

HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT CUP COMPETITION.

The Final Tie.

History of the Birstall Eleven.

Presentation of the Trophy.

The three year old prize, in the shape of a magnificent silver challenge cup, offered for competition amongst teams of cricketers in the Heavy Woollen District, has during the past week once more been won and lost, and at the same time has been witnessed by the largest and most interested cricket crowds generally. At any time during the next twelve months the coveted cup is sure to be seen on application at Birstall, where it will be found either grace the Club's room at the "Coach and Six," or adorning the side board at the residence of the genial captain of that successful team, which has, for the third time during the existence of the competition, merited the possession of the prize. Of course Birstall have had previous success in Birstall itself, but it will no doubt be a thing to set on the record, and it will no doubt be a thing to set on the record, and it will no doubt be a thing to set on the record...

Table with individual scores for Birstall and Dewsbury teams, listing names and runs scored.

At the fall of Bailey's tenth wicket, there was a general rush of the spectators, who made their way to the pavilion. The Mayor of Dewsbury (Mr. E. Kiffers), who had consented to present the cup, had taken up a position on the balcony, along with a number of other gentlemen. Mr. J. E. Glover, on behalf of the Heavy Woollen District Cup Committee, of which he is chairman, said he had great pleasure in congratulating the Birstall team for the third time in winning the cup (Cheers). They would no doubt all agree that they had fairly won it. Bailey had been rather unfortunate as far as the weather was concerned (Hear, hear), and they would have been very pleased if they had been more successful, seeing that Birstall had had the trophy twice before, and Bailey had not yet possessed it. (A voice: "They never will have it" and laughter.) In answer to that interruption Mr. Glover remarked that Bailey might have something to say. They (Birstall) were a rising team, and if they cultivated their young players, he did not see why they should not take their part among the leading players of the district. The interest in the cup competition, he was glad to be able to say increased year by year and the last four days of which matches had been played on that ground, there had been congregated no less than 40,000 people (Hear, hear). That fact spoke volumes in favour of the good old game of cricket. He knew they would not command the same crowds as was experienced at football, but to his mind there was no comparison between the two games whatever. The speaker then, amidst much enthusiasm and cheering, called upon the Mayor of Dewsbury to present the cup.

Mr. KIFFERS, after a few preliminary remarks, said that day had been to him a day of considerable interest, and he more congenitally the winning team for the very "victorious victory" they had achieved under somewhat adverse circumstances, and as the weather was concerned. (Cries of "Oh!") One of the most pleasant duties he had to perform in connection with his office, was that of presenting the challenge cup, not only cricket, but football. (Hear, hear.) He took a very lively interest in all athletic games, believing that they combined, when properly conducted, to the health and recreation of the people, and he held that the sport which created a healthy and sound mind, and kept the spirits in high tension, would of a necessity promote the individual happiness of man's existence in the world. (Applauded.) With regard to their own Club (Dewsbury and Birstall) if Birstall would pardon him, he would like to congratulate them on the very "plucky" fight they had made against Birstall. (Mr. Kiffers evidently meant Birstall, and not Birstall.) He felt sure that all the clubs in the competition would join with him in congratulating Birstall on their success. He did not think there was any necessity for a display of rivalry to that among the various clubs which would countenance anything like a bad feeling between any of the teams, and so long as the competition was conducted on the present lines there would every reason to expect good games in the future. He had much pleasure in presenting the cup to Mr. J. Bailey, the captain of the winning team. (Applauded.)

Mr. ACKROYD, who was present, said with much enthusiasm, that he had very great pleasure in receiving the cup. He was happy to be able to say that in the play the most friendly feeling had existed, and that he had not heard one word of ill feeling spoken at all. He had had some conversations in regard to the weather, and he had to thank them for taking the defeat in the manner they had done. He expressed his feelings of thanks to the captain, and of whom decisions had been questioned by the opposition, but not so as all by the players. Some people were under the impression that he (the speaker) himself questioned the decision of the umpire, but he could assure them that that was altogether untrue. He admitted though, that not having heard the decision, he asked again what it was. (Hear, hear.) As he was anxious to taste what was to be played within the trophy he held in his hand, he concluded his remarks by shaking his colleague who had placed him in that position. (Applauded.)

Mr. LEWIS HALL, who had also a very cordial reception, responded on behalf of the Birstall eleven. He said he was very sorry to have to congratulate Mr. Ackroyd and his team on winning the cup. (Laughter.) He considered that if his team had the same weather to contend with as the winners had, Birstall would not have been in it. (Hear, hear.) The worthy Mayor of Dewsbury, in presenting the cup, had made a slight mistake, and made it appear as though the weather had favoured Birstall. (Laughter.) Still he had been a better. (Hear, hear, and renewed laughter.) He was very pleased to have noticed the friendly spirit in which both teams had carried on the contest. There was one subject which had not been mentioned, which he had tried ought to have been. Some complaints had been made by one of the West Riding Magistrates at Dewsbury with respect to the bad language used at cricket matches. It was a thing which he very much regretted, but he had already been made on that question would prove of benefit in future years. (Cheers.) He congratulated Mr. Ackroyd again on the success of his team, but added that next year Birstall would try again.

Mr. GLOVER moved that a vote of thanks be given to the Mayor for his kindness in consenting to present the cup. Mr. W. H. STEWART, president of the Birstall Club, seconded the resolution. He took the opportunity to compliment his own team for the manner in which they had won the cup, and also to compliment the loving team on the efforts put forth by them in endeavouring to beat them.

The Mayor briefly replied, and the large assembly dispersed. The members of the respective teams mounted their waggonettes, Mr. Ackroyd with the cup in his hand taking up a position on the box of the Birstall conveyance. Headed by the Birstall Brass Band they then proceeded through Birstall. Having made one or two calls on route the victorious players, with a few of their friends, paid a visit to the house of their president (Mr. Stewart), where the cup was filled with wine and handed round amidst much cheering. They also "looked in" at the residence of Mr. S. B. Lewis and Mr. P. Lyons, two prominent supporters of the club, and afterwards made their way to the Coach and Six Inn, the headquarters, in front of which were gathered, despite the heavy down-pour of rain, about 1,000 people, who gave lusty cheers as the captain (Mr. Ackroyd) and his men stepped from the waggonettes, bearing the challenge trophy aloft. In Birstall there was considerable disappointment manifested at the non-success of the team, seeing that at one point in the game the score stood so favourably as to indicate a sure victory for the Birstall men. Further cause for such congratulation for his well played 50, and had it not been for the bad luck of the "fall and" men the result would have been different. So say cricketers in Birstall. They do not, however, begrudge Birstall of their victory, and the match is now talked of as a lost opportunity.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Birstall had the enjoyment of Bailey's gallant victory over Dewsbury and Salford last to be rewarded with a valuable visitor, respecting Bailey's meeting with Birstall in the final for the Heavy Woollen Cup at Dewsbury. This important event was commenced last Saturday in the presence of a good attendance of the public, and although the day did not open very favourably, a good many worth of cricket was witnessed before rain put a stop to operations.

The afternoon time for hostilities in connection was one clock, but according to the usual custom, those were 22 men who found it impossible, even on such an extraordinary occasion, to turn out until nearly three-quarters of an hour after that time. In the opinion of the non-Birstall captain there was a reserve, with the consent that his men had to deal. W. Johnson and E. Milnes consequently represented Birstall at the stroke, and amid a house of excitement the former received the first ball from P. Tasson.

Matters went on smoothly for a very short time, R. Pearson taking up the trundling at the other end. An over from him was batted, and Tasson went to again. The first ball in this over disgraced the stumps standing behind Milnes, with the score at 3. R. Broadbent partnered Johnson, and together these two made it pretty hot for the fielders, and runs came at a rapid rate. At 45, when the last over had not yet 15, a change in the bowling was deemed advisable, with a result that G. H. Blackburn went on at the Thornhill end. The very initial ball from him, the youngest member of the team, beat Broadbent completely.

This downfall permitted the assistance of Whitehead to appear, upon whom the faith of the Birstallites in the team rested. After being settled in the hem, and evidently recognizing the fact that the runs would have to be piled on in no uncertain fashion if his eleven were to be crowned the victors. As a consequence 28 appeared after fifty minutes play, and the 100 was not up at ten minutes after three o'clock. Johnson and Tasson were still together, and once more the Birstall people belied their reputation of "Catching quies," their enthusiasm breaking out at every available opportunity. Meanwhile Greenwood had been reported to ball, and at 108 Johnson was nearly caught by H. Hall at point, for a well earned and correctly played 55.

W. Nelson, the hero of the Lassell Hill encounter, was next recruited. This balance, who