

CENTURIES IN SUCCESSIVE INNINGS

Bridgeholme player creates League record

ERNEST TRAVIS, a member of Bridgeholme's "A" team, brought a fitting conclusion to the 1955 season of the Hebden Bridge Cricket League last Saturday, when he created a new record for the league by knocking up a century against Cape Asbestos. This followed his previous week's performance of 115 against Luddenden Foot St. Mary's. As far as can be ascertained this is the first time during the league's existence that a batsman has scored 100 in successive innings.

Travis's performance capped a successful season for the Bridgeholme side. They have won the league championship and the league knock-out competition. Last Saturday they scored 225 against Cape Asbestos, who replied with a creditable total of 182. For Bridgeholme, T. Hartley took six for 68, whilst Cape's S. Turner had a return of six for 72.

The most notable bowling performance of the afternoon was that of W. Reeve (Friendly), who claimed four Heptonstall Slack "B" wickets in four balls to finish with five for 14. This feat gave his side victory, despite a six for 13 performance by Slack bowler Barry Pugh.

Old Town "A", runners-up to the champions, dismissed St. Mary's for 124 and replied with 126 for six. Their "B" team had a close call against Bridgeholme "B", for whom J. Sykes claimed five wickets for 30 runs, and they were dismissed for 77. Bridgeholme were two short when the last wicket fell, R. Biggins, senr., taking five for 14.

Birchcliffe secured a seven wicket victory over Heptonstall Slack "A", who were all out for 42 runs, thanks to R. Gill's five for 15.

A re-arranged game between Cape Asbestos and Heptonstall Slack "B" resulted in two points for Slack. Cape made 84 (N. Metcalfe six for 38), whilst Slack had two wickets standing when this score was passed. G. Lee bowled well to take five for 36.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bridgeholme A	18	15	3	0	33
Old Town A	18	14	1	3	29
Old Town B	18	11	0	7	22
Hept. Slack A	18	7	2	9	16
Birchcliffe	18	7	1	10	15
Bridgeholme B	18	7	1	10	15
Cape Asbestos	18	7	1	10	15
Hept. Slack B	18	6	1	11	13
Lud'Foot St. Mary's	18	6	1	11	13
Friendly	18	4	1	13	9

SEEKING HIGHER CLASS CRICKET

Bridgeholme Club admitted to Halifax League

BY 15 votes to 12, Bridgeholme Cricket Club were admitted to the Halifax League at the annual meeting on Tuesday evening. The application of the club was approved after a long discussion concerned mainly with travelling distances and the condition of the Bridgeholme ground at Eastwood, Todmorden.

For the past few seasons Bridgeholme have been members of the Hebden Bridge Cricket League, and at Tuesday's meeting their representatives stated that the club had been carrying all before it in this league and wanted to enter a higher class of cricket. It was stated that if elected to the league work would begin on the ground to bring it up to any standard set by the league. In addition, a new pavilion would be erected.

There were 40 to 50 playing members, and there were about 30 boy members, whom in the interests of establishing good club cricket in the village, they were anxious to cater for and retain. The ground measured 100 yards by 60 yards.

A proposition that the league remain at 20 clubs was defeated by 19 votes to 13, and Bridgeholme's application was approved by 15 votes to 12. It was decided that Bridgeholme's membership should be of 12 months and that its continuance should be dependent on how their intentions to improve the ground and its amenities were fulfilled.

EARLIER START OF GAMES

On the proposition of Bradshaw Cricket Club it was decided that matches begin at 2.40 and finish at 8 p.m., allowing for an interval of 20 minutes.

King Cross wrote stating that they could not use the ground at Highroad Well Barracks next season for second team matches. They had been unable to find an alternative ground, and unless the league was prepared to accept second team fixtures on mid-week evenings they would have to resign from the league.

A proposition that King Cross should remain in the league, playing second team fixtures in mid-week, was carried nem. con.

SUDDEN DEATH OF Mr. PERCIVAL SOWDEN, J.P. Church worker and progressive educationist

MR. PERCIVAL SOWDEN, J.P., Bridgeroyd House, Eastwood, a prominent local industrialist, civic, social and church worker, died suddenly at his home last Friday night, shortly after returning from two meetings at Calder College for Further Education, Todmorden. He had been extremely active in many spheres. His death will leave a great gap in the life of the community, and his place at the head of many organisations will be difficult to fill. The facts of his death were reported to the Coroner, who, after receiving a medical report, decided that an inquest was unnecessary, and that death was due to natural causes.

Aged 73, Mr Sowden was a native of Hebden Bridge. He was the youngest son of the late Mr John Sowden, of Slater Bank, a member of the family firm of blacksmiths, who carried on business in Cross Street, Hebden Bridge. Twice married, his first wife, formerly Miss Gertrude Moss, a daughter of the late Mr James Moss, Town Clerk, Mytholmseyth, died early in 1933. In July last year Mr Sowden married Miss Lydia Greenwood. In addition to his widow, he leaves two sons and a daughter, all married. John, the youngest son, is at present in Lagos, Nigeria.

AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONIST

A man of somewhat slight stature, Mr Sowden, for the greater part of his life, had displayed an extraordinary vitality. In addition to business interests, he threw himself wholeheartedly into many spheres of public life and social work, and could be counted as one of the most outstanding educationists which Calder Valley has ever produced. He was a man of unusual mental ability, had a very lively mind, was extremely well read, and possessed the ability to express himself on a wide variety of subjects with great lucidity. All his life he had been a keen student, and at all times was ready and eager to pass on his knowledge to others, especially to young people he came in contact with. As a chairman of administrative bodies, he had exceptional ability, and for this reason, various organisations which he served requested him year after year to preside over their deliberations.

EXHIBITION WINNER

Mr Sowden received his early education at Stubbings School, Hebden Bridge. He was a junior and senior scholastic winner under the Heptonstall Exhibition Foundation, and continued his studies at Bradford Technical College and Manchester University. He then joined the staff of Messrs. Moss Bros. Ltd., dyers and finishers, of Hebden Bridge and Eastwood. During the 1914-18 he managed the Linc Mill dyeworks, and on the death of Mr Frederick Moss, became manager at Bridgeroyd. Later his work over the managing directorship of the extensive concerns. He had also been a director of the English Fawcett Manufacturing Co., and at the time of his death he was chairman of the Hebden Bridge Master Dyers' Association, a position he had held for many years.

EXTENSIVE PUBLIC WORK

At a very early age Mr Sowden took up public work. For 41 years he had served on the education committees in the Hebden Bridge district, and had been chairman of the Calder Divisional Education Executive since its formation in 1945. He was chairman of the governing body of Hebden Bridge (Secondary) Grammar School, later Calder High School, from 1923 until 1949, and after a break of five years, again took over the chairmanship last year. He also served as a member of the Hebden Bridge and Dis-

trict Technical Education Committee, and as a member of the Elementary Education Committee. He spent a great deal of time visiting local schools, and took a very close interest in the welfare of the scholars, as well as being actively interested in every aspect of educational administration. He represented the Divisional Executive at many county and national education conferences, and on his return invariably gave a well informed report of these events. No one in this area had a better grasp of the intricacies of the national Education Acts, and at the last meeting of the Executive a fortnight ago, he pleaded that as any scheme of re-organisation of local government, the claims of education must be given a foremost place. In 1943 Mr Sowden was co-opted a member of the West Riding Education Committee, and his views were always listened to with interest at County

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Funeral of Mr P. Sowden

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Hall. Since the death of County Councillor Fred Hirst, J.P., he had been a member of the County Libraries Committee, the last two years having served as chairman. He was keen that this department of county work should be extensively developed.

For a long number of years he had been chairman of the Heptonstall Exhibitions Foundation.

Appointed a West Riding Magistrate in 1937, with a seat on the Todmorden Bench, Mr Sowden presided at court on many occasions. In 1943 he succeeded Sir Charles Robertshaw as chairman of the Juvenile Court.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Throughout his life Mr Sowden took a broad democratic outlook, and many years ago actively associated himself with the Labour Party. He served the party in many capacities, and for a period was a member of the Sowerby Division Labour Party Executive. At election times he was an active platform supporter of the Labour candidates. On many occasions he was the main speaker at public meetings up and down the division. In local government work Mr Sowden's service was confined to a short period as a member of Blackshaw and Erringden Parish Councils. On two occasions since the last war he twice fought the Hebden Bridge Division in the County Council election, but was the unsuccessful Labour candidate.

Mr Sowden's work for old people in the district was held in high esteem. For years he held office as president of the Hebden Bridge branch of the Old Age Pensioners Association. Three weeks ago he was chairman at the annual meeting of the branch. On that occasion he put in another plea for improved pensions for old people.

Among many other offices held at various times by Mr Sowden were those of chairman of the Hebden Bridge Employment Committee, president of Sowerby Division Conference of Youth, and president of the Hebden Bridge Lawn Tennis League.

FOUNDATION MEMBER OF LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

He was a foundation member of the Hebden Bridge Literary and Scientific Society, and for a long period was one of its most active leaders. He held the position of president for a number of years, and in appreciation of his work for the society was invited to take a leading part in the jubilee celebrations. In the early days he often lectured, particularly on literary subjects. At the time of his death he was a trustee of the society. Mr Sowden played a big part in the formation of the literary section of the society, and when the dramatic section was formed he displayed another aspect of his talents by taking leading parts in the productions at the old band-room, the Co-operative Hall, and later in the Little Theatre.

THE MOURNERS

Family mourners were: Mrs. Sowden (widow), Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bentley (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. N. Sowden (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. T. Greenwood and Mr. Smith.

The bereaved were Messrs. R. Clark, M. Hattley, G. Clayton and J. Horzfall employees at Bridgeroyd Dyeworks.