



# RINGWOOD BOWLING CLUB

Telephone: 87-6767

Hon. Secretary:

NORMAN W. PARKER, J.P.

114 Heathmont Road, Heathmont. 87-5261

Ringwood 5/12/61.

Dear Member,

The Committee has pleasure in handing you a copy of the History of the Ringwood Bowling Club, as compiled by Members Jack Knox and Wilfred Bamford.

We think that this document will be of great interest to every member as an indication of the work done by the Pioneers of the Club, and members both past and present.

After reading, would you be kind enough to autograph same in the place provided on the back page and return to the Secretary as soon as convenient in order that it may be passed on to other members of the Club.

S.E.DICKINS

President.

## FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to write a few introductory words to this History of the Ringwood Bowling Club.

It has been faithfully recorded, after a great deal of research by two members, who, over a period of many years, have been a great acquisition to the Club.

Brief mention has been made in these records of both these gentlemen, but knowing their modesty, it is realised they would be reluctant to mention their own influence on Club affairs.

It is, therefore, fitting that I should preface this History with a few remarks regarding them.

X Jack Knox needs no introduction to members, even today, so well-known is he for his active interest, over thirty years of service, in anything concerning the welfare of the Club.

X After joining as a foundation member, he was elected as a Committee member, in company with Bert Cock and Claude Ward - to be mentioned later. In addition, he was appointed to the first Selection Committee. Further to these important positions, he served on the Grounds Committee with Alf Ibbotson and Olly Pratt, also foundation members; and for many years as Billiards Manager. He also gave many hours tending to the surrounds.

Jack presented the first Honor Board, beautifully finished by his own hands, and now, in 1961, twenty six years later, he has repeated his fine gesture by the presentation of two more boards; one for the Ladies' section and one for the men.

It was fitting, therefore, that Jack's outstanding service to the Club should be recognised in a tangible manner.

At the Annual Meeting held on 23rd. June 1961 it was recommended and unanimously approved that he be appointed a Life Member of the Ringwood Bowling Club.

Outstanding service to the Club has been rendered by Wilfred Bamford, a member for twenty seven years and for 23 years Club delegate. For two years he served as a Councillor of the R.V.B.A., a position he was forced to relinquish through ill-health.

For several seasons he was on the Match Committee, and for one year was President of the Club. He has been, for many years, a Bank Guarantor and Trustee. In recognition of these services, he, also was made a Life Member of the Club at the Annual Meeting on June 23rd, 1961.

I am sure this History will be of great interest, and an inspiration to every present member and to future members of this Club

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. B. Dickson', written in a cursive style.

PRESIDENT.  
1961.

# R I N G W O O D   B O W L I N G   C L U B .

## A SAGA OF ACHIEVEMENT.

A dedication to the small band of public spirited citizens who toiled and gave so assiduously to an ideal for the benefit of posterity

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Compiled and edited by Members Jack Knox and Wilfred Bamford. Presented to the Club by the President.

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Some four years ago, it was decided by the General Committee that the time had arrived when a permanent record of the history of the Club should be compiled. This has now been made possible mainly through the efforts of Members Jack Knox and Wilfred Bamford who have collected considerable data from several old members who have been with the Club since its inception, in addition to a close study of the minutes since the Club was formed.

Most of the credit in the actual formation of the Club must be given to Mr. Bert Cock on his arrival in Ringwood as State Savings Bank Manager in 1929. Already an experienced bowler, he approached the Borough Town Clerk, A.F.B. Long, who expressed sympathy with the project. Accordingly a meeting was held in the Town Hall in June 1929 with an attendance of thirty, who expressed themselves in favour of the movement.

Several previous attempts to form a club had failed, through lack of finance and a suitable site, until an offer by the late Philip Bamford of the present site was made to the Council.

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This was regarded as suitable and the Council was approached for their approval and practical support. This was forthcoming with the offer to straighten the creek course and to instal a barrel drain to remove storm water from Warrandyte Road.

At a subsequent meeting formation of a Club was duly confirmed with the election of officers as the foundation committee.

President	Cr. Arthur Blood
Vice Presidents	O.J. Pratt and A.M. Ibbotson
Secretary	W. Cook
Ass. Secretary	N.H. Cooper
Treasurer	E.J. Collins
X General Committee	Messrs. F.R. Lucas, H. Pump, F. Clota, C.V. Ward, R.G. Wilkins, T.R.G. Williams.
Auditors	A.J. Dwight and J.G. Aird.

There were a total of 57 foundation members.

The colossal task of removing all good soil for subsequent use was commenced by working bees who using shovels and barrows were supplemented by Sam Brown's Senior Horse and Scoop and unemployed labour paid by relief funds as the depression was now making its effect felt in the community.

To supplement the amount raised through subscriptions and donations, Messrs. Pratt, Pump, Ibbotson, Ward, McAlpine and Blood offered themselves as Guarantors to the Bank for a sum up to £500.

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Excavation being completed, ashes were procured from the Australian Tesselated Tile Co., without cost, through the generosity of Edgar Walker and carted by Alf Ibbotson's trucks to the site. Laying of agricultural pipes was done by Bert Milner, screening of soil by working bees and surveying all supervised by a works committee under the leadership of Russ Lucas. The plinths were laid in such an efficient manner by Jack Knox that although having been raised more than once, are still in commission today.

It is fitting to record that work done by unemployment relief funds was made possible only by members' donations on a £1 for £1 basis by the Government.

Also of note was the erection of the Clubhouse by Roy Wilkins at no profit to himself and supply of all material by P. Bamford Pty. Ltd. at cost price.

This is evidence of the wonderful spirit of self sacrifice among the small body interested in the project.

In the Club's first annual report for the year ended 31st. July 1930, it proudly states "a green ready for sowing, a Club House with billiard table, donations of light fittings and furnishings by the committee and members and a balance sheet showing a surplus of assets over liabilities of £446:3:8, all achieved in a space of ten months."

Others who rendered willing service over this arduous period were George Marden, Henry Brown, Claude Skelton, Gordon Young, Joe Archbold and Lindsay Travers, also A.C. Ostram

who so readily made his paper "The Mail" available This association still exists today under the direction of member Ted Sleeman. Tommy Grant elected himself caretaker and gave so much in his work of tending the flower beds.

Another typical instance of the real club spirit existing is evidenced by Roy Wilkins, Alf Ibbotson and Olly Pratt supplying at less than cost, bricks with which they erected a chimney for heating the club house during the winter.

Even at this early stage in the Club's history, members' wives were to the fore in assisting with teas and social events.

Most of this band of helpers were later to lead the way in the formation of a croquet section of the Club. Their help was largely instrumental in the success of the Club's first ball.

Of considerable interest at this time, is the vast amount of business transacted by the enthusiastic committee at fortnightly intervals and on occasions weekly meetings, in order to lose no time in making it possible for members to start play as soon as possible.

By August 1930, material for fencing was to hand, posts supplied at considerably below cost, the wire mesh given by the Council for which it had no further use. Erection was done by Herb Watson at no cost to the Club. Herb was to prove himself of great help to the Club as committee man, president, green director and in many other directions.

The fraternal feeling existing in neighbouring clubs was

shown in invitations from Croydon, Lilydale and Blackburn to take part in play at their greens when members desired.

However, working bees were regarded as a must by the Club as a whole and members response in this regard was most gratifying. It was quite a common sight to see members rolling up even on week days after work to do anything possible while light permitted.

By the Autumn of 1931, consideration had to be given to the purchase of a suitable mower for the green. Through the good offices of Russ Lucas, a hand mower regarded as suitable was purchased from the Croydon Golf Club at a considerable saving to the Club.

In these days when everthing is mechanised, it is of interest to note the disabilities under which the Club operated with the aid of a few hardy spirits, to prepare the green for play, by hard physical labour. It is appropriate to observe that this mower was suitable for conversion to power, which was done at a later date.

Up to the period of June 1931, nothing had been proposed regarding affiliation with the Victorian Bowling Association, although a great deal of thought had been given regarding competition play in the forthcoming season.

Accordingly, it was of interest to report a meeting held at Croydon to form a local association comprising Lilydale, Croydon, Ringwood, Blakkburn, Box Hill, Surrey Hills and Upwey Tecoma.



This move was prompted by the reluctance of the V.B.A. to admit clubs from the outer metropolises for affiliation.

It is of interest to note, that with the vast growth of the game today 30 years after, a move is on foot to create four sections of the Royal Victorian Bowling Association viz., North, South, East and West. Thus what was proposed in the way of an association in this district so long ago could actually become fact, eliminating what is regarded by many as unnecessary travelling across Melbourne from one point to another to take part in pennant play.

Arising out of the first meeting held at Croydon, a further meeting was held and it was decided that a competition be arranged between Lilydale, Croydon and Ringwood each to enter four rinks with fixtures extending from November 1931 to February 1932 comprising three rounds of two matches for each club.

It must have been of great satisfaction to the Foundation Committee, in view of their outstanding service to the Club, to be re-elected unopposed for the year 1931-32, and can be regarded as an overwhelming vote of confidence in their ability.

It is fitting to record that considerable interest was shown in the project of the new club by residents, and quite a number of Ringwood folk although not members joined in the working bees. Two members of the Council staff must be mentioned for outstanding services in this regard, in the persons of Alf Hargreaves, whose son Arthur, was later to

become a member of the club and Walter Smith, who in addition undertook to take charge of a garden plot.

During the year, surplus assets over liabilities had been increased to £604:9:4, a truly convincing picture of the soundness of the Club financially. If this total is multiplied by four to five times, a true perspective of the picture is conveyed compared with today's money values.

By August 1931, the body of members acting as a social committee with the help of members' wives was officially confirmed in the minutes and comprised Mrs. Roy Wilkins, (Convenor) Mesdames Ibbotson, Lucas, Knox, Travers, Clota and Messrs. Cooper, Ibbotson, Wilkins and Dwight.

It was also at this time, with the sanction of the committee, that a meeting was convened by the President's wife Mrs. Arthur Blood, with the object of forming a croquet section of the club and met with an encouraging response from ladies interested.

Accordingly a croquet section was formed with appropriate constitution in agreement with the bowling club's rules, and a portion of the green was allocated for their use in the coming season.

With the approach of play for season 1931-32 the fraternal feeling amongst clubs became yet more evident with invitations from neighbouring clubs to members of Ringwood to take part in play on their greens.

Foundation member Cr. J.R. McCaskill offered a trophy for

play amongst members in the coming season. This was to be the forerunner of many such trophies by Cr. McCaskill, who has always retained his interest in Club affairs.

The first official opening of the green on 9th October 1931 by the Hon. R.G. Menzies, proved an unqualified success, V.I.P's included representatives from the V.B.A. neighbouring clubs, distinguished guests and a large number of members, ladies and friends.

By the middle of October, the croquet section had come into being, accordingly the existing social committee was disbanded and in its place four members each from the bowling and croquet sections continued to organise social events, including monthly card evenints to the benefit of all.

An event of some importance for the Club took place in February 1932, by acceptance as a member of Frederick Thomas Bener. For the next ten years, Fred was to have a big influence on the shape of things to come, both as an administrator and player. During this time he represented the Club as V.B.A. delegate and served for a number of years on the V.B.A. Match Committee, which ceased only on his untimely death when still a comparatively young man. Fred was never a well man, but gave of himself unsparingly in the interests of the game he loved so well.

At the time of his death, he was Senior Vice President and had he lived, would have filled the post of President with

dignity and ability. His name will be remembered however, as it appears on the honour board as Club Champion on three occasions. To further perpetuate his memory, his photo is hung on the wall of the clubhouse. This photo was donated by his closest friend.

It is of interest to record, that at the 3rd. annual meeting, all principal retiring officers were once again elected unopposed, the meeting being on 9th August 1932.

Two new members, however, appear on the general committee in the persons of J. Archbold and C. Skelton. Although mention of Joe Archbold was made in the local press recently, on the occasion of his passing, further reference will be made of these two members for their outstanding service to the Club over many years.

At this meeting, regret was expressed at the inability of F.R. Lucas to continue as Green Director and Alf Ibbotson was appointed in his stead. Feeling reference was made regarding both these members, and their outstanding service to the Club was recorded in the minutes. Today and for some years past, both gentlemen have had tangible recognition of their work for the Club, as Life Members.

For the second year in succession, a competition was arranged by Lilydale, Croydon and Ringwood, each club fielding a five rink team and resulted in a close bond of friendship being cemented between the three clubs.

At a special general meeting held in April 1933, several

matters of outstanding importance were decided.

It was resolved that during the winter months working bees be held to prepare separate lawns for the Ladies' Croquet section and the ladies be asked for the assistance financially and in any other way possible.

After much discussion the installation of one string of lights to enable night play was approved. This was principally the result of the efforts of Fred Baner, who for some time had endeavoured to show that such a scheme was not beyond the resources of the Club, with the co-operation of members and could be turned into a source of revenue combined with much enjoyment for members. Fred did not cease his efforts until his vision in having the whole of the green lit was accomplished some time later. Recommendation from the Committee regarding the planting of a cyprus hedge with each member donating one or more trees was approved.

It was decided that the time had come to apply for affiliation with the Victorian Bowling Association and to engage in pennant play in the 1933-34 season.

During the season 1932-33 the first championship of the Club was decided and won by George Jones. George was to prove himself a loyal member of the Club for many years until his death, and served on the Committee at one stage.

Early August was notable for the approval of Ernest Thomas Roberts as a member. Tom was to be of great value

to the Club as Green Director, Treasurer and Committee man, and eventually was rewarded for his services to the Club by Life Membership, an honour which he was rightly very proud of attaining. Another member elected at this time who was to prove himself an asset to the Club was Fred James. Fred was always on hand to lend his assistance in cutting and rolling the green and always in evidence at any working bee.

The Annual Meeting was eventual for a number of changes in the administration. After three years of arduous service as President, Cr. Arthur Blood stepped down in favour of Alf Ibbotson who justly deserved the high honour conferred on him. A new name in the person of Frank Hardy was elected Vice President in company with foundation committee man Arthur Dwight. Although Frank's membership was not of long duration owing to his return to his native state of South Australia, he did give great service to the Club during his subsequent term as President.

It is of interest to see two new names on the Committee in the persons of Fred Baner and Jack Knox. Mention has been made of Fred and his outstanding work for the Club.

During the month of August 1933 at a Special General Meeting and the Annual Meeting, considerable discussion had taken place regarding competition play for the forthcoming season. Eventually it was decided at a meeting held on the 29th August that two "C" teams be entered in the V.B.A. pennant competition.

Early in 1934 members learnt with regret the transfer of Bert Cock from the district by his Bank. As foundation Secretary, he had been responsible for the organisation of the Club since its inception. Although the Club was now an established fact, the loss to Ringwood was of considerable magnitude. In recognition of his tireless efforts, a testimonial was tendered by the Club in the form of a handsome clock suitably inscribed. Assistance Secretary, Claude Skelton was appointed Secretary in his stead.

In the ensuing years, much was heard of Claude. He gave of his time unsparingly both as Secretary and on a number of occasions as a member of the Selection Committee.

It was at this time, approximately March 1934, when the Club purchased its first electric mower, this being accomplished by voluntary debentures taken out by members.

The year 1934 was notable for the admission of A.J. Tann as a member. Bert was to become an extremely helpful member on the administration including the office as President, which he held with distinction and tact for four years.

It was at the Annual Meeting in this year that Fred Baner was elected to the position of Bowls Secretary which position he held so capably right to the time of his death in 1942.

Also at this time Joe Archbold was appointed Wednesday games Manager, a position he was to occupy until his passing in 1960 at the ripe age of 90 years. The influence of Joe Archbold on the Club will be felt for a very long time. His

happy disposition and willingness to help at all times has been greatly missed by all associated with him.

The membership was more than being maintained at this time in spite of the depression being felt in every walk of life. Other new members accepted at this time of August 1934 were Messrs. Edwards, Dr. Scorby, R. Lyons, O. Newman and W. Bamford.

By season 1934-35, separate croquet lawns had become a possibility in the near future, and playing of bowls under electric light had become actual fact, this project being brought to a successful conclusion only by the help of members at working bees. Special mention must be made of Fred Baner and Norm Cooper, who as Local Manager of the S.E.C. was able to offer his expert knowledge in installing the lights.

At the 6th Annual Meeting a well deserved honour was conferred on Frank Clota when he was elected as President for the forthcoming year. Frank had shown his interest since being appointed a Foundation Committee man, in giving time and money toward any project approved by members.

The presentation to the Club of a fine Honour Board, beautifully finished, by Jack Knox, was greatly appreciated and recorded in the minutes. Now, in 1961 twenty six years later, Jack has repeated his fine gesture in the presentation of two more boards, one for the ladies and one for the men.



It is of interest to recall that during the season just completed, Fred Baner won his first Club Championship. Sid Hunt collected the "C" grade Championship. It was also of interest to note that a fours championship was won by Sid Hunt, Fred Baner, Bill Bamford and Claude Skelton. Sid, Fred and Bill were later to become three of the Club's best players. Sid was to win his first championship in the season 1936-37.

In keeping with the growth of membership and increasing skill of members, it was resolved to enter a "B" and "C" pennant team for the season 1935-36.

For the two following years the affairs of the Club proceeded smoothly under the capable administration headed by Frank Clota as President.

During this period, the name of Ernie Nethercote became prominent in Club affairs both as an administrator and player, which position continued for a number of years as skipper and Club Champion.

Further advances in the Club's progress became evident in July 1938 by commencement with additions to the Clubrooms to provide extra accommodation for the ladies of the Croquet Club in the shape of a kitchen.

After three years of outstanding service as President, Frank Clota relinquished his high office in favour of Herb Watson at the Annual Meeting held in August 1938. Herb had

already been to the fore in his assistance in many directions and this was to continue for many years. It was at this time that Foundation Member Gordon Young was first elected to the administration as a member of the General Committee. This was the start of many years of service on the Committee coupled with his activities in care of the green he loved so well. Gordon eventually received the highest honour the Club could bestow when made a Life Member which distinction he treasured to the end of his days.

Of interest in August 1938 is the application of one "B" and two "C" teams for pennant play in season 1938-39, giving evidence of continued growth of the Club.

Season 1939-40 was notable for a number of events in the election of Alf Ibbotson as President for the second term, the election of Bert Tann and Roy Wilkins as Vice-Presidents, and the nomination of A.J. Roberts who was accepted as a member.

Much has been said of John Roberts regarding his outstanding service to the Club during 15 years as Secretary and two years as President. Among many others, John must be granted a leading position in Club affairs, during his connection with the Club. He will always be remembered by members who were associated with him during his term of administration, for which he was justly rewarded by a life Membership.

During John's many years of service, he was largely responsible for many improvements including extensions to

Billiard Room and ladies rooms, erection of entrance gates partly financed by a liberal donation of Foundation Member T.R.G. Williams removal of hedge on the south side of the green in face of a great deal of heart burning, due to sentiment in the manner in which individual trees were donated. In time however, it was proved conclusively by the fresh growth of grass on the green, the wisdom of said removal of hedge.

A new fence was erected and mainly due to the efforts of Jack Knox, Fred Grayling and Fred Moller, a garden plot was started in which shrubs, largely donated by Bill Gillespie, were planted.

At this period, World War ll made its presence felt in Club affairs. Most members, being over age for active service, were very much engaged in Red Cross activities. A work coupled with the making of many thousand camouflage nets in the Club Rooms. Members gave of their time and money unsparingly in all patriotic efforts.

A new member accepted in 1939 was J.W. Gillespie. Bill was to prove a very prominent player for many years, including Club Champion on seven occasions. He also served the Club on the Committee for several years as well as holding the important post of Club Vice-President.

At the Annual Meeting held in August 1941, President Alf Ibbotson, who had so capably filled this office, stepped down in favour of Roy Wilkins. Roy justly deserved this high office for his many services to the Club since its inception.

At the Annual Meeting held in 1942, Roy Wilkins vacated the position as President in favour of Bert Tann. Bert was to prove extremely popular as President for the next four years due to his outstanding qualities, and with a great deal of tact smoothed out numerous small difficulties as they arose.

It was at this time that it was considered necessary by the members for the revision of the Club's Constitution, and a Committee comprising John Roberts, Bill Brady and Bill Leslie, after much hard work, prepared a new set of Rules which was submitted to a Special General Meeting held on 13th May 1943, and unanimously approved by the members present.

It is fitting at this stage to make mention of a member who from the very early days of the Club had quietly rendered a great deal of service to the Club. Bill Errington has been deservedly popular with all who met him. At this time in the early 1940's Bill had come into prominence both as a player, Committee man and press correspondent. Even today, although far from well, Bill still takes a keen interest in all the Club's affairs. Bill will always be remembered for his service and loyalty to the Club over a long period of years.

At the Annual Meeting held in August 1944, there appears for the first time elected to the General Committee, Jack Tancoe, who, for some time to come, was to make his presence felt in the administration by his constructive thinking in all matters relating to the welfare of the Club. Jack was to serve the Club for three successive years as President and it was felt to be a

great loss to Ringwood when, on his retirement from the Telephone Branch of the P.M.G. he took up residence at Mornington. However, Ringwood's loss was to be Mornington's gain as today Jack occupies the very important post of Secretary to the Mornington District Bowling Association.

Another prominent member over the years both as Committee man, Vice President and player is Frank Kenworthy. Frank is the only member who has been Club Champion on three consecutive occasions and is still a force to be reckoned with, particularly in a singles game.

At the commencement of the 1944-45 season we find mention of an accepted member in the person of Horace Dowsing, who was to prove a most loyal and helpful member to his Club for many years as Bowls Secretary, R.V.B.A. delegate and player. Modest and unassuming at all times, Horace was constructive and extremely popular with all. Unknown to many bowlers, he was the originator of the cartoon "Horace" appearing in the Bowls Journal for some years, depicting a rotund figure of a bowler in many humorous situations relating to the game of bowls.

In October 1945, the application for membership by D.B. Leigh was approved. Don was to occupy a position in the administration for many years and at the present time is Immediate Past President. The Club is greatly indebted to Don for his undoubted leadership during his term as president for two years, as in this period he banded the Club together in

a truly fraternal manner during a most difficult period in the Club's history. Today, due to his efforts, the Club is in a stronger position than ever before, supreme as a true democracy where the wishes of the majority count.

During Don's term as President, many worthwhile improvements were effected including toilet blocks and car park mainly made possible by Alan Dale's vision and aided by considerable help from the Council. The Wilana Street property acquired by the Club for use of the greenkeeper and family was sold at a profit of £600 by the acumen displayed principally by Alan Dale and Alan Carter. During this period the Constitution was again revised.

It was the Annual Meeting held in August 1946 that terminated Bert Tann's four years in office as President, and Sid Hunt was appointed in his stead. Right from the Club's foundation Sid had been one of its best players and for many years took a leading part in the administration. Sid will always be remembered because of his name appearing on the Honour Board for two years as president and four times as Champion. During his term as President the Club continued to prosper. In addition, he has been the only member to serve as sole selector, which position he carried through with a minimum of criticism. Sid always had a ready answer for any complaint, the member concerned always leaving Sid wondering why on earth he had ever made such an appeal.

At this time several new members including C.A. Roberts Charlie Palmer, Doug Ross and Claude Paris were all proving of great assistance to the Club. Chris was to occupy the chair as President for two years and had the drive to get things done, and, coupled with his popularity, was a worthy son and considerable help to his father. Charlie, Doug and Claude all served on the Committee and recently Claude Paris was awarded a Life Membership, principally in recognition of his services as Green Director over so many years. The many ways in which Claude has helped the Club over 15 years are too numerous to mention and today he is still carrying on the good work.

Another member to render outstanding service to the Club was Geoff Cox who for some years occupied a seat on the General Committee and could always be relied on to assist in any direction.

The Club is also indebted to Alf Golder who served as a Committee man and Treasurer, and Frank Moore as Club Steward and Billiards Manager. Both are still active members and have the welfare of the Club very much at heart.

Another name to appear as an accepted member was Bill Wademan. Bill was to be of considerable assistance as Committee man, Bowls Secretary and Social Secretary.

At the Annual Meeting held in August 1948 among the eight new members accepted, Alan Dale was to prove of great value to the Club in many directions. He has occupied the position of President for two years, also served on the Committee on numerous

occasions in addition to the arduous job of Secretary, has been a member of the Match Committee and at the present time is a Vice-President and Trustee of the Club.

Another member who took an active interest at this time was Ted Tinknell. Ted served on the Committee for a number of years and offered many constructive suggestions from time to time. Ted was appointed Social Manager in 1948 to conduct social evenings among members. These proved most successful due to the excellent organisation by Ted to get everyone interested.

In 1950 we find first mention of the Autumn Tournament which has proved so popular with members and other Clubs. In the season just completed (1960-61) so many entries were received that the Committee decided in favour of extending it over four instead of three Saturdays with byes to enable more to enter for three days play.

It is also in this season we find two new names on the General Committee - Wally Jewkes and Duncan Barton. Both Wally and Duncan were very much to the fore in constructive discussions and fine members. Another member of the Committee at this time was Jim Kerr. Jim was always helpful in promoting anything for the good of the Club. In addition he was a competent player and succeeded in being runner up in the Club Championship.

Amongst new members who were admitted in season 1953-54 we find mention of Messrs. Sid Dickins, Hugh McKenzie and Roy



Anderson. Sid Dickins to prove very capable on the administration and as President followed in the footsteps of his predecessor Don Leigh emerging as a leader with rare tact when difficult situations arose. Hugh McKenzie served as a committee man for several terms and his generosity is still exemplified today in presenting an annual trophy to the runner - up in the Club Championship. Roy Anderson as Committee man and Bowls Secretary has rendered wonderful service to his Club with constructive thought and meticulous attention to detail. Mention must also be made of two other Committee men - Gil Aird and Doug Anderson. Recent addition was a block of toilets erected by Doug Anderson at a minimum figure and the adding of a fine sun-room at the northern end of the pavilion overlooking the No. 2 green. This last project was made possible by Gil Aird and Doug Anderson who gave their services free for the erection of this fine addition. These two members have also served the Club on the match Committee.

Other members who have given wonderful service are Fred Moller, Arthur Catrou, Ian Embling, Ralph Corbett, Wally Sheldon and Bill Roberts in his position as Wednesday manager. Arthur as Secretary for the past four years has spared no effort in the interests of the Club, also in the capacity of delegate to the R.V.B.A. Fred Moller has been an acquisition to the Club for many years as House Steward and painting the Club house, also tending the surrounds of the Green.

Ian Embling as Treasurer has been a tower of strength and presented the financial affairs of the Club most efficiently. Ralph Corbett has done a fine job in succession to Claude Paris as Green Director, player, his part in the administration and helped considerably with any working bee organised.

Special mention must be made of Wally Sheldon not only in that he has given members a green to play on second to none, but also by his voluntary efforts to improve the whole area occupied by the Club. Notable efforts recently in this direction have been the improvements to the ditches in the No. 2 green and the erection of the beautiful stonework at the west end of No. 1 green.

Two others come to mind, who in recent years have given service to the Club of an outstanding nature. They are Ralph Barnes and Jim Smith. Ralph as a member of the match committee and Jim as Bowls Secretary have not spared themselves, also in their capacity as Committee men. In addition Jim did a sterling job for two seasons as Press Correspondent.

Also members who must not be forgotten are H. Walduck, T. Loughnan and Harry Evans, the latter having presented the Flag Pole and first Flag, and the Hon. Gil. Chandler, who though not a member has year after year presented floral decoration for opening day.

This story would not be complete without mention of the croquet ladies vacation of their lawns owing to lack of space for their increasing membership.

Over almost thirty years, these ladies gave unstintingly of their time in serving refreshments and assistance at social functions. The wonderful service rendered by them will always be remembered by the older members of the Club.

It must be regarded as appropriate to mention several of these ladies who over the years gave much unselfish service to the Bowling Club including Mesdames Wilkins, Ibbotson, Bamford, Knox, Roberts, Palmer and Walker.

Aided by the Council, but principally by their own efforts, the Croquet Club has established itself at Jubilee Park with spacious greens and a beautiful Club house erected on contemporary lines on a slope that overlooks the greens and in the distance the Dandenong Ranges.

For some time past, the desirability of a ladies' section to the bowling Club had been considered and with the ~~vacation~~ of their lawns by the Croquet Club, this becomes a possibility.

Today the ladies' section has been responsible for considerable assistance to the Club both financially and fraternally.

Mixed play both in the daytime and under lights has become extremely popular. The appreciation of the men members for the ladies' co-operation has been most noticeable.

Another event of importance in recent years has been the winning of two "B" grade pennants in space of two years and by the automatic promotion thus gained has been able to field a team and hold its place in Division 2 of "A" Pennant.

What of the future? Today the Club is in a state of transition. Most of the old members have left the district or passed on. To the newer members a big responsibility lies ahead.

The foundations have been well and truly laid by much sacrifice. There is no reason why the Club should not go on from strength to strength. This, of course, can only be achieved by unity, forgetting personal consideration and remembering what is in the best interests of the Club and not individuals, and policy to be decided by the majority, thus retaining the Club's democratic traditions.

It would be impossible in compiling such a history as this to mention every individual who has taken some part in the activities of the Club. Their number is legion. If any have been overlooked we offer our apologies. To all who have rendered such service thanks have been faithfully recorded in the minutes of the Club.

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