

BATLEY AND DISTRICT NOTES.

(By King-Crow.)

At last one is able to find that cricket has been possible. The summer, however, still seems a long way off, and there is some reason in the argument of a devotee of the Batley bowling green to the effect that we are now on with our fourth successive winter. We shall have to live in hopes that very speedily the calendar will arrange itself, and the good people at the weather office will act accordingly. By the way, I have a note this week from Percy B. Coates, the old Batley cricketer, who has just passed a somewhat stiff examination. He is still with a firm of surveyors and auctioneers at North Curry, near Taunton, Somerset, and amongst many other things, he writes:— "We commenced our season's cricket on Wednesday last when we opposed a strong team, amongst which were Tyler, Robson, and Hardy, the Somerset County men. The former caught and bowled me for 4. Ben Lodge (also of Batley) made 15. Needless to remark we lost easily. Ben took the bowling prize last year, and I have had the batting average every season since I came. Footer has gone off, and I employ my time in winter putting on flesh."

Overcoats were absolutely indispensable at Mount Pleasant on Saturday when Batley and Ossett made an effort to play their fixture. It was a miserable afternoon, and spectators and players alike must have longed for the firm side and an easy chair, to say nothing of a good cigar. Ossett had choice of innings, and put together 61, at which period the game was abandoned. Preston Ineson showed that his bowling had lost none of its deadliness, for he took the first seven wickets that fell, and in the end he had seven wickets for 36 runs. Wilson took two wickets and Joe Auty one. Wilfrid Auty, who is still suffering from an injury he received on the football field, in addition to a very severe cold, was a spectator. Captain Gale ought to be complimented on the part he took in the disposal of the Ossettonians. For the latter, decent form was shown with the bat by J. Glover 24, J. F. Radley 18, W. Turner 15.

The Batley and Ossett second teams were rained off. At this period the visitors had made 79 for four wickets. F. Townsend 25, and H. North 16, were the not-outs, and seemed fairly well set. A capital batting exposition was given by Kenworthy Blackburn, who put up 26 before he was caught.

Livingstone Mills' premier eleven scored a very

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A LUCKY DRAW.

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In the matter of weather, cricketers have now to be thankful for small mercies. It was actually possible on Saturday to play time out in the match between the premier elevens of Morley and Batley at Morley. The home side had a rare time with the bat, and consequently the visitors' bowling averages will have been considerably spoilt. G. Glover and D. Marsden opened the account for Morley, and remained in partnership until 39 had been scored. Then a fine connection ensued between Marsden and T. Blackburn.

Runs did not come very quickly, but the bowlers seemed able to make but small impression upon the batsmen, both of whom played good cricket. Eventually, after being at the wicket for an hour, Blackburn was bowled by Willie Settle for 34, with the score at 117 for two. Marsden's excellent innings of 79 was next brought to a termination by a good ball from W. Avison. S. Brooke added 18, and then Preston Ineson was put on a second time. He met with a good deal of success, for his last three overs yielded three wickets for a couple of runs, and with the total at 163 for seven, Morley decided to adopt the closure.

Batley's task was, of course, an impossible one, so their efforts were concentrated on the one idea of a draw. When it is remarked that they had four wickets down for 10, it will be understood that their chances of bringing about such a result were very remote. At the opening of the innings there remained for play an hour and twenty minutes.

Allen Blackburn did a good deal towards stopping the rot, and he received capital assistance from his elder brother, G. H. Blackburn. Ultimately, the former was disposed of for 17, and the latter was bowled for 15. The result was that when Joe Wilson joined Preston Ineson, there were eight wickets down for 49, and a quarter of an hour still to play. The position was interesting. The batsmen went about their work very carefully, their sole idea being to maintain their stumps intact, for the only remaining batsman to go in was Ben Brearey, who had very kindly agreed to play as substitute. However, Ineson and Wilson proved equal to the occasion, and when stumps were drawn, Batley had two wickets still in hand, and the match was drawn.