

THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

The President paid TRIBUTE to the splendid work of our late President "Ronnie" in bringing the members of the club and the Harmony which existed in the club today, and trusted that the memory of, Ronnie would be the means of keeping the harmony for many years to come. He had assisted the club in many ways, financially, and in connection with improvements on our greens as well as in the clubhouse, and we have lost, a true friend.

It was resolved that a wreath be sent from the club, the amount to be, subscribed to by the members and that, a cheque of £22.0. be sent to the Mayors unemployment fund in memory. A fund he had always taken an interest in.

A second hand motor, which was, only used for, two months was purchased at a cost of, £10.0.0. plus, installation. The old motor to be disposed of at the sub-committee's discretion.

26 May 1933, Mr. Parry brought up the matter of a Memorial to the Late President and suggested that as He had been very keen on the erection of a New Entrance Gate he would like to, suggest, it take this form. It was proposed that a subscription list be placed on the club notice board for members who which to contribute can.

The erection to be proceeded with without, delay.

By the 4 July 1933, donations of £17.10.0. had, been collected. 14 September 1933, the matter of Sunday bowls was again tabled at this, meeting. Discussion continued from this day until finally, on receipt of a letter from The Town Clerk, dated the 4 December 1933, Which stated "The question of Sunday bowls on the greens of the Martzburg Bowling Club having been raised and considered, I have been directed to inform you that the City Council, sees no reason to take any action in this matter, provided that, play on Sundays is restricted to the forenoon." The President had assured the Town Council that Sunday bowls at the club would be strictly mornings only and social bowls NO COMPETITIONS, will be allowed.

At the A. G. M. on 25 October 1933, a special presentation was made before the, commencement, of the meeting.

In 1911, together with, Mr. D. Cockburn. Mr. H. Wade won the club pairs title, Twenty two years later at the age of 80 years young, he won the title again, with Mr. J. Linforth as his partner. The presentation was made amidst, applause from all, the members.

30 October 1933, The design for the, memorial gate was tabled, and that the matter be, left in the hands of Mr. J. Garnett, with instructions to have the work done, and that everything be left in his charge.

The Secretary was, directed to write to the City Council asking permission to annex the piece of ground adjacent to the club's greens.

8 January 1934, It was, reported by Mr. J. Garnett that the Memorial Gate was nearing completion and only the Marble Slab to be secured to the gate, pillars was all that was left to be done.

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7 August 1934, Mention was made that the wooden posts of the, thatched, roof shelter were being, eaten away by white ants, it was resolved to replace them and for a more permanent structure brick walls to be built. The cost, not exceed £10.0.0.

At the A. G. M. on 25 October 1934, Mr. Linforth moved that an instruction, be given to the in-coming committee, to secure ways and means to improve the accommodation of the Ladies in the Club House. It was resolved that a Special Meeting be called for this matter.

7 January 1935, the matter of the suggested, improvements should be handed to Mr. Garnett, to have plans drawn up, and the estimated, cost of the improvements, and that, he report back as early as possible.

4 February 1935, Before the, minutes were read Mr. Garnett, submitted the completed plans of the intended alterations to the Clubhouse with additions as suggested by Mr. Parry. After discussion Mr Garnett was asked to call for tenders from Messrs R. Barras, F.W.Laurance, Perks and Martindale, Booth and Clark, and report at the next meeting. The Sec was, instructed to, write to the Town Clerk, and ascertain whether the Finance Committee would consider a further loan to the club of an amount of between £400.0.0. and £500.0.0.

4 March 1935, a letter was read from the Town Clerk, in reply to the application for, an additional loan, in which it was stated that, the committee in charge, had approved in principle of the loan, but certain legal difficulties would have to be overcome, before the loan can be sanctioned.

Mr. Garnett, reported progress in the building scheme, he stated that the tenders were invited from four reputable firms, three of whom submitted the fourth Mr. R. Barras, declined, to tender. On the, tenders being opened it was found that Messrs Perks and Martindale were the lowest, their price being £497.10.0., and Messrs Booth and Clark and Laurance were the same £525. 0. 0.

After discussion it was decided that the plans together with a notice be placed on the club notice board informing, members, of the committee's decision regarding this matter.

The committee mentioned that the money for the alterations would be requested from the members as the Town Council's reluctance to advise what legal problems there are for granting the clubs request of a loan.

6 August 1935, After being burgled for the second time recently it was decided to obtain a quote for burglar proofing. Cyclone Gate and Fence quote for £7.1.6. was accepted. They were requested to carry out the work, as early as possible.

24 October 1935, At the, A. G. M. the president referred to the fine spirit and generosity of, the members, of the club who had contributed to the building fund, and thanked them very sincerely, and said that he is sure that the members would agree that it was money well spent.

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4 November 1935, It was resolved that every third Thursday afternoon and Sunday morning be fixed for mixed bowls, this was arranged with the view of coaching the ladies.

The greens committee requested that permission be granted for the purchase of a domestic lawnmower for cutting the ditches and edges of the greens, as this was being done by hand at the present

6 January 1936, the M. and D.W.B.A. requested the use of two greens, on the 12 February 1936 for entertaining a visiting body of English women bowlers who were touring the country was, granted.

Mr Williams suggested having a, small disc fixed to pins, and that they be placed between the rink number plates, he thought this would be a distinctive guide when playing to the pins. It was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the greens committee.

4 August 1936, a letter was, read from the City Treasurer in, which, he stated: In order to safeguard the Corporation ownership of the land used by the club for the purpose of a bowling green. It has been decided to enter into a lease with the club at a rental 1/- per acre free of rates. Tenure to be as at the present: Viz at the pleasure of the Council.

7 September 1936, permission was granted that the M. and D. W. B. A. could use two greens for the women's S. A. National Tournament, from the 31st March 1937 to 9th April 1937. Further the, committee offered their services if needed.

At the A. G. M. on the 22 October 1936, Mention was made that the in-coming Committee, give thought regarding new club colours and that they report back to the members at an early date.

It took from 22 October 1936 to 3 August 1937, before it was finally decided on a, Dark Green and Blue striped blazer, but other, members who, were not in favour of the striped blazer, made a counter suggestion that a dark blue blazer would be more suitable as it could be, worn at, formal or social occasions, where as the striped blazer could only be worn for bowling functions.

It was therefore resolved that both blazers would be registered as club colours. The Blazers would later be available from Lamberts at a cost 36/6.

An additional hiccup was, that, they could not reach consensus on the design of the blazer badge.

5 April 1937 Mr J. J. Henderson was congratulated on his achievement at The S. A. Tournament Played at Kimberley in 1937, he was runner-up in the Singles and losing very narrowly. 5 July 1937, Kipbank invited the executive to the official opening, of their Clubhouse on the 2 August 1937, Messrs E.C. Parry, W. Gough, S. W. White and W. J. A. Clark attended.

At the A.G.M. on 28 October 1937, The President, congratulated, Mr. J. Garnett on being elected as The President of, The South African Bowling Association.

6 December 1937, It was resolved to have a suitable inscription fixed to the frame of the badges presented to the club by Mr. E. J. Hall.

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4 January 1938, a letter was read from Mrs. M. Smith Hon Sec Women's Section, in which She stated that they had received numerous applications from women who were desirous of joining the club. As the applicants were not wives of members of M.B.C. she would like to know how, many out-side members were allowed. The Secretary read the Ruling passed on the 5/11/1929: Hon. Membership of the Ladies Section shall be granted to ladies other than wives and daughters of M.B.C., up to and not exceeding 18, provided always that such Hon membership shall not be office bearers of the ladies section.

The Secretary was directed to write and bring this matter to the attention of the Ladies committee.

4 April 1938, Permission was granted to the M. and D.W.B.A. to use two greens on 12th and 13th May 1938 in connection with the Women's Natal Tournament being played in the City.

3 September 1938, The President brought up for discussion the question of purchasing metal lapel badges for the purpose of presenting to, members visiting M.B.C. from other centres was referred to Mr. Henderson to see Kerby and Co. regarding cost of importing. A sample was sent to a firm in Scotland, and 600 were ordered, the cost of the badge was 10d.

It was suggested that a letter be written to the Town Clerk, asking the Council to, reconsider and revise the undertaking given by the deputation from M.B.C. in December 1933, regarding Sunday Bowls. The Town Clerk's reply was:-

With reference to your letter regarding Sunday bowls, I beg to inform you that the City Council, has no objection to the playing of bowls on the greens in the park of, inter-club games of, a social nature or games with visiting bodies to the City on a definite understanding that play will be restricted to Sunday mornings only.

Signed, Jas McElthorpe (Town Clerk)
13/10/1938.

A.G.M. 20 October 1938, Mr. Parry, made mentioned that, as the club is in such a sound financial situation, he thought something should be done for one of the Oldest serving club members. He mentioned Mr David Cockburn who, he said, had been a member of this club since it's inception, and felt that this deserved some recognition and suggested that the Gentlemen be made a Life Member of the club. Was carried unanimously. Mr. E. W. Simkins moved that the in coming committee seek ways and means of improving the Clubhouse.

It was decided at the first committee meeting on 1 November 1938 that improvements to the Clubhouse stand down at present and would be looked into, at a future date.

9 January 1939, a letter was received from, M and D.B.A. notifying the date of the N.B.A. meeting, also asking the Club to express an opinion, as to the best means of raising the necessary funds, for staging the 1942 S. A. Tournament and to, what extent individual clubs shall be liable.

6 March 1939, Mr. J. Smith donated 10/6, The donation He said was for the purpose of purchasing club Badges, to be handed to

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the club's representatives participating in the S. A. Tournament; for presentation to opposing teams at the Tournament. The Committee thanked Mr. Smith for this fine gesture.

6 June 1939, The Hon Treasurer said he thought it would be a fine gesture on the part of the committee, if in future he were granted permission to present visitors, who were admitted as Hon members during their stay in the City and who donated £1.0.0. or more to the club funds with a club badge. Permission was granted.

Wednesday the 14 June 1939, it was resolved to cancel some club fixtures due to an, English football team paying a visit to the City. It was decided to leave the greens open for those not wishing to attend the football match.

With the outbreak of the Second World War it was decided that, once a month a competition be held and that the proceeds go to the War Fund.

At the A. G. M. on the 19 October 1939, Mr. Upton brought up for discussion, the question of giving value vouchers instead of spoons and other prizes in spoon competitions. He mentioned that at the present conditions due to the war, the vouchers would be, more suitable.

After a short discussion, it was resolved that in all spoon competitions, played in the future, the winner be given the option of either receiving a prize or a voucher.

Mixed social bowls was also discussed, and resolved that once a month on, the third, Sunday morning would be allocated, for mixed social bowls.

The honour of Honorary Life member of M.B.C. was conferred on Mr. T. Gibson, for his Yeoman's service to the club. Mr. Gibson has been a member of the club for some 35 years.

4 March 1940, the question of prizes for Sunday social bowls was brought up, the reason being that there was always great difficulty in purchasing suitable prizes for these occasions and suggested that, value vouchers, to the value of 7/6 should be given to the winners. It was decided (as an experiment) to give the Vouchers. The Secretary to make mention of this in the bowls notes.

14 March 1940, Special General Meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the contents of a letter sent by the Secretary of M. & D.B.A. (Briefly) Mentioning that at the recent, Meeting, of the Association, it was the unanimous wish of all the clubs present that Martzburg be Headquarters for the Natal Tournament from 11th May to 18th May 1940.

The club agreed subject to, the following conditions.

1. That one green be available every afternoon (Monday to Friday) for the use of club members.
2. That two greens are available on Saturday afternoon for, the use of club members.

3 June 1940, Mr. J. Garnett joined the meeting at 8.00p.m. said He has come along to mention that He had been approached by the ladies section Mrs Johnson during the Natal Tournament in

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connection with the accommodation for the Ladies at the club house. He said the objection appears to be the entrance to the Ladies toilets. He suggested that the present door to be closed and a new door be fitted on the outside of the building. It was resolved that the matter be left in the hands of Mr. Garnett, and that He report back at the next meeting.

6 August 1940, due to the prevailing conditions, the club rinks competition be cancelled this year, and the Annual friendly against Durban B.C. was also cancelled.

At the A. G. M. on 16 October 1940, the Secretary read a letter, from M. & D. B. A. which, was as follows;

In view of the inability of Pretoria to stage the S. A. National tournament issued this, Questionnaire.

1. What is the opinion of your club regarding the holding of the 1941 S. A. Tournament.

2. If the Tournament is to be held what is the approximate support to be expected.

It was agreed that the Tournament be held and that we would enter a rink.

After referring to Hon Membership it was decided to confer, Hon. Life Membership to Mr. J. Linforth who has been a valuable asset And has been a member, of the club for 30 years.

Mr. J. Garnett as a member of the Executive of the Governor General's National War Fund, paid tribute to the club for their splendid efforts in the contributing to the fund so generously to the fund and also thanked those who had donated their prizes Back, and to be donated to the war fund.

4 November 1940, members on active Service will retain their membership and not be liable for subscription during the War years was approved.

6 January 1941, The secretary wrote to Rev. Ian McDonald with a view to extending an invitation to all bowlers among the troops now stationed at the Oribi Camp.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS.

3 February 1941, The Sec wrote to the Town Clerk in regard to the Scholars from Martzburg College, who are using the path way between the Mayors Gardens and the Bowling Greens, and a request that extra pillars be placed at both ends of the pathway and a stop sign erected at the end of the path way near the croquet club.

15 October 1941, At the A. G. M. the president, made, mention that an amount of £180.0.0. was, collected for the War fund. This He said could only be described as Magnificent. During the years 1940 to 1942 the Annual friendly between Durban B.C. and Martzburg were cancelled due to the War, also some club competitions.

2 March 1942, "THESE SHOES WERE MADE FOR WALKING." An anecdote, of these days. Two pairs of shoes reported missing from the lockers of two members, it was suggested that if these shoes were not found the two gentlemen should be compensated

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and the Treasurer he moved purchase, six pairs of, sand shoes be purchased for the use of visitors.

19 October 1942. At the A. G. M. Hon. Life Membership was conferred on Mr. H. C. Lawrence who was the clubs Hon Auditor for, many years. Due to the prevailing conditions no Inter-Club competitions would be played for in 1943. The usual War Fund competitions will still be held once, a month.

At the A. G. M. on 20 October 1943, Mr. Joe Garnett was conferred with Honorary Life President of the Club for his service to the club, District and South Africa, and for his financial assistance to the club.

Mr. Sam Powell, requested the President to call a Special General meeting with the view to discuss the state of the greens, Layout of the grounds, Clubhouse, seating etc, etc.

The S.G.M. was called for on the 17 November 1943. To discuss the, following business;

1. To consider the present state of the greens
2. Raising funds to finance any further work agreed upon.
3. Any other improvements what so ever that may be decided on

Following; Some of the opinions, comments and recommendation made by those present.

1. Poor drainage, compaction, greens used to frequently, aerating before top dressing, aerating with spiked roller could cause compaction, should use fork made from tubular, material.

Check levels of green. Fertilize, with Karroo Manure it was most beneficial, said Mr. Garnett. Mr. Parry suggested the Sec write to the Corporation requesting the removal of the two gum trees.

2. Funds should be raised from members before going to outsiders.

3. That the present tool shed be removed and replaced with covered shelter for dispensing of refreshments and a new tool shed to be built behind No 3 green.

Car Park arrangements could also be improved.

That the present committee with additional technical assistance of picked members, be authorised to go into a general building improvement scheme, to be carried out over the next two or three years.

The following members were suggested as technical assistants.

Messrs. Garnett, Barras, Fischer, McLennan, Powell and Jackson 1 November 1943 at the committee Mr. Frank Birch requested the Committee to introduce Sunday afternoon bowls. Relative to the above The Secretary was directed to write to the Town Clerk requesting a ruling on Sunday bowls because of the agreement of a previous restricting bowls to Sunday morning bowls.

10 January 1944 the secretary read a letter from the corporation, advising that they have no objection to Sunday afternoon play on the greens. After some discussion it was agreed that to meet the expenses a fee, of 1/- to be charged, to players who take advantage of this offer. Notice to be posted on notice board for the information of all members, at the same time asking for signatures.

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It appears that M. & D.B.A. became P.M.B. & D. B. A. in November 1943, at the Annual General Meeting.

10 January 1944, the question of shelters around the greens was again raised. Permission was given to ask for quotes, for supplying the necessary material. Mr Redman and Mr Campbell were asked to take this matter in hand. At the Committee Meeting, on 7 February 1944 Mr Redman, advised the meeting that he had received a quote for the material for the shelters for an amount of £4.0.0. per shelter. It was decided to postpone the construction of the shelters for the time being.

There was some lengthy discussion as to whether future membership to the club be restricted. After more discussion from both sides, it was tentatively agreed that, full membership be closed at 150.

The Ladies section requested the approval, to allow the Indian to pour tea on Thursdays and Sundays p.m. was agreed to. It was also agreed to pay the Indian 4/- every Sunday.

6 March 1944, Mr Garnett was requested to express the views of the sub-committee of improvements formed at the S.G.M. He said that they had met and discussed and decided they would act only in an advisory capacity. They felt that they did not want to take away the control of the general committee in this matter. One point they had talked about at length was, that a notice be posted on the Notice Board embodying the decision of the S.G.M. and inviting suggestions of a constructive nature from, club members. The suggestions to be in writing to, The Secretary, and to be in his hands by 15th April 1944. It was felt that this would be the best way to avoid any disagreement from club members.

3 July 1944, Kliphank B.C. invited the club to send one rink to participate in their Tournament as part of their 21st Anniversary on 6th & 7th August 1944 was accepted, The President to choose his own rink.

At the A.G.M. on 20 October 1944, there was a lengthy discussion over a proposed motion from The District to be tabled at the A.G.M., in regard to clubs procuring permission from the District by the clubs before any open tournament could be held by these clubs.

There was divergence of opinion over this point and it was requested that this, matter be ventilated thoroughly at the Meeting. Hon Life Membership conferred on Messrs J Henderson and Mr Whigglesworth.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Henderson advised that he would not be available for re-election, as He felt that after 19 Years service it was time for someone else to take this, portfolio. Mr J. Slinger agreed to take this office.

To try and increase revenue for the club the following, measures be implemented immediately; Discontinue the awarding of cash prizes at War Fund competitions, issue Value Vouchers instead of cash, stop issuing biscuits on week days except Wednesdays and increase green fees to 1/-.

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4 December 1944, Mr Taylor in a letter suggested the raising of funds for building a new shed for top dressing, and a subscription list, be placed on the notice board, the President felt that due to the finances of the club not being in a healthy state this should stand down and be discussed at a later date.

3 January 1945, There was considerable and lengthy discussions regarding the finances of the club. The reason for the high expenses was in the main due to, the high costs at prevailing conditions due to the War, but it was agreed that there were ways and means of decreasing the expenditure.

It was finally decided to call for a Special General Meeting when the position of the clubs financial position would be fairly put to the members and suggestions called for in writing with the view of raising funds for the club.

The committee itself, asking the meeting for a mandate to levy 10/=. Per member, thereby raising a considerable amount, the balance to be raised by holding open tournaments.

Mr Redman said he considered that the woodwork of the club-house needed painting urgently to prevent it from rotting to quickly. Mr Slinger said that if the paint could be procured cheaply, it be considered that the Indian greens ast, could do the necessary work. Mr Garrett was asked to purchase the paint at the lowest cost possible, Mr Innes said he would supervise the actual painting.

At the S.G.M. on 21 February 1945, The President outlined the clubs financial position. There was, considerable and lengthy discussions, by many of the members mostly dealing with alternative ways and means of raising funds. Mr Parry's proposal that a War Levy of a minimum 10/= Per member was finally agreed upon.

5 March 1945, Painting of the clubhouse was delayed due to the work that, had to be done on the greens but would be done as soon as possible. The increase in green fees was to be posted on the notice board. 1/- Per game. 5/- Per week and 15/- Per month. This did not include competitions.

3 April 1945, letter from District that the Kerby Cup would again take place on 12 May 1945 after being suspended during the War. It was decided to run an all day series of games, spoon competitions the proceeds to go to some War fund; A special effort to be made by all members to attend as a THANKS offering for peace. To be held, on the day after "V" DAY.

S.A.B.A. paid a visit to Pietermaritzburg on 21 April 1945, and were entertained at M.B.C.

Mr McLennan stated that he wanted a definite issue on the improvements, scheme. See minutes of Committee meeting 3/9/1945

4 June 1945, It was decided to hold an open tournament on 12th August 1945 and all the proceeds to be donated to the Cripple children's Home to assist in them purchasing a cinematograph. Members were request to support this very deserving cause.

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2 July 1945, Mr Frank Lambert, enquired about his position in the event of it being possible to import, material for club blazers.

Mr. Frank Lambert was informed to continue importing, on the same condition as previously. Due to the War however it was advised that the cost of blazers would in future cost £6.6.0., compared to, 36/6 before the war.

3 September 1945, A report was read from the sub-committee for improvements the tenure of which was that, with the existing conditions appertaining to the building they considered that now was not the right time for any development of this sort. However the report, held out, promise for the future. The committee agreed that the attitude taken by the sub-committee was correct.

25 October 1945, at the A.G.M. the President said that due to the measures, previously mentioned the financial position had greatly improved. He also mentioned that due to the financial position although improved no structural alterations would be undertaken.

11 February 1946, Regarding a letter received from S.A.B.A. re; measurements, of greens, discussions ensued on ways and means to alter the greens to the size laid down in the letter. All agreed that this should be done but delayed until such time as Mr Garnett, had be in contact with some of his contacts in the Transvaal, to obtain their feelings and intentions and also to wait until spring if the club, has to alter the size. On 3 July 1946 Mr Garnett informed the club of receiving a reply to his questions about the size of greens. Mr. F. Stevenson stated that it was not the intention of the East Rand clubs to make any alterations to their greens.

The playing of McAllister cup was to resume again on 31st May 1946.

3 July 1946, Mr. R. Lambert intimated his willingness to donate the sum of £50.0.0. to the club for the purpose of erecting a suitable gate entrance on the college side of the club. Mr Barras was approached to do the work but declined due to being too busy, but said that Mr. C. Hambidge would be forwarding a tender soon.

The Corporation was approached for financial assistance, it was pointed out to them that as the club premises would never become the property of the club and that the premises were an asset to Alexandra Park some help should be forth coming from the Corporation. On the 9/9/46 a letter was received from the corporation stating that they could not assist the club financially or otherwise.

12 August 1946, The Acting secretary Mr Norris informed the meeting that the district were contemplating ordering metal lapel badges for presentation to winning clubs/individuals of district events, and they were asking to increase the levy from 6d to 1/- per member.

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Courtesy of The South African Bowling Magazine September 1946.

NATAL BOWLING ASSOCIATION TOUR By E.W.

August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1946.

The members of the Executive who participated in this tour were: Messrs. Oakley, Mc Donald, Kent and Wright. It was unfortunate that Mr. Lindsay could not go owing to a previous engagement. The following clubs were visited: Estcourt, Bergville, Ladysmith and Colenso. Mool River had been included in the original plan, but owing to the condition of the greens the Executive had to postpone this fixture to a more suitable time.

They left Martsburg at noon on Saturday, the 3rd August 1946 and played at Estcourt in the afternoon. After a most enjoyable game, which Mr. Kent skipped, the party left for Bergville. They arrived at 6.30pm and Mr. Forbes (President) and Mr. R. Barret (Secretary) very suitably welcomed them. They played two games of eleven ends on the following morning; Mr. Oakley skipped the first and Mr. Wright the second. The first game was won by a very comfortable margin, and the N.B.A. were recipients of a butter dish each. The Bergville greens are charmingly situated on the banks of the Tugela River, and the club is to be congratulated on its delightful surroundings and also in having such enthusiastic members in Messrs. Forbes and Barret. In his address, Mr. Oakley paid a high compliment to the club on the good progress made during its short period of existence; it is the "baby" club of the Association.

After lunch on the 4th the tourists left for Ladysmith, and arrived there just after 2 p.m. Mr. Horace Jones, the President of the club, was there to welcome them, but unfortunately the weather was not kind at this stage; the wind was blowing a gale most of the afternoon. Mr. Kent skipped the game against Ladysmith, and although the game was marred by the wind, Ladysmith (Klipbank) Club lived up to its reputation of good fellowship, and a very fine game ensued. The day at Ladysmith terminated with dinner at the Royal Hotel, at which Mr. Jones and members of the club were present.

The morning of the 5th found them on the road again, and they arrived at Colenso. The game here was skipped by Mr. McDonald, and very ably skipped too. After the game the Executive were guests of the Colenso Club to lunch, and Mr. Penny, the Chief Engineer of the Company, in an address of welcome, said how much the outside clubs appreciated visits by the governing body of the Natal Association. Mr. McDonald suitably replied.

The Executive members left Colenso after lunch for home, tired, but with the feeling of most enjoyable tour behind them. They were unfortunate in one respect, in that many members of the clubs visited were away from home taking part in tournaments at other centres, but were recompensed by the obvious pleasure given to those who were left behind to receive them.

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THE WHEEL HAS TURNED FULL CIRCLE.

9/10/46 as a matter of interest, a discussion took place regarding whether or not to have strings on the greens was again a live issue.

Agreed to re-introduce strings until definite ruling mooted by SABA

A letter was read from Mr. Caseley enumerating many ideas, the most interesting one being the issuing of membership cards to fully paid up, members.

25 October 1946, Durban B.C. wish to renew the annual fixture and suggested the first match to be played on the bank holiday in August, on the M.B.C. greens. The Secretary wrote to Durban B.C. requesting them to change to some Sunday preferably during June. After a lot of correspondence to and from both clubs they could not agree on a date and finally cancelled the match for 1946, but would try again next year.

It was moved that the By-laws of the club need serious attention, as there were too many loopholes. After being discussed at considerable length the by-laws were agreed upon. It was resolved that once the by-laws were typed a copy to be made for each member, and a copy to be framed and hung in a prominent position in the Club house.

The President drew attention to the poor state of the clubs equipment, which was causing the club considerable expense in upkeep and which would very soon need to be replaced altogether.

The committee decided at the meeting held on 9 January 1947 that a sub-committee consisting of Messrs Slinger, Blyth and Birch investigate the possibility of obtaining quotes and specifications for a new electrical lawn mower. On the 10/2/47, a new mower was purchased from McBeans at a cost of £80.0.0. The, secretary was requested to make enquiries in regard the disposal of the old mower. An advert was placed in the press for the sale of the old mower, but there were no enquiries so the committee decided to try and have the old mower repaired and to be kept as a stand by. It was stipulated that no more than £25.0.0. be expended in this matter.

10 February 1947, It was agreed that the date for inviting the District President, to the club for, an official visit be left over.

In the interim it had, been decided to combine the official visit of the President, and executive with the official opening of the Lambert Gate on 8 March 1947 and the District President performed the opening ceremony.

10 March 1947, in order to catch the District Committee meeting a letter had been addressed on the 4/3/1947, to the District requesting a hearing for the M.B.C. before the finalising of the programme on the subject of, Sunday play for District Competitions, of which the club was not in favour of. The District replied to the effect that such a hearing would be given after discussion and the reading of the letter from the club. The action taken by District was confirmed.

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On 27 July 1947, 12 rinks travelled to Durban to play a friendly match against Stella Park Bowling Club. Whilst playing their hosts tentative arrangements were made for a return, match on 11 July 1948.

In November the club played against Kibbank B.C and in December Kibbank, returned the visit.

9 February 1948, the greens committee reported that they had done the banks on No 3 Green (C) and would soon be doing the banks on No 1 Green (B) with the hope of having the banks done before the Natal Tournament.

7 June 1948, a suggestion was made to enclose one end of the verandah, the President mentioned it was not as easy as it appears and that a quote would be called for. The work was done at a cost of £60.10.0.

Under the heading of General the question of putting at a satisfactory, method of dealing with club members who did damage to the greens by BUMPING their woods on the green. Mr G.F. Slinger referred to this as a bone of contention of all green keepers, "The Dumper". He said that over the years of committee work never a season passed without a complaint from the greens committee in regard to damaged by bowlers with a delivery REMINISCENT of PTCH and TOSS. No solution has ever been discovered nor will there ever be.

At the A.G.M. held on the 29 October 1948, it was resolved that the friendly Inter-club fixtures between Durban Bowling Club, Stella Park Bowling Club and Kibbank Bowling Club (Ladysmith), should continue as long as possible.

These friendly games were popular amongst all the, members of these clubs, it was also suggested that friendly matches against, some of the local clubs as well, if dates are available be arranged.

Hon Life Membership was conferred on Mr. Adam Innes.

Letter from Parks Superintendent re derelict state of fencing and gate, facing West Street entrance to Alexandra Park and also wood and iron covering for topsoil. The Vice President Mr. J. Slinger and Mr. Flanders stated that they had already approached the Parks Committee and Mr. Lemon, regarding this matter. Mr Lemon had offered to meet with the greens committee and stated he was willing to assist in getting the position improved.

On 8 December 1948, it was reported that the Parks Superintendent, was arranging for the fence in question to be put into proper repair which would, most probably cost about £ 12.0.0. Mr. Lemon also suggested that a building be erected by the club to serve as Native Quarters, toilets and tool shed.

10 January 1949, the committee agreed that the fence and gate had to be put in order, as far as the building was concerned the Secretary was to have a plan drawn up and to obtain quotes for the erection of the building. It was also suggested that the plan should also consider the best, means, of providing a mixing shed.

THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

7 February 1949, Mr Flanders to approach Cnr Forsyth enquiring what best can be done to get quarters for the Native staff and to report back as soon as possible, after which application to be made to the Council re the latter.

It was generally agreed that the thatched roof tool shed was an eyesore and that it should be repaired with new rafters and new thatch, but matter be left over till winter.

A request was made to the Superintendent of parks to cut down three trees causing shadows on No 3 (C) were eventually cut down in September.

7 March 1949, The City Council informed the club that they were not in favour of the Native quarters being built on the club premises. It was the Councils intention to provide these when the new stadium is completed. Then application could be made to house the club's employees. It was decided that this matter be deferred until decision from Council is known.

New electric mower Shanks, it was reported that this, make may not be easily obtained in future and that there was one available now at £243.0.0. Mr. J Slinger Vice-Pres stated that spares would be available for the present one for the next two to three years and that it could be kept in good working order for that period and considered the purchase of a new one was not necessary. After discussion it was decided not to buy a new mower.

16 May 1949, The greens committee applied for permission to obtain four sprinklers and 200 feet of rubber hose @ 1/6 per foot. It was agreed that this would be a much more suitable way of watering the greens than by the present laborious and not altogether satisfactory method of flooding the greens. Another member said he may be able to obtain hose @ 1/1 1/2 per foot and he was asked to do this if possible. It was decided to get the sprinklers etc at a cost not exceeding £50.0.0.

4 July 1949 it was reported that the sprinklers were working satisfactorily, but to cover the whole green it had been necessary to purchase an extra 50 feet of hose at 1/1 per foot. This action was approved by the committee.

Painting of Clubhouse, it was decided that this was necessary, and if the paint could, be obtained at a reasonable cost this work to be done. The paint cost, a little over £7.12.0. after, it was completed.

Thatching for the tool shed. Messrs Redman and J. Slinger were requested to ascertain where thatch could be obtained, who could do it and the approximate cost. It was reported on the 10 October that the thatch roof tool shed had been repaired very satisfactorily at a total cost of £33.12.8.

At the A.G.M. on the 28 October 1949, The President, mentioned, the foresight of the members, who long ago had been responsible for installing the pump in the Dusi river, and by which means the club had been able to water, the greens during very dry winters and even when there were water restrictions in the City.

He also stated that the, past and present, green keepers deserve praise for their dedication and efforts in this difficult position.

THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

Mention, was, made that the club would be in for a busy year with the S.A.Nationals. The all Natal and the visit, of the British Bowlers, who would, be playing, on the Park, Country Club and Martsburg West greens.

5 December 1949, It was reported that at the Annual General Meeting of P. & D.B.A. annual general meeting it was decided to increase the levy from 1/- to 2/- per member and that with the visit of the British Bowlers to Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday February the 8th a special levy of 2/- per player to help with expenses would be requested from the bowlers, of, Martsburg.

Clubs 50th ANNIVERSARY in 1952.

19 January 1950, The Vice-President proposed that this should be commemorated in some practical way, such as the erection of a Tearoom, and lounge. After discussion it was decided to approve of this in principle but that the form of the commemoration be left till a later date, possible till Mr. J. Garnett, returns from New Zealand.

13 March 1950, re. Motorcar and Motorcycle club racing on the Easter Weekend. Owing to the inconvenience caused last year by members of the public entering club grounds and premises to get water, leaving lunch papers lying around and using the toilets. The Secretary was instructed, to write to, The Council and request him to please bring these matters to the attention of the Organisers, and request that they should take steps to prevent similar annoyances taking place this year.

12 April 1950, Top Dressing Shed. A plan, was submitted for this by Mr. Redman, who stated that the site for this building, has been approved by, the Deputy Mayor and the Parks Superintendent. After discussion on it's suitability, Mr Flanders offered to show the Plan to the City Engineer and ask for his approval and alterations if any. This was agreed to.

8 May 1950, It was reported that the, Civic authorities said that nothing could be done till the club submitted a formal application. The plan had been studied and approved. Mr. Redman was authorised to pursue this, matter.

14 June 1950, It was reported that tenders had been received and the lowest Quote, being submitted by Mr. Linscott at £131.14.0. Mr.Redman was directed to inform Mr. Linscott and instruct him to proceed with the building.

10 October 1950, Mr Redman stated that the shed had been completed.

12 February 1951, Club's 50th Anniversary, this matter was again brought up for discussion, Mr. Garnett stated, that some considerable time ago plans had been submitted for improvements of the clubhouse, it was decided to form a sub-committee, who would deal with this matter in detail, and to be tabled at the Annual General Meeting in October next.

A quantity Surveyor estimated that the cost of the Building would be approximately £2300.0.0. The Sub-Committee met regularly to discuss points of importance.

THE HISTORY OF MARTZBURG BOWLING CLUB

In the mean time members were requested to subscribe in the usual manner by debentures by the 10 October 1950 at a meeting convened before, the A.G.M. the Acting Treasurer stated that only £1070.0.0. had been, promised by 25 members out of a total of 160 members. In His opinion the lack of interest, shown by, members, was to be deplored, and he said in his opinion unless half the members subscribe the Committee would not continue with this matter.

12 February 1951, Mr. Jackson reported that He had examined the roof and discovered that serious damage had been done to the timber by white ants, they had also damaged doors. The damage was mostly if not entirely in the old part of the building. He considered that this matter be attended to, as soon as possible. It was difficult to estimate the exact cost of repairs but in his opinion it would be approximately £200.0.0.

Mr Linscott was approached to do the work of repairing the roof and the ladies toilets. Mr. J.Garnett offered to provide the timber required at a time when this was in short supply.

4 May 1951, a letter was received from the Town Clerk authorising the clubs permission to use the City Councils Coat of Arms as the clubs badge.

18 June 1951, it was reported that the alterations were completed at a cost of £123.15.3. The alterations were completed before the Ladies Natal Tournament commenced.

At a special Meeting held on the 7 October 1951 regarding the recommendations from the greens committee requesting to close the greens from Monday 8th to November 20th inclusive. The committee decided that these reasons were well founded and decided that all three greens be closed for play. The President then announced this decision to all members present.

Letter from Town Estates Manager, re; water leading, permit over Corporation owned ground. The club was liable to pay for a permit to continue watering the greens from the Durr River. Cost of the permit £1.0.0.

At the A.G.M. on 26 October 1951 Mr J. Garnett was elected as President. The position, he had held in 1920. He made, mention that, he had, had the opportunity to Visit, many clubs in Natal and beyond it's borders. Martsburg was the pioneer one in Natal and members should not only be proud to belong to it, but do all they can to improve the Amenities.

An effort had been made in this direction but unfortunately, the response from members to raise finances was to say the least very disappointing. Members were then told in detail why this had failed.

Mr. W.H. John was conferred with Hon. Life Membership.

On Recommendations from the greens committee, the greens would be closed on Mondays and Fridays until further notice.

At a Special Meeting on 24 November 1951, letters dated 5th and 22nd November from North and Sons were read. It was decided to purchase a Skanks Dragon Fly 24" cut mower with 8 blades and fitted with a 1 H.P. electric motor and 100yds of electric cable for

THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

£220.0.0. Net. The reason being that the old mower has broken down beyond repair.

On 10 December 1951, it was reported that the new mower has been delivered but not yet used, as there were minor alterations to be made to it. £173.4.0. was donated by 74 members and that if the balance could be paid from funds they could pay cash and receive the 2½% discount the suppliers had agreed to. The treasurer was instructed to take the matter in hand.

Further to closure of the greens it was decided to close all the greens in the morning a notice to the effect to be posted on the notice board.

An emergency meeting was called for on the 26 December 1951 to discuss the lack of entries for the National Tournament in 1952. There was only one name on the entry form that of Mr. R.C. Wylie who had entered the singles as well. The Secretary to write to the Tournament committee requesting refund of monies paid and informing that the club would not be sending a rink. (Since 1912 this is the first time that the club did not send a team to participate)

5 May 1952, It was reported that the blades, on the new mower had worn down badly within 3 months. After discussions it was agreed that North and Sons be approached about replacing it and querying if this be covered by the 12 months guarantee. North and Sons passed a credit note for the replacement of the worn blade.

A letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Ladies Section of the club, stating that the Committee agreed to their request to take over the control of tea and refreshments of the club, as from the 1st inst with the following Conditions. Which were Mutually agreed upon to by representatives of the Men's, and Women's Sections.

9 June 1952, Mr. Garnett suggested that the celebration of the Jubilee will take place on the 14 September 1952.

4 July 1952 letter to be written to City Council reporting frequent burglaries at the club and requesting assistance and suggestion on how to improve the situation at the club. The financial loss due to these occurrences was something the club could ill afford.

August 1952, re; 50th Anniversary celebrations on 15 September 1952.

At the A. G. M. on 24 October, 1952, It was mentioned that the, 50th Anniversary celebrations were a great success, and favourable

Comments, by many of the guests were made. Unfortunately the amenities of the clubhouse were not in keeping with the status of the club. Enlargements and improvements to the club are now becoming a major issue, as compared to other club the club is far behind, the times regarding adequate facilities.

Mr. McLennan paid tribute to Mr. Garnett on the success of the Anniversary celebrations and further to what was achieved during his term of office and that the club was indeed fortunate having him at the helm during the Jubilee year.

On the 11 December Australian Bowlers would be visiting the Club.

THE HISTORY OF MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

(Building alterations to clubhouse)

At the meeting on the, 12th March 1953. It was decided after lengthy discussions that the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the year and two members of the committee should undertake the raising of funds, for this purpose. Mr. Knowles and Mr. Sumner were suggested and they agreed. A circular was to be posted to all members advising them of this decision approved by the committee.

(Below is a Resume of the Improvements and Alterations to the Clubhouse. To report on the many suggestions and counter suggestions and the number of meetings they had over the period of time from when they first started with this project to the time of the official opening of the clubhouse would take up too much space). In 1952 it was decided to have alterations made to the Clubhouse the first effort was not a success due to the lack of support of the members financially. The Committee, were not prepared to allow this setback to deter them from continuing with the alterations and, many schemes were tried in the years that, followed to raise the necessary funds. The efforts of Messrs Joe Garnett and N. O. Jackson in attaining their goals are to be applauded, they put in a tremendous amount of time and energy and were finally rewarded when on the 2 June 1956 the Clubhouse was Officially opened. It was also very fitting that the opening ceremony was, performed by the Club's two Hon Life Presidents Messrs Tom Gibson and Joe Garnett.

The Cost of the alterations was, £1470.0.0. (£1000.0.0. being, a loan granted, to the club by, the Corporation. Mr Linscott was the builder. (As mentioned on page 12 the open verandah of the clubhouse built in 1924 see clubhouse as it is after alterations)

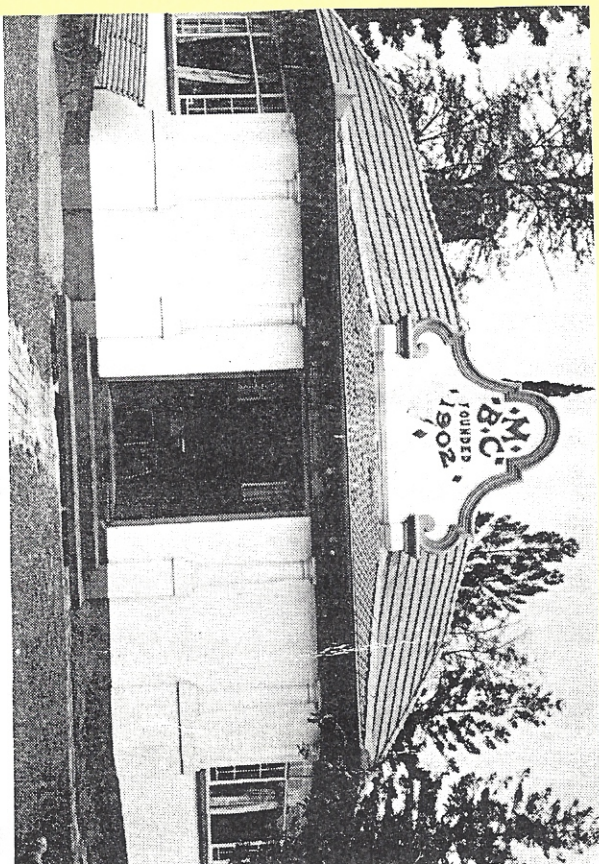
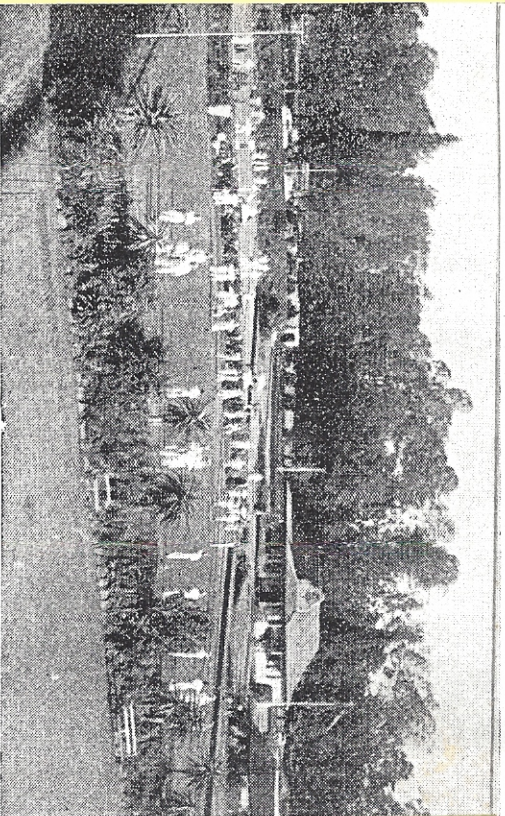


Photo: Camera Craft

Maritzburg Bowling Club

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS



MARITZBURG BOWLING CLUB

Natal Bowls Jubilee, 1902-1952

It is appropriate that the 1952 Natal Championship Tournament will be played in Maritzburg, because we have reached a significant milestone in the progress of Natal bowls. More appropriate still is the fact that the Tournament will be opened by Maritzburg's bowling Mayor (Councillor A. R. Warmback) at the Maritzburg Club, which has the signal honour of having inaugurated the game in the Province. The Maritzburg Bowling Club was founded in 1902, and after the usual lengthy preliminaries the first full-sized green was officially opened in Alexandra Park in 1904. The first President was the late Senator A. J. McGibbon and his secretary was the late Mr. Walsh. Like so many clubs with a long and imposing record the first club in Natal had for its initial amenity a piano case securely fastened to a gum-tree. Later a wood-and-iron club-house was erected, and this served until 1924 when the present fine edifice was built.

As we meet in front of the club-house to hear the Mayor's welcome to Maritzburg and receive his good wishes for a successful tournament, the time would be opportune to ponder upon the progress of our game in the past fifty years. We will be standing at the spot where the game in Natal first took root and from which a great fraternity has grown and flourished. 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. There are to-day thousands of men and women who get infinite pleasure from the game and wonder what they would do without their bowls.

In the field of administration and performance Maritzburg has played a prominent part in the game. Joe Garnett, the President of the Maritzburg Bowling Club, has the unique distinction of being a Life-President of the

National, Provincial and District Associations. Maritzburg East won the S.A. Rinks Championship in 1931; Wilfrid Keppeler won the S.A. Singles Championship in 1935; while E. W. Simpkins won the S.A. Veterans' Championship in 1931 and 1932.

The Natal Bowling Association is the second largest provincial Association in the Union, comprising six District Associations and twelve clubs affiliated direct. The following interesting figures reflect the position after fifty years of progress:—

	Clubs.	Greens.	Members.
Durban and District B.A.	36	64	3,180
Maritzburg and District B.A.	16	27	802
Natal Northern Districts B.A.	9	12	208
Natal Southern Districts B.A.	12	13	298
East Griqualand and District B.A.	7	8	208
Zululand District B.A.	4	5	107
Clubs affiliated direct	12	17	466
	96	146	5,269

Much has happened since 1902 when the first Natal club was inaugurated, but when the first Natal Tournament was staged in 1918 with an entry of five teams another significant milestone in the progress of the game was reached. The first Tournament after the second World War created a wider interest when the Rinks Championship was made an open event, and the popularity of the change was evidenced by the increased numbers taking part each year. The following figures show how the Championship Tournament has expanded.

	Maritzburg.	Durban.	Maritzburg.
	1950.	1951.	1952.
Natal Rinks Championship	80	132	88
Natal Singles Championship	273	404	293
Natal Veterans' Championship	57	105	61
Natal Pairs Championship	171	264	194

The Championship Tournament has captured the interest of the best performers in the Province, and it was open to players from all parts of the Union the entry would be overwhelming. Each of the events will require all a man's courage, endurance and skill to win and will be an outstanding achievement against the best in the Province. Each event will be contested in the best traditions of the game, but, win or lose, the five hundred players who participate in Maritzburg will come away still further bonded to the great bowls brotherhood.

Some will be out in open company for the first time and they will have a fine experience awaiting them. Tournament associations are the essence of the game. Old friendships will be reconditioned, new friendships will be made in the spirit of the game, which, at a tournament, is a real and living thing.

Jim Louwood.

This handbook has been compiled with the object of providing the competitors with a souvenir of their participation in the Natal Bowling Championships, and to give the bowlers generally an up-to-date record of the activities of District Associations, Clubs and prominent players in the Province. Information for the speedy compilation of competition charts and league logs has also been included, in the hope that this will be of assistance to club officials. This has been made possible by the support received from commercial houses for advertising space, and the most tangible way to express thanks would be for bowlers to return their support in the same measure.