

IN FINE PARTNERSHIP  
SYKES CUP FINAL  
AT FARTOWN

By ROVER

TODAY was a big day for Honley, who were making their first appearance in the Sykes Cup Final at Fartown. Elland, who supplied the opposition, have had previous experience of the occasion, having won the trophy in 1935. Many fancied this well-balanced eleven again today, but Honley's success in this season's competition had fired the imagination of legions outside the Holme Valley, and they had a host of supporters in the crowd.

It was unfortunate that they had to take the field without the services of G. Hobson, who made 52 against Kirkburton in the semi-final.

Otherwise both teams were at full strength, and the independent onlookers anticipated an interesting game.

The teams were as follows:—

Elland: W S Hammond, F H Sykes, W L Drinkwater, A Hodgson, N Holt, H Outram, A Shaw, H Sutherland, T Thornton, J Wilkinson, and W Dennis.

Honley: J F Thornton, H Webster, C Sykes, K Sykes, B Brooke, H Heeley, L Green, F Ball, D Booth, R Hollingworth, and N Greaves.

It was fine but dull and cloudy at the start which was five minutes late. Considering the recent rain the wicket seemed remarkably firm, but the outfield was on the soft side.

We had not long to wait for a sensation. H. Outram, who opened with T. Thornton, Elland having won the toss, was out in curious fashion from the fourth ball sent up by R. Hollingworth. There was a click and the Honley stumper, seventeen-year-old Douglas Booth, appealed apparently for a catch, but he did not hold the ball. Evidently a catch was not the grounds of appeal for all the players gathered round the wicket, one of the balls having been dislodged. Both umpires were consulted and eventually Outram had to go, bowled without a run on the board.

ELLAND GO CAUTIOUSLY

The position called for caution, and with Drinkwater as Thornton's partner runs came very slowly. Thornton placed Hollingworth neatly to leg for a single, but Drinkwater was not all comfortable against the fast bowler. He put one very flukily over the slips, and then in Webster's next over Thornton lived miraculously, for he was beaten to the wide world with a ball that whipped in very quickly from the pitch.

Ten went up after twenty minutes' play, and immediately afterwards Thornton glanced Webster to fine-leg for the first four of the match. The same batsman had a neat leg cut for 2 off Hollingworth and was now getting fairly into his stride.

Meanwhile the crowd, which was small at the start, was assuming larger dimensions, and people were still coming in.

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With the score at 28, scored in thirty-five minutes, F. Hall relieved Hollingworth at the Spains Road end.

Ten runs had been scored off Hollingworth.

The new bowler pitched them well up, but he had a ring of fieldsmen on the boundary, and the batsman resisted the temptation to hit.

Thornton, the sixteen-year-old Elland batsman, was, as expected, proving a difficult man to dislodge. He has the remarkable average of 101 for the four previous Cup rounds, having scored 18, 61, 70 not out, and 53 not out, so Honley were concerned about his present progress, for he had scored 24 out of 38, when L. Green went on for Webster at the football end.

### SLOW CRICKET

Drinkwater promptly pulled the slow left-hander for 4. It was a short-pitched ball and received no more than its deserts. The cricket continued very slow, and Honley, toiling manfully, for a second wicket introduced B. Brooke for Hall.

Both batsmen had overcome the early shock, however, and seldom seemed in difficulties. So far only two shots had reached the boundary—a tribute to Honley's well-placed field, aided by the slow outfield. No sooner had this been written than Drinkwater got Brooke finely round to the leg boundary—his second 4 of the match.

The 50 went up after an hour's batting, and both batsmen were now definitely seeking runs. They were keeping well together, Thornton having scored 29 and Drinkwater 28 at ten minutes past three, when the crowd was estimated at about 3,000.

Clifford Sykes was applauded for a fine piece of fielding, picking up cleverly with the left hand and saving a certain boundary. So far the crowd had seen little to rouse their enthusiasm, and a solitary voice exhorted Elland "to liven things up a bit," but the batsmen remained unperturbed.

They went on their way serenely until Thornton had a lovely shot to the square-leg boundary at the expense of Brooke.

Hollingworth now went on for Green at the football end, and Drinkwater promptly put him through the slip fieldsmen for a four and a single. The light was now better than at the start, and the sun had made one or two efforts to smile on the proceedings.

### PARTNERSHIP BROKEN

Hollingworth had not long to wait for a wicket. In his second over at his new end he had Drinkwater clearly leg-before. The score had been raised to 79, and Drinkwater had made 39 good runs. His stand with Thornton was most valuable for Elland, and Hollingworth did a piece of good work for Honley when he broke up the partnership.

Koi was the next batsman, and the second ball he received from Webster, who had taken over the attack from Brooke, was dispatched to the on-boundary—a full-blooded stroke. In Webster's next over Thornton opened out and got the Honley "prop" away to the long-on boundary—another notable shot.

Then came a big blow to Elland. What the Honley bowlers could not do the bats-

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"prp" away to the long-on boundary another notable shot.

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The third wicket fell at 94, and with Shaw taking a couple of quick boundaries off Hollingworth, 103 went up after an hour and forty minutes' grim cricket.

Brooke for Webster was the next bowling change, but Shaw had come in with favours for no-one and he soon pulled the news bowler to the square-leg boundary. This was aided, however, by misfielding on the boundary.

### TWO MORE WICKETS

Shaw continued on aggressive lines, and quickly overhauled Holt, who seemed to have been upset by the running-out incident. All the bowling came alike to S/w, who had two fine 4's in one over off Hollingworth—one a healthy drive past mid-off and the other to the on boundary.

Holt was encouraged by this enterprise and had a fine drive through the covers for 3 off Brooke. At 129 Hall resumed in place of Hollingworth, and most immediately met with success. Shaw hit out once too often. He did not get properly hold of the ball which Sykes caught at the second attempt, running in from a position near deep square-leg.

So Elland had four down for 132, and F. H. Sykes, one of the heroes of the semi-final game with Slaithwaite, arrived to fill the vacancy. He at once saw Holt smartly taken behind the wickets by D. Booth, off Hall, and five wickets were down for 138. This was good going for Honley, but what an array of batsmen Elland possess when Hammond comes in number seven!

The light had again deteriorated.

### ELLAND

H Outram	b Hollingworth	0
T Thornton	run out	45
W L Drinkwater	lbw b Hollingworth	39
N Holt	not out	11
A Shaw	not out	13
Extras		4
Total for 3 wks		112

