

## PRESENTATION TO MR. A. H. SAVORY OF ALDINGTON. 1901

When it became known that Mr. A. H. Savory, of Aldington Manor, was soon to leave the district the members of the Badsey Rangers Football Club speedily made up their minds that it would be a graceful act to show their gratitude, esteem, and respect for their president in a practical manner. Subscriptions were readily given, and the result was that Mr. Savory has been presented with a handsome gift. Ever since the formation of the Badsey Football Club Mr. Savory has held the office of president. Every year he has given a liberal subscription to the club, and not only has he done this but he has always allowed the club the use of a field at Aldington free of charge. Thus it will be seen that Mr. Savory was a good friend and supporter of the club. The presentation took place at a smoking concert in connection with the Badsey Rangers Football Club held at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Badsey, on Wednesday night. Mr. J. Sladden presided over a crowded room. Mr. F. Salter was at the piano. During the evening some excellent songs were given by the following: Messrs. J. Keyto, J. Sadler, W. Gray, W. Bell, G. Bell, E. Bell, F. Salter, G. E. Jones, T. Leslie, S. Stanley, A. Dore, and J. Agg. Mr. E. Warner gave a violin selection. Mr. Gray's tenor songs were admirably rendered, and were much applauded.

During an interval the Chairman apologised for the absence of the Vicar of Badsey (the Rev. W. H. Price), who wrote stating that he had services to conduct. Mr. Price added that he was glad that the members were going to make a presentation to Mr. Savory as a mark of their appreciation, and said Mr. Savory thoroughly deserved it. Mr. Price referred to the great interest Mr. Savory took in everything for the wellbeing of the parishes, and said he would be much missed, and he did not know how they would get on without him. On the table were two handsome silver cups. The larger two-handled cup was the cup won by Mr. G. Bell, for the second time, for pigeon flying. It was the cup given by the Worcestershire Flying Club. The other cup was the Beauchamp Cup for Volunteer shooting, won by Corporal J. Addis.

The Chairman said he had several pleasing functions to perform that evening. They were proud of Badsey's two sons, bred and born, for so distinguishing themselves. Mr. G. Bell had won the first prize, that handsome cup, for the second time for his skill in flying pigeons, and if he won the cup next year it would become his absolute property, and they all hoped this would come to pass. (Hear, hear.) It was very gratifying to have those amongst them who were determined to excel in what they undertook, and there could not be a more healthy spirit among young men. Mr. Bell had performed a great feat this time, for his bird had flown with greater velocity than any other bird. (Applause.) Then for the second year in succession Corporal J. Addis had won the Beauchamp Cup for skill in rifle shooting. (Applause.) He was one of the best shots, if not the best, last year in the company. Corporal Addis was an all-round man, and had shown his prowess both at football and cricket. He was proud of little Badsey. He remembered being at a Volunteer dinner at Evesham a few years ago and telling the Evesham men that they would have to look to their laurels or the cup would come to Badsey sooner or later, and assuredly it had done so. He hoped it would not be the last time that Corporal Addis would win the cup, and if he was unable to win it that someone else would bring it to Badsey. (Hear, hear.) It was the duty of every young man to be able to handle a rifle.

Both cups were filled and passed round, and the healths of Messrs. Bell and Addis were heartily drunk, with musical honours.

The Chairman afterwards said that it was his pleasing duty on behalf of the Committee of the Badsey Football Club to make the presentation to their president. They all knew what a very good sportsman Mr. Savory was, and the interest he took in sport, as he had given continual evidence of this ever since he had resided among them, and whenever they asked him permission to use his field either for football or

cricket it was freely granted. He also subscribed liberally, and did not mind being at a little loss with regard to the mowing of the field for cricket or anything else they required. He had always been an excellent friend to them. He did not wish to dwell too much on the gloomy side of things, but they could not help feeling Mr. Savory's approaching departure. Mr. Savory had been among them nearly thirty years—he (Mr. Sladden) had been twenty—and it was something like a wrench to think that Aldington Manor would no longer be inhabited by Mr. Savory. Still, he would have links that would bring him to the neighbourhood, which he trusted he would often visit. His name would never be effaced from their memory, and it would always be remembered with gratitude and respect. In conclusion Mr. Sladden said he had great pleasure in making the presentation, and he hoped that in the future the fruit and flowers would help to remind Mr. Savory of the fruitful Vale of Evesham, in which he once lived. (Applause.)

Mr. Sladden then handed the present to Mr. Savory. It consisted of a silver-plated and out-glass epergne, about twenty inches high. The case is richly embossed, and at each corner is a gilded lion, which gives it a very handsome appearance. The inscription is: "Presented to A. H. Savory, Esq., in recognition of his many acts of kindness as President of the Badsey Football Club. October 9th, 1901." The epergne was supplied by Messrs. Ward and Son, of Evesham.

A verse of "We shall meet, but we shall miss him," was then sung.

Mr. Savory, who had a most hearty reception, responded. He thanked them heartily for their handsome present, and assured them that the little he had done for them he had regarded as a very small matter. Still, he could not say that his connection with the place was at an end. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Savory, speaking of the club and its career, said he felt very proud of them indeed when they won the North Cotswold Cup a few years ago. They were second last year, but he hoped they would win again this season, and be once more at the top. He was always pleased to allow them to play on his land. He always sympathised with sport and football, and always with the sporting spirit for the sake of sport, and not for making money. The man who excelled at athletic sports was, in his opinion, generally to the fore at anything else. The best man at play was the best at work. Mr. Savory quoted experiences of his at Harrow. If to-morrow he was going to employ a man if he was a good footballer and a good cricketer he should be more ready to employ him. He should like very much to see a cricket club in Badsey. He had preached this to them for many years. They had plenty of likely cricketers, and he did not see why they could not turn out several county players for Worcestershire. He had been 28 years at Aldington, and passers-by on the main road thought that it was a sleepy place, and that there was nothing going on there. He would assure them that they were very much mistaken, and that a lot of business was done, and they were hard at work from morning till night. In the 28 years he had spent £1,000 a year in labour, another £1,000 a year in rent, rates, cattle, etc., and another £1,000 a year in manures, etc. So that after 28 years of this he ought to have made his fortune, and let someone else have a turn. He should not altogether sever his connection with them, and he should always take a great interest in whatever went on there. Another reason why he should do this was that his daughter was about to marry a gentleman in that neighbourhood, who, he was pleased to say, was connected with the fruit-growing and gardening industry. The present would remind him of the happy times he had spent in the old place and of the old faces, and it would remind him that it was his duty to come back and look at them. In conclusion he again heartily thanked them. (Applause.)