

*Report from 'The Huddersfield Daily Examiner',  
Wednesday, September 30, 1903*

**GOLCAR CRICKET & ATHLETIC  
CLUB**

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**COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO THE  
CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM**

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Following upon the presentation of the Byrom Shield to the representative of the Golcar Club and the medals to the players at the large and enthusiastic meeting on Saturday night, a complimentary dinner was given to the team on Monday night. Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hall, of the Rose and Crown Hotel, provided and served a splendid repast to about ninety gentlemen in first-rate style. Mr. T. H. Ramsden, the genial president of the club, presided, and he was supported by a large number of gentlemen well known in the cricketing world. Among those present were Messrs. G. H. Hirst, W. Rhodes (their last public appearance before going to Australia), S. Haigh of the Yorkshire cricket team; J. C. Broadbent, president of the Lascelles Hall Club; H. Johnson, secretary of the Huddersfield and District Cricket League; J. H. Noble, the president of the League; J. Hey, of Kirkheaton; J. H. Preston, of Meltham Mills; B. Langrick, of Armitage Bridge; W. Walker, of Holmfirth; J. Berry, of Lockwood, all past presidents of the League; G. Borwell, Honley; J. Clifford, of the H. C. and A. C. and president of the Northern (Football) Union; F. Moorhouse, of Warwickshire county; H. Denton, Slaithwaite, in addition to a large number of active workers and supporters of the Golcar Club, including Messrs. A. Shaw, Dr. Webster, H. H. Ramsden, D. J. Bailey, Tom Ramsden, W. E. D. Shaw (a former captain), H. E. Pearson, E. L. Taylor, T. W. Fielding, and R. Pearson.

The loyal toasts were given from the chair, and duly honoured.

Mr. SHAW read letters regretting inability to attend from Messrs. Lees Whitehead, J. Schofield, Alex Herd, J. Byrom, E. W. Milnes, A. H. Hopkinson, J. Tetlow, A. Pattorini, Joe Lumb, Wm. Broadbent, Robert Moorhouse, J. D. Crowther, and E. Hoyle.

The toast of "His Majesty's Imperial Forces" was proposed by Mr. G. BORWELL. He said that all true Englishmen had always pride in the glorious achievements of their Imperial forces. They had always confidence that whenever grim danger stalked abroad their troops would do their duty.

Mr. D. J. BAILEY responded, and said he did so for the first time in his life to that toast. He remarked that there was a great deal of criticism of

late about the way in which the army was managed. They could not all agree with all that was done at the War Office. They all hoped there would be a little more common sense shown and rather less red tape. He happened to serve for five or six years in the volunteer force in the uniform of our late Queen, and those years were among the happiest of his life. Next to Mr. Shaw he was the oldest member of the club. He was pleased to be there and to join in hearty congratulations to the team. They must all acknowledge that Golcar was a famous place. (Laughter.) They had produced champion cricketers, and they had sent out a number of good soldiers. He referred to several young men who had gone from Golcar, and had served with distinction in the army, one entered as a private and rose to a major; another gained distinction in India and a few served in the campaign in South Africa. Reverting to the volunteer movement he said it had always been popular in the village. Almost alone, among the villages in that district, Golcar had had a volunteer company, and he hoped the day would be far distant when there would be any lack of either good cricketers or good soldiers.

Mr. SHAW gave the toast of "The President," observing that Mr. Ramsden had been president of the Golcar Club ever since 1881. (Applause.) A thorough sportsman in every respect, he was for a great number of years the best shot in the Huddersfield district. Mr. Ramsden was at present labouring under a cloud of sorrow in consequence of the murders on the Marsden Moors, and it was only after the utmost pressure had been brought to bear that he was induced to preside that evening. They wanted no better president than Mr. Ramsden, and as long as he would fill the office he would be elected.

The toast was heartily drank, the company singing "For he's a jolly good fellow," and giving hearty ringing cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Ramsden.

Mr. RAMSDEN was loudly cheered on rising to respond. He said he had wished many times he could associate more with them and be more one of them. For twenty-two years he had monopolised the principal office of the Golcar Club, and if he had not done much to enhance the advantage and the glory of the club he hoped he had not done anything which might be considered detractory from the merits of the club. He believed that if it had not been that he was fortunate enough to see the match Huddersfield v. Golcar on the Fartown ground he might not have been with them. On that occasion Mr. Joe Lumb, the president of the Huddersfield Club, and himself went to Fartown, having seen what they thought was a poor display in a county match. (Laughter.) Both Mr. Lumb and himself admitted that what they saw on the Fartown ground was far better than what they had seen in watching the county match. He did not say it was the Yorkshire team they went to watch. From that time his interest in the doings of the Golcar team had been very great. He had been to several matches, and every one of them had made him feel proud that he occupied the position of president of the club. (Hear, hear.) He had watched their

doings many years, and he thought it very hard that they should be runners up for two years and then be defeated. They had now shown that they possessed the pluck and nerve and stamina to win, and had brought the long coveted trophy at last. He thought that now under his presidency the Golcar club had attained to its present position this would be a nice opportunity for him to slip out – (laughter) – and hand it over to a younger man. He could give up with a very good grace. (Laughter.) Not having had the best of health for ten or fifteen years he had had to take a little care of himself. He hoped they would accept his cordial and heartfelt thanks for the manner in which they had received the toast. (Applause.)

“Yorkshire County Cricket” was submitted by Mr. H. H. Ramsden, who incidentally and in a most humorous manner referred to his father’s statement that the cricket in the match Huddersfield v Golcar at Fartown was more to his taste than the Yorkshire county cricket which he had just seen, and observed that the Yorkshire team were not at fault on that occasion. He remarked upon the splendid services Lord Hawke had rendered to Yorkshire cricket, and upon the general character of the team. The team had not done so well as they hoped, but they really could not keep up the standard of 1901 and 1902. They had had extraordinary bad luck during the last season. Several were injured during the season. Mr. George Hirst (who was with them that evening) was away just at the time when that terrible side of Somersetshire – (laughter) – had to be played. Two very good bats had been absent – Mr. T. L. Taylor and Mr. Washington – but they all hoped they would be able to play next season. During the seasons 1901-2-3 they had played 98 matches, won 57, lost 6, drawn 35 – (applause) – two matches having been abandoned. He thought no-one would begrudge Middlesex the position. Although Middlesex did not play so many matches as some counties they played all the best teams. They had present with them three of the most worthy cricketers of the day, Hirst, Rhodes, and Haigh. They were always willing to do the best they could for cricket in whatever position they occupied. They came up last Saturday and helped them at Golcar. He wished Hirst and Rhodes the best of luck in Australia.

Mr. G. H. HIRST of the Yorkshire County Team was called upon to respond. He was received with a tremendous ovation. He thanked the company very heartily for the way in which they had received the toast. Although they had not succeeded in bringing off the championship this year they had done their best, and they hoped to do better next year. They should do their best to win matches in Australia, and if they did not succeed then good luck to the better team. (Applause.)

Mr. J. C. BROADBENT, J. P. was entrusted with the toast “The Town and Trade of Golcar.” He observed that he had been a follower of cricket all his life, but he believed he had been a better follower of Golcar trade. He thought he could speak with some authority on the trade of Golcar. It was no common order of intellect that had developed the trade of Golcar from

what it was say seven years ago. He felt confident in saying that greater advances and greater developments in manufacturing had been made in that valley during the last seven years than in any other part of the world. The fathers in that valley founded a good trade and its prosperity was now left in worthy hands. (Applause.)

At this stage of the proceedings a number of the visitors had to leave to catch a train for Huddersfield, and before departing "Auld Lang Syne" was feelingly sung by the company "for our friends who are crossing the sea."

Dr. WEBSTER proposed the toast of the evening, "The Golcar Cricket Team" (League champions). He stated that the improved position of the Golcar cricket team dated from the time of Mr. W. E. D. Shaw's captaincy. He took the team thoroughly in hand in a way in which it had not been done before. Three years the Golcar team had been runners-up, once with Dalton and twice with Huddersfield. He referred to the feeling that was aroused in some quarters when Huddersfield were admitted into the League, and how some felt that the shield would never go anywhere else. He thought that gathering in honour of the Golcar team winning the championship would have been robbed of its glory if Huddersfield had been excluded. It had been said that Golcar was a one-man team, but the doctor pointed out that nine of the players were Golcar bred and born; Mr. Peter Hall, their professional, was a Derbyshire man, and there was another player who had resided some years in the district. He expressed his sympathy with Mr. Dan Priestley, the vice-captain, who was unable to be present through sickness. They had no tail-end to the team. They had all worked well under T. E. Ashton, the captain, who had stuck to them in spite of many temptations to go away. They had been proud of the team throughout the year. They were also proud of their professional, Peter Hall. Better relations between employer and employee never existed than between the committee and Peter Hall. They were all pleased that he was going to a better position [Burnley], and they wished him continued success. He was glad that there was no question as to who had won the championship, but that they had come out head and shoulders above everybody else. He hoped they would not be too proud of their success; but try to maintain the harmony that now existed amongst them; treat each other as gentlemen, play the game as sportsmen and as men, and he hoped the day would never come when anyone would be ashamed to ask any gentleman to drink to the health and prosperity of the Golcar cricket team. (Applause.)

Mr. T. E. ASHTON, the captain, responded, and said they were all very pleased to have won the shield.

Mr. PETER HALL, the club's professional, also responded. He felt sure the team had done the best they could; they had all been triers, both with bat and ball, and also in fielding. He was very sorry he was leaving them, but it was a man's duty to improve his position if possible. He hoped the

Golcar team would get a good professional during the coming season and he wished all and every success to the club. (Loud applause.)

Owing to a rearrangement of the programme to suit the convenience of some of the visitors, Mr. E. L. TAYLOR, who was down on the toast list to respond to the "Town and Trade of Golcar," had to defer his remarks until this stage of the proceedings. Mr. Taylor pointed out that trade was a term of wide applicability; referred to its importance in the economy of life; remarked upon the compliment that Mr. Broadbent had paid to the manufacturers in the Colne Valley, and hoped that the good trade would continue. Given the three conditions, labour, moved by skill and supported by capital, and granted good health they hoped that the future well-being of the whole community would be ensured. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. LANGRICK, in a very humorous speech, proposed the toast of "The Huddersfield Cricket League." He remarked that the League was founded in 1892, the period when he came into Huddersfield. Hence its success. (Laughter.) He did not think they quite realised the benefits these combinations conferred. He did not think any of the teams had won the shield better than Golcar had. Their good friend, Mr. Arthur Shaw, was the founder of the League, and from that day he had stuck to it through thick and thin. He could guarantee that not one amongst them felt such a pride in the success of the Golcar Club as Mr. Shaw, the father of the League and the supporter of the club, in winning the highest position it could obtain in the League. They knew the influence the League had had upon the cricket of the district, and they thought they had produced many good players. On the League Committee friendships were formed which were of lifetime lasting. There was sound commonsense and good feeling amongst them.

Mr. A. SHAW, of Golcar, responded. As one of the founders of the League, he said it gave him great pleasure to know that the toast had been so well received. Next to the Golcar Cricket Club, the League had been his pet hobby. When one had given the best part of thirty years to cricket it behoved him to find something else to do. He, however, begrudged none of the time given to the work. He was very pleased to know that the Huddersfield League had prospered; he hoped it would long continue to prosper, but for him, as an active worker in cricket, the future was dead. (Cries of "No, no.")

"Kindred Sports" was given by Mr. J. H. PRESTON, and responded to by Mr. W. WALKER.

"The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. A. SHAW, and acknowledged by Mr. HERBERT DENTON, of Slaithwaite.

The concluding toast was "The Press," given by Mr. Edgar Thorpe, of Golcar, and responded to by the representative of the *Huddersfield Weekly News*.

The Byrom Shield was displayed on the platform behind the principal table, and attracted a good deal of attention.

A capital entertainment was provided. A quartette party, consisting of Messrs. A. Sykes, R. Carter, F. Whiteley, and W. J. Gledhill, sang the quartet "Here's life and health," Mr. R. Carter sang a solo, Messrs. F. Whiteley and W. J. Gledhill gave the duet "Army and Navy;" humorous songs were rendered by Mr. W. E. Sykes. Mr W. J. Gledhill gave "The mighty deep" (encored), and then "Drinking," as an encore; and Mr. F. Whiteley sang "The Carnival." Mr. F. W. Bentley played the accompaniment.