

*Report from 'The Huddersfield Daily Examiner',
Monday, September 28, 1903*

GOLCAR CRICKET CLUB

PRESENTATION OF THE SHIELD AND MEDALS OF THE HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE

The Golcar Cricket Club promoted a tea and entertainment on the occasion of the presentation of the shield won in the Huddersfield and District Cricket League, and of medals to the playing members.

The shield has been won twice by Huddersfield (1901 and 1902), twice by Holmfirth (1897 and 1899), once by Dalton (1900) and Meltham Mills (1898), and this year by Golcar.

After a very large number had sat down to a substantial and well-served repast in the National Schools, the entertainment was presided over by Mr. Arthur Shaw (in the absence of the president of the club Mr T. H. Ramsden). There were also in the platform the president and secretary of the Huddersfield and District Cricket League (Messrs. J. H. Noble of Primrose Hill, and H. Johnson of Huddersfield), County Coucillor J. Whiteley, Dr. Webster, and Messrs. T. W. Thorpe, D. J. Bailey, T. W. Fielding, H. H. Pearson, J. Whitwam, and W. E. Calverley. The National School was crowded.

Several of the items of the musical part of the programme having been rendered,

The CHAIRMAN said he was glad to see such a large attendance. He had received two letters regretting inability to attend. Their president (Mr. T. H. Ramsden) wrote stating that he was very sorry that he could not be present, as he (Mr. Ramsden) would like to have given a bit of advice to the Golcar lads, though, possibly, that might be thought to be unnecessary. It would not do (wrote Mr. Ramsden) to be always so successful, or the County Committee would be after their players, and Golcar Cricket Club would be placed in the same position as now occupied by such clubs as Lascelles Hall and Kirkheaton. He was proud of the club, and warmly congratulated the playing members on their success. (Applause.) Mr. J. L. Byromn (the donor of the shield), in his letter, wrote that he was pleased that the shield had been won this year by a Colne Valley club, and complimented the Golcar club on its achievement. (Applause.) Later in the proceedings, the CHAIRMAN said it was a great pleasure to him to have to offer a few words of praise about the players. The club commenced the season with somewhat gloomy prospects. Their last season's captain and one of their best bowlers had left them. Their migration gave their young members an opportunity, and right well they

had availed themselves of it. At the outset the Selection Committee selected twelve or thirteen players who should form the team if they displayed decent form. He was pleased that they had had little need for any change. They had all pulled and worked well together under the capable captaincy of Mr. T. E. Ashton – (applause) – who had been ably supported by the vice-captain Mr Dan Priestley. He was sure everyone regretted Mr. Priestley's absence that evening, on account of illness. They hoped he would soon be restored to health. They had made arrangements for Mr. Priestley to be included in the photograph of the team. (Applause.) He said that there was a very good feeling among the players. The fielding had been remarkable, and had well backed up the good bowling of the bowlers. The bowling had been well led by their professional, Mr. Peter Hall. (Applause.) Mr. Arthur Milnes and Mr. Harry Pearson also had come out well in the bowling, and had shown fine form. Not only had bowlers kept down the scores of their opponents, but there had been some excellent batting by members of the team. They had not been got out during the past season for under one hundred runs. They had displayed champion form. Twice had the team been "runners-up" for the shield, but this year had succeeded in winning it. (Applause.) They had played 26 matches, 13 of which had been won, 1 lost, and 12 drawn. The total number of points was 38. Golcar had scored 3,100 runs for 141 wickets, for an average of 21.129 per wicket; whilst their opponents had made 2,245 runs for 189 wickets, an average of 11.166 per wicket. Their highest score was 246 for six wickets against Marsden, and their lowest was 101 against Primrose Hill. Marsden had obtained the highest score against Golcar (203 for eight wickets) and Primrose Hill the lowest (52). He (Mr. Shaw) desired to refer to the splendid work done by their professional Mr. Peter Hall, who was a host in himself, and had been acknowledged the best bowler playing regularly in the League matches. He (the chairman) very much regretted that he was improving his position. The Golcar club wished him every success. (Applause.) Reverting to the club's performances, he said they were approximated in 1879, when they did not lose a match, but the cricket of that year was very much different to what it is at the present time, and he heartily complimented the Golcar players on their excellent work. (Applause).

PRESENTATION OF THE SHIELD

Mr. J. H. Noble (president of the League) said he performed the duty of presenting the Byrom Shield to the Golcar Club with very great pleasure indeed, He remarked that it was the most popular victory achieved by any club in the district, and on behalf of the Huddersfield and District Cricket League he heartily congratulated all concerned. He gladly handed over the shield to Mr. Ramsden. (Applause.)

Mr. HAROLD H. RAMSDEN (in accepting the shield on behalf of his father, Mr T. H. Ramsden, the president, and the other members of the committee), said he felt it a great honour to have to receive the shield. He

thanked Mr. Noble for his kind expressions towards them. He spoke of the magnificent form which had easily placed the Golcar Club at the head of the table. He was very sorry that Mr. Peter Hall, their professional, was leaving them, as he had done much to raise the club to the proud position it at present held. He was sure that Mr. Hall would go away with the heartiest good wishes of all the members of the Golcar club. (Applause.)

PRESENTATION OF THE MEDALS

Mr. NOBLE then presented, with encouraging and complimentary remarks to each recipient, the thirteen medals to the following players:- Messrs. T. E. Ashton (captain), Dan Priestley (vice-captain, to a representative in the audience), Geo. Wood, Wilson Knight, D. Hartley, Peter Hall (professional), H. Pearson, Albert Pogson, B. Beaumont, A. Milnes, A. Hinchcliffe, J. E. Singleton, and J. A. Meal, and also a medal to the scorer, Mr. Frank Pearson, who had been most diligent and efficient in the discharge of his duties.

The CHAIRMAN read out the batting and bowling averages for the past season, as follows:-

BATTING				
	No. of	not	Total	Av'ge
	In'ngs.	out.	runs.	
G. Wood	20	5	477	31.12
T. E. Ashton	21	1	549	27.9
W. Knight	16	5	280	25.5
P. Hall	20	3	282	22.8
H. Pearson	13	4	195	21.6
D. Priestley	20	2	361	20.1
B. Beaumont	15	6	158	17.5
D. Hartley	21	0	354	16.18
A. Pogson	9	0	128	14.2
J. H. Singleton	9	3	66	11
A. Milnes	5	3	20	10

J. Stubbings, L. Booth, A. Hinchcliffe, and J. A. Meal also batted.

BOWLING					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Avge.
P. Hall	344.2	100	703	99	7.10
A. Milnes	226.5	43	695	50	13.45
H. Pearson	111	21	370	20	18.10

A. Pogson, J. Stubbings, W. Knight, J. A. Meal, and T. E. Ashton bowled fewer than thirty overs.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the League gave fourteen medals, but the committee of the Golcar Club thought that they ought to present a medal

to their efficient secretary, Mr. Tom Norton. For twenty years he served the club as scorer, followed by a three years' service in the capacity of secretary. Mr. Norton had thoroughly earned that slight token of their appreciation, and had the good wishes and sincere gratitude of every member of the club. (Applause.)

County Councillor JOHN WHITELEY (vice-president) proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Noble for presenting the shield and the medals. He said he was very proud of the performance of the club. They thanked Mr. Noble for the kind things he had said about them. (Applause.)

Mr. T. W. Thorpe heartily seconded the resolution, which was enthusiastically carried.

Mr. NOBLE responded, and said that he had been delighted to be there that evening to confer a well-earned honour on the Golcar Club. (Applause.)

At the call of the Chairman,

Mr. H. Johnson (secretary of the League) offered a few remarks. He said he was thankful for the kind expressions towards the League. He had previously expressed the hope that the Golcar Club would win the shield this year, and he was glad that his hopes had been realised. He spoke in terms of high praise of the good cricket shown by their professional, Peter Hall. Referring to Mr. Shaw (the chairman), he said it had come to his (Mr. Johnson's) knowledge that Mr. Shaw contemplated retiring from cricket, on account of the claims of business. If Mr. Shaw retired from office it would be a very bad day for the Golcar club in particular and for cricket in general. He hoped that Mr. Shaw would not take the step that had been rumoured concerning him. Mr. Shaw had been a very hard worker for the League, and they sincerely hoped to retain his services. (Applause.)

Mr D. J. Bailey proposed that the thanks of the audience be accorded to the chairman. He alluded to Mr. Shaw's love for cricket and to his earnest and untiring efforts for it, and trusted that he would long continue his connection with the official element of the Golcar Club. (Applause.)

Without a formal seconding, the resolution was carried with acclamation

A capital entertainment was given by the following capable artistes:- Miss Kate Evelyn Sykes, Miss Ida Haigh, Mr. Fred Whiteley, Mr. R. Carter, Mr. W. E. Sykes, and Mr. R. T. Sykes (humourists), and Mr. Harry Pearson (the Yorkshire champion whistler). Mr. F. W. Bentley accompanied on the piano.

A very enjoyable evening concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

During the evening an uproar was caused at the rear of the room, through something or other known only to those who were near. A panic started. The chairman requested the audience to remain quiet and keep their seats. Then Dr. Webster exclaimed, "Stop; this is the way panics are caused. Sit down at once and be calm. All is right." This had the desired effect, and the proceedings of the meeting were resumed.

N.B. In the averages, it was common practice throughout cricket at this time for numbers to the right of the decimal point to be given as remainders, not decimals.