Boy's from 28. 9d., Youth's 18s. 10d. to

HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT CUP COMPETITION.

The Final Tie.

Victory of the Birstall Eleven.

Presentation of the Trophy.

The three year old prize, in the shape of a magnificent silver challenge cup, offered for competition amongst teams of cricketers in the Heavy Woollen District, has during the past week once more been won and lost, and at the same time has been witnessed the death of local interest in cricket matters generally. At any time during the next twelve months the coveted "pot" can be seen on application at Birstall, where it will be found to either grace the Club's room at the "Coach and Six," or adorn the side board at the residence of the gallant captain of that accomplished team, which has, for the third time during the existence of the competition, merited the possession of the prize. Of course Batley have had something to say on the point, and it will no doubt be admitted, even in Birstall itself, that had the weather been of Saturday's description on Tuesday, when the event was finally decided, the rejoicings, &c., would have taken place not at the "Coach and Six," but at the Wilton, Argus, the headquarters of the team, which Dame Fortune has once more designed to play second fiddle. Without entering into any description or comment on the play, it may be here said that all through this season's struggle a most healthy spirit of rivalry has been prevalent amongst the participants in the games. The same remark, however, cannot, unfortunately, be said of a certain portion of the onlookers. It is a most lamentable thing that some people—not lads, but men—should so far forget themselves as to make use of foul and uncouth expressions when in a crowd which includes a fair sprinkling of females. During the time just closed, the beastly habit of swearing has developed to a glaring extent amongst men, who, by the way, possess but a meagre portion of that quality known as true manliness, and it is to be hoped that the remarks made by Mr. B. I. Critchley, the chairman of the West Riding Bench of Magistrates at Dewsbury, and those of Mr. Louis Hall last Tuesday, will have had that result which every true lover of the national game desires to see. There is, however, one pleasing feature to be recorded in connection with the final which will be acceptable all round, and that is the benefit which the charities will reap from the gate money. The amount taken at the entrance on Saturday was £92, whilst £36 was received on Tuesday—a total of £128. Birstall closed their innings on Saturday for 171, and succeeded in closing Batley's on Tuesday, in weather favourable to the bowler, for 144, or 26 points short of the leading mark. It may be of interest here to state that the previous winners of the cup have been—1884, Heckmondwike; 1885, Cleckheaton; 1886-87, Birstall; 1888-89-90, Dewsbury (won outright); and 1891, Lascelles Hall. The following table will show the individual scores:—

Birstall.			
Juby, c Hall b Greenwood	21	N Juby, run out	2
Milnes, b Iveson	4	Hanson, c Greenwood b G H Hinchliffe	4
Broadbent, b G H Hinchliffe	19	Wilson, not out	8
Iveson, c Popplewell b J S Hinchliffe	42	Sedford, b S S Hinchliffe	0
Nelson, c Greenwood b Iveson	14		
Ackroyd, c Popplewell b J S Hinchliffe	21	Extras	10
Ackroyd, l b w, b G H Hinchliffe	8	Total	171

Batley.			
Hall, l b w, b Juby	22	G H Hinchliffe, c Milnes b Wilson	8
Brearley, c Juby b Wilson	3	Greenwood, st Sedford b Juby	3
Farrar, c Milnes b Wilson	10	J S Hinchliffe, not out	0
Iveson, c Ackroyd b Wilson	18	Extras	9
Hightower, c Iveson b Wilson	14	Total	144
Wood, c Milnes c Juby	14		
Proctor, b Juby	5		
Popplewell, c Iveson b Wilson	1		

At the fall of Batley's tenth wicket, there was a general rush of the spectators, who made their way to the pavilion. The Mayor of Dewsbury (Mr. E. Kilburn), who had consented to present the cup, had taken up a position on the balcony, along with a number of other gentlemen.

Mr. J. E. Glover, on behalf of the Heavy Woollen District Cup Committee, of which he is chairman, said he had great pleasure in congratulating the Birstall team for the third time in winning the cup. (Cheers.) There would no doubt all agree that they had fairly won it. Batley had been rather unfortunate so far as the weather was concerned. (hear, hear), and they would have been very pleased if they had been more successful, seeing that Birstall had had the trophy twice before, and Batley had not yet possessed it. (A voice: "They never will her it," and laughter.) In answer to that interruption Mr. Glover remarked that Batley might have something to say. They (Batley) were a rising team, and if they cultivated their young players, he didn't see why they should not take their part among the leading players of the district. The interest in the cup competition, he was glad to be able to say, increased year by year. On the last four days on which matches had been played on that ground, there had been congregated no less than 40,000 people. (Hear, hear.) That fact spoke volumes in favour of the good old game of cricket. He knew they could not command the same crowds as was experienced at football, but in his mind there was no comparison between the two games whatever. The speaker then, amidst much enthusiasm and cheering, called upon the Mayor of Dewsbury to present the cup.

Mr. Kilburn, after a few preliminary remarks, said that day had been to him a day of considerable interest, and he must congratulate the winning team for the very "victorious victory" they had achieved under somewhat unfavourable circumstances, so far as the weather was concerned. (Cries of "Oh!") One of the most pleasant duties he had to perform in connection with his office, was that of patronising the athletic world, not only cricket, but football. (Hear, hear.) He took a very lively interest in all athletic games, believing that they conducted, when properly conducted, to the health and recreation of the people. He held that the sport which created a healthy and sound mind, and kept the spirits in high temper, would of a necessity promote the individual happiness of man's existence in the world. (Applause.) With regard to their own Club (Dewsbury and district), if Birstall would pardon him, he would like to congratulate them on the very plucky fight they had made against Birstall. (Mr. Kilburn evidently meant Batley, and not Birstall.) He felt sure that all the clubs in the competition would join with him in congratulating Birstall on their success. He did not think there was any necessity for a spirit of rivalry to exist among the various clubs which would countenance anything like a bad feeling between any of the teams, and so long as the competition was conducted on the present lines there was every reason to expect good games in the future. He had much pleasure in presenting the cup to Mr. Ackroyd, the captain of the winning team. (Applause.)

Mr. Alfred Ackroyd, who was received with much enthusiasm, remarked that he need hardly say that he had very great pleasure in receiving the cup. He was happy to be able to say that in the play the most friendly feeling had existed, and that he had not heard one word of ill feeling spoken at all. Batley had been somewhat handicapped in regard to the weather, and he had to thank them for taking the defeat in the manner they had done. He also expressed his feelings of thanks to the umpires, some of whose decisions had been questioned by the spectators, but not at all by the players. Some people were under the impression that he (the speaker) himself questioned the decision of the umpire, but he could assure them that that was altogether untrue. He admitted though, that not having heard the decision, he asked again what it was. (Hear, hear.) As he was anxious to taste what was to be placed within the trophy he held in his hand, he concluded his remarks by thanking his colleagues who had placed him in that proud position. (Applause.)

Mr. Louis Hall, who had also a very cordial reception, responded on behalf of the Batley eleven. He said he was very sorry to have to congratulate Mr. Ackroyd and his team on winning the cup. (Laughter.) He considered that if his team had had the same weather to contend with as the winners had, Birstall would not have been in it. (Hear, hear.) The worthy Mayor of Dewsbury, in presenting the cup, had made a slight mistake, and made it appear as though the weather had favoured Batley. (Laughter.) But had he been a cricketer, added Mr. Hall, he would have known better. (Hear, hear, and renewed laughter.) He was very pleased to have noticed the friendly spirit in which both teams had carried on the contest. There was one subject which had not been mentioned, which in his mind ought to have been. Some complaints had been made by one of the West Riding Magistrates at Dewsbury with respect to the bad language used at cricket matches. It was a thing which he very much regretted—(hear, hear)—and he hoped and trusted that the remarks which had already been made on that question would prove of benefit in future years. (Cheers.) He congratulated Mr. Ackroyd again on the success of his team, but added that next year Batley would try again.

Mr. Glover moved that a vote of thanks be given to the Mayor for his kindness in consenting to present the cup.

Mr. W. H. Sewell, president of the Birstall Club, seconded the resolution. He took the opportunity to compliment his own team for the manner in which they had won the cup, and also to compliment the losing team on the efforts put forth by them in endeavouring to beat them.

The Mayor briefly replied, and the large assembly dispersed.

The members of the respective teams mounted their waggonettes, Mr. Ackroyd with the cup in his hand taking up a position on the box of the Birstall conveyance. Headed by the Birstall Brass Band they then proceeded through Batley. Having made one or two calls en route the victorious players, with a few of their friends, paid a visit to the house of their president (Mr. Steward), where the cup was filled with wine and handed round amid much cheering. They also "looked in" at the residences of Mr. S. Senior and Mr. P. Lyons, two prominent supporters of the club, and afterwards made their way to the Coach and Six Inn, the headquarters, in front of which were gathered, despite the heavy downpour of rain, about 1,000 people, who gave lusty cheers as the captain (Mr. Ackroyd) and his men stepped from the waggonette, bearing the challenge trophy aloft. In Batley there was considerable disappointment manifested at the non-success of the team, seeing that at one point in the game the score stood so favourably as to indicate a sure victory for the Batley men. Farrar came in for much congratulation for his well played 50, and had it not been for the bad luck of the "tail end" men the result would have been different. So say cricketers in Batley. They do not, however, begrudge Birstall of their victory, and the match is now talked of as a lost opportunity.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

[BY SPECTATOR.]

Hardly had the excitement of Batley's gallant victory over Dewsbury and Settle last week been allowed to subside, before the interest had to be renewed with redoubled vigour, respecting Batley's meeting with Birstall in the final for the Heavy Woollen Cup at Dewsbury. This important event was commenced last Saturday in the presence of a good attendance of the public, and although the day did not open very favourably, a good sixpenny-worth of cricket was witnessed before rain put a stop to operations.

The advertised time for hostilities to commence was one o'clock, but according to the usual custom, there were 22 men who found it impossible, even on such an extraordinary occasion, to turn out until nearly three-quarters of an hour after that time. In the spite of the rain the Batley captain selected a reserve, with the result that his men had to field. Mr. Juby and J. Milnes consequently represented Birstall at the stumps, and amid a hum of excitement the former received the first ball from F. Iveson.

Matters went on smoothly for a very short time, H. Proctor taking up the trundling at the other end. An over from him was batted, and Iveson went on again. The first ball in this over disarranged the stumps standing behind Milnes, with the score at 5. S. Broadbent partnered Juby, and together these two made it pretty hot for the fielders, and runs came at a rapid rate. At 45, when the last corner had met in 14, a change in the bowling was deemed advisable, with a result that G. H. Hinchliffe went on at the Thornhill end. The very initial ball from this, the youngest member of the team, beat Broadbent completely.

This downfall permitted the admittance of Whitehead Iveson, upon whom the faith of the Birstallites in the main rested. After being the subject of a narrow escape the first ball, he settled in the best manner, evidently recognising the fact that the runs would have to be piled on in no uncertain fashion if his sixers were to be returned the victors. As a consequence 76 appeared after fifty minutes play, and the 100 was put up at ten minutes after three o'clock. Juby and Iveson were still together, and once more the Birstall people belied their reputation of "Calving quiet," their enthusiasm breaking out at every available opportunity. Meanwhile Greenwood had been hopped to ball, and at 102 Juby was nicely caught by Hall at point, for a well earned and correctly played 35.

W. Nelson, the hero of the Lascelles Hall encounter, was next received. This batsman, who