

Harrow Bowls Club 1902-2002

A History

by

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Foreword

It is not the object of this publication to give a history of the game of bowls whose origins are well documented elsewhere, suffice it to say, that at the time of the founding of Harrow Bowls Club, the sport was well established in England. Informal games were played in parks and open spaces, wherever a suitably level piece of lawn could be found. Records show that bowls was played on the Harrow Recreation Ground as early as 1891, probably on converted lawn tennis courts. The modern organised game was given its greatest impetus when the Imperial Bowling Association was founded in 1899, followed by a visit from Australia in 1901. In 1903 Dr. W. G. Grace having retired from cricket, was instrumental in forming the E.B.A. Around this time codes of play were developed and the county organisation of the game began in 1911.

As Harrow Bowls Club approaches its centenary, it is appropriate here to identify the numerous sources of information that made this history possible. When this project was first proposed in August 2000 it was assumed that most past records of the Club had been preserved. It was a great disappointment to discover that early committee minute books and treasurers' ledgers had unaccountably disappeared, no doubt in a well intentioned "clean-up" of the pavilion. However some minute books dating from 1970 onwards had been preserved. It was gratifying to discover that the ladies had been more careful with their historical heritage and all records of Harrow Ladies Bowls Club, right back to the founding of the club in 1923 had been saved.

Another important source of data was a collection of club fixture lists and Dinner & Dance menu cards. These date back to 1946 and provided a valuable source of information on membership and competition winners. The main lack of documentation was on the founding of the club and the early years up to the Second World War. Personal memories were impossible since all members of that era had long since died. However it was through descendants of these early members that much information could be recovered. The main source of facts from this early period was through the archives of Harrow Council, press cuttings from the Harrow Observer, and records of the Harrow Recreation Ground Trust.

In this brief history, it is impossible to mention every individual member who has contributed to H.B.C. I have made a subjective selection of those individual members and events that I consider most important to the evolution of the club. In doing so I hope I have not offended anyone by not giving him or her due recognition. It is implicit that each and every member has contributed something to the club, but as in any organisation some contribute more than others. I must also apologise in advance for any errors of fact that I have made. They were not intentional and I hope to correct them in any second version of this history.

For most people the important and interesting part of any historical record is to present a human face to the bare facts and statistics. Here we must pay tribute to the many ex and current members who have searched their memories to bring to life members and events long since forgotten. This historical heritage makes H.B.C. what it is today, an important part of people's social life and a vital contributor to the social cohesion of the local community.

Thomas Dell (1834-1913)

Without the evidence of specific documentation it is not absolutely certain that the idea of founding Harrow Bowls Club was due to one individual. However on reading reports of matches, annual dinners and obituaries in the Harrow Observer of the period, I have come to the conclusion that Thomas Dell was almost certainly the man to whom we are indebted for the institution of our club. One conclusive piece of evidence is from a report of the second annual dinner on December 1912.

The future captain, Henry North, proposing the health of Mr. Dell the president, said

“ I remember 20 years ago hearing our Chairman describe himself to his friends as their “Old Father Christmas”. If that was applicable 20 years ago it is doubly so tonight. It is with feelings of infinite respect that we claim him as our Father Christmas, as the father and founder of the Club we all honour and revere.”

Thomas Dell was born in Totteridge in 1834. He was educated at Tonbridge Grammar School and after serving an apprenticeship as a jeweller at St. Albans, he came to Harrow in 1855 when he was 19 years of age and opened a watchmaking and jewellery business at number 18 The High Street, a small shop with living accommodation above. It was reported that as a boy he used often to visit his uncle, a Mr. Read at Wembley, and in consequence came to know the central town of Harrow. He so liked the place that he was determined to live there one day. Unfortunately his shop no longer exists since it was, along with the rest of the small parade, demolished in 1929. The site is now a garden opposite the Harrow School headmaster's house.

In 1863 Thomas married Emma and had 5 children, Charles (the eldest) Elizabeth (known as Lizzie), Ellen, Alice and Agnes (twins). Of the children I know only of Lizzie who became a teacher and headmistress and Agnes who remained a spinster. After her mother died in 1900 at the age of 65, she continued to live at her father's house till her death in 1958. Interestingly, Agnes also had a connection with the Club. In 1947 she donated a cup to the Club in honour of her father. The Dell Cup is played for today in the two woods competition.

Essentially an energetic man of business, Thomas also made time to serve his fellow townsmen. He joined the old 18th Middlesex Volunteers, served in the ranks for many years and was one of the crack shots of the regiment, winning many trophies. When the Burial Board was founded in 1884 he became a member, a position he held until the time of his death. For many years he was a member of the Local Board (at that time equivalent to the local council) as well as people's warden at St. Mary's Church. It was here that he came to know the new vicar, the Rev. F. Wayland Joyce. In 1885 Dell was one of the supporters of Charles Colbeck, who was instrumental in founding the Harrow Recreation Ground Trust. Thomas himself became a

manager of the trust till it was taken over by the District Council in 1908.

In 1893 Thomas retired and in 1898 moved to 72 Roxborough Road. The house was called "St Bees" and after the death of Agnes in 1958, was demolished and replaced with a block of flats. It is probable that living in such close proximity to the Recreation Ground, Thomas became interested in bowls. It is recorded that knowing of Thomas' interest in bowls, the Rev. Joyce suggested that he start a bowls club. In 1902 he founded the Harrow Bowls and Croquet Club and became its first Captain, treasurer and secretary. An enthusiastic bowler, but not among the elite of the club Thomas usually played at three. It was his administrative skills that were of most use to the club. He remained secretary right up to his death.

On retirement he became even more active locally. In politics he was an ardent Liberal and was a leading member of the Harrow Liberal Club. It is reported that he was a fine figure of a man for his 79 years and was well known in the district. As President of H.B.C. he was known far and wide, and his loss to the the Club was well-nigh irreparable.

Thomas Dell died of pneumonia, during a very cold spell of weather, on 30th March 1913. His funeral was attended by many members of the Club. He was buried along with his wife in the family plot in Harrow cemetery, close to the bowls club he loved so much. In the same grave today four of his children are buried with him.

A tribute, paid to him at the funeral by a good friend E.J. Kibblewhite, said of him *"that he had never known a man of such high personal character and strict rectitude of conduct who seemed so utterly unable to attribute evil to others. He held his own opinions with staunchness and had courteous esteem for the convictions of others."* We would all be proud to receive such a tribute.

It is gratifying to note that at the very first annual dinner in December 1911, held at the Gayton Rooms, Thomas was presented with a case of pipes and an illuminated address which read *"We the members of the Bowling Club wish to express our appreciation of the services you have rendered us not only in connection with the founding of the Club but your interest taken in making it a success"*. In reply Thomas expressed *"his gratitude for their kind expression to him. He had the welfare of the Club at heart, he had founded it and since that day it had continued to make steady progress. He had always met with the greatest kindness and loyalty, and it had made his old age happier than it would have been under other circumstances. The game was always a pleasurable one and in their club there was no bickering or ill-feeling. Whilst breath was in his body he would be with the old Harrow Bowling Club."*

It is very fitting that on the Centenary of our Club, we record this tribute to the man who made it all possible. This brief description of the life of our founder makes us realise that then, as now, the game of bowls brings a new dimension to our lives with its challenge as a sport and more importantly the new friends we make to enrich our lives.

Tom Potts (1879-1929)

Tom Potts was born in the small town of Poynton, Cheshire in 1879. Of his earlier life and education little is known. However it is known that he came to Harrow as a buyer for Messrs. J. and N. Phillips of Manchester. He bought a house at 36 Hamilton Road, not far from the Recreation Ground. All his life he had been devoted to the game of bowls and on his arrival at Harrow he quickly joined Harrow Bowls Club.

From the outset he made his presence felt in club matches as well as club competitions. His supremacy in the club is indicated by the fact that he won the club championship seven times, the first one in 1915 and three times in succession from 1923-25. In time his play attracted the attention of the International selection committee. In fact Tom Potts was a worthy candidate for International honours long before his eventual selection in 1922. From that year until 1927 he was in the English team and throughout that time he maintained in his play the highest standard in the game. He was club captain in 1924 and president in 1925 and 1926. In 1925 he was elected president of Middlesex County B.A. He also served on the Executive Committee of the County Association and was a member of the Council of the E.B.A. for four years.



Tom Potts 1922

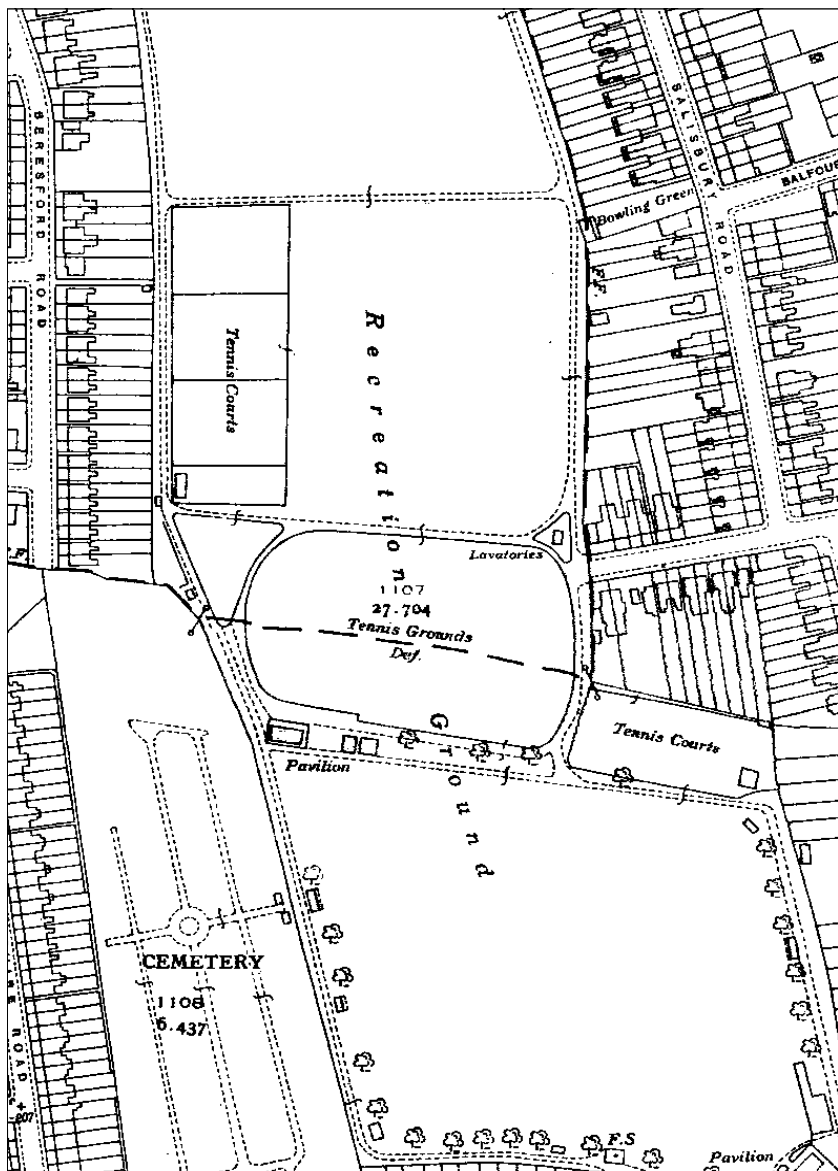
Tom Potts was always a sporting man. He played cricket for Poynton Cricket Club and bowls for Poynton B.C. He was a married man with three children Geoffrey and Yvonne and another girl. His wife was a member of Harrow L.B.C. His brother Ted was also a leading member of H.B.C. and although not as good as his brother was also a county player. Ted became captain in 1929 and champion in 1927. Ted and Tom often played in the same rink and it was in 1927 representing Harrow that they narrowly lost the final of the E.B.A. fours to Margate. The match held at Preston Park, Brighton was played in a torrential downpour. The final was said to have been one of the finest matches in the history of the E.B.A. On the 20th end Harrow led 18-17, but dropped two in the last end to lose by one shot. The

Harrow rink was E. Potts, H.S. Wright, J. Booth, and Tom Potts (skip). The trophy remains today as our most valuable memory of the Potts era.

He had gained every honour in the game, and the last and greatest of all was within his grasp. Being senior vice-president he was set to become president of the E.B.A. for the 1929 season. As an indication of the high regard in which Tom Potts was held in bowling circles, there was a tribute paid to him at the annual dinner in December 1928 by G.E. Hills, secretary of the E.B.A. He announced that during his year of office Tom would lead the English team against Australia. Sadly this was not to be.

Tom Potts died of lung cancer in March 1929. For some time he had been in indifferent health and in December 1928 he took a trip to Madeira in the hope that he would recover. Unfortunately he became worse and on his return he further deteriorated and finally died. His memorial service at St John's Church, Harrow attracted bowlers from all parts of the country to pay their last respects. The list of mourners read like a "Who's Who" of English bowls.

His burial took place two days later in his home town of Poynton. Once again bowlers from all parts of the country assembled to pay their last respects. The Harrow Bowls Club feels that this special tribute to our most celebrated bowler is long overdue.



Map of Harrow Recreation Ground 1935

Harrow Recreation Ground - A Brief History.

No history of Harrow Bowls Club would be complete without mention of the site and birthplace of the club, Harrow Recreation Ground.

Charles Colbeck, a housemaster at Harrow School as well as a keen sportsman, had long promoted the need for a recreational facility for the inhabitants of Harrow Town. In May 1884 he formed and chaired a committee which eventually bought a 14 acre field for £3000 on the Pinner Road from a Rev. C.R. Smith. Donations were invited from the general public and £2000 was collected from over 4000 people. Among subscribers were the Earl of Bessborough (£10), Rev. Butler (£100) and J.W. Cunningham, founder and chairman of Cunningham Building Society (£50). £1500 was borrowed by Colbeck from the Earl of Bessborough at 3.5% interest, (he soon got his £10 back !). Colbeck became the legal owner of H.R.G. and the mortgage would be repaid from income of clubs renting plots in H.R.G. Fifteen managers were appointed, including Thomas Dell, W.J. Overhead, and the Vicar of Harrow.

On May 9th 1885 the Ground was opened with much pomp and ceremony by J.Cunningham. Speeches were given by the Earl of Bessborough, Mr. Colbeck, and Mr. Roundell the local M.P. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London were also present. The day ended with a programme of track and field athletics.

During 1885 a perimeter path was completed along with the planting of grass and ornamental trees.

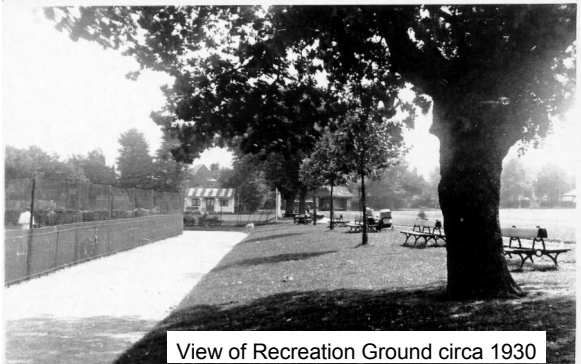
In 1886 the first pavilion was built on the present site of Harrow St. Mary's Club for the use of cricket, football, athletics, cycling and tennis

clubs. Charles Colbeck was known to have played for Harrow Town F.C. in their first match on the Rec. on Oct. 9th 1886 and was captain of Harrow Town Cricket Club for the 1887 season. In 1889 the top field was enlarged by several acres.

In 1908 six more acres reaching from Beresford Road to Cunningham Park were purchased for £3500 from Major F.S. Winkley (overseer of the poor of Harrow). The Rec. now covered 27 acres and in 1908 control was handed over to Harrow Urban District Council.

In 1911 the second cricket pavilion was built (burnt down in 1993) and in the same year the Cunningham Park entrance was opened. At that time the entrance was a right of way 10 ft. wide, the key rented by local residents for 1/- p.a.. The Council eventually purchased this land for £60. The Roxborough Road entrance was opened in 1925.

In 1911, among a dozen users of H.R.G. were Harrow Bowls and Croquet

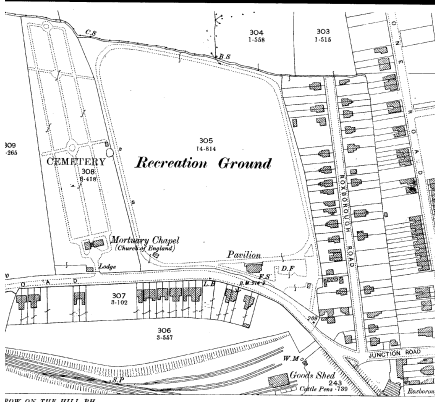


View of Recreation Ground circa 1930

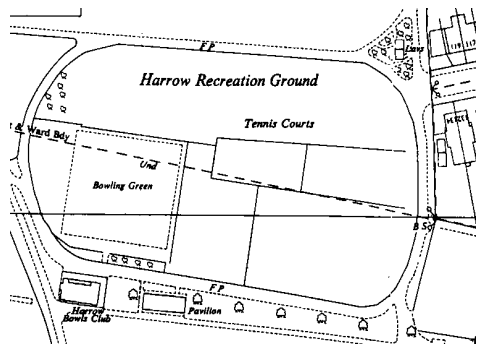
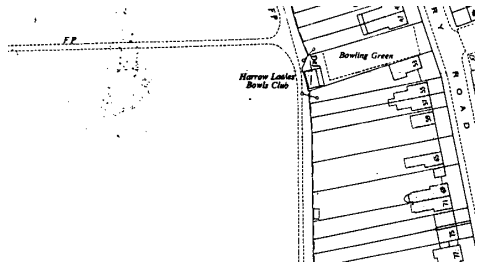
Club, Harrow St. Mary's Athletic Club, Cunningham Park Tennis Club, Gunnersbury Park C.C. and Harrow Rifle Club.

In 1903 Charles Colbeck died, and a commemorative plaque was placed at the foot of a flagpole near the Pinner Road entrance. In 1995 a replica plaque was mounted on the wall of the croquet pavilion, sadly burnt down by vandals in 2001.

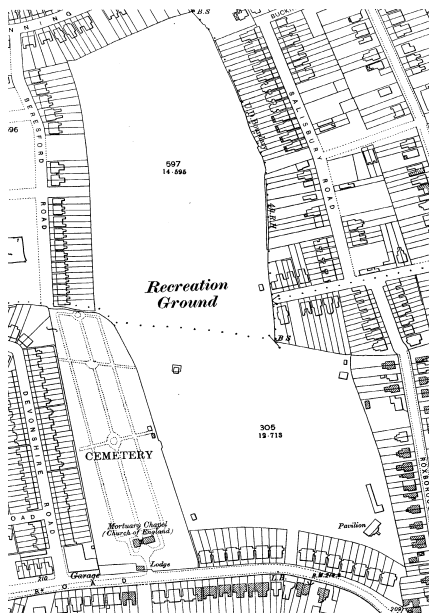
There is no doubt that Thomas Dell, who lived in Roxborough Road, was a constant user of "the Rec." and it is likely, that during one of his walks round the park, he had the idea of founding a bowls club. In any event, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Charles Colbeck for his great work in founding Harrow Recreation Ground.



Map 1



Map 3



Map 2

Map 1: Shows Harrow recreation Ground in 1895 as originally planned.

Map 2: Harrow Recreation Ground 1912. The north field was added in 1896 and 1908

Map 3: Part of Harrow Recreation Ground 1961. Shows the old Harrow Bowls Club pavilion and Harrow Ladies Bowls Club.

1902-1910 The First Years.

Since all records of the club's early years have been lost, it has been necessary to extrapolate from hearsay and later documents the events leading up to the founding of the club. In a letter written in 1967 to the Borough Engineer, Harry Clemow the secretary, complained that the Council had forbidden use of the green after 8-15 pm. To justify his complaint that the Council had changed the conditions of the lease he listed a brief historical record of the Club. This record stated that "first written records in my possession are dated from 1891". This implied that bowls in some form was played on the Recreation Ground from that time. As to where it was played one can only speculate, but it is logical to imagine a lawn tennis court being used for the purpose.

A thorough search of the Harrow Observer and the Harrow Gazette for 1902 did not reveal any mention of the founding of H.B.C. However subsequent newspaper reports of speeches at annual dinners have yielded the following information. Thomas Dell, having moved to 72 Roxborough Road after his retirement in 1899, was one of the informal bowlers on the Rec. It is reported that his good friend Rev. F.W. Joyce vicar of St. Mary's Church, Harrow on the Hill, suggested that he might like to form a bowls and croquet club to give him an interest during his retirement. It is also known that he formed a committee of eight men to implement the project.

Members of the committee were as follows. Thomas Dell, Edwin Ashton, S. Pleasants, Rev. Joyce, W.J. Overhead, John Henry Titchener, N. Fidler and Alfred Farley. The club was to be designated "Harrow Bowls and Croquet Club", and was formed on June 2 1902. Dell became the Club's first Captain,

secretary and treasurer and remained in these posts until his sudden death in 1913.

William Joseph Overhead is a rather enigmatic figure in the club's history. As far as I can make out he was not a bowler but was made honorary President of the Club in 1909. He came to Harrow in 1867 where he bought a printing and stationers business from William Winkley in the High Street. Six years later he acquired the Harrow Gazette, then Harrow's only newspaper. He and Thomas Dell were friends and colleagues on various local institutions such as the Burial

The Harrow Bowling Club has hitherto bid its fight under a bushel, but it sought the aid of public competition on Saturday, and its glimmer was somewhat obscured by the bowling section of the Rickmansworth Cricket Club. The progress made in the game by the latter during the past season apparently justified them in arranging a match, which was successfully played with the Harrow Bowling Club at Rickmansworth. The visitors, six in number, were captained by that able veteran Mr. Dell, and the home team was well represented by Messrs. Odell, Walker, Purkis, and others. A capital game was played, resulting in a victory for the home team, who won by 26 points. Both teams were mutually satisfied with the game which was played in charming weather, and the hospitality shown to the visitors appeared to be much appreciated by them. A cordial invitation to a return match on the Harrow ground was given and accepted, and will take place on Saturday, the 25th inst.

The first newspaper report on Harrow Bowls Club to appear in the Harrow Observer, July 10 1903.

Board and the Harrow Recreation Ground Trust and as such, one imagines that they were able to obtain a plot of land for the bowling green (on the same site as today) without too much trouble. Overhead died in June 1910 at the age of 76.

In 1903 the Club repaired an old shed at its own expense to use as a pavilion. It was sited roughly where the old (pre 1985) pavilion used to be. In July 1903 the first report of a match appeared in the Harrow Observer. It was an away game against the bowling section of Rickmansworth Cricket Club. Harrow lost on two rinks by 26 shots. A return match was organised for later in the month, this time Harrow had their revenge and won by 5 shots. The Harrow eight were Dell, Ashton, Barrow, Farley, Latham, New, Pleasants and Schotter.

It is interesting to note that until 1922 the Club made annual applications which were granted for the use of the pavilion and green, firstly to the Managers of H.R.G. and from 1908 to the Urban District Council.

In 1906 the Managers Annual Report states that the rent of the green was £32. In 1907 a new green was laid at the cost of £32, towards which the Club donated £5. It would appear that during these early years the club membership was between 20 and 30.

In August 1907 a notice was posted in the Rec. from A.L. Lloyd, chairman of the managers, complaining of mischief in the park.

1. Burial ground fence broken.
2. Notices removed and vandalised.
3. Lock to shed of H.B.C. broken.
4. Roof of pavilion broken.
5. Young trees uprooted.

Sounds familiar? History has a habit of repeating itself.

1908 was a year when interest in bowls suddenly took off. There were regular reports of matches in the local paper and in July 1908 a report on the A.G.M. appeared. At the meeting, which took place at his home, "St Bees", Thomas Dell reported a *"sound financial position and a balance of £6 2s 6d."* He also reported that members were showing *"a decided bias for bowls over croquet"* and *"it was a shame for the croquet players who had to face the same old opponents time after time."* It looked as though the writing was on the wall for the croquet section of the club. (In fact, in 1912, the Club decided to discontinue the croquet section and become a specialised bowling club). An interesting event at this meeting was the report of a prize given for the winner of a singles tournament. Mr.S Whitely won a pair of prize bowls. Was he the first singles champion? In the same year it was agreed to raise funds to improve and furnish the pavilion. It was also the year when control of H.R.G. passed from the Managers to the Urban District Council.

Information on the next two years was not discovered and it is not till 1911, the holding of the first annual dinner, that Harrow Bowls Club started to evolve into the institution that it is today.

1911 - 1920 The Club Grows

The 1911 season saw a growing optimism in the Club. Such was its success in matches and recruiting members that it was felt that an Annual Dinner should be organised. On Wednesday 7th December the first annual dinner was held in the Gayton Rooms, Station Road, Harrow. This association with the Gayton Rooms and its proprietor Mr. J. Wright Cooper was to last for more than 20 years. 40 members attended that dinner. The new captain, Henry North, presented Thomas Dell with an illuminated address. A Championship Cup, still used today, was presented to the club by William McBratney and the first winner was S. Pleasants. In 1911 the Middlesex County Bowling Association was founded and Harrow became one of the founder members. 1912 saw the Club still growing. In January Thomas Dell, the secretary, wrote to the Council informing them that the members had decided to discontinue the croquet section of the club (due to lack of interest). The club gave up the use of the croquet lawn and negotiated a rent of £15 for the bowling green. The club was henceforth to be known as Harrow Bowls Club. It now had 38 members and of 8 matches played that season only one was lost. The Club finances showed a healthy balance of £98. The championship was won by E.G. Whately and the handicap singles by Henry North.

*ackd
23/1/12*

HARROW BOWLS AND CROQUET CLUB,
ESTABLISHED 1902.

THOMAS DELL,
Harrow.

ST. BEES,
HARROW.
Jan 23/12

John Strachan Esq
Dear Sir

I am
requested by the Members of the
Harrow Bowls Club to inform you
that they have decided to discontinue
the Croquet section of the same as
it will not require the Croquet lawn
used there, but agree to accept the
Bowling Green on the Bowls Ground
(viz £15), being assured that if there
is any playability for matches so
during the coming season we
will be most accordingly,
Yours truly,
Thomas Dell
John Strachan Esq

The letter written by Thomas Dell on 23 January 1912, informing the Council of the club's decision to give up the croquet section

The 1913 season was fraught with variable fortunes. First the founder Thomas Dell had suddenly died. The Club had failed in the final of the Lipton Cup, then the Middlesex Rink competition (now the Joseph Cup). However, the club had won seven of its eight club matches. At the annual dinner the captain Henry North "Looked forward with confidence to the year 1914". These words proved to be somewhat unlucky for club and country. War was declared against Germany and for the next 5 years sport took a backseat until the armistice on 11th November 1919. There are no records of the club during the war years but the honours board shows that H.B.C. struggled on. The great event as far as the club was concerned was that in 1915 a young Cheshire man recently moved to Harrow decided to join the club. His name - Tom Potts. His impact was immediate. In his first year he won the first of his seven championships.

The Twenties, the “Golden Era”.

The war years had left the club membership almost untouched. One revolutionary event had however occurred during those dark years. The Club had allowed women members into their ranks. It must be remembered that during W.W.1 the social status of women had radically changed. Since they were required to perform duties, such as driving cars, working in munitions factories and farm labouring, duties once considered a male monopoly, the new “equal rights for women” movement had gained social acceptance.

The Harrow men, partly from selfish motives (the ladies could now look after the catering) and partly from pressure of wives, revelling in their new independence, agreed to allow women associate members. At the first annual dinner after the war (February 1920), the Captain, Henry North, spoke of the health of the club from a playing point of view. Since 1913 they had played 36 matches, won 21, lost 12 and drawn 3. They had 40 members and the club finances were in respectable credit. He also paid tribute to the ladies, thanking them *“for giving up their afternoons to minister to the creature comforts of the men”*. At that dinner the ladies were among the prize winners. The winner of the ladies tournament being a Miss Warn and the runner-up Mrs. Apsey.

However it appears all was not well with the club. During his acceptance speech of his second championship win, Tom Potts hinted at a rumbling discontent among members. *“I feel there is no reason why we should not be the best club in the district. Unfortunately we do not have a green”* (Applause). It was during the 1920 season that matters came to a head. During the war years maintenance of the green had been neglected. There were obviously greater priorities for the finances of the Council. The 1920 season had seen further deterioration of the green and there was now a group of members actively looking for another site for the club. On the 5th of November 1920 a public meeting was held in St. Anns Road School *“to consider the question of forming a new bowls club and acquiring a private ground in Harrow.”* With the president William McBratney in the chair it was announced that an offer of the ground of Herga Lawn Tennis Club had been made for a rent of £20 per annum and the pavilion was offered for £250. The landlords had offered the freehold for £815. The cost of laying a green would be £800.

To start the project a sum of £1200 would need to be raised. Members had so far offered £200. The chairman said that the majority of members were against moving, hoping to force the Council to lay a new green. It was finally agreed that the cost of moving was too great and a better plan was to form a committee (McBratney, Farley, Hastings, North, Baker and Potts) to present the readiness of the club to pay with interest any sum the Council might need to improve the green.

At the Annual Dinner that year McBratney offered to resign as president, but would stay on only if a new green could be obtained. The “Green Committee”

worked hard the following season and in the autumn of 1921 work began on the new green. The financial arrangements with the Council were that the club should pay a rent of £110 for seven years after which the whole cost of the scheme would be paid off. The green would then belong to the ratepayers of Harrow and would be maintained by the Council. The work was carried out by the Council under a specification and plan of the Borough Surveyor. The green constructed by Henry Burn of Stanmore was of Cumberland turf, transplanted from Kirkbride on the Solway. It was 42 yards square and allowed 6 rinks to be played simultaneously. The turf we play on today is by and large the same turf that was laid in 1922.

The official opening of the green on Saturday June 2nd 1922, was at that time the biggest event in the history of the Club. Among a large gathering at the opening were the M.P. for Harrow Mr. Oswald Mosley and his wife Lady Cynthia Mosley, several Harrow councillors and members of the executive committee of M.C.B.A. including the chairman W. Nevard. A refreshment marquee had been erected together with seating in a special enclosure.

During his speech the Captain, Henry North offered Lady Cynthia to bowl the first jack and wood of the special match arranged for the occasion between Harrow and M.C.B.A. She gracefully accepted to do so and the photograph of this event is one of our most valuable archive documents.

The Captain also requested the presence of the Mosleys at the annual dinner for that season, an offer which was gratefully accepted



Lady Cynthia Mosley delivering the first jack on Harrow's new Cumberland turf green . Also seen in the picture are Harrow bowlers, left to right : Sammy Simons, Tom Potts, E.A. Beevers and G. Jefferson.

The Annual Dinner for 1922 was a very special event for the club thanks to the presence of their celebrated guests. The President Alfred Farley presented Henry North with a silver service marking his 10 years as Captain. North replying said his work for the club was a labour of love, and thanked the Harrow Council for providing them with the best green in the district. He could now entertain visiting teams without being heartily ashamed. It is ironic to note that the finals of all competitions that year were abandoned due to atrocious weather. Congratulations were also offered to Tom Potts at being chosen to play for England against Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

1923 proved to be another auspicious year for Harrow Bowls Club. At the A.G.M. for 1922 it was decided that the club now needed a clubhouse fit to accompany their magnificent new green. There was now a membership of 85 with 20 on the waiting list and the present pavilion had outgrown its usefulness. The Club was fortunate to have a President in Alfred Farley who was an architect and surveyor and he offered to draw up plans for the new pavilion. This he duly did and the new pavilion was opened on 22nd June 1923. The tragedy was that Farley never lived to see the project completed. In March 1923 he died suddenly of a heart attack in his shop in Station Road. He was 57 years old and was known to have a weak heart. He had been a keen member of the club almost since its formation and to honour him his fellow members had made him President.

Built at a cost of £450 the pavilion was opened by E. Ashton the only founder member of the club still alive. He was presented with a silver key to mark the occasion. The accommodation comprised one large room, at one end was a counter and recess for refreshments while at the other end was a separate locker room. This pavilion was the basis of the pavilion, modified and enlarged over the years, which was still in use until it was demolished in 1985.

At the Annual Dinner a company of over 100 sat down. Once again the guests of honour were Oswald and Lady Mosley. That year the Club had played 23 matches and lost only six. All the defeats were before the opening of the new green on the old grass area. Tom Potts was Champion again. In August Tom Potts was also chosen to represent England in matches against Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Apart from Old Harrovians he was the first sportsman in the area to be selected as an international player at any sport. His selection as an England player continued up to 1927 when ill health restricted his bowling career.

1923 was also the year when the ladies of Harrow after 6 years as associate members of H.B.C. decided it was time to form a separate ladies bowls club. The Council granted the ladies the use of a vacant piece of land between the footpath of the Recreation Ground and Salisbury Road. They were also fortunate in that the old H.B.C. pavilion was offered to them free of charge. The history of Harrow Ladies Bowls Club will be described in a later chapter.

However one lady did not leave the Club. A young Florrie Perkins stayed on

and offered to “look after” the men’s catering. In 1972 she was still there celebrating fifty years of service.

The following years proved to be increasingly more successful for the Club both on and off the green. It is interesting to review the finances of the Club announced at the 1924 A.G.M. The pavilion loan had been reduced to £358. The balance of £54 brought forward from the previous year with subscriptions of £193 (£2-10s per member) plus receipts left a surplus of £40 after an expenditure of £271. All considered this was a highly satisfactory financial position for the Club. It must be appreciated here that bowls in this era was not a “working class” sport. Most of the members were middle class or professional who had free time at weekends to play. Most working class men could not have afforded the subscription or the time to play. At that time all improvements to the pavilion or the green were paid for by the members.

1924 proved to be another successful one on the green. For the first time Harrow Club hosted a county match. They had also reached the final of the Middx. fours (The Joseph Cup), the Harrow team (Gee, Simons, E. Potts and T. Potts) unfortunately losing to Downhills by one shot. In the same year a Harrow rink (E. Potts, Simons, Rice and Bettyony) also lost by one shot to Mansfield in the final of the L.& S.C. fours. Tom Potts was elected President of M.C.B.A.

1925 was another golden year for the Club. The membership was still limited to 85 but there was a waiting list of 23. Such was the pressure on rink space, together with the inevitable wear and tear on the green, that the committee had applied to the Council for a second green. While they did not do so well in matches and comps. (17 won, 11 lost) they had the consolation and pride in the exploits of their President, Tom Potts. That year he had captained the team that won the Middleton Cup for Middlesex.

1926 saw another year of steady progress. Tom Potts was President again and John Booth Captain. The continuing popularity and respect for the Club was demonstrated at the Annual Dinner, once more held in the Gayton Rooms. Over 130 (a record number) sat down for dinner. Among the invited guests were G.H. Hills secretary of the E.B.A., T. Taylor president of M.C.B.A. and J.L. Stewart secretary of the L.& S.C.B.A. All spoke of the achievements and good organisation of the Club. They also praised the efforts of the Club in raising money for local charities.

1927 was the year when Harrow almost had its name on the honours board of the E.B.A. Thanks to the exploits of Tom Potts, Ted Potts, Harry Wright and John Booth, as runners-up in the Middx. fours (Losing narrowly to Enfield), they qualified for the E.B.A. finals at Preston Park, Brighton. In the semi-final Harrow defeated Cheltenham who retired when losing 14-3. The final against Margate was played in a torrential downpour. It was considered the finest match in the history of the E.B.A. The match lasted for 4 hours. In the 20th end Harrow were holding 4 shots, when the Margate skip with his last wood drew second shot. Harrow held a one shot lead going into the last end. With Harrow holding shot, with his last wood the Margate skip fired and ended up with two shots giving Margate victory by one shot. The runners-up

trophy, a silver cup, holds a place of honour in the trophy cabinet and one day, who knows, we may go one better and win.

At this time there were 125 clubs in the County Association. Such was the reputation of Harrow that many clubs were queuing up for a fixture. 1927 saw the 80th birthday of the new President J.W. Wright. As secretary he had done as much as anyone in raising the Club from its somewhat primitive condition 13 years before.

1928. At last Harrow had won a major trophy. The L. & S.C. Shield . This was a 4 rink competition, two rinks at home and two away. In July they played and beat Luton Town by 35 shots in the semi-final. Two weeks later they played in the final for the first time in 28 years and beat Dulwich by 15 shots. Other successes that season were to reach the semi-final of the Joseph Cup, only to lose to Harrow Weald in a very close match. Harrow had once again reached the final of the Lipton Cup, only to lose on the extra end. Harrow had reached the final 4 times only to lose on each occasion. H.F. Mudge reached the semi-final of the Middx. singles. Tom Potts was once again champion for the seventh time, still a club record. He was also due to be President of the E.B.A. in 1930 and as such he would captain England against the Australian team for a series of matches. It was also his duty to lead the Australian players to the Lord Mayor of London for a civic welcome. There was so much for Tom to look forward to, little did he know what fate had in store for him.

1929 started as a disaster for the Club. In early March after a fruitless struggle against lung cancer Tom Potts died at the young age of 50. His death was seen as the greatest loss to the Club in all its history. However, life went on and the new season was approached with a determination to carry on the good work and the winning tradition started by Tom Potts. The new President was to be George Jefferson a club member for 15 years and the Captain, Tom's brother Ted Potts.

As a tribute to Tom Pott's memory Harrow won the L. & S.C. shield for the second year in succession. In the final they defeated Luton Town by eight shots. The four rinks were as follows:

- 1) W.Gee, D.W Rice, W. Wood, E. Potts.
- 2) J. Schofield, W. Miller, W. Lowe, S. Simons.
- 3) F. Philpott, A. Wild, S. Hope, J. Booth.
- 4) A. Shucksmith, R. Armstrong, H. Mudge, S. Taylor.

The only name missing from the previous year's win was T. Potts.

The decade ended at the annual dinner for that year. 1920 had seen the club almost fold up and move to a new site. Thanks to the loyalty and ingenuity of its members another solution to the club's problems was found. From that point on H.B.C. went from strength to strength and the club now occupied a position of high esteem in the bowling world. The club had been well served by its presidents and by its secretary J.W. Wright who had now held the post for 15 years. Wright was now over 80 and the ground was being prepared for younger blood to take over.

The Thirties and the War Years

The "Thirties" saw a period of steady growth in club membership and an improvement in facilities. However, the loss of Tom Potts resulted in a barren period of outside competition success. Although there was practically the same playing strength, somehow the loss of such a brilliant leader as Potts meant that despite often reaching the latter stages of County competitions, the club was apparently just not good enough to reach the finals of competitions.

1930 saw the club reach the final of the Middx. double fours only to lose to Enfield in the final. With expectations high after the previous year's success this result was considered an abject failure. At the annual dinner, held for the first time at the Headstone Hotel, F. Hotchkiss, president of the E.B.A. commented on the continuing importance of Harrow as an administrator in the game. He also complimented the club owning one of the finest greens in the country and was sure that led by the club champion and president, S.W. Bettony, the club was assured of continuing success in county and national competitions. Bettony was recognised that year by being selected to play for the County against the visiting Australians. However, these predictions proved to be the "kiss of death". Harrow only achieved two more minor successes in the thirties. In 1935 they were runners-up in the L.& S.C. fours and in 1932, S. Taylor lost to Constable of Uxbridge in the final of the county singles.

The following years were in a way a second "golden era". Although success in outside competition eluded the club, the club continued to be a force in the district. Members of Harrow represented the County and the green was used regularly for County matches. In 1932 Middlesex won the Middleton Cup and Harrow bowlers played in many of the matches. In 1932 the club contributed £20 to the County Benevolent Fund, not without great help from the Harrow ladies. That year the President's wife Mrs. Gee, presented Sid Hope with the Championship Cup, W.J. Gee and W.H. Lee with the Tom Potts Cup (Pairs) and H.S. Wright the handicap singles prize. The last prize that year was for the first time for "Table Bowls", the Embleton Cup.

Since the building of the new pavilion in 1923 the club had decided to use their wonderful facility in the winter, after the end of the bowls season for indoor games such as snooker, darts and cards. At this time indoor bowls was almost unknown and to keep members amused during the long winter months a "Winter Group" was formed in 1931. It was John Embleton in 1932 who had the idea of purchasing a set of table bowls. This game was played on a 13' x 5' board covered with green baize. A movable wooden ramp was placed at one end and the miniature bowls rolled down the ramp to reach the jack. The game was played in the same way as the lawn game and in 1932 a table bowls section was formed with a knock-out cup competition.

This competition was played each year by the winter group until the building of the new pavilion in 1986 when, due lack of support, it was decided to

donate the table bowls sets to local groups.

The following years saw a steady improvement in facilities until in 1936 the Council decided, with the granting of a new 7 year lease, to increase the rent (At this time the rent and green maintenance were included as one payment), from £110 to £125 per annum. This caused much complaint from the secretary but was finally agreed. At this time the club had 85 members and as far as I can deduce (as no records exist) the annual subscription was £1-10s.

1938, the last peacetime year, saw the club full of optimism for the future. At the annual dinner that year held at the Rest Hotel, Kenton in early December, the president David Fairley spoke of the growing popularity of bowls especially among the young. Indeed the proportion of younger men joining the club had greatly increased. Bowls was no longer a game for the elderly. F. Hindmarsh (Sen. Dep. Pres. M.C.B.A.) in reply spoke of the great tradition of the club in its association with M.C.B.A. Currently John Booth was district secretary, and A. Clough a Benevolent Fund committee member. Captain Leroux admitted that the ranks had been depleted in recent years and outside competition success had eluded them, but there was a new crop of promising young bowlers, and he was sure that success was just around the corner.

Unfortunately "just around the corner" the clouds of war were gathering and 1938 proved to be the last annual dinner before war was declared on September 3rd 1939. In an emergency annual meeting in early October held in the club pavilion, it was agreed to drastically curtail the club fixture list and only play matches against nearby local clubs. The annual dinner was to be cancelled indefinitely. The prizes for that year were presented at this meeting, J. Joiner was club champion with Sid Hope runner-up.

The war years are something of a mystery since no records exist, but in the minutes of H.L.B.C. reference is made to whist drives and ladies day with the Harrow men, so it can be assumed that as most of the membership was too old for war duties bowling and fund raising continued almost as usual on the Harrow Green. I have it on good authority that the Recreation Ground was not dug up in the "digging for victory" campaign and continued to be used as a local sports facility. The handicap singles competition and the pairs were abandoned (at least no record exists) until 1942 when R. Clarke donated the Clarke Cup for the handicap singles competition, first won by J. Joiner. The pairs competition was reinstated in 1945. The championship competition continued throughout the war years with the exception of 1944 when, due to the flying bomb menace, it was considered too dangerous. The end of the war on June 8th 1945 meant that the 1945 season was almost back to normal. In October 1945 the Annual Dinner was held once again in the Gayton Rooms and 130 members, wives and guests attended. Captain E.S. Cambrook spoke of the lean war years but looked forward with confidence to the future. That year the club had played 25 matches and won 16. The club champion was W.C. Webster (who incidentally had only one arm, the other being lost in a childhood accident), the singles handicap was won by F. Salter and the pairs (then the Tom Potts Cup) by Shucksmith and Megeney.

Harrow Ladies Bowls Club (1923 - 1981)

This is a convenient stage in our story to digress and give a brief account of the history of Harrow Ladies Bowls Club. Although a separate club in its own right, H.L.B.C has played an important role in the history of H.B.C. The fact that it was founded largely by wives of Harrow bowlers, meant that there was always to be a close link between the two clubs.

The start of the twentieth century saw important social changes in the lives of women. The women's emancipation movement was gaining ground and W.W.1 gave women further opportunities for equality with men. These changes were also reflected in the leisure and sporting lives of women. The wives of the Harrow bowlers, long restricted to making tea or watching, decided that they should also be given the chance to play. With great wisdom H.B.C. decided to allow women as associate playing members. There is no record of when ladies first started playing, but at the annual dinner of 1919 prizes were given for a ladies competition.

As more and more ladies wished to play, it can be assumed that the men were finding that sharing the green and pavilion were becoming a problem. One can also surmise that either some ladies decided to form their own club or that they were given a gentle hint by the men.

Whatever the reason, on Thursday 5th April 1923 several ladies, mostly wives of Harrow bowlers, met at 46 Cunningham Park the home of Mrs. Apsey to discuss the formation of a ladies bowls club. At this meeting a committee of 6 was formed, Mrs. Apsey was elected secretary and Mrs. Fairley the President. It was also agreed that the club be called Harrow Ladies Bowls Club and should be limited to 30 members. The secretary was instructed to apply to Harrow Council for the use of a spare piece of land in Harrow Recreation Ground between No 47 and 53 Salisbury Road, which would allow two rinks. It was also known that since the men were about to build a new pavilion it might be possible to have the old one.

At the next meeting of the committee on 20th April Mrs Hastings was elected Chairman and Mrs McBratney Vice President. A letter had been received from H.B.C. presenting their old pavilion to the ladies providing they paid for the removal. An estimate of £12 had been received from contractors for removal and re-erection of the pavilion. The new club was up and running.

At the first general meeting of the Club 21 ladies were present and the officers and committee were formally elected together with the first set of rules. Among the rules was that the membership should be limited to 40 and that the annual subscription should be 15 shillings. The following month saw the purchase of 12 chairs (8 /6d each) 6 mats, 4 jacks and tea china. Since laying a gas supply was too expensive (£10-6-8d) a primus stove was bought for 18/-. The Council decided to charge £12 rent per annum to which, after protest, the club agreed. A tea committee was formed and it was decided to have tea every Saturday afternoon.

The first annual meeting was held on Oct. 10th, with 22 ladies present. In

the secretary's report it was felt that 1923 had been a great success despite the standard of the green, which left much to be desired. However it was hoped that the Council would make great improvements. The first balance sheet showed receipts of £38-4-7d with a surplus of £4-13-10d. At the election of officers Mrs. Booth was elected Captain.

The following season the club consolidated and a bank account was opened with Barclays Bank. Whist drives were arranged for the winter months. The Council had not improved the green. 1925 saw the first club competition organised. Play would start at 5-30p.m. and 14 ends were to be played, 7 ends being played on each rink (no doubt one rink was better than the other). It was also proposed, that bowls with a bias of less than 3 be banned I cannot imagine why this rule was introduced. The entry was 16 and the winner was Mrs. Apsey. The first match was arranged against Temple Green B.C. An application was made to Harrow Council for a new green, two rinks being considered quite inadequate. The application was rejected but the Council did promise to improve the playing surface. 36 lockers were purchased.

The following seasons saw continued popularity for the game. However, I get the impression from the minutes, that the club at this period was regarded more of a ladies social club than a serious sports club. Whist drives and charity events were the order of the day. An interesting match was arranged in 1926 between "the bobbed and the unbobbed". It seems that there were some "flappers" in the club. Competitive matches against other clubs were rare and most competitions within the club were in the form of spoon drives. It was not until 1930 that the club began to get interested in outside matches. In all respects the club was thriving. There was a healthy balance in the bank of £160 and the membership was at its maximum of 40 with a waiting list. The pavilion now had a verandah and was enlarged with the inclusion of an Elsan portable lavatory. In Miss Warn they had a Captain who was one of the best bowlers in the district and wanted more competitive bowling. The club now had a badge and blazers were worn for matches. A silver championship cup was purchased from Mappin and Webb for £5, Miss Warn being the first winner.

It was in 1933 that the club achieved its breakthrough as a serious bowls club. This coincided with the founding of M.C.W.B.A. Harrow were invited to join, provided they construct banks and ditches on the green. From the outset H.L.B.C. were enthusiastically involved with the Association. Two of its members Mrs. Allott and Mrs. Schofield were elected to the Gen. Purposes Committee and Mrs. Allott presented a trophy (The Harrow Bowl) for the runner-up in the pairs competition. With the founding of the County Association competitive bowls activity increased enormously. The first winners of the County fours were Harrow. At the first annual dinner of the M.C.W.B.A. Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Schofield and Miss Warn were proudly presented with medals and "The Mrs. Howard Button Bowl".

A blow to the club's ambitions fell in the following season. The county introduced a new rule for its competitions. "All Competitions shall be played

on Cumberland turf". This was a potential disaster for the club since the council had long since rejected, due to the great expense involved, any plan to upgrade the green. As a last resort the Secretary wrote to H.B.C. for permission to play any County Competition, when drawn as challengers, on the men's club green. They were delighted when the H.B.C. committee agreed to the request.

The following years up to the war years were probably the "golden era" of the club. With much involvement in the County Association on the administrative and playing front the club became one of the strongest in the district. The one thing that was holding back the ambitions of the club was its green, only two rinks and a poor playing surface. Every year until its demise in 1981 the committee applied to the Council for another larger site. From time to time the Council cruelly held out some hope, but eventually always found excuses to reject the request.

In a typical year of that period, 1935, the club played 18 matches (8 won, 10 lost), 7 members played in county matches and charity whist drives raised the record sum of £48. The treasurer's statement showed a surplus of £174 and the Club Champion was Mrs. Betty. With an expert secretary in Mrs. Allot and a competent committee the club ran like a well oiled machine. However, no doubt held back by the playing conditions, outside competition success eluded the club. Despite being the administrative backbone of the County Association its only success in competitions was to reach the semi-final of the singles in 1938 with Mrs. Marsland.

The charitable work carried out by the club at this time was truly impressive. £40-£50 was regularly donated to charities such as St. Saviours home for waifs and strays, Harrow & District Nursing Association and the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

The declaration of war in 1939 saw a change in the club's activities. The County Association cancelled all competitions and operated at very low level. The club decided to contribute to the war effort by increasing the number of charity whist drives and donating the prize money to the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance. Surprisingly the club continued to play matches against Wealdstone, Kenton, Rickmansworth and Wembley. In 1938 Harrow became a founder member of the H.& D.W.B.A. and in 1940 inaugurated a pairs competition in aid of Harrow Hospital.

In April 1940 the club registered as a Catering Establishment in order that rationed articles of food would be available for teas supplied by the club. The club also agreed to invest £100 in a 3% Defence Bond. In 1940, H.B.C. invited the ladies to play an annual match against the men on its green. The invitation was enthusiastically accepted. The following war years saw the introduction of a "knitting section". Funds for the wool were raised at charity matches and whist drives. By the end of the war over 1200 garments had been knitted by club members and well over £500 raised for the war charities, a wonderful effort by a very dedicated group of women.

In July 1943 another innovation: the club invited eight members of H.B.C. to play a match on the ladies green followed by supper in the pavilion. This

invitation started a tradition which lasted until 1981.

The end of hostilities in 1945 saw a return to normal activities. Information on the 1950's and early 60's is missing and I must jump to 1963 for the rest of the history. The fifties had seen a steady decline in membership, which now stood at 25. Financially the club was still viable although the rent had increased to £35. Such was the worry about membership that it was decided to advertise for members in the Harrow Observer. Unfortunately this did not attract any new members. In 1966 the Council raised hopes about a new green, but once again deferred its decision "pending an inquiry". Mrs. Allot died and a competition in her honour was proposed. In 1967 in the 44th year of its history there was a unique event. Mrs. E. Everett, the club captain won all competitions, championship, two-woods and pairs. However it was evident from the balance sheet of that year that the club was in terminal decline. Now down to 17 members and with a cash balance of only £75 it was only a matter of time before its final demise.

The next 12 years saw a steady rise in expenses, (mainly rent and rates increases) with a corresponding decline in membership. The subscription rate was steadily increasing until in 1981, the final blow was struck by the Council when the rent and rates were raised to £175. With only 12 playing members, the club was in danger of becoming insolvent. By selling some of the silver trophies some money was raised.

At an E.G.M. held in the pavilion on 23rd September 1981 all 13 members were present and the treasurer Beryl Jones painted a depressing picture of the club's future. Predicting the expenses for 1982 she suggested that a subscription of £25 would be needed to meet these expenses. It was soon realised that with a possible membership of only 8 for the 1982 season, they had no option but to wind up the club. By now it was known that H.B.C. would accept lady members for the 1982 season so although greatly saddened by the demise of the club, there was also a sense of excitement about the prospect of the coming season.

At a final winding-up meeting on 1st December 1981, the officers met to decide how to dispose of the cash balance in the bank. It was decided to share the money between all members of 5 years or more standing. Ten members qualified for the share-out.: Mrs. Amies, Mrs. Westcott, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Craven, Nan Powney, Miss Johnson, Miss Gretton, Mrs. Gee and Mrs. Bedborough.

In today's world ladies only bowls clubs are becoming increasingly rare. With more and more couples wishing to share their leisure pursuits, mixed bowling is rapidly gaining in popularity. However, this must take nothing away from those original pioneers in 1923 who struck out on their own to raise the image of women in the sporting world. Women sportspersons all over the country should pay tribute to that intrepid band of lady bowlers.

The early post war years and the Golden Jubilee. 1946-1960.

The earliest record of this period is a 1947 fixture list. It is interesting to note that the list of officers was as follows. President: S. Hope, Captain: J.A. Hocking, Vice-Captain: F. Salter, Treasurer: E.R. Kelly, Secretary: W.C. Webster, Match Secretary: A.H. Dawson and Canteen Secretary: W.H. Wood. There was a committee of 7: C.H. Apsey, A.G. Armstrong, W.J. Atkinson, J. Booth, E.S. Cambrook, M.R. Crawley and W.W. Hartley. Total committee 14 members. At the 2002 A.G.M. it was decided that a committee of 16 was too unwieldy and should be reduced to 9. It seems that there were no such thoughts in 1946. In fact the committee continued to be about 14-16 members right up to the present day.

The Club fixtures of that year present an interesting comparison with the present day. The season started on 26th April with President V Captain.

The only league competition was the W.W.L. (Western Wednesday League) There were 8 fixtures for this league: Hounslow Conservatives, Gunnersbury Park, Century, Rownswood Park, Brentham, Boston Park, Acton Park and West Ealing. Of these clubs in 2002 we only have fixtures against Century and Brentham. Friendly matches were played against, L.M.S., Lyons, Met. Railway, Handley Page (all now defunct) Kenton, Wealdstone, Wembley, West Harrow, Kodak, and Harrow Weald. Of all these clubs we now only have fixtures against the last six clubs. That year there were only 32 fixtures

not including Ladies Day which was held as usual on July 5th. The season ended on 13th September. It should be noted that at this time there was no "Finals Day" as we know it, and finals were played at the convenience of members. It was not until 1970 that a day was set aside for the finals of all competitions.

1948 saw the introduction of a tour match against Eastbourne. The following years saw the fixture list grow to 40 matches. 1949 saw the introduction of a new competition the "100 up". A special cup had been presented to the club by Agnes Dell a daughter of the founder. It was agreed that the "100 up" entrants should play for the "Dell Cup".

In 1951 85 playing members paid the princely sum of three guineas a year. In the same year a new lease for the club was negotiated by the trustees, W.H. Wood, A.G. Armstrong and F. Lockwood, but this time only a three year term was granted instead of the usual seven. The rent was kept at £150. Since the club at this time did not have electricity, it was only used during daylight hours or until the Recreation Ground closed at dusk. It might also be noted that teas were prepared on a Calor Gas stove. Florrie Perkins, the only woman allowed in the club house had been in post from 1922 and in 1951 was paid £72 per year.

The next major event in the history of the club was the Golden Jubilee in 1952. A jubilee fund had been set up and at the start of 1952 stood at £66.

For the occasion 200 metal badges were purchased for £22 together with prizes and match expenses of £75. It is also interesting to note that with donations and sales of badges the club made a surplus of £15. Not, I fear, a result that will be achieved for the Centenary.

Special matches were arranged against, the E.B.A., Harrow & District, L.& S.C.B.A., M.C.B.A., London Scottish B.A. and the W.W.L., a daunting programme of events. The highlight of the year was without doubt the club victory against the E.B.A. The E.B.A. had put together a very strong team including several international players and two England Captains, J. Adams and R.L. Steele. Despite this, Harrow won 89-81. The highest winning rink (30-17) was Everett, Carruthers, Hocking, and Hope. Surely this must rank as one of Harrow's finest victories. Four Harrow bowlers, Wylie, Carruthers, Davey, and Salter were selected that year to play in County matches.

That year also saw the death of W.H. "Billy" Wood who had been a past president (1946) and the club "Canteen Secretary". Together with Mrs. Wood and Florrie he had looked after the club catering and bar for 25 years. At the A.G.M. for that year a new rule was proposed that "white flannels should be worn on Saturday and Bank Holidays for home and away matches". At this time the Sunday observance laws did not allow matches on any Sunday.

In 1953 the Harrow and District B.A. introduced a new competition, the Bidgood Trophy. Harrow as well as being the first winners, also won in 1955. H.& D. inaugurated a new competition in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Called appropriately the Coronation Shield, it was a double rink competition and was won by Harrow in 1955.

In 1954 a new club competition was introduced, the "Two-woods". The winner was to be awarded the Dell Cup. The 100-up. competition was abandoned.

The 50s and 60s have presented a difficult problem for the writer of this history. Till now I have relied on some early documents but mostly newspaper reports in the Harrow Observer. In the pre-war years these were very detailed and yielded a wealth of information. However after the war the style of reporting changed and was mainly confined to the bare results and the occasional report. The Annual dinner was no longer considered newsworthy. What I do possess from this period are the fixture lists and Annual Dinner programmes. These items have yielded information on winners of competitions and the club officers, information which is recorded in the appendix. What I lack is personal information. Almost all the members of these decades are now deceased and even Len Smith (who joined in 1968) and Ken Jones (joined 1964) our longest serving members cannot help. The earliest minute books I possess start from 1970. Until I can unearth information from this period we must content ourselves with competition winners.

The 1960s and the Diamond Jubilee.

The mid 50s started to see a decline in club membership. From a peak in 1954 of 90 members there was a sudden decline to 65 in 1959. For some reason the game had lost its post war popularity. Britain was now entering the “swinging sixties” and with increasing affluence the public had an increasing choice of leisure activities. Bowls was once again seen as an old man’s sport. However there were some bright stars in the making. In 1958 one E.M.A. (Maurice) Strike joined the club. He went on to win the club championship 5 times, his first in 1962. In 1964 Ken Jones became a member. One of the club’s greatest bowlers, winner of the Middlesex Unbadged in 1960 he led for the County in the Middleton Cup for many years. Other notable members of the early 60’s were John Everett (President 1959/60) and Harry Clemow (President 1972-74).

1960 saw the introduction of the “Junior Championship”. A cup was donated by W.F. Teagle. This competition was open to any member who had not previously won a singles competition. The winner could not enter the competition again. This competition was an attempt to encourage new and less talented members and give them the opportunity to win a prize.

The major event of 1962 was the Diamond Jubilee. Preparations were made during the winter and the clubhouse was completely redecorated. The most important improvement was however the provision of electricity, a long awaited facility which would bring H.B.C. into the twentieth century. It is hard to imagine today how the club managed without electricity.

The season opened on 28th April with the usual President v Captain match. However, in honour of the Jubilee the Mayor of Harrow opened proceedings, first by formally switching on the electric lights and then bowling the first wood of the season. A photograph of this moment holds a place of honour in the pavilion today. Thanking members for an inscribed tankard and a bouquet of flowers for the Mayoress, the Mayor, Alderman W.O. Allen, paid special tribute to Mrs. F. Perkins (Florrie) who had now served the club for 40 years and was as well known in the County as the club itself. The annual match was narrowly won by the Captain, A.W. Hurst, 112-110. Other special events for the season were matches against H.&.D., London Scottish B.A., L. & S.C.B.A. and M.C.B.A. executive.

An impromptu match suggested by the mayor on July 20th, was a “Landlord v Tenant” match. The new mayor Ald. C.E. Jordan led a party to play a mixed match between Harrow Council and H.B.C. At that time a club member was Ald. A. O’Loughlin, which no doubt helped to “oil the wheels”. After the match the President, John Wylie invited “the landlords to see how their tenants were looking after the property” and offered them supper.

At this point in our history I shall digress to try and give a flavour of the main club social events of the period. The Annual Dinner is a tradition that has endured from the first gathering in 1913 to the present day. From 1913 to 1932 the event took place in the Gayton Rooms, which no longer exist but occupied the site of Iceland in Station Road. From 1932 to 1938 the venue

was either the Headstone Hotel or the Travellers Rest in Kenton. After the war the venue reverted once again to the Gayton Rooms. The first programme that I possess is dated November 6th 1946. The menu for the occasion was as follows:

Hors D'Oeuvres, Poulet Roti a L'Anglaise, Choux de Bruxelles, Pommes Rotis Bombe Vanille, Sauce Suchard and Cafe

This is the kind of menu that would not be out of place in the Savoy Hotel and gives a hint of what pre-war life might have been like. It also reveals a hint of the formality of the time. Most of the members of the Club were at this time middle class, retired professional, or business men. They were used to dining out and expected the annual dinner to reflect their tastes. Note also that at this time there was no dancing, but an after dinner entertainment. For 1946 this included Harry Mills (Entertainer-Compere), Claudia Hill (Soprano), Jackie Ross (the Ace Impressionist) and Frank Raymond and his shopping bag (Whatever that was). These were professional entertainers who performed on the annual dinner circuit. The guests at these dinners were usually officers of county associations, (in 1946 it was H. Adams, president of M.C.B.A.).

The somewhat pretentious French menu soon lost appeal and in 1953 reverted to traditional English fare: Cream of tomato soup, Fried plaice, Roast chicken and fruit sundae. In 1956 the preferred venue was once again the Headstone Hotel. In 1965 the "Artistes" were abandoned in favour of dancing and for the following 10 years to "Whittington White and his London Orchestra". In 1973 the Rayners Hotel became the venue until in 1984 the present venue of Northwood Golf Club was chosen.

The entertainment continued to be a live dance band until in 1987 the dreaded "disco" made its first appearance. In 1990 the L.V.N.H. Denham was tried for a few years, but the length of the journey put off many members and in 1994 the club reverted to the Northwood Golf Club where it remains to the present day.

Despite some questions concerning the increasing cost and the form of after dinner entertainment, no member has dared to suggest that the Annual Dinner should be abandoned. It remains today as it did in 1913 one of the highlights of the year, an opportunity to dress up and meet wives and family of fellow members and formally present prizes to competition winners. Long may it continue.

1967 saw a change in the Sunday observance laws, and Harrow Council approached the club with a view to a variation of the Trust Deed allowing Sunday use of the green. The suggestion was made that two rinks should be set aside for public play. This suggestion was vigorously rejected and in 1968 Harrow Council agreed to allow exclusive use of the the green, but at the cost of a 25% increase in the rent to £250. We need to thank the committee of that time and especially the secretary Harry Clemow for the privilege we now enjoy of a wholly private green.

1970-1980 The start of the modern era.

1965 saw the introduction of the Harrow & District Veterans league. That first year saw league matches against Roxeth, Wembley, Wealdstone and Stanmore. The club fixture list began to grow. The H.& D.B.A.. was growing in membership and club members became more involved with its administration. In 1968 A.E. (Dick) Nightingale was made its President. In 1970 John Everett became an auditor for the first time.

Together with the W.W.L. and friendly matches there were now 46 fixtures including the H.& D. Jubilee Cup against Harrow Weald (1963) and the Potts Trophy against Lyons which had been played for since 1928.

1969 was the last year that Harrow entered the W.W.L. having twice been winners, in 1954 and 1962. In 1970 the only competitive games were the Vets. League and the L.& S.C. Shield, along with the Coronation Shield. In all that year, there were 37 friendly matches. Compare this to our present fixture list where at weekends out of 40 matches only 14 are friendlies. Does this indicate a more competitive nature in the modern bowler, or is it a manifestation of our highly competitive modern world? Whatever the reason I fear it is a change for the worse. It seems that no longer is taking part enough, it is winning that has become more important.

The seventies saw the end of one era and the beginning of another. From its inception, Harrow Bowls Club had the image of a "Gentlemen's" Club. Most of its members were drawn from the business and professional community. Artisans and working class were almost unknown. The sixties and seventies saw, together with the growth of a more classless society, members drawn from all walks of life. Builders, carpenters and plumbers were not unknown. In fact the "gentlemen" of the club realised that there was a definite advantage in including artisans in the membership. With increased costs in maintaining the pavilion it was very useful having an "in house" carpenter, electrician or plumber. Two members of the decade Tom Cheshire (1966) and Len Smith (1968) would prove to be very useful members indeed.

The 1968 season saw the sudden death of a very popular member Harold Low, a member since 1960. It was decided to name the trophy of a new triples competition "The Harold Low Cup". His son A.J. (Alan) Low who joined in 1969 was destined to play a leading role in the club for the next 30 years. The following year Harold's widow offered to donate a clock in his honour. This clock still holds a place of honour above the bar in 2002.

1970 saw the subscriptions rise from 5 guineas to £6 due to a rise in green rent from £250 to £300. The Council's proposition to end the Harrow Rec. Management Committee caused a few ruffled feathers in the club fearing that this could end the club's exclusive use of the green. However with reassurances from the Council the decision was reluctantly accepted. That year saw Tom Cheshire build a covered score-board, alas today no longer in use, but lovingly restored as place to hang jackets.

Ties and blazer badges were purchased both to be sold at 12/6d each. Ken Jones won the unbadged singles and Tom Cheshire reached the 5th round

of the County singles. Both were also selected to play for the County. The playing membership was 67 and that year, of 44 matches played 23 were won. An innovation that year was the introduction of "Finals Day". This proved to be so popular the committee decided to keep it as a permanent feature of the playing season.

In 1971, treasurer since 1965, W.E. Wooldridge decided suddenly to move to Worthing in mid season. W.E. Fox was co-opted to take over for the rest of the season. February of that year saw the introduction of the new decimal coinage. Teas would cost 25p and the Vets mid week 15p. Florrie was to be paid £3-50 per week. New jacks were purchased and Tom Cheshire made a compartmented wooden box with numbers to draw the rinks for roll-ups still in use today.

Florrie retired from her work with the police and it was agreed to make her a special award of £25. Annual dinner tickets were to be priced at £2.

Florrie was held in such high esteem in the club that it was agreed to build a ladies lavatory at the rear of the locker room. This much needed facility would enhance the comfort of Florrie and her lady helpers. The plans for the project, which needed the approval of the Council, were drawn up by Alan Low and the work was to be undertaken by Len Smith and Tom Cheshire. The bill for the plumbing would be £47.

In March 1972 it was agreed to mark the 50th anniversary of Florrie working for the club with a special invitation match on September 17th. There was to be a special page in the fixture list and the local press were to be invited. A collection was organised which finally realised £116 a very generous sum at that time. At the Captain's Supper a book autographed by all the members was presented to Florrie along with £25.

That year was also to see the beginning of a change of attitude towards the ladies. It was proposed to allow women into the pavilion on a regular basis. The new ladies toilet now made this a practical possibility. The motion to allow women into the pavilion on all evenings except Friday and when there was a visiting team was carried by 5 to 4. Opinions were sharply divided on this issue but the motion would be placed on the agenda of the A.G.M. It was also proposed to add a verandah to the pavilion, a major project which along with Council approval would need a loan fund from the members. Wells, Cheshire, Low and Smith were once again to oversee the project.

At the A.G.M. the motion to accept ladies was carried by a large majority. It was also agreed that the treasurer should change the end of the financial year from October 31st to October 15th.

1973 saw the completion of the new verandah at a cost of £423. £450 had been raised by interest free loans of £5 from members. This would be paid back over the next 5 years. The groundsman at that time was Joe Bloxham. He had been working for many years as groundsman and was paid privately. That year he was paid £1-75 per week. Tom Cheshire built a porch over the entrance together with a new club name board. It was agreed that Stan Kirby, George Holloway and Len Crouch should be members. That year, of 51 matches played only 18 were won. It was also suggested that Harrow

should join the newly formed White Horse League.

The date of the Captain's Supper would now appear in the fixture list. 1975 saw Alan Low resign as secretary for personal reasons and V.W. Fox take over for the rest of the season. The rent was raised from £300 to £450 plus VAT. After protest it was later agreed that VAT would not be charged.

With such a large increase in rent the club was forced to increase subs. by £3 to £9. Joe Bloxham retired as groundsman but agreed to do both the cleaning and look after delivery of bread and milk to the club. He was to be paid £2 for this work.

John Eastham and Colin York joined and Joe Morris died suddenly.

In January 1976 a disaster occurred. Florrie was taken ill. At an emergency meeting a catering sub-committee was formed. This was enlisted to seek out the help of wives to assist with the catering. For the first time in 53 years the club had to manage without Florrie, for in April she died. This was an enormous blow to the club and letters of sympathy were received from many clubs. It was agreed to hang a photograph of Florrie in a place of honour in the club. In a way this was the end of an era. The days of a "men only" club were over since the men were now forced to allow wives into the pavilion even if it was only to prepare the teas. It was to prove to be the thin end of the wedge and not many years later H.B.C. would become a mixed club. The new catering team was led by Millie Clemow and Mabel Cheshire. The new licensing laws forced the club to the following pattern.

Mon-Thurs. 11am to 3pm. and 5pm to 10pm.

Fri. and Sat. 11am to 3pm. and 5pm to 10-30pm

Sunday 1pm to 3pm and 6pm to 9-30 pm.

Ken Franklin, fixture secretary, suddenly resigned to join another club and was succeeded by Vic Wilmshurst. Joe Morris and Florrie both left small legacies to the club (£50 and £25). Dave Stewart and Henry Cooper were accepted as members and Joe Bloxham took over the running of the bar, formerly the province of Florrie. At the end of the season Bloxham was given a gratuity of £25 together with Millie and Mabel (£15 each).

That winter saw the first of many attacks on the pavilion by vandals. Windows were frequently broken and they even poured paint through the broken windows. This pattern of hooligan behaviour was to be repeated regularly over the years. The club was particularly vulnerable to burglary and there were a number of break-ins over the years. The most popular method of entry was through the roof and it was not till the new club house was built that this problem was overcome.

1977 was the 75th anniversary year and to mark the occasion special matches were played against the E.B.A., M.C.B.A., L. & S.C.B.A. and the H. & D. That year also saw the club's first year in the White Horse League, with some success. Harrow won the division and lost to Bloomfield in the semi-final. The Vets. finished second in the Vets. League. Kevin Bulman and Danny Hill became members. Ken Jones led for Middlesex in the final of the Middleton Cup and was made Middx. H.V.P.B.A. Chairman in 1978.

The Council that year caused much consternation by announcing that it

proposed to charge rent for both the green and the pavilion. They suggested a green rent of £500 and £500 for the pavilion, including repairs. You can imagine the panic this must have caused. Over the year numerous meetings with the Council finally negotiated a combined rent for green and pavilion of £550. The club was fortunate to have a committee that would not give in to intense pressure from the Council. However this increase caused the subs. to be raised to £12 for the 1978 season.

In May 1978 Joe Bloxham died and at an E.G.M. Bill Johnson took over the bar, catering and cleaning duties. Treasurer D.J. Butcher left at the end of the season and Dick Nightingale took over, an office he was to hold until 1991. The Harrow Open Triples was played for the first time with 20 teams entering. The charge for the Annual Dinner that year held at The Rayners Hotel, was £5.

The club took a coach trip to Brighton to play Preston Park for the first time and this fixture proved to be very popular for many years. It was proposed to purchase Bowls Stickers for the 1979 season.

With its recent intake of new members the standard of play continued to rise. This was demonstrated by a spate of competition success. Harrow was once again becoming a force in the bowling world. This success reached a peak in 1980 when Kevin Bulman became the first Harrow bowler to win the Middlesex Singles. Other successes that year were the H.& D. Triples (Cooper, Stewart and Jeffries) and section winners of the White Horse League. Competition wins were to be a regular feature of the following years and it seemed as though a second "Golden Age" was about to begin.

The Eighties - Integration and a new clubhouse.

The eighties were to see some momentous changes in the club. The start of the decade saw membership going into a slight decline. In 1980, there were now only 67 playing members, the rest were either H.V.P.'s or country members. There was no doubting that the playing standard was higher than it had been for some time, the problems were financial and administrative. With the demise of Florrie, after match teas and general catering were left to the goodwill of a few wives. It was felt that things were being run on an *ad hoc* basis. The club finances although sound, were at the mercy of Harrow Council who seemed intent on imposing ever increasing rents. If subs. were not to be raised unreasonably only an increase in membership could save the situation.

The year saw an increase in subs. to £16. Stan Kirby ran a catering sub-committee with Millie Clemow organising the work. The bowling that season was highly successful, culminating in Kevin Bulman's historic County singles title.

1981 began with the exciting prospect of a new indoor bowls club in Harrow. Herga Indoor Bowls and Social Club Ltd. was formed and it was agreed that the club should give its wholehearted support to the venture. Herga was destined to open in the winter of 1985. With another hammer blow from the Council, the rent was raised to £885, hence the subs to £20. The bowling season was notable for the extraordinary feat of Stan Kirby who contrived to win all six club competitions, a feat which is unlikely to be repeated. This effort even made news in the local press. Stan is reported to have said that "Towards the end, I was playing five times a week and shaking hands with my wife at weekends". Anyone attempting to repeat the feat today would find his wife suing for divorce. This unusual feat is commemorated on the honours board with the words "S.W. Kirby - Winner of all club competitions." At the committee meeting on the 4th August 1981, reporting in A.O.B., the Secretary submitted statistics to suggest that the total membership was falling below an acceptable level and that the club should consider re-forming as a mixed sex club. A sub-committee chaired by John Everett, with Alan Low, Len Smith and F. Reynolds, was formed to consider the matter.

On the 18th August the sub-committee recommended "That the club be reformed into a fully integrated mixed club." This recommendation was approved by the full committee and it was proposed to put it on the agenda of the next A.G.M. At that meeting there was some opposition from some of the members who tried to delay implementation with a counter proposal. However, a Dave Stewart motion "To accept lady members commencing with the 1982/83 season" was approved by a large majority. Harrow Bowls Club had reflected the views of women all over Britain who now demanded equal opportunity with men in their leisure pursuits. Needless to say there was an element of self interest in the decision. The men would no longer be burdened with the responsibility of involvement in the club catering, at least

that is what they believed. Later years showed they had slightly miscalculated.

That first year of integration 1982, attracted 18 lady members. Most had been members of the now defunct Harrow Ladies.

Beryl Jones recalls how the Harrow men were regarded in awe at the annual Ladies Day match. They met at the pavilion, with hat, gloves and newly pressed skirts, marching in file across the park. Captain, Secretary and Treasurer entered first, then the rest strictly in order of length of membership. She first heard rumours that the men were thinking of opening their club to ladies in the late summer and as the decision to make '82 the last year of Harrow Ladies, it seemed that their prayers had been answered. She remembers how wonderful were those first years at Harrow. The weather was probably the usual mixture, but looking back she can only recall sunny days on the green, good bowling and good comradeship. They were some of the happiest days of her life. She remembers the warm welcome and helpful bowling advice and the feeling that she was a valued member of the club.

At the 1983 A.G.M. Beryl Jones was the first lady to be elected a full committee member. As well as being delegate to M.C.W.B.A., she was made responsible for arranging the ladies-only friendly games. Later in the season Marge Eteen was co-opted as a second lady committee member. Both formed the catering sub-committee. In 1983 the ladies built up the basis of a fixture list and the 1984 fixture list shows for the first time a full programme of ladies weekend and mid week fixtures.

November 1982 saw the death of W.H. Grisenthwaite, ex-President and Captain and secretary, a very sad loss to the club. 1983 was for the men, the culmination of years of trying for Middlesex success. A rink skipped by K. Bulman, with S. Kirby, K. Jones and K.F. Davies defeated Masonian to win the Joseph Cup for the first time in the club's history. That year a rink skipped by Stan Kirby reached the final of the H. & D. fours along with Ken Jones and Ken Davies who were runners-up in the pairs. The arrival of the ladies seemed to be a lucky omen. Led by President John Eastham and Captain Alan Low, with such superb bowlers as Kirby, Bulman and Ken Jones the future success of the club was assured for many years to come.

Such was the confidence in the future the committee amended the club rules to increase the maximum membership from 85 to 125. However, the accommodation was getting a little cramped. The ladies considered moving their old pavilion nearer to the club, partitions were considered along with adding extensions. All were rejected as impractical. With the new lease imminent at the end of 1984 there seemed only one solution to all the problems: build a new clubhouse.

The new clubhouse project.

The events that triggered the clubhouse project had been building up over a number of years. The integration of the ladies merely brought matters to a

head. Over the years the club facilities had been improved by judicious management of the available space and the imagination and skill of certain club members. However, the integration of the ladies brought a new dimension to the problem. The ladies needed a changing room and improved toilet arrangements and the membership of the club had suddenly jumped by about 25. It was becoming increasingly obvious that something needed to be done. Imagination and courage were needed. Cometh the hour cometh the men. In the 1983/84 season the club was lucky to have a committee that was both imaginative and courageous.

In November 1983 it was decided to meet Harrow Council to discuss the options for improvement and enlargement of the pavilion. President John Eastham, secretary Lew Bullard, Alan Low and Len Smith attended this meeting. At this meeting it was established that the Council had no funds available for a grant to carry out work on the pavilion but were happy to offer a loan at a reasonable interest rate to assist in an agreed project. Len Smith and Alan Low had already established the limitations of possible extensions and John Eastham put forward the idea of a new pavilion sited on part of the putting green at the opposite end of the green from the present pavilion. The suggestion was well received and it was agreed that a sub-committee led by Alan Low and Len Smith should draw up plans to submit to Harrow Borough Leisure Committee.

In March 1984 two recently joined members Maurice Ballard a surveyor and Ron Noble director of a construction company, investigated types of buildings and obtained quotes. Leofric Broadspan Buildings Ltd (LBBL) offered a prefabricated building for £11,500. which was finally chosen and plans were prepared to seek planning permission. A sum of £40,000 was selected as the maximum allowable and funding was to be obtained from various sources including £10,000 to be raised from members.

It was agreed that an E.G.M. be called for the 1st April 1984 in order to explain fully to members the details of the proposed project.

In a letter to members John Eastham made the case for the proposed project.

One of the main reasons for a new building was security. Despite efforts to make the pavilion secure 6 or 7 break-ins per year had occurred during the last few years. The Council were no longer willing to be involved in the continual cost of repairs to the roof and intended to pass the responsibility to the club. This would mean increasing subs. for a deteriorating club house. The ladies, now 20% of the membership, could not have changing accommodation within the existing structure. At the meeting attended by 44 members these arguments carried the day and the project was unanimously approved.

During the 1984 season planning work for the project continued apace. In July outline planning permission was received and applications for the Council Loan and a Sports Council grant were submitted. In October the Council loan of £20,000, to be paid back over 15 years, was approved. The Sports Council had recommended a grant of £10,000.

By January of 1985, the grant was confirmed for payment in July and interest free loans by members were well over the £10,000 needed, (56 members had pledged amounts from £50 to £500).

In April price inflation and unexpected costs meant that a firm price was accepted for delivery in June. The final cost of the building was £15,902. In the first week in August excavations and foundation work was started by Edgware Building Services Ltd. at a cost of £11,500. On the 27th August work started on the erection of the building which was completed two weeks later.

In June a new lease was negotiated by the trustees, Ken Davies, Dick Nightingale and Lew Bullard. It would be a lease of 30 years with a rent of £350 for the first 5 years. The building would revert to the Council at the end of this period but the club would be given first option to renew the lease.

At the August committee meeting Len Smith announced that due to the higher than expected costs, internal walls and fitments would have to be carried out by a team of voluntary labour to save money. So it was, that in the autumn of that year, the members of the club rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to complete the work. I well remember the barrow loads of bricks and cement that I carted to provide material for Peter Clark's son, a skilled bricklayer, to construct the internal walls. My back has never really recovered to this day. As an electronic engineer I was "volunteered" to fit the electrical wiring and alarm system. Len Crouch masterminded the fitting out of the bar and kitchen. Jack Webb spirited up a new set of tables and chairs and fitted all the internal lighting and of course Len Smith did all the plumbing. Alan Low was always on hand to help with the planning details. During that winter Ken Davies and Bill Robinson made the clubhouse their second home, the list of helpers was endless.

The one sad event that occurred during that winter was the sudden death of Captain Danny Hill who never lived to enjoy the fruits of all the work he put into the project. The culmination of all the work was the hospitality evening on 24th April 1986. The retiring secretary Lew Bullard summarised the 2 and a half year project and thanked all who contributed their time and money. The club was fortunate to have as its secretary at the time a man of the calibre of Lew Bullard, an experienced company secretary, without whose negotiating and managerial skills the project could not have reached such a successful conclusion. The club could now face the future with confidence and go on to achieve its status as the finest club in Harrow.

The building was officially opened on the 5th of July 1986 with a match against London Welsh. The club's longest serving member John Everett (37 years) with his wife Jean cut the ribbon and handed the keys to President Ken Davies. It was the start of the modern era.

1986-1992 The New Clubhouse and Beyond.

The first year in the new clubhouse was a revelation for the members. Suddenly there was space. The ladies found the new kitchen a pleasure to work in. Although the equipment was in most cases second hand or donated by members, the luxury of all that extra space was appreciated by everyone. That first year the chairs and tables were salvaged from the old clubhouse, but the ever enterprising Jack Webb "obtained" a complete set of nearly new furniture that was going spare at his place of work.

One of the first casualties of the move was the disbanding of the "indoor section". For some years this had been in decline and with the advent of Herga Indoor Bowls, most of the members were now fully occupied in the winter. The table bowls tables were disposed of and given to a local scout group and the Gingerbread charity.

There were now 102 members of which 32 were ladies. Frank Robinson a company sales rep., was the new secretary taking over from Lew Bullard. After the sad demise of Danny Hill (Owner of "Danny Shops" car accessories), the captaincy was taken over by George Holloway, under the presidency of Ken Davies. The season was a very full one with a notable break from tradition. For the first time in over 50 years there was no "Ladies Day". It was decided that this fixture should be replaced with a "Gala Day". This event was an all day round robin competition with novelty games to raise money for charity and club funds. This event was a popular fixture for the next 10 years until pressure of the new mixed league fixtures forced it off the list.

The results that year were notable with district winners in the mens fours and Kevin Bulman in the singles. There was a hat trick of wins for Len Smith in the Handicap Singles who incidentally was also men's champion. Beryl Clarke was asserting her supremacy with her first of 5 ladies championships.

The following two seasons were under the stewardship of President Len Crouch and Captain Kevin Bulman. The 1987 season was notable in that for the first time Harrow had a ladies district winner. Beryl Clarke won the ladies singles. The men, not to be outdone, were Middlesex finalists in the W.H.L.

1988 saw the beginning of the inexorable evolution to mixed bowling. The ladies, starved of competitive bowling opportunity, were delighted when it was decided to enter the Chiltern & Thames League. The format was a mixture of triples and fours, 5 opponents played both home and away. The extra matches meant a severe curtailment of use of the green by bowling associations. The previous season there were 8 association matches, in 1988 there were none.

With the increasing lady membership there were the inevitable tensions with match selection. It was finally agreed that the ladies should have their own selection committee. In August there was the first attempt to break into the new clubhouse, resulting in damage to the fire exit. This was later reinforced

with a grille contributed by Louis de Meza. At this time the club had a rudimentary alarm system installed by one of the members, unfortunately this could not cope with broken windows and after a much more serious break-in in 1993 the club was obliged to install a comprehensive alarm system linked to the local police station. 1988 was also the first year of bar manager Jim Clements, one of a trio of brothers (John and Mike) who were now members.

In 1989 it was agreed to change the committee structure with different sections managed to spread the work load. As well as the officers, there would now be a Ladies Mid-Week Fixture Secretary, Catering Manager, Bar Manager and Vets. Representative. That season saw for the first time a lady included in the selection committee.

There were unfortunately some tensions in the committee that season resulting in the resignation of fixture secretary Bob Jones with Sam Lowe taking over. The beginnings of disquiet about the state of the green were evident that season causing Alan Low to start negotiations with the Council about the installation of an automatic watering system. Little did he realise what disruption this would cause in the club a couple of years later.

Ken Davies, after a long association with the club, decided to retire to his beloved Wales, and left the club at the end of the season. As an H.V.P. he still maintains an active interest in the club to this day and his generous donations to club funds are greatly appreciated.

There was a minor triumph for the club veterans that year, winning for the first time the H. & D. vets league. The White Horse League changed its sponsor and became the Greene King League. A new competition, the ladies Two-Woods was inaugurated. Playing for the Margaret Fawcett Cup the first winner was Freda Russell. There was to be a notable applicant for membership in September Jan Stern, who was destined to dominate the ladies championship for the next three years.

In July there was the sudden death from cancer of Brenda Rose who had joined in 1986. Her husband Wally Rose offered to sponsor a charity day in honour of her memory. It was to be called the "Rose Bowl" in the form of a match between the ladies and the gents. This event has become the most successful charity event in the history of the club and was first held in 1990. The organising expenses are paid entirely by the sponsor and this means the takings from the special raffle all go to charity. The event is still on the fixture list today and over the years thousands of pounds have been collected for different charities.

For the 1990 season it was agreed to raise the subs. to £50. The club finances were in a very healthy state with £5000 in a savings account. By the end of the season all repayments on the clubhouse interest free loans had been repaid.

In July a special meeting was called to discuss the future of the club, the priorities of matches and mixed rink bowling. With the percentage of lady members growing faster than the men there was the beginning of a problem with rink availability due to more ladies entering outside competitions. The

meeting was in favour of maintaining a fully mixed club and seeking to provide more competitive matches for the ladies.

With President Alan Low and Captain Peter Clarke, 1990 was a very successful playing season. The men finished runners-up in the Greene King and of 40 matches played, 30 were won. There were three winners in district competitions. The ladies with a triples team and Jan Stern in the singles, the men, winners of the fours. Tony Paulley was club champion. The men's invitation triples that year was won by a home "dream team" comprising the President, Captain and Vice-Captain. At the prize giving, with much amusement the inevitable cries of "fiddle" echoed round the hall.

By the end of the season negotiations were well under way with the Council for the installation of the automatic watering system during the winter. The club were to contribute £3000 from its funds. A proposal to find a professional caterer for weekend matches was accepted. Jim Hughes found a caterer who was willing to provide meals for £1 per head plus £5 per hour for a 4 hour match. Sheilah Lowe as catering manager would buy the necessary stores.

The 1991 season started with the news that the Council had decided to cancel the watering system due to lack of funds. However, an extraordinarily generous offer from an anonymous member (later discovered to be Bob Jones) was made to cover the cost of installation, which was estimated to be £5600. By March permission to install was awaited and it was expected that the system would be ready for the start of the season. Interest free loans were offered by members and it was hoped to get a rebate if other greens had similar systems fitted.

About that time the rent review was imminent and the Council had increased the rent from £380 to £1200. Naturally this was rejected and a letter of protest was sent off. The committee having investigated the legal position of the club found out that the original club lease was an invalid document, giving the club no rights over the green and leaving the annual maintenance at the whim of the Council. The committee started to renegotiate the terms under which the club held the land.

This event did not generally affect the bowling in the 1991 season. With Dave Stewart President and Bob Jones as Captain, Harrow had a relatively good season. The greatest achievement was by Jan Stern who became M.C.W.B.A. Champion of Champions. The men had district success in the pairs and fours. Gordon Young who was to be President in 1992 was the club champion. The end of the season saw the resignation of Dick Nightingale as treasurer. Dick, treasurer since 1979, had almost become a fixture and it was quite a shock when he decided to hang up his ledgers. With such a hard act to follow Roland Raynor reluctantly took on the job. That year Len Crouch and Lew Bullard, both highly valued members, left the club. That year also saw the sad demise of Jean Allen.

1992 with Wally Rose as Captain, was an exceptional playing year for the club. The results were dominated once again by Jan Stern. Together with Anita de Meza she won the Middlesex pairs and reached the final of the

E.W.B.A. pairs, a magnificent achievement. Jan also won the M.C.W.B.A. singles and naturally the club championship. The men relatively modestly had a winner in the district singles with Jack Webb as well as success in the Coronation Shield. At the A.G.M. the sudden death of Vice-Captain. Jim Clements, who for a number of years had done sterling service as bar manager, was announced. Roland Raynor reluctantly resigned as treasurer and Bob Jones as an ex -bank employee was asked to take over. The secretary announced that he had finally reached an agreement with the Council concerning the lease. The new 15 year lease with the option to renew for a further 15 years in 2001 with a rent review every 5 years, was considered a triumph for the club. It also included full playing rights over the green. This claim however proved to be premature and it took another 2 years to resolve the situation.

With a new captain in Jack Webb it was hoped that with the unsettling events of the season now left behind, the club would unite in the spirit of compromise and support the committee for the season ahead.

1993 Through to the New Millennium.

The 1993 season started full of optimism with a new captain in Jack Webb and Gordon Young once again President. Sam Lowe was to start a lengthy period in the office of secretary and was to remain in this post until his untimely death in 2001. After one year of the outside caterer experiment, the club reluctantly reverted to self catering with Beryl Jones as manager. For the first time the subscription structure allowed a reduced fee for those bowlers only interested in playing weekday afternoons. Instead of the usual £60 they were charged £35.

1993 saw the introduction of a new open competition, the Ladies Invitation Triples to be run on the same lines as the men's competition as a round robin league. The match results that year were outstanding. Of 43 matches played 32 were won. The men finished 3rd in the Greene King and the club second in the C.&T.

A sour note to the season occurred in July when the clubhouse was broken into on two occasions. Along with major damage to shutters and windows, a large quantity of bar stock was taken. The club was eventually awarded £2462 by the insurance company. However with the increased risk, insurance cover was refused for vandalism and with an enormous increase in premium to £750, the committee decided to find another insurance company. The new company however insisted on an upgrade to the alarm system along with central station monitoring. The cost of the new installation and repairs to the pavilion totalled over £3000, wiping out all the compensation. The money was later seen to be well spent, that was the last break-in up to the present day.

1994 was a season notable for the achievement of A.W. Paulley. He was the first club captain to win the men's championship since Tom Potts in 1924. The ladies flew the flag that year with Beryl Clarke winning the district two woods along with success in the district triples. Honours that year were awarded to Len Crouch and Ken Jones (Life Membership) and Len Smith H.V.P.

With a new treasurer in Mike Rosenthal, a new system of handling cash was introduced. Every item of income and expenditure was recorded on printed forms to be later entered into the ledger. This, together with the use for the first time of a computer accounts programme, reflected the increasing use of I.T. in the business world. The secretary was now also producing his minutes and forms with a word processor. Modern legal obligations were also catching up with the club. New Health and Safety regulations resulted in the installation of special water heaters in the kitchen and the bar store. As usual this was left to the ever versatile Len Smith.

Unfortunately some of the older members were finding the "new technology" a bit of a mystery and setting the new alarm system was causing problems, resulting in several false alarms. The new lease was still "under negotiation" and at that moment there was something of an impasse with neither party

prepared to compromise.

1995 was a relatively uneventful but successful season. After all the excitement of recent years, under the captaincy of Wally Rose there was once again a good harmonious atmosphere in the club. Both men and ladies achieved notable results in outside competitions. Pride of place went to Pat Austin who, as well as a very close runner-up in the County unbadged singles, won the district singles.. The men, not to be outdone, were worthy winners of the Bidgood League and The Vets League.

Since 1928 the Club had played for the Potts Trophy, the annual fixture against the Lyons club. 1995 was to be the last season for this fixture. Lyons disbanded in 1996. The trophy, donated by Tom Potts in 1927, is unusual in that it is made from one of his own bowls and can still be seen today in the trophy cabinet.

1996 was the first time that a certain Brian Elbourn won the club championship. Elbourn, a Council Parks Services manager, was to dominate the club competitions for many years to become one of the finest bowlers in the history of the club.

The club had a good financial season that year thanks largely to the efforts of Louis de Meza as bar manager. His surplus of over £2000, was achieved by strict management and stock control. Such was the strictness of his regime, some members in jest called him the "little dictator". It was thanks to his no nonsense regime that the club was able to consider the purchase of a glass washing machine, once again to comply with Health and Safety regulations. The cost incurred by use of the telephone was causing such concern that it was decided to purchase a pay phone.

During the winter work started on the refurbishment of the kitchen , largely due to pressure from the ladies who were finding the old kitchen inadequate for the increasing catering burden. The work was, as usual, completed by willing members, including John Austin and John Cruttenden. By the start of the 1996 season there was a new kitchen with twin cookers, new work surfaces, sink and cupboards. Along with the purchase of a glass washing machine the club spent £3300 from the reserve account on these two items somewhat reducing club funds.

In 1996 the club enjoyed one of its best ever seasons. The men were area winners in the George Cairns League and winners of the Vets League, the club were also winners in the Chiltern and Thames mixed league. In the ladies district singles, Harrow had the rare distinction of both finalists, Beryl Clarke narrowly defeating Joy Cooper. A new competition was inaugurated: the "Over 65", won that year by Stan Kirby. This competition signalled the increasing average age of the membership and the start of a decline in popularity for the game of bowls. In the next few years, recruitment was to become an important issue if the club was to maintain a viable playing membership.

The issues of the lease and the rent increase were finally resolved, not without some local difficulties. In order to keep its good relations with the Council, the committee decided to agree to the so-called illegal lease and

accept the proposed increase in rent. Some members, disappointed that legal advice was being ignored, called a special meeting to decide the issue in October. At the meeting both sides debated the issue but eventually the committee decision was endorsed by a large majority. The committee had sought legal advice as to how the question of the lease would be decided. They were informed that a judge would have to decide, incurring heavy legal costs. Even this advice had cost the club over £500.

I have reached the point in our history where events are fresh in the memory of most of the current membership and it is going to be difficult not to upset somebody. I will therefore restrict my comments to facts and events not to any personalities or issues that could cause offence.

In 1997 the club took another step towards further integrated bowling by joining a new mixed bowling league, the Chesham Insurance League. This was a 5 rink format, playing 7 teams on a home and away basis. The 14 extra matches resulted in the heaviest fixture list in the history of the club. The 55 matches played that season strained the resources of the club to its limits and caused Captain Rod Gross and the selection committee quite a few headaches. With the ladies now entering into a national competition, the "Travelsphere", many of the newer bowlers were called upon to bowl and it is to the credit of the club that it fulfilled all its commitments that season.

The highlight of the season for the ladies was to reach the final of the Travelsphere, Middlesex area, only losing by the smallest of margins. The Harrow ladies were becoming one of the strongest bowling forces in the district and it was with their help that Harrow won the C.I.L. In this competition the club had tried to play equal numbers of men and ladies and in all, 48 members had been used. The men won the H. & D. Portman Trophy for the third time.

There were changes in club officers that year. The club's 15th treasurer was now K.L.(Ken) Mack. Mike Rosenthal had willingly given up this post to become bar manager. Ken was to prove one of the most competent Treasurers in the club's history. With the money handled by the club now well over £15,000, it was akin to running a small business and the job of treasurer required the expertise of an accountant. Ken also initiated the idea of giving a complete financial position at each committee meeting. As well as the current financial position he also offered a forecast of income and expenditure. With the the ever increasingly tight financial position, the club had to keep rigid control of its expenses. With running expenses of over £8000 and subscriptions of only £4700, it was essential that the bar, catering and fund raising made good surpluses each year. It had been many years since subscriptions alone could cover running costs. For some years now the club had been running a centenary fund and at that time it was estimated that £2000 would be needed for the centenary celebrations. With the final payment of the Council loan on the clubhouse(£2000 p.a.) due in 2000 it was hoped that this extra income would finance any centenary projects.

The 1997 season had been a particularly happy one with a wonderful atmosphere around the green and clubhouse. All the members worked hard

to offer something to the club. Perhaps it was the increasing number of married couples that contributed to the ambience, that now made the club feel like a second home.

1998 was notable for further improvements to the pavilion. For many years the windows and shutters had become an eyesore. The original windows were made of a plastic material (Polycarbonate) to avoid the constant replacement due to the expected vandalism. Although this had worked, weathering had caused the windows to become opaque and discoloured. It was now virtually impossible to see a game from inside the clubhouse. A decision was made to replace the windows with double glazed units and replace the old shutters with roller shutters.

The work was completed in August at a cost of over £3000. Once again the response from members to the request for interest free loans was magnificent and the project was funded without the need to take money from club savings. All loans were repaid by the end of 1999. The installation transformed the clubhouse. There was now a clear panoramic view of the green, much appreciated during rainy weather when matches could now be viewed in comfort. With the new roller shutters the club was much more secure and opening the clubhouse was made much easier.

Once again Harrow won the Chesham Insurance League, beating Harefield Hospital in the final at Wexham. The name of Harrow appeared once again on the Coronation Shield for the 6th time. Brian Elbourn was men's champion and Kath Smith took the ladies' prize.

The men's and ladies' invitation triples were now very important fund raisers for the club and under the management of Alan Low the events were raising over £800. A novel feature of the event was to reverse the catering roles. As usual the ladies catered for the men but now, the men catered for the ladies. This always caused much amusement with the visiting ladies teams, men having acquired the reputation of being useless in the kitchen. The visiting ladies were afterwards much impressed by the standard of catering, dispelling for ever the myth of male incompetence in the kitchen.

With membership now at about 80 causing a little concern, in 1999 the President Tony Paulley, devised a new approach to recruitment. With the co-operation of the Harrow Borough adult learning programme and Weald College, a bowling course was arranged and advertised in the Ace Guide, a publication distributed throughout the borough. The course was to be two three hour sessions on four days and a certificate was awarded to those completing the course. The fees for the course of £25 were reimbursed to any student becoming a club member. In the first season of this scheme, 8 new members were recruited, considered a highly satisfactory result.

With captain Dave Stewart at the helm the 1998 season was once again a highly successful one. The ladies achieved success at both County and district level. A triple skipped by Beryl Clarke won the County final and went on to Leamington.

Kath Smith successfully defended her District Two-Woods title. Brian Elbourn and wife Kathy reached the last eight of the national mixed pairs, an

astonishing result considering that Kathy was a new bowler. Brian Elbourn and Peter Perry narrowly lost the County Pairs final but managed to win the District Pairs. There was a notable success for a ladies triple skipped by Beryl Clarke. They managed to win the M.C.W.B.A. title and went on to represent the County at Leamington.

The club had a hat-trick of wins in the "Three Counties League" (The old C.I.L.) and with wins in the following two seasons have established a monopoly in this competition. This once again confirmed the strength in depth of the club as a mixed club.

The end of the season saw the marriage of the captain Dave Stewart to a lady member Beryl Meech. Unfortunately the marriage meant that the couple had decided to move to Devon. Harrow had lost a valuable member in Stewart, who left his final mark by emulating the feat of Tony Paulley in 1994 by winning his second championship as Club Captain.

The Millennium season had an unfortunate start when the new Club Captain Jack Murden had to stand down due to the death of his wife Barbara, a popular lady member. At short notice Brian Elbourn stepped into the breach and worked very hard to juggle the playing resources and complete another highly successful season. Brian notably once again did the "double" and won his third championship as club captain. Although results were moderate compared with the previous season the Vets. won the inaugural H.& D. Knockout Cup competition. The icing on the cake was a fourth consecutive win in the Three Counties League.

The centenary sub-committee was starting to plan a programme of events and appropriate prizes for the fast approaching centenary 2002 season. However, in the winter of 2001 the club was hit with a double tragedy. In the space of three months Harrow Bowls Club lost both its President and Secretary to the modern scourge of coronary disease.

Alan Low, a draughtsman by profession, had joined the club in 1968 after the death of his father Harold and had become a cornerstone of the club. As Captain, President and Officer his involvement with the club was an all-consuming passion. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the game made him a natural leader and administrator. It was difficult to imagine how he could be replaced. He died early in January 2000.

The unthinkable happened three months later in early March, when club secretary Sam Lowe succumbed to the same illness. Sam Lowe, a BBC engineer had joined in 1983. A man with great organising ability and a skilful bowler he was a second cornerstone of the club. Secretary since 1993, he had made the job his own and once again life without him was unimaginable. But in any great club there are always members who are prepared to "take over" in an emergency. So it was that Alan's great friend Len Smith, who had always preferred to be in the background, accepted the offer and took over the high profile position of President. He agreed, as had Alan Low, to remain in post for the Centenary season. The club was indeed lucky to have as President a man of the stature of L.W.A. Smith.

The club was also fortunate in its replacement for Sam Lowe. Joy Cooper

was destined to become the first lady secretary in the history of the club. Now that it has happened, it seems quite natural. With Joy Cooper, an extremely able administrator, the club once again “fell on its feet”. Looking to the future it is now quite possible that it will not be long before the club will elect a lady Captain and President.

After such a disastrous start to the 2001 season, things could only get better. It did not however, get better for the Harrow Croquet Club when in July vandals burnt down their pavilion. The Headstone Recreation Ground Users Association lost much of their equipment in the fire and were rescued by the club who offered some facilities for their annual Edwardian tea party.

The two invitation triples days were once again, despite falling entries, a tremendous success, bolstering the club coffers to the tune of nearly £900. The Harrow Mixed Pairs was abandoned due to lack of entries and it is not foreseen that it will be run again. With many clubs running similar open competitions and a general falling in membership it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract enough entries to make similar competitions viable.

On the bowling front the club had one of its best seasons ever. Pride of place went to the Harrow ladies who became County Champions in the Travelsphere. There was success for Harrow in the H.& D. fours and the ladies district triples. After a fifth win in a row in the T.C.L., the final being held on the Harrow green for the first time, the trophy was handed over to the club to keep permanently. As winners of their division in the C.& T. the club failed to reach the final, but continued to be a force in this competition. The Vets. had another great season as runners-up in the league and winners of the Vets Cup for the second time.

The social committee that season organised an entertaining social programme. Pride of place went to a “Quiz Night” and a new venture in a fancy dress “Cockney Night” that was part of the Christmas entertainment. A feature of modern fund raising was reflected in the weekly “Bonus Ball” raffle, based on the National Lottery.

The traditional Mayors Shield match was notable in that for once the Mayor’s team won by one shot. The Mayor having played the first end and winning the end, claimed with delight he had bowled the winning shot. Having enjoyed the day so much the Mayor with his councillors accepted an invitation to a fun match two weeks later, an evening that was enjoyed by all. It was gratifying to see that good relations with Harrow Council were being maintained. We can only hope that the Council will continue to be sympathetic towards the interests of Harrow Bowls Club for the future.

The Future

Having reached the end of our long journey thoughts turn to the present day and the future. Having survived 100 years can Harrow Bowls Club survive for another century? In 2002 our membership stands at 71 full members of which 37 are ladies. Our green maintenance approaches £4000, and the rent and rates nearly £1000. These along with security, insurance, telephone

and energy mean our basic expenses are approaching £7000. It does not take a genius to see that with subscriptions at £70 we cannot hope to cover these basic expenses. Unless the club can reach the magic figure of 100 members the pressure is on to raise funds from the bar, catering and raffles.

The modern world with its multitude of attractions of which bowls is only one of many, has seen a steady decline in the popularity of bowls amongst the young. In London the average age of bowlers increases each year along with the decline in membership. The appearance of high profile tournaments on television is a rare event. Bowls is very much a minority sport as far as the general public is concerned. This image gives lie to the reality for bowlers. For thousands of people nation-wide, bowls is the focal point of their lives and provides a wonderful way to spend their retirement. Unfortunately, private clubs like Harrow are finding the spiralling increase in running costs a continual threat to their survival.

Along with the running costs there is the ever present threat of vandalism. Every year some mindless act of vandalism to the green or the pavilion imposes extra work and expense on members, which tends to further lower morale. Unless the Council and the police can stem the tide of violence the future looks bleak. One can only hope that with the passing of the present generation of youth into adulthood the current obsession with vandalism will fade.

Does this mean there is no long term future for bowls? With imagination and a huge recruitment campaign the sport **can** be made to compete with other pastimes. The government could subsidise the sport through the National Lottery, companies could introduce sponsorship money, but don't hold your breath. As usual it will be the task of that small dedicated band of bowling enthusiasts to hold things together until that dreamed of era when bowls takes its rightful place in the sporting world.

Final Thoughts.

As the club is about to enter into its centenary season it is worth reflecting on the changes that have happened in the world since that opening season in 1902. What a different world it was. Queen Victoria had just died and in August King Edward VII was crowned. The Boer war had just ended and Thomas Edison invented the battery. Marmite had just appeared in the shops and the police were using fingerprints for the first time. President McKinley was assassinated and the first Daimler motor car was unveiled. Harrow was still largely rural and horse drawn carriages were the normal form of transport.

Has the world progressed ? Certainly the world has made huge strides in science, engineering and medicine but other aspects of life in the 21st century are less attractive. I like to think however that a common thread runs through the century and that thread is Harrow Bowls Club.

The game of bowls has, over the years, provided an outlet for our competitive nature, but at the same time has always been played with sportsmanship and good humour. Thomas Dell and his friends would be astonished at the changes in the modern game but be gratified that one aspect of the game remains the same. That is the spirit in which the game is played and the way bowls can still bring together people from all walks of life and help to cement friendships both on and off the green. Harrow Bowls Club continues to perform its most important function, that of introducing people to a life-time of great sport, entertainment and above all, the chance to make a host of new friends.

Harrow Bowls Club Presidents 1909-1969



W.J. Overhead
1909



W.M. McBratney
1911-1922



A. Farley
1923



H. North
1924



Tom Potts
1925,26



J.W. Wright
1927,28



G. Jefferson
1929



E.A. Beevers
1930



S.W. Bettony
1931



J. Booth
1932



A.H. Bartle
1935



W.H. Wood
1936,46



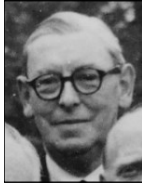
D. Fairly
1939,40



C.H. Apsey
1950



J. Wylie
1951,52,62



W. Curruthers
1953,54,55,56,57



M.R. Crawley
1954



J.R. Everett
1959,60,78,79,80



C.H. Crompton
1961



W.C. Webster
1963



G.E. Godfrey
1964,65



A.W. Hurst
1966



W.E. Wooldridge
1967



R. Davies
1968



W.E. Breedon
1969

Harrow Bowls Club Presidents 1970-2002



R.W. Wells
1970



H.J. Daw
1971



H.S. Clemow
1972,73,74



T.V. Cheshire
1975



J. Grady
1976



A.E. Nightingale
1977



W.H. Grisenthwaite
1981,82



J. Eastham
1983,84



K.F. Davies
1985,86



L.C. Crouch
1987,88



A.J. Low
1989,90,2001



D.J. Stewart
1991



G. Young
1992,93



V.K. Bulman
1994,95



W.A. Rose
1996,97,98



A.W. Paulley
1999,2000



L.W.A. Smith
2001,2002

Other Presidents - Picture not available.

1910	S. Pleasants	1941-45	A.G. Armstrong
1933	W.J. Gee	1947	S.Hope
1934	G.H. Carter	1948	J.A. Hocking
1937	F.A. Philpot	1949	A.R. Wild
1938	H.S. Wright	1958	F. Lockwood

HARROW BOWLS CLUB: CAPTAINS 1902-2002



A. Farley
1912



H. North
1913-23



T. Potts
1924



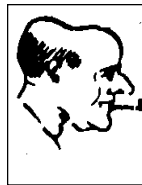
S. Bettoney
1925



J. Booth
1926



E.A. Beevers
1927



E. Potts
1929



E.J. Embleton
1930



A. Clough
1936



W.H. Wood
1937,43



F. Salter
1948



J. Wylie
1949,50



A.V. Wilson
1951



W. Curruthers
1952



W. Webster
1953,54



J.R. Everett
1956



C.H. Crompton
1957,58,59



E. Broom
1960



R. Davies
1961



A.W. Hurst
1962



J.G. Morris
1963



W.E. Wooldridge
1964



R.W. Wells
1966



R.J. Morris
1967



H.S. Clemow
1968

Harrow Bowls Club: Other Captains

1902-11	Thomas Dell	1933	G.H. Carter	1955	F.Barlow
1928	H.F. Mudge	1935	F.A. Philpot	1965	S.G. Sanders
1931	A.G. Armstrong	1938	J.S. Bleasby	1977	J.K. Austin
1932	W.M. Miller	1944-45	E.S. Cambrook		



R.S. Eely
1969,70



T.V. Cheshire
1971



K. Jones
1972



T.T. Fitch
1973



A.E. Nightingale
1974



H. Gould
1975



K.F. Davies
1976



W.H. Grisenthwaite
1978



L.C. Crouch
1979



A.H. McTernan
1980



V. Wilmshurst
1981



J. Eastham
1982



A.J. Low
1983,84



D.J. Stewart
1985,99



D. Hill
1986



G. Holloway
1986



V.K. Bulman
1987,88



G. Young
1989



P.B. Clarke
1990



R.L.W. Jones
1991



W.A. Rose
1992,95



J. Webb
1993



A.W. Paulty
1994



J.E. Cruttenden
1996



R.B. Gross
1997



J. Hughes
1998



J.H. Murden
2000



B. Elbourn
2000,01,02

HARROW BOWLS CLUB: LADIES CHAMPIONS:1983-2001



Mrs. M.A. Eteen
1983



Mrs. J.G. Allen
1984



Mrs. G.B. Jones
1984,89



Mrs. B.M. Clarke
1986,87,93,97,99



Mrs. K. Smith
1988,98



Mrs. J. Stern
1990,91,92



Mrs. D. Brewer
1994



Mrs. M. Hughes
1995



Mrs. P. Austin
1996



Mrs. S. Colbourne
2000



Mrs. M.R. Rose
2001

CLUB OFFICERS: 1902-2002

YEAR	SECRETARY	TREASURER	FIXTURE
1902-1912	Thomas Dell	Thomas Dell	No record
1913-1914	C.H. King	H.North	"
1915-1930	J.W. Wright	H.North	"
1931-1935	Harry S. Wright	J.W.Wright	"
1936-1937	"	W.J.Gee	A.G.Adams
1938-1939	"	E.R. Kelly	A.G. Adams
1940-1944	A.W. Gurney	"	No record
1945-1947	W.C Webster	"	A.H. Dawson
1948	"	"	M.R. Crawley
1949	F. Lockwood	"	"
1950-1953	"	G.E. Godfrey	"
1954-1958	"	"	C.H. Crompton
1959-1960	W.J. Atkinson	"	"
1961-1964	H.S. Clemow	"	"
1965	"	"	W.E. Wooldridge
1966-1971	"	W.E. Wooldridge	S. Schofield
1972	G.E. Wilson	V.W. Fox	"
1973-1974	A.J. Low	"	"
1975	V.W. Fox	K. Austin	"
1976	L.W.R. Hunt	J.D. Butcher	K. Franklin
1977	V.W. Fox	"	V.F. Wilmshurst
1978	J. Eastham	"	"
1979-1980	W.H. Grisenthwaite	A.E. Nightingale	"
1981-1982	F.W. Reynolds	"	"
1983-1984	L.F. Bullard	"	"
1985	"	"	R.L.W. Jones
1986-1989	F. Robinson	"	"
1990-1991	"	"	S.G.F. Lowe
1992	L. de Meza	R.W.H. Raynor	"
1993	S.G.F. Lowe	R.L.W. Jones	A.J. Low
1994-1996	"	M. Rosenthal	"
1997-2000	"	K.L. Mack	"
2001-2002	Mrs. H.J. Cooper	"	R.B. Gross/M.Tate

MEN'S SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP 1902-2001

1902-10	No Record	1941	H.F. Mudge	1972	K.G. Franklin
1911	S. Pleasants	1942	S. Hope	1973	J.H.G. Johnson
1912	E.G. Whitley	1943	W.H. Wood	1974	F.G.R. Rice
1913	W. Slade	1944	Not Played	1975	K.G. Franklin
1914	Ross Muir	1945	W.C. Webster	1976	E.M.A. Strike
1915	T. Potts	1946	J. Booth	1977	K.Jones
1916	Ross Muir	1947	J. Booth	1978	D.J. Stewart
1917	Ross Muir	1948	J. Booth	1979	H.Cooper
1918	Unfinished	1949	S.Hope	1980	V.K. Bulman
1919	T. Potts	1950	A.V. Wilson	1981	S.W. Kirby
1920	T. Potts	1951	F. Vale	1982	V.K. Bulman
1921	J. Dawes	1952	F.R. Barlow	1983	S.W. Kirby
1922	Unfinished	1953	M.R. Crawley	1984	V. K. Bulman
1923	T. Potts	1954	R.G. Miles	1985	A.J. Low
1924	T. Potts	1955	H.Rees	1986	L.W.A. Smith
1925	T. Potts	1956	R.Davies	1987	L.C. Crouch
1926	S.P. Bolland	1957	W.G.C. Taylor	1988	S.G.F. Lowe
1927	E. Potts	1958	W. Carruthers	1989	V.W. Burt
1928	T. Potts	1959	H.S. Clemow	1990	A.W. Paulley
1929	J. Booth	1960	R.J. Broom	1991	G.Young
1930	S.W. Bettoney	1961	E.V. McLachlan	1992	M. Clements
1931	D.W. Rice	1962	E.M.A. Strike	1993	S.G.F. Lowe
1932	S. Hope	1963	E.M.A. Strike	1994	A.W. Paulley
1933	Geo. Harris	1964	J.R. Everett	1995	J. Hughes
1934	F.A. Philpot	1965	W.E. Wooldridge	1996	B. Elbourn
1935	J. Booth	1966	H.S. Clemow	1997	A.J. Low
1936	J. Joiner	1967	K. Jones	1998	B. Elbourn
1937	S. Hope	1968	K. Jones	1999	D.J. Stewart
1938	S. Simons	1969	A.E. Nightingale	2000	B. Elbourn
1939	J.Joiner	1970	E.M.A. Strike	2001	B. Elbourn
1940	S. Simons	1971	E.M.A. Strike		

HANDICAP SINGLES - CLARKE CUP

1919	T. Kipling	1946	J. Booth	1975	E.M.A. Strike
1920	No Record	1947	W. Carruthers	1976	G. Stewart
1921	T. Potts	1948	J. Booth	1977	J. Eastham
1922	No record	1949	M.R. Crawley	1978	S.W. Kirby
1923	J. Dawes	1950	A.E. Miller	1979	A.J. Low
1924	No record	1951	J.Wylie	1980	W.G. Mobley
	Tom Potts Cup/1933 MillerCup	1952	E. Ingram	1981	S.W. Kirby
1925	F.A. Philpott	1953	W. Carruthers	1982	L.C. Crouch
1926	E.A. Armstrong	1954	F.R. Barlow	1983	S.W. Kirby
1927	J. Booth	1955	C.H. Crompton	1984	L.W.A. Smith
1928	W.J. Gee	1956	H. Rees	1985	L.W.A. Smith
1929	W.J. Gee	1957	F.R. Barlow	1986	L.W.A. Smith
1930	S.Hope	1958	J. Campbell	1987	J. Eastham
1931	F.E. Lowe	1959	J.R. Everett	1988	V.W. Burt
1932	H.S. Wright	1960	R.Broom	1989	M.J. Barratt
1933	F.A. Philpot	1961	C.H.Crompton	1990	V.K. Bulman
1934	H. Shucksmith	1962	R.J. Broom	1991	V.K. Bulman
1935	S. Hope	1963	S.R. Turpin	1992	J.K. Webb
1936	J.H. Elmes	1964	A.E. Nightingale	1993	J.K. Webb
1937	J. Joiner	1965	H.S. Clemow	1994	V.K. Bulman
1938	W.H. Wood	1966	J.R. Everett	1995	Mrs. B.M. Clarke
1939	S. Hope	1967	H.S. Clemow	1996	D.J. Stewart
1940	No Comp.	1968	R.S. Eely	1997	B. Elbourn
1941	No Comp	1969	A.E.Nightingale	1998	B. Elbourn
	Clarke Cup	1970	K.G.Franklin	1999	D.J. Stewart
1942	J. Joiner	1971	H. Gould	2000	B. Elbourn
1943	S. Hope	1972	J.R. Everett	2001	B. Elbourn
1944	No Comp	1973	K.G. Franklin		
1945	F. Salter	1974	L.W.A. Smith		

MEN'S TWO WOODS - DELL CUP

1954	R. Davies	1978	E.M.A. Strike
1955	J. Wylie	1979	K. Jones
1956	W. Carruthers	1980	E.M.A. Strike
1957	W. Carruthers	1981	S.W. Kirby
1958	R.J. Broom	1982	L.C. Crouch
1959	R.Davies	1983	V.K. Bulman
1960	A.E. Nightingale	1984	V.K. Bulman
1961	A.E. Nightingale	1985	V.K. Bulman
1962	E.M.A. Strike	1986	V.K. Bulman
1963	A.E. Nightingale	1987	J. Eastham
1964	J.R. Everett	1988	S.G.F. Lowe
1965	R. Davies	1989	L.S. de Meza
1966	R.Davies	1990	S.W. Kirby
1967	T.V. Cheshire	1991	S.G.F. Lowe
1968	K. Jones	1992	J.K. Webb
1969	K. Jones	1993	S.G.F. Lowe
1970	K. Jones	1994	J.K. Webb
1971	K. Jones	1995	W. Ferguson
1972	K.Jones	1996	J.K. Webb
1973	K. Jones	1997	R.B. Gross
1974	H. Gould	1998	M.D. Clements
1975	K.F. Davies	1999	J. Hughes
1976	K. Jones	2000	B. Elbourn
1977	K.F. Davies	2001	J. Hughes

HANDICAP PAIRS - WILL CARRUTHERS CUP

1921 J.W. Wright, A.T. Bennett	1948 A.W. Clarke, H. Shucksmith	1975 S. Schofield, D.S. Price
1922 No record	1949 M. Campbell, A.W. Clarke	1976 K. Jones, C. York
1923 C.H.Apsey, W. Greer	1950 F. Salter, F. Lockwood	1977 K. Jones, D.S.N. Price
1924 A. Newman, G.H. Carter	1951 W.R. Davey, R. Broom	1978 H.A. Jones, T.T. Fitch
1925 A. Wild, Rigden	1952 F.Salter, H. Williams	1979 L.W.A. Smith, H.P. Russell
1926 No Comp	1953 L.P.Thorn, C.H. Crompton	1980 F.C. Darey, S.W. Kirby
1927 A.T. Bennett, H. Groves	1954 R.G. Miles, A.C. Adamson	1981 L.W.R. Hunt, S.W. Kirby
1928 No Comp	1955 J.G.Kershaw, J.W.Mansfield	1982 W.G. Mobley, T.G. Edwards
1929 No Comp	1956 D.C.Whatmore, F.	1983 J.A.R. Eteen, S.G.F. Lowe
1930 No Comp	1957 C.E. Towers, J.A. Cooke	1984 W. Robinson, P. Henry
1931 No Comp	1958 W.E.Breedon, A.J.Atkinson	1985 R.L.W. Jones, M. Rosenthal
1932 W.H. Lee, W.S. Gee	Will Carruthers Cup	1986 R.L.W. Jones, R.E. Wood
Tom Potts Cup	1959 E.M.A.Strike, C.H.Crompton	1987 J.K. Webb, L. Maul
1933 F. Taylor, F. James	1960 W.F.Teagle, A.E. Miller	1988 L.S. de Meza, Mrs. B.M. Clarke
1934 W.E. Stone, W. Marsh	1961 E.F.Mallet, R.Davies	1989 S.W. Kirby, G.A. Williams
1935 W.H. Wood, A. Clough	1962 S.Schofield, E.V.McLachlan	1990 Mrs.D.E. Brewer, W. Ferguson
1936 G.H. Carter, W. Marsh	1963 H.J. Daw, E.V.McLachlan	1991 M.D. Clements, Mrs.G.M. Kaufman
1937 E.S.Cambrook,W.G Bungay	1964 R.W. Wells, S.Schofield	1992 Mrs A.L. de Meza, Mrs. S.A. Lowe
1938 A.V.Wilson, H.S.Wright	1965 W.E. Breedon, H.S.Clemow	1993 V.K. Bulman, G.J. Lloyd
1939 W.C.Webster, T. Withers	1966 G.O. Bean, W.E.Wooldridge	1994 Mrs B.M. Clarke, D. James
1940 No Record	1967 A.W. Bleach, E.M.A.Strike	1995 M.J. Barrett, R. Bayford
1941 No Record	1968 K.C.Davies, R. Davies	1996 L.W.A. Smith, H.P. Russell
1942 No Record	1969 L.W.R. Hunt, S.Schofield	1997 M.D. Clements, R. Bayford
1943 No Record	1970 L.W.A.Smith, K.G. Franklin	1998 Mrs. K. Smith, L.R. Kemp
1944 No Record	1971 A.G. Brown, K.S.Franklin	1999 M.D. Clements, R. Bayford
1945 H.Shucksmith, R.R.J.Megeny	1972 A. Officer, H.S. Clemow	2000 L.W.A. Smith, R.W. Bint
1946 F. Salter, C. Hampton	1973 J. Grady, A.E.Nightingale	2001 J.T. Clements, M. Tate
1947 H. Fanshawe ,H. Shucksmith	1974 S.Schofield, F.G. Sheppard	

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP - TEAGLE CUP

1960	H.H.Williams	1981	J.A.R. Eteen
1961	S.Schofield	1982	T.G. Edwards
1962	E.A. Goodwin	1983	S.G.F. Lowe
1963	A.H.E. Rogers	1984	M. Wager
1964	K. Jones	1985	F. Robinson
1965	H.J. Low	1986	Mrs. S.A. Lowe
1966	H. Pleasants	1987	M.D. Clements
1967	W. Schofield	1988	M.L. Ballard
1968	W.H. Beer	1989	H. Ladd
1969	W.F. Showler	1990	W.A. Rose
1970	A.H. Ellis	1991	J.E. Cruttenden
1971	A.J. Low	1992	J. Kingdom
1972	J. Patterson	1993	J.T. Clements
1973	W.H.Grisenthwaite	1994	R.B. Gross
1974	J.W. Bloxham	1995	Mrs. D.E.S. Brown
1975	L.T. Naylor	1996	S. Dimmock
1976	D.J. Jeffries	1997	M. Tate
1977	D.W. Jeffries	1998	R. Bayford
1978	F.G. Sheppard	1999	Mrs G.M. Kaufman
1979	G. Mobley	2000	D. Alder
1980	J. Rees	2001	Mrs B. Carlin

OVER 65 SINGLES

1996	S.W. Kirby
1997	A.J. Low
1998	J.H. Murden
1999	S.W. Kirby
2000	A.J. Low
2001	J. Austin

TRIPLES - HAROLD LOW CUP

1969	T.T. Fitch, A.C. Felgate, S. Schofield
1970	J.Patterson, H. Gould, G.E.Jukes
1971	T.T. Fitch, H. Gould, E.M.A.Strike
1972	F.G.Sheppard, W.A. Baxter, K.G. Franklin
1973	W.Johnston, I.R. Mercer, H.S. Clemow
1974	E.M.A.Strike, T.T. Fitch, S. Gossington
1975	A.E.Nightingale, L.W.R. Hunt, G. Stewart
1976	K.F. Davies, A.J. Low, D.S. Price
1977	S.W. Kirby, D.J. Jeffries, A.W. Bleach
1978	K. Jones, S. Gossington, D.W. Jeffries
1979	V.F.Wilmshurst, L.T. Naylor, G. Mobley
1980	L.W.A. Smith, L.T. Naylor, J. Rees
1981	S.W. Kirby, H.P. Russell, A. Swift
1982	L.C. Crouch, L.T. Naylor, R.E. Jupp
1983	A.H. McTernan, T.G. Edwards, R.E. Wood
1984	D.J. Stewart, Mrs B.M. Clarke, F. Farrell
1985	R.R. Allen, L.T. Naylor, Mrs. P.Jarvis
1986	D.J. Stewart, P.B. Clarke, Mrs P. Godelman
1987	D.J. Stewart, Mrs M.E. Burt, Mrs G.M. Kaufman
1988	Mrs D.E. Brewer, W. Ferguson, Mrs P. Godelman
1989	A.W. Paulley, Mrs F.A. Russell, W.A. Rose
1990	K. Jones, Mrs M.E. Pope, L.R. Maul
1991	P.B. Clarke, W. Ferguson, F. Farrell
1992	W.A. Rose, Mrs M.E. Burt, R.W.H. Raynor
1993	J. Hughes, Mrs M. Hughes, J.T. Clements
1994	L.Cooper, R.G. Rose, Mrs S.A. Colbourne
1995	S.G.F. Lowe, M. Rosenthal, S. Banks
1996	M.D. Clements, Mrs M. Wright, E.G. Lloyd
1997	M.D. Clements, Mrs B. Meech, J. D. Carlin
1998	J.E. Cruttenden, Mrs F.A. Russell, Mrs K. Elbourn
1999	M.D. Clements, M. Tate, H. Mandel
2000	M.D. Clements, Mrs F.A. Russell, Ms.L. Blennerhasset
2001	S.A. Lowe, G. Kaufman, H. Mandel

LADIES TWO-WOODS - MARGARET FAWCETT CUP

1989	F.A. Russell
1990	J. Stern
1991	A.L. de Meza
1992	M.E. Burt
1993	M.E. Rose
1994	B.M. Clarke
1995	B.M. Clarke
1996	B.M. Clarke
1997	K. Smith
1998	B.M. Clarke
1999	B.M. Clarke
2000	K. Smith
2001	K. Smith

LADIES HANDICAP SINGLES - DOREEN BREWER CUP

1993	D.E. Brewer
1994	S.A. Colbourne
1995	V.E. Marsh
1996	S.A. Colbourne
1997	S.A. Colbourne
1998	K. Smith
1999	V.E. Marsh
2000	S.A. Colbourne
2001	K. Smith

London and Southern Counties Bowling Association (Founded (1895))

Date	Competition	Result	Players	Opponents
1924	Fours	R/U	E. Potts, S. Simons, D.W. Rice, S. Bettony	Downhills
1935	Fours	R/U	Not known	Mid Surrey
1928	Challenge Shield (Four Rinks)	Winner		Dulwich
1929	Challenge Shield	Winner		Luton
1935	Fours	R/U	Not known	Mid Surrey
1948	Pairs	Winner	Not known	Eltham
1954	Western Wednesday League	Winner		
1962	Western Wednesday League	Winner		
1975	Fours	Winner	A.H.McTernan, E.M.A. Strike, A.J. Low, K. Jones	Thames Poly
1978	Fours	R/U	Not known	Temple

Middlesex County Womens Bowling Association Founded (1933)

Harrow were the first winners of the "Button Bowl" (Fours) Trophy
The "Harrow Bowl" (Pairs R/U trophy was presented to MCWBA in 1933 by Mrs. G.M. Allott Secretary of Harrow Ladies Bowls Club.

Date	Competition	Result	Players
1933	Fours	Winners	Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Ford, Mrs Warn, Mrs Schofield
1989	Two-Woods	R/U	B.M. Clarke
1989	Pairs	Qtr. Finalists	D.E. Brewer, B.M. Clarke
1990	Unbadged Singles	Qtr. Finalist	J. Stern
1991	Champion of Champions	Winner	J. Stern
1992	Singles	Winner	J. Stern
1992	Two-Woods	Semi-Finalist	J. Stern
1992	Pairs	Winner	J.Stern, A. de Meza
1993	Pairs	Qtr. Finalists	D.E. Brewer, B.M. Clarke
1995	Pairs	Semi-Finalists	A. de Meza, P. Austin
1995	Unbadged Singles	R/U	P. Austin
1996	Singles	Qtr. Finalist	V.E. Marsh
1996	Two-Woods	R/U	P.Austin
1997	Triples	Semi-finalists	K. Smith, P. Austin, B.M. Gross
1999	Singles	Qtr. Finalist	H.J. Cooper
1999	Triples	Winners	B.M. Clarke, D.E. Brewer, E. Ladd
1999	Fours	Semi-Finalists	S.A. Colbourne, H.J. Cooper, D.E. Brewer, P. Austin
2000	Triples	Qtr. Finalists	S.A. Colbourne, H.J. Cooper, J.A. Sayers
2000	Fours	Qtr. Finalists	F. Russell, E.B. Carlin, K. Smith, P. Austin
2000	Travelsphere	Finalists	
2001	Travelsphere	Winners	

Harrow & District Bowling Association (Founded 1938)

Harrow was a founder member of the association

Date	Competition	Result	Players
1942	Fours	Winner	No record
1953	Bidgood Trophy	Winner	
1955	Coronation Shield (Double Fours)	Winner	
1955	Bidgood Trophy	Winner	
1968	Fours	Winner	R. Morris, T.V. Cheshire, R.W. Wells, E. Wooldridge
1968	President		A.E. Nightingale
1970	Coronation Shield	Winner	
1973	Pairs	Winner	J.H.G. Johnston, W. Baxter
1974	Fours	Winner	J.K. Austin, G. Holloway, A.E. Nightingale, F. Rice
1975	Singles	Winner	K. Jones
1976	Coronation Shield	Winner	
1976	President		H.S. Clemow
1977	Singles	Winner	L. Crouch
1977	Two-Woods	Winner	K. Jones
1979	Triples	Winner	S.W. Kirby, A.J. Low, P. Charlton
1980	Triples	Winner	H. Cooper, D.W. Stewart, D.W. Jeffries
1982	Singles	Winner	S.W. Kirby
1982	Coronation Shield	Winner	
1984	Portman Trophy	Winner	
1986	Singles	Winner	K. Bulman
1986	Fours	Winner	A.J. Low, L.W.A. Smith, R.L.W. Jones, J. Webb
1988	Fours	Winner & R/U	G. Young, B. Elbourn, A.W. Paulley, L.C. Crouch
1989	Veterans League	Winners	
1990	Fours	Winner	A.J. Low, L.W.A. Smith, J. Webb, R.B. Gross
1991	Fours	Winner	
1991	Pairs	Winner	L.C. Crouch, M. Barratt
1992	Singles	Winner	J. Webb
1992	Double Fours	Winner	
1993	Triples	Winner	
1995	Veterans League	Winner	
1995	Bidgood League	Winner	
1996	Veterans League	Winner	
1997	Portman Cup	Winner	
1998	Double Fours	Winner	
1999	Pairs	Winner	B. Elbourn, P. Perry
2000	Portman Trophy	R/U	
2000	Vets. Knock-out Cup	Winner	
2001	Vets. Knock-out Cup	Winner	
2001	Fours	Winner	M. Clements, T. Paulley, B. Moates, M. Tate

Middlesex County Bowling Association (Founded 1911)

Harrow was a founder member of the Association

Year	Comp./Office	Result	Players	Opponents
1915	Double Fours	R/U	Not known	Clissold
1924	Fours	R/U	T. Potts, E. Potts, S. Simons, W.J. Gee	Downhills
1925	M.C.B.A. President		Tom Potts	
1927	Fours	R/U	T. Potts, E. Potts, H.S. Wright, J. Booth	Enfield
1930	Double Fours	R/U	Not Known	Enfield
1932	Singles	R/U	S. Taylor	P.G. Constable (Uxbridge)
1950	Bannerette	Winner		
1970	Unbadged Singles	Winner	K. Jones	G. Michael (N.T.G.)
1978	Singles	Winner	K. Bulman	Cambridge Park
1978	Whiskey Pairs	R/U	D.J. Stewart, H. Cooper	Century
1983	Fours	Winner	S.W. Kirby, K. Bulman, K. Jones, K.F. Davies	Masonian
1998	Bannerette	R/U		
1999	Pairs	R/U	B. Elbourn, P. Perry	Shepherds Bush

Harrow & District Womens Bowling Association (Founded 1950)

1987	Singles	Winner	B.M. Clarke
1990	Singles	Winner	J. Stern
1990	Triples	Winners	
1994	Two-Woods	Winner	B.M. Clarke
1994	Triples	Winner	
1995	Singles	Winner	P. Austin
1996	Singles	Winner	B.M. Clarke
1996	Singles	R/U	H.J. Cooper
1999	Triples	Winners	B.M. Clarke, D.E. Brewer, E. Ladd
1999	Two-Woods	Winner	K. Smith
2001	Triples	Winner	F. Russell, M. Wright, G. Kaufman
2001	Triples	R/U	J. Cooper, D. Brewer, V. Marsh

Chesham Insurance League/ Three Counties League (5 Mixed Rinks)

1997	League/Knock out	Winners
1998		Winners
1999		Winners
2000		Winners
2001		Winners

Chiltern & Thames League (Mixed Triples)

1996 Winners

White Horse /Greene King /George Cairns League

1987 R/U

1996 Area

English Bowling Association (Founded 1903)

1927 Fours R/U T. Potts, E. Potts, H.S. Wright, J. Booth

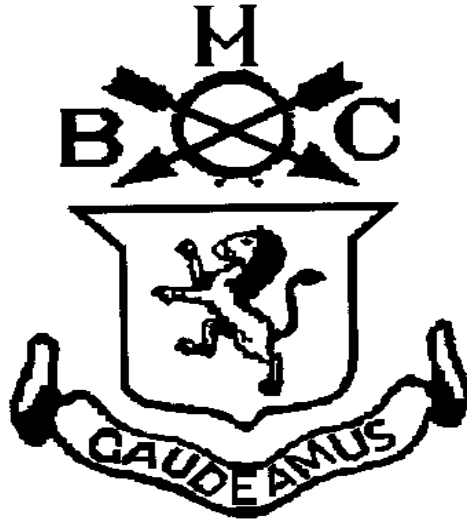
1928 Vice President T. Potts

1929 President T. Potts (Died before taking office)

English Womens Bowling Association (Founded 1931)

1992 Pairs R/U J. Stern, A. de Meza

Appendix - The Club Badge



The origin of the club badge is not recorded and the first instance of its use is on the Championship Cup, presented to the club by William McBratney in 1910. The individual who made the choice of the design is unknown and I must resort to speculation. The design chosen for the cup was an exact copy of the badge used by the Harrow Observer, which in turn was a part of the Harrow School badge. William Overhead, President of the club in 1909 was the owner of the Harrow Gazette which he sold to the Harrow Observer in 1905. It is possible that he, as ex-owner of the Harrow Gazette, might have obtained permission to use the Harrow Observer badge for the Harrow Bowls Club, which at that time was the only club near to the centre of Harrow. It is also known that Thomas Dell was a member of the Harrow School board for a time, giving another possible explanation for the choice of badge. It is not till the 1920s that we find the badge in its present form with the motto "Gaudeamus", Let us rejoice.

What do the elements of the badge represent? The lion rampant is part of the badge of the founder of Harrow School, Sir John Lyon. The crossed arrows tied to a laurel wreath represent an annual archery competition at the Harrow School in the eighteenth century called the Silver Arrow Contest. The contest was abandoned in 1771, and in the nineteenth century was incorporated into the school badge as crossed arrows and laurel wreath. As to the choice of the motto I have no explanation except it is very appropriate in our centenary season. Let us all indeed rejoice for the Harrow Bowls Club in its hundredth year of existence.

Acknowledgements

The history of Harrow Bowls Club could not have been written without the assistance of many former and current members. I should first particularly like to mention Tony Paulley and Sheilah Lowe who, as co-members of the History Sub-Committee, started off the project on the right foot.

The list of former members who provided invaluable documentary, anecdotal and photographic data is too long to mention here but the following were particularly helpful. Len Smith our President provided photographs and newspaper cuttings, but best of all long forgotten memories of over 30 years as a club member. The late Alan Low was a mine of information. Tom Cheshire gave me valuable insight into the workings of the club in the sixties and seventies. Beryl Jones, one of the few who remembers the old Harrow Ladies B.C. gave me a graphic description of the year when ladies were finally allowed as members. Ken Davies dug up some interesting photographs of the eighties. Others who must be mentioned are Sam Lowe, Kath Smith, Stan Kirby Ken Jones, Mary Webster, Joan Jupp, Rod Gross, Gordon Young, Joy Cooper, Freda Russell, Jack Webb and Bob Jones.

Thanks are due also to Peter Abbot, for permission to search the minute books of Harrow and District Bowling Association.

Many thanks are due to Audrey Philpot (Hon. Comp. Sec. M.C.W.B.A.) for digging out all the Harrow Ladies' results in County competitions.

I must also acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Bob Thompson of Harrow Civic Centre Library without whom I should never have found my way around the archives of the Harrow Gazette and the Harrow Observer. He also pointed me at several other useful documents and allowed me to copy Ordinance Survey maps of the Recreation Ground.

Carol Manson, Head librarian of Rayners Lane Library, allowed me into the basement to use old Harrow Council files relating to the Recreation Ground. It was there that I found the earliest club document, a letter from Thomas Dell to the Council (see page 13).

I should like to thank Brian Girling for allowing me to reproduce a photo of the Recreation Ground in the 1930s.

I apologise if I have left anyone out of this list, no doubt many others gave me snippets of information which I have found useful, but for one reason or another I have not recorded.

Finally I must thank my wife Sara for putting up with me during the writing of this document and performing the vital work of proof reading. Without her support and encouragement I could never have finished it.

