

BEECHWOOD BOWLING CLUB

**THE FIRST 100 YEARS
1904-2004**



The Story of a Bowls Club
By
Raymond R. Rogers.

**BEECHWOOD BOWLING CLUB
AN INTRODUCTION BY
HIS WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF NEWPORT
CLLR. RAY TRUMAN**

It is a great pleasure in my capacity as The Mayor of Newport to write a few short words in honour of Beechwood Bowling Club's Centenary celebrations.

Beechwood Bowling Club has been an important part of the Newport sporting and social community from its earliest days and its continued success has much to do with the hard work and loyalty of its members. The Club is steeped in history and has been part of the lives of so many throughout its 100 years. Through the many public and personal successes of its members the club has demonstrated its eagerness to develop whilst maintaining its own distinct identity. Therefore the history that follows is not just of a bowling club but of the people who put their hearts into building a bowling community within Beechwood and Newport. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Beechwood Bowling Club and its members a successful and enjoyable centenary.

Cllr. Ray Truman
The Mayor of Newport



A Century of Bowls at Beechwood.

Contents

From 2004 we look back over a century and see the enormous changes that have taken place during the life time of the Club.

In 1904 in the immediate vicinity of the Park the houses fronting Beechwood Road were yet to be built, as were those in the roads off with the exception of Gibbs Road and a few on Christchurch Road.

Travel to away matches was for the most part by "Charabanc", train and occasionally horse drawn transport. Clubs that were played against were often far a field, some of which were Abergavenny, Bedwelty Park, Blackwood, Ebbw Vale Welfare, Howard Gardens and Roath, the latter two, both in Cardiff.

We look around us today and see that all members are on the telephone, and most have personal transport.

No international caps can be boasted, and few in recent years, have county caps been acquired, success in the increasingly competitive world of modern day bowls is very limited.

The Club has a good green, all be it five rinks one way and six the other, but the size of the pavilion prevents any but modest social activity

Why then has the club lasted 100 years?

Perhaps the answer lies, not in the playing success or the facilities but in the quality of the membership. For Beechwood has a long standing tradition as a Happy Club.

I hope you will share in some of that "Tradition and Happiness" as you read of our first 100 Years.

Ray Rogers.

*

The Expert

After standing impatiently with his father who was watching a game of bowls, the little boy asked his dad "What have they got to do Dad? Dad:" They have to get their bowls close to that little white ball, called the Jack".

Son: Well why don't they then?

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Acknowledgements

Photographs

Mrs Dorothy Spear, Newport Museum & Art Gallery (Rachael Anderton for her help). Mr. Ken Thomas, Mrs Pat White (Grand daughter of Mr. E. W. King a past president).

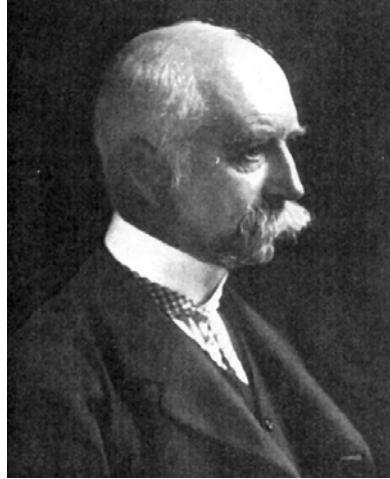
Mr. Nigel Gallop (Newport City Council) for the Green Damage Photographs.

The staff at Newport Reference Library, for their help and assistance in procuring some of the information and photographs contained in this publication.

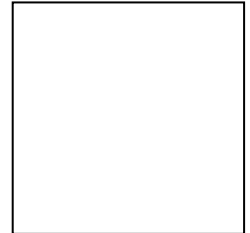
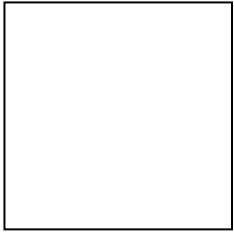
Finally those members of the Club, past and present who have made a contribution by placing on record, the happenings and incidents that go to the making of the history of this great Club.

Presidents Review

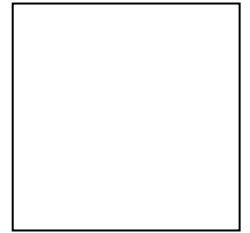
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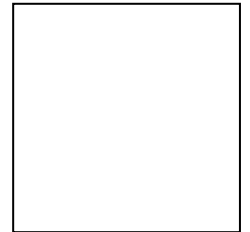
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1. V. C. Lord Tredegar.	1904-1914
2. J. Greenland. Esq.	1915-1917
3. F. Jenkins. Esq.	1918
4. G. N. Jesseman. Esq.	1919-1934
5. J. Seer. Esq.	1935-1938
6. E. W. King. Esq.	1939-1940
7. J. Owen. Esq.	1941-1942
8. A. T. Bryant. Esq.	1943-1966
9. W.F. Bell. Esq.	1967-1972
10. W. H. Baker. Esq.	1973-1977
11. J. P. Strachen. Esq.	1978-1979
12. E. Hancox. Esq.	1980-1996
13. A. C. Evans	1997-



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Presidents Address

The time has finally arrived when I must put pen to paper and record my thoughts about Beechwood Bowls Club which extend over many years.

The year is 1958 and my personal history with the Club starts when my wife Margery and son Paul were visiting America and Canada on a family holiday. My next-door neighbour, Norman Smith, who was treasurer of Beechwood Bowling Club, was asked by Margery to get me interested in bowling and so keep me out of mischief while the family were away.

I shall always be grateful for the encouragement and attention to detail over many years that Margery gave me, which increased and maintained my enjoyment of the game at Beechwood.

As you go through the brochure you will read of our achievements and disappointments. But there are a great many things which happen in Club life which are important, and sometimes more important than the results of matches. We do not always appreciate these until time has passed, and we can look back.

We have a hundred years to look back on and to think, and wonder how our friends of many years managed and accomplished so much. You can read elsewhere in the brochure the full story of how the club came into being. Can we imagine what it was like for the bowler who walked up through the park (no cars then) not only to play a game of bowls, but also, with his fellow bowlers, to establish and maintain a viable club? Did he bring his sandwiches for a tea interval? possibly extra sandwiches for his visiting friends? The conversation before and after games would be along the lines: we must have a Chairman, a management committee, a Secretary, a Treasurer. Those people in turn would have had a tremendous amount of work to organise everything. Being the first club in Newport, they would have had no template to get them started, but start they did and then problems that they cannot have anticipated arrived World War One, the depression, and World War Two. That brings some of the present day bowlers into the picture but organisational problems are still with us in one form or another, and so we continue to look towards them to solve our problems. Them – yes! The people who put more into the game than just bowling.

In my 46 years with the club we have had wonderful officers who filled these posts with enthusiasm and skill and who in spite of many setbacks continued to work for the benefit of the club. Today we have in place bowlers of experience as officers, who are always looking forward to improve, where possible, the club in all aspects of the game.

The last year or so has seen much hard work, extra work associated with the Centenary Year. My personal thanks go to all who have contributed

We will all have memories and it is good to recall them. Let me share just a few of mine

The annual social evening at the Westgate hotel with 200 bunches of violets flown in from Jersey for the Ladies.

An older member's encouraging shout of "come on Beechwood" earned him a reprimand from the Monmouthshire Bowling Association..

The Skip who I maintained, played with the only set of woods made by the Aberthaw Cement Company (he always forgave me).

The sad sense of loss at the passing of good friends and the welcome handshake to new members.

There are so many more memories which space won't allow, except this one. The tea ladies who worked under extreme hardship in the early days preparing and serving tea, to two rinks at a time, from a window-less hut in very cramped conditions, always cheerful and enhancing our reputation for looking after our visitors. Not just a memory but also the present, because our ladies are still doing stalwart work: to Vera and her many helpers our very heartfelt thanks.

Not being fully fit has its compensations. This season I have watched a lot of matches and competitions, together with other bowlers, and there comes a time when conversations cease and we are immersed in the game. When a good wood is bowled, there is a quiet murmur of "well bowled", which has a wealth and depth of meaning in it.

So, as well as saying "Thank You" to all who have contributed in any way over the last 100 years to the well being and success of Beechwood Bowls Club, I say:

"Well bowled"

Colwyn Evans
President



*

A Message from the Captain.

Dear fellow bowlers and friends.

In this year, 2004, I have the privilege of representing you as Club Captain; a daunting challenge in this our centenary season but one I look forward to with eager anticipation and quiet optimism. The significance of accepting the Vice Captaincy for 2003 was not lost upon me and, as someone who nurtured ambitions to captain Beechwood Bowling Club at some stage, to be offered that opportunity in our centenary year was an honour too good to be true. I would therefore like to thank Derek Allsopp, not only for his invitation, but also for his confidence in me to fulfil the requirements of such a demanding roll. In turn the confidence I have in everyone at Beechwood bodes well for a happy term of office.

One hundred years ago, a group of enthusiastic visionaries laid the foundation stone on which a succession of dedicated individuals and committees has continued to build. From such humble beginnings of a green cultivated from two tennis courts, housed in modest club accommodation, Beechwood Bowling Club has evolved into what it is today, a facility to be proud of, set in surroundings second to none. I feel it fitting therefore, as we stand on the threshold of a most exciting time in our bowling lives, that we pay due homage to those early pioneers whose foresight and perseverance has provided this, our inheritance.

In looking back, we may also like to pay tribute to those who, but for the finger of fate, would themselves have been raising a celebratory glass with us this season. Our list "In Memoriam" is of course a lengthy one, with each decade bearing witness to the passing of close friends and colleagues. In recent years we too have born our losses with regret, bidding our fond farewells to men dedicated to the game, and the club they represented with distinction. Personal friends, such as Rex Morgan, Les Carroll, Bernard Curtis, Cyril Heyes and Ray Truefitt all bowled their final ends in the service of Beechwood and are now rolling up in more exalted company

By the very nature of its title, *Voluntary Work* is an unpaid and all too often undervalued occupation. With this in mind, I would like to pay tribute to our Centenary Committee, the members of which have given selflessly of their time and expertise in their efforts to produce an exceptionally high quality of centenary insignia and memorabilia. Ray Rogers, Colin Dancer, Dave Hill and Gerry Evans have willingly turned a voluntary task into a labour of love and deserve our gratitude for a job superbly done. Many hours of extensive deliberation, consideration and consultation have resulted in an end product highly complimentary to our status as the new City of Newport's senior bowling club. Our resident archivist, Ray Rogers, has painstakingly collated a history of our club, gleaning information from sources many and varied. Minute books, micro film, personal contacts and a South Wales Argus appeal have all been contributory to his findings, and inasmuch as his work will never truly be considered finished, Ray's endeavours in the compilation of our centenary brochure has been outstanding.

The records show that, since its inception as a Bowling Club, Beechwood" has had within its ranks many highly talented individuals all of whom, through their prowess on the green and as ambassadors on "foreign fields" have written their own personal chapters in our club's history book. Many of their achievements are documented within this publication, and in their perusal we can all formulate an opinion as to which, if any, would be worthy of the accolade "Player of the Century". After due consideration, and for what it is worth, my vote would favour Mr. C. Ramage, for his five consecutive Championship Victories 1933 to 1937. Mr. Ramage, who was as devoted to bowling as Mrs. Ramage was to "*Silvo*", also won in that period, the Two Woods title three times, and with Mr. H. Thomas the pairs. For good measure he won the Open competition in 1935 and went on to win the Handicap competition in 1938.

Others too would have their supporters and each could stake a legitimate claim for this coveted, if fictitious award. T. Johnson, H. Malpass, A. H. Young, F. Wardle, W.F. (Bill) Bell, T. Whitehouse and Jim Strachan would all be serious contenders in the title race. Closer to home so to speak, who could deny the claims of Martin and Doug Spear, Chris Hale, Ken Binns and Gordon Lane; all examples of the character inherent in winners, and worthy of consideration in any company.

Mention too should be made of our much respected President Colwyn Evans who, with Gordon Lane, played a prominent roll in the double winning, Monmouthshire Bowls Association Teams of 1967 & 1968. Colwyn captained the team in 1968 and remains inspirational to those of us anxious for the return of Beechwood's vintage years. All in all we mere mortals have much to aspire to, but the challenge is there if we are up to it.

At this point I would like to wish Gordon every success as captain of the Over Sixty Team. He is the perfect choice in this our centenary year, and will bring a wealth of experience and a renowned sense of fair play to the job. I look forward to collaborating with him in promoting Beechwood Bowling Club.

It should also be remembered that 2004 is a centenary year for all Beechwood members, with the Ladies Club too playing a prominent roll in much of what we do. The ladies are justifiably proud of their standing as a Bowling Club, rejoicing as they do in their status as the Senior Ladies Bowling Club in Wales. I wish our ladies and in particular their captain, Mrs. Olwyn Jenkins, every enjoyment and success in the coming season.

And what of this season? Put in a theatrical context the curtain will soon rise on a momentous time in our club's history. Soon we will have the opportunity to put into practice all we have learned from the previous 99 years of rehearsal. In addition to the usual calendar of league and cup matches, our fixture list includes a number of prestigious representative games designed to assist in a season of celebration. It is my hope that all members will make a concerted effort to support these games, whether on the green or from the side lines. It is crucial that we project our club in its best possible light, and to entertain our honoured guests in a manner befitting our stature in the bowls world. Undoubtedly, the eyes of that world will be upon us, curious to observe what we do and how we do it.

Our new insignia design and bowls wear will give us the best possible start, but how we perform and rise to this special occasion rests entirely in our own hands. In selection your committee will do all possible to ensure that those interested are given an opportunity to play, whilst according due deference to our guests by remaining competitive.

Wherever bowlers gather there is usually a tale to be told, and none are immune from taking an occasional, reflective glance over their shoulder. Quite naturally, the art of reminiscence will punctuate this seasons proceedings, and those with an ear for nostalgia should find themselves well catered for. The anecdotes of long standing members will be savoured by those eager to absorb a taste of what life was like at Beechwood in the "old days" and, undoubtedly, the memory glands of President Colwyn and Vice President Harold Wood will have been suitably primed and ready for action. This publication itself should provide food for thought, with Ray's archaeological digs and a few precious photographs providing some clue to club life in those halcyon days of yore. It is, of course, desirable that we preserve this archive and the memory of those whose efforts helped pave the way to this historic milestone.

That said, and as important as it is to remain true to our heritage, we should also be mindful that 2004 is a celebration of today and not solely a means of reliving the past. This season we begin a new chapter in the "Beechwood Story", and in its writing we should be resolved to focus our thoughts on how to improve on what has already been achieved. As Club Captain, I would hope to have an influence on where we go from here and am confident of having made a positive start by inviting Dave Hill to work with me as Vice Captain. Dave's enthusiasm for the game is widely acknowledged and his input as a Centenary Committee member, indicative of his attachment to Beechwood Bowling Club. Together we are totally committed in our ambitions to take Beechwood forward and to enhance its standing in the bowls fraternity. He will also provide a balanced young head for these ancient shoulders.

In concluding, may I reiterate my feeling of personal honour, whilst highlighting the significance of the year 2004, not only to Beechwood Bowling Club but to the Principality itself.

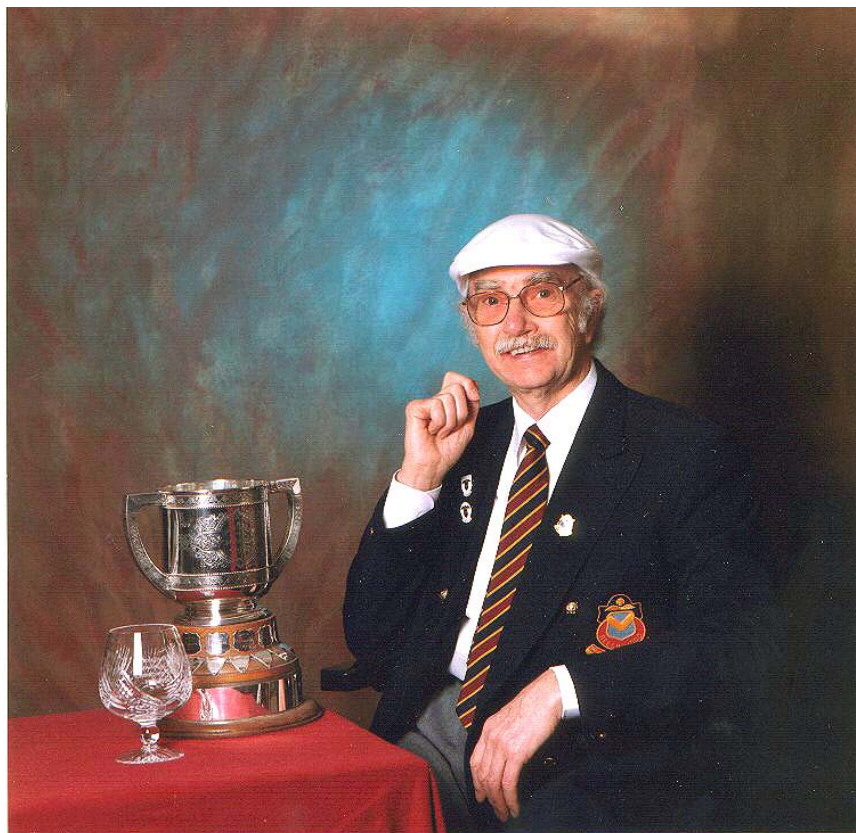
This year we stand proud as centenarians, forerunners in the evolution of bowls in South Wales & Monmouthshire and as baton carriers to the game immortalised by Sir Francis Drake.

As current custodians, we have the honour of upholding the traditions of this great club and a responsibility to ensure it's continuance for future generations.

This promises to be an extraordinary season for all concerned and will most certainly be the only male Beechwood Centenary any of us will ever witness. I would therefore urge everyone to make the most of it and not have cause to look back in years to come with regrets

Wishing you all a great season with many more to follow.

L. J. O'Brian



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Beechwood Bowling Club 1904-2004

Beechwood Bowling Club celebrates the club centenary in the year 2004.

This history of the club starts a little earlier, in fact in 1900. In that year the Newport Council purchased Beechwood House and grounds, from a Mr. Forthergill, tobacco manufacturer of the town, for the princely sum of £11,500, the park being opened to the public in July of that year

We then move forward to October 1903, when the Borough Engineer reported to the Parks & Allotments Committee on the possibility of converting one of the tennis courts into a bowling green. It was resolved that the Chairman and Councillor Davies would visit greens in Cardiff, and report back on their findings.

At a further meeting of the committee, dated 18th.December 1903 the Borough Engineer reported on the question of converting two tennis courts into a bowling green. This he thought was possible at a "*trifling cost*". It was resolved that two of the tennis courts be converted, and that a small charge hereafter be fixed for the use of same.

In March 1904 at a meeting of the Borough Council, the Parks Superintendent asked the Authority to "*hire a horse roller*" whether this was for use on the bowling green was not clear. However the question of the number of sets of woods to be purchased, for use on the green at Beechwood Park was! Having been duly considered it was resolved that four sets be purchased at a cost of 25/- shillings (125p) per set. At the same meeting, it was resolved that a charge of 4d (3p) per person be made to persons wishing to play.

In May 1904 the bowling green at Beechwood Park having now been opened, tenders for the supply of 4 sets of woods together with 4 jacks, having been previously invited from various firms were opened, and it was agreed that the tender from Messrs Giles Phillips & Co of £4-19-6 (497.5p) be accepted.

Extract from the 1st. minute book.

"At a meeting on the bowling green at Beechwood Park in the summer of 1904, held for the purpose of forming a bowling club it was, after a lengthy discussion, agreed on a proposal by a Mr. W. James that a Bowling Club be formed, that the entrance fee be 2/- (20p) and that the club membership shall, as regards numbers be unlimited, this was seconded by a Mr. Bullock and carried by a large majority. A Mr.G.Jones then proposed that the club be governed by a committee of seven (with power to add); this was seconded by a Mr.James and carried unanimously. The meeting was then adjourned"

The first General Meeting of the club held on the 14th August 1905, elected officers and committee for the coming year. Mr. H. Jones proposed that the Secretary write to The Viscount Lord Tredegar asking if he would accept the Presidency of the club. This was seconded by Mr. T. Colman and carried unanimously. Lord Tredegar accepted the Presidency of the club and remained in that office until 1914 An interesting item was discussed at a General Meeting held on the 9th. July 1907. The meeting had been called to discuss the advisability of opening a *private green*. The Chairman introduced a Mr.Butler from the Penalt Club, to give the meeting the benefit of that clubs experience in starting a private green. A further General Meeting took place on February 12th.1908 at which a proposal was carried that an expert be consulted as to the cost involved in laying a green on the ground under offer and also, as to the suitability of the local turf? At this meeting a poll was also taken as to the number of members prepared to take up shares in the proposed venture. It was found that including outside promises an amount of £109 would be raised. At a General Meeting held on the 19th. February, following a report by the Chairman, on the viability of opening a private green, a resolution was carried giving the secretary

permission to utilise the club funds for any purpose in connection with the formation of the proposed new private bowling green. A second resolution, **“That a company which shall be named, The Maindee Bowling & Sports Co.Ltd. should be formed and registered”** was also carried. Following which a number of members were appointed as directors. *Authors note.* *“Having examined the record of the accounts, and the archives at Companies House Cardiff, I have found no evidence that the Company was actually registered”.*

In those early years the club was affiliated to the South Wales Bowling Association, and played an active part in the running of its affairs. However in December 1908 a report was presented to a Special General Meeting of the Beechwood Club on the intention of the South Wales Association to divide it self into two sections, namely Private Greens and Public Park Greens. As a result of this decision the club committee recommended, that a meeting be convened of the local bowling clubs with a view to forming a new association. At a further meeting, on the 8th of January 1909 representatives were appointed to attend meetings to formulate rules for the new association.

<p>Beechwood Bowling Club</p> <p>President: Right Hon. Viscount Tredegar.</p> <p>Vice Presidents: Alderman Mark Mordey, J.P. J. H. Adams, Esq., F. A. Allen, Esq. A. W. Little, Esq. C. P. Simmonds, Esq. R. Searles, Esq. Dr. Lloyd Davies. H. C. Parfitt, Esq. Dr. Garrod Thomas. W. James, Esq. Dr. J. McGinn. Graham White, Esq.</p> <p>M. G. J. CLARK, Hon. Sec., York Villa, York Place.</p> <p>WRIGHT & LEE, PRINTERS.</p>	<p>Beechwood Bowling Club. Affiliated to the South Wales and Mon. Bowling Association.</p> <p>Revised Rules, 1910.</p> <p>Please insert in your member's card. All previous Rules cancelled.</p> <p>1.—The Club shall be called the “Beechwood Bowling Club.”</p> <p>2.—A General Meeting of the Club shall be held annually in the fourth week of October, for the purpose of electing the Captains, Vice-Captains, Secretary, Treasurer, and six other members, who shall form the Committee of Management for the following season, and shall receive the financial report and other business.</p> <p>3.—The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee, and shall hold the position for the whole of the year.</p> <p>4.—No person shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting unless his entry fee and annual subscription be paid.</p> <p>5.—Minutes of the proceedings shall be entered in a book or books to be kept for that purpose, and shall be signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>6.—The Committee shall meet on Monday evenings in each week during the playing season, except at such times as is considered unnecessary.</p> <p>7.—The annual subscription shall be payable not later than the 1st day of May in each year.</p> <p>8.—The Committee shall declare the seat vacant of any member not attending three consecutive meetings, unless a satisfactory reason be given, and shall appoint a successor at the next meeting.</p> <p>9.—The players (including skips) and reserves for each match shall be chosen by a Match Committee, consisting of Captain, Secretary, and three other members of the General Committee, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Match Committee to arrange rinks.</p> <p>10.—All goods paid for, or presented to the Club, shall be the sole property of the Club.</p>	<p>and no individual member shall have any personal claim whatsoever on any portion of same.</p> <p>11.—That all candidates for membership shall be duly nominated, and same handed to the Secretary or a member of the Committee. The nomination will then be laid before the next meeting of the Committee following receipt.</p> <p>12.—No alteration or addition shall be made to the foregoing rules, except at the Annual General Meeting, or a special General Meeting called for the purpose, and one month's notice shall be given in writing to the Hon. Secretary, setting forth in full such proposed alteration or addition, which shall be stated in the notice of business of the meeting.</p> <p>This Ticket is issued subject to the following conditions:—</p> <p>1.—The entry fee (2/-) entitles the holder of this ticket to become a member of the Club; but a further call of 1/- will be made on the 1st day of May in each year, as an annual subscription.</p> <p>2.—The payment of entry fee or annual subscription does not entitle the holder to any portion of the property belonging to the Club.</p>
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These six pages contain the revised rules of the club drawn up in 1910; they are the earliest that are recorded. The original booklet is attached to the inside front cover of the first minute book dated 1905. It is interesting to note, that the booklet was also the member's membership card and measures only 6.5cm x 4cm (2.5ins x 1.5ins) when folded.

During the 1909 season the Mr. Graham White, presented the & Monmouthshire Bowling competed for annually. The shield Grange Bowling Club of Cardiff, Beechwood Bowling Club, Grange Splott Bowling Club in 1913, Beechwood 1915, Grange 1916. the years 1917/1918. In 1919 on St. Julians Bowling club, won in 1920/1921 & 1922. In 1923 honours and finally Howard



then Mayor of Newport, Councillor new association, The South Wales Association, with a shield to be being won, in the first year by in the following year 1910 by again in 1911 Beechwood 1912, Roath Park Club in 1914, The competition was not held during the resumption of the competition followed once again by Beechwood Fair oak Bowling Club took the Gardens in 1924

The South Wales & Monmouthshire Association Shield.



Beechwood Bowling Club on route to Abergavenny 1920 Via The Maindee Hotel

At the Annual General Meeting in October 1919 the Secretary in his report stated that the membership of the Club now stood at 100 with 22 members having been admitted during the past season. The balance in the account of £22-4-51/2 (£ 22.255p) being the largest in the history of the Club. He went on to state that the Whist drives were one of the chief sources of revenue.

This was the year in which Mr. Tom Johnson won the Challenge Cup for the third time, thereby winning the Lord Tredegar Cup outright.

At that same A. G. M. Mr. H Boynes proposed and a Mr. Gower seconded "that an approach should be made to Mr. Lysaght requesting that he provide a Silver Cup for competition at Beechwood

At a General Meeting in April 1920 it was agreed that the Championship be competed for as usual. The winner to receive the cup, in the event of the Club being successful in getting one presented. At the Annual General Meeting on October 28th.1920 Mr. C. E. Budd stated that he had succeeded in obtaining a silver cup for the Championship Competition. This was received with acclamation, Mr. H. Jory proposed & Mr. T. Johnson seconded, that a letter of thanks be sent to Lord Tredegar, thanking him for his kindness in presenting us with a second Challenge Cup.

At a management Meeting in November 1920 Mr. A. J. Froud proposed & Mr. A. E. Budd seconded, that the conditions of the competition for the cup recently presented by Lord Tredegar, be as previous (i.e.) "that anyone winning the competition three times, not necessarily in succession becomes the possessor" This was carried

At the Annual General Meeting that year, October 1920, once again it was announced that Mr. Tom Johnson had won the Club Championship Mr. T. Johnson went on to win the Championship in 1924 & 1925 thereby once again winning the Cup outright. In his report to the Annual General Meeting that year, October 1925 the Secretary reported that Mr. Tom Johnson had very generously handed back the Cup for competition within the Club. It was later decided that a replica of the Cup should be presented to Mr. Johnson. At a Management Meeting in September 1926 the Secretary reported that he had received a quotation for the replica cup for £4-2-6d. (425p). It was agreed that the Secretary should go ahead and purchase same.

6th.June1924. Under Correspondence:-Reply from Town Clerk was read, giving permission to hold a "Carnival on The Green"!!!!!!!

During the 1925 season three members of the Club brought outside honours to the club winning Open tournaments at Llandrindod, C. E. Budd; Abercarn, H. Spicer; and T. Johnson Abergavenny; Mr. Spicer went on to win the Monmouthshire Bowling Association Singles Championship in 1926.



The 1931 season saw the club win the Royal Gwent Hospital Shield, having won all their matches in that competition. The final being played at the Newbridge Welfare green, against Bedwelty Park Bowling Club, Beechwood winning by eleven shots, in what was described as a very close game

1936 was again a very successful season for the club. In his annual report to the Newport Bowling League, at their Annual General Meeting that year, the Chairman Mr. E. Mole, a Beechwood member, congratulated Mr. C Ramage, the winner of the League Singles Competition, he then went on to congratulate the winners of the rink's competition namely, Messrs, E.Williams, W.D.Hyndman, G.A.Edwards & C.Ramage who in addition to skipping the winning rink had won the King Cup, and the Two Wood competition, all of whom were members of Beechwood Bowling Club. At the same meeting Mr. E.W.King, another Beechwood member was elected President of the Newport Bowling Association for 1937. Mr.E. Mole was subsequently elected President of the Monmouthshire Bowling Association for 1937. All in all not a bad year for the Club!

During the years 1939/1945 the club was kept ticking over by a very enthusiastic group of members, as the results for some of these years show. In common with other clubs at this time, membership inevitably decreased as members were involved in more serious matters. The secretary, reporting to the Annual General Meeting on 16th. November 1939, stated that approximately 20 members had left the club during that year, also that 5 friendly matches had been cancelled owing to the weather and the outbreak of the war. He went on to say that if the present war condition prevailed it would be doubtful if either the Welsh Bowling Association or the Monmouthshire Bowling Association matches would be played next season. However the Newport Bowling League being a local league would probably be arranged, as it would not be affected by the curtailed travelling conditions.

At the Annual General Meeting the following year, 1940 the Secretary reported that the club had played 11 N. B. L. matches during the year, having won six and lost five, of the friendly matches, seven had been played, four won, with three being lost. The Club Championship was won by Mr. H. Smith, the Pairs, by Messrs F. Shellard & W. Bateman, the Club Handicap being left in abeyance until the next season

At a Management Meeting held on the 16th. May 1941 the Secretary reported that he had made a **claim** on behalf of the club against the "966 Squadron R. A. F.," following damage caused to the *Club Flagpole*, when their barrage balloon had broken away. At a further meeting on the 1st. September 1941 the Secretary was asked to enquire of Mr. E.W. King, as to the repairing of damage done to the pavilion during the *Blitz*. A mine had been dropped during an air raid on a bungalow at the junction of Beechwood and Christchurch Roads. At a Management Meeting held on the 15th. October 1941 the Secretary reported that he had received settlement for the claim he had made against the R. A. F. regarding the flagpole, in the sum of £12.00.

The 1942 and 1943 seasons were again particularly successful seasons for the club, winning the Newport Bowls League in both these years



At the Annual General Meeting of the club in 1945 it was decided that an approach should be made to the Chairman of the Newport Parks Committee with a request that a pavilion, similar to that at the Belle Vue green should be provided at Beechwood. Whether as a result of that approach or not, at the club Annual Dinner in 1946, as reported in the South Wales Argus, the Superintendent of Newport Parks and Allotments, stated that the green at Beechwood Park the first laid in Newport over forty years ago, had served two generations of bowlers. That there was now a scheme to re-plan the park and in doing so, provide two bowling greens. *What ever happened to that scheme?* At the same dinner, Mr. H. M. Chapman. President of the Newport Bowls League, in replying to a toast to the visitors said that the Beechwood Club had done a tremendous amount of work for the good of bowls, as well as providing seven international players in Messrs H. Jory, T. Johnson, W. H. Clarke, J. H. Plaisted, C. Budd, G. W. Bullock, and J. Whitehouse. An extraordinary achievement for a Public Parks Club. At a meeting of the Management Committee on the 24th April 1947 the committee were informed that teas would no longer be permitted in the clubhouse when entertaining visiting teams. That Beechwood House, had been let out for catering, and that in future we would have to adjourn to that place for tea. It was also stated that an approximate charge for a meal would be 2/-d (20p) per head. It was felt by those present, that this would make bowling a *very expensive pastime!*

1949 saw the green being relayed, at a management meeting on the 3rd. February fears were expressed that it would not be available for play by May 1st that year. Members appreciated that at last they were getting a new green, laid with what was considered to be the finest turf. It was hoped that by 1950 they would have a perfect green. In fact the green was not played on in 1949, and was opened on the 1st. May 1950.

Winners All



1925

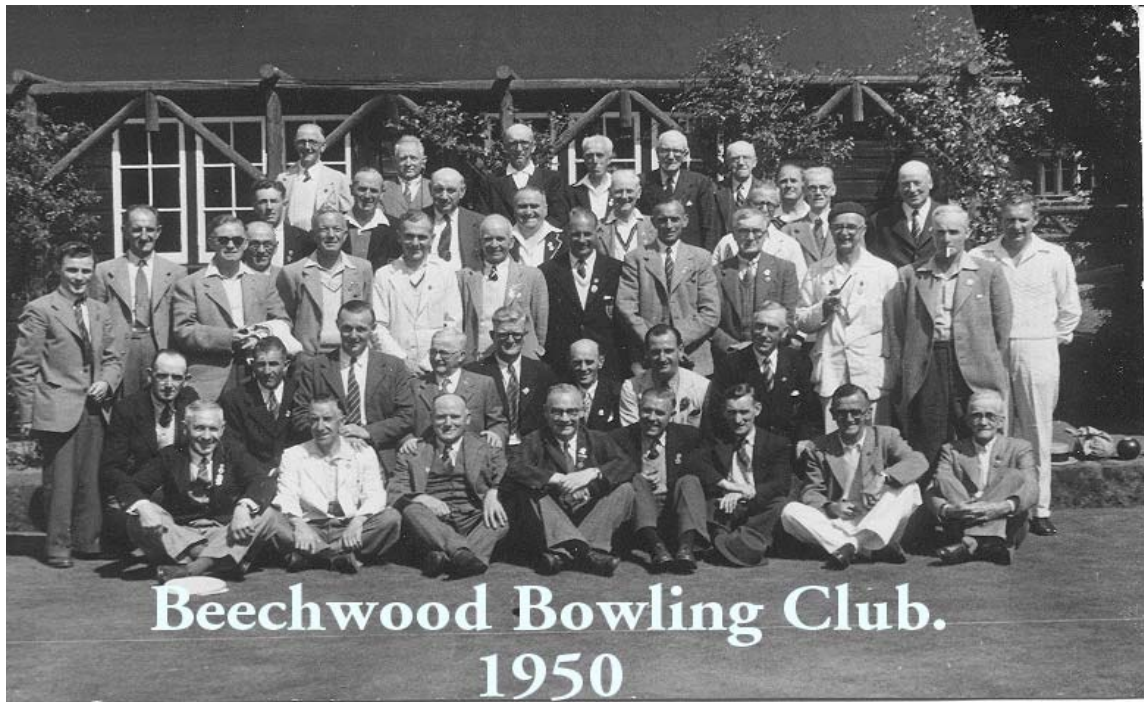
H. Spicer. Esq.
Winner of Open Tournament
Abercarn

C. E. Budd. Esq.
Winner of Open Tournament
Brynawel & Llandrindod

T. Johnson. Esq.
Winner of Open Tournament
Abergavenny



A. H. Young. Esq.
Newport Bowls League Champion
1943



At a management Meeting in May 1952 the Hon Secretary requested instruction as to the opening of the Pavilion, now that Sunday games including bowls were now permitted. After some discussion on a proposition by Mr. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Bell it was decided that the Pavilion would remain closed. At an earlier meeting a Captain's Badge had been presented to the Club by Mr. Theo Milner. The Committee being much impressed by the beauty and simplicity of the design conveyed their appreciation.

1954 The Club's Jubilee Year. To celebrate it was decided to hold a match between the "Old Members" of Beechwood Bowling Club and the "Existing Members", the match to be of five rinks, and to be played on July 1st followed by a supper. The secretary being requested to book the Cross Hands Hotel for this function, at an approximate cost of 5/- (25p) per head. The captain Mr. E. Heyes promised a donation of £5.00 toward the expenses, the club made a contribution of £10.00.

In those early years "The Hut" (pavilion) as it was referred to, was owned, or at least the responsibility of the Club. A letter from the Newport Corporation re-the condition of the "Hut" read by the Secretary to a management Meeting in January 1957 required an early assurance "that repairs and painting would be done immediately"! The Secretary having replied that the Club finances did not permit us undertaking these repairs at this time had asked the Corporation for their assistance. At a subsequent meeting it was agreed that a tender submitted by Messrs W Moon for the repair and repainting of the Hut for approximately £75.00 be accepted. A Mr. Westwood promised to keep a "watching brief" whilst the work progressed. A subsequent appeal to the members for financial assistance raised the sum of £90-1-0p (£90.10p). On Thursday 24th April 1958 the Mayor of Newport Accompanied by the Lady Mayoress opened the Green together with the renovated "Hut".

1962. Once again the club members provided officers for the local Associations. Mr. T. W. Milner was elected President of the Monmouthshire Bowling Association, and Mr. W. F. Bell was elected Chairman of the Newport Bowling Association.



In 1964 the Club celebrated its 60th. Anniversary, at the Annual General Meeting that year the Secretary in his report had said, "It was good that the club had carried on for sixty years, in spite of the poor facilities that the parks Committee put at our disposal. Although the Parks Superintendent had been approached on a number of occasions without success, the possibility of us ever having a new pavilion seemed very remote"

1967 and 1968, were probably the most successful years for some considerable time. The Club winning the Monmouthshire Bowling Association Championship in consecutive years, a feat not equalled before or since

Beechwood Bowls Club triumph

BEECHWOOD Bowling Club have just accomplished a notable performance.

They have carried off the championship of Monmouthshire Bowling Association for the second year in succession.

They are the first Newport club to win the title in two successive years.

After winning their section, they had to meet Belle Vue in the semi-final, and they triumphed by 84 shots to 72.

Their opponents in the final were Abercarn, whom they defeated 83-67.



J.P. Strachan R. Daws W.F. Bell F. Wardle
Monmouthshire Bowling Association Champions 1967



Beechwood Bowling Club Monmouthshire Bowling Association Champion's 1968



Beechwood Bowling Club in front of the Old Pavilion 1978



Beechwood Bowling Club winners of the Newport Bowling Association League 1987.

The Club Flag 1904-2004



James Strachan and his wife Ruby were, for many year's eminent members of their respective Beechwood Bowling Clubs. James having joined the men's club about 1953 or 1954, played an active part in the running of the club, was elected captain in 1959. He became Chairman in 1965/1967, and had the honour of being elected President in 1978.

At the Annual General Meeting in 1979 the Secretary, prior to the election of officers for the coming year, announced that The President, Mr. James Strachan would be retiring due to his continuing ill health. Sadly James Strachan died early in 1980.

At a Management meeting in September 1980 the Secretary reported that Mrs Ruby Strachan had made it known that she wished to make a donation to the Club in memory of her late husband.

Ruby had now become ill herself and members were paying the occasional visit, it was on one such visit that she suggested that she would like to present a new Flag in the Club colours to Beechwood Bowling Club.

Mrs. Ruby Strachan died in February 1981, four members of the Club acted as bearers at her funeral.

On the Club opening day that year Mr. James Strachan, son of Ruby and James Strachan carried out her wishes, and presented the New Flag to the then Club President, Mr. E. Hancox.

The Flag is always flown when the Club side plays at home.

H. Wood
Vice President

The New Pavilion

Over a number of years discussions took place as to the need of a new pavilion. As far back as 1945, at the Annual General Meeting that year it was decided that an approach should be made to the Newport Borough Council, that a pavilion similar to that at Belle Vue Park should be constructed at Beechwood. At a similar meeting in 1946 it was agreed that the question of the Pavilion should, *due to the shortage of bricks be deferred to a more suitable time*. The matter then seems to have been put on hold until 1964, when at the A G M that year, the Secretary during his report stated that “an approach had been made to the Parks Superintendent with regards to the provision of a new pavilion” without success, the possibility of ever having a new pavilion seemed very remote.

Again on the 4th.April 1968 at a Management Meeting the Secretary read a letter from the Parks Superintendent stating that it would be possibly some years before they could provide a new pavilion. Once again the years roll by, until in 1986 at a Management Meeting called to here a report of a meeting with the Newport Leisure Services Committee, it was reported that the Council were Considering “a purpose built building similar to that being constructed at the Glebelands. However the one at Beechwood would be 25sq. metres larger and would cost an extra £20,000. It would make the Beechwood Pavilion 127 sq. metres at a cost of £85,000, it was estimated that the annual running cost would be £12,300. At the A G M in November 1988 the Secretary reported that the portakabin and the old pavilion had been removed and that work had at last commenced on the footings for the new pavilion



Following the opening of the New Pavilion, on the 12th. May 1989, by The Mayor of Newport Councillor Mrs. Veronica Brydon, and watched by the Club Secretary, the Mayor plays the first wood.



The Over Sixty Team.

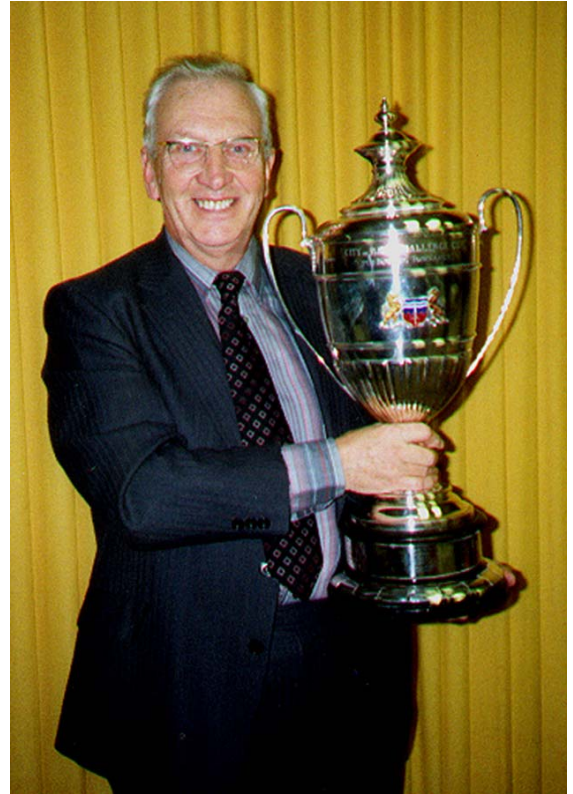
Following prolonged discussion 1982 saw the formation of the Newport Over Sixty League. The Beechwood Club had played an active roll in the formation of this league. At the Annual General Meeting of the Club in October 1981 Mr. H. Dawson reported on the formation of the Over Sixties League being set up to compete for a trophy, donated by the South Wales Argus. The matches to be played in the afternoon and to consist of three rinks. The inaugural meeting of the Beechwood team was held on the 26th. April 1982, and it has continued to play an important part in the life of the club through out the years.



These photographs were taken on the occasion of the match between Newport O.S.L., and Beechwood O.S.L. team, during the year when Mr. L. Heale a Beechwood member, who had played an important part in the formation of the Over Sixty League, was the league Chairman.

*

1991. At the Annual General Meeting that year the Secretary making his report stated that the club had probably the most prestigious individual win in the club's history. The club Chairman Mr. Ken Binns having won, The Bath Open Singles Competition, a top class competition with entries from all over the country, had brought great honour to the club and was to be congratulated on his fine achievement.



1991 was also a successful year for the club, in that it was the second time in four years that they had won the Newport Bowling Association League Championship.



Following a number of meetings with the Newport Borough Council, 1991 was also the year in which the two Beechwood Clubs took over the management of the green. With a management committee made up of members from both clubs, a rota was drawn up with the ladies taking the afternoon, and the men the evening sessions acting as stewards, this providing the club with an income of approximately £1000 per year through out the first ten years. The first Chairman of this committee, Mr. Bernard Curtis was also the competition secretary both of the club, and the Newport Bowling Association, and had held both these positions for a number of years.

1994
Beechwood Bowling Club
Celebrates its Ninetieth Birthday.



The season opened with Captains Day on the 23rd. April, with the club side facing a fixture list of some thirty-one league matches, and twenty friendly matches. The Over Sixty side also with a fixture list of fifteen league matches, and twenty-seven friendly matches.

Celebration games were played against the Welsh Presidents Association, the Barbarians Bowling Association, the Newport Bowling Association and the Monmouthshire Bowling Association. All in all a very full season, and one which every one that took part enjoyed.



*

The following few years were difficult years for the club with membership falling and the competitiveness of the teams suffering as a result. At the Annual General meeting in 1998 a resolution was passed that a junior section be formed with a view to stimulate interest in the game at an early age, and so increase the membership in future years. Club members attended coaching courses and qualified as coaches, application was made to the Welsh Sports Council for grant aid to help toward the purchase of small size bowls, and in 1999 the first group of youngsters attended the green and began the first session. This has become a feature of the late summer at the club due to the children having to prepare for exams in the early part of the season.

Three new competitions were announced at the Annual General meeting in 2002. The “Rose Bowl Trophy”, a trophy designed by Mr. Joe Rose and presented to the club to be competed for in a new style competition for the club, a four woods, singles competition, of three sets of seven ends. A trophy to be known as the “Centenary Plate”, again presented to the Club by a member, Mr. Gerry Evans to be competed for in a new competition format, a two wood pair’s competition, competed for on one day. The third competition will be for a trophy to be presented by the Club President, this competition to be a “Victor Ludorum” Competition, comprised of the finalists from the other Club Competitions, and will be introduced prior to finals day in the “Centenary Year. This Competition to be a multi discipline competition consisting of “Rinks”, “Pairs” and “Singles” and would be competed for on a knock out basis.



The President’s Trophy

At the Annual General Meeting in 2003 the new flag, blazer badge and tie were presented to members, The President, Vice President, Chairman, Club and Over Sixty Captains were also each presented with their badge of office for the coming year.

The President, following the presentations wished all members a very successful season, saying it was going to be a season that would be a huge success and one which the members would look back on with great pride and satisfaction in future years. He went on to thank the members of the Centenary Committee for their work and the enthusiasm with which they had carried it out. The new flag and regalia was befitting of a club with our history and standing.

At that meeting it was announced that the Club Chairman, Mr. Ron Harris had been nominated as the Vice Chairman for The Newport Bowling Association, and that Mr. R. Rogers would be Chairman of the Newport Over Sixty League for 2004.

Beechwood Ladies Bowling Club

The ladies club was formed in 1921, the first “Ladies Club” to be formed in Wales. The picture shows the Mayoress of Newport, Mrs A. E. Charles bowling the first wood to open the green on May 11th.1922.



In those early days, notwithstanding that the majority of the members were wives of members of the men’s club, relationships between the two clubs were not always as cordial as one would expect.

The *Pavilion* was the domain of the men’s club, application having to be made by the ladies for the use of same. A Minute from a management meeting held in December 1924 reads under Correspondence, “a letter from the Ladies Committee requesting permission for the use of the Pavilion during the 1925 season” had been received. It was resolved that a reply should be sent “granting permission on the same conditions as previously agreed”. *What those conditions were I have not been able to ascertain.*

Similar requests were received in the following years and were granted under the same conditions, however at a management meeting on the 7th. September 1931 the secretary reported that he had spoken to Mrs. Brown asking that she convey to the members of the ladies Club that they should only use the Pavilion in the afternoon up to 6 pm., and as little as possible during the evening, and not at all on match days!!!

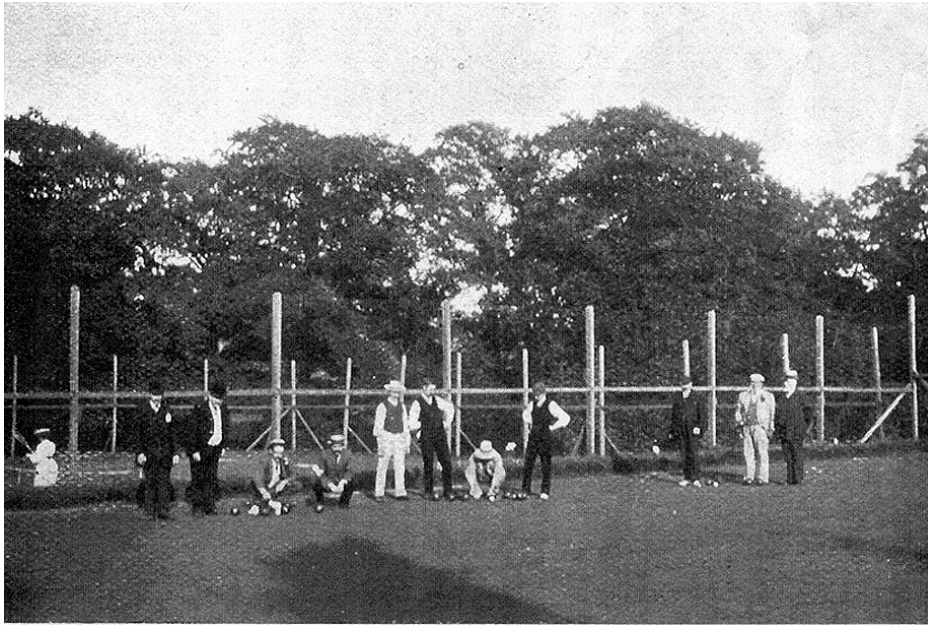
The first indication of a match between the two clubs, appears at a management meeting on April 5th.1937 when the secretary referred to a match between the Ladies and Men’s clubs to be played on Coronation Day (May 12th.) when it was agreed that the match should be played in the afternoon.

At a Management Meeting on 5th.May 1938, the question of the erection of lockers for use by the Ladies Club was raised, it was agreed that such lockers that were required, could be erected at the expense of the ladies club, that they would be entitled to charge their members for the use of same, and that the income be applied to their funds, also that the Ladies Club agree to subscribe £1-1-0 (110p) per annum to the Beechwood Bowling Club, to commence with the present season (1938). At the following Management Meeting in October the secretary reported that he had received a letter from the Ladies Club stating that they could not see their way clear to subscribing £1-1-0 to the Beechwood Bowling Club, as had been suggested at the previous meeting. It was agreed to leave the matter to the commencement of the 1939 season, and there the matter seems to have ended.

Happily relationships between the two clubs over recent years have improved, with the advent of mixed matches and mixed pairs competitions. The joint management of the green, through the Green Management Committee, has also helped foster a greater spirit of co-operation. The introduction of a joint presentation evening at the end of each season has proved to be a success and has also helped bring the two clubs closer together.

2004 will see the ladies celebrate their Club’s 83rd. year we wish them every success in the coming years, and trust that they too will celebrate Their Centenary in 2021.

Beechwood Bowling Green 1904



The picture was taken looking toward where the Pavilion now stands. Note the lady on the extreme left, playing tennis. There was a court at that end, below the level of the green up until 1946.



The Green 2003

This picture was taken from the Pavilion end of the green at the start of the season, early in April, eight weeks after the pictures on the following page were taken following a bout of vandalism. They are included as a tribute to the work of the green keeping staff, who in the short time available to them performed a miracle in getting the green fit for play.

Beechwood Bowling Green February 2003

Mr. Glyn James Parks Dept and Mr. Justin Norman, Green Keeper, reviewing the damage the morning after vandals attacked the green. Photographs provided by Mr. Peter Willis, Parks Dept Newport City Council.

CLUB CAPTAINS

1904-2004

G. Jones. Esq.	1905	W. H. Baker. Esq.	1955
G. W. Bullock.	1906	C. Channing. Esq.	1956
F. C. Jones. Esq.	1907	B. Hopkins. Esq.	1957
W. H. Jenkins. Esq.	1908	T. J. Reed. Esq.	1958
A. W. Little. Esq.	1909	J. Strachan. Esq.	1959
J. Seer. Esq.	1910	N. T. Smith. Esq.	1960
F. A. Allen. Esq.	1911	T. Williams. Esq.	1961
L. A. Clarke. Esq.	1912	J. Dance. Esq.	1962-1963
J. Greenland. Esq.	1913	W. M. Williams. Esq.	1964
F. Jenkins. Esq.	1914	F. Wardle. Esq.	1965
J. Oldmere. Esq.	1915	G. W. Thomas. Esq.	1966
T. Johnson. Esq.	1916	E. Hancox. Esq.	1967
J. Whitehouse. Esq.	1917	A. C. Evans. Esq.	1968
E. W. Jones. Esq.	1918	A. L. Price. Esq.	1969
F. Jenkins. Esq.	1919	R. Dawes. Esq.	1970
C. E. Bullock. Esq.	1920	R. Spicer. Esq.	1971
A. Froud. Esq.	1921	R. Adamson. Esq.	1972
H. V. Jory. Esq.	1922	E. A. Tuckwell. Esq.	1973
J. Triber. Esq.	1923	T. Reed. Esq.	1974
A. E. Webb. Esq.	1924	D. Davies. Esq.	1975
F. Jewkes. Esq.	1925	M. Spear. Esq.	1976
A. R. Boynes. Esq.	1926	T. Tuckwell. Esq.	1977
T. H. Harry. Esq.	1927	D. Smith. Esq.	1978
J. Noynes. Esq.	1928	T. Reed. Esq.	1979
J. Owen. Esq.	1929	H. Wood. Esq.	1980
W. Charles. Esq.	1930	J. Hodge. Esq.	1981
A. Gumbrell. Esq.	1931	D. Spear. Esq.	1982
J. D. Reynolds. Esq.	1932	M. Smith. Esq.	1983
B. Pearson. Esq.	1933	B. Curtis. Esq.	1984
G. F. Jones. Esq.	1934	R. Llewellyn. Esq.	1985
M. C. Pritchard. Esq.	1935	K. Binns. Esq.	1986
T. A. White. Esq.	1936	D. Giles. Esq.	1987
A. H. Young. Esq.	1937	M. Smith. Esq.	1988
T. M. Pritchard. Esq.	1938	M. Spear. Esq.	1989
A. W. Price. Esq.	1939	D. Smith. Esq.	1990
F. Shellard. Esq.	1940	D. Bevan. Esq.	1991
W. Hammett. Esq.	1941	L. Carroll. Esq.	1992
H. S. Clarke. Esq.	1942	J. Hoare. Esq.	1993
H. J. Smith. Esq.	1943	R. Llewellyn. Esq.	1994
W. J. Bell. Esq.	1944-1945	D. Spear. Esq.	1995
E. Lewis. Esq.	1946	C. Hale. Esq.	1996
J. Clark. Esq.	1947	R. Harris. Esq.	1997
P. M. Bell. Esq.	1948	B. Carroll. Esq.	1998
H. J. Smith. Esq.	1949-1950	C. Pritchard. Esq.	1999
E. M. Pitson. Esq.	1951	H. Jones. Esq.	2000-2001
F. Shellard. Esq.	1952	A. Watkins. Esq.	2002
T. W. Milner. Esq.	1953	D. Allsopp. Esq.	2003
E. Heyes. Esq.	1954	L. O'Brian. Esq.	2004

BEECHWOOD BOWLING CLUB

OFFICERS

1904-2004

PRESIDENTS

Viscount Lord Tredegar.	1905-1914	A. T. Bryant. Esq.	1943-1966
J Greenland. Esq.	1915-1917	W. T. Bell. Esq.	1967-1972
F. Jenkins. Esq.	1918	W. H. Baker. Esq.	1973-1977
G. N. Jesseman. Esq.	1919-1934	J. P. Strachan. Esq.	1978-1979
J. Seer. Esq.	1935-1938	E. Hancox. Esq.	1980-1996
E. W. King. Esq.	1939	A. C. Evans. Esq.	1997-
J. Owen. Esq.	1940-1942		

CHAIRMAN

A. W. Adams. Esq.	1904	E. Hancox. Esq.	1963
T. Frederick. Esq.	1905	G. W. Thomas. Esq.	1964
W. James. Esq.	1906	J. P. Strachan. Esq.	1965
A. W. Little. Esq.	1907-1911	D. Christopher. Esq.	1967
F. A. Allen. Esq.	1912	T. J. Reed. Esq.	1968
J. Greenland. Esq.	1913	W. R. Proud. Esq.	1969
F. Jenkins. Esq.	1914-	W. Whitchill. Esq.	1970
J. H. Oldbrien. Esq.	1915	E. A. Tuckwell. Esq.	1971
T. Johnson. Esq.	1916	A. C. Evans. Esq.	1972
J. Whitehouse. Esq.	1917	F. Wardle. Esq.	1973-1974
E. W. Jones. Esq.	1918	M. Wall. Esq.	1975
H. Spicer. Esq.	1919	G. A. Tuckwell. Esq.	1976
C. E. Budd. Esq.	1920	H. Wood. Esq.	1977
A. T. Bryant. Esq.	1921-1941	D. Davies. Esq.	1978
A. H. Young. Esq.	1942-1950	L. Heal. Esq.	1979
W. T. Bell. Esq.	1951	J. Buff. Esq.	1980
H. C. Clark. Esq.	1952	A. C. Evans. Esq.	1981
G. F. Jones. Esq.	1953	R. Welsh. Esq.	1982
B. Pearson. Esq.	1954	B. Curtis. Esq.	1983
T. W. Milner. Esq.	1955	R. Bryant. Esq.	1984
F. Shellard. Esq.	1956	D. Smith. Esq.	1985
W. A. Baker. Esq.	1957	M. Spear. Esq.	1986-1987
C. Chan Esq.	1958	K. Binns. Esq.	1988-1994
T. J. Harrington. Esq.	1959	M. Spear. Esq.	1995-1996
S. Hall. Esq.	1960	G. Gorvin. Esq.	1997
J. Dance. Esq.	1961	R. Harris. Esq.	1998-
T. M. Pritchard. Esq.	1962		

HON. SECRETARY.

G. Bullock. Esq.	1904	N. R. Grey. Esq.	1941
L. A. Clarke. Esq.	1905-1908	W. E. Fry. Esq.	1942-1943
G. J. Clarke. Esq.	1909-1911	C. J. Plaisted. Esq	1944-1946
G. Bullock /J. Baugh. Esq's.	1912	C. J. Sutton. Esq.	1947-1949
G. A. Bullock. Esq.	1913-1917	E. M. Pitson. Esq.	1950-1953
H. V. Jory. Esq.	1918-1919	N. J. Smith. Esq.	1954-1968
A. E. Webb. Esq.	1920-1922	T. Wardle. Esq.	1969
G. J. Clarke. Esq.	1923-1924	T. J. Reed. Esq.	1970
H. V. Jory. Esq.	1925-1928	E. J. Baker. Esq.	1971-1973
W. T. Redcliff. Esq.	1929	K. Price. Esq.	1974
W. D. Hyndeman. Esq	1930 -1933	F. Wardle. Esq.	1975-1978
W. G. White. Esq	1934-1935	J. Davies. Esq.	1979-1981
H. J. Porter. Esq	1936-1939	M. Spear. Esq.	1982-1983
A. H. Stichbury. Esq	1940	D. Spear. Esq.	1984-

HON. TREASURER.

L. A. Clarke. Esq.	1905-1908	W. E. Fry. Esq.	1942-1943
G. A. Bullock. Esq.	1909-1917	C. J. Plaisted. Esq.	1944-1946
H.V.Jory. Esq	1918-1919	D. E. Jones. Esq.	1947-1951
A, E. Webb. Esq.	1920-1922	L. Workman. Esq.	1952-1954
G. J. Clarke. Esq	1923-1924	T. M. Pritchard. Esq.	1955-1968
H. V. Jory. Esq.	1925-1928	A. Scott. Esq.	1969-1976
W. T. Redcliff. Esq.	1929	J. Hodge. Esq.	1977-1983
W. D. Hyndman. Esq	1930-1933	H. Wood. Esq.	1984
W. G. White. Esq.	1934-1935	D. Smith. Esq.	1985-1988
H. J. Porter. Esq.	1936-1939	M. Smith. Esq.	1989
A. H. Stichbury. Esq.	1940	D. Smith. Esq.	1990
N. R. Grey	1941	D. Spear. Esq.	1991-1993
		R. Rogers. Esq.	1994-

**OVER SIXTY TEAM
OFFICERS.
1982-2004.**

CAPTAIN

R. Walsh. Esq.	1982
R. Walsh. Esq.	1983
H. Johnson. Esq.	1984
R. Bryant. Esq.	1985
K. Weeks. Esq.	1986
C. Evans. Esq.	1987
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1988
J. Davies. Esq.	1989
G. Babington. Esq.	1990
A. Henderson. Esq.	1991
C. Heyes. Esq.	1992
R. Bateman. Esq.	1993
R. Morgan. Esq.	1994
R. Rogers. Esq.	1995
R. Morgan. Esq.	1996
G. Lane. Esq.	1997
R. Morgan. Esq.	1998
J. Richards. Esq.	1999
R. Owen. Esq.	2000
L. O'Brian. Esq.	2001
C. Pritchard. Esq.	2002
R. Llewellyn. Esq.	2003
G. Lane. Esq.	2004
K. Scantlebury Esq.	2005
A. Barker. Esq.	2006

SECRETARY

L. Heal. Esq.	1982
L. Heal. Esq.	1983
L. Heal. Esq.	1984
L. Heal. Esq.	1985
L. Heal. Esq.	1986
L. Heal. Esq.	1987
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1988
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1989
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1990
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1991
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1992
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1993
G. Gorvin. Esq.	1994
E. G. Davies. Esq.	1995
E. G. Davies. Esq.	1996
E. G. Davies. Esq.	1997
E. G. Davies. Esq.	1998
E. G. Davies. Esq.	1999
E. G. Davies. Esq.	2000
E. G. Davies. Esq.	2001
E. G. Davies. Esq.	2002
E. G. Davies. Esq.	2003
E. G. Davies. Esq.	2004
E. G. Davies. Esq.	2005
E. G. Davies. Esq.	2006

The Tea Ladies



Mrs. Vera Curtis, Mrs. Dorothy Spear, Mrs. Bella Gorvin, Mrs. Brenda Giles,
Mrs. Joan Llewellyn, Mrs. Myfanwy (Van) Jones.

Through out these years mention is often made of “The Tea Ladies”, a group of ladies who, as often as not, do not actually play the game them-selves, but give their support, because their husbands or boy friends currently play for the club or did in the past. For many recent years these ladies has been lead by Mrs. Vera Curtis, always with a smile and a pleasant word of encouragement not only for her Ladies but also for members of the Team. The above photograph was taken on the occasion of the Clubs 90th anniversary. Other ladies who have also played their part in recent years, Mrs. Betty Summers, Mrs Chris Carroll, Mrs. Bunny Bateman, and not forgetting the odd man among the ladies, Mr. Fred Bateman. There must be many more, what would we have done without them?

History of the Game of Bowls

Bowls historians believe that the game developed from the Egyptians. One of their pastimes was to play skittles with round stones. This has been determined based on artefacts found in tombs dating circa 5,000 B.C. The sport spread across the world and took on a variety of forms, Bocce (Italian), Bolla (Saxon), Bolle (Danish), Boules (French) and Ula Miaka (Polynesian). The oldest Bowls green still played on is in Southampton, England where records show that the green has been in operation since 1299 A.D. There are other claims of greens being in use before that time, but these are, as yet, unsubstantiated.



Images show an antique set of wooden bowls, just visible on the front of the box is the inscription "Slazengers" 1902 Lawn Bowls.

Certainly the most famous story in lawn bowls is with Sir Frances Drake and the Spanish Armada. On July 18, 1588, Drake was involved in a game at Plymouth Hoe when he was notified that the Spanish Armada was approaching. His immortalised response was that "We still have time to finish the game and to thrash the Spaniards, too." He then proceeded to finish the match, which he lost before embarking on the fight with the Armada, which he won. Whether this famous story really took place has been heavily debated

King Henry VIII was also a lawn bowler. However, he banned the game for those who were not wealthy or "well to do" because "Bowyers, Fletchers, Stringers and Arrowhead makers" were spending more time at recreational events such as bowls instead of practising their trade. Henry VIII requested that anybody who wished to keep a green pay a fee of 100 pounds. However, the green could only be used for private play and he forbade



anyone to "play at any bowle or bowles in open space out side of his own garden or orchard".

King James I issued a publication called "The Book of Sports" and, although he condemned football (soccer) and golf, encouraged the play of bowls. In 1845, the ban was lifted, and people were again allowed to play bowls and other games of skill.

Members outside Honours

1904-2004

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| 1913 | Welsh Bowling Association
Pair's Championship. | W. Thompson. (Willie). T. Roberts. |
| 1921 | South Wales & Monmouthshire
Singles Championship. | A. R. Boynes |
| 1925. | Llandrindod Wells Open.
Abercarn Open.
Abergavenny Open.
W.B.A. Carruthers Shield | C.E. Budd.
H. Spicer.
T. Johnson.
Club Finalist's |
| 1926 | Monmouthshire Bowling.
Association Singles Championship.
Bassaleg Open Tournament. | H. Spicer.
C. J. Budd. |
| 1928 | Newport Athletic Club (Newport)
Open Singles. | H. Malpass. |
| 1933 | Newport Bowling Association.
Hon. Secretary.
Hon. Treasurer. | W.D. Hyndman
W. D. Hyndman |
| 1935 | Newport Bowling Association.
Singles Winners.
Rinks Winners.

Newport Bowling Association
Hon. Secretary.
Hon. Treasurer. | C. Ramage
E. Williams, W. D. Hyndman,
G. A. Edwards, C. Ramage.

W. B. Hyndman.
W. B. Hyndman. |
| 1936 | Newport Bowling Association.
Club Champions.
Hon Secretary.
Hon Treasurer. | Beechwood Bowling Club.
W. B. Hyndman.
W. D. Hyndman |
| 1942 | Newport Bowling Association.
Club Champions.
Hon. Secretary.
Hon Treasurer. | Beechwood Bowling Club.
W. Hyndman.
W. D. Hyndham. |
| 1943 | Newport Bowling Association.
Club Champions.
Singles Winners | Beechwood Bowling Club.
T. A. H. Young. |
| 1944 | Newport Bowling Association.
Pairs Winners | W. J. Bell, M. Kitson. |

Members Outside Honours 1904-2004 (Cont.)

1945	Newport Bowling Association. Triples Winners.	R. Tobins, C. Burrows, W. J. Bell.
1947	Newport Bowling Association. Club Champions.	Beechwood Bowling Club.
1952	Newport Bowling Association Chairman. Hon. Treasurer.	A. H. Bryant. T. W. Milner.
1952	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer.	T. W. Milner.
1953	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer.	T. W. Milner.
1954	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer.	T. W. Milner.
1955	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer.	T. W. Milner.
1956	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer.	T. W. Milner.
1957	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer.	T. W. Milner.
1958	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer.	T. W. Milner.
1959	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer. Hon Secretary.	T. W. Milner. N. T. Smith.
1960	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer. Hon Secretary.	T. W. Milner. N. T. Smith.
1961	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Treasurer. Hon Secretary.	T. W. Milner. N. T. Smith.

Outside Honours

1904-2004

(Cont.)

1962	Newport Bowling Association. Chairman. Hon. Treasurer. Hon Secretary. Pairs Winners	W. J. Bell. T. W. Milner. P. T. Smith. W. J. Bell, W. M. Williams.
1963	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Secretary. Hon. Treasurer.	P. T. Smith. T. W. Milner.
1964	Newport Bowling Association. Rinks Winners Hon. Secretary	G. Thomas, T. Lewis, A. H. Young, J. Strachan. P. T. Smith.
1966	Newport Bowling Association. Rinks Winners. Hon. Secretary.	P. Smith, W. J. Bell, J. Strachan, J. Wardle. P. T. Smith.
1967	Newport Bowling Association. Triples Winners. Hon. Secretary.	R. Dawes, J. Strachan, W. J. Bell. P. T. Smith.
1969	Newport Bowling Association. Pairs Winners.	G. Lane, R. Dawes.
1970	Newport Bowling Association. President. Club Champions.	P. T. Smith. Beechwood Bowling Club.
1971	Newport Bowling Association. President.	W. J. Bell.
1972	President. Chairman. Pairs.	W. J. Bell. E. Hancox. T. Reed, J. Baker.
1976- 1980	Newport Bowling Association. Hon. Secretary.	D. G. Davies

Members Outside Honours

1904-2004

(Cont.)

1982	Newport Bowling Association. Chairman. Rinks Winners	E. Tuckwell D. Spear, R. Welsh, H. Wood, M. Spear.
1984- 1986	Newport Bowling Association. Treasurer	M. S. Smith.
1987	Newport Bowling Association. Club Champions. Singles Winner.	Beechwood Bowling Club. M. Spear.
1988	Newport Bowling Association. Singles Winner. Two Wood. Singles Winner.	M. Spear. K. Binns.
1989	Newport Bowling Association Over Sixties Singles. Winner	B. Curtis
1989- 1998	Newport Bowling Association. Competition Secretary.	B. Curtis.
1990	Newport Bowling Association. Club Champions. Singles Winner. Pairs Winner. 2 Woods Winner.	Beechwood Bowling Club. K. Binns. C. Hale, M. Smith. K. Thomas.
1991	Bath Bowling Association. Singles Winner. Newport Over Sixty League Chairman	K. Binns. L. Heal.
1992	Newport Bowling Association. Pairs Winner.	B. Curtis, C. Hale.
1994	Newport Bowling Association. Chairman.	B. Curtis.
1997	Newport Bowling Association. Pairs Winners. Newport Over Sixty Bowling League. Singles Winner.	B. Curtis, C. Hale. R. Truefitt.

Members Outside Honours
1904-2004
(Cont.)

2004	Newport Bowling Association Singles Winner	D. Hill.
	Newport Over sixty League Chairman	R. Rogers.
2005	Newport Bowling Association Chairman	R. Harris

A History of Club Competitions

1904-2004

At a meeting on the 20th. February 1906 the Secretary was requested to write to Viscount Lord Tredegar asking if he would present a Challenge Cup for competition by members within the Beechwood Bowling Club.

At a further meeting on the 28th. March, the Secretary read out correspondence arising from decisions made at the previous meeting. Following which a Mr. G. Jones proposed that a record of the generosity of Lord Tredegar be placed in the minute book. A Mr. G. Bullock seconded this and it was carried unanimously.

The following is a copy of the rules that were then drawn up to govern the competition.

Rules

1. The trophy (presented by Viscount Tredegar) is to be competed for annually until won three times (not necessarily in succession) before becoming the absolute property of the winner.
2. The competition shall be a scratch one
3. Each game shall consist of 21 points up. Four bowls each player.
4. The first round must be played off within 14 days after the competition starts, time allowance for all subsequent rounds to be made by the committee at their discretion.
5. The draw for places shall be made by the sub committee, Captain, Vice Captain and Secretary and after the first –play from top to bottom, Knock out game.
6. Each player must make his own appointment with his opponent to play off, and the player who fails to keep the appointment made (within the time limit) shall be struck out, and his opponent given a bye- if demanded- all disputes to be settled by the committee.
7. The winner before taking possession of the Trophy for the year, shall find two guarantors for it's safe return to the club officials, or shall have the same insured against burglary, fire or loss of every description, and shall hand over all documents in connection with same to the club secretary- (Memo-The premium is very trifling)
8. The Trophy shall carry with it the Club Championship, and the winner shall hold the title of "Club Champion" for the year.

As decided at a general meeting of the club members, there shall be an entrance fee of one shilling (10 p.)(To be paid in advance) and to make the competition more attractive and to stimulate all the members, the committee guarantee five additional prizes in the competition. The First prize to go to the winner of the Trophy & will become his absolute property at once- the remaining prizes will be given to the runners up.

At a meeting on the 30th. October 1906 following discussions as to the arrangements for the annual dinner, a Mr. L. A. Clarke proposed the following, "It would decidedly add to the appearance of the Challenge Cup if a plinth, shade and shield were added to it & that the same should be purchased. This was seconded by a Mr. A. Price and carried.

It should be noted that over the years the above rules have been changed to meet the changes that have taken place within the game, and also to embrace the introduction of new competitions.

*

At the Annual General Meeting held on the 21st. March 1907 the following was recorded: -

The Viscount Tredegar Challenge Cup.

Winner Mr. Harry Jones. Victoria Avenue Maindee

Runner up. Mr. A. M. Williams. G. P. O.

This was the first record in the minute book of any annual competition.

Little if any mention is made in the minute book of the winners of the challenge cup until the Annual General Meeting held in February 1909 when the following was announced: -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Winner</u>
1907	W. Thompson.
1908	T. Byrnes.
1909	T. Roberts.

The Viscount Tredegar Challenge Cup

The following winners table, has been obtained from the original Challenge Cup

Year	Winner
1910	G. Miller.
1911	H. Jones.
1912	M. Wood.
1913	G. Bullock.
1914	W. T. Brown.
1915	A. Bryant.
1916	T. Johnson.
1917	W. H. Clarke.
1918	T. Johnson.
1919	T. Johnson.

In accordance with the rules T. Johnson Esq. having won the Competition on three occasions, the Challenge Cup became his absolute property.

At a General Meeting in April 1920 it was agreed that the Championship competition should be competed for as usual, that the winner to receive the Cup in the event of the Club being successful in having one presented.

It probably came as no surprise when T. Johnson Esq. once again won the Championship. In fact he went on to win it on three further occasions

Year	Winner
1920	T. Johnson.
1921	J. Wybern.
1922	H. V. Jory.
1923	H. Spicer.
1924	T. Johnson.
1925	T. Johnson.
1926	F. E. Jewkes.
1927	T. Johnson.
1928	H. Spicer.
1929	W. Careless.
1930	H. Malpass.
1931	H. Malpass.
1932	H. Malpass...

In 1933 it would appear that three further competitions were introduced. An Open, Pairs and a Novices competition. As will be seen from the list, Mr. C. Ramage dominated the Championship for the next five years, winning also a new competition, The Two Woods, introduced in 1934 as well as the Open, in 1935.

The "Open competition as such only ran for Three years, in 1936 it became a Handicap competition, following a management meeting on the 6th. April 1936 when under "matters arising" from the previous meeting the Club Captain stated that he was in full agreement with the suggestion to change the "Open" competition to a "Handicap" competition. On a proposal by Mr. T. Campbell seconded by Mr. G. R. Owen it was agreed that the Competition would be for 21 shots including the handicap allowance, and that Mr. T. A. White was appointed as the Handicapper.

Year	Championship	Open	Pairs	Novices	Two woods
1933	C. Ramage.	J. Seer.	H. Thomas. / C. Ramage.	J. Owen.	
1934	C. Ramage	J. L. Jones.		T. A. White.	C. Ramage
1935	C. Ramage.	C. Ramage		E. Williams.	A. W. Price.
1936	C. Ramage	A. W. Young.		G. Taylor.	C. Ramage.
1937	C. Ramage.	T. Whitehouse.		A. E. Keen.	C. Ramage
1938	G. Taylor.	C. Ramage.		C. J. Plaisted	H. J. Smith.
1939	G. Taylor.	F. Shellard.	A. H. Young. / G. Taylor.	W. Bateman.	
1940	H. J. Smith	H. Smith.	F. Shellard. / W. Bateman.	N. Grey.	
1941	A. H. Young.	H. Smith.	Declared Null & Void.	T. Whitehouse.	
1942	H. J. Paterson.	Not Played.	Not Played.	H. Paterson.	
1943	A. H. Young.		J. F. Jones. / P. Bell.		
1944	N. R. Grey.		Not Recorded.		
1945	W. B. Hammett		G. I. Jones. / E. Lewis.		
1946	A. H. Young.	J. Clark	W. B. Hammett. /C. J. Sutton.		
1947	N. R. Grey.				
1948	H. J. Smith.	T. M. Pritchard.	W. F. Bell. / T. J. Reed.	S. G. Clark.	
1949	No competitions	Were played this	Season,		

The war years were obviously difficult times for the Club, at a meeting of the management Committee on September 1st. 1941 the Chairman, having raised the subject of the failure of members to complete competitions, it was agreed that both the Club Championship and the Pairs competition would be declared "Null & Void", and that the Secretary should post a notice to that effect, also that players left in the Handicap competition should complete as soon as possible.

At the Annual General Meeting that year it was agreed that only the Club Championship and the Novices Competitions would be played in 1942. However at the Annual General Meeting in 1942 it was announced that the Club Champion for 1941 was Mr. A. H. Young and for 1942 it was Mr. H. J. Patterson, and that he had also won the Novices Competition.

At the end of the 1948 season, work was started on relaying the bowling green; this continued well into the 1949 season with the result that no competitions were played that year. During the Management Meeting held on the 17th. April 1950, it was announced that the green would reopen on the 1st. May, and that the following competitions would take place, the Championship, the Handicap, the Pairs and the Novices.

Year	Championship	Handicap	Pairs
1950	F. Shellard.	F. Shellard.	T. Whitehouse. / S. Hall.
1951	T. Whitehouse.	Not Played.	T. Milner. / T. Williams.
1952	T. Whitehouse.	E. H. Piston	S. Burt. / L. Bell.
1953	W. P. L. Workman.	W. F. Bell.	W. F. Bell. / G. Kelly.
1954	T. Whitehouse.	N. T. Smith.	Not Recorded.
1955	W. F. Bell.	R. Adamson.	W. F. Bell. / W. Williams.
1956	B. F. Hopkins.	E. Morgan.	J. P. Strachan. / M. Pritchard.
1957	T. Williams.	T. M. Pritchard.	G. C. Plaisted. / W. Proud.
1958	A. Ferguson.	E. Hancox.	T. Milner. / J. Westwood.

At the Annual General Meeting on the 12th October 1950 it was recorded that Mr. F. Shellard had won the Club Championship and that he had also won the Handicap competition, the Pairs competition was to be held over until 1951, and was subsequently not played.

Competitions continued to expand, and in 1959 the “Two Wood” Competition was re-introduced, it had been a feature of club competitions in the late 1930’s. Again in March 1963 a trophy having been presented to the club, by Mrs Westwood as a token of the happy days her husband Sidney had enjoyed as a member of the club. The Trophy to be known as “The Veterans Cup”

Year	Championship	Handicap	Pairs	Veterans	Two Woods
1959	W. F. Bell	F. Shellard.	T. Reed. / E. Hancox.		F. Shellard.
1960	W. F. Bell.	C. Plaisted.	J. P. Strachan. / M. Pritchard		W. F. Bell
1961	T. Williams.	F. Shellard.	F. Shellard. / C. Evans.		A. H. Young.
1962	T. Williams.	E. Wright.	F. Wardle. / J. R. Spicer.		A. Sweeney
1963	J. P. Strachan	C. Evans.	A. Sweeney. /G. W. Thomas.	W. F. Bell.	A. H. Young
1964	A. H. Young.	A. Price.	T. Lewis. / F. Shellard.	W. H. Baker.	A. C. Evans
1965	N. Barnett	R. Davies.	R. Adamson. / C. Wright.	A. Sweeney.	A. H. Young.
1966	F. Wardle.	J. P. Strachan.	E. Hancox. / R. Dawes.	H. Stitchbury.	A. H. Young.
1967	W. F. Bell.	R. Dawes.	R. Dawes. / A. L. Price.	J. Strachan.	R. Dawes.G.
1968	G. Lane.	G. Lane.	F. Wardle. /A. Andrews.	A. Price.	J. P. Strachan.
1969	G. Lane.	N. T. Smith.	E. Tuckell. / H. L. Morgan.	E. Hancox.	J. P. Strachan.
1970	T. N. Johnson.	J. P. Strachan	J. P. Strachan. / W. Whitehill.	Not Played.	J. P. Strachan.
1971	F. Wardle.	T. Reed.	F. Wardle. / W. R. Proud.	J. Livery.	J. P. Strachan.
1972	F. Wardle.	A. Andrews.	A. Price. / R. Spicer.	W. Betteridge.	W. Orum.
1973	F. Wardle.	W. Orum.	D. Davies. / A. Andrews.	R. Adamson.	T. J. Reed.
1974	A. Hiles.	D. Hawes.	A. Hiles. / H. Wood.	Not played. *	Not Played. *
1975	T. J. Reed.	J. Tuckwell.	M. Spears. / J. Letts.	A. Butler.	T. J. Reed.
1976	Due to closure	of the green	From 10 th . August to the end	of season no	competitions Played
1977	G. Lane.	K. Price.	T. Tuckwell. / A. Jones.	A. Butler.	M. Wall.
1978	H. Wood.	K. Lixton.	T. Reed. / R. Walsh.	A. Hiles.	D. Smith.
1979	E. Tuckwell.	D. Smith.	A. Hiles. / B. Curtis.	W. R. Walsh.	K. Lixton.
1980	E. Tuckwell.	B. Curtis.	E. A. Tuckwell. /R. Meyric.	A. Butler.	G. Lane.

* These competitions were not completed due to illness on both semi final and final days.

On giving his report at the 1982 Annual General Meeting, Mr. B. Curtis, Competition Secretary announced that Mr. Tom Reed had presented the club with a “Shield” to be known as “The Tom Reed Trophy”. It was his wish that it be competed for annually in the form of a novice competition. This was proposed, seconded and agreed by the members present.

Year	Championship	Handicap	Pairs	Veterans.	Tom Reed.	Two woods
1981	M. Spear.	M. Smith.	M. Spear. / D. Spear.	T. Reed.		G. Lane.
1982	M. Spear.	M. Spear.	R. Watkins. / R. Meyric.	A. Hiles.		R. King.
1983	D. Smith.	F. Harrison.	F. Holbrook. / S. Isaac.	F. Holbrook.	C. Hale.	A. Ryder.
1984	C. Hale.	A. Ryder.	F. Kell. / G. Lane.	H. Wood.	L. Carroll.	L. Tanner
1985	G. Lane.	K. Binns.	S. Black. / L. Carroll.	L. Heale.	D. Giles.	G. Lane.

At the Management Meeting on the 18th. September 1985 Mr. R Llewellyn reported on a suggestion by a Mrs. Freda Wright, a member of the Beechwood Ladies Club, to the effect that a “Mixed Pairs” competition be organised. Mr. Bernard Curtis Competition Secretary, “thought it a good idea, it might help to improve relationships with the ladies club” but he could foresee some difficulties. After some discussion it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Competition Secretary. At a subsequent meeting in March Mr. Curtis stated that in conjunction with the Competition Secretary of the Ladies Club he would endeavour to organise a Mixed Pairs competition on a random basis.

Year	Championship	Handicap	Pairs	Veterans	Tom Reed	Two Woods	Mixed Pairs
1986	K. Binns.	M. Smith.	G. Gorvin. / K. Thomas.	B. Curtis.	D. Bevan.	K. Binns.	Mrs. G. John. / A. Ryder
1987	M. Spear	K. Binns.	G. Babington. / D. Giles.	H. Wood.	D. Jones.	D. Bevan.	Mrs. Binns. / A. Ryder.
1988	K. Binns.	K. Thomas.	K. Binns. / B. Bradley.	B. Curtis.	D. Kritland.	B. Curtis.	Mrs. G. Johns. / G. Lane
1989	K. Thomas.	C. Hale.	C. Summers. / M. Spear.	B. Curtis.	R. Higgins.	R. Llewellyn.	Mrs. B. Jeff. / A. Ryder.
1990	C. Hale.	J. Rose.	G. Babington. / K. Thomas	B. Curtis.	J. Rose.	D. Giles.	Mrs. D. Burns. / G. Gorvin.
1991	H. Wood.	B. Carroll.	J. Hoare. / K. Thomas.	R. Llewellyn.	B. Carroll.	K. Thomas.	Mrs. Shute. / B. Carroll.
1992	M. Spear.	J. Davies.	M. Spear. / R. Bateman.	R. Welsh.	R. Morgan.	G. Lane.	Mrs. J. Wilson. / G. Lane.
1993	G. Lane.	K. Binns.	J. Richards. / C. Hale.	K. Binns.	J. Richards.	K. Binns.	Mrs. P. Lane. / J. Davies.
1994	C. Hale.	P. Jackson.	A. Watkins. / G. Lane.	B. Curtis.	J. M. Jones.	C. Hale.	Mrs. E. Williams. / G. Gorvin.
1995	M. Spear.	G. Davies.	J. Rowlands. /D. Spear.	J. Richards.	R. Simmonds.	K. Thomas.	Mrs. Harris. / D. Spear.
1996	C. Hale.	C. Pritchard.	C. Hale. / E. Davies.	R. Truffitt.	R. Truffitt.	G. Gorvin.	Mrs. D. Binns. / R. Harris.
1997	D. Spear.	H. Jones.	C. Hale. / E. Davies.	B. Curtis.	T. Burton.	G. Davies.	Mrs. E. Troake. / C. Hale.
1998	D. Spear.	C. Hale.	L. O'Brian. / J. Nowells.	L. Carroll.	J. Berry.	H. Jones.	Mrs. E. Troake. / C. Hale.
1999	L. O'Brian.	H. Jones.	C. Pritchard. / D. Troake.	L. Carroll.	P. Wixcey.	C. Pritchard.	Mrs. S. Stephens. / B. Carroll.
2000	D. Spear.	P. Stephens.	G. Davies. / G. Gregg. (Jun.)	D. Allsopp	R. Rogers.	H. Jones.	Mrs. D. Rees. / G. Curtis.
2001	P. Stephens.	D. Hill.	R. Harris. / P. Stephens.	G. Davies.	R. Harris.	G. Gorvin.	Not Played.
2002	R. Bateman	B. Carroll	D. Hill. / J. Richards.	L. O'Brian	M. Poyner	B. Carroll	Mrs. E. Troake. / Mr. C. Pritchard
2003	B. Carroll	C. Hislop	D. Spear. / J. Letts	L. O'Brian	K. Scantlebury	D. Allsopp	Mrs. E. Williams / Mr. D. Hill.
2004	D. Spear	C. Hislop	D. Spear. / J. Letts	C. Hislop	M. Murphy	M. Poyner	Rained Off

New Competitions introduced in 2003.

Year	Centenary Plate	Rose Bowl
2003	R. Rogers. / J. Richards	L. O'Brian
2004	R. Harris / M. Poyner	C. Hislop

Mr. T. Johnson who had won the Viscount Tredegar Challenge cup on three occasions prior to 1920, when it became his property, went on to win the new Lord Tredegar Challenge Cup on four further occasions, 1920, 1924, 1925 and 1927. At a Management Meeting on August 15th. 1985 his death was recorded at the age of 86. He had been a Life member of the club for many years.

At the Annual General Meeting that year The Chairman introduced a Mr. Piper, Son- in-Law of Mr. T. Johnson to those members present, explaining that he was there to present a cup on behalf of his late father in law. This was the original Viscount Tredegar Challenge cup, and that it was Toms wish that it should be returned to the club on his death

Brief Synopsis of Competition Winners

These are some of the notable achievements in the last century.

T. Johnson won the Championship in total 7 times, 3 times prior to 1920 4 times in the years 1920, 1924, 1925 and 1927.

H. Malpass won it for 3 consecutive years from 1930-1932.

C. Ramage won it for 5 consecutive years from 1933-1937.

So for Eight consecutive years two men won the trophy.

4 Time Winners.

A. H. Young won it 4 times. The first time in 1941, and the last time in 1964. A remarkable 23-year span. During this time he also won the 2 Woods 4 times.

F. Wardle won it 4 times over 8 years. The last 3 of which were consecutive 1971, 1972, 1973.

W. F. Bell won it 4 times over 12 years.

M. Spear also won it 4 times over 14 years

3 Time Winners.

T. Whitehouse won it in 1951, 1952 and 1954 **T. Williams** won it in 1957, 1961 and 1962.

C. Hale first won it in 1985 again in 1990 and finally in 1994.

D. Spear won it in 1997, 1998 and again in 2000

Others worthy of Note.

J. Strachan won the two woods for 4 consecutive years from 1968- 1971.

K. Binns won the Championship twice, the Handicap 3 times, the pairs once and the two woods twice a total of 8 wins in 9 years 1985-1993. During this time he also won The Bath Open Singles competition 1991.

Probably one of the most remarkable achievements in the Beechwood Competitions has been that of **Mr. G. Lane** who is still a member of the club. He has won the Championship on 5 occasions. The third person in the history of the club to achieve this distinction. He also won the Two Woods 4 times and the Pairs twice

. A remarkable 10 Trophies spread over 26 years.



The Next 100 Years.

If you have read this far then reflecting on the changes that have taken place over the life time of our club, you like others may wonder what changes the next 100 years will bring forth.

In 1904 bowlers had “woods” lignums as they used to be called, a shortened form of “Lignum Vitae” (The wood of life) today we bowl with bowls made of composite plastics, where only a few years ago they were black or occasionally brown, now we have all the colours of the rainbow to chose from.

The game was, and still is for the most part played out doors on grass, with all the vagaries of the turf and weather to contend with. In recent years we have had the introduction of various forms of artificial “greens” not only outdoors but we now have indoor greens as well.

Clothing, in the early days of the game “straw boaters” (hats) and every day clothes were the accepted dress on the green. Then came Grey’s and white tops with all whites for some games. In recent times we’ve seen the introduction of coloured tops and bottoms.

Where the game goes over the next one hundred years is a matter for conjecture there is a tendency for people of every generation to take things for granted and to believe they are living in a very modern age, but as you will have read in this brief review of the first 100 years of Beechwood Bowling Club there is a continuing state of change. Our game is perhaps more fortunate than most other sports in that players all use the same basic equipment. It is true that there can be variations in size, weight and bias but this allows each player to use bowls suitable to their particular needs. There is no advantage to be gained by the use of high technology to gain more power or to guide bowls to that elusive head. Bowls continues to be the game of the three L’s – Length, Line and Luck as it always was and will continue so to be. What reduces that element of luck is as a great golfer once said “the more I practice the more luck I get”. Put another way the more you put into the game the more you are likely get out of it.

This is also true of life as a whole. You may think that yours is an uneventful existence and that nobody could possibly be interested in it. But remember that none of this story of Beechwood Bowls Club could have be written without reference to records of all descriptions, (some of which were hard to find) of ordinary, as well as extraordinary people, who lived their lives and enjoyed this game of bowls.

Never forget that every day of your life is a day of history.

