

Spen Victoria Make Cricket History By Winning Priestley Cup.

First Team To Win Both Cup and League Championship In Same Year.

Another Fine Performance By Pope, Backed By Excellent Fielding.

Spen Victoria Cricket Club realised one of their ambitions on Saturday when they defeated Yeadon at Park Avenue, Bradford, in the final of the Priestley Charity Cup, thus becoming the first team to win both the championship of "A" Division and the Priestley Cup in the same season. Spen's performance was all the more meritorious because it was only at the end of last season that they were promoted into "A" division as a result of heading "B" division.

Spen owed their victory to the performance of George Pope, their professional, who is to play with Colne next season. He was top scorer in the game with 76, which were scored at a critical period, and was worth many more runs, for the outfield was dead owing to conditions, and it is significant that he had only one four—and this off a no-ball—in his contribution, but he had 19 twos and six threes. He was dismissed as a result of a good catch by Bateson, who appeared to juggle with the ball and finally caught it only inches from the ground. Pope followed his batting performance by taking six wickets for 36 runs in 14.4 overs (three maidens), and captured the first five wickets when only 20 runs were on the board. He received excellent support in the field from other members of the side, and particularly from H. Waterhouse, who fielding at short leg, took three catches.

Pope thus ended his present career with Spen in a blaze of glory. He bowled his first few overs at a fairly fast speed, quickly finding a spot which made the ball "kick," and it was when they were making defensive strokes that players like Harris (Notts), Berry (Leicestershire), and Swift were caught by Waterhouse.

When the first five wickets had fallen Pope shortened his run, and did not bowl at his usual speed, but he had the other batsmen, except Fisher in difficulties. A. Booth bowled very steadily throughout Yeadon's innings, being very accurate in his length, and he finished the game with four wickets for 39 runs in 18 overs (three maidens). The fielding of all the members of the Spen side reached a high standard, very few runs being thrown away, the catch taken by Melling which dismissed Fisher, the Yorkshire player, was one of the high-lights of the game. Fisher pulled the ball to the leg side, but Melling running several yards at full speed, managed to take it safely. This occurred when 64 runs were on the board for six wickets, and was one of the turning points in the game.

BAD START.

Spen, who had won the toss when the match should have been played on August 19th, opened with Sykes and Hamer. Sykes took the first over from Jim Smith, the Middlesex fast bowler, and was given out l.b.w. off the third ball he received. This was indeed a bad start, but Hamer and Melling held the fort against Smith and Fisher until 42 runs were on the board, when Hamer was l.b.w. to Smith for 17. Smith had twice previously confidently appealed for l.b.w. decisions against Hamer but these had been turned down. Hamer and Melling did not score at a very fast rate, and only 30 runs were made in the first hour, and a four all-run by Hamer was greeted with applause. Hamer, who did much to take the sting out of Smith's bowling, was at the wicket for an hour and a quarter.

Melling was joined by Pope, and it was he first named who sent the 50 up after thirty minutes with a leg drive off Smith, but then he was well caught in the slips by Harris off Smith, for a most valuable 3.

H. Waterhouse took the vacant position, but he was never comfortable, and particularly against Fisher, who was sending down some accurate deliveries but he managed to stay and allow Pope to do the scoring. Maud relieved Smith at 65, and Pope greeted this bowling change by hooking 12 off the first over sent down by Maud. The first two hours also

SPEN CONGRATULATED.

The trophy and prizes were presented to the winning team by the Lord Mayor of Bradford (Alderman W. H. Barracough), under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Foster (President of the league). Mr. Foster, after announcing that the gate had been £22 18s. 6d., making £465 for the two days, and that a collection for the Red Cross had realised £28, mentioned that over £10,000 had been contributed to local charities since the competition had been inaugurated. He complimented Spen on their success, saying that everyone who had seen the game would admit their captain had done a good thing by winning the toss. There was no doubt that both teams had given a wonderful exhibition of cricket, and Spen's success throughout the season had been due to their brilliant fielding. After sympathising with Yeadon, Mr. Foster described Pope's performance as brilliant, and added that excellent fielding had contributed to his success.

Alderman Barracough referred to the generosity of the late Sir William Priestley in giving the cup for competition, and mentioned he recently had a letter from Lady Priestley in which she stated she was still interested in what was happening in the city.

Mr. C. Sykes, in receiving the cup, said they would know how delighted he was to accept the trophy. He was a great believer in good fielding, for he thought that it was in that way that cricket matches could be won. He was sorry for Yeadon who had given Spen a good game, but not as good as was expected. Spen had had two of the best professionals in the league in Pope and Booth. They were sorry Pope was leaving them, but their loss was some other club's gain.

Mr. H. Hutchinson, captain of Yeadon, congratulated Spen on their success.

Mr. H. W. Rigby (President of the Spen club), in proposing thanks to the Lord Mayor, said Spen had previously appeared in the final against Eccleshill but lost. Spen had done remarkably well to win the cup, and had done better than the most optimistic thought they would do. Spen had had a very good fielding side for the past two years, and the bowlers had been well backed up.

Mr. G. T. Denton (President of Yeadon), in responding, referred to the value of cricket as a relaxation in war-time. The players of his club were not down-hearted because they had lost, for they knew they had had worthy opponents in Spen.

Maintenance Order Against Scholes Man.

At the Bradford West Riding Domestic Court on Monday, Elizabeth Brown, of Tabs Lane, Scholes, applied for a maintenance order against her husband, Thomas Brown, on the grounds of desertion and neglect.

Mr. R. M. Priestley, for the applicant, said the couple had been married 23 years and had five children, all of whom were married. They lived reasonably happy together until last Easter when her husband met a Mrs. Sugden, a widow who had a daughter aged 17. Since then he had lived at this woman's house as her