

After talking about the administrative side of the Club, we must get on to what we stand for: to provide amateur cricket in the true sense of the word. To all who are interested in the great game, and to encourage the youngsters of Hopton to become cricket enthusiasts. In this we feel we have achieved something during the past two years in "producing" three junior players who appear to have great prospects—brothers Paul and Kevin Stones and Ian Senior, the son of our Second Eleven skipper. Kevin won three prizes last season; surely, a great performance and an example to the Juniors of Hopton how welcome they are.

Speaking on prizes, two new incentives were offered during 1965. Our Vice-President (Mr. F. B. Lydall) kindly offered a prize for the most outstanding batting performance in any League fixture on the Hopton ground. Also our Chairman and longest serving Member (Mr. H. Woodhouse) donated a similar prize for the most outstanding bowling performance on our ground. We admire their interest and generosity. The H. Woodhouse special award was won by Kevin Stones, who also won the Second Eleven bowling average and the Ambrose Broomhead Trophy for being the most outstanding junior during the season; and the F. B. Lydall special award was won by Ernest Senior, who also won the Second Eleven batting average—surely "a captain's innings" throughout the season.

The First Eleven averages were won by Edwin Hepworth (batting) and Leslie Wilson (bowling). I feel very pleased about both these. I persuaded Edwin to join us three years ago, and up to last season he hadn't really found his true form, which we knew he was capable of. He fully deserved this honour. It is always said that the hardest workers for cricket are the poorest players—invariably true. We have, however, an exception in Leslie Wilson—he's still one of the Club's finest all-rounders—he's "creeping on" to umpiring age—when I shall again be waiting for his services. (I know he won't like this!!). In the meantime congratulations, Leslie, from all of us. Nobody is more worthy of these honours than yourself—you've put a lot more into the game than many.

Both teams enjoyed a good season in general, the First Eleven being in the running for their second successive championship—failing only at the latter part of the season, but they proudly carried off the Sheard K.O. Cup after a thrilling finish with Birstall Carpet Co. S.C. This final, incidentally, at Wormalds & Walker Ltd. ground, breaking all gate records for any Dewsbury League Final ever played. Congratulations to Skipper R. Ellam and his team, they were worthy winners.

The Second Eleven finished in a good position, which was quite satisfactory. It is true to say that the Hopton Second Eleven have never won the Second Eleven Championship—let us hope I'm not repeating this in the 1966 report—the players we have are capable of winning this Division, particularly this coming season, as all teams in their section of the extended Dewsbury and District League are bona fide second elevens for the first time since the last war. The most important thing is to have some real cricket weather, providing encouragement to players and spectators alike, and to enjoy to the fullest extent our spacious ground, which we are all very proud of.

In closing, allow me to offer our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bray, of the Travellers' Rest Inn for the continued use of their inn for the Building Fund Draw, and the support from his patrons—that is a great help to our future success. And last, but by no means least, our sincere appreciation is extended to all our vice-presidents, who always stay in the 'background' but are always willing to do anything possible for the benefit of the Club. Here's looking forward to April 23rd, when 'The Great Unpaid' 'pad up' again, in which should be a really interesting season, with so many new faces in the visiting teams.

A. V. KITCHEN, Hon. Secretary.

UPPER HOPTON C.C. SECRETARY'S REPORT, 1965

28, Hopton Avenue,
Mirfield.
January 27th, 1966.

I have great pleasure in presenting my Sixteenth Report as Secretary of the above Club. I recall quite clearly, early in 1950, a Committee member proposing me to take over the position of Secretary of the Club, in succession to Mr. David White, who was leaving the district to take up an appointment in Scotland. The member I now refer to passed away several years ago, Mr. Ernest Dennison. At the time I was elected the Chairman was Mr. W. Knowles, who has also since passed away. Shortly after, his son, Mr. Harold Knowles, was elected to the Committee. About this time discussion started regarding the proposed new ground at Hopton. The three members I refer to were all excellent cricketers, and what is more important, were tireless workers for the Club.

It was a tragedy that these stalwarts never saw the new ground completed, and indeed to enjoy the position our Club now stands; surely second to none in the Heavy Woollen District, and I include clubs of higher standing than our own. For a village club with a balance of only £3 fifteen years ago, to raise two thousand five hundred pounds to build a new ground and pavilion, and to have a balance in hand at the present moment of four hundred and sixty pounds—who can equal this? What a magnificent achievement by all the Committee of the Club who have made it all possible, selling weekly shares in the Building Fund Pool, backed solidly by the people of Hopton. I'm sure that almost eighty per cent. of the village population subscribe to the fund.

The Committee have further plans for improving the Sutcliffe Memorial Ground in the way of seating accommodation and other amenities. We aim it to be the most attractive ground in the Dewsbury and District Cricket League. In this we are supported wholeheartedly by the Mirfield Urban District Council. I refer in particular to the Park Superintendent, Mr. L. G. Taylor, who has done yeoman work on the ground, the playing area being first-class during the past season; more than one might expect at this stage on a new ground.

Thanks also in this ground work are due to our Groundsman, Mr. E. Conyers; to Mr. R. Wilson, who put many hours in preparing excellent wickets during the 1965 programme.

Allow me now to mention our Ladies, who raised almost £20 clear profit in the Tea Pavilion during the season. I thank, with deep gratitude, all the players' wives who made this possible; also to two young ladies who looked after the Second Eleven games, Miss Jennifer Ray and Miss Jean Taylor. We appreciate their services. Also thanks to Mr. and Mrs. G. Ellam, of the Upper Hopton W.M.C., who gave us continual help and assistance in all catering arrangements, and care of the pavilion throughout the week. Indeed, they offered and donated valuable help and assistance in every possible way. We sincerely appreciate their help. Whilst still expressing our gratitude to all who help to keep the Club in such an outstanding position, let us not forget to thank the Committee of the Upper Hopton W.M.C. for the use of their rooms for our meetings—we have only to ask. Such service to us makes things for being in a healthy position.

I don't think we need to discuss the balance sheet, gentlemen. Apart from to congratulate our Treasurer, Mr. Leslie Wilson, of whom our Auditor always remarks: "It is a pleasure to audit his books," a comment supported by all of us who work with him on Club affairs. What a valuable worker we have in Leslie—I hate to think of the day he says he has "had enough"—let's forget about that!!

