

At the 1990 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £2,355 in the General Account. It was agreed that both annual subscription and admission fees be increased to £30. Also, fees for visitors playing on the green to be raised to £2 per person. Members were informed that the Club had again won £50 from a recent National Savings Premium Bond draw.

At the 1990 Annual General Meeting it was reported that J. English had resigned from the office of Junior Vice President of the NCBA for health reasons. Members were informed that L. Wilson had again expressed concern at the continuing deterioration in the condition of the green. This was most marked at the ends of each rink which were considered to be over-bowled. Members introducing guests wishing to play at the Club were asked to sign a Visitor's Book held in the pavilion. Members would be responsible for collecting the £1 fee levied per guest. Also, in connection with the pavilion, the GPC was rightly concerned over the limited accommodation available for an increasing membership. D. Boland had prepared a report on a possible extension of the pavilion, at the request of the GPC, which was presented at the meeting. It was generally agreed that improvements were necessary and, with the permission of the PMH Committee, a planning application would be submitted to the local authority. Members were informed that a letter had been received from the local Environmental Health Department requesting action be taken in providing an improved hot water supply in the pavilion.

Following the untimely passing of John Graham, the President and former Secretary, a meeting of the GPC was held in January 1991. It was agreed that E.S. Johnson, the Past President, should act as President until the 1991 Annual General Meeting.

At the 1991 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £3,457 in the General Account. It was agreed that the annual subscription be increased by £2 to £32. The Ladies' Section was thanked for making a payment of £836 towards Club finances for 1990 and their 'payment on account' of £1,500 towards estimated an expenditure in 1991. Members were also thanked for their fund-raising efforts including the Domino Drives amounting to £670. In addition, the Club received another £50 from the National Savings Premium Bond draw, which represented a 100% return on the original £100 invested in 1983 (discounting the effects of inflation). The main item on the agenda related to the possible extension of the pavilion. Contrary to a decision taken at the 1990 Annual General Meeting and further discussion, it was decided overwhelmingly, not to proceed with the proposal prepared by D. Boland who was, however, thanked for his efforts on behalf of the Club.

Early in 1992 E.S. Johnson accepted the invitation to fill the vacant position of Junior Vice President of the NCBA. At the 1992 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £4,566 in the General Account. It was decided that the annual subscription be increased by £2 to £34. Members were informed that the Club had been registered with CMBC, under the 1990 Food Safety Act.

It was reported at the GPC meeting, held in April 1992, that members had agreed to ban smoking in the pavilion and that appropriate notices should be displayed on the premises.

R.I. Shuttleworth celebrated his tenure as President by organizing a private bowling tour of the Scarborough area playing three matches over the Spring Bank Holiday. The team included members from the Ladies' and Men's Sections. The GPC agreed to a request from the Ladies' Section to host a NCWBA match in 1993. E.S. Johnson was elected Senior Vice President of the NCBA in November 1992.



### Opening Day, 1987

**Men Standing (l - r) :** P. Cordingley, T. Lumley, G.C. Nicholson,  
W. Robinson, J. Lunn, S.A. Swift, G. Warner,  
W. Johnston, G. Attwater, ? , R.I. Baker,  
D.L. Walker, T. Nichol, G. Bowmer,  
D. Hindmarsh, K. Griffiths, J.S. Duff, A.H. Baker,  
J. Hoy and J.W. Atkinson

**Ladies Standing (l - r) :** ? , V. Lonsdale, A. Gill, I. Cassidy, M. Myers,  
M. Duff, L. Stockman, I. Fletcher, K. Armstrong,  
J. Cosby, E. Younger, ? , F. Jeffs, T. Wright,  
M.E.H. Nesbit, M. Barclay, B. Johnston, F. Owen,  
M. Little, D. Johnson and M. Shuttleworth.

**Front Row (l - r) :** R. Stafford, S. Wright, R. Elder, F. Jeffs, J. Graham,  
S. Rutherford, J. English, R. Madison and L. Crofts

### Presidents Mrs N.F. Orton and J.W. Nesbit

At the 1993 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £5,500 in the General Account. In view of unplanned considerable expenditure incurred by the Club, members agreed to an increase of £6 in their annual subscription to £40. At a meeting, held in March 1993, the GPC agreed to award an honorarium to W.R. Liddle in recognition of the maintenance and repair work regularly undertaken at the Club. Also, in connection with the proposed Local 5-Year Plan for Ponteland, B.D.W. Wright had approached the Council regarding them providing a new bowling green at the Sports Centre. A member from each Section subsequently attended a meeting with CMBC representatives who confirmed there was land available for two bowling greens, but little cash. To go ahead, substantial funding would need to be found by the Club. At the GPC meeting, held in April 1993, it was recorded that '*a member of the Ladies' Committee be invited to the GPC meeting whenever any financial capital expenditure, involving the Ladies' Section, is contemplated.*'

At the 1993 Annual General Meeting the Secretary considered the bowling green had played very well despite the considerable amount of rain experienced during the summer. The NCBA League and County officials complimented the Green's Committee on the appearance of the green and its surrounds. Also, the Club received a letter of congratulations from the PMH Committee on its playing achievements, the attractive appearance of the green and its surrounds and the conduct of its affairs. However, during the meeting, concern was expressed by the Secretary that a charge of £10 was made in providing tea and biscuits for the tourists from Dunnington B.C., Yorkshire and Wigton B.C., Cumbria. In connection with social activities, members welcomed the suggestion that the Ladies' and Men's Sections should hold a joint Annual Dinner. In November 1993, E.S.

Johnson was elected Senior Vice President of the NCBA. Sadly, he died on the 24th December following a tragic accident at his home.



**Opening Day, 1988**

**(l - r) : R.I. Shuttleworth, J. English, Mesdames D. Lumley, L. Stockman, E. Younger, M. Cassie, T. Wright, J. Cosby, M. Stuart, M. Bryson, M. Duff and M. Little, P. Cordingley, Mrs I. Fletcher, W. Johnston, Mrs B. Johnston (President), G. Attwater, C. Walters, S.A. Swift (President), J.W. Nesbit, Mrs A. Swift, E.S. Johnson, ? , A.H. Baker, Mrs M. Shuttleworth, G. Warner, Mesdames L. Barrons and M.E.H. Nesbit, L. Crofts, W. Robinson, R. Lyon, J. Graham, Mrs B. Stafford, T. Lumley, S. Wright, A. McMillan, W. Bell, G. Bowmer, K. Griffiths, Miss W.O. Carse, A.M. Maclean, Mrs D. Crofts, J.W. Atkinson, Mrs F. Owen, N.I. Younger, Mesdames M. Myers and K. Armstrong, R. Stafford**

At the 1994 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £3,726 in the General Account. It was agreed that the annual subscription for full members be increased by £4 to £44.

At the 1994 Annual General Meeting the Secretary made reference to the bowling achievements of two young men at the Club, viz. K.D. Wood and M.A. Bennett, in winning the County Pairs title and the National Pairs title at Worthing. Their success received extensive coverage in the local and national press and gave much publicity to Ponteland B.C. A letter was received from Whitley & Monkseaton B.C. saying ' *Not only have they brought distinction to themselves with their achievement but they have also brought credit to your Club and Northumberland County. Congratulations to them both.*' The members voiced their approval of the sentiments expressed in the letter and agreed that they each be given £50 from Club funds to help towards their expenses at Worthing. The Secretary also spoke of the achievement of Mrs M. Shuttleworth on reaching the final of the Sanatogen Over 55s Singles competition at the All-England Indoor Championships in Wellingborough, Northants resulting in more publicity for Ponteland B.C. Also, in recognition of services to the Club it was agreed that J. English, Past President and former Treasurer, be made an Honorary Life Member. It was also agreed that R.I. Shuttleworth be nominated to serve on the NCBA Executive. In connection with the pavilion, members approved of the decision taken by the GPC to examine the possibility of a worthwhile extension and to appoint J.T. Harrison as the Chairman of a sub-committee.

At the 1995 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer, R.B. Baxter, reported a balance of £4,813 in the General Account. The annual subscription was increased by £4 to £50 and

the subscription for Associate members rose to £12. Locker fees were increased to £3. J.T. Harrison then presented a committee report which included sketch plans and costs relating to a possible extension of the pavilion. The proposal was well received, and it was agreed that all members should be consulted on the best way to proceed. Members were informed the Clegg Cup would be played on a league basis as from 1995 with Ponteland in Division 1.

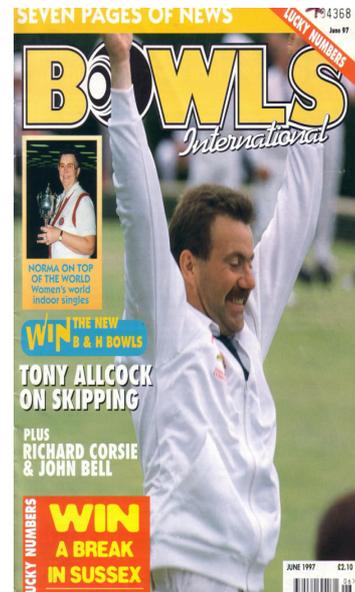
At the 1995 Annual General Meeting, attended by 45 members, the Treasurer circulated a paper showing an estimated positive cash position of £6,600 at the end of December. It was agreed that in order to meet the needs of an increasing membership, a new pavilion was needed. It was decided that J.T. Harrison together with his committee be asked to prepare a case for receiving financial aid from the National Lottery Commission (NLC).

In connection with the bowling green, it was agreed, in principle, to install an automatic watering system at an approximate cost of £6,000. This would be implemented after the pavilion project was finalized. During the period, 1970-1994, subscription-free Honorary Life Membership had been awarded to fifteen members in recognition of services to PBC. Presumably, for financial reasons, it was decided that any future award would be made as an Honorary Vice President. Also, the members agreed that an honours board should be provided to recognize both forms of membership.

Following their success in winning the British Isles Pairs Championship in Llanelli, Keith Wood and Michael Bennett were selected in February 1996 as Northumberland's "Sportsmen of the Year". They attended a presentation in Morpeth arranged by Northumberland County Council.

At the 1996 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £7,034 in the General Account. Members agreed that the annual subscription be increased by 10% to £55. Associate and Junior fees were raised to £14 and locker fees to £3. Also, visitors and CIU competition fees were raised to £2 per person. With respect to the proposed pavilion project, J.T. Harrison reported on the latest position regarding his submission to the NLC. With regards to the possible recruitment of junior members, R.I. Shuttleworth reported on a proposal for a Youth Policy in connection with the local schools which was approved by the members.

At the 1996 Annual General Meeting it was decided that the Club should implement the drainage recommendations and modified maintenance programme given in the report by the Sports Research Institute of Bingley. The green had been partly waterlogged, following heavy rain early in the season, causing the cancellation of some fixtures. At the meeting, it was agreed that a working party be set up, comprised of GPC members from both Sections, to recommend at a General meeting of the Men's Section, outline details for the integration of the Ladies' and Men's Sections. This would be a prerequisite for a successful NLC award. Further to this, J.T. Harrison informed members it had been brought to his attention by the PMH Secretary, that the Trust Deed categorically states that membership of PBC is strictly limited to persons residing within 3.5 miles of the PMH. He also stated that when the necessary amendment to the original submission for financial assistance had been made, it was his intention to resign from the project. Later on,



Michael A. Bennett celebrating selection for England Trial, 1997

*Courtesy of Bowls International*

however, in view of the envisaged increasing pavilion project costs, and possible lack of support in connection with equal membership rights, the GPC withdrew its application to the NLC.

In 1997, the Club held a joint pre-season Dinner at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Woosington. At the 1997 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £8,984 in the General Account. Members were informed of the increased expenditure by the Club in carrying out further work to improve the drainage of the green, the provision of a new watering system, and the need to upgrade the kitchen. It was agreed that an increase in the annual subscription from £55 to £60 was necessary to help fund these improvements. Associate and Junior subscriptions were raised to £15 with new members paying an admission fee of £60. The GPC authorized an increase in the honoraria for the Pavilion Building Manager, the Green-ranger and his assistant.

At the 1997 Annual General Meeting the President-elect, A.M. Maclean, on presenting his tenth and final report as Hon. Secretary, thanked the members for their support which was reciprocated in turn by the members. Members were informed that the Ladies' Section would contribute 37.5% (£4,650) towards the heavy expenditure incurred in 1997 on green-maintenance and pavilion repairs. The proposed amendments by the GPC to the Club Rules were approved but with the exception of the Rule relating to the 3.5 mile residential limit incorporated in the PMH Trust Deed. Following the election of Officers and Committee members, it was agreed that Past President, E. Scholes, be made an Honorary Vice President in recognition of services to the Club. In connection with PBC coaching activities, W.R. Liddle agreed to team up with the Club Coach, R.I. Shuttleworth, and assist with the helpful induction courses.

In 1988, PBC celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a pre-season Dinner at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Woosington. A Gala Day to mark the occasion was held on the 1st August and a tree was planted in the southern surrounds of the green with a commemorative plaque.

At the 1998 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £7,767 in the General Account. The annual subscription of members and the admission fee for new members were both increased by £3 to £63. It was also reported that the Ladies' Section had contributed £3,900 towards the expenses incurred by the Club. Members were informed of the financial problems confronting the PMH and agreed to make a donation of £300 towards their overheads. In connection with forthcoming fixtures, it was announced that S.A. Swift had been elected Chairman of the NEEPCL. In 1998, the Club received a third £50 prize from the National Savings Premium Bond Draw since taking out the £100 Premium Bond in 1983. It has proved to be an excellent tax-free investment for the Club.

At the 1998 Annual General Meeting, attended by 40 members, there was a lengthy exchange of views on equal rights for all members in the Club. This would allow the ladies to have a vote at future Annual General Meetings. It was finally agreed that the GPC should set up a sub-committee to decide on the amendments required to the Constitution removing all reference to gender. A proposal was brought before, and approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting, held on the 25th March 1999, granting full membership rights to the Ladies' Section, with effect from the 1st October 1999. Annual elections would be held for the offices of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, also for joint membership of the GPC, Social, and Green's Committees. These offices could be held for a maximum of three consecutive years. The Chairman would be impartial, and have a casting vote. In other respects, the separate Sections were to operate autonomously as before.



### **Men's President's Day, 1994**

- Back Row (l - r) : G. Warner, G. Skinner, W. Bell, G. Goldie, M.A. Bennett, P. Cordingley, S.A. Swift, J. Lunn, J. English, J.S. Varley, A. Turner, Mesdames J. Cosby, M. Lowthian and M. Bryson, E.W. Lowthian, Mesdames E. Newton, M. Healy and D. Lumley, J. Wood, ? , Mrs G. Jordan, R. Lyon, Mesdames E. Walters, M.E.H. Nesbit and F. McDonald, P. Telfer, Mrs B. Grieve, ? , Mesdames M. Cassie and M. Williamson, N. French, Mrs V. Lonsdale and ? , H. Robson, Mesdames E. Younger, E. Emerson and M. Tailford, G.M. Wilcock, G.D. Bennett, Mesdames D. Johnson, N.F. Orton, T. Wright and W.O. Carse, S. Vine**
- Front Row (l - r) : J.W. Nesbit, Mesdames D. Crofts, F. Jeffs and M. Little, F. Knight, M. Edison, R. Stafford (President), Mesdames B. Stafford, L. Telfer and J. Nichol, L. Crofts, Mesdames M. Myers, A. Gill and E. French, G. Bowmer, T. Lumley, G.H. McDonald, R.I. Shuttleworth and C. Walters**

At the 1999 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £6,718 in the General Account and that there were sixteen new members. It was agreed that the annual subscription be increased from £63 to £65 in line with inflation. Both H. Robson and W.R. Liddle were congratulated on having qualified as NCBA Coaches. In recognition of services to the Club, it was agreed that A.M. Maclean, the former Secretary and Past President, be made an Honorary Vice President. It was reported that two lady members, Ora Carse and Peggy Myers, had generously donated six rink-side score stands to the Club. In connection with the fixtures for 2000, it was decided to enter both the Parliamentary and the Nines Leagues. During the season members were saddened to learn of the passing of Brian Armstrong whilst playing on the green.

At the 2000 Annual General Meeting a promising Junior member, T.A.W. Bell, was congratulated on reaching the final of the NCBA Under 18s competition against the eventual winner L. Foo (Benfield B.C.). Also, D.T. Edwards was appointed a National Umpire.

At the 2001 Annual General Meeting, attended by 33 members, both G. Webb and R.J. Varley reported on the latest situation regarding the proposed new Clubhouse. In connection with the domestic competitions, it was reported that members from the Ladies' and Men's Sections had held a successful meeting at the beginning of the season

regarding arrangements for the mixed competitions. Unfortunately, the Men's President's Day was abandoned due to inclement weather. Members agreed with the suggestion by A.O. Christie that consideration be given to holding a joint Presidents Day in future.

In connection with the league fixtures, there was concern at the shortage of players for the NEEPCL matches. For the first time, white dress was worn in the finals of the Men's domestic competitions. Also, in 2001, H. Robson was appointed the official County Coach. In order to mark the centenary of the EBA the affiliated Clubs had been requested to donate £10 to the NSPCC charity which met with the agreement of the GPC.

At the 2002 Annual General Meeting, attended by 30 members, concern was expressed by the Secretary, R.A. Peckham, for the Club's future when only a third of the Men's Section were prepared to represent the Club and, more so, with the diminishing number of members who were prepared to take office. He was of the opinion that there was a need for new blood and fresh ideas. Once again there had been a struggle in raising a team for the NEEPCL matches and it was agreed that the Club should no longer participate in this competition. Historically, the Club won the inaugural NEEPCL competition in 1973 and the inaugural NEEPCL Gala Day Trophy competition held at Summerhill B.C. in 1977. A brief review of progress on the pavilion project was made by G. Webb and R.J. Varley. It was stated that there were legal difficulties to be overcome and financial constraints.

At the 2003 Annual General Meeting, attended by 38 members, the Secretary again expressed his concern at the lack of enthusiasm of members to take part in Club matches and domestic competitions. This was evident when the Harry Emery Mixed Pairs competition was won by two ladies due to insufficient male members taking part. In future, participating in long standing competitions, viz. the Alfred Bell Cup, Edwardson Cup and Northumberland Challenge Cup could be at risk. The Competitions Committee Chairman, F. Knight, stated that overall the results of matches had been variable reflecting the need to recruit both younger and more experienced bowlers to represent the Club. R.A. Peckham stated that he had been proud to represent the Club for the past three years and was willing to continue as Secretary but understood it was not allowed according to the Constitution. However, during the election of Officers no-one volunteered to replace him, and following considerable discussion, the members agreed that he should continue for another year. In view of this dilemma, J.T. Harrison called for the Constitution to be reviewed, in general, and amended with particular reference to the three-year term for officials. This was met with much approval by members present. In addition, he requested that should members have photographs and information relating to the history of the Club that they are included in the blue folder kept in the Store Room. His request prompted the preparation and publication of this account and now an extended and revised version online.

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting, attended by 36 members, A. Wilson had agreed prior to the meeting to act as Secretary for the Men's Section. At the meeting he informed members that it was only a stop-gap appointment until someone else was willing to take over the position. Thanks were expressed to members of the various committees for their efforts throughout the season. Members were also grateful to the ladies in the Club for their assistance with catering arrangements at several matches. Inclement weather during August had caused re-arrangement of several league fixtures. It was reported that the Green-ranger, R. Stafford, was no longer able to carry out actively all of his duties and Colin Moore had been engaged for this work. Members were informed that H. Robson and R.I. Shuttleworth were resigning from their respective positions of County Coach and League Secretary. Subsequently, W.R. Liddle accepted the position of County Coach in 2005.

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting, attended by 36 members, A. Wilson presented his final report as Secretary. He said that the Committee and various sub-committees had met regularly ensuring that events moved smoothly, especially those organized by the Social Committee. Also, he requested that more members be prepared to assist with the administration of activities in the Men's Section. In general, the weather permitted both friendly and league fixtures also the domestic competitions to be completed

with a minimum of re-arrangements. In view of the continuing decline in the results of both friendly and league matches, the GPC had agreed to the suggestion that priority be given on the Waiting List for recruiting two experienced bowlers. Also, it was announced that R.I. Shuttleworth had tendered his resignation from coaching activities at the Club. His efforts on behalf of new members, in particular, were much appreciated. . Also, it was pleasing to record in January 2006 the centenary of a popular former member, G.C. Nicholson, who retired from bowling following his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

At the 2006 Annual General Meeting, attended by 30 members, T.N. Robson on reporting on his first year as Secretary stated that the Club did not have much success in the league fixtures. G. Webb, Chairman of the Selection Committee, expressed his concern at the unsatisfactory league results primarily due to the continual decline of talent, the age and illness of some members. Also, other promising members were reluctant to participate in competitive matches. Notwithstanding, the friendly matches and social events had been enjoyable occasions. The Club successfully hosted the Jubilee Cup Final, the J.M. Oubridge Cup Final and the Ponteland v. NCBA President, D.W. Kirk, and Select Team. Subsequently, both the NCBA and Portland B.C. thanked the Club for organising these fixtures. During the election of Officers, approval was given to a new member, the County President, D.W. Kirk, who requested nomination by the Club in order to continue as the NCBA League Secretary. During the 2006 season three young promising bowlers had joined the Club as Junior members and received coaching from H. Robson who was accompanied by the Secretary. Members were informed to contact W.R. Liddle should they be interested in attending the ECBS (Northumberland) Coaching scheme, of 5 - 7 weeks duration, to qualify as coaches.

At the 2007 Annual General Meeting, attended by 27 members, the Secretary thanked members of the various committees for their efforts in the successful running of both league and friendly matches. The league results were impressive with the three teams being promoted. Also, it was surprising to find that with the indifferent summer weather only three matches were re-arranged due to rain. It is pleasing to record that visiting teams have again congratulated the Club on the condition of the bowling green and its surrounds. Much of the credit belongs to the volunteer members of the Green's Committee and to R. Stafford, the Green-ranger, who in recent years regularly supplied the bedding plants. Following his retirement after eighteen years for health reasons, D.W. Kirk agreed to take over the position of Green-ranger. The Club was thanked for successfully hosting both the NCBA and Portland B.C. matches. Again, the catering arrangements provided by the ladies for these fixtures were much appreciated.

The domestic competitions were discussed and it was agreed that the maximum handicap be set at +6. The President, R.J. Varley, remarked on the unusual absence of a Men's triples competition at the Club. He suggested that the 4-Bowl Over 60s Handicap be changed to a 3-Bowl Handicap competition which met with unanimous agreement.

The Chairman, A.O. Christie, then drew attention to the recent publication on the Club's history. He stated that 50 of the 100 copies printed had been purchased by members and that another 32 copies had been sold to others outside but with links to the Club. He described it as '*A tremendous piece of work and a wonderful history of the Club for which Bernard is to be congratulated.*'

The last Spring General Meeting was held in 1999 and B.D.W. Wright enquired whether they should be held again to inform members on matters raised at GPC meetings held during the winter, forthcoming social events, forthcoming fixtures and matters of interest raised at the NCBA Annual General Meeting. Although the Ladies' Section continues to hold Spring meetings little interest was shown by the members present to re-instate their Spring meeting. Although members of the Men's Section are mostly retired no interest was shown either in the suggestion that their meetings be held during the afternoon rather than in the evening, as is the case with the Ladies' Section.



**(l - r) : Marjorie Duff, Thelma Wright, Kathleen Armstrong and Cecil Nicholson**



**(l - r) : E.W. Lowthian, S.A. Swift, Mesdames W.O. Carse, E. Emmerson and ? ,  
N. French, Mrs E. Younger, J. Lunn, P. Telfer, J.S. Varley, Mesdames  
M.E.H. Nesbit and ? , ?**

**Extremes in Ponteland Weather, 1995**



### **President's Day, 1999**

**Ladies Standing (l - r) : M. Little, E. Younger, T. Wright, M. Shuttleworth, M.E.H. Nesbit, G. Liddle, G. Cattliff, N.F. Orton, E. Shuttleworth, M. Williamson, M. Scarlett, M. Healy, C. Cobbing (President), D. Crofts, M. Tailford, M. Bryson, A. Baxter, M. Cassie, F. McDonald, M. Lowthian and M. Myers**

**Ladies Front Row (l - r) : A. Gill, E. French, I. Cassidy, F. Owen and I. Fletcher**

**Men (l - r) : W.R. Liddle, A.M. MacLean, R.I. Shuttleworth, W. Bell, G.D. Bennett, G. Cassidy, M. Edison, G. Bowmer, R.B. Baxter (President), A. Turner, C. Bryson, R. Stafford, E. Scholes, E.W. Lowthian, G. Skinner, G. Warner, J.W. Nesbit, G.H. McDonald, L. Crofts, E. Edwards, R. Elder, S.A. Swift, G. Attwater, A. Harper and T. Lumley**

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting, attended by 36 members, the retiring Secretary, T.N. Robson, referred to the very poor weather during the season and the need to re-arrange fixtures. He expressed thanks to the ladies for providing the meal for the County match against Cumbria which had been played in terrible conditions. The inclement weather led to the cancellation of both President's Day and the twice rain-affected Pairs competition. Due to the problems experienced in getting sufficient members to participate in friendly matches it was agreed that fixtures against Amble, Alnwick and Lyndhurst be reduced to one per season alternating home and away. In addition, it was decided that matches against Northumberland Police, Ryton Veterans and the Mayor be discontinued.

In connection with the proposed Clubhouse extension, further details were provided by the Treasurer, J.T. Harrison. He then thanked the other six Committee members who had acted as guarantors for the £10,000 loan from Bowls England and for their help in realising the project. It was hoped that planning permission would be received by the end of the year and that the extension would be completed in March 2009. The second phase of the project was to clear the waste land at the south west corner beside the footpath and Darras Road. This would provide the space necessary for a patio and paved area for social functions. The two projects are discussed further in Sections 7 and 8. The retiring President, R.J. Varley, openly thanked the Treasurer for his achievements in obtaining the required grant-aid from the local authorities and the Bowls England loan in order to take the Clubhouse project forward. Also, he congratulated him on enabling members to enjoy much improved facilities without imposing any direct financial burden on the Club. The newly elected President, A. Wilson, thanked the retiring Secretary, the Treasurer and D.W. Kirk

for their efforts during the year. Also, he expressed regret that, owing to health considerations, F. Knight was unable to take up the position of President.

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, attended by 30 members, the Secretary reported that weather wise the league fixtures had progressed well but some friendly matches were affected. The visit by the Bowls England President's touring team had been very successful. The catering arrangements provided by the ladies for this fixture was much appreciated. The innovative "Taster Sessions" open to the public to attract new bowlers had gone well and would be repeated in future. Coaching sessions with lads from the Ponteland Youth Centre had also been successful. E.W. Lowthian reported that the domestic competitions had been completed successfully although R.J. Varley was disappointed with the lack of names available for both league and friendly matches, also members' late withdrawals from fixtures.

The President, H. Robson, thanked the Treasurer, J.T. Harrison, for his report on the successful completion of the planned Clubhouse extension and external site work. The equipment shed had been re-located and a patio area constructed, with the finishing touch being a pebbled area at the rear of the Clubhouse. The bequest of £500 in memory of John English was used to establish a memorial garden at the end of the patio. A memorial plaque made by R.I. Shuttleworth would be mounted on a hardwood plinth.

In connection with league matches, the President displayed an all-white polo unisex shirt with a Club badge and optional personal name which the GPC were recommending to be worn for Clegg, Knight and Nines matches in 2010. Members agreed with the proposed dress and also agreed with the proposal by H. Howell that these shirts be worn in the Parliamentary league matches. In connection with domestic competitions, R.J. Varley proposed that winners and runners-up of the two handicap competitions have their handicaps reduced. Following much discussion, it was decided that the two major singles competitions should also be included. The following amended proposal was agreed by the members :

*"The winners and runners-up in each of the four singles competitions would in the following year have their handicaps in the two handicap competitions reduced by two shots, the runners-up to have their handicap reduced by one shot and that these reductions to apply for a two-year period."*

Members were informed that J.D. Cowings and Mrs M.E.H. Nesbit were qualified coaches but more are required if the Club is to pursue its ambition of working with local schools. Mention was made of the coaching course to be held at West Denton in January 2010 for any interested members. Following his term as President, Harry Robson and his wife, Margaret, provided finance to replace the entrance gateway.

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting, attended by 33 members, the Secretary stated that some matches had been postponed as Clubs had been unable to field a team rather than for bad weather reasons. The league results were very disappointing but in the Northumberland Challenge Cup a place in the final was lost by one shot. The highlight of the season was winning the Jubilee Cup for the first time. Also, following two very successful "Taster Sessions" open to the public the Club was able to welcome several new members. As in the past, working with the local school has been unrewarded. E.W. Lowthian reported that the domestic competitions had been successfully completed. M.L. Brennan was disappointed with the lack of names available for both league and friendly matches which was compounded by late withdrawals of some members from fixtures. In connection with the wearing of polo shirts in league matches, some disquiet and confusion had occurred with some members wearing them in friendly matches. Following a lively discussion it was agreed that members would attend friendly matches wearing the usual dress code of white shirt, Club tie and blazer. J.D. Cowings reported that there were six qualified coaches in the Club who had met to plan activities for 2011. It was agreed that the Club should enter one rink in the Parliamentary League Ringtons Cup competition. During the election of Officers, the President, M. McDonnell, thanked everyone for their support

during the season. He mentioned, in particular, committee members, event organizers and others who had taken part in the Club's activities. He considered the bowling green to be in excellent condition and spoke of the Bowling and Tennis Club's success in being jointly awarded a Silver Gilt Medal Certificate in the "Northumbria In Bloom" competition at the first attempt. Also, he warmly congratulated R.J. Varley on being the runner-up in the centennial year of the J.M. Oubridge Cup competition. He then presented the winning rink with the Jubilee Cup and their individual plaques. Following on from the elections, members were requested to consider seriously taking on some positions within the Club.

At the 2011 Annual General Meeting, attended by 33 members, the Secretary reported that owing to the unusual inclement weather towards the end of the season several matches were postponed. He mentioned very satisfactory results in the league and friendly matches and excellent performances in both the Alfred Bell Cup and Northumberland Challenge Cup competitions. Highlights of the season were the individual performances of both R.J. Varley in winning the County "Champion of Champions" Deuchar Cup and of D.C. Crozier, the runner-up in the J.M. Oubridge Cup competition. Four very successful early season "Taster Sessions" were staged as part of the Bowls Development Alliance. Attempts to work with the local school again proved to be unrewarded. Finally, on completing his three years as Secretary, D.W. Kirk, thanked the members and ladies who had given him their full support and A. Ridley for his excellent work on the website. A.O. Christie reported that the domestic competitions had been completed successfully but only eight entries were received for the Pairs competition. He was also disappointed to find that male members were not very supportive of the mixed competitions. J.D. Cowings mentioned the recurring problem of members not making themselves available for selection in matches.

The retiring President, J.D. Cowings, reported that a six-week programme on coaching activities for several ladies and male members had been organized. A video camera was available for use by members for studying individual bowling actions. Members were advised that their views would be sought at the 2011 Combined Annual General Meeting when a proposal by the Treasurer, endorsed by the GPC, regarding the entrance fee for new members would be discussed. It was announced that a former popular member, Cecil Nicholson, had passed away in October 2011 aged 105.

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting, attended by 32 members, D.W. Morrison, the Secretary, stated that adverse weather conditions similar to 2011, had affected league fixtures. In particular, the Clegg evening and Parliamentary afternoon matches. Notwithstanding, the re-arranged fixtures were completed on time. From the results point of view, the Nines team were relegated to Division 2, mainly due to losing some matches on the last end. However, the Knight team finished second and were promoted to Division 3 after an absence of three years. Also, PBC won the Public Utilities League Division 2 title and were promoted to Division 1. The recent introduction of "Taster Sessions" open to the general public was again well supported. The five sessions resulted in several persons, both male and female, joining the Club.

In connection with the domestic competitions, R. J. Varley stated that there was a mad rush to complete the four main competitions in time for Finals Day in mid- August. Although the weather was indifferent, the day itself was a success and would be held in future. The perennial problem of men not participating in mixed fixtures and competitions was disappointing. A similar problem confronted the Selection Committee and J.D. Cowings requested that more members make an effort to be available for both league and friendly fixtures. Thanks were extended to the Committee members for their efforts throughout the season. A lengthy discussion ensued on the number of friendly fixtures and the lack of support by members. The President, D.W. Kirk, also expressed concern at the lack of enthusiasm of members to participate in both friendly and league fixtures and requested more support for next season. Otherwise, consideration may be given to reducing further the number of friendly fixtures to those previously agreed at the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

With regard to coaching and development, J.D. Cowings stated that the "Taster Sessions" would be repeated next season. For the benefit of new members, it is intended to have monitors in the Club who would regularly inform new members of social events and encourage their participation in matches. Unfortunately, during the season no coaching sessions were arranged but it is planned to organize several days in 2013. The President stated that a proposal would be put forward to the Combined Annual General Meeting recommending the entrance fee for new members remain at zero. The Treasurer then explained why it would be necessary to raise the annual subscription from £80 to £90 next year. Members indicated their support for the increase with a show of hands.

Considering Club fixtures for 2013, the members agreed to enter the same competitions as last season. The President informed members of a proposal by the GPC to reduce the four domestic mixed competitions to one. Details of the outcome are given in Section 1.3.

Following the election of Officers and Committee members, it was suggested that a travelling reserve be available for league matches. Members decided that this idea be considered again at the next meeting. Further to the decision taken at the 2007 Annual General Meeting not to resume Spring General Meetings, last held in 1999, the matter was raised again. Following some discussion it was agreed that a Spring General Meeting would be held in 2013.

At the 2013 Spring General Meeting, attended by 22 members, the President, D. Franks, stated that following the recent death of a member and after a great deal of deliberation the GPC had taken the decision that no longer would relatives be allowed to spread the ashes of deceased members around the grounds of the bowling Club. The Secretary outlined the Club programme for the forthcoming season.

The President requested that more male members make themselves available for friendly and league matches. To assist the Selection Committee a form will be displayed on the Men's Notice Board for members to sign should they wish to participate in friendly matches. When teams are selected members will be required to add their signature confirming their availability to play.

The Club Treasurer reported a balance of £19,300 which included the receipt of recent membership subscriptions. He stated that the intended early repayment of the remaining £4,000 loan to Bowls England would result in a £600 rebate.

The Club Secretary reported on progress made on achieving the Bowls England Club Mark Accreditation and hoped that the Club would achieve this status by the end of the year. When achieved the Club would be eligible for other grants similar to that requested from the BDA. If the BDA grant was approved it would be used to purchase an aerator for the green being an essential piece of equipment.

Members were informed that the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fancy dress celebrations will take place on Joint Presidents' Day, the 29<sup>th</sup> June. By the end of the bowling season a winter programme will be available informing members of other activities in the Clubhouse during the closed season.

In connection with the Club website A. Ridley intended to provide more information such as dates of "Taster Sessions". He intended to have a display board with photographs from 1923 on Closing Day and would welcome other photographs from members. At the end of the meeting R.J. Varley volunteered to have the Club's badge printed onto members' new Club shirts. Ten vacant lockers were available for any members requiring one.

At the 2013 Annual General Meeting, attended by 22 members, the Secretary, D.W Morrison, stated that it had been an excellent season with very good weather and even better results with promotions in the Nines and the Knight competitions.. However, the

results from the cup competitions were disappointing, particularly in the Jubilee Cup final lost by shots. The Secretary thanked the Green-, W.R. Liddle, for his efforts with green maintenance. It should be noted that in 2013, the home programme included a total of 124 fixtures, excluding members' participation in individual domestic competitions.

R.J. Varley commented on the perennial problem of completing the domestic competitions in good time for Men's Finals Day. It is a pleasure to record the achievement of the Secretary, D.W. Morrison, by participating in the finals of all four main competitions, winning three and losing narrowly in the fourth. The Secretary stated that team selection had proved difficult at times as members' availability lists were not kept up to date. The league results, however, showed that the Selection Committee had performed commendably. The President referred to the lack of support from male members for both friendly and league matches and asked that they should give some thought to making themselves available next season for these matches.

On coaching and development J.D. Cowings reported that the "Taster Sessions" went well and would be repeated again next year. When Bowls England Club Mark status is achieved the Club will be the first in Northumberland to receive this award. It is intended to organize a number of days for coaching sessions next year. The Club's Development Plan was published in April 2013 and the Bowls England Club Mark Accreditation equity policy statement.

The President commented on the sound financial situation of the Club with nearly £2,000 of grants being awarded. The members agreed that the joining fee should remain at zero and retain the membership subscription at £90. Regarding competitions, it was agreed that the Club enter the same as those in 2013.

Following the election of Officers and Committee members, W.R. Liddle requested help over the winter period. The green would need swishing to remove dew and reduce the possibility of any diseases. It would take only 30 - 40 minutes effort but not to be undertaken in frosty conditions.

At the 2014 Spring General Meeting, attended by 21 members, the Secretary stated that the response of members to the request for more members to participate in the various league competitions was disappointingly low. Only 32 members were prepared to play in more than one league compared with 63 last year. An additional 19 extra matches would be played which included an additional team in the mixed Public Utilities League and an additional mixed friendly fixture with Prudhoe.

The Treasurer, J.T. Harrison, reported on the Club's healthy financial position. However, 17 members had resigned from the Club. In connection with the green £7,000 has been spent on new green-keeping equipment. Grant applications have been made for the purchase of a slotter, seeder and wheeled feeder.

J.D. Cowings extended congratulations to the Club in being the only outdoor Club in Northumberland to achieve Bowls England Club Mark status. Full Club Mark Accreditation would be achieved when younger members joined the Club being a requisite for this award. The following seven qualified Club coaches were listed on the Development Board for members wishing private coaching :

Mesdames M.E Nesbit & S.A. Storey, M. Brennan,  
J.D. Cowings, D.W. Kirk, W.R. Liddle and D.W. Morrison.

Four "Taster Sessions", to encourage the recruitment of new members, would take place every Saturday morning in May. It is intended to hold a number of coaching sessions after the sessions for those interested. Also, there will be four sessions with a number of children from a local school that will take place every Friday at 1.30 pm from the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

In connection with the website set up by A. Ridley, and managed admirably by him for over seven years, he felt it was time for someone to shadow him with the intention of taking over from him next year. Meanwhile, a new website with additional features was set up by P. Kilmister and Miss J. Barras. Sadly, Alan Ridley passed away in July 2015.

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, attended by 25 members, D.W. Morrison, the Secretary, considered it had been a good season with both good weather and results in the various league matches. He stated that although there were six "Taster Sessions" held this year there were less newcomers to the Club. Thanks were extended to the Green-ranger, W.R. Liddle, for his efforts in carrying out early repairs to the damaged areas ensuring the green played well. M.L. Brennan reported all competitions had been completed leading to a successful Finals Day. The Selection Committee again reported on the problem of members withdrawing from matches after having been selected to play. Most of the members had been selected for a game. With the lack of names being put forward for both friendly and league matches the President, H.Howell, asked that more members support the Club. Following much discussion it was proposed and agreed that in the case of friendly fixtures the Club play each team only once each year on a reciprocal basis instead of the usual home and away fixtures. The three clubs concerned being Gosforth West Avenue, Hexham Elvaston and Portland.

In connection with the domestic competition the Angora Cup will in future come under the aegis of the Competitions Committee but will continue to be organised by P. Telfer. Thanks were extended to those members who had assisted with the "Taster Sessions" both on the green and providing refreshments in the Clubhouse. It was proposed to continue with the coaching of local schoolchildren on four Friday afternoons next year.

At the 2015 Annual General Meeting, attended by 25 members, the Secretary, A. Barratt, reported that overall it had not been a very good season for the teams participating in the league fixtures and cup competitions. A total of nine school visits and "Bowls for Fun" sessions had been held during the season. Thanks were extended to the Green-ranger, W.R. Liddle, for the excellent condition of the green throughout the season. Mention was made of the repair work to be undertaken on the two end rinks alongside the PMH during the closed season.

In connection with the domestic cup competitions, D.W Kirk reported that Finals Day was a success albeit there was again difficulty in getting members' matches completed on time. Some changes were agreed to regarding the Straughan Salver and Angora Cup competitions. On Closing Day there was a total of nine awards to be made at the annual presentation but it was disappointing to find that only four members were in attendance to receive their trophies. Members were asked for their ideas regarding Club Handicaps as there are no written rules.

R.J. Varley reported on the perennial problems with team selection, particularly when members have not indicated their non-availability on the team sheets. He indicated that selecting the strongest teams is very subjective and not always successful. It was hoped that better performances on the green will be seen next year. It was proposed and adopted that the Club play each team only once each year on a reciprocal basis in the Men's and Mixed friendly matches instead of the usual home and away fixtures.

It was reported that the men's membership fell by six for the year after attracting four newcomers. Although there are a number of strategies in place to attract new members it is still difficult and, at present, both family and personal contact appears to be the best way forward.

It was agreed to participate in the same competitions as last year. Following some discussion there was very little support for the proposed New Mixed League to be played on Sunday mornings. A proposal by J. Taylor for the Club to enter the Double Fours National competition did not receive the necessary members' support. It was agreed that players

and markers for the Club's domestic competitions should wear grey trousers and whites above the waist instead of casual dress.

It was decided that the Men's Committee meetings should be re-instated after an absence of 2 to 3 years. Also, an informal Spring meeting to be arranged sometime in March 2016. A plea was made for more volunteers and helpers to assist in the running of the Club.

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting, attended by 31 members, the Secretary, J. Taylor, reported on a very good season in the league competitions. Two teams were promoted, the Nines team were unbeaten and promoted to Division 1, also the Knight team to Division 3. Both the Clegg and Parliamentary teams just missed promotion. H. Howell reported on the domestic competitions the results of which are presented in Section 11. Generally speaking team selections had gone well apart from an occasional problem with the two Knight teams.

Following some discussion it was agreed to adopt a Club shirt sponsored by Landmark Support Services Ltd. for BN league matches commencing in 2017. It was agreed to participate in the same competitions and friendly fixtures as last year. Members were informed that a small increase in the annual subscription proposed by the GPC should be confirmed at the forthcoming combined Annual General Meeting.



**Members participating in BN League Competitions, 2017**

**Back Row (l-r) : R.J. Varley, W.R. Liddle, H. Howell, J.T. Harrison, D.W. Kirk, D. Franks, B. Lumbsden, M. Brennan, J. Taylor, K. Preston, R. Pearson and P. Dodds**

**Front Row (l-r) : J. Roberts, A.O. Christie, D. G. Kennerley, W. Howard, D.C. Crozier, J. Gatenby, D.W. Morrison, D. Thompson, M. Anderson, R. Horsfall and P. Telfer**

## 1.2 Ladies' Section

On the 15th June, 1967 the newly founded Ladies' Section had twenty members. Prior to this event, many of the ladies had assisted with the Club's social functions including the hosting of NCBA matches but without bowling privileges.

The 1st Annual General Meeting was held in the PMH, attended by 14 members, on the 27th February, 1968. It was agreed that subscription for playing members should be £1 10s. 0d, for Social members, 15s. 0d and for Juniors (between 14-16 years), 7s. 6d. A fee of £30 was paid to the Men's Section for use of the green. In 1968, the first official friendly matches were arranged with Forest Hall, Parkhouse and Tynemouth. Unfortunately, the home game with Parkhouse was cancelled due to bad weather.

At the Autumn General Meeting in October 1968, attended by ten members it was decided that Whist Drives would be held in the pavilion during the afternoon throughout the winter months.



**Ladies' Day, 1961**

**Standing (l - r) : M. Hetherington, E. Jameson, E. Wood, S. Self, E. Lloyds,  
J. Weightman, ? , L.H. Loughton, ? , ? , ? and J. Hepple  
Front (l - r) : O. Steele, M. Douglas, M. Latham, A.E. Mankin and O.M. Carr**

In 1969, Forest Hall, Tynemouth and Whitley Bay participated in their inaugural friendly matches at Ponteland.

At the Annual General Meeting in February 1970 it was agreed that invitations be sent out again to Forest Hall, Tynemouth and Whitley Bay Ladies' who had played at Ponteland in the previous season. In addition, invitations were sent to the ladies at Alnwick,

Hexham and Portland. Members were asked to support the annual pre-season coffee morning arranged by the Men's Section. Also, they were reminded they could play during the morning, afternoon, and evening whenever the green was not in use for Men's matches and competitions. It was decided that the weekly Jumbles would be played on Tuesday afternoons and that the ladies should hold their own President's Day in May 1970. A Ladies' Handicap competition was introduced with J. Oliver of the Men's Section awarding the finalists with Contract House vouchers for £2 and £1.

At the 1971 Annual General Meeting it was agreed that L.H. Loughton be made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of services to the Club which included pre-1967 social activities. A Jumble Sale, held in the Methodist Church Hall, realized £32 of which £20 was donated to the Men's Section to help finance the upkeep of the green. In November 1971, the first Ladies' Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation was held in the Bowler Hat, Broadway, Darras Hall.

At the 1972 Annual General Meeting the annual subscription of full members rose to £2. The Ladies' Section had almost £122 in their accounts most of which was realized from their fund-raising efforts. The dedication of the Ladies' Section in raising funds for the well-being of the Club has never been in doubt. In particular, reference should be made to their efforts in connection with the various pavilion projects over the years. After expenses, 50% of the proceeds from a Jumble Sale held in the Methodist Church Hall were donated to the Men's Section. In recognition of services to the Club over many years, it was agreed that J. Mole be made an Honorary Life Member. Also, it was decided to introduce an annual knock-out competition with presentations of rose bowls to the finalists. It was also agreed to hold one unit in the PMH '200 Club' Draw. The 1972 Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held in the Newcastle Airport restaurant, and again in successive years until 1975.

At the 1973 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported the balance in their account had risen to £165. Regarding fixtures, it was agreed to approach Benfield, Burnopfield and Denton Burn for friendly matches. It was also reported that the voluntary efforts of several members in the Ladies' Section to spring-clean the pavilion before opening day were appreciated by the Men's Section. The members also expressed their willingness to assist with the catering for NCBA matches and other special occasions, any profits being retained by the Ladies' Section. Also, in return, the Men's Section invited the ladies to play a Mixed Jumbles on a mid-week afternoon and on Saturday evenings. Later on, they were invited to participate in some of the Men's friendly matches.

1974 was a difficult year for Mrs D. Emery, the President and Secretary, having lost her husband who also, at the same time, held both offices in the Men's Section. At the Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £221 in the accounts. The members agreed to increase their annual payment to the Men's Section by £10 to £40. In November 1974, the first official meeting was held between the two Sections in the Club. The primary purpose was to seek the views of interested members in connection with the proposed extension of the pavilion.

In 1975, albeit with a balance of £253 in their accounts, the annual subscription was increased from £2 to £4 to cover the additional expenses for coach travel and competition prizes. Three members were elected to serve on a Social Committee. The members were informed of the new Mixed Pairs competition to be held in memory of the late husband of the Secretary. The Ladies' Section were invited to attend the Annual Prize Presentation for the Men's Section. During the presentations, the finalists in the Harry Emery Mixed Pairs' competition were presented with their salvers and miniature wine coolers. The last of a series of Annual Dinner and Prize Presentations was held in the Newcastle Airport restaurant.

At the 1976 Annual General Meeting, attended by 15 members, the Treasurer reported a balance of £160 in the accounts after donating £225 to the Pavilion Extension Fund and the receipt of £5 from the PMH '200 Club' Draw. The Secretary was congratulated on her presentation of a comprehensive report on the season's events. It was

announced a new 4-Bowl Singles competition for a silver rose bowl would be held in memory of the first Lady President, E. Pascoe. The members agreed with the suggestion from the Men's Secretary for them to wear name badges at their matches. The Opening Day, in April 1976, heralded the first Mixed Jumbles event followed by a faith tea. The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation was held in Quincy's restaurant. The Secretary reported *'the meal was excellent, the only complaint I heard was about the noise, but as this was made by ourselves we couldn't grumble.'*

In 1977, following a Jumble Sale and receipt of a further £50 from the PMH '200 Club' Draw, the Treasurer reported a balance of £306 in the accounts, an excellent sum for a small membership of twenty. It was decided to increase the annual payment to £75 to help defray some of the expenditure incurred by the Men's Section in re-turfing part of the green. To celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year in June 1977 E.M. Roper held a fund-raising Garden Party at her home which was well-attended by members. In future years, she held similar fund-raising coffee mornings. In September 1977, it was agreed that the Ladies' Section would pay for two of the six rink-side score stands the Men's Secretary was making for the Club. In 1977, the Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation was held in the Newcastle Airport Restaurant. A special meeting was called to which B.D.W. Wright, the Men's Secretary, was invited to attend in November 1977 to discuss the most regrettable incident which occurred during the end-of-season coffee morning held in the PMH. This matter is reported more fully in Section 1.1. The ladies were re-assured that their Section would be allowed to enjoy the same privileges of membership as the Men's Section.

At the 1978 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £370 in the accounts. The annual subscription rose to £5 and £2.50 for new members. It was decided that, in future, the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer could be held for a maximum of three years. In 1978, the Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation was held for the last time in the Newcastle Airport restaurant.

At the 1979 Annual General Meeting it was decided that half of the £20 liability imposed on twenty members in connection with possible legal costs arising from the Lands Tribunal should be paid out of the £476 available in the accounts. It was agreed that extra coffee mornings and a weekly raffle should be held during the bowling season to help raise funds for the Ladies' Section. At the 1980 Annual General Meeting the Secretary was pleased to report a much friendlier atmosphere in the mixed events at the Club. Also, it was pleasing to see the numerous photographs taken at the social occasions. In connection with the friendly matches, members appreciated having the newly formed Lyndhurst Ladies' B.C. included in their list of fixtures for 1980. The Treasurer reported a balance of £562 in the accounts. However, due to the rise in the rental for the green imposed by the PMH Committee, the 50% fee normally paid to the Men's Section necessitated an increase in the annual subscription from £5 to £7.50 and, for new bowlers, a 50% rise to £5. It was decided that every member attending the 1980 Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation in the Ponteland Golf Club should have the cost of their meals subsidized by £2, to be drawn from the Ladies' Section accounts. It was agreed that a Pairs competition should be held during the season.

At the 1981 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £855 in the accounts. In view of forthcoming expenditure in the Club the annual subscription was again increased by £2.50 to £10, and increased to £7.50 for new bowlers. Also, it was agreed that in recognition of the duties performed by both the Secretary and the Treasurer that they should receive an honorarium to cover their annual subscription. In connection with the proposed pavilion extension, the Ladies' Section were prepared to donate £450. Another fund-raising social event was arranged by M. Duff with an Annual Garden Party, an event she hosted with her husband until 1986. It is worth mentioning again the excellent efforts made by the ladies with their social activities and financial contributions to the Club. The Ladies' Section accepted an invitation to play friendly matches, on separate rinks, during the Men's NEEPCL Sunday fixtures. In August 1981, the ladies held a presentation to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Eve and Tom Mills who were Presidents of their Sections in 1972.

In 1982, there were 30 members in the Ladies' Section. The Treasurer reported a healthy balance of £711 in the accounts despite extra expenditure incurred in 1981. The members were looking forward to the new season, and using the facilities of the newly extended pavilion. During the season, members were saddened at the passing of Nan MacLeod whilst playing in a competition on the bowling green. As a mark of respect, competitions were held back for two weeks. With the competitions about to resume, Beatrice Buckley also passed away suddenly and completion of the Ladies' competitions was further delayed. Later, in connection with social activities, it had been decided to hold the Whist Drives, in addition to the usual coffee mornings, in the pavilion throughout the winter months. Unfortunately, due to insufficient heating in the building the proposed Whist Drives were cancelled and several coffee mornings were held in members' homes. The proceeds from one of the coffee mornings were donated to the ' Guide Dogs for the Blind' Fund. In 1982, the Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 1983 Spring General Meeting D. Emery gave notice of her intended resignation from the position of Secretary at the annual meeting. In the light of this statement two members, L. Barrons and B. Johnston, agreed to act as Assistant Secretaries with help, should it be required, from the Secretary. The Treasurer reported a balance of £1,007 in the accounts and it was decided to offer a payment of £300 to the Men's Section for use of the facilities at the green. In connection with prizes for the weekly Jumbles competitions, it was decided to offer the choice of a silver spoon or £1 in cash. Also, the overall winner would receive the new Nan MacLeod Memorial Salver. Members were informed arrangements had been made to hold a pre-season Dance and a Pie & Pea Supper. It was agreed for health reasons that two Past Presidents, F.M. Bird and E. Mills, be made Honorary Life Members and so retain their association with the Club. Sadly, Marjorie Bird passed away several days later.

At the 1983 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £1,443 in the accounts. During the election of Officers, L. Barrons became the new Secretary and the newly created position of Match Secretary was accepted by B. Johnston. It was agreed that the Match Secretary should not have to pay an annual subscription. It was decided that monthly Committee meetings should be held during the playing season. In recognition of services to the Club, it was agreed that E.M. Roper, a long-serving member, who had moved out of the area be made an Honorary Life Member. Members were informed that the Ladies' Section had now been accepted as a member of the EBWA. They were eligible now to play on a Wednesday afternoon in the NCWBA league matches which required three rinks of four players. The members were to be dressed in whites, but no trousers permitted. Members were informed that a Northern Evening League Gala Day had been arranged for Sunday, the 12th August, 1983. It was decided members could use their own transport to away matches in lieu of expensive coach hire and car users would be remunerated for petrol costs. It was agreed that the cash prize offered in the weekly Jumbles competitions be increased from £1 to £2. The members also agreed to provide six bowls-collectors for the benefit of the Club. For the first time, the Ladies competition trophies were presented at the Ladies v. Gents match held at the end of the season. Also, a presentation of a wall clock and a bouquet was made to D. Emery to mark her retirement after sixteen years as Secretary. The 1983 Annual Dinner was again held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 1984 Annual General Meeting members were informed that for the Ladies' Section to be legally affiliated to the NCWBA they were all obliged to pay an affiliation fee of £1 to PBC. Referring to the financial situation, a balance of £1,641 was reported by the Treasurer. It was decided to increase the annual subscription from £10 to £12. Also, in future, all members would pay the full subscription with no reduction for new members. In connection with honoraria, it was agreed that the President should have her annual subscription paid for by the Ladies' Section. The competition trophies were again presented at the Ladies v. Gents match.

At the 1985 Spring General Meeting it was announced that the permitted maximum number of 50 members had been reached and a waiting list was prepared. The Treasurer

reported a balance of £1,948 in the accounts including £131 raised from a Jumble Sale and £245 from the regular coffee mornings. In addition to the payment of £500 for use of the green, another £500 had been donated to the Men's Section towards the purchasing of a sprinkler system, new entrance gateway and a new scoreboard.

Following the untimely passing of the President, Kathleen Wright, a special Ladies' Management Committee Meeting was held on the 26th June 1985. K. Armstrong, the Vice President, was duly elected as the Ladies' President. The provision of a memorial for the late Joyce Carmichael and Kathleen Wright was discussed. A new Triples one-day domestic competition was held for the Joyce Carmichael Cup. It was agreed that £50 from their funds should be awarded to M. Little, a long-serving member, to help towards her expenses when, along with both N. Rutherford and J. Graham, she would be representing both Club and County in the EWBA Finals at Royal Leamington Spa, Warwicks.

At the 1985 Annual General Meeting new Club Rules governing the Ladies' Section were approved by the attending 33 members. The Treasurer reported a balance of £1,635 in the accounts. It was decided to arrange a fund-raising evening in aid of the North East Cancer Campaign, associated with the memory of both Joyce Carmichael and Kathleen Wright. The 1985 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At a Ladies' Management Committee Meeting, held in February 1986, the President, W.O. Carse, was of the opinion that the Ladies' Section, being financially strong and thriving, should in future, hold an annual fund-raising event to help those in need. It was decided to hold a Domino Drive for the local charity PADAC in 1986. It was reported that the Committee had sent a letter congratulating E. French on her recent M.B.E. award for service to Education. At a later Committee Meeting, the Treasurer reported £425 had been donated to the North of England Cancer Research Campaign following a very successful Domino Drive event, and the regular coffee mornings raised £273.

At the 1986 Annual General Meeting reference was made to the very successful hosting of the NCWBA match against Yorkshire and the Joyce Carmichael Triples competition. Also, M. Duff was thanked for her most successful Garden Party. In connection with league fixtures, the closure of the Northern Evening League was reported and that Ponteland Ladies had finished second in their NEEPCL Sunday matches. It was agreed that the Ladies v. Gents match held at the end of the season should be the occasion for their Annual Prize Presentation.

Regarding the wearing of uniform for matches, it was agreed that dress should be all-whites for matches played throughout the months of June - August, and grey skirts worn for the other months. Members were reminded to avoid bumping their bowls on the green. If necessary, two County players, J. Graham and I. Fletcher, would be willing to assist those needing to improve their bowling action. It was decided to arrange coaching sessions during the first month of the new season. As usual, the 1986 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 1987 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported a balance of £1,854 in the accounts and that the social events had been very successful. In particular, the Domino Drive with its Fish & Chip Supper raised £425 for PADAC, a local charity. In connection with domestic competitions, the members were informed that J.W. Nesbit, President of the Men's Section, had provided a trophy for presentation to the winners of a Mixed Pairs competition. It was agreed that the participants in the National Finals at Royal Leamington Spa, Warwicks should be given £15 each from Club funds towards their expenses. In response to an appeal, a £25 donation was sent to a disabled bowler, Richard Coates, to help towards the funds required for his participation in the Para-Olympic Games in Korea. The 1987 Annual Dinner was again held at Ponteland Golf Club.

The Ladies' Section celebrated their 21st Anniversary in 1988. At the 1988 Spring General Meeting, attended by 29 members, it was mentioned that there were 15 names on the Waiting List. It was agreed that arrangements should be made for the Ladies' Section

to have Honours Boards costing £144 to be displayed in the pavilion. In connection with the Rules of the Ladies' Section, a change was made to Rule 6 regarding the tenure of service as an office bearer. The Treasurer reported that the coffee mornings raised £254 with a balance of £1,601 in the Accounts. Members agreed to their annual subscription being raised from £12 to £18, having been unchanged since 1984. It was decided that office bearers should write a job description of their duties for guidance to new members. A coach trip was arranged to take members to watch the International Series at Spennymoor, Durham. In October 1988, the Annual Dinner and a Domino & Whist Drive which raised over £120 in aid of the Ponteland Hospital, were both held in the PMH. In connection with domestic competitions, it was decided that the runners-up would be given money to purchase a trophy of their own choice.

At the 1989 Spring General Meeting, attended by 29 members, the Treasurer reported a balance of £1,834 in the accounts. The regular coffee mornings raised £178 and a further sum of £102 for charitable donations. The annual subscription was increased by £2 to £20. A team was entered for the National Mixed Fours competition which raised £158 from both sponsorship of their game and a special raffle. The proceeds were donated to Cancer Research UK. In the National Mixed Pairs competition, it was reported that both M.A. Bennett and N. Rutherford played very well throughout several rounds. A friendly fixture was arranged with the newly formed Gosforth Garden Village Ladies B.C. However, as in the case of the Men's Section, there was difficulty in getting members to play in some friendly fixtures. It was decided that, in future, League team players would pay their own travel expenses to assist with the financial situation. The 1989 Ladies v. Gents match was won by the ladies, the last occasion being in 1981. The Secretary expressed her appreciation of the help given by some members of the Men's Section on official occasions and especially during the Ladies Triples domestic competition. The 1989 Annual Dinner was held in the Diamond Inn.

At the 1990 Spring General Meeting, attended by 28 members, the Treasurer reported that coffee mornings during the winter raised £202, with a balance of £1,900 in the accounts. Income from visitor's fees amounted to £82. New bowling mats and jacks were purchased in time for the new season.

In June 1990, an Extraordinary General Meeting, attended by 34 members, was held to discuss a proposition put forward by the Men's Section in connection with the 30 persons on the Ladies' long Waiting List which showed no movement in the previous four years. The Secretary read out a letter from the Men's Secretary with their suggestion that ten ladies on the Waiting List should be offered visiting membership in 1990, enabling them to play on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at a cost of £1 per visit. They would have no right of membership but it would ease the problem of the large number of ladies wishing to play bowls. It would be necessary to report back to the Men's Section for further discussion at their Annual General Meeting to be held in October. Everyone was delighted with the proposal and looked forward to welcoming newcomers to the Club.

At the 1990 Annual General Meeting the annual subscription rose to £25. Members were informed that the County Secretary had a list of drugs not to be used when participating in competitions. The Secretary, M. Shuttleworth, in her report on the season's activities included a most interesting and perceptive statement. *'The idea of our being equal members with the men is not going to happen overnight, but I can report on the increased co-operation and discussion which has taken place over the last couple of years. We are far more integrated than many other private Clubs, and indeed are happier than most, but I think it needs some chiselling the old block to get things changed rather than a full frontal attack.'*

It is satisfying to record that her hope and that of other members were realised with the amalgamation of the membership in 2000. It was reported that some of the ladies upon resigning wished to keep in touch with members, and it was decided to form an association, viz. "Friends of PBC Ladies", who would receive the fixture lists and news of social events. A total of £75 was raised from sponsorship of the National Mixed Fours

competition in aid of Cancer Research UK. In October 1990, a donation of £80 was made to Crossroads Day Centre, a charity caring for Carers. The 1990 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 1991 Spring General Meeting, attended by 26 members, the Treasurer reported a sum of £1,721 in the Deposit Account, with coffee mornings having raised £234. Members were informed that the Ladies' Management Committee agreed with the Men's GPC that outside labour should be employed to clean the pavilion; each Section to pay 50% of the cost. In the past, members of the Ladies' Section had carried out this work on a voluntary basis.



**President's Day, August 1984**

**(l - r) : L. Barrons, M. Cassie, N.F. Orton, K. Wright, M. Myers (President),  
B. Johnston, J. Graham, M. Duff and M. Stuart**

It is satisfying to record that her hope and that of other members were realised with the amalgamation of the membership in 2000. It was reported that some of the ladies upon resigning wished to keep in touch with members, and it was decided to form an association, viz. "Friends of PBC Ladies", who would receive the fixture lists and news of social events. A total of £75 was raised from sponsorship of the National Mixed Fours competition in aid of Cancer Research UK. In October 1990, a donation of £80 was made to Crossroads Day Centre, a charity caring for Carers. The 1990 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 1991 Spring General Meeting, attended by 26 members, the Treasurer reported a sum of £1,721 in the Deposit Account, with coffee mornings having raised £234. Members were informed that the Ladies' Management Committee agreed with the Men's GPC that outside labour should be employed to clean the pavilion; each Section to pay 50% of the cost. In the past, members of the Ladies' Section had carried out this work on a voluntary basis.

At the 1991 Annual General Meeting it was decided to increase the annual subscription by 20% to £30 and to remove the honorarium originally awarded to the Match Secretary in 1984. The other honoraria awarded to both the Secretary and the Treasurer in 1981 were to remain, also that of the President which was awarded in 1984. In the County

competitions members participated in three semi-finals. The Secretary, possibly with tongue in cheek, said *'we can't keep winning all the time, and perhaps it saves on engraving fees and space on the Honours Board.'* The Ladies v. Gents end-of-season Club match was won by the ladies. The 1991 Annual Dinner was held in the Newcastle Aero Club.

At the 1992 Spring General Meeting, attended by 31 members, it was mentioned that there were 53 names on the Waiting List. The Treasurer commented on the magnificent support given by members at the coffee mornings held during the winter realizing £341. After deciding to make a payment of £1,700 towards considerable Club expenditure on pavilion repairs, green-maintenance, and a new equipment store, it was reported there was a balance of £1,640 in the accounts. It was agreed that a Ladies' Gala Day, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Ladies' Section, would be combined with Lady President's Day and be an all-day occasion. Concerning the borders surrounding the green, K. Armstrong, J. Graham and M. Healy were thanked for providing roses for the new flower beds. The first friendly fixture was arranged with Gosforth Ladies B.C.

At the 1992 Annual General Meeting the Secretary read out a letter from the County Lady President, B. Johnston, thanking the members for the flowers she had received and a monetary gift which had been spent on a set of opal ear-rings. Prior to the meeting, the Secretary obtained details of the age groups of the members for a Sports Council census.

In 1992 a substantial majority of the members agreed with the proposed ban on smoking in the pavilion.



**Mrs Elizabeth French after the investiture by Prince Charles of the M.B.E. in recognition of service to Education, March 1986**



**PBC Ladies, 1987**

**(l - r) : L. Barrons, N.F. Orton (President), J. Graham, M. Little, M. Myers, T. Wright, W.O. Carse, I. Fletcher, B. Johnston, N. Rutherford, M. Barclay and M. Shuttleworth**

At the 1993 Spring General Meeting, attended by 38 members, the Treasurer reported a balance of £1,751 in the accounts after payment of £1,574 towards a total Club expenditure of £4,204. The winter coffee mornings realized £353, the proceeds of which, in future, would be used to subsidize transport costs for matches. The Secretary stated that she had received an assurance from the Council that the appropriate Committee would consider the suggestion that a bowling green be made available at the Sports Centre. Members were informed of the M.B.E. for service with the Red Cross recently awarded to Mary Coard.

At the 1993 Annual General Meeting, attended by 34 members, the Treasurer stated that the annual subscription would have to be increased as only a small profit had been made on the activities throughout the year. It was agreed that it be raised to £35. As the price of silver spoons, awarded to winners of the Jumbles competitions, had risen significantly it was agreed that the entrance fee be increased to 30p. Members were informed that a payment well in excess of £2,000 was due to the Men's Section for their use of the facilities at the bowling green.

At the 1994 Spring General Meeting the Treasurer reported that regular coffee mornings raised £340, with a balance of £1,084 in the accounts. The President, F. Owen, was thanked for her very generous gift of a new refrigerator for the pavilion kitchen. The Match Secretary informed the members that an Honorary Life Member, E.M. Roper, now living in North Yorkshire, had requested her local Club, Stokesley B.C., to arrange a match with Ponteland. The members were pleased to accept the invitation to meet up with a most popular and active member of the Club. During the meeting it was proposed and agreed that five founder members of the Ladies' Section should receive Honorary Life Membership with full membership rights. Details are shown in Section 2.2.1.



**Ladies' Section 21st Anniversary, 1988**

**Back Row (l - r) : J. Graham, J. Cosby, N.F. Orton, I. Fletcher, E. Newton,  
T. Wright, W.O. Carse and B. Stafford**

**Front Row (l - r) : B. Johnston, E. Brown, F. Owen, N. Rutherford, L. Stockman,  
G. Cattliff, D. Emery, E. Younger, M. Cassie, M. Duff, M. Myers,  
M. Little, K. Armstrong, M. Shuttleworth and D. Lumley**

At the 1995 Spring General Meeting, attended by 34 members, it was mentioned that there were 62 names on the Waiting List. The Treasurer reported that coffee mornings raised £339, with a balance of £1,689 in the accounts. Prior to the meeting, J.T. Harrison gave a presentation on the preliminary work undertaken by his sub-committee investigating the possibility of extending the pavilion. The President, A. Gill, asked members to write in with any comments which would be passed on to the sub-committee.

At the 1995 Annual General Meeting, attended by 39 members, the Treasurer reported that the winter coffee mornings raised £339. Additional income of £319 was raised from competitions and raffles. A payment of £1,850 was made to the Men's Section for use of the facilities at the green. The Secretary remarked that she had received many complimentary remarks from visitors on the condition of the bowling green and was grateful to both the Green-ranger, R. Stafford, and the Green's Committee for their hard work.

At the 1996 Spring General Meeting, attended by 31 members, it was mentioned that there were 63 names on the Waiting List. The Treasurer stated that coffee mornings raised well over £300, with a balance of £2,396 in the accounts. A sum of £45 was raised in a raffle to help send a Visually Handicapped Team to the World Bowls Tournament.

At the 1996 Annual General Meeting, attended by 40 members, the Treasurer reported that the winter coffee mornings raised £404. Additional income of £258 was raised from the competitions and raffles. There was a balance of £4,965 which was a £700 increase on the balance in 1995. A payment of £1,769 was made to the Men's Section



**Miss Ora Carse with Lord-Lieutenant Lord Ridley  
Awarded B.E.M. in recognition of service in the W.R.V.S., 1988**

for use of the facilities at the green. The planned installation of a new automatic watering system at the green had been delayed as an application had been made to the National Lottery Commission for financial assistance. The application, however, was unsuccessful. The 1996 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 1997 Spring General Meeting, attended by 39 members, it was mentioned that there were 68 names on the Waiting List. The Treasurer stated that winter coffee mornings raised £252, with a balance of £3,786 in the accounts. An afternoon knock-out competition, the Rainbow Trophy, was introduced for those members not having played in a 2-, 3- or 4-Bowl final in the previous five years. Following the match at Stokesley B.C. in 1994 a mixed friendly match had been arranged to take place at Ponteland with E.M. Roper's Club at Great Ayton. In connection with NCWBA matters, the Secretary read out their report which expressed regret that M. Shuttleworth had resigned from the position of Assistant Secretary.



**Ladies' President's Day, 1990**

**(l - r) : Mesdames N. Rutherford, J. Graham and W.O. Carse, R. Stafford, Mesdames D. Lumley and M. Healy, C. Walters, Mesdames B. Stafford and K. Armstrong, D. Boland and G.C. Nicholson, Mrs J. Cosby, K. Griffiths, Mesdames T. Wright, I. Fletcher, G. Cattliff and M. Myers, E. Scholes, Mesdames M. Scarlett and F. Jeffs, S.A. Swift and G. Warner, Mesdames L. Barrons, E. French and J. Trimble, A.M. Maclean, Mesdames L. Stockman and M. Cassie, ? , J.W. Nesbit, Mesdames M.E.H. Nesbit and F. Owen, A.H. Baker, R. Elder, S. Wright and ? , Mrs E. Walters, ? , Mrs M. Shuttleworth, ? , ? , R.I. Shuttleworth, T. Lumley and W.R. Liddle, Mrs I. Cassidy and G. Bowmer**



**Founder Members of the Ladies' Section Attending PBC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, June 1992**

**(l - r) : Marjory Cassie, Ena Younger, Dorothy Crofts, Lil Stockman and Gwen Cattliff**



**Ladies' President's Day, 1992**

**Ladies (l - r) : M. Duff, T. Wright, E. French, A. Gill, M. Little, K. Armstrong, M. Myers, J. Cosby, L. Barrons, D. Lumley, M. Cassie, J. Graham, E. Newton, G. Cattliff, B. Johnston, L. Stockman, M. Lowthian, M. Shuttleworth, M. Scarlett, D. Crofts, M. Williamson, B. Stafford, E. Younger, I. Cassidy, F. Jeffs, L. Telfer, W.O. Carse, M. Tailford, G. Jordan, M. Healy, M. Bryson, N.F. Orton, F. Owen and I. Fletcher**

**Men (l - r) : J. Roberts, E.S. Johnson, K. Griffiths, R. Elder, G. Warner, S. Vine, A. Turner, P. Telfer, J.T. Harrison, T. Nichol, N. French, J.W. Atkinson, L. Crofts, J. Wood, R.I. Shuttleworth (President), J. English, G. Skinner, G.D. Bennett, J. Lunn, S.A. Swift, E. Scholes, T. Lumley, M. Edison, W. Robinson, A. Harper, G. Attwater, D. Hindmarsh, J.S. Duff and R. Stafford**

**Front Row : J.W. and Mrs M.E.H. Nesbit (President)**

At the 1997 Annual General Meeting, attended by 36 members, the President, M. Healy, expressed deep regret at the passing of Marjorie Duff who with her husband, John, had for several years greatly assisted with the Club's finances by holding annual garden parties at their home. The Treasurer stated that their finances were in good order with a £500 increase on the balance in 1996. The Statement of Accounts showed £568 had been raised from the winter coffee mornings, raffles and competitions. However, the Ladies' Section were required to pay approximately £4,000 as their share of the cost of installing a new automatic watering system around the bowling green. Also, a payment of £1,734 was made to the Men's Section for use of the facilities at the green.

At the 1998 Spring General Meeting, attended by 36 members, the Treasurer reported a balance of £4,200 in the accounts excluding annual subscriptions. £316 was raised from the winter coffee mornings. The annual subscription was increased to £50 as a sum of £3,771 had been paid towards green-maintenance and improvements. It was decided that the Selection Committee would appoint a Captain for each fixture, who would be responsible for making arrangements on the day of the match.

At the 1998 Annual General Meeting, attended by 36 members, the Treasurer stated that their financial commitments would amount to £3,500 taking account of their part in repairing the pavilion, green-maintenance, laying flagstones at the bank-sides. Also, in response to an appeal by the PMH for financial assistance, the 'Table Top' Sale held in the

PMH was a resounding success and raised £2,130. The two stalls set up by the Club raised about £1,450 of the total sum, including donations. The daughters of the late Mary Little also attended the meeting and presented a silver salver in Mary's memory with the inscription "To Always Play The Game". The salver would be presented annually to members who have made noteworthy efforts on behalf of the Club.

At the 1999 Spring General Meeting, attended by 38 members, the Treasurer reported a balance of £2,355 in the accounts with £3,900 having been paid towards the costs involved for alterations to the pavilion and green-maintenance. The proceeds from raffles and sales of tea & coffee at each of the County President's functions and regular coffee mornings realized a profit of £720.

At the 1999 Annual General Meeting, attended by 33 members, the President considered it was an honour for the Club to host the match between the EWBA President's touring team and the NCWBA. The Treasurer reported that a profit of £720 was made from the winter coffee mornings, raffles and sales of tea & coffee at each of the County President's functions. The Secretary stated that every member of the Club would receive a copy of the new draft Constitution which would be voted on at a Combined Annual General Meeting.

At the 2000 Annual General Meeting, attended by 30 members, it was stated that after 17 years service, I. Fletcher had resigned from the position of County Treasurer. Members were thanked by the NCWBA for hosting the match against Lancashire. The Secretary stated that £153 had been handed over to the Club Treasurer, E.W. Lowthian. Members were informed of four coaching sessions to be held each week at the beginning of the 2001 season. Following the amalgamation of the Club's membership it was agreed that the first year had been successful, and the President was pleased that M.E.H. Nesbit would be standing as the Club Lady Chairman.

At the 2001 Spring General Meeting, attended by 47 members, it was mentioned that coaching lessons would be available on four days each week at the beginning of the season. M.E.H. Nesbit provided details of the proposed plans for the new Clubhouse.

At the 2001 Annual General Meeting, attended by 41 members, it was stated that there had been few problems following the amalgamation of the Club membership and the arrival of new members from the Waiting List. The County representative stated that the names and addresses of all Club members had been submitted to the County Secretary for the purposes of forming a National Register. Later on, membership cards were issued.

At the 2002 Spring General Meeting, attended by 46 members, the President thanked members for their efforts in raising over £360 from the winter coffee mornings. Also, H. Furniss was thanked for organizing an informal indoor league. It was announced that our County players are invited to attend a Picnic & Play event at Royal Leamington Spa to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

At the 2002 Annual General Meeting, attended by 45 members, it was reported that the winter coffee mornings, book sales, raffles and competitions raised £249. Members agreed with the proposal that the Club be admitted to the North-Eastern Ladies' League which required matches to be played on Tuesday afternoons. The President, N. Caldwell, considered one of the highlights of the season had been the Queen's Golden Jubilee Gala Day Jumbles, held in June.

At the 2003 Spring General Meeting, attended by 54 members, it was mentioned that the Club had received notification from the County that no young person can be allowed on the bowling green without written parental permission. Also, the qualified coaches would have to complete the necessary forms.

At the 2003 Annual General Meeting, attended by 57 members, it was reported that the winter coffee mornings, book sales, raffles and competitions had raised £286.

The President, L. Telfer, thanked all the Committee members for their support and expressed her pleasure at having use of the new Clubhouse throughout the season.

In January 2004, members attended the 90th birthday celebration of Dorothy Crofts, a founder member in 1967 of the Ladies' Section.

At the 2004 Spring General Meeting, attended by 49 members, the Secretary stated that the monthly winter coffee mornings, with two remaining, raised over £550. In connection with the domestic competitions, members were informed that J. Nichol was the only Official Registered Marker in the Ladies' Section.

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting, attended by 39 members, the Treasurer reported over £700 had been raised from coffee mornings and another £288 from book sales, raffles and competitions. In connection with the domestic competitions, members were reminded that J. Nichol was the only Official Registered Marker, along with two others in the Men's Section. In the absence of an Umpire, marking in competitions by members has been carried out, in many cases, with little knowledge of the official duties of a Marker as laid down in the EBA Rules. As a matter of interest, the Men's Secretary included "Duties of Marker" in the Club's Rules and Fixtures booklets which were issued to all members in 1975 and 1976. Thereafter, for financial reasons the small booklet, which also contained the names of Club officials, competition rules, members' names with addresses and telephone numbers, was discontinued. Nowadays, with the aid of word processors, it should be possible to re-introduce a similar booklet which could be edited each year.

At the 2005 Spring General Meeting, attended by 52 members, the Secretary informed members that the dress code for Collins & Shipley and NEL league matches are the same and should be strictly adhered to. Members were asked to support the Club's representatives at the forthcoming NEL Spring Meeting. Members were reminded that coaching sessions are available with H. Robson, W.R. Liddle and R.I. Shuttleworth. The County representative, L. Telfer, stated that the EWBA were experiencing financial difficulties. Also, in connection with C & S fixtures, plain white baseball caps could be worn but umbrellas were not allowed on the green.

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting, attended by 48 members, the Treasurer stated membership had fallen from the permitted maximum of 100 in 2003 down to 89. This situation could impact on subscription levels unless there was an influx of new members. It was reported that the winter coffee mornings raised over £500. A further £472 was raised from book sales, raffles and competitions. After expenses, the remaining income was handed over to the Club Treasurer. In connection with the County competitions, it was decided that a total of £120 from Club funds be awarded to members who participated in the National Finals at Royal Leamington Spa, Warwicks. A decision was taken not to make arrangements for a County match as the Clubhouse could not accommodate 65 or more persons for a meal after the match. The PMH was an alternative venue, but its hire charges were found to be too expensive. Perhaps, on reflection, it was rather unfortunate that the Clubhouse length was reduced by three metres, as a cost-saving measure when built in 2003. In September 2005, thirteen members attended a seminar 'On the Duties of a Marker' at Hexham B.C. At the present time, two members are qualified Markers for NCWBA competitions. M.E.H. Nesbit accepted the position of County representative. At the end of the meeting the President, M. Cowan, mentioned the passing of Gwen Cattliff a very active and founder member of the Ladies' Section.

At the 2006 Spring General Meeting, attended by 53 members, the Secretary reported that the winter coffee mornings raised over £550. In connection with the Nan MacLeod trophy, the members were informed that in order to qualify for the award at the end of the season a minimum of eight appearances was required. Weekly winners have the option of a silver spoon or money. It was announced that the Men's Section has three qualified coaches viz. W.R. Liddle, H. Robson and R.I Shuttleworth who are willing to hold coaching sessions for lady members.

At the 2006 Annual General Meeting, attended by 49 members, it was stated that in addition to the income from coffee mornings, £450 was raised from book sales, raffles and competitions. After expenses, the remaining income was handed over to the Club Treasurer. Following discussion on a series of ideas, it was decided to award the Mary Little Memorial Salver in 2007 as a trial round-robin competition for the Over 75s. It would be held on a Friday afternoon played with two bowls over eight ends. The runner-up 'to receive a packet of Wine Gums.' The 2006 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 2007 Spring General Meeting the Secretary reported that the winter coffee mornings raised £556. The County representative, M.E.H. Nesbit, informed members that when unification of the National Body takes place it will be renamed Bowls England. Consequently, the NCBA and NCWBA will be renamed Bowls Northumberland.

At the 2007 Annual General Meeting, attended by 39 members, it was reported that in addition to the income from coffee mornings, £516 was raised from book sales, raffles and competitions. After expenses, the remaining income was handed over to the Club Treasurer. The position of Match Secretary was first undertaken in 1983 by B. Johnston. Now, with the increasing fixtures list J. Howell kindly agreed to take on the position. The newly elected President, M. Richardson, congratulated M.E.H. Nesbit on completing an 8-week coaching course. The 2007 Annual Dinner was held at Kirkley Hall.

At the 2008 Spring General Meeting, attended by 49 members, the Secretary reported that £446 had been raised from the winter coffee mornings. The Match Secretary, J. Howell, was thanked for arranging the friendly matches in good time enabling early printing of the Fixtures booklet. Members were informed that D.A. McDonnell had received her Junior Vice President's badge and would be County President in 2010.

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting, attended by 50 members, the President announced that Vice President, J. Marshall, was seriously ill and unable to continue participating in Club affairs. M. Brown agreed to take over as Vice President and N. Caldwell the position of Secretary. It was reported that in addition to the income from winter coffee mornings a further £275 was raised from book sales, raffles and competitions. After expenses, the remaining income was handed over to the Club Treasurer. It was reported that the Top Ten competition would be replaced with a Double Rinks event in 2009. The 2008 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 2009 Spring General Meeting, attended by 50 members, it was reported that the winter coffee mornings raised £527. Members were informed that D.A. McDonnell, the County Vice President, would appreciate their support on the occasions of the County Pairs Semi-Finals and the match between Northumberland and Yorkshire. The GPC agreed that the Rinks team be given £120 from Club funds to help towards their expenses at Royal Leamington Spa.

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, attended by 52 members, it was reported that in addition to the income from winter coffee mornings £574 was raised from book sales, raffles and competitions. After expenses, £400 was handed over to the Club Treasurer. On behalf of the members the President, M. Cowan, wished D.A. McDonnell the very best in her forthcoming role as County Lady President. The 2009 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 2010 Spring General Meeting, attended by 49 members, the newly appointed Secretary, E. Gatenby, reported that the winter coffee mornings raised £564. Members were informed that the Green's Committee had an extensive work programme in hand before Opening Day and the Green-ranger would appreciate any help that the ladies could provide around the green. Reference was made to supporting D.A. McDonnell in her year as County Lady President. In connection with the league fixtures, the President requested that members wear the approved yellow cardigans.

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting, attended by 48 members, it was reported that in addition to the income from winter coffee mornings £470 was raised from book sales, raffles and competitions. After expenses, £868 was handed over to the Club Treasurer. A. Rutter, the President, then read out a letter from D.A. McDonnell thanking members for their support in her year as County Lady President. In connection with the domestic competitions, it was stated that the Nan MacLeod Memorial salvers, presented to the Club in 1982, were not in a serviceable condition and the President had donated two trophies in their stead. At the close of the meeting A. Rutter thanked E. Gatenby for her excellent work as Secretary. The 2010 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 2011 Spring General Meeting, attended by 47 members, the Secretary reported that the winter coffee mornings raised £575. Members were informed that the finalists in the four main domestic competitions in 2011 would receive small trophies in lieu of monetary gifts of £5 and £3. A gift of sixty-five 10" dinner plates matching the Club's crockery was presented to the Club by A. Rutter and A. Brennan to mark their presidencies in 2010 and 2011.

At the 2011 Annual General Meeting, attended by 56 members, it was reported that in addition to the income from winter coffee mornings, £491 was raised from book sales, raffles and competitions. After expenses, £782 was handed over to the Club Treasurer. A. Brennan, the President, informed members that their views would be sought at the 2011 Combined Annual General Meeting when a proposal by the Club Treasurer, endorsed by the GPC, regarding the entrance fee for new members would be discussed. Several opinions were expressed on alternative solutions to the entrance fee. Following on from her report as County Representative, a position held since 2005, M.E.H. Nesbit expressed great pleasure in handing over the reins to M. Cowan. It was reported that coaching lessons held once a week for six weeks had been poorly attended. In connection with routine maintenance work around the green, the Secretary stated that, when requested on the Notice Board, the Green's Committee would appreciate additional help from lady members. The 2011 Annual Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club.

At the 2012 Spring General Meeting, attended by 43 members, it was announced the GPC has decided that the Gala Day Jumbles arranged for the 4<sup>th</sup> June will commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with members dressed in red, white and blue. The newly appointed Secretary, S.A. Storey, thanked members who had helped organize the very successful social activities during the winter months and mentioned the £670 raised from the winter coffee mornings. Also, members were informed that E. Shuttleworth would again be opening her garden to members during the summer.

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting, attended by 47 members, E. Gatenby, the President, on welcoming the members referred to the unfortunate health problems of several ladies. J. Nichol after many years a member of the County team had now retired for health reasons. The President mentioned that three members had entered their 80s, two were now in their 90s and that Joan and Ron Smith (from the Men's Section) had celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. In connection with social events, it was reported that the coffee mornings had raised £609 which was handed over to the Treasurer. Reference was made to the perennial problem with finding members willing to serve on the very important Social Committee. The efforts of the Green's Committee and others were well rewarded when it was announced that the Club had been awarded a Gold Medal Certificate in the "Northumbria In Bloom" competition. Although the weather had been the wettest on record, only a few matches needed to be re-arranged. Members were informed that E. Gatenby had recently qualified to officiate as an Umpire. The members agreed with the proposal by M.E.H. Nesbit that G. Stapylton be elected Vice President of the County in 2013. The Annual Dinner was again held at Ponteland Golf Club.

Sadly, former Secretary, Treasurer, President, Honorary Life and founder member of the Ladies' Section, Dorothy Crofts, who was residing with her family in Hampshire, passed away in her centennial year in February 2013.

At the 2013 Spring General Meeting, attended by 37 members, The President, Joyce Pringle, welcomed members having braved adverse weather conditions. Members were invited to donate home-made products, arts and crafts etc for the charity tea to be held in the Clubhouse on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. The funds raised will help toward the splendid work carried out at the RVI Great North Children's Hospital.

The President thanked both M. Cowan for her work as Club Secretary during the past seven years and N. Caldwell for her efforts as Chair of the Club during the past year. Both ladies were presented with plants on behalf of the Ladies Section. Following the recent death of a member the President announced that after a great deal of deliberation the GPC had taken the decision that no longer would relatives be allowed to spread the ashes of deceased members around the grounds of the bowling Club.

Members were informed that the County were seeking volunteers for the position of Vice President. Following the meeting Gloria Stapylton expressed an interest and was duly appointed.

At the 2013 Annual General Meeting, attended by 45 members, the President announced that the Club website could be used by members for posting obituaries. It was reported that both teams performed well in the Collins & Shipley matches. The results obtained in the County competitions are shown in Section 2.2. It was stated that the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club this year was celebrated with a fancy dress Presidents' Day, a barbecue and photographic display of the history of the bowling Club.

Another highlight of the year was the charity tea in the Clubhouse which raised well over £500 for the President's charity viz. the RVI Great North Children's Hospital.

The Secretary, S.A. Storey, explained the role of the GPC for the benefit of new members and the Club's efforts in achieving Bowls England Club Mark Accreditation. The requirements were that the Club has to demonstrate its efficiency in financial accountability, that health & safety regulations are in place and adhered to, policies for the welfare of members are in place and that the coaching staff are appropriately trained. A Club Handbook has been produced for this purpose.

Members were informed that the Secretary had been appointed as the Club Welfare Officer and P.A. Dodds the nominated First Aider. The kitchen was inspected by the Council and awarded the Club the top grade viz 5-star.

E. Gatenby was thanked by the Secretary for organising the friendly fixtures and congratulated again on qualifying as a regional umpire. Thanks were also extended to J. Nixon, M. Catchpole, M. Richardson and J. Howell for their efforts on behalf of the Club.

The County Representative, M. Cowan, reported that the Club had nominated Vice President, G. Stapylton, as County President and M. Turner as County Secretary for 2014. The nominations of both G. Stapylton and M. Turner were confirmed later at the County meeting of delegates. Members were encouraged to participate in the new Bowls Northumberland County Mixed Pairs competition. The unified Finals Day had been a huge success and in 2014 would be spread over two days.

Following the election of Officers and Committee members, the proposal for a new class of member viz a Social Member was discussed. It would accommodate both husbands and wives of current members who would like to participate in the Club. It was announced that arrangements had been made for pupils from Richard Coates Middle School to attend some coaching sessions on Friday afternoons.

At the 2014 Spring General Meeting, attended by 38 members, R. Johnson, the President, announced that there is to be a joint Presidents fund-raising event this year in aid of the Great North Air Ambulance. Past President, Joyce Pringle, was thanked for her

kind donation of glass table numbered plaques which will be used for league matches. A very successful pre-season Dinner was held at the Highlander which raised £182.

The Secretary, S. A. Storey, reported on the wide and varied social programme throughout the closed season enabling members to keep in touch. The coffee mornings had raised £820 towards transport costs for matches and M. Catchpole was thanked for managing the Social account.

At the close of the 2014 season the Club achieved Club Mark status, the first outdoor bowling Club in Northumberland to do so. Best wishes were extended to both G. Stapylton and M. Turner following their successful nominations as County Lady President and Treasurer respectively. Two County matches were arranged to take place on the green against Cumbria and Yorkshire. A second team would participate in the Public Utilities League and nine friendly matches were arranged.

It was announced that in addition to the coaching sessions organized for the public in May, arrangements had been made for pupils from Richard Coates Middle School to attend some coaching sessions on Friday afternoons.

The County representative, M. Cowan, announced that BN Women's Section have offered a 4-Bowl runners-up trophy for the annual National Championships held at Royal Leamington Spa. M. Cowan assured both G. Stapylton and M. Turner that Ponteland B.C. will be willing to help in any way that it can during their terms in office.

At the close of the meeting members were asked if anyone would consider taking over the position of Secretary as this was the last year in office to held by S.A. Storey.

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, attended by 38 members, the President, R. Johnson, informed members of the passing of Noreen Rutherford who was County President in 1999. With regard to competitions, the President congratulated members of the two Collins & Shipley teams on their performance during the season. She also congratulated both J. Nixon and D.W. Morrison on winning the inaugural County Mixed Pairs competition. Mention was made that the Ladies' Section had won the Armstrong Trophy this year. Thanks were extended to all the members of the various committees for their efforts on behalf of the Club. Several members are celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year and have invited members to attend a joint celebration.

The Secretary reported that the winter social programme was well supported. The events included Dominoes with a Difference, a domino drive, a beetle drive, a night out at Fratelli's, and a quiz night. Thanks to the efforts of Club coaches and helpers the "Taster Sessions" held in May attracted 13 new members. It was pointed out that although the Club has healthy numbers further members were necessary to avoid the situation of closure as has occurred with other bowling Clubs.

P. Haylock congratulated members on the results of county competitions, details of which are presented in Section 2.2. She stated that next year there will be a Finals Day for the 2, 3 and 4-Bowl competitions to be held the first weekend in August.

L. Telfer stated that one of the difficulties facing the Selection Committee was that so many members wanted to play, but only a limited number could be selected. She suggested that members continue to put their names down for friendly matches and let their bowls do the talking !!! If only the Men's Section Selection Committee had the same problem !!!

The County representative, M. Cowan, reported on the last delegates meeting. A new mixed league should commence in 2017. The 4-Bowls runners-up trophy donated by Bowls Northumberland was presented for the first time by BN Ladies President, G. Stapylton, and Secretary, M. Turner, alongside the Bowls England officials at Royal Leamington Spa.

Following the election of Officers and Committee members, M. Cowan thanked S.A. Storey for her efforts over the past three years as Secretary. She will stay on for another year, however, in order to 'train up' somebody else to take over next year.

At the 2015 Spring General Meeting, attended by 38 members, the President, E. Cowings, thanked members for supporting the winter programme and the coffee mornings. Thanks were extended to the Green-ranger, W.R. Liddle, and his team of volunteers who helped throughout the winter preparing the green which is in excellent condition for the forthcoming season.

The Secretary, S.A. Storey, announced that only one team will be entered in the Public Utilities League this year due to management difficulties in supporting two teams when other Club fixtures take place in the afternoon. J. Nixon, P. Haylock and J. Ramsey were thanked for all the work they had undertaken last year. The Ladies' Committee have agreed that in the case of a tie in the Nan MacLeod competition the joint winners to receive a spoon or £4. This year the "Taster Sessions" would take place on a combination of Fridays and Saturdays. This is an important event as the Club needs new members to replace those who have retired from bowling.

The County representative, M. Cowan, drew attention to the County competitions and league fixtures. Members were also informed that Tynemouth have disbanded but the application by Hexham House has been accepted. The Club has four new players representing the County viz. A. Brennan, P. Haylock, R. Johnson and S.A. Storey in addition to current members M. Cowan, E. Emmerson, G. Stapylton and M. Turner.

At the 2015 Annual General Meeting, attended by 43 members, the President, E. Cowings, congratulated the ladies who had represented the Club finishing runners-up in the Public Utilities League. Details of the Club's success in County competition are presented in Section 2.2. Thanks were extended to the Vice President, S.A. Storey, Committee members and many others for their help when required.

The Secretary reported that the schools programme had been successful and, whilst this was seen as the way forward for the future of the Club, it will be reviewed for next year. There is the possibility of two new competitions next year viz. a County Mixed Double Rinks and a Friday Friendly League. M. Catchpole was thanked for managing the Social account for several years but a volunteer was needed to take over her role. Also, J. Howell and M. Richardson were both thanked for their housekeeping activities.

Results of the County and domestic competitions are presented in Sections 2.2 and 11.2 respectively. Unfortunately, delays in completing earlier rounds of some competitions seriously affected completion of games towards the end of the season. It was agreed that in future, the competitions be more closely monitored and set dates adhered to.

The County representative, M. Cowan, reported fully on the last delegates meeting and stated that all competition fees have been increased by 50p and participants may play in official Bowls England shorts !!! She congratulated players on their performance at Royal Leamington Spa.

N. Caldwell proposed and was seconded by M. Richardson, that an Assistant Secretary be elected annually, for a maximum period of three years, to work closely alongside the Secretary and share an agreed workload. The assistant would not be obliged to become secretary. The proposal was agreed by a show of hands. It may be seen from the Annual General Meeting held in 1983, the position of Match Secretary was created who in keeping with other Officers at that time did not pay an annual subscription.

Following the election of Officers and Committee members, the newly elected President, S.A. Storey, thanked the retiring committee members for their efforts and wished the incoming committee members a happy and successful tenure of office.

At the 2016 Spring General Meeting, attended by 40 members, the newly appointed Secretary, J. Ramsay, stated that at the very successful winter monthly coffee mornings it was good to see more men in attendance. A most successful "Burns Night" was held at Ponteland Golf Club which raised £632 from the raffle and ticket sales. The Quiz Night was well supported with 40 tickets sold and £124 raised for the Club. Thanks were extended to C. Davison and her helpers for the supper and glass of wine. The Domino Drive was well supported and P. Kilmister was thanked for organising the event, also A. Rutter and her team for providing the afternoon tea. The remaining event was the pre-season Dinner held at Ponteland Golf Club.

The Selection Committee has met and decided to change the teams for league matches. The first team will play in Collins & Shipley Div.1, the second will play in the NEL and the third in Collins & Shipley Div.2. This arrangement enables any member of the NEL team to participate in Collins & Shipley matches. Players in all league matches must adhere to the correct dress code. Only nine members showed any interest in playing in the Public Utilities League. Ten members indicated their interest in playing in the new Friday Friendly League.

Members were informed of the repair work carried out on the green during the closed season alongside PMH and the Tennis Club.

In connection with Opening Day, it was agreed that a cup should be awarded annually to the winner of the day. It would be named the Queen Elizabeth Cup 2016 to commemorate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. This year, it will be presented by the Town Mayor, Cllr Carl Rawlings. Members were encouraged to wear a little red and or blue on their whites dress. Tea to be held in the PMH. Members were encouraged to read the Club's Newsletter either online or on the notice board in the Clubhouse.

At the 2016 Annual General Meeting, attended by 43 members, the President, S.A. Storey, announced that in 2017 the Ladies' Section will be invited to think of ways to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has been suggested that a booklet be produced containing memories of Club members over the years.

The Secretary referred to the events during the winter programme. The Club had again been awarded the BDA grant of £290 for services to the community involving five "Taster Sessions" at the beginning of the season. These were advertised in Pont News and Views and were well attended resulting in the recruitment of 10 new lady members. Sadly, due to the overall lack of interest on the part of children from Richard Coates School who were invited to try bowling last year the GPC has decided not to include this in the 2017 programme.

In connection with the domestic competitions G. Stapylton reported that they had run smoothly with everyone complying with the "play by" dates. Details of the winners are presented in Section 11.2. Both E. Emmerson and S. O'Rourke participated in the County "Champion of Champions" competitions with S. O'Rourke reaching the semi-final in the 4-Bowl.

In 2016, Ponteland Ladies had eight representatives playing in the Northern Counties and Stella Logan Leagues. This was the highest number since 2000 and 1997 when 8 and 10 players respectively represented the County. Details of County competition results are presented in Section 5.2. In closing, G. Stapylton thanked the members of the Selection Committee for their work in connection with team selection for both the League and Friendly fixtures.

The County representative, M. Cowan, referred to the proposal by Benfield to reduce the number of players in the Collins & Shipley Leagues from 12 to 9. Following a vote taken at the meeting the members agreed that the Club should vote against the resolution. Members were informed that there would be a new Over - 55s Rinks competition in 2017.

During the election of Officers, M. Kilmister was appointed to the new position of Assistant Secretary.

At the 2017 Spring General Meeting, attended by 42 members, the President, G. Stapylton, announced that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Ladies' Section and hoped it would be made something special. The Secretary, J. Ramsay, reported on the winter programme of social events. The Beetle Drive run by H. Furniss raised approximately £100 for charity and the Daft Dominoes event was very successful. The "Burns Night" evening held at Ponteland Golf Club raised £457 in total. Thanks were extended to R. Varley for organising the Domino Drive which raised £188 and to S. Simmons with her team for the tea arrangements. C. Davison was thanked for organising the food and glass of wine for the Quiz Night which raised £79. The annual pre-season Dinner was again held at Ponteland Golf Club.

In connection with the league matches the Ladies' Committee decided to increase the charges for away matches from £3 to £4. Both J. Nixon and D.W. Kirk were thanked for their part in organising the Public Utilities League matches in recent years. Both E. French and D.C. Crozier would be responsible for the full programme in 2017. Members were reminded of the Friendly matches and early season five "Taster Sessions" to encourage newcomers to the Club.

Members were reminded that Opening Day would be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and tea would be held in the PMH afterwards. The Greenranger, W.R. Liddle, gave a short talk on explaining the changes he was making on the direction of play to protect and preserve the green. Play will take place in each direction on a weekly basis.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ladies' Section was celebrated in the Clubhouse. The tea party was well attended by members and friends from both Sections. The event was opened by the Mayor of Ponteland, Cllr Alan Varley. Thanks were extended to Ringtons Tea for their generous donation of tea, coffee and a Ringtons Hamper for a free raffle.



Ladies' Section 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea Party,  
8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

### 1.3 Combined Sections

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 1999 Annual General Meeting, attended by 72 members, amendments to the draft Constitution, previously circulated to members, were discussed. It was agreed that a lady member elected as Chairman would be addressed as Lady Chairman. In connection with the election of Officers at the first combined Annual General Meeting in 1999, both Past Presidents of the Men's Section, R.B. Baxter and B.D.W. Wright, were nominated for the position of Club Chairman, an office last held in 1954. Following the result of the ballot, R.B. Baxter was declared the Club Chairman, and both A. Wilson and E.W. Lowthian were elected unopposed as the Secretary and the Treasurer respectively.

At the 2000 Annual General Meeting the proposed new Rules and Constitution were approved by the members. The total membership was set at 200 and comprised of 100 men and 100 ladies. Past Presidents of the Club, Mrs M.E.H. Nesbit and R. Stafford, were nominated for the position of Club Chairman. Following the result of the ballot, Mrs

M.E.H. Nesbit was declared Lady Chairman for the next three years. Following some favourable discussion it was decided that consideration be given to providing Clubhouse facilities able to accommodate such a large membership. As a result of the welcome change in the Constitution, it was suggested that a joint Presidents' Day be held in future.

In April 2001, the pre-season Dinner which was followed by entertainment, was held at the Newcastle Airport Britannia Hotel. In May 2001, the Club was represented at the Methodist Church Festival.

At the 2001 Annual General Meeting, attended by 62 members, Secretary, A. Wilson, said that in connection with the Club Rules he had received a proposal from two members requesting that former members, previously residing outside the permitted residential area i.e. 3.5 miles radius from the PMH, be allowed to re-join the Club at a later date. With the recent re-enforcement of the residential limit of 3.5 miles radius by the PMH Trustees this was not possible. It was noted that the NLC had imposed a condition of open membership in order to receive funding. However, after some discussion, a vote was taken on the proposal by a show of hands with 16 in favour and 13 against. There were 33 abstentions compared with the 29 members interested enough to vote on this issue. It was announced that H. Robson had been appointed the official County Coach.

With the need to raise funding to replace the pavilion, the Social Committee began in earnest to organize a series of events which could be staged in future years. In 2002, in addition to the pre-season Dinner held at the Newcastle Airport Britannia Hotel, the first-ever Chinese Evening was held in the New Rendezvous restaurant which raised £662. A Bridge Drive was held in the PMH which raised £531 and an innovative quiz, organized by Mrs M. Bryson, raised a further £100. In 2002, the PMH Committee increased the rental for the bowling green by 41%, from £390 to £550. In February 2002, the GPC considered a proposal by G. Goldie for possible issue to members regarding etiquette on the green. However, the Committee considered the well-meaning statement was unnecessary.

On the 3rd June 2002, a day which was rather damp but brightened up later as the Club celebrated the Queen's Golden Jubilee with a splendidly organized Jumbles. A charge of £5 was made to cover the provision of both tea and a raffle ticket. Also, members participated in an excellent hat competition which was won by J. Nichol with her hand-made crown.

To mark the centenary of the EBA in 2003, affiliated Clubs were requested to donate £10 to the NSPCC charity which met with the agreement of the GPC.

At the 2002 Annual General Meeting, attended by 52 members, the Treasurer, R. J. Varley, explained in detail the Statement of Accounts and of the need later on to increase the annual subscription if the proposed Clubhouse was built. Also, he outlined the legal position of the Club with regard to the PMH, a registered charity. The Charity Commissioners had raised objections to the grant of a lease which was required for the Club's security of tenure but was a condition of the £30,000 grant requested from the Foundation for Sports and Arts. This seemed to be an unnecessary complication as the PMH, the bowling green and the tennis courts is the memorial to the servicemen from the Ponteland area that lost their lives in World War I, and a lease was not required. Meanwhile, G. Webb stated that Dickinson Associates of Morpeth had been engaged in an advisory role and had obtained estimates ranging from £186,000 to £129,000 from local builders for the new Clubhouse. In addition, Dickinson Associates were to be paid £3,500 + VAT. Members would have to decide on proceeding with the project by the end of November to ensure its completion before Opening Day in 2003. In connection with the condition of the green and its surrounds, G. Webb thanked R. Stafford, W. Bell and members of the Green's Committee for their efforts throughout the season.

In connection with the proposed indoor bowling green facility at West Denton it was stated that G. Goldie was a member of the committee. Prospective members from Ponteland were asked to show their support of the venture by making a small monetary

contribution, as required by the Lottery Authorities.

In April 2003, the pre-season Dinner was held at the Newcastle Airport Britannia Hotel which raised £147, and a Bridge Afternoon which raised £100. In connection with PBC fixtures for 2003, it was decided to withdraw from the NEEPCL after 28 years in the competition. In recent years, there had been difficulty in finding members willing to play in the previously popular fixtures of the first white-dress league competition in the North East. During the season, an excellent barbecue was held beside the green which raised £610, and a Chinese Evening was held in the New Rendezvous restaurant in September 2003 which raised £462. M. Cowan of the Ladies' Section participated in a sponsored walk and raised £365 for Club funds which was much appreciated by the members. In October 2003 a Bridge Drive raised £460. In connection with these Clubhouse fund-raising activities, several members had, in no small measure, provided much practical assistance. The GPC expressed their gratitude to the Social Committee and especially to Mrs E. French who raised £500 from among the members towards the cost of tables & chairs. The GPC also mentioned the many DIY jobs, in and around the Clubhouse, which were carried out by W.R. Little with the able assistance of other members including G.D. Bennett, E.W. Lowthian and R.A. Peckham.

At the 2003 Annual General Meeting, attended by 60 members, the Treasurer reported £3,320 had been raised from several functions and coffee mornings held during the year. Also, it was agreed on a show of hands that the GPC be authorized to spend up to £5,000 instead of £1,500 without seeking prior approval from the membership. This expenditure was officially ratified by ballot at the 2006 combined Annual General Meeting. Members were reminded that a Domino Drive & Bridge Evening had been arranged and regular coffee mornings would take place during the closed season. The retiring Lady Chairman, M.E.H. Nesbit, thanked all members of the GPC for their efforts during the previous three years, and particularly, the efforts of G. Webb throughout the building of the new Clubhouse. No other nominations having been received, J.T. Harrison was duly elected Chairman. It was agreed that Club Coach, H. Robson, should have use of the Clubhouse for a coaching seminar early in 2004.

It was reported at a GPC meeting, held shortly afterwards, that A. Ridley, a new member, was designing a website for the Club which would provide information relating to the social calendar including photographs, fixtures and the achievements of its members in both domestic and County competitions, also representative honours.

At a meeting of the GPC in January 2004 the fixtures for the new season was discussed and F. Knight kindly offered to provide a list in booklet form instead of A4 sheets. In April 2004, the pre-season Dinner was again held at the Newcastle Airport Britannia Hotel. Following the success of the previous barbecue, another was held in August 2004 which raised £500. This popular function, however, can accommodate no more than 120 persons at the green. Altogether, £4,251 was raised from the various functions including the coffee mornings. In keeping with the new Clubhouse it was decided to provide new Honours Boards dating back to the formation of the Ladies' Section in 1967. These were purchased at a cost of £1,789. The Australia resident family of the late Gordon Skinner donated £211 covering the cost of a Memorial Board listing the names of Club officials.

At the 2004 Annual General Meeting, attended by 58 members, the Treasurer reported that all the 3-year loans secured for the pavilion project had been repaid. Some of the 5-year loans would be repaid early in 2005 and the remainder in 2006. Annual repayments of the interest-free EBA loan of £20,000 would be completed in 2009. The necessary insurance for the Club covering Buildings, Contents, Employers' and Public Liability was obtained at a cost of £640. There was a small increase in the rental payable to the PMH. In response to an appeal, a donation was sent to the Blind Bowling Association.

In connection with NCBA activities it was stated that both R.I. Shuttleworth and H. Robson were resigning from their respective positions of League Secretary and Coach. In 2005, W.R. Little accepted the position of County Coach.

Early in 2005, the successful pre-season Dinner was held at Kirkley Hall and further events were arranged by the Social Committee, which raised sums of £440 from a Bridge Evening and £693 from a Domino Drive. In June, a barbecue was again held which raised £538, and a Jumbles event followed by a Fish & Chip Supper which raised £462. Altogether £5,900 was raised from the various social events and coffee mornings, including £330 from the all-day Mixed Pairs competition.

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting members agreed with the recommendation of the Treasurer that the annual subscription be increased from £75 to £80, no increase having taken place since 2000. In connection with the Club Rules, the GPC considered it was desirable to allow it to exercise its discretion should membership levels fall below the maximum of 100 in either Section. It was intended this should only take effect when an imbalance of not more than five vacancies occur in either the Ladies' or Men's Sections. It would offset the need to raise annual subscriptions in order to retain the budgeted level of income. However, the proposal by the GPC was defeated. The decision taken in recent years, to replace officials and committee members after a 3-year period, had caused problems in the past. At this meeting, the problem re-surfaced when endeavouring to appoint a new Treasurer. In the ensuing discussion, an opinion was expressed that muddled thinking had led to willing and most proficient members having to stand down at the election of Officers. In order to resolve the impasse, it was decided that the Treasurer be allowed to continue for another year, albeit a further infringement of Club Rules. Thanks were extended to members of the Social Committee for their excellent teamwork in providing catering arrangements for matches and social events. It was reported that the recently donated computer had been installed in the Club Office for use by members but was without an internet connection.

Following the meeting, A. Ridley gave a presentation on the content of his proposed website for the Club. The Chairman, A.O. Christie, thanked him for designing the website which would provide members with coverage of activities including various social events.

In December 2005, the GPC agreed that notices be displayed requesting people from smoking whilst on the green. This reinforces the decision taken in 1992 to prohibit smoking in the pavilion.

In January 2006, a further very successful Chinese Charity Evening was again held in the New Rendezvous restaurant raising £742. In April 2006, the pre-season Dinner with musical entertainment was held at Ponteland Golf Club. The popular Fish & Chip Supper was held in June 2006 raising £170, and the Barbecue in August 2006 which raised £550. In the following month, "Dominoes with a Difference" was held in the Clubhouse and raised £210. Two whist drives raised over £600. It was agreed that a Bridge School for beginners be held in the Clubhouse during the winter months. The GPC agreed to donate £50 to the NCBA Charitable Trust and the proceeds from the Spider Competition on President's Day would be sent to the English National Association of Visually Handicapped Bowlers. In connection with domestic competitions E.W. Lowthian was appointed Competitions Chairperson. In connection with the County competitions, it was decided that £30 each from Club funds be awarded to Mesdames E. French and D. Walwyn-James who attended the National Pairs Finals at Royal Leamington Spa, Warwicks.

At the 2006 Annual General Meeting the Treasurer reported that fund-raising events had raised £5,876 and that the annual subscription for 2007/2008 would remain at £80. In connection with the election of Officers, members were reminded that a new Treasurer would be needed for 2007 when R.J. Varley would be President of the Men's Section. Following the results of two secret ballots, the Green-ranger replaced the Chairman of the Green's Committee on the GPC and the capital expenditure limit of £1,500 previously agreed for the GPC was increased to £5,000. Members of the Social Committee were warmly thanked for their efforts throughout the year. The County Coach, W.R. Liddle, drew attention to the English Bowls Coaching Scheme for any member who may be



**The Queen's Golden Jubilee : PBC Celebrations, June 2002**

**(l - r) : Mesdames F. McDonald, J. Cosby and H. Furniss, C. Bryson, K. Griffiths, Mesdames E. Emmerson, B. Stafford, ? , F. Owen, E. French, E. Trimble, ? and ? , J. Lunn, K. Hunter, L. Crofts, N. Green, P. Telfer, Mrs D. Crofts, G.D. Bennett, Mesdames L. Telfer, D. Green and J. Trimble, E. Caldwell, Mesdames M. Tailford and M. Lowthian, E.W. Lowthian, J.W. Nesbit, Mesdames M. Cowan and M.E.H. Nesbit, P. Cordingley, Mrs J. Smith, D. White, Mrs L. Porritt, ? , Mesdames N. Caldwell (President), M. Williamson and M. Catchpole, A. Mahmood, Mrs M. Bryson, G. Skinner, A.O. Christie (President), Mrs J. Marshall and E. Scholes**

interested in coaching. Application forms were available for attendance at a course which would be run over several weeks and includes a final examination. It was mentioned that three nice young lads had joined the Club as Junior members. After the meeting, A. Ridley again presented a comprehensive update of the Club's website. It included showing photographs of several social events, league results and the results of members' domestic competitions during 2006. He was warmly thanked by the Chairman for his efforts in recording the Club's activities. The GPC wish to record their thanks to M. McDonnell for his willingness to carry out much of the cost-saving maintenance work in the Clubhouse.

In April 2007, the pre-season Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club. An Extraordinary General Meeting was also held in April 2007 to discuss the proposed new Constitution and amendments to the Club Rules. The revised Constitution did not materially change the original and the Men's President, J.T. Harrison, explained the need to make the minor changes as there was scope for re-organization and simplification. Following on from the discussion, a secret ballot was held with only one-third of the membership participating. The proposed changes, however, were approved by a substantial majority. Afterwards, Mrs E. French gave a presentation on the opportunities provided by the Club, viz. community fellowship, training, no geographical restrictions, no age barrier, sex equality, under 35 automatic entry, encouragement of junior entry, availability of the green to non-members and a welcome to all - especially ethnic minorities. The proposed new Rules for both Ladies' and Men's Sections were approved by a substantial majority. The Chairman, A.O. Christie, thanked both Mrs E. French and J.T. Harrison for their excellent presentations of

the new Constitution and Rules. Other members were also thanked for their commitment in preparing the two documents and particularly R.G. Brown on the legal aspects under constitutional law. In other matters raised, it was stated that smoking outside the Clubhouse was still allowed. In connection with the Ladies' County competitions, the GPC decided that D. Walwyn-James and E. French be awarded £30 each from Club funds towards their expenses in the National Pairs finals held at Royal Leamington Spa, Warwicks.

At the 2007 Annual General Meeting, attended by 66 members, the Treasurer reported that social functions had again been very successful in raising £5,529 and that the annual subscription would remain at £80. An entrance fee of £80 was introduced and a charge of £2 would be payable by visitors for casual play. Associate membership was discussed following a letter received by the GPC from B.D.W. Wright who considered that the annual subscription of £25 was inappropriate, especially for members of long-standing and unable to play regularly - if at all, for health reasons. When introduced at the 1981 Annual General Meeting of the Men's Section, and reported elsewhere in this account, no fee was payable and, in the light of this information, it was agreed the fee be reduced to £10. With respect to the Constitution, members agreed with the following dissolution clause :

*“After discharging all debts and liabilities of the Club the remaining assets shall be passed to the Trustees of Ponteland Memorial Hall without any personal liability accruing to any members of Ponteland Bowling Club. In the event that the Ponteland Memorial Hall becomes insolvent before the demise of the bowling Club any net assets will be given to Ponteland Parish Council (or any superseding local Council) to be used for the benefit of amateur sport within the Parish.”*



**Golden Jubilee organizers : Betty and John Nesbit**



**Golden Jubilee Anniversary Jumbles, 2002**



**Presidents' Day, July 2005**



**Presidents, July 2005**

**(l - r) : M. Cassie, M.E.H. Nesbit, J. Nichol, E. Donkin, C. Cobbing, M. Cowan  
(President), J. Cosby, B. Johnston, M. Owen, M. Healy, N. Caldwell, L. Telfer**



**Presidents, July 2005**

**(l - r) : P. Telfer, J.S. Duff, B.D.W. Wright, E.W. Lowthian (President),  
R. Elder, G. Goldie, K. Griffiths**

The Chairman thanked Mrs A. Rutter for her report on the events covered by the Social Committee and their excellent catering arrangements. R. Stafford in his final report and 18 years as Green-ranger, commented on the excellent condition of the green and of the necessary maintenance work described in Section 7. He was pleased to see the great improvement in its playing condition and *'had enjoyed every minute of it even when cutting the grass at six o'clock in the morning, and using the old sprinkler system of watering which*

*kept him there 'til midnight. It had never been a chore.'* In recognition of his long and devoted service to the Club he was made an Honorary Vice President and presented with two boxes of wine and wine glasses. Mrs M. Richardson presented his wife, Brenda, an Associate Member, with a basket of flowers.

Following the meeting, A. Ridley again produced a comprehensive coverage of the Club's activities during the 2007 season set to appropriate music. Copies of the CD thanked by the Chairman for his efforts in placing recent activities on the website.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in the Clubhouse in May 2008 for the purpose of updating members on the possible extension of the Clubhouse together with landscaping of the waste ground in the south west corner of the site. G. Webb gave details of the proposed extension to provide additional space in the changing rooms and the main hall. J.T. Harrison explained the four sources of funding that were possible. The GPC wished to obtain favourable views from the membership on the proposed projects and to obtain their agreement in seeking the necessary funding. Andrew Tunnah from CMBC addressed the meeting regarding the available funding and stated that he would assist Club officials with the application forms. The following proposal was put before the members and met with their approval :

*"The GPC proceed with the various tasks required and incur the expenditure to enable us to apply for funding to extend the pavilion and landscape the unused ground at the side of the site."*

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting, attended by 65 members, J.T. Harrison reported that the proposed 4m. extension of the Clubhouse could go ahead. Applications to CMBC for a grant of £31,640 from the "Extra Mile" fund and to Bowls England for a £10,000 loan were successful. He thanked seven guarantors from the GPC for their support. Chartered Surveyors, Joe Dickinson Associates, originally employed when the Clubhouse was built in 2003 had been engaged to draw up plans, liaise with builders for quotations and provide a detailed specification for the local planning authority. The Treasurer then discussed the projected five-month timescale for its completion in time for Opening Day in April 2009. Reference was made to the waste land at the south west corner of the site which could be utilised for outdoor social occasions. A grant application to "Sports For All" for £10,000 would be made. The Financial Statement was discussed and members were thanked for their efforts in both organizing and participating in various social functions throughout the year. Thanks were extended to A. Barritt for scrutinising and verifying the accounts. The Chairman, A.O. Christie, warmly thanked the Treasurer for his hard work and dedication on behalf of the Club.

Following his first year as Green-ranger, D.W. Kirk, presented a very detailed report on events relating to adverse weather conditions during the season. Details are presented in Section 7. Thanks were extended to members of the Green's Committee and R. Stafford for their support, also, the Green-, C. Moore, his assistant, Aaron, and W. Bell for keeping the grass surrounds in such good order. The Chairman thanked D.W. Kirk for his excellent work despite the difficult weather conditions.

Mrs A. Rutter in her report on Social Committee activities thanked all the members who had contributed in making a success of the catering arrangements during a very busy season. She also thanked those who helped with routine tasks including laundering tablecloths, tea towels and cleaning of teapots.

Following his election as the new Chairman, R.J. Varley thanked A.O. Christie for an excellent three years in office and for his wit and quiet control of meetings and events.

In November 2008, an exhibition organized by J. Turner, Chairman of Ponteland Local History Society, was held in PMH to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Opening Ceremony was performed by the last Mayor of CMBC, Cllr Irene Brumwell, prior to the inception of the unitary authority Northumberland County Council. Participants in the

Community History Day exhibition included churches, schools, societies and local Clubs. On behalf of the Club, B.D.W. Wright and A. Ridley presented a history of the bowling Club using several exhibits including a series of photographs covering the period 1923 - 2008.

In March 2009, the GPC congratulated J.T. Harrison on being presented with the Castle Morpeth Sports Award Certificate of Achievement for his efforts on the Clubhouse extension. In April 2009, the pre-season Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club. In September 2009, the Club were runners-up in a Mixed Rink charity event for Asthma Relief held at Parks B.C. Also, in September, Miss S.A. Storey (retired headmistress) was appointed Child Protection Officer with full CRB clearance through Bowls England.

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting, attended by 64 members, the Chairman, R.J. Varley, welcomed members to the first meeting to be held in the Clubhouse and commented on the excellent facilities that were available for many years to come. The Treasurer, J.T. Harrison, reported on the work involved in completing both the extension to the Clubhouse and the patio area, details of which are given in Sections 8 and 7 respectively. He expressed his gratitude to G. Webb for his efforts as Project Manager on the completion of the Clubhouse extension. Also, he thanked members who had helped both J. and Mrs E. Gatenby in establishing the rock garden. It was stated that the John English Memorial Garden bequest of £500 had been used to provide plants and the plaque made by R.I. Shuttleworth for placement in the garden was shown to the members. In connection with the Statement of Accounts the Treasurer reported that subscriptions were down £2,000 on 2008 and there had been 25 resignations, seven new members and three applications pending. He considered future membership would stabilise at 150. He thanked those responsible for several fund-raising efforts, viz. Mrs E. Shuttleworth for organising her Open Garden event (£77), the Ladies' Section coffee mornings (£420), both Mrs M. Catchpole and E.W. Lowthian for proposing and running a Club Lottery (£500), also an anonymous donation for garden plants (£50). Despite the falling membership, he considered the income from in-house letting from groups using the Clubhouse during the winter months and the full support of members attending events on the social calendar, the Club's finances would remain in a healthy state. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Treasurer for all his efforts on behalf of the membership.

Mrs A. Rutter presented a comprehensive report on the various social activities throughout the season and thanked those members who had helped in organising the successful events. The Chairman thanked her for the excellent contribution that she had made during her three-year term on the Social Committee.

In connection with the domestic mixed competitions, the GPC decided to submit the following proposal to the members which was agreed and passed unanimously :

*"Due to the lack of support over the last few years, it is proposed that the two competitions, viz. the Harry Emery Mixed Pairs and the Stan Wright Mixed Triples be combined into one competition and called the Emery / Wright competition."*

E.W. Lowthian drew members' attention to the Curling Stones competition to be held shortly in the Clubhouse. The equipment was freely made available by the West Denton Association. Before closing the meeting, R.J. Varley said that he had the extremely pleasant task of thanking Billy Bell for the fantastic work he had carried out over many years in keeping the green surrounds in good condition. Endorsing his comments, the Treasurer mentioned the unforeseen work he carried out. The Chairman then presented him with his favourite 'tipple'.

In April 2010, the pre-season Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club. At the 2010 Annual General Meeting, attended by 57 members, the Treasurer reported a balance of £7,697 with £14,247 in the combined bank accounts. However, on the debit side there was the ongoing repayment of the Bowls England loan of £10,150 and the need to replace the main mowing machine within 2 or 3 years. Extra efforts on coaching led to 15 new members, although the total subscription was down slightly due to there being four fewer

members overall. The current membership was 164. The social functions were very successful raising £3,565. The Art Groups and Decoupage classes who use the Clubhouse during the winter months donated £555. The main Clubhouse expenditure had been the installation of a new central heating boiler at a cost of £1,043. The Green-ranger reported that the police had been called on two occasions due to a break-in that occurred in a shed and some damage to the green and chairs. The members agreed that the GPC can proceed with the purchase of a new mowing machine should the cost exceed 35% of the total subscription income.

The Chairman thanked Mrs R. Johnson and members of the Social Committee for their efforts with catering arrangements for the various matches and social events throughout the year when D.A. McDonnell was Lady President of Bowls Northumberland.

A discussion on dress code followed and it was agreed that whites would be worn on Opening, Closing and Presidents' Days also the Competition Finals. Further discussion ensued regarding the entrance fee of £80 and members were informed that Ponteland was the only Club in the county to impose such a fee. With the decline in membership and no persons on the Waiting Lists it was decided the fee should remain at £80 but would be reviewed at the 2012 Annual General Meeting. It was pointed out that both the Leamington and Summerhill clubs had closed due to lack of members. The demise of Summerhill is a rather disturbing event. It was founded in 1916 as a private Club and enjoyed a very large membership having the use of two bowling greens. At that time, both bowling greens belonged to West End B.C.

It is interesting to note that the much celebrated Dr W. G. Grace of cricketing fame and the first President of the EBA (1903 -1905) played there whilst captaining the England team in an Home match against Scotland. Perhaps of local interest both Jackie Milburn and Len Shackleton from Newcastle United also played at Summerhill B.C..



At a BDA meeting held at Parks B.C. to discuss future clubs' coaching arrangements, both D.W. Kirk and J. D. Cowings represented the Club. It was decided that the sessions would take place during a six - week period beginning in April 2011.

In October 2011, the President, J.D. Cowings, presented the Club with a set of junior bowls. The pre-season Dinner was again held at Ponteland Golf Club.

Dr W. G. Grace  
*Courtesy of Newcastle Chronicle*

At the 2011 Annual General Meeting, attended by 60 members, the Treasurer read out a letter from the widow of former member, Cecil Nicholson, had who passed away aged 105. She had donated £200 to the Club in his memory and as an acknowledgement of his long and very happy association with the Club. The legacy would be used to purchase some junior bowls. He then reported that overall the finances are in a healthy situation. However, repayment still had to be made on the Bowls England loan, now reduced to £7,250. Replacing the Dennis grass-cutting machine (purchased in 2004) with an identical model would cost in the region of £5,500 in addition to other costs incurred on regular green maintenance work. Club functions had raised £3,328 and donations of £1,072 received from users of the Clubhouse during the winter months greatly assisted in maintaining members' subscriptions at £80. A grant of £350 had been received from the Bowls Development Alliance which was used to purchase a video camera to help with

coaching activities. With membership well down on the 200 that was seen when the Clubhouse was opened in 2003, it was considered that the entrance fee of £80 had been a deterrent to prospective members. Following some discussion on the subject, the proposal by the Treasurer that there be no entrance fee for 2012 met with the agreement of the members. In August 2011, Green-ranger, D.W. Kirk, had tendered his resignation following unjustified criticism regarding the condition of the green which had been adversely affected by the previously dreadful winter weather. W.R. Liddle would be provided with a job-description of the tasks involved but the Green-ranger would, however, only be responsible for work in connection with the bowling green. The Green's Committee and others would undertake the ancillary work around its surrounds.

In connection with social functions, Mrs R. Johnson reported that the following events had been arranged and very well supported : Bridge, Quiz and Curry nights, Pie and Peas Supper, two County events, "Dominoes with a Difference", Chinese Evening also a Domino Drive in the PMH. Thanks were expressed to members of the Social Committee and others who had contributed to the success of these events. At the end of the meeting, the newly elected Lady Chairman, N. Caldwell, was pleased to announce that the GPC had recommended that Mrs M.E.H. Nesbit, who joined the Club in 1986, should be the first lady nominated as an Honorary Vice President. The award recognized the many responsible positions held and functions she had organized for the benefit of members. Everyone agreed with the GPC proposal that she should be presented with the HVP badge for which she expressed her grateful thanks.

The GPC reported in January 2012 that the Club was encouraged to apply for Bowls Club Mark status qualification (Sports Council) by Bowler Development Alliance. The procedures and standards had been achieved and would prove useful when applying for grants. Now that the website is well established it was considered that a development group of four members for future activities should be set up to assist A. Ridley. In April 2012, the pre-season Dinner was held at Ponteland Golf Club. The Spider Competition held on Opening Day raised £55 for World Blind Bowls. Further to the history exhibition held in PMH in 2008, a similar Community Exhibition, hosted by Ponteland Town Council, was held in PMH on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The proceedings were opened by the Town Mayor, Cllr Peter Cowey, who congratulated those responsible for organizing the displays. The Club's exhibits were again presented by B.D.W. Wright and A. Ridley who provided a laptop demonstration of the content on the PBC website.

The GPC congratulated Mesdames E. Gatenby and S.A. Storey on completing their coaching examinations. In December 2012, the GPC decided that there would be no further commemorative plaques or spreading of deceased members' ashes in the new shrubbery garden. It was also announced that G. Stapyhton would be the BN Women's Vice President in 2013.

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting, attended by 56 members, Mrs N. Caldwell, the Lady Chairman particularly welcomed several members at the meeting who had joined the Club during the summer months. The Treasurer, J.T. Harrison, reported that the arrival of eighteen new members had increased the membership to 77 ladies and 88 men. Summarising the main points of the Accounts he stated that there was a deficit of £2,378 (Income of £24,048 and expenditure £26,426). The main items of expenditure had been the purchase of a new Dennis machine for £5,500 and the repayment of £3,250 on the Bowls England loan reducing the debt to £4,000. Several social functions raised £3,200 and there were in total donations of £1,717 from users of the Clubhouse premises during the winter months. There was a balance of £12,300 in the accounts. The Club Lottery (£500) which was set up in 2010 was no longer viable due to lack of support by members. It has been replaced by a 10-monthly 100 Club Draw organized jointly by Miss S.A. Storey and D.C. Crozier. The PMH had increased the Club's fees due to User Group activities in the Clubhouse during the winter months which has resulted in more use of its car park. The Treasurer concluded his report by saying he hoped the income from social events would be maintained at the current level since the running costs per member had increased by nearly 50% during the period 2006 to 2012. In view of this, the Lady

Chairman proposed the annual subscription be increased by £10 to £90 which was approved by the members present. However, in order to attract more members it was unanimously agreed not to impose payment of an entrance fee in 2013. Members were informed that the GPC was giving consideration to purchasing an aerator machine which should greatly improve the green and save on the cost of hollow tining every two years. The trial period with an aerator machine had proved it would be a worthwhile investment for the Club. Although it will cost about £6,000 it was hoped a grant could be obtained towards its purchase. Under the Rules of the Constitution the GPC needed the agreement of members for any items exceeding 35% of the total subscriptions. However, the members agreed almost unanimously to proceed with the purchase without calling an Extraordinary General Meeting.



90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Cake

The Green-ranger, W.R. Liddle, gave a detailed report on work carried out during the season and of his plans for maintenance work during the closed season. The unseasonable wet weather had caused moss problems requiring extra treatment. The Green-keeper, Colin Moore, often found difficulty under these conditions in scarifying the green, grass-cutting and carrying out other routine work before 10 a.m. Under these circumstances, the Green-ranger had to be present to provide assistance. Members were shown the recently purchased green markers. In his closing remarks, he thanked all those who had advised him during his first full season working on the bowling green. J. Gatenby spoke on behalf of the Green's Committee about their achievement in being awarded the Gold Medal Certificate in the "Northumbria In Bloom" competition. Mrs M. Cowan, read a report, prepared by Mrs R. Johnson, on various social events including Bridge, Quiz and Curry nights, a Pie and Pea Supper, two County occasions, also hosting the Alfred Bell Cup and the HVP dinner. The Social Committee members and others were thanked for providing help and food for these occasions.

During the election of Officers, J.D. Cowings became the Club Chairman and with the resignation of Secretary, Mrs M. Cowan, who had held the position since 2006, D.W. Kirk became the Secretary. Over many years the Financial Statements has been checked by a duly appointed Auditor. In many cases, the person had qualifications in banking or accountancy but now the position of Auditor, and held by A. Barritt since 2001, would be re-named Examiner of Accounts. In recent years, the mixed domestic competitions have not been given the support they deserved by members of the Men's Section. In view of this, discussion took place on four mixed competitions, viz. Presidents' Triples, Club Pairs, John Nesbit and the recently adopted Emery/Wright competition. Finally, it was agreed unanimously that, in future, the Open Pairs (with luncheon) and the Presidents' Mixed Triples competitions would be held. In connection with forthcoming social events, Mrs M.E.H. Nesbit spoke about the very successful occasion she had organized on behalf of PMH at the local Fratelli Restaurant. With this in mind, it was hoped that the Club would have a similar booking in January. Before the meeting closed Mrs M. Cowan drew to the attention of members that the Club would be 90 years old in 2013 and invited their suggestions to mark the occasion.

In January 2013, a very successful evening was held at the local Fratelli Restaurant which raised £643 towards Club funds. Sadly, Dorothy Crofts a past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Honorary Life and founder member of the Ladies' Section, who was residing with her family in Hampshire passed away in her centennial year in February 2013.

A charity tea was held at the Club on the 12th July, 2013 in aid of the RVI Great North Children's Hospital which raised £505. Lady President, J. Pringle, was indebted to the hospital consultants and nursing staff who had successfully treated her granddaughter having been diagnosed with leukaemia.

