

Lord Sheffield's practical endeavours for the improvement of Newhaven and its surroundings was marked yesterday by an important step towards their realisation in the opening of the magnificent cricket ground, which his lordship has laid out at very considerable expense. As will doubtless be known, this cricket ground forms a section of his lordship's grand scheme for improving and beautifying a hitherto barren and swampy locality. Those unacquainted with this spot in its former aspect can hardly conceive the great transformation which has converted it from the marshland that it was into a fine terrain of over five acres in extent, with a surface as level as a billiard table. This has been brought about by the judicious distribution of more than 9,000 tons of chalk filling, taken from the chalk quarries adjoining. All obstructing ponds and ditches have been filled in and an efficient system of land drainage had been substituted. The work has been carried out under the immediate supervision of Mr Moore (his lordship's landscape gardener and ground manager at Sheffield Park). And throughout the past winter, in accordance with his lordship's considerate desire, exclusively Newhaven labour has been employed thereon.

The approach to the site is by way of the Fort road, which has been completely transformed during the past ten weeks. The road has been widened (by additional land given by Lord Sheffield), curbed and channelled with stone, and on the side adjoining Lord Sheffield's land a substantial brick footpath has been laid.

The improvement will be a great boon to the Newhaven community and will still further tend to attract a residential population to the picturesque spot, which is now ripe for building purposes. It is the earl's intention to ultimately further extend the cricket ground itself and to lay out a recreation ground. The difficulty his lordship experienced in securing the tenancy of that portion of the ground belonging to the War Department was, indeed, great and was only secured by his determination to, if possible, carry out his scheme.

He proposed that the time for completing the work should extend over two years so as to afford the certainty of employment to a large amount of labour during two consecutive winters. As the works would cost £4,000 the larger portion of which would be spent in labour, he had the satisfaction of feeling that he was contributing to the well-being of the poorer classes in the town by giving them the means of procuring continuous employment during the trying winter months for two years.

Not only have the supporters of cricket reason to be grateful to Lord Sheffield but his general interest in all recreations has been fully manifested, as besides being president of the Newhaven Harbour regatta and of the cricket and cycling clubs, he is also patron of the rowing and golf clubs, each and all of which institutions he has liberally supported.

During the past month the site of the new cricket ground has been the scene of active operations in preparation for the grand opening day, and toward the latter end of the week the iron fencing, with wire netting, which now encircles the ground, was completed, and numerous marquees and tents erected.

On Sunday the arrival of Lord Sheffield in his yacht (*the Heloise*) was witnessed by over one thousand people who had assembled on the western promenade. Punctually to the arranged time the *Heloise* was taken in tow by the harbour tug. Hearty indeed was the welcome that greeted her appearance. A shot was fired from the harbour gun and rounds of cheers were given by the large assembly, which were acknowledged by his lordship and party bowing their recognition, the crew responding with cheers, to the applause of those on shore. Never before in the history of Newhaven was such an enthusiastic gathering assembled with so pleasing and gratifying an object.

The ground and its surroundings presented a most animated and healthful appearance. The row of dwellings on the hillside had during the past few days received a white coating, as also had the surrounding buildings, fences etc and the general appearance of freshness was marked. Flagstuffs with varied coloured streamers surrounded the ground, at the entrance to which was erected a triumphal archway, artistically decorated with flags, evergreens, azaleas, rhododendrons, laburnum, lilac, thorn blossoms, and foliage surmounted by an earl's coronet. Wickets, bats, balls, pads and gloves were introduced into the decoration which was completed in good time.

The earl was met at the entrance by the Chairman and members of the local Board, also the representative of the various societies and institutions in the town. The cyclist club were strongly represented by a number of the members with their cycles, they taking up their position inside the archway, thus forming a picturesque avenue.

The arrival of Lord Sheffield was the signal for a most hearty outburst of cheering and enthusiastic expressions. The teams took to the field punctually to time. Mr Aubry Harcourt captaining his lordship's eleven, whilst Mr H. Woolgar, the captain of the Newhaven Cricket Club, officiated for the Newhaven team

The scores for the match were:

NEWHAVEN				LORD SHEFFIELD'S XI			
First Innings				First Innings			
W. G. Quaife b. Parris	39			Rev. F. Greenfield c. Banks b. Minter	16		
A. Banks c. Greenfield b. Hobden	6			A. Somerset b. Minter	13		
H. Woolgar c. and b. Turner	8			W. Hobden c. Tate b. Minter	9		
H. R. Budgen b. Parris	0			G. H. Lynn b. Minter	7		
H. A. Chambers c. Curtis b. Lynn	19			R. M. Curteis b. Tate	5		
J. Percy b. Parris	0			Capt. Menzies b. Tate	3		
F. W. Tate not out	2			Gen Malcolmson st Coppard b. Minter	3		
J. Coppard c. Malcolmson b. Parris	0			F. Parris not out	5		
E. Minter b. Parris	0			A. Harcourt b. Minter	1		
E. A. Bailey lbw b. Lynn	0			W. Turner b. Minter	0		
G. C. Weller b. Lynn	2			J. Gilbert b. Tate	4		
Extras	12			Extras	4		
	88				70		
Second Innings				Second Innings			
c. Menzies b. Parris	13			not out			21
b. Lynn	4			c. and b. Tate			19
b. Greenfield	8			b. Quaife			18
c. Lynn b. Greenfield	24			c. Percy b. Tate			6
lbw b. Parris	6			c. Tate b. Bailey			16
st Somerset b Greenfield	0			run out			0
b. Parris	0						
b. Parris	5			not out			1
lbw b. Greenfield	0						
b. Parris	0						
not out	6						
Extras	0			Extras			4
	66						85
Bowling				Bowling			
First Innings				First Innings			
Harcourt	4	0	10	Percy	5	1	15
Hobden	9	2	25	Minter	14	4	31
Turner	7	4	10	Tate	9	3	19
Lynn	4.1	0	9	Bailey	-	-	-
Parris	12	3	22	Quaife	-	-	-
Greenfield	-	-	-				
Second Innings				Second Innings			
	-	-	-				