

NEW PAVILION FOR HARTSHEAD MOOR C.C.

OPENING CEREMONY.

LT.-COLONEL MOWAT AND AMATEUR PLAYERS.

A new pavilion for the Hartshead Moor cricket field was opened on Saturday afternoon by Lt.-Colonel A. L. Mowat (president of the club) in the presence of a large attendance of visitors and members. The building is of brick with roof of best Cumberlan slate, and consists of a tea room with kitchen and a dressing room on either side. The partitions separating the dressing rooms from the tea room can be removed, and the building will fill a long-felt want in the district, where the lack of a suitable hall for public and social gatherings has been a drawback for many years. It will also considerably add to the amenities of the club, which has made considerable progress during recent years, included in the large attendance at the opening was Mr. T. R. Taylor (president of the Spen Victoria Club), and many representatives from Heckmondwike. Apologies were received from Mr. W. Darnborough (president of the Yorkshire Cricket Council) and Mr. H. Knowles (secretary). In opening the building Lt.-Colonel Mowat made some interesting references to the question of professionalism in local cricket, which were heartily approved.

REFERENCE TO THE OLD DAYS.

Mr. Herbert Ramsden presided, and expressed his pleasure at being invited to take part in such a red-letter day in the history of the club. It was 40 years last April since he played his first match, and he sometimes wished present players of the club could see the conditions under which old members played. The playing pitch was about 40 yards square in the centre of the field and was wired round, with big pillars at the corners. Mr. Harry Wilkin-son and other members of the team had to remove these and prepare the pitch before they could start playing. All the work on the field had to be done by the players without any outside help, and he often wished there was as much enthusiasm amongst players to-day. (Hear, hear.) He was not only referring to the Hartshead Moor Club, for he thought there was more enthusiasm amongst their players than those of any other club, but to players generally. They always held before them the ideal of trying to make that club one of the best in the district. (Hear, hear.) They had had a struggle, for at first they were hardly considered good enough to play Scholers, but now they had fixtures with all the best clubs in the Spen Valley. He hoped they would hold their present satisfactory position, and this could be done if they all remained united in their efforts, and all continued to work disinterestedly for the benefit of the club. (Applause.)

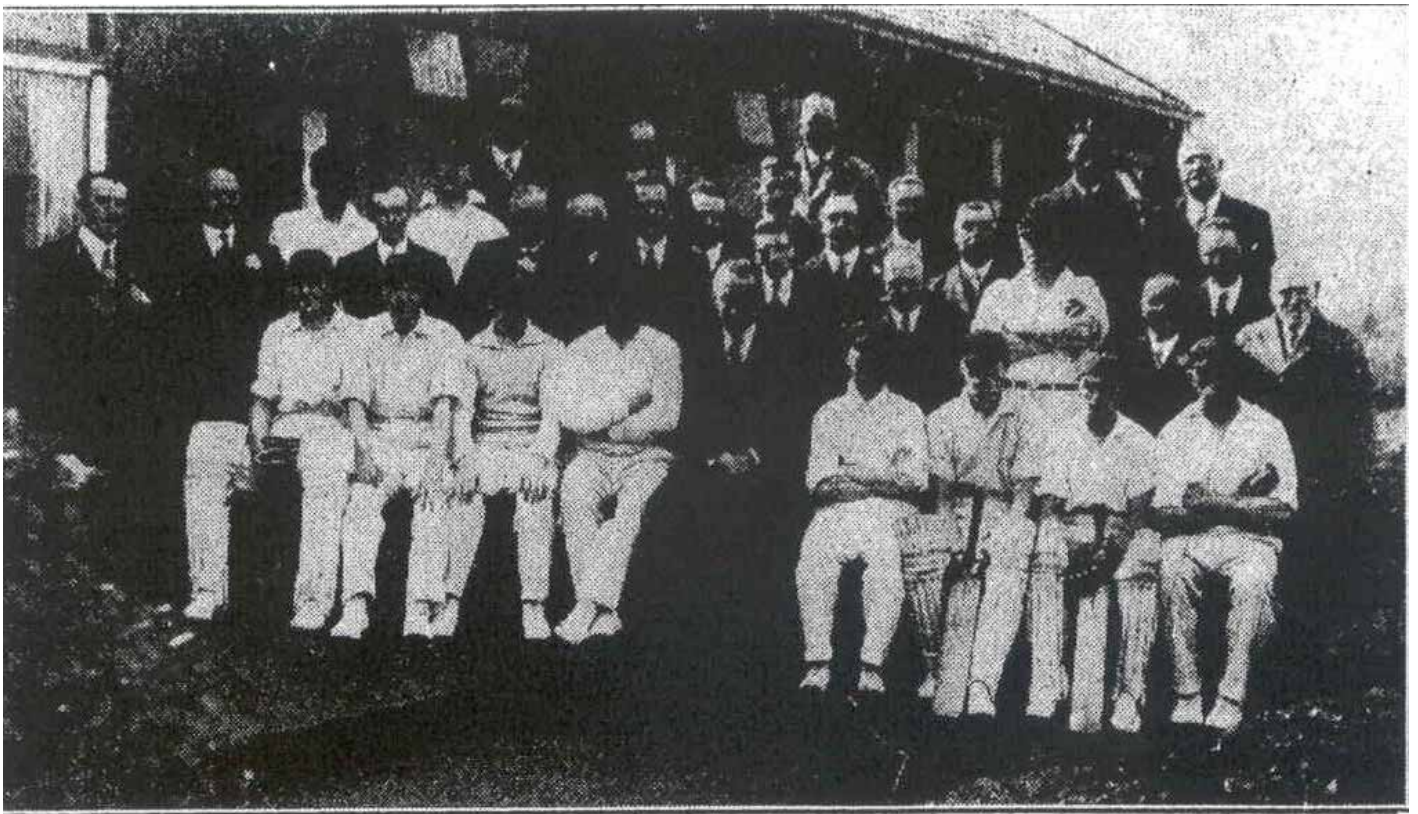
BUYING LOCAL PLAYERS.

Lt.-Colonel Mowat, who was heartily received, said he was very pleased to see Mr. Taylor and friends from Heckmondwike in that gathering, for he believed that the future of local cricket depended very largely upon the friendly relationships between clubs. (Hear, hear.) They were all delighted to welcome the president of Spen Victoria Cricket Club and also representatives from Heckmondwike. Since he became president of the Hartshead Moor Club it had always been a pleasure for him to take part in anything connected with it, because it was essentially a club which was doing its part in keeping alive the grand old English game of cricket. (Applause.) It existed for no other purpose, and there were few clubs that carried on their business in such a happy way, and there were very few which received greater support from its members and the residents in the district and in which such a friendly spirit

existed in anything connected with it, because it was essentially a club which was doing its part in keeping alive the grand old English game of cricket. (Applause.) It existed for no other purpose, and there were few clubs that carried on their business in such a happy way, and there were very few which received greater support from its members and the residents in the district and in which such a friendly spirit existed between the committee and players. He was not exaggerating when he said they were indeed a very happy family. (Applause.) As long as those happy relationships continued between all sections he was sure the club would prosper and go on its headway. Another reason why he was glad to be associated with the Hartshead Moor Club was because, in spite of all its difficulties, it had continued to be a solely amateur club. (Applause.) He hoped the club was not far distant when all local clubs, at any rate, would adopt this principle and play an amateur game. It was very disappointing, and he thought altogether wrong, for a club to suffer when they had a season. A prominent member of the committee recently said to him "It's a bad thing when we have a good year." He regretted that that was somewhat difficult to understand, and the committee-man then explained that when the club had a good year various clubs in the district tried to get their players away from them. That was hard lines, but the Hartshead Moor Club had experienced that kind of thing in the past and would do so again. He did not say anything about the players who went to other clubs—they could not blame a working man for accepting a good offer from another club—but he said in all seriousness that it was not in the interests of local sport for local clubs to go round trying to buy local players. (Applause.) When a batsman of the Hartshead Moor Club went out to bat he did not go in order to earn his wage but to play cricket for his wife and for the honour of his club. If he was out first ball he had nothing to regret. He had done his best and had no need to say "I have not earned my money." He hoped that the financial difficulties of clubs would eventually stop this sort of professionalism, which was spoiling cricket, and if that was the case financial difficulties would prove to be a good thing. In declaring the new pavilion open he hoped that it would be the means of providing good accommodation for the players and supporters and also ensuring recreation for the members during the winter months. He would like to refer to the assistance the club had received at all times from the ladies. (Applause.) He ventured to suggest that if it had not been for the support from the ladies committee, and which they anticipated would continue in the future, they would not have embarked on such a bold scheme. They were indeed grateful to the ladies for the support which they had so loyally given for so long. He was glad to say that they did not in any way depend upon the takings of the bar to run the club, and that the takings from that source were negligible. He hoped that they would continue to be able to depend on the type of refreshments supplied by the ladies rather than on those from the bar. (Hear, hear.) They could only do that if they met the same generous support in the future as they had in the past from all who were interested. He congratulated the club on having such a building, and he hoped it would assist them in still further improving on the efforts of the older members who had done so much for the club in the past. (Applause.)

HECKMONDWIKE ENDORSEMENT.

Mr. B. Hayes, one of the oldest members of the Heckmondwike Club, congratulated the Hartshead Moor club on having purchased their own field and on their enterprise in building that handsome pavilion season after completing the purchase. He heartily endorsed the remarks of Colonel Mowat and said he was in favour of the whole of the clubs in the district playing under amateur conditions. In his opinion, if this could be done it would be better for the players and all connected with any club. He hoped the time would not be far distant when the principles suggested by the president would be put into practice throughout the Haver Wootton District. He had been a follower of cricket ever since he attended Sunday school, and had been a member of the Heckmondwike club since the seventies. He had played for both elevens, and right throughout his career had taken a great interest in the Heckmondwike club. He had spent some happy days in following local cricket and thought that the enjoyment he had derived from following Heckmondwike, especially in later years, had helped to prolong the life of his wife and himself, and had done more than a doctor in keeping them in good health. It also provided them with a change of environment and helped them to form many happy friendships. He hoped this happy state of affairs would continue for ever. He was one of the oldest and most honourable members of England. On behalf of the Heckmondwike Club he had much pleasure in extending congratulations to the Hartshead Moor Club on their new building and on their success in purchasing their own field.



HARTSHEAD MOOR CRICKET TEAM, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS, photographed at the opening of a New Pavilion as reported on page six.



A. Crossland, H. Walker, J.H. Spence, W. Wilson, Lt. Col. A.L. Power D.S.O., M.C., H. Wilkinson, F. Brown, A. Barber, J. Frost,
 C. Booth, W. Wood, H. Smedley, H. Brooks, W. Womersley, J. Kirby, A. Sykes.

HARTSHEAD MOOR C.C. FIRST XI 1928. OPENING OF NEW PAVILION. AUG. 25TH.