

Descendants of the 'Grumblers' gather at hotel

DESCENDANTS of 'The Grumblers' gathered with their medals at a Holme Valley hotel.

Holme Castle Country Hotel has a rare photograph of the Holmfirth cricket team which won the league championship in 1910—and put the famous 'Grumbling Committee' well and truly in their place!

The medals were cast 76 years ago, after Holmfirth had won the cup despite the grumblers from the committee.

J and J W Longbottom's foundry in Holmfirth struck the seven iron medals, which were presented to committee members after Holmfirth's cup-winning performance.

And perhaps the last surviving member of the crowd that saw the team lift the cup was written to the Express, describing the day itself!

Eighty-eight-year-old Ho-

By **GRAHAM LAWTHER**

race Hawkesworth, who played for Holmfirth after the First World War, describes the years before the war as "the champagne years" for Holmfirth cricket!

"I well remember the 'Grumblers Medal' and the men who formed the committee," writes Mr Hawkesworth, who lives on Haggroyd Lane, Brockholes.

And Mr Hawkesworth also remembers the medals being on display in the window of the drapery shop Coldwell and Battye on Victoria Street, which is now a supermarket.

"I must be one of the few people left who saw that championship game, which was between Holmfirth and Golcar and was played on the Paddock ground."

Mr Hawkesworth was a boy of 12 at the time, and

walked all the way to the ground to see the match.

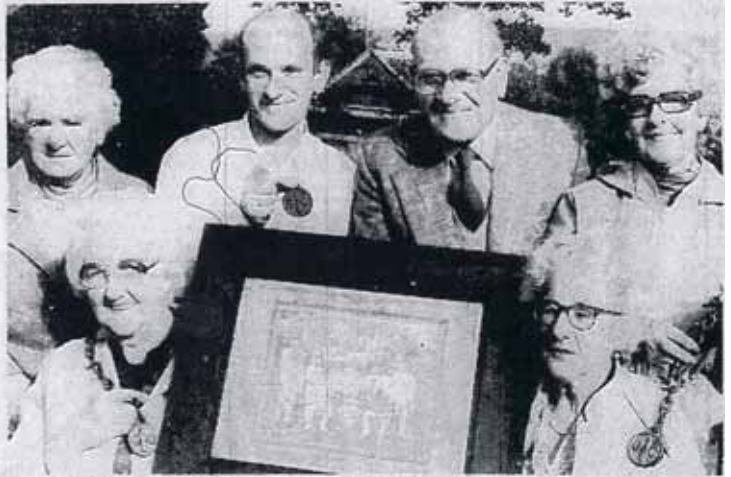
"Golcar batted first and scored about 120 to 130 runs. Holmfirth won the match with the last batsmen in, A Robinson (capt.) and Fred Sandford, elder brother of Joe Sandford."

"They were carried off the field shoulder high by the Holmfirth supporters. It really was the most wonderful occasion."

"Those years before 1914 seemed to be the champagne years, and we boys regarded players such as Joe Haley, Frank Howard, Bill Ellis, Joe Mellor, Lewis Rollinson, Vince Clough and Leonard Sandford of Underbank as among the immortals."

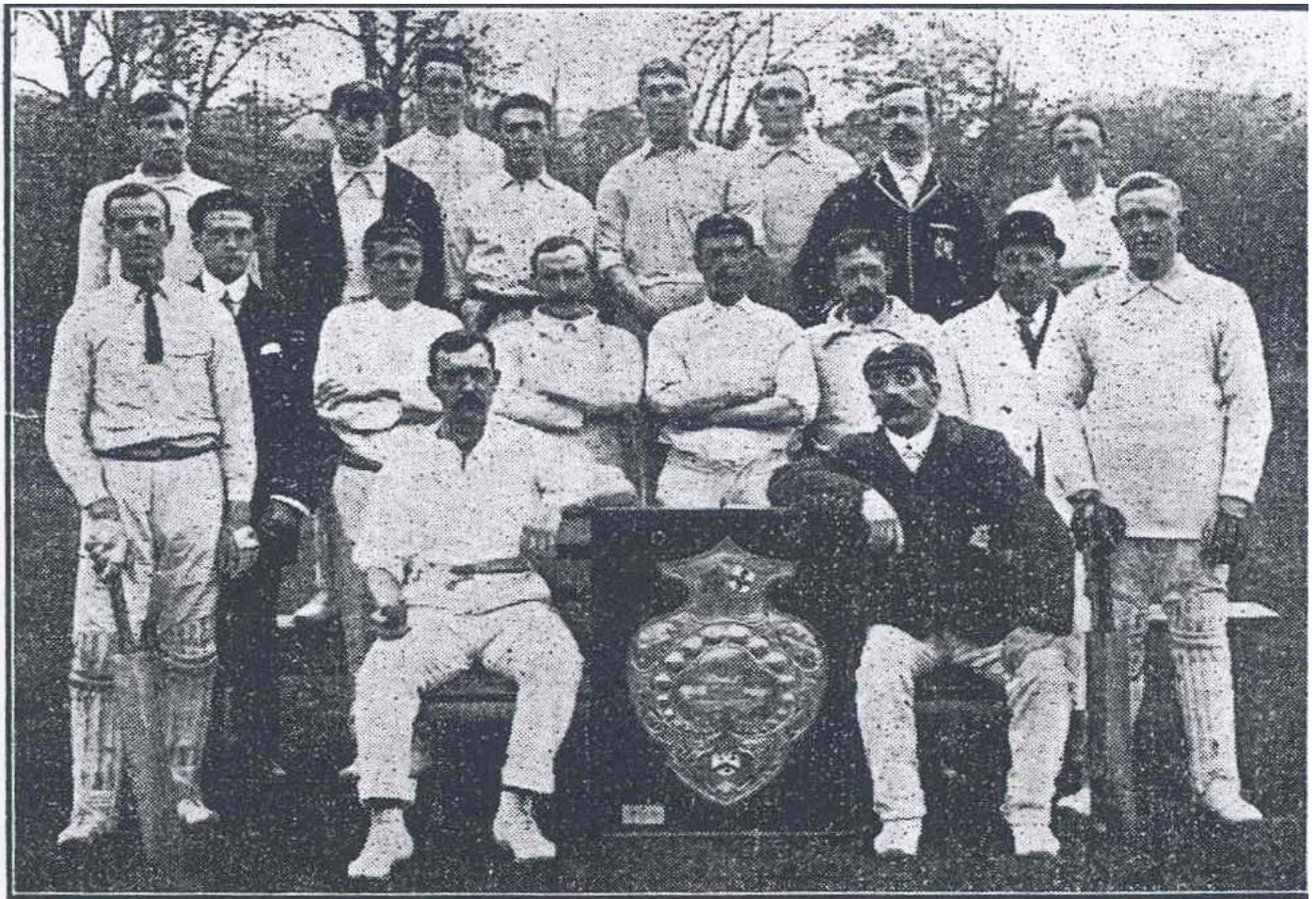
"Sam Fletcher, the Golcar pro, so nearly beat us in that memorable final with his spin bowling."

"What a game, what a memory!"



Descendants of the Holmfirth Cricket Club's "Grumblers"—Phyllis Taylor, Nellie Rollinson, John and Frank Sandford, Mavis Broadhead and Dora Robinson—with their medals. The old photograph is of the winning 1910 team which proved the "Grumblers" wrong

Photo: Malcolm Howarth



Holmfirth Shield Winners, 1910.

Back Row (left to right): F. Sandford, H. Thornton, G. Booth, L. Robinson, H. Wagstaff, J. Brook, J. R. Collins and J. A. Littlewood.

Second Row: V. Clough, H. Booth (Scorer), J. Mellor, H. Hobson, H. Braithwaite, J. R. Hogley, C. A. Hoyle (Umpire), F. Howard.

Front Row: W. Ellis (Prof), (Byrom field), and A. Robinson (Capt.)