

CRICKET NOTES.

The Idle Club have secured the services, as professional for next season, of Hemingway, a young Lancashire cricketer. He comes with a good reputation, and if the success with which he bowled against Spen Victoria and Bingley can be taken as a test, the Idle Club have received a good man, as in both games he bowled unchanged throughout the innings and captured fourteen wickets.

H. Riley, of Idle, the left arm bowler, who has been engaged at Sheffield during the season just expiring, has been engaged by the Colne Club for next season. During the past season, Riley has bowled with great success, having taken over 100 wickets at a cost of a trifle over seven runs apiece.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The annual general meeting of the English Rugby Union, which will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, to-morrow (Thursday) night, is likely to prove of greater interest and importance than any previous gathering of the Union.

The suggested new rules in regard to professionalism were formulated by the Committee some time ago, and copies despatched to all the clubs who are members of the Union.

This code of rules with some modification will be adopted by the delegates at the meeting. It is claimed that the code makes manifest a sincere and determined attempt to deal with professionalism in all its forms.

If this step should prove to be the forerunner of disaster to those hot-headed southerners who practically rule the roost in the Rugby Union, they will only have themselves to blame. The severe rules laid down by the Committee have already been the means of the formation of the Northern Rugby Union.

To those bigoted and narrow-minded members of the Rugby Union it may not appear to be a great blow that twenty-two of the best clubs in the North of England have seceded from the Union.

It may be that they are glad to get rid of the men who have helped to thrash their so-called southern teams, and it will give them a chance of the championship of the counties.

If the new rules are enforced, no loop-hole is left for an accused and guilty club to escape the ban of professionalism.

Not only is payment for broken time vetoed, but there is a law against a man remaining "on tour at his club's expense longer than is reasonable."

The tour of the Manningham Club to Paris, and the great publicity which was given to the fact that some four or five days were occupied in the visit, suggested the clause.

There is no mention of the large sums paid by the Bradford Club to the so-called pure amateurs from the south, who, besides taking a good share of the gate money, would insist on having champagne dinners and driving to the match in a four-in-hand drag.

The expense of a visit from these southern clubs is so great that no northern club can afford it.

The law against any member taking part in any benefit match shows the mean spirit of the men who have taken more money when

on tour than has been taken in any benefit match.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire clubs have in times past been the means of helping many a young fellow who has had the misfortune to have happened an accident. Under the new laws there will be no such cases of charitable action in the future.

There will be no breaking away from these rules, or expulsion from the Union will follow. There is a proviso that in a case where the offence is shown to be of an "accidental, trivial, or technical character," discretion as to the penalty is retained by the Union.

So drastic are the new rules, that refusal to give evidence, or to assist in carrying out the rules, clubs will be placed in the professional ranks.

There are several other important subjects, such as the rearrangement of the County Championship scheme; but the great and overwhelming question will be the action of the Union in respect of the northern clubs.

The Northern Union—while seceding from the Rugby Union, and adopting such an attitude of defiance as is comprised in playing during the close season, and the payment of players for broken time—does not countenance professionalism proper; indeed its rulings have shown a disapproval of professionalism. But the spirit of southern Rugby football is so violent that no moderation such as the new body has practised will be of the slightest avail. Whatever the Rugby Union may say or do, the Northern Union is now formed on a firm basis.

The attitude of the committee in refusing permission to play to the Lancashire players who were declared professionals last season, has given the greatest satisfaction to all those who wish well to the new Union.

Holden, the smart Bradford forward, who had his shoulder dislocated against Wakefield, hopes to be in harness again in about three weeks' time.

Judging from the crowd at Park Avenue on Saturday, which did not fall far short of 3,000, the association game has taken a strong hold of the Bradford football followers.

The amount taken at the gate was considerably more than the committee expected, being about £40.

The Bradford men showed up well, especially at half-back, the Bros. Thorne and Shepherd playing a grand game. Mensies who played centre forward shot two beautiful goals. Matthews and White also scored, in

fact the play of the whole team was of a very high character and certainly surprised the spectators.

The Manchester men played a fairly good game, but were too slow, the home team playing a very fast game. Gulland, McMorraine and Clare tried hard to escape defeat.

There has been a big rush on season tickets for the Avenue ground. Last Saturday all that had been printed were sold, and the secretary had to take the money and promise to send tickets by post.

The seats for the guinea members are nearly all taken up, and as the number is limited, those who want one had better look sharp.

The Huddersfield team turned out in new colours on Saturday last. The hose adopted by the club is very striking, with claret-coloured jerseys, with white collar, with the borough arms worked in gold fastened to the left breast. Blue coloured pants and claret-coloured stockings completed the outfit.

Eastmoor are under suspension until the close of the year for professionalism.

The "close time" as ordained by the Rugby Union ends in time for matches on Saturday next.

Leeds (Association) team have been drawn to meet the Grantham Rovers at Headingley in the English Cup Competition.

If club secretaries will kindly send in tickets and fixture lists at once, the Football Editor will be exceedingly obliged.

Huddersfield opened their season on Saturday by lowering Wakefield's colours to the tune of two goals to nil. The small boy Breadale showed himself worthy of his hire. I mean position at half. Alert and sure, he as useful a man as any in the team, judging by Saturday's display. The new "Flyer" Boothroyd scored a try. Pearson, another new mechanic scored also and showed promise of a good 'un.

"Captain Harry" is as good as ever and I wish him luck.

Wakefield have 3 changes in the back division. Walton, an international forward is a worthy acquisition to the pack. The attendance was exceptionally good.

The Northern Union enables Hunslet to play during the first half of this season. Parkside was suspended by the Rugby Union until December.

How any club in Yorkshire can evade all the professional laws in the new code is more than one can anticipate.

Some of the amateur clubs will do well to be careful how they enlist players.

The English Cup, the emblem of many a grand struggle in Association play was entrusted by the holders, Aston Villa, to a supporting shoemaker, and some enterprising shop breaker has made off with it. The affair has caused a great sensation in Association circles.

Some doubt is expressed as to whether T. H. Dobson will again turn out with Bradford. It is rumoured that he is going back to his old club Bowling, and that he may "change pubs."

Murgatroyd, who was said to be an Idle player this year, is expected to reappear in the Bradford ranks in a week or two.

A Bradford man suggests that the English Union, instead of hoarding up their funds—which now reach several thousand pounds—

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