

History of Broughton & District Club Centenary Souvenir 1890 to 1990

Preface

Since the Inaugural Meeting held on Friday 21st March, 1890, the early days of development and growth of this now well established Club can only be told through the Minute Books and Accounts which have survived.

This Booklet is the result of taking extracts from these, often brief, and sometimes indistinct, handwritten notes provided by a variety of Officials whose scholastic abilities were in indirect proportion to their willingness and enthusiasm.

In preparing these notes I have been grateful to the present day Officers and Committee who have made available to me the Minute books and other Account books and documents. Continuity is not complete but most are in excellent condition.

As no comprehensive coverage of everything that has taken place is required it is hoped that the selection of anecdotes, event details, dates and some facts and figures will provide an interesting mixture that will show the background that illustrates the characters and the priorities given to the various activities undertaken from time to time.

In 1979 the then Club Honorary General Secretary, Gerry Leedale, suggested to me that some permanent record should be made of the origins of the Club in good time for the Club's Centenary year in 1990. There are no apologies for the length of time taken to achieve this – many are the hands that have been involved but the insistence of the present Honorary Secretary, Keith Rogerson, that the target date would be met has been the spur.

It is because so many of us agree with the sentiments expressed ten years ago that thye work has been undertaken and completed now. That it should prove adequate in meeting the aspirations and intentions of all those who have participated in any way to it's publication is the earnest hope of everyone interested in small but nevertheless important part of local Social History.

Let us believe that the title "THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS" is prophetic!

R. E Severs
Fulwood 1989

This copy of The of History Broughton & District Club was laboriously transcribed into digital form by John Watson in order to make it easier to update in the future. Our thanks go to John for his efforts.

1890

The object of the Inaugural Meeting held in the School Room alongside St. John's Church, Church Lane, Broughton, and which had so generously been given by Mr. Edward Wilson of Broughton House.

The Vicar of St. John's, the Reverend S. E. Collinson, was invited to take the chair and the 24 persons in attendance heard him read out the letter from Mr. Wilson which contained the main conditions on which he was prepared to 'Let' the building as a Club.

1. *To Let for the present the Club Room, Bowling Green and Quoit grounds to a Committee for one shilling a year.*
2. *To Let the cottage and garden at a fair rent.*
3. *The Club to be non-sectarian and non political.*

The then Headmaster of the School, Mr. John Yates, proposed that:- "... we gratefully accept Mr. Edward Wilson's offer..." and this was seconded by Mr. John Crompton who lived at Rose Cottage in Goosnargh Lane, (subsequently changed to Whittingham Lane) almost opposite the Club buildings. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following were elected as Officers of the Club:-

Chairman:- Reverend S. E. Collinson

Hon. Secretary:- Mr. John Yates

Hon. Treasurer:- Mr. John Barratt, (a printer, of Church House, D'Urton Lane).

Committee Members:- Messrs. Ashton, Bell, Crompton, Duckett, and Ward.

Three propositions were duly seconded and carried unanimously.

1. *That Mr. Edward Wilson be requested to become President, and in the event of him declining, the Reverend Collinson be asked.*
2. *That a number of gentlemen in the District be requested to become Vice Presidents, and Patrons of the Club.*
3. *That, for the present, no intoxicating liquors to be sold at the Club.*

The Meeting closed following a proposal from the Chairman that Mr. Edward Wilson be cordially thanked for his public spirit and this was carried with acclamation.

There is no Minute available which details how the name of the Club was arrived at, but in the local Barratt's Directory for 1892, there is a Listing for "Broughton Reading Room and Club." This implies that the Club Hon. Treasurer, Mr. John Barratt, whose firm produced the Directory, provided the information.

The first Committee Meetings were held in the home of Committee Member, Mr. Henry Turner, the village wheelwright, and decisions regarding Rules, Subscriptions, and so on were made. Subscriptions were fixed at ten shillings per annum and a Mr. James Hogg was appointed as Club Caretaker at a salary of £5 per annum.

The purchase of a lawnmower for £5/9s/0d and six pairs of bowls for members use at 11/6d per pair shows the concentration of effort towards the oncoming summer's outdoor pursuits.

There is no record amending the cost of membership, but an early accounts record stated that there are 33 Members at 7s/6d, and 7 Honorary Members at £1/1s/0d, together with 6 Apprentice Members paying 6s/0d each. These Apprentices and Farm Workers were all under 21 years of age.

1891

The first Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, January 23rd 1891, when a profit of four shillings and seven pence halfpenny was reported. This had been achieved through the generosity of the President, Mr. Edward Wilson, who had returned the first years Rent on the Club, Cottage and Garden.

On Saturday February 7th 1891 the first Social Event, a Concert, is recorded having been deferred from Saturday 29th November 1890. A profit of £5/15s/3d was advised. No details of who provided the entertainment are given but, on reflection, one might wonder if the Committee, realising that the Event was a success, and a profit in prospect, deferred the date to a fortnight after the Annual General Meeting in order to create a situation more likely to persuade the generous President to return their agreed Rents so contriving a small profit not a loss to be shown in the Accounts at the January Annual General Meeting!

A Crown Brand Roller was purchased on Thursday April 18th 1891 for £6/12s/0d but, due to the drought, the Bowling Green was unsuitable for play.

It was agreed about this time to approach Mr. Richard Hardman for the loan of his donkey to assist in using this roller on the Bowling Green.

The problem of smoking chimneys, reported by the Caretaker Mr. James Hogg, was referred to the President, Mr. Wilson.

In November 1891, a Concert given by the Longridge St. Lawrence Amateur Dramatic Society raised £1/16s/8½d.

The Bowling Green was covered with manure purchased from Mr. Blackhurst at a cost of 12s/9d.

The National Census taken in 1891 showed that the Village had 610 inhabitants.

1892

In the February of 1892, the formation of the Club Dramatic Society and Glee Club was approved and outstanding Club subscriptions were causing some anxiety.

A large curtain had been purchased (7ft 6ins by 16ft) to divide the Clubroom into two halves so as to encourage older Members to attend and meet separately.

Clogs were forbidden on the Bowling Green and Members were instructed not to play along the side of the Green preventing other Ends being formed.

The 2nd Club Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 22nd January 1892 when 18 Members attended. Some dissent was expressed that the Hon. Secretary's Report was unsatisfactory and that Members viewed "with alarm" the continued mis-management of the club. No details are given on either point, but a Vote supporting the complaints was successful by 9 to 7, with 2 abstentions.

A load of suitable sand was to be used to improve the condition of the Bowling Green and it was reported that the President, Mr. Wilson, would have nothing more to spend on the smoking chimneys until the outside of the Club was again neat and tidy.

The Caretaker, Mr. Hogg, was appointed to be conductor of the Glee Club and he successfully applied for more money to keep the Club Gardens in satisfactory order.

Hiring out of the Clubroom for County Council Lectures was approved with the charge to be five shillings per evening.

It was approved in Committee that the Club form a Minstrel Group, and the purchase of Tamborines, Bones and Books of Songs was agreed.

The Committee was advised in May 1892 that Members had begun to play cards at the Club and that "high play" was being permitted. This situation had become widely known outside the Club with obvious detrimental effects. Mr. Jackson was deputed to remove the problem.

The Secretary was authorised to obtain a few specimens of Cups, Medals, and Shields for the Committee to select suitable Competition Trophies for the Bowling Section.

'Worm killer' was purchased for the Bowling Green at a cost of three shillings and three pence, and approval given to buy scripts for the Musical and Dramatic Society – this was another 'name change' not recorded.

On Monday June 29th 1892 the first Bowling Competition was inaugurated. It was named the Challenge Cup Competition and each Member entering was to play each other entrant. The person with the highest score was to be declared the winner of the Trophy for one year and a Medal would be presented for personal retention. Sixpence was the agreed entrance fee and the final Matches would be played on Saturday August 6th 1892.

The Challenge Cup cost £4/1s/6d and was purchased from Whiteheads in Preston. The first official Winner was the Village Clogger, Mr T Myerscough, and the presentation took place on Saturday 22nd October 1892.

Once more the Bowling Green was covered with manure over the Winter months and four shillings a ton was paid.

1893

At the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27th January 1893 it was reported that Mr Charles R Jackson, of Barton Hall, had donated £10 to the Club.

The Dramatic Society had been abandoned for want of sympathy and support.

The drainage of the east side of the Bowling Green had been completed.

Mr Charles R Jackson opened the Bowling Season on Thursday 13th May but no Competition details are given for this year, although a dressing of charcoal was provided in the Autumn for the Green.

Problems with Mr. Hogg, the Caretaker, began about this time. He wanted more money for the various jobs that had been given to him, the Committee Members resisted reminding Mr. Hogg that he lived rent and rates free, and had had an increase to £7 annually already.

1895

The original letters exchanged between the Club and the Caretaker have been preserved in the Minute Books of the time, and by 1895 Minutes of Meetings were typewritten. Mr Hogg was given Notice of Termination of Employment in a letter dated 25th February 1895. Later on, consideration was given to the legality of the written dismissal, and the Hon Secretary Mr Henry Turner laid before the Committee two opinions from different Lawyers against the Month's Notice to Mr. Hogg.

To boost the Club's finances, a Ball was held in the Church Schoolroom which resulted in a balance of £6/12s/4d. The arrangements were deemed "admirable" and 97 villagers attended. The music for the Ball was provided by a pianist and a violinist, the former being paid fifteen shillings and the latter ten shillings and sixpence. No names are advised.

At a Committee Meeting on Thursday 4th April 1895, at 6-30 pm, it was decided that an Agreement be drawn up and signed with a new Caretaker, Mr. Henry Turner, (the gentleman who had so recently been exhorting the Committee to retain the services of Mr. Hogg!) Working Rules, duties, and obligations were finalised, agreed, and signed by both sides.

At the same Meeting Committee Members Crompton and Thornton were requested to make enquiries as to the price and cost of keeping a donkey to assist with cutting and rolling the Bowling Green.

It was agreed to determine what affiliation conditions would apply if the Club allowed the formation of a Football Team.

The arrangements made by Mr. Crompton for the use of a donkey until the Whitsuntide holiday was agreed to by the meeting.

In May 1895, consideration to form a Handicapping Committee for the Bowling Section: it was agreed that this would make Competitions more acceptable.

A full Committee gathered on Tuesday, June 13th. 1895., to consider the resignation of the Club Caretaker, Mr. Henry Turner. It was accepted. A Mr. J. Billington had made a verbal application for the post should it become available, he was asked to put this in writing, and on June 17th he was appointed.

Committee Member Mr. Ashcroft promised to put in Gas Lighting to the Club room and would "give" the pendant lights to the Club if the Committee agreed to the change-over. This was accepted with thanks. There is no record showing when the work was carried out.

In October it was agreed that a Sub-Committee be appointed to oversee the Bowling Green for the Winter and another of it's duties was to make the necessary arrangements for the "*firsting*" of the donkey. On the 9th December the Minutes advised that the donkey was "*firsted*" with Mr. Thomas Kitchen of Belfold Cottage and Mr. Kitchen was to keep the foal and was to house the donkey for the Winter.

At the Annual General Meeting, the fifth in January 1895, it was agreed unanimously that the Clergy from the various denominations in the District should be invited to become Honorary Members.

The Accounts of that Meeting include two strange items; one for nine shillings and one penny – for a football; and two shillings for hay for the donkey.

1896

Caretaker Mr. J. Billington was given one month's Notice in March 1896, and shortly afterwards Mr. Robert Myerscough was appointed to replace him. A Bowling Sub-Committee was elected in April 1896 with instructions to carry out the Regulations of the Green and to arrange Matches.

In August 1896, Mr. Edward Wilson provided the Club with a stove which gave a great deal of satisfaction to all. For the first time Members had the opportunity of being warm during the coldest weather.

1897

Interest in the purchase of a Billiard Table is noted towards the end of 1896, and by April 1897 Mr. Edward Wilson, the President, has offered to build an additional room on to the Club just as soon as the Members raise money for the Table.

1898

The issue of One Pound Shares is considered. Interest at 4½% would be paid. By the Annual General Meeting in February 1898, fifty Pounds had been raised, and building commenced. Estimates for the special raised dais seats round the room were considered.

The purchase of a clock for the new room, and the "Rules of the Game" chart were agreed. Billiard handicaps were already being considered.

Shortly afterwards the room was completed and the Table installed – no details of cost or the source of the Table, cues, score board, and other items associated with the new “indoor sport” are provided. Charges were made for the use of the Table, and soon a repayment of five shillings per share plus 5% (not the 4½% as previously agreed) was proposed.

A Billiard Challenge Cup had been donated by Mr. William Smith for Annual Competition, and the full Committee had organised a complete Handicap sheet for that year. The sale of bottled beers to Club Members is mentioned.

1900

From the date of the 8th Annual General Meeting on February 18th 1899, when Mr. Barker took over from the retiring Mr. Hargreaves, there are no records of Meetings after the April 20th Committee Meeting until the next Annual General Meeting on February 9th 1900. A further gap arises between the meetings on February 9th 1900 and June 23rd 1900 when a discussion took place regarding the Caretaker and his duties around the Club buildings.

The Caretaker was advised that when he uses the donkey for mowing and/or rolling the Bowling Green, that on those occasions when dung is dropped he must immediately remove it and water the area very well. Two loads of sand are to be kept for Green use were ordered from Mr. Birchall. Lawn sand for the Plantains should be ordered too.

The Minutes are not included between September 1900 and April 1901. The Annual General Meeting was held but had been brought nearer the Bowling Season.

1902 - 05

There is a further ‘gap’ of about twelve months before a date in April 1902 records the tenth Annual General Meeting. A “Potato-Pie” supper was held in January 1903, and it is reported that twenty-five Members attended. On Friday March 13th 1903, it was agreed that the Bowling Green would be opened on Saturday April 18th. At the October Meeting a further order for charcoal was approved.

There was an April 1904 Meeting of little importance and another in the October when it was classified as a Special Meeting. “Re-constructing the Club” is mentioned but no details are forthcoming. Finally it was agreed that the Secretary should give the Caretaker three months Notice to terminate on the 31st. January 1905.

Re-covering the Billiard table by a Mr. Almond from Preston, at a cost of £5/7s/6d was approved and the storage of bicycles in the ‘old’ room was approved.

On October 7th 1905 a Christmas Draw was being suggested as a money spinner and at the next Meeting Mr. George Hardman was appointed Chairman of this Committee.

A framed picture of the President was presented to the Club on behalf of Miss Wilson, by Mr. A. Wilson.

1906 - 1910

During 1906 the Members of the Bowling Club who were farm workers or farmers themselves found difficulty in being able to take part in matches due to the harvest commitments. The match with Hoghton was cancelled as a result.

The Minutes recorded during 1907 are almost all to do with the activities of the Bowling Club and little else is considered worthy of inclusion.

At the June Meeting 1907 Mr. Tom Myerscough was appointed to be the sole handicapper for the Bowling Competitions.

The period of 1907 and 1908 show the great dependence placed on the Bowlers and their priorities. One instance shows that the profit from a small Social Sub-Committee Whist Drive (£1/16s/3d) was directed towards the cost of a new 16" Mower for the Green. Accounts show the total cost as £5/7s/0d.

The Ladies of the Social Sub-Committee may have been disheartened for, at a subsequent Committee Meeting, it was thought wise to suggest each person present one shilling towards a present for the ladies in recognition of their sterling services at all Social Events. The suggestion failed all such presents, it was felt, should come out of the Club Funds. No record of any present being purchased is recorded.

The quality of the Bowling area is still suspect and causing dissent amongst some players, despite large sums being spent over the years.

The recent death of the Club's President, Mr. Edward Wilson, is reported to the Annual General Meeting in February 1909 with much regret.

During 1909 footpaths were placed all round the Green improvements inside the Club included the first cupboards being fitted to hold the documents and books belonging to the various Committees. A Complaints Book was placed at a convenient place and a persistent gas leak was attended to.

The Bowling Clubs at Hoghton, Woodplumpton, St. Michaels, etc., were booked to play Matches. No results are provided. 1910 and 1911 saw several of these 'Home and Away' arrangements repeated.

1911-1919

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. Wilson, who had been in Office for many years, left the District in 1911 and received the Club's thanks and Good Wishes.

The Minutes of the Meeting on February 22nd 1912 – (A.G.M. 7) – consist of one line - "Minutes of the past Meeting passed as read".

Walton-le-Dale Bowling Club was added to the list of invited Clubs in 1911 and the Bartle Club in 1912. Enamel shades for the gas jets above the Billiard Table were bought. Records of Bowler's names and handicaps were to be kept in books for reference.

On Sunday January 5th 1913 an Emergency Committee met briefly. They included Messrs. G. Hardman, W. Thornton, J. Mercer, and W. Hargreaves. It was unanimously decided to close down the Club for 21 days forthwith. This was on the advice of Dr. Trimble of the Ministry of Health for the District. The Club was re-opened on Saturday, 25th January 1913. No reason is given in the Club records for the closure. Strangely, at about this time, several pages of the Minutes Book have been deliberately detached in a rough and ready manner, but no reason is given and no clue survives on the fragments left behind.

Broughton Agricultural Society was given permission to hold an Event in the Club room on Wednesday 13th 1913. This Flower Show should be followed by a Club Social evening.

More sand for the Bowling Green was ordered that Autumn.

The Annual General Meeting on the 16th March 1914 decided to raise the Subscription fee to 6/- and that Presidents Day should be on Saturday June 13th 1914 and all present should be found teas.

There was a meeting on March 1st 1915 but no business is recorded and the next Meeting was the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday February 15th 1916. No further minutes are written until 1919 when on Thursday April 24th an Annual General Meeting Minute included the passing of accounts of the previous three years. This Meeting also approved that the

Club should be open daily between 2 pm and 6 pm 'For Women'. Refreshments were to be available.

The local Welfare Department informed the Meeting through Nurse Blower of the local Baby Welfare that the County Medical Authority desired to take over the control of welfare in the district. Accommodation would be offered to them it was agreed at no cost.

Having heard nothing regarding the position of Caretaker for some years the purchase of cleaning materials for one is recorded in September 1919.

A Special Meeting was called later that month to consider ways of raising funds. The notes taken imply that more suggestions were received regarding the need to spend on the Club and its facilities than how money could be raised. The Ladies of the Club seemed more keen to organise events with potential financial gain.

The Organising Secretary of the Village Clubs Association had agreed to visit and lecture to the Club and October was suggested. Friday the 20th October was eventually agreed. There is no Minute covering the Lecture.

Dancing classes were now under way but again no details on the form this was taking or for whom it was intended.

A Jumble Sale applied for by the local Nursing Association was refused.

Member Captain Houghton suggested that the Parish Council be written to officially asking them to provide a Recreation Ground for the children of the Parish. This was seconded and approved.

No Private Dances were to be held in the Club rooms despite the poor financial state of the Club.

1920

At the Annual General Meeting held on Monday February 2nd 1920 it was approved that the Club set up a Tennis Court.

The Sale of Work Sub-Committee asked for £10 to buy materials to continue their various activities on the Club's behalf. A piano had been purchased from Norwood's in Preston and they were asked to tender for the regular tuning of the instrument.

On Monday March 1st 1920 the Committee Meeting held in the Club included for the first time the Chairpersons of all the Sub-Committees. At least it is the first time this is recorded in detail. All were Ladies Mrs. Pass, Mrs. Cooke, Miss Wrathall, Miss Ainsworth and Miss Pye.

The Fylde Division of the Women's Constitutional Association were denied permission to use the Club room to hold Meetings. It was agreed to join the Village Clubs Association.

A building Committee was elected in March 1920: Messrs. J. Wilson, J. J. Smith, and J. Myerscough, together with Mrs. Cooke and Miss Pye.

A Greenkeeper Mr. Watson was appointed in March 1920 and he was to receive free Membership whilst holding Office. In addition he was to receive £14 per annum for his duties which included the borders and verges around the Green.

The Social Committee and the Sale of Work Committee were at loggerheads later in March 1920. The latter had planned and advertised a Fancy Dress Ball without consulting the Social Committee. At a Special Meeting, after both sides had put their respective cases, it was decided that the Ball should be proceeded with and the Dance to be held by the Social

Committee should be deferred. In future any Events of this kind should be submitted to the Social Committee who would have the Right of Veto.

The recently formed Building Committee presented plans for the extension of the Club premises. A Special Meeting on Friday 26th March 1920 considered the proposals and recommended that these be shown to Mr. Wilson at Broughton House. This Meeting was inconclusive and a General Meeting was proposed. This was fixed for Tuesday April 28th 1920 but was eventually held on the 27th but no progress is reported in respect of the building.

Whist Drive profits were being donated to the Village War Memorial Fund.

Receipts from the Fancy Dress Ball were advised as being £15 but at the Committee Meeting held on Monday May 3rd 1920 Miss Ainsworth wished leave to amend the figure to £14.

It was agreed to approach the United Services Fund for a Grant, and Messrs. Houghton and Smith collect the necessary details for application.

It was approved that the Parish Rural District Council and the Lancashire County Council be written to regarding the compulsory acquisition of land for a local Children's playground.

Mr. John Hargreaves reported that money was being missed from the billiard room box and Mr. Mullard proposed that a new cash box be purchased. This was approved.

It was reported that the Broughton and District Rifle Club had advertised that a Meeting would be held in the Club room on Saturday May 8th 1920 but no application had been received from them. Mr. Smith, President of the Group, should be written to and the suggestion made that the Rifle Club should be made a Club affair.

During this Summer Meetings were filled with applications from Members wishing to extend the Club's sporting activities. Football, Cricket, Hockey, Quoits, Netball, Badminton, Croquet, Draughts, and Dominoes were suggested. When these were proposed it seems that there was a 'shortage' of full Committee Members present, and an unsigned Minute Censures those Committee Members who were absent at the critical time.

On Monday 7th June 1920 it was proposed in Committee that a special Minute be passed giving lady members equal rights to the use of the Club and grounds as male Members. (This was, understandingly, put by Miss Cooke and seconded by Miss Pye.) The motion was unanimously carried.

A Grant of £1 was approved for Ladies Bowling Prizes.

Miss Ainsworth regretfully reported the demise of the Sale of Work Ladies Sub-Committee.

In October, Mr. Houghton reported that the Club now had £240 in hand.

Playing cards were purchased for use in the Club by Members who would be asked to pay one halfpenny per pack per evening.

By November 1920 the good financial position enjoyed by the Club allowed the various Sub-Committees to donate any profits to a charity of their choice.

A Badminton set was approved to be purchased together with a Chess Set and four sets of Draughts and Boards. The Secretary was given permission to exchange a set of ivory billiard balls for a set of bonzaline or crystallite ones.

1921

The Annual General Meeting for Monday February 7th 1921 was postponed until Monday, April 4th due to the small numbers of Members attending. It was agreed that failing to get a fair representative number of Members to attend the revised date the Bowling Green would be closed for the Season.

Twenty two Members presented themselves at the postponed meeting in April. Two quite separate sets of Minutes were produced for this April 1921 Meeting. Different handwriting and two different styles but both report almost identical details. One is called the Annual General Meeting and the other the General Committee Meeting.

It was not found beneficial to invest any or all the Club monies in the local Preston Corporation or County Council Stock. It was to remain in the Bank attracting their interest rates.

During the early part of the Summer, the President, Mr. Battersby, reluctantly had to retire. Mr. Gater succeeded as President, and under his guidance a series of lectures was arranged for the winter months. He was elected to the Council of the Village Clubs Association.

Mr. Watson, the Caretaker, had his salary increased to £20 per annum and the Secretary reluctantly agreed to accept £10 a year for his clerical duties.

Providing tea for visiting Bowling Club Members was approved. The Barton Bowling Club and that of the local Police were added to the list of opponents.

In October 1921 the President reported the result of his meeting with Mr. H. Wilson in respect of the additional land required by the Club. He was in full agreement that the Club should be allowed immediate possession of the Orchard adjacent to the Bowling Green. The cost of removing the trees and making good the land for Tennis Courts was to be investigated.

At the Meeting on Monday 5th December 1921 it was agreed to defer the matter of the Orchard until Mr. Houghton had had opportunity to approach Mr. Logan who, it appears, may well have been the owner of the plot.

Mrs. Evelyn E. Blackhurst signed the Minutes of this Meeting as she was 'in the Chair' for the next Committee Meeting on Monday 9th January 1922. No reason is given why this should have been. She had not been elected President and Mr. Gater is amongst the names listed as being present.

1922

The Subscriptions were raised in March 1922 to 10/- per annum for senior male members, juniors between 16 and 21 years to be 6/- and Lady Members to be 6/- also.

Complaints that the box placed to receive payments for the use of the Billiards Table was not being fed sufficiently often by the players brought the retort that, as no charge was made for playing Bowls, why should one be made for playing billiards?

On Saturday 20th May 1922 a Meeting was called to consider the question of purchasing an Army Hut for the purpose of having a Dance Hall etc. and it was agreed that Mr. Houghton and Mr. Hardman be delegated to purchase one of the huts being dismantled at the Kinmel Bay Camp near Rhyl in North Wales if they considered it suitable.

At an October Meeting the new building was discussed and it was reported that Mr. Henry Wilson's generosity had exceeded all expectations for he had handed over to the Club a grant of £350. A model showing the new proposed extensions was shown to the Committee

by Mr. Houghton. This model had a stage area at one end and the 'Hall' as it was referred to and was approved unanimously.

A few more pages are missing from the Minute Book covering some time in the Summer of 1922. This time they have been cut out.

During October arrangements were finalised for the sanitary, electrical and heating of the new Hall. Later in the year it is noted that the amount donated by Mr. Henry F. Wilson towards the cost of the new Hut was corrected to read £250.

The costs relating to the purchase of the Hut, transporting it to Broughton Club site from Kinmel Bay, Mr. Hardman's visits by motor wagon (twice) a guinea for lodging the plans, various oddments of charges and so on result in a total cost of just under £200 without any costs for services.

1923

January 1923 saw another change in Caretaker and the Committee agreed to consider a married couple instead of employing one man as previously.

A short-list of five couples was interviewed on Monday 22nd January 1923 and the successful man and wife were Mr. & Mrs. Hargreaves whose titles were now Club Steward and Stewardess. They were to commence duties as agreed on February 1st. at a wage of 30/- per week paid monthly.

The new Hall was to be decorated before the Official opening and a cover fixed over the Electric mains inlet.

Mrs. Ainsworth was congratulated on the successful Membership drive she had organised over the past few months. Membership Cards were discussed as a possibility. This was agreed a couple of Meetings later.

The President advised the Committee that it would be of great advantage to the Club and the Members if approval was given for him to invite Mr. & Mrs. Danson on to the Committee. (Mr. Danson was the village Schoolmaster) This was unanimously approved.

Mr. Houghton advised that the new Hut was in process of complete internal decoration by the Club Steward and that a fee of £5 had been agreed.

The opening of the new Hall was fixed for Thursday 3rd May 1923 and it was proposed that Lord and Lady Stanley be invited to officiate. (It will be remembered that other arrangements had been suggested some time ago, but no mention of the Honourable R. E. S. Barrington, President of the Village Clubs Association can be found.)

The opening of the new Hall had gone very well and the new Club Steward and his wife were congratulated for the efficient way they had undertaken their onerous and considerable extra duties on that day.

A scale of charges was prepared listing the fees required for the Letting of the new premises to outside organisations.

Lady Bowlers were invited to attend on Tuesday afternoons to meet and play and to decide what functions they might organise for the benefit of the Club.

The Concert Party provided for the Opening of the new Hall was to be paid £1 together with an expression of the Committee's thanks to Major and the Rev. G. P. Hines and his colleagues.

A new entrance was being planned at the far end of the new Hall. Estimates for the work were put in hand. Mrs. Blackhurst was appointed Lady Secretary of the Ladies Section. Miss

Pye agreed to organise a small Library for the benefit of Members, and a bookcase was purchased to house them. A £10 Grant was asked for by Mrs. Blackhurst to purchase a sewing machine and materials for a Sale of Work. This was approved.

A further series of Winter Lectures was in preparation and the Racquets used by the Badminton players needed repair advised Members of the Committee. Suitable action was authorised.

A hardwood floor suitable for dancing was discussed at length at the August meeting, and Mr. Myerscough offered to loan the Club £50 for three years, interest free, towards the cost.

Thirty Card Tables were purchased from Catforth Club at a nominal fee. Six Fire Extinguishers were bought for permanent positions in the new Hall.

Dances and Whist Drives dates alternated Saturday by Saturday from September 13th to December 15th.

The Hon. Treasurer reported an overdraft of £330 on the Capital Account but no action was proposed.

A Local District Bowling League was under consideration and representatives from the Club attended a Meeting at Bartle. No decision is reported.

The President, Mr. Gater, has been appointed as Director of Education of the London Area and a hearty Vote of Thanks was unanimously approved.

1924

In October 1923 the Reverend D. R. Davies was appointed Vicar of the St. John's Church. He was introduced to the Members at a Special Committee Meeting on 11th February 1924 when he declared his interest in the formation of an active Tennis Club and recommended that this be sited next to the Vicarage off Garstang Road.

It was felt that as long as this was self-supporting and didn't hold the Broughton Club financially responsible for what it did no limitations would be placed on the scheme by the Club.

A quantity of crockery had been purchased for use by the Members running the Dances and similar functions; it was also loaned to outside organisations hiring the accommodation. Some small items of breakage have been reported to the Committee and replacements provided.

In 1924 on Thursday 6th March the Annual General Meeting thanked the Vicar, The Reverend D. R. Davies for his services to the activities of the Club and for the publicity that has been given in conjunction with events at the club in the Parish Magazine.

The 'new' Hall was now being described as the "Village Hall" due to the large number of local organisations who were given permission to use the various facilities for private events.

The Tennis Section was being helped along by the enthusiasm of the Vicar who had been promised several donations towards the cost of the works to be undertaken.

It was at this time that the Drama Section was revived by the energetic Mrs. Blackhurst and this was approved by the Committee.

A Fete or Field Day was suggested to help Club Funds and Mr. Nathan Hardman was sympathetic and would lend a field immediately after the harvest was gathered.

Millinery practice was being taught to some of the Lady members.

As part of the Orchard was being removed to make space available for the Tennis Court it followed that the Steward would require some form of compensation for the loss of part of his emoluments. The Chairman agreed to ask the Steward to detail the financial potential loss and would report back later.

It was resolved to ask the Steward to paint the Hall with a dark green Solignum paint of exterior quality for some agreed price; Mr. Seed would provide the material.

The cross beam in the Hall was causing the badminton players some problems and they asked if consideration could be given to the removal of the offending beam and replacing it with some suitable fitting that would keep the rigidity of the Hall roof stable and secure. Skilled advice was sought from Mr. Bert Sykes who agreed to inspect and advise.

The Tennis Court would not be ready for July. Junior Members of this Section under sixteen years were creating difficulties for the Committee as the Rules stated that Club Members must be sixteen years of age to be considered. This was resolved by requiring all racquet playing under sixteen year olds to pay a special fee of 2/6d together with their full Junior fee to the Section concerned.

Mrs. Blackhurst advised that a new series of millinery classes would commence in the second week of September and that the two 'men' required for the Dramatic Sections presentation now in rehearsal had 'volunteered' during the Meeting. A professional Producer was approved at a cost of three guineas. He was Mr. Robert Goodburn.

The white lines for the Badminton Court would be painted before the date when practice was programmed – the 29th October. A nominal extra charge of 2/6d was approved for Badminton players so that shuttles and other necessary accessories could be purchased.

Profits from a concert by the Preston Steam Laundry Choir amounted to just over £35, Dances and Whist Drives £18/12/3d; Tennis Dance £12/12/11d.

1925

At the January meeting in 1925 the death of Member Mr. T. Myerscough is noted and condolences were expressed and sent to his family.

The Drama Section had raised a profit of £5/14s/6d according to the Meeting of 26th January 1925. The item is traced in the accounts under the date of May 1925.

Mr. C. W. Beswick was elected President at the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 16th. March 1925.

It was approved that each Sub-Committee should appoint a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer and that each Chairman should be responsible for the Reports to the General Committee on their various activities.

It was confirmed that players of football who did not wish to avail themselves of the Club's facilities could pay a nominal 5/- per year.

The Steward's wages were increased by 5/- per week, backdated to the previous July (1924) – the accounts show "50 weeks at 5/- = £12/10s/0d.

Correspondence between the County Library suggesting the provision of a Library Service at the Club is recorded and Miss Ainsworth, who had been in charge of the Club library, declined to take on any further responsibility.

It was agreed to open a 'Waiting List' for the Tennis Section.

Preston Amateur Dramatic Society offered to give an entertainment in aid of Club Funds at the club in October. This was agreed.

In July 1925 suggestions were made to have the outside of the club buildings painted and, if possible, the inside too. Consideration was also given to the idea that electric light should be installed throughout the Club property.

Tenders for the painting of the outside only were received. The lowest one, from Mr. William Leigh, for £18/14s/8d was accepted against others ranging from £35 - £23 - £22 - £18 odd.

It was at the November 30th 1925 meeting that the first mention of the Women's Institute can be found. Some twelve months later around the end of October 1926 the first Entry is found in the Accounts recording the payment of Rents for the Hire of the Room. Eight Meetings had been held at 2/6d per Meeting (= £1). Several other odd amounts are recorded in the Accounts e.g. £7/12s/0d at the end of 1929.

After some heating was installed the average single Rent was about 4/- per Meeting. A Miss Greenwood was Organiser for the Federation of Women's Institutes and stated she was willing to address a Public Meeting at a date to be fixed.

The following Broughton Club Members were selected to form a Sub-Committee after the November 25th. Meeting:- Mrs. Danson, Mrs. Blackhurst, Mrs. Mullard, Mrs. Nightingale and Miss Cooke.

1926

At the Committee Meeting of the Club on Monday 25th January 1926 the relevant Minute reports that the Annual General Meeting should provide two slips of paper for Votes – one for the ladies and one for the men. Gentlemen are only to vote for men and Ladies only able to vote for their own kind.

Thirty eight Members attended the Annual General Meeting on Friday 25th February 1926. Amongst the items noted is one recording the fact that Mrs. Blackhurst had intimated that she did not want to be considered for a place on the Committee. The Secretary was instructed to write to her expressing the Thanks of everyone within the Club.

The Tennis Court was to open on 3rd April 1926 (a Saturday) at 2.30pm.

A hosepipe and reel was purchased and an outside tap made available just behind the Stewards house so as to permit the watering of the Tennis Court.

£5 was granted towards the expenses incurred by the Football Club. Were they now part of the Catforth Summer League and had fees to pay?

Estimates were invited for the fitting of electric light into the Club and the 'Caretaker's' house together with one outside light.

The 'Caretaker' had never had a holiday it was reported to the Meeting and it was agreed that he should be allowed one week at his convenience.

A Lantern Lecture was arranged by the Women's Institute at which a Mr. Lowe from the Selbourne Society would present "Some Birds and Their Home Life" on Wednesday 24th November 1926 in The Village Hall.

Messrs Dewhursts tender for the installation of electric lights was £16/7s/0d this was thought to be high. Revised Tenders were sent for detailing the fixtures and fittings required. This gave each firm an equal chance to quote for the same work. Carwin's Electrical Supply was successful. Separate electric meters then were considered in respect of the separate premises i.e. the Caretaker's House and the club buildings. It was agreed that he should be allowed to have two electric lights but no power all going through the one meter in the Clubroom.

The Constitution of the General Committee Meeting would in future “*only require one third of the Members to retire each year*”.

Broughton Church Choir were given permission to use the Hall free of charge to hold a Dance and Whist Drive in aid of the Fleetwood Flood Disaster Fund.

Curtains for the Hall windows were discussed. And it was decided to halve the cost with the Women’s Institute paying half the cost of the material.

1928

President’s Day was fixed for Saturday September 1st 1928 with the same programme of events as last year but the Dance and Whist Drive shall only cost one shilling.

Mr. Mullard announced that a snooker tournament had been arranged between Members with the Committee’s approval.

For the first time in the Minutes there is mention of “unruly conduct”. This happened after a social event and two Members were reprimanded. The Minute states that they were to be notified that their Membership will be terminated at the year end and will not be renewed.

As at least one of these was a Committee Member, and as his name recurs from time to time, that the full punishment recorded was not carried out is a strong likelihood.

It was approved for the Committee to place an Official Visitors Book in the Club room.

A roll of tickets was to be provided at the same time to be issued to all guests at a charge of three-pence each.

1929

On the 3rd Of June 1929 the Performing Rights Society wrote to the Club Secretary and as a result the Club were to apply for a License to allow copyright music to be played in the Club. Individual Bands to provide lists of the music performed.

The Sons of Temperance and the Women’s Institute both applied for the use of the Bowling Green on two dates. Neither conflicted with known bookings for the Green and so both were approved.

A shelter for the Tennis Players was discussed, 8ft x 8ft x 7ft high was what was required, on the East side of the Courts. Drawings and estimates would be dealt with.

On the 26th August 1929 it was agreed that a Police Constable would be paid to attend all the Dances in the Hall. The fee for the Officer is to be passed on to any outside organisation hiring the Hall.

On the 28th October a Dancing Licence was applied for. The local Superintendent of Police had recommended this. A solicitor was instructed to proceed.

It was agreed that Handicraft classes could be held by the Women’s Institute in the Hall.

1930’s

At the Annual General Meeting on Monday 10th February 1930 a substantial profit of £80 was realised on the year’s working, it was announced.

The great loss recorded during the year was the death of the President, Mr. George Toulmin.

The Chairman of Hutton, Howick and New Longton Club, the Rev. C. P. Hines, asked if they could bring their entertainment to the Broughton Club on a shared profit basis. It was agreed for Friday 14th April 1930.

Whist Drives could be bought by the Women's Institute and then taken over and paid for by the Club.

The Bowling Section was granted £5 towards the expenses of travelling to 'away' matches in the local League.

The suggestion that junior members should have a reduced entrance fee was considered on May 26th and rejected.

On Tuesday 30th September 1930 the Secretary reported on Mr. Walter Holt's Inspection of the billiard and snooker table. It required resetting, recovering, and re-cushioning. The Minute does not disclose the costs of the estimates submitted but it was passed and the work was to be put in hand, subject to the approval of the Treasurer.

The Tennis Section awaited news from Mr. White, the owner of the strip of land on the south side of the Courts, regarding his attitude towards selling this to the Club to allow the Tennis Courts to be extended and re-opened. A deputation was elected to approach Mr. White about this six yard wide strip.

The meeting on Tuesday 25th November 1930 was advised that the work on the billiard table was complete and satisfactory.

The Secretary reported that his visit to the Police Court on the occasion of the case against three youths accused of causing wilful damage to the Club Property resulted in exception being taken to the remarks made by the Police Inspector there and were reported in the Lancashire Daily Post Newspaper. It was thought that this would have damaged the reputation that the Club had enjoyed previously in the eyes of the Public.

[The Minute Book covering the period from 1930 until 1937 has not been found.]

At the Annual General Meeting held in March 1938 a deficit of some £50 was reported. Miss Ainsworth was duly elected the First Lady President in the Club's history.

The fee for playing billiards was increased to 4d per 40 minute session.

It was suggested that an organised outing to the Glasgow Empire Exhibition be arranged on a Thursday or a Saturday in the third or fourth week of August. This was unanimously approved.

In May 1939 discussions with the Broughton Women's Institute were arranged clarifying the charges to be made for use of the room for one day each fortnight at £25 per annum and 1/- per hour extra to be paid to the Caretaker if used after 10-30 p.m. Full room charges to be made if the room is required on any day of the week other than Wednesday.

In June 1939 it was agreed that, provided there is no interference with the playing of Members, the Committee have no objection to members children between the ages of 14 and 16 using the Tennis Courts during School Summer Holidays.

A humorous Minute at this time reads:- "Convenience" Proposed by Mr. Leach, seconded by Mr. Seed, "That the House Committee meet at 8 p.m. Saturday to go into this..."

Following Correspondence the General Committee approved a reduction in the fees charged to the Women's Institute from £25 to £18.

In August 1939 it was agreed to cover the windows to comply with the new Air Raid Precautions regulations. The House Committee to arrange this. It was also agreed that the Steward should be allowed to become an A.R.P. Warden.

Meetings would not be held each month in future, but only as required, due to the War conditions.

In October, after a further Meeting, it was agreed that the W.I. only need to pay £1 per meeting. This was to operate during the duration of the war.

1940s

In January 1940 the Secretary was instructed to apply for a sugar ration from the Food Control Office as the Club was a catering Establishment.

The A.G.M. in March 1940 was advised that the Membership stood at 171.

It was reported in May 1941 that the guttering on the tool shed had been damaged when the shed was being used as an A.R.P. Post.

The 1941 A.G.M. was held in the Scout Hut on March 24th. Fees were agreed at 12/6d for Tennis; 7/6d for Bowling and 2/6d for ground members.

An Emergency Meeting was held at the Broughton Lodge on Monday May 5th 1941 when the Hon. Secretary reported that the Treasurer had been visited by burglars and that Club Funds amounting to £9/9/5½d were missing.

Arrangements were completed with the Sports Officer at Barton Hall for R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. personnel to use some Tennis and Bowling facilities at specific times. Membership for Service personnel was to be charged at 10/- p.a.

Existing Members leaving the district on joining up are to have their subscriptions refunded.

In September 1941 the Agreement between the Club and the R.A.F. in respect of the Club buildings was deposited with Martins Bank Ltd., Preston for safe keeping.

In December 1941 The Home Guard, through Captain Lonsdale, asked to borrow 40 chairs for use in the Home Guard Headquarters at Mac's Cafe on Garstang Road. This was granted on certain conditions.

By March 1942 membership was down to 124, compared with 150 and 171 in previous years.

In March 1943 the balance on the General Account stood at £126/19/1d.

Minutes signed in March 1944 by Mr. J. Wrennall stated that membership was down to 91. Accounts for 1942 and 1943 had gone un-audited due to the Wartime conditions, but £199/1/1d was reported at the 1944 A.G.M.

A letter from the Air Ministry Works Directorate, at Warrington, advised that possession of the Club Buildings was no longer required for R.A.F. purposes, and the buildings would be handed over on 16th July 1945.

In February 1946 the club received a cheque from the Air Ministry in full settlement of the claim of compensation for damage done during the wartime use of the property (£468).

A Theatre Licence was applied for to permit Plays to be performed in the Concert Hall in January 1947. Stage lighting and the necessary plugs and switch board etc. was approved at a cost of £35. An account was received and passed for payment in March 1947 for £58/18/0d to Messrs Garnetts for these works. In May a further £6 was paid to conform to Preston Corporation standards.

At the A.G.M. in 1947 Mr. Eden Wilson presented a framed photograph of his Grandfather, Mr. Edward Wilson, the original donor of the premises just fifty years previously.

A third Tennis Court was approved in May 1947, at a cost of £250.

The Club Drama Section and Broughton Players were sharing the same facilities in the Concert Hall at this time, and often only three weeks separated the dates of each Groups

plays. The Drama Section sought and got approval from the General Committee to call itself "The Broughton and District Club Players". Some resentment was expressed by the Broughton Players, who later were housed in the Church Hall off Broadway in Fulwood.

A second billiard table was purchased, erected and with all equipment cost £97/10/0d. It was agreed to insure these tables etc. for £300.

At a September 1947 Meeting it was approved to apply for a Club Telephone.

In April 1948 a sign Board was approved. This was to be placed near the Car Park entrance, and should read 'BROUGHTON AND DISTRICT CLUB'.

Club Membership was again confirmed as a maximum of 300.

In November Mr. & Mrs. Woan were appointed as Caretakers/Greenkeepers at a wage of £5/5/0d. per week.

In May 1949 it was agreed that a rat-catcher was invited to deal with the rats and mice around the concert Hall. Mice were again reported in December.

1950s

At the A.G.M. on 7th March 1950, with Frank Foster in the chair, the Financial balance was shown to be £335/9/1d and the House Committee was unanimously appointed as the "Building Fund Committee" to deal with all matters relative to the building of the new Concert Hall.

During the summer of 1950 various Committees occupied themselves with the painting and decorating of the Club, buying teaspoons and agreeing that a ladies lavatory be built.

On September 21st 1950 discussion on where the new Concert Hall should be built resulted in asking Capt. A. E. Dickson if he would allow the Club to acquire land on the east side of the existing Hall for this purpose. It was accepted in principle by him and the amount of land required was agreed as being 100ft by 100ft.

Ration Cards were issued by the Preston Rural District Council on April 23rd 1951. A fee of £2/10/0d was charged for the hire of the Concert Hall.

The Caretaker/Groundsman, Mr. W. Woan, and his wife resigned in March 1951 but the rest of 1951 and 1952 were comparatively uneventful. Various topics including the excess of moss on the Bowling Green, fencing costs, the club piano and boosting the Club Building Fund occupied the Committee Meetings.

Late in 1952 Mr. Noel Jones was given permission to enrol non-Club Members into the Drama Section up to 12 in any one year.

In February 1953 a donation was given to the Fleetwood Flood Disaster Fund and the proposed Club Coronation Activities were to be concentrated on the Saturday after the actual Event.

In March 1953 the club Bowling Section applied for Membership to the local Woodplumpton and District Bowling League. At that year's A.G.M. the Meeting stood for a few moments in respect due to the recent demise of H.M. the Dowager Queen Mary.

Leaks in the Tennis Pavilion roof, faults in the heating of the Concert Hall, proposed re-wiring of the Stewards House and the Club premises were some of the main 1954 talking points.

The Club Building Fund passed the £1,500 mark. Investment prospects were considered but rejected. The illness of the Steward, Mr. Berry, and his two operations caused much concern. His wage was increased to £6 per week.

In April 1954 discussion to increase the area permitted Membership was discussed at length but the basic Ecclesiastical boundaries were to remain.

Dates for the Drama Section Play on April 29 and 30, and May 1st were put back one week due to the possibility that audiences would be adversely affected by the Cup Final appearance of Preston North End.

Extensions to the Tennis Courts to permit more baseline space were discussed and approved subject to the approval of the owner, Sir Robert Adcock.

In June 1954 more correspondence from the Broughton Women's Institute in respect of consideration being given to the possibility that the two organisations should join forces in helping to build the proposed New Concert Hall was received. A Special Meeting was held between the Club and the W. I. President with a deputation. Mrs. Robinson gave the Institute's point of view that it was unlikely that they would ever be able to provide and maintain some separate building and there was some £910 available that could be transferred as a gift on confirmation that security of tenure one day each week was granted and representation on the relevant Committees was possible. The Club General Committee agreed unanimously with the proposals with the exception that representation would only be possible on a New Hall Management Committee and the proposed Hall Planning Committee. This was accepted by the Institute representatives at a November 1954 Meeting.

In February 1955 a new brick Tennis Pavilion was being seriously considered, it was anticipated that the total cost would be in the region of £300.

The 1955 A.G.M. was advised that the Building Fund now stood at £1,743.

The Chief Fire Officer had reported to the Club Secretary making several recommendations on safety measures and fire prevention in August 1955.

Arrangements for a Dance and Whist Drive at the Cliffs Hotel, Blackpool, were finalised. Tickets would be priced at £1/1/0d each. The date was to be Thursday December 8th.

At the end of 1955 the Building Fund stood at £1,936 excluding the W.I. contribution.

A considerable revision of Club Rules was approved in February 1956.

In April that year it was resolved to adjust the billiards table time clock to allow one hours play for 1/6d.

In March 1957 the Building Fund had increased to £2,284. The Membership had been increased to 325 from 300. A proposal regarding the opening of the Club on Sundays from 2-00 pm was not approved.

Steward's Wages were discussed in May 1957 and a figure of £9 per week was agreed; basic pay £7 plus additional income from hirings and Events making £9 approximately.

Consideration was given to the question of which type of building should be purchased to replace the existing Concert Hall. The proposals for the New Concert Hall were being co-ordinated by Mr. Jim Wallace throughout 1958 and 1959. Mr. P. Mowbray, the Architect, was brought in to provide expert advice and a fee was negotiated. He gave a detailed account of likely costs in implementing a "Medway" designed building. The amount would be £6,677 plus joinery work, heating and gas. This was in April 1959.

In May Mr. Mowbray produced comparisons between traditional brick construction and the "Medway" design. This resulted in the inspection of several buildings in the area by the Committee. Costs for the brick building were given as £7,097 against £6,195 for the "Medway" type. The sub-Committee were unanimous in believing that the brick building would be more suitable despite the extra costs involved.

The Broughton Players advised that they would not be using the Hall for any future productions as they were transferring to the new Parish Church Hall. This was accepted with regret by the General Committee.

Mr. Mowbray advised that the present proposals for the New Concert Hall would not allow Badminton to be played and an additional 10 feet would be required in the Hall length at a cost of £600.

In July 1959 action was taken to rescind the Minute of 17th March 1958 amending the decision to purchase the "Medway" type building and to replace it with one of brick construction.

1960s

The 1960 A.G.M. was advised that the final figure for the proposed New Concert Hall was £6,995/15/8d. An estimated completion date was the end of the year. The laying of the foundation stone had been approved for the Saturday 26th March 1960 by Mr. D. A. S. Houghton, following the opening of the Bowling Green and Tennis Courts.

Tenders for the sale and removal of the old wooden Hall were received in October 1960 and one for £180, from Mr. D. Dickinson, was accepted.

New charges for the Women's Institute were amicably agreed at £1/10/0d per meeting, these to be on alternative Wednesdays.

The use of stiletto heeled shoes by ladies would adversely affect the new wooden floor, it was believed, and 100 pairs of heel covers had been purchased for loan or on sale at 1/- per pair.

Opening of the new Hall was officially to be 21st January 1961. The final figure, including all fixtures and fittings, for the New Concert Hall was estimated at £8,600 and so £1,800 would have to be borrowed from the Bank. This was announced at the March A.G.M. in 1961.

An increase of £1 per week as from 1st April 1962 was approved for the Steward and his Wife.

The Scottish Dances, approved for Tuesday evenings, should continue at no charge and the proceeds to be equally shared by the Buildings Fund and the Club Dramatic Section.

Unauthorised use of the Club Car Park was recorded in May 1963. A Notice Board was to be erected to advise everyone that it was private land.

A new Telephone exchange was advised in November 1963 causing the Club Number to be changed to BROUGHTON 3006.

Mr & Mrs Dick Berry, the Steward and his wife, were reluctantly allowed to tender their resignation at the end of 1963 due to ill health. A 'Benefit' was arranged in consideration of their long and excellent service. Member's contributions were requested by President Dr. Brian F. Brearley.

An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting was called on Friday May 8th 1964 for the sole purpose of considering the prospect of opening the Club on a Sunday (without the services of the

Steward/Caretaker) for the playing of Bowls and Tennis from 2 pm till 8 pm. A vote of 42 for and 25 against the proposition was the result.

In June 1964 consideration was given to the suggestion that 'Fruit Machines' or 'One Armed Bandits' might be installed. This was deferred to the General Committee who had received conflicting information in respect of the legality of allowing 'percentage sharing' of the takings. The matter was postponed.

The new Steward had absented himself without advising anyone, later his wife and child could not be found either. This was June 1965. It was later found that the Club Telephone box had been broken into and monies stolen. He was brought to court and sentenced to six months in prison for the theft of £3 from the club. The fact was reported in the local newspaper in August.

In June 1966 mention is made that costs for alterations to the main Clubhouse to accommodate a bar and bar storage could amount to £5,000. Vaux Brewery of Sunderland had sent their representative and a loan at say 3% was a possibility.

The General Committee approved the formation of a Badminton Section at their meeting on 30th September 1966 provided that 20 members were found who were willing to join at an additional cost of 21/- per annum. Only bona-fide Club members could initially join the new Section. Monday evening was allocated whenever possible other bookings taking preference and any other regular bookings such as the requirements of the Dramatic Section.

The Badminton Court was marked out by Mr. L. Wells at a cost of £5.

On 20th March 1967 the final item of business was a discussion on the possible change in the club if a licensed Bar was provided. Members gave their opinions and after a prolonged discourse a vote was taken and the majority verdict was in favour of the change.

A bar licence was applied for by Mr. H. Walton in May 1967 and a Bar Sub-Committee was formed. Four Breweries were to be approached it was decided in September 1967 with a view to discussing financial considerations. It was not anticipated that the completed Bar would be ready until perhaps May 1968.

In November it was proposed by the Bar Committee that about £945 would be required for the renovations, decorations, heating and furniture and effects for the new Bar area. Bass Charrington Breweries offer to lend the Club £1,500 interest free was gratefully accepted.

In August 1968 the question of membership cards was introduced to allow Bar customers to identify themselves if necessary. Samples were requested for examination.

Approved Membership Cards were to be issued with the receipt of Subscriptions for the coming year, this was authorised in January 1969.

The onset of the Bar facility had attracted many more Members to join the Club and it was stated that there were now 349.

Increased subscriptions were proposed in August 1969.

Club Only	: up 5/-	to	£1/0/0
Tennis	: up 20/-	to	£4/0/0 (£1/0/0 Ball Fund)
Badminton	: up 5/-	to	£2/10/0 (in addition to the 9/- agreed before)
Lady Bowlers	: up 15/-	to	£3/0/0
Gentlemen Bowlers	: up 20/-	to	£3/15/0

Tennis and Bowls	: up 5/-	to	£5/0/0
Tennis and Badminton	: up 20/-	to	£5/10/0

The Membership list now totalled 408.

Mr. H. Walton advised the General Committee that there was considerable interest in the Club providing two Snooker Teams for inclusion in the local League. This was agreed at a cost of £2 per Team to be paid out of General Funds.

A '100' Club was suggested but too few members had responded and the idea of Mr. S. Pape was deferred for twelve months.

The Bar Management Committee proposed to transfer £400 to the General Fund and offered to pay for the laying of paths to the Main Club entrance which in winter proves treacherous and dangerous. This was gratefully accepted.

A new Committee called the Finance Committee was inaugurated in November 1969 to make recommendations to the General Committee on priorities in the various Sections of the Club regarding expenditure of monies.

The Badminton Section requested that it was limited to 40 members only.

1970s

In January 1970 it was reported that moles had been detected near the Tennis courts, a local Rural District official was to be called in at a nominal fee.

It was announced that all the Club insurances had been collectively placed with Garrett, Son, and Flowerdew as from 12th January 1970.

In March 1970 the membership figure was given as 420.

Enlargements to the Concert Hall Kitchen were the main concerns of the General Committee during the Autumn of 1970.

The Snooker Secretary requested that the over table lights be provided free on those occasions when League Matches were in progress, this was agreed.

The W.I. advised that they had raised £124 from their Sherry evening and this would go towards the kitchen extension. £204 was available so far for this Fund.

Bar takings were advised as £2,217 in 1969 and £2,887 in 1970.

Badminton Membership should be increased from 40 to 60 and £1 per year will be added to the Badminton subscription. This was approved in April 1971.

Another 'Open Day' was proposed and agreed for 1971, Saturday 15th May was selected.

The Lancashire Playing Fields Association was to be approached to determine what financial help was available and for what purposes. The Hon. Secretary agreed to discuss this with the P.F.A. local delegate and report back.

22 new Members had resulted from the Open Day in May 1971.

The Caretaker, Mr. Bob Winders, had advised that he had been successful in finding his own house in the area and wished to vacate the property known as the Steward's House alongside the Club Buildings.

Membership numbers were advised as 454 in July 1971. A limit of 500 was agreed.

In March 1972 the club premises were officially valued at £31,200.

A grant of 50% of the total cost of extending the Tennis Courts (£340) was advised from the Sports Council.

Mr. Openshaw had been approached and had agreed to give the Club a further 12 feet of land in addition to the 11'6" previously.

En-Tous-Cas estimated that £330 would be required to re-centre the Tennis Courts, move the net posts and excavate the ground recently acquired and lay the new area to match.

The possibility of the introduction of Value Added Tax had some implications for the Club. These would be considered by the Finance Committee.

In November 1972 it was agreed that the entrance fee should be £1; subscriptions should remain the same for 1973; The Loan Scheme should be deferred until 1974; V.A.T. would increase prices charges at the Bar from April 1st

A new Constitution and Rules were prepared for December 1972. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting was held on February 16th 1973 to consider these.

The Sports Council increased their Grant for the Tennis Courts work due to additional costs incurred and 50% of the full cost was given. This proved to be £433 in total. This was later increased to £598 to include all the ground works.

New snooker balls were purchased in February 1973 and the meters were adapted to take 10p pieces giving one hours play.

The extra land taken up on the far side of the Tennis Courts would now give opportunity to enlarge the Bowling Green Area.

Further Club extensions were put out to Tender and the one from J. J. Allen & Son for £25,350.80p was accepted subject to suitable loans being available.

A break-in at the rear of the Concert Hall was reported in June 1973. The kitchen area had been searched after a window had been broken in the Gents' Changing Room. Only a bottle of whisky was taken.

The loans offered forced the decision to limit the work to be undertaken re the Club Extensions.

It was reported in February 1974 that the Club flag pole had blown down in the recent gales. It was agreed to replace this with a smaller one which might be fixed to the wall of the New Concert Hall.

Takings from the 'Fruit Machine' were criticised (it would only take the small silver sixpences in use before Decimalisation). No change was agreed in March 1974.

The small baby grand having been sold from the New Concert Hall requests for a light weight upright piano was requested by the Women's Institute.

A new flagpole was purchased for £35.65p (plus V.A.T.). It was to be free-standing not attached to the buildings.

A lunchtime Bar on Sundays was approved in October 1974.

A 'new' Fruit Machine was eventually agreed to in February 1975. It was reported that it had immediately increased interest and income.

The Bass Charrington Organisations agreed to lend £5,000 at 5% interest towards the Club building works.

Hire Charges for the New Concert Hall were to be increased by 33.3% rounded up or down to the nearest £1. This was the first rise since January 1972. These rises are to take effect from 1st April 1974.

Central Heating for the Stewards house was considered. Prices are to be obtained. The estimate for the Stewards house central heating was just under £500.

Membership restrictions had been lifted and numbers had greatly increased.

In November 1975, following a survey by the Club's Insurers, they advised that the total value of the Club Buildings was now £85,000 not £65,000 – (New Concert Hall £39,000; Club Buildings £46,000.)

Car park floodlights were approved (£55.) To be fitted as soon as possible.

Membership of the recently formed Preston Sports Council (£2) was approved.

In April 1976 it was agreed that fees for Hiring the New Concert Hall would have to be increased by about 25%, and Club Subscriptions would also have to increase as from 1st April 1977. This was later amended to only 15%.

In August 1976 mention was made that as the Club neared its Centenary year, a History of the Club be compiled. Mr. W. Fisher agreed to approach Mr. Tom Myerscough regarding this and would report back.

A Silver Jubilee Dance was to be held as the Mid Summer Event in 1977.

The Snooker room floor had not been satisfactorily dealt with it was felt, and legal advice was to be sought. Payment was to be withheld pro tem. The carpet tiles in the snooker room were recorded to have been a good investment: this was noted in December 1977.

The men's bowling section reported to the General Committee in March 1978 that they had joined the newly formed "Veteran's League".

The General Committee was advised in May 1978 that a Floodlight had been donated to the Club for use on the Bowling Green.

In November 1978 Mr. G. Leedale agreed to make progress in the project to have the Club History put on record. An approach would be made.

1980s

In March 1981 it was reported to the A.G.M. that Membership was now over the 650 mark.

The Club Car Park was to be enlarged and asphalted at a cost of about £8,000. Marking the completed work to allow the maximum number of cars to be parked was also approved.

A wooden shelter on the west side of the Bowling Green was proposed at a cost of about £100 for the materials. Members are to provide the labour. The hedge on the west side of the Club Bowling Green had been removed and a score board erected.

In July 1982 the Club was advised that a bequest had been received from the estate of the late Mr. Charles Butcher of £2,500.

A coach trip to York Races in October 1982 was approved. This proved most successful.

Plans for the extension to the snooker room had been approved, and were now out to tender.

The General Committee was asked by Mrs. Fisher to consider the possibility of acquiring the land adjacent to the Club's eastern boundary facing on to Whittingham Lane. This was agreed.

The date of handover for the new extension was to be May 20th 1983.

Despite previous inaction to install floodlighting for the Bowling Green, it was advised to the General Committee on February 24th 1984 that planning permission for four tower floodlights had been approved.

In October 1984 the Agents advised that they were not interested in selling at the present time. A deputation from the Club was authorised to continue negotiations by drawing up the Club's likely use of the land and presenting these plans personally.

The finalisation of the arrangements for the Broughton Amateurs Football Club to use the Club Car Park was advised.

The total Insurance cover for the Club was now £223,677 for the buildings and £15,000 for the contents. This was advised in February 1985.

After a nine month long investigation by the Bar committee it was resolved not to make any change in the Brewery supplies. This was August 1985.

At the General Committee Meeting on January 10th 1986 Mr. Lunn reported that he and Mr. Seddon had successfully negotiated an agreement to purchase approximately 1.6 acres of land to the east of the Club Car Park for £5,000. Ownership would take effect from 1st February 1986.

Disco equipment used at the President's Day Event was up 'for sale' it was advised and a proposal to purchase this was made to the General Committee by the Entertainments Committee. This item is dated August 1986.

A Car Boot Sale on the Car Park had raised £130.

In September 1986 the President reported that he had spoken to a lady who may be prepared to write a brief history of the Club for publication in Centenary Year.

Following a second burglary in the Club premises it was considered necessary to have an alarm fitted. This was discussed at the General Committee Meeting in November 1986 and referred to the House Committee.

It was decided to acquire a Presidential Badge of Office for use in Centenary year and afterwards. A Club badge should be the centrepiece and the cost of the regalia would be £50 - £60 without the badge plus V.A.T. from Carrs of Garstang.

The Police Crime Prevention Officer had made recommendations in respect of a fixed Alarm in the Building, as four Tenders had been received the most economical one had been selected. The work was to be put in hand urgently.

The local Newspaper reported that the application made for Planning permission to extend the Club's land along Whittingham Lane had been granted without any documents being received from the local Authority.

In May 1987 the Committee was informed that the underside of the New Concert Hall stage floor should be fireproofed.

Band rehearsals were causing neighbours and members to complain about noise levels. Suitable action by the Secretary was approved. The vulnerability of cars on the Club Car Park was discussed in September 1987. Several break-ins had been reported.

Approval for a proposed Halloween/Bonfire Night celebration was sought for in October. The club would contribute up to £50 towards a Firework Display.

For the first time since its inception the Dramatic Section stated that due to lack of acting members and Stage Managers the first Play of the Season had had to be cancelled with great regret.

Progress was advised concerning the alterations and refurbishment of the rest of the Club House.

The General Committee considered objections received concerning the partitioning of the Games Room as recommended by the Development and Planning Sub-Committee on 20th September 1987. Seventy Members had signed the objections letter which was raised in the October 22nd meeting. It was decided, after much discussion, that the alterations must be seen to be for the benefit of the Membership as a whole and the Resolution must stand.

On December 14th the General Committee received a request in writing from twenty-four Members asking for an Extra-Ordinary Meeting to be called to consider the proposal that "The partition shall not be erected in the snooker room and the snooker tables should remain in their position as on 16th November 1987". It was agreed that such a Meeting would be held on January 23rd at 11-30am. At this meeting the resolution was defeated.

It was unanimously agreed that Mrs. Fisher be granted Life Membership in consideration of the great service given to the Club by her and her late husband over a long number of years.

MCMXC



ILLUSTRATIONS



Top: Clubhouse showing Steward's House
Bottom: Clubhouse from the West



Top: Car Park and Concert Hall
Bottom: View from East at rear of Club



Top: Bowling Green and Tennis Courts
Bottom: Verandah Lounge over-looking Bowls and Tennis



Top: Snooker Room
Bottom: Front Lounge