

I. THINK THIS MUST HAVE  
BEEN PUT TOGETHER BY ROYCE  
JAMES, DICK.

## PREFACE

In compiling this History every effort has been made to accurately report on the events of Maritzburg Bowling Club since it was founded in 1902 till the present day.

Certain information in this Booklet has been procured second hand and could be open for discussion or contradiction. The reason for this is that, the first minute book was misplaced and the information gathered has been from the clubs ledger and journal of this period. These two books were found in the store behind the present bar and, Information given to the committee by Mr. Joe Garnett and Mr Tom Gibson on the occasion of the clubs Diamond Jubilee in 1962.

Other information has been recorded in Newspaper clippings pasted into a book also found with the other books mentioned.

I would also like to thank Mrs Tessa Crawford for her assistance in forwarding to me information and Handbooks of, some of The Nationals in her Possession, from 1913 to 1925.

Thanks to all the people who supplied photographs and other information that appear in this Booklet.

When reading through this Booklet it may appear from, the dates Recorded that nothing much happened from one month to another, this is not true Maritzburg was a very busy club, reading through the minute books on hand many, visitors to The City, who were attending conferences/conventions were granted Hon. Membership of the club during their stay in the City.

All the Visitors who made use of the Club are far too Numerous, to mention.

During the First World War and The Second World War the Club invied, convalescent soldiers to the club for a game of bowls and refreshments.

The Corporation frequently used the clubs facilities when they entertain their Durban counterparts for a sports weekend, the same applied to the Caledonian Society who often played bowls against their guests, from other centers.



## DEDICATION.

This, Historical Booklet is dedicated to the memory of the Fine Gentlemen who in their wisdom and foresight, decided to found, Maritzburg Bowling Club in 1902.

We owe a great debt to the pioneers of the game, even though they never for a moment visualised the great brotherhood which was to be born with the Club.

Our gratitude to them, for the Yeoman service they did in promoting, this Grand Old Game of Bowls, that we all derive so much pleasure from today.

To the Executive committees from 1902 to the Present day, who continued with the administration of bowls in Pietermaritzburg, are also to be commended for the long hours of dedicated work they put into the club and bowls in general.

## LONG MAY THEY BE REMEMBERED.

## THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

With acknowledgements, to Mr. Joe Garnett, and Tom Gibson.

Some time during 1902 (The exact date, is lost with the first, minute book) eight Scotsmen namely, Messrs W.M. Hunter, A. Ogilvie, R. N. Miller D. Cockburn, A.J. Mc Gibbon, J. Fraser, Jas Mc Austin, R. Dunlop together with a Welshman W. Walsh met to form MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB.

The meeting was held in ALEXANDRA PARK PAVILION, and they were joined by A. C. Bell, Wallace Batchelor and others and they resolved that a bowling green be constructed. (It can be assumed with some certainty, that the date was 5 May 1902. The reason being, that mention, is made in The Natal Witness that a social and Dance was arranged for the 5 May 1932 to Celebrate the Thirtieth Birthday of Maritzburg Bowling Club.

The first President was Mr A.J. Mc. Gibbon and that the Hon. Secretary was Mr W. Walsh.

A green was built using 15 convicts, in Alexandra Park, across the road from, the Oval cricket field. Play began in earnest in 1903 on No 1 green (what is now known as "B" green.) The first club house consisted of a large Piano crate secured to a gum tree on the bank.

The first building to be erected was in 1904, and was a wood and iron room measuring sixteen feet by twelve feet, with a narrow verandah, and lockers that doubled as seats.

About this time the club was worried by a large Oak tree, on one corner of the green, it's shade and roots causing a bare patch on the green. Appeals to the curator of parks were ignored, as he preferred the beauty and shade of the tree, to the comfort of the bowlers. They had to wait until he died some three years later before getting satisfaction.

Another anecdote of these days was, about a player who, after suffering a heavy defeat in the afternoon, waited until dark, then returned to the green a ran a harrow through it.

After the first clubhouse was erected in 1904 the Committee decided that a building fund be implemented, for future development and improvements, also for daily running costs.

Late 1905 early 1906 it was decided to increase the number of greens, so as to accommodate the increase in membership, and also to be able to carry out maintenance of the No 1 Green. ("B") No 2 Green ("A") was completed, and play started on 7 June 1907.

An early group of members in front of this first erected Clubhouse.

Photographed in 1906

(See page 2)



## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB



Early Group showing the first Club House.

## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

The President, Mr. C.R.C. McAllister in 1906 donated a handsome cup to be played for between Martsburg Bowling Club and Durban Bowling Club (founded in 1905). The first of these biannual competitions was played on the greens of Durban B.C. on Saturday 9th November 1910 and Martsburg were victorious.

This Biannual competition became very popular with both clubs, and was very competitive, judging by the press reports published in the Natal Witness and the Durban paper in those days.

This ferocious, but friendly rivalry continued from 1910 till 1916 when it became a Tri-angular competition between Martsburg Bowling Club, Durban Bowling Club and Berea Bowling Club which was founded in 1916.

Like all bowling competitions, this one was not without it's share of problems. To quote from a report in the Newspaper after a Mc Allister match (as this competition was named), in 1913. The President of Durban B.C. speaking on the recent match voiced, his disappointment and most of the Durban members, in the restriction of Martsburg B.C. of the match to six rinks, when it was obvious that the City club could, if they liked, have put up a much stronger team. Without wishing in any way impugn the Sportsmanship of the City Club, he thought they could easily, have put in the field nine or even ten rinks, as they have done in the past two to three years, without diminishing their success. The President of Martsburg Bowling Club, Councilor Robert Anderson, held a most enjoyable "AT HOME" on the greens in the Park on Saturday 20th June 1911.

Extracts from the speech of the President on the above mentioned occasion, said, "He had much pleasure in welcoming all present,

Approximately, 150 guests attended including the Mayor Councilor D. Sanders and several members of the Town Council. It showed, him that, many were interested in the welfare of the club, and gatherings of this kind had a tendency to make the game more popular. He went on to say that, the club was started by a few old bowlers in 1902, and soon increased to such an extent, that it was found necessary to double the number of greens. Up to this present, day these improvements had cost the club in excess of £600.0.0. The club provided a means of recreation to a large number of gentlemen, The Membership of the club, currently stood at 52.

Mr Anderson also thanked the Town Council for the generous support accorded the club in allowing the Parks Superintendent to supervise the greens. Mr. W. Hopkins had beautified the clubs enclosure, and at present the greens would compare favourably with any others in South Africa. He and all the members of the club appreciate the attention and effort and thanked Mr Hoskins. This gathering is illustrated on the Photograph on page 4.

The top photograph is a snapshot showing the green and the clubhouse. The centre picture is of Mr. Stewart's orchestra, which supplied the music during the afternoon, the lower picture is of players engaged in bowling. The inset on the right is of a lady bowler who took part in the ladies competition.



# AT HOME ON THE PARK



## THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

By the courtesy of the "Natal Witness," we are able to publish below a photo of the first rink to represent Maritzburg Bowling Club in the 1912 National Tournament.

Maritzburg naturally looks back with pride to the record of the "old timers," who first placed Maritzburg on the bowling map, and the photo on page 6 will be of great interest to bowlers generally, and in particular to the other "old timers," who may have participated in the S. A. National Tournament, which took place in Durban.

The number of clubs represented was 14. A comparison of this number, with the entries in excess of 200 now a days, graphically illustrates the progress of the game in South Africa over the years.

The Maritzburg team of 1912 was an outstanding success in this, its first venture into the national arena, winning the Dewars Shield for highest aggregate of shots scored. This success is general known, but what is not so well known is the fact that the rink came within a point of winning the South African rink Championship as well, a defeat by one shot at the hands of Kimberley Mine in the last game of the tournament robbing them of the honour.

Starting off in irresistible manner, the rink, consisting of Cockburn (lead), Bell (second), Ogilvie (third) and Morton (skip), won nine matches in succession.

They failed in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> against Pretoria and Kimberley Mine respectively, the latter having won but one game previously in Crucial Last Game

At the commencement of the 13<sup>th</sup> and last game of the tournament, Kimberley, Pretoria and Maritzburg each had 19 points, Maritzburg being well ahead in the count for aggregate shots. Had Maritzburg beaten Kimberley in the last game they could afford to see Pretoria win their final match, unless they put up an unprecedented score in doing so.

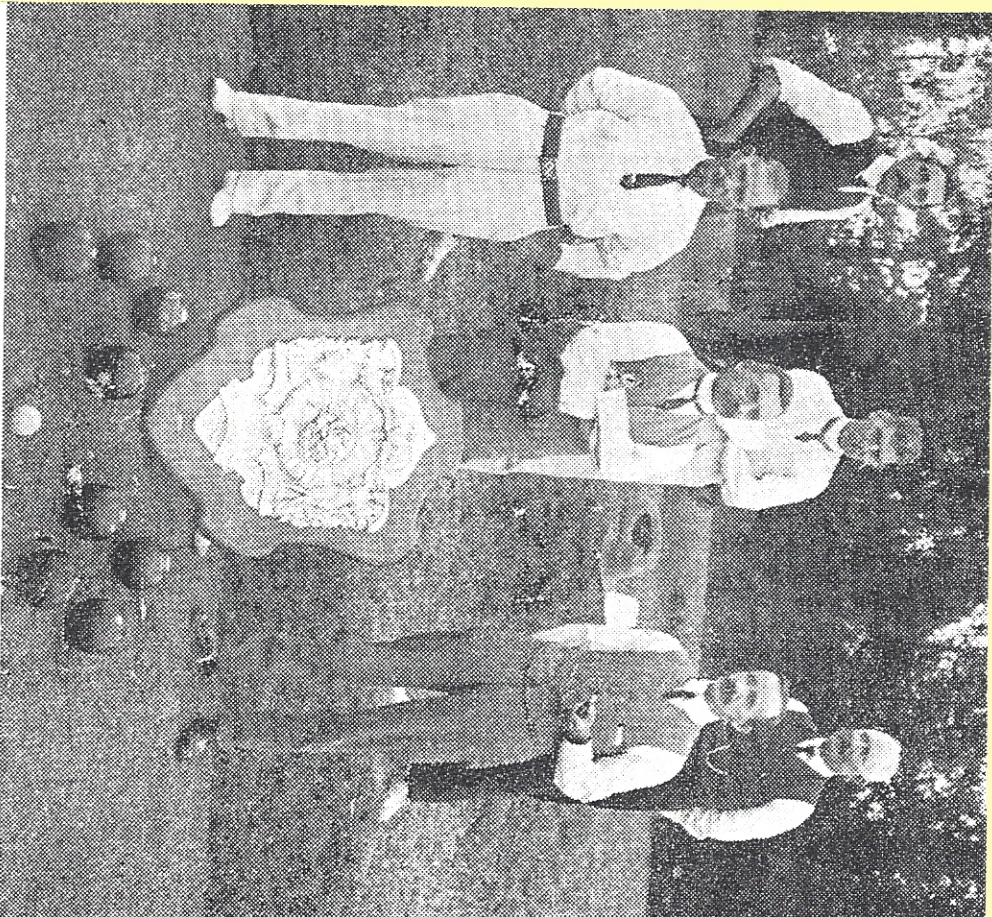
### 1912 PLAYED IN DURBAN.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.	For.	Agst.
Kimberley Mine.	13.	10.	1.	2.	21.	284.	213.
Pretoria.	13.	10.	1.	2.	21.	281.	223.
Maritzburg.	13.	10.	0.	3.	20.	308.	241.
Port Elizabeth.	13.	9.	0.	4.	18.	288.	271.
Johannesburg.	13.	8.	0.	5.	18.	288.	271.
Gerrinston.	13.	7.	0.	6.	14.	278.	235.
Green and Sea Pt.	13.	0.	7.	6.	14.	261.	234.
Wynberg.	13.	7.	0.	6.	14.	260.	234.
Gardens.	13.	5.	0.	8.	10.	252.	259.
Victoria Park.	13.	4.	0.	9.	8.	220.	300.
Grahamstown.	13.	4.	0.	9.	8.	210.	330.
Durban.	13.	3.	0.	10.	6.	226.	263.
Kimberley.	13.	3.	0.	10.	6.	235.	278.
East London.	13.	3.	0.	10.	6.	221.	298.

Kimberley Mine defeated Pretoria in the Play-off and won the Pyott Cup Maritzburg, won The Dewars Shield. (Shot Aggregate)



# THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB



MARITZBURG'S FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN TOURNAMENT TEAM.

Back Row: D. Cockburn, A. Ogilvie, A. D. C. Taylor.

Front Row: A. C. Bell, W. S. Morton, J. Greig.

*The above photograph illustrates the occasion, and also that the laws of suitable dress were very flexible at that time.*

THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB  
On the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917 the third green was officially opened by His Worship the Mayor (Councillor P.H. Taylor Esq. J. P., M.P.C.) AT 2.45 pm.

OFFICIAL NOTICE, AS PUBLISHED IN THE NATAL WITNESS

## MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB OPENING OF NEW GREEN

The above Club will be "AT HOME" on The Bowling Green, in Alexandra Park, on SATURDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1917 from

2.30pm to 5.30pm

HIS WORSHIP THE

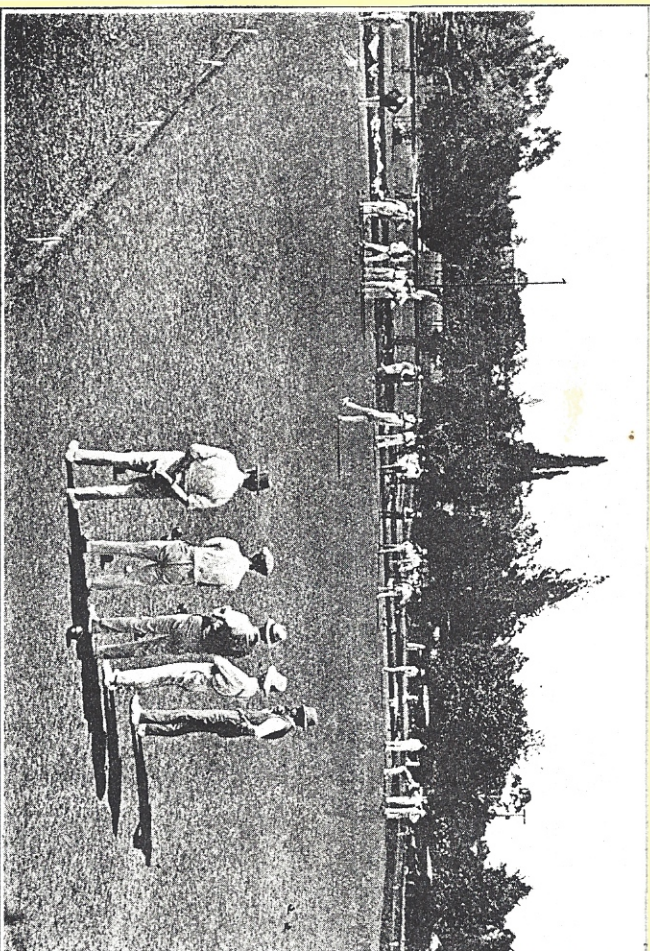
### MAYOR

(Councillor P.H. Taylor, Esq., J.P., M.P.C.) has kindly consented to open the new green at 2.45 p.m.

A MATCH WILL BE PLAYED

Between the Club and the Caledonian Society  
Visitors from the Convalescent Camp are

Especially invited.



Maritzburg Greens.



# THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

The National tournament was held in Pietermaritzburg from 28th March to 7th April 1921, and Maritzburg, was Headquarters.

After the Nationals, and on the recommendations made by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee, Mr. Tom Gibson, that serious thought be given to the improvement of the club facilities. They thought, that with the envisaged increase in entries for this Tournament, and that if the Club was ever again granted to stage The Nationals, in the future the Clubhouse would be far too small.

November 1921, Mr. Tom Gibson asked members of all the clubs to attend a special meeting with the intention of forming an Association in Pietermaritzburg. The objects of the Association are many and varied, but principally to control the District Competitions, and to foster the good old game of Bowls in the District.

The first executive was as follows: President. Mr. Tom Gibson, Vice-President: Mr. A. C. Bell, and the Hon. Sec/Treasurer: Mr. J. G. Jarman. The committee to comprise of two, members from each of the clubs in Maritzburg. There were four clubs at that time, Maritzburg B.C., East End B.C. (Maritzburg East), West End B.C. (Maritzburg West) and The Railway Institute B.C. (Westmore Park)

I also produced it's share of, Pietermaritzburg District, Natal in African Bowling Association

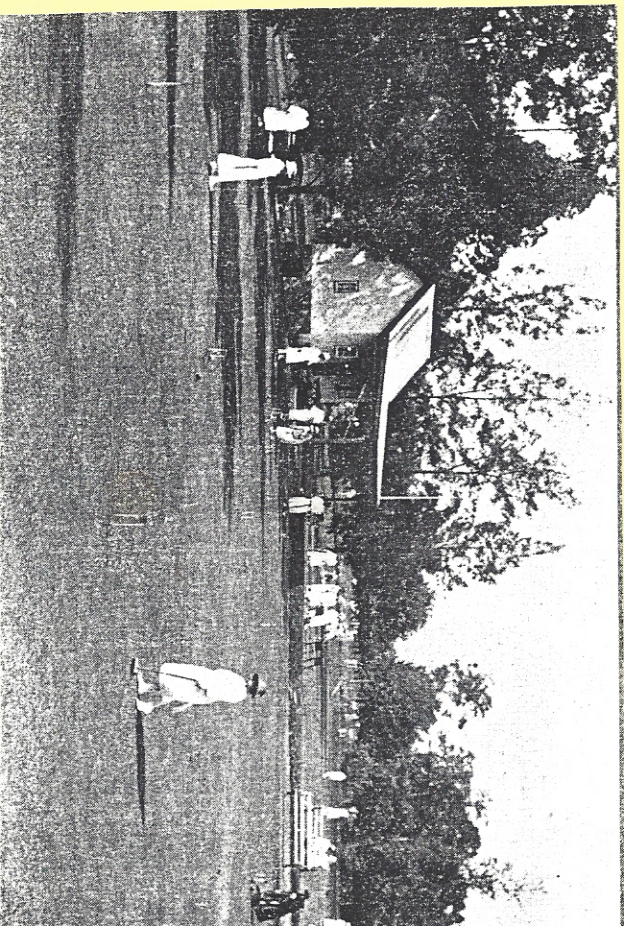
Mr Joe Garnett who is also Hon Association, South Africa Bowling the Queen's Coronation Medal for South Africa. (An Achievement, that

*Resolved to get done.*



Joe Garnett. Known to all Bowlers.

In 1921 the Maritzburg Croquet club was formed, due to the fact that the Wives, of the Men Members were not allowed, to play bowls. Two lawns were laid below "B" and "C" greens, as they are known at the present time.





## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

1921 was definitely Mr. Tom Gibson's year, not only was he the Chairman of the National Tournament Committee he was, President of Martzburg also the Club Singles Champion and in December the first President of the newly founded Martzburg and District Bowling Association as it was then named. (Later to be Named Pietermaritzburg and District Bowling Association).

The Club has proved to be a nursery to Bowls in Pietermaritzburg, as, some clubs founded since 1902, included members of the Park (as the club is known locally), as foundation members.

The club has, had it's share of District Honours and Natal Honours but the Only National Title apart from the Rinks aggregate Cup (DEWARS SHIELD), in 1912 is the Vetrans Singles Title won by Mr. W. Simkins in 1931 a feat He again achieved in 1932.

After the, 1921 National Tournament Committee's suggestion. The Committee in March 1922, decided after considerable discussion over a long period of time to canvass the members regarding, the Building of a larger Clubhouse and to implement, a building fund for the project.

It was resolved that the building fund to be implemented and the necessary plans and specification of the proposed New Clubhouse be tabled at the Annual General Meeting in October 1922.

Courtesy of, The Natal Witness dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1922. An event of considerable importance to bowlers in the city takes place today, This being, the inauguration of a competition under the, control of the recently formed Martzburg and District Bowling Association. The first Competition to take place will be a, Rinks competition, with four rinks per club. The league system has been adopted, so that there will be six games played on the home and away basis.

A handsome Rose bowl trophy, had been donated by Mr E. Kerby. The Competition will be known as "The Kerby Cup", and will be held by the winning club for one year.

A Singles Competition will also be held in early October and for this Competition, Mr. H. Wade, donated, a very handsome cup, the Competition will be named "The Wade Cup".

At the monthly meeting on 21 May 1923 the Ladies requested to play bowls on a Saturday afternoons was approved by the committee with certain provisos. (Only if green space, was available and only Wives and Daughters will be, allowed NO OUTSIDERS.

At the Special General meeting called for the purpose of discussing the proposed building of a New Clubhouse. The, President, addressed the, meeting, and referred in eulogistic terms to the work of the committee in connection with the canvass of club members which had just taken place. The committee had been divided into five pairs for canvassing purposes,

All members had been circularised previous to the canvass which commenced on 12 November, and the result had been most gratifying, and showed that 97 % of the members were with the committee in the matter of providing a New Clubhouse.

## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

The plan which had been presented by Mr. R. Barras and which was before the members at the last General Meeting, had been approved by the committee

The Corporation had also been approached for financial assistance, but unfortunately the Town Council had not been able to make a grant to us. The President, then made mention that the Building fund stood on a grand total of £377.6.6. and said that the committee had been surprised at the fine spirit shown by the members of the club.

The recommendation of the committee, for consideration by club members at the meeting on 19 November 1923.

1. That the plans of the new clubhouse be approved

2. That a committee consisting of 5 people be appointed to prepare the necessary specifications, and that the draft of same be submitted to the club committee for approval or otherwise.

3. That the club committee, hereby calls for tenders, and accept the lowest of any tenders.

4. That Mr Joe Garnett, be appointed as clerk of works.

5. That authority be granted to the club committee to apply to the Corporation for a loan not, exceeding. £500.0.0.

6. That authority, be given to the club committee to arrange the disposal of the old clubhouse to the best advantage.

All the recommendations were approved.

The President said the Ladies would very much like to have an Electric domestic service installed.

The President Mr. Joe Garnett said with the idea of raising the necessary funds. He would play any member of the club at singles, on consideration that the looser pay 2/6 towards the fund. He was prepared to concede 5 shots to leads, and 2 shots to seconds. (No mention, is made of, how, much money was raised.)

Several members spoke on the advisability of providing a kitchen for the new Clubhouse. Mr. Barras said it was only a question of funds he could assure the meeting that everything possible will be done to provide a kitchen for the new clubhouse.

Tenders were called for from, The Master Builders Association. By 19 November 1923 tenders were received, and the Committee approved the tender of Mr A. Steel to the value of £ 816.0.0.

26<sup>th</sup> November 1923 the committee received a letter from the corporation intimating they would be prepared to consider a loan on receipt of an application from the club. It was resolved that the application be forwarded to the corporation as soon as possible.

A special account was to be opened at, a Building Society for depositing any monies collected for the building fund and that the account No be posted on the club notice board for any future donations from club members.

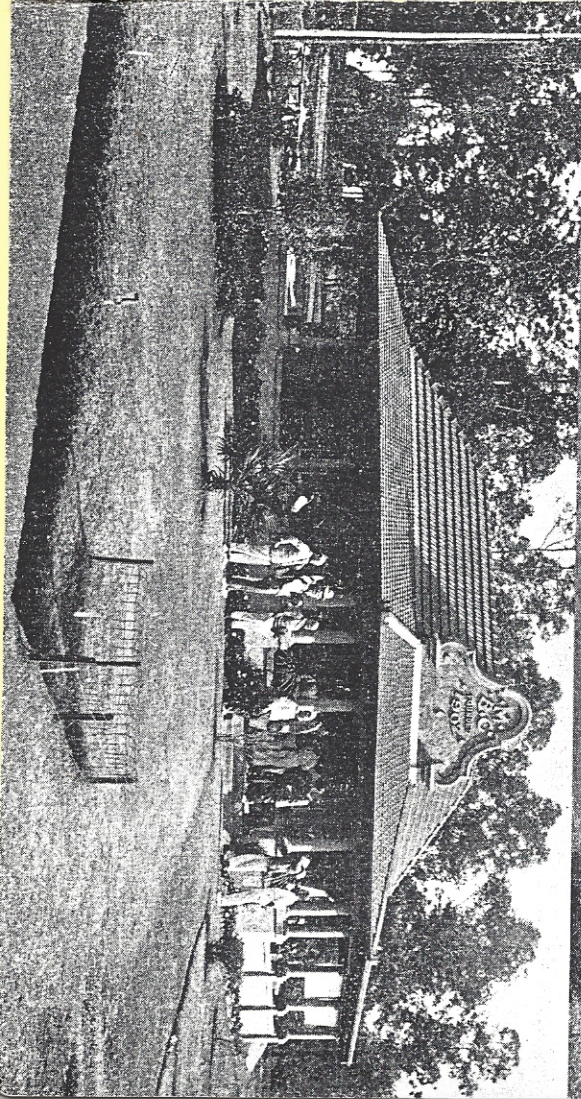
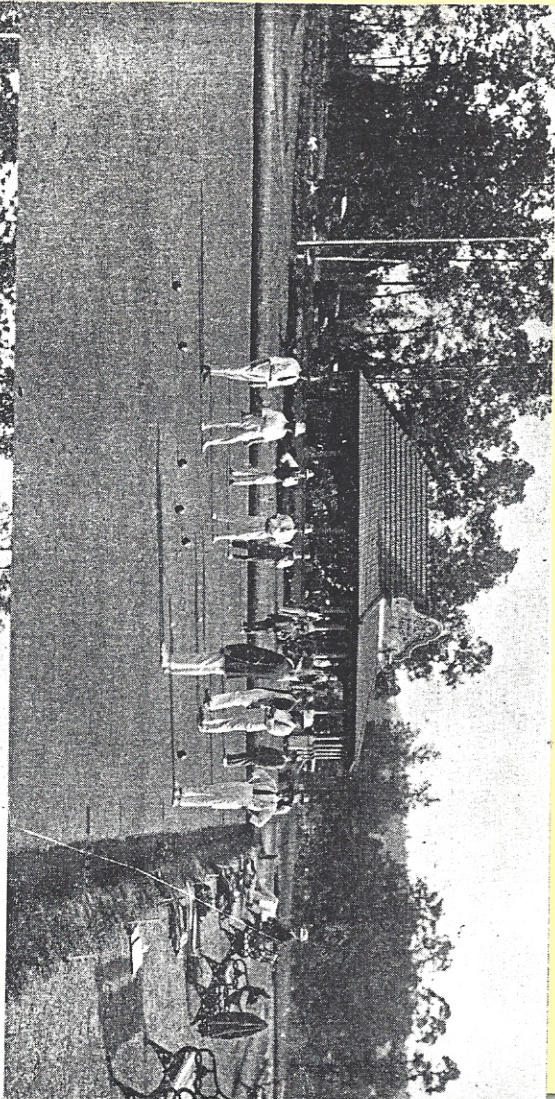


#### THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

The Official Opening of the New Clubhouse was on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1924. The opening ceremony was performed by The Honourable Administrator of Natal.

As part of the Opening Ceremony the "Kerby Cup" was played on our greens, by all the Clubs involved that, Saturday afternoon, 25 June 1924, the old wood and iron clubhouse was sold for £55.0.0. By public auction.

The two photographs below illustrates the new clubhouse note the open verandah on either side of the main entrance.



#### THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

23 July 1924, No 3 ("C") it was decided that the green would have to be levelled and that it was under control and will be ready for use in a few weeks time.

Mr. G. C. Jolliffe, at the monthly meeting on the 24 August 1924 made mention that he had collected £100.0.0. for a scheme of pumping water from the Dusi river to irrigate the greens in the winter months, the committee gave their permission for Mr. Jolliffe, to proceed with the scheme and to have it installed as soon as possible.

The committee discussed the playing of bowls on Sunday afternoon in an effort to increase revenue for the club. This would have to be put to the members at the A.G.M. in October.

At the A. G. M. on 21 October 1924, the matter of playing bowls was discussed and it was decided that ALL members should be notified in writing, so that they could vote for or against Sunday Bowls.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> 1924, it was decided by ballot that Sunday bowls would commence on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1924. ON 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER THE COMMITTEE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE CORPORATION STATING THAT THE CLUB MUST DESIST FROM PLAYING BOWLS ON SUNDAYS.

21 October 1924 mention was made that the new Clubhouse was paid for.

29 October 1924 ladies were given permission to play bowls on Wednesdays and Thursday.

22 December 1924 it was decided to erect a shed for storing fertilisers and top dressing for greens.

23 February the greens committee made mention that the greens were plagued by white ants, and that, Mr. Cheek had removed 15 Queen ants from the vicinity of the greens.

30 March 1924, The croquet club wrote to the committee that the excess water from our greens was flooding their lawns and requested that something be done to stop this flooding.

26 January 1925, The greens committee were instructed to interview Mr Cheek to eradicate the white ants and, authorised them to incur the necessary expense for this purpose. They reported back that 15 Queen White ants had been removed from the vicinity of the greens.

The Committee received a letter from the Croquet club requesting that steps be taken to prevent the surface water from the greens, flooding the croquet lawns. They requested the committee to meet with them to discuss this problem. Mr Jolliffe who was the green keeper at the time said that, he had already interviewed the Croquet club and pointed out that the surface water was not the cause of the problem, as the water from the greens was properly diverted.

A club that was to stage, the Natal Tournament was inspected by a delegation from The Natal Bowling Association, and their findings were, reported back to the Club.



#### THE HISTORY OF MARYTIZBURG BOWLING CLUB

At the Meeting on 30 March 1925 it was reported that M.B.C. was to be Headquarters for The Natal Tournament, from 25 May to 1 June and that certain items would have to be attended to immediately, Score Boards, seating for spectators, Sanitary arrangements etc. The Secretary mentioned that all these were being attended to and that no problems should be experienced in this regard. He reported that the request to have an ordinary electric meter installed in place of the slot meter, was promptly attended to by The City Electrical Engineers Department, and would be in place by the time of the Natal Tournament commenced.

22 June 1925 the club received a covering letter from the Railway Institute B.C. for a Gift of two Verandah Seats for the Clubhouse, "in appreciation of past favours, kindness and assistance as well as encouragement".

A letter was also received from, N.B.A. thanking the Club for the use of the greens and the splendid condition there of and enclosed a cheque for the amount of £11.4.3 being the clubs share of the profit from the sale of teas and cakes during the Tournament.

Mention is made of a thatched shelter that was erected for the storage of Fertilizer, and topsoil for the greens at the meeting on the 22 December 1924. The location is, were the present brick building for the storage of the, lawn mowers is.

At the meeting on 21 September 1925, a letter was received from the acting Town Clerk requesting, an explanation regarding the thatched shelter that was erected without the consent of the City Council, and further to the growing of vegetables in the grounds. It was pointed out that, members of the Parks Sub-committee, commented on the general untidiness of the grounds behind the Clubhouse. It was requested that instruction be issued for the discontinuance of, growing vegetables. The Sub-committee further suggested that a general clean up would be to the advantage of the club, and the planting of a live hedge to, hide the back of the Clubhouse is also recommended.

23 November 1925 the Parks curator agreed to the planting of a live, hedge on the request from the committee.

It was suggested that the Mendenhall cup shall become the property of the member of the club that wins the Singles three times not necessarily consecutively. This suggestion, to come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1925. If approved.

At the A.G.M. the Matter of the Mendenhall Cup was Discussed and it was resolved that the cup be Presented to Marytzburg West B.C. for a links competition.

At the meeting on the 28 December 1925, the President reported that the Mendenhall Cup had been presented to Marytzburg West B.C.'s President Mr H. M. Doull on the occasion of the charity match played on the 12 December 1925.

#### THE HISTORY OF MARYTIZBURG BOWLING CLUB

22 March 1926, an Industrial manual lawnmower was purchased for £19.10.0. This apparently was latest model, manufactured especially for sports fields. (Prior to this by reading through the minutes this was about the fifth lawnmower purchased.)

26 April 1926, M. & D.B.A. informed M.B.C. that the Mc. Allister, cup would in future be contested for between Clubs from Durban and Clubs from, Pietermaritzburg, the first, Inter-Town match would be played in Durban on the 7 May 1926.

The Committee resolved that the friendly between Durban B.C. and Marytzburg B.C. will still continue on a date suitable to both clubs.

25 November 1926, another letter was received from the Croquet Club, about the flooding of their lawns. The President suggested that a sub-committee be formed to investigate this matter and to put it to rest once and for all, the committee to meet with the Ladies of the Croquet on Wednesday 25 November 1926. (The outcome of this interview is not, minuted, No further complaints were received after this, however.

1927 Apart, from the Natal Tournament in Marytzburg, very little seems to have happened at the club, they were of course busy with District and club competitions, and Hosted teachers who attended a conference in the city for two weeks in July.

It was resolved at the A.G.M. in October 1927, that no Sunday bowls would be played next year (ie. 1928.) The Secretary Reported, that the first minute book has been, miss laid.

1 January 1928, a letter was, received from Mr J. Garnett, in which the writer submitted several schemes and probable, cost of such, for the repairs of the club shelters.

After considerable discussions, it was resolved to leave the matter in the hands of three of the committee. They eventually decided to have the repairs done at, a cost of £1.15.0.

27 February 1928, believe it or not, it was decided to purchase another lawn mower similar to the last one purchased on 22 March 1926. The only difference is that this one cost £32.0.0.

The Corporation were granted the, use of the club greens for their annual inter-town against Durban in March.

30 April 1928 it was agreed that the use of the greens be offered to the City Council for the forthcoming Municipal Conference, and that all visitors be, made Hon. Members of the club for the duration of the conference.

22 October 1928, A. G. M. The secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Ladies Section regarding Lady membership.



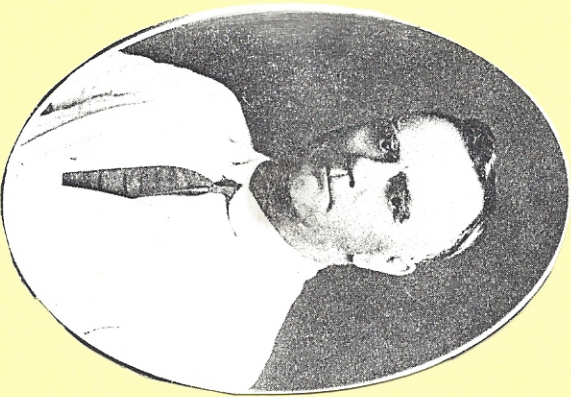
# SOUTH AFRICIAN NATIONALS



Mr. G. F. Walters



Mr. Councillor Hugh Brown



Mr. A. Duncan

President Maritzburg East



Mr. H.W. Bullen

President Maritzburg S.A.R.

# TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE 1931



Mr. Tom Gibson



Mr. Joe Garnett



Mr. J.S.R. Nicholson

Assistant Joint Secretaries Tournament Committee



Mr. J.W. Pickup

## Members of the Executive

## CHAIRMAN TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

## Sec. & Treas. Tournament Committee



## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

They, were requesting permission from the Committee to be permitted to have Lady members other than Wives and Daughters of members.

After several members voiced their opinions, it was resolved at the following committee meeting that they be allowed no more, than eight, members, and that they shall not, hold office on the Ladies Committee.

2 February 1929, Mr. Nicolson presented a design for a club badge and, after discussion, the President intimated that he would bring the matter up at the A.G.M. at the end of the year?

13 May 1929, the Natal Tournament was to be played in the City and, seeing that Martsburg B.C. will, be Headquarters.

Martsburg East sent a letter to the Club inviting, members not involved in the Natal to make use of their greens for the duration of the Tournament was, appreciated by the committee.

All club competitions were postponed due to the Visit of overseas footballers playing a match in the City on that day.

1 July 1929, Mr. D.M. Dixon, had donated several coils of wire which were being used for levelling the greens

28 October 1929, At the A.G.M. Mr H. Wade, was, honoured, by being, made an Hon Life Member of the club, for his services to the club and valued financial assistance.

Mr J. Johnson supported by Mr E. W. Stinkins, suggested that the club should endeavour, to get the District to institute a Rinks Championship.

6 November 1929, A Group of English Bowlers were on Tour in South Africa, and M. & D.B.A. requested that, the Clubs in Martsburg Nominate, members of the clubs, who would like to be considered to play against the overseas bowlers. The method of selection would be, made, by a panel of selectors from all the clubs.

The date scheduled for Pietermaritzburg, was 23 November 1929 and would take place on the greens of Martsburg Bowling Club.

3 MARCH 1930, Mr Jolliffe, request the permission of the committee to board the greens, so as to prevent them from collapsing. The cost of the material "Jarrah Wood" being, roughly £9.0.0. After discussion it was agreed that the amount of £10.0.0. To be, expended and Mr. Jolliffe, to proceed with the work as soon as possible.

6 June 1930, The President informed the meeting that this meeting was called for from the Request from M. & D.B.A. to forward nominations for the Election of President of the District as well as nominations for the South Africa Tournament to be Staged in the City, in 1931. (see photos on pages 18 & 19 of the Tournament Committee).

21 July 1930, The Secretary read a letter from The S. A. Tournament Committee Secretary, dated the 9 July 1930. This stated that, each of the City Clubs, were asked to contribute a minimum of £100.0.0. towards the Tournament Funds. Martsburg agreed that they would contribute this amount, and that a list be placed on the Notice board, requesting, members to contribute.

## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

29 October 1930, at, the A. G. M. Mr. T. Gibson suggested that with the forthcoming S. A. National Tournament, being played on the club's greens, that a, special parking area be arranged. In this connection, mentioned is made that the vacant piece of ground, across the road from the rear of the, club house was available. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Corporation requesting the use thereof.

The greens committee under Mr. Jolliffe, moved that the greens be closed 21 February to 21 March 1931, so that they could endeavour, to get the, greens in good order in time for the Tournament.

20 February 1931, Mr. Jolliffe asked for permission to employ togt labour to assist with getting the greens in order. Agreed to.

The Secretary was instructed to contact the Corporation, with regard to arranging extra sanitary services for the duration of the tournament.

20 March 1931, the secretary, reported that the request, to the Corporation, for extra sanitary service was approved also their approval of the use of the vacant piece of land for parking.

The Secretary drew attention of the meeting to the fact "that the ladies would suffer considerable in-convenience, due to their tea shelter being some distance from the club house. The Secretary sought permission of the committee, to make arrangements (free of cost to the club), for a temporary electrical extension in this regard was agreed to.

Mr. H.V. March had promised to loan the club two W.C. for the ladies, and to erect a Temporary shelter (Tarpaulin) for increasing the tea shelter.

Mr. Anderson, asked if a car could be placed at the disposal of the ladies, for the purpose of conveying them home at the end of each day, during the Tournament, and that other City clubs be urged to assist in this matter.

Extra labour was also to be considered to assist with any duties that would be required for the smooth running of the Tournament.

(Mention, has been made of these arrangements to illustrate, just how much planning, and effort went into the staging of a big Tournament in those days, with limited facilities available at the club.)

24 April 1931, The club's second South Africa National title was achieved at this National Tournament when Mr. E. W. Stinkins was victorious in The Veterans Singles Championship.

Martsburg East won the Rinks Title. From reports, received after the Tournament, the President mentioned that this was, the best so far in the history of the S.A. Nationals, and that the closing of the greens, was, (a stroke of Genius, good luck or call it what, you like), were as near perfect as you could wish for and made for excellent bowls.

26 August 1931, Letter re sewerage. Arising out of the letter dated 20 August 1931, from The Borough Engineers Department.



## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

It was resolved that the suggested point of junction was suitable, and further to that the Secretary approach the Town Clerk by letter to, arrange for a deputation from the club. Also that he approach the Town Council with a view to secure the most favourable terms for a loan to cover the cost of the sewerage connection and the erection of the conveniences. This matter to be handed over to the incoming committee.

It was agreed that due to greens being, used so frequently lately the greens committee recommended that the greens be closed on Monday and Friday until, further notice.

7 October 1931, The President raised the problem the ladies, were having under the present conditions of, filling the various official offices. The Secretary mentioned that this was the last meeting before the A. G. M. and that the Ladies forward a letter embodying any requests, in the direction stated above and that the matter be dealt with at the A. G. M.

26 October 1931, It was resolved that the ladies be allowed non-members to hold minor office on the committee.

A matter of, importance regarding the increase of green maintenance and increased members subscriptions was raised and, recommended that the incoming committee canvass the members of the club in this matter.

7 December 1931, The question of Sunday bowls was again raised, and referred to the incoming committee, as well as the request, to have the road between the Mayor's gardens and the bowling greens, turred to allay the dust nuisance.

It was also requested of the Corporation, to consider replacing the fencing around the greens.

19 December 1931, The Town Clerk advised the club that the Council were unable to assist with the fencing around the greens, and also the turning of the road. Further consideration would however be given to these two requests.

1 January 1932, The first major undertaking for the incoming committee was the sewerage scheme. The plans were being drawn up and would shortly be available for approval. The estimated cost of building the conveniences was £130 to £140.

It was, also brought up, for discussed the advisability, of purchasing a motorised lawn mower, as this would be of great benefit to the club, in saving time and labour and most important of all finances. The manual lawn mowers were breaking down to frequently due to being over worked, and cost of spares, were becoming more expensive.

The estimated cost of the mower was £75 plus.

22 February 1932, Mr. E. H. Oakley, moved a vote of thanks to Mr C. R. C. McDonald, the President for the erection of the new fence around No 2 green and the gate at his own cost. The president stated, that the gate, and the gateposts, were donated by M. Wyatt.

## THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

Tenders were advertised for the installation of, the sewerage.

Mr. C. R. C. McDonald agreed that he would arrange matters with, The Corporation re loan and to fix the date for the closing of tenders, and further seek assistance from the Borough Engineer in connection with the work.

The Town Clerk advised that the Council would not tar the road but would block it off at both ends with posts, did not meet with the approval of the committee, in closing the road to vehicular traffic, seeing the front entrance to the club was effected from this road. The club favoured the treatment of the road.

15 March 1932, It was decided that an all day tournament would be held on the 5 May 1932. Mr. Johnson mentioned that a social and dance to be held, that, evening arrangements for which were well in hand. Would Commemorate, the Thirtieth Birthday of the club's existence.

29 March 1932, Tenders were received for the installation of the sewerage. The successful tender was from Mr. E. C. Tooth for £150 plus Contingencies of £25.

4 July 1932, This was the last payment to Mr. Tooth for the building of the Conveniences, installation of the sewerage

14 October 1932 A. G. M. Letter from ladies section requesting for permission, to be allowed to accept, more outsiders as members, was approved at the next committee meeting on 8th November 1932. It was also resolved that the Lady President must be, a members wife or daughter.

8 November 1932 The, Committee, decided to purchase, a shanks Motorised Mower For £81.10.0. Mr. J. Garnett, mentioned that he would attend to fencing No 1 Green at his expense. The committee, thanked Mr. Garnett for this fine Gesture.

4 April 1933, The President Mr. McDonald mentioned that he and Mr. Parry, had been to the railway and were able to purchase the necessary pipes in connection with the extension of, the irrigation, scheme. The cost of, these were £5. Instead of the estimated amount, of £20. This together with other promises of assistance in connection with the work will be a big savings to the club.

27 April 1933, The motor for the irrigation plant has burnt out and the cost to repair same, was quoted at £12. to £13. the opinion of the committee was that it would be cheaper to purchase a new IOHP motor.

A letter was sent to Mrs. R. McDonald expressing the Committee's And the clubs Best wishes for a speedy recovery of "Ronnie" McDonald.

8 May 1933, At this meeting the Acting President Mr. J. Johnson referred to the severe loss experienced by the, death of, our well beloved, President Mr. C. R. C. McDonald and moved that a letter of condolence, be sent to Mrs. McDonald, This was carried in the usual manner.