

TODMORDEN CHAMPIONS AGAIN.

Second Time in 42 Years.

A THRILLING WIND-UP TO SEASON.

Surely there can have been no better or more sensational illustration of cricket's glorious uncertainty. In a sea of bewilderment one does not know whether Enfield do not deserve greater praise than Todmorden, for Enfield slew the giants in their own den and confounded the whole of the clubs in the Lancashire League, none more than Todmorden, to whom the result came as almost incredible.

Todmorden were engaged at Church, whom they had defeated at twenty-three minutes past five. Play had been exceptionally quiet and the result aroused little enthusiasm. Everyone naturally considered that Nelson could not possibly avoid being champions for the third season in succession. The news had already been broadcast on the field at Church that Enfield, after a disastrous start, had made 121 and that Nelson had made about 60 for five—none too good a position, it is true—but had then carried the total to 90 without further loss. To all and sundry, it seemed that Nelson even then were morally champions. When the next broadcast came—that Nelson were 107 for nine—the crowd became agog with excitement; it all came suddenly like a bolt from the blue. At six o'clock excitement became frenzied; Nelson 107 all out; Todmorden Champions!

The President of the League, Mr. E. Crabtree, along with Mrs. Crabtree, Mr. Wm. Barlow, J.P., of Ramsbottom (the secretary of the League), and the Cup, arrived at Church shortly before seven o'clock, and the presentation ceremony was performed to the accompaniment of loud cheers.

The Todmorden players and officials afterwards boarded the bus and travelled to Burnley, via Enfield, where they saw two or three of the Enfield players, whom they congratulated upon their success. At the Thorn Hotel, Burnley, the Todmorden players and officials were generously entertained to dinner by the captain, Mr. R. Sutcliffe, after which they left for Todmorden in an open motor coach which had been chartered for the occasion. From Portsmouth they were driven slowly down the valley to the Town Hall, where a huge crowd gave them a tumultuous home-coming.

A civic reception was accorded them by the Mayor and Mayoress (Coun. and Mrs. J. Healey) and members of the Council, speeches being made by the Mayor, Mr. Harold Sutcliffe (the chairman of the Cricket Club), Mr. R. Sutcliffe, and Todmorden's popular professional, Fred Root. The speech-making over, the players continued their motor tour of the district along Halifax Road as far as Stansfield Mill, thence to Fielden Square and then back to the Town Hall, where they were entertained to supper by the Mayor and Mayoress. A hectic night's proceedings concluded a little after eleven o'clock.

PRESENTING THE CUP.

Mr. Ed. Crabtree Agreeably Surprised.

said, "being skipper than being a pro. I will leave you in a quandary. We have won the cup. Now what can you ask more." (Applause.)

WHY TODMORDEN CANNOT KEEP ON WINNING!

Mr. Harold Sutcliffe, the chairman of the committee of Todmorden Cricket Club, in

body who has been so kind to me this year, and when I go home next week I shall have many happy memories and shall look forward to next April and later to a similar position and the same cup."

The players drove through the streets with the cup and were later entertained by the Mayor and Mayoress in the Town Hall. The toast of the Mayor and Mayoress was proposed by Mr. Harold Sutcliffe, to which the Mayor replied.

A CHURCH DEBACLE.

Last Pair Double Total.

TODMORDEN'S quest for two points in their last match of the season at Church was accomplished in a most careful manner, a little over three hours being sufficient to enable them to inflict a seven-wicket victory. Church won the toss and went in to bat on a wicket which, it was presumed, would play fairly easily. The attack of the champions-to-be, however, proved much to good for the majority of their batsmen, but this was due to no small extent to the rather half-hearted manner in which they faced the bowling. Whitnam appeared to get much assistance from the pitch; the ball at times went through disconcertingly fast, while now and again it reared up awkwardly.

CHURCH IN HOT WATER.

Church ran into trouble from the second ball of the match, and for an hour and twenty minutes they were constantly in hot water. Haworth, who was first to go, fell to an easy catch in Root's leg trap, and then Savage, after he had struck a ball from Whitnam for four, had to leave in the amateur's third over; he flicked a ball into the slips, where Mitchell brought off a marvellous one-handed catch inches from the ground. Mitchell, by the way, helded smartly throughout the game. Root's first three overs were maidens, but his fifth was in striking contrast, a two, a three and a single being scored. It was not long before Whitnam dealt another severe blow to Church, for at 19 he clean bowled Roberts, the New Zealander, who this week has set sail for his native country. Duckett struck too soon at a ball from Root which appeared to come off the bottom of his bat and hit him on the chin. Immediately afterwards he lifted a ball to long-on, where Whitnam, running with his back to the wicket, succeeded in grasping the ball but not retaining it. When Burns faced the Todmorden professional for the first time he played a ball

BOWLING		WICKETS			
		1	2	3	4
TODMORDEN					
Root	21	19	59	8	
R. Whitnam	15	5	23	3	
W. Sutcliffe	5.4	1	15	1	
CHURCH					
Roberts	11	1	31	3	
C. Roberts	6	4	7	0	
H. Walmsley	6	0	35	1	
J. Wright	3	2	7	1	
S. Duckett	2	0	11	0	
W. Burns	2	0	13	0	
R. Coupe	2	1	10	1	
H. Cornthwaite	1.1	0	2	0	

ROOT DERIVED.

His Fe Record.

TODMORDEN'S success in winning the championship in so small a measure due to the devoted service of Fred Root, who has exceeded the expectations of his most ardent cricket-lovers. During this, his season in Lancashire League cricket, Todmorden has taken on a new life, reminiscent of the palmy days of "Bill" Hitch was professional. Root proved his sterling worth in unusual fashion and has set an example which any player could not do better than emulate. His enthusiasm has been contagious, and whether as batsman or coach his main concern has invariably been in the interests of the club. Doubtless, his aggressive bowling—not taking into consideration his play at the net—has had an exhilarating effect upon the team as a whole; Todmorden's batting has certainly been much more active to watch than for many seasons past has put his heart and soul into his play, and a characteristic which cannot be washed too much has been the spirit of fairness which he has always displayed. He must surely be one of the most popular professionals Todmorden have ever had, but then is this to be wondered at?

To obtain one hundred wickets in his first season in the Lancashire League is in itself a feat upon which he can feel justifiably proud; he and "Bill" Merritt, the New Zealander, are the only players who have accomplished that at this year. His exploitation of his leg trap theory has brought him into much prominence and it can be said without fear of contradiction that the tactics which he has adopted have met with remarkable success. He started the season only moderately good, of course, to the unfavourable state of the wickets, but since May 20th he has been successful in every

wickets, or an average of 13. The runs against an average of 13 year's record of an average of 100 runs in 100 matches. The 100 runs were made at Centre Todmorden rescue a point. In all games which have been held a day would, with a prolongation of play, victories; these at home with (next we be rem highest total of against East La contrast, the low who, by the way have taken three The highest score been 257 for the other team has fifteen matches of missed for under 51 by Rawtenstall believe, have so league matches a surely worthy of course, was that partnership with field's profession scored 77 at Tod match of the se burton scored 53 ing performances those of MacDona wickets for 28, an son finished with Todmorden first fourteen matches, ing them 36 poi they were said record was playe 11, points 25. The results of as follows:—

- April—
- 22—W. Haslingden
- 29—D. Enfield
- May—
- 6—D. Colne
- 13—D. Ramsbot
- 20—W. Ramsbot
- 24—W. Enfield
- 27—L. Nelson
- June—
- 3—W. Nelson
- 5—W. Haslingden
- 9—D. East La
- 10—L. Bacup
- 12—W. Lowerho
- 17—D. Bacup
- 24—D. Lowerho
- July—
- 1—W. Accringto
- 4—W. Rawtenst
- 8—D. Burnley
- 15—L. Colne
- 22—D. Accringto
- 29—D. Rawtenst
- August—
- 5—W. Burnley

