

# HOLMBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB'S CUP SUCCESS CELEBRATED



Standing: Terence Swift (scorer), H. Hinchliffe, J. Kaye, H. Schofield, J. Bowles, B. Beaumont and A. Carter.

Seated: E. Marsh, K. Jackson, R. Howarth (captain), W. Walker (pro.) and B. Clough.

(Photo by Bray & Son).

**T**HE Holmbridge Cricket Club's success in winning the Friend Allsop Cup in the Huddersfield Central Cricket League last season was celebrated with a dinner and social evening in Holme Bandroom last Saturday evening, attended by about one hundred people. Mr. E. Butterworth, president of the club, presided.

After an excellent dinner had been served by Messrs. H. Calam, Ltd., of Huddersfield, the Loyal Toast was proposed by Mr. A. Armitage.

Proposing the toast of "Holmbridge Cricket Club," Mr. Thomas Hinchliffe said that when one got to be over eighty years of age one's associations were with the past, not so much with the present, and one left the future to the younger generation. The most important incident he remembered in connection with cricket was the year that Holmbridge won the Lumb Challenge Cup, and Holme Band played the victorious team up from Holmfirth. In those days there were no buses, but horse cabs and wagonettes, and Tom Ridgwick was one of the famous fast bowlers. He hoped the Holmbridge Cricket Club would have a long and successful career and remain one of the leading clubs in the district.

Howarth said he was not going to argue about the abilities of cricketers of the past. It was a great pleasure to propose a toast to the presenters of the prizes.

Proposing a toast to the Central League, Mr. A. V. Alderson said the League was like a wheel with the village clubs as spokes. From the Holmbridge point of view he liked to keep their spokes solid and tight, and if they did that they would maintain the good name they held in the League.

He appealed to vice-presidents of the club to attend the meetings, as since the war it seemed to have been left to a few to keep the club going. New blood brought new ideas, and he believed that was what was needed.

Responding with a very witty reply, Mr. W. Noble, president of the Central League, paid tribute to the late Mr. Friend Allsop as a great sportsman. The League batting average this year had been won by a lad with an average of 103 runs per innings. Had the weather permitted Holmbridge to play all their matches he thought they would have been in a better position.

"It doesn't matter what runs you make, what wickets you take, whether you win or lose," he concluded. "What

...there was a cricket club in Holme in 1888, and he believed they played at Odessa. He himself had never achieved anything brilliant in cricket, but it was a pleasure to see Holmbridge winners of the Allsop Cup. The club had worked its way along, and it was a pleasure to see the ground was looking better than ever.

The president introduced Mr. Gibbon Barber to present miniature cups to the members of the team and a propelling pencil to the scorer, Mr. Barber said he was very deeply touched when asked to take on the job, and he thanked the officials for inviting him to do so.

### Enthusiasm in the Old Days

When he left school in 1883, he reminisced, the cricket field was opposite the Commercial Inn, and part of it was now taken up by the churchyard. When they moved to the new field about 1886 the members had to do all the donkey work, levelling the field, filling in a pond and building the wall along the riverside.

In those days, if the team got fifty runs they thought they had done well, and they generally won. When Scholes came to Holmbridge the home team scored only 35, and they thought they hadn't done so well, but they bowled out Scholes for 13.

He remembered going by wagonette to play at places like Thurstone, Denby Dale and Birdsedge, and they had to get out and walk up Sally Wood. They had a grand lot of followers, and he took his hat off to some of those who had gone, and who weren't scared of doing too much. He offered his best wishes to the club on winning the cup.

Another old member of the club, Mr. J. H. Heywood, said he could go back over sixty years. When the others got out to walk up Sally Wood, he said, there was always one member of the team who would not do so, and no amount of persuasion would move him. The team never used to bother about getting back, but always about getting there.

Mr. Heywood presented the Club's "Sportsman of the Year" Cup to Mr. J. W. Kaye.

### "Greatest Cricketer of All Time"

Mr. Frank Pollard, remarking that it was the most important thing in the whole evening, presented a silver tankard to "the greatest cricketer of all time in the district," Mr. Harry Hinchliffe.

Responding, Mr. Hinchliffe said it was a big surprise to him. He had always said that he started with Holmbridge and would finish with them. He had also said he would like to win the Allsop Cup, for Friend Allsop was a grand sportsman, and one of the best batsmen the Central League had ever had. He would always regard the tankard as the best trophy he had ever won.

Mr. Butterworth thanked the donors of the gifts and all who had subscribed towards them.

Expressing thanks to Mr. Barber, Mr. Heywood and Mr. Pollard, the captain of the first eleven, Mr. R.

### As Good a Team as any in the League

Mr. B. B. Shaw, League secretary, said he had been a member of League for 23 years, and it was stronger to-day than ever it had been. The two-divisional scheme had a great interest. He considered Holmbridge as good as any team in the League, but somebody had to go down and had to be Holmbridge. It was the playing members to rally round and get the club back into Section 1 where it belonged. He appealed to older members to support the younger players, and he suggested they have no better coach than F. Hinchliffe.

A toast to Mr. Harold Marsden, chairman of the committee, was proposed by Mr. B. Clough, vice-captain, who said some people knew Mr. Marsden as a vice-president, but not many knew him as an active member of the committee—"back boy." The committee had worked hard to provide the dinner that evening, and no-one had put more interest than Mr. Marsden, whose generous interest had got it going. He wished to thank Mr. Marsden on behalf of all the players who had been guests that evening.

Responding, Mr. Marsden thanked the team for bringing the trophy to Holmbridge, so making it possible for the dinner to be held. He would like to see the second team successful and he wished all the boys good luck in their cricketing next season.

### Toast to the Guests Honoured

A toast to the guests was proposed by Mr. G. Netherwood, who extended a hearty welcome, and hoped they would enjoy themselves. Mr. Beardsell was one of the oldest members, and they were proud to have him with them. Mr. Heywood had been connected with the cricket club for about fifty years and had been chairman for twenty years. Mr. Hinchliffe had always been very kind and generous to the club. The League officials were always welcome, and the club was honoured by their attendance, and also by the attendance of Mr. H. C. Beardsell, president of Holmfirth Cricket Club.

Responding on behalf of the guests, Mr. Beardsell thanked the club for the magnificent repast, and said he thought they had had quite enough speeches. He felt very injured at being called a guest, as he would have them know he was born within a stone's throw of the Bandroom, and as a boy used to go bird-nesting with Mr. Hinchliffe. Three very amusing stories were told by Mr. Beardsell.

At the conclusion of the evening Mr. Butterworth expressed thanks to the secretary, Mr. R. Moorhouse, and appreciation of his work in organising the function, and Mr. Moorhouse suitably replied.

During the evening entertainment was provided by Messrs. H. and C. Garside and Mr. and Mrs. F. Lockwood (vocalists), and Mr. H. Taylor (accompanist), and Mr. R. Howarth gave impersonations of several "stars" in excellent style.

