

## *Getting The Ball Rolling*

### **A Short History of Fish Hoek Bowling Club**

**[Founded 1931]**

In 1930 Fish Hoek was a holiday village, primitive, sparsely populated with sand hills predominating. The train line went to Simonstown. The Outspan was just that, a place to outspan the carts. The majority of the people there were on holiday. But, there, were plans afoot to end all that. In charge was a body called The Village Management Board. They invited some architects from the University of Cape Town to design a layout for the village. This resulted in the series of hexagonal patterns which confuses visitors today. More importantly, a Central Sports Committee was established to deal with the sports facilities.

So bowls was considered amongst other games. The Central Committee drew up space for a combined cricket and football field, three tennis courts and a BOWLING GREEN. All on the hexagonal which is now the grounds of the Municipal buildings.

A public meeting was planned for the people who were interested in bowls. Letters of invitation were sent out, as well as posters being distributed. On 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1930, in the English Church Hall, a 'disappointingly small' audience was welcomed by Mr J Johnston (who was presiding) and proposals for a Chairman were called for. Mr H Jager was proposed and accepted the post of Founder President of a Working Committee. Mr Herman Scott Jager was also the first Chairman of the Village Management Board. An enthusiastic and positive man, he proposed the formation of a Fish Hoek Bowling Club.



FISH HOEK BOWLING CLUB FUNDING COMMITTEE ELECTED 1930

The Village Management Board raised the money for the lay-out of the Bowling Green and people interested in joining the new Club were assured, that they would not be asked to accept responsibility personally for the capital sum. The club as a whole would pay an annual rental of £15 to the Board. On April 8<sup>th</sup> 1931 (Mr Jager presiding) there was a meeting called, in order to lay down specifications for the new bowling green, as requested by the VMB. This was accomplished, the only other major point of discussion being a decision to run a sweepstake to raise some money.

The next meeting was on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1931, again with Mr H Jager in the chair. The Western Province District Bowling Association had written to invite the new club to affiliate with them. They would then be able to participate in WP games. The exact reply was not recorded but appears to have been a pending action, until they had a proper club, with a playable green organised. The Club lent the Central Committee £15 to assist in the payment for the contractor, who was doing the work. The Central Committee Constitution called for a sharing of surplus money to ALL the sports clubs within its ambit. The Bowls Club drafted a letter against this idea.

Mr Jager once more presided over a meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1932. After opening the meeting he intimated that as the date for the AGM was close at hand, he wished to resign from the Chair to make way for someone with knowledge of the game and the management of a Bowling Club. While regretting this move by the Chairman, the members agreed that having an experienced bowler for the first year would help to make a success of the Club. Accordingly, they recorded a vote of thanks to Mr Jager, for his 'timely arrival' and accepted his resignation. Mr Elliot was then proposed and elected as the new chairman. He said that he hoped his experience with the Retreat Bowling Club would stand him in good stead. The Secretary was then asked to write to the WPBBA to request affiliation 'when necessary'. A note was made that a draft Constitution was being prepared.

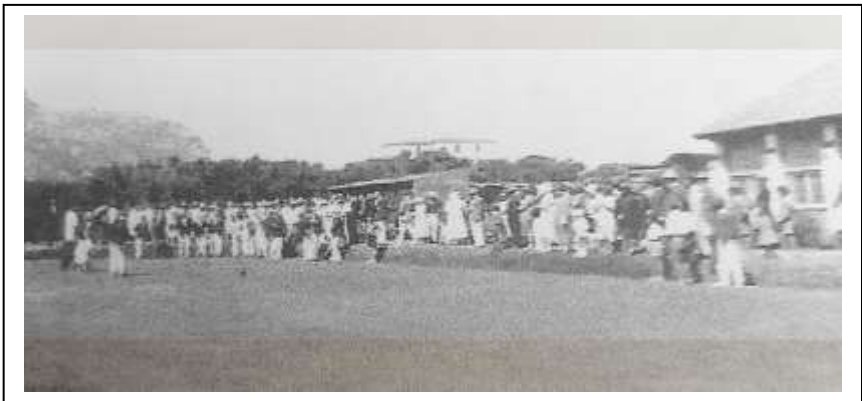
Finally, there was a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1932, with Mr Elliott in the chair.

It was decided to send the (£1/1shilling) affiliation fee to WPDBA. The rest of that meeting was devoted to preparation for the inaugural meeting to be held in the Recreational Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1932.

The next two meetings of the committee sorted out a number of domestic issues. Details as diverse as lockers, teas, insurance, the new green and cleaning of the Hall. They shared the Recreation Hall with other sporting bodies. This Hall eventually became the MOTH Hall, as we know it today. It was planned for the new green to open on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1932 but the green was not ready for play. The date was postponed provisionally until 12<sup>th</sup> November 1932. Members would be notified through the press before 29<sup>th</sup> October. The Committee also concerned itself with choosing teams for play at other clubs. Details for club subscriptions were decided on. Annual Fees (£3/3s shillings), a locker would set you back a further 5 shillings, refreshments were set at 10 shillings for the season or 2 shillings a month. Count Labia was invited to open the new club. It was then decided to buy one bottle of whisky, three bottles of brandy and two dozen sodas for the opening ceremony. *All other arrangements for refreshments were left to the ladies. So, nothing changes.*

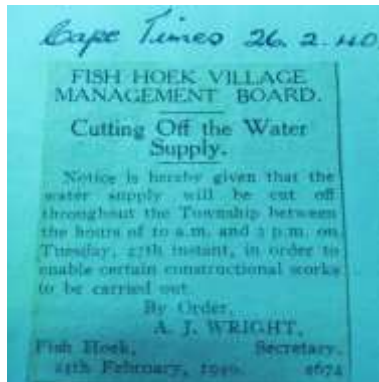
## THE OFFICIAL OPENING

November 12<sup>th</sup> 1932 dawned. The newspaper records that the weather was excellent. Count Labia had sent apologies. At 15h00 the Mayor of Simons town, Mr Mustart, opened the new Club and got a hearty reception from a large gathering of bowlers and their friends. (Cape Argus)



Over the next few months the working of the Club got under way. A Green Ranger was felt to be a necessity and Mr Retief was appointed. The Club had one groundsman and, as records continued, this individual was changed as became necessary. The Committee did quite a bit of fund-raising, to pay their way. Club colours were chosen and teams were chosen for rinks play, against other clubs. Then, in January 1933, concern was expressed about the water supply to the green. This was felt to be inadequate. At this time the water supply to Fish Hoek Valley was an ongoing

problem. So a sub-committee was appointed to investigate the idea of running pipes with a bigger diameter. They also began to water the green at night, to counteract evaporation.



The Ladies section was allowed the use of one rink on the green. Ladies competitions were held and when they needed extra space, had to ask the Committee.

In May 1933, Mr Retief resigned as Honorary Green Ranger and Mr Noble was elected in his place. About this time, the idea for a clubhouse of their own was mooted. Plans were drawn up and it was decided that it could stand on the north side of the green, opposite the existing Recreation Hall. The Committee decided to write to the Village Management Board asking for £250 to build the clubhouse. When the money was not forthcoming, the idea was postponed and the hire of the Recreation Hall for another year, was negotiated.

At the AGM in August 1933, it was noted with some satisfaction, that membership had increased from the original 25 men and 12 ladies, to 38 men and 23 ladies. Count Labia was unanimously voted as Patron of the Bowling Club and a letter was sent to him. Mr G J O'Reilly donated a floating trophy for club competitions. A telephone was installed in a shelter beside the green. An inter-club competition was organised between Fish Hoek, Muizenberg and Retreat clubs. They played for a trophy called the Waterson Cup.

The next AGM, held in August 1934, reports membership had again increased to 47 men and 30 ladies. Mr Elliott retired and Mr O'Reilly was elected the incoming resident. Mr J Johnston was the new Vice-President and a vote of thanks for his ongoing contribution to the formation and running of the club, was minuted. **At this point Mr Noble suggested that the time was right for a second green.** However, the club had no funds available, so the Village Management Board was approached to buy three adjoining plots, privately owned, for the purpose of building a second green. The letter, written in October, asked the VMB to co-operate by providing the necessary land.



It was at this point, that the committee decided to give an honorarium to Mr Noble, for his work as Green Ranger, which he accepted, saying however, he would have preferred them to have merely paid his club subscription. It was also felt that, there was so much to be done, he needed an assistant. Mr Retief, the previous incumbent, undertook the post of Assistant Green Ranger. Explaining that he, Mr Retief, had been doing a study of various grass types and this knowledge might be of use.

By November 1934 the matter of a second green was becoming a priority. Mr H S Noble informed the Committee that the existing green was in a very bad state despite all the work that had been done. The increase in membership would put pressure on green space, particularly if the green needed resting. However, they all foresaw a need for fund raising. In January, 1935, it was estimated that a new green would probably cost around £200 to lay. Expenses did not stop there however, as the maintenance, with additional chemicals and labour, would tax the finances, even if subscriptions were raised. Mr Noble said that the first green had been laid on the wrong type of subsoil and they would need money to sort that out as well.

To change the subject completely, it is interesting to note that the groundsman's duties included washing up after the tea interval. Then in November, 1935, Count Labia wrote and declined Patronage of the Club. There was also a flurry in the minutes over the resignation of Mr Carmichael. A letter was written asking him to reconsider but he refused. History does not tell us why. Play continued with other clubs and representatives were sent to the WPDBA meetings. And regular fund-raising continued.



### FISH HOEK BOWLING CLUB 1936

In September, 1936 the lease for the additional ground (for the new green) was finalised. The Secretary was asked to get a copy and file it for the club records. Plots 490 and 491, with frontages of 50 feet were £1, 11/1d. Plot 492 with frontage of 68 feet was £2, 2/4d. Making a total of £5, 4/6d. In October 1936, the ground was cleared and fenced at a cost of £25, 6/2d. A sub-committee was formed to work out estimates and strategies. Thus, mistakes made in the laying of the first green, would be avoided. A loan of £350 was applied for from the VMB and estimates were received and considered but the sub-committee felt that economy could be effected by the club undertaking to do the work, under the supervision of Mr Noble, roughly £300. No decision was finalised, and in December a Special Meeting was called to discuss the condition of the existing green. There were doubts expressed as to the suitability of the treatment already done. A sub-committee of three was suggested, but before nomination could be made Mr Noble handed in his keys and resigned as Green Ranger and left. They accepted his resignation with regret and wrote a formal letter of thanks and appreciation for all the work that had been carried out by him.

Mr Logan then took on the Green Rangers responsibilities, on the understanding that this was a temporary arrangement. However, from Sept 1937, Mr Beamish *stepped up to the head*. (Bowling terminology suitable here?) The incoming President of the Club was Mr Hamilton. Mr Beamish started, by laying out one rink on the new green. A black soil consignment was obtained and an offer to complete the work for £80. This was accepted. The work was completed in January 1938.

### THE SECOND GREEN

The 'splendid' work of Mr R Beamish in building up and constructing the new green, was referred to by Rev Mr Dollery at a meeting. (Minute book Page 175). It was proposed by him and seconded by Mr R Prichard and unanimously resolved, that the

new green be named the **BEAMISH GREEN**. It was further resolved that the original green be named the **JOHNSTON GREEN**. This was in appreciation of the early work done by Mr Johnston with the founding of the club and the laying of the first green.

At the AGM in 1938, Mr Hamilton in the chair, Mr Noble proposed that Mr Johnston be made a Life Member. This move was quashed when Mr Gannon moved that *the Club is too young to entertain the idea of making Life Members, for some years to come*. However they nominated Patrons for the Club. So Mr F Waterson, Mark Sonnenberg, A and G Calder, L Gill, R Kemp, H Allcock and W Hoal were so honoured. I am not sure what the title was supposed to suggest, but several of them sent monetary donations to the Club. Perhaps the Honour was simply to pay up? That December, there was a note WPDBA had ruled, that before a game, umpires must inspect the bowls and disqualify woods which had no distinguishing marks on both sides. A number on the wood was not deemed sufficient. *It seems strange to us now, with our perfectly matched woods, that at one time, a set of woods was numbered 1-4 and they were slightly different from one another*.

The year 1939 started an ongoing saga of 'epistles' regarding the running of various aspects of the club. These same matters still being in contention today? Mr H Elliott resigned from the General Committee because he was not in agreement, with the methods of the Selection Committee. Later that year, at the AGM, we have Mr Elliott once again taking exception to detailed results of Flag matches. He desired that these reports be expunged from the Annual General Report. It was agreed, that in future this would be done, but for what reason history does not record. Then, Mr Elliott and Mr Prichard both complained once more, about methods of selecting Flag teams. Mr Prichard going so far as to say, he did not consider that equitable and fair treatment had been given to some members. There is no record of the reason but the matter was finally settled.

## THE WAR YEARS

The Club prevailed through the War Years, presumably with a reduced membership.

In 1940, while war raged up north, a mini war started at the club over an incident at Mowbray Bowling Club. There is no detail of the actual insult, but fallout was considerable. The Club President resigned and various members had to step in to heal the breach. Mr Gannon, after considerable discussion, was to make a statement in writing, to be submitted to Messrs Noble, O'Reilly, Gardener and Moncrieff. A letter was sent to Mr Hamilton, (Ex President) with a request to withdraw his resignation. I am very happy to say that the issue was finally resolved with a handshake all round. True Gentlemen all!

At the AGM in 1941, Mr Beamish was once again nominated as Honorary Green Ranger. His nomination being received by the members 'with acclamation'. Mr Beamish was reported to be overcome with emotion when presented with a set of

Hensilite woods, a cheque and two bowls bags (donated by Mr Jones). He also received a Certificate of Merit executed by Mr Pritchard.

In 1940, Mr Beamish, as Green Ranger, had proposed that the Beamish Green be rested and the Johnston Green dug up and relaid. Clovelly Country Club offered the use of their green to members wishing to play, while the work was being done. However, the Johnston green was still unusable in 1943 when the work should have been completed. The President reminded members that the Club had, to date, not been able to obtain any alleviation of water expenses. The estimated cost of £150 annually for maintenance, was beyond the resources of the Club. The work on the Johnston Green was shelved for the time being. The next year they negotiated a 25% rebate on the water costs. A Special Meeting was called and members discussed and then voted, to finally complete the work on the green. The voting being 16 to 26 in favour. It was around this time that the question of building their own clubhouse was again suggested. This idea was shelved until after the War.

So, at the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM in 1945, the idea of a new Clubhouse was again introduced. The members discussed the advisability (or otherwise) of taking over the existing Recreation Hall on behalf of the Club. Mr Beamish resigned as Green Ranger in 1948, on grounds of ill-health. He did agree to carry on but in an advisory capacity only. Mr Storrier was elected as the new Green Ranger and Mr Beamish agreed to help. It was then proposed that Mr Beamish be elected to be a Life Member. He was the first to be so honoured. A very dedicated man. This was the end of an era for the Club. Mr Beamish resigned finally in 1949.

At the AGM in 1946, Mr Montgomery in the Chair, the meeting was given details of the Building Sub-Committee's report. The Council was prepared to consider a loan of £3000 to assist the Club to build a new clubhouse. The Club had an architect draw up plans and estimates of the cost. These came to £4500 and the Committee was asked to approach the Council to raise their offer to £4000. The clubhouse saga dragged on, into 1947/1948 with new President Mr S Castleman in the chair. By June 1948, the Municipality had agreed that plots 488/489 be utilised and final plans were drawn up.

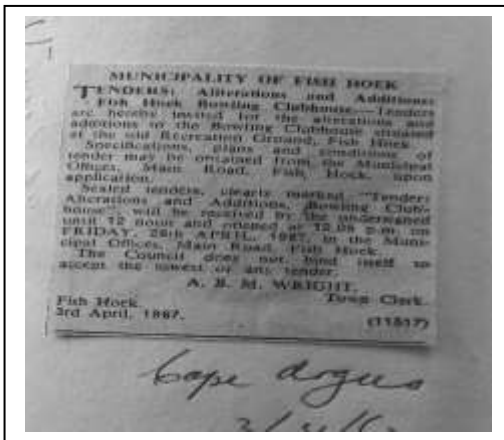
Interestingly, June 1948 saw the first contact with the **Blind Bowlers Association**. A guinea was given for a fund in memory of the late Mr Graham of WPBBA

Eventually, in July 1948, Mr Haywood, (Chairman of the Sub-Committee) reported that it was the Council's business to erect the Clubhouse. It had been suggested, that a rental, not exceeding £5 per month, be charged IN PERPETUITY. Later one Mr Morris, proposed that the site for the Clubhouse be changed to the balance of plot 291 and the closed road. This was agreed, so for a while, no record of how long, the Club had its own parking ground.

## THE NEW CLUBHOUSE



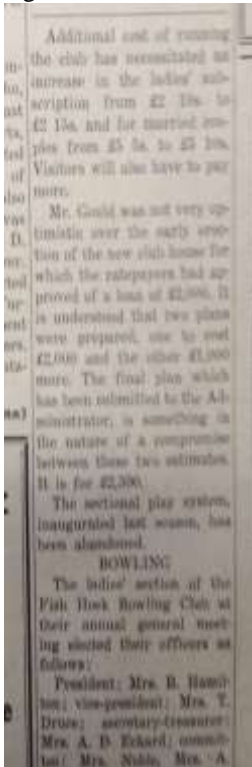
By January, 1949, agreement had been reached between the Municipality and the Club. Tenders were called for the work. It was hoped to have the new clubhouse completed by the opening of the next season of bowling. The contract was awarded to Mr R Lea and Sons. Co-incidentally Mr Lea was a Club member. On July 1<sup>st</sup> 1949, the Lease for the clubhouse was signed between the Municipality and the Club. In this lease, it was stated that, the Municipality could stipulate the terms. Proudly, the AGM in August 1949 was held in the new building. With Mr Castleman in the chair, he declared *“I am sure you will all agree that the furnishing of this room is both pleasing and serviceable – thanks to the help and advice given by our old friend Dad Elliott (First President), ably assisted by the Ladies' Committee, who interviewed the manufacturers and made the selection of the furniture etc. Then again, we have to thank the Ladies generally, for all their good work, in providing the club with the necessary facilities. (The kitchen in particular, merits special mention.)*



The Official opening was planned for 24 September, 1949. It was noted that numbers would have to be limited, due to lack of space. Outsiders, who had been concerned with the Clubhouse and the Municipality, would be invited, but, otherwise it would be limited to members of Clubs only. It would not be possible to include the wives (of members) in the invitation but if any member arrived, accompanied by his wife, then the Club would be only too glad to welcome them. **How gracious!** Finally, the Secretary was asked to send invitations to the Mayor (Mr Carmichael) and Councillors, Town Clerk, Town Engineer and Presidents of other sporting clubs in Fish Hoek. All Members, Patrons and Associate Members of the FHBC, the President and Executive of WPBA and a separate invitation for the wife of the President, Mrs. Carmichael. There were 200 cards printed for the event. A notice of the official opening was sent to the newspapers. *The Cape Times*, the *Cape Argus* and *Die Burger*. They were invited to send representatives for the occasion.

Between 1949 and 1950 the business of the Club continued. It was agreed to a uniform black blazer with a badge on the pocket. A grass 'nursery' was started and a hakea hedge planted to enclose the nursery. Mr Morris suggested building water tanks, to improve the pressure of water for the greens. **However, these did not materialise for another 50 years.** Two Club bowlers, Mr Gannon and Mr Jones, were chosen by WPBA as part of a team to play against an English touring side.

Plans were now introduced to enlarge the Clubhouse. The cost of taking in the verandah by Mr Robert Lea and Sons, came to £112. The Municipality approved of plans for a room (8' x 9') and a shed (28' x 9') for the staff. A piano was purchased for £47 and considered by Mr Sylvester, to be an excellent proposition. At the 20<sup>th</sup> AGM, H Elliott was elected President. This seemed very fitting as his Father was the first President of the Club. A silver plate was attached to the piano, showing that it had been a gift from Mr Ben Fine. (The cost of the plate 19/6d).



In 1953 there was a rumour afoot that the Bowls Clubhouse was to be taken over, under the proposed new Civic Centre layout. Mr Elliott (President) and Mr Reynolds (Vice-President) interviewed the Mayor of Fish Hoek. The terms of the lease of the property were discussed. They were assured that the three months' clause would not be used. Further, there was no danger to any part of the Bowling Club, premises or greens. The Secretary was advised to write to the Town Clerk and ask for these assurances in writing.

At the same time, the greens were apparently in quite poor condition. There was a terse little comment from one of the members, Mr Manchip, regretting that a few members who had played at other Clubs, had broadcast bad accounts of the greens. In June that year, a report was given by the Special Green's Committee, detailing various opinions why the greens had failed. An expert, Mr C Starke, had examined the problem from all angles and made recommendations. The Beamish Green was dug up and the grass completely removed. Then, trenching to a depth of 12-15ins was done. Lime, phosphates and cow manure were added. Finally the green was replanted with Royal Cape grass. This work was completed by August 1953.

At this AGM it was proposed and accepted that the four remaining Founder Members, Messrs. Gannon, Jager, Johnston and Hamilton be made Life Members. An additional proposal for Mr Littler was also made and carried. The First President of the Club, Mr H G Elliott died in July that year. At the 21<sup>st</sup> AGM members stood as a mark of respect. Mr C H Reynolds elected as President. The main business that year

being the acceptance of a quote of £185, to build a tool-shed and soil cover. There was also the first mention of the idea, of using the land adjoining the green in 4<sup>th</sup> Crescent (used at that time as a car park) for an additional green. There was a definite feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the members about *the state of the Club*. This possibly because of the lack of playing space while the greens were being renewed.

### THE THIRD GREEN

Finally at the end of 1957, the need for a third green became serious. Walter Hughes gave the Club a gift of £500 and proposed the idea of building a new green. Maj. General Dawson offered £15, for seating on the south side of the Beamish green. The cost of the seating was too expensive and the money (with Major Dawson's permission) was also applied to the cost of the third green. Mr W Hughes then made available a further £500 as an interest free loan to continue the work. The Committee then voted to spend the £1 400 they had available (but no more) and quotes were called for. To give some perspective, the annual subs at the time were about £6.

There was to be no right-of-way between Upper and Lower Recreation Roads. It was planned to use local grass, which had been investigated and proven satisfactory. A stone wall was to be built between The Beamish Green and the new one. The Municipality agreed to charge no EXTRA rent for the ground. Mr Hughes' daughter, gave the Club a gift of £100 for a fence around the green. The Mayoress, Mrs E Alexander and J de Kock donated the cost of a fence from the Clubhouse to the gate. On Saturday July 18, 1959, Mr Hughes officially opened the Walter Hughes Green.

Mr Hughes had been honoured with a Life Membership in 1958. Mr P (Bull) Prichard and Mr A P Jones were also so honoured. And FINALLY, it is with pleasure I report, that Mrs B Hamilton and Mrs R Gannon, who were Founder Members, were **also** given Life Membership.

The 28<sup>th</sup> AGM, in 1960 was notable, for having the largest attendance for some years, with 60 men and 20 women present. At this time, the women had no vote at meetings. Mr E Gaylard was re-elected as President and this was the first mention of possible enlargements to the existing clubhouse.

### 1963 to 1982

In 1963, there was a ramp constructed between the Beamish and Hughes Greens. Then, a letter was received from the MOTHS. They requested that the hedge between the Johnston Green and their Shell-hole (club house) be removed. It was felt that, because of their wooden-structured building, this was a fire hazard. One of the Club members, proposed a paling fence but it was decided to write to the Council and ask them to share the cost three ways. Council replied in a letter, that they would remove the hedge, build a three foot retaining wall and put a nine foot timber fence in. Provided that the cost of R480 was shared between the MOTHS, Bowls Club and the

Council. This work was carried out.

In the minutes, there are many references to ideas and plans for extensions to the Clubhouse. A letter was received from Council to notify the Club that the Administrator had agreed to an extended lease of 25 years, dated from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1965. So plans for the extensions were able to go ahead and in 1967 the records announce that *demolition and construction was proceeding apace*.

During the building work, photographs of competition winners and Past-Presidents had been removed from the walls. It was decided that only the five original pioneer's photos would be rehung. These would have been Messrs Jager, Johnston, Elliott, Gannon and Hamilton.

In 1969 the first Champion of Champions Competition was played, run by WPBA. 1976 saw the first Evening bowls game played in Fish Hoek, followed by a social braai.

There was a pre-cast wall put round three sides of the Johnston Green, at a cost of R1 759. Around 1975, a new gate in the west wall of the Johnston green was paid for by Alec Campbell. This was to be called the *Maud Campbell Gate*. This entrance was closed up in 2010.

In 1977, Stellenbosch Bowling Club suggested a competition between the two Clubs. The first competition was played against them, and in April 1983, Mr G C (Attie) Attenborough donated an 'informal' trophy in marquetry for this annual get-together. It was an annual event until 2019, when the Covid-19 Pandemic stopped all play.

Club colours were laid down with WPBA. As being black and gold. Black blazers were to be worn and there was a Club tie available. In 1982 the subs were proposed as R60,00 annually for the men and R40,00 for the Ladies. As a contrast the 2012 subs were R1 000,00 per player and in 2020 R1 500,00.

In June 2007, Clovelly Bowling Club closed. About 65 members transferred to the Fish Hoek Bowling Club. To sweeten the deal, *The Ackerman Trust* gave R125 000,00 to assist in any alterations necessary, for the enlargement of the facilities, to accommodate the sudden influx of members. The locker rooms were enlarged and the bar moved to a more central position.

It would be interesting to find out both why and when the greens lost their original historical names, 'A'- Johnston green, 'B' Beamish green and 'C' Hughes green. Becoming the A, B and C greens.

## A NEW LOOK AT THE CLUB CONSTITUTION

The Club adopted a new Constitution in August, 1977. Previously, the business of Men's and Ladies' bowls was run independently. There were separate Presidents and Committee (and subscriptions). The new Constitution, had as its object to *'Promote and encourage the playing of the game of bowls without practising discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, religion or political affiliation.* To provide facilities, therefor and to establish and maintain congenial social amenities. Only one Management Committee was called for with a President (of either gender) and a male or female Vice-President. A small insert added to say that ideally the President and Vice-President should not be related. Some years later, Mr Ken Pettit reviewed the constitution with few minor changes.

## 2010 ONWARDS

The year 2016 found the Club with severe financial problems. There had been a significant amount of member resignations, for one reason or another. The Committee decided to approach the existing members and ask for a one-off donation to tide the Club over until the new subs came in. This appeal was poorly supported, however, two members donated R10 000,00 each and President Fred Hammond, was able to secure an interest-free loan of R20 000,00 and the situation was much improved.

There was an obvious need for fund raising. The Lighthouse Foundation discovered the Hall was suitable for their work and hired the Hall several times a week for chiropody and counselling. The Flame Lily Foundation also came once a month and then the Care Company took over from the Lighthouse Foundation. They all stayed until 2019.

The staff situation was reviewed and groundsman, Awie Waterloo, retired and was not replaced. The staff hours were also reduced to save money. In these desperate times, we even ran a bingo game twice a month for just over a year. While this proved good fun, it was not very financially successful. For three months we had yoga classes and the 100 Club continued to function. There was a push for sponsored competition days and Social membership was encouraged.

There was also discussion taking place with the **CROQUET CLUB**. There was a proposal made that they join with the Bowling Club, sharing the green space. Coming to an amicable agreement, the formation of the **FALSE BAY CROQUET CLUB** took place in 2017. Their games were to be played on 'A' and 'B' green. The 'C' green being used for bowls only. The layout of their playing area, was put out when they played and not kept in place. This meant that the bowls games could be played on 'A' and 'B' green at other times.

In 2018, the Council took it upon themselves to replace the roof. Spotlights for evening play were erected. The outer wall of 'C' green was damaged by contractors

in the street outside, and eventually the Council repaired this problem as well. After a successful but lengthy claim with the insurers. The area round the braai was paved.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**2019** started well and by the end of the year we were just completing the Muter and Flag Competitions and the World turned upon its head and on 26 March, 2020 we went into complete lock-down because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. **The Club was closed.** Only necessary maintenance was carried out. No playing and no socialising, which went on until the slight easing of restrictions in July/August. Play was allowed under VERY strict conditions. Only pairs and singles games. Social distancing was practised and games had to be booked the day before play. The Clubhouse and Bar were off limits. Players went home after the game. No spectators were allowed.

These restrictions were gradually eased until by December 2020, the play was still under a booking system to restrict the number of players, in line with social distancing. The Clubhouse and bar now being open, tables of no more than six people allowed. Still no spectators. A rather pointless rule for bowls and croquet, which did not have hundreds of fans crowding to see the games.

## LIQUOR MATTERS

Historically, one of the conditions, included in the original grant of land for Fish Hoek, made to Andries Bruijns in 1818 was, in the original Dutch, '*dat hy aldaargeen tapneering zal mogen driven*'. Translated into the English version as, '*not to keep a Public Wine-house*'. The exact meaning has been argued about ever since. However, it would appear from other documents from that time, that this was meant as a complete ban on liquor sales.

There is nothing more social than a drink and a chat with friends after the game. It's on record that at the official opening of the Club, a bottle of whisky and three bottles of brandy, were purchased by the Committee for the occasion. **But, not sold.** So one presumes, that in the early years, failing information to the contrary, members supplied their own needs. However, in 1962, there was apparently a system in place where members bought tickets for liquor. This was stored somewhere on the premises (under lock and key?). With the annual prize giving coming up, the issue was raised, because the ticket system constituted a breach of the lease. There were to be Municipal Councillors present and it was felt that voluntary contributions would be more appropriate.

There was a local organisation called **The Defenders of Fish Hoek.** They wanted the ban on liquor sales enforced. The Committee decided, that because Club members would have the opportunity to vote in the Municipal Referendum in 1962, that the General Bowls Committee would take no stand either way. In 1967 a letter

was received from the FHM Town Clerk, referring to recent press reports about the sale of liquor at sports Clubs. He requested assurance that no liquor would be sold on the Bowls Club premises. At this time there were raids made on various clubs and any liquor found was confiscated.

The matter muddled on and in 1989 the Committee debated the problems associated with selling refreshments 'of a certain kind' in the clubhouse. Of the nine members present, seven voted to continue with the sales and two against. Both President and Secretary intimated that should sales continue, they would not stand for re-election at the AGM. After considering the implications and possible consequences, it was decided that the 'provision of refreshments' was NOT the concern of the Club Committee. *A touch of Pontius Pilate there.*

One of the members a Mr K Coleman, took it upon himself to visit the Police Station unofficially and discuss this matter. This move seems to have occasioned some comment amongst Club members!

In 1994, at a Special General Meeting, it was proposed by Mr F Tucker and seconded by Mr B Gallinetti, that 'it is the will of the Fish Hoek Bowling Club to apply for a liquor licence'. This was put to a vote and there being no abstentions, was carried unanimously. Mr G Basford was authorised to act on the Club's behalf and apply for a licence. The official notice appeared in the Government Gazette on Friday 5 August, 1994.

There were three objections received against the Club's application. One from the Defenders of Fish Hoek, one from the Methodist Minister and one petition signed by 63 people. The Club's required reply was given to Col Huysamen (OIC Liquor Division Wynberg Police) and to the Chief Magistrate of Simonstown. The relevant authority inspected the new Bar facility and was satisfied that it more than met with the requirements of the Act.

#### **The Liquor Licence, dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1955 was granted to the Club**

All the people who had helped with the presentation of the case were thanked. Mr G Basford was singled out for special thanks. The profits from the bar go a long way towards helping to keep the Club running, in these times of diminishing members and financial straits.

#### **ADDENDUM GIFTS, BEQUESTS AND SO ON**

I have tried to get some sort of timeline on the donations given to the Club over the years so, in 1932, at the opening of the Club, two cups were donated for floating trophies. One from Logans (Sports) and the other from Carmichael and Evans (Jewellers). Mr Carmichael was a founder member. Then, in 1933, Mrs Waterson

donated the *Waterson Cup*, for an inter-club competition played at that time with with other southern suburb clubs. After that came the *Morris Cup*. (From Mr W Morris) This was for an All-day competition with visiting clubs participating. In 1934 there was a request put out for a descriptive plate for the photograph of the Founding members of the Club. The photo still exists but no names can be put to faces. There was also a stinkwood trophy donated by Mr Morris in 1938. The Selection Committee was supposed to arrange a competition for this trophy.

In 1943 the Men's Committee donated the *Victory Cup*. Possibly for the Ladies' Singles handicap. In 1946 the *Lion Cup* made its appearance. In was to be a Women's trophy. Up until the last few years, an annual competition was still run but for both sexes. There was also a stinkwood gavel for use of the President in office, presented by Mr H Elliott.

On Sunday 2 April 1950, Mrs Sleep presented a desk for use in the office. At a special ceremony a 'suitable plaque' was attached to it. In 1952 a plate was attached to the piano, showing that it was a gift from Mr B Fine. (The plaque cost 19/6d.) Today, the existing piano has no plate, so its whereabouts is a mystery.

Back to trophies. 1955 saw the presentation of the *Lionel Fairley Cup*, which from 1959 was used for the Winter League Competition. In 1957, the False Bay Holiday association donated a cup for a competition open to mixed rinks of holiday-makers in the area. The whereabouts of this trophy is unknown. In 1959, the Committee proposed handing the trophy over to the Cape Town Municipality. They wanted to start a competition on the new Municipal greens in Muizenberg.

The *Bolt Cup* was donated by Mr F Bolt in 1963, for a competition of men's rinks, to be played on Wednesday afternoons at the start of the season. This competition was still played with slightly different format until 2018.

The *Clarendon Cup* was donated by David Sylvester for WP Women's rinks, first played in 1965. Mr S Lawrenson donated the '*Those Vintage Years Cup*' in 1968 for a singles competition for over 61 years of age players. 1965 saw a bench donated in the Memory of Norman Mackie. There was a plate attached.

Mr J Moore and Mr K Thomson presented a cup in 1969 for the winners of a joint Charity day between FHBC and Plumstead BC. It is not clear if this was a floating trophy or if it still exists.

That same year, Mr J Heldzingen gave the Club a ship's bell for use at the President's table.

The *Jack and Elaine Moore Bowl* was presented for a competition between men and women in recognition of the work done by the Ladies. Played in 1970 for the first time, the winner (male or female) would have their name inscribed on the bowl.



In 1972, Mr R Park gave a cup for the Men's Drawn Pairs and Mr G Stagman one for the Mixed Pairs.

Something different. In 1973 Mr George Brown donated a filing cabinet for the Secretary's use.

Mrs D Auber donated a Tabs Board in memory of her husband.

From 1984 to 1986, there were five benches donated as memorials. Mrs Hitchins (R200) for her husband, Miles. Miss P Geldard for her parents. Mrs B Hamilton in memory of husband Mr J S Hamilton and finally Mrs Mary Whalley gave a bench also. The late Mr Cyril Miller's estate donated R500.00 which was used for an honours or Tabs Board.

Basil Bradshaw gave a trophy in memory of Tielman Feneusey, called the *Sunday Shield* FHBC. This was for a mixed tabs-in competition on the third Sunday of each month. David Sylvester presented the *Ladies' Day Cup* in 1996. Central Mica Hardware gave the *Ted Kipling Cup* in his memory and a competition was started in 1996 as a mixed competition. 2000 was the beginning of the Kwikspar Two-bowl All-comers Singles. Not played any more. Then Mr Emlyn Webb donated another two-bowls Competition cup. And another faded memory, the *Pam Golding Properties Cup*, which seems to have been a mixed trips competition in 2003.

The late Roy Lock, also left a bequest of R100 000,00 for the Club. This money was used for a number of projects, alterations in the Ladies' Locker Room and extras for the kitchen. Sometime later, an anonymous member donated curtains and furnishings for the Ladies locker room.

Mrs Marge Upfold donated a trophy in memory of her daughter, Robyn, for the player achieving the most on behalf of the Club. Last year, 2019, no bowls play having taken place, the trophy was given to Croquet player, Paul McCready for his win in their championships.

## TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



