

Secretary's Report 1951.

This is my fourth Annual Report gentlemen & I hope that you will not find it uninteresting.

It has been suggested from time to time that the annual meeting should be held near the start of the season. Whilst it is not for this reason that the meeting is so late, we now have the opportunity to judge whether a later meeting would attract a larger attendance of members.

Attendance at Annual Meetings is not all that could be desired especially when members have the future of the club in their hands.

The past season did not bring any outstanding results from a team point of view.

The first team occupied a much lower position in the league table than has been usual.

since the war. I would say this is mainly due to the lack of another opening bowler.

The second once again made a strong bid for league & shield honours but failed at finishing post. The fact that the team has for three times in the last four seasons reached the semi final of the shield & also been strongly placed for league honours, shows that some cause is to be found in each season for this failure. This may be due I think mainly to two causes, firstly not sufficient practise & secondary not enough serious concentration on the game by some players.

The third team was never strong enough to offer a strong challenge to most teams. We can however see one or two promising

youngsters given the right kind of attention

In recording prize winners three outstanding performances appear. First the performance of Fred Senior in winning the memorial cup. I can think of no better reward for such a grand player. Second & third the winning of first & third teams league batting prizes by Douglas Hawn & George Priestley respectively. George also holds the memorial shield again in his last season with the third team. Individual prizes have been won as follows.

First Team.

Batting	D. Hawn	Average	39.55.
Bowling	D. Hames.	-	8. 2.
Fielding	F. Senior	marks	6.

Second Team.

Batting K. Senior Average 41.3.

Bowling H. Whitehead - 11.07.

Fielding S. Palmer. Wickets. 4.

Third Team.

Batting G. Prestley Average 38.66.

Bowling J. Kenworthy - 10.04.

Fielding D. Ashward Wickets 4½.

Before leaving playing activities let me say that within the next two seasons there is a strong possibility that the Halifax League will be formed into two divisions. The position that we shall occupy when the change comes will depend on the position of the first team in the league table.

It would be wise to adopt a stronger policy in the use of younger players with any prospects of developing in second & first teams. This club is one

if not the only one that played all its matches in the first division of the Amateur League before leaving to join the Hawke League. Strong steps must be taken to uphold that record.

Turning to non playing activities the committee spent some ^{time} considering the question of a practise wicket. After deciding the type required & completing same it was felt that greater use could have been made of it.

While on the subject of practise I would like to see more give & take. Too often during practise one sees the fellow who is fortunate enough to arrive on the field early, bat bowl & then depart leaving the less fortunate individual to get his practise as best he can.

The ideal that should be achieved is two practice nights a week where every first + second team player make every effort to be present. The third team to be allocated their own night.

A certain amount of work has been carried out during the winter. Amongst other things the lifting of a portion of the wicket, repairing the wicket ends making more seating accommodation all of which will help to improve the ground to some extent.

Repairs to the refreshment hut have been held up owing to difficulty in obtaining certain materials. This I am pleased to say has now been overcome.

The motor mower was sent away for a minor overhaul + repairs. Winter activities of the social kind consisted of three whist.

Drews a Christmas Draw & the Annual Prize Distribution. These were well supported but I would like to see more members at these functions.

Before closing my report may I comment on a certain amount of criticism that ^{was} leveled at the committee during the past season. While criticism is a good thing it must be constructive especially where it concerns the selection committee.

Such work is not lightly undertaken & I appeal to all members to remember this when making any criticism.

That concludes my report for Season 1951. Thank you for your attention.

W. Whitehead

18/3/52