheshire

**STANLEY HEATH AND
MAYER IN FORM**

**Home County Again in the
Ascendant**

By "THE CRITIC"

The return match between these counties was commenced at Wolverhampton on Monday, and once more delightful weather favoured the cricket. Unfortunately, there was only a modest gathering of spectators at the lovely Tettenhall ground, but those who attended were rewarded with an entertaining day's cricket, in which Staffordshire, though lacking the services of Barnes, again asserted a definite superiority, as they did at Oxton last week. The end of the day's play found Cheshire, with eight first-innings wickets down, requiring 84 runs to avoid a follow-on. Staffordshire thus established a very strong position indeed.

There were three changes in the Staffordshire team, J. S. Heath, T. J. Rutherford, and Taylor taking the places of L. E. Gale, J. H. Chadwick, and Barnes, the last-named of whom had a league engagement with Ravenstall on Tuesday. Cheshire made two changes, Pearson and Beley coming in for Hodson and Jefferson.

The Tettenhall wicket looked perfection, but it did not play quite as easily as expected, the little rain which had fallen during the week-end having slightly softened the surface, whilst leaving the ground iron-hard underneath. The result was that the ball could be made to turn a little, especially during the first hour or so, whilst it came off quickly and sometimes reared, so that care was necessary, and the slightly sporting character of the wicket was to some extent reflected in the fact that no fewer than nine wickets fell during the day to the wicket-keepers. So far as Monday's play was concerned Staffordshire gained a doubtful advantage by winning the toss, for the pitch responded to finger-spin more readily in the first hour than at any other time.

Lockett was again deputed to open the Staffordshire innings with Len Crump, but he soon gave a catch to Worthington, standing back, by failing to keep away from a rearing ball. J. S. Heath is in great form with the bat again this season, and for once he pulled out his best for the county. For years his scoring in county cricket has not been in keeping with his ability. Generally he has had difficult wickets to bat on, and many times something has happened to cut short his innings just when he seemed to be settling down for a good score. He has, of course, played some good innings, as, for example, against the New Zealanders' last season, but my reflections take a sweeping survey of the last four or five years, during which he has been the most consistently successful bat in the North Staffordshire League.

On this occasion the ex-Captain's mastery of the bowling was complete. Using the full extent of his reach for his smothering forward strokes, watching the ball with the eye of a hawk when he went back, and driving, cutting, and placing to leg in polished style whenever the length would permit, his play had real charm for a lover of the art of batting. His driving, was, perhaps, the most effective part of his display, and brought him many of this thirteen 4's, the timing being perfect and the ball never off the ground. He lost Crump at 46, the Burslem man being bailed by a good ball that surprised him by whipping back several inches from the off. And Homer failed to stay, giving his wicket away by stepping in and trying to pull a straight half-volley. This rashness was probably induced by the setting of three men very close in at short leg for him.

Mayer joined Heath at 54, and the pair played the best cricket of the day to add 105 for the fourth wicket. Mayer, without ostentation, or attempting to force matters, kept a straight and solid defence and scored at a fair pace by good strokes all round the wicket. Though not as spectacular as his partner, he played a lot of good bowling, drove the half-volley with power, and used the hook-shot with great certainty when opportunity offered.

Heath made one mis-hit, and was badly missed at cover with his score at 76, but he was out in unlucky fashion, for he came out in turning to glide a ball wide on the leg and was stumped by a glancing rebound from the wicket-keeper's pads. Mayer also fell to the stumper through drawing his toe in reaching forward to a going-away ball from Lewis. He might have been run out in the twenties, but

his only chances were a sharp one in the slips at 57, and a hard drive to mid-on near the end of his innings. He hit eleven 4's, and like Heath, seemed set for a century.

Ellerker started confidently, but touched a rising ball before he could get properly going, and the rest of the Staffordshire batting was disappointing except for a nice innings of an hour's duration by R. H. Plant, who saw 62 added while he was in, and was very straight and correct until he skied one to mid-off in trying to drive the wrong ball—one that was just too short and going away. He seems to have all the making of a county batsman. Stanley Crump was very unfortunate, for Taylor called him, and then realising his mistake, sent him back when it was hopelessly too late, and the wicket was thrown down when he was almost in the middle of the pitch.

The Cheshire bowling was of fairly good quality. It was never loose, and Wilson and Lewis were not easy to play. The professional has craft, and, as usual, kept an excellent length, and Lewis impressed me even more favourably than at Oxton. He can turn the ball from leg, not a lot, but enough to be dangerous at his pace, which is quicker than most right-handed leg-spinners can attain. His ball pitching on the off-stump and going away is awkward for any right-handed batsman.

Going in after tea, Cheshire made a lamentable start against Taylor, swinging the new ball. The first ball Pearson received did enough to beat his forward stroke and shot the off stump out of the ground with two runs scored. At five another swinger got Rogers caught at the wicket on the off-side, and yet another had Beley leg-before with five added. Taylor had taken three wickets for 4 runs in three overs, and Ellerker, who bowled at the other end, should soon have joined in the work of destruction for Smith, the Nantwich player, was missed at the wicket and in the slips off him. However, at 31 he got the left-hander, McIntyre, who has a fine punch on the off-side, caught in the slips after making a few good strokes, and 10 runs later Cross made some amends for him by brilliantly taking a catch from Worthington that rose abruptly head high. L. N. Jones fulfilled his customary role of steadying the batting, and Smith got a few half-volleys to drive after his escape, so that the total rose to 71 before the last-named was another victim of the Staffordshire wicket-keeper, who followed this up by taking a fourth smart catch in the same over to send Wilson back without scoring. Then in the last few minutes Lockett came on vice Ellerker, and provided the most thrilling incident of the day by taking a positively wonderful return catch from Edmunson. This strapping player drove the ball back with terrific force, and everyone looked towards the boundary, but Lockett had jumped a foot from the ground and held the ball with the right hand high above his head. It was so quick that it was an astonishing and electrifying catch. So Cheshire had eight wickets down for 81 at the close of play.

**TUESDAY'S PLAY: AN INNINGS
VICTORY**

At lunch-time on Tuesday, Staffordshire had the points in their pocket, barring rain. Ah! The forenoon had been bright, despite the falling barometer, but during the interval heavy clouds rolled up, and just as play should have been resumed rain began to fall. A delay of 20 minutes, and the game continued, but only for about five minutes, ere rain drove the players in. Thunder commenced to rumble ominously all round. If that storm broke over the ground it would be good-

bye to the chance of finishing the match. For 35 minutes the rain continued, but the menace of a thunderstorm passed away, and the sun burst forth again with rain still lingering. But Old Sol won, and so did Staffordshire, by an innings and 11 runs.

When play was resumed, with Taylor and Lockett bowling, Jones and Lewis played confidently enough, and stayed nearly half-an-hour before Crump, who had superseded Taylor, shot the Cheshire Captain's middle stump out of the ground. Davies was neatly caught on the pavilion rails, and Cheshire had to follow-on, 133 in arrears. Taylor's bowling was of great value, and his figures of five for 45 in 23 overs were good. Lockett bowled steadily, as 14 runs in 13 overs indicate, and brought the ball back quite a lot from the off, causing several of the batsmen to use their pads freely as a last line of defence. One rather wondered that Aaron did not try round the wicket and make the batsmen play his break-back. In the second innings he did so when Pearson and Lewis offered stubborn resistance, and ended the partnership by getting Lewis lbw.

The features of the second innings were the bowling of Ellerker, who has

never previously, I think, bowled quite so well for Staffordshire, and the baffling of Pearson, who carried his bat through. It was not a great innings, however, for in the first half-hour he was lucky to escape the fate of most of his colleagues, who fell in the slips or behind the wicket. After scoring a single he edged Taylor through the slips for two, and got two most fortunate fours "off the edge" from Ellerker, which went between the wicket-keeper and first-slip. The last-named bowler also shaved his wicket more than once. Surviving this streaky period, he defended well, but was indebted to bad length balls from the slow left-arm bowler, Rutherford, for most of the other half-dozen boundaries he got. The general opinion was that he was fortunate, too, to survive an appeal for a catch behind the wicket off Ellerker. But when all is said he was entitled to great credit for withstanding a well-delivered attack for two hours and forty minutes. Lewis also played a straight, sound game, as in the first innings, and impressed as a promising young all-rounder.

Ellerker bowled faster than usual, and made the ball swing late, whilst keeping a fine length. He got Worthington caught in the slips with an away-swing, and trapped Rogers leg-before with an in-swing in his first three overs, for no runs. Beley got in front to Taylor, and then Pearson and Wilson stayed 35 minutes to add 40 for the fourth wicket, and cause bowling changes, Rutherford being tried at 35, whilst Taylor changed ends. The young Wolverhampton bowler turned the ball back nicely from leg, but appeared to come off at an even pace, and was rather uncertain in length and direction. He was given quite a long spell, but met with no success. This did not matter much, as Ellerker, having resumed in place of Taylor at 54, was rapidly getting the wickets. He got Wilson caught in the slips in his first over. Then followed a remarkable sequence of catches by the wicket-keeper standing back. Four batsmen in succession were out in this way to Ellerker's swingers, making his analysis up to this point read—17 overs, 7 maidens, 25 runs, and 7 wickets. Pearson and Lewis added 81 in just short of 50 minutes, before Lockett was called up vice Rutherford, and brought the innings and the match to an end.

STAFFORDSHIRE—1ST INNINGS

L. H. Crump b Jones	15
Lockett c Worthington b Davies	6
J. S. Heath st Worthington b Davies	87
H. W. Homer lbw b Jones	2
E. Mayer at Worthington b Lewis	84
W. H. Ellerker c Worthington b Rogers	6
R. H. Plant c Rogers b Lewis	23
T. J. Rutherford st Worthington b Wilson	0
S. Crump run out	0
E. P. Cross c Jones b Wilson	0
Taylor not out	1
Extras	13
Total	244

CHESHIRE—1ST INNINGS

L. J. Pearson b Taylor	0
J. H. Rogers c Cross b Taylor	3
J. M. Beley lbw b Taylor	3
J. E. Smith c Cross b Taylor	31
J. A. McIntyre c Taylor b Ellerker	13
J. D. Worthington c Cross b Ellerker	7
L. N. Jones b S. Crump	22
Wilson c Cross b Taylor	0
J. K. Edmunson c and b Lockett	2
J. Lewis not out	15
Davies c Rutherford b Lockett	3
Extras	12
Total	111

2ND INNINGS

L. J. Pearson not out	66
J. H. Rogers lbw b Ellerker	0
J. M. Beley lbw b Taylor	1
J. E. Smith c Cross b Ellerker	6
J. A. McIntyre c Cross b Ellerker	2
J. D. Worthington c S. Crump b Ellerker	1
L. N. Jones c Cross b Ellerker	1
Wilson c Rutherford b Ellerker	15
J. K. Edmunson c Cross b Ellerker	0
J. Lewis lbw b Lockett	14
Davies c Heath b Lockett	0
Extras	10
Total	122

The All-Indians' Visit to Stoke

By "THE CRITIC"

If the weather proves favourable next Wednesday and Thursday will be amongst the red-letter days in the Staffordshire cricket calendar. The Indians seem to have been followed to England by an Indian summer, and it will ensure the success of next week's match, when the Tourists will oppose Staffordshire at Stoke, if the anti-cyclone will kindly continue functioning until then. It will be the fourth time in five years that a Test team from the Dominions has appeared at Stoke in the first week of July, and on the three previous occasions weather conditions have approached the ideal. The outlook appears promising for the fourth, and one imagines that everyone who possibly can will be eager to see the coloured men who, in their first Test match, have just given the full strength of England so fine a game at Lord's. Formidable though their task will be, the Staffordshire team will not lack confidence, and the Indians will not be likely to treat their opponents lightly, in view of the fact that the county got the upper hand of the New Zealanders last year, besides which the Tourists have a little score to wipe off. As I have already recalled in these columns recently, the last All-India team to visit this country met with disaster at Stoke 21 years ago, and were beaten by five wickets in one day. And the cause of their discomfiture was the wonder-bowling of Sydney Barnes. His fourteen wickets for 29 runs in that thrilling encounter with the 1911 Tourists will make him an interesting adversary for their 1932 successors. He will be the only player engaged in next week's match who took part in that of 21 years ago, though Stanley Heath also played in some of Staffordshire's matches in that season, which saw his introduction to county cricket.

Ten players have been definitely selected for Staffordshire, as follow:—H. W. Homer, E. P. Cross, W. H. Ellerker, L. E. Gale, L. H. Crump, E. Mayer, J. S. Heath, Barnes, Lockett, and Taylor. The eleventh place, which was left open, will be filled by S. Dykes (Colne), Stanley Crump, or R. H. Plant.

The Indians will, of course, decide upon their team at Stoke. Their leading batsman has been C. K. Nayudu, who captained the side against England, and has an average up-to-date of between 50 and 60. He is also a good medium-pace bowler. Aged 30, he has had plenty of experience, has scored 90 centuries and three double centuries, and against the last M.C.C. team at Bombay, in an innings of 153, hit eleven 6's and thirteen 4's. S. Nazir Ali, aged 26, is well-known in English cricket, having spent several years here, and done well in London in batting and bowling. He is a fast-medium bowler, who can both swing and break both ways, so it is claimed for him. He captured Bradman's wicket in 1930, and is the only Indian who has done so. For the Indian Gymkhana in London he has three times taken all ten wickets. He is a batsman of real class, averages about 40 this year, and has hit 60 centuries and five double centuries.

Probably the outstanding feature of the team is the proportion of all-round players it contains. S. Nazir Ali is another, though primarily a batsman. He started the present tour in great form, and to date averages over 35. He is three years older than his brother, Nazir Ali, and has many fine innings to his credit. Jehangir Khan, a Mohammedan all-rounder, came into the party because the Maharaj of Vizianagram was unable to come, and he has done very well with bat and ball. Amar Singh, only 21, has created a highly-favourable impression as a fast-medium bowler, and has taken nearly twice as many wickets as any of his colleagues, with the splendid average of 15. The really fast bowler is Mahomed Nissar, a strongly-built youth of 21, who created a sensation at Lord's by quickly bowling Sutcliffe and Holmes. He is also a useful bat. Naoomal Jeomal is a brilliant all-round player of 27, from Karachi, who has not quite realized expectations so far. He is a patient bat and slow bowler.

S. H. M. Colah, aged 30, is a Parsee from the Bombay district, and a fine natural hitter, and another young player who can do anything, including wicket-keeping, is Lail Singh, a native of the Punjab, but resident in the Malay States. He is stated to be a clever slow bowler, as well as a capable bat, having scored an excellent 80 against the Australians. Yet another all-rounder is P. E. Palia, 21, of Bombay, who is a steady bat, and

slow-medium left-arm bowler. The chief wicket-keeper is J. G. Nav'e, who has been very highly estimated by Hobbs, and is a sound opening bat. His understudy with the gloves is B. E. Kapadia, a 33-years-old Parsee, who is also a sound defensive bat. Another left-arm bowler and right-arm bat is Ghulam Mahomed, aged 33, from Karachi. Hobbs and others have paid high tributes to him, but he is most effective apparently on matting. S. R. Godambe, 32, from Bombay, is a spin bowler of medium pace, and a good bat, and Joginder Singh, 28, of Lahore, is a fine, forcing bat. The remaining player of the party is N. D. Marshall, another product of St. Xavier's College, Bombay, and a capable all-rounder, bowling a slow-medium ball. In the 1929 season, in the Bombay Presidency, he scored 1,000 runs and took 100 wickets.

Such is a brief sketch of the men from the great Continent, who will receive a cordial welcome in North Staffordshire.

North Staffs. and District League

BIG FEATS BY BURSLEM AND NANTWICH

Baker's Hurricane Hitting

By "THE CRITIC"

Though a break-up of the dry spell was threatened in North Staffordshire last Saturday the afternoon proved fine, and there was some heavy scoring in the league. Nantwich added a point to their clear lead by pulverising Longton, and recorded the highest total of the season so far, and Burslem joined Great Chell as runners-up by an extraordinary batting performance at Stone, where E. Baker hit 95 in 65 minutes, and the visitors actually scored 260 in an hour and 25 minutes. Great Chell and Porthill made gallant efforts to beat declarations by Caverswall and L.M.S. respectively, and Porthill were only 5 runs short of victory at the close. But like Chell their bowling was sufficiently effective on the excellent wickets to gain full points. In the local duel at Silverdale, also, the batsmen of that club and Bignall End were so successful that a definite decision was not possible. Longton's companions in distress were Norton, whose batting again broke down on their own ground, and a hollow defeat by Leek made their position at the bottom more serious.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts
Nantwich	11	8	1	2	18
Burslem	11	5	2	4	14
Great Chell	11	5	2	4	14
Bignall End	11	2	2	7	11
Longton	11	3	3	5	11
Porthill	11	3	3	5	11
Silverdale	11	3	3	5	11
Caverswall	11	2	3	6	10
Leek	11	3	4	4	10
L.M.S. (Stoke)	11	1	4	6	8
Stone	11	1	4	6	8
Norton	11	1	6	4	6

STANLEY HEATH'S VAIN EFFORT

The batting of the Railwaymen has revealed more backbone than seemed likely at the beginning of the season, and as they are batting now they are not to be so easily got rid of on a good wicket. Mayer is, of course, the mainstay, and his influence is probably traceable in the improved form of other members of the team. Though Crump bowled well at the old County Ground, and came out with the excellent figures of seven for 40, L.M.S. batted nearly three hours and registered the useful total of 165 against Porthill, Mayer contributing 43 and J. Turner 38. Much of the Porthill bowling was weak, however, and loose fielding also had a material effect on the result. Porthill had

ten minutes under two hours in which to get the runs, and, thanks to a classy innings by the former county captain, J. S. Heath, came within an ace of pulling it off. When time expired they were only 4 runs short of the L.M.S. score with four wickets in hand, and Stanley Heath took out his bat for 81, which he had compiled in an hour and a-half.

Longton batsmen cut a sorry figure at Nantwich. Tydesley (six for 40) and E. H. Stevenon (four for 13) had them all out in less than an hour for 53, in spite of a plucky 20 by N. I. Samuel, who was No. 10. Nantwich knocked the runs off with one wicket down, and afterwards made merry to the tune of 266 for seven. J. B. Swindale hit up 71, R. E. B. Smith showed his best form yet in scoring 47, Tom Stevenon was in form again with 46, and Tydesley hit a rapid 84.

Burslem's successful onslaught on the Stone bowling enabled them to catch up with Great Chell, who could only get one point. Stone's batting was slow, as it was a week earlier, and they had occupied about three hours when they declared with 105 for seven wickets. The task of Burslem to get 196 in an hour and fifty minutes looked hopeless, but L. H. Crump, who was acting captain for the day, kept his own steady bat in reserve and conjured his colleagues to go all out for the runs. E. Baker simply went for the bowling might and main, and his 95 in 65 minutes put his side in front of the clock. Every batsman risked everything in a thrilling race against time, and 200 runs were actually scored in an hour and 35 minutes. Baker enjoyed the kind of luck which is inevitable in such a head-long venture, for though only giving one clear chance he was fortunate to see many lofty hits drop clear of the fielders. However, he played a great game for his side. Stone's scoring was done chiefly by R. W. Harris (45 not out) and Lee (32), but there were other

useful contributions, and with a little more enterprise it would have been a highly creditable batting performance against the Burslem bowling.

Chell could not get rid of the Caverswall side, who put together 215 for eight wickets under the shadow of the lordly castle, but occupied three hours in doing it, and made a draw certain, with which, perhaps, they were well satisfied. Poate was once more the top scorer with 55, and put more punch into his play than most of his colleagues. The Chell bowling was still weakened by Stanley Welch's knee injury, which made bowling with his usual vim impossible, and, incidentally, kept him out of the county team at Wolverhampton this week. Chell started indifferently, but Roy Smith (68, not out) and Ellerker (47, not out) took the score from 41 for three to 162. So the visitors only wanted more time.

Silverdale and Bignall End played a fairly even draw, the scores being Silverdale, 225, for seven, declared; Bignall End, 132 for three. All the Silverdale early batsmen got some runs. A. Ward hit 42 by good cricket, but it remained for C. F. Rushton to play the innings of the match. When Charlie Rushton is going well there is great charm in his batting. The left-hander was at the top of his form on this occasion and took out his bat for 71, when the closure was applied. He found the boundary 14 times, and got his runs in 75 minutes. The first part of Bignall End's reply was interesting by reason of a hard hit 37 by Kenneth Platt in 20 minutes, but the rest of the batting was chiefly directed to saving the game. Mayer played throughout the two hours before rain intervened for 40.

J. Pointon had a successful afternoon with the ball at Norton, whose batsmen simply cannot find any form worthy of the club's repute. A total of 59 (Pointon six for 17) left them easy prey for Leek, who had the match won by seven wickets, and by even batting raised the full score to 161. The chief contributors were J. Williamson, a capable bat who rarely seems to do himself full justice, 47, and W. C. Charnock, 36. Norton are getting into the quicksands, and will have to start the scrambling-out process pretty soon if they are to avoid being engulfed.

WALSALL v. OLD HILL

Walsall put up a good fight at Gorway on Saturday, against Old Hill, but had to admit defeat in the end by 14 runs. The visitors batted first and made 118, E. R. Pearson, 34 not out, being the top scorer. Walsall made a poor start and lost the first four wickets for 30 runs. Cowan and Dutton made a stand, however, but the others did little, and they were all out for 104. Hyndson, the local professional, bowled well, and had four wickets for 42.

The second team was heavily defeated at Old Hill by 116 to 176. E. E. Whately (33) was top scorer for the losers.

BLYMOUTH v. WOLVERHAMPTON POLICE

Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, the home team winning a well-contested match by 8 runs. Score:—

BLYMOUTH.—R. D. Smith b Holgate 12, A. Hughes b Holgate 0, F. Avelill, b S. Ballance 2, R. Hitchen b Holgate 11, D. Swift st Eccleston b S. Ballance 1, H. N. Hill c Rawlins b S. Ballance 6, J. Ridley b Holgate 3, E. Hill b Holgate 0, D. R. Ford c Eccleston b Holgate 8, A. R. Craig not out 5, S. Medlicott c and b Holgate 5; extras 5.—Total, 68.

WOLVERHAMPTON POLICE.—G. Tugue c E. Hill b Medlicott 1, H. Phillips b Hitchen 5, C. White c Swift b Medlicott 10, J. Holgate c Medlicott b Hitchen 4, W. Eccleston b Hitchen 1, G. Doble not out 14, S. Ballance b Hitchen 8, T. Maish b Hitchen 2, G. Ballance b Hitchen 1, F. Baker c H. N. Hill b Hitchen 2, C. Rawlins run out 1; extras 8.—Total, 12.

At Westbromwich on Monday, Samuel William Pearson (25), of St. Quentin Street, Pleck, Walsall, was summoned for smoking a cigarette while driving a public service vehicle. Defendant was driving a motor-coach containing passengers and was seen to be smoking a cigarette. Chief Supt. Tucker said this was the first case of its kind that had been brought into that court. The Stipendiary said as that was the first prosecution of its kind he would merely order the defendant to pay the costs.

LICHFIELD GARRISON v. WOLVERHAMPTON

Played at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, on Saturday.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—R. Howl c Millward b Taitte 1, E. W. Page c Vaughan Arbuckle b Quadelli 67, A. D. Wilk c Quadelli b Taitte 0, G. H. Thomeycroft c and b Millward 12, J. J. Moore run out 19, C. H. Twigg c King b Robins 45, W. J. Croft b Quadelli 10, T. J. Rutherford run out 28, J. P. Perry c D'Arcy b King 18, G. W. Wood run out 1, J. Taylor not out 0, extras, 28.—Total, 244.

LICHFIELD GARRISON.—L./Corpl. Bamford b Moore 8, Pte. Hoperoff c Thomeycroft b Moore 89; Lieut. — Vaughan Arbuckle c and b Rutherford 31, L./Corpl. D'Arcy b Croft 17, Lieut. — Robins c Moore b Rutherford 0, C.S.M. Hurley st Page b Croft 5, Lieut. Taitte c Twigg b Moore 22, Lieut. T. P. Gordon c Twigg b Rutherford 8, Sergt. King run out 11, Bandsman Quadelli st Page b Moore 2, Drummer Millward not out 8; extras 5.—Total, 163. For Wolverhampton Moore took four wickets for 55, and for the Garrison Quadelli took two wickets for 32, King one for 12, and Taitte two for 72.

LICHFIELD GARRISON v. STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN

The annual Garrison cricket week at Lichfield terminated on the 24th ult. in a twelve-a-side match between Lichfield Garrison and Staffordshire Gentlemen.

STAFFORDSHIRE GENTLEMEN.—A. Platts b Millward 25, W. H. Harrison b Millward 37, J. L. Wenger b Taitte 3, Capt. F. Wilson c Smith b Quadelli 73, J. F. Meakin c Smith b Taitte 0, C. H. Twigg c Bamford b Millward 3, A. Lindop b Taitte 67, E. C. Fernie c and b Quadelli 0, Rev. McSwiney not out 13, R. E. Tarling b Quadelli 0; extras 15.—Total (nine wickets), 236. B. Meakin and J. T. A. Jackson did not bat.

LICHFIELD GARRISON.—L./Corpl. D'Arcy c Lindop b Platts 15, Pte. Hoperoff c McSwiney b Harrison 17, Sergt. Major Hurley c Tarling b Lindop 26, Lieut. T. P. Gordon b Lindop 23, Lieut. Sladen c Twigg 2, Lieut. Taitte c Lindop b Twigg 5, L./Corpl. Bamford run out 8, Sergt. — Smith c and b Tarling 16, Sergt. King c and b Platts 20, Pte. Quadelli not out 13, Major Latham b Platts 0, Pte. Millward b Platts 4; extras 7.—Total, 161.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S FIGHT FOR RUNS EIGHT WICKETS DOWN

Losing three wickets for 40 runs, Staffordshire made a poor start in the two-day fixture against All India which began at Stoke to-day.

The recovery which followed was made possible by L. E. Gale and H. W. Homer, who were associated in a partnership which took the score to 114.

Gale played a fine innings of 66, including seven 4's, but his dismissal was followed by that of Homer, and five wickets were down for 118.

Following Homer's dismissal, wickets fell rapidly, and eight were down with the total standing at only 148.

A feature of the match was the brilliant fielding of the All India players, and of Lall Singh in particular.

The visit of the All-India cricket team to Stoke to-day to play the Staffordshire County side proved a big attraction, and an hour before the game was due to start there was a large crowd of spectators watching the visitors open their shoulders with a little practice in front of the pavilion.

The weather was cloudy but fine, and it did not appear likely that there would be much interruption of the play, which to-day commenced at noon and will continue until 7 p.m., thus affording workpeople an opportunity of seeing a little of the play this evening.

The wicket, which had been covered all week, was hard and firm, and likely to favour the batsmen.

TEST PLAYERS OMITTED.

All-India's team did not include four of the men who represented them in the Test Match with England, and it was disappointing that two of these should be the most interesting bowlers—M. Nissar, who bowled both Sutcliffe and Holmes in the Test, and Amar Singh, who heads the team's bowling averages. The other two Test absentees were C. E. Pala, the left-handed bowler and S. Nazir Ali, one of the most reliable batsmen. In their places the visitors included N. D. Marshall, S. R. Godambe, Ghulam Mahomed, and B. E. Kapadia. The last-named is the reserve wicket-keeper, and although Naole, the first choice for wicket-keeping, was on the team, it was decided to let Kapadia take the place behind the stumps.

BARNES' DISTINCTION

The last time an all-Indian side were at Stoke was in 1911, and there was a link with that period by the presence of Sidney Barnes in Staffordshire's team. He was chiefly responsible for Staffordshire's wonderful victory over All-India on that occasion with a match return of 14 wickets for 29 runs, and it is still regarded as one of the mainstays of Staffordshire.

The county side was as selected, G. Sedgwick, the Leek bowler, making his first appearance of the season. The teams were:—

Staffordshire.—H. W. Homer (captain), W. H. Ellerker, L. H. Crump, E. P. Cross, L. E. Gale, E. Mayer, G. Sedgwick, J. S. Heath, Barnes, Lockett, Taylor.

All-India.—C. K. Nayudu (captain), J. G. Navle, S. H. M. Colah, S. Wazir Ali, N. D. Marshall, Lall Singh, S. R. Godambe, Johangir Khan, B. E. Kapadia, Ghulam Mahomed, J. Naomal.

STAFFORDSHIRE BAT FIRST Crump Dismissed With Only Six Runs Scored

Staffordshire won the toss and, of course, elected to bat first, the game starting promptly to time.

There was an attendance of about 1,000 when L. E. Gale (Dudley) and L. H. Crump (Burslem) opened the innings.

Gale opened the score with a single through the slips off Johangir Khan's second ball. Khan's partner in the attack was Nayudu, and he opened with a maiden to Gale.

It was a quiet start, for only three singles had been scored in four overs before Crump, with his favourite leg-hook, took a couple off Khan.

A GOOD CATCH

He was content merely to defend against Nayudu, however, until he was out to a half-hearted sort of shot with only six scored. He attempted to pull Nayudu round to leg, but failed to time the ball properly, and Naomal, at square leg, took a good catch with his right hand as the ball was travelling away from him.

It had needed a quarter-of-an-hour to obtain these six runs, but Gale, now partnered by Barnes—who was accorded a warm welcome—hit the first boundary of the day with a well-timed drive through the covers off Khan.

GALE'S BOUNDARIES

Gale added another boundary with a delightful square cut off Khan, but for a couple of overs Barnes found difficulty in timing Nayudu, who was making the ball come off the pitch rather quickly.

Nayudu obviously did not mean to let the batsmen settle down, for at 14 he and Khan went off in favour of Godambe and Mahomed, the latter being the only left-arm bowler in the team, apart from Palin, who was not playing to-day.

Mahomed's first over gave Barnes the chance to open his account with a single through the slips, but Godambe started with two maidens. Then Gale square cut him to the boundary, sending 20 up after nearly 40 minutes' play.

The best shot of the match so far, however, came in Godambe's fourth over. Barnes straight driving the ball to the boundary at lightning speed.

Although, the scoring so far had been rather slow, it was noteworthy that of the first 30 runs 20 had come from boundaries.

BARNES DISMISSED

At 31 Khan and Nayudu returned, but bowled at opposite ends compared with the start of the game, and in Khan's second over further disaster befel Staffordshire, Barnes being smartly caught behind the wicket, Barnes who had scored eight, was succeeded by J. S. Heath.

At the fall of the second wicket, Nayudu had delivered seven overs, and had only conceded a single run, but Gale rather spoiled the Indian captain's analyses by taking seven runs in his next over.

Heath's stay was short, for he had scored only a single when he touched a fast ball from Khan and was caught by Colah in the slips. Thus three of the best batsmen had gone with only 40 scored, and much responsibility devolved on Homer, who followed.

FIFTY REACHED

Homer began cautiously, but at length he pulled Khan to the leg boundary, sending 60 up after 70 minutes' play.

At 68, the tourists tried their fifth bowler, Marshall superseding Nayudu, and two runs later Naomal went on in place of Khan. Naomal's slow lobs were of the tempting variety, but at the start his length was too good to allow of any liberties being taken.

Gale and Homer remained together until lunch, when 80 runs were on the board, the result of 1½ hours' play. Gale then being 40 and Homer 13. Homer, however, might have been out last over but one for Lall Singh dropped a tremendously hard chance at mid-off.

LUNCHEON CEREMONY All-India Players Presented to Lord Mayor

The resumption was delayed 20 minutes owing to the luncheon interval being longer than usual. This was because of the presentation of the All-India cricketers to the Lord Mayor (Ald. Miss P. A. Farmer). She welcomed the visitors, on whose behalf, Captain Nayudu replied. Sir Joseph Lamb, M.P., was also present at the lunch.

Gale and Homer resumed batting to the bowling of Johangir Khan and Nayudu, and Gale went a step nearer his half-century with a beautiful leg glide which Colah stopped on the boundary edge.

Gale made his first mistake in the next over, for he edged a ball into the slips, and although the ball flew rather wide of him, Colah, who dropped the catch at first slip, would nine times out of ten have held it.

GALE'S FIFTY

Without further incident, however, Gale reached his 50, an effort which had taken him one hour and three quarters. Apart from the one chance to Colah, his innings had been without blemish, the total at this point being 80. Gale had hit six 4's.

Gale had now settled down as confidently as before, and he won the applause of the crowd, which was now about 2,000, with another perfectly executed square cut off Khan, the ball flashing along the ground to the boundary at a great pace. All the first 17 runs after the resumption came from Gale, but at last Homer moved off the unlucky 13 with two beautiful cuts past cover-point, which earned him six runs.

CENTURY HOISTED

At 84, Godambe relieved Khan, but the century was reached after the innings had been in progress 2 hours and 5 minutes. Just before this stage, the scoring had quietened down to such an extent that only one run had been scored in six consecutive overs, but immediately three figures had been reached, the batsmen spurted and six runs came in one over from Nayudu. This resulted in Naomal going on in place of his captain, but while the scoring again slowed down, it was chiefly because of the All-Indians' fine fielding. Lall Singh, in particular, was positively brilliant.

Homer continued to wait for the loose ball, but he had just reached the 30's when he lost his partner, who played forward to Godambe, missed the ball, and was clean bowled. He had batted two hours and 20 minutes for his fine innings of 66, which included seven 4's. He was succeeded by E. Mayer, the L.M. and S. club's professional.

HOMER'S CAREFUL INNINGS

As so often happens, Homer did not long survive his partner, for at 118 he was well caught at first slip for a carefully compiled 34, including six boundaries.

Once again the game had become very even, but that Staffordshire still had some good batsmen was indicated by Mayer, who when joined by Ellerker, turned Godambe to the square leg boundary, and in two overs hit up ten runs.

When eventually Ellerker faced Naomal, however, he was clean bowled before he had scored. This was at 126, and three wickets had fallen for the addition of 12 runs.

Again Lall Singh won a great burst of applause when, racing to the boundary, he prevented a shot by Mayer from earning the full reward by jumping a good ten feet to grab the ball on the ring-side.

STAFFORDSHIRE

L. E. Gale	b Godambe	66	
L. H. Crump	b Naomal	6	
Barnes	c Kapadia	b Khan	8
J. S. Heath	c Colah	b Khan	1
H. W. Homer	c Nayudu	b Naomal	34
E. Mayer	at Kapadia	b Naomal	13
W. H. Ellerker	b Naomal	0	
G. Sedgwick	not out	21	
Lockett	lbw b Naomal	5	
E. P. Cross	not out	26	
Extras		10	
Total (for 8 wickets)		183	

Tea score.
Umpires: J. C. Hubble (Kent) and D. H. Tregear (Middlesex).

189 RUNS AHEAD WITH FOUR WICKETS STANDING

Sound Batting by Crump and Mayer

TAYLOR'S FINE BOWLING

After gaining a lead of 47 runs, Staffordshire collapsed in their second innings against All-India at Stoke to-day, six wickets falling for 74 runs, although L. H. Crump batted soundly for 30.

The improvement which followed was due largely to the sound batting of Mayer, and at the tea interval, the home county were 189 runs ahead with four wickets in hand.

The home county's advantage was gained as the result of some brilliant bowling by C. J. Taylor, the Burslem professional, the outcome being the dismissal of All-India for 162 runs.

Taylor captured all six wickets which fell this morning—four of them were clean bowled—and he finished with the excellent analysis of seven wickets for 61 runs.

The chief features of the All-India batting this morning were the steady resistance of S. R. Godambe, and his last wicket partnership with Ghulam Mahomed, which yielded 26 runs.

An ever-changing struggle between All-India and Staffordshire yesterday kept the game in a most interesting position when it was resumed on the Stoke L.M.S. Club's ground this morning.

After a day of struggling for runs, Staffordshire finally completed their innings with a yard wadding of the tail, which produced 70 runs for the last two wickets, and in one and three-quarters of an hour last night the Minor County dismissed four of the All-India batsmen for 61 runs.

All-India seemed well placed with 50 on the board for one wicket, but a couple of well-earned successes to Barnes was followed in the last over of the day with the capture of Nayudu's wicket, the tourists' captain being cheerfully run out. Thus, the match was resumed to-day with the visitors exactly 140 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

YESTERDAY'S ATTENDANCE

Yesterday, by the way, there was an attendance of nearly 4,000—the exact figures are not available—and with the weather remaining fine it seemed likely that to-day's attendance would be equally good. Yesterday's "gate" was better even than last year against the New Wanderers, and therefore the success of the match was assured.

GAME RESUMED

Colah Shows Glimpses of Forceful Batmanship

Play commenced five minutes late, S. H. M. Coak and Lall Singh, who were not out overnight with scores of 13 and none respectively, continuing their innings against Barnes and Taylor.

The latter had the first over, and Colah took an easy single off the first ball. This brought him against Barnes, and after being a difficult wicket with the first three balls of the visitor's over, he hooked the fourth brilliantly to the leg boundary.

And powerfully built, Colah has won for himself a reputation as a forcing batsman, and he continued to make progress with another powerful straight drive off Barnes, which started the second boundary of the morning.

In two overs, Barnes had conceded 10 runs, all but one of which were credited to Colah. It was Taylor who had been, so far, more difficult to play, his fast, good length bowling keeping the batsmen on the defensive, and only three runs were obtained from his first two overs.

TAYLOR'S TWO WICKETS

It was Taylor, too, who effected a separation, by after adding 14 to his overnight score, Colah dismissed a ball which nipped off the pitch, and was given out lbw. This was at 85, and Godambe succeeded Colah, who in his hard-hit had four boundaries and a three.

With Colah's dismissal, Lall Singh, who had batted 20 minutes for two runs, lived up, and he won applause for a glorious late cut and an equally fine leg-glance, each of which won boundaries. The result was that the century was reached after 2 hours and 20 minutes batting. Both Lall Singh's boundaries were at the expense of Taylor, but the Burslem professional paid his revenge at 102, when another beautiful ball beat Lall Singh, and shattered his wicket. Taylor's two successes this morning had been obtained in seven overs at a cost of 41 runs.

There might have been another wicket one run later, for when Mulahall cut a ball quickly between the slips and point, Lockett made a conspicuous dive from third slip to try and hold the ball. He just got his right hand to it, but while arresting the ball's progress, could not hold it.

At 113, Lockett went on for Barnes, who had batted throughout the All-India innings up to this point, his 26 overs having cost 56 runs.

MORE WICKETS

Taylor continued to bowl at the other end, and he gained his third success of the innings at 114. Marshall appearing to make little attempt to play a medium paced delivery which came in from the off to take to get plenty of Lockett seemed to be able to get plenty of it on the ball, and one delivery broke so quickly to leg that it passed well wide of both Godambe and the wicket-keeper, and sped away for the first bye of the innings. Despite his crafty bowling, however, Lockett was not so troublesome to the batsmen as Taylor, who again broke a partnership which commenced to become dangerous by clean bowling by Johangir Khan at 136. The retiring batsman played well inside a ball that went away quickly to hit the off-stump.

The medium-to-fast ball of Taylor's which was away quickly, had proved difficult to play all morning, and in his next over, with effect, Kapadia playing inside it and turning round in a surprised manner to find his wicket broken.

Thus, when Ghulam Mahomed went in to partner Godambe for the last wicket, All-India were still 73 behind.

BRILLIANT CATCH

The innings should have concluded at 151, when Mahomed mistimed a spinner from Lockett and skied the ball to short leg. Ellerker seized the catch well, and then, to the disgust of the crowd, let the ball drop. It proved likely to be a costly mistake, too, for Mahomed promptly pulled Taylor splendidly to the leg boundary, and Godambe, with a wonderful pull, hit Lockett for six.

At 162, however, Ellerker made amends for his error with a brilliant catch. Again Mahomed tried the ball, this time in opposition to Taylor, and Ellerker, running from the slips behind the wickets, held the ball safely, while he rolled over and over on the ground. Thus, despite the resistance of Godambe, Taylor carried his bat for a well-played 28. All-India were in arrears to the extent of 47 runs. Taylor, who had bowled wonderfully well, had captured all the six wickets which had fallen this morning, and during that period his analysis was—16.3 overs, 3 maidens, 39 runs, 6 wickets. His full analysis was seven wickets for 61 runs—a performance equal to any he has ever accomplished for the County.

LIGHTNING CATCH Gale Dismissed on Game's Resumption

Godambe and Nayudu had charge of the bowling when the game resumed after lunch, and only two runs had been added when Gale was out to a lightning catch in the slips by S. Wazir Ali off Nayudu's bowling. Gale had scored all the nine runs that were on the board at this point.

On Barnes joining Crump, both the batsmen got quickly off the mark, the former late cutting Godambe in classic style for three.

SEVEN OVERS—SIX MAIDENS

Nayudu was bowling equally as well as he did at the start of the first innings. Six of his seven overs up to now had been maidens, and the only score off him was a couple. Godambe was hardly so certain of his length.

Twenty went up after half-an-hour's batting, and four runs later Godambe gave way to the left-hander, Ghulam Mohamed, who, with the last ball of his opening over, dismissed Barnes, Lall Singh making a good catch in the slips.

Scoring, against Johangir Khan, who had taken over from Nayudu, and Mohamed, was very slow, another seven overs producing only 10 runs. At 37, Nayudu returned in place of Khan, and again the change was successful, for in the first over, and without addition to the total, he got the wicket of Heath, who appeared to be bowled off his pads. With this success, Nayudu had delivered eight overs, seven of which were maidens, for two wickets at a cost of two runs.

With one run added, another disaster befel Staffordshire. Homer, the newcomer, played a ball from Godambe to leg, and both batsmen began to run. Then they hesitated and turned back, and before Homer could regain the crease, the ball had been returned and he was run out by a yard. Four wickets had now fallen since lunch for only 38 runs, and there now seemed a possibility of a definite finish.

IMPROVED SCORING

There was an improvement in the scoring when Mayer joined Crump, for the latter was credited with a five when there was a four over-throw following a sharp single. This was debited to Nayudu, who conceded seven in that over, while Mayer opened his account by cutting Mohamed to the leg boundary, thus sending 50 up in exactly an hour.

The holding of an India cricketers was again winning the warm appreciation of a crowd which had grown to between 2,000 and 3,000, and both Nayudu and Godambe deserved special recognition for the manner they stopped hot returns.

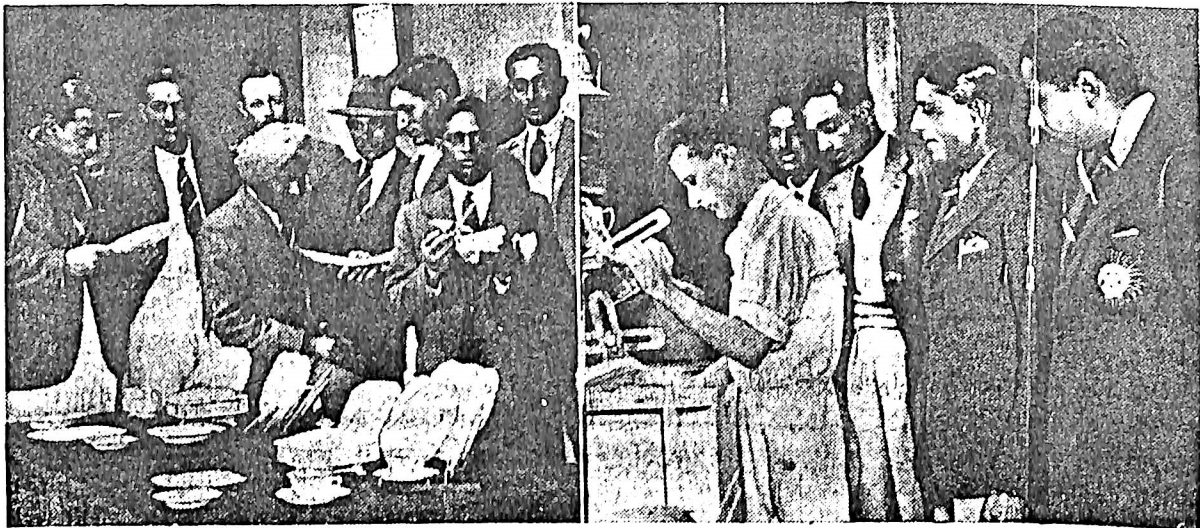
Mayer and Crump looked like putting up a good stand, but when they had added exactly 30 runs their partnership should have been broken, for when Naoomal was called upon for the first time, Mayer was missed in the slips by Godambe.

Godambe soon gained recompense for in his next over, with the score at 69, he clean bowled Crump, who had made exactly 30 in 1 1/2 hours. Ellerker was quickly off the mark, driving the first ball he received to the boundary, but he again had a short stay, for at 74 he lifted a ball towards mid-off, where Lall Singh, falling full length, held the ball an inch from the ground.

It was another instance of the alert fielding of this favourite of the crowd.

STAFFORDSHIRE

L E Gale	b Godambe	66
L M Crump	c Naoomal b Nayudu	6
Barnes	c Kapadia b Khan	6
J B Heath	c Colah b Khan	8
H W Homer	c Nayudu b Naoomal	1
E Mayer	c Kapadia b Naoomal	34
W H Ellerker	b Naoomal	13
C Sedgwick	b Khan	0
Lockett	lbw b Naoomal	27
E P Cross	c Colah b Khan	5
Taylor	not out	27
Extras		13
Total		110



Members of the All-India cricket team, before recommencing their match with Staffordshire at Stoke, this morning visited the Eagle Pottery of Messrs. J. and G. Meakin, Ltd., Hanley. In these "Sentinel" pictures they are seen examining some of the firm's ware in the showrooms, and interested in one of the processes.

Second Innings

L E Gale c Wazir Ali b Nayudu	9
L H Crump b Godambe	30
Barnes c Lall Singh b Mahomed	4
J S Heath b Nayudu	9
H W Horner run out	0
E Mayor not out	57
W H Ellerker c Lall Singh b Naomal	5
G Sedgwick not out	20
Extras	8

Total (for 6-wkts) 142

ALL INDIA

J G Navle c Sedgwick b Barnes	15
J Naomal b Taylor	13
S Wazir Ali lbw b Barnes	23
G K Nayudu run out	3
S H M Colah lbw b Taylor	17
Lall Singh b Taylor	12
S B Godambe not out	28
H D Marshall b Taylor	7
J Khan b Taylor	10
B E Kapadia b Taylor	0
Gulam Mahomed c Ellerker b Taylor	18
Extras	6

Total 162

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffordshire—First Innings

	O	M	R	W
Khan	26	2	6	4
Nayudu	27	11	64	1
Godambe	22	0	55	1
Marshall	7	0	6	0
Mahomed	4	0	8	0
Naomal	17	2	89	4

All-India—First Innings

	O	M	R	W
Barnes	26	7	56	2
Taylor	27	5	61	7
Jackett	11	3	50	0
Ellerker	3	0	10	0

STAFFORDSHIRE FAIL TO FORCE A VICTORY

MATCH WITH ALL-INDIA ENDS IN A DRAW

Time did not allow of a definite conclusion being reached in the Staffordshire and All India cricket match which concluded at Stoke yesterday, but at the finish the county had fully maintained their reputation of doing well against touring teams, and the visitors were in a very tight corner.

As on the first day, yesterday's play was very changeable, neither side being on top for long, but when stumps were drawn Staffordshire had so much the better of the position that All-India needed 95 to save the game and had only four wickets in hand.

When the match started yesterday morning, it appeared unlikely that a definite finish would ever be within reach, but Taylor, the Burslem professional, had such a fine spell of bowling that the All-India innings was brought to a conclusion before lunch, leaving them 47 runs in arrears on the first innings. Taylor took all the six wickets that fell during the morning for 39 runs, and had a complete analysis of 7 for 61.

MAYER'S FINE INNINGS

Then the fortunes of the match veered round and in the early part of the afternoon All-India were well on top. Apart from a sound defensive innings by Crump, there was no-one who could stay long, and when Crump was dismissed, five wickets were down for 69. Five runs later Ellerker went, and there were prospects of a complete collapse.

E. Mayer, the L.M.S. player, however, once again showed his steadiness in a crisis, and found in G. Sedgwick a fine partner. Sedgwick did not bother much about scoring, but he held his end up confidently, while Mayer attacked the bowling with zest. The result was that the pair added 68 runs, taking the score to 142 at the tea interval. This placed Staffordshire 189 runs ahead, and the innings was declared, leaving All-India one and a half hours to get the runs, with a possible extra half-hour.

In his 57, not out, Mayer had eight 4's, while Sedgwick was undefeated with 20 to his credit.

ALTERED TACTICS

All-India apparently had visions of making a bid for victory, for they changed their batting order and sent in Nayudu and S. Wazir All to open the innings. Nayudu soon departed being lbw to Taylor with only nine runs scored, but with Colah and Wazir All together the visitors still went for the runs. They soon had 40 on the board, and then came a minor collapse which forced them to change their tactics and play for a draw. Wazir All left at 43, and at 50 both Colah and Lall Singh were sent back. Mahomed was bowled at 63 and at 77 Jehangir Khan was dismissed.

This brought the two regular opening batsmen, Navie and J. Naoomal together. Neither are forcing batsmen, and in the circumstances they were content to defend. They were still together when stumps should have been drawn, but Staffordshire claimed the extra half-hour to try and force home their advantage, but the two batsmen continued to defend, and when the score had been advanced to 84 without further loss the game was left drawn.

In the second innings, Barnes claimed three wickets for 29 runs, Taylor taking the other three at a cost of 50 runs, and therefore had the fine match return of 10 wickets for 111 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE

L E Gale b Godambe	66
L H Crump a Naoomal b Nayudu	5
Barnes a Kapadia b Khan	5
J S Heath a Colah b Khan	1
H W Homer a Nayudu b Naoomal	34
E Mayer a Kapadia b Naoomal	13
W H Ellerker b Naoomal	9
G Sedgwick b Khan	27
Lockett lbw b Naoomal	5
E P Cross a Colah b Khan	27
Taylor not out	13
Extras	10
Total	209

Second Innings

L E Gale a Wazir All b Nayudu	9
L H Crump b Godambe	30
Barnes a Lall Singh b Mahomed	4
J S Heath b Nayudu	9
H W Homer run out	9
E Mayer not out	57
W H Ellerker a Lall Singh b Naoomal	9
G Sedgwick not out	30
Extras	8
Total (for 6 wks)	142

Innings declared

ALL INDIA

J G Navie a Sedgwick b Barnes	16
J Naoomal b Taylor	19
S Wazir All lbw b Barnes	13
O K Nayudu run out	8
S H M Colah lbw b Taylor	37
Lall Singh b Taylor	13
S R Godambe not out	13
N D Marshall b Taylor	7
J Khan b Taylor	10
B E Kapadia b Taylor	9
Ghulam Mahomed a Ellerker b Taylor	11
Extras	6
Total	153

Second Innings

J G Navie not out	7
J Naoomal not out	16
S Wazir All a Heath b Barnes	16
O K Nayudu lbw b Taylor	3
S H M Colah lbw b Barnes	30
Lall Singh b Taylor	1
Jehangir Khan b Taylor	13
Ghulam Mahomed b Barnes	1
Extras	3
Total (for 6 wks)	94

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffordshire—First Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Khan	26.2	6	67	4
Nayudu	25	11	44	1
Godambe	22	9	85	1
Marshall	3	0	8	0
Mahomed	4	0	8	0
Naoomal	17	2	80	4

Second Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Nayudu	18	8	31	2
Khan	8	1	19	0
Godambe	12	4	26	1
Naoomal	8	4	9	1
Wazir All	3	0	18	0
Mahomed	12	0	31	1

All-India.—First Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	26	7	56	2
Taylor	27.3	6	61	7
Lockett	11	3	39	0
Ellerker	3	0	10	0

Second Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Taylor	14	2	50	3
Barnes	13	3	29	3
Lockett	5	2	9	0
Ellerker	4	1	8	0

CRICKET

Staffs. v. All India

COUNTY'S GOOD SHOW AGAINST TEST PLAYERS

By "THE CRITIC"

For the fourth time in five years a Touring Test team from the British Dominions was seen on the old county ground, Stoke, on Wednesday and Thursday, when the All Indians opposed Staffordshire, and for the fourth time the big occasion was favoured with brilliant weather. A crowd of nearly 4,000 gave the Indians a warm welcome on Wednesday.

The Indians rather disappointed some of us by resting both of their two leading bowlers, Nissar and Amar Singh. Staffordshire placed a good side in the field, though the omission of Stanley Crump gave rise to a good deal of criticism. I cannot pretend to agree with the committee in this, for the younger Crump has abundantly proved his value.

Staffordshire went in first on a good, fast wicket. L. E. Gale and L. H. Crump opened the batting, and the bowling was shared by Jehangir Khan and Nayudu. Both are medium-pace right-arm bowlers, and the first-named impressed during the day as the Indians' best attacker. With scarcely any run he is quick off the pitch and he can make the ball swing away very late. Both batsmen opened cautiously, and only six runs had been scored when Crump obliged Nayudu by playing a leg ball to Naoomal's right hand at short leg. This was a rather serious error, and though Gale and Barnes improved the position somewhat by adding 26, three wickets were down at 40. Jehangir Khan, having changed ends, got the famous professional caught at the wicket, and 8 runs later got rid of Stanley Heath, who edged a swinger and was beautifully caught in the slips.

Then came an invaluable stand by Gale and Homer. The Dudley man kept flashing out a brilliant off-stroke at intervals, and Homer picked out the right ball for a couple of fine on-hits, besides emulating his partner with an excellent cut to the rails. In spite of frequent bowling changes the pair stayed together 80 minutes and added 74 for the fourth wicket. Gale played the best cricket of the day, his defence being straight and sound and his off-side play aggressive and polished. He hit seven fours, and his only mistake was a difficult chance in the slips with his score at 42. Homer soon followed him, putting one of the slow leg-breaks up in the slips after batting an hour and a-half and hitting six fours.

Half the side was out for 118, and the slow bowler proceeded to cause a collapse in the batting, until Gordon Sedgwick, after a streaky start, settled down to play soundly, and Cross knocked Naoomal off by going right to the pitch of the ball and hitting him before the spin could operate. The pair treated the spectators to the brightest bit of batting they saw all day, and added a priceless 50 in half-an-hour. Taylor, with a couple of good, clean hits to the on-boundary, sent up the second hundred, and Sedgwick got perhaps his best stroke by turning Jehangir Khan to the leg boundary, but the next ball had him beaten, and the innings closed at 5.7 for a respectable if not a very big score.

The Indians started batting at 5.20 against Barnes and Taylor, the opening pair being Naoomal and Navle. The bowling was so accurate that the batsmen were pegged down, but after the application of the roller Barnes could make little impression with finger-spin. However, Navle was fortunate to get his first runs by edging him between the wicket keeper and first slip to the boundary. With only 21 scored in 40 minutes, Taylor completely beat Naoomal with a fine ball that seemed to go with his arm to hit the middle and off stumps, and Wasir Ali had no sooner joined Navle than the latter should have been caught close in at point by Ellerker from Barnes. The pair batted with great care, but Barnes effected the separation, getting Navle well caught low down at short leg at 51. Before the close the Indian Captain was run out owing to a misunderstanding with his partner, and so Staffordshire ended the day with rather the better of the position, All India being 140 behind with six wickets in hand.

THURSDAY'S PLAY

Thursday was another ideal day, and a crowd of fully 3,000 watched the play with unabated interest. The Staffordshire team again more than held their own, and when stumps were drawn had established a winning position after declaring their second innings closed at tea interval. The morning's play was characterized by a very fine piece of bowling by Taylor. He hit the wicket four times, and took six wickets for 39 runs. Barnes could get no assistance from the pitch, and enjoyed no luck, whilst Lockett also had an unlucky spell.

Staffordshire had a lead of 47, and lost four wickets for 38 in the second innings. Crump and Mayer steadied the batting, and added 31 before Crump tried to pull a straight ball and played all across it

after battling soundly for an hour and a-half. As in the first innings, Gordon Sedgwick had an uncertain start, several balls going off the edge, but he settled down, and got well on top of the bowling. Mayer again played an excellent innings, his cutting and hooking being attractive features of a sound all-round display. He reached 50 in an hour and a-quarter, and when the closure was applied, the pair had put on 68 in 50 minutes.

The Indians were left with 190 to get in a little more than an hour and a-half, and again fared badly against Barnes and Taylor. They lost six wickets for 77, but Naoomal and Navle, their usual opening pair, played out time, with Lockett and Ellerker bowling for the last quarter of an hour. At the close they were 95 behind with four wickets in hand.

Scores and analysis:—

Staffordshire (1st innings): L. E. Gale b Godambe 66, L. H. Crump c Naoomal b Nayudu 5, Barnes c Colah b Jehangir Khan 8, J. E. Heath c Colah b Jehangir Khan 1, H. W. Homer c Nayudu b Naoomal 34, E. Mayer st Kapadia b Naoomal 13, W. H. Ellerker b Naoomal 0, G. Sedgwick b Jehangir Khan 27, Lockett lbw b Naoomal 5, E. Cross c Colah b Jehangir Khan 27, Taylor not out 13, extras 10; total 209.

Staffordshire (2nd innings):—Gale c Wazir Ali b Nandu 9, Crump b Godambe 30, Barnes c Lall Singh b Ghulam Mahomed 4, Heath by Nayudu 9, Homer run out 0, Mayer not out 57, Ellerker c Lall Singh b Naoomal 5, Sedgwick not out 20, extras 8; total (for six wickets, declared) 142.

All India (1st innings):—J. Naoomal b Taylor 13, J. Navle c Sedgwick b Barnes 16, S. Wazir Ali lbw b Barnes 23, G. K. Nayudu run out 3, S. H. M. Colah lbw b Taylor 27, Lall Singh b Taylor 12, S. R. Godambe not out 28, N. D. Marshall b Taylor 7, Jehangir Khan b Taylor 10, B. E. Kapadia b Taylor 0, Ghulam Mahomed c Ellerker b Taylor 18; extras 5; total 162.

All India (2nd innings):—Nayudu lbw b Taylor 3, Wazir Ali c Heath b Barnes 15, Colah lbw b Barnes 30, Lall Singh b Taylor 1, Ghulam Mahomed b Barnes 1, Jehangir Khan b Taylor 18, Naoomal not out 16, Navle not out 7, extras 3; total (for six wickets) 94.

Staffordshire.—First innings: Jehangir Khan, 26.2 overs, 5 maidens, 67 runs, 4 wickets; Nayudu, 25.11-44-1; Godambe, 22-9-35-1; Ghulam Mahomed, 4-0-8-0; Marshall, 3-0-6-0; Naoomal, 17-2-39-4. Second innings: Jehangir Khan, 8-1-19-0; Nayudu, 18-8-31-2; Godambe, 12-4-26-1; Ghulam Mahomed, 12-1-31-1; Naoomal, 8-4-9-1; Wazir Ali, 3-0-18-0.

All India.—First innings: Barnes, 26 overs, 7 maidens, 56 runs, 2 wickets; Taylor, 27.3-6-61-7; Lockett, 11-3-30-0; Ellerker, 3-0-10-0. Second innings: Barnes, 13-3-29-3; Taylor, 14-2-50-3; Lockett, 5-2-9-0; Ellerker, 4-1-3-0.

FAIL BEFORE YORKSHIRE'S KEEN ATTACK

Dismissed For 116

HALL'S FINE BOWLING

The Staffordshire County Cricket Club have suffered severely from rain-ruined matches in the last couple of years, but the weather clerk is apparently trying to make amends this season, and when the team commenced its third home game of the season at Porthill to-day, the weather was again glorious.

To-day's weather, by the way, was totally different from that which prevailed when the first match between the clubs was played this season at Bradford, for on that occasion rain interfered to such an extent that Yorkshire had only scored 72 for two when the game was abandoned.

Staffordshire were repeating the experiment of a late start, commencing to-day at noon and playing until seven p.m.

Compared with the team which did so well against All-India, Staffordshire were minus G. Sedgwick, J. S. Heath, and L. E. Gale. In their places R. H. Plant and S. Crump returned to the side, and, for the first time for many years, the Stafford Club was represented by the inclusion of M. H. Cocks, their opening batsman.

That Staffordshire were intent upon a victory was shown by the fact that they retained three professionals, Barnes, Lockett and Taylor, but the Yorkshire side included eight professionals, and altogether six of the visitors had played for the Yorkshire first team.

The match to-morrow will start at 11 o'clock. Instead of 11.30, as advertised, Yorkshire wanting to get away early in order to reach Halifax.

A POOR START

Staffordshire were again fortunate to win the toss thereby gaining first use of a good wicket. L. H. Crump and M. H. Cocks opened the innings against Hall, the fast bowler who did so well against Middlesex a fortnight ago, and Turner.

It was a slow start that was made, for 17 balls were delivered before the first run was scored, and the total was only four when Cocks was beautifully caught in the slips off Hall, Fisher taking a ball which was going wide of him with his left hand.

In half an hour only eight runs were scored, five of the nine overs at this point being maidens and all the six runs scored with the bat being singles.

Staffordshire soon became even worse placed, for the total had been advanced to only nine when Barnes was too late in playing a Hall, who was bowling really fast, and was beaten by a delivery which just lifted the off ball as it rose sharply from the pitch.

E. Mayer followed, and immediately made the first shot which produced more than a single, turning Turner to the leg boundary beautifully. That was as far as he got, however, for in the same over he was smartly stumped, the third wicket falling at 14.

FURTHER DISASTER Home Captain Bowled by Fisher

Homer, who on Saturday scored a century and took three wickets for 8 runs for Old Hill, succeeded Mayer, but like Crump was forced to play a defensive game.

Hall was rested at 22, having delivered eight overs for seven runs. Fisher, who took his place, is a slow left-arm bowler, and he at once achieved success for in his first over, with the total at 23 he bowled Homer with a fine ball which broke quickly from the off. The innings had been in progress an hour at this point, Crump being seven, and of the 23 runs 19 were singles. When Lockett came in, he cut Fisher through the slips for the second boundary of the match.

Lockett's arrival brought about an improvement in the rate of scoring, for following his initial boundary, he took six runs off Turner in one over, and had another boundary in Fisher's next over. In three overs he had overtaken Crump, whose contribution at this stage consisted of ten singles.

The score had reached 42 when Hall returned in place of Turner. Lockett had scored 18, made up of four boundaries and a two, when, at 49, he was out in rather a curious manner. A ball from Fisher rebounded from the stumper's pads on to the wickets dislodging the balls. At the same time, Lockett stepped out of his crease and Buller quickly pulled up a stump as Lockett struggled to get back. An appeal was answered in the bowlers' favour, although Lockett appeared dissatisfied with the decision. Without addition to the total, Crump was bowled by Hall, being the third victim of the fast bowler.

ELLERKER INJURED

It had been a good morning's work by Yorkshire II, and their position was quickly improved on the resumption when they captured another wicket at 57. Before this, however, in Hall's first over, Staffordshire received a nasty blow when Ellerker was hit on the elbow and had to retire. Ellerker, who had not scored at the time, was succeeded by S. Crump, and it was this batsman who was dismissed, being lbw to Fisher after hitting a boundary off the previous ball.

Yorkshire also suffered a handicap when Coats received a telegram that his father was seriously ill and he had to leave for home immediately.

Plant, the young Longton player, quickly reached double figures, but at 13 was given a "life" in the slips by Bedford.

Plant continued to play brightly until he had 19 to his credit, but then he was caught at the wicket off Hall, Buller obtaining his third "victim" of the innings.

On the fall of this wicket Ellerker returned to partner Cross and the resistance by the tail caused Yorkshire to make another bowling change, Hall going off in favour of Bedford at 92. Bedford's first over produced seven runs, and Ellerker and Cross were still together when the century was signalled after the innings had been in progress two and a quarter hours.

At 105, Turner returned to the attack in place of Fisher, but it was Bedford who broke the partnership at 108, Halstead catching Cross in the long field after that player had scored 17.

Meanwhile, Ellerker had made himself the highest scorer of the innings, and when the innings came to a close at 116, with the dismissal of Taylor, Ellerker had four boundaries in his unbeaten 24. The innings had lasted exactly two and a half hours, and the most outstanding feature had been the bowling of Hall, who thoroughly deserved his four wickets for 26 runs.

YORKSHIRE'S BAD START

Barnes and Taylor shared the bowling when Yorkshire started their reply, and the total was only three when Barnes got Bedford lbw before he had scored.

W. E. Harbord, who succeeded Bedford, hit Barnes for four and six, but the former England bowler had his revenge at 35, when he bowled Harbord.

Staffordshire	
L. H. Crump b Hall	14
M. H. Cocks c Fisher b Hall	2
Barnes b Hall	2
E. Mayer st Buller b Turner	5
H. W. Homer b Fisher	5
Lockett st Buller b Fisher	18
R. H. Plant c Buller b Hall	19
S. Crump lbw b Fisher	4
E. P. Cross c Halstead b Bedford	17
W. H. Ellerker not out	24
Taylor b Turner	1
Extras	5
Total	116
Yorkshire II.	
Halstead not out	13
Bedford lbw b Barnes	0
W. E. Harbord b Barnes	22
Total (for 2 wickets)	35



L. H. Crump and M. H. Cocks, Staffordshire's opening batsmen, taking the field against Yorkshire II. at Porthill, to-day.

YORKSHIRE II. GAIN LEAD OF 59 RUNS

Improved Display In Second Venture

COCKS HITS OUT

Staffordshire had a big uphill fight before them when they resumed their Minor Counties match against Yorkshire II., at Porthill to-day.

A heavy thunder storm brought play to a close yesterday an hour before the scheduled time for drawing stumps, but such progress had been made that Yorkshire had already gained a lead of 24 runs and had only lost five wickets. Yorkshire had four wickets in hand when the game was restarted, for H. G. Coates, who had to go home yesterday because his father was seriously ill, was an absentee.

Barnes and Lockett were the opening bowlers against the overnight not outs, Fisher (40) and Nutton (8), and they got more assistance from the pitch than at any time yesterday. Twice in his first over, Nutton cocked up balls dangerously near a close ring of fieldsmen. Lockett, too, made the ball "pop" in a manner which caused Grimshaw some trouble.

FIELDING LAPSES

Nutton played forward in an uncomfortable manner at both bowlers, and it was not surprising when Lockett bowled him at 144. Another six runs had been added when Grimshaw had a life. He skied a ball from Barnes, but the bowler dropped what appeared to be an easy chance. One run later, Major Chichester-Constable also had a let off. He skied a ball from Barnes, and this time Ellerker dropped the ball running just a little too far under it. The third fielding lapse of the morning immediately followed for L. Crump missed the Yorkshire captain in the long field.

Major Chichester-Constable was hitting nearly every ball into the air, and at 156 he paid the penalty, Plant taking an easy catch just behind the bowler, who was again Lockett. Lockett gained his third success of the morning at 158 when Grimshaw hit across a good ball and was bowled. In his 49 were five fours.

Lockett had taken three wickets this morning for nine runs, but later Buller took two fours off him in one over, and the total had reached 175 before the end came, Hall being caught off Barnes.

With a record of three for 48, Lockett had the best analysis, but Barnes' four for 71 would have been far better but for the rather slack fielding.

Yorkshire had batted for an hour this morning and had gained a lead of 59 runs, which, on such a wicket, was a big advantage.

SECOND VENTURE

What an advantage Yorkshire's lead gave them was emphasised when Staffordshire commenced their second venture, for, although the wicket was not as suitable to Hall as in the initial innings, he captured a wicket with his first ball. Staffordshire had opened with L. H. Crump and Cocks, and the first ball was edged by the former into Turner's hands in the slips. Turner was Hall's partner in the attack.

Lockett joined Cocks, who strained a muscle while fielding last night, and had to use S. Crump as a runner, and the total was only eight when the Stafford batsman gave Fisher a sharp unaccepted chance in the slips off Hall. Lockett was confident, and, off the first eight balls received, he scored 13 runs—three 4's and a single. These were at the expense of Hall, and with Cocks hitting Turner for two 4's in one over the score reached 22 after only 10 minutes' play. The merry partnership came to a close at 32, however, for Lockett, trying to repeat a beautiful straight drive which earned him his fourth boundary off Hall, mistimed the ball, and Major Chichester-Constable, running backwards from mid-off, took a brilliant catch.

Whereas Lockett had been severe on Hall, Cocks had scored well off Turner, and the Stafford batsman reached 20 with his fourth boundary at Turner's expense.

Runs had come with ease, so far, and at 45 Hall gave way to Fisher, his six overs having cost 22 runs.

MAYER AND COCKS MISSED

When four, Mayer was missed at mid-off by Nutton, the suffering bowler being Turner, and the latter had another stroke of bad luck when, in the same over, Hall missed Cocks in the slips.

Nutton made amends for his lapse almost at once, easily catching Mayer off Fisher at 53, and thus, with three men out, Staffordshire were still six runs in arrears. With Barnes in Hall resumed in place of Turner, but, without further loss, the arrears were wiped out.

Cocks was still batting attractively, and, after scoring a couple of 4's off Fisher, he jumped into the forties by taking seven off the next over from Hall.

The batting was of an entirely different calibre to yesterday, an hour's play producing 72 runs, but at this total Cocks' attractive innings came to a close when he was caught near the boundary off Fisher. His 45 runs included eight 4's.

Hall was proving rather expensive, and at 81 he was displaced by Bedford. Barnes and Ellerker, however, remained together until lunch, when, with a total of 86 for four, Staffordshire were leading by 27.

ACCURATE BOWLING

On the resumption, Barnes and Ellerker had to face the bowling of Turner and Fisher, and so accurate was their length that only twelve were added in 25 minutes, ten of these being singles.

At 88, Barnes' graceful and useful innings came to a conclusion when he was caught in the slips off Fisher. He had three boundaries in his 20.

Increasing very slowly, the score crept past the first innings total, and then Ellerker livened up a little to take a four off each bowler. The stand between he and Homer was, if nothing else, making the possibility of a Staffordshire defeat more remote, and promise of a draw was in hand when rain stopped play at 131.

Staffordshire

L. H. Crump b Hall	14
M. H. Cocks c Fisher b Hall	2
Barnes b Hall	2
E. Mayer st Buller b Turner	5
H. W. Homer b Fisher	5
Lockett st Buller b Fisher	18
R. H. Plant c Buller b Hall	19
S. Crump lbw b Fisher	4
E. P. Cross c Halstead b Bedford	17
W. H. Ellerker not out	24
Taylor b Turner	1
Extras	5
Total	110

Second Innings

L. H. Crump c Turner b Hall	0
M. H. Cocks c Halstead b Fisher	45
Lockett c Maj. C-Constable b Hall	18
E. Mayer c Nutton b Fisher	5
Barnes c Bedford b Fisher	20
W. H. Ellerker not out	40
H. W. Homer c Hall b Turner	5
R. H. Plant c Harbord b Turner	0
S. Crump lbw b Hall	2
E. P. Cross not out	2
Extras	11
Total (for 8 wks)	147

Yorkshire II.

Halstead st Cross b Barnes	22
Bedford lbw b Barnes	0
W. E. Harbord b Barnes	22
Turner run out	40
Grimshaw b Lockett	49
Fisher c Cross b Taylor	4
Nutton b Lockett	10
Maj. Chichester-Constable c Plant b Lockett	8
Buller not out	8
Hall c Ellerker b Barnes	9
H. G. Coates absent	0
Extras	8
Total	178

BATTING COLLAPSE AT PORTHILL

By "THE CRITIC"

As a result of Monday's cricket at Porthill, Yorks. II, gained so decided an advantage over Staffordshire that the close of play found the visitors in a winning position, for after dismissing the home county for 116 they replied with 140 for five wickets, and so held a lead of 24 with five wickets in hand. This number was, however, reduced to four by the regrettable circumstance that H. G. Coates, a young Bradford player who was appearing for the first time in the Yorks II, XI, was called home at lunch time owing to the serious illness of his father.

Yorkshire, captained by Major Chichester-Constable, included several players who have had 1st XI. experience, notably Hall, Turner, and Fisher. Hall is a young fast bowler of whom much is expected in Yorkshire, and who has recently achieved several very fine performances in the county championship. Turner and Fisher are both accomplished left-hand bats, and Fisher, a slow left-arm bowler, whilst Turner bowls medium-pace right-arm.

Staffordshire, who were without L. E. Gale and J. S. Heath, gave a further trial to R. H. Plant, and included for the first time M. H. Cocks, the Stafford batsman. The last-named, in his first county innings, was up against a first-class bowler of pace in Hall, and he betrayed a tendency to feel for the off ball which was dangerous, and which cost him his wicket, for he was an early slip victim. Otherwise during his brief stay he shaped well, and with more experience of good class cricket may be a useful opening batsman for the county.

CHEAP WICKETS ON A FAST PITCH

H. W. Homer again won the toss, and Staffordshire were duly pleased with the prospect of batting first, but there was a complete collapse before some fine bowling. Only five had been scored when Cocks fell to a neat one-handed catch low down in the slips, and four runs later Barnes had the misfortune to get a fast ball that came back several inches to take the off ball. At that speed such a ball is, of course, unplayable, and would bowl anyone, Bradman included. Mayer started confidently enough, and played the first stroke in 40 minutes for more than a single by turning Turner beautifully to the fine leg boundary. However, he walked out to the next ball, missed it, and was easily stumped. Then Crump and the Captain plodded along

with singles for more than a quarter of an hour, and had only advanced the score to 23 when Homer was beaten by a little leg-break in trying to turn Fisher to leg, the left-hander having superseded Hall. Lockett's batting was a marked contrast to that which had gone before, for he soon scored 18 by means of four boundaries and a two, which was fielded on the boundary. Hope was aroused that he and Crump would last till lunch time, but it was not to be. Lockett was given out stumped, and Hall, who had resumed in place of Turner, clean bowled Crump. Lockett's dismissal was curious. A leg-ball rebounded on to the wicket from the wicket-keeper's pads, but Lockett was well in his ground. After the wicket was broken, however, he stepped out, and Buller promptly picked up the ball and pulled a stump out. It looked as though Lockett had stepped back inside the crease before the stump was drawn, but the umpire decided otherwise. It was a great pity, for the bowling seemed to have no terrors for Lockett, and his stepping out of his crease before the ball was dead was a sheer piece of carelessness.

At lunch six wickets were down for 49, a lamentable start, and on resuming things went no better for a time. Hall was making the ball rear in rather disconcerting fashion now. Crump had been hit on the body immediately before being bowled, and Plant stopped one with his ribs. Then Ellerker had a vicious ball, and trying to turn away from it, was hit near the left elbow. He had to retire, and at 57 Fisher straightened one out to get Stanley Crump leg before. Seven wickets for 57 was shocking. Plant and Cross began a partial recovery, the Longton boy batting in really good style. The wicket added 22 before Plant failed to keep away from a rising express, and was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. Ellerker was able

to resume his innings, though his arm was very badly bruised, and played the best cricket of the innings. Cross kept him company, playing a most useful innings, as he did against the Indians, and the score was augmented by a further 29, including three dazzling off drives and a square cut to the boundary by Ellerker. Bedford being tried with googlies, Cross fell at long-off, and Taylor tried to drive the wrong ball at the other end. The innings thus closed for 116, the last three wickets having rather more than doubled the score.

A LESSON IN RUNNING

When Yorks started batting first after half-past three, Bedford was a victim of the wiles of Barnes with only three scored, but Halstead, a steady and skilful bat, and W. E. Harbord, a powerful hitter, added 32 in 25 minutes, and the amateur straight drove Barnes for six. However, trying to repeat the stroke, he was beaten and bowled. Turner is a left-hand bat of many strokes and a free, attractive style, whom most counties would be glad of for their 1st team. He batted confidently, but Halstead, after giving a chance of stumping off Barnes, was caught in the slips at 56. Then followed a stand of over an hour by Turner and Grimshaw, the latter a young batsman with all the making of a first-class player. They caused changes in bowling, and added 64 runs before Turner was, unfortunately, out, for he slipped down in mid wicket, and was run out. This pair and, indeed, all the Yorks players who batted, gave the home side a lesson in how to take short runs. It is no exaggeration to say that they took some 30 runs which Staffordshire batsmen would never have attempted. And all quite safe, and fairly easy, simply because of good understanding and prompt decision. Taylor got Fisher caught at the wicket, and just before six o'clock had light stopped play. In a few minutes a thunderstorm broke over the ground, rain descended in sheets, and in less than half an hour the ground was almost entirely under water.

STAFFORDSHIRE RECOVER, BUT LOSE FOUR POINTS

It was surprising to find the ground fit for a punctual start on Tuesday morning. The wicket was, of course, much slower than on Monday, and the ball could be made to turn a good deal, but there was little life in the pitch, and in the absence of sunshine it never became really difficult. Early in the afternoon the weather seemed to be brightening, and Staffordshire had made so good a recovery that if the sun had burst through to quicken the wicket for the Staffordshire bowlers in the fourth innings the visitors might have found it difficult to avoid defeat. However, the sun never prevailed, the clouds deepened and rain prevented what promised to be a highly interesting finish. So that though they had pulled the game round to a fairly even position Staffordshire were denied the chance of redeeming their poor start and had to be content with one point out of five for losing on the first innings.

Though the four outstanding wickets of Yorks added only 35, they ought to have been disposed of even more cheaply, for Barnes took a skier too easily off his own bowling from Grimshaw and stood aghast when he had missed it. Then Chichester-Constable received a life off each bowler, Ellerker failing to hold another skier off Barnes at mid-wicket, and L. Crump misjudging a catch on the boundary off Lockett and allowing four runs. Grimshaw missed his half-century by one run, being apparently deceived by a leg-break from Lockett, whose three wickets cost only 18 runs on Tuesday. Barnes was more expensive than usual, but a good many fluky runs were scored from him.

In arrears of 59, Staffordshire again made a depressing start, for Len Crump played in half-hearted fashion at the first ball of the innings from the fast bowler, and gave a simple catch to backward point. Lockett was sent in early and, as in the first innings, gave every promise of taking the edge off the bowling, for he quickly hit a quartet of typical fours, all excellent strokes, but tried to drive a breaking ball without going quite far enough to it, and fell at extra cover at 32. This was an improvement, but matters would have looked black indeed had Fisher succeeded in holding a low catch in the slips from Cocks before he had scored. Thus favoured, the Stafford man batted well and displayed a repertory of good strokes, but at 24 he

again edged one into the slips and was missed by Hall. Mayer never settled down, and gave a plain chance before he cooked the left-hander up to mid-on, but Barnes and Cocks looked to be in no difficulty until the last-named, getting rather venturesome, half-hit one to extra cover when only five short of 50. He had hit eight fours and got his runs in 65 minutes in a manner that suggested valuable assistance to the county in the future. Barnes left at 98, caught in the slips off his glove, and Staffordshire were in danger with a lead of only 39 and half the side out.

But Ellerker, who had had medical treatment for his bruised arm, was in his best form again, and Homer set his teeth to play himself in. Gradually the pair pulled Staffordshire out of danger, and had added 33 in 50 minutes, chiefly from the stylish bat of Ellerker, whose driving was par excellence, when, instead of the desired sunshine, came rain to interrupt the game for 25 minutes. The break was fatal to Homer, who was caught in the slips on resuming; Plant tamely played a leg ball into the hands of short-leg; and Stanley Crump was l.b.w. for the second time, three wickets falling for one run. But Ellerker again found a most useful partner in Cross, and these two put on a further 37 before rain put an end to the match at five o'clock. Ellerker batted beautifully (there were no teasing slow leg-breaks to upset him), and his 70 runs in the match without losing his wicket represented the best bowling seen. Cross is deserving of great credit for the way in which he has stiffened the tail-end batting in the last two matches, scoring 61 runs in three innings, twice out; stopping a lot of good bowling and making many excellent strokes.

At the close, Staffordshire were 110 runs on with two wickets in hand. Scores:—

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings

L. H. Crump	b Hall	...	14
M. H. Cocks	c Fisher	b Hall	2
Barnes	b Hall	...	2
E. Mayer	st. Buller	b Turner	5
H. W. Homer	b Fisher	...	5
Lockett	st. Buller	b Fisher	18
W. H. Ellerker	not out	...	24
R. H. Plant	c Buller	b Hall	19
S. Crump	lbw b Fisher	...	4
E. P. Cross	c Halstead	b Bedford	17
Taylor	b Turner	...	1
Extras	...	...	5

Total ... 115

Second Innings

L. H. Crump	c Turner	b Hall	0
M. H. Cocks	c Halstead	b Fisher	45
Lockett	c Chichester-Constable	b Hall	19
E. Mayer	c Nutton	b Fisher	5
Barnes	c Bedford	b Fisher	20
W. H. Ellerker	not out	...	46
H. W. Homer	c Hall	b Turner	5
R. H. Plant	c Harbord	b Turner	0
S. Crump	lbw b Hall	...	1
E. P. Cross	not out	...	17
Extras	...	...	12

Total (for 8 wickets) 169

YORKSHIRE II.

Halstead	c S. Crump	b Barnes	22
Bedford	lbw b Barnes	...	0
W. E. Harbord	b Barnes	...	22
Turner	run out	...	40
Grimshaw	b Lockett	...	49
Fisher	c Cross	b Taylor	4
Nutton	b Lockett	...	10
Maj. R. C. Chichester-Constable	c Plant	b Lockett	8
Buller	not out	...	8
Hall	c Ellerker	b Barnes	9
H. G. Coates (absent)	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	3

Total ... 175

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Staffordshire.—First Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hall	19	6	26	4
Turner	12.4	3	22	2
Fisher	16	2	44	3
Bedford	3	0	19	1

Second Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hall	13	3	43	3
Turner	30	10	58	2
Fisher	26	9	51	3
Bedford	1	0	5	0

Yorkshire II.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	24.4	4	71	4
Taylor	15	0	44	1
Lockett	14	3	48	3
S. Crump	5	0	9	0

North Staffs. and District League

A CENTURY BY J. JOLLEY

Exciting Finish at Stoke

By "THE CRITIC"

It was a battle of the lowly which I went to the old County Ground to see on Saturday, and the issue was one of vital importance in the struggle to avoid relegation. Norton, having sunk to the bottom of the table, were two points below the L.M.S., against whom their solitary victory of the season was secured in May. A repetition of their success would place them on a level with the Railway Club, but, on the other hand, defeat would leave them with a leeway of four points to make up on their nearest rivals, a very serious position. In the result Norton just managed to share the points, and put an end to a sequence of five defeats. Even that modest spot of success, the avoidance of another, and almost irretrievable disaster, may have a heartening effect on the side. Undoubtedly, they are not a good side, and greatly need the strengthening and stimulating influence of professional assistance and coaching. But they are not quite as bad a side as their performances during the last two months would seem to prove. They strike me rather as a demoralised side, suffering from what has been rather mystically described as an inferiority complex. They are largely a young team, who have allowed the depressing effect of a bad patch to play havoc with their morale, and they have, temporarily, it is to be hoped, lost the Norton tradition of keenness and grit. They need more dash and spirit in the field, in which respect S. Dawson set his colleagues an excellent example; they need more confidence in batting, and a better idea of the art of playing slow bowling; and they sorely need another good bowler. The first requirement should be readily attainable, the second demands improved spirit and assiduous practice, and the third is a want which the Norton school has usually been able to supply, but which, in my opinion, ought to have been furnished by the engagement of a professional. The improvement in the L.M.S. side which the presence of Mayer has wrought is an object lesson for Norton, who have steadily declined since they lost their professional halfway through last season.

The Railwaymen are, beyond question, an improved side since I saw them at the opening of the season, and will, at least, make a fight for the retention of their status. Their batting is a good deal nearer to Section A class than it was, and their bowling is not, perhaps, the weakest in the division.

I was sorry to witness in this match a practice which seems to be regrettably prevalent of making lbw appeals with reckless impetuosity. I heard appeals from fielders who were not in a position to see, and who should leave the appealing to the bowler and wicket-keeper. And some of the appeals that came from the bowler were frankly ridiculous. Bowlers should control their impulses, and not appeal unless there is good ground for thinking the batsman is out. To shout an appeal when the ball pitches a foot outside the leg-stump is not good sportsmanship, but it is not, at all uncommon.

THE RAILWAYMEN'S RECOVERY

On batting first the home side suffered a severe blow when Mayer got himself out with a slightly careless stroke with only 17 scored. It was a half-volley just clear of the leg-stump from the fast bowler, Reynolds, and one so skilful a batsman could do almost what he liked with. But in placing it to leg Mayer failed to keep it on the ground and gave a quick, low catch just behind the umpire at square leg. This was the beginning of so bad a spell that the home team looked to be heading for defeat with half the side out for 53. J. C. Martin's wicket was sacrificed in running, and J. Turner and J. Hazeldine were both

caught by the wicket-keeper, one at each end, whilst C. Rhoad was a leg-before victim of the left-arm bowler, G. Bishop. The latter was bowling steadily, and sometimes straightening them out with spin, and so far Reynolds had bowled quite well, though just a little erratic.

Throughout this period T. E. Ball had batted soundly and made about half the runs. He and J. C. Hulme materially improved matters by taking the score to 100, and causing bowling changes. The attack was never so good after the first pair were relieved. R. Steele did not quite realise my expectations, and Arthur Jolley is not the bowler he once was. J. Martin turned the ball a little from leg, and would have been dangerous if his direction had been good. He terminated Ball's innings, for wanting only one for his fifty the opening batsman did not go far enough to a half-volley which went away a little and mis-hit it to cover. He had saved the L.M.S. from collapse, his defence being straight and sound and some of his leg shots and drives excellent. The next three wickets added 38, but nine for 138 was still an unsafe position. However, G. Llewellyn, who made 22, not out, and A. Copeland, got some good hits, and the last wicket put on 30. A total of 168 represented a capital recovery, but some of the Norton bowling was far from deadly, and the fielding throughout lacked spirit and anticipation. Syd Dawson, in the long field, was a notable exception. He covered a lot of ground quickly and was clean and smart in his returns. He ran out the L.M.S. captain by throwing down the wicket almost from the boundary.

AN EXCITING FINISH

L.M.S. had occupied 2½ hours, and Norton had just short of 2½ hours. I. Waterfall and S. Dawson started confidently against J. Wood and G. Llewellyn. The fast bowler was erratic and Dawson soon found the boundary with a couple of dainty glides. Llewellyn bowled faster than usual, but was not effective, and changed over in place of Wood at 26 and reverted to his customary slow-medium off-spinners, with which he was more accurate. But it was Mayer who effected a separation for Waterfall hit a bad ball to fine leg and was rather unlucky to be caught. Then Dawson tried to place Mayer to the on, played across the ball, and had his leg-stump upset. Then Norton had their backs to the wall and no further attempt was made to keep up the rate of scoring. Dawson had made 23 of the best by stylish cricket, and his lapse was as unexpected as it was serious for Norton. The policy of the batsmen being to play out time, Hulme was put on to bowl "donkey-drops," and Norton batsmen gave a choice exhibition of how not to play slow leg-breaks. And by slow I mean slow. These were tossed up into the air and allowed a batsman ample time to run in and make a full-pitch of every one that had any sort of length, and stand back and hit where he liked those that were short. But such experienced players as Smith and R. Hill went just far enough to play at them as half-volleys and gave their wickets away. Then J. Martin came on at the other end and, bowling as well as anyone, made a medium-pace ball come sharply off the wicket and turn back an inch or two to bowl three men in rapid succession. All this time W. Cooke, promoted from the second team, was batting soundly, and he and T. Whittingham left most of the tossed-up stuff alone, whilst fielders crowded round the Norton wicket-keeper in the attempt to take the ball almost off his bat. This went on for several overs, and then Whittingham made the same mistake as his predecessors and was easily stumped. A. Reynolds went in last with 20 minutes to play, but Cooke farmed the bowling as much as possible and the pair played out time. That Hulme was kept on till the end seemed to me an error of judgment. Cooke, who was not out 25, though he refused a number of runs, declined to get himself out, and there were bowlers like Wood and Llewellyn (and Mayer except for one over) standing idle, who might conceivably have got him or Reynolds out during that last 20 minutes. Mayer had 2 wickets for 8 and Martin 3 for 7, and Hulme's 3 wickets cost him 17, but the batsmen refused to take a good many. The final score was 80 for 9 wickets.

NANTWICH MAKING IT SURE

Nantwich continued their triumphal march and, sharing with Porthill the only victories of the day, went another point in front of their nearest rivals. With a clear lead of 5 points they look to have made fairly sure of the championship. Tyldesley and E. H. Stevenon went through the champions at Leek, as they have done nearly all their other opponents, and the Leek total of 83 left the visitors with an easy task. Tyldesley was the man of the match, as besides the fine analysis of 6 for 34 he made the top score with 33. Nantwich had the match won by 5 wickets and went on to make 123 for 7.

Porthill made no mistake with Caverswall at Wolstanton, for they put their visitors out for 104, and might have had them out considerably cheaper if they had accepted their chances. Crump had 5 wickets for 54, and should have had better figures. A. Pickard and C. Shenton partially redeemed Caverswall's batting failure, and the wicket-keeper was not out with 23. Porthill made rather a poor start, but G. A. F. Bagguley and Crump put on 59 for the fifth wicket and the closing score was 143 for 5. Geoff. Bagguley played one of his best innings and hit 72 in an hour and a half, including a dozen boundaries. Crump was not out 38, so that he had a good match against his colleagues of last season.

Signal End are bad to beat this year. Though they have only won two matches they have only lost two. Their batsmen defied the strong Burslem attack at Boom Hill and effected another creditable draw. Burslem are going in for rapid scoring in these days, and after compiling 221 for the loss of only 3 wickets they were able to leave their opponents 2½ hours to bat. Jack Jolley and Bernard Hollowood were the chief runners, but while the last-named played stylish cricket to carry his bat through for 58, Jolley hit fiercely and scored a smashing century (102) in an hour and a quarter, reaching the boundary 16 times. Signal End made a shocking start, losing 4 wickets for 11, but, thanks mainly to E. Downing (76 not out), they played out time with 161 for 7.

It was a coincidence that Longton and Silverdale declared at exactly the same score, 197 for 7, against Stone and Great Chell respectively. Longton were at home, and their batting display was a level one. Charles Edwards showed his proper form in scoring 39, S. Degg maintained a sequence of useful scores with 38, and W. Bourne, getting his first real chance under reasonably favourable conditions, hit a most encouraging 37 not out. Stone scored more freely than they have been doing, and seemed up to a point to have a chance of pulling off a win, but after the departure of Lee, who played an excellent 77, they had to use care and finished with 162 for 7. J. L. Wenger's 29 was a nicely-played innings.

J. Whalen (51) and Ikin (47) were the chief contributors to Silverdale's total, but their runs were got too slowly, for they took over 3 hours, and Chell played out time with 131 for 7 (Roy Smith 53 not out, W. Warburton 42).

LEAGUE TABLE

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Nantwich	13	10	1	2	22
Burslem	13	6	2	5	17
Great Chell	13	5	3	5	15
Porthill	13	5	3	5	15
Longton	13	4	3	6	14
Signal End	13	2	2	9	13
Leek	13	4	5	4	12
Silverdale	13	3	4	6	12
Caverswall	13	2	5	6	10
Stone	13	1	4	8	10
L.M.S.R.	13	1	5	7	9
Norton	13	1	7	5	7

STAFFORD v. WOLVERHAMPTON

Played at Tettenhall on Saturday.
Stafford: M. H. Cocks c Wilkie b Wardrop 102, F. H. Stokes lbw b Tomkinson 0, E. Beeley b Tomkinson 0, F. Page b Wardrop 11, J. T. W. Neville b Tomkinson 7, W. T. White not out 57, K. C. Wood st Wilkie b Rutherford 23, G. H. Greatorex b Tomkinson 1, G. N. Gosling c Wilkie b Wardrop 3, D. H. C. Craig run out 11, extras 30; total (for nine dec.) 245. E. C. Kenworthy did not bat.

Wolverhampton: R. Howl b Craig 11, P. J. Perry b Craig 27, G. H. Thorneycroft b Kenworthy 17, C. H. Twigg not out 57, A. D. Wilkie st Gosling b Craig 60, J. Lang not out 3, extras 9; total (for four) 184. W. J. Croft, T. J. Rutherford, G. W. Wood, M. Tomkinson, T. J. Wardrop did not bat.

STAFFORD II. v. WOLVERHAMPTON III.

Wolverhampton III.: P. G. Wainwright b Critchley 16, R. Davis b Ducie 6, J. Taylor b Ducie 34, J. B. H. Beards c Ducie b Gordon 55, W. H. Johnson c Hawley b Ducie 0, J. C. Timmis b Ducie 0, D. H. Cadwallader b Gordon 19, A. R. E. Roberts b Evans 0, extras 18; total (for eight) 148. W. A. B. Beckett, T. Gatis, and W. H. Dickinson did not bat.

Stafford II.: C. Birch b Gatis 8, E. M. Pearce c Wainwright b Beckett 25, W. H. Kinnard c and b Gatis 25, R. Carter c Beards b Timmis 4, R. J. C. Evans c Davis b Johnson 21, S. H. Critchley c Wainwright b Johnson 34, J. A. R. Gordon c Beards b Johnson 1, J. R. Bithell lbw b Johnson 7, J. W. Hawley b Timmis 3, A. J. Ward b Johnson 2, L. C. Ducie not out 7, extras 12; total 149.

Stafford III. 155 (C. H. Yeates 38, R. H. P. Barter 45), B.R.C. Sports Club 67 (C. H. Yeates took eight for 34).

WREKIN COLLEGE v. DENSTONE COLLEGE

Played at the Wrekin on Saturday.

Wrekin College: H. Poole c Fitts b Bayley 15, R. Middleton-Smith b Sutcliffe 4, G. A. Graham b Sutcliffe 0, J. C. Moore c Watkins b Bayley 5, G. F. Stooks c Pitts b Kemp 21, J. R. Hobbins b Kemp 14, K. M. Mulhall b Kemp 2, G. A. Ake-royd not out 43, J. W. Crabtree lbw b Kemp 1, P. Egerton-Smith c Mart b Sutcliffe 0, J. A. V. Braithwaite c Mart b Penlington 48, extras 30; total 183.

Denstone College: J. C. Homer lbw b Braithwaite 15, P. W. G. Sutton b Middleton-Smith 0, P. C. D. Watkins b Braithwaite 7, J. M. S. Burrow b Braithwaite 17, T. A. Kemp c Middleton-Smith b Egerton-Smith 23, T. A. M. Bayley lbw b Braithwaite 4, S. M. Penlington b Egerton-Smith 1, J. S. Sutcliffe c Moore b Poole 20, J. S. Pitt lbw b Egerton-Smith 0, G. G. J. Mart not out 1, T. J. Kidson lbw b Middleton-Smith 13, extras 11; total 112.

NETHERSEAL COLLIERY v. TUTBURY

Played at Tutbury on Saturday.

Netherseal Colliery: J. Hancock c and b Williams 50, W. Shakespeare c Hurdle b Williams 100, W. Causer c Eaton b Oakden 1, W. Pipes c Bird b Hurdle 14, G. Summers not out 21, S. Cox b Hurdle 0, C. Summers c Newton b Eaton 0, F. Dennis not out 17 (H. Cox, H. Ball, J. Bradford did not bat), extras 12; total (for six wickets declared) 215.

Tutbury: S. R. Rickman c Bradford b Pipes 13, T. P. Eaton c Hancock b C. Summers 3, R. Williams run out 4, R. D. Bird c Cox b Ball 5, J. T. H. Jackson b Ball 1, J. Billings b G. Summers 12, M. F. Hurdle c Cox b G. Summers 7, H. L. Newton c and b G. Summers 1, W. S. Jagg run out 5, T. L. Coxon not out 1, T. H. Oakden c Shakespeare b G. Summers 1, extras 3; total 88.

(G. Summers took four wickets for eight runs, and H. Ball two for 11.)

BARLASTON v. DOMINIES

Played at Barlaston on Saturday.

Barlaston: Rev. A. C. Freeman c Mills b Rathbone 11, G. Fenton run out 3, R. Cliff b Kelsall 3, L. Waterfield b Kelsall 2, J. Beswick c and b Kelsall 62, F. Stevens c Mountford b Bagley 3, S. Small b Kelsall 12, H. Waterfield c Rathbone b Keeling 7, R. Lowe b Kelsall 5, W. Clews b Kelsall 10, L. Dukes not out 0, extras 5; total 123.

Dominies: Kelsall b Cliff 7, Mountford b Lowe 7, Bagley b L. Waterfield 24, Keeling c Beswick b Fenton 7, Audley c Cliff b Fenton 16, Adams b L. Waterfield 2, Mills c Freeman b Beswick 9, Taylor b Beswick 0, Howell b Beswick 3, Rathbone not out 10, Pritchard c Stevens b Lowe 2, extras 7; total 94.

HISTORIC GAME HELD UP BY RAIN

SENSATIONAL OPENING PLAY

BARNES' DEADLY BOWLING

The first county cricket match played at Stafford was staged to-day, when Staffordshire entertained Cambridgeshire, one of the leading teams in the Minor Counties Championship, but, unfortunately, the fixture was interrupted by rain, and no play has yet been possible since lunch.

This was particularly disappointing, for the match had attracted great interest in the county town, an appeal by the Mayor (Ald. T. H. Tunncliffe) and the President of the Stafford Club (Commander the Hon. Humphrey Legge), resulting in a sum of about £140 being raised for the improvement of the ground and its appointments.

Before lunch, however, there was some sensational cricket, for Cambridgeshire lost the first five wickets for 17 runs, Barnes—who had played against the visiting county when Staffordshire last met them in 1906—claiming four wickets for eight runs.

At lunch the Cambridgeshire score was 23 for five, but heavy intermittent showers have so far prevented a resumption.

For the first time, Stafford was the scene of a county cricket match to-day, when Staffordshire entertained Cambridgeshire in a fixture which attracted great interest in the county.

It is one of the paradoxes of English county cricket that the game is seldom played in the county town. Lancashire cricket, for instance, has not had its home in Lancaster. Its headquarters are in Manchester, where the railway and docks deny the English beauties of the game. And Yorkshire play, not in the city of draining minster spires, but in gaunt Bradford.

THE HISTORIC DAY

For a lapse of generations, Staffordshire has not had this matter right, and to-day is the historic day.

The Stafford Cricket Club's ground is green and looked this morning deliciously fresh. It is not a rural setting, at least a pleasant suburban one.

Improvements of the equipment of the ground have naturally been necessary, and the thoroughness for which the town is noted the friends of cricket have subscribed and given. The Mayor (Alderman T. H. Tunncliffe), and the President of the Club (Commander the Hon. Humphrey Legge), who was formerly Assistant Chief Constable of the City, and is now Chief Constable of Berkshire, made a joint appeal.

The £140 has been spent on new seating, improved score-board, bigger sight screens and new for the wicket. Innumerable helpers were busy this morning, adding the finishing touches and making ready for what it is hoped will be a large attendance to-day and to-morrow.

PAST MEETINGS

Sidney Barnes' Feat of 1906 Recalled

Staffordshire have played Cambridgeshire since the present century, once in 1903 and once in 1906, and, of course, Sidney Barnes played in the 1906 fixture. Barnes seems to have played cricket ever since the venerable by-told days, for he appears in records of 20 or 30 years ago with great frequency. One is not surprised to learn, though it is remarkable, that in the two 1906 games he captured a total of 80 wickets at a cost of about seven shillings each.

The Mayor of Stafford was to be present to-day at the luncheon, but no invitations to attend the match had been issued. It was hoped, however, that several distinguished names of county cricket would be present to-day or to-morrow.

The weather continued cold and gusty, when play began, but the light was quite good, and there was even sunshine occasionally.

There was one pleasing feature for cricket fans in the county town, and that was that the members of the town club are in the Staffordshire team. They are M. H. Cocks and J. Henry, both schoolmasters, and both batsmen.

CIVIC WELCOME

A civic welcome was extended to both teams by the Mayor of Stafford, who was introduced by Mr. W. W. Morgan, who is the Chairman of the Ground Committee. Mr. Morgan apologized for the absence of the President of the Stafford club and the Earl of Lichfield. He mentioned that the fact that Stafford was staging its first county cricket match was due, in a way, to the death of a horse. The mowing machine, which formerly pulled the roller and was used for mowing, died, and the Ground Committee asked that they might have a motor-mowing machine. The club provided one, and the things grew into greater things, and so on the match.

The Mayor officially welcomed both teams. It was a great day in the history of Stafford sport.

Stafford's introduction to Minor Counties' cricket could have been made under more auspicious circumstances than obtained to-day.

The weather at the start was very uncertain, showers of rain falling all morning. They were only short, however, and the pitch, having been protected overnight, was not seriously affected, though a little on the soft side.

Apart from the attractiveness of the first county match on the ground, the game was of more than usual interest, for it recalled cricket history of a generation ago. In 1903 and 1906 the counties were in opposition, but since the latter year they have never met. Then, too, there was interest in the first appearance of two new players. One was E. Beeley, the Stafford schoolmaster, who with M. H. Cocks gave the Stafford club a dual representation, and the other was S. Dykes, a fast bowler who has done well in recent years in the Lancashire League.

The sun made a welcome appearance just as promptly to time, Cambridgeshire, who had only one professional in their team, went in to bat, Staffordshire having lost the toss.

SENSATIONAL OPENING

The match had a sensational opening, for in a quarter of an hour Cambridgeshire lost three wickets for eight runs. K. R. J. Saxon, who opened the innings with H. J. Rose, faced the bowling of Barnes, and was well beaten and bowled by the second ball, which went sharply away to hit the off stump. At the other end, Dykes had charge of the attack.

Five byes were included in the first seven runs, at which total Rose was smartly stumped off Barnes, and one run later Dykes met with his first success, Hart making a rather tame hit to mid-off where Plant took an easy catch.

This quick fall of wickets left Covill, Cambridge's only professional, and H. W. F. Taylor together, and although the former hit the first four of the innings with a straight drive at Barnes' expense, they played with extreme caution, and after half-an-hour the score was only eleven.

At 17, Staffordshire made further progress, Barnes getting his third wicket when Taylor was caught by Ellerker at point close. In his next over, and without addition to the score, Barnes gained another wicket, Ayres being l.b.w.

Thus, in 40 minutes, Cambridge had lost half their wickets for 17 runs, Barnes having taken four for eight runs at this stage.

Before Morton could reach the wickets, however, a sharp shower of rain caused an interruption.

A STOPPAGE

Rain continued to fall intermittently for a quarter of an hour, and that it was insufficient to damage the wicket was shown by the fact that, immediately it definitely ceased raining, the players came back on to the field. There was only time for two overs, from which Covill and Morton added six runs, and at the adjournment, therefore, Cambridgeshire had lost five wickets for 23 runs.

During the lunch interval, the covers again had to be brought into use, and when the game should have restarted it was raining heavily. A long wait appeared certain, but after a further half-hour, rain ceased. Play could not start immediately, however, as the turf had now become very wet.

DREARY WAIT

Hopes of an early resumption were soon shattered, however, for no sooner had the covers been removed than the rain commenced again.

The County Club cannot complain a great deal about the weather they have enjoyed for their matches this year but it was unfortunate that the elements should have been so inappropriate for this particular match, for, after all, the Stafford Club have been to a lot of expense in their preparations.

Still there was nothing to do but hope for an early improvement, and the heavy clouds did not hold out too much promise of this materializing.

Twice when the rain ceased momentarily, the umpires inspected the wicket, but as quickly were driven back to the pavilion again. At 3.45, it was still drizzling, and by this time the wickets had become drenched. It needed a good deal of sun, even if the rain stopped, before play would be possible again to-day.

At the tea interval it was still raining, but while the players were at tea, the rain ceased and the sun made its appearance.

By this time many of the spectators had departed, but as play was due to continue until 7.30, no decision as to an abandonment was made.

Cambridgeshire

H J Rose	st c Ross	b Barnes	.....	2
K R J Saxon	b Barnes	.....	0	
Covill	not out	.....	6	
H B Hart	c Plant	b Dykes	.....	1
H W F Taylor	c Ellerker	b Barnes	.....	3
R Ayres	lbw	b Barnes	.....	0
V Morton	not out	.....	0	
Extras	.....	.....	5	

Total (for 5 wks) 23

VICTORY BID AGAINST CAMBRIDGE Sound Batting Display BEELEY BATS WELL

Consistent batting enabled Staffordshire to gain a commanding lead over Cambridgeshire in the Minor Counties match to-day.

The innings was declared closed at 200 for six wickets, giving the home county an advantage of 128 runs.

Stafford was unfortunate in regard to the weather for its inaugural Minor Counties' match yesterday, when Staffordshire commenced their fixture with Cambridgeshire.

Instead of the scheduled six hours' play, there were only 2½ hours, owing to intermittent rain, which prevented a ball being bowled between lunch time and 6 p.m.

The cricket itself, however, was all that could be desired from Staffordshire's point of view, for the home county was always on top, Cambridgeshire being dismissed for 72, and for this the home side were greatly indebted to Barnes. He started in brilliant style by taking four wickets for eight runs before lunch, while Cambridgeshire were losing half their side for a mere 23 runs.

When rain allowed a resumption of play, Barnes continued to bowl splendidly, his complete return being six wickets for 35 runs.

EARLY SET-BACK

Although the weather remained dull and threatening this morning, the start was very little delayed, the wicket, despite yesterday's downpour and rain overnight, having recovered very well.

Opening their reply with Barnes and Cocks, Staffordshire began badly, for after four overs from Pask and Covill had yielded only three singles, Cocks was clean bowled by Pask.

E. Mayer helped Barnes to make some amends, however, the score being quickly taken to double figures, chiefly through one over from Pask, from which Mayer took a single and Barnes five, including the first boundary of the innings.

The total had only reached 18 when the players were driven off the field by a sharp drizzle of rain, but no sooner had they reached the pavilion than the rain ceased, and at once they had to march on to the field again.

With the last ball before rain caused the stoppage, Pask hurt his arm bowling, and was unable to continue in the attack. This was bad luck for Cambridgeshire, but they were heartened at 21 when Barnes, who had batted steadily for 13, was caught behind the wicket off Wilkinson, who had taken Pask's place.

Beeley, the Stafford batsman, took Barnes' place at the wicket, but for a time it was Mayer who did most of the scoring. He pulled Covill to the leg boundary, and then pulled Wilkinson round to leg for four, all run, and cut a ball in the same over for three. Mayer was batting with beautiful freedom, and in four overs he scored 18, to bring his total to 22, after 25 minutes batting.

Mayer continued to score quickly, and when 50 appeared, the result of a similar number of minutes' play, his own total had reached 33. Four overs from Wilkinson had produced 20 runs, and when at 52, Morton superseded him, the score mounted up without any slackening, Beeley taking a three off Morton, and then scoring eight in one over from Covill.

LEAD GAINED

In exactly half an hour, Mayer and Beeley added 50 to the score, and although Rose came on for Covill at 68, the two batsmen gained the lead for Staffordshire without being separated.

The first hour's play produced exactly 73 runs, whereas Cambridgeshire had taken 2½ hours over their full innings.

This was quick scoring, particularly in view of the cautious start, but the slow wicket was giving the bowlers no assistance, and it was a surprise when Rose bowled a maiden over to Mayer.

Once the lead had been gained, scoring slowed down to a more normal rate until, at 81, rain caused another interruption, Mayer at this point being two short of his half century. This time the rain was heavier, and the covers had to be brought into use. The interruption lasted 20 minutes, after which play was resumed.

Without further incident, Mayer reached his 50, with the score at 83, a contribution which included five 4's and three 3's, and had lasted an hour and six minutes, but immediately afterwards he was lbw to Rose.

With Homer in, the bulk of the scoring was done by Beeley who was batting in an attractive manner. He sent the score past the century after 105 minutes play, and was especially severe on Morton, whom he hit for a 4 and a 6 in one over.

He seemed well set for his 50 until he mistimed a ball from Rose and was caught at square leg by Morton. He had batted for 75 minutes and hit a six and six 4's in his 44. This wicket fell at 112, and with only two runs added Ellerker was out in very similar manner, Saxon making an easy catch at forward short leg.

At the lunch interval, Staffordshire had a lead of 49 runs.

As expected, Lockett had a merry knock after lunch, scoring 18 by means of four boundaries and a two before he was bowled at 142 by Rose.

With Lockett's dismissal, Homer found another steady partner in Plant, and they remained together while Staffordshire completed a lead of one hundred. Plant was the more enterprising, and he had three 4's in his first 20 runs.

Plant should have been out from the stroke which sent the score to 200, being missed on the boundary by Parfitt, and the innings was then declared. It had lasted three hours and gave Staffordshire a lead of 128.

Cambridgeshire	
H J Rose c Cross b Barnes	2
K R J Saxon b Barnes	0
Covill lbw b Barnes	22
H B Hart c Plant b Dykes	1
H W F Taylor c Ellerker b Barnes	3
R Ayles lbw b Barnes	0
F Morton b Barnes	8
F W Parfitt b Lockett	6
F W Wilkinson c Cross b Ellerker	6
D V Pask not out	13
W H Cockell c Barnes b Ellerker	5
Extras	6
Total	72

Second Innings	
H J Rose c Cocks b Dykes	3
K R J Saxon not out	5
Covill lbw b Barnes	3
H V Hart not out	2
Extras	2
Total (for 2 wks)	15

Staffordshire	
M H Cocks b Pask	1
Barnes c Cockill b Wilkinson	13
E Mayer lbw b Rose	50
E Beeley c Morton b Rose	44
H W Homer not out	49
W H Ellerker c Saxon b Rose	0
Lockett b Rose	18
R H Plant not out	29
Extras	5
Total (for 6 wks)	200

Innings declared.

Later.—CAMBRIDGE 1 for 0.

BOWLING ANALYSIS				
Cambridgeshire.—First Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	22	6	35	6
Dykes	5	2	4	1
Lockett	11	3	21	1
Ellerker	5.1	2	6	2
Total	43.1	11	66	10
Staffordshire.—First Innings				
Pask	5.1	1	10	1
Covill	18	3	55	0
Wilkinson	11	1	36	1
Morton	18	2	60	0
Rose	20	9	34	4
Total	72.1	16	195	2

STAFFS. CRICKET WIN Innings Victory Over Cambridgeshire LOCKETT BOWLS WELL

Staffordshire gained their second victory in the Minor Counties Championship yesterday when they defeated Cambridgeshire, at Stafford, by an innings and 49 runs.

Commencing the day with their reply to Cambridgeshire's first innings total of 72, Staffordshire batted so steadily that they were able to declare at 200 with only six wickets down. E. Mayer reached 50 and both Beeley (44) and Homer (40 not out) gave good displays.

Cambridgeshire were left to score 128 to save an innings defeat, but they never looked like succeeding. Lockett bowled well to take five wickets for 34 runs, and Barnes had 3 for 12 in 14.2 overs. This gave Barnes a match analysis of 9 for 47.

Cambridgeshire were all out for 79, Pask being unable to bat owing to an arm strain he sustained while bowling.

Cambridgeshire	
H J Rose c Cross b Barnes	2
K R J Saxon b Barnes	0
Covill lbw b Barnes	22
H B Hart c Plant b Dykes	1
H W F Taylor c Ellerker b Barnes	3
R Ayles lbw b Barnes	0
F Morton b Barnes	8
F W Parfitt b Lockett	6
F W Wilkinson c Cross b Ellerker	6
D V Pask not out	13
W H Cockell c Barnes b Ellerker	5
Extras	6
Total	72

Second Innings	
H J Rose c Cocks b Dykes	3
K R J Saxon lbw b Lockett	34
Covill lbw b Barnes	3
H B Hart b Lockett	3
H W F Taylor b Lockett	2
R J Ayles c Ellerker b Lockett	0
F Morton b Lockett	8
F W Parfitt c Plant b Barnes	2
F W Wilkinson c Rutherford b Barnes	2
F W Wilkinson c Cross b Ellerker	6
D V Pask absent hurt	0
W H Cockell not out	0
Extras	12
Total	79

Staffordshire	
M H Cocks b Pask	1
Barnes c Cockill b Wilkinson	13
E Mayer lbw b Rose	50
E Beeley c Morton b Rose	44
H W Homer not out	49
W H Ellerker c Saxon b Rose	0
Lockett b Rose	18
R H Plant not out	29
Extras	5
Total (for 6 wks)	200

BOWLING ANALYSIS				
Cambridgeshire.—First Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	22	6	35	6
Dykes	5	2	4	1
Lockett	11	3	21	1
Ellerker	5.1	2	6	2
Total	43.1	11	66	10
Second Innings				
Barnes	14.2	5	12	3
Dykes	7	3	6	1
Rutherford	6	1	11	0
Lockett	18	5	34	5
Ellerker	6	5	4	0
Total	51.2	14	67	9
Staffordshire.—First Innings				
Pask	5.1	1	10	1
Covill	19	3	55	0
Wilkinson	11	1	36	1
Morton	18	2	60	0
Rose	20	9	34	4
Total	72.1	16	195	2

Staffs. v. Cambridge-shire

STAFFORD'S FIRST COUNTY MATCH

Disappointing Weather Conditions

By "THE CRITIC"

One fell extremely sympathetic towards those who had set a splendid example of enthusiastic and efficient organisation with the determination to make a big success of the first county cricket match to be played at Stafford. For the weather on Wednesday, which was the opening day of Staffordshire's contest with Cambridgeshire at The Hough, was lamentable. It had been arranged to commence at 12.30 on the first day and play till 7.30, and play had only been in progress half-an-hour when a smart shower drove the players in. There was a resumption for about five minutes before lunch, but while the Mayor of Stafford was giving felicitous expression to a civic welcome to the teams prior to sitting down to lunch, a heavy down-pour began, which lasted three-quarters of an hour and saturated the wicket. For the next two hours it rained at frequent intervals, so that the prospect of any further play seemed remote. However, the sun eventually established mastery, and the game was resumed at five minutes to six, though the pitch was still so wet as to be barely fit. The crowd of at least 1,000 spectators who watched this last spell of cricket with keen interest served to indicate what a fine attendance there would have been on Wednesday afternoon had the elements only been kind. Under the circumstances the attendance was highly creditable to all concerned, and must have gone a long way towards ensuring the repetition of the experiment of playing a county match at Stafford. And one would like also to compliment those who had the matter in hand on the great improvement effected in the amenities of the ground. The funds subscribed locally for the purpose had been exceedingly well laid out, adequate seating accommodation for spectators provided, luncheon and refreshment tents erected, the facilities for scorers and Pressmen considerably improved (permanent quarters for the latter are much needed), and the ground made in nearly all respects suitable for county cricket. To have accomplished so much is a very considerable achievement on the part of the committee, of which Mr. W. W. M. Morgan is the chairman.

CAMBRIDGE BATSMEN IN THE TOILS

The wicket was a good one, but there was moisture in it, and one wondered whether it would prove really tricky or a little too slow to be difficult. I judged that spin would operate, and might do so quickly enough to be unpleasant for batsmen. So it proved until more rain descended to take the life out of it. Barnes bowled with a rather strong wind behind him, and the attack at the opening was shared by S. Dykes. Though he bowled only five overs, and probably found the wicket a little too slow for him, the new bowler kept a steady length, and seemed to be able to turn the ball back at a good, medium pace. Only 14 runs were scored off his five overs, but the wicket he got was the result of a bad stroke to mid-off. No doubt he was taken off because the wicket was thought to be more favourable to a spin bowler.

The start of the Cambridgeshire innings was slightly sensational, for in the half-hour before the first rain interruption the visitors lost half their wickets for the negligible total of 17. During this period they could make nothing whatever of Barnes, who mixed his bowling more even than usual. The direction of the wind was from mid-off, and Barnes utilised it with great skill for inswingers, which he generally helped with spin. The second ball of the match

swung inside Saxon's defence and bowled his leg-stump, and in his next over, with only seven scored, Barnes drew Rose right out with that specially leg-break of his, and Cross did the rest, being able to put the wicket down almost at his leisure. Covill, a professional, whom I remember playing for Norfolk some years ago at Wolverhampton, and who, I understand, is now qualifying for Middlesex, revealed more resource than any of his colleagues, and took advantage of a half-volley to drive Barnes straight for four. However, Hart made a poor stroke from Dykes, and was caught at the second attempt at mid-off, three wickets being down for eight. Taylor held out for quarter of an hour, but was always in danger from Barnes, who got his leg-break to "pop" rather abruptly, and Ellerker, standing about four yards from the bat at point, held a sharp catch, again at the second attempt. Ayres was obviously nervous, and after edging a leg-break dangerously near Lockett at first slip, went right across apparently expecting another of the same kind. It was an inswinger, however, and Ayres was trapped dead leg before—five for 17.

A VERY WET PITCH

Resuming after the long wait, Cambridgeshire were able to improve their position, the wicket being quite easy now, but the recovery was a modest one, for the sixth wicket fell at 31, and the 7th and 8th at 42. A bad miss by Cocks at long-on off Lockett's bowling gave Covill a second innings. He had then made 14. The error was unfortunate for Lockett, for Covill hit him for four, and the over yielded six runs instead of a wicket. The visiting professional was at last tempted by Barnes to try a big drive from a well pitched-up leg-break, was beaten by the spin, and was out lbw after batting just over an hour. As a batsman he was in a class by himself. All the later batsmen had narrow escapes of being caught close in off Barnes, and Pask was especially lucky to see one or two uprush strokes fall just clear of the field. Ellerker was tried vice Lockett at 57, and brought the innings to a close just at 7.30 by means of catches at the wicket and at first slip. Barnes held a very quick one rather wide with the right hand, Cambridgeshire certainly had the rain and the fielders to thank for even such a modest total as 72.

HANDSOME WIN FOR STAFFORDSHIRE

After a threatening morning the weather was brilliantly fine on Thursday afternoon, and the conclusion of the match was witnessed by a good ring of spectators, though, of course, nothing like the attendance there would have been on Wednesday had the weather been similarly propitious. The wicket was too soft to be difficult, but was gradually quickening, and Cambridge, when they had to bat a second time, certainly had the worst of it. Coupled with their disastrous half-hour on Wednesday before the rain, the visitors were at some disadvantage in the matter of conditions, and suffered a further handicap when their giant fast bowler, D. V. Pask, tore a muscle in his arm when bowling his sixth over, and had to retire from the match. This young player is

nick-named by his colleagues, "Tiny." He is 22 years of age, stands 6ft. 5in., and on Thursday morning turned the scale at 19st. 3lbs.

When Staffordshire opened their innings the fast bowler bowled M. H. Cocks with only three runs scored, and at 21 Barnes, who was batting well, tried to cut a wide ball which he might well have left alone, and was caught at the wicket. But Mayer scored freely, his on-side play being clever and productive, and E. Beeley, in his first innings for Staffordshire, after a quiet beginning, hit out well, and had some good solid drives in his useful score. Mayer just reached his 50, but Beeley was caught at short-leg from a kicking off-break when six short of the half-century. He batted really well, and one regrets to hear that he is shortly leaving Stafford. Ellerker fell in the same way immediately, but Homer found an excellent partner in R. H. Plant, who realised the need of the moment, and went for the bowling with refreshing freedom. He hit four

excellent fours, including a slashing cut and one or two drives that were not far from being sixes. The score was taken to 200, when Homer declared, setting Cambridgeshire to get 128 to avoid an innings defeat. With the sun pouring down on the pitch, and only able to bat 10 men, the task always looked too much for the visitors against the Staffordshire bowling, and so it proved. They were dismissed for 78, and beaten by an innings and 49 runs. Barnes was rested during the greater part of the innings, but got good figures, and Lockett bowled at something like his best, whilst Ellerker delivered six overs without having a run scored from him until the last ball, which might have been caught in the slips, but was allowed to go to the boundary. Scores and analysis:—

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—1st Innings

H. J. Rose	st. Cross	b Barnes	2
K. R. Saxon	b Barnes		0
Covill	lbw b Barnes		22
H. B. Hart	c Plant	b Dykes	1
H. W. Taylor	c Ellerker	b Barnes	3
R. J. Ayres	lbw b Barnes		0
F. Morton	b Barnes		8
F. W. Parfitt	b Lockett		6
F. W. Wilkinson	c Cross	b Ellerker	6
D. V. Pask	not out		13
W. H. Cockell	c Barnes	b Ellerker	5
Extras			6
Total			72

2nd Innings

H. J. Rose	c Cocks	b Dykes	3
K. R. Saxon	lbw b Lockett		34
Covill	lbw b Barnes		3
H. B. Hart	b Lockett		2
H. W. Taylor	b Lockett		6
R. J. Ayres	c Ellerker	b Lockett	0
F. Morton	b Lockett		2
F. W. Parfitt	c Plant	b Barnes	9
F. W. Wilkinson	c Rutherford	b Barnes	8
D. V. Pask	absent hurt		0
W. H. Cockell	not out		0
Extras			12
Total			79

STAFFORDSHIRE.—1st Innings

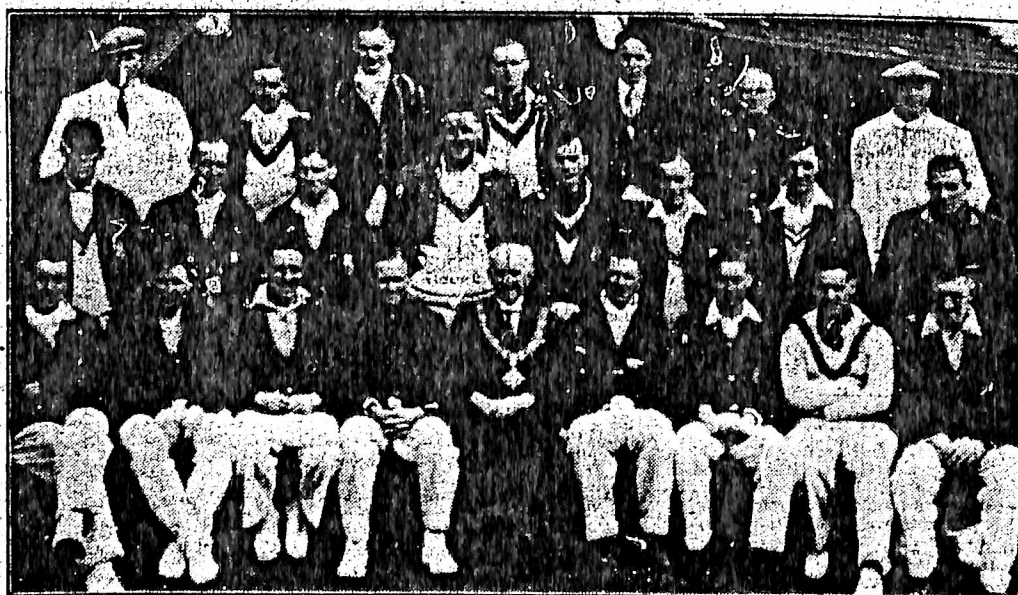
M. Cocks	b Pask		1
Barnes	c Cockell	b Wilkinson	13
E. Mayer	lbw b Rose		50
E. Beeley	c Morton	b Rose	44
H. W. Homer	not out		40
W. H. Ellerker	c Saxon	b Rose	0
Lockett	b Rose		18
R. H. Plant	not out		29
Extras			5
Total (inns. closed)			200

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Cambridgeshire.—1st Inns.	2nd Inns.	
O. M.R. W.	O. M.R. W.	
Barnes	22 6 35 6	14 25 12 3
Dykes	5 2 4 1	7 3 6 1
Ellerker	5 12 6 3	6 5 4 0
Lockett	11 3 21 1	18 5 34 5
Rutherford		6 1 11 0

Staffordshire.—1st Inns.	2nd Inns.
Pask	8 1 10 1
Covill	18 3 55 0
Wilkinson	11 1 36 1
Morton	18 2 60 0
Rose	20 9 34 4

COUNTY CRICKET AT STAFFORD



Staffordshire team to left and Cambridgeshire team to right with the Mayor in the centre
Photo : Guy, Stafford

SIX WICKETS FOR NINETEEN RUNS

LANCASHIRE II. DISMISSED FOR 57

STAFFORDSHIRE'S LEAD

Due mainly to the brilliant bowling of Sidney Barnes, who took six wickets for 19 runs, Staffordshire cricketers dismissed Lancashire II. for 57 at Stoke to-day.

Staffordshire's fielding was of a high standard, Cocks running out Farrimond in clever style, and Lockett making a spectacular catch to dismiss Parkinson.

The home county also found run-getting difficult, and were all out for 88. Staffordshire thus gained a first innings lead of 31.

For several seasons now Staffordshire's home Minor Counties match with Lancashire has been reduced to a one-day fixture, rain almost invariably having "washed-out" at least one day's play.

When the teams met at Stoke to-day, however, the prospects were better, for although rather dull, the weather was at least fine and rain did not seem too probable.

TEN PROFESSIONALS

Staffordshire's only defeat this season was at the hands of Lancashire II. in the second match of the year, and naturally the home county were eager to obtain their revenge. They had a big task, however, as Lancashire's team consisted entirely of players with first team experience. It was captained by P. Higson, the only amateur, the other ten players including the two Australian players, Bennett and Horrocks.

Staffordshire, as usual, had only two professionals, Barnes and Lockett, and their team included two debutants—E. Perry (West Bromwich Dartmouth) and C. C. Goodway (Smethwick). The latter was the wicketkeeper, selected owing to the absence on business of E. P. Cross.

The wicket had plenty of moisture in it, but a prompt start was possible, Lancashire, who won the toss, opening their innings with Hawkwood and Parkinson, against Barnes and Dykes, the East Lancashire bowler, who was making his second appearance for Staffordshire.

BOWLERS' EARLY SUCCESS

The visitors made a slow start, both bowlers keeping a good length. Barnes, in particular, kept the batsmen on the defensive, and when at last Parkinson turned him to leg for three, it was the prelude to Staffordshire's first success, for the very next ball proved fatal to Hawkwood. He was out lbw after an uncomfortable 15 minutes at the wicket, during which he had twice narrowly missed playing on. This wicket fell at 7, and with Taylor in, Lancashire continued to have to fight hard for every run.

The fielding of the Staffordshire team, so far, had been of an unusually high standard, and Perry, at point, and Bickerton, at short leg, earned cheers from the crowd for brilliant efforts.

The score had only reached 10 in 25 minutes when Staffordshire made further progress. Again it was by an lbw decision, but this time the bowler was Dykes, who thus got rid of Taylor before that dangerous batsman had scored.

Oldfield followed, but the scoring still remained so slow that ten overs produced only a similar number of runs, and although Parkinson again got Barnes to leg for a couple, he twice almost lifted the ball into the hands of Perry, close in at square leg, in the same over.

Oldfield was as much in difficulties as Parkinson against Barnes, and with Dykes also maintaining a steady length, the game had been in progress three-quarters of an hour before the score reached 20.

One run later, Staffordshire captured their third wicket, and it was not surprising to see Oldfield depart. He had continually lobbed the ball forward in making defensive strokes,

and after scoring 4, he was caught by Sedgwick at silly point, the fieldsman knocking the ball upwards with his right hand before completing the catch.

FARRIMOND RUN OUT

Farrimond, who now joined the cautious Parkinson, might have been out in his first over, offering a very difficult catch behind the wicket, and following this escape this usually forceful batsman, was also content to defend. An hour's play produced only 24 runs, at which total Dykes went off in favour of Lockett, his nine overs having produced 10 runs.

The change was immediately successful, Farrimond being out off the first ball he received. The credit for the wicket, however, belongs entirely to Cocks, for when Farrimond hit the ball towards mid-off the Stafford player fielded it brilliantly and hit the wicket to run out Lancashire's reserve wicket-keeper.

It was rather an eventful first over of Lockett's, for after this wicket Parkinson hit two successive short-pitched balls to the leg boundary, these being the first 4's of the innings.

BRILLIANT CATCH

This over of Lockett's, however, was, it proved, merely bowled in order to allow Barnes and Dykes to change ends, and the move was so successful that with the second ball from his new end Barnes got rid of Parkinson. It was a brilliant catch by Lockett in the slips which effected Parkinson's dismissal, the Oldham professional rolling on to his back in making the catch. This wicket fell at 34, of which the outgoing batsman had made 21, and it paved the way for the appearance of Horrocks.

Horrocks showed promise by driving Barnes to the boundary, but he might have been out the next ball when he had a lucky snick over the slips for a couple.

With the next ball, however, Barnes had his revenge, for when Horrocks tried to repeat his straight drive, he was well caught by Heath at mid-off, the sixth wicket falling at 44.

Before Latchford had scored, he had a very confident appeal by Barnes for lbw answered in his favour, but the next ball clean bowled him.

Parkin, the son of the famous Cecil Parkin, joined his captain with the score 46 for seven. At this stage Barnes had taken five wickets for 16 runs in 13 overs.

HIGSON CAUGHT

Parkin, too, survived an lbw appeal from Barnes before he had scored, and without addition to the score Dykes was superseded by Lockett. Higson played Lockett with confidence, but he was at a loss against Barnes, and at 53 was caught by Perry for a valuable 11, scored in 40 minutes, the fieldsman taking the ball practically off the bat, so close in was he fielding at silly point.

Another wicket should have fallen at once, but Sedgwick dropped an easy catch at short leg offered by Parkin. As it happened, the lapse did not matter, for in the same over, at 55, Parkin hit out and was well caught on the leg boundary by Cocks.

The innings came to a close five minutes before lunch, when at 57, Holroyd skied a ball from Lockett to mid-off where Heath took an-

other easy catch.

It had been a brilliant morning's work by Staffordshire and especially by Barnes, whose six wickets had been secured for 19 runs. Only three boundaries were included in Lancashire's innings.

Lancashire's surprisingly poor total had been made on a wicket which was dry—very slowly, but when Staffordshire began their reply the conditions looked likely to be even more in favour of the bowlers.

At any rate, during the lunch interval the sun made its appearance, and when Staffordshire opened their innings with a fresh partnership comprised of G. Sedgwick (Leek) and E. Perry (West Bromwich) it was shining brilliantly.

This turn for the better in the weather was very welcome, for its influence on the gate was soon obvious, there being over 1,000 spectators present on the resumption.

It was a confident start that the two young batsmen made for Perry took a three off Latchford's first ball, and altogether the first four overs from Latchford and Holroyd produced 12 runs.

NO RISKS TAKEN

The batsmen, naturally, took no risks, but, while the scoring slowed down, neither ever appeared in any difficulties. The Lancashire bowlers kept a good length, but their efforts were quite devoid of the guile of Barnes.

In 25 minutes the score reached 16, at which total Parkin superseded Holroyd. It was a good change for Lancashire, for Sedgwick could not time the ball, and, from the new bowler's third delivery, was out lbw. Holroyd at once resumed, to the exclusion of Latchford.

The bowlers were now getting plenty of assistance from the pitch, and Cocks, during a short spell, was uncomfortable. He had increased the score by a single when he was out to a good slip catch by Horrocks at 17, thus making way for Barnes.

The first boundary of the innings was credited to extras, a fast ball from Parkin going over Farrimond's head. The next delivery proved fatal to Perry, the ball coming in sharply. This was at 21, and thus Staffordshire were faring as badly as Lancashire had done.

Barnes started well by pulling Parkin to the leg boundary, but that was his only scoring stroke, for at 26, in Parkin's next over, he was bowled. This was Parkin's third success at a total cost of only six runs.

Bickerton and Heath used cautious methods, and play had been in progress an hour when 40 was reached. Later the pair scored more freely, Heath driving Parkin for two successive boundaries, and they had taken the score to within four of that of Lancashire when the partnership was broken, Heath, in attempting to drive Holroyd, putting the ball up for Taylor to make an easy catch at mid-off.

Staffordshire were still two runs behind when they lost another wicket, Bickerton being lbw to Holroyd at 55.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S LEAD

Without any addition to the score, Mayer was finely caught by Hawkwood in the slips off Holroyd.

The collapse became worse when Lockett also left at the same total. Homer played a ball to mid-off, and called for a run, but a quick return by Bennett easily ran Lockett out. The conjecture as to whether, after all, Staffordshire would obtain the lead was quickly ended, however, for S. Dykes hit a glorious six to leg as soon as he arrived, Homer followed with a boundary, and the pair stayed until the score had been taken to 71, when Dykes was bowled.

When the home county's innings came to a close at 88 with the dismissal of Goodway, Staffordshire had a small but valuable lead of 31.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings

Parkinson c Lockett b Barnes	21
Hawkwood lbw b Barnes	1
Taylor lbw b Dykes	0
Oldfield c Sedgwick b Barnes	4
Farrimond run out	1
P Higson c Perry b Barnes	11
Horrocks c Heath b Barnes	8
Latchford b Barnes	0
Parkin c Cocks b Lockett	1
Bennett not out	1
Holroyd c Heath b Lockett	7
Extras	8
Total	57

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings

E Perry b Parkin	5
G Sedgwick lbw b Parkin	10
M H Cocks c Horrocks b Holroyd	1
Barnes b Parkin	4
A A Bickerton lbw b Holroyd	14
J S Heath c Taylor b Holroyd	15
H W Hemer not out	9
E Mayer c Hawkwood b Holroyd	0
Lockett run out	0
S Dykes b Parkin	0
C C Goodway c Hawkwood b Holroyd	9
Extras	7
Total	63

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Lancashire II.—First Innings				
	O	M	R	W
Barnes	11	1	19	6
Dykes	13	1	12	1
Lockett	11	3	14	1
Total	35	5	45	8
Staffordshire First Innings				
	O	M	R	W
Latchford	0	0	0	0
Holroyd	7	2	8	0
Parkin	11	3	14	1
Total	18	5	22	1

LANCASHIRE II. BEATEN BY TEN WICKETS

RUNS HIT OFF IN 27 MINUTES

PERRY'S FINE BATTING

Staffordshire gained a brilliant two-runs-a-minute victory over Lancashire II. at Stoke to-day, and so avenged their early season defeat at the hands of the Red Rose representatives.

Following yesterday's bowling successes, when thirty wickets fell for 229 runs and Barnes captured thirteen for 50, Staffordshire required only 54 runs to win when they began their second innings this morning.

These runs were hit off in 27 minutes by Perry and Sedgwick, and the former, who had most of the bowling, played a delightfully aggressive innings, eight boundaries being included in his 47. Only 10.2 overs were delivered, and only one—bowled when the scores were equal—was a maiden.

There was every prospect of Staffordshire recording a victory when the Minor Counties match with Lancashire II. was resumed at Stoke this morning, for the home county required only 54 runs to win, and had all their wickets intact.

So much did the bowlers overshadow the batsmen in yesterday's play that 30 wickets—or three completed innings—fell for 229 runs, an average of only just over 7 runs per wicket.

BARNES' BRILLIANT BOWLING

Even allowing for the fact that the wicket favoured the bowlers, it was a fine achievement for Staffordshire—or, to be more accurate, Barnes—to dismiss the strong Lancashire team twice for an aggregate of 141. The old international was as deadly as ever, and had a match record of 13 wickets for 50 runs, and except for two overs when he changed ends, once in each innings, he bowled throughout.

By tea time both teams had been dismissed once, and as anticipated the narrow lead of 31 which the home county gained on the first innings proved a great advantage. Lancashire had been expected to put up a much better resistance at their second attempt than they actually did, however, and but for the efforts of three players the score would have been paltry. Horrocks, in a gay little innings, hit 13, including 10 in one over off Barnes, while Bennett, another Australian, had 22 to his credit before being out to one of two fine slip catches by Lockett. He and Hawkwood, who went in when three wickets had fallen for 19 runs and carried out his bat for 21 added 31 for the fourth wicket, the only partnership of note in the innings.

Even the small total of 84 made by Lancashire in their second innings might have been less for Lockett seemed much easier to play than Dykes, whom he succeeded at 27 when Dykes had taken one wicket for nine runs.

ENTERPRISING START Ten Runs Off Holroyd's Opening Over

The weather was dull and threatening when play resumed this morning, only a few minutes late.

After last night's heavy rain, the wicket was again very wet, so much so that it appeared the necessary runs could be hit off by courageous batting before the pitch began to dry sufficiently for the bowlers to get any real assistance.

Lancashire's hopes of springing a last minute surprise practically disappeared with the very first over of the morning. This was delivered by Holroyd, their most successful bowler yesterday, and from it Perry and Sedgwick scored in fewer than 10 runs.

The very first ball was turned to leg by Sedgwick for 3; the next produced a single to Perry; the third was nicked past the wicketkeeper for another single; the fourth was hit to the leg boundary by Perry; and off the next Perry gained another single with a sharp run from a short straight drive. Only the last ball was not scored off.

At the other end, Parkin had charge of the bowling, and he too conceded three singles in his first over, so that after less than five minutes play Staffordshire needed only 41 for victory.

PERRY'S AGGRESSIVENESS

This bright start was fully maintained. Holroyd's second over produced only a single, so that run enabled Perry to get opposite Parkin, and he kept the score mounting rapidly by glancing him beautifully to the boundary, and followed with a hard drive for a couple. In the same over, however, he narrowly escaped being stumped while making a forward stroke. Of the last ball of this over, he gained another single to again capture the bowling, and in Holroyd's third over he helped himself to another nine runs—two fours off successive balls and a single.

In 10 minutes, 30 runs were on the board, of which Perry had scored no fewer than 25. It was very confident batting—of a totally different calibre to that shown yesterday—and the scoring could not have been quicker had Staffordshire been engaged in a fight against Lancashire.

As it was the batting came as a delightful surprise. It was quite the most attractive innings seen in Staffordshire matches this year, and it was unfortunate that there was such a small "gate" to see it.

It was not indiscriminate hitting either, for the batsmen were getting the ball well in the centre of the bat every time, and scoring with orthodox shots all round the wicket.

FIVE OVERS—30 RUNS

When the score reached 30, there had only been five overs. Two of these had been sent down by Parkin at a cost of 10 runs, and he was superseded by Latchford. He was equally as easy to play, his first two overs producing eight runs, including another four to Perry, and when, at 39, P. Higson went on for Holroyd, another onslaught assured a brilliant victory.

The Lancashire captain's first over produced no fewer than 14 runs. After playing the first ball, Perry hit Higson through the covers for four, and followed this by a single. When Sedgwick took a single off the fourth ball, Perry completed Lancashire's discomfiture by getting two more boundaries on the off side from the last two balls.

This brought the total to exactly 53, Staffordshire thus wanting one run for victory. Their success was delayed a moment longer than expected, for again Lancashire made a bowling change, Parkinson going on for Latchford. He

bowled a maiden to Sedgwick, the only one of the innings, but then Perry gave Staffordshire a 10 wickets victory by getting a single off Parkin's next, over.

TWO RUNS A MINUTE

The innings had lasted 27 minutes, giving a scoring rate of exactly two runs per minute. Perry, who had had nearly all the bowling, had made such good use of his chances that he had 47 to his credit, including eight fours.

Staffordshire, therefore, gained full revenge for their failure by 76 runs in the match against Lancashire early in the season.

LANCASHIRE II.—First Innings

Parkinson c Lockett b Barnes	21
Hawkwood lbw b Barnes	1
Taylor lbw b Dykes	0
Oldfield c Sedgwick b Barnes	0
Farrimond run out	4
P Higson c Perry b Barnes	1
Horrocks c Heath b Barnes	11
Latchford b Barnes	8
Parkin c Cocks b Lockett	0
Bennett not out	1
Holroyd c Heath b Lockett	2
Extras	8
Total	57

Second Innings

Parkinson b Barnes	0
Bennett c Lockett b Barnes	22
Horrocks b Dykes	13
Latchford c Sedgwick b Barnes	3
Hawkwood not out	31
Taylor lbw b Barnes	7
Farrimond c Lockett b Barnes	0
Oldfield c Goodway b Barnes	0
P Higson st Goodway b Barnes	0
Parkin lbw b Lockett	0
Holroyd lbw b Lockett	4
Extras	8
Total	84

STAFFORDSHIRE.—First Innings

E Perry b Parkin	5
G Sedgwick lbw b Parkin	10
M H Cocks c Horrocks b Holroyd	1
Barnes b Parkin	4
A A Bickerton lbw b Holroyd	14
J B Heath c Taylor b Holroyd	14
H W Homer not out	14
E Mayer c Hawkwood b Holroyd	9
Lockett run out	0
S Dykes b Parkin	9
C G Goodway c Hawkwood b Holroyd	7
Extras	15
Total	88

Second Innings

E Perry not out	47
G Sedgwick not out	7
Extras	0
Total (for no wkt)	54

BOWLING ANALYSIS
Lancashire II.—First Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	18	8	10	5
Dykes	8	10	1	1
Lockett	8	14	2	2

Second Innings

Barnes	18	7	31	7
Dykes	5	1	0	1
Lockett	14	3	56	2

Staffordshire.—First Innings

Latchford	7	2	5	0
Holroyd	19	8	29	6
Parkin	14	3	56	4

Second Innings

Holroyd	4	0	21	0
Parkin	2	0	11	0
Latchford	2	0	4	0
Higson	1	0	14	0
Parkinson	1	1	0	0

A DAY OF CHEAP WICKETS

By "THE CRITIC"

When thirty wickets fall in a day for 229 runs, as was the case at Stoke on Wednesday, there are not many dull moments for spectators. Fortunately, the dull, doubtful morning turned into a delightful, sunny day, and something like 1,500 or 2,000 spectators assembled on the old County Ground, to witness the triumph of the bowlers (especially of Sydney Barnes) and the discomfiture of batsmen. Staffordshire had a useful side in the field, though the bowlers who could be expected to make the most of the tricky wicket, that is to say, the bowlers with a good command of spin, were virtually confined to Barnes and Lockett. S. Dykes was again included, and E. Perry, of West Bromwich Dartmouth, made his first appearance in the side for two years. Perry has developed into one of the best in the county, and is, of course, a useful bowler in addition, but neither he nor Dykes is the type of bowler to get the best out of a soft wicket. Neither are Mayer and Gordon Sedgwick spin-bowlers of the type which Wednesday's wicket asked for. So a great deal depended on Barnes and Lockett, and, as usual, when the conditions suit them reasonably well, they needed little help. Barnes's performance was the outstanding feature of the day's play, but Lockett also got prodigious work on the ball, and with the least luck would have done better than his figures indicate. The batting of the side appeared as strong as in any match during the season. In the absence of E. P. Cross a new wicket-keeper was tried in C. C. Goodway, of Smethwick, and, without reaching Cross's brilliance, he revealed considerable skill, if a little weak on the leg side. Lancashire put a good team in the field, including the two Australians, Horrocks and Bennett, and the clever little left-arm bowler, Holroyd, who left the ground staff for Lancashire League cricket last season. I was interested to learn, by the bye, that Dykes, the Staffordshire bowler, who is now in the Lancashire Cricketers' Club at Darwen, and plays for East Lancashire in the Lancashire League, had two seasons on the ground staff at Old Trafford some four or five years ago.

It will be remembered that when the teams met at Werneth earlier in the season, Lancashire II. won by 76 runs, and I made the definite statement on that occasion that the winning of the toss was equivalent to winning the match. Peter Higson again beat the Staffordshire Captain in the toss, and though the day's play went in Staffordshire's favour, I am going to express the opinion that Lancashire again had the better of the conditions. Though they collapsed for a meagre 57, the wicket was not so difficult as during the Staffordshire innings which followed. The hot sun was then baking it, and it not only responded to finger-spin, but did so appreciably quicker than when Lancashire were batting before lunch. And Lancashire had the same advantage when they batted again after tea, for there was less sun, and the pitch never recovered its liveliness after the roller. So, at the risk of a charge of bias, I have no hesitation in asserting that Staffordshire got definitely on top in spite of having the worse of the conditions.

Lancashire were dismissed in a little under two hours before lunch, and the bowling of Barnes was chiefly responsible. Dykes opened the bowling with him, and bowled very steadily, getting what one must regard as his inevitable wicket when he had the left-hander, Taylor, leg-before. Barnes had previously got rid of a really good young bat in Hawkwood in the same way, and two wickets were down for 10. Besides which, Hawkwood had been missed at short leg off Barnes. Parkinson batted laboriously, and if Barnes had put on a silly point close in earlier, he would have been caught in that position. When the bowler did move Sedgwick across from the leg side, Oldfield soon popped one up into his hands, and as Farrimond tried too sharp a single he was cleverly thrown out by Cocks, four of the Lancastrians had gone for 24. Higson shaped indifferently, but got a few runs behind the wicket, and when Lockett took an over to enable the original bowlers to change ends, Parkinson hit him to the boundary from two consecutive balls. After batting an hour and five minutes, however, Parkinson edged one of Barnes's spinners and was beautifully caught at first slip. Horrocks was inclined to be aggressive, but soon drove one straight to mid-on and fell to another good catch, whilst Latchford hit where the ball was not in trying to drive Barnes. Then Higson popped one up to point, and Lockett,

relieving Dykes, got the last two wickets with following balls. Parkin by means of a neat catch near the square-leg boundary, and Holroyd from a skier. Barnes had bowled with consummate skill, and the Lancastrians simply could not play him.

Perry and Sedgwick opened the Staffordshire innings, and both batting very straight, had no great difficulty while the effect of the roller remained in the pitch. Latchford and Holroyd bowled well, however, and only 10 were scored in half-an-hour. Then came a disastrous period, four wickets falling in a quarter-of-an-hour, while 10 further runs were scored. Parkin, who relieved Latchford, was chiefly responsible, for he got three wickets in four overs for 8 runs. His off-break was coming quickly off the pitch. M. H. Cocks fell to a very low catch in the slips off one of the leg-spinners. The Porthill pair, Bickerton and Heath, stopped the rot, and added 27 in 23 minutes by good, resourceful batting. Holroyd was becoming increasingly difficult, and was taking a piece out of the pitch with every ball. He eventually dismissed both the batsmen, for Heath tried to drive one that kicked and was caught from a skier at cover and Bickerton had one that scarcely rose at all and was lbw. Things were going badly when Mayer fell to another low catch close in, and Homer, in his anxiety to secure the first innings' lead, called Lockett for an impossible run, and Aaron was very easily run out. Dykes immediately put Staffordshire in front with a mighty on hit for six off Parkin, and the last two wickets added an invaluable 33, Homer getting one or two good shots, and Goodway a perfect off-drive from Holroyd. Staffordshire thus secured a lead of 31, and got their runs in twenty minutes' less time than the visitors had occupied.

Lancashire batted a second time after tea, and this time Parkinson changed his tactics with disastrous result. He made an agricultural stroke at Barnes's third ball and retired without a run scored. Horrocks, however, met with more success, for he hit Barnes for two 4's and a 2 in his second over. He proved to be Dyke's inevitable wicket (he has bowled in four innings and got one wicket every time), being beaten and bowled in trying to drive. Sedgwick snapped up a low ball close in to get rid of Latchford, and then Bennett and Hawkwood put up quite a considerable stand, adding 31 in half-an-hour. Lockett dived for a low slip catch from Bennett, and later held another whilst rolling over to get rid of Farrimond. Barnes had Taylor tumbling over himself, and Oldfield tried in vain to get away from a rising leg-break. The Lancashire Captain tried the foreing game and hit Barnes for 2 and 4, the latter being a rather difficult chance to Bickerton on the rails, but the old head was too wily for him, and he was easily stumped off the next ball. Lockett had been bowling some time in place of Dykes, and he again annexed the last two wickets. He wisely bowled round the wicket to make the batsmen play his off-break, and got two lbw decisions.

Lancashire were out at 8.25, leaving Staffordshire with an innings to play and 51 runs to get to win. Barnes sent down 36 overs during the day, bowling through both innings. In almost 4 hours' bowling the bad length balls he delivered could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and, I think, without using them all. As I have stated, the spin never operated so quickly when he was bowling as it did between lunch and tea, and his record of thirteen wickets for 59 runs was a wonderful achievement from every point of view.

BRILLIANT INNINGS BY ERIC PERRY

Three minutes less than half-an-hour sufficed to finish the match on Thursday morning. There had been some rain in the night, and the wicket was, of course, eased by it. E. Perry and G. Sedgwick were the first pair of Staffordshire batsmen, and Holroyd and Parkin bowled. Sedgwick hit Holroyd's first ball square for three, and thereafter he was practically a spectator while the West Bromwich player flogged the bowling unmercifully. The bowling was changed almost every over, but nothing could check Perry's onslaught. He began by stepping back to send Holroyd to the rails with a perfect hook stroke, and after a few singles to each batsman, Perry cut Parkin for four, and brilliantly drove successive balls from Holroyd to the boundary. Latchford bowled, but Perry cut him square for four, a glorious shot, and when Higson went on himself in place of Holroyd and bowled short, Perry cut him for three great 4's in one over. This took his own score to 40, and the total to 53. With the scores a tie, Parkinson was introduced and bowled a maiden to Sedgwick. Parkin resumed at the other end, and Perry would have reached his half-century if he could have got another four. Instead, he took a sharp

single in front of cover-point, and the match was won by ten wickets. Sedgwick had little opportunity to score, for his brilliant partner nearly monopolised the bowling after the first two or three overs. Perry's 47 in 27 minutes was a display to remember with pleasure. The power behind his drives was exceptional (one that was stopped by extra cover was worthy of Hammond), and his square cuts travelled to the boundary at a great pace. Such an exhibition of polished, forcing cricket, emphasized the misfortune to Staffordshire of his inability to command the time to play county cricket.

Staffordshire took ample revenge for their defeat at Werneth, the only one of the season, but they could not retrieve the loss of percentage, and their chance of championship honours is still very remote. The best percentage now possible is 68.57, which is not likely to put them in a position even to challenge for the championship.

SCORES AND ANALYSIS

LANCASHIRE II.

FIRST INNINGS	
Parkinson c Lockett b Barnes	21
Hawkwood lbw b Barnes	1
Taylor lbw b Dykes	0
Oldfield c Sedgwick b Barnes	4
Farrimond run out	1
P. Higson c Perry b Barnes	11
Horrocks c Heath b Barnes	8
Latchford b Barnes	0
Parkin c Cocks b Lockett	1
Bennett not out	2
Holroyd c Heath b Lockett	0
Extras	8
Total	57

SECOND INNINGS

Parkinson b Barnes	0
Hawkwood not out	21
Taylor lbw b Barnes	7
Oldfield c Goodway b Barnes	0
Farrimond c Lockett b Barnes	0
P. Higson ct Goodway b Barnes	6
Horrocks b Dykes	13
Latchford c Sedgwick b Barnes	8
Parkin lbw b Lockett	0
Bennett c Lockett b Barnes	22
Holroyd lbw b Lockett	4
Extras	8
Total	84

STAFFORDSHIRE

FIRST INNINGS

P. E. Perry b Parkin	5
G. Sedgwick lbw b Parkin	10
M. H. Cocks c Horrocks b Holroyd	1
Barnes b Parkin	4
A. A. Bickerton lbw b Holroyd	14
J. B. Heath c Taylor b Holroyd	14
H. W. Homer not out	0
E. Mayer c Hawkwood b Holroyd	0
Lockett run out	0
S. Dykes b Parkin	9
C. Goodway c Hawkwood b Holroyd	7
Extras	15
Total	88

SECOND INNINGS

E. Perry not out	47
G. Sedgwick not out	7
Extras	0
Total (for no wicket)	54

BOWLING ANALYSIS

LANCASHIRE II. — FIRST INNINGS

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	18	8	19	0
Lockett	5.1	1	14	2
Dykes	13	3	10	1

SECOND INNINGS

Barnes	18	7	31	7
Lockett	14	3	36	2
Dykes	5	1	9	1

STAFFORDSHIRE — FIRST INNINGS

Holroyd	19.5	8	29	5
Parkin	14	3	30	4
Latchford	7	2	8	0

SECOND INNINGS

Holroyd	4	0	21	0
Parkin	2.2	0	11	0
Latchford	2	0	8	0
Higson	1	0	14	0
Parkinson	1	1	0	0

ROLLESTON v. RANGEMORE

Played at Rolleston on Saturday.

RANGEMORE.—L. Dukes b Docksey 2, R. Shorthouse b H. Bentley 0, J. Green c A. Bentley b H. Bentley 11, L. Savage b Docksey 1, H. Shelton c Topley b Docksey 3, L. Roderick b H. Bentley 2, G. Roderick b H. Bentley 2, S. Hollins c Robinson b Docksey 0, E. Stride not out 0, G. Bennett c Topley b H. Bentley 0, J. Dainty st Topley b H. Bentley 0; extras 1.—Total, 22.

ROLLESTON.—R. W. Archer b Roderick 4, A. Bentley c Green b Roderick 0, E. McKenna b Dukes 9, F. Topley run out 0, E. Grimley run out 2, L. Docksey c Shorthouse b Roderick 0, R. C. Archer c Roderick b Dukes 8, T. Robinson c Dukes b Roderick 2, A. Stafford not out 5, H. Bentley b Dainty 4, R. Shelton c Dukes b Dainty 0; extras 1.—Total, 33.

WALSALL v. WESTBROMWICH

Walsall went to Sandwell Park on Saturday but were well beaten by Westbromwich Dartmouth in a one-sided game. The home team batted first, and largely due to E. Perry's 94 hit up 224 for seven wickets and then declared. Walsall went in but were all out for 56, C. Haynes (29) being the only batsman to get double figures. Lawton had six wickets for 22 runs.

Walsall II. lost their tenth game at home on Saturday, when they entertained Westbromwich Dartmouth II. The home team made 141, W. J. Jordan batting brightly for his 75. The Walsall bowlers could do little against the visitors, who put on the necessary 142 runs for the loss of only seven wickets.

CAMBRIDGE SENT IN TO BAT

Dismissed For 102 Runs

BARNES' SEVEN WICKETS

Staffordshire County cricketers entered upon their last match of the season when they opposed Cambridgeshire at Cambridge to-day.

Staffordshire won the toss, but the wicket was so soft, after two days' rain, that they decided to put Cambridge in to bat.

Barnes went very near to having Coote, the left-hander, caught at forward square-leg in the first over, and in the veteran's second over Pask was almost run out.

In Ellerker's second over, Coote, who had made all seven runs on the board, was out l.b.w. Wilkinson was beginning to settle down when a ball from Barnes hit his foot and then struck the wicket. Pask was shortly afterwards missed at square leg off Barnes.

MORE BOWLING SUCCESSES

The batsmen were quite unable to judge the pace of the wicket, and at 20 Pask was very smartly stumped when reaching forward to Ellerker. Covill, who had batted steadily, then tried to hit the first loose ball sent down by Barnes, and was caught at long-on, four wickets being down for 22.

Rose and Ridgdon then settled down to dig themselves in and to wait for any loose balls. The pair brought about a bowling change, as at 36 Lockett displaced Ellerker.

In a little over half an hour, Rose and Ridgdon had doubled the score. One run later Ridgdon was caught in the slips, just touching a rising ball from Barnes. Rose had been batting for nearly an hour when he mistimed a delivery from Lockett which kept low and was l.b.w.

Smith had, in the meantime, opened his innings with two big hits—a four and a three—both at the expense of Barnes. He followed this up with two fours in one over from Barnes again. At the lunch interval, the score stood at 71 for six wickets, Smith having been the only man who had played Barnes with confidence.

There was every prospect of a storm during the interval, but it passed over. Barnes continued bowling on resumption, and although Smith hit him for three two's the Staffordshire professional got his revenge, when he accepted a return catch. Barnes obtained another wicket in his next over, having Kerridge l.b.w. He was now bowling so well that he had the batsmen non-plussed over after over, and it was only occasionally that they even stopped the ball.

The cricket had become very slow indeed, with the home county fighting hard for singles.

Hart was never comfortable, but Ayres took risks when the last batsman was in. However, just after the score had reached to three figures, Barnes brought off his third "caught and bowled," making his analysis for the innings seven for 62. He had bowled unchanged and had flighted the ball magnificently.

Perry and Gale opened the Staffordshire innings, the former making light of the Cambridge bowling. He made 24 out of the first 30 runs when Gale was run out.

Cambridgeshire	
C Coote l.b.w. b Ellerker	7
D V Pask st. Cross b Ellerker	0
F W Wilkinson b Barnes	0
Covill c Perry b Barnes	4
H J Rose l.b.w. b Lockett	17
F A Ridgdon c Lockett b Barnes	12
Smith (C J) c and b Barnes	26
R J Ayres c and b Barnes	22
K C Kerridge l.b.w. b Barnes	3
Hart c and b Barnes	0
C Barrett not out	0
Extras	1
Total	102

Staffordshire	
E Perry not out	32
L E Gale run out	6
J S Heath not out	10
Sedgwick not out	1
Extras	1
Total (for 1 wkt)	40

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Cambridgeshire.—First Innings
Barnes 7 for 62, Ellerker 2 for 18, Lockett 1 for 21.

VICTORY BID IN FINAL MATCH

Dogged Batting By Home Team

HOMER'S SEVENTY

Staffordshire were in a very favourable position when the final day's play in their match with Cambridgeshire—the county's last fixture of the season—began at Cambridge to-day, having a lead of 89 runs with four wickets in hand.

Yesterday, the home side, sent in to bat, were dismissed in two hours and a half for 102. Barnes bowled throughout and had the fine record of seven for 62, though Smith hit him for 25 in four overs.

When Staffordshire batted, Gale ran himself out, but Perry, the West Bromwich Dartmouth player, hit brilliantly, scoring his 81, which included ten 4's, in eighty minutes. He also ran himself out when a century seemed likely.

The wicket had not cut up very badly as the result of the first day's play, nor had it dried much during the night, but to-day the sun was shining and there was a nice breeze, and it was likely that the pitch would improve.

Cricket was very slow at the outset, the first 35 minutes' play producing only 22 runs. Homer, who had batted overnight for an hour and 20 minutes for 23 runs, was still caution itself. A bad over, however, by Covill improved matters, Homer taking a two, a three, and a four, and Barnes a single. In the next over, Barnes was caught at mid-off, but not until he had seen the total rise to 338.

HOMER HITS OUT

Homer beautifully cut Ayres to the boundary, and then took a single, which carried him to his fifty after two and a half hours' batting. Homer was now playing with more freedom, and it was not long before he leg-cut Rose to the boundary in excellent style.

Ellerker had made 13 when he gave a hard chance to Ridgdon at long-on off Wilkinson. The batsman's drive kept low all the way. He turned another delivery to leg for four in the same over. Ellerker was very free and took a two and a couple of fours off successive deliveries from Wilkinson.

Homer was eventually caught behind the wicket after nearly three hours' batting. The partnership had put on 63 runs in 35 minutes, and Homer had played steadily for his 70.

Just after one o'clock the Staffordshire innings was declared closed, which gave Cambridgeshire a quarter of an hour's batting before lunch. The visiting county had made the total of 342 possible by exceptionally steady and fine batting on a wicket which was definitely not a batsman's.

Barnes' third delivery was pulled round to the leg boundary by Coote, but the batsman might have been run out in Ellerker's first over but for a piece of misfielding. A little later Coote again pulled Barnes to leg for four.

BOWLING CHANGE

Barnes did not resume bowling after lunch. Lockett took his place at the road end, and Ellerker continued at the other end.

What scoring there was during the first few overs came from Coote, the left-hander, who had been severe on Barnes before lunch. After a few overs, Perry relieved Ellerker, it being the first time he had been called upon during the match, and in his second over Wilkinson made a very risky stroke, which, fortunately for him, went wide of a fielder.

Scoring was very slow, only ten runs being added in the first half-hour after lunch. Except for one or two bright patches, it had been a very slow scoring match.

The first four after lunch came when Coote on-drove Lockett, and he followed this up with a similar stroke for two.

At 35, Heath was given a turn with the ball, displacing Lockett, while Crump went on at the other end. Still, the cricket remained exceptionally slow. The opening Cambridge batsmen had their backs to the wall, and were not to be tempted. The innings had lasted an hour and a half before 50 was hoisted.

At 58, Wilkinson was bowled after his wicket had stood for one and three-quarter hours.

Cambridgeshire

C Coote l.b.w. b Ellerker	7
D V Pask st. Cross b Ellerker	0
F W Wilkinson b Barnes	0
Covill c Perry b Barnes	4
H J Rose l.b.w. b Lockett	17
F A Ridgdon c Lockett b Barnes	12

Smith (C J) c and b Barnes	26
R J Ayres c and b Barnes	22
K C Kerridge l.b.w. b Barnes	3
Hart c and b Barnes	0
C Barrett not out	0
Extras	1
Total	102

Second Innings	
Coote not out	32
Wilkinson b Heath	15
Barratt not out	1
Extras	1
Total (for 1 wkt)	73

Staffordshire	
E Perry run out	81
L E Gale run out	6
J S Heath c Barrett b Smith	10
F W Wilkinson b Barnes	35
H W Homer c Barratt b Smith	4
R H Plant c Rose b Pask	70
Lockett b Ridgdon	12
Barnes c Smith b Rose	8
W H Ellerker l.b.w. b Wilkinson	25
B Crump not out	23
E F Cross not out	18
Extras	27
Total (for 0 wks)	342

Innings declared.

BOWLING ANALYSIS

Cambridgeshire.—First Innings
Barnes 7 for 62, Ellerker 2 for 18, Lockett 1 for 21.
Staffordshire.—First Innings.
Smith 2 for 49, Wilkinson 2 for 35, Rose 1 for 36, Pask 1 for 31, Ridgdon 1 for 47.

STAFFORDSHIRE CRICKET CLUB'S GOOD SEASON

ONLY ONE DEFEAT IN CAMPAIGN: FOUR IMPRESSIVE VICTORIES

The final position of the Staffordshire County Cricket Club in the Minor Counties Championship is not yet definite, but the club is certain of being in the first flight once again.

The season, which was brought to a conclusion this week by a hollow victory against Cambridgeshire, has not been unsatisfactory from a playing point of view—as a matter of fact, there is an improvement in their percentage.

Like last year, only seven matches count in the championship—the abandoned game with Yorkshire II. is disregarded—and this year's percentage of 68.57 compares very well with the 57.14 registered last year.

IMPRESSIVE VICTORIES

Only one match has been lost, and the four victories have been very impressive affairs—three being by an innings and the other by 10 wickets.

Generally speaking, the bowling has been as good as ever, and there has been a notable improvement in the batting. For the loss of only 99 wickets, 2,032 runs have been scored, an average of 20.52 each. This compares with an aggregate of 1,882 runs for 145 wickets by opponents—an average of only 12.97.

Three times only have Staffordshire been dismissed for fewer than 100 runs, and a most unusual achievement has been two innings of more than 300. Opponents have failed to reach three figures in five completed innings, and the highest score made against Staffordshire is only 109.

BATTING HONOURS

Perry at the Head of Affairs

Of the 26 players who have been called upon, only two—H. W. Homer (captain) and Lockett—have played in every game.

E. Perry, the West Bromwich Dartmouth player, heads the batting averages, having scored 133 in two completed innings, while, following him, comes G. Sedgwick, the Leek all-rounder, who has shown fine promise. The chief scorers have been E. Mayer, who has had his best season, and Homer, whose 70 in the final match brought both his average and aggregate nearer his usual mark.

Mayer had the distinction of making three 50's, the other five half-centuries being credited to Homer, Gale, L. H. Crump, Heath and Perry.

S. Crump, last year's winner of the batting averages, has had fewer chances, and has not done quite so well with his bowling either, but Ellerker, while improving his batting averages, has also shown a marked advance with his bowling, and his cheap wickets in the last match nearly enabled him to displace Barnes as leading bowler.

BARNES AGAIN

The veteran has once again earned that proud position, having once more passed the half-century total of wickets at a cost of nine runs each. The figures of Lockett and Taylor are practically the same as last season.

With regard to the batting, it should be mentioned that 10 players have aggregated three figures and three others have fallen by

a mere run or two. Cross, the wicket-keeper, is one of these, and his improved batting, together with his skilful play behind the wicket, has made him one of the most valuable members of the side.

The season has been successful from a playing point of view, and it is expected the finances will prove to be better than last season.

MATCH RESULTS

The season's matches resulted as follows:—

Yorkshire II., at Bradford.—Match abandoned. Yorkshire II., 72 for 2.

Lancashire II., at Werneth.—Lost by 76 runs. Lancashire II., 137 and 98; Staffordshire, 83 and 76.

Cheshire, at Oxtou.—Won first innings points. Cheshire, 199 and 149 for 7; Staffordshire, 309.

Cheshire, at Wolverhampton.—Won by innings and 11 runs. Cheshire 111 and 122; Staffordshire 244.

All-Indian XI., at Stoke.—Won on first innings. All Indian XI., 162 and 94 for 6; Staffordshire, 209 and 142 for 6, dec.

Yorkshire II., at Porthill.—Lost on first innings. Yorkshire II., 175; Staffordshire, 116, and 169 for 8.

Cambridge, at Stafford.—Won by innings and 49 runs. Cambridgeshire, 72 and 79; Staffordshire 200 for 6, dec.

Lancashire II., at Stoke.—Won by 10 wickets. Lancashire II., 57 and 84; Staffordshire, 88 and 54 for 0.

Cambridgeshire, at Cambridge.—Won by innings and 71 runs. Cambridgeshire, 102 and 169; Staffordshire, 342 for 9, dec.

THE AVERAGES

Barnes Again Tops Bowling List

The averages are as follow:—

Player	Time		Runs	Avg.
	Inns.	not out.		
E. Perry	3	1	133	66.50
G. Sedgwick	5	2	85	28.00
E. Mayer	10	1	81	28.33
H. W. Homer	11	3	70	27.25
L. E. Gale	4	0	66	25.75
J. S. Heath	5	0	87	23.00
L. H. Crump	6	0	68	22.00
W. H. Ellerker	8	2	46	21.76
R. H. Plank	6	1	29	18.00
S. Crump	7	1	46	17.53
E. P. Cross	8	2	27	10.00
Lockett	10	1	49	15.66
Barnes	10	0	43	13.20
M. H. Cocks	4	0	45	12.25

Also batted: E. Bealey, 44; Taylor, 13*, 1* and 1; A. A. Bickerton, 14; S. Dykes, 0; C. C. Goodway, 7; W. E. Bourne, 5 and 8; G. A. Fitton, 0 and 0; A. Smith, 2 and 0; R. Smith, 2 and 0; J. H. Chadwick, 1; T. J. Rutherford, 0; S. Welch, 0* and 0.

*Denotes not out.

BOWLING

Player	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.	Avg.
Barnes	268.8	78	603	56	9.01
W. H. Ellerker	95.1	33	158	17	9.29
Lockett	210.1	65	400	29	13.79
Taylor	104.5	24	240	17	14.11
S. Crump	64	17	107	5	21.40

Also bowled: S. Dykes, 30-0-35-4; S. Welch, 25-4-33-3; S. Heath, 20-6-55-2; J. H. Chadwick, 21-4-32-3; L. E. Gale, 7-0-10-1; E. Perry, 5-1-6-0; G. Sedgwick, 2-0-13-0; T. J. Rutherford, 19-4-46-0.

Staffordshire v. Cambridgeshire

HOME COUNTY SENT IN AND CHEAPLY DISMISSED

Dashing Innings by E. Perry

By "THE CRITIC"

When the Staffordshire captain, H. W. Homer, won the toss at Cambridge on Monday morning, he was faced with a difficult decision. There had been heavy rain during Saturday night and Sunday, and on Sunday evening the wicket was almost under water. But there was no more rain, and it had dried sufficiently for play to start at the appointed time, 11-30 on Monday morning. It was soft, however, and the task of deciding whether it was likely to become really difficult after lunch, or to dry out into a firm, fast wicket, was a delicate one, depending to a large extent on the weather, which was doubtful, and the drying properties of the ground, which were, of course, entirely unknown to the visitors. It was reasonably certain that the pitch would be too slow to be difficult for some time, but my own information was that if the sun came out the wicket would pass through its difficult stage very quickly, and would roll out hard and dry in the afternoon. With Barnes in the team, Homer decided to take the risk of putting his opponents in first, and the policy may be said to have been justified by the run of the play, for Staffordshire established a very strong position during the day. But the sun did not come out; the day was dull and the pitch was always even-paced, almost the only change being that the top being knocked off in places, the ball was kicking and flying about rather badly in the last hour or so, which impeded considerable caution on the later Staffordshire batsmen. As the Staffordshire bowlers kept most of the Cambridge batsmen so subdued that they took 24 hours to score 100, this day's play was characterized by slow scoring, with one pitch of brilliant hitting by E. Perry interspersed. He had the advantage of playing a good part of his innings while the effect of the roller was in the pitch, but, making full allowance for that, he batted with great dash, and his powerful hitting was all the more praiseworthy because he was still suffering pain in the left hand from an injury whilst fielding for his club nine days before, so much so that in making some of his smashing leg-hits he took the injured hand off the bat and actually hit the ball to the boundary with one hand.

The Cambridge batting was opened by C. Coote and D. V. Pask, the young giant who pulled a muscle in his arm whilst bowling at Stafford, and Ellerker shared the bowling with Barnes. Coote scored the first 7 runs, and then Ellerker made one out through quick and low to get him l.b.w., whilst only another run had been scored when Wilkinson played Barnes on to his foot and back into the wicket. This disastrous start was followed by further trouble, for Pask was brilliantly stumped at 20, and Covill neatly caught by the on-boundary at 22. Rose and Ridgeman observed extreme caution, and succeeded in staying together three-quarters of an hour whilst adding 23 to the total. In the meantime Lockett had been called up in place of Ellerker, but it was Barnes who effected a separation, for Ridgeman snicked a leg-break and was caught at first-slip. Barnes had had both batsmen guessing by his length and spin, and they had been rather fortunate not to touch one earlier. Lockett got R. S. l.b.w. with what looked like a top-spinner at 57, but Smith, a professional who bowls right handed and bats left, played matter up by hitting Barnes to the leg-boundary three times. He got 25 of his 20 runs off Barnes, who, however, had his revenge by holding a hot return one-handed. Ayres batted as well as anyone on the side, although both bowlers beat him more than once and shaved the wicket, and he came near to being caught at short-leg off Lockett. Barnes finished off the innings, for after getting Kerridge l.b.w. he took another right-handed return from Hart, the Cambridgeshire captain, and followed right up the pitch to get a third c. and b. and dismiss Ayres. His seven wickets cost practically 9 runs a piece, but exactly half the runs taken from him came from five consecutive overs at the time when Smith was making merry.

Perry and Gale opened the Staffordshire innings, and both batted with a confidence that betokened a good lead for Staffordshire. Perry began to hit with great power from the start, and got boundaries from Smith and Covill with fine leg-hits, besides driving and cutting Smith to the chalk mark. Gale was not quite so aggressive, but was minding the ball accurately, and had made one or two nice strokes when, with the total at 30, he

was a victim to his error of judgment in trying for a second run. In view of Gale's great form this year one was much disappointed by this mishap. However, Perry and Gordon Sedgwick completely mastered the bowling, and, adding 97, passed the Cambridgeshire score with only one wicket down. Perry was heading for the first century to be scored for Staffordshire for several years when he copied Gale's example and ran himself out. He was unfortunate, however, for it looked a safe run for a stroke through the slips by his partner, but the wicket was thrown down for third man, and the return was surprisingly quick as well as accurate. Perry scored at the rate of a run per minute and hit ten 4's. If his innings was a sample of what he does with a damaged hand his opponents might well have entertained an awed wonder as to what his hitting would be like when he is sound. Gordon Sedgwick was, of course, a little over-shadowed by his dashing partner, but his defence was strong, and he made some very fine strokes both behind and in front of the wicket. When he was caught by the wicket-keeper the ball was beginning to fly about a good deal, and from then until the close of play batting was by no means easy. Homer and Heath were very subdued, and the first time the last-named tried to drive he was caught at mid-off. Homer took no risks, but R. H. Plant put power behind his strokes, and played good cricket until he failed to keep an off-drive on the ground, and a low, fast catch was held at mid-off. Lockett looked like playing out time with Homer, but at the 1st minute pulled a ball into his wicket, and so Staffordshire finished the day 89 runs on with four wickets standing.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AGAIN BEATEN BY AN INNINGS

The wicket was faster on Tuesday, and played much better than one expected from the way in which the ball had taken the top off on the first day. The ball rarely got up, and though fairly quick-paced there was little life off the pitch. Staffordshire batsmen went on to complete the county's highest score for several years, and Homer was able to declare with a lead of 240 and send the home side in for a quarter of an hour before lunch. With 191 scored overnight for six wickets the position was a strong one, but when the next three wickets put on a further 151 the visitors' advantage became overwhelming. Chiefly owing to the solidity of Coote's batting, coupled with the fact that Barnes, Ellerker, and Lockett were rested for long periods, the home side offered stubborn resistance, but were ultimately defeated by an innings, as they were at Stafford.

Homer and Barnes continued the Staffordshire innings, and, as usual, the famous professional might have been giving a lesson in correct stroke play. Homer's defence was as stubborn as on Monday evening, and he occasionally got the ball away neatly on the leg-side. After a time both men forced the pace nicely, and when Barnes failed to get properly hold of the ball in driving and hit a catch to deep mid-off, the seventh wicket had added 51 in less than fifty minutes. Ellerker soon made matters lively, and with Homer following his example and hitting out powerfully in front of the wicket, the third hundred was reached before the captain, turning to glide a fast leg ball, was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. This wicket had added 63 in 35 minutes by the best of forcing cricket, and when Ellerker left a dozen later he's 30, scored in three-quarters of an hour, contained seven 4's. The way in which he jumped in to Wilkinson's leg-breaks and drove them on both sides of the wicket was most refreshing and necessitated a revision of one's opinion that he cannot play that type of bowling. Homer played a most valuable innings. When the pitch was getting awkward on Monday evening his skillful defence, if rather cramped, saved Staffordshire over a dangerous period, and when the need for a rest on Tuesday showed that he retains his comprehensive repertoire of scoring strokes, and can punish the half-volley or the short ball as decisively as he used to do. He was hitting two hours and ten minutes, and gave no chance that I saw. Crump and Cross were going merrily when the innings was declared at one o'clock. Crump got a couple of 4's with splendid square cuts, and batted so well that Hubble, the old Kent player, who was umpiring, remarked that the Staffordshire batting showed no falling-off in quality down to No. 10, which was precisely the opinion I expressed last week.

When Cambridgeshire essayed the task of making 240 to save an innings defeat there was five hours left for play, including an extra half-hour if needed. Coote, a really good left-hand bat, who averages nearly 40 for them this season, played by far the best cricket seen on the home side, whilst Wilkinson, who recently scored a century for his county, simply stopped everything that was on the wicket and left alone everything that was not. An hour of such passivity gave him 5 runs, and he stayed with Coote an hour and three-quarters before being bowled round

his legs by Heath. After the first few overs Barnes and Ellerker had been held in reserve, and Lockett also was not used much. A chance was given to some of the other bowlers, and it was like old times to see Stanley Heath bowling for two hours at a stretch. I don't think he has had such a spell since the war. And for a long time he kept a good control of length, and by hard hitting a good deal, though he could not induce them to hit, except when he occasionally dropped one short which could be punished with impunity. Perry, Crump and Sedgwick also had a turn. The last-named could not strike a length, and had only two overs, but Crump and Perry both bowled well enough to deserve a wicket. After Wilkinson's dismissal it was advisable to put full force into the business of getting the home side out, and Barnes resumed, Heath changing ends. With a clever close-in catch by Ellerker and two l.b.w. victims, Barnes soon altered the aspect of things, whilst Heath bowled a good man in Ridgeman with a lovely leg-break that fizzed off the pitch to rattle the top of the middle stump, and half the side was out for 112. This brought the two left-handers, Coote and Smith, together, and the latter got two 4's and a 5 (4 for an overthrow) in one over from Barnes. Smith's pet stroke seemed to be a lofty pull, and I was surprised that Barnes did not put three men out for it, in which case he would not have lasted many minutes in either innings. Barnes did put two out for a short time in the first innings, but there was too big a gap between them, and for the most part he had only one man square. Ellerker and Lockett eventually took up the bowling and brought about a speedy ending, five wickets falling whilst 10 runs were scored. Coote fell to another pretty catch by Ellerker, this time in the slips off Lockett, who shortly afterwards returned the compliment. The left-hander had played a great game for his side and had given no chance, except it was a possible one of stumping off Lockett, during a stay of three hours and ten minutes. Ellerker bowled Smith all over his wicket, and good bowling soon polished off the others, the match being over just before six o'clock.

SCORES AND ANALYSIS

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

FIRST INNINGS

C. Coote lwb b Ellerker	7
D. V. Pask at Cross b Ellerker	0
F. W. Wilkinson b Barnes	0
Covill c Perry b Barnes	4
H. J. Rose lwb b Lockett	17
F. A. Ridgeman c Lockett b Barnes	12
Smith c and b Barnes	26
R. J. Ayres c and b Barnes	22
K. C. Kerridge lwb b Barnes	3
H. B. Hart c and b Barnes	1
C. Barrett not out	0
Extras	1
Total	102

SECOND INNINGS

C. Coote c Ellerker b Lockett	82
D. V. Pask c Lockett b Ellerker	0
F. W. Wilkinson b Heath	15
Covill lwb b Barnes	10
H. J. Rose lwb b Barnes	0
F. A. Ridgeman b Heath	4
Smith b Ellerker	29
R. J. Ayres b Lockett	8
K. C. Kerridge b Ellerker	4
H. B. Hart not out	4
C. Barrett c Ellerker b Barnes	4
Extras	9
Total	180

STAFFORDSHIRE

FIRST INNINGS

E. Perry run out	81
L. E. Gale run out	4
G. Sedgwick c Barrett b Smith	35
J. S. Heath c Covill b Smith	4
H. W. Homer c Barrett b Pask	70
R. H. Plant c Rose b Wilkinson	12
Lockett b Ridgeman	8
Barnes c Smith b Rose	25
W. H. Ellerker lwb b Wilkinson	30
S. Crump not out	22
E. P. Cross not out	13
Extras	27
Total (inn. closed)	312

BOWLING ANALYSIS

CAMBRIDGESHIRE—FIRST INNINGS

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barnes	26	5	62	7
Ellerker	9	3	18	2
Lockett	16	6	21	1

SECOND INNINGS

Barnes	14	4	37	3
Ellerker	10	3	17	3
Lockett	13.4	4	22	2
Perry	5	1	6	0
Heath	20	5	55	2
Crump	9	3	10	0
Sedgwick	2	0	13	0

STAFFORDSHIRE—FIRST INNINGS

Smith	31	15	40	2
Covill	7	1	30	0
Wilkinson	27	7	95	2
Rose	13	1	36	1
Pask	18	2	31	1
Ridgeman	8	7	17	1
Ayres	6	0	9	1

COUNTY CRICKET REVIEW

A Satisfactory Season

NEW CENTRE OF INTEREST AT STAFFORD

By "THE CRITIC"

The season just ended has been a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable one for Staffordshire cricketers. The weather has been kinder than for a number of years past, and with the exception of the first match at Bradford there has been very little interference with the competition programme by rain, whilst the big match with the All Indian XI. was also highly favoured. For the first time in about a quarter-of-a-century Staffordshire had no competition match on the Monday and Tuesday of Stoke Wakes week, owing to the late withdrawal of Denbighshire, and what was regarded as a misfortune proved to be quite otherwise, for the weather was so bad that little play would have been possible. Mr. E. H. Steventon, of Nantwich, kindly undertook to fill the vacancy so far as Bank Holiday was concerned, and brought a strong scratch team to Porthill to play the county XI. in a one-day match, but only a few minutes' play was possible. The little play that took place—Staffordshire scored 12 for one wicket—has not been included in the season's statistics and averages.

One particularly vindictive blow was dealt by Jupiter Pluvius, however, for the fine weather broke on the first day of the match allotted to the Stafford ground, and defeated the splendid effort put forth in the County Town to secure a large attendance on the early-closing afternoon. In spite of this the experiment was so successful, and the interest shown so keen, that it may be taken for granted that a county match at Stafford will henceforth be an annual event. The season may therefore be memorable as marking the opening-up of a new centre for county cricket and the awakening of a new interest in the County Cricket Club in the central area of the county, where support has hitherto been conspicuous by its absence. In this connection the club is fortunate in having solved what has been a difficult problem since Major John Kent's many other activities obliged him to resign the hon. treasurer-ship a few years ago by the election of Mr. C. A. Wood, of Stafford, to that important office. One has rarely seen a task of organisation undertaken and carried through with more energy and thoroughness than was the preparation for Stafford's first county cricket match. Lord Lechford kindly gave a lot of time and personal interest to the matter, and Mr. Wood, Mr. W. W. Morgan, and others applied themselves to the task in so whole-hearted a manner that their enthusiasm became contagious, and secured the valuable aid of the Mayor and members of the Corporation, whilst the officials and members of the Stafford club entered cordially into the spirit of the effort. A matter of £150 contributed in response to a public appeal by the Mayor was spent in the improvement and equipment of the ground for county cricket, with the result that satisfactory accommodation was provided for spectators, and the ground and its appointments called forth eulogiums from the Cambridgeshire as well as the Staffordshire players. After all that had been done to command success it was a grievous disappointment that, following a showery morning, heavy rain fell from one o'clock onwards for several hours on the first day. There seemed little prospect of any further play but it was found possible to resume at six, and the fact that the one-and-a-half hours play in the evening was watched by about 1,000 spectators afforded some evidence of what the attendance would have been if the afternoon had been fine. Although the loss of a Bank Holiday gate was a serious matter, this year may be expected to show a considerable improvement in financial results. If that proves to be the case, it may possibly be thought advisable to return to a programme of ten competition matches next season, with two games allocated to Stafford. In any case it is to be hoped that opponents for the first two days of Stoke Wakes week will be found,

STATISTICS

The all-round form in which the Staffordshire team finished the season was so good as to promise well for next year, and in spite of the indifferent start, the season's statistics come out well, better,

in fact, than for several years. Staffordshire batted twelve times, and scored 2,032 runs for the loss of 9 wickets, giving an average per wicket of 20.52, which is the best since 1928. Opponents have batted sixteen times and scored 1,882 runs for 143, an average of 13.16. These figures show that Staffordshire have exceeded their opponents' score on the average per completed innings by 73 runs, which, with the single exception of 1927, is the best since the war. The margin in favour of Staffordshire in recent years was—1931, 81; 1930, 20; 1929, 31; 1928, 42; 1927, 89; 1926, 28; whilst in 1925 the balance was against Staffordshire to the extent of 3 runs per completed innings.

No opposing side has reached a total of 200 against the county this year, which, in a dry season, is a remarkable tribute to the Staffordshire attack. On the other hand, the county has recorded scores of 200 for six, 200, 244, 300, and 342 for nine. Taken all through the batting has shown welcome improvement, and the same may be said of the bowling. Whilst the fielding has given less cause for criticism than has often been the case, the general level having been distinctly higher. The number of players called upon was 27, which is just about an average number, though two fewer than last year. Only the Captain (H. W. Homer) and Lockett played in every match, though Mayer only missed the last one owing to injury, E. P. Cross also missed only one, and Barnes and S. Crump two.

Cross's work behind the wicket has accounted for seventeen wickets, 12 caught and 5 stumped (last year 9 caught and three stumped). Those who have taken most catches are Lockett 7, Ellerker 6, Barnes 5, J. S. Heath 4, and A. Smith (who only played once), S. Crump, T. J. Rutherford, G. Hodgwick, and R. H. Plant, 3 each. Staffordshire had five batsmen run out, and their opponents 3, and it is interesting to note that only 14 lbw. decisions were given against them, compared with 28 successful appeals.

The results of the ten competition matches are as follows:—Won 4, won on first innings 1, lost on first innings 1, lost 1, no result 1. This gives 24 points of a possible 35, and a percentage of 68.57, compared with 57.14 in 1931, 60 in 1930, 56 in 1929, 60 in 1928, and 90 in 1927 (championship year). This year's victories have been very decisive, three by an innings and one by ten wickets. On the whole I think the county deserved a considerably higher percentage.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES

May 25 and 26.—v. Yorks II., at Bradford. Yorks. II., 72 for two wickets; Staffordshire did not bat. No decision.
June 1 and 2.—v. Lancs. II., at Werneth. Lancs. II., 137 and 98 (Barnes six for 31); Staffordshire, 83 (H. R. Butterworth six for 29) and 70 (Butterworth seven for 28). Lost by 76 runs.
June 22 and 23.—v. Cheshire, at Oxton. Staffordshire, 300 (L. H. Crump 68, Lockett 40*, S. Crump 40, Barnes 43); Cheshire, 199 (L. N. Jones 78, J. A. McEntyre 46) and 140 for seven (G. B. Hodson 60). Won on first innings.
June 27 and 28.—v. Cheshire, at Wolverhampton. Staffordshire, 244 (J. S. Heath 87, B. Mayer 81); Cheshire, 111 (Taylor five for 35) and 122 (L. J. Pearson 60*, W. H. Ellerker seven for 37). Won by innings and 11 runs.
July 6 and 7.—v. All India, at Stoke. Staffordshire, 209 (L. E. Gale 66) and 142 for six, declared (E. Mayer 57*); All India, 162 (Taylor seven for 81) and 94 for six (Barnes three for 29) Drawn.
July 11 and 12.—v. Yorks. II., at Porthill. Staffordshire, 116 (Hall four for 26) and 169 for eight (Ellerker 46*, M. H. Cocks 45; Yorks. II., 175 (Grimshaw 49, Turner 40). Lost on first innings.
July 27 and 28.—v. Cambridgeshire, at Stafford.—Cambs., 72 (Barnes six for 35) and 70 (Lockett five for 34); Staffordshire, 200 for six declared (E. Mayer 59, E. Beeley 44, H. W. Homer 40*). Won by innings and 40 runs.
August 3 and 4.—v. Lancs. II., at Stoke. Lancs. II., 57 (Barnes six for 19) and 81 (Barnes seven for 31); Staffordshire 88 (Holroyd five for 26) and 51 for none (E. Perry 47*). Won by ten wickets.
August 22 and 23.—v. Cambs., at Cambridge. Cambs., 102 (Barnes seven for 62) and 169 (C. Coote 82, Ellerker three for 17); Staffordshire, 342 for nine declared (Perry 81, Homer 70) Won by innings and 71 runs.

FEATURES OF THE GAMES

The opening match of the season, at Bradford, was ruined by bad weather, only two hours' play being possible.

Then the Staffordshire team went to Werneth and suffered their only defeat of the season. This was sheer misfortune, for the conditions were such that the winning of the toss gave an overwhelming advantage, and Staffordshire did quite well to lose by no more than 76 runs. H. R. Butterworth, the 'Varsity Blue, who has since done well in the Lancs. 1st XI., bowled slow leg-breaks with great success, but I have no hesitation in saying that if the conditions had been the same for him as they were for the Staffordshire bowlers he would have had a vastly different analysis. The plain fact was that before lunch on the first day the wicket was dead easy, and the Lancs. batsmen, instead of getting runs quickly, which was obviously the right policy before the wicket got difficult, batted with laboured caution. Only Latchford after lunch realised the position, and hit out freely until he was stumped. A score of 137 runs was, in the circumstances, a poor one. But when Staffordshire went in at four o'clock the wicket was quickening, and in the course of an hour had become a real "sticky dog." Staffordshire got to 57 before the third wicket fell, but were all out for 83. The second day was a repetition of the first. Following a heavy dew the wicket was slow and easy when Lancs. started their second innings in the morning, and again Staffordshire had to go in, at 3 o'clock, when the sun was making it difficult. That is a literally true story of Staffordshire's only defeat. Mayer, S. Crump, and Homer batted well in both innings, but amongst the unfortunates were the brothers Arthur and Roy Smith, who had to bat twice when the pitch was at its worst on their only appearance for the county during the season.

At Oxton some good batting was seen the third hundred being passed. Len Crump and Barnes put on 84 for the second wicket, and Lockett and Stanley Crump 99 for the eighth. When the match ended Cheshire, after following on, were only 30 runs on with three wickets in hand. J. H. Chadwick, the Porthill fast bowler, was introduced to county cricket in this match, and opening the bowling with Barnes in both innings got a good deal of pace. But he seemed to take rather too much out of himself and was not able to maintain a steady length. Two more points were dropped here because the wicket was a little too good to force a win in two days.

The return with Cheshire at Wolverhampton saw J. S. Heath and Mayer in great form with the bat, and though Barnes was absent, the bowling was good enough to get the visitors out twice cheaply, the first victory of the season being secured with an innings to spare. Taylor, Lockett, and Ellerker all bowled well, and by taking seven wickets for 37 in the second innings the last-named achieved probably his best performance with the ball for Staffordshire. He made the ball swing both ways, and Eric Cross had the rare experience of catching four batsmen off him in succession behind the wicket. As he also took four catches in the first innings Cross made eight catches in the match, which may be a record for Staffordshire.

The visit of the All Indian Test team to Stoke was another qualified success. It was the fourth visit of a Test touring team in four years, and, as on the three previous occasions, the match was favoured by glorious weather, the attendance for the two days numbered about 7,000, and the county side played such a storming game that, as with New Zealand in 1931, they would certainly have recorded a handsome victory if the match had continued for a third day. The match was full of interest. L. E. Gale furnished a delightful example of his prowess as a batsman, young Gordon Sedgwick came into the team to share a partnership of 51 for the ninth wicket with Cross in the first innings, and an unfinished one of 68 with Mayer in the second, on each occasion when matters were going badly with the county. His sound batting definitely established him as a county player. Mayer's not out 57 was excellent, and Taylor bowled very finely to take seven wickets in the first innings of the Indians, whilst Barnes and he were getting the Tourists out cheaply a second time.

Unfortunately the batting broke down somewhat in the next match with Yorks II., and only one point was secured, this first-innings defeat putting any possibility of championship honours quite out of the question. The Yorks. bowling was, of course, of good quality, including Hall and Fisher, who have both before and since done big things for the Yorks. 1st XI. But seven wickets for 57 was a wretched start, and though the total was raised to 116 it was inadequate, and the visitors took a lead of 50. Improved batting in the second innings came too late to retrieve the situation, and only served to avoid defeat outright. M. H. Cocks, of Stafford, made a successful debut in this match playing an attractive innings of 45 at his second attempt.

From that point the county team carried all before them, defeating Cambridgeshire twice by an innings, and Lancs. II. by ten wickets. In these three matches Barnes took 32 wickets for 199 runs, an average of 6.12. Other features were the promising advent of S. Dykes as a bowler, some brilliant hitting by Eric Perry on his return to the side for two matches, after an absence of two years, and the running-up of a total of 342 for nine wickets at Cambridge, which is the highest score since June, 1928, and the highest in a Competition match since June, 1927. It has only been passed by the county seven times in the fourteen seasons since the war. Gordon Sedgwick gave further evidence of his value as a batsman by helping Perry to lay the foundation of this big total in a second wicket partnership which realised 07 runs.

The team which took the field for this last match of the season was, in my opinion, the strongest which the county has turned out for a number of years, and good enough to defeat any team taking part in the Minor Counties Competition with reasonably equal conditions.

BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES
The batting averages show a marked improvement on last year, to some extent due to the drier season, but it is remarkable that no player with as many as three innings has an average below twelve. The bowling figures are about equal to last year, which is surprising in view of the conditions, and also of the fact that Staffordshire had no such weak opponents this time as Denbigh. I shall hope to offer some comment on individual form next week.

BATTING

	Inns.	out	Not out	Total	Score	A've.
E. Perry	3	1	133	81	66.50	
G. Sedgwick	5	2	99	35	33.00	
E. Mayer	10	1	255	84	28.33	
H. W. Homer	11	3	218	70	27.25	
L. E. Gale	4	0	103	66	25.75	
J. S. Heath	5	0	115	87	23.00	
L. H. Crump	8	0	132	68	22.00	
W. H. Ellerker	8	2	127	46*	21.16	
R. H. Plant	6	1	90	29*	18.00	
S. Crump	7	1	107	46	17.83	
E. P. Cross	8	2	96	27	16.00	
Lockett	10	1	141	49*	15.66	
Taylor	3	2	15	13*	15.00	
Barnes	10	0	133	43	13.30	
M. H. Cocks	4	0	49	45	12.25	

Batted twice:—W. E. Bourne, 8.5; G. A. Fitton, 0.9; A. Smith, 2.0; R. Smith, 2.0; S. Welch, 0.0*. Batted once:—E. Baeley, 4.4; A. A. Bickerton, 1.4; S. Dykes, 0; C. C. Godway, 7; J. H. Chadwick, 1; T. J. Rutherford, 0. P. O. Yates did not bat.

BOWLING

	O.	M.	R.	W.	A've.
S. Dykes	30	0	35	4	8.75
Barnes	268.3	76	505	56	9.01
W. H. Ellerker	95.1	33	158	17	9.29
S. Welch	25	4	53	5	10.60
Lockett	217.1	65	400	29	13.79
Taylor	104.3	24	240	17	14.11
S. Crump	64	17	107	5	21.40
J. H. Chadwick	21	4	92	3	30.66

Also bowled:—J. S. Heath, 20—5—55; —2; L. E. Gale, 7—4—40—1; T. J. Rutherford, 19—4—46—0; E. Perry, 5—1—6—0; G. Sedgwick, 2—0—13—0.

ROLLESTON v. MUNICIPAL OFFICERS
(BURTON)

Played at Rolleston on Saturday, the home team gaining an easy victory in their last match of the season. The Rolleston team have an unbeaten record for the season. H. Bentley, who performed the hat-trick, took seven wickets for 7 runs and Gerald Scattergood took three wickets for 10 runs.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.—E. Bannister b Scattergood 0, G. Harvey b Bentley 6, G. Lowton b Scattergood 0, S. Scattergood c and b Bentley 0, L. Peach b Bentley 0, J. Bivens c Stafford b Bentley 3, W. Bourne b Bentley 1, G. Rose b Scattergood 2, S. Lunn b Bentley 4, T. Powell lbw b Bentley 1, A. Earp not out 0; Total, 17.

ROLLESTON.—A. Bentley b Bannister 0, R. Archer b Peach 0, E. McKenna c Bourne b Peach 3, F. Topley b Peach 6, E. Gremley c and b Bivens 11, L. Docksey b Peach 10, T. Robinson not out 12, A. Stafford b Peach 0, H. Bentley not out 10; extras 1. Total (for seven wickets), 62.

NEWPORT v. ENGLISH ELECTRIC

Played at Newport on Saturday.
NEWPORT.—A. J. Chadderton b Hardgrave 10, R. H. Elkes lbw b Redshaw 0, J. C. Williams run out 43, A. L. Pitchford st Clothier b Hardgrave 15, J. Ball c Redshaw b Wilshaw 0, F. Worth c Hardman b Wilshaw 2, A. Robinson not out 26, F. P. Fowler c Clothier b Hardgrave 1, W. T. Hill b Wilshaw 0, R. J. Butter b Mountford 46, J. C. Brookes b Mountford 0; extras 6.—Total, 158.

ENGLISH ELECTRIC.—Hardman b Chadderton 3, Wilshaw b Chadderton 16, J. Clothier lbw b Pitchford 5, Lugg lbw b Chadderton 51, Clothier c Fowler b Butter 20, Mountford lbw b Chadderton 20, Pitcher b Chadderton 0, Jowitt b Chadderton 0, Fremitt c and b Pitchford 4, Redshaw b Pitchford 0, Hardgrave not out 0; extras 7.—Total, 144.

SANDON v. J. D. H. MYATT'S XI.

Played at Sandon on Saturday.
SANDON.—C. Boulton b Ouslsman 15, F. Shilton b Cousins 38, W. B. Caulcott c Graham b Mercer 6, F. Walker b Ouslsman 27, A. Johnson run out 35, A. Walker c Watson b Broadhurst 13, W. Cheadle c Halliburton b Ouslsman 0, F. Mills c Graham b Broadhurst 0, R. Lovatt c Lyth b Ouslsman 2, W. Meakin b Broadhurst 7, J. A. Walker not out 1; extras 15.—Total, 159.

MYATT'S XI.—Graham s Meakin b J. Walker 15, Wheldon b Cheadle 2, Lyth c J. Walker b Cheadle 10, Worthington b Cheadle 1, Cousins b J. Walker 2, Broadhurst b F. Walker 10, Mercer lbw b Cheadle 1, Ouslsman c Meakin b Cheadle 7, Watson not out 0, Halliburton c J. Walker b F. Walker 20, Myatt b F. Walker 0; extras 5.—Total, 88.

COUNTY CRICKET REVIEW

(Second Article)

YOUNG PLAYERS MAKING GOOD

By "THE CRITIC"

On the whole the form displayed by Staffordshire players on behalf of the county this year is distinctly heartening. The players of experience have done well, and the search for good young ones has been by no means unsuccessful. The outcome was seen in the brillant wind-up of the season, and particularly in the strength of the team which took the field in the last match. Even with two such batsmen as E. Mayer and Arthur Smith absent, the strength and evenness of the batting was such that ten of the eleven men might be put in in almost any order. And two of them were young recruits from the North Staffordshire League, who are definitely making good in county cricket. In fact, I take the view that the county has not been so rich in batting since the war. The averages are, of course, much better than last year. The drier wickets after the first month of the season made that practically certain, but making full allowance for that the figures are more satisfactory, and the fact that there is not one average below 12 is probably unique. When one finds such names as Lockett, Barnes, and M. H. Cocks at the bottom of the average table, a natural query is, Where was the fail? And the answer is that there was scarcely any fall to the Staffordshire batting when the team was anything like representative.

Similarly, the bowling figures are excellent for such a season, and the statistics given last week revealed one fact that is in itself a striking testimony to the power of the Staffordshire attack, viz. that not one of the county's opponents, not even the All-Indians, reached a total of 200 in one innings against the Staffordshire bowling. That may not be unique; but it is extraordinary. Further, the fielding has improved, and has come nearer to the realisation of my high ideal, without, of course, reaching it. So the task of examining individual form resolves itself into the pleasing one of saying nice things about the players.

It is a great pity that the two crack South Staffordshire batsmen, L. E. Gale and E. Perry, were prevented by the claims of business from being regular members of the team. They are outstanding batsmen in the Birmingham League, and Gale especially has had a wonderful season. In the concluding match he made a great effort on a difficult wicket to beat H. W. Homer's record aggregate for that League of 854 runs in a season. But though he scored 31 in his side's total of 66, he failed by 18 runs. His average for Dudley is 69.66. He showed in his fine innings against All India that he can drive and cut very well indeed. Perry uses his physical advantages to perfection, and his even good bowling with great power. His punishing cricket at Cambridge and against Lancs. II, at Stoke constitute one of the season's pleasant memories. J. S. Heath, whose 87 at Wolverhampton against Cheshire is the highest score of the season, is another strong batsman who is too often absent. The presence of these three makes a power of difference to the batting.

Of the more regular players, the Captain, H. W. Homer, has laboured hard to break the spell of a rather bad patch, and has succeeded, though never quite recovering his confidence and freedom of a few years ago. He has created an impression in my mind of set teeth and a dour determination to defy an evil fate. It is a strain and caution have supplied the dominant note in his batting, but he has shown on one or two occasions, notably in his valuable 70 at Cambridge, that he can still not only defend well when conditions are difficult, but has all his old repertoire of scoring strokes at command when he can find the confidence to use them. I say all, but there is one great item I have not seen for quite a long time. It used to come as a delightful surprise-packet, a mighty square hook for six. I shall hope to see it again next year, when I shall expect the captain to have recovered all his old confidence. He has improved his average this year, in spite of being run out once without scoring, and has got back to something like normal figures after dropping to 19 in 1930 and 23 last season. His batting has been of great value, and his leadership has also meant much to the team.

E. Mayer's average in the last three years has been very similar to that of the Captain, viz., 19 in 1930, 23 in 1931, and 28 in 1932. His 255 is much the highest aggregate this season, and after Homer's 218 there is a big drop to the 111 of Lockett. Mayer has scored 714 runs in his three seasons as a regular member of the team, with an average of almost exactly 23, which is evidence both of his consistency and his usefulness. He is a good and improving batsman, who may render still better service yet. He has been four times stumped this year, which suggests the need for more circumspection in going forward.

Barnes and Lockett have returns which are not commensurate with their ability as batsmen, though each has improved his average a little compared with last year. W. H. Ellerker has been inconsistent, but also shows improvement; and Stanley Crump has lost nearly seven runs per innings, in spite of which I think he has batted equally well. His only bad match was against Yorks. II, for he batted skilfully in making 15 and 13 on the putty patch at Werneth, hit a capital 46 when runs were needed at Oxton, was run out when batting confidently at Wolverhampton, and was getting runs fast when the closure was applied at Cambridge. Len Crump has revealed the soundness of his defence again, but did not play in the last three matches. E. P. Cross deserves to get runs, for he is keen on improving his batting, and has done so. Splendid as ever behind the wicket, he is a great asset to the county, and if it were possible for him to go in earlier he might get quite a lot of runs. If he goes on improving he may have to be promoted. With reference to his work with the gloves, I wonder whether his eight catches in one match at Wolverhampton is a record for Staffordshire.

Now I come to the younger players and those who have had a first trial this year. The two Stafford batsmen, M. H. Cocks and E. Bealey, each played a good innings, and Bealey's 44 at Stafford was revealing enough to make one regret his subsequent departure from the county. Cocks played a skilful innings against the high-class Yorks. bowling at Porthill, and though he failed in his other two matches the Committee will probably have him in mind next season.

Perhaps the most important development was the discovery of two such promising young batsmen as Gordon Sedgwick and H. H. Plant. Sedgwick has not yet failed in a county match. His first trial was at Blackburn last year, when he batted with skill for three-quarters of an hour in a crisis, and on a most difficult wicket. His next appearance was against the Indians at Stoke, in July, and his batting in both innings created a definitely favourable impression. Coming in again for the last two matches he opened the innings with Eric Perry against Lancs. II, and showed the same strong defence as before on a pitch on which runs were very difficult to get. At Cambridge, in the final match, he was sent in first wicket down, and played like a seasoned batsman. He comes out second in the averages, with 33, and though there is possibly room for some improvement in his footwork, he has the skill and temperament, and has established himself unmistakably as a county batsman. His defence may be termed his long suit, but he has good scoring strokes, being strong on the leg and on, and having a very nice off-drive. He has improved his game a good deal this season, or, perhaps, one should rather say matured his game, and there is every reason to believe that he is far from having reached his best.

And what of H. H. Plant? Not yet of age he has had his first taste of county cricket this season, and there is nothing specially noteworthy in his record, an average of 18 for six innings. But I dare venture a prediction that he will be one of the county's chief run-getters next season. He is as keen a cricketer as was his father, the old Longton captain, and present president of the Longton club, Mr. Harold J. Plant, as true a type of sportsman as could be found in the county or out of it. Two years ago "Dick" was captain of the Leys School, Cambridge, so he has learnt his cricket in an excellent nursery. Private coaching by Aaron Lockett has helped him, too. These advantages, together with a genuine love of the game, and purposeful application, should enable him to make the most of his natural aptitude for it. His defence is quite sound, though he has not the patience of Gordon Sedgwick, and he has the strokes. In front of the wicket he is particularly strong, and the speed at which his drives travel indicates un-

expected power as well as good timing. When he learns to curb his impetuosity, and above all to keep the ball on the ground when putting his full weight into his shots, runs should flow with great facility from his bat.

Ray Smith has only played once, and the bowler's paradise at Werneth afforded no sort of trial for him. The fact that his injured wrist has troubled him again all the season makes his average of well over 40 for Great Chell a remarkable one, and but for being twice run out it would have been considerably better. His further trial seems inevitable if he can get away from his work to play, for he has never yet batted for the county on anything like a fast wicket. And Bernal Hollowood is another young batsman who, I think, has definitely improved, but he has not been in the county side at all this year.

So the season has brought two young batsmen, both sons of old cricketers of renown, to the fore. One might add that there are others who may make their mark in the near future, and none, I think, is more likely than Longton's young fast right-arm bowler and left-hand bat, W. Bourne.

In regard to bowling, Barnes is still at the head of affairs, and his 56 wickets for nine runs-a-piece represents yet another season of wonderful work with the ball. His record for Staffordshire now stands as follows:—Overs, 5,212.3; maidens, 1,581; runs, 11,165; wickets, 1,422; average, 7.85.

Lockett and Taylor have bowled consistently well, though neither has quite such good figures as last year. Lockett has often bowled with poor luck. S. Crump has had little chance, and has not done so well as in 1931, but the only occasion on which more than 16 runs have been scored from him in an innings was on the dead, easy pitch at Werneth, when in Lancashire's first innings he lost 31 runs without a wicket. His few overs have generally been very steady, and he has several times got a quick wicket. But it is not altogether an enviable task for a young bowler to be repeatedly called up for a few overs when conditions are least suitable and other spin bowlers have met with a check.

A gratifying feature of the season's bowling has been the success of Ellerker. He has gained the best figures for Staffordshire, and he has deserved them, for he has never previously bowled so well. Bowling rather faster than before, he has kept a fine length, and has got life off the pitch, combined with swing both ways. As he is a smart close-in fielder, he is now an all-round player of exceptional value.

Stanley Welch only played in the first two matches, but two new bowlers were tried in S. Dykes, of the East Lanes. club, and J. H. Chadwick, Porthill's fast bowler. The last-named hardly appears to have the stamina to maintain his pace with accuracy, but Dykes made a favourable impression. Four times he opened the bowling with Barnes, and his medium-pace, right-arm deliveries commanded respect. Though unlikely to be able to play often he may be decidedly useful on occasion.

Only one other comment I desire to make. Stanley Heath had a long spell of bowling at Cambridge, and attained a measure of accuracy with his leg-spin which roused long dormant hopes that he may take up bowling again with a fair measure of success.

I must congratulate the team on improved fielding. Some of the players might still put a little more dash into their scouting, and Barnes would have had some wickets which he did not get if all those who fielded close in for him had learnt to understand and anticipate as some of his colleagues of the past did. But on the whole the fielding was more satisfactory than for several seasons.

Taking a glance forward one would think Staffordshire would have no difficulty in fielding a side strong enough to win the championship with ordinary luck next year with the following players:—H. W. Homer, E. P. Cross, E. Mayer, W. H. Ellerker, Barnes, Lockett, Taylor, S. Crump, L. H. Crump, J. S. Heath, L. E. Gale, E. Perry, M. H. Cocks, A. Smith, G. Sedgwick, R. H. Plant, R. Smith, S. Welch, S. Dykes, and A. B. Hollowood.

The selection of the best XI. from this score of players would constitute rather a nice problem, and I leave it to readers to solve for themselves.

It only remains to pay a well-deserved tribute to the splendid work of Mr. G. A. P. Baguley and Mr. L. W. Hancock respectively hon. secretary and assistant hon. secretary.

BASS-WORTHINGTON'S 2ND XI. v.
TUTBURY 2ND XI.

Played at Burton on Saturday.

BASS-WORTHINGTON.—T. Dunicliff b W. Jagg 17, L. Dodson run out 11, J. Goodhead c G. Plumb b K. Bowley 2, L. Topliss b K. Bowley 0, F. Richardson b W. Jagg 4, G. Clark run out 5, R. Forsdyke b K. Bowley 22, L. Taylor b K. Bowley 12, G. Elkes c and b K. Bowley 17, L. Griffin c and b K. Bowley 1, W. Evans not out 4; extras 1.—Total, 96.

TUTBURY.—A. F. M. Lunn b Taylor 11, R. Squires b Taylor 3, W. Jagg b Taylor 0, H. Bowley b Taylor 0, L. Compton c Topliss b Elkes 4, F. Tucker c Topliss b Elkes 3, J. Pye c Griffin b Taylor 0, J. Pye c Griffin b Taylor 0, G. Plumb b Elkes 6, R. Bailey b Elkes 0,—Dagley not out 0, C. Reynolds run out 0; extras 9.—Total, 36.

TUTBURY v. BASS-WORTHINGTON

Played at Tutbury on Saturday.

BASS-WORTHINGTON.—L. Hulme c Bryant b Robinson 16, W. Kite b Gothard 30, J. Hartley c Graham b Robinson 3, E. Robinson b Oakden 1, R. Bayliss c Billings b Gothard 26, R. King not out 5, A. Grice c Robinson b Oakden 0, A. Haynes not out 0; extras 1.—Total (for six wickets, declared), 132.

A. Rigby, T. Dunicliff, and J. Warner did not bat.

TUTBURY.—E. J. Gothard c Hartley b Warner 15, H. L. Newton c Warner b Dunicliff 61, T. P. Eaton lbw b Warner 0, S. R. Rickman b Hartley 1, L. Robinson not out 18; extras 8.—Total (for four wickets), 103.

T. D. Coxon, J. Billings, H. Byant, J. T. H. Jackson, H. Graham, and T. H. Oakden did not bat.

CRICKET

Gentlemen of Staffordshire

SEASON'S RECORD AND AVERAGES

By "THE CRITIC"

The Gentlemen of Staffordshire Cricket Club has had a satisfactory season, and furnished a good deal of enjoyable cricket for its members. Of the fourteen matches arranged one (at Llamington) was blotted out by rain, and two were cancelled, the Worcestershire Gentlemen and the Kenya Kongoni clubs being unable to raise teams for the dates fixed. Of the eleven matches played four were drawn, five won, and two were lost. Batting thirteen times the Staffordshire Gentlemen scored 2,276 runs for the loss of 112 wickets, an average per wicket of 20.32, whilst opponents also batted thirteen times and scored 2,334 runs for 116 wickets, an average per wicket of 20.12. The Gentlemen's average score per completed innings was, therefore, 203, and that of opposing teams 201.

The following is a brief summary of the season's doings:—

- June 2.—v. Donstone College: The College 107 (P. Sutton 51; C. H. Twigg five for 31, E. Beeley four for 32); Gentlemen 207 for eight (G. H. Thorneycroft 128). Won.
- June 7.—v. Market Drayton: Drayton 253 for six, declared (R. R. O'Brien 101); Gentlemen 106 for eight. Drawn.
- June 15.—v. Yarlet: Gentlemen 170 (J. A. L. Wenger 53); Yarlet 105. Won.
- June 22.—v. Wrekin College: The College 135 (C. H. Twigg five for 30, E. C. Fernie three for 15); Gentlemen 81 (C. H. Twigg 45). Lost.
- June 24.—v. Lichfield Garrison: Gentlemen 236 for nine, declared (Capt. P. Wilson 73, A. Lindop 67); Garrison 147 (A. Platts six for 35). Won.
- June 30.—v. Derby Friars: Friars 235 for eight declared (L. B. Blaxland 82); Gentlemen 160 for six (Capt. Wilson 70). Drawn.
- July 7.—v. Burton-on-Trent: Burton 338 for four declared (F. J. Dolman 141*, E. J. Gothard 84, R. Robinson 73); Gentlemen 168 for eight (E. Beeley 55). Drawn.
- August 3 and 4.—v. Somerset Stragglers: Stragglers 114 (W. M. Tonkinson five for 37, F. B. Clark four for 33) and 263 for eight declared; Gentlemen 244 (E. W. Page 71, F. B. Clark 55, B. Meakin 50) and 99. Lost.
- August 17.—v. Stafford: Stafford 148 (W. M. Tonkinson six for 63); Gentlemen 270 (G. H. Thorneycroft 113, C. Howl 51). Won.
- August 18.—v. Derby Friars: Friars 108 (P. Fernie five for 28); Gentlemen 135 for eight. Won.
- August 22 and 23.—v. Shropshire Gentlemen: Shropshire, 203 (W. G. Bannister six for 53) and 183 (C. H. Twigg six for 70); Staffordshire Gentlemen 173 (F. B. Clark 74) and 107 for five. Drawn.

One of the best matches of the season was that against Somerset Stragglers, an old-established and well-known club, which was a new fixture, the match being played at Wolverhampton. The Gentlemen secured a good first-innings lead, but the Stragglers staged a strong recovery, and set the Gentlemen 134 to get in 55 minutes to win. The home side adopted a sporting, win-or-lose policy, went all out for the runs, and were beaten just on time by 34.

The playing resources of the club have been increased by the addition of some new members, chiefly from the north of the county, of whom the most promising is R. H. Plant, who has gained a place in the Staffordshire team this year. But, as usual, Wolverhampton and Stafford players figure prominently in the average tables. G. H. Thorneycroft (Wolverhampton) has hit the only two centuries scored for the club, and C. H. Twigg (Stafford) has borne the brunt of the bowling, and though he suffered to the extent of 135 runs without a wicket in an orgy of run-getting by the Burton batsmen, he has creditable figures. Excluding the Burton match his average is 13.80. Amongst the new players, W. G. Bannister (Stafford) did well in his first match, taking six wickets for 53 and scoring 35. Altogether 44 players appeared during the season for the club, whose future prospects are bright.

The following are the batting and bowling averages:—

BATTING

	Inns.	out	Runs	Not out	Total	H'st	Ave.
G. H. Thorneycroft	4	0	263	128	65.75		
F. P. Woolf	4	2	82	42	41.00		
Capt. P. Wilson	4	0	162	73	40.50		
E. W. Page	3	0	114	71	38.00		
R. J. C. Evans	4	2	72	29*	36.00		
F. B. Clark	4	0	137	74	34.25		
C. Howl	5	0	132	51	26.40		
J. A. L. Wenger	4	0	97	53	24.25		
A. Platts	6	2	03	32	23.25		
B. Meakin	10	2	152	50	19.00		
H. F. Wood, junr.	3	0	51	38	17.00		
W. H. Twigg	4	1	41	22*	13.86		
W. H. Harrison	5	0	68	37	18.60		
C. H. Twigg	9	1	100	45	12.50		
A. D. Wilkie	3	0	20	11	9.66		
W. A. Adams	4	2	18	17*	9.00		
R. H. Plant	3	0	27	12	9.00		
W. M. Tonkinson	3	1	18	15	9.00		
E. C. Fernie	3	1	13	9*	6.50		
J. F. Meakin	5	0	28	16	5.80		
H. J. Bamford	3	0	12	6	4.00		
G. Mackarness	6	0	10	4	1.66		
L. Underwood	3	0	4	2	1.33		
Col. C. Hatton	3	0	3	1	1.00		

Batted twice:—Rev. P. F. McSwiney, 8*, 13*; E. Beeley, 2, 55; M. H. Cocks, 11, 29; B. McCall, 28, 9; J. F. Scott, 8, 12; J. B. Russell, 4, 11; W. E. C. Davies, 0* 7. Batted once:—A. Lindop, 67; R. E. Eastwood, 22*; W. G. Bannister, 35; J. I. C. Dent, 20; P. F. Fernie, 17; R. G. Willcock 12; P. Underwood, 3; R. Cave-Rogers, 2; R. Howl, 0; E. W. Brain, 0; R. E. Farling, 0. Did not bat:—J. T. A. Jackson and R. S. A. Hardy.

BOWLING

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Ave.
P. F. Fernie	10	0	55	5	11.00
W. M. Tonkinson	51.3	14	145	12	12.08
W. G. Bannister	20	2	75	6	12.50
W. H. Harrison	30	1	114	7	16.28
E. Beeley	20.4	3	84	5	16.80
C. H. Twigg	158.2	32	524	28	18.71
A. Platts	58	9	211	11	19.18
F. B. Clark	82.5	13	248	11	22.54
R. J. C. Evans	38.5	6	144	6	24.00

Also bowled:—E. C. Fernie, 0—0—15—8; J. F. Scott, 13—5—24—8; W. H. Twigg, 14.4—2—73—3; Capt. Wilson; 16.2—3—75—3; W. A. Adams, 25—4—100—3; R. S. A. Hardy, 12—5—23—2; G. H. Thorneycroft, 16—0—51—2; R. E. Farling, 2—0—7—1; C. Howl, 4—0—13—1; H. F. Wood, 13—0—78—1; A. Lindop, 6—1—14—0; A. D. Wilkie, 5—0—15—0; F. P. Woolf, 2—0—17—0; R. H. Plant, 5—0—20—0.

CRICKET

North Staffs. and District League

A BOOMING SEASON

Nantwich Sweep the Board

By "THE CRITIC"

Nantwich have reaped the reward of enterprise in full measure, for their courageous engagement of Richard Tyldesley as professional has enhanced the public interest in the competition, and has been followed by a great revival at Nantwich. The prowess of the ex-Lancashire bowler has undoubtedly been a potent factor in the sweeping success of the team, but there have been other factors, too. For example, Tyldesley's advent has synchronised with a remarkable burst of form by the Brothers Steventon, who seem suddenly to have renewed their youth, and have played up to a standard which they have certainly never excelled. Under the able leadership of E. H. Steventon a fine team spirit has prevailed, and in winning the championship by the commanding margin of 10 points over the second club, they have beaten all their opponents once, and no fewer than seven, including Leek, Burslem, and Porthill, twice. On the average they have more than doubled their opponents' scores; they had an extraordinary run of 14 consecutive victories, and their total number of wins equals the previous record held by Porthill.

Whilst offering congratulations to Nantwich, one must sympathise with Norton, who will probably pay the penalty of having often played below their form by spending at least one season in Section B. Their bowling has been of average merit, but their batting has been too often weak, and though their figures are not so bad as those of either Bignall End or Stone, they failed to get the points, and so the end of the season found them firmly rooted at the bottom of the table, three points below the next lowest, and 27 points below the champions. The cause of their failure seems to me to be largely loss of morale, and if they can recapture that mystic quality they stay in the lower grade, supposing they are relegated to it, is not likely to be a long one. The two most recently promoted sides, Caverswall and the L.M.S., have acquitted themselves quite well, and deservedly retained their places, the improvement shown by the Railwaymen since the opening of the season being extremely creditable.

Saturday afternoon cricket has been highly favoured by the weather since May. Whit-Monday and the two following Saturdays were wet, but from then, May 28, to September 10 favourable conditions were experienced, which was a great and welcome contrast to 1931 and 1930. The number of drawn games was large, mainly because bowlers got little assistance from the wicket, but also, in some measure, because scoring was slow and captains were prone to err on the side of conservatism in the matter of declaration. Of the 132 matches comprising the season's campaign 79 were finished and 53 drawn, as against 70 and 62 respectively last year, and 82 and 50 in 1930. In 1929 the large proportion of 102 matches were finished. This season's number of matches definitely drawn on account of rain was 22.

As might be expected scoring was much heavier than last year, but was just about the average of a normal season. The aggregate of runs was 28,419, and the number of wickets that fell 1,851, giving an average score per wicket of 15.35. It is interesting to compare these figures with those of preceding years, thus:—1931, 20,128 runs, 1,606 wickets, average 12.53; 1930, 27,476 and 1,879, average 14.62; 1929, 30,080 and 2,075, average 14.73; 1928, 31,390 and 1,862, average 15.83.

Whilst the pre-eminence of Nantwich made the destination of the championship a foregone conclusion very early in the season, there was an interesting struggle for the honour of being runners-

up. For a long time Burslem, Great Chell, Porthill, and Longton were prominent in the race, but Leek were steadily climbing, and with Porthill and Longton falling behind, and Chell also losing some ground, it resolved itself at last into a duel between Burslem and Leek. After their wretched start, however, there was no checking the advance of Leek, and the Moorland men maintained the hot pace to the end. Whilst yielding the league flag to Nantwich the champions of 1931 became runners-up in 1932 by virtue of a splendidly sustained revival, in which they dropped only three points of a possible 26.

The season's records reveal some striking contrasts compared with last year. For example, Burslem have held a high place, not only last year, but for several seasons, solely because of the deadliness of their bowling, and in spite of the fact that their batting has been considerably below the average. They won the championship in 1930 with the worst batting record in the league except two, and average per wicket of 11.92, and were runners-up in 1931 with a batting average of 11.96. This year has found the old club of the Mother Town again worthily maintaining its position in the first flight. That is not surprising. But the remarkable thing is that the team have gained their high place by virtue of the best batting record in the league. Similarly Longton stand third in order of merit for batting, after having been one of the weakest batting teams for several years. One of the anomalies is that Bignall End, having scored fewer runs than any other team, and had more runs scored against them than any other, finish half-way up the table. With a debit margin of nearly seven runs per wicket, equal to 69 runs per completed innings, they are actually level with Porthill in the matter of points, though the latter have a credit margin of over two runs per wicket, or 22 runs per completed innings. That is to say, Porthill have on the average scored 22 runs per innings more than have been scored against them, and Bignall End have scored 69 per innings less than have been scored against them, and the two are equal in points. The explanation, of course, is that owing to the ineffectiveness of their bowling, Bignall End have repeatedly been batting with their backs to the wall, and have succeeded in avoiding defeat and saving a point. Stone have experienced their poorest year since they returned to Section A in 1929, and must be considered a little fortunate to have escaped relegation on their figures. The following table shows at a glance where strength and weakness lay:—

	For		Against			
	R.	W. Ave.	R.	W. Ave.		
Nantwich	2906	180	19.37	1708	196	8.71
Leek	2401	152	15.79	2137	181	11.80
Burslem	2746	141	19.47	2353	161	14.61
Gt. Chell	2493	157	15.87	2085	168	12.41
Silverdale	2584	158	16.35	2527	147	17.19
Longton	2518	142	17.71	2615	162	17.20
Bignall E.	1898	139	13.65	2695	131	20.57
Porthill	2428	143	16.97	2390	162	14.75
Caverswall	2067	152	12.75	2546	154	16.53
L.M.S.R.	2509	174	13.27	2393	139	17.21
Stone	2039	158	12.90	2660	124	21.45
Norton	2033	175	11.61	2310	136	16.98

Judged by this searching test the teams come out in rather different order from that based on points won. The margin of runs per wicket to credit or debit of each is as follows: Plus, Nantwich 10.68, Burslem 4.86, Leek 3.99, Great Chell 3.46, Porthill 2.22, Longton 0.51. Minus, Silverdale 0.84, Caverswall 3.78, L.M.S. 3.94, Norton 5.37, Bignall End 6.92, Stone 8.55.

The following table shows how the clubs have fared on this basis during the last four seasons:—

	1929	1930	1931	1932	Ave.
Nantwich	+11.17	+2.02	+0.07	+10.66	+5.98
Burslem	+3.69	+4.19	+3.69	+4.86	+4.10
Porthill	+4.55	+6.20	+2.52	+2.22	+3.87
Gt. Chell	+6.24	-4.75	+0.52	+3.46	+3.75
Leek	-4.59	+4.58	+5.29	+3.99	+2.31
Silverdale	-0.62	+3.17	+5.79	-0.84	+1.87
Norton	-0.36	-1.76	-1.62	-5.37	-2.27
Longton	-3.26	-4.27	-2.62	+0.51	-2.41
Bignall E.	+0.23	-2.79	-0.21	-6.92	-2.42
Caverswall			-4.05	-3.78	-3.91
L.M.S.Rly.				-3.34	-3.94
Stone	-1.52	-5.67	-4.51	-8.55	-5.06

The gains and losses in points this year are as follow:—Gains: Nantwich

14, Great Chell 5, Longton 3. Losses: Leek, Silverdale, Bignall End, and Caverswall 1 each, Burslem and Porthill 2 each, Stone 6, Norton 8. The L.M.S. have earned the same number of points as Crew did last year. The following are the positions which the clubs have held in the league table each year since 1928: Nantwich, 1928 1st, 1929 1st, 1930 7th, 1931 3rd, 1932 1st; Leek, equal 2, equal 8, 5, 1, 2; Burslem, equal 9, 3, 1, 2, 3; Great Chell, 4, 2, 2, equal 7, 4; Silverdale, 8, equal 8, equal 3, 4, 5; Longton, equal 9, equal 8, equal 9, 10, 6; Bignall End, 7, equal 6, equal 9, equal 7, equal 7; Porthill, 5, 4, equal 3, equal 5, equal 7; Caverswall, 1931, 11, 1932 equal 9; L.M.S., 1932, equal 9; Stone (Norton in Section B), 10, 11, equal 5, 11; Norton, 6, 5, 8, equal 7, 12.

Whilst Gordon Sedgwick has amassed the greatest number of runs, W. Lee, the Stone professional, beats J. Ankers by a fraction for the highest batting average, with Roy Smith running the leading pair fairly close. Sedgwick's 677 runs, 86 more than the next aggregate of T. W. Steventon, compares with the 348 with which J. S. Heath headed the list last year, a total which has been passed by 18 batsmen this summer. Those scoring over 500 are G. Sedgwick, T. W. Steventon, J. Ankers, J. S. Heath, Lee, and R. Smith, whilst the following quartet have exceeded 400, Poate, A. J. Chadwick, J. Turner, and Smith (Longton). The number of averages exceeding 30 is eight, compared with two last year, and nine in 1930. They are Lee (41.84), J. Ankers (41.50), R. Smith (39.23), E. Baker (38.90), G. Sedgwick (35.63), J. S. Heath (35.25), A. Smith, Chell (34.63), and T. W. Steventon (31.10). Of the dozen batsmen included in these two lists, Sedgwick, Poate, Chadwick, Turner, and Baker earn such a high position for the first time. On the other hand Lee, Heath, and Ankers have outstanding records of consistency. Stanley Heath, in the last five seasons, has scored 2,403 runs for Porthill, with an average over the whole period of 31.76. In spite of a lean time in 1931, when he could make little of the persistently wet wickets, Joe Ankers in the same period has scored 2,289 runs for Silverdale, with an average of 30.77. And "Billy" Lee, in his four seasons at Stone, has aggregated 2,142 runs, with the fine average of 35.19. Others have had their good seasons, and Chell's accomplished brothers have excellent records over the last four years, Roy Smith having scored 1,550 runs, with an average of 29.06, and Arthur Smith 1,398 runs, average 27.30.

The joint triumph of Tyldesley and E. H. Steventon for Nantwich is, of course, the luminous feature of this year's bowling. Tyldesley has joined the very select few who have taken a hundred wickets in a season in this league, and the Nantwich Captain has completed 1,000 wickets in league matches. The remarkable bowling record of Nantwich does not equal that of Burslem in 1931 or 1930, but their feat of more than doubling their opponents' scores on the average is certainly unique since the war, though whether it was ever equalled in the great days of Barnes at Porthill I am not sure. Leek and Great Chell occupy the same positions as last year in regard to the effectiveness of their bowling, viz., second and third, but Burslem have dropped to fourth place in this respect after having easily led the way as the most deadly bowling side for three years. The absence of Roy Hollowood and a definite deterioration in fielding are amongst the chief causes of the falling off. Stone's bowling has again been the most expensive in the league, but Bignall End, by a very marked decline, keep them close company.

To be concluded next week.

CRICKET

North Staffs. and District League

SEASON'S RETROSPECT (Second Article)

By "THE CRITIC"

Continuing my review of the League season, I desire to offer some critical comments on the doings and form of the 12 teams taking part in the major competition. Such a survey is not easily compressed within the necessary limits of a newspaper article, for a season's observation of twelve teams furnishes a somewhat embarrassing abundance of material. So without wasting valuable space, let me begin with the

CONQUERING HEROES

of Nantwich. After three years of pre-eminence, Nantwich fell from their high estate in 1930, made a partial recovery in 1931, and enjoyed a triumphal march to their fourth championship in six years in 1932. Opening the season with an ignominious defeat at Chell, the new champions proceeded to win every other match throughout the season, while the weather allowed them to finish 18 victories with 3 games rained off. That is a wonderful performance. The engagement of Richard Tyldesley as professional could not have been more amply justified in the result. He has been by far the most successful bowler in the League, is the first for a number of years to take 100 wickets in a season, and has been so useful with the bat that he scored 374 runs, with an average of 20.77. The effectiveness of his leg-break bowling is represented by his 104 wickets for 7.10 runs each. Obviously he has played the leading part in winning the championship. But it has not been a "one man show." To get at the secret of the team's brilliant season one must couple Tyldesley with the Captain, E. H. Steventon, as a match-winning pair of bowlers, and take note at the same time of the fact that the batting has practically recovered its 1920 form, after falling far short of that standard for two seasons.

Nantwich have taken the field 20 times during the season, and on 14 occasions Steventon and Tyldesley have bowled unchanged, including a run of nine matches in succession. The captain has never, I think, bowled better. Appreciably slower than he used to be, he has been able to keep an excellent length whilst getting a lot of work on the ball either way, and has mastered the googly so well that it has been difficult to detect, and has got him a lot of wickets. The only matter for regret is the lack of opportunity for so good a bowler as W. T. Maybury, who last year took 60 wickets, at an average cost of 8.86.

The batting figures present some amazing contrasts to last year. How to account for a batsman like Tom Steventon scoring 123 runs with an average of 8 in one season, and 591 runs with an average of 31 in the next, is beyond my ingenuity. He made the highest score of the season, a glorious 130, not out, at Bignall End, after the first seven matches batted with great consistency. C. Coffin has been a valuable addition to the team, and his 28.87 per innings places him second in the averages, with W. T. Maybury and E. H. Steventon next with 21.44 and 20.87 respectively, improved figures in each case. The wicket-keeper, A. McTurk, has jumped from an average of 5 to 16, and J. B. Swindale, L. E. Norton, and R. E. B. Smith have all recovered from their dismal failure of last year, though they should be capable of considerably better things yet. The only batsman to fall away is J. E. Smith, who headed the averages last year with 24, and has experienced so bad a patch that he has dropped to 10. Though there has been little change in personnel, the average of the team per wicket has jumped from 12.55 to 19.37, so the batsmen must be given a share of the credit for a brilliant season, as well as the outstanding pair of bowlers.

The fielding of the side has probably been the best in the League, with McTurk keeping an excellent wicket, evidence of which is afforded by the fact that the extras conceded by Nantwich have averaged only 3 runs per innings. On six occasions not a single extra has been given. Nantwich were only twice dismissed for less than 100, whilst their opponents only 3 times reached these figures.

LEEK'S LEVEL ATTACK

After a disastrous start to the season, Leek, as one felt certain they would, made a great recovery, and developed the all-round power which won them the championship in 1931. The secret of their success was the variety and level excellence of their quartet of bowlers, coupled with the superlative batting form of G. Sedgwick. When one batsman can be depended upon for 40 or 50 runs every time he goes in, as Gordon could during the second half of the season, there is little fear of collapse and six averages between 15 and 20 show that he was fairly well supported. But even so, the bowling has been the more potent force in lifting Leek from the bottom of the table in June to the position of runners-up to Nantwich. With pacy bowlers in W. S. Hutchinson and H. Sedgwick, a clever slow spin bowler in H. Birch, an accurate medium pace bowler in Pointon and a useful left-arm bowler in G. Sedgwick, the attack called for some skill in management, and the level figures of the five are proof of astute handling by Herbert Sedgwick. He himself has the best average with 33 wickets for 10.39, but little more than a run per wicket separates the five. Harold Birch has taken most wickets with 46, and an average of 10.88, Pointon and Gordon Sedgwick have 31 each with averages of 10.48 and 11.51 respectively, and Hutchinson's 28 wickets have cost 11.15 each. Such a bowling combination seems to me almost ideal, and I have good reports of the fielding.

I have already written fully of Gordon Sedgwick's wonderfully consistent batting. His 677 is higher by 86 than any other aggregate in the League. He finished up the season with 301 runs in his last 5 innings, and in spite of the moderate start returned an average of 35.63, compared with 18.73 last year. He is not a batsman of aggressive type, but has a wide range of strokes, and has developed so sound a defence against all sorts of bowling that his future holds the highest promise. Next in order of batting average come J. Pointon, J. Williamson, A. Rider, H. E. Sedgwick, G. Imber, and W. H. Hutchinson, ranging from 19.30 to 14.80. Jack Pointon started badly, averaging only 4 in his first seven innings, but then he found his form, and in 9 innings, 3 times not out, scored 220 runs for an average of 36.66. That augurs well for next season, and the same may be said of the form of Williamson and Imber. H. Kidd has disappointed me so far, but I see he averaged 41 in 6 innings with the 2nd team, and he may realise one's expectations yet. Arthur Rider has maintained his form well, but W. C. Charnock has had rather a poor season.

Leek had the doubtful distinction of making the lowest score of the season, 23 against Burslem.

BURSRLEM'S BRIGHT BATTING

I called attention last week to the extraordinary change in Burslem's figures. It will best be illustrated by quoting their batting and bowling averages, for and against, for the last three years. In 1930 their own average per wicket was 11.82, and the average against them, 7.73; in 1931, 11.96 and 8.27 respectively; in 1932, 19.47 and 14.61. These figures show that whereas their batting has been prior to this year amongst the weakest in the League, they have taken a high place by reason of phenomenal success in bowling. Then, with the same team except for the departure of Roy Hallowood (which, of course, weakened the bowling); whilst the bowling figures suddenly became quite normal, the batting has improved by nearly 8 runs per wicket and shows the best return in the whole League. Here is the explanation:—E. Baker, 1930, average 10.00; 1931, 10.00; 1932, 36.90; J. Fenton, 1930, 5.33; 1931, 7.66; 1932, 29.57; F. Bailey, 1930, 5.57; 1931, 3.71; 1932, 24.07;

J. Jolley, 1930, 11.77; 1931, 11.63; 1932, 21.90. Len Crump has also increased his unaccountable average of 7.08 last year to 12.86 (still much too low for his true form), W. Briscoe has improved from 18.00 to 22.90, and Bernard Hallowood has been at home and played regularly instead of only the last few matches. He was twice run out after scoring 50, but averages 20.53. Jolley hit a century at Bignall End, and Baker a hurricane 95 at Stone. A. Birch and H. Sharpe have both fallen back a little. The team twice defeated declarations by scoring 200 in quick time at Stone and Porthill, and got within one run of Silverdale's 211, declared. Whilst their own declaration at 206 for 6 was defeated by Longton. So Burslem's matches have produced plenty of bright cricket. In eight consecutive matches in mid-season, they scored 1,388 runs for the loss of 52 wickets, an average of almost 27 per wicket.

In bowling, Taylor has had a rather thankless task, for my information is that the fielding, hitherto amongst the best, has fallen off and many catches have been missed. Also there has been little effective support at the other end, and the professional has repeatedly bowled for 2 to 2½ hours without rest. He has delivered many more overs than any other bowler in the League, and his analysis of 419.5 overs, 183 maidens, 719 runs, 67 wickets, average 10.73, is a very fine one under any circumstances. Last year Percy Kirkham took 42 wickets for 5.97 runs each, which was the best average in the League. This year his 30 wickets have cost 17.83 a-piece. F. Bailey, with 23 wickets, average 12.17, has one or two good performances to his credit.

IMPROVEMENT AT CHELL

Great Chell had a lapse last year after being runners-up for 2 years and finished equal seventh. This time they have recovered some of the ground, but after a strong challenge at one period for second place had to be content with the fourth. Ellerker, the Staffordshire player, succeeded Mayer as professional, and has shown himself one of the best all-rounders in the League, with 361 runs and a batting average of 20.06, and 66 wickets, average 10.30. Stanley Welch has not equalled his last year's bowling average of 6.51, but he has taken practically the same number of wickets, 52, and has the creditable average of 10.65. Frank Vodrey has been very useful with 30 wickets for 12.10 each, and the young left-arm slow bowler, F. Wilshaw, is expected to do well with more exceptional experience. The fielding fell much below Chell's usual standard in the latter part of the season.

There is still too much dependence upon three or four batsmen. Indeed, the brothers Smith may almost be said to have carried the team on their shoulders, with useful assistance from Ellerker. Roy Smith has had a splendid season, and with 510 runs and an average of 39.23 has set up new records for the club. Arthur Smith, in his first year as captain, has scored 381, with an average of 34.63. After the professional W. Warburton's 13.00 is the next best average, and R. C. Hodgkinson, a newcomer who has opened the innings throughout, and F. Vodrey, average round about eleven. H. Hancock has hardly done himself justice, either in batting or bowling, this year. The need of the moment seems to be young batsmen of ability, and Chell have usually been able to discover such, as J. Barber, son of one of the old stalwarts of the club, showed some promise in the last few matches.

Great Chell were the heroes of the most sensational match of the season, for on the opening day they dismissed Nantwich for 26, and replied with 159 for eight wickets.

To be continued.

BARNES AND LOCKETT

"Age cannot wither nor custom stale" the bowling of Sydney Barnes. Playing for Rawtenstall in the Lancashire League he has had another brilliant season. His final figures were: 440.3 overs, 159 maidens, 619 runs, 113 wickets, average 7.25. For anyone else but him such an average would be phenomenal considering the class of batting to which he has been every week opposed. It is by far the best average in the league, in which a number of first-class professionals are engaged. Barnes's batting average was 12.05, which is below his usual figures.

Anron Lockett has also had another highly successful season with Oldham in the Central Lancashire League, and I think his bag of 115 wickets is the largest he has ever had. With an average of 10.13 he again has the best average amongst the professionals in that league, which is also a strong organisation. His batting average this time is 20.25. Last year he headed both the batting and bowling tables.

The Critic