

Earliest Records.

The first Minutes.....

A Meeting was held in the Cricket Pavilion on June 11th 1917 to consider the formation of a Bowling Club.

Mr Scott proposed and Mr Freeman Seconded that Mr Carter take the Chair

After some discussion it was decided to form a Holwell Works Bowling Club.

The Chairman proposed and Mr Heath Seconded that Mr Dalglish be asked to be President. It was unanimously agreed that the Subscription of 5/- and upwards be Vice Presidents, and that the minimum subscription be 2/6.

Mr Heath Proposed and Mr Freeman seconded that Mr Craik be Secretary and Treasurer.

On Proposal of Mr Baines, seconded by Mr Plack the following members of Committee were unanimously elected, Messrs Heath, Whittaker, Freeman and Dryman.

The Chairman promised to enquire about a set of bowls belonging to Mr Dalglish, and the Secretary was requested to obtain a quotation for a further set.

Mr Freeman proposed a scratch handicap to discover a Captain, but it was decided to defer the matter for the present.

Mr Baines offered to procure if possible a model set of Club Rules.

Signed by E Carter.

Committee Meeting June 20th 1917

Mr Carter in the Chair.

Present Messrs Scott, Hampson, Whittaker, Daykin, Harley, Heath, Craib and Scott.

Proposed Mr Whittaker and seconded Mr Harley that the purchase of bowls be deferred and the samples returned.

Mr Craik resigned the positions of Secretary and Treasurer and it was proposed by Mr Hampson, seconded by Mr Whittaker and carried unanimously that Mr Curson(?) be Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Mrs Allsop had very generously presented two complete sets of bowls to the club and the Secretary was asked to write to her and convey the thanks of the members for the gift.

It was resolved that the first game be played on Saturday the 23 inst.

General Meeting held March 7th 1923.

Mr R Thompson was elected to the Chair.

Proposed and Seconded that the balance sheet showing a balance in hand of 4/4 be passed as presented. Carried

Proposed and seconded that the following constitute the Committee.

Messrs Hampson, Harley, Spencer and Hanson.

Proposed and Seconded that Mr J Dakin be Captain.

Proposed and Seconded that Mr C Winfield (?) be Secretary and Treasurer.

Proposed and Seconded that the Subscription be 3/6 for the season.

Proposed and Seconded that we agree with the Tennis Club to play every other week on the present ground.

Proposed and Seconded that the Secretary write the management of the Stanton Co with reference to making a new Bowls Green.

Signed 9/3/23

Edwin Arthur a former member of the Club researched our History. Edwin moved to Hose but left his research notes to be used in the Centenary Year Book. We offer our thanks to Edwin for allowing us to provide this short history.

In the beginning:

A Meeting was held in the Cricket Pavilion on June 11th 1917 to consider forming a Bowling Club.

Mr Scott proposed and Mr Freeman seconded that Mr Carter take the Chair. After some discussion it was decided to form a Holwell Works Bowling Club. Mr Richard Dalglish, the Managing Director was asked to be President and the Chairman was Mr Ezra Carter the Company Secretary. It is not recorded if Mr Dalglish accepted however he was known as being interested in all sporting activities. Mr Dalglish died in 1922 and two years later Mr Tom Sarson became the General Manager at Holwell Works and assumed the role of President for one year and was then succeeded by Mr EJ Fox.

Mrs Allport, Mr Dalglish's sister very generously presented two sets of bowls to the Club in June 1917. It is recorded later in July 1921 the Club purchased a pair of bowls for Four Pounds and two shillings.

Within the new club anyone paying double the minimum subscription of five shillings could call himself a Vice President. This was discontinued in 1926.

At this time Holwell Works was a designated Munitions Factory, producing sink plates which were dropped into the sea with mines attached to them. The concept of Works Bowling Clubs was quite common for much of the 20th Century throughout England and as in the case of Holwell Works it was a men's only club.

A further meeting took place 9 days later on the 20th of June and there is no further record until the 7th of March 1923. The first game took place on the 23rd of July 1917 but there is no detail with regard to the opponent on that day.

Melton Mowbray Bowling Club opened their green on the 12th of May 1923 and played an evening match against Holwell Works BC. At the Holwell Works BC AGM in 1924 Mr J Daykin the Captain said he quite believed that they (Holwell) would never have had a club if it had not been for several of the Melton Players who came up on a Saturday afternoon to play them

As the club emerged it became clear that none of the new players owned any bowls. The minutes mentioned Mr Richard Dalglish owned a set and the Secretary was asked "to obtain quotations for a further set".

Inexorably the Story of Holwell Iron Company is linked to the Bowls Club. It was the coming of the railway that prompted the emergence of Holwell Iron Works. Mr Richard Dalgliesh a Civil Engineer when employed by the Midland Railway on the construction of the Melton to Nottingham line discovered a deposit of iron ore for miles north east of the railway near the village of Holwell. One of his colleagues on the railway was a Mr Howard Allport whose father was the General Manager of the Midland Railway. The two young engineers persuaded Mr Allport to purchase a farm at Holwell which he did in 1873. The Company was formed in 1875 to lease the mineral rights of the farm and work and sell ironstone. In December 1881 the first of four planned furnaces went into production but soon after an explosion occurred in which one man died and severely injured another who later died. Mr Richard Dalgliesh was partially blinded by the explosion.

By April 1888 operations were handicapped by a shortage of labour and it was decided to erect 12 cottages at Asfordby Hill.

1897 saw the beginning of welfare work when it was decided to build a reading room for the use of employees, followed in 1909 with the erection of the first Workmen's Institute which was later extended in 1911. A school was built at Asfordby Hill in 1909, before that all pupils had to walk to the school at Asfordby Village. At the time the school was built the "Hill" had become a fast growing community in what became known locally as the "Little Square" and the "Big Square" 72 houses were built in terraces round two squares, supplied with water from a purpose built reservoir and electricity all supplied by the Holwell Works.

In 1917 a long running dispute with the trade union was finally resolved and the company recognised the rights of the Gas Workers and General Labourers Union. In March 1918 negotiations began between the Iron Company and Stanton Iron Works Company with a view to amalgamation; by August of that year agreement had been reached and the two companies were joined although Howell was permitted to operate separately.

During the Second World War the Works produced mortar bombs. In 1947 the Company was taken over by Stewart and Lloyds. 1962 saw the closure of the ironstone quarry, the furnaces closed down and the chimneys so long a land mark were demolished. In 1985 Holwell Works became part of Saint –Gobain Pipelines.

The Distinctive Badge we wear is generally declared to be the Coat of Arms of the Crompton Family. The image of a horse with an arrow entering its chest was the works symbol of the Stanton Iron Company and it represents "the death of horsepower and the emergence of electricity power". Only one member of the Crompton family became a director of the Stanton Iron Company . John Gilbert Crompton, born on 29th December 1819 and who died one month before his 94th Birthday. The Stanton Ironworks was set up in 1846 and eventually the company was taken over by the Crompton family in 1858 who then owned the company for over 80 years and renamed the works to Stanton Iron Company.

How the Club evolved.....

20th June 1917. Mr Crab elected Treasurer at the initial meeting had since resigned and Mr CW Baines had been elected in his place.

7th March 1923. The Club agrees with the Tennis Club that we play every other week away from our present ground. At this meeting the Secretary was asked to write to Stanton and Co with reference to the making of a new Bowling Green.

30th April 1924. General Meeting set the subs at 5 shillings with ten shillings to become a Vice

President. Mr T Sarson became Club President.

26th March 1925. To avoid walking on the Cricket Ground a gate leading to the bowling green was requested. Mr EJ Fox became Club President. A game was played against Melton Town on May 4th at the start of the Hospital Carnival.

21st June 1927. Secretary to ask permission from the ***Sports Association** for the Committee to provide teas themselves on the occasion of the visit of the Notts Association on Wednesday 29th June.

****The Sports Association is best described in an article in the Melton Town and Belvoir Vale Gazette on the 4th of March 1927.*

The Sports Association which has been formed in connection with Stanton Iron Works Co Ltd, Asfordby Hill, promises to provide a rare stimulus to outdoor sport among the hundreds of men and youths who are employed by the firm. Mr R Clapham the once famous left winger for Everton FC has been appointed coach and grounds man: the sections include Football, Cricket, Bowls, and Tennis. The principle officials elected are: Chairman Mr T Sarson JP, General Secretary Mr TG Hockin, Cricket Messrs C Wood and T Challis, Bowls Mr C Winfield, Tennis Mr F Dickinson”

19th November 1928. Members agree to pay 6d each to provide teas.

19th June 1929. Notice posted “that no woods to be taken from the Pavilion without the Committees sanction. All woods to be returned by 7pm on Monday evening”.

Probably because Stanton & Co were in Nottinghamshire the Holwell Works BC had joined the Notts. and District Bowling Association in 1926 with an annual subscription of one guinea and remained members until 1938. A consequence of this saw the club playing against Doddington, Sherwood, Victoria Embankment, Newark and Cotgrave. It was noted that the bus “had to leave Trent Bridge no later than 8.30pm.

26th of February 1930. The Club requested two pairs of woods from the Sports Association. Later in the year on 13th of September the Club had a home game against Willoughby, 8 players were selected.

1931. Before the start of the season it was decided that teams travelling to away games should travel together, and by bus. Initially the team used a Holwell Works coach but later began to use a local bus company. On the 15th of April the Sports Association were asked to provide 4 pairs of galoshes sizes 7,8,9, and 10. At the same meeting the question of blazers for the year was discussed and it was decided to arrange for as many as possible to be fixed up on 25th of April when the first home game was to be played.

19th April 1933. 22 games arranged for the season. Marking Boards which would be made in the Works, to be placed at the end of 4 Rinks.

Two months earlier at the AGM one item of discussion was the possibility of joining Leicestershire BA. By the 19th of April a reply had been received from LBA which pointed out the Club would also have to adhere to the rules of the EBA. An extract from the Minutes says “after discussion it was suggested we write to the Association explaining we cannot comply with the rule concerning banks and to suggest that the Association send someone to inspect the green to see if an application could be passed in spite of the fact that the club was unable to comply with this particular Rule. No progress was made on this request and it was in 1938 when an application to join the LBA was successful. On 20th September a letter was sent to Notts. County BA withdrawing the Holwell membership.

During the 1930s and onwards the Club became very active in Competitions of which only one remains today, namely the Kings Cup. Others mentioned in records include; The Daily News Competition; Daily Telegraphy Competition; The Victory Shield Competition; The Queen of the Midlands Competition; The Guardian Cup; The Portland Bowl; The Charles Martin Shield. It is not known if the move of membership from Notts County BA to Leicestershire BA affected entry into any of these competitions.

The following article appeared in the Melton Times and Belvoir Gazette on the 23rd of June 1933. In connection with the Sir Jesse Boot Shield rink competition 1933 open to any number of rinks of three players from clubs affiliated to the Notts. County and District BA for the second time Holwell Works was represented by Messrs. J MacLaren; C Hooley and J Daykin (Skipper). They played the first four rounds on the Victoria Embankment Green on the 10th of June, all of which they won. The final stages of the competition were played on the Forrest Greens on the 17th of June when Holwell beat Newark 16-14 in the 5th round. In the semi final they met Queensberry beating them 25-5. In the Final the Holwell Rink met Bentwick Colliery whom they beat 21-14. The Shield, which was first contested for in 1911, is held by the winners for one year and a replica of the Shield is awarded to the winners. There were 105 rinks competing for the trophy this year".

Howell's participation in The Kings Cup was first mentioned in the Melton Times & Vale of Belvoir Gazette on 29th of June 1928. It read " The Annual Bowls Competition for the Cup presented by Mr King, formerly of Melton Mowbray , now in Australia, took place on Tuesday evening. Melton Mowbray a

the holders had the choice of ground and they won a close match of 21 ends by 3 shots. Mr T Brown, Chairman of the Melton Club congratulated Holwell Works for a good fight. Mr J Daykin responded. Holwell Works were represented by: H Hanson; H Hartley; J Daykin; AM Baxter; A Townsend; C Hinman; F Corah; R Hampson; C Hooley; B Pick; J McLean and CE Winfield". Later in 1935 The Melton Bowls Club as legal owners of the Cup suggested that Paton and Baldwins Bowls Club and the Melton Park Bowls Club be invited to compete for the Cup. Two representatives were invited to attend a meeting and later it is reported in the Minutes it is noted that following Holwell's home match against Melton Park on the 23rd of May 1935. A letter was later received stating Holwell had not complied with Rule 5 which stated that a team must consist of 16 players and went on to suggest that the match was rearranged to settle the matter.

At an AGM on 12 February 1948 Holwell Works members were told a letter had been received from Mr Hides. Honorary Secretary of the King Cup Committee, which suggested that the Buckminster Cup, Coronation Pairs and the King Cup Competitions should be run under one Committee and that the four clubs interested would form the Melton & District Bowling Association. This was agreed by the meeting and the delegates chosen to represent Holwell Works were Mr F Dickinson and Mr J Callaghan (Secretary). Later in 1962 it was suggested that the King Cup matches should be 18 ends rather than 21, a vote was taken but no one was in favour of the change.

During the Second World War the club continued. In 1941 the members were told that there was no chance of obtaining buses that year, petrol rationing had been in force since September 1939, consequently all County and Local Competitions went into abeyance. In 1944 conditions must have eased because Committee Meetings started up again, although at the AGM it was learned that only one Fixture had been arranged. Also in 1944 on the 8th of July a County Match was held at the Club. The Final Score was Leicester County BA 77 Melton & District BA 65.

The 1945 AGM agreed that a Club Singles and Pairs Competition should be started, the former to be a Handicap Competition and the Secretary was asked to approach the Company for a Cup or Trophy. It was also agreed at this meeting to allow lady members to use the Green.

During 1946 the club is active participating in both the King and Buckminster Cups. The Club decided that the Winner of the Singles Handicap should receive 16/- and the runner up 8/-.

Mr A R Knight was presented with a barometer in recognition of his services to the Club having been Secretary for 18 years. The Presentation was made during the tea interval of a game versus Stewart and Lloyds in May 1946. Also in 1946 the AGM considered the members request for Sunday play and the decision was taken to elect a President each year. It was also decided that if a Committee Member failed to attend three meetings another member would be co-opted in their place.

In 1947 Mr J Daykin who had joined the Committee in 1917 and had been Club Captain in 1923 was elected as President. At the same meeting Mr A R Knight who had served as Secretary 1930-1945 was elected as the first Vice President. The Club had a membership of 44 at this time, 37 had played 32 matches of which 6 of the members were in 25 Friendly Games. The King Cup had also been won along with the Coronation Pairs Tournament and the Buckminster Cup.

During the post war years the Club was competition orientated with the County and the recently formed Melton and District BA. In 1948 Club Competitions did not get completed until 1949. Also in 1949 the Sports Association was asked to provide blazer pocket badges similar to those worn by Stanton players.

In 1950 a Cup was donated by Mr F Dickinson for the "Green Championship" and due to the efforts of Mr G Webb and Mr J Jackson the club also had two Silver Cups for the Pairs competition. Despite this no Club Competitions were held that year. Success was gained at County Level in 1948 the Triples was won by T Challis, H Bodfish and H Annable; Pairs successes in 1952 and 1954 and Triples in 1954 (no names recorded) and in 1955 T Challis won the County Singles.

In 1952 it appears that the Club rather than the members owned the bowls and a situation that resulted in a complaint being made at the AGM led to a ruling: "That woods to be returned on the Monday following Saturday matches; also no shoes with heels to be worn on the Green" There must have been a need for galoshes (before the advent of flat heeled shoes being worn on the green galoshes were worn as over-shoes) because a request for 12 pairs was sent to the Sports Association directly after the meeting" During the next few years some of the changes which were noted were: It was agreed for the 1951 season there would be a board where, if members wished to play the could append their name.

In 1955 members agreed not to use the Green prior to a Saturday game.

For the 1959 Season it was agreed to hold a Novice Trophy for anyone who had not won a tournament. Entry 1/- with the winner to take all.

In 1963, Cyril Winfield in his President's Year was the Club's Champion of Champion.

From 1965 it was agreed that members should have and should wear Club ties.

In 1959 "The Who's Who and Encyclopaedia of Bowls" which listed all the Bowls Clubs throughout the UK had an entry for Holwell Works BC telling us that our then eldest member was Harry Hanson, aged 80, having joined the Club in 1918. At the Works he had been a Pipe Shop Foreman. Later research showed he served on the Committee 1924—1927, 1947, 1951—1955, was Vice President in 1948 and President in 1949 and 1950.

The Minutes of the next few years provided our researcher with little detail however it was noted

that in 1963 Mrs Bray offered a cup in memory of her husband and that it became the Two Wood Competition .

There was no mention in the Minutes in 1965 of the decision to waive the membership restriction to management and foremen, or of the 50th Anniversary of the Club in 1967. Giving trophies was more popular because at the 1970 Annual Meeting, the members attending were told that a Mrs Thurman of Rhodesia had offered a trophy to be competed for in the Club in memory of her father, Mr G W Whitlock. The offer being accepted it was decided initially that the best way to utilise this trophy was for a Sunday match on 27th June 1971 between a President's team and a Vice President's team. The 1973 AGM agreed that the winner of the Rose Bowl should be selected by the President, VP, Captain and Vice Captain; the winners name to be placed in an envelope and opened at the Annual Dinner.

At the 1976 AGM Mr Brian Sutton was elected as the Club's first Competition

Secretary. Earlier during the playing season there had been a Sunday game against Stanton.

In 1979 the AGM appointed the Club's first Treasurer since 1926.

In 1980 the President's Day was held on a Friday evening as there was no Saturday dates available.

In 1982 , A Holwell member, Mr Jack Smith was elected the President of Leicestershire Bowling Association and for the same season it was decided to use Company transport (a 12 seat bus) together with one care to take members to away matches with the car driver getting a mileage payment.

The Club's first Fixture Secretary, Mr Brian Boag was elected at the AGM in 1983. The same meeting agreed that from then on all Officers elected would form the full Committee. The meeting recommended that the fee for visitors would increase from 5p to 50p.

The title Treasurer was changed to Financial Secretary at the 1984 AGM, although scurity of succeeding AGM Minutes reveal that both titles stayed in use.

In the 1984 season the Club won the Mercury Cup for the 2nd year running; also recorded was that the Green was re-turfed that year.

In 1985 two members, Colin Chamberlain and John Coleman won through to the Quarter Finals of the Nat West Competition at Worthing.

In 1985 at the AGM a request was considered for a Ladies KO competition; after discussion the members agreed the request..."as long as they didn't do any damage to the Green". Brian Boag said his father had a shield that he would donate to the competition. Two Club stalwarts died in 1985 Syd Ecob and Cyril Creed; members were told that the family of Cyril Creed wished to donate a trophy in his memory: it was decided to have a competition based on the Set idea, 3 sets up to 7 ends with later rounds of 5 ends.

43 Members attended the 1986 AGM and it was recorded that good fund raising had allowed the Club to purchase a new mower, a scarifier, a spike cutter and a hole cutter. It was noted that the Financial Secretary Michael Bonshor was moving to Bishop Stortford. During the 1986 season the Club had reverted to using cars to take members to Away games and it was decided to continue with this arrangement.

From 1987 onwards all Social Committee duties would be undertaken by the full Committee; The Social Committee created in 1983 was disbanded.

The Secretary's Report to the AGM in 1988 read;

"The Club has lost one of its greatest members ever this year in Alex Hockin, the work he put into

our club over the years was tremendous, he was a stickler for the rules and a character as well, he will be greatly missed by all"

The same AGM heralded two changes, one of which would, in later years bring benefit to the Club. The word "Works" was dropped from the Club title, heralding a Private Club to be known as "Holwell Sports Bowling Club" and late running parallel would be the Holwell Sports Ladies Bowling Club".

The Ladies StoryThe inaugural meeting was held on the 21st of April 1989 when Mrs Lynn Hackett, to whom it had been suggested at the Men's 1988 AGM that a Ladies Section be formed, announced she had been in touch with Leicestershire Ladies Bowling Association with regards Affiliation. The meeting unanimously decided that the club be formed, to be called Holwell Sports Ladies Club . The ladies attending the first meeting were: Lynn Hackett, Sheila Batsford, Jenny McConnell, Mavis Ellis, Esther Reek, Gillian Cold, Roberta Dixon, Olive Trower, Pearl Dixon, Sue Dixon and Audrey Hewitt. The meeting then elected Officers who would remain in office for the rest of 1989 and all of 1990. President : Lynn Hackett. Vice President: Sue Dixon. Captain: Sheila Batsford. Secretary: Audrey Hewitt. Delegate: Gillian Cole. Audrey Hewitt was also elected Treasurer however this post was never mentioned again in the records.

The Ladies first AGM on 28th November 1989 made some changes to the Officers for 1990. Vice President: Eve Simpson. Vice Captain: Anne Whittaker. County Delegates: Eve Simpson and Audrey Walker. The meeting also agreed that a donation of £5.00 be paid by all members, no charge to non-playing members and that names would be taken of members requiring more playing instruction. It was also spelt out that the Dress Code for President's Day was to be "Whites to be worn, also brown shoes and tights.

Through the Ladies early years little is recorded in the Minutes, the ladies did not seem to spend much time attending meetings. What does emerge is that they quickly got down to fund-raising, and by the end of their first season they had sufficient funds to buy pushers followed over the years by new crockery teapots, water jugs and curtains for the Ladies Changing Room. The AGM in 1991 reported the Club had 30 lady players and agreed on green fees of 60p in line with other clubs and later in 1993 that the Ladies and Men's Club shared the Alec Hockin Triples Day but separate President's Days`

In 1995 at the Ladies AGM it was reported that the ladies had been Runner Up in the County 2 Wood Triples. It was also agreed at this meeting to write to the Men's Section asking "what the Ladies Section can or cannot do and is it to be a Mixed AGM in the future or still men only". The following year the AGM agreed that one position to be held in office by one person. 1997 Ladies AGM reported that an edge trimmer had been bought for Green Maintenance. Ladies were asked to vote on coloured waistcoats, green with gold club title to be bought with the £120 won by the Ladies Triples League. This was agreed. It was mentioned that at the 1996 Ladies AGM members had voted to wear hats for matches but because wearing hats was now optional, one or two ladies abstained from wearing them. The 1997 Ladies AGM voted for hats to be worn. In the 1998 Minutes the death of Audrey Hewitt was recorded, an original member of the Ladies Section and Secretary from 1989 to 1992.

At the Ladies President's Day in July 1999 Mrs Frances Blythe gave a plaque to the Club, to be presented by the President to a lady member who had worked and helped all round for the club (but not a member in Office) and who had never won any trophies. The Plaque to be known as the Francis Blythe Trophy. In 1999 the AGM rescinded the ruling that waistcoats must be worn at all

times; waistcoats now only to be worn at Triples League matches. In 2003 it was reported that Holwell Ladies had won the Melton and District Round Robin Triples League and at the AGM the decision was taken to no longer prepare teas for the Melton and District matches and suggested that the player's wives should prepare them. The 2004 Ladies AGM took the decision to write to the Men's Section "re paying the same as the men; there is only a difference of £3.50 and we can have the same say as the men". It was also noted that the Melton Park Bowling Club had disbanded in this year. The ladies wrote to Frank Fielding the Men's President following their AGM in 2005 asking for more help from the men with preparing and serving teas. The same meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Eve Simpson for her 9 years as Secretary. (Eve had been Vice President in 1990, President 1990 and 1991, Secretary 1993 to 2005 and Delegate 1990 to 2006). A vote of thanks was also recorded to Monica Payne for her hard work establishing a very successful Sales Table which had over the years raised over £1000.

Some notable items recorded at the 2006 AGM included: Mabel Lewis had died and that her name was placed on the Roll of Honour. The County Senior Vice President and the County Secretary had attended her funeral. A letter had been received from the family expressing their appreciation of the Guard of Honour. The game against Kegworth was cancelled because of hot weather; a good game in the Benevolent Match: The Mabel Lewis Trophy was held on our green for Holwell Members Norma Jackson won and Beryl Kurth was Runner-up. The Ladies Section membership stood at 31 with 4 non playing members.

In 2007 it was noted the governing body would be known as Bowls England. Members were also told that each tea group would have to attend a Food Hygiene Course. Maureen Farrow and Norma Jackson volunteered.

The Club Secretary Ian Packwood resigned on the 19th of August 2008 and Thelma Stubbs became the stand-in until the next AGM. Also during the 2008 Season the ladies won the Vesty Cup playing Hinckley Spa and at the AGM it was agreed that Joan Cleghorn's name should go forward to be an Honorary Life Member.

Reading through the Ladies Section Minutes of 1989 to 2009 our researcher was left in no doubt that the Ladies Section was well organised and worked well to a pattern. If unification had not intervened the Ladies Club our researcher noted they would have become a force to be reckoned with, as it is, now in the 21st Century the ladies play more than their part in the running of the Mixed Club which came into being in 2010.

Continuing the Men's Section Story. In 1991 Ian White and Colin Chamberlain reached the National Pairs Final and subsequently donated their prize money of £75 to the club.

There was no mention in the Minutes of the 50th Anniversary and the 75th Anniversary fared just a little better. It is known that pennants were ordered to give to visiting teams in 1992. It is also known that the English Bowling Association and the Leicestershire Bowling Association had accepted the invitation to play as part of the celebrations, photographs of the teams are on display at the Club. 35 Clubs played at Holwell that year including teams representing the EBA, LBA and Midland Counties. Whilst many of the visitors were familiar to the home side, it is interesting to note there were games against Grimsby, Wisbech, Holwell (Herts), Marlborough, Whitevale and Langham. Additionally on the 10th of June a representative match was played Melton & District v Lincolnshire Poachers.

The Minutes reflect the following: on the 8th of April 1192 it was recorded " With the new season

soon to commence Mr Orton said than an interesting 75th Anniversary could be anticipated. The Green was in excellent condition and the shelter would soon be completed. Membership had increased by 16. The opening game would be played on April 25th.” and at the end of the season on the 14th of October “ Mr Orton said a successful 75th year was now reaching conclusion, All Fixtures and representative matches had been completed and were attended by guests from both County and Country Level. Bar and refreshments had been well organised. A celebration dinner would be held early in November and the County President and Secretary would be invited to attend. The Club’s first Junior Vice President was elected in 1994, a year in which the Club gave an Honour Match to Nelson Taft to celebrate his 50 years as a member during which time he had served on the Committee 1954 to 1956, 1963 to 1966, 1974 and 1980; became Vice President in 1961 and President 1962 and was also Vice President in 1967 and 1972 and Captain in 1968 and 1973. He also served as Green Warden in 1967 and 1969.

In 1994 the Club won the County Rinks and Triples; reported in the Minutes that this was the first time the Club had achieved this.

The 1997 AGM recorded that there had been a bad start to the season due to hail, snow, sleet and rain. Matters improved and it was recorded that Peter Farrow had reached Worthing for the 4th successive year in the Singles and had also won the Buckmister Cup. The Club had also won the County Unbadged and been runner up in the County Singles.

From the 1999 season it was agreed that all home matches would start at 2.30pm. have both a Saturday and a Sunday Fixture over a given weekend.”

The Secretaries Report at the AGM in 2015 read “We lost Geoff Tydd this year and he is and will be sorely missed for a long time. Reg Freeman has not been well enough to play and it is hoped he will be back with us next year, it was good to see both Reg and Margaret at Presentation Night. Sadly we have learnt that Peter Farrow is very unwell, we have sent him our good wishes.

During the first five months of the year significant effort was put into our Open Day on June 13th with the support of the Committee. Alan Tipper was a driving force in all of this and we owe him a real debt of gratitude. Free Membership for the first year was approved and relaxation in Dress Code when playing a chummy or practicing.

On the day the heavens opened but this did not deter people from coming along and from this group Leon & Tina Dawson, Tony & Jackie Lambell, John Richardson and Dennis and Viv Hopkinson have all taken up membership we hope all will remain with the club for a long time and enjoy the friendship and facilities. There was a lot of laughter and a really good feeling about the day.

Building on this we hope to repeat the exercise in 2016 and are planning an Open Weekend on the 7th and 8th of May. It is hoped to run a BDA Road Show that weekend or just before. It is essential that we continue our recruitment drive to ensure our club thrives in the future. So many people helped and contributed time and effort my thanks to you all. We now have enough information to apply for funding to help us buy equipment needed for the newer bowler.

We have also had more chummy and supper evenings which have proved to be popular and when the weather has been inclement we have had a quiz before the supper. Many thanks to all who supported these evenings. The committee are planning to have more of these social evenings which bring everyone together.

We quickly discovered whilst preparing for our Open day that our whereabouts is pretty much a secret known only to ourselves. The advertising has helped but to make the Club more visible the

Committee has approved erecting signage at the front of the Pavilion. The green keeping team have done an amazing job of clearing the front and David is looking into replacing the fencing. All of which should improve our profile.”

In 2016 the Secretary’s Report contained this information “The committee through a series of events has been successful in increasing our membership to a 57. This was achieved by having a Play Bowls Road Show followed by an Open Weekend. During these events we were very glad to welcome Sue and Simon Hall, Anne and Colin Spaulding, John Merry, Brian Rippin, Anne Spencer and Stuart Tipper as members. Sue and Simon then introduced Paul and Clare Clarke. A little later Sue Hall organised and afternoon for her church group. We hope the effort we have put into the Monday afternoon sessions and Friday Night Chummies has provided a good learning ground and provided the fun and enjoyment we were aiming for. Together with the members who joined last year John Richardson, Dennis and Viv Hopkinson, Tony Lambell, and Tina and Leon Dawson the Open Days have increased the membership by 18. We achieved Gold Package Funding from the BDA and for our efforts were awarded a grant of £400. This funding helped with some of our advertising including the Signage which we now have on the Roadside beside the Club. There should be no excuse now for people not to find us. We have also applied for a Club of the Year Award through Bowls England. During our centenary year the Monday and Friday sessions will continue to be advertised and a banner at the front of the club will be put in place giving details, along with advertising throughout the town. Alan does an excellent job ensuring all this is in place. Many Thanks Alan.

The improvements made on and around the green by our green keeping volunteers have made such a difference to our club and on everyone's behalf I would like to say a big thank you to all involved. Their work continues throughout the winter on a Monday morning and the camaraderie amongst the group is really good humoured. Anne our President has done so much to ensure the smooth running of the club despite being unable to play for the best part of the season and deserves a special mention. The Committee consists of quality rather than quantity with many members doing more than one job, my thanks for all you have done everyone.”

And so to 2017..... We will be making our Centenary Year History to be recorded.