

LITTLEHAMPTON CRICKET CLUB.

A GRATIFYING YEAR.

THE LATE MR. R. P. DAVIS.

KEEPING MEMORY RIPE.

Testimony to the way in which the members of the Littlehampton Cricket Club have gone to the assistance of their country in this its time of need was furnished at its annual meeting on Friday, when, instead of the large room of the Norfolk Hotel being required for the customary muster of subscribers, a smaller part of the establishment provided ample accommodation.

Mr. A. J. Constable again presided. Others present included the Club's acting Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. L. Harris, Mr. T. Dudgeon, Mr. S. Holmden, Mr. J. H. Marshall, Mr. C. Pearson, Mr. N. Springett, Mr. A. Shotter, Mr. R. M. Thomas, and Mr. H. Thompson.

The Annual Report.

The annual report was in the following terms: Your Committee have to report that owing to the war only about half of last season's fixtures were carried out. For the same reason there was a decrease in the number of subscribers, no doubt due to visitors' subscriptions lost in August. However, the Club finished the season with a balance in hand.

Out of eight matches played the first XI. won four, lost one, and drew three.

The matches won were: Bognor, Lauderdale, Townley Park, and the Motor Boat Club; the match lost was St. Peter's; those drawn were Bognor, Charlton Park, and Schoolmasters' C.C.

The second XI. won twelve matches, lost five, and one resulted in a tie. The matches won were East Preston, Bognor 2nd (2), Poling and Lymington, Broadwater, Arundel, St. Philip's, Burpham, Worthing 2nd (2), Assington, Walberton, Worthing Y.M.C.A.; those lost were Broadwater, Worthing Chippingdale, Singleton, St. Olave's Grammar School, and East Preston; the match tied was East Preston.

The best batting averages for the first XI. were: E. L. Harris, runs, 235; innings, 7; not out, 3; average, 58.6; highest score, 73; W. L. Harris, runs, 171; innings, 5; not out, 2; average, 57; Highest score, 57.

The best bowling averages were: E. L. Harris, 28 wickets, 252 runs, average, 9.0; M. Harris, 10 wickets, 98 runs, average, 9.8.

The best batting averages for the second XI. were: E. L. Harris, runs, 264; innings, 9; not out, 3; average, 44.0; highest score, 85; C. J. Pearson, runs, 280; innings, 14; not out, 0; average, 20.0; highest score, 50.

The best bowling averages were: E. L. Harris, 30 wickets, 120 runs, average, 4.0; W. L. Harris, 20 wickets, 80 runs, average, 4.0.

The number of subscribers for 1914 was 120, as against 137 for 1913; and the amount subscribed was £51 12s. 6d., as against £62 5s. 0d. last year.

Your Committee record, with deep regret the loss of one of the Club's playing members, Mr. R. P. Davis, who was killed in action in January last.

No programme of fixtures has been made for the coming season, but your Committee think perhaps a few matches will be arranged later on. At the same time rent has to be paid, and the ground kept in order.

Your Committee hope that all members will support the club this year, and thus help to keep it in existence, and they also hope that if members do not feel disposed to give their usual subscription, they will not withdraw it altogether.

Not Unduly High—But Cheap.

Mr. Holmden asked if their rent, £30, was not unduly high, but it was explained by the Chairman that the services of a groundsman, the care of the playing field, and several incidental items, were all included in the charge made by the trustees, who were appointed by the Duke of Norfolk when he gave the ground on a 999 years lease, in the time of Mr. Lear.

Mr. Holmden thereupon agreed that it was very cheap.

After one or two little items of expenditure had been gone into thoroughly with a view to effecting economy, if possible, the report and accounts were passed with unanimity, with an expression of appreciation to Mr. A. H. Shotter for his whole-hearted work in connexion with the fixture card, without the revenue from which it was observed, there would have been a small deficit.

Election of Officers.

On the motion of Mr. Shotter, seconded by Mr. Holmden, re-election was accorded the Duke of Norfolk to the presidency, and the following gentlemen were re-appointed vice-presidents with the addition of Mr. N. Springett, and Mr. R. M. Thomas.—Messrs. W. Beldam, G. W. Butt, J. Butt, A. J. Constable, Captain E. H. Hills, R.N., Mr. W. S. Jay, Mr. M. W. Mansbridge, Mr. R. F. Mitchell, Mr. M. Munro, Mr. F. E. Rowe, Mr. A. F. Somerset, J.P., Mr. W. Suter, Lord Edmund Talbot, D.S.O., M.P., Mr. C. R. Whitburn and Mr. C. E. Widdowson.

Several changes were made in the composition of the general Committee, the personnel of which was finally decided upon as follows:—Messrs. W. E. W. Blanchard, C. Blanchard, G. B. Burnand, T. Dudgeon, S. T. Matthews, R. F. Mitchell, C. J. Pearson, Capt. W. Sewell, Mr. R. M. Thomas, and Mr. H. Thompson.

On the motion of Mr. R. M. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Pearson, the dual office of hon. secretary and hon. treasurer was conferred upon Mr. W. L. Harris. Mr. A. H. Shotter was re-elected captain of the first XI., on the proposition of Mr. Holmden seconded by Mr. Pearson, and a similar honour was extended to Mr. J. H. Marshall in connexion with the second XI., and "A" teams.

Mr. C. J. Pearson was unanimously made vice-chairman of the first XI, and Mr. H. Thompson, vice-captain and honorary secretary of the second XI and "A" teams.

The auditors are to be Mr. S. Holmden and Mr. M. W. Mansbridge.

In Memoriam.

Mr. Marshall, saying he thought that the meeting should not pass without a reference to the lamented death of Mr. R. P. Davis, mentioned that there was in his possession a battered bat with which it seemed Mr. Davis made his last century, against Bognor, at the beginning of the season. As he had said, the bat was very battered, but still it was of interest, and if the Club agreed with the suggestion, he would see that a little plate, suitably inscribed, was put upon the bat, and hung up in the Club-house. Mr. Davis was one of the best "sports" who ever played for them. (Hear, hear.)

The idea was cordially taken up, and Mr. Marshall was thanked for his suggestion and offer.

The Future.

One of the members expressed the opinion that very few matches would be played during the coming months and to judge from the remarks that followed, anything like a programme will not be mapped out, but Mr. Constable observed that the Club still needed subscriptions because there would be the rent to pay. It was felt—and other clubs took the same line—that they should keep the ground in good order and things going as much as possible in the ordinary way for the lads who were not with them, so that when they came back they would see that they had not been forgotten. On the other hand, if matters were neglected and the ground became a hayfield, they knew how diffi-

cult it would be to put it right again. The subscribers would be appealed to to continue their assistance on that account, and if some of them only gave half their usual amount it would greatly help them.

Mr. Thomas said he, for one, was prepared to do his best to keep things going, even to the extent of giving £5 if necessary, because, although not being a cricketer, the game did not appeal to him personally, he quite saw the necessity of preserving the town's attractions. (Hear, hear.)

On Mr. Marshall's suggestion members of His Majesty's forces are to have the option of becoming temporary members of the Club on the payment of 1s. 6d.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.