

Players promise full support

24.2.68

Cricket club to continue

HOLMBRIDGE Cricket Club found a new lease of life at an extraordinary general meeting held last week at the Commercial Inn, Holmbridge. Officials had convened the meeting to decide whether or not the Club should continue to exist, because at the annual meeting in December, and again at a meeting in January, insufficient interest had been shown by the members.

Opening the meeting, Mr. J. Kaye, who presided, commented that if the Club was to carry on they had to know how they were going to raise money, who would be prepared to stand on the committee which was at present under-manned, in fact who was going to do some work.

From a financial point of view, the Club was not in great difficulty, continued Mr. Kaye, but in the very near future it would be. Other clubs in the same position had "knuckled to" and raised some money, but whereas Holmbridge had been spending money, they had not been making any more to take its place.

"The trouble has been that Holmbridge had too much money and so more has been spent. We can't keep on for ever," he said.

They had two choices—to spend less, or raise more. Shortage of money prevented them from engaging a professional for the coming season, and they could not afford to employ a groundsman.

At the annual meeting insufficient members had been prepared to stand on the committee, but after the initial warning that the lack of enthusiasm might cause the club to disband, several members offered their services.

Officers

The committee was duly elected as follows: Messrs. J. Schofield, D. Senior, J. Booth, J. Kaye, R. Moorhouse, B. Halmshaw, T. Styring, F. Eastwood, H. D. Earnshaw, J. Figg, G. Battye, G. Hobson, R. Stacey, B. Lee, E. Branston, H. Clough, W. Taylor.

Rota system

It was suggested that Holmbridge should follow the example of other clubs—have a rota system whereby players took on the duties of groundsman. This would mean that each member's name came up two or three times a season, instead of a few having to do all of the work all of the time.

It was costing £300-£400 per annum to run the Club, said Mr. Kaye, and if members wanted to play cricket, they would have to do their bit towards keeping the ground in good condition. It was, after all, for their own benefit.

Seven players present at the meeting promised to take part in such a system.

Mr. Kaye said that in previous years players had paid subscriptions in addition to paying towards the club improvement scheme. This year the scheme would not be operating so they needed to fix a basic subscription for all members.

It was agreed that players over eighteen should pay £1 per annum, under eighteens 10s., juniors (under sixteen) 5s., and non-playing members 10s., these subscriptions to be paid by June 1st.