

PONTELAND

B O W L I N G C L U B



PAST **AND** PRESENT

Bernard D.W. Wright



PONTELAND BOWLING CLUB

PAST AND PRESENT

Bernard D.W. Wright
(Honorary Life Member)

Extended and Revised, September 2017

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Anonymous Tyneside Poem

' Divvint Knock Th' Old ' Uns, Lads '

W' had a game o' bools one neet
Doon at wor local green,
W' tuk on fower fr' Ashin' ton
The like y' ve nivvor seen!

Their leader waas one ancient chep
Wi' a limp and a squint in each eye,
Aa divvint knaa how ' e booled ' is woods
But ' e got them pritty nigh!

The next waas even owlder still,
In fact, the forst chep's faather,
' e allus got a ' toucher ' on
But how, aa' ll nivvor gather!

The thord bloke waas the youngest one,
His age waas ninety-fower!
By God ' e waas a good' un, lads,
Yer' ve nivvor seen such power!

The skipper's beard waas two yards lang,
And ' e tuk a nineteen shoe!
They said ' e booled wi' Francis Drake
But aa divvint reckon that's true.

We wun the toss, so off wis went,
The clock struck ha' past sivvin;
Wi' d played ten ends by ha' past ite,
Then it cum doon from the heaven!

Why! Geordie waas for chuckin it in,
Joe sez, ' *it's only a shower* ',
So w' played until the finish came
About annither ' oor.

They beat us fowerty-sivvin ta three,
Wi' d nivvor known such shame,
Wi' d larnt a lisson nivvor t' scoff
At boolers old ' n lame.

So, divvint knock th' old ' uns, lads
Nee matter how baaldy ' n wizen' ;
If y' ivvor want t' bool like them
Sit doon... and...luk...and lissen!

**A Dreadful Incident That Took Place One Thursday Afternoon Of
The Summer Of 1994 At Ponteland Bowling Club, Ladies' Section
or
The Tale Of The Tights**

**by
Miss Jean Trimble**

It happened on one afternoon
Of a C&S and Jumbles Day
When we were all upon the green
And just about to play.

*' I really am most worried
What happens when I bend?
I' m absolutely sure there' ll be
A terrifying rend!'*

Now there was Vera Lonsdale
A-checking of her team
When suddenly from Elizabeth
Came a loud almighty scream !

Maria was not daunted
*' Just put your pants on top
And this will make quite sure' she said
' The tights will never drop.'*

*' Vera come here, we need you
As you' re in your white and grey
Come quickly here now Vera
There's no time for delay.'*

*' Please hurry' called June Nichol
' The driver's most irate
He says if we don' t leave right now
We' ll all be VERY LATE.'*

With startled face, our Vera
Tugged at her own grey locks
*' I can' t' she said ' Elizabeth
I've on my short white socks.'*

They climbed into the mini-bus
When Thelma gave a roar
*' My goodness gracious, where's my
woods? Behind the Clubhouse door !'*

*' Never mind' said Elizabeth
Suddenly standing there
Her face was pink, her hair on end
And both her feet were bare.*

At last they were all ready
And settled on the bus
As Ora said *' Each one of them
Exhausted by the fuss.'*

Up stood our bold Maria
' I' ll put this all to rights'
She placed her hand inside her bag
And produced a pair of tights.

Arriving at the match place
Now Iris Fletcher said
*' Each member of the C&S team
Was clutching a sore head.'*

She gave them to our Vera
Whose face turned very white
*' Oh goodness me Maria
These tights are far TOO TIGHT !'*

They stepped onto the bowling green
Amidst the summer sun
You' ll all be very glad to know
PONTELAND LADIES WON !

The moral of this story is
On C&S / Jumbles Day
Be very careful that you don' t
Have on your skirt of grey.

Be also very sure, my friends
You do not have your whites
Or you may easily end up
In Maria Shuttleworth's TIGHTS !

Preamble

Ponteland Bowling Club (PBC) has been in existence 94 years. It is not the intention of the author at this time to provide future updates of its history printed in book form as in 2007. Instead, with the permission of the General Purposes Committee, the history could be updated regularly on the PBC website and/or be made available on a memory stick for installation on members' computers. With this in mind, the opportunity has been taken to edit and describe more fully the Club's activities. With the setting up of the new website in 2015, there is a Newsletter giving details of matters discussed at GPC meetings which have not necessarily been included in the Minutes of members' General Meetings. Following unification of the EBA Governing Body on the 1st January, 2008 under the umbrella of Bowls England (BE), the Northumberland County Bowling Association has been designated Bowls Northumberland (BN). However, all references prior to 2008 in this account to both NCBA and NCWBA records will remain.

With the passage of time much water, mostly tranquil, has passed under the bridge in Ponteland. In many respects, the same can be said of the events that have occurred in Ponteland Bowling Club since its formation in 1923. During rare periods of turbulence, in most cases, common sense has prevailed within the Club.

The records of meetings and social events have been summarized, whilst retaining an insight of the problems faced and the progress made by the Club, albeit from its modest beginning to its present standing in the Northumberland bowling community. As the senior serving member of the Men's Section, having joined the Club in 1967, it is pleasing to record the bowling achievements of its members and those of the Ladies' Section both past and present in local, regional and national competitions, which has brought the Club much credit and recognition.

In preparing this account of the Ponteland Club it has been necessary to browse through hundreds of pages of both hand and type-written records. For the most part, the earlier events up to the mid-1970s have been carefully hand-written and generally are well documented, thereby, easing the task of abridgement. Occasionally, however, some records of meetings are brief with little indication of the Club members' achievements in competitive matches. In such cases, and where considered appropriate, further relevant information has been obtained and included in this account. In this connection, Bowls Northumberland has also provided helpful information. The combined membership of the Club has grown significantly in recent years resulting in more competitions and social activities with additional reporting of these events. In general, matters raised mostly at the Annual General Meetings relating to the bowling green and the Clubhouse are reported separately in Sections 7 and 8 respectively.

Throughout this account many references are made to officials serving in honorary positions. However, for conciseness and with due respect, the honorary title has been omitted. Since the 1980s, it has generally been the practice in the writing of the Minutes of the Annual, Spring and GPC Meetings to include the forenames or familiar names of members, shown in Section 12. Again, for conciseness, and in most cases, the initials of forenames are included in the group photographs throughout the text also the lists of domestic competition winners included in Section 11.

The voluntary efforts of both officials and members serving on the various committees in the bowling Club have contributed, in no small measure, to its success in organizing social and competitive events. Also, recognition is due to the ladies who worked behind the scenes in social events prior to the formation of the Ladies' Section in 1967. In this connection, the assistance provided over the years by the Ponteland Memorial Hall Committee and the local authorities is acknowledged. It is to be hoped that the social harmony and competitive spirit of members existing within the Club will ensure that its future remains as one of the premier private Clubs in Northumberland.

List of Abbreviations

BDA	Bowls Development Alliance
BE	Bowls England
BN	Bowls Northumberland
C & S	Collins and Shipley
CMBC	Castle Morpeth Borough Council
DHEC	Darras Hall Estate Committee
EBA	English Bowling Association
EBF	English Bowling Federation
EWBA	English Women's Bowling Association
FSA	Foundation for Sport and the Arts
GBTC	Gosforth Bowlers Touring Club
GPC	General Purposes Committee
HVP	Honorary Vice President
IBB	International Bowling Board (now the World Bowls Board)
NCBA	Northumberland County Bowling Association
NCWBA	Northumberland County Women's Bowling Association
N&DBA	Northumberland & Durham Bowling Association
NEEPCL	North East of England Private Clubs League
NEL	North Eastern Ladies' League
NPFA	Northumberland Playing Fields Association
NLC	National Lottery Commission
PBC	Ponteland Bowling Club
PMH	Ponteland Memorial Hall
PPC	Ponteland Parish Council
PTC	Ponteland Town Council.

Introduction

At a public meeting, held at the local school on the 19th July 1918, it was decided that a committee should be set up for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the men from the Ponteland area that lost their lives in serving their country during World War I. Also, it was stated that funds were to be collected for the purpose of founding, and establishing, a non-sectarian and non-political institute, and place of recreation, and social intercourse for the advantage or benefit of the inhabitants of the Castle Ward Rural District. It was agreed that the memorial should include an obelisk, memorial hall, bowling green and tennis courts. The land site comprising of 2.5 acres was purchased for £550 in January 1919. Nowadays, this sum would be equivalent to approximately £10,000 per acre which is a relatively small sum when compared with the price of land in Darras Hall being in the region of £700,000 per acre in recent times.

In July 1922 it was decided to appoint as members of a bowling green sub-committee Messrs W. Ferguson, R.L. Davison and J. Hilton. In order to minimize costs in providing a bowling green, it was intended the work should be undertaken using voluntary labour. However, six months later, little progress had been made on the green and it was decided that the construction work, including the provision of a small wooden pavilion and two tennis courts, should be undertaken by a local contractor for the sum of £535. This sum would have an equivalent value of £26,500 in 2017.

In 1923, the Newcastle Chronicle reported that over 160 were present at a Whist Drive and Dance, held in the PMH which was arranged by the PMH Committee. The proceeds from the function were in aid of the new bowling green.



The Ponteland Bowling Club (PBC) was founded in 1923. The official opening of the green by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Alderman Stephen Easten (President of Portland B.C.), duly took place on Wednesday, the 24th September 1924. Sir Hugh Swinburne, on behalf of the contractors, presented the Lord Mayor with a silver jack suitably inscribed to mark the occasion. The PBC representatives were the Chairman, J.T. March, and the Secretary, R.L. Davison. Some of the names of dignitaries who attended the opening of the bowling green are included in this account, and in a booklet entitled "A History of the Ponteland War Memorial" prepared in 1938 by R.L. Davison.

Following the formal opening of the green the Lady Mayoress delivered the first jack. Afterwards, a match between the Lord Mayor's team and the Chairman's team resulted in a win for the Lord Mayor's team by three shots.

The growth and prosperity of the Club is evident in the reports on the excellent efforts

of members relating to both social and competitive events. This has led, in some years, to more detailed coverage of activities within the Club. These include excerpts from Treasurer's reports and financial statistics on costs associated with the maintenance of the bowling green and various pavilion projects undertaken over the years. In this connection, a modified table of Retail Price Indices has been prepared based on statistics from a Parliamentary Economics Research Paper 12/31, covering the period 1750 - 2011. For interested members, the indices presented in Section 9 cover the period 1919 - 2016. They can be applied directly to the Club Treasurer's figures quoted throughout this account to afford comparison with present day values. An example is given in Section 9. Other events covered include the social functions arranged in aid of both the Bowling Club and the Ponteland Memorial Hall (PMH), also in Section 1.5 the monies raised for deserving causes.

The achievements of members in both County and National competitions are highlighted in Section 5, and the results of various PBC domestic competitions are presented in Section 11. Friendly fixtures with faith teas are, of course, the life-blood of any sporting institution and, in this connection, the names of the bowling Clubs and visiting tourists who have over the years participated in friendly matches are listed in Section 2.

Membership of the Club has been drawn from a wide range of known occupations, viz. accountant, banking, blacksmith, bricklayer, butcher, café owner, chartered surveyor, collier, choirmaster, clergyman, doctor, engineer, farmer, garage owner, house-builder, ironmonger, magistrate, naval architect, nurseryman, pharmacist, photographer, policeman, printer, professional footballer, secretary, shop, stationmaster, teacher, university lecturer, warehouseman, and not forgetting housewife.

With the advent of personal computers and word processing software, some members have helped with the various administrative tasks. Mention should be made of the computing facilities initially provided by Mr R. and Mrs E.D. Brown. In 2005, the PBC website was designed by A. Ridley of the Men's Section having the following address :

<http://www.pontelandbowlingclub.co.uk>

Of particular interest on the website are members' honours boards, current fixture lists including match results, and recent social activities. Many photographs are now available of various events held at the Club and a representative sample is given in this account. Additional photographs of members attending social events, Opening Days, President's Days and Annual Prize Presentations have been archived onto Compact Discs, copies of which were made available by Alan Ridley. Sadly, Alan passed away in July 2015 and Miss Jean Barras accepted the role of website administrator. The new website domain has the following address :

www.pontelandbowls.com



Official Opening of the Ponteland Bowling Club Green by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Alderman Stephen Easten, 24th September 1924

PBC Chairman : J.T. March

PBC Secretary : R.L Davison

Among the representative gathering was Miss Easten the Lady Mayoress, Sir Hugh Swinburne, Sir William and Lady Noble, Sir Joseph and Lady Reed, Sir John Fitzgerald, Alderman J.M. Criddle, Rev. F.W. Langton, Councillor and Mrs Rowe also members from PBC and PMH Committee

PBC Activities

1.1 Men's Section

Section 1.1 deals with the activities of male members and various ladies' events prior to 1967. Following the formation of the Ladies' Section, on the 15th June 1967, their activities are recorded separately in Section 1.2.

Unfortunately, there are no official records available now on PBC activities and of its members during the early years, 1923 - 1933.

In general, matters raised at the Annual General Meetings relating to the bowling green and the pavilion are reported separately in Sections 7 and 8 respectively.

At the annual re-election of Officers held in 1934 there were a Chairman, President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor. At the 1936 Annual General Meeting it was decided a Vice Chairman should be elected and, by 1948, the number of elected Vice Presidents had risen to ten members. During this period both doctors and clergymen had been elected as Vice Presidents.

In October 1934, the 10th Annual General Meeting was held in The Coates Institute with 26 of the 80 members in attendance. Later on, these meetings were held in other venues viz. the Louisville Children's Home, the Seven Stars Hotel, St Mary's Church Room, Coates Infants' School and the Ponteland Memorial Hall onwards from 1968. In 1934, the Treasurer reported the finances comprised of £31 6s. 3d in its current account and £12 6s. 9d in the Pavilion Building Fund. Treasurer's reports were subsequently provided until 1938 showing an average balance of £25 in the current account. Also, at the 1934 meeting, consideration was given to a thorough revision of the Club Rules by the General Committee. Besides the General Committee, there was a Selection Committee and a Competitions Handicap sub-committee, also for the Club representatives at the Northumberland & Durham B.A. (N&DBA) and the English Bowling Federation (EBF) meetings.

The revised Club Rules and Bye-Laws were subsequently incorporated in the 1935 Fixtures List. It was hoped the contentious issue, of players not playing or completing their heats by the due dates in the domestic competitions, would be resolved. Unfortunately, this has proved to be a perennial problem and frequently recorded in the minutes of annual meetings. In January 1935, the Committee enquired whether the lady helpers at the Club would be willing to form another Ladies' Committee. In the past, they had freely given much of their time assisting in the running of various functions and raising funds for the new pavilion. Accordingly, a meeting was held in The Coates Institute in March 1935 with thirteen ladies in attendance together with the Chairman and the Secretary. Arising from this meeting, future social activities including Jumble Sales (with hardware and £1 stalls, a bran tub for children, bagatelle competitions etc.) led to various fund-raising events at regular intervals for both the PBC and the PMH. In this connection, at a special ladies' meeting, arrangements were made for Cubs from the local Boy Scouts to distribute six hundred handbills, requesting saleable goods from householders of which they had no further use.

Also, in 1935, a representative from the Club joined the local Sports Committee to help organize the King George V Golden Jubilee Celebrations. In connection with PBC fixtures, it was proposed at the 1935 Annual General Meeting '*only members of the Club are allowed to play in matches, and that only players who practice on the green should be chosen for matches*'. That ruling was certainly broken in the 1970s when it proved difficult to get the co-operation of members to play in some of the scheduled friendly matches. Fortunately, during this period, visitors willingly played instead. For the domestic competitions, it was decided to hold the first PBC Supper & Prize Presentation in the Seven Stars Hotel at the end of the season. In 1936, PBC organized a Whist Drive & Dance in aid of the PMH and another for the benefit of the Club, which was scheduled to finish at 1a.m. Clearly, the dances starting after the Whist Drive at 10p.m. were very successful as, later on, some were scheduled to finish at 2 a.m.

In 1937, it was decided to hold fortnightly Whist Drives in order to provide funds for seating around the bowling green. In 1938, the Club was invited to send two representatives to a meeting in the PMH to discuss ways and means of reducing the debt on the Hall. Towards the end of 1938, events in Europe led to some of the members being involved in preparatory work for Air Raid Precautions operations and other civil defence activities. This impacted on the Club's social events including the cancellation of the Annual Supper & Prize Presentation; the prizes being distributed at the 1939 Spring General Meeting.

During World War II there were no Annual General Meetings, the last being held in October 1938. However, several General Committee meetings were held each year. Although the PMH Committee were responsible for the costs involved in the maintenance of the green, the Club's General Committee looked after the day-to-day events at the green. The agendas typically covered the ordering of dressings for the bowling green, the supplying or repairing of rubber overshoes for members and visitors (hire charge of 1d), purchasing the printed fixture cards, silver spoons, and organizing competition handicaps. Additional agenda items included making arrangements for a series of Whist Drives during the winter months, the Annual Hot Supper and the President's Day Evening Concert.

During the war years, both social and playing activities at PBC were increasingly limited; most of the members being engaged in Air Raid Precaution activities during the evenings.



President's Day, circa 1935

**Standing 12th from left : M. Johnstone, E. Morley and E. Forster
Seated (l - r) : J. Robson, J. Oliver and 3rd from right, W.L Hepple**

At the 1941 Spring General Meeting W. Barrons resigned from the position of Secretary. In appreciation of services to the Club, he was made a life Vice President and received a pair of bowls with a befitting silver-mounted inscription.

In 1941, soldiers from the local camp were allowed to play on the green at half-price. At that time the PMH Committee provided rubber over-shoes for visitors and agreed to allow car parking in their grounds. Although the social calendar was greatly reduced during the war several fund-raising efforts, including Whist Drives, were made by the members for Mrs Churchill's Aid to Russia Fund in 1943 and the Red Cross Fund in 1945. In addition, proceeds from pennies collected from players participating in the Saturday evening Jumbles competitions were donated to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in 1946, and to the Dunston Hill Emergency Hospital in 1948.

At the 1944 Spring General Meeting the Secretary commented on the enthusiasm in the Club following the formation of the Ponteland Civil Defence Bowling League. The catalyst was the rink competition, held in 1943, which had been arranged for the 'Wings for Victory' Savings Week. In 1944, some of the Club's funds were used to purchase £40 of War Savings Certificates during the 'Salute the Soldier Week'. The 3% Defence Bonds were realized in 1952.

At the 1945 Spring General Meeting, attended by 24 of the 80 or more members, a

total of 33 positions were filled in the re-election of Officers and Committee members. Two members were appointed to represent the Club on the PMH Committee. It was hoped matters relating to the unsatisfactory condition of the bowling green could be resolved by their presence at these meetings. A dance was organized shortly afterwards in aid of the PMH. At the 1945 Annual Prize Presentation and Social Evening, W. Wilson, the nurseryman in Callerton Lane, was presented with a suitably inscribed gold medal in recognition of his winning the prestigious N&DBA J.M. Oubridge Cup. This was the first major trophy to be won by a member from PBC. The Club's reputation was enhanced in future years with notable achievements in various competitions details of which are given in Section 5.1. In April 1946, a Whist Drive and Dance was held in aid of the PMH.

Following several General Committee meetings, a decision was eventually taken at an Emergency General Meeting held in November 1946 for the Club to become a member of the Northumberland County Bowling Association (NCBA). This change meant the 3-men rink N&DBA Cowen and Sinclair Cup competitions would be replaced by the 4-men rink Clegg Cup and Knight Cup league competitions. Also, there would be other knock-out competitions including the Edwardson Cup, the 4-Bowl Singles "Champion of Champions" Deuchar Cup and the Northumberland Challenge Cup. Furthermore, members could enter the various NCBA knock-out competitions, the winners of which would represent the County at the EBA National Championships in London. Arising from this decision a revision of the Club Rules and Bye-Laws ensued in 1948.

The effect of the war on the Club's social activities was apparent when the Annual Whist Drive & Dance was resumed in 1947. In the pre-war years, a dozen or so raffle prizes were available whereas, in 1947, the prizes comprised of a bottle of sherry, a bag of potatoes and two other prizes of a dozen eggs. Needless to say, the prizes were welcomed by the recipients. Again, the PMH was a beneficiary on receiving some of the proceeds from that event.



Saturday Evening Jumbles, circa 1947

For several years no records were taken after 1938 of the financial situation. In 1950, the Treasurer reported a balance of £33 in the account and a rising membership of 95. The 1950 Annual Whist Drive, Supper and Prize Presentation programme also included some entertainment provided by a comedian and a local soprano. At this event it was necessary for members to bring their own food which would be pooled, similar to the arrangements for faith

teas after playing friendly home matches. Outside caterers were hired, however, for other annual social events and, in the mid-1950s, friends and members were invited to provide musical items in lieu of professional entertainers. Later on, several accordionists, conjurers etc. provided the evening entertainment.



President's Day, 1949

Back Row (l - r) : ? , T.W. Cuthbert, ? .
Standing (l - r) : W.R. Yates, ? , ? , ? , ? , ? , ? , J. Oliver, J. Morley,
 E. Morley, W.V. Reed, W.S. Douglas, J.M. Moorhead,
 W. Endersby, E. Hopkinson, ?
Seated Back Row (l - r) : W.S. Arrowsmith, E. Forster, R.F. Pascoe,
 W. Barrons, ? , E. Stokoe, J. Carr, W.L. Hepple,
 J. Robson and H. B. Stobert
Seated Front Row (l - r) : ? , W. Weatman, ? , W. Urwin, G.A. Hall,
 ? , M. Johnstone, C.F. Jameson and T. Wintrip

In 1951, a Military Whist Drive with 56 tables, was followed by a Dance and buffet meal in the PMH. At an Extraordinary General Meeting held in September 1951 it was agreed to re-introduce the Annual General Meeting in the first week of October and to abolish the payment of green-fees by members and introduce annual subscriptions. At the 1951 Annual General Meeting it was agreed that the 53 playing members pay an annual subscription of one guinea for the 1952 season to cover all green-fees and entry to domestic competitions. The 15 non-playing members would pay 2s. 6d. It was further agreed that casual green-fees and a sum of £50 p.a. be paid as rental to the PMH Committee for the use of the bowling green. In connection with Club dress, it was decided that members should adopt the wearing of blazers for matches and a design for a PBC badge was prepared by R. Young. Unfortunately, at this time, there was increasing difficulty in raising teams for friendly fixtures. The efforts of the wives and friends at PBC were duly recognized in August 1951 when a special Ladies' Day was held followed by a faith tea and prize-giving. It became a regular feature in the Club calendar until the formation of the Ladies' Section in 1967 and the introduction of Ladies' President's Day in 1968.

On opening the 1952 Spring General Meeting the Chairman, J. Oliver, referred to the sad and most untimely passing of His late Majesty King George VI and members stood in silent tribute. At a General Purposes Committee (GPC) meeting, it was decided that the

Annual Social Evening should take the form of a Whist Drive and include the booking of a Quartet and a comedian. At the 1952 Annual General Meeting it was agreed that all sub-committees be elected by the GPC from its own membership, and a Senior Vice President, similar to that of the Vice Chairman, be appointed at the time of election of Officers. Seven officials (eight in future years) were elected to form the GPC. Arrangements were finalized for the first Carnival Dance on Christmas Eve in 1952 and a Whist Drive & Dance in February 1953. Also, it was agreed that the Secretary be provided in future with a copy of the 1953 EBA Year Book. In 1953, donations were made to the Ponteland & District Coronation Celebrations Committee and the Ponteland Flood Relief Fund.

Over the years regular Whist Drives had been very successful mainly due to the efforts of W. Urwin in raising considerable funds for PBC. In May 1954, as a token of the Club's appreciation of his efforts, he was presented with a pair of bowls suitably inscribed to mark the occasion. The 1954 Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Woosington. For the first time, invitations were sent to the County President, the Secretary and their wives to attend the function. NCBA officials were invited to attend similar prize-giving functions up to and including 1979. At the 1954 Annual General Meeting it was decided to dispense with the offices of both Chairman and Vice Chairman, with the President and Vice President respectively fulfilling these duties. In addition, seven Vice Presidents were re-elected.

At the 1955 Annual General Meeting it was agreed that the proceeds from both Military and Progressive Whist Drives, to be held during the winter, should be donated to the PMH Extension Fund. A total of £32 was raised. The Treasurer stated a new insurance policy covering member's effects held in the pavilion had been drawn up. A Concert Party was engaged for the annual Social Evening comprising of a Supper and Prize Presentation to be held in the PMH.



President's Day, 2nd July 1955

**Standing (l - r) : ? , P.G. Lloyd, ? , ? , ? , J. Straughan, ? , C.R. Ions,
G.A. Hall, ? , ? , T.W. Cuthbert, J. Morley, ? , H.S. Robinson,
A. Ridley, ? , ? , ? , ? , ? , ? , R. Yates and A. Robinson**
**Seated, Back Row (l - r) : J. Oliver, W.V. Reed, R.F. Pascoe (President),
A. Attwater and E. Forster**
**Seated, Middle Row (l - r) : W. Wilson, J. Robson, W. Weatman, K.B. Straughan,
J.A. Ions, W.L. Hepple, E. Hopkinson, ?**
Front Row (l - r) : T. Nichol, W. Urwin and J. Mitchell

At the 1956 Spring General Meeting it was decided to replace the PBC lapel badge with another design, similar to a recently designed blazer badge. In connection with PMH Extension Fund activities the Club was requested to send a representative to attend the newly formed Bazaar Committee. In 1956, prior to the Annual General Meeting, the GPC submitted an Attendance List of Officials to assist decision-making at future annual meetings. However, without explanation, this helpful practice was discontinued in 1958. At this time, there were approximately 65 members and the annual subscription was £1.5s. 0d. The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held at the Wheatsheaf Hotel.

In 1957, the GPC decided to charge members a fee of 4s 0d for entering all the domestic competitions, and 1s 0d for individual entries. It was also decided to accept the invitation from Gateshead B.C. to play friendly fixtures. The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held in the PMH. In 1958, it was again held in the PMH, with an outside caterer providing a 4-course meal, at a cost of 7s 0d per head, the main dish being steak and kidney pie. As part of the evening entertainment, the President had arranged for some musical items. At the Annual General Meeting it was agreed that the annual subscription be increased to £1 5s 0d, inclusive of all domestic competition fees. Also, in 1958, a Christmas Eve Dance was held in the PMH.

At the 1959 Spring General Meeting it was reported that the previous year's expenditure was in excess of income. Members would continue to pay existing fees of 2s 6d and 1s 6d for league and friendly matches respectively. The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held in the PMH but the formal speeches rather spoil the occasion for some members and friends.



President's Day, 1958

**Standing (l - r) : E. Forster, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, W. Urwin, A. Robinson, ? ,
G.A. Hall, T.W. Cuthbert, ?, ?, ?, W. Mole and W.V. Reed**
**Seated (l - r) : ?, W.L. Hepple, A. Attwater, J. Carr (President), P.L. Lloyd,
J. Mitchell, A. Ridley and A. Walker**

At the 1960 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer commented on the Club's financial difficulties. The expenditure incurred in 1959 was £50 greater than the income due mainly to the Club subsidizing bus fares for its league and friendly matches. In view of this, it was decided to increase the annual subscription by 80% to £2 5s. 0d. Any members facing hardship were allowed to pay their dues in instalments although, in August 1960, some 25% had failed to pay their subscriptions. In connection with the domestic competitions, it was agreed that each round of the Club singles ties be played to 21 shots. Also, it was decided to

give cash vouchers instead of silver spoons to winners of the Saturday evening Jumbles. Visitors winning a Jumble, however, would still be awarded spoons. The cash vouchers were redeemed by members at the end of the season. Fees remained at 1s 1d for members and 1s 7d for visitors.

In 1960, for the first time, it was decided to hold monthly committee meetings during the bowling season. Also, members' names, addresses, telephone numbers and payments of annual subscription were publicly displayed on the pavilion notice board. Of particular concern at the 1960 Annual General Meeting was the poor support of members in fulfilling friendly matches and its effect on the Club's reputation with fewer friendly matches being arranged. The 1960 Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held in the Newcastle Airport restaurant (now the Newcastle Aero Club) and the usual Christmas Eve Dance in the PMH.

At the 1961 Spring General Meeting, attended by 27 members, the Treasurer reported a total sum of £50 4s 1d in the accounts. In connection with domestic competitions, it was decided to return to awarding silver spoons at the Saturday evening Jumbles but none would be awarded to winners of the Straughan Salver. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to accept the recommendation of the GPC to form a Ladies' Committee to assist with the Club's social activities. The 1961 Annual General Meeting was poorly attended with only 14 members present, possibly a reaction over the poor state of the bowling green or controversy over the forming of a Ladies' Committee. The 1961 Annual Dinner with roast duck on the menu at 13s 0d per person, was followed by entertainment and presentation of prizes in the Newcastle Airport restaurant. This annual function was held at the same venue until 1966. The 1961 Christmas Eve Dance was again held in the PMH but proved to be the last occasion as a fund-raising event. It had shown only a net profit of £5, despite the efforts made by members of the Social Committee and, particularly, by the lady helpers.

At the 1962 Spring General Meeting, attended by 26 members, it was decided, after all, not to proceed with the formation of a Ladies' Committee. This was directly contrary to the decision previously taken at the 1961 Spring General Meeting. The Treasurer commented on the financial difficulties facing the PMH and of the decision taken by the PMH Committee to increase the annual rental for use of the bowling green from £50 to £150. In view of this, it was decided to increase the annual subscription to four guineas, an increase of over 85% in just two years, and non-playing members' fees rose to 10s. 0d. In addition, the green-fees payable to the PMH rose to 1s. 0d per hour. The question raised at a GPC meeting regarding the ladies playing on the green was held in abeyance. At the 1962 Annual General Meeting a decision was taken to dispense with the annual election of Vice Presidents.

At the 1963 Spring General meeting it was decided to introduce Junior membership (aged under 20) with an annual subscription of £2. 2s. 0d. In an effort to recruit new members, handbills were printed and distributed with newspaper deliveries from the local newsagents in Ponteland and Woosington.

At the 1964 Annual General Meeting increasing problems over the supervision of domestic competitions and of team selection were discussed. It was agreed to dispense with the 5-member Selection Committee with its duties being taken over by the GPC and ex-officio members. Hopefully, this would ensure members adhered to the completion dates for the various competitions, and were more supportive of the scheduled fixtures. It was further agreed that the PMH Committee be approached seeking permission for the members to play bowls on Sundays. Finally, at the meeting the members present expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by the ladies at the Club's social functions. This would appear to be a backhanded compliment considering the decision taken not to form a Ladies' Committee in 1962.

In 1965, the PMH Committee gave the Club permission for its members to play on the bowling green on a Sunday, the fee being 1s. 0d. Green-fees for non-members were

raised from 1s. 0d per hour to 1s. 6d. Prior to the opening of the 1965 season, the first of many very successful annual Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy Sale and Tombola events was held in the PMH.

Following a recommendation from the GPC in April 1967 a significant event occurred in the history of the Club when it was announced, at the 1967 Annual General Meeting that a Ladies' Section had been formed on the 15th June 1967. The 1967 Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held in the PMH, and again held at this venue until 1973.

In 1968, an annual fee of £30 was payable by the Ladies' Section for regular use of the bowling green; except when the Men's Section had previously arranged fixtures or other competitions. On the social side, in February 1968, a very successful Old-Tyme Dance was held in the PMH.

In 1968, the GPC introduced a charge of 3s.1d for non-members wishing to play in Saturday or Holiday Jumbles. A collection box was installed inside the pavilion entrance to be used by non-members. Another box was made available for donations to the NCBA Benevolent Fund. In April 1968, an excellent profit of £64 was made from the pre-season Coffee Morning held in the PMH. In July 1968, the first mention of a Club flag was reported at a GPC meeting. In 1969, the Club took an active part in a special event entitled ' Focus Ponteland' to commemorate the official opening of the extension to the PMH.

Following many views and opinions expressed at the 1970 Annual General Meeting it was decided to re-instate the Selection Committee. After the election of Officers, in recognition of services to the Club, a founder member and Past President, C.F. Jameson, was made an Honorary Life Member. He became the first member to receive this award. It is of interest to record that on the 17th March 1919 whilst serving with the Yorkshire Regiment in Sred Mekrenga (North Russia) he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and The Royal Order of St Ann by the Russian Government.

At the 1971 Annual General Meeting, attended by 21 members, much difficulty was found, as in 1970, in electing officials to serve on various committees. In the light of this apathy, R.F. Pascoe resigned from the office of Treasurer after 28 years service, which was much regretted by the members. The office was taken over by J.H. Lees for the intervening period until 1978.

At the 1972 Spring General Meeting amendments to the Club Rules, as proposed by the GPC, were approved and the annual subscriptions rose from £4.25 to £5. The age group of Junior members was changed to 14-18 years with an annual subscription of £1. The following Annual General Meeting was attended by a very low turn-out of 13 members. A proposal by Gosforth B.C. to form a league for private Clubs was discussed and representatives from PBC were appointed to attend a meeting in Gosforth. The Gosforth proposal was accepted and fixtures in the North East Private Clubs League (NEEPCL) commenced in 1973.

At the 1973 Spring General Meeting it was mentioned that the increasing cost of holding the Annual Dinner had led to fewer members attending this event. With this in mind, it was proposed and agreed that a Buffet Supper and Prize Presentation Evening be held instead in the PMH lounge with its bar facilities. For entertainment, some EBA bowls films to be shown with another film of general interest.

At the 1973 Annual General Meeting it was decided that members representing the Club in competitive fixtures should be attired in a dark blazer complete with PBC badge, grey flannels, brown shoes, white shirt and with a tie to be approved by the GPC. Subsequently, in 1976, white sweaters were made available incorporating the colours of the PBC tie, and personal name badges were introduced. In 1991, the EBA permitted the wearing of white shoes, as an alternative to brown or black smooth flat-soled footwear.

At the 1974 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer stated that the membership of 40 was eleven less than in the previous year, and reported a balance of £198 in the General Account. Following the untimely passing of the President and Secretary, Harry Emery, whilst returning home from holiday in May 1974, the GPC convened a meeting at which it was unanimously agreed that B.D.W. Wright should act as Secretary (confirmed at the 1974 Annual General Meeting) and that the Past President, J. Oliver, act as President. It was also agreed that the Secretary should represent the Club on the PMH Committee. The Annual Prize Presentation Evening which, in addition to the prize-giving, comprised of a buffet and film show was again held in the PMH.

Prior to the 1974 Annual General Meeting each member received for the first time, and at no cost to the Club, an Agenda, a comprehensive type-written Secretary's Report and Minutes of the 1974 Spring General Meeting. The Secretary considered these would enable members to discuss matters more fully at the meeting, and was received with acclamation. The Treasurer reported fees were to be introduced for the domestic competition viz. £0.10 for the Club Singles and £0.05 for other events. Locker fees were to be increased to £0.25 in 1975.

Further to discussions previously held at several GPC meetings, the members were informed that several applications for grant-aid had been lodged with the local councils for a possible extension of the pavilion. This project and others are discussed in more detail in Section 8. A great deal of discussion ensued on the proposal by the Secretary, which had met with the approval of the PMH Committee, for providing extra facilities at the Club with a 600 sq. ft. extension of the pavilion. In order to raise funds for the pavilion project, the 22 members present at the meeting were urged to recruit friends and neighbours.

In 1974, a waste-paper drive was launched in aid of the Pavilion Fund. Throughout the late summer and the following spring, PBC members had deposited over two tons of unwanted newspapers and magazines in the pavilion. During the 1974 winter the market rate was £20 per ton. However, an unforeseen slump in the waste paper market, shortly before the opening of the 1975 bowling season, brought this venture to an end with the local Council having to dispose of the entire waste collection.

Friendly fixtures for 1975 were arranged for the first time with two Scottish border Clubs, viz. Galashiels and Stow. In connection with Club dress, the GPC approved the design by the Secretary of a tie which was available at a cost of £1 and lapel badges at £0.50. The members agreed with the proposal by the Secretary to provide the membership of both Sections with an annual pocket booklet in 1975. It included the constitution, Club officials, competition rules, marking duties, fixtures, members' names with addresses & telephone numbers. It was also agreed that the Ladies' Section, through their Secretary, be officially invited to participate in friendly matches, mixed Jumbles and all the social events of the Club. This was confirmed at the first-ever joint GPC meeting held in November 1974. At this special meeting, the ladies were informed of the latest events in connection with the pavilion project. The various pavilion projects undertaken throughout the years are discussed in Section 8.

Following the introduction of indoor bowling facilities throughout the country in the early 1970s, much interest was shown by the members in learning that an 8-rink indoor green would be opening in Gateshead early in 1975. Previously, during the winter months, the Jesmond swimming baths were closed and boarded over to provide indoor bowling facilities. Some members also had received invitations to play matches during the winter on the small indoor green laid out in the pavilion of Hexham Elvaston B.C.

When the Ponteland Sports Centre Swimming Pool project was first open to public consultation in the early 1970s, B.D.W. Wright approached the local planning authorities on behalf of the Club, for their consideration of the building of an indoor bowling green above the proposed swimming pool area. Unfortunately, the necessary additional funding required to do this was not forthcoming. Eventually, at the Ponteland Sports Centre with limited floor space

available, a multi-purpose hall was used by the Ponteland Carpet Bowls Club, formed in 1974, for playing bowls in a two-hour afternoon session. Later on, this venture received little support when other indoor bowling facilities were opened.

At the 1975 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £212 in the General Account and it was agreed that the annual subscription be increased from £5 to £7. The Ladies' Section agreed to increase their green-fee payable to the Club by £10 to £50. At the meeting a first mention was made of a Club Coach, J. Oliver, with his report on coaching arrangements in the County. It was also reported sixteen members had joined a new indoor bowling facility in Gateshead. Sadly, the President, Tom Cattliff, passed away in August 1975 and the Club had lost successive Presidents whilst in office. Prior to the 1975 Annual Prize Presentation the Secretary had arranged for a local professional photographer, Geoffrey Willey, to be present during the evening. Subsequently, a suitably annotated album was presented to the Club by the Secretary containing a total of 83 photographs taken at Annual Prize Presentations covering the period 1975 - 1978. The contents of the album have been archived onto a Compact Disc which may be viewed by members.

At the 1975 Annual General Meeting, in view of the extra work-load due to various pavilion fund-raising activities, it was decided to amend the Club Rules to include the office of Assistant Treasurer. Following the election of Officers and Committee members, long-serving member, R. Selby, who was no longer able to bowl, was made an Honorary Life Member and so retained his association with the Club.

At the 1976 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £127 in the General Account. It was agreed that W. Mole, an active long-serving member and Past President, who had resigned due to ill-health, be made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of services to the Club. In 1986, PBC was a beneficiary in his will, the legacy being used to provide a memorial seat. During his term in office as President, the Secretary presented the Club with a President's Badge of Office and a gavel set. At the 1976 Annual General Meeting the first annual draw of the repayable £5 pavilion 'Buy-a-Brick' building bonds was held. The Secretary explained to the members the necessary work required in renovating 640 sq. yards of the green following the severe damage mid-season caused by the exceptionally hot weather. Further details are given in Section 7. In November 1976, following the nomination by the Club, the Secretary was elected to serve on the NCBA League Management Committee.

In September 1976, the Eldon Square, Newcastle indoor bowling green was opened. In 1977, another sports complex was opened at Concordia, Cramlington. Interestingly, the siting of its indoor bowling green on the floor above the swimming pool is similar to the proposal made earlier by the Secretary to Castle Morpeth planning authorities. Further indoor facilities were built at Hexham in 1985 and at West Denton in 2003. Artificial indoor greens have indeed provided the opportunity for both friendly and league matches throughout the winter months. Also, it has provided an opportunity for disabled persons, using special wheelchairs, to play on indoor greens.

In 1977, the annual pre-season Coffee Morning, held in the PMH lounge, proved to be at that time the most successful event when raising over £108. This was attributed to the donations of cash received, and items donated to the Tombola, Cake, Soft Toy, Book and General Stalls. At the 1977 Annual General Meeting details were given of the maximum grant-aid of £4,000 that could be expected from various authorities in connection with the pavilion project. Also, in order to assist the Club in financing the cost of re-laying part of the bowling green, very severely damaged by the summer drought, a loan of £500, repayable over 5 years at an interest rate of 5%, was available from the Northumberland Playing Fields Association (NPFA). In this connection, the Green's Committee was increased from three to six members to assist with the extra work required on the green. Following the election of Officers and Committee members, in recognition of services to the Club which included green-keeping duties, it was agreed that M. Johnstone be made an Honorary Life Member.

At the 1977 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a small deficit in the General Account. The members were informed that the Ladies' Section had increased their annual payment from £50 to £75. Any increase in the Men's subscription of £8 was deferred owing to some uncertainty over the condition of the green. It was considered necessary to provide an improved water-hose system to combat the possible effects of another hot summer. It was also stated that Castle Morpeth Borough Council (CMBC) were willing to provide a grant up to £125 towards renovating the green. Some members had made a considerable financial contribution in providing voluntary labour in re-turfing 640 square yards of the bowling green. Other members were invited to provide donations, if required, to balance the accounts for 1977. At that time, subscriptions were at a level of approximately £0.05 per day, which may be compared to approximately £0.60 per day in 2012. It was decided, as a cost-saving measure, to discontinue the popular Club Rules and Fixtures booklet previously issued to members. As a replacement, the Secretary provided a type-written A4 fixtures list. Following nomination by the Club the Secretary was elected to serve on the NEEPCL Management Committee.

Following the election of Officers and Committee members at the 1977 Annual General Meeting, attended by 24 members, it was agreed that R.S. Wilkinson, a most respected member having retired to Teesside be made an Honorary Life Member. As a token of his appreciation, he donated his set of bowls to the Club. Previously, he made very generous cash donations to the Club. In connection with the pavilion project, the Secretary reported he was seeking redress from the appointed solicitor as there had been several months' unacceptable delay in processing the application to the Lands Tribunal. So far, grants totalling £2,700 had been received from the Parish and County Councils, the NPFA and Ponteland Rotary Club. Further fund-raising activities were discussed including the suggestion by H. Kinnear to organize a Dance which was approved by the GPC. The Secretary briefly explained the efforts made by the Ladies' Section in connection with the pavilion project, and their donations to the Club funds since their formation in 1967. The regrettable incident which occurred at the end-of-season coffee morning, held in the PMH, between a Past President and the President of the Ladies' Section also was discussed. Sadly, he refused to apologize for his ungentlemanly reaction over the wearing of the PBC lapel badge by the ladies. It was generally agreed that the Ladies' Section should continue to enjoy the benefits of membership previously extended to them including the wearing of the lapel badge.

At the 1978 Spring General Meeting, attended by 23 members, it was agreed that the annual subscription be increased from £8 to £10. In connection with the pavilion project, the Secretary informed members of the funding schemes available, viz. interest-free loans (varying periods up to 5 years), donations, £5 'Buy-a-Brick' building bonds (a number of which would be repayable via an annual draw held during a 5-year period), and 5-year compounded annual subscriptions. These schemes were necessary since the maximum possible grant-aid, approximately 66% of the total cost of the project, would be awarded subject to the membership raising the balance. In addition to funds raised at regular coffee mornings, two Buffet Dances & Whist Drives were held in 1978 raising a total of £275 towards the Pavilion Fund. The PMH Committee generously provided the use of their facilities free-of-charge, saving the Club over £100 in expenses. The Secretary referred to subsequent events following their last meeting. A verbal resignation of a former Chairman and President had been received. It was most regrettable that he should display a disapproving attitude towards the ladies following the formation of the Ladies' Section in 1967.

In connection with coaching facilities for members, the Secretary readily agreed to display weekly notices of a regular 'teach-in' to be held by R.F. Pascoe the newly appointed Club Coach. At the end of the meeting the President, T. McPhee, proposed a special vote of thanks to the Secretary who had heightened the grass surrounds and turfed the bank-sides on both the eastern and northern sides of the bowling green during the closed season. When the remaining sides were completed during the following winter and early spring with the assistance of both T. McPhee and W. Middlemiss, the bowling green conformed to the required 1949 IBB Standard specification.

At the 1978 Annual General Meeting much difficulty was experienced in filling the office of Vice President and membership of the Social Committee. In view of the commitments in 1979 for hosting both the Alfred Bell and J.M. Oubridge Cup competitions these matters were referred back to the next GPC meeting. The President, T. McPhee, agreed to take on the duties of Club Coach. In connection with the bowling green, the President informed members of the improvements to the green and its surrounds and of the appointment of a part-time Green- who was employed by Ponteland Golf Club. It was agreed that several hand-made gold / silver wire badges at £2.70 each should be ordered as an alternative to the embroidered Club badge. Finally, a draw was made for some of the £5 'Buy-a-Brick' building bonds repayable to subscribing members of the Pavilion Fund.

At the 1979 Spring General Meeting, attended by 19 members, the Secretary informed members of the request by Portland B.C. for their matches to be played in white dress which had already been introduced in the NEEPCL matches. This led to white dress being adopted for special occasions at the Club. Members were informed of the laminated plastic bowls markers to be used in matches when representing the Club. The Secretary reported that his nomination by the Club to serve as Junior Vice President of the NCBA had been unsuccessful at the elections held in November 1978. However, he was elected to serve on the NCBA Executive Committee and R.F. Pascoe was re-elected as the County Auditor. Following the retirement of J.A. Main to Devon he was made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of services to the Club, particularly with respect to his work on the Green's Committee. The PMH Committee increased the rental of the bowling green by 10% to £27.50.



Men's President's Day, 24th June 1978

(l - r) : Mesdames M. Linthwaite, M. Cassie and H. Bell, ? , Mesdames M.N. Pirnie and C. Mason, M.A. Bennett, G.D. Bennett, H. Kinnear, H. Wood, Mrs B.B. Riddell, J.H. Lees, E. Forster, Mrs M. Stuart, B.D.W. Wright (Secretary), Mesdames G. Cattliff and E. Younger, J.L. Mattison, R.I. Baker, J. Carr (President), J.W. Atkinson, Mrs F.M. Bird (President), G. Longstaff, A.H. Baker, Mrs D. Emery, E.H. Jones, R. Elder, Mesdames M. Little, A.O. MacLeod, E. Mills, M. Peterson, E.M. Roper and L. Stockman, A. Young, T.S. Bruce, T. McPhee and W. Middlemiss

At the 1979 Annual General Meeting, attended by 19 members, it was announced that a Presentation Supper had been held in Portland B.C. when B.D.W. Wright, Chairman of the NEEPCL, received on behalf of the Club a commemorative trophy to record the winning in 1974 of the inaugural NEEPCL competition. In connection with the pavilion project, the Secretary stated a letter had been received from a member, a retired bank official, indicating he was not prepared to pay the £20 liability payment levied on all members in November 1977. Ironically, as a Trustee of the PMH Committee he had acted as one of the Applicants in the Club's submission to the Lands Tribunal for permission to erect a new pavilion. Also, even though he attended the pavilion meetings, the Club was unaware of his opposition to the project. Further to the meeting, the GPC authorized the Secretary to write informing him of the reluctant withdrawal of his membership for refusing to pay the agreed sum of £20 imposed on all members.

In connection with the election of Officers at the 1979 Annual General Meeting, the Secretary had already informed members at the Extraordinary General Meeting which was held in March 1979, of his decision to resign from the position of Secretary and membership of the PMH Committee following the cancellation of the pavilion project. His resignation was confirmed later on at the July 1979 GPC meeting. Prior to the meeting, the outgoing Secretary prepared a note outlining secretarial duties at the Club. However, the secretarial position was left unfilled and its resolution deferred until the next GPC meeting. The detailed contents probably deterred members from taking up the position. Afterwards, T. McPhee, the Immediate Past President, presented a tankard to B.D.W. Wright for his sterling efforts as Secretary, particularly in connection with the pavilion projects and work around the green, during the period 1974 to 1979. On thanking the members for the gift, B.D.W. Wright mentioned the work carried out by his wife in typing reports of members' meetings and correspondence for the pavilion projects and other administrative matters. The Ladies' Section also had appreciated her efforts in co-ordinating the arrangements for the faith teas and for making many soft toys in aid of the pavilion fund-raising functions.

For the first time, in 1979, the Men's and Ladies' Sections held a combined Prize Presentation with a Whist Drive & Dance in the PMH. Unfortunately, the formal speeches rather spoilt the occasion for the ladies and they decided to revert to their own annual prize presentation in 1980.

At the 1980 Spring General Meeting, attended by 20 members, the Treasurer reported a balance of £282 in the General Account. Members were informed the Club was now clear of all liability in connection with legal costs arising from the pavilion project. Consideration was then given to providing a face-lift to the existing pavilion. It was agreed that a delegation should attend the Ladies' Annual General Meeting the following week to explain the current pavilion proposal. Members were informed that the position of Secretary was still unfilled and J. English, the President and Treasurer, decided to continue acting as Secretary until the next Annual General Meeting. The Club was indebted to him for shouldering the administrative workload in addition to his presidency. The proposal from the GPC that the annual subscription be increased from £10 to £15 was approved. First-year players would pay £7.50 and Junior membership remained at £1 p.a. It was agreed that the GPC should investigate ways and means of attracting new members including advertising in the local press. Also, it was agreed that an approach should be made to the local school for possible recruitment of junior members. Members were informed that the arrangements for the Spring Dance, organized by J.S. Duff and the Ladies' Section, were well in hand with 120 tickets sold, also the likelihood of another 50 being sold.

At the beginning of the 1980 Annual General Meeting, attended by 23 members, prizes were presented to the finalists of the domestic competitions in lieu of a formal evening occasion as in the past. During the election of Officers, the position of Secretary was again unfilled and J. English, albeit reluctantly, agreed to continue acting as Secretary. Afterwards, the newly-elected President, E. Scholes, presented commemorative year-badges to eight Past Presidents.

Following talks held with the PMH Trustees for an alternative pavilion scheme, J.S. Duff outlined a proposal to extend the present pavilion. It was estimated that materials could cost £2,500 plus professional labour costs which, hopefully, would be reduced with voluntary help. The Pavilion Fund finances amounted to approximately £1,000 and, with possible financial assistance from both the Ladies' Section and various grant-aid bodies, it was considered a viable scheme. It was agreed that H. Buckley should prepare plans which would enable the PMH Trustees to seek planning permission and make the necessary submissions for grant-aid.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in the PMH in January 1981, attended by 41 members from both Sections. Several proposals were considered to extend the pavilion with only three members objecting to the agreed design. The Ladies' Section indicated they were willing to make a £450 donation towards the cost of the project which was met with acclamation. Both H. Buckley and N.I. Younger, who was not a member then, were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Club.

At the 1981 Spring Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £485 in the General Account. It was agreed that the annual subscription be increased from £15 to £18, and from £1 to £3 for Junior members. The financial support received from members of both Sections with donations and interest-free loans, meant there was more than £3,200 available in the Pavilion Fund. As a fund-raising venture, it was decided to run an Instant Lottery with tickets at £0.10 and a top prize of £5. For the first time, it was agreed that the Ladies' Section should be invited to play in the Men's friendly fixtures with Amble, Morpeth, and Northern Rock B.S. and to participate on separate rinks with the ladies from other Clubs in the NEEPCL matches.

At the 1981 Annual General Meeting, attended by 23 members, the Treasurer reported that membership had risen 20% to 60 with a balance of £1,231 in the General Account. During the election of Officers, J. Graham agreed, albeit with some hesitation, to take over the duties of Secretary. In recognition of services to the Club it was agreed that W. Middlemiss, a non-playing member at the age of 90, should be made an Honorary Life Member. Due to business reasons, B.D.W. Wright did not seek nomination for re-election to the NCBA Executive Committee. A proposal by both J. English and B.D.W. Wright, and endorsed by the GPC, for a new Rule 16 permitting Associate Membership, was approved by the members. Also, members agreed that the Ladies' Section should be able to participate in a mid-week evening league which would require two rinks for up to 8 weeks during the season. In November 1981, G.D. Bennett organized a successful "Bandit" scheme, helped by both E. Scholes and J. English with ticket sales, which regularly made profits of well over £200 p.a. towards Club funds.

At the 1982 Spring General Meeting, attended by 32 members, the matter of raising the height of the wall running alongside the PMH was discussed on the grounds of safety and as a preventative measure against youngsters running across the green. Members agreed to pay an extra £1 to their subscription to provide crockery for the pavilion, the Ladies' Section having bought the cutlery. Lockers would be available at £1 p.a. It was reported that work on the pavilion was well advanced, but more volunteers were required. The members agreed with a proposal submitted by T.W. Cuthbert and J.S. Duff, as members of the pavilion working party, for their able Chairman, N.I. Younger, to be invited to open the extended pavilion on the Opening Day of the new season. However, for no known reason, the ceremony was performed by the Mayor of CMBC, Cllr W.J. Lough. The fore-mentioned members of the working party were presented with suitably engraved tankards in recognition of their efforts in connection with the pavilion extension project.

At the 1982 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported the membership had risen to 72 and that finances were highly satisfactory with a balance of £2,359 in the General Account. In connection with the maintenance of the green and its surrounds, it was agreed that professional help should be sought. In view of the uneven wear on the green in 1983, consideration was given to altering the direction of play at 5 p.m. each day.



President's Day, 1980

(l - r) : Mesdames F. Owen and M. Linthwaite, ? , A.S. Lane, W. Middlemiss, Mesdames M. Cassie and M. Shuttleworth, H. Buckley, R. Elder, Mrs M. Little (President), S.A. Swift, D. Dunn, Mesdames M. Duff, B.B. Riddell and D. Emery, G.D. Bennett, J.C. Tingcombe, E. Scholes, M.A. Bennett, Mrs L. Stockman, J. English (President), E. Forster, Mesdames J. Carmichael and E.M. Roper, P. Manson, Mesdames A.O. MacLeod and G. Cattliff, J. Carr, Mrs L. Barrons, T. McPhee, J.W. Crabb, H. Kinnear, J.S. Duff, A.H. Baker, Mrs C. Mason and J.H. Lees

At the 1983 Spring General Meeting it was announced the Club was now in a position to repay the interest-free loans from members and to wind up the Pavilion Account. In view of increasing costs arising from a revised rating evaluation, the level of subscription was raised £2 to £20 with new players paying £10 and no change in other subscriptions. In connection with social activities, J.S. Duff organized a Spring Dance and the Ladies' Section arranged a Hot Pie & Pea Supper, also another Dance. The GPC decided to invest £100 of Club funds in Premium Bonds (held in the name of the Treasurer) which proved to be a sound investment as mentioned later.

At the beginning of the 1983 Annual General Meeting, attended by 40 members, a prize presentation was held for the domestic competitions. Later, it was decided that the presentation of prizes would take place during the end-of-season Ladies v. Gents match. The Treasurer reported a balance of £3,334 in the General Account, a contributing factor being the highly successful dances held by both the Ladies' and Men's Sections. During the election of Club officials, it was decided that the Green's, Team Selection and Social Committees should be incorporated within the GPC. Also, at the meeting, it was agreed that two Past Presidents and long-serving members, J. Carr and E. Forster, be made Honorary Life Members in recognition of their services to the Club. Members also agreed to support the proposed application by the Ladies' Section for affiliation to the NCWBA.

At the 1984 Spring General Meeting, attended by 41 members, the Treasurer reported that the Ladies' Section, in addition to other fund-raising activities, had increased their annual payment by £165. It was suggested that the ladies should be offered full membership of the Club. In the light of this, it was decided the GPC should review the constitution of the Club and consider the changes necessary to provide the Ladies' Section the same privileges as the Men's Section. It was agreed that future General Meetings should be held on Friday evenings instead of Thursdays. It was also agreed that W. Wilson, a most respected member, be made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of services to the Club over many years.

At the 1984 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported the level of membership had risen to 93 similar to early post-war levels. Members were informed that a meeting had taken place, between the GPC and the Ladies' Section Committee, at which it was agreed

that the ladies be made affiliated members of the Club. Also, the Ladies' Section was to remain autonomous, but to continue under the jurisdiction of the GPC as constituted at present.

At the 1985 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £2,460 in the General Account. Members were informed of the charge of £300 being imposed by the PMH for the next financial year. The annual rental charge of £50 remained unchanged, but an additional charge of £250 was necessary to cover expenses to be borne by the PMH Trustees. Also, the insurance of Club trophies, previously arranged by the Trustees, was withdrawn. Following the meeting, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held to ratify the revision of Club Rules and Regulations as drawn up by the GPC. G.D. Bennett informed members that his employer, GRE Insurance, had agreed to sponsor a Mixed Triples competition with £100 in prize money to commemorate his year in office as President.



Men's President's Day, 1981

**Back Row (l - r) : M.A. Bennett, N. Younger, M. Wearmouth, J. Stoker,
G. Linley, E. Forster, J.W. Crabb, J.H. Lees, G.D. Bennett,
B. Armstrong, Mrs B.B. Buckley, H. Buckley, Mrs D. Dunn,
D. Dunn, Mesdames O.M. Carr and K. Baker,
W. Middlemiss, ?**

**Front Row (l - r) : R. Elder, J.S. Duff, J.W. Nesbit, J. English,
Mrs M. Shuttleworth, P. Manson, S.A. Swift,
Mesdames H. Bell, M. Duff and A.O. MacLeod,
J. Tingcombe, Mrs J. Scholes, E. Scholes (President),
Mesdames M. Cassie, F. Owen (President), L. Stockman
and D. Emery, J.W. Atkinson, Miss M. Myers, A.H. Baker,
Mesdames J. Carmichael, W.O. Carse and E. Younger,
J. Carr, Mesdames L. Barrons and C. Mason, R.I. Baker,
Mesdames M. Little and M. Baker**



Opening Day, 1982

(l - r) : D.L. Walker, E. Forster, J.W. Crabb, M.A. Bennett, G.D. Bennett, M. Wearmouth, S.A. Swift, ? , ? , C.F. Neale, D. Dunn, Mesdames E. Mills, W.O. Carse and L. Stockman, B.D.W. Wright, Mesdames L. Barrons (President), ? , M. Stuart, ? , M. Shuttleworth, M. Cassie, ? , ? , M. Duff and ? , R.I. Baker, G. Linley, Mrs D. Emery, ? , ? , A. Young, W. Johnston, Mesdames F.M. Bird and A.O. MacLeod, J.W. Atkinson, ? , H. Buckley, A.S. Lane, Mesdames H. Bell and E. Younger, R. Stonehouse, Mesdames F. Owen and B.B. Buckley, ? , ? , A.H. Baker (President), P. Manson, ? , J.R. Linley, Mesdames ? , M. Peterson, ? , J. Graham and ? , J.S. Duff, R. Elder, ? , N. Younger, T. McPhee, J. Lunn, J. Carr and ?

At the 1985 Annual General Meeting members were informed that the Ladies' Section had paid for the installation of a water heater in the kitchen. This would give all members the opportunity to attend the coffee mornings in the pavilion during the winter months. Members also expressed their gratitude to the Ladies' Section for their contribution of £1,000, in addition to their affiliation subscription, towards Club funds. During the election of Officers, J.S. Duff volunteered to take on the duties of Club Coach, and J. English to manage the domestic competitions.

At the 1986 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £1,785 in the General Account. With a membership approaching 100 in the Men's Section, the Green Ranger suggested consideration be given to imposing a restriction in admitting prospective new members. It was also suggested that the condition of the bowling green might improve if members bought copies of the EBA booklet "Rules and Guide To Bowls". Members were in agreement with the proposal by the Northumbria Police that the Club entertain two touring Police teams in 1986. The Ladies' Section also requested permission to host a NCWBA match against Yorkshire in May 1986 which was approved. It was also agreed that a new Ladies' Section competition, the Joyce Carmichael Triples Trophy, be held in June 1986. In April 1986, members were invited to a Fish & Chip Supper with bar facilities in the PMH, arranged by the Ladies' Section, in aid of the Cancer Relief Fund. Following the very successful GRE Insurance sponsorship of the Mixed Triples competition in 1985, the President, R. Elder, provided the Club with three trophies to be presented annually to the winners of the Mixed Triples competition.

At the 1986 Annual General Meeting members were informed that a letter of thanks had been received from the League Of Friends of Hunters Moor Hospital for their donation of £40. The money was raised at the Ponteland Village Fair in a Target Bowls competition organized by six members. Also, donations were made to both the EBA Building Fund and the NPFPA. Following the election of officials, it was agreed that two Past Presidents, T.W. Cuthbert and T. McPhee, be made Honorary Life Members in recognition of their long and invaluable services to the Club and for their County. It was decided that an admission fee of £10 be introduced for new members. In connection with fixtures, it was decided that a member be appointed Team Captain in respect of each match. Also, it was brought to the attention of members that NCBA coaching courses were now available. Hopefully, qualified

Club coaches would be able to assist those who damaged the green when delivering their bowls. This would also benefit all members in reducing green maintenance costs and help improve the playing surface.

At the 1987 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £1,221 in the General Account. Thanks were extended once again to the Ladies' Section for paying into Club funds the sum of £560 in addition to their affiliation subscription. It was decided to increase the subscription of full members from £20 to £23 and Junior members from £3 to £5. It was agreed that arrangements be made to hold an Annual Dinner. It was also agreed that the annual competition prizes should be presented once again at the Ladies v. Gents match at the end of the season. During the election of Officers at the 1987 Annual General Meeting W.D. Marshall accepted the new position of Press Officer. Also, it was reported some members had organized a skittles competition at the Ponteland Village Fair which raised £25 for the Ponteland Hospital League Of Friends.

At a GPC meeting, held in February 1988, it was agreed that the Ladies' Section host a NCWBA match against Yorkshire in May 1988. Also, in May 1988, E.S. Johnson, the Vice President, offered to provide a Vice President's badge which was gratefully accepted by the GPC.

At the 1988 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £1,691 in the General Account and a membership of 100. It was agreed to increase the annual subscription by £2 to £25.

At the 1988 Annual General Meeting, attended by 38 members, J. English the retiring Treasurer recalled some of the notable events during his 14 years as an office bearer. There was a balance in the accounts of £2,293 but there were some bills yet to be paid. The Club received £50 from a recent National Savings Premium Bond draw. A proposal from the GPC that the annual subscription for holders of the positions of Hon Secretary and Hon. Treasurer be waived was unsuccessful. Following the election of Officers and Committee members, R.I. Shuttleworth agreed to take over the position of Club Coach. Afterwards, J.S. Duff proposed and T. McPhee seconded a proposal from the floor, that B.D.W. Wright, former Secretary and Past President, be made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of notable services to the Club. This was met with the approval of the members present, and it was also agreed that a letter be sent to Miss W.O. Carse in the Ladies' Section, warmly congratulating her on being awarded the B.E.M. for service with the W.R.V.S. over many years.

Prior to the 1989 Spring General Meeting several changes to the Club Rules and Regulations, as recommended by the GPC, were approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting attended by 46 members. The principal change was the appointment of officials and Chairmen of Specialist Committees onto the GPC. It was decided that membership of any one committee should not exceed three consecutive years. This particular ruling, however, led to problems when electing officials and committee members. The Treasurer reported a balance of £1,360 in the General Account. In connection with a recent Clubhouse proposal members were advised that should grant-aid be unavailable, the cost of extending the green would be approximately £3,500. The admission fee for new members was increased from £10 to £25. The annual subscription was increased by £3 to £28 and locker fees increased to £2. In 1989, E. Scholes was elected Chairman of the NEEPCL and, in connection with their fixtures, the 1989 Annual Gala Day tournament would be held in Ponteland.

At the 1989 Annual General Meeting it was reported that J. English, had been nominated to serve as Junior Vice President of the NCBA. He was duly elected in November 1989. T. Lumley and R.I. Shuttleworth agreed to take on coaching duties at the Club. Following a decision by T.W. Cuthbert to retire from green-keeping activities, R. Stafford was appointed the Green-ranger. With membership of the Club increasing quite rapidly, it was suggested that consideration again be given to providing another extension of the pavilion.