

POLICE AND RUGBY LEAGUE

Memorable Matches

By David Brenchley

Once in a while you will get a game which turns into a procession. You get them in every sport and Outlane Cricket Club has had their fair share, whether they won or lost. One match that stands out was in August 1967.

The club was in the Huddersfield and District Cricket Association and came up against Police. The game was played at their then home ground of Lindley Moor and Outlane were put into bat first and posted an impressive score of 178-1.



Opening batsman Derek Whitehead scored 128 not out, hitting five sixes and 15 fours. Whitehead's partner, Walter Edge, was the only wicket to fall – six runs from a half-century.

Of the openers, current club president Andrew Wray said: "Derek was our president and he played up there for 30-40 years and was a very good player. Walter is still alive and is in his nineties now."

Two Police players were on early duty so left their team to bat with just nine players. As it turned out they could probably have batted and been on time for their duty, as their team's innings lasted just 21 balls.

The team's collective total of 15, though, isn't the most remarkable detail of the day. Only two players scored: Mr W.Kay was caught by Whitehead for just one run and Mr C.Sykes remained not out on two. The Extras column boosted Police's innings, adding 12 runs to their paltry total!

Bowler Ian Charlesworth took five wickets, giving away no runs and Mr I.Stringer finished off with 3-3.

Wray remembers similar matches. As captain of Outlane's second team, he recalls a match against Bridgeholme, who were bowled out for just seven.

He said: "You don't want games like that, you want to win and a pal of mine called Marsh, who opened the bowling uphill, he took 8-2 and bowled a wide among that! Games like that stick in the mind."

A not-so-fond memory of Wray's was when his team were on the wrong end of a result like this. "I lived at Longwood, over a mile and a half away, and I walked to the ground for a two o'clock start. I always remember it, it was a nice fine day and it was the day of the Rugby League cup final," Wray reminisces.

After his brisk walk, Wray ended the game 0 not out as Outlane were bowled out for just 16. He continues: "I walked back home and I was back home for the kick-off of the Rugby League Final at three o'clock!"

"Days like that stick in your mind for the wrong reasons, you prefer them if you have scored a lot of runs or taken a lot of wickets."

As Wray correctly points out: "[The Police game] - one for the record books isn't it?"