

Three founders at Golden Jubilee dinner

THREE founder-members of Almondbury Wesley Cricket Club—Charlie Dawson, Johnny Schofield and Willy Schofield—were among about seventy members and guests who celebrated the fiftieth year of the club at an anniversary dinner at Marshall's Cafe, Almondbury, on Saturday evening.

And during the evening the name of another founder, the late Vincent Dawson, was assured of a continuing connection with the club when Mrs. F. Boothroyd presented a new trophy to the club — to be awarded annually for the best batting performance — in memory of her former husband.

Another trophy was presented to the club — the Huddersfield Cricket Association's Sharpe Trophy, awarded to the first eleven for having the best record over the last six matches of the season.

This trophy was presented by the Association president, Mr. A. Bottomley, who proposed the toast to Almondbury Wesley CC and recalled memories of early games between the Wesley club and his own club, Rastrick New Road.

It was obvious, said Mr. Bottomley, that over fifty years' existence the club owed a great deal to the voluntary efforts of members.

"All amateur bodies depend on a hard core of voluntary workers, and your list of officials shows this to be so in your case, for you have had only three secretaries in fifty years."

The club, added Mr. Bottomley, held a unique record unlikely ever to be beaten. In 1960, Almondbury Wesley fielded a team for one match which included a fifty-year-old, the late Alf McGough, and a twelve-year-old, Robert Moorhouse, representing an age span of forty-six years.

Game for players

The headmaster of King James's Grammar School, Mr. H. Taylor, who proposed the toast to Cricket, said that essentially the sport was a game for players. "In my view, spectators don't matter one little bit."

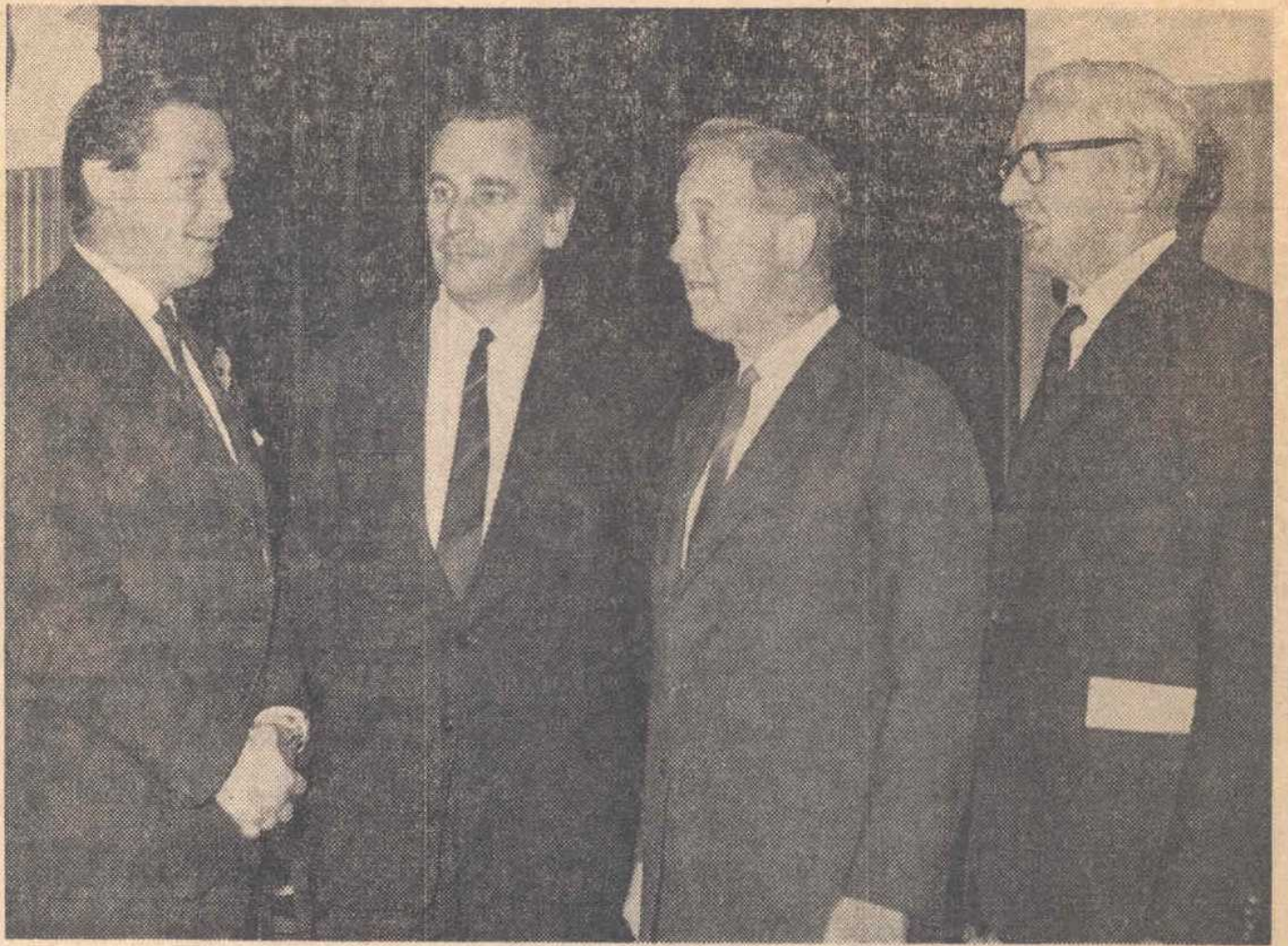
One of the problems facing the game was its future in the

schools "because we are definitely feeling the draught there."

The expense of equipment had to be justified, he said, and the question arose as to whether it was worth it. In and out of school, young people nowadays were attracted by a great variety of interests. "It is essential for clubs like yours, who feel this is a great game and must survive, to provide youngsters with the opportunity to continue playing the game."

The response to Cricket was made by the Vicar of Almondbury, the Rev. D. H. Boyling; and the Rev. G. W. Robinson, minister of Almondbury Wesleyan Church and president of the club, responded to the toast of Almondbury Wesley CC.

The toastmaster was Mr. G. A. Holmes.



Officials and guests at the Almondbury Wesley Golden Jubilee dinner, left to right: Mr. E. Shepherd, Rev. G. W. Robson (president), Mr. P. Crawshaw and Mr. A. Bottomley (Association president).