

## Halifax Parish Cup Final

### Sowerby Bridge v Elland

#### at Thrum Hall

Saturday 9 July 1921

#### **Sowerby Bridge**

A Howarth	run out	47
S Pickles	b Richardson	7
W Copley	b Richardson	1
W Ackroyd	b Richardson	0
GH Wild	c Nuttall b Richardson	0
B Cowsill	c Nuttall b Richardson	14
J Lawrence	run out	1
H Brooks	c FE Kaye b Lund	13
W Nicholson	c and b Lund	9
S Nicholl	c King b Richardson	7
H Wray	not out	11
Extras		11
Total	all out	121

Fall of Wickets: 1-25; 2-39; 3-39; 4-41; 5-65; 6-68; 7-85;  
8-96; 9-107; 10-121

#### **Elland**

G Lund	lbw Cowsill	0
A Richardson	st Wild b Lawrence	5
A Naylor	b Cowsill	5
WE Kaye	lbw Lawrence	4
W Fletcher	b Cowsill	11
LF King	b Howarth	30
F Nuttall	run out	28
EE Kaye	b Howarth	0
V Pitchforth	not out	12
FE Kaye	c Wray b Cowsill	0
W Barnett	b Howarth	0
Extras		11
Total	all out	106

Fall of Wickets: 1-1; 2-11; 3-13; 4-34; 5-38; 6-84; 7-84;  
8-95; 9-101; 10-106

Sowerby Bridge followed up their successes in winning the Halifax Parish Cup in 1904 and 1907 with a third triumph in 1921.

The narrow margin of victory over Elland – 15 runs – reflected a hard fought contest which was played at the height of a heat wave in the hottest July for 40 years.

The match was played in excellent spirit after controversy over the selection of two Elland players in the preceding week.

Elland's Halifax League and Parish Cup team was the club's second eleven, so there was some surprise when the names of first team all-rounders Andrew Richardson and G Lund were submitted to the Parish Cup Committee at the Corporation Arms on Tuesday 28 June. An objection was raised that neither fulfilled the qualification of having played in at least one previous round of the competition. They did, however, meet the requirement of playing at least three matches for their club that season, and as Elland's Halifax League team had begun the season as 'Elland' and not 'Elland 'A'', both were allowed to play.

This decision appeared crucial to the destination of the trophy as Richardson took three wickets in an over, reducing Sowerby Bridge to 41 for 4. Opening batsman Arnold Howarth (47) stood firm until he was run out by a direct hit by WE Kaye at 85 for 7. Richardson, who took 6 for 45 in 22 overs, bowled unchanged but lost penetration as he tired in the

heat and the last three wickets were able to increase a precarious total to a defensible 121.

After the break, Sowerby Bridge professional Barry Cowsill, who hailed from Little Lever, and the former S.B.C.I. veteran J Lawrence made swift inroads. Lund and Richardson both fell cheaply as Elland collapsed to 38 for 5. A sixth wicket stand of 46 between King and Nuttall restored parity before man-of-the-match Howarth made the decisive breakthrough. A brilliant slip catch by skipper Herbert Wray reduced Elland to 101 for 9 and, fittingly it was Howarth who sealed victory, adding a third wicket to his 47 runs.

It was a large and happy Sowerby Bridge contingent who watched Wray receive the trophy from the president of the cup committee, Frank Thomas. Victory was all the sweeter for beating a strengthened opposition.

