## CITY OF MOORABBIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President:

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Mrs. C. Whitehead 93 - 2635 Secretary:

Mrs. P. Brodie

NEWSLETT

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The Society meets at the home of Mrs. J. Marshall, 2 Jellicoe Street, Cheltenham on 3rd Thursday in each month. Next meeting Thursday 25th July.

## CHELTENHAM TENNIS CLUB - A PIECE OF THE PAST

The Cheltenham Tennis Club was founded in the early eighteen eighties. On the hill above the area where the war memorials stand in the Cheltenham Park two asphalt courts were laid down and a wooden club house, then called a pavilion, was built. The first president was a Mr. Lamb Smith. Here gathered on Saturday afternoons (there was of course no Sunday sport in those days) some of the young people from the early Cheltenham families - Comport, Daff, Moss, Chandler, Scantlebury, Wawn, Meeres, Ruse, Fairlam and others. The men wore white shirts and pants, the women white blouses with high starched collars and gem hats (hard, oval-shaped and made of straw).

Unfortunately no records of the first twenty years of the Club's existence have survived. But Mrs. Gladys Rose of Nepean Highway, Cheltenham, with a commendable sense of history, has preserved an exercise book containing the balance sheets of the Club from 1902 to 1917. A study of these reveals that in 1902 there were twenty six members; over the next fifteen years the number varied between twenty five and forty. There were about twice as many women as men; doubtless a good many of the latter spent their leisure playing football or cricket or in cycling or rifle shooting. Play went on all the year. The subscription in 1902 was £1 (\$2) for men and 5/- (50c) for women; during the next fifteen years it varied between £1 (\$2) and 10/- (\$1) for men and between 7/6 (75c) and 5/- (50c) for women. Members could join for a year or for three, six or nine months.

The balance sheets were hand written. To judge from the writing there were eight treasurers in fifteen years; it was not a popular job. Up to 1909 the accounts were audited by two people named Erwin; between 1909 and 1917 only one balance sheet was audited; let us hope that there was no embezzling.

The chief source of the Club's revenue was members' subscriptions. (It is amusing to see in very small writing the names of three or four unfinancial members below the receipts columns of the first four balance sheets). There were a few other sources of income; sometimes the club ran a euchre party or dance (the latter was occasionally a loss); once it made 7/6 (75c) from the "sale of photos" on Opening Day and once a - for those days - large profit of £45-8-6 (\$90.85) from a "Continental Fete." An odd item is "sale of neckties 6/- (60c)." The Club also received a few donations and in 1907 there was a "Pavilion Fund" to which several members contributed sums of up to five guineas (\$10.50) presumably for maintenance of or improvements to the pavilion.