

THERE SHOULD BE AN APOSTROPHE



An account of the history of Bishop
Duppas Bowls Club. Compiled from club
records and members contributions by
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1977-2017

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Authors' notes

It was on a whim in late 2015 that I decided to tidy up the box containing the club archives. I made the "mistake" of reading the first set of minutes and became hooked.

This booklet is the result and is my first attempt at a project of this type.

I hope I have done justice to the years of endeavour that have created a magnificent bowls club in Bishop Duppas. My efforts to capture our past were supported by a number of members. Their memories and contributions have enriched the detail contained in the archives.

I am grateful to Mike & Wendy Jay, George & Isabel Morton, John Webb, Ray Purdey, Pauline Hutton, Les Fleetwood, Maureen Ayling, Margaret Horne, Brian Ward (who helped by taking photographs) and Pauline Knapp who spent ages digging into her computer for a number of the illustrations.

Past member Gerry Wynveldt provided some of the pictures. These had been filed in the archives.

A special thank you goes to member Tony Partridge & his son Stuart of Blue Mushroom Printers for their assistance in arranging the printing of this book.

This enlarged version of the book has been produced for the club website. It includes additional illustrations and a supplement. The supplement contains the details of external honours won by the club and its members, the club competition winners and lists of past officers and committee members.

Bowls

"An ancient and mysterious game played by people old enough to know better using bowls carefully crafted to go in the wrong direction" Anon.



1. The birth of Bishop Duppas Bowls Club

During the middle years of the 1970's four members of a local bowls club decided to form a new club in Shepperton. Motivated by what they considered the unfair treatment of women at their existing club in Sunbury, the four created Bishop Duppas B.C.

Albert Porter, Len & Dick Winter, and Laurie Proudfoot each contributed £25 to finance the club. They began discussions with the local authority and hoped to be able to base the club on an unadopted green in Bishop Duppas Park.

There was some unstructured activity in the years prior to the first meeting of April 1978. The form for affiliation to the Middlesex County was completed in 1977. It became effective for the 1978 season.

The founders agreed that the new club would be "mixed." All weekend matches were to be played in a mixed format. This decision was to cause the early fixture secretaries some headaches.

The sport of bowls was, at that time a segregated one, with men & women playing their own fixtures. If there were any joint involvement the individual, rinks, or triples would be male or female. A typical "joint" game might have three or four rinks of men and one or two of women. However, it had been common for women not to be allowed to play at weekends at all.

The decision to form a new club was a brave one, as by 1977, the sport was already in decline.

The Middlesex County Centenary handbook relates that the peak years had passed. There had been a loss of sixty clubs in the county between 1958 and 1980.

Bishop Duppas Park

In the early 1970's the local authority decided to build a recreation ground on land known as Lower Halliford Common.

The land included grounds that had formerly been part of Lower Halliford Manor.

The property is also known as the Old Manor House to distinguish it from the Manor House in Shepperton village.

It was redeveloped as a Georgian property and it still stands in Russell Road.

The new recreation complex included a soccer pitch, tennis courts, a putting green (now a picnic area) a toilet block that housed male & female changing rooms, a small hall, a residential property, and the bowls green.

The club name

The park and the club carry the name of Bishop Bryan Duppa. He was chaplain to Charles 1 from 1634 and tutor to his two sons. He became Bishop of Chichester and from 1640 lived in Richmond upon Thames. He was later to become Bishop of Salisbury and is one of the few Anglican bishops to serve and survive during the Civil War. He became Bishop of Winchester in 1660.

He created alms-houses in Richmond to which he attached land in Shepperton. He owned the water meadows to the south of the Old Manor House.

Elysian Fields

One can see from the Bishop's name that that an error, or some licence, was taken in the naming of the park and the club. The bishop did not have an "s" on the end of his name.

In October 1991 club member, Dr. Jack Taylor, wrote an eloquent explanation to the management committee. He pointed out that the name of the park and club should contain an apostrophe.

He added: "Next year, 330 years since he last trod these pastures green, were we to mark such a change, might his crook not reach down from the Elysian Fields to guide our woods where they would be"

In rather more plain English, the club's response said that it would retain the existing spelling as it had been established by the local authority.

The Bishop Duppas Club Badge

The design of the club badge arose during a meeting led by Bert Porter. He identified the individual elements and the same discussion settled on the club colours. John Webb recalls that there was enthusiasm for gold to be included in the colours to complement the bishops purple. The group involved concluded that anything gold would probably push prices too high. Yellow was a compromise. The Secretary was to order the badges. Nothing happened and it was to be two years later, in the spring of 1981, when Bob Whitby offered to arrange the initial supplies.

He paid a £50 die charge to the makers R.V. Gomm of Birmingham. Members paid 60p for each badge. Bob Whitby asked that the proceeds go to club funds and advised that he did not want to recover the costs he had incurred. The badge incorporates an illustration of a mitre. This has a holy cross stitched into the fabric-and displays crossed croziers (a crozier is a Bishop's staff).

The use of the mitre by Bishops has a lengthy history. It is generally regarded that the mitre is a symbol of authority. The croziers, or officially the pastoral staffs represent the role of a Bishop as the Good Shepherd.

In the top corners of the badge are four yellow dots. I have not been able to find reference to them as symbols associated with a Bishop. They may signify the four apostles, the points of a compass or more likely a set of bowls! Some years after the purchase of the lapel badges, the club commissioned the production of blazer badges. In these, the "gold or yellow" elements used gold wire rather than thread. They had the unfortunate habit of snagging on the blazer fabric. In later versions, the whole badge used thread.



Affiliation to Middlesex or Surrey?

The club affiliated to the Middlesex County B.A but might easily have found itself as a Surrey club. In 1976, the English Bowling Association declared its intention to re-organise the bowls county structures. This was to recognise the changes made to county boundaries by the government in 1974.

This would have resulted in all clubs in Middlesex being re-allocated to new county associations. The majority would have been part of four newly created London regions.

Being on the very edge of the county, Bishop Duppas, with other local clubs could have found themselves allocated to Surrey. The implementation date was to be January 1978.

Various groups in Middlesex, Kent and London considered the proposals. The anger felt in these counties and others, nationally, was so strong that the EBA abandoned their plans in 1980.

A topic for discussion?

In recent years, there have been undeveloped conversations at Bishop Duppas concerning the club's affiliation to Middlesex.

Sensibly, people have asked whether there would be any merit in affiliating to Surrey given our location.

Woodthorpe B.C. (Now Fordbridge Park) tried to realign their affiliation in the late millennium years but were re-buffed.

Some people consider Surrey to be a better-organised association than Middlesex. Ploughing one's way up the North Circular for County competitions is not everyone's favourite occupation.

Equally, how often would members want to go to Croydon? Our affiliation is an interesting topic. Perhaps it is one for future development.

2. The early years

Thirteen people attended the first meeting organised by the founders on April 6th 1978

A management committee was formed from those present at the meeting.

Albert Porter became Chairman; Laurie Proudfoot was appointed Secretary and Match Secretary, Jack Neville accepted the Treasurers role, while Tony Gadd volunteered to be Captain. Eddie Howells and Grace Proudfoot joined the committee in roles, which later, became known as Elected Representatives. Grace also doubled as Ladies Secretary.

The meeting decided that the club would join the North West Surrey Association and that no club competitions would take place until the following season.

(Any minutes taken at subsequent meetings in the year have sadly. been lost)

The first annual general meeting

The following November an AGM was called. This saw the original committee re-elected with the addition of L.Wilson as Vice-Captain

The presentation of the customary reports were made but were not recorded. Gwen Proudfoot was elected Ladies Captain and Gladys Linnell as Ladies Secretary.

It was determined that Tuesday evenings were to be regarded as “club night” during the playing season.

An amendment to a proposition that a President and Vice President be appointed was made but no record made of either the amendment or the outcome of the subsequent discussion.

It was to be a further six years before Albert Porter became President. One can only surmise that the club felt it was too early for such appointments to be made.

During any other business, a vote of thanks was given to Albert Linnell for having provided casters for the “Ladies pushers.”

That description used in 2017 would probably result in a smack in the mouth!

Bar licence

By the turn of 1979 the club had applied for a bar licence. The men’s and the women’s applications to join the North West Surrey leagues had been accepted.

A club general meeting declared that only fully paid up members could represent the club.

This suggests that a number of guests had played for the club in the previous seasons.

I have been told anecdotally that members of Sunbury Ex Servicemen’s club would be pressed into service if they owned a pair of white trousers. Ray Purdey commented that, if they owned grey trousers and a car, they were automatically picked for the league teams!

Play available to members

It took some years for the club to build a meaningful weekend fixture list.

Teams played in the NWS leagues but most other play was in mid-week friendlies with the men and women having their own fixtures.

The members met on Tuesday evenings for club night play. This was originally to include an aggregate competition. This competition was switched to the Thursday drive and was won in 1986, its first year of play, by Geoff Sayers and Mary Lee.

A second club night, introduced on Friday evenings, only lasted the one season. Club competitions provided the other playing opportunities.

Booking problems

Every occasion that the club required the hall, it had to be booked with the local council and a fee had to be paid. The fee was dependent upon the number of hours involved.

The summer arrangements for club nights were made” en block.”

However, as the fixture list increased there were numerous times that other groups had booked before the club could make the necessary arrangements. This led to the cancellation of some matches and on one occasion, Presidents Day had to be re-planned.

The Bagster House social club would sometimes be used as the venue for after match teas if the hall were unavailable. It was to be several years before the club was able to afford the purchase of a “preferred user” status from the local authority. This required a lump sum payment in advance of the season. It gave members access rights provided the Council had not booked the hall to other organisations.

Rink fees

Bowls players in Spelthorne purchased season tickets to cover their play on the Spelthorne greens. The council required payment for visiting players from outside of the borough. This involved buying tickets from the green keeper on a match-by-match basis.

A set fee system, paid in advance, eventually replaced the cumbersome match day arrangement for



visitors. As the fixture list became ever more complex, a negotiated sum to cover all visiting play on the green was finalised. The secretary and treasurer had to make these tedious arrangements every season.

The system was in operation until the mid-millennium years when self- management arrangements were finalised.

Equipment

The local authority provided mats and other equipment until the club could afford its own. Some years after the formation of Bishop Duppas, the green keeper Ian Hesketh had a conversation with Maureen Ayling. He said that after the park had opened he feared his job would not last long. He had become worried because the activity level in the park was so low. The arrival of Bishop Duppas must have been a blessing.

Aside from looking after the green and the other facilities, he created magnificent flowerbeds, which are shown in the photograph from the late 1980's.

3. Facilities

At the outset, the club had little that it could call its own. There was no greenside pavilion. A small hall at the rear of the park buildings was used for after match teas and club nights. The hall did however boast its own self-contained kitchen. The corridor that ran between the hall and the toilet block housed some of the club notice boards. Bert Porter built a club bar in early 1981 along with a central scoreboard for the green. The addition of a cupboard in the women's dressing room, partially overcame the club's lack of storage space. The club started a building fund. Shortfalls in the general account, led to the frequent use of the building fund to overcome cash flow problems.

Planning permission

Perhaps in exasperation a member at the 1981 AGM declared "There will never be a new pavilion-lets buy a glass fronted wooden shed for our members use". There was sufficient support for this to be put on a "to do" list.

Little happened until June of 1982 when the committee discussed the idea again. Dialogue started with the local authority. They advised that later in the year they intended to provide a base for the shed. In the meantime, an honours board was under construction. The initial signwriting of the board cost £40. A second board was then to be bought for the use of the women's section. In August of 1982, the council advised that planning permission was required for the new hut. This was granted on Nov 17th 1982.



Joy Donmall in the old hall kitchen

The model chosen was a Hebdictch Siesta summerhouse. Despite obtaining a small discount, it cost £745. (The equivalent of almost £2000 today)

Bar Licence objection

In parallel with this activity a major problem had arisen over the renewal of the bar licence. The magistrates had advised that the licence renewal required the installation of emergency lighting in the hall. This was the result of an inspection from the fire officer. The club offered to pay £100 towards the cost but the council rebuffed this.

Subsequent investigation by the club discovered that a loan from the council might be available. The council required guarantees totalling £162. Two loans of £50 each from members and the balance from club funds created the necessary guarantees.

Several months went by without any response from the local authority regarding the emergency lighting. This led the club to give committee members Bert & Gladys Linnell "carte blanche" to resolve the issue without further recourse to the committee.

It finally cost £192 to install the fittings and the fire officer then withdrew his objection to the bar licence

In 1983, the women members requested the provision of lockers. The council advised that the necessary funds were not available. By 1985, the club was able to afford the purchase of four more bowls gatherers. The following year they bought front and back scoreboards.

In 1987, the Angel Beer Company became the club's supplier for the bar supplies. They provided the pumps and coolers and all other fittings.

Albert Porter undertook the extensive work of reorganising the bar. This included fitting a hand basin. He later provided a security grill, which Cyril Pratt installed. The bar was only open in the evenings during the week. That led members playing daytime mid-week competitions to use nearby Bagster House for after match drinks.



Dot Boxall and Eric Ayling

Second Hut

In the summer of 1989, a subcommittee explored the purchase of a second shed or summerhouse. By May 1990, plans were ready to put to the council.

The club then learned that Stanwell Bowls Club was to have a pavilion extension built and that the council were to pay 50% of the cost. The club determined that they should lobby the council for improved facilities.

The management committee decided to allocate £1000 to improving the kitchen facilities. The local authority approved the club's plans. However, the council determined that they would not contribute to the cost.

This resulted in the postponement of the kitchen project and the second hut was not progressed. Two months later the council found £300 towards the kitchen costs.

New Master Scoreboard

The first scoreboard board constructed by Bert Porter became irreparable in early 1982 and a budget of £400 was set for a replacement. This arrived two months later but at a cost of £548. Terry Jackson, Eric Ayling, and John Elliott installed the new scoreboard.

Over the years, the weather took its toll. In 2008 attempts to repair the damage proved impossible. The scoreboard had to be scrapped.



The second master scoreboard

Hall is too small

The original planning permission granted for the siesta hut was a temporary licence.

It had to be renewed in 1993. The planning consent was made permanent in 2007.

In the autumn of 1995, the committee agreed that the hall was too small and that obtaining better facilities was a priority. The council had advised in 1993 that the legal limit for use of the hall was thirty-four when dancing and forty-two for a seated function.



Ray Purdey addressing the club on Presidents Day 1999

A meeting with the local authority in February 1996 explored the possibility of building a new pavilion. The club learned that council funds were not available. The parks manager gave a personal view that extending the hall would have a greater chance of success.

The club's sub-committee took this on board and developed plans to extend the hall by eight feet.

They also planned to purchase a 30-foot hut for after match teas.

The club presented their plans to the local authority with the offer of part payment of the costs.

Harry Webb had led the work and had spent considerable time drawing up the relevant plans.

The council's response to the new hut was largely favourable. However, they indicated that extending the hall might not get approval. They advocated a policy of "one thing at time"

It all went bang

While the hut and building plans were being progressed, the club was also seeking improvements to the lighting in the hall. Once again, the council pleaded poverty and the club reluctantly agreed to pay for the work at a cost of £250.

Before the work could be initiated the lighting and heating in the hall failed. This was on the eve of an AGM. The club installed emergency temporary lighting in time for the AGM to go ahead.

Subsequently the council advised that because of the lighting failure they had carried out an electrical survey. They reported the results as having "frightened the life out of us" This led to the hall's closure for two months and disrupted the club's planned social programme.

The club recovered the cost of the emergency lighting used at the AGM, from the local authority. It also claimed compensation for lost bar profits. When the work was finished the council still expected the club to pay the £250 offered before the lights failed.

Muttering

The plans for the new hut were to go before the relevant local authority committee on March 16th 1997. Prior to this, there had been some "muttering" among members. A number made it known they were against the idea of a second hut. Approval to proceed with the proposed new hut was the subject of an EGM called for mid-April 1997.

Before the EGM, the club was told that their proposals had not gone before the council committee. The council advised that they were to conduct a review of leisure facilities in Spelthorne. This was intended to identify any gaps in services offered. The clubs requirements were included as part of this review. After fifteen months of work and meetings, the club was now in limbo.

The EGM in April explained the situation to the membership.

Worth waiting

In the following July the club was told that the existing buildings were to be extended to provide a green side pavilion. It was anticipated that it would be ready for the start of the 1998 season. A management meeting, especially convened, considered the plans in October 1997. The club agreed to contribute £5000 towards the costs. Several aspects of the plans and the consequences of the new arrangement required protracted negotiations to take place.

The club wanted sole occupancy and access to the dressing rooms from inside the pavilion. They asked that the kitchen and bar be located so that they were not adjacent to the toilets.

The initial estimate of the cost of the pavilion was £40000. Positioning the bar and kitchen in the preferred location was reported to add £5000 to the costs. The club decided that it would not add to its proposed contribution.

The pavilion was not ready for the start of the 1998 season. It was to be July before further meaningful dialogue occurred. The council advised that the club were to be granted a ten-year lease rather than the five in the draft documents. A discount of 15% was to be made to pavilion hire costs and season ticket prices for the first year. The local authority would not agree to unlimited access or sole occupancy.

By August, work had still not started. New plans drawn up by the local authority excluded some of the originally agreed items.

This led to a further round of correspondence, which ultimately produced a response from the council. They advised all of the tenders for the work were considerably over budget.

Close to a decision

In early 1999, a club EGM was called. This advised that the pavilion costs had escalated to £63000. The club had been offered a number of options. It was decided to increase the club contribution to the building cost from £5000 to £10000 in exchange for improved licence terms. Work started in March 1999 and shortly after the council agreed to most of the licence terms asked for by the club. The final design did not however change the location of the kitchen & bar or give access to the changing rooms.

A twenty-year lease with a 25% discount on pavilion and season ticket costs was agreed.

Almost four years to the day from the first discussion in committee, the club had a greenside pavilion.

It was opened in August 1999 but the official opening delayed until May 2000.

Surprise

The club had asked that a path be laid between the green and the pavilion during the winter of 1999. It came as something of a shock when a visit to the club by Secretary Esme Fraser discovered a full size sloping patio had been installed. The contractors were however removing all the grass that surrounded the patio.

An emergency phone call and subsequent meeting corrected the problem.

Having finally secured a green side pavilion the club then had to fit it out with locks- noticeboards furniture and other fittings. Carpet tiles were laid as the floor became slippery when wet. The honours boards were re positioned. There was almost £2000 of costs associated with setting up the new building.

There is more to come

A sub committee was formed at the start of the new season in 2000 to explore the cost of attaching a canopy to the new pavilion. They reported in the July when, in addition to agreeing to proceed further, the club decided that the new pavilion was too small.

A carport type extension was selected that would have cost a little over £2000. A local councillor had earlier said that he would help in trying to secure financial support from the local authority. This however proved fruitless.

At the end of the year, the council re-iterated their view that the canopy would attract vandalism and that children might fall through the roof!

This led to the club concluding that an extension should be built at the club's cost.

The cost was estimated to be between £15 and £20,000.

Plans were submitted for planning approval, and permission received in April 2002. Delays by the local authority in processing the paperwork meant the project did not start until November.

The extension was completed by the following January at the budgeted cost of £18500. A grant of £1500 towards the costs was received from the Spelthorne lottery.

Bob Bidgood had led the club through the two phases of pavilion building work. Just as soon as the second phase was complete, he received notice from the council that they wanted to begin discussions about self- management.

The opening of the new pavilion, From left to right: Councillor Robin Sider-Eric Ayling-Liz Borthwick Head of Spelthorne Leisure Services-Margaret Horne(Club President)-Ray Purdey (Club Captain)Jim Welsh-Esme Fraser(Club Secretary) and Harry Webb.



The possibility of adding a canopy to the clubhouse was examined again in 2011 but was abandoned on cost grounds. This led to the purchase of a marquee in 2013, which has proven to be a very popular addition to the facilities. Around the same time, the lack of storage space at the club led to a project that was intended to replace the hut with one that could also house the greenkeepers equipment. Planning permission was obtained but it was later determined that the new hut would not answer all of the club's needs.

Mary Poppins

Shortly after the marquee was first set up, it entered the club's folklore by imitating Mary Poppins. The club was playing at Byfleet on a very windy evening. I became concerned that the wind might be too strong for the health of our new prized possession.

I left immediately after the game and rushed back to Shepperton. On entering the park, it was apparent that there was no longer a marquee! It had deposited itself in the car park, having scaled a six-foot fence.

Thankfully, Roger Owen was home and together we manhandled it back to the club in the dark. The following morning confirmed that it had been bent out of shape. New "cemented in" fixing points, storm straps and a few new poles saw it back in use within a week or so.

4. Self-Management

The concept of council owned bowls greens changing to self-management arrangements was not new in 2003 when the club was informed of the local authority's plans.

Reports from all over the country had already been noted in bowls magazines and county handbooks. The cost of maintaining the greens was the principle factor in councils deciding to move to the self-management style of operation.

Spelthorne Borough Council operated four greens, Staines, Stanwell, Fordbridge Park, and Bishop Duppas. All four were to become self-managed because of the council's plans.

The arrangements at Fordbridge Park would later be suspended due to the complexities of the green being used by three clubs. The need for substantial remedial building work was an additional factor. The arrangements at Fordbridge Park took a further two years to complete after the other greens became self-managed.

Two parts

The self-management process was in two parts. Initially the running costs of the pavilions would transfer to the club. This would then be followed by the cost of maintaining the green.

The interior of the clubhouse became the club's responsibility whilst the council retained the external maintenance tasks. The local authority retained title to the land and buildings.

The green and its surrounds were to become the responsibility of the club.

The council had some seven years earlier contracted out all of the maintenance of parks gardens and cemeteries. Their chosen contractor, Quadrant, maintained all four Spelthorne greens.

The first meeting with the council took place on February 27th February 2003.

By the following October a proposal had been received from the local authority that identified the costs to be transferred to the club. This was rejected as the amounts for the utilities, fire protection insurance, water testing, and legionella tests were deemed excessive.

The matter took months to progress during which a meeting was held with Staines to share experiences. They had been selected as the "guinea pigs" for this phase of the process.

An AGM at the club, in 2004, resolved that self-management would not be agreed to until a list of club requirements had been fulfilled. This included access to the dressing rooms from inside the pavilion and the decoration of the exterior of the pavilion. It was thought unlikely that the process would conclude before 2006.

Rent Free

In 2005 and before any full agreement the club were advised that they no longer needed to book the pavilion for events and that no rent would be charged. The council advised however that they would no longer collect from our rubbish bins.

The exterior was subsequently painted twice. Poor workmanship on the first occasion led to a repeat a year later.

At the turn of 2008, a subcommittee of George Morton, Les Fleetwood, and Bob Bidgood were asked to negotiate the second phase of the project. A preliminary meeting, with Liz Borthwick, Head of Leisure Services was held in August 2008.

The fine detail of how the green contract would be drafted, outstanding matters regarding utilities; security fencing and the phasing of council support for the green maintenance costs were negotiated.

Draft Lease

The first formal document in the form of a draft lease was received in October 2008.

The club appointed a solicitor, jointly with the Staines and Stanwell clubs, to review the lease documents.

By June 2009, a short list of potential green contractors had been selected. They were invited to make presentations to the three clubs.

All three had agreed to use one contractor for their green maintenance. The clubs had each by this stage determined that care of the greens could not be undertaken by their members.

Tenders reviewed

Having reviewed the tenders, the clubs invited presentations from a short list of possible contractors. The clubs unanimously agreed to appoint Level Green to maintain their greens.

The company that had previously maintained the three greens found themselves disqualified from the final stages of the selection process. They submitted their tender after the closing date.

The club called an EGM in September. George Morton & Les Fleetwood gave presentations that detailed how the new arrangements would work. They described the outstanding matters that had to be settled before a lease could be signed. This meeting also agreed the appointment of Trustees and new elements in the club rules and constitution.

Thirty year lease

By the AGM of 2009, the club had signed a 30-year lease for the management of the facilities

The new green contractor began work in December and among their first remedial tasks was the removal of cherry tree roots that had broken through the surface of the green.

The saga of the utilities charges had not been fully resolved in December 2010.

Leaky Roof

In Early 2011, the new arrangements were put to the test when serious leaks appeared in the roof structure of the pavilion. They were so severe that the bar ceiling collapsed. A rota had to be created for members to empty buckets positioned to catch the water.



The council arranged repairs that were guaranteed for twenty years. The internal damage had to be corrected by the club. The council paid the costs of a new ceiling being fitted in the bar and they also corrected damage caused by damp.

Supportive

The local authority has been supportive in meeting obligations that were not initially completed before the lease was signed. They have repaired drain covers & pathways and removed trees whose roots were damaging the green.

Burglary

After a burglary in 2012, the authority paid for repairs to the internal doors that had been damaged. This cost, theoretically, should have been the club's responsibility.

Ron Mott staffing the bar during the "wet season".

5. Membership

Included in the committee and management section of the 1979 rulebook was the statement “It is established and conducted in good faith as a club and has not less than 25 members.”

This rather strange clause is believed to relate to the requirements of the club affiliating to National and County organisations.

Len Winter recalled that there were not twenty-five members to list on the county affiliation documents. Some names had to be invented.

It is thought that by 1979 the club had reached the twenty-five threshold.

The first mention of membership numbers does not appear in the records until April 1982 when male membership stood at forty one and included two seniors.-The Ladies numbered eighteen which also included two seniors.

A decision was taken to restrict the playing membership to sixty-five people.

The men’s subscriptions in 1980 were £12.50 reduced to £8 for seniors and £11.50 for women reducing to £7 for seniors. Seniors then meant 65years old for men and 60 for women.

In addition, season tickets had to be purchased from the local authority. These were £9.75 and £6 for seniors.

Ten match rule

In 1980, a proposition that members had to play eight to ten matches to qualify for the following seasons competitions was defeated at an AGM. Subsequent propositions, which varied the number of matches needed to qualify for competitions, were presented at several AGM’s. Eventually the club settled on the ten-match rule currently in force.

Subsequent attempts to have league and county competition games included in the qualifying games were denied in later general meetings. Mid-week friendly matches were included in the qualifying totals after approval at an AGM in 2005.

The subscriptions had to be significantly increased in 1981 when they reached £16.50 and £10 for senior members. Women’s fees were discounted by £1.

In the 1980’s it was felt appropriate to require prospective members to play two games before their application was approved.

Smoke & Mirrors

In 1993, the membership renewals did not go to plan. By March 31st, thirty-three members had not paid their fees.

The miscreants were to be charged a further £2 for failing to meet the deadline. It was then pointed out that the rulebook showed May 1st as the cut- off date.

In a masterstroke of Machiavellian behaviour, the committee decided to keep quiet about that and to form a rules committee to sort out the detail for the next AGM.

Two seasons later in May 1995, membership had sailed past the sixty-five limit to seventy-five. The club decided not to allow any further new members. They did agree however that a junior player could apply and would require approval by the committee.

The secretary’s report at the November AGM advised that membership had reached eighty but” not all contribute fully to club activities.”

The pre-season meetings of 1986 reconfirmed that membership was closed “except for experienced players”. At the same time, the Secretary was given personal powers to approve applications and to report on these at the following meeting of the committee.

Membership Frozen

During the A.G.M, of 1986 the club imposed a membership limit of one hundred. This target was reached in less than three months when seventeen new members joined.

Two junior memberships were included in the approved applications. By June of 1989, a vetting process was introduced. This required a prospective member to play a roll up ahead of their application being considered. Despite the very healthy membership, the Captain had to cancel a match in September 1990 due to lack of support.

Subscriptions increased

The summer of 1992 was marked by a hefty rise in subscriptions. Full membership leapt from £17.50 to £23 and seniors by £5.50 to £18. This coincided with the waiting list rising to twenty. It had reached thirty-six by February 1993. A number of vacancies allowed new applications to be



George Morton leading a coaching session in August 2011

granted but the one hundred ceiling was not breached.

In the autumn, members that had not supported the club in matches were advised that their membership would not be renewed the following year.

A reduction in subscription fees was welcome news at the 1993 AGM when they were reduced to £19 for all members.

Getting older

The age profile of the club changed quite markedly. By 1994, there were sixty-two seniors from a membership of ninety-five.

The membership numbers remained constant through the remainder of the 1990's.

This period saw Don Clarke join from Sunbury and he became the recognised club coach. All new membership applications were first vetted by Don who made his recommendations to the Club Captain.

By 2005, the numbers had lessened to around eighty. An influx of applications kept the playing membership at customary levels through the next ten years.

Bowls Development Alliance

Two recruitment events were held in 2016. The club subscribed to initiatives arranged by the Bowls Development Alliance and a second arranged by Active Surrey.

These schemes allowed the club to recover the costs associated with the recruitment process.

The events led to the club attracting eighteen new members.

In addition, applications were accepted from five experienced players.

6. The Green

Tracing the history of the green and in particular, its opening date has proved difficult. Most of the relevant local authority files have been lost. However, The Surrey County Heritage files, which are stored in Guildford, detail that the development of Bishop Duppas park's facilities was being considered by the local authority in 1972.

It is thought that the bowls green opened in 1973. Ian Hesketh, who lived in the house on the site, became the park's greenkeeper.

The green was underused, as there was no resident club playing there until Bishop Duppas was formed.

Laurie Dewson recalled that after moving into Shepperton, he and some friends would wander over to the green on a Sunday morning for a roll up. There were a small number of other regulars. They were arranged into teams by a person known as "The Colonel."

Regular players would loan bowls to the occasional players to save the cost of hiring the equipment provided by the council. The roll up had to be finished in time for Laurie & his friends to get back to the "Three Horseshoes" in time for its Sunday mid- day opening!!

Finest

Before the formation of Bishop Duppas, play on the green was largely by the public with occasional use by local organisations such as the Rotary Club.

The club records show that the Green Ranger heavily criticised the condition of the green at a meeting in 1981. He advocated the laying of an all-weather surface. This led to a request that the secretary write an official complaint to the local authority. Before he could do so, the Green Ranger retracted his remarks. This led the committee to decide to remove the position of Green Ranger from its list of elected officers.

Shortly after the incident England International Mavis Steele M.B.E accompanied by a county official, visited the green. She later wrote to the club. She declared that the green was one of the finest she had played on! She wrote to congratulate the green keeper.

Subsequently in 1984, she contacted the club with the request that Bishop Duppas host a Patrons match for the English Women's Bowls Association. This fixture remained at the club until 1994. The club made a loss on the event and decided not to host it again..

Although the green is laid out as six rinks, it was used as a seven-rink layout in 1989. This was for the first round of the mixed triples competition. An eighth match was played on the practice green.

The practice green was built by hand some years after the club was formed. The greenkeepers undertook all the work that added the two rinks. These were originally used for coaching and some public play. Today they are used for the club's croquet activity.

N.B. The main green is 800 millimetres wider when measured "across the pavilion" than the length "away from the pavilion"

Council Rules

The club had a few moments of panic in 1981. A local authority ruling decreed that the rinks had to be booked for all games and that a maximum of four rinks per booking would be applied.

That would have made club nights, drives and almost all of the club's fixtures impossible to organise. After the club had explained the potential impact on its activities, the rule was rescinded.

On another occasion, the green keeper demanded that all matches be completed by 8.30 p.m. Most players were working full time and league games did not start until 6.00pm. Members would have had to play at breakneck speed to comply with the early closure.

The closure time was later modified to 9.00pm. The local authority dictated the start and finish of the playing season. A request in 1986 to open before May 1st was declined.

The club's women that had entered Middlesex county competitions were put under real pressure. The first rounds had to be played by May 5th!

In the winter of 1997, a document from the borough council stirred up a hornets nest in the bowls clubs in the borough. It proposed new rules for the use of the four Spelthorne greens. The new rules included revised opening and closing dates and times, extended closure for maintenance and further public access stipulations. The closure of the greens on September 15th each year was a major concern.

Subsequently in the following, June this requirement was withdrawn and other rules modified in line with the local bowls club's requests.

Rumours

It was reported to the committee in 1981 that the Bagster House social club intended to form a bowls club. The rumours suggested that Bagster House would take over the Bishop Duppas green. The local authority quickly dismissed the claims. The rumours arose again five years later when it was confirmed that Bagster House had considered opening a bowls section. However, on hearing of the complexities involved the interested members joined Hersham bowls club instead!

Major reparations

In the summer of 1994, the club wrote to the council to express concern that the absence of a sprinkler system meant that the green had to be watered manually. Whenever this occurred, the water supply to the clubhouse and the residential property on site ceased.

Months of dialogue ensued in which the club also had to raise concerns over the rink edges becoming "dangerous." - After a couple of false promises, the work to repair the green took place in the winter of 1997. The sprinkler system was added during this period.

In February 2001, the club had to advise the council that the ditches and backboards did not conform to national standards.

A meeting in the following November identified the likely cost of relining the ditches would be £17000. Work began in the following January. In April, Denis Codd, the manager of the green maintenance contractor attended a club management meeting. He had to explain delays in completing the work. The committee feared the green would not be ready for play in May.

The season started on time, which suggests the work was completed shortly after the meeting.

Wilful damage

The playing surface had deteriorated during the winter of 2003 and led to a meeting between the club captains, a council official, and Denis Codd in February 2004.

The problem was identified as being the result of difficult conditions in the winter.

These had limited the usual seasonal work on the green.

Denis Codd also accused the bowlers of Bishop Duppas and Clarendon of damaging the green "wilfully."

With appropriate diplomacy the club responded by suggesting the green keeper use the protective mats if he thought the playing conditions were too soft!

The start of the 2008 season coincided with an extended dry spell. The timing could not have been worse as the water tank that fed the sprinklers split.

Attempts to water the green manually using bowsers were only just keeping the green alive.

Denis Codd solved the problem. His son climbed into the tank to "patch" the split with a paddling pool repair kit.

A new water tank arrived from Scotland in August. It was installed within days.

The winter of 2009 was the first under the new self-management arrangements. This saw the introduction of Level Green as the chosen contractor for the maintenance of the green.

Green tested

Les Fleetwood arranged that an inspection of the green take place in 2012. This included soil sampling which resulted in a declaration that the green was in good condition and had been well constructed.

The inspection confirmed that the green needed continual treatment for worms.

Numerous declarations, over successive years, from the European Union, concerning hazardous chemicals, have eliminated most of the tried and trusted remedies used by greenkeepers.

In 2015, the layout of the green was modified to use only three "colours of the day." Previously seven colours had been used.

The effect appears to have improved the consistency of the green.

County matches

During its forty year life the green has seen play in countless County Competition rounds, the finals of the various associations to which the club is affiliated, a Johns Trophy match between Middlesex and the Isle of Wight and occasional one off matches such as the Elmbridge IBC juniors versus Alton juniors held in 1988.

In 2016, the club hosted the finals of the Middlesex Ladies County competitions for the first time.

Clarendon

For many years, a second club, Clarendon, shared the facilities at the park. Many of their players were prison officers based at Ashford & Feltham.

They used the old hall for their teas and played on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

There were matches against Bishop Duppas but most of the Clarendon play was in roll ups.

The Clarendon organiser did not often figure in Ray Purdy's Christmas card list. He was once Ray's boss. Ray recalled having a particularly difficult annual appraisal with the Clarendon player.

Clarendon left the green when the possibility of self- management was aired in 2006.

Croquet

As the 2007 year tailed off an approach was made to the committee by Sheila Day. She asked that the club allow the use of the practice green for croquet.

A number of non-playing members supported the request. The club gave permission for the activity to start the following season.

The practice green was marked up for golf croquet. It is not large enough for the association version of the game. Sheila and Ken Day donated the original equipment together with a park bench for spectators use.

They were also loaned equipment by The Croquet Association. The group set up its own fees and became self-funding.

Renegotiated

A contribution to the cost of the green maintenance was sought by the committee. The croquet group raised the money from match fees. The practice green element of the green maintenance contract costs was originally close to £2000.

As the practice green had been more or less given over to croquet, Les Fleetwood re-negotiated the maintenance contract. This reduced the work on the green to reflect that it was no longer to be used as a bowls-playing surface.

This saved a considerable sum. The croquet group were then able to pay the entire costs of the practice green maintenance from their fees.

Back seat

In 2013, Jackie Elliott was elected as Chairman of the croquet group when Sheila and Ken Day declared that they would take a back seat. Although both are in their 90's Ken & Sheila still play with the group.



Benches

There are a number of benches placed alongside the main green and the practice green.

One is in memory of Joe & Dot Boxall.

Ken & Sheila Day donated a bench for the use of the croquet players

A bequest from the estate of Esme Fraser provided a second bench for the croquet players.

The then Mayor of Spelthorne, Derek White presented the club with a bench in 1996.

A fifth is in memory of Don Stimson. He was a local postal worker. Family members and his colleagues from the Sunbury sorting office made the donation.

Freak Weather

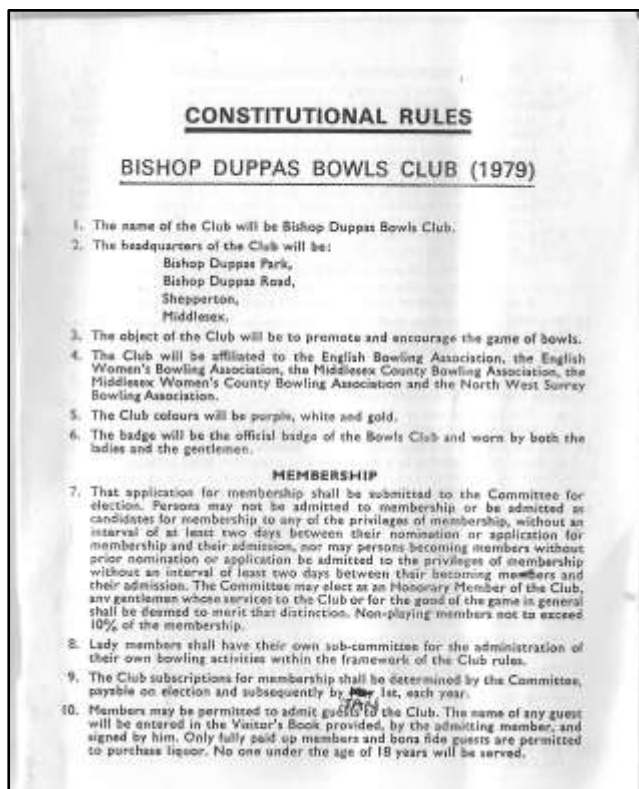


In August 2012 rainfall of tropical proportions flooded the green twice in four hours during a Thursday drive. The construction of the green ensures that it drains very quickly as can be seen in the photograph showing Geoff Sayers clearing up after the deluge. Earlier in the same year a freak weather system dumped hundreds of strands of foot long grass onto the green. The Captain was in the process of welcoming the visitors to the club. Play was held up for fifteen minutes while three sacks of straw were gathered by the players.

7. The rulebook

It would be far too tedious to plot a path through the dozens of changes that have occurred since the first rulebook was printed in 1979.

However, the changes, in many places, show how the culture of the club developed, particularly in respect of women members.



respect of women members.

It was expected that women did not vote at AGM's. This was not specified in the rulebook. The women ran a sub-committee to conduct their own affairs. They held their own meetings but any decisions taken had to be approved by the Management Committee. If necessary, matters would go to the AGM where the women could not vote!

This was confirmed when the Chairman ruled during an EGM in December 1980 that even the Management Committee women representatives could not vote. Subsequent rules revisions occurred in 1985 and again in 1987. By this time the clause limiting voting, only by men, had been removed.

Only men

The rules still maintained however that only men could be elected to the posts of Secretary, Chairman, or Treasurer.

This requirement was removed in subsequent revisions to the rulebook. A

number of changes were made in 1994, 1997, and more importantly in 2009 when self-management was finalised.

The rules revisions in 2013 were intended to allow the club to register as a Community Association Sports Club. Unfortunately, this application failed. The club rules require that new membership applications be displayed for members notice. This was thought to be discriminatory by the CASC authorities.

The application was intended to help the club become exempt from Business Rates. Government policy has subsequently continued to make small businesses exempt from the rates. The CASC application has not been pursued.

Latest revisions

The AGM of 2016 produced a series of changes to the rulebook and constitution.

These included the club bringing its disciplinary procedure in line with Bowls England guidelines.

The meeting agreed to a limit of five years being placed on the tenure of those elected to the post of Chairperson, Secretary, or Treasurer.

The introduction of a Team Manager role to replace the Men's Vice-Captain was agreed for implementation in 2018.

A further change modified A.G.M. procedure.

This allows prospective Chairpersons and Club Captains to address the meeting ahead of votes being cast if there are two or more candidates for these positions.

The conversion of the club dress code from a bylaw to a rule completed the revisions.

8. Management Committee

The committee that was self-appointed in April 1978 had seven officers and one other member with no specific title. The first AGM added a ninth, which was a second position on the committee for women.

The original constitution identified that there would be nine on the Committee. Chairperson- Secretary- Match Secretary- Treasurer- Vice Captain and two elected representatives from among the men and two women that were appointed by the Ladies Committee.

Confusion

The 1980 AGM was unusual in that all the committee positions were filled by nominations "from the floor." No names had been added to the nominations form on the club notice board.

Three years later the annual meeting saw another flurry of activity as the Chairman, Captain, Secretary and Treasurer all stood down at the one meeting..

A new committee was formed but Terry Jackson had to volunteer to look after the books as no Treasurer could be found.

The women formed a subcommittee and held their own AGM's between 1980 and 1993. Only one set of their minutes survives. The women decided from among their numbers the two that would sit on the Management Committee.

At first, there was some confusion about their role. This led to a proposition being agreed that the two women had full voting rights on the committee. Subsequently a male member challenged the right of the two women to vote at an AGM. It was decided that they could only vote at Management Meetings.

The committee would select from its members or seek volunteers, people to manage the bar and organise the competitions. The position of Green Ranger only lasted for three years.

Officially, the committee structure remained at nine but the records show that in 1989 the membership allowed the position of Competition Secretary to be added to the list committee. This after three previous attempts in General Meetings had failed.

At the same AGM, a proposition that "The officers of the club be elected annually at an AGM" was approved. It is thought this was to overcome an error of omission in the rules.

Discontinued

The committee structure was changed in 1993 when the Ladies Section was discontinued. The reorganisation led to the introduction of the roles of Club Captain and male and female Vice Captains.

In the same year, the position of Bar Manager was added to the committee. The number of elected members without office (elected representatives) increased from two to three. Two of these had to be women. The elected representatives were reduced to two in 1995 when the position of Ladies Representative was added to the committee.

The adoption of self-management in 2010 led to the reintroduction of the Green Ranger's role. This increased the number of committee positions to thirteen.

Led by the Chairman

The first six annual meetings were led by the club Chairman. On his appointment as President, Albert Porter took over this task for the 1984 meeting. Successive Presidents fulfilled this role until 2009.

Having assumed the responsibilities of self-management, the club decided that the Chairman would once again lead the General Meetings. Margaret Horne became the first female President in 2000. The first female club captain, Isabel Morton, took office for the 2015 season, having been Ladies vice- captain for the previous five years. Isabel was followed as club captain by Su Sheahan for the 2016 season.

Title Change

The title of Ladies Representative was altered to Catering Manager in late 2015.

There have been a number of members that have served as officers or committee members for significant periods. Bert Porter, Maureen and Eric Ayling, Bob Bidgood, Mike Jay, Tony Dixon and Laurie Gascoigne have all completed ten years or more as members of the committee.

The Role of the Club Secretary

Of all the positions on the committee, the post of club secretary is arguably the most arduous. This is particularly true of the period before self-management was thrust upon the club.

I hope that those that have filled the role in recent times will forgive me if I single out Ken Good- Pat Purdey -Esme Fraser and Laureen Dixon for special mention.

During their tenure and particularly for the first three there were no e-mail facilities or word processors. The early minutes were all hand written and perhaps that accounts for some of the missing detail.

Until 1999, the club notice boards were in a cold draughty corridor open to the public. Printing & photocopying were prohibitively priced. Keeping the club informed of important events and advising changes to the rules or other important matters relied heavily on the notice boards. As any past secretary will tell you- no-one reads the notice boards!

Until the mid-millennium years, every activity that involved the hall, pavilion or green had to be advised to the council.



Pat Purdey in charge of the Christmas raffle in 1990

Bulldog

The booking of the hall and the green was an exercise that required military precision.

The correspondence that was exchanged with the local authority over the new pavilion and its extension rivals the length of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. It is clear from the files that the club secretary needed the patience of a saint and the tenacity of a bulldog. Coping with the pace of bureaucracy would have tested the strongest of spirits.

It is due to their efforts, and diligence in record keeping, that the opportunity to prepare this history exists.

9. Management meetings

Management meetings were initially held in the homes of committee members. The cost of hiring the hall for a meeting would have been prohibitive. Subsequently the Tuesday evening club nights became firmly established and the meetings were held alongside this activity.

As almost all the committee members were working full time, meetings were held in the evenings. They were often suspended due to the lateness of the hour.

No Money

In 1978 the club experimented by holding club nights in the winter. The hall was booked on a month by month basis. The following year the club pre booked every Tuesday for the winter of 1979. The hall booking for the playing season of 1979 cost £60. The cost for the winter of 1979 was to be £156 but the club did not have the funds available. Two members made loans of £50 each and the balance was found among the others present at a management meeting.

The management meetings were due to be held on the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month.

Attempts to run the meetings in 1980 led to complaints that committee members were bowling rather than attending the meetings!

The minutes of the meetings were due to be posted in the bar from August 1982. It was to be four years before complaints about this not happening, stopped appearing in the minutes.

Tops Club

In June of 1986, the committee members complained that trying to hold a meeting against the background of the club night antics was impossible.

Later in the year, the meetings moved to The Tops Club (the forerunner of Shepperton Sports Club). This is now located in the building opposite Shepperton Station.

That change only lasted three months. A mixture of venues, including members' homes, were then used.

In the spring of 1991, the committee agreed that £5 be paid to anyone that hosted a meeting in his or her own homes.

Preferred User

In 1995, the meetings were held at the Sunbury Ex Servicemen's Club, where the hosts did not charge a fee for the use of their premises.

A short stay there eventually led to the meetings returning to the club hall.

This was made easier by the club registering as the "Preferred User" of the facilities. This meant in exchange for a one off fee that they could book the hall as often as they wished provided the council did not already have a booking.

The opening of new pavilion in August 1999 enabled the meetings to be held separately from club nights.



Past member Phil Mitton (left) with Cyril Pratt at a club Christmas function in 1990. Cyril chaired the management committee in 1992 and 1993.

10. Fixtures and league play

From the outset, the decision of the founders to play only mixed matches at weekends produced a significant challenge for the match secretary.

Local clubs, including Byfleet initially agreed to mixed matches. Presumably, these clubs were initially keen to support a newcomer. Later and perhaps because of criticism from their members a number of clubs declined to play in the mixed format.

The details of the first few years' games have sadly been lost but there are occasional mentions in the records. This includes the match secretary advising in 1980 that he had arranged a game in Dagenham!

The club entered the North West Surrey Leagues for men in 1979 and arranged two single rink teams to play in the league. The women also affiliated to the NWS to play the women's league. They won their division and the league title in their first season.

In mid-week the men & women played, their own friendly matches.

Insulted

The 1981 season details that the fixture secretary and his wife had been insulted by a representative of Ottershaw B.C. This led to fixtures between the clubs being cancelled. The previous season's game against Remembrance B.C was another casualty. The club decided not to continue this fixture.

At the AGM of 1982, Captain Len Winter was able to report that the club had played twenty-eight mixed weekend matches of which they had won half. That included winning the final twelve matches of the season.

In 1984 and 1986 the women made applications to join, the Ealing and District Association. They were refused on both occasions.

Captain Ken Good reported in 1985 that the club had played thirty-four mixed matches.

The match with Weybridge became a casualty in 1986 when it was decided to discontinue the fixture.

In July, the same year the match secretary arranged a game with Hawker B.A. This included four rinks of men and two of women. This being against the "mixed" ethos the committee insisted that no other games be arranged in this format.

The first of several visits from Welsh touring club Blackwood occurred in August 1986.

Spelthorne Shield

In 1987, Staines and Bishop Duppas agreed to share the cost of a trophy to be played for over two legs. It was subsequently named the Spelthorne Shield. Some years later, a small number of Bishop Duppas members challenged the naming. They thought it implied that any of the Spelthorne based clubs could play for the trophy. Their concerns were ignored.

In the same year, the women asked the committee for permission to affiliate to the Hounslow & District Association to compete in a women's league. The matches were to be played on Monday evenings, which was the same evening that they played NWS. league games.

The committee gave its approval as the women gave assurances that playing only ten games in the H&D league would not disrupt their NWS commitments.

The Heathfield competitions were the next new games to be added to the club fixtures. These started in 1988. These competition matches are played on a knockout basis.

In the same season, Ealing Conservatives incurred the club's displeasure by unexpectedly charging for after match meals. The fixture was dropped thereafter.

Three teams

The 1989 AGM reported that forty-five of the planned forty eight-week end games had been played. The men entered three teams into the NWS. league.

Meadhurst and Ashford were both dropped from the fixtures in 1990; their having advised they would not play mixed matches. Captain Cyril Pratt reported at the 1990 AGM that for the first time, the club had won more matches than it lost. A forty four-match season resulted in twenty-four wins. This improved to thirty wins from fifty-five matches the following season. In 1992, thirty wins from fifty-seven matches were recorded. The club entered the Fordbridge League and became champions in their first season

By the early nineties, the match list had grown to eighty-eight matches and in 1993 included ten Fordbridge League games. The club also joined the TVL League.

Club captain Ray Purdey had the unenviable task of reporting on “disastrous “results in 1994.He asked the committee” how can we instil competitiveness in our members.” Although the club won the Fordbridge League it won only fourteen of forty-six games. A special meeting was to be convened to discuss the results in detail. There is no record of such a meeting being held.

One innovation in 1994 was a day out to Eastbourne for a game, which was reported as being a “tremendous success.”

Touring team

A major disappointment in early 1995 was learning that the Royal Household would not confirm a fixture for the coming season. This much sought after game had taken the fixture secretaries some years to obtain.

That same year saw home and away fixtures arranged with Clarendon.

New opponents were found in 1996 when Surbiton and Bishops Park from Fulham were added to the fixtures.

The seaside trip was changed to Seaford for 1996 and the club confirmed that a second touring team, this from Abertillery would be hosted the following season.

New leagues

The club entered the Chiltern & Thames League for 1997 and the Hounslow & District Monday night triples league..

The men upset the women by arranging to play in the Hounslow and District men’s league. The programme involved twelve weekend games requiring three rinks of men. Understandably, the women were angry as this removed the mixed match aspect of weekend play.

The committee recognised the error and after just one season pulled out of the league having finished in third position.

Comparison

The fixture list for 1997 included seventy two mixed matches. The twelve men’s H&D weekend games, eight TVL matches for men, eighteen men’s and eleven ladies friendlies plus the H&D Monday night triples, the H&D ladies league and the NWS league games for men & ladies.

In comparison, the fixture list in 2016 includes sixty-seven mixed matches, five men’s friendlies, fifteen women’s friendlies and six Thames Valley men’s triples plus the H&D Monday triples. The NWS games now include a mixed league and the women play in the Surrey Advertiser league.

The other significant difference in play, in comparison with 1997, is the number of external competitions that the club and members enter.

The North West Surrey association launched a new double rink league for 1998 and this was chosen in preference to playing the single rink league.

Reduced fixtures

Having entered the Chiltern & Thames League the club decided to withdraw after just one season. In the winter months of 1997-8, the club entered a Sunday evening league created for outdoor clubs at Cambridge Park. The club finished third. .It was noted that our team had used twenty-four players. The winners used just six!

The club re-entered for 1999 but did not win a single game. The club withdrew from the league because of the poor results. At the start of 1999, the fixtures were reduced by dropping the number of double-header matches from thirteen to five. The women voted to leave the Hounslow & District Monday Evening League but later changed their minds.

They reached the playoffs in 2000 but lost in the semi-final. They went on to win other competitions organised by the Association.

That same year another indoor league, this at Elmbridge, had attracted an entry of two teams from Bishop Duppas. One of these won £20 as league runners up.

For 2001, the fixtures were amended to remove Glaxo, Supreme, and Hanworth. They were replaced with Lensbury, Heathervale & Teddington.

Fordbridge League

An AGM resolution in 2001 determined that if a Fordbridge League game fell on a weekend, a second friendly match would be played on the same day.

The decision had to be re-enforced some years later when Geoff Sayers reminded an AGM of the earlier decision.

Entry into the Chertsey & District Mixed fours was arranged for 2003. This was the forerunner to the NWS mixed League.

The women were asked to move some of their friendly matches away from Tuesday afternoons as few were attending club nights.

Clarendon

The Clarendon club left Bishop Duppas Park in 2006. This enabled the fixture secretary to arrange Wednesday afternoon club matches.

The summer of 2007 saw the entire women's committee of the Hounslow & District association resign. This led to the league being discontinued with Bishop Duppas as the final League Champions.

The club joined the Surrey Advertiser league as a replacement for the Hounslow games.

A second team was added to the men's Hounslow and District Monday Night Triples in 2012.

By 2014 the Fordbridge League had grown to twenty fixtures.

In the same year, a single rink team was entered in the NWS leagues alongside the club's double rink entry.

The club gained promotion in successive years, to division one. It was relegated back to division two for the 2017 season

An invitation to play in the Coronation Cup, hosted by Ember, was accepted as an additional competition from 2015.

The club played in the N.P.L Monday triples league in 2016 finishing in third place.

An invitation to play in a Triangular competition with Staines and Stanwell during the 2017 season has been accepted.

Lost fixtures

The fixture list has seen many changes since 1978. A number of opponents clubs have closed while other fixtures have been excluded.

Among those that are no longer in the fixture list are North Surrey Water Company-the R.A.O.B. Feltham Park- Clarendon-Hersham Village- Blue Flame-Surbiton- Cowley-Whitely Village-BAA-Dittons-Norwood Green- Acton Park-North Sheen- -Lensbury- Bishop Park- Burnham-Glaxo-Lammas- Normand Park-Boston Park-I.C.I –Feltham Ex Servicemen's-Ottershaw-Bracknell-Hare & Otter, Kingsley & Harrodians.

The fixture with the Royal Household will be re-introduced in 2017.

I could not trace the game in Dagenham. I suspect there may be members still on their way back from there!

11. Honorary Life Memberships

The early management committees often requested that the club secretary identify those members that had been offered Honorary Life or Honorary memberships.

The written responses were, on occasions, not in accord with past club minutes. This led to confusion.

A discussion in 1998 led to the agreement that Honorary Life membership would be offered to those that had served the club with distinction and were still active playing members.

Honorary membership would be conferred to similarly qualified members but for those that were no longer playing bowls.

One reason for the two definitions was that, in the earlier years, playing members had to buy a local authority season ticket. Life members would purchase a season ticket-but would be exempt from club subscriptions.

A rule was to be drafted to that effect for adoption at the subsequent AGM.

The rule change was not drafted. However, the need two forms of honorary membership disappeared with the introduction of self-management.

The last honorary membership was conferred in 2003. Ted Bryant was the recipient of the committee's offer. In earlier years, Edna Jackson with Les and Jessie Hay were made honorary members.

The following members have accepted Honorary Life Memberships:

Albert Porter (1984) –“Bert” was a founder member, the first club Chairman and first club President. He served as Chairman from 1978 to 1983 and as President from 1984 to 89. He often contributed money to the club. He also provided the two trophies that were originally called junior trophies. They were later re-named in his honour as the Porter Cups. He was principally responsible for fitting out the bar in the original hall. He also provided the club honour boards and made the first of the two scoreboards for the green.

Alice Neville (1988)-Alice was one of the original members to join the club in 1977. She and her husband Jack attended the first meeting in April 1978. Alice was the Lady Captain in 1984 and joined the committee as one of the women's representatives. She also served on the committee in 1985. The following year saw her join the social committee. In 1988, a presentation of cut glass, at the club annual dinner, recognised the awarding of her Honorary Life Membership.

Alice won the ladies pairs with Gwen Proudfoot in 1980 and again with Joan Whitby in 1981. She was the victor in the Porter Cup final in 1982 and the two woods in 1984. In 1988 she was partnered by Harry Draper and Joe Boxall in winning the mixed triples.

Len & Dick Winter (1992)-Len & Dick were founder members and two of three brothers that helped establish the club. Their bookmaking business was based in Nursery Road, Sunbury where Len continued to live until his death in 2016. At his funeral, a eulogy was given by a long-standing friend. This recalled that in his younger days Len was involved in building motorways and a nuclear power station. He also commented that Len was an accomplished soccer player. Len won his county bowls badge, partnering Ken Drake, as substitute for Robin Bellion in the Middlesex County men's pairs in 1979.

Len was club Captain in 1982 and 1983 and with his brother Bert elected as a vice president in 1987, 1988, & 1989. Len and his brothers contributed financially to the club on a number of occasions. They also provided the ladies championship trophy. Len won the club two wood competitions in 1979 and the mixed pairs with June Gold in the same year. In 1996, he won the men's pairs with Trevor Lindsay. After giving up bowls, Len carried on supporting the club's activities. He was a regular member of the club tour parties. His dry humour enriched any game of bowls that he watched.

Brother Dick has been described as the quieter one of the three brothers. Like Len, he helped the club financially on a number of occasions. He won the club handicap competition in 1982.

Len & Kit Farrant (1992)- Len & Kit joined the club in 1986. They served on the social committee in 1987. Kit was Vice-Captain of the Ladies Section in 1988 and Middlesex ladies delegate. Len acted as delegate to the Francis Drake Fellowship in 1988. He served on the bar committee the same year.

Eddie Walker (1997)-Eddie was club Chairman from 1988-1991.He first joined the committee as an elected representative in 1986. In 1991 he organised all the club raffles and had his own catchphrase-" Fresh from the rivers of Tesco" when awarding the tin of salmon that was a prize in every raffle. The minutes of 1996 showed Eddie as having been being offered Honorary Membership. In March 1998, the committee agreed to modify the minute from 1996 to reflect that Honorary Life Membership was the club's intent. He won the men's pairs in 1984 with Bob Whitby.

Esme Fraser (2003)- Esme served the club as its Secretary for nine consecutive years from 1995. She was a trained secretary with excellent shorthand skills. The volume of letters and minutes she prepared on her trusty typewriter is difficult to describe or estimate. Esme made a bequest to the club from her estate. This was used to purchase a trophy named in her honour. It is awarded to the winners of the club internal league.

Esme won the Porter Cup in 1996 and accompanied Maureen Ayling to victory in the ladies pairs in that same year. Later she won the two wood competition and became club champion in 2003.In 2004 Esme won the Taylor Plate.



The first winners of the Esme Fraser trophy.(l to r) John Blackmore-Mike Cooper-Carol Jack-Laurie Gascoigne- Maureen Clayton-Ray Kowalski.

Eric Ayling

(2012)- Eric served on the management committee from 1988-1993 as an elected representative. During this period, he was often nominated as the Bar Manager. He took this role in 1993 when it became a management committee position. In

addition to the bar responsibilities he helped to organise the club tours to Blackwood. He often volunteered for many of the "handyman" tasks that were undertaken in the old hall and around the green. This included arranging the construction of the central scoreboard.

He became men's Vice-Captain in 1994.In 1995 he returned to the committee as an elected representative. Three years later he took up the bar managers role again before once again becoming an elected representative in 1999.The following year he accepted the club's invitation to become Vice President and served as President in 2002 & 2003.

On the green, Eric won a number of club competitions .He was club champion in 1991.The two woods competition saw him win in consecutive years 1993 & 1994. In the latter year, he also won

the men's pairs with Reg Plumb. Ten years later, he again won the men's pairs with Jim Welsh, and also won the senior's title. He won the mixed triples in 2001 with Loris Cooksey and Avril Clark.

Maureen Ayling (2007)- Maureen first joined the club committee in 1991 as an elected representative. Among the many tasks she undertook was the arrangements for early club tours. The following year she was elected as Competition Secretary a role she fulfilled for four years. Maureen became ladies Vice-Captain in 1998 and was re-elected in 1999 and 2000. She returned to the Committee in 2003, as an elected representative. Maureen served in this capacity for six years. In 2012, she became the President of the club but was unable to complete her second year due to husband Eric's ill health. She has been a member of the club social committee on many occasions. Maureen became Middlesex County Ladies President in 2014.

She won the Porter Cup in 1989 along with the two woods, which she successfully defended in 1990. She won the ladies handicap in 1994. The ladies pairs competition has seen her victorious on nine occasions. The most recent was in 2012 with Su Sheahan. She has won the mixed pairs twice, firstly with Terry Jackson in 1994 and with Denis Martin in 1999.

Joy & Bas Donmall (2007)- Looking after the money was Bas Donmall's principle role, being club Treasurer from 1989-1991. He was President in 1994 & 1995. Those years saw substantial donations to Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Princess Alice Hospice arising from his Presidents Day activities.

In May 2012, the committee arranged a club night celebration of his 90th birthday.

Joy joined the committee as Ladies Captain in 1988, a role she performed on six occasions up to 1997. She later took on the ladies representative job for three years from 2000. Joy managed the sales of club clothing, and badges for some years after leaving the committee.

Bas won the men's pairs in 1992 with Norman Shaw. With wife Joy and Roger Bell, they won the mixed triples in 1998.

Joy won the ladies pairs in 1989 with Pat Shaw and seventeen years later, she partnered Isabel Morton to victory in the same event. Having won the mixed triples in 1998, she went on to win this trophy for three consecutive years playing with Mike Jay & Jim Welsh and Ted Palmer and Pam Reader.

Margaret Horne (2012) & Heather Severn

(2006)- Margaret and Heather have been friends since they both went to the same junior school in Hampton. They also attended a local youth club in the area. Heather and Margaret joined the club along with Joan Bedworth in the late 1980's.

On leaving school Margaret became an audio metrician and visited schools to test the children's hearing. She later started a giftware business at the rear of her husband's kitchen showrooms and DIY business.

Margaret became the first female club President in 2000. She had been ladies representative for four years 1994-1997.

In 2005, she was elected as Competition Secretary. In her Presidential years, the monies raised were contributed to the club funds and assisted in the building of the new pavilion.

Margaret had an outstanding playing career. Her first title came in 1991 in the mixed pairs with Dave Perry. In 1992, she won the Porter Cup and the ladies pairs with Maureen Ayling. She was club champion in 1996 and again in 2000 when she also won the two woods.



She successfully defended the two wood title in 2001. Margaret repeated the double of club champion & two woods victor in 2002. Two years later, she again became club champion. Her final win in the two woods was in 2006.

Heather joined the club after a brief spell at Hampton B.C. She became the club's second female President in 2006. She represented the women members at management meetings in 1994, 1998-1999 and 2004 & 2005. Her two Presidents Days saw over £3500 raised for The Shooting Stars charity. The women's Porter Cup bears her name as its winner in 2000. Heather and Margaret are staunch supporters of club activities. They are among the group affectionately named the "Golden Girls." They are the club tombola experts and regularly assist the club Presidents and Officers at prestige events.

Ken & Sheila Day (2012)- Ken & Sheila were accepted into membership in 1988 having played previously at Cobham.

Known for their generosity to the club, they have made a number of donations for the purchase of equipment. They were instrumental in setting up the Croquet group and they play in the bridge group that meets at the club in winter.

Sheila was runner up with Tony Dixon in the mixed pairs in 2001.

Les Fleetwood (2015) -Les joined the club from Shirley Park B.C. in 1991. He is a former metropolitan police officer and member of the London Guild of Toastmasters. An accomplished Master Of Ceremonies he has officiated at numerous Bishop Duppas and Middlesex County bowls functions.

Les was President in 2013-14 & Club Captain in 2006 & 2007. In 1995 he took on the responsibility for arranging the club tour, a task he undertook for sixteen consecutive years until 2012.

For many years, Les represented Bishop Duppas as delegate to the Thames Valley Bowls Association. He was elected as Chairman of the Association in 2004, a role he fulfilled until 2011. He was a member of the team that negotiated the club's self-management arrangements with Spelthorne Borough Council. Following this, he was elected as the club Green Ranger. This saw him supervise the introduction of external contractors for the maintenance of our green. He served as Green Ranger for the first five years of the contract,

Les won the club two wood competition three times between 1999-2002

Ted Bonner (2015)- Ted joined the club in 1998 having played indoors for a year at Egham. In 2003,

he assisted the then bar manager before taking over the role in 2004 and continued in this job through 2005.

Having been elected as the Competition Secretary in 2006, Ted completed six years in this capacity.

During this period, he arranged the replacement of many club trophies that had become the worse for wear.

The club Christmas party has often seen him as "Top of the Bill" with his Elvis impersonations and renditions of songs from the musicals.

His playing career was cut short by a shoulder injury but not before, he had won the Porter Cup in 2000, the club handicap in 2004 and the mixed triples with Sylvia Catt Camfield and John Webb in 2005.

In recent years, Ted has taken on the mantle of "club marker." He has helped innumerable members by officiating in club and external competitions. He is also an accomplished gardener having won a number of prizes in local horticultural shows. Ted's skill is often put to use around the club gardens.



Are you lonely tonight?

12. Presidents Days and fund raising

A significant feature of Bishop Duppas member's activities has been their willingness to support fund raising activities. The club and numerous local & national charities have benefitted as a result.

In the late 1980's and in 1990 the club held gala days for the Francis Drake Fellowship.

This registered charity was founded in 1933. Its aim was to support flat green bowls players and their families. Those that had suffered misfortune or distress could apply for financial help. FDF raised their funds by offering players annual and life memberships in return for a small subscription. They also sold enamel badges to clubs who in turn would pass on the receipts from selling the badges. During the life of the club, two members have benefitted from the support of the FDF.

The gala days saw visiting clubs send teams to compete against Bishop Duppas. Through raffles, rink fees and other means almost £1000 was raised and sent to the FDF. The fellowship still exists. It has however advised its intention to wind down.



FDF lapel badge from 1950

New Format

In 1990 the then President John Webb advised that Presidents Day would follow the pattern of the FDF gala days, with the aim of raising money for charity. Previous Presidents Days had been social events. Teams from local clubs were invited, by the President, to play against the club in friendly competition. The club benefitted from the days bar takings and raffles but the proceeds were kept in house.

John Webb chose the Princess Alice Hospice as the charitable cause that would benefit from the funds raised in the revised format. This style of Presidents Day continued in subsequent years.

It is often one of the highlights of the club activities. The days are often enlivened by the madcap antics of those charged with raising money on the day.



Past Presidents John Webb and Ray Purdey with founder member Len Winter on tour in Carlisle in 2011.

The bowls play has seen the traditional spider played in most years, but there have been some clever and innovative games developed especially for the day. Crazy golf, target bowls, football based team competitions, and Irish bowls, have all created a special atmosphere. Each year the President nominates the charity that benefits from the funds that are raised.

In some years, the proceeds have been donated to the club. This helped the club to build the new pavilion and its extension in 1999 and 2003.

The Presidents Day's and other fund raising activities have produced over £35000 since 1988.

Many organisations have received help from the club including St John's Ambulance- Shooting Star Trust- Princess Alice & Sam Beare Hospices- McMillan Trust, Renal Research & the Surrey Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance

13. Club Tours

In 1978, the idea of organising a club tour was discussed regularly in committee. For a variety of reasons, it was not pursued until 1989. That year Maureen Herbert (Ayling) offered to organise a tour but her offer was initially turned down. Later the club approached her to ask if she was still willing to make the tour arrangements. She & Eric Ayling subsequently organised a visit to Blackwood in Gwent for 1990.

For the greater part of subsequent years, Les Fleetwood was the organiser and Tour Secretary. He took over the responsibility in 1995 with a tour to Somerset. He arranged eighteen tours in successive years. In 2013, Les handed over the reins to Mike & Tina Cooper who with assistance from Sandie Weaver have managed four tours. The first overseas club tour, again organised by Mike & Tina, will see the club in Portugal in July 2017.

Blackwood

Blackwood in Gwent is a club that has a long touring history. From 1986, their tours included visits to Shepperton to play Bishop Duppas.

The first Bishop Duppas club tour in 1990 was for a weekend. The club stayed at the Mace Manor hotel in Gwent for a visit to Blackwood.

Later tours were extended into a full week. Members have fond memories of these tours, which often featured unexpected and amusing happenings. The tours to Wales included a trip down a mine and a visit to the Welsh festival in 1994.

The Blackwood hosts would provide the evening entertainment. This included their forming a Welsh voice choir.

On their return trips to Shepperton, the Blackwood, members were entertained at Bagster House and Sunbury Ex Servicemen's club. One of these visits included the Bishop Duppas women forming their own choir to respond to the entertainment provided in Wales.

Somerset

Bath was the centre for Les Fleetwood's first tour as organiser. The location allowed him to arrange two games per day neither being more than thirty minutes away from the other.

He planned the itinerary and comments that he believes, "The Bath hotel was the best" of all those used for the tours he arranged.

Four of the clubs that hosted the Somerset visit were within fifteen minutes of the hotel.

The Newquay tour of 1997 very nearly did not happen. On the Wednesday before the tour was due to leave, Les discovered that the hotel organiser had not booked any matches!

To make matters worse the season in Cornwall had more or less come to an end. A three-day blitz by telephone saw Les find six clubs prepared to open especially for the tour.

The trip to Troon in 2006 coincided with a very hot spell of weather. After some matches Laureen Dixon and others took advantage of the hotels position close to the sea and went swimming in the North sea.

Despite its reputation for indifferent weather, the two tours to Scotland were played without any games being called off. For the trips, the players needed to go into "training." It was the custom for those playing three and their skip to disappear off the green every four or five ends to sample the local distilleries products.



The tour party to Troon in 2006

In the Forest of Dean, the club discovered it was playing against one of the original Tiller Girls- Carlisle saw a visit to Cockermouth; Keswick & Appleby just a year after major flooding had ruined the hosts clubhouses and greens.

English Bowls Federation rules.

The first match in Horncastle involved a walk of all of twenty yards from hotel to clubhouse. The hosts played on a green that was almost a rhombus in shape! As visitors, the Bishop Duppas players had to be coached to send up the jack. The optical illusion created by the shape made it difficult to keep the jack on the rink.

In Lincolnshire, many matches are played under English Bowls Federation rules. Les Fleetwood had arranged for all the matches to be played under English Bowls Association rules. One of the Horncastle skips did not hear the announcement before play. Bob Bidgood was somewhat surprised to find the lead of the opposing team suddenly became his opposing skip after three ends.

Tour history

1990 Blackwood-Gwent
 1991 Blackwood-Gwent
 1992 Blackwood-Gwent
 1993 Torquay-Devon
 1994 Blackwood-Gwent
 1995 Bath Somerset
 1996 Wales
 1997 Newquay -Cornwall
 1998 Babbacombe -Devon
 1999 York-Yorkshire
 2000 Isle of Wight
 2001 Babbacombe -Devon
 2002 Midsomer Norton-Somerset
 2003 Crief- Scotland
 2004 Weymouth- Dorset
 2005 York-Yorkshire
 2006 Troon-Scotland

2007 Torquay-Devon
 2008 Bideford Devon
 2009 Horncastle-Lincolnshire
 2010 Coleford (Forest of Dean)-
 Gloucestershire
 2011 Carlisle-Cumbria
 2012 York-Yorkshire
 2013 Torquay-Devon
 2014 Isle of Wight
 2013 Torquay-Devon
 2014 Isle of Wight
 2015 Bournemouth-Devon
 2016 Newquay-Devon
 2017 Algarve Portugal

14. Club competitions

1979-80

The first club competitions were held in 1979 with the men & women each having five competitions to enter. There was also a mixed pair's competition.

The committee at that time did not include an elected competition secretary. One of the management committee members took on the task of arranging the competitions. Perhaps as a result the competitions often ran past the original play by dates. It seems that in the very early days deciding the date for finals to be played was a little hit & miss.

It was to be ten years before the post of competition secretary was to be added to the management committee. By this time, the members had rejected the idea at three separate annual meetings.

In 1979, the finals were completed over three weekends because matches had not been completed by the due dates. The winners and runners up were presented with replica rose bowls and plaster bowls figurines.

The club minutes of 1980 describe the women as being "very ready for the finals to be played" but the men were "very less than ready." Consequently, the final fixture of the year was cancelled to allow the finals to be played. The trophies were presented at a social night in the hall.

1981-1984

Concern was expressed in August 1981 that the cost of trophies (£32) exceeded the income from competition fees. It was agreed in September to use club funds to finance the shortfall.

The women's championship had to be held over, as one of the finalists, Sue McConnachie, was unwell. In fact, the final was never played and the issue rattled on for two years. Her opponent claimed that Sue McConnachie had given her the game. This was never resolved. The committee's



Molly Lindsay & Terry Jackson at the club prize presentations in 1992. Les Fleetwood was the Toastmaster-

decision not to award trophies for the competition was the continuing theme of correspondence for over two years.

A newly introduced mixed triples competition was created in 1982 and was to be played on Tuesday evenings. This had been included as a replacement for the mixed pairs competition. It clearly failed, as there are no details on the honours boards until 1987.

The 1982 finals were due to be played in late August but on the 17th of the month the appointed competition secretary advised that so many men were on holiday that the

men's finals would probably not be played.

The AGM of that year saw a heated exchange

in which the mixed pairs was re-introduced to the programme for 1983 along with a new mixed singles competition. An earnest plea was made that competitors adhere to the play by dates in the following season

For 1983, Len Winter took on the job of arranging the competitions along with his duties as club captain. This must have had a galvanising effect, as there were no issues reported during the year. Clearly determined to avoid problems for 1984, the committee arranged for Dave Heaton to run the competitions, along with assistant, Geoff Sayers.

The close of 1983 had seen the women form their own committee and they held an AGM. They decided that in 1984 their pair's competition would no longer be drawn and that competitors could choose their own partners.

This must have caused a constitutional crisis. The club rules at that time said that the women could not change club rules or by laws and had no votes at a club AGM.

Unfortunately, most of the 1984 records have been lost. At the time a new set of club rules were being prepared but these did not come into force until 1985.

How the matter was resolved remains a mystery. Perhaps the men felt it was dangerous ground and allowed the women to have the own way! The competition reverted to being drawn in 1988.

1985-1990

The club mixed singles was changed to a sets format for the 1987 season but subsequently reverted to shots in 1989. In that same year a decision taken at county level meant the men's singles had to be played to twenty-five shots.

An AGM resolution in 1989 changed the handicap range from 0-5 to 0-7 for the 1990 season. The following year saw the introduction of red & blue stickers on finalist's woods

1991-1999

The AGM in 1991 agreed that club handicaps be set by a committee of the Captain, Ladies Captain & Competition Secretary

In December, following a suggestion from Les Gascoigne the committee agreed that the Junior Cups would be renamed after their donor-Albert Porter.

The offer of a new trophy from Dr. Jack Taylor in October 1993 subsequently saw a silver salver purchased. It became the Taylor Plate to be contested by the first round losers in the men & women's Championship. In 1995, Cliff Godbold offered a donation for a new trophy to be played for by members over sixty. This led to protests and some correspondence from members.

Some felt it was inappropriate to have an age related competition. The debate continued for a number of years before in 1999 Stan Bunt became the first winner of the C.G. Seniors competition.

Good Idea

The 75 point competition was added in 1995. Feedback from members suggested that the idea was good but the day (played down to the finalists) was too long.

The format was changed at the following committee meeting. This resolved that the initial matches would be played to produce quarter-finalists. The quarter and semi-finals were to be played on a separate date.

The AGM of 1998 saw one of those perverse decisions that in later years are difficult to understand. The women's club handicap competition was re-organised in 1993 to ensure the handicapping rules lined up with the Middlesex Counties recommended system. This ensured that badge points could be gained from this competition.

In the county approved format the difference of the two players' handicaps was added to 21 shots. This identified the number of shots that was needed for the better player to win a game.

The opponent would need to reach 21 shots to win a game.

The 1998 AGM reverted to the previous system of posting the handicap difference on the board.

This meant that the player with the higher handicap started with those shots and no longer had to gain twenty-one shots to win.

It was not until 2009 that both the men and women adopted the County system.



Chairman Eddie Walker presenting Joan Draper with the Ladies Handicap trophy in 1990.

Throughout the 1990's the club strictly enforced the rules relating to competitors scratching from the competitions.

The offenders were usually banned from the relevant competition in the following season. On three occasions, special management meetings were convened to manage disputes that had arisen in the rounds or finals.

2000 onwards

The millennium year saw the club finals planned to be held over both days of a weekend. This was agreed in order to overcome the problem of competitors playing multiple finals.

The management meeting minutes of March 2001 noted that the handicapping range was altered from 0-7 to 0-6. It was subsequently changed to the previous format. The 75-point competition was re named in Don Clarke's memory in 2001.

The senior's competition was changed in 2006 so that only those over seventy years of age could enter. This raised a few hackle feathers among members.

Despite continuing protests into early 2007, the committee maintained their position and the over seventy qualification was maintained.

On a few occasions, the finals have been affected by the club or its members having to play in external competition finals held on the same day as the club finals.

This was most marked in 2015 when a planned contingency day was used on a Tuesday.

The club had reached two TVL finals, which required twenty men to play on the Sunday of club finals weekend.

The competitors

A study of forty years of club competition results has produced some interesting statistics.

Only three men have successfully defended the championship.

It took eighteen years of finals before Robin Bellion successfully defended the title. He then won it for three years in a row.

Bob Bidgood and John Elliott are the others to win back to back championships.

Among the Ladies, Sheila Griffiths was the first to win in successive years; thirteen years after the competitions began.

She has since been equalled by Avril Clark, Joyce Fleetwood, Beryl Baldry and Tina Cooper.

Thirty Two titles

Among the men, the most consistent performer in the competitions has undoubtedly been John Elliott.

Since winning the Porter Cup in 1984, he has won thirty-two competitions including the Championship five times.

Strangely, he has yet to be part of the winning team in mixed pairs or mixed triples.

John Webb has won twenty-five competitions, which include five championships and the mixed singles on six occasions.

Other men that figure prominently on the honours boards are Laurie Gascoigne (17) Ron Mott (16) Jim New (12) & Terry Jackson (11)

Women's results

The women's results are dominated by Joyce Fleetwood, Isabel Morton, Maureen Ayling and Tina Cooper.

Joyce and Isabel have won seventeen times with Joyce winning the championship on four occasions. She is the only woman to have won the mixed singles.

Isabel has won the championship twice and the handicap five times.

With husband George, she won the mixed pairs, the fourth married couple to achieve this.

The first three couples, playing in the early 1980's, may not have played as drawn partners.

Maureen Ayling has won fifteen titles that include winning the ladies pairs nine times.

Margaret Horne won ten competitions. After only six seasons, Tina Cooper already has fourteen titles to her credit. Wendy Jay has won eight.

First Couple

In 2014, Mike & Tina Cooper became the first married couple to win both the men's and ladies championships in the same season.

Mike also won the mixed singles whilst Tina added the ladies handicap and ladies pairs to her championship win.

The club trophies

Over the years many of the club trophies have had to be replaced due to wear and tear or in one case an accidental loss in a rubbish bin.

A number of the trophies were named after their donors or to recognise member's contributions to club activities.

The men's championship is played for the Fred Langmead trophy whilst in the women's championship they compete for the Winter Brothers Cup.

The Proudfoot Trophy is for the ladies handicap and the Whitby Cup is presented to the mixed singles champion.

Originally known as the Junior Cups these were re-named the Porter Cups in honour of Bert Porter and to recognise his work on the club's behalf.

The women's two woods trophy is named after Gladys Linnell and Don Clarke is remembered in the naming of the 75 point trophy.

Cliff Godbold donated the trophy that is presented for the senior's competition and the Taylor Plate purchased by Jack & Muriel Taylor is played for in the consolation competition for first round losers in the club championship.



Vice President & Competition Secretary, Margaret Horne, displays the club trophies ahead of the 1998 finals



Left: The original Junior Cups later renamed in honour of Bert Porter.

15. Social Activities

Among the early decisions of the club was the determination that there should be a Social Committee. An election took place at the 1979 AGM and Les Naylor took on the task of leading the activities. The club then raised the funds to book the hall for Tuesday evenings throughout the winter.

Les Naylor's first event was a darts competition in December 1979.

Later he was joined by two volunteers and subsequently the committee became four strong.

In 1986, it was agreed that a member of the management committee should sit on the social committee. Ken Good was asked to join them. He later remarked, "I had not expected to become the committee chairman."

The highlights of the programme have been the Christmas Party and the annual Dinner and Dance, which incorporates the presentation of the prizes for club competitions.

The end of season dinner and prize presentation was held at the club hall until 1985.

After moving to Sunbury Ex Servicemen's club, the function became a Dinner & Dance.

Subsequently The Shepperton Moat House, Kempton Park, Sunbury Cricket Club, and the then Shell owned Lensbury Club were all used as venues.

The function moved to Ashford Manor Golf Club in 1999 where it has remained.

The 1991 dinner at Kempton Park had 138 members and guests present.

On the opening of the new pavilion, a set of equipment for short mat bowls was purchased. The clubhouse proved too short for its effective use and shortly after the activity ceased.

The club Christmas Party has taken many forms. For many years, the members provided their own entertainment. A surprising amount of hidden talent emerged when requests for "turns" went out from the organisers.



**Richard Worthington and Peter Bailey-Wee
Willie Winkle night September 2002.**

Richard Worthington regularly opened the evening with a zany array of jokes, faux magic, and sketches. He could be guaranteed to put a smile on everyone's face.

In recent years, Ted Bonner has often been top of the bill with his songs and sketches.

In 2016, the Christmas Party broke with tradition.

The Social committee hired a professional entertainer.

This resulted in a very successful evening that created a nightclub atmosphere in the clubhouse.

The usual array of quizzes and games nights have been interspersed with attempts at mimicking TV shows such as Mr and Mrs, and Play Your Cards Right.

Fancy dress evenings have always been well supported, as the photographs in this section and others will testify.

A "bring and tell" evening asked members to present a favourite item of memorabilia. The club discovered that Brian Jack had once been shot and still had the bullet in his hip to prove it!

Former member Stan Bunt often organised the evening entertainment. He had a garage full of games equipment. This included a mobile skittle alley and a set of hobbyhorses.

These figured in an unusual style of race evenings.

In recalling past social events several members mentioned Eddie Bogart as the life and soul of the club's activities. She was a former "clippie" on the buses and was guaranteed to liven up any occasion. In later years, she was to become partner to Loris Cooksey, a much respected and popular former club member. They met because of their great interest in ballroom dancing.

16. The Club Shirt

When members first started to wear the club shirt opponents would often comment-” How did you do it?-We have tried and cannot get anywhere, there are members threatening to leave if we insist on a club shirt”

Little did they know of the saga that had gone before?

The AGM of 1997 included a number of propositions put forward by Robin Bellion and Ken Drake. These in part reflected that they played at a high level in competitive bowls.

Robin had been selected for the Middlesex Middleton Cup squad and four years earlier had been in the team that won the National Mixed Fours title before joining Bishop Duppas.

Four propositions

Robin & Ken proposed that a team manager be appointed-and that the rule regarding running on the green be suspended.

They also hoped to change the handicap rule so that new members did not automatically start on scratch.

In addition, they proposed that coloured shirts be allowed on the Bishop Duppas green. This was the only proposal of theirs that was accepted.

It was qualified by determining that coloured clothing could only be worn for internal competitions and roll ups.

Design requested

Robin Bellion was asked by the management committee to draw up a design for a club shirt. He left the club before any action was taken.

Some years passed before the topic was raised again in committee. Sub committees were formed but rarely reported.

Matters progressed in 2005 when the club accounts included provision for £600 to cover the cost of subsidising member’s first purchases of club shirts. However, it was to be a further year before a survey of members broadly indicated that the idea should go ahead.

Vice Captains Les Fleetwood and Wendy Jay arranged that designs and samples be prepared for scrutiny by club members.

The shirts were purchased from Cotswold Bowls and In August 2007, the club started to wear the new shirts in all club matches.

The club subsidised a member’s first purchase. This would have cost £12 and a second shirt was charged at £18.



17. Finances

Anyone that has started a small business will testify that managing the cash flow is the key to success or failure. It is no different for a bowls club.

The founders initial funding of £100 was bolstered by member's subscriptions. The first two years appear to have gone smoothly as the bank balance in August 1979 stood at £98.

Complications arose however as the activity level of the club increased.

The introduction of competitions in 1979 put a strain on resources. The club purchased a number of trophies. These together with other running costs led to the bank balance reducing to only £12 by September 1979.

Financial Year

It was agreed that the financial year would end on the 31st October. This was later to be the subject of debate over many years.

The November AGM of 1979 approved the opening of a building fund.

The following year the club decided that the subscription year was 1st November to 31st October and subscriptions for the following season had to be paid by December 31st.

By April 1980, the club was in the red to the tune of £150 but the building fund held £65.

A meeting was called (which took a month to convene) and by then the building fund held £74 which was transferred to the main account.

This pattern of activity was to occur on a number of occasions in the following years.

The expectation that members would renew their subscriptions in December for the following season led to many problems. New dates had to be agreed to overcome the issues.

In the formative years, Len Winter, Albert Porter, and others provided loans in times of adversity.

Interest Rates

Among the most striking differences with life in 2017 are the interest rates, which were available on deposit accounts in the 1980's. The club closed a Woolwich account and moved the funds to Barclays, as the interest rate at 11.5% was 3% higher.

The revenue from bar profits rapidly became the second largest contributor to funds after subscriptions.

The attention that was given to the management of the bar reflected its importance to club finances.

By April 1983, the club accounts were in good order and the committee went on a spending spree.

They purchased a summerhouse, honours boards, trophies and paid the engraving costs.

Resignation

This led to a spectacular resignation letter from a committee member. The match secretary wrote, "I am a lone voice in the wilderness and will not be part of a club that is collapsing because of the whim of a few." However, he offered to finish his duties as the club match secretary

The following month the accounts showed the club had funds of £294 having met its commitments!

Repaid

The founder member loans were repaid in 1985. In the same year a loan of £250 was made by the club to help establish Egham IBC. This was eventually repaid in 1995 having earned £125 in interest. In 1997, funds were placed into a bond and a separate high interest bearing account.

Fund Raising

In addition to subscriptions and rink fees other fund raising initiatives introduced over the years include pontoon cards, football cards, penny on the jack, scoreboard sweeps, and the Bonus Ball sweep based on lottery results. More recently, a 100 club has replaced the bonus ball sweep.

Open Pairs competition

The club ran open a competition for Ladies Pairs on Sunday mornings in 1985 & 1986.

These attracted a strong entry and matches were played for substantial cash prizes.

The competition required the organisers to be on site for eight to ten Sunday mornings in a row.

New volunteers could not be found for 1987 and the competition ceased.

The club had more success in arranging Open Days from 2000 to 2010.

Local clubs were invited to send rinks teams to compete against Bishop Duppas. The events were organised by Cliff Godbold and later Mike Jay. A few thousand pounds were added to the bank balances because of their efforts.

An unexpected boost to club funds came in 2012 when a video production company used the club as a location for a training film. Their client was a charity that specialised in overcoming personal tax issues.

Recipe book

The club entered the world of publishing in 2013 with the production of a recipe book. Mike Cooper, who arranged its production, sponsored the brainchild of Sylvia Catt Camfield.

Recipes from members were included and the book sold out its print run making over £300 for the club.

Ladies Invitation Day

Led by Ladies vice- captain Su Sheahan, the club arranged a Ladies Invitation Day in 2014. The club's



Wendy and Mike Jay on tour in Carlisle in 2011

men provided the catering and the competition arrangements. It was so successful that it was repeated in 2015 and 2016. Each year the club benefited from the significant sums raised on the days. These collectively added up to £4000.

Five figure sum

Successive Treasurers have ensured the club has managed its affairs with prudence.

The effect of having to find a five-figure sum for green maintenance each year from 2014 was pre-planned.

The Committee Chairman, George Morton, identified the need for the club to generate the necessary funds

without raiding the accumulated reserves.

The guidance brought to the process by Mike Jay was celebrated at the club dinner & dance in 2015.

A presentation was made to Mike to recognise he had served the club as Treasurer for fifteen consecutive years.

18. Bannerette matches and county badges

Those clubs in Middlesex that are due to celebrate a special anniversary may apply to the county for a bannerette match.

This is played against a team provided by the county Executive Committee.

After a three or four rink game, the host club receives a bannerette or a county shield if they should win the match. Bishop Duppas men were awarded a shield after the game in 2008.

The county team for that game included Ron Petch, affectionately known as Mr. Middlesex.

He played over 700 games for the county, and was a former county President.

He had been made a Life Member of the English Bowls Association prior to his death in 2014.

The club will be playing another bannerette game in 2017 to celebrate its fortieth birthday.

This match will be a mixed format following the men & women's county associations' merger in 2015.

Previously the club has enjoyed six other bannerette games.

The men of Bishop Duppas played the county in 1985, 1987 and 2008. The women entertained the executive in 1993, 1998 and 2007.



The women's bannerette teams from 1998. The Bishop Duppas team included current members Maureen Ayling; Margaret Horne; Heather Severn; Pauline Hutton and Joyce Fleetwood.

County Badges

The members that have earned the county badges are as follows:

Women- Full Badge- Tina Cooper- Isabel Morton- Wendy Jay- Maureen Ayling- Joyce Fleetwood- Pat Taylor (Also Berkshire)- Sheila Griffiths- Avril Clarke- Chrissie Briggs (While at Blue Flame)- Pam Foscett (While at Blue Flame)- Jean Wayne (Devon Badge)- Audrey Cowlshaw (Dorset Badge).

Women- Colts Badge- Sandra Hutchins- Avril Clark- Joan Draper- Rose Gascoigne- Midge Kerr- Pauline Hutton- Margaret Horne- Audrey Cowlshaw- Kit Farrant- Pat Oakley.

Men Full Badge- Ken Drake- Robin Bellion- Len Winter- Roger Owen- George Morton- Terry Stoner (While at Sunbury)- Don Clarke (While at Sunbury)- R. Cook (While at Mid-Surrey)- Steve Gibson.

Men Colts Badge- Jim Welsh- Laurie Gascoigne.

19. What goes around...?

There have been a number of recurring themes in the club meetings minutes.

Two in particular have taken more committee time than any other topics. The dress code and the provision of match teas, with its accompanying rota, have occupied hours of debate.

This was particularly prevalent in the club's formative years.

The topics continue to vex club members today.

Dress Code

The first rulebook of 1979 gave guidance on dress but remarks in the early club minutes suggest the notes did not meet everyone's expectations.

On many occasions, the subject was raised in committee only to be deferred until a rules committee could be convened. Many rule changes attempted to clarify the club expectations but these did not always set a clear pattern to follow.

The women had to ask "permission" to be allowed to include blue blazers in their match day attire in 1986.

That same discussion agreed that all committee members should enforce the dress code rules.

This latter initiative clearly did not work. Shortly after, the committee appointed a number of Green Rangers with the aim of spotting miscreants and taking them to task.

One unfortunate junior player was spotted playing in a dark sweater. The Captain was despatched to speak to his parents!



The good old days?

Brown Shoes

Around the same time, the dress code was aired at an A.G.M. A proposition that only brown bowls shoes were to be allowed on the green was defeated.

The dress code was eventually spelt out in the club by laws. However, considerable committee time has been spent discussing individuals that chose to ignore the bylaws.

The introduction of a bylaw in 2003 allowed the wearing of white shorts. They were restricted to games that were not in leagues or competitions. This led to endless debate in committee. (I have noticed that the provision for shorts is not mentioned in the bylaws or rules).

In 2016, the management committee announced a relaxation of the dress codes for casual play and the club internal league.

This prompted much discussion and was resolved at the 2016 AGM.

It was decided that the dress code listed in the club constitution should be re-instated.

The responsibility for pointing out to members that their dress is not suitable is a grey area.

It is not clear who owns the unenviable task.

Some people find it difficult to air the matter with their playing colleagues-others can get a little over zealous. This can lead to unfortunate results.

The traditionalists complain about falling standards-the more liberal simply ask, "Does it matter?"

The issue has vexed committees year after year.

Tea Rota

In the very early years, the club relied on volunteers to provide the match refreshments.

Later, Jan Perry took on the task single handedly but this lasted only a season or two.

A rota was introduced but initially it created as many problems as it solved. The rota was abandoned and the green keeper's wife provided the teas for a few seasons.

The rota was later re-introduced but foundered once again. Attempts to find catering contractors failed as the costs were considered too high.

In 1989, the rota was re-introduced and was part of the information pack that went out with membership renewals.

In 1993, it was decided that all mid-week games, except for some women's matches would only have tea & biscuits provided.

Subsequently the rota system was re-enforced. However, at the same time, it was agreed that the men would have to provide their own food for their mid-week matches.

The rota has remained an integral part of the arrangements with the men's matches included from the late millennium years.

Similarly, the cleaning of the new pavilion initially caused the committee some headaches.

The club paid a member to clean the club but this only lasted for a season. At one point, external contractor quotes were sought and later the bridge club offered to pay the costs of a cleaner. This all before a rota system was successfully introduced.

Two more topics

In addition to the topics mentioned there are two others that are recurring themes. The local traffic and the canopy.

Getting in and out of Bishop Duppas Park from Walton Bridge Road can be difficult given the volume of traffic that passes over Walton Bridge towards Shepperton.

The local authority and the police were first contacted in 1993 when Secretary Pat Purdey took up the matter.

Both the police and the local authority advised they could take no action. The council pointed out that "Walton Bridge will soon be re-built and the traffic will not go past the entrance to the park."

This of course, referred to one of the many plans to reroute traffic as part of the bridge development.

Twenty-three years later the bridge has been rebuilt but the traffic still passes our door in ever-increasing amounts.

A new lay by has alleviated some of the problem but cars parking in the park entrance are now causing additional problems.

The opening of the nursery in the old hall has significantly changed the amount of traffic coming in and out of the park

A new attempt for improvements started with a letter from the club to Surrey County Council Highways Department in mid-2015. They subsequently advised that it will be "at least eighteen months" before the club can expect a response.

Canopy

Adding a canopy to the front of the pavilion is currently in its third phase of investigation.

Initial attempts were thwarted by lack of support from the local authority. The second attempt foundered on cost grounds. The potential extension to the clubhouse, for which planning permission was received in December 2015, incorporates a canopy.

A case of third time lucky perhaps!

20. External honours and competitions

Among the many contributions, that Albert Porter made to the club was the provision of the Honours Boards. On these, the club officers are listed along with the winners of the club internal competitions.

One section of the board is given to listing those that have been successful in external competitions. In recent years, the external honours have had to be transferred to a separate printed board. The number of achievements exceeded the space available on the sign written boards.

First success

The first entry for an external competition was from 1979 when the Ladies won the North West Surrey Ladies League.

The successive years have seen a formidable list of competition details added. Most notable are the county successes of Ken Drake & Len Winter in 1978-79, and our women's achievements in County competitions in more recent years.

Sandra Hutchins played as a junior international in 1987-88. She is one of only three Middlesex players to have represented England in junior international play.

The Ladies county fours title was won in 2014 by Isabel Morton, Joyce Fleetwood, Chrissie Briggs and Pam Foskett. At the same time the club's women's team reached the finals of the County double rink competition.

Isabel was to go to Leamington again in 2015 as county Ladies Singles finalist.

Her achievement was followed by Tina Cooper who qualified to play at Leamington in 2016 as a County Singles finalist.

Near Misses

The club won the Women's Middlesex County Top Club title in 2015 losing to Egham in the area play off. This game decided whether Middlesex or Surrey went to Leamington for the National finals.

There was another near miss in 2012 when the club's entry into the Tony Allcock over 60-mixed double rink competition won the Middlesex and Berkshire division.

A playoff, against Egham, saw the Surrey champions go to Leamington for the National Championships.

Arguably losing in a semi-final is harder on the players than being the runner up in a final. The club has seen a number of near misses in county competitions.

The Men's Singles, Ladies Pairs, Ladies Triples, Ladies Double Rink, Men's Fours and the Men's Double Rink on two occasions have seen club players and teams reach the semi-final only to earn the "close but no cigar" commiseration.

Associations

Bishop Duppas members past and present have figured prominently in helping to organise and administer local outdoor bowls associations.

Bob Bidgood has been President of North West Surrey since 2011.

Les Fleetwood was Chairman of Thames Valley from 2004 to 2011.

Cliff Godbold organised the Fordbridge League Competitions for a number of years.

Laurie Gascoigne is Secretary and Treasurer of the Hounslow & District B.A. and Secretary, League, and Competition secretary of the Fordbridge League.

21. Snippets

1981-Quote of £41 for wooden flag pole rejected as too expensive.

1982-The club's chosen supplier of ties advised the club that it could no longer provide the chosen colour.

1983- Club stickers introduced.

1984-Ladies allowed to be included in the bar rota.

1986-Club quoted £100 in wood £186 in metal for a flag pole. Pole & Flag purchased for £160. Flag pole dedicated to Jack Neville.

1987- New supplier Fillaspun quoted £3.74 for ties and £4.68 for Cravats. First recorded complaint about selection policy.

1988- The bar till cost £175. Cyril Pratt designed and made the board used to welcome visiting clubs. Cost £45.

1989- A new EBA imposed minimum jack length of 70 feet required the green to be marked out accordingly.

1992- Home matches were timed to start at 3.00pm but were later changed to 2.30. The top fell off the flag pole. The replacement pole cost £260.

1995-The first presentation by Bowls Wear Direct was at Presidents Day in July. The club introduced top rink prizes for club matches. The Illuminated manuscript regarding Bishop Duppa which hangs in the clubhouse was prepared by Les Hay.

1996-The enamelled name badges worn by members were first ordered from First Choice Bowling in August. The introduction of metric measurements in bowls was introduced.

1997-A new flag was designed and supplied at a cost of £220. A third flagpole was donated and put in store. It still lies in the field near the sprinkler water tank.

1998-The first sponsorship from outside of the club occurred. Autoglass contributed £100 to a Francis Drake Fellowship Gala Day. They also provided a raffle prize. This was a car sun roof worth £100.

1999-A new glass fronted chill cabinet was purchased for £450. Spelthorne Borough Council canvassed the five outdoor clubs in the borough regarding the viability of building an indoor bowls centre in the borough. Woodthorpe BC organised a petition when it became clear that the centre would not be built.

2000- An anonymous donor provided a new umpire kit. A group that included club members arranged to use the pavilion for weekly Bridge sessions on Thursday afternoons.

2003 -An attempt to interest Bishop Wand schoolchildren in the game of bowls was abandoned due to a lack of interest.

The club was burgled and again in 2012.

2004-The barrier across the entrance to the park was installed to stop joy riders and to help cut down on minor vandalism around the pavilion. When the flag jammed at the top of the pole it was fixed with the use of Loris Cooksey's thirteen meter carbon fibre fishing pole.

2006-Chill cabinet turned itself into a blast freezer and froze the stock. Exploded cans and bottles littered the bar as a result.

2007-No smoking in the clubhouse was introduced in July.

The Middlesex county coaching team visited the club. Video film of players deliveries, target bowls, reading the head and measuring and marking figured in a programme later described as "brilliant" by the members that signed up for the half day event. Isabel Morton & Laurie Gascoigne won the target bowls competitions.

2009-An electronic raffle machine was purchased. Lodge Brothers sponsorship of £300 was agreed. Vandals stole the rink numbers.

22. The history of bowls

Historians believe that our modern game derives from past times played as early as 5000 B.C. by the Egyptians.

Then round stones were used in a form of skittles.

Over the centuries similar games developed in Europe where various forms of play evolved. Some are still recognised sports i.e. Boules in France & Bocce in Italy.

The game of Lawn Green bowls is thought to have started in England in the 12th Century.

The original bowls were of stone and some were iron.

By the 15th century flat green bowls were made of hardwoods and Lignum Vitae became the choice in the 16th century.

The sport's popularity in the 16th Century was such that it is mentioned in three of the plays of William Shakespeare - "Richard III," "Loves Labours Lost", and "The Taming of the Shrew". "The Taming of the Shrew" includes a reference to bowls being played by women.

Accident

It is thought that the introduction of a bias in the bowls came about by accident. It is reported that the Duke of Suffolk had one of his woods split in half in mid game. A replacement was found by sawing off the top of a newel post. The flat edge left by the sawing caused the bowl to curve. Other players soon followed as the curve allowed bowls to be played around others on the green.

It is recorded that centuries later the craftier players used to modify their bowls to increase the bias. Sets of wooden bowls often incorporated an ivory or bone disc on one face. On the reverse were similar discs often numbered one to four.

The unscrupulous would lift the disc and drill holes into which lead was added. The disc would be replaced and no one would be any the wiser.

It would have been possible to create a set where the bias was different in each bowl. As the number of bowls in the head increased, the wider drawing bowl could be used.

One would imagine though that if a player insisted on playing with number one first and then in sequence throughout the end, that his opponent might just figure he was playing a cheat.

Banned

Whilst the story of Francis Drake is well known by most people, it may come as a surprise to learn that the game was banned by various monarchs in both England and France. Henry the Eighth introduced a ban during his reign despite being a player himself.

Although Henry played the game, he, like many monarchs before him, was concerned that the bow makers, fletchers and arrowhead makers were spending too much time in recreation.

A statute of 1511 and an Act of 1541 banned the artisans of the day from playing bowls. An exception was made for Christmas Day. However, play had to be in the home of the artisan's master and with the master present.

The statute made it virtually impossible for anyone other than the wealthy to play. It decreed that in order to keep a bowls green an individual needed to own land of an annual worth of £100. The individual also had to apply for a licence.



This set of Lignum Vitae bowls was presented to the club by Cyril Pratt. Date stamped for 1955 they are available for use by members that might want a trip down "Memory Lane"

The green could only be used for private play. A fine of 6 shillings and eight pence was imposed if bowls was played illegally. It is suggested by historians that the ban was largely ineffective. It was officially lifted in 1845.

Worldwide

Fortunately, the game had flourished in Scotland and it was there that the first unified set of playing regulations was written. These became the basis for the modern game.

The Scottish Bowls Association was formed in 1892 and the English Bowls Association in 1903. The Middlesex County Association was formed in March 1911.

The game was introduced worldwide by colonialists from both Scotland & England. A national association was created in Victoria in Australia before 1880.

Bowls has been played by royalty for centuries and famous figures from all occupations. These include George Washington, Samuel Pepys, George D Rockefeller, and Walt Disney.

Elite Competition

For any player the pinnacle of achievement would be to represent one's country at the Commonwealth Games. Bowls was introduced to the games as a core sport when they started in 1930. With the exception of 1966, flat green bowls has figured in every Commonwealth Games.

World Bowls Association

In more recent years a World Championship for outdoor bowls has been played. It is organised by the World Bowls Association based in Scotland.

December 2016 saw the thirteenth Championships which were held in New Zealand. The venues have in the main been in the Southern Hemisphere.

The latest finals are detailed in an excellent on line bowls magazine which can be found at www.insidebowlsmag.com

The WBA has the responsibility for the world wide management of the laws of the sport, its development, anti-doping policy, the appointment of bowls testers and synthetic surface standards. The Association has fifty-seven accredited organisations as its members. Among these are countries where the "colonial" background may not be responsible- namely Turkey and Germany.

Jack Attack

Among the latest innovations in bowls has been the launch of Jack Attack in Australia and New Zealand. This is aimed at getting more people to play social bowls.

The Jack Attack program is intended to be run as a six to eight week competition, staged ideally on a midweek evening. The format of two bowl triples with substitutions permitted, two sets of five ends, a sudden death tie-breaker if required, and a duration of play of just 60-75 minutes.

The rules are:

- Players can participate in consecutive order or they can bowl out of turn
- The jack is placed wherever the team wants to from the mat.
- All players remain at the mat end to ensure the social atmosphere is maintained.
- Closest bowl scores one point and additional closest bowls from the same team score additional points.
- Each team gets one power play per set (Double points)
- Jack in the ditch is respotted to the "T"
- The result of each end is declared by the coordinator.
- Music is to be played over the rinks whilst play is in progress.

It will be interesting to see whether this novel approach is used in the U.K. The choice of music could cause a few problems if the organisers are fans of Meatloaf or the Clash!

23. Pictures from the archives



Top Photograph-Club Jubilee celebrations-Back row l-r-Margaret Clarke-Sylvia C-Camfield-Joy Donmall-Isabel Morton-Sylvia Hatcher- Dorothy Webb-June Worthington-Cherry Clark-Margaret Marshall-Betty Clarke- Front Row-Heather Severn-Margaret Horne-Wendy Jay.

Below Left-David C-Camfield presenting the Ladies Invitation Day winners with their Trophy.(l to r) Sylvia Hatcher- Judy Nash- Iris Mott and Sandie Weaver.

Below Right- Maureen Ayling presenting a cheque from the proceeds of her Presidents Day to a representative of the Sam Beare Hospice.





Top Left-The club had to demonstrate it did not have sufficient storage space in order to obtain planning permission for a new hut. This was in 2011 but the project was abandoned.

Top Right-Pauline Hutton leaving the green at Springfield where she obtained her Colt's badge.
 Above-Hounslow & District League winners-Seen representing the club are Roger Owen Roy Donoghue and John Elliott at Isleworth in 2015.
 Middle Left (L to r).Joan Bedworth- Doreen Burgess - Dorothy Webb- Pauline McCarthy and Rose Gascoigne watching the club finals in the late 1980's.
 Bottom Left-Representing Middlesex as County Fours Champions at Leamington in 2014 are Isabel Morton-Chrissie Briggs-Pam Foscett and Joyce Fleetwood.



Top Left-Loris Cooksey enjoying an after match drink-
Top Right-Sylvia C-Camfield presenting a bouquet to
Sheila Day to mark her 90th birthday watched by Ken
Day. Middle Right-Ray Purdey as Nana Mouskouri at a
private party in 1991.Above- Pauline Knapp and Kay
Gascoigne, Tramps Supper 2011.Right- Les Gascoigne &
Maureen Ayling Junior Cup winners 1989.



Top Left Marjorie & Bob Bidgood at the club Jubilee party. Top Right-Midge Kerr & Pauline Hutton. Middle Left-The first married couple to win both club championships-Mike & Tina Cooper in 2014..Middle Right-John Webb on a good night out. Above-Isabel Morton receiving her county badge from Middlesex President Pat White at Kingsclere B.C. in 2009.Right Former club Chairman Jack Rosewall. Jack was Chairman between 1984 and 1987 and again in 1999.



Top photo-Esme Fraser with Bill and Barbara Cooke at Presidents Day 2007.
 Above Denis & Su Sheahan clearing up at the 2007 Presidents Day.
 Middle Right- Tramps Supper 2011 with Tom Street Judy & Alan Nash and Fred Ashen
 Right- Jim New enjoying a coffee break during the Horncastle Tour in 2009



Presidents Day 2007

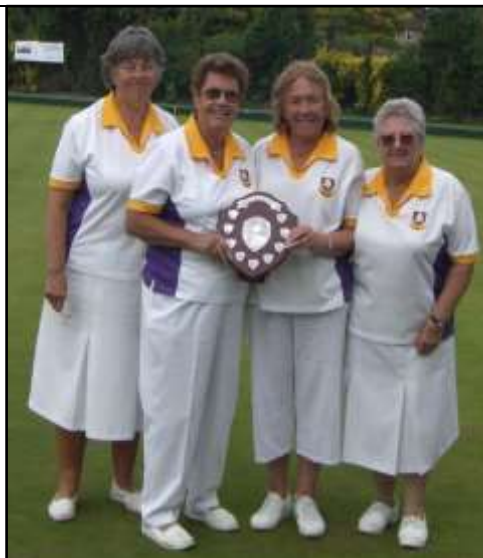
Top Left-Brian and Myra Farrell.

Top Right Brenda.& Jack Vincent.

Middle Left- Pat Taylor the only member to have won her outdoor county badge in two counties and also have an indoor county badge.

Above-June& Richard Worthington.

Left- Joan Bedworth



Top Left-Club Finals 2011-Roger Owen two woods champion with marker Tony Dixon and finalist Terry Stoner.

Top right-ladies pairs champions Maureen Ayling & Su Sheahan(Centre) with finalists Laureen Dixon(left) and Jean Wayne(right).

Above left Cliff Godbold.

Above Marker John Blackmore with Porter Cup winner Peter Taylor- 2011 finals

Left At the Olympics in 2012 (from left) Kay Gascoigne-Pauline Knapp-Sandie Weaver-Tom Street-Keith Uzzell & Anne Street.

THERE SHOULD BE AN APOSTROPHE



SUPPLEMENT

- ❖ EXTERNAL HONOURS WON BY BISHOP DUPPAS B.C.
- ❖ CLUB COMPETITION WINNERS 1979-2017
- ❖ OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1978-2017

EXTERNAL HONOURS

International

1987-8 Sandra Hutchins England Junior International

National

2012-Middlesex/Berkshire Area Champions Tony Allcock over 60's Double Rink
Middlesex County

1997-Unbadged Singles Champion-Ken Drake

1998-Men's Pairs Winners Ken Drake- Robin Bellion (Len Winter sub in final)

2014-County Fours Champions

Isabel Morton- Joyce Fleetwood-Pam Foskett-Chrissie Briggs

2015- County Ladies Singles Finalist- Isabel Morton

County Ladies Top Club Champions

2016 County Ladies Singles Finalist- Tina Cooper

Thames Valley B.A

1997- Men's Pairs Champions

John Elliott-Jim Welsh

1999- Men's Singles Champion –Jim Welsh

2005-Men's Triples Finalists

Men's Fours Finalists

2009- Double Rink Finalists

1-2-3 Finalists

2014-Double Rink Champions

2015-Double Rink Champions-League Champions

North West Surrey B.A

1979-Ladies League Champions

1980-Men's Single Rink Division Three Champions

1985-Men's Single Rink Division Two Champions

Men's Singles Finalist- John Webb

1986-Men's Singles Champion- Dave Heaton

1993-Ladies Pairs Finalists-Sheila Griffiths & Avril Clark

1996 Men's Singles Champion- Robin Bellion

Men's Triples Finalists- Roger Bell-Les Anderson-Robin Bellion

1997-Men's Triples Champions- Roger Bell- Ken Drake-Robin Bellion

1998-Men's Pairs Finalists-Roger Bell- Alan Carroll

2002-Men's Triples Finalists-Jim Welsh-John Elliott-Terry Jackson

2007-Men's Pairs Champions-Jim Welsh-John Elliott (Terry Jackson sub in Final)

2010-Men's Double Rink Champions

Mixed League Champions

2013-Ladies League Finalists

2014-Ladies League Champions

Men's Division Three Single Rink Champions

Mixed Triples Champions Tina & Mike Cooper-Steve Gibson

2015-Men's Division Two Single Rink Champions

Ladies Singles Champion Tina Cooper

Mixed Triples Champions Tina & Mike Cooper-Steve Gibson

Men's Triples Finalists Ian Trotter-John Elliott-Laurie Gascoigne

2016 Mixed Pairs Finalists Carole & Ray Kowalski.

Hounslow & District B.A.

1987-Ladies Triples Finalists- Joan Draper- Joan Whitby- Pat Oakley

1993-Ladies Pairs Finalists-Jessie Hay –Dot Boxall

1997-Champion of Champions Robin Bellion

Men's Pairs Finalists-Jim Welsh-John Elliott

1999-Open Triples Champions-Jim Welsh John Elliott Terry Jackson

2002-Open Triples Champions-Jim Welsh-John Elliott-Terry Jackson

Ladies Pairs Finalists-Sheila Griffiths-Avril Clark

Ladies Club Fours Finalists

2003-Open Triples Champions-Jim Welsh- Terry Jackson- John Elliott (Mark Haley sub for John Elliott in final

2004-Ladies Club Fours Champions

2005-Ladies Club Fours Finalists

2007-Ladies League Champions

2008-Men's Bunny Haynes Champions

Ladies Club Fours Champions

Ladies League Finalists

2009-Men's Bunny Haynes Champions

Ladies Club Fours Champions

2010-Open Triples Champions-Roger Owen-John Elliott-Laurie Gascoigne

Monday Night Triples Finalists

Bunny Haynes Finalists

2011-Open Triples Finalists-Roger Owen-John Elliott-Laurie Gascoigne

2012-Monday Night Triples Champions

Champion of Champions Finalist-Laurie Gascoigne

Ladies Club Fours Finalists

Ladies Singles Finalist-Chrissie Briggs

Men's Pairs Finalists Stewart Thomson-Laurie Gascoigne

Mixed Pairs Finalists Kay Gascoigne-Stewart Thomson

Gillette Cup Finalist- Stewart Thomson

2013- Monday Night Triples Finalists

Champion of Champions –Laurie Gascoigne

Men's Pairs Finalists- Roger Owen-John Elliott

Mixed Pairs Champions Tina & Mike Cooper

-Gillette Trophy Finalist-Mike Cooper

Firestone Cup Finalist-Stewart Thomson

Mixed Fours Champions-Laureen Dixon- Kay Gascoigne -Laurie Gascoigne- Steve Gibson

Ladies Singles Champion- Chrissie Briggs

2014- Monday Night Triples Champions

Champion of Champions -Laurie Gascoigne

Ladies Singles Champion- Chrissie Briggs

Open Triples Finalists-Ian Trotter-John Elliott-Laurie Gascoigne

Mixed Pairs Finalists Chrissie Briggs-Ray Purdey

2015-Monday Night Triples Champions

Open Triples Champions- Ian Trotter-Laurie Gascoigne-Steve Gibson

Ladies Club Fours Finalists

Bunny Haynes Finalists

2016-Monday Night Triples Divisional Champions and Championship finalists

Ladies Club Fours Champions

Fordbridge League

1992-League Champions

1993- League Champions

Men's Singles Finalist Les Anderson

1994- League Champions

1995-Ladies Singles Champion- Midge Kerr

1996- League Champions

Ladies Singles Champion- Midge Kerr

1997-Mixed Pairs Champions-L Linda Romero-Jim Welsh

Mixed Triples Finalists- Roger Bell- Sheila Griffiths- Avril Clark

1998- Ladies Singles Finalist- Midge Kerr

2000- Ladies Singles Champion-Wendy Jay

2002- Ladies Singles Finalist- Margaret Horne

2002 Mixed Triples Finalists-Joyce & Les Fleetwood-Ray Purdey

2003-Men's Singles Champion- John Elliott

Ladies Singles Finalist- Pat Taylor

2004- Ladies Singles Champion-Joyce Fleetwood

Mixed Triples Finalists-Maureen & Eric Ayling-Dave Perry

2007- League Champions

2008- Mixed Pairs Winners-Laureen Dixon-Laurie Gascoigne

2009- Mixed Pairs Winners-Laureen Dixon-Laurie Gascoigne

2010-75 Point Champion-Laurie Gascoigne

2011- Mixed Pairs Winners-Laureen Dixon-Laurie Gascoigne

Mixed Pairs Finalists-Pauline & Roger Owen

Mixed Triples Finalists-Iris & Ron Mott-Laurie Gascoigne

Fordbridge League (Continued)

2012-75 Point Champion-Chrissie Briggs

Mixed Triples Finalists-Pauline Knapp Terry Stoner-Tony Grimes

Men's Singles Finalist-Stewart Thomson

2013-League Runners Up

75 Point Champion-Mike Cooper- Finalist-Stewart Thomson

2014- League Champions

Ladies Singles Champion-Laureen Dixon -Finalist- Chrissie Briggs

75 Point Finalist-Roger Owen

Mixed Triples Finalists Tina & Mike Cooper-Steve Gibson

Mixed Fours Finalists Laureen Dixon-John Elliott-Laurie Gascoigne (Final not played due to weather)

2015- League Champions

2016- Fordbridge League Runners up

Ladies Singles Champion-Tina Cooper

Men's Singles Champion Mike Cooper

Mixed Triples Champions-Tricia Eales-Joyce Fleetwood-Tony Grimes



Representing Bishop Duppas at West Ealing in 2013 Wendy Jay-Beryl Wright-Su Sheahan & Kay Gascoigne.

Miscellaneous

1982- Worthing Open Mixed Pairs Champions-Susan McConnachie & Ken Andrews.

1997- Robin Bellion selected for Middlesex Middleton Cup & Home Counties League Teams.

1999-Heathfield Double Rink Finalists.

2013-Chrissie Briggs- Pam Foskett selected for Middlesex Ladies John's squad.

2014 Chrissie Briggs- Pam Foskett- Isabel Morton-selected for Middlesex Ladies John's squad.

2015-Steve Gibson selected for Middlesex Home Counties matches.

Chrissie Briggs- Pam Foskett & Isabel Morton-selected for Middlesex Ladies John's squad.

Maureen Ayling served as Middlesex County Ladies President.

2016-- Steve Gibson selected for Middlesex Home Counties matches.

Isabel Morton Tina Cooper selected for Middlesex John's Squad.

SUPPLEMENT- FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The club won both the TVL Double Rink and the League Championship in 2015. Seen representing the club at the finals held at Mid Surrey are (l to r) Laurie Gascoigne-Roger Owen-Keith Uzzell-Jim New-John Elliott-Harry Gershfield-John Eales-Ian Trotter-Tony Grimes-Roy Donoghue-Bob Bidgood-Ron Mott. Also in the squad but not in the photograph were Peter Taylor Steve Gibson & Bob Donohue

CLUB COMPETITIONS 1979-2017-MEN

Year	Championship	Handicap	Pairs	Two Woods	Porter Cup
1979	A.Gadd	R.Perkins	A.Syrett-A.H.Winter	L.Winter	A.Linnell
1980	E.Howells	N.Diviat	T.Jackson-E.Howells	E.Howells	E.Acus
1981	A.Linnell	B.Serpent	T.Jackson-N.Diviat	A.H.Winter	R.Whitby
1982	J.Webb	D.Winter	J.Taylor-M.Delaney	T.Jackson	D.Heaton
1983	D.Heaton	D.Heaton	T.Watson-J.Handley	J.Webb	G.Whitby
1984	J.Webb	G.Whitby	E.Walker-B.Whitby	M.Delaney	J.Elliott
1985	D.Heaton	B.Serpent	L.Gascoigne-M.Delaney	D.Heaton	W.Head
1986	C.Pearce	C.Pearce	K.Good-R.Bradley	R.Whitby	M.Church
1987	J.Webb	C.Pearce	J.Williams-J.Elliott	D.Heaton	L.Alexander
1988	C.Oliver	K.Good	G.Burden-K.Good	K.Good	R.Purdey
1989	D.Perry	K.Good	D.Perry-R.Plumb	P.Mitton	L.Gascoigne
1990	P.Mitton	J.Webb	D.Perry-H.Webb	J.Webb	D.Teverson
1991	E.Ayling	J.Webb	L.Hay-T.Jackson	T.Jackson	I.Seymour
1992	A.Burgess	W.Head	B.Donmall-N.Shaw	P.Mitton	G.Sayers
1993	J.Bates	T.Jackson	W.Cox-D.McCarthy	E.Ayling	L.Anderson
1994	J.Webb	N.Brown	R.Plumb-E.Ayling	E.Ayling	B.Plant
1995	R.Bell	R.Bell	T.Lindsay-G.Wyndvelt	P.Mitton	R.Bell
1996	R.Bellion	R.Bellion	T.Lindsay-L.Winter	K.Drake	C.Pratt
1997	R.Bellion	R.Bellion	R.Bidgood-R.Purdey	P.Mitton	M.Jay
1998	R.Bellion	A.Carroll	T.Dixon-C.Pratt	J.Welsh	R.Bidgood
1999	J.Elliott	J.Elliott	T.Jackson-G.Morton	L.Fleetwood	T.Palmer
2000	J.Webb	J.Elliott	T.Jackson-D.Martin	L.Fleetwood	T.Bonner
2001	C.Godbold	R.Bidgood	D.Wilkinson-J.Elliott	J.Elliott	L.Cooksey
2002	J.Welsh	R.Bidgood	W.Cooke-C.Godbold	L.Fleetwood	D.C-Camfield
2003	C.Pratt	L.Fleetwood	L.Cooksey-C.Godbold	C.Godbold	H.Tappenden
2004	C.Godbold	T.Bonner	E.Ayling-J.Welsh	J.Elliott	G.Morton
2005	J.Elliott	J.Elliott	R.Purdey-J.Webb	J.Elliott	T.Dixon
2006	J.Elliott	L.Gascoigne	L.Gascoigne-G.Morton	J.Elliott	R.Mott
2007	R.Bidgood	R.Mott	D.Catt-Camfield-M.Jay	M.Jay	J.New
2008	R.Bidgood	R.Mott	H.Tappenden-M.Jay	R.Mott	K.Uzzell
2009	J.Elliott	J.Elliott	R.Mott-R.Owen	R.Mott	R.Owen
2010	J.New	R.Owen	J.New-J.Elliott	J.Elliott	J.Blackmore
2011	R.Owen	J.Elliott	K.Uzzell-L.Gascoigne	R.Owen	P.Taylor
2012	L.Gascoigne	L.Gascoigne	J.New-P.Taylor	J.Elliott	M.Cooper
2013	R.Mott	J.New	J.New-S.Gibson	R.Mott	R.Kowalski
2014	M.Cooper	J.Elliott	T.Grimes-T.Stoner	J.Elliott	H.Gershfield
2015	R.Kowalski	R.Mott	K.Uzzell-L.Gascoigne	J.Elliott	J.Eales
2016	J.New	L.Gascoigne	K.Uzzell-R.Kowalski	M.Cooper	K.Costello

CLUB COMPETITIONS 1979-2017-WOMEN

Year	Championship	Handicap	Pairs	Two Woods	Porter Cup
1979	G.Linnell	G.Proudfoot	M.Read-G.Linnell	G.Linnell	S.McConn'ie
1980	G.Proudfoot	S.McConn'ie	A.Neville-.Proudfoot	G.Linnell	E.Jackson
1981	-	E Jackson	A.Neville-J.Whitby	G.Linnell	J.Whitby
1982	E.Jackson	S.McConn'ie	A.Heaton-S.Whitby	S.McConn'ie	A.Neville
1983	G.Linnell	J.Whitby	J.Jones-G.Linnell	J.Jones	S.Whitby
1984	S.McConn'ie	E Jackson	E.Jackson-M.Menday	A.Neville	J.Bradley
1985	S.Whitby	J.Whitby	J.Draper-J.Bradley	J.Draper	P.Pring
1986	G.Pearce	R.Gascoigne	J.Draper-J.Bradley	J.Draper	P.Shaw
1987	J.Draper	J.Whitby	D.Boxall-R.Gascoigne	P.Oakley	K.Hutchins
1988	D.Boxall	D.Boxall	J.Whitby-P.Oakley	S.Hutchins	M .Abel
1989	R.Gascoigne	S.Whitby	J.Donmall-P.Shaw	M.Ayling	M.Ayling
1990	J.Whitby	J.Draper	P.Shaw-E.Bates	M.Ayling	M.Jones
1991	S.Griffiths	J.Hay	D.Webb-M.Ayling	S.Griffiths	E.Bates
1992	S.Griffiths	J.Draper	M.Horne-M.Ayling	E Jackson	M.Horne
1993	E.Bogart	S.Griffiths	M.Cox-S.Griffiths	E.Bogart	J.Fleetwood
1994	S.Griffiths	M.Ayling	J.Fleetwood-M.Ayling	P.Hutton	P.Hutton
1995	J.Draper	M.Kerr	M.Lindsay-M.Kerr	J.Draper	P.Purdey
1996	M.Horne	S.Griffiths	E.Fraser-M.Ayling	S.Griffiths	E.Fraser
1997	A.Clark	J.Fleetwood	J.Nicholas-M.Ayling	E.Fraser	J.Nicholas
1998	A.Clark	W.Thomas	P.Plant-J.Fleetwood	A.Clark	M.Lindsay
1999	J.Fleetwood	M.Lindsay	S.Griffiths-P.Purdey	M.Kerr	J.Worthington
2000	M.Horne	S.Griffiths	S.Griffiths-M.Bidgood	M.Horne	H.Severn
2001	J.Fleetwood	S.Griffiths	J.Bedworth-C.Baker	M.Horne	I.Morton
2002	M.Horne	I.Morton	D.Webb-M.Ayling	M.Horne	M.Bidgood
2003	E.Fraser	L.Dixon	M.English-J.Fleetwood	W.Jay	M.Clarke
2004	M.Horne	J.Fleetwood	M.Bidgood-M.Ayling	I.Morton	J.Baker
2005	I.Morton	I.Morton	M.Ayling-S.C-Camfield	I.Morton	J.Bonner
2006	W.Jay	W.Jay	J.Donmall-I.Morton	M.Horne	C.Jack
2007	J.Fleetwood	I.Morton	J.Baker-P.Taylor	J.Fleetwood	S.Hatcher
2008	J.Fleetwood	J.Fleetwood	V.New-M.Razey	M.Razey	I.Mott
2009	I.Morton	I.Morton	P.Hutton-M.English	J.Bonner	S.Sheahan
2010	B.Baldry	I.Mott	J.Nash-I.Morton	J.Fleetwood	E Gooch
2011	B.Baldry	I.Morton	S.Sheahan-M.Ayling	B.Baldry	T.Cooper
2012	W.Jay	C.Briggs	T.Cooper-S.Weaver	C.Briggs	K.Gascoigne
2013	T.Cooper	T.Cooper	I.Mott-W.Jay	I.Morton	P.Knapp
2014	T.Cooper	T.Cooper	T.Cooper-C.Jack	C.Briggs	C.Kowalski
2015	J.Nash	J.Nash	S.Sheahan-C.Kowalski	S.Sheahan	J.Nash
2016	T.Cooper	T.Cooper	C.Kowalski-T.Cooper	T.Cooper	F.Gershfield

CLUB COMPETITIONS 1979-2017-MIXED(1)

Year	Mixed Singles	Mixed Pairs	Mixed Triples
1979	No Comp	J.Gold-L.Winter	No Comp
1980	No Comp	G.Proudfoot-E.Acus	No Comp
1981	No Comp	E.Currie-G.Proudfoot	No Comp
1982	No Comp	Not Contested	No Comp
1983	J.Cummins	J.Jones-M.Delaney	No Comp
1984	D.Heaton	J.Jones-M.Hutchins	No Comp
1985	D.Heaton	A.Heaton-D.Heaton	No Comp
1986	M.Hutchins	C.Pearce-G.Pearce	No Comp
1987	J.Webb	R.Bradley-J.Bradley	R.Bradley-C.Pratt-J.Webb
1988	J.Webb	D.Mitton-J.Boxall	A.Neville-H.Draper-J.Boxall
1989	T.Jackson	D.Boxall-C.Pearce	R.Bradley-D.Boxall-G.Burden
1990	R.Mitton	Z.Cartmell-D.Perry	M.Taylor-R.Plumb-D.Perry
1991	J.Webb	M.Horne-D.Perry	A.Clark-J.Copeland-T.Jackson
1992	P.Mitton	A.Burgess-S.Griffiths	E.Jackson-A.Clark-J.Webb
1993	P.Mitton	J.Hay-D.McCarthy	E.Bogart-W.Cooke-J.Taylor
1994	P.Mitton	M.Ayling-T.Jackson	D.Wilkinson-J.Hay-R.Purdey
1995	P.Mitton	M.Kerr-J.Webb	M.Sedgewick-J.Fleetwood-C.Pratt
1996	K.Drake	S.Griffiths-R.Bellion	B.Soutar-J.Fleetwood-J.Copeland
1997	J.Welsh	G.Sayers-M.Kerr	J.Middleton-R.Gascoigne-R.Bell
1998	C.Pratt	A.Clark-C.Pratt	J.Donmall-B.Donmall-R.Bell
1999	J.Webb	D.Martin-M.Ayling	J.Donmall-M.Jay-J.Welsh
2000	J.Elliott	T.Jackson-M.Bidgood	T.Palmer-P.Reader-J.Donmall
2001	J.Fleetwood	F.Clark-J.Fleetwood	L.Cooksey-A.Clark-E.Ayling
2002	C.Godbold	M.Marshall-G.Morton	M.Clarke-F.Clark-L.Cooksey
2003	L.Cooksey	P.Taylor-G.Morton	S.Hatcher-I.Morton-R.Bidgood
2004	C.Godbold	J.Baker-J.Copeland	J.Baker-B.Cooke-B.Bidgood
2005	J.Webb	M.Bidgood-J.Webb	S.Catt-Camfield-T.Bonner-J.Webb
2006	T.Dixon	I.Morton-G.Morton	W.Jay-L.Gascoigne-L.Cooksey
2007	C.Pratt	J.New-M.Clarke	T.Street-B.Baldry-G.Burden
2008	J.Webb	L.Cooksey-M.Razey	J.Bonner-S.Thomson-R.Owen
2009	J.Elliott	K.Uzzell-W.Jay	J.Shanny-L.Cooksey-M.Razey
2010	J.Elliott	P.Taylor-R.Mott	J.Nash-M.Bidgood-D.C-Camfield
2011	L.Gascoigne	S.Sheahan-D.C-Camfield	T.Cooper-S.Weaver-J.New
2012	J.New	P.Foskett-J.Webb	P.Knapp-K.Uzzell-S.Thomson
2013	J.New	T.Cooper-S.Gibson	P.Foskett-T.Grimes-S.Gibson
2014	M.Cooper	F.Gershfield-L.Gascoigne	P.Knapp-J.Eales-D.Perry
2015	J.Elliott	H.Craze-L.Gascoigne	R.Kowalski-F.Donohue-L.Gascoigne
2016	M.Cooper	L.Dixon & M.Cooper	T.Green-T Grimes-L.Gascoigne

CLUB COMPETITIONS 1979-2017-MIXED(2)

Year	75 Points	Seniors	Mixed Plate
1979	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1980	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1981	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1982	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1983	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1984	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1985	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1986	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1987	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1988	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1989	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1990	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1991	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1992	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1993	No Comp	No Comp	No Comp
1994	No Comp	No Comp	W.Cox
1995	No Comp	No Comp	W.Head
1996	No Comp	No Comp	P.Mitton
1997	No Comp	No Comp	G.Burden
1998	No Comp	No Comp	M.Jay
1999	K.Norris	S.Bunt	J.Welsh
2000	J.Elliott	C.Godbold	J.Elliott
2001	J.Elliott	C.Godbold	L.Cooksey
2002	J.Elliott	W.Head	J.Webb
2003	D.Perry	D.Wilkinson	I.Morton
2004	J.Elliott	E.Ayling	E.Fraser
2005	G.Morton	L.Cooksey	W.Head
2006	J.Webb	G.Burden	J.Webb
2007	L.Cooksey	C.Godbold	I.Morton
2008	R.Mott	L.Cooksey	L.Cooksey
2009	S.Thomson	R.Mott	R.Bidgood
2010	L.Cooksey	R.Mott	L.Gascoigne
2011	R.Mott	T.Stoner	R.Mott
2012	L.Gascoigne	T.Stoner	T.Cooper
2013	J.Elliott	J.New	S.Thomson
2014	L.Gascoigne	T.Stoner	K.Uzzell
2015	R.Mott	R.Kowalski	L.Dixon
2016	L.Gascoigne	R.Kowalski	S.Gibson

CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS(1)

Year	President	Vice President(s)	Chairman	Treasurer	Secretary
1978	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	A.Porter	J.Neville	L.Proudfoot
1979	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	A.Porter	J.Neville	L.Proudfoot
1980	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	A.Porter	J.Neville	L.Proudfoot
1981	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	A.Porter	J.Neville	L.Proudfoot
1982	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	A.Porter	A.Linnell	J.Webb
1983	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	A.Porter	A.Linnell	J.Webb
1984	A.Porter	Not Applicable	J.Rosewell	T.Jackson	B.Jones
1985	A.Porter	Not Applicable	J.Rosewell	R.Bradley	B.Jones
1986	A.Porter	Not Applicable	J.Rosewell	R.Bradley	B.Jones
1987	A.Porter	L. & A. Winter	J.Rosewell	R.Bradley	K.Good
1988	A.Porter	L. & A. Winter	E.Walker	R.Bradley	K.Good
1989	A.Porter	L. & A. Winter	E.Walker	B.Donmall	K.Good
1990	J.Webb	B Jones	E.Walker	B.Donmall	P.Purdey
1991	J.Webb	B Jones	E.Walker	B.Donmall	P.Purdey
1992	B.Jones	C.Pearce	C.Pratt	G.Sayers	P.Purdey
1993	B.Jones	B.Donmall	C.Pratt	G.Sayers	P.Purdey
1994	B.Donmall	T.Jackson	J.Webb	G.Sayers	P.Purdey
1995	B.Donmall	T.Jackson	J.Webb	J.Hutton	E.Fraser
1996	T.Jackson	R.Purdey	J.Webb	J.Hutton	E.Fraser
1997	T.Jackson	R.Purdey	J.Webb	J.Hutton	E.Fraser
1998	R.Purdey	M.Horne	T.Jackson	J.Middleton	E.Fraser
1999	R.Purdey	M.Horne	J.Rosewell	J.Middleton	E.Fraser
2000	M.Horne	E.Ayling	J.Copeland	G.Sayers	E.Fraser
2001	M.Horne	E.Ayling	J.Copeland	M.Jay	E.Fraser
2002	E.Ayling	J. Copeland	J.Copeland	M.Jay	E.Fraser
2003	E.Ayling	J. Copeland	J.Copeland	M.Jay	E.Fraser
2004	J.Copeland	H.Severn	R.Bidgood	M.Jay	L.Dixon
2005	J.Copeland	H.Severn	R.Bidgood	M.Jay	L.Dixon
2006	H.Severn	R. Bidgood	R.Bidgood	M.Jay	L.Dixon
2007	H.Severn	R. Bidgood	R.Bidgood	M.Jay	L.Dixon
2008	R.Bidgood	M.Jay	G.Morton	M.Jay	L.Dixon
2009	R.Bidgood	M.Jay	G.Morton	M.Jay	L.Gascoigne
2010	M.Jay	M.Ayling	G.Morton	M.Jay	P.Knapp
2011	M.Jay	M.Ayling	J.Copeland	M.Jay	P.Knapp
2012	M.Ayling	L.Fleetwood	J.Copeland	M.Jay	P.Knapp
2013	L.Fleetwood	W.Jay	D.C-Camfield	M.Jay	L.Gascoigne
2014	L.Fleetwood	W.Jay	D.C-Camfield	M.Jay	S.Weaver
2015	W.Jay	D.C-Camfield	D.C-Camfield	M.Jay	S.Weaver
2016	W.Jay	D.C-Camfield	D.C-Camfield	T.Dixon	C.Kowalski
2017	D.C-Camfield	I.Morton	D.C-Camfield	J.Neary	C.Kowalski

CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS(2)

Year	Club Captain	Men's Vice Captain	Ladies Vice Captain	Ladies Secretary
1978	A.Gadd	E.Edwards	G.Proudfoot	G.Proudfoot
1979	A.Gadd	L.Wilson	G.Proudfoot	G.Linnell
1980	A.Gadd	L.Wilson	G.Proudfoot	G.Linnell
1981	A.Linnell	J.Rosewell	G.Proudfoot	G.Linnell
1982	L.Winter	N.Hardy	J.Whitby	G.Linnell
1983	L.Winter	N.Hardy	-	G.Linnell
1984	B.Serpant	D.Heaton	A.Neville	G.Linnell
1985	K.Good	W.Daws	J.Jones	J.Whitby
1986	D.Perry	W.Daws	A.Heaton	J.Whitby
1987	N.Shaw	C.Pratt	P.Shaw	J.Whitby
1988	C.Pratt	R.Purdey	J.Donmall	J.Whitby
1989	C.Pratt	R.Purdey	J.Donmall	P.Purdey
1990	C.Pratt	R.Purdey	J.Donmall	P.Purdey
1991	D.Perry	T.Jackson	J.Donmall	I.Williams
1992	T.Jackson	R.Purdey	D.Boxall	I.Williams
1993	R.Purdey	G.Wyndvelt	D.Boxall	J.Hay
1994	R.Purdey	E.Ayling	J.Hay	J.Hay
1995	C.Pratt	E.Walker	J.Hay	Not Applicable
1996	R.Purdey	J.Copeland	J.Donmall	Not Applicable
1997	R.Purdey	J.Copeland	J.Donmall	Not Applicable
1998	J.Copeland	J.Welsh	M.Ayling	Not Applicable
1999	J.Copeland	J.Welsh	M.Ayling	Not Applicable
2000	R.Purdey	R.Bidgood	M.Ayling	Not Applicable
2001	R.Bidgood	C.Godbold	H.Severn	Not Applicable
2002	R.Bidgood	C.Godbold	H.Severn	Not Applicable
2003	R.Bidgood	C.Godbold	H.Severn	Not Applicable
2004	C.Godbold	G.Morton	J.Fleetwood	Not Applicable
2005	C.Godbold	G.Morton	J.Fleetwood	Not Applicable
2006	G.Morton	L.Fleetwood	W.Jay	Not Applicable
2007	G.Morton	L.Fleetwood	W.Jay	Not Applicable
2008	L.Fleetwood	D.C-Camfield	W.Jay	Not Applicable
2009	L.Fleetwood	D.C-Camfield	I.Morton	Not Applicable
2010	D.C-Camfield	L.Gascoigne	I.Morton	Not Applicable
2011	D.C-Camfield	L.Gascoigne	I.Morton	Not Applicable
2012	L.Gascoigne	J.Webb	I.Morton	Not Applicable
2013	L.Gascoigne	R.Bidgood	I.Morton	Not Applicable
2014	I.Morton	R.Purdey	S.Sheahan	Not Applicable
2015	I.Morton	L.Gascoigne	S.Sheahan	Not Applicable
2016	S.Sheahan	M.Cooper	L.Dixon	Not Applicable
2017	M.Cooper	L.Gascoigne	L.Dixon	Not Applicable

CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS(3)

Year	Fixtures	Bar	Competitions	Ladies Reps/Catering Manager
1978	L.Proudfoot	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
1979	L.Proudfoot	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	G Proudfoot-G.Linnell
1980	C.Nield	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Known
1981	L.Proudfoot	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Known
1982	B.Serpant	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Known
1983	B.Serpant	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	S.McConnachie
1984	B.Serpant	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Known
1985	Not Known	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	J.Jones-A.Neville
1986	K.Good	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Known
1987	K.Good	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Known
1988	A.Westcar	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	J.Donmall
1989	A.Westcar	Not Applicable	C.Pearce	Not Known
1990	A.Westcar	Not Applicable	C.Pearce	I.Williams
1991	A.Westcar	Not Applicable	C.Pearce	J.Hay
1992	A.Westcar	Not Applicable	M.Ayling	J.Hay
1993	A.Westcar	E.Ayling	M.Ayling	J.Hay
1994	J.Copeland	L.Anderson	M.Ayling	H.Severn-M.Horne
1995	J.Copeland	L.Anderson	M.Ayling	M.Horne
1996	D.Hughes	C.Pratt	R.Bell	M.Horne
1997	C.Godbold	C.Pratt	R.Bell	M.Horne
1998	C.Godbold	E.Ayling	M.Horne	H.Severn
1999	C.Godbold	T.Dixon	M.Horne	H.Severn
2000	C.Godbold	T.Dixon	W.Jay	J.Donmall
2001	C.Godbold	T.Dixon	W.Jay	J.Donmall
2002	C.Godbold	J.Welsh	D.Wilkinson	J.Donmall
2003	C.Godbold	J.Welsh	D.Wilkinson	L.Dixon
2004	M.Clarke	T.Bonner	D.Wilkinson	H.Severn
2005	M.Clarke	T.Bonner	M.Horne	H.Severn
2006	C.Godbold	L.Gascoigne	T.Bonner	M.Bidgood
2007	T.Dixon	L.Gascoigne	T.Bonner	M.Bidgood
2008	T.Dixon	L.Gascoigne	T.Bonner	M.Bidgood
2009	T.Dixon	F.Ashen	T.Bonner	S.Catt-Camfield
2010	T.Dixon	L.Dixon/L.Gascoigne	T.Bonner	L.Dixon
2011	T.Dixon	L.Dixon/L.Gascoigne	T.Bonner	W.Jay
2012	T.Dixon	L.Dixon/L.Gascoigne	H.Craze	W.Jay
2013	T.Grimes	M & T.Cooper	H.Craze	W.Jay
2014	T.Grimes	M & T.Cooper	L.Gascoigne	T.Eales
2015	T.Grimes	K.Uzzell	J.Eales	T.Eales
2016	T.Grimes	K.Uzzell	J.Eales	H Craze
2017	T.Grimes	K.Uzzell	J.Eales	H.Craze/J Nash

CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS(4)

Year	Green Ranger	Elected Reps
1978		E.Howells-G.Proudfoot
1979	E.Howells	F.Taylor
1980	E.Howells	J.Rosewell-W.Wakefield
1981	E.Howells	B.Serpant
1982	E.Howells/T.Jackson	R.Whitby-J.Rosewell
1983	Not Applicable	D.Heaton-T.Jackson-T.Watson-W.Daws-B.Jones
1984	Not Applicable	W.Daws- T.Jackson-G.Sayers-J.Taylor
1985	Not Applicable	Not Known
1986	Not Applicable	J.Taylor-C.Pearce-E Walker
1987	Not Applicable	C.Pearce -E.Walker-N.Shaw-W.Daws
1988	Not Applicable	L.Farrant-E.Ayling-L Alexander
1989	Not Applicable	L.Farrant-E.Ayling
1990	Not Applicable	L.Alexander-E.Ayling
1991	Not Applicable	E.Ayling-M.Ayling
1992	Not Applicable	E.Ayling-L.Gascoigne
1993	Not Applicable	L.Gascoigne-T.Jackson
1994	Not Applicable	T.Jackson
1995	Not Applicable	E.Ayling-H.Severn
1996	Not Applicable	H.Severn-H.Webb
1997	Not Applicable	H.Severn-J Worthington
1998	Not Applicable	H.Webb-J.Worthington
1999	Not Applicable	E.Ayling-H.Webb
2000	Not Applicable	H.Webb-J.Welsh
2001	Not Applicable	J.Fleetwood- T.Jackson
2002	Not Applicable	J.Fleetwood- T.Jackson
2003	Not Applicable	L.Fleetwood-M.Ayling
2004	Not Applicable	L.Fleetwood-M.Ayling
2005	Not Applicable	L.Fleetwood-M.Ayling
2006	Not Applicable	M.Ayling-D.Catt-Camfield
2007	Not Applicable	M.Ayling-D.Catt-Camfield
2008	Not Applicable	M.Ayling-D.Catt-Camfield
2009	Not Applicable	M.Bidgood-R.Bidgood
2010	L.Fleetwood	R.Bidgood-K.Gascoigne
2011	L.Fleetwood	R.Bidgood-K.Gascoigne
2012	L.Fleetwood	R.Bidgood-K.Gascoigne
2013	L.Fleetwood	S.Weaver-R.Purdey
2014	L.Fleetwood	P.Hutton-K.Uzzell
2015	R.Clough	P.Hutton-B.Jack
2016	R.Clough	P.Hutton-B.Donohue
2017	R.Clough	F.Donohue-B.Donohue