

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

This is my second report as your Secretary and I present it, I am glad to say, in totally different circumstances than a year ago. Then the Club had been relegated from the first division for the first time in its history and there were not many of us who were not glad to see the end of the 1972 season. I did say, however, in my last report that I saw no reason why we should not do the same as Triangle had done in the previous year and gain promotion at the first attempt. This is in the event what has happened, but I only hope we do not follow their example again next year.

As you all know, we have had an exceptional season this year, winning the first and second team second division championships, the Crossley Shield (for the first time in 13 years) and the Calder Valley second team cup. All these achievements are I think, worthy of individual mention, particularly the two championship victories, as both were achieved on the last Saturday of the season, the final match being against Mytholmroyd Methodists. The first eleven could either win or draw to gain promotion and in this event it would be either Stones or Methodists who would be promoted with us. In the event, we decided to play safe and drew the Match easily, although it might have been a different story if our opponents had been less inclined to stay at the crease as long as they did, and instead go for the victory which, ironically enough, they needed to be sure of promotion. We were therefore sure of promotion ourselves but ~~had~~ needed Stones to lose before we could gain the Championship.

The second team won their final match easily and were therefore left on ~~xxx~~ equal points with Bradshaw who also won.

The majority then adjourned to the Grove Inn to drink themselves silly and await the news. It was not until about 10 o'clock that a certain member who shall remain nameless arrived and was heard to boom out above the general din "STONES LOST!". It was not until the shouting had died down that most of us discovered that Bradshaw had beaten Stones by 4 runs and not as most of us thought at the time, that the member concerned had had a nasty experience in the toilet!

After a check of score books, the second team were also declared champions.

Earlier in the season, the second team had beaten Bradshaw by 5 wickets in the final of The Crossley Shield at Sowerby and the hero of that match was undoubtedly Neil Butterworth who not only bowled unchanged throughout the Bradshaw innings, but went into bat with the score 11 for 3 and proceeded to help himself to his highest score of the season, a match-winning 68 not out. It came as no surprise at all when he was named as the man of the match.

The Calder Valley Cup competition again produced a lot of local interest this year and this was partly due to the introduction of a new competition for second teams. This was won by Booth who defeated Old Town in the final. The first team were not so lucky both in the date of the final (which turned out to be the day after the night before) and also their opponents who were again Mytholmroyd Meths. It was obvious that the opposition had spent the previous evening sulking and bleary eyed

were easily defeated by over eighty runs.

Although the juniorside did not win any competition, two of the members of the side deserve an individual mention - Neil Thomas who won the league fielding prize with the second team and Geoffrey Midgley who was chosen to play for the Halifax Junior league side to play the Red Triangle league.

I would also like to ~~thank~~ congratulate the following winners of the club averages :

	Batting	Bowling	Fielding
1st. team	P. Mearcalfe	M. Thomas.	R. Collinge
2nd team	A. Rawcliffe	K. Emmett	N. Thomas
3rd team	G. Midgley	S. Helliwell	R. Smith

The club again entered the Haig Village competition and defeated Scholes and Hooton Pagnall in the preliminary rounds. In the third round we were drawn away to Tong who had reached the last 6 of the competition ~~the~~ in 1972. Although everybody who went there will tell you that we ought to have won the match easily, nevertheless the last two home batsmen held firm and we were beaten by one wicket. Tong did in fact reach the quarter final after beating Booth.

You will, I hope, forgive me if I have dwelt a little longer than is usual on the playing side but I am sure you will agree that the performances last year deserve such a mention.

On the social side, the Annual Dinner had a change of venue in January when we staged the event at Thrum Hall with Neil Hawke as guest speaker. Although most of those who attended the dinner were pleased and satisfied with the change, it was disappointing that more people did not come. It is to be hoped that the numbers will be increased this year, when we have something to celebrate!

Earlier this month the club held a plot to dispose of the old pavilion which had been demolished and with the help of the ladies Committee the event proved successful.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Ladies Committee for all the work they have done and for the financial assistance which they have given the club and which will be apparent to all of you on looking at your balance sheets.

I should also like to thank the officers, committee members and players for providing us with our most successful seasons for many years.