

ARMITAGE SHIELD

Almondbury Wesley's First Success

Almondbury Wesley, who met Outlane at Blakeborough's ground, Clifton, on Saturday in the final of the Armitage Shield, batted first and were soon in trouble. They suffered an early set-back when Curry was out lbw before he had scored. Wickets continued to fall quickly, and only Nichols (28) could do anything against the bowling of Rhodes and Tansey. These two bowled unchanged, keeping up a steady and keen attack. The Almondbury total eventually reached 52. Rhodes took six wickets for 20 runs, and Tansey three wickets for 30 runs.

Outlane made a bad start, losing Pearson before he had scored. After this set-back the batsmen began to offer more stubborn resistance. The Almondbury captain at length effected a bowling change, and the game took a sudden turn. Crawshaw took himself off and switched Rice over to that end, and Nichols was brought into the attack at the other end. Nichols met with early success, and then after a few overs Crawshaw again took over. Rice continued to bowl with the advantage of the slope. The bowlers, backed up by first-class fielding, kept the Outlane batsmen on the move. Finally, amid great excitement, Stead was bowled by Rice, and Outlane had failed to reach their opponents' score by ten runs.

Rice took six wickets for 16 runs and Nichols three for 9.

Mr. F. H. Oldham (Parkside) presided at the presentation of the shield, which was handed to the Almondbury captain, H. Crawshaw, by Mr. C. B. Brotherton (on the staff of Messrs. Blakeborough).

Mr. Oldham recalled the fact that the league had been in existence for fifty-two years. On receiving the Shield, the Almondbury captain remarked that the Wesley Club was formed in 1921, and after seventeen years had achieved its first success. He felt extremely proud of being the captain of a team which had made history for the club. A vote of thanks to Mr. Oldham, Mr. Brotherton and Blakeboroughs (for the loan of the ground) was moved by the Almondbury captain, and seconded by the Outlane captain, C. Haigh. Scores:—

Almondbury Wesley.—H Curry lbw Rhodes 0, W Nichols b Rhodes 28, C Longbottom b Rhodes 2, W Schofield b Rhodes 7, H Loft b Rhodes 0, H Jowitt lbw Tansey 1, H Crawshaw c Haigh b Tansey 5, K Eastwood b Rhodes 0, L Sowden b Tansey 3, J. Brook run out 4, H Rice not out 0, extras 2;—total 52.

Outlane.—R Pearson c Eastwood b Rice 0, R Cole c Schofield b Nichols 12, A Bottom b Nichols 9, R Blackburn c Eastwood b Rice 0, V Thornton c Brook b Nichols 5, G Rhodes c Loft b Rice 0, W Pilling c Sowden b Rice 0, W Tansey c Jowitt b Crawshaw 5, H Haigh lbw Rice 1, J Stead b Rice 5, C Charlesworth not out 4, extras 1;—total 42.