

THE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL.

SOWERBY BRIDGE VICTORIOUS.

PRESENTATION OF THE TROPHY.

As we detailed in our editions on Saturday, the final tie for the possession of the Halifax Parish Challenge Cup took place in the afternoon on the Thrum Hall ground, and resulted in Sowerby Bridge being victorious by four wickets after an interesting struggle, which was witnessed by a fine "gate."

After the match a big crowd assembled in front of the pavilion to witness the presentation of the cup and medals by the Mayor (Alderman Wade). Over this ceremony Mr. James Clarkson presided, and was supported by Colonel Foster, Mr. J. Walshaw, and others. Owing to other Mayoral duties, Alderman Wade was somewhat late in arriving on the scene, and the President, calling upon him to make the presentation, thanked the people for their patience. The beautiful cup, which occupied a prominent position in the front of the stand, had been filled with champagne.

The Mayor said the Cup was first put up for competition in 1888, and that was the 17th final. It had been won five times by Halifax, four times by King Cross, three by Elland, and one each by Greetland, Shelf, Stainland, and Triangle, and that afternoon it had been won for the first time by Sowerby Bridge—(applause). The committee hoped this would encourage young clubs to join the competition and endeavour to follow the example of Sowerby Bridge. For many years he had taken a deep interest in cricket. He had been rather restless during the day about Yorkshire, but was happy to say they had scored nearly 500 runs in the second innings—(applause). It was the best possible game for the people; it contained all that was manly. Yorkshire for many years had held a proud position. He congratulated Sowerby Bridge upon their victory. The Cup was for the whole parish. All the committee desired was that there should be good cricketers in the parish, and the day might soon come when the County Club would come into the parish for one or more players—(applause). He congratulated Booth on getting so close to the winning point, and he trusted next year they would be the winners. The Mayor then handed the Cup and gold medals (one for each player) to Mr. Hatton, the captain of the Sowerby Bridge team and told him to be prepared next year to lose the trophy.

Mr. Hatton, accepting the Cup and medals, said everyone thought it was about time Sowerby Bridge won the Cup, for they had been in the competition from the beginning and had been in the final three times. Booth had played a good game and had accepted their defeat in a sportsmanlike manner—(applause).

The Mayor drank the health of Mr. Hatton, and the latter paid the same compliment to the captain of the Booth team.—Silver medals were handed over to the Booth captain for his team as runners-up.

The Mayor was thanked for his services on the motion of Councillor Hulmes (Sowerby Bridge), seconded by Mr. Pollard (Booth), the latter of whom said Booth would not let Sowerby Bridge get off so easily next time—(laughter).—The Mayor, responding, advised them to stick to the game, for it was manly, free from all that was bad; it was the game of the true gentleman.

There was the usual merry-making and the victorious players drove off in high glee.

The victorious team in joyous mood drove home. They were met at the end of Willow Hall-lane by the Sowerby Bridge brass band who accompanied them round the district, the trophy being held aloft. They proceeded up West-end, along Broad-street and down Sowerby-street to the Town Hall tavern, where the cup was filled (and emptied) once or twice.

This is the first time Sowerby have won the cup, though they have tried every year since 1888, when the competition started. They have been in the final three times and in the semi-final six or seven times.

Fred Wynne, a member of the Todmorden first team of cricketers, has joined the Rochdale borough police force, and he will therefore leave Todmorden, or at least his services cannot longer be relied upon as a player. He is a good fast bowler, and will be an acquisition to the Rochdale police team.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

SIDDAL ST. MARK'S v. ILLINGWORTH ST. MARK'S.—At Siddal. Scores:—Illingworth: Huestwick, b Barker, 20; A. Priestley, st Taylor b Thomas, 0; Pickles, c Noble b Graydon, 23; E. Halliwell, b Graydon, 0; J. Priestley, b Graydon, 0; Hirst, b Barker, 3; E. Halliwell, b Graydon, 1; Withnan, b Thomas, 0; B. Hinchcliffe, c Bottomley, b Thomas, 0; Horsfield, b Graydon, 0; J. Hinchcliffe, not out, 0; extras, 12; total, 65. Siddal: Thomas, not out, 29; Hoyle, c Hinchcliffe, b E. Halliwell, 14; Taylor, b E. Halliwell, 0; Bottomley, lbw b Hinchcliffe, 3; Noble, c and b Horsfield, 13; Rundle, not out, 2; extras, 5; total for 4 wickets, 68. Bowling analysis for Illingworth:—Thomas, 5-1 over, 1 maiden, 16 runs, 3 wickets; Murray, 6-3-12-0; Graydon, 7-3-17-5; Barker, 4-1-8-2.

STAINLAND v. ELLAND UPPER EDGE.—At Stainland. Scores:—Stainland: Barker, c Broadbent, b Gledhill, 3; Nutton, c Dyson, b Gledhill, 3; Dransfield, c Farrar, b Gledhill, 42; Frank Cookson, c Rushton, b Briggs, 4; Fred W. Cookson, b Dean, 39; Shaw, c Dean, b Briggs, 10; Baddeley, c Holroyd, c Briggs, 0; Stott, b Briggs, 2; Whiteley, c Bottomley, b Farrar, 47; Smith, not out, 13; Wheelwright, b Briggs, 3; extras, 15; total, 181. Elland Upper Edge: Broadbent, b Cookson, 0; Dyson, b Whiteley, 0; Rushton, b Whiteley, 4; Dean, b Shaw, 9; Briggs, c Baddeley, b Cookson, 21; Gledhill, b Shaw, 1; Farrar, not out, 20; Holroyd, c Stott, b Smith, 32; H. Halwood, c and b Stott, 4; Bottomley, b Stott, 0.