

# Woking Park Bowls Club



**1914**

**2014**

**Centenary year  
2014**

## **HISTORY OF WOKING PARK BOWLS CLUB**

**President : Brian Harris**

# Woking Park Bowls Club

A short history of the bowls club has been compiled from various council documents, local newspapers, club minutes of meetings as well as memories from former and current members.

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## History of Woking Bowls Club The First 25 Years 1914-1938

It was in May 1913 that the Recreation committee of the then Woking Urban District Council decided to reserve land near the Recreation Ground Caretakers cottage for a bowling green. Work started on levelling the ground in June of that year. By January 1914 the green was almost complete and would be ready for play during that summer.

A contemporary description of the newly constructed green, given in the News & Mail, stated that it was an important addition to the town from a sporting point of view and had been prepared under the supervision of Mr G.T.Wooldridge.

The grass grown from seed was in excellent condition and located in an ideal spot. Around the green ran a path, splendidly made, and at slight cost from small marble slabs formerly used in the Tivoli Music Hall, London.

G.Wooldridge the council surveyor was congratulated on producing a green within the budget of £200.00 and in such a short time.

Woking Bowls Club who had a ground behind the Railway Hotel (The Sovereigns) requested a match be played between themselves and the Council, to celebrate the opening of the new Bowling Green, at the Constitution Hill Recreation Ground (Woking Park).

At the opening ceremony on Wednesday afternoon 13th May Mr A.J.Broderick Chairman of the Fire Brigade, Lighting and Recreation Committee said the idea of a bowling green had been in the mind of the council ever since the Recreation ground had been thought of, but for some years they had not been able to find the money to bring it into existence. Mr Broderick also suggested that a club should be formed based at the new green and it was arranged to hold a meeting at the Council offices on the following Monday evening for all those interested.

The result of the match played that afternoon was Council 44 shots and the Bowling Club 67. Many members of the council took part including G.Wooldridge, A.J.Broderick, H.Trevor-Wilson who later became prominent members of the Bowls club.

The meeting on Monday 18th May was chaired by Mr A.R.J. Broderick. It was agreed to form a club based at the newly opened green, to be called the Constitution Hill Bowling Club. I believe the name was later changed to the Recreation Ground Bowls Club.

The chairman said the Council were proposing to make monthly tickets at 2s-6d and they could fix the subscription at 2s-6d. The ordinary payment for the green would be 2d per hour, including the use of bowls etc. Season tickets would be 7s-6d.

The officers would be:

President            Mr A.H. Godfrey    Chairman of the Council  
Vice -Presidents    Messer's J.Hutchinson and S.C. Knight

Secretary      Mr W.A. Bowey  
Treasurer      Mr H.Trevor Wilson

A sub- committee to draw up rules was appointed as follows:

Messer's      W.Reid,F.A.Parsons.    T.G.Lucas,H.J.Crane    snr,    H.A.Weston,  
H.A.Whitburn, G.F.Lucas jnr: R.Martin, A.R.J.Broderick.G.J.Wooldridge with the  
Secretary and treasurer.

Later that month the council agreed to spend to spend £12-6-3 on 12 pairs of bowls, rubber mats , sheets and sundries to be used at the new Recreation Ground green.

The Surrey Advertiser reported that NW Surrey Open Bowls Competition was held at the Recreation Bowling green on Whit Monday with fifty players taking part. Mr A.H.Godfrey JP. Chairman of the Council, presented a silver challenge cup to the winner. This was to be played for on an annual basis. The winner was F.Thompson of Farnborough with the losing finalist G.Bond of Woking Bowls Club.

The Constitution Hill Bowling Club started with a total of 14 members and it was arranged to play on Mondays at 5.30pm, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 3.00pm. As most of the original members were employed locally these were the most convenient times to play.

Although many sports activities were cancelled for the duration of WW1, the Constitution Hill Bowling Club still played matches against various clubs. There were no matches during 1914, only an internal competition, but in 1915 a number of matches were reported by the News & Mail. These were against clubs including Bagshot, Camberley, Godalming and the North Lancashire Regiment who were stationed at the Tin Bridges.

A number of matches in 1916 are recorded and these include Guildford, Godalming, Milford, Bramley, all, of which are still very much in existence.

In 1917 & 1918 the fixture list was expanded to include Woodbridge, Army Pay Corps, Chertsey, Epsom, Martinsydes and the RAMC. During these years the club still organised a number of internal competitions.

An interesting comment was made at a meeting of the recreation committee in 1916 instructed the Surveyor not to charge members of the H.M.Forces for the use of slippers to be put over their boots

At the AGM held on 26th March 1919 it was proposed that the name of the club be changed to the Woking Recreation Ground Bowling club. This name was used until 1935 when it was changed to Woking Park Bowls Club.

In early May 1919 the Surveyor had obtained an offer of a pavilion that would cost about £100 to purchase and erect. The Recreation Committee agreed that 20 lockers

would be provided ,to be let at 2s-6p for the season and also that season tickets should be increased to 8s-6p. By June 1919 the pavilion was completed.

The first open bowls competition after the war, held at the Recreation ground, was the NW Surrey championship, at which A.H.Godfrey, the President of the Woking Recreation Ground Bowling Club, presented a silver challenge cup to be held for one year, and to be competed for annually.

The winner was T.Thompson of Farnborough who beat G.Bond of Woking Bowls Club.

The membership grew steadily and by the end of 1919 as reported by the Secretary at the AGM held at the Masonic Hall, had grown to 58. This year also saw the introduction of the Championship and Handicap competitions., won by W.Pearce and T.Pook.

There was considerable discussion concerning the level of subscription and the question of entry for local cup competitions.

In 1922 serious dissatisfaction with the state of the green was expressed by many members of the club and it was decided to send a deputation to the Council. The number of matches played that year were reduced because of this.

In 1923 at a Special Committee meeting it was proposed that the club look for a new green and a number of sites were looked at. Those considered were Kingfield, Hockering Gardens and Brewery Road in Horsell. The sum of £350 had been raised towards the cost of the land but at least £1000 would be required. Quite a considerable sum for 1923. A sub-committee was appointed to look at the sites, prepare costs, and report back to the club with a recommendation.

Over the years there were many complaints about the state of the green., and again In 1924 a number of matches were cancelled because of this.

A deputation from the Club met with the Council to discuss ways and means to improve the green, and felt that the time well spent in discussing concerns..There were also complaints about the lack of sanitary conditions and hopes that the Council would do something about it.

This year was the first time that the Club was successful in a County competition by winning the Double Rink 'News of the World shield. The club received a letter from the Recreation Committee congratulating them on their victory and hoping it was the first of many.

In 1925 it was agreed that all matches would be played in blazers. The colours would be dark navy blue with brass buttons and the initials W.R.G. B.C. in gold lettering should appear upon the pocket. Later that year a local outfitter quoted a price of 25s-9d for blazers including badge.

Matches were still only played on Saturdays or Wednesdays but at the AGM that

year, again there were complaints about the state of the green, likening it to a steeplechase course rather than a bowling green. In spite of this the green played better than the previous season but it was suggested more care might be taken when mowing as quite large patches were missed by the mower.

In 1926, a letter was again sent to the Council saying that insufficient attention had been given to the mowing and rolling of the bowling green. Mr Wooldridge the Council Surveyor (member of the club) promised, as far as possible to remedy past mistakes. The club felt that the bowling green should be a source of attraction worthy of the town.

Membership remained fairly constant over the years at about 60 and the fixture list maintained. Again in 1930 the green was the subject of much discussion and led to many players not putting their names down for matches.. There is now the old familiar story of a club deputation to the Council voicing concerns.

There was a proposal that year that ladies be admitted to membership of the club but the votes were equal and only rejected by the Chairman on the toss of a coin.

The economic uncertainty of the 1920s and early 1930s slowed down sporting progress nationally, but did provide many people with more free time. A clear divide emerged between recreation and competition and many sports became defined by cost, therefore becoming inaccessible to some.

In 1931 ex-councillor H.A.Whitburn died. He was one of the founder members of the Woking Recreation B.C. and Chairman for many years.

That year was a rare event when the Club wrote a letter of appreciation to the Council of the improved condition of the green.

At the AGM the club was congratulated on its success in various County Competitions.

In the pairs Messers Matthews and Cousins reached the 7th round, in the triples Messers Edwards, Swallow and Jackson reached the 7th round and in the rink Messers Edwards, Nind, Grylls and Jackson reached the 7th round.

The club was proud of the fact that out of 5 county players in Woking, 3 were from the Recreation Ground Bowling club.

There was also the re-occurring problem which also affects matches today and I quote ;I should like to ask members not to be afraid to put their names down for matches. Several times last season on the night before the match there were not enough names to select the team and next morning is spent looking for more players



P.M.Edwards, P.J.Jackson, (skip)  
G.H.Swallow, H.M.Hind and

At the 1932 AGM it was reported that owing to the difficult financial and social times the Council have not been able to proceed with a suitable pavilion for the use of the members of the club and other organisations that use the green. It went on to say that the Council should re consider the question of enlarging the existing shelter to provide a place where visitors could be suitably entertained. It was not considered an unreasonable request.

The membership increased to 64 in 1933 and there was success in winning the Herald Cup by beating Weybridge in the final, played at Weybridge. The club still pursued the Council about providing a suitable pavilion but met with very little success. The provision of a new pavilion was becoming more important as many other clubs were now using the bowling green and it was felt that the expenditure was warranted as the Council was receiving revenue from the increasing number of users.

A year later the club wrote to the Council setting out the disadvantages that they had suffered owing to the inadequate accommodation provided. This resulted in the Council at last deciding to enlarge the pavilion which proved a great benefit to everyone using it.

Yet again in 1935 it was said that owing to the difficulty in getting full teams for the matches until the eve of the fixtures the Committee again wish members to put their names well in advance of the date fixed for the match. This will relieve the responsible officials of considerable worry and anxiety. It was also hoped that people who entered competitions would also play in some of the home and away matches.

As there were six clubs using the green as well as the general public, some of the members have had been unable to obtain a game because all six rinks were occupied.

At AGM of that year it was agreed to change the name to Woking Park Bowls Club. The recreation ground and the whole of that area had had its name changed to Woking Park in 1927.



A new competition known as the Wooldridge Cup was first played for in 1935 and winner was Joe Baker.

This picture of Joe Baker a well known local figure appeared in the News & Mail in 1931 with a brief description of his playing career. He first started to play bowls in August 1914 just before the war started and his first match was against Guildford Constitutional Club at Guildford. His Journey to the match was by horse drawn cab. He won the Constitutional Bowls Club championship four years running but after the war decided to join the Woking Recreation Ground Bowling Club where again he met with marked success. In 1921 he entered the Surrey Singles where he reached the final.

He was a County player for many years from 1926 until 1930 and in 1925 reached the County Pairs final with F.May representing The Recreation Ground Bowling club.

At various times he played for Horsell Bowls Club, Woking Bowls Club and the Constitutional Bowls Club and continued to be involved in the Recreation Ground Club. A very busy man.

In 1937 the club won the Herald Cup but again there was also considerable criticism of the state of the bowling green. An ex councillor said how shocked he was at the bad state of the green and that it was a disgrace to a town like Woking. This was direct contrast to the previous three years when it was stated how well it was being looked after. A small group was then elected to look at the possibility of finding another green. This matter seems to raise its head very few years.

1938 was a bad year for the club as the Council decided to close the green for most of the season which led to a considerable loss in membership. It dropped from 61 in the previous season down to 47 because of this. All competitions were cancelled. I had often wondered why there were no winners shown on the honours board for that year.



## 1939– 1963

The 1939 season started normally but was curtailed due to the series of events leading up to the start of WW2. The AGM was postponed until March 1940 and it was agreed that all officials would remain in office until then. Up to the outbreak of war a normal programme of matches took place but at the start of hostilities the season ended. In fact the next AGM did not take place until March 1941.

During these years the WPBC still played against other clubs and all the internal competitions took place. There is a mention that some clubs had a problem finding enough players but at Woking Park the membership increased from 47 in 1938 to 85 by 1943.

A meeting in 1941 made reference to wartime austerity with the curtailing of the sugar ration and restrictions on catering and transport to away matches. Again there was reference to the poor state of the green resulting in closure by the Council one month early. In spite of this the Club thanked the Woking U.D.C. and the Woking Food Control Committee for their assistance in helping to make suitable arrangements for their matches.

The Woking Food District had granted a catering licence to the Swimming Pool but not to the Bowls club which meant that the club had to make their own arrangements for teas etc. This was rescinded later and the club continued to supply teas after home matches.

During the wartime years the club was very active in supporting many different charities/funds for the Red Cross, Surrey Fund for the Civilian Blind, Woking Victoria Hospital, Allotments Society, British Sailors Society and many others.

In 1944 there is a number of newspaper cuttings reporting the death of a Mr H. Goldring who was a well thought of, member of the club, secretary for a number of years, and a well known figure in the local community. He died at the age of 53 and was a senior school master at the County school.

From the records it looks as if Tom Brown joined the Bowls club along with ten other players in 1947 when the membership stood at 56.

At the 1949 AGM it was proposed to hold an annual dinner and the secretary was asked to circulate all members and report back to the Committee.

The next year 1950 it was agreed the annual dinner should be held as soon as possible after the AGM when all prizes and cups would be presented.

A date was agreed for the second Annual Dinner to be held at the Albion Hotel in January 1951. The cost to be 12s 6d exclusive of wines but including tips and entertainment.

During the period from 1939 until 1950 the records do not contain information about match results or any outside successes only that a report was compiled and read to the members.

1951 until 1963 was a very successful period for the club when it became one of the strongest in the area.

In 1952 a cup was presented to the club by UDC Councillor Leam to be known as

the Leam Cup and to be played for by members whose names did not appear on the honours boards. This cup is now presented to the runner up of the Men' Championship.

A special meeting was called to discuss the Herald Cup which was due to be played that year on Sunday 7th September against Weybridge. Due to commitments by our opponents it was the only day that they could play. The match took place and WPBC did win but there were protests about playing on a Sunday and T. Gibson– Lee and W.Hayter both resigned from being Vice Presidents.

1952 was a very successful year for the Club as 38 matches were played on Saturdays and Wednesdays with 26 won 2 drawn and 10 lost. This year also saw Tom Brown win his first of many county caps. E.Stringer won the Hospital Cup and a number of WPBC players represented Surrey, namely T.Brown, Colson, Gregory, Howard and Webber.

This year also saw the death of G.J.Wooldridge a founder member and a former WUDC Surveyor who was instrumental in having the green constructed. One time he was President from 1939 until 1945 and Captain. From 1932 until 1936.

Present members will be interested to know that Stan Freeland's father joined the club in 1952.

The 4th annual Dinner was held at the Ritz Cinema in January 1953 and a very illustrious list of guests was drawn up including Mr & Mrs Dobson past President of the S.C.B.A, Mr & Mrs Newstead, Park Superintendent, Councillor Neam and his wife, and at a cost of 11s-0d included a concert party.

This was Coronation year and in order to assist the Council in providing entertainment in the Park on Saturday 6th June it was agreed to make the afternoon match against Allen House a 4 rink one starting at 3.00pm. Another match of 6 rinks between ladies from Knaphill, Byfleet, Watchetts, and the Railway Athletic Ladies Bowls Club and club members started at 6.30pm.

Again WPBC had several players represented Surrey this year and Tom Brown was a member of the Surrey Middleton cup team.

In 1954 the well known local businessman and for many years a county player died. A more detailed account of his playing career is on page 6.

At the 1955 AGM a proposal was put forward that the club should appoint two captains one for Wednesdays and another for Saturdays instead of a Captain and Vice Captain. After discussion it was agreed to amend the rules to this effect. There were plaudits for the Park Superintendent for the excellent condition of the green and surrounding flower beds, both of which being a great source of attraction to visiting clubs.

The membership had gradually increased and stood at 66, an increase of 6 from the previous season.

Again WPBC won the Hospitals Cup with C.F.Howard defeating a player from Byfleet and congratulations went to Tom Brown who played for Surrey in the team which won the Middleton Cup.

In 1956 Tom Brown won the Surrey Singles by defeating Mr Woolgar of Redhill. This was the first time that that any County Competition had been won outright by a player from Woking. In the same year G.D.Thomas and F.G.Colson won the divisional pairs finals and G.D. Thomas qualified for his county badge. Other members T. Brown, F.G. Colson, F.Gregory, C.F. Howard and G.Lloyd all played for Surrey. Further congratulations to T.Brown who played for Surrey in the Middleton Cup.

The District Final of the Hospital Cup was won by Mr Howard by defeating Mr Andrews of Byfleet

The Annual Dinner and prize giving was again held at the Albion Hotel.



1957 Tom Brown again won the Surrey Singles and created a record by becoming the first player to win in successive years. This was from an entry of 554 players. In the triples T. Brown, F. Colson and G. Thomas was successful in winning the divisional final.

F. Colson, C.Howard and G Thomas played for Surrey and Tom Brown was a member of the winning Surrey Middleton Cup side that year.

The membership declined from 58 to 52. Again thanks were expressed to the Park Superintendent for the excellent state of the green and the state of the adjoining flower beds.

1958 Tom Brown won the Surrey Singles for the third time, supported by many of the WPBC members at Balham. This was the fourth time that Tom had been in the final.

Messer's Colson, Brown , Thomas and Howard again played for the County. Tom Brown was yet again a member of the winning Surrey Middleton cup team. That year Tom had a trial for England. There were many extensive reports in the local press about his achievement in winning the County singles and many telegrams . Tom originally came from Edinburgh where he was introduced to bowls by his father. He gave up during the war years but resumed on coming to Woking where he worked for the Post Office..

At the AGM in 1959 the question of dress was raised and it was agreed that where possible players should wear whites instead of greys.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Cotteridge Hotel in January and Tom Brown was presented with a gold watch by the club in recognition of his achievement winning the Surrey Singles Championship three years running.

T.Brown and Colsen won the divisional pairs and Brown, Colson and Freeland won the triples.

A Committee meeting in 1960 was the first mention of the Woking Ladies B.C. and this was to do with the electricity charge for the previous 2 years of 10s, It appears that no action was taken.

At the 1960 AGM it was reported that this was the first year that all matches were played in whites.

Lloyd and Stringer won the Divisional pairs.

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The Shortland cup which was a gift that year from the family of the late Mr Shortlands and to be played for by all members over 55 and on a handicap.

At the 1960 AGM it was reported that this was the first year that all matches were played in whites.

Lloyd and Stringer won the Divisional pairs.

In 1961 the Council at last decided to improve the facilities at the Pavilion at Woking Park. This was long overdue and had been a source of contention for many years.

At the AGM it was agreed to make the only surviving founder member C.Martin an Honorary Life Vice -President. Jack Bond was accepted as a member.

The membership had dropped to 52 in 1961 4 less than the previous year.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Cotteridge Hotel with the President of the Surrey Bowling Association and his wife as guests of honour. At the dinner reference was made to the number of County players namely T.Brown, F.Colson, G.Thomas, E Stringer. Tom Brown was a regular member of the Surrey Middleton Cup team.

Thanks was also made to the Woking Park Superintendent for the excellent green that had been prepared for the players. This made quite a welcome change from the usual complaints.

The highlight of 1962 was the winning of the Herald Cup . The last time the club was victorious in this competition was in 1952. Albert Gill President for the last 15 years decided to stand down from that position. He had at one time also acted as Secretary.

Again the club had players in the County team. T.Brown, F.Colson, G.Thomas, — Lloyd, E.Stringer, —Howard and R.Lamdin and T.Brown won the Surry Pairs Championship.

In 1963 the last surviving founder member Mr C. Martin died. He had been a Vice President for many years and the previous year had been made a life member.

During this year the Council were to reconsider the question of clubs using Council owned ground to be allowed to have alcoholic refreshment in their pavilions. An application by WPBC had been previously rejected.

The club had a very successful season by played 35 matches, winning 25 and losing 10 .

1962 Annual Dinner and Prize Giving  
Left to Right G.N. Wallace,  
W.Bates, G.Brown  
E.T.Trotman, F.G.Colson,  
and E.Stringer



## 1964– 1988

1964 was the Golden Jubilee year of the formation of the Bowls Club and it was commented that from 14 when it first started membership had now risen to 51. To celebrate this occasion a match was played against the Executive Council of the Surrey County Bowling Association. After the match the teams were entertained at the Cotteridge Hotel, where incidentally most of the Wednesday afternoon teams had their tea at that time.

In this year Tom Brown played for England against Scotland, Wales , Ireland and was on the winning side on each occasion.

Tom Brown and Dickie Lamdin were the losing finalists in the County pairs and F.Colson, T.Brown, G.Thomas R.Lamdin , E .Stringer and S.Winniffrith all played in the County friendly matches.

From this it can be seen that Woking Park B.C. was still one of the strongest clubs in the area and this continued for many years.

The Annual Dinner and Prize giving was held at the Cotteridge Hotel where the President and Competition Secretary of the SCMBA were guests. After dinner the guests were entertained with musical items and community singing.

In 1965 the Council decided to raise the cost of hiring the green from £2-0-0 to £3-4-0. This considerable increase put a lot of pressure on the club's finances

W.Bates who became President that year was also awarded his county badge making a total of 10 in the club.

The club decided to enter the West Surrey League with matches to be played on a Friday evening.

1966 was the year that Tom Brown was selected to play in the first World Championships which were being held in Australia. Tom on his return said that the greens were much faster in Australia and needed getting used to. He did not feel he played as well as he could..

1967 was a successful year for outside competitions with R. Lamdin and A. Windsor winning the Littlehampton and Bognor pairs as well as the Bognor triples. T.Brown and W.Bates reached the final of the Brighton triples.

Club membership over the last few years had been between 55 to 60 playing members.

In 1970 Tom Brown and Wally Bates won the Stephenson pairs and Tom also became Champion of Champions.

Tom qualified to play in the EBA singles championship and reached the semi –final, only to be beaten by the well known bowler David Bryant who was the current world champion.

Alan Windsor and Dickie Lamdin became the English Indoor pairs champions.

In July 1972 a letter was received from Jack Bond's son stating that Mrs Bond wished to present the club with a trophy to be known as the Jack bond Cup.

It was agreed this year that the Ladies Bowling Club be allowed to use the same badge with the addition of the 'L' for ladies.

1973 was another successful year when Dickie Lamdin and Alan Windsor reached

the semi-finals of the Surrey competitions and Alan was also winner of the Bournemouth singles.

Four players F.Pullen,R.Stiller, R.Lamdin and A.Windsor also reached the final of the Surrey fours.

The Worthing triples were won by F.Pullen, R.Lamdin, A.Windsor, and again Alan Windsor played for England as he did for many years.

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee year 1974 the club organised a special Dinner and Dance, to take place in March, at the Cotteridge Hotel. Mr. R.C. Blow, President of the S.C.M.B.A. and his wife, Mrs Fowler-Wright President of the S.C.L.B.A and her husband, Mr.A.Shawcross, Clerk to the Woking Council and his wife were special guests and Mrs J.Bond along with a number of ladies that helped with the teas.

A.Windsor won the WSBA Champion of Champions but the club was eliminated in the quarter finals of the National Competition.

The club reached the quarter Finals of the National Two Fours Competition only to lose to Weston Super Mare on a soaking wet green with an Atlantic gale blowing diagonally across it. It was quite an achievement to reach the last eight in a National competition.

At the AGM of 1975 it was agreed that the Committee should now approach the Woking Park Ladies bowling Club with a view to a possible amalgamation of the two clubs, but with very separate Ladies and gentlemen's sections.

Another two players E.Barton and G.Leedon received Surrey Badges , and the club was successful in winning the Herald Cup.

The Secretary reported with great pride that WPBC had supplied three of the six skips in the Surrey County Middleton Cup team who won convincingly. These were T.Brown, A.Windsor, R.Lamdin and E.Johnson was also part of the team.

1976 was a very difficult year for the club , with financial concerns due to the high rate of inflation.

Other problems arose with the resignation of the Saturday Captain and there was also the comment made in the Secretary's report about the problems the discordant and quarrelsome atmosphere that prevailed in the club and hoped that now there was an end to all of it. If this had not been dealt with by the Committee many members were looking for other clubs to join.

With regard to the playing success Alan Windsor won the British Isles Singles Indoor Championship and then went on to win the Surrey pairs championship with Ted Johnson. Also the Woking Park 'B' team were successful in reaching the final of the Woking Review Cup only to lose by one shot.

David Cook the groundsman who did a miraculous job in keeping the green open where many other greens had closed from the middle of August because of the long hot summer.

A meeting took place in early 1976 between the Men's and ladies Committees to discuss in detail the proposal to amalgamate the two sections. It was finally agreed that it was a good idea but one or two points still need to be to be clarified.

The 1977 season was described (at the AGM) as being the greatest of their 63 year

old history. That year the Surrey County Fours were won by C.G.Wilson, D.A.Peet, J.Chubb and W.Hatto and this success automatically entitled them to take their place in the English B.A. National Championships. Previously Woking Park had been in the final three times, but this was the first win .

Another success was when J.Leedon, R.Buckler and Alan Windsor won the Libby Triples which was played for throughout Surrey. The men's entry in the national Two Fours competition got to the last 32 in the country. There were also smaller successes in many other Surrey Competitions.

There was however a major concern about the facilities provided by the council at Woking Park.

The club was starting to lose fixtures because of the inadequate accommodation to offer a visiting club by way of changing rooms, kitchen and social facilities. It was regretted that many clubs have their own bar but this 'Prestige Club' has either to take a few cans of beer down to the green to socialise with their opponents or take them down to the Woking Conservative club. Thanks were expressed to the Conservative Club for the use of rooms for winter meetings as the pavilion was full of fertiliser, bulbs and wheelbarrows etc.

The club's concerns were expressed to the council, not only on the state of the pavilion but the condition of the green as well.

Two years later in 1979 there was still no progress with the council on the new pavilion. It was felt that some of the Councillors were merely playing a political game and undoing most of the good work that their predecessors had done. It looked as though the pavilion was in financial cold storage. With the cut-back of expenditure by Councils generally it seemed unlikely that the pavilion would be able to proceed for some years. It was agreed that a rota be implemented for the preparation of teas and that as the membership was 64 and with only 20 home games, it should not be very arduous.

The playing successes during 1979 season include the triple of W.G.Blakemore, R.Lamdin and A.Windsor, becoming runners up in the County Triples and then went on to the Quarter Finals of the E.B.A. National competition at Worthing.

In 1980 the great bowler Tom Brown died. He was held in great respect by all Surrey Bowlers and many outside Surrey. This was particularly borne out by the many verbal and written tributes that were received and the very fine turnout for his funeral.

A memorial game was played at Woking Park in 1981 against a team from Surrey comprised of players who had known Tom in his county days.

At the 1980 AGM the Secretary reported great disappointment that in spite of a lot of hard work by the Committee, Woking Council failed to confirm the estimate for the new pavilion. Following a conversation between Wally Bates and Councillor Page the committee had submitted a proposal to Woking Council that if they would supply and erect a Marley type pavilion of approximately 50 ft x 20ft the Club would undertake to fit out the interior from their own resources ,on this

basis the pavilion was included in the estimates for 1981/82 at a cost of £15000 to the Woking Council.

In April 1981 the Club received a letter from Woking Council saying that a new pavilion would be erected during the closed season.

The proposed plans had been rejected by the Planning Committee but had been amended by the architect and cedar cladding added to the exposed front of the pavilion. It was approved by the Leisure committee and returned to the Planning Committee for approval. It was now felt that the plans would go ahead.

Negotiations on the Pavilion continued during the year and work was scheduled to begin early in December 1981.

In late 1981 the Secretary reported on a meeting with the Director of Leisure Services and the Borough Architect regarding the provision of a new pavilion.. It was also agreed that a bar area would be provided. At the meeting the scope of supply and responsibility was defined for the structure and the internal fittings. A sub committee was formed to raise funds for the new pavilion.

This year was particularly successful in playing 39 matches winning 33 with 5 lost and one drawn.

Alan Windsor won the Surrey County Singles and had gone on to the final of the National Singles losing very narrowly by one shot. He also skipped the Club triples which won the Surrey County Triples. The other two members were the President Geoff Blakemore and Dickie Lamdin.



There had been many complaints about the use of the green by the Conservative Club resulting in members unable to play due to lack of rinks. It was agreed that a sub committee would be formed to meet their representatives. At the meeting it was agreed that :

- A On Sunday afternoons no rink would be booked by the Conservative Club other than those for their match.
  - B Not more than one rink would be booked in any evening
  - C They would try to play as many of their club competitions as possible on either Saturday or Sunday morning.
  - D On all occasions Woking Park had preference in selection of rinks.
- This was further complicated as many of the WPBC players were also members of the Conservative Club.

A Green Committee was appointed to review the state of the green and to decide if it was playable or not. A notice would be displayed by the committee as to the fitness of the green for play and their decision would be final.

A Special general Meeting called in April 1982 and held at the Conservative Club to amalgamate the Ladies and Gentlemen's Committees to carry out all aspects of the Club Management until the AGM. It was hoped that as one unit the Club would move into the new pavilion at the green.



At the AGM reference was made to the three main events of the year.

These were :

- a) The alteration of the rules to give affect of the amalgamation of the Ladies and Gentlemen's club
- b) The provision of the new Pavilion by Woking Borough Council
- c) The granting of a licence for the sale of alcohol.

The combination of these three had made a most welcome improvement in the quality of club life and resulted in a united club.

The membership had been slowly growing and with the combined clubs had risen to 80 men, 29 ladies and 5 Honorary Life Members. On the playing side it was a most successful season with the club reaching the Quarter final of the National Two Fours and Alan Windsor being selected to represent England at the Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane, Australia.. The club lost in the final of the Heathfield Cup and in the semi-final of the Review Cup. The Saturday results were exceptional as the men only lost five matches throughout the season .

Sybil Sadler the Ladies Captain and the Men's Captain M.G.Mayes emphasised how much the new pavilion had improved the prestige of the club.

Since the bar was first opened the Council had been levying a 10% charge on gross takings but this was now declared unlawful by the local Magistrates. It was suggested that the club pay the council a flat rent.

In 1983 another accolade for Alan Windsor when he was presented with the Trotman Trophy , at a brief ceremony at the Centre Hall for outstanding contribution to sport by a local player.

This year was the first mention of matches being played on a Sunday.

The playing record was not quite so impressive as previous years but still remarkably successful.

Three members of the club were in the winning Surrey Middleton Cup side, R.Lamdin, A.Windsor and J.Mann with E.Daniel receiving his County Badge following a successful run in the unbadged singles.

The ladies generally had a good season and had only lost 2 matches but there was the familiar call for more members to put their names down for matches.

At the AGM the Secretary reported a full membership of 120 with a waiting list of 15. This continued for many years and membership only declined towards the end of the nineties, but there will be more on the subject later on.

Another issue was voiced about the surface of the green during damp weather and as the club takes responsibility for play at certain times it is a reflection on the club members when damage occurs to the playing surface.

This year also saw the introduction of the Dulcie Ross Cup presented by Eric Ross in memory of his wife.

During 1984 the membership was closed with 120 members 80 men, 40 ladies and again a waiting list of 15.

This year saw the first club tour which took place in September to Bournemouth. This was very successfully organised by Reg Buckler.

Match results were very good with the men only losing 3 weekend games and in the

Review Cup the 'C' team reaching the final. John Mann and Bill Hatto made the final of the County Pairs and G.Blakemore, R.Lamdin and A.Windsor lost in the final of the County Triples.

During 1985 Woking Borough Council were drawing up a lease for the ground area on which the new changing room would be erected and the necessary documents had been obtained for the submission for planning approval. It was estimated that the cost would be approximately £3100 and asked the Committee for permission to proceed which was given.

During the season only four Men's games were lost and the Captain congratulated W.G.Blakemore, F.Bourne, R.Lamdin and A.Windsor for winning the county fours and Mrs B.Bourne, Mrs J.Edser, Mrs.A.Mann and Mrs S.Sadler won the Surrey County Women's Bowling Association Fours and went through to the semi-finals of the National Competition.

Further congratulations to Mrs B.Bourne, F.L.Bourne, J.I.Pullen and R.G. Buckler for obtaining their County Badges.

During the 1986 season the club only lost 5 weekend matches and the Wednesday results were also good, losing only six matches. Membership still stood at the maximum of 80 men and 40 ladies. The only award won was the Arthur Rackham Trophy.

In the West Surrey competitions Reg Buckler was the finalist in the Champion of Champions and J.Pullen was selected to play in the Middleton Cup for Surrey. Sybil Saddler and Angela Mann were members of the successful Surrey side, winning the Johns Trophy.

Success was maintained throughout 1987 by only losing 7 weekend matches and Bill Hatto, Fred Bourne and John Mann won the Surrey Triples. Reg Buckler and Eddie Blount reached the final of the pairs .

The Woking Fritch was an all Woking Park final won by Peggy and Nobby Rideout who beat Margaret and Dave Harris in a very close match.

The ladies in 1988 reported that they had only lost 5 matches out of 37. Angela Mann was congratulated for being selected to play for Surrey in the Johns Trophy and Mrs Freda Keller on being elected as the SCWBA Junior Vice President. This year Tony Almond and John Beck received their County Badges. John Pullen reached the final of the West Surrey Singles.

The above success brought an end to the first 75 years since the formation of the club. The membership had risen from 14 members in 1914 up to 120 at the end of 1988 consisting of 80 men and 40m ladies. Many changes had taken place during this time with name changes, ladies becoming members and 2 world wars.

## 1989– Present

In May 1989 the News & Mail had a long article on the 75th anniversary of the formation of Woking Park Bowls Club. To mark the occasion matches for the men had been arranged against the EBA President, Surrey President and West Surrey President teams. For the ladies, matches against EWBA and SCWBA had also been arranged.

Over the years the club has won many county badges and at this time the club had 17 male and 4 female county badge players. The club had 120 members and is made up of 80 men and 40 ladies.

It went on to mention Tom Brown and Alan Windsor as great ambassadors of the game.

Although the ladies are a minority at Woking Park in membership they are not to be overshadowed by the men.

The Saturday, Sunday and Ladies Captains reported successful seasons with special mention of the 'B' Team winning the Woking Review Cup and the 'A' team reaching the final of the Heathfield Cup.

In this year Sybil Sadler, Jean Edser and Beryl Bourne reached Leamington in the county fours and Jean Edser and Win Penney were awarded their county badges. Jean and Bill Edser won the Woking Review Fritch.

As the President said at the AGM, 1989 had been a magnificent year for Woking Park Bowls Club.

The following year a letter was written to the Council about the state of the green and expressing concern about the sleeper surrounds. The Council replied that they were monitoring the green and they had not enough cash to replace sleepers with something more permanent but suggested acquiring some matting material to cover these as an interim measure. This became an on going concern as after many letters and phone calls to the council officers without reply, it was suggested that the club write to the Mayor (Mount Hermon Ward Councillor).

Later that year a meeting took place regarding the green and its surrounds and it was suggested to get rid of the unsightly sleepers. If WPBC would organise/pay for the labour involved, the Council would pay for the materials. Later the club was informed that the Woking Council were considering that all five clubs in their area should take over the responsibility of looking after their own greens in the future.

A meeting was held with the other clubs within the Woking Borough to discuss the Council's proposal that the clubs should take over their greens and pavilions. After discussion it was agreed that Alan Tingay of Knaphill should be the main spokesman for the clubs at the meeting with the Council in January 1991.

Following on from various meetings with the Council it was eventually agreed to take over responsibility for the green and pavilion.

At a Special General Meeting it was agreed that there should be a Gentlemen's Captain and two Vice Captains, not separate Captains for Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday.

Reg Buckler and Alan Windsor were congratulated on being selected for the Surrey Middleton Cup and Jo Clark and Margaret Harris received their county badges.

It was a great honour for the club when Freda Keller was appointed as President of the S.C.W.B.A.

In March 1992 a Special General Meeting was called to consider the implications of the Club entering into a lease with Woking Borough Council. It was agreed that the Committee should proceed with the lease. Obviously the Council were very keen to off load the greens as they provided the club with mower, roller and watering equipment etc. and a grant of £1500. John Mann, Frank Pullan and Fred Bourne were very much involved in the successful negotiation of the lease.

Originally it was agreed to pay a contractor to maintain the green but after a lot of unsatisfactory work they were dismissed and F.L. Bourne agreed to maintain the green with some assistance from club members for the remainder of the season.

Later that year John Mann reported that he had obtained costs for extending the clubhouse and he would complete an application to the Council for planning permission. At this time the Club was still awaiting the lease from the Council.

At the AGM the Men's Captain reported disappointment and disillusion with the response from players when trying to raise a team, particularly for Saturday matches but the club still managed to win 10 of the 15 matches played on a Saturday and won 15 of 16 matches on a Sunday. The ladies captain reported that they 43 fixtures won 24 and lost 15 with 2 drawn.

This year saw for the first time for many years a drop in membership with 71 men and 48 ladies and no waiting list. There was as usual expressed a wish to recruit younger members.

Finally in September 1993 the lease was signed and the Committee considered extending the pavilion as it was rather cramped for six rinks catering and E.B.A. and County visits. The club submitted plans and were obtaining planning permission to extend 24 feet towards the road. The builders of the clubhouse were contacted to obtain prices. At the same time an automatic watering system for the green was also being considered.

During 1994 John Mann was very active in pursuing ways and means to extend the clubhouse. He now had a firm promise of £8000 grant together with club funds was sufficient to go ahead with the base and shell of the extension. It was hoped that the work by the contractors would be finished by January 1995 and club members to help complete the internal works to make it ready for the start of the new season. The club was now waiting for the Council to authorise us to use the land to the left of the Pavilion.

Early in 1995 the club was informed that the company that was going to extend the clubhouse had gone into liquidation and work would not start as scheduled. With support from Woking Council the club was endeavouring to find an alternative contractor but this would mean that work would not start until the present season was finished.

The cost of the new extension was estimated to be in the order of £21,000 for the

Unfortunately as a result of the previous decision not to enter the WSL the club lost five of its better bowlers to Knaphill

1998 was the first season that the club took part in short mat competitions by entering the SHAB and Shalford league. It was also the first year that the club had success in short mat bowling with Sybil Saddler, Reg Buckler and Ken Tollett reaching the final of the County Triples. In later years the club enjoyed considerable success with many members becoming part of the County Teams.

In that year the membership still stood at a healthy 66 men, 48 ladies. Even with that number of players the various captains were still having problems with members not putting their names down for matches. This problem is still with us today.

During 1999 the club Treasurer had some concerns about the state of the finances. There had been considerable expenses as the Committee had decided to repay all the outstanding loans to members (clubhouse extension) and the club had been broken into twice during the year at a cost of £1400 . There was a working surplus of only £915 against £4000 for the previous year. Adding to the problem was the reduction in membership of 10 full playing members.

The membership in May 2000 stood at a total of 94 playing members consisting of 51 men and 39 ladies. This is now pointing to a small decline in numbers each year.

There is one mention in a meeting that Albury BC would not accept any ladies playing in trousers. How the bowls world dress code has changed in a relatively short time.

The Open Day proved to be very successful for the club

During the last few years the notes of the AGM appear to be missing so most information has to be gleaned from the various monthly meetings which is not always easy to do.

The membership in 2001 stood at 104 playing members with 59 men and 39 ladies., only a small reduction from 1998.

2000 won merrow league

## Woking Park Ladies

Although the Woking Park Ladies Bowling Club was formed in 1956 the earliest notes do not start until 1963. The Ladies club was run separately from the Men's club and had its own management committee. It eventually joined the men's club in //////////////

The President in 1963 was Mrs Evans.  
Hon Sec. Mrs Sharpe  
Captain Mrs Evans

Various club competitions were organised for that year.

The AGM for 1964 was held at the Woking Conservative Club, Mrs Evans remained the President.

1965 saw a change in the club officers although Mrs Evans was still the President, Mrs Cotter became Hon.Sec. and Mrs Grafham Captain.

Finances had improved from the previous year and had a balance of £26-15-3d compared to £22-9-10d the previous year.

The notes of the AGM have little detail compared to meetings taking place at later dates..

There are no details of matches played and results of internal competitions

In 1976 an Extra-Ordinary meeting was held to discuss the proposed affiliation to the Men's Club and this was agreed unanimously. The ladies would still have their own management committee controlling all aspects of their section.

The membership had risen to 22 during the season

At the AGM for 1977 Mrs Davies the club captain stated in her report that the club had had a very bad season , being dogged by sickness and accidents all year. On the other hand they had done very well in outside competitions and Mrs Bostock had been awarded her Surrey Badge, the first one to a member of Woking Park Ladies. Mrs A. Mann had got through to the 6th round of the Surrey 2 Wood competitions. To complete the hat trick Mrs Bostock and Mrs J.Edgworth had won the Frank Henry Cup

The club also hosted the 6th round and Semi-Final rounds of the SCWBA t the Park. 1978 was a very successful year for the Ladies club only losing to Guildford and Byfleet.

Angela Mann reached the semi-final of the Surrey 2 woods and Sybil Sadler winning the Selley Trial thus giving her a County badge for 1979.

Mrs Bostock the ladies Captain said how proud she was of the achievement of having 3 county badges in such a small club. One regret she had was that of not winning the Frank Henry for a second time.

The ladies also wanted to approach the Men's section to complain about the state of the green.

The first meeting of the combined Ladies and Men's section took place on the 29th March 1982. This was a milestone in the Club's history. It was hoped that the effective combining of the two sections together with the new pavilion, would enable the club to go forward from strength to strength.

A Special General Meeting was held at the Conservative club on the 28th April to confirm a proposal that the existing Ladies and Gentlemen's Committees should form the Management Committee until the next AGM to be held in November 1982

Sybil Sadler. First played for the County against Kent in July 1979 and was a regular member of the county team until 1991.

Complete Sybil



Sybil Sadler  
A picture of Concentration



The Winning Team  
Woking Review Cup 1983



Angela Mann



Woking Park Ladies



Woking Park Ladies –Celebrating the 50th  
Anniversary of the Ladies Section.1956- 2006

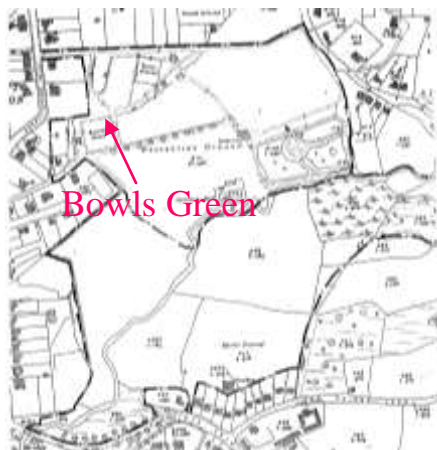




This shows the semi rural aspect of Woking Park as it was in the 1920's  
The Pavilion was erected in 1919



This is showing the newly extended Pavilion— Probably taken in the mid 1930's



Map showing the location of the bowls green before Constitution Hill was developed.



A view of the Clubhouse probably 1980's Note change in background showing the local development



Woking Park Men—Ted Bates  
third from left —top row  
1960/70



## Founder Members

At a meeting in May 1914 the following were admitted as members of the Constitution Hill Recreation Bowling Club. These founder members were very prominent in the Woking Urban District Council , businessmen or involved in local trades.

All of these gentlemen attended the first meeting held in May 1914.

J. Whitburn, H.J. Crane, H. A. Whitburn, E.E. Terry, G.J. Wooldridge, H.A. Westen, A.R.J. Broderick, Davies, W. Reid, W. A. Bowie, A.H. Godfrey, J.H Driver, S.C. Knight, Col. Churchill , T. Lucas, F. Parsons., C.R. Martin. It appears that Col.Churchill and Mr Davies did not join the club. By the end of 1914 the membership stood at 30 and by 1917 the total had risen to 42.

From the 1911 census and free BMD the following information about their social status and place of birth has been extracted for some of the founder and early members of the Club.

Wilson J.P. Was at one time Chairman of the W.U.D.C. as well as the Bank Manager of Barclays Bank in Chertsey Road.

Albert Hamilton Godfrey was also Chairman of the W.U.D.C. In the census he is described as a Solicitor living at the 'Dell' St John's Road, aged 46 and born in the Fulwood Barracks , Preston, Lancashire.

Henry Alfred Whitburn Architect and Surveyor . Born in Ripley about 1858 and lived at 'Eton Croft' Claremont Avenue.

Albert R.J. Broderick Head Teacher– Chairman of the Fire Brigade, Electric Lighting and Recreation Committee, born in Plymouth and living at Goldsworth School. Although he was one of the drivers for the start of the bowling club but by the following year had left the club only to rejoin a few years later.

Henry J. Crane Engineer-Waterworks– born in 1859 at Brownhills, Staffordshire. Lived at the Water Co. Offices in Commercial Road.

Charles Sykes Kefford– Retired Butcher. Originally from Mile End Old Town, but born in Shadwell. Born about 1850.

Caleb Bond Although not at the first meeting did join the club in 1914. He is of interest as his son Jack was the presenter of the Jack Bond Cup which is still very much part of the club's competitions. He is described as a Temperance Hotel Keeper and lived at 4 Commercial road, and born in Holmer green, Bucks about 1875.



G.J. Wooldridge  
WUDC Surveyor



H.A. Whitburn JP  
Chairman of the  
Council 1913

## Club Honours International Players

T.Brown	1964/65/66
A.J.Windsor	1973/74/75/77/78/79/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88

### County Singles

J.Baker	1921	Finalist Woking Recreation Ground B.C.
T.Brown	1949	Finalist
T.Brown	1956/57/58	Winner
T.Brown	1971	Finalist
A.J.Windsor	1972	Winner
A.J.Windsor	1981	Winner

### County Pairs

F.May,J.Baker	1925	Finalist Woking Recreation Ground B.C.
R.Lamdin, T.Brown	1963	Winner
R.Lamdin, T.Brown	1964	Finalist
A.J.Windsor, R.Lamdin	1969	Winner
E.J.Johnson, A.J.Windsor	1976	Winner
J.Leedon, A.J.Windsor	1980	Winner
J.Mann, W.Hatto	1984	Finalist
E.Blount, R.Buckler	1987	Finalist

### County Triples

W.G.Blakemore, R.Lamdin, A.Windsor	1981	Winner
W.Hatto, F.Bourne, J.Mann	1987	Winner
J.Pullen, R.G.Buckler, N.Hezell	1990	Winner
W.Edser, J.Roberts, D.Allen	2002	Finalist

### County Fours

	1972	Finalist
F.Pullen R.Stiller,R.Lamdin, A.Windsor	1973	Finalist
G.Wilson, D.Peet, J.Chubb, W.Hatto	1977	Winner
W.Blakemore, F.Bourne, R.Lamdin, A.Windsor	1985	Winner

### Hon .Secretaries

R.Buckler	1994	Winner
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### Champion of Champions

D.Allen	2005	Winner
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**Club Honours**  
**Ladies**

**National Fours**

<b>B.Bourne</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>Semi-Finalist</b>
<b>J.Edser</b>		
<b>A.Mann</b>		
<b>S.Sadler</b>		

**President E.W.B.A.** **1995**

**F.N.Keller**

**County Selley Trophy**

<b>S.Sadler</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>Winner</b>
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**County Fours**

<b>B.Bourne J.Edeser,A.Mann, S.Sadler</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>B.Bourne, J.EdserW.Penny, S.Sadler</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Finalist</b>

**President S.C.W.B.A.** **1991**

# Past Presidents 1948-2013



A. Gill  
1948-1963



E.T. Trotman  
1963- 1970



W.H. Bates  
1970 -1980



W.G. Blakemore  
1980 -1996



K. Tollett  
1996-1998



J.V. Buckingham  
1998-2000



R. Buckler  
2001-2002



M. Harris  
2003-2004



P.O.R. Tapper  
2007-2008



M. Field  
2008-2009



S.M. Sadler  
2010-2011



B. Poat  
2012-2013



P.O.R. Tapper  
2007-2008

200  
5  
200

## Local Clubs

Many clubs have played on the green at Woking Park over the last 100 years. Below are the clubs known to have played at various times.

Woking Park Ladies B.C.

Woking Gardners

Woking Police

Byfleet Wanderers

Woking Constitution B.C.

St Martha's B.C.

Woking Wesleyan Bowling Club became Woking Casuals B.C.

The following clubs all played in the Woking Area, but no longer exist

Woking B.C.

Woking British Legion B.C.

Railway Athletic B.C.

Horsell Birch B.C.

Constitution Club B.C.

## Existing Clubs

Knaphill

Horsell

Westfield

Mayford Hall

Byfleet

West Byfleet

Woking Park

Brian Winter—2014

Any Comments or additional information ,please contact me.  
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