

The Royal Hall, Ripon Road, Harrogate

Formerly - The Kursaal

From <http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/Harrogate.htm>



Above - A Google StreetView Image of the Royal Hall, Harrogate - [Click to Interact](#)

The Harrogate Royal Hall, as it is known today, was originally opened as the Harrogate Kursaal in 1903 but the name was changed during the first world war as it seemed more patriotic. The Hall was designed by Robert Beale and the renowned Theatre Architect, Frank Matcham. The Building News and Engineering Journal carried a small notice in their August 11th 1899 edition saying:- 'The assessor in the Harrogate Kursaal Competition, Mr. Frank Matcham, architect, 9, Warwick-court, W.C, has given his award, which is as follows:— First premium (£150), Mr. R. J. Beale, Westminster Chambers, 9, Victoria-street, S.W.; second premium (£100), Messrs. Eade and Johns, Ipswich; third premium (£75), Messrs. Crosby and Power 9, St. Martin's-street, W.C.'

The Theatres Trust says of the Hall that it is:- 'an unusual example of Frank Matcham's architecture of entertainment. It is quite unlike any other piece of extant work by Matcham. He was originally appointed by the Harrogate Corporation to be the judge of an architectural competition to design a new place of entertainment within the town. The winning entry was submitted by Robert Beale, and the designs appeared in The Builder. The Corporation's

expectation could not be realised within their budget figure and the site was drastically reduced before the scheme was developed. The final building bears little resemblance to Beale's competition drawings and owes much more (especially in the interior) to the direct involvement of Matcham as a notably 'hands-on' consulting architect.'



Above - Two early Postcards showing the Harrogate Kursaal - Courtesy George Eglese



Above - An Early Photograph showing the interior of the Harrogate Kursaal

The Building was extensively restored between 2006 and 2008 and is today billed as a 'venue for events, arts and entertainment.'