

Once upon a time, in 1903 to be precise, it all began.

HAZEL GROVE BOWLING GREEN AND TENNIS CLUB CO LTD.

Registered on the 2nd of May to commence business on the 22nd May 1903.

Objects for which the Company was established:- "To establish and maintain a Club or Clubs at Hazel Grove in the County of Cheshire for Bowling Tennis and any other outdoor or indoor games."

Praise must go to the initial directors namely: -

JOHN ADSHEAD J.P.	—	SCHOOLMASTER
DR THOMAS MOOR	—	SURGEON
JOHN A HOLLAND	--	MANUFACTURER
GEORGE LOCKET	--	SCHOOLMASTER
ROBERT J FLETCHER	--	PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
JOSEPH GOSLING	--	CLERK
RALPH CLAYTON	--	STOCKBROKER
PERCY J BAYLEY	--	RAILWAY AGENT
JOSEPH D PENNY	--	COMPANY DIRECTOR

What would their thoughts be now as the club prepares to celebrate its centenary?
What are your thoughts as we follow developments?

* * * * *

On the 20th May 1903 a prospectus was agreed with an intended capital of £500.

"For 500 shares of £1 each, 350 of which are now offered for public subscription at par, the remainder being reserved for issue later, if deemed advisable by the Director."

Minutes of a meeting of Directors held on Wednesday the 14th October reveal that: -

The solicitor produced a counterpart lease of land in Wesley Street by Mr Lawrence Douglas Gelling to the Company for a term of 10 years at a yearly rent of £12-4s-8d. This contained an option to purchase the fee simple of the land at a yearly rent charge of £25-9s-4d.

It was resolved that the lease be executed and as such the Company had a plot of land fronting Wesley Street measuring 77 and 1/2yds. for which the plans were quickly drawn up and tenders obtained for the work of laying the green, tennis courts and grounds.

From the tenders, that of Mr Tom Parker, Davenport Crescent, Stockport was accepted in the sum of £155-0s-9d. At this stage the Directors elected a Sub Committee to inspect Wesley Street and to make such arrangements as they think best for obtaining a cart road from Queens Road on to the site for the use of the contractor.

On the 1st October 1903 the last meeting of the year, it was resolved that the Secretary be instructed to enquire as to the cost of planting shrubs, erecting a fence, and also as to supply of water from the Stockport Corporation.

* * * * *

The New Year 1904, saw an early start to business as at a meeting held on the 9th January it was resolved that the site for a Pavilion be in the centre of the south border of the Bowling Green and at further meeting held on the 11th April:-

“That a building about 30ft by 15ft to contain a ladies room and one other large room with a veranda in front, built of brick and covered over with mortar or cement and small stones, and to cost about £100 be erected”

The plan and specifications were unanimously approved at a meeting held on the 5th May with the following alterations:-

“The two lavatory bowls and the sink from the bar be made to run out on to the grids behind the building and carried to a Cess Pool”

Tenders for the Pavilion were considered on the 11th May 1904 and it was resolved that Mr G Oldham's tender of £124-10s-0d be accepted. In addition Stockport Corporation were instructed to lay the water service as soon as the Contractor was ready and for the water to be placed in the cellar.

It was also agreed that £10 be allocated for providing trees, shrubs and a fence and to suitably landscape the grounds.

So within 12 months everything was in position and funded in total by the shareholders—The Limited Company.

* * * * *

HAZEL GROVE BOWLING GREEN AND TENNIS CLUB.

In anticipation of the 1904 season a full meeting of all shareholders was called on the 19th January 1904 to draw up the constitution of the Club. Election of officers took place. Mr C.W.Ireland was duly elected President and together with his elected Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and six members formed the first General Committee.

At this the first meeting, subscriptions were set for the years membership being open to share holders and close relations only.

“For a male, One Guinea (less 1/- for each one fully paid share held, but the minimum to be no less than 10/-). For a lady member who is a shareholder or the wife, sister or daughter of a male share holder 5/-. For other lady members 7/6d

Any member may introduce a friend and shall be responsible for the friends conduct, but no person resident within 10 miles of the Clubs premises shall be introduced more than four times in any one year.

The Committee shall have power to make bye laws and regulations as to the conduct of members and use of the Clubs premises and ground.

* * * * *

As 1904, the first full year both of the Limited Company and the Club, came to a close the General Meeting of Shareholders held in December reported as follows:-

“Your Directors have pleasure in reporting that they have completed the making of the Bowling Green and Tennis Lawns and have also built a substantial pavilion with ample accommodation both for ladies and gentlemen. The supply of such has filled a long felt want and is much appreciated”.

“AND SO SAY ALL OF US”

* * * * *

As the membership grew the Club recognised the need for further Tennis Courts . As early as April 1906 the Directors acted on their behalf by taking a further plot of 25 yards of land on the south side on the same condition as the existing lease for the purpose of adding further tennis courts.

From its inception the Limited Company called upon the Club to pay a rental in order that such things as legal expenses, architects fees and any declared dividends for the shareholders be met.

In 1909 the Club presented a scheme to the Directors for the enlargement of the pavilion and this was subsequently approved.

At the Directors meeting held in December 1912, it was recognised that 6 months notice was necessary on or before the 24th June 1913 if the intention was to exercise the option, contained in the lease, to purchase the land.

It was resolved that such notice be given. Within these minutes is the first mention of Douglas Road as £27-4-0d debt had been incurred towards the cost of sewerage the road.

What a way to conclude the first 10 years in the Company/Club history when it was agreed with Mr Gelling, the owner of the land, to purchase for the sum of £550.

A great step had been taken, but where was the money coming from?

It was reported in November 1913 that not only was £550 required but also £150 to liquidate a loan due to Mr Bardsley. Total £700.

After due consideration Mr Parker expressed his willingness to provide money for the land and Mr Bardsley his willingness to allow the £150 owing to him to remain, providing debentures were issued to them to secure the amount.

It was resolved that the sum of £700 be raised by the issue of a series of fourteen first mortgage debentures of £50 each carrying interest at 4 ½%.

The Directors report as given to the A.G.M. of shareholders on the 25th March 1914 said it all.

“The company has now entered on a second period of its existence having been registered on the 5th May 1903. It is able to look back with satisfaction on the amount of work done and the conciliation of the assets at the present time. Your Directors have been able to purchase the land on very favourable terms and are looking forward to a period of greater usefulness and success. The Bowling Green is one of the best in the district and the Tennis Courts and pavilion provide ample accommodation for the enjoyment of the members”.

* * * * *

There were a number of interesting items recorded in the General Committees minutes of March 1914. It was agreed that a charge of 1/-d be made for the letting of lockers. It was also proposed that a smoking concert be held on a Saturday and that the pavilion be kept open until 12pm. (What was a Smoking Concert?)

The ladies requested a Garden Party and the Secretary intimated that the Croquet players had been asking for more accommodation as the present lawns were not adequate enough to meet the growth in players. It was agreed that the Secretary and Treasurer make arrangements with the Steward to utilise the grass Tennis Courts for Croquet.

* * * * *

Black Monday— Monday the 5th October 1914. The Chairman read the order issued by the County Magistrates demanding the closure of clubs at 10pm for the selling and consuming of intoxicating liquors. The Committee (bless them) expressed and recorded its disgust. For those who chose to play cards there was a charge of ½ p per evening, to be placed in the card box.

The 1915 A.G.M. recorded that the membership stood at 154 and that the Bowling Green was under utilised. (It should be noted that apart from club events there were only friendly competitions, home and away with Victoria and Cale Green Bowling Clubs).

1916 saw the price of whisky set at 4d and a glass of beer at 4½d.

There is very little mention of the Great War, but one can only assume that membership was down as the Annual Meeting of Shareholders held in March 1917 recorded :-

“That the resolution passed on the 19th November 1913 fixing £70 per year as the contribution from the Club to the Company be suspended as far as possible for the term of the continuation of the War.

April 1919 saw the introduction of Visitors Fees. For Bowling 6p and Tennis 1/- per day. In November of the same year it was agreed that the Club be opened throughout the closed season months every Thursday evening for a Ladies Social. The Club had first class facilities with a bar, Steward, playing facilities for bowls, tennis, croquet and social evenings particularly in the winter months but there was still the desire to develop further.

In October 1924 a Billiard Table was purchased together with 32 ivory snooker balls, 26 cues, long and short rests, marking board and stand for cues all for the princely sum of £35. Charges to play were introduced, no game to exceed 40 minutes.

Billiards 20mins 3d 40mins 6d 40 mins (4 players) 8d.

Snooker 2 players 3d, 4 players 2d.

The following month the fee for Billiards was amended to 6d for ½ an hour.

* * * * *

Much reference was made throughout the ensuing years to the existing Shareholders and the need for further funding to meet the Clubs request for further extensions to the building incorporating a room for 2 Billiard Tables, bar and Committee room. Estimated cost £1.270.

Discussions took place throughout 1924 and 1925 with the Manchester Brewery Co and the Halifax Building Socy. to no avail. Funding was proving difficult and time was slipping by.

The year 1926 produced some funding and also in early 1927. Amendments to the proposed plans were agreed that are now very familiar to all associated with the Club, namely,

“the building to have two bay windows in front instead of flat windows, and the whole of the outside wall to be constructed of common brick, instead of asbestos sheeting as previously suggested”.

Finally things came to a head in March 1927 as the Director resolved:-

“That the present series of Debentures be cancelled and that a new series of 400 Debentures of £5 each (£2.000) be issued”.

The Directors appointed a sub-committee to confer with the Clubs Committee and have power to carry out all things necessary for the completion of the extension scheme.

The extension necessitated losing part of the Bowling Green and it is recorded that Mr Gosling of the Red Lion Hotel was willing to pay 1/3d per square yard for 180 square yards, the cutting and carting to be at his own expense. This offer was accepted.

In undertaking the extension, the Contractor had removed fencing and hedging on Douglas Road to obtain easy access, following which, the meeting of June 1927 resolved to make this a permanent gateway to the Club premises, and use the fencing and thorn hedging to close the existing gateway on Queens Road.

At this time there was a “House Committee” that reported monthly to the Club General Committee, part of their duties being to supervise the Steward whose duties also included all outside work, such as the green etc.

In August 1927 tenders were received “for central heating apparatus” finally accepted in the sum of £99-10s-0d as tendered by Messrs Saunders and Taylor. For electric lighting installation the tender submitted by the Electric Switch Mfg Co of Park Street Stockport was accepted in the sum of £38-10s-0d.

Well, the club had one billiard table but with the new billiard room nearing completion it was felt necessary to purchase a second. New tables were priced at about £75 which the General Committee were not disposed to. Like every General Committee before and since they looked for a cheaper source. Two sales by auction were advertised at private houses in the neighbourhood and two people were authorised to attend and to purchase a table if the price was reasonable. Subsequently the additional table was purchased at a cost of £37-10s this to include a set of composition billiard balls, cues, marking board and iron “which does not require any repair”.

* * * * *

Membership was growing and the entertainment committee was having a ball, well almost, as they needed a new Pianoforte. They selected one that they had seen at Messrs Hardy Ltd. which met with Committee approval, this costing £50, less £8 for the old instrument. Messrs Hardy were agreeable to accept payment plus 5% by instalments of £1-18s-6d per month.

It was also suggested and agreed that when the piano shall be used at functions, where a charge is made for admission, a fixed amount be allocated to the piano fund.

Very importantly, the accepted tender for the Club extension included £25 worth of bar fittings and it recorded that considerable discussion took place as to the fittings. There is very little mention of the playing side of the club beyond maintenance other than Great Moor Con Club featured in friendly bowls matches. Needless to say with the extensive alterations underway minutes reflect quite considerably funding and all other aspects which together with the bar, stewarding and social events make up the bulk of business. Membership stood at 292, the highest figure yet.

It was interestingly reported to the General Committee in November 1927, by the Treasurer, that Mr James Wood of Davenport Road, Hazel Grove, who is already a member of the Club, had expressed his desire to be made a Life Member and that he was prepared to pay to the club funds an amount of £25 for the privilege. This was accepted on payment of £25 to the extension fund a/c.

Near neighbours Hazel Grove Golf Club were allowed to use a room for their committee meetings on payment of £5 per annum.

Rubber footers. Yes Mr Briggs very kindly provided a dozen "footers" for the bowlers.

As the year progressed the first "Christmas Draw" was suggested for 1938.

"To communicate with the various firms with whom the Club do business, with a view to obtaining gifts to be drawn and for club members who may also be desirous of contributing".

Whilst the extension work was underway it was felt that ventilation was necessary for the two large rooms, tenders were obtained and the following accepted.

Messrs Sutcliffe Ventilating and Drying Co. Cathedral Gates Manchester to provide a 24inch electric fan and inlet grids etc £27-16s-0d. Mr H Vernon extension contractor, to provide woodwork and carrying out the work of fixing the installation at a cost of £8-10s-0d. (As one approaches the Clubhouse, immediately above the entrance is the grill housing the 24 inch fan).

Snooker matches were agreed and arranged between the Club and the Derby Road Club and also Cale Green Club. In view of the increased facilities the membership continued to rise. In this case to 339.

Sunday opening had been denied since the inception of the Club, however a special General Committee was called in July 1929 at which after considerable debate the well attended meeting carried the proposal 73 votes to 58.

It was reported that Badminton had become very popular and recommendation was made that the floor of the general room should be properly marked out and that 1p per game be charged. This was agreed. Table Tennis was also played.

Club minutes of November 1929 refer to land recently purchased from Sir John Barlow. In total 2083 sq yds at 1p per sq yd on an 18 year purchase, total cost £155. The Directors plan for laying out the land was discussed at length.

Subscriptions were set for 1930:-

Gentlemen Members	£2-0-0
Lady Members	£1-10-0
Non Playing Gents	£1-5-0
Non playing Ladies	10-0

For those under 21 years 5/- less than the above.

* * * * *

The steward must have been delighted when in March 1930 a representative of the General Labour Saving Device Co Albert Square Manchester gave a demonstration of the General Electric Vacuum Cleaner.

“The litter on the floor left from the previous night was removed without creating any dust and the billiard tables were thoroughly cleaned”.

On the grounds of sanitation and labour saving it was proposed and carried unanimously that the Cleaner be purchased at a cost of £11-11s-0d.

* * * * *

Throughout the past two years a request from Miss Pinn for the use of a tennis court once a week for the tuition of a number of her scholars had met with approval at no cost.

In May 1930 this gesture was extended when the General Committee carried the following resolution:-

"That an invitation be extended to the three schools in Hazel Grove to bring 8 scholars, for the purpose of tuition in tennis, on one grass court, one day per week between the hours of 2pm and 4pm subject to adequate supervision and no access to the Club building. The schools being:-

Miss Pinns
Council School Chapel Street.
Norbury Day School.

* * * * *

Naughty, naughty----- Cases of undesirable conduct on the part of several members and visitors to the club were highlighted.

"On dance nights, male members and visitors taking girls into motor cars standing on the club premises also Members and visitors were gambling".
It was resolved that any member found committing such offences would be asked to resign.

* * * * *

The Secretary reported at the 1931 A.G.M. that :-

"We might congratulate ourselves on the progress of the Club in view of the trade depression. Membership totalled 314.

In August 1931 the Secretary submitted a letter from the Northern Radio Distribution Ltd 12 Wellington Road South Stockport giving particulars of their system of relayed radio programmes at a small weekly rental which covered all charges, namely loud speakers, volume control and installation.

The Secretary was authorised to accept providing that the cost did not exceed £10 per annum. This service was terminated in January 1933.

* * * * *

The recession was being felt as within one year the membership dropped to 234 at the end of 1931. (What hard and difficult times these must have been).

The Clubs finances were stretched and a request from the Limited Company for £110 rent, Road fund £40 and Debenture redemption fund of £50, total £200 caused consternation. A special meeting was called at which it was highlighted that, due to the depression, several people had complied with the 6 months notice for the repayment of debentures.

The Secretary was requested to circularise the members with a view to inducing them to take over the debentures in question.

This wasn't a run on the bank but on the Club. All extra casual labour was to be discontinued after September 1932.

The latter part of 1933 saw a flurry of meetings by all parties namely the Limited Company Directors and the Clubs General Committee. The Director concluded that no further repayment of debentures should be made until after 31st December 1936.

The Club appeared to have saved the day when they negotiated a loan of £350 from Walker and Humphrays Ltd, Woodside Brewery, Eccles New Road Salford at 4% interest per annum. Regrettably Walker and Humphrays pulled out but the day was saved when agreement was reached for the Secretary of Slack and Cox Ltd. Hyde Road Manchester to take up £200 of Debentures and allow extended credit of £50.

* * * * *

HALLELUJAH. LIFE WENT ON.

The Stockport Town Hall Staff had requested the use of the bowling green for an inter departmental competition. This was agreed subject to a fee of 6d for each person playing.

For those unemployed within the area it was agreed that the Bowling and Tennis facilities would be made available between 2pm and 5pm on Mondays and Fridays this to be restricted to 8 men on each occasion for bowls and 8 persons for tennis.

In September 1933 it was agreed that Mr Drabble, 12 Higher Berry Street, Heaton Norris Stockport be allowed to install an Automatic Coin Machine, the Club to receive 50% of the takings. The following meeting recorded that within a fortnight the club had received clear profit of £5- 3s-0d. Within six weeks a total of £25-4s-11d was recorded. "A nice little earner". (Within three weeks it was agreed to install a second machine)

The Club was able to play its part within the community throughout these most difficult times.

Numerous applications to use the Club premises for meetings were received, The Lifeboat Association, Sick Nursing Association and others. All met with approval at no charge subject to availability within the day.

Both the Westminster Bank and NALGO added their names to the ever increasing use of the green for staff competitions.

An application by the ladies to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day with fireworks and a dance was approved by the General Committee.

The year 1933 was closing on a favourable note with the Secretary recording at the 31st A.G.M. that the previous year had seen the membership steady with little change the total being 195.

* * * * *

Oh Dear! The July 1934 meeting recorded that the Secretary had received an intimation from the Police Superintendent that the "Fruit Machines" were illegal and it was therefor agreed that they be removed immediately, It was of no consolation to hear that the Conservative Club were in the same position. What ever legal requirements were needed to have fruit machines is not recorded but the following month a machine was on the premises that yielded 60% to the Club and 40% to the owner.

* * * * *

FOR MANY OLD AND NEW MEMBERS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CLUB AND LIMITED COMPANY WAS NOT CLEAR and as such Mr Dearden, Secretary of the Limited Company was asked to address the General Committee. Mr Dearden explained, the Club was not charged a fixed rent for the premises but only asked for an amount sufficient to meet the Debenture interest and the instalment demanded by the Urban Council towards the cost of making up Douglas Road, fronting the Club premises, plus cost of postage and other small charges. The charges under the following headings were approx:-

Debenture interest £90, Road installation £40 per annum.

Mr Dearden went on to give the following information:-

Debentures issued	£1.000
Total Ordinary Shares	£ 500
Ordinary Shares held by Club	£ 134

He stated that during the last two years he had received notice from various Debenture holders for the repayment of £550 which had not been met. The Limited Company had in hand £250 to meet these notices leaving a shortfall of £300 to be found.

The meeting thanked Mr Dearden and no doubt left a lot wiser as to the relationship and to their responsibilities to the Limited Company.

* * * * *

Table Tennis had been played throughout winter months on an ad hoc basis but this received a major boost when the Stockport District Table Tennis League invited the Club to join, the subscriptions being 10/6 per team and 7/6 per club.

Arrangements were made for the approaching 1934/35 season. The Clubs facilities must have been extremely favourable as the T.T. League requested use of the room for inter league matches between Stockport and Macclesfield and Stockport and Buxton Districts. Both were approved.

* * * * *

The legal requirement for fruit machines on Club premises was still causing some concern and it was, regrettably, decided in January 1935 that:-

“In view of recent prosecutions at various places that the fruit machine be removed until a legal ruling be obtained”.

One can only conclude that the legal requirements for the fruit machines had been resolved as every monthly meeting recorded the monthly profit.

* * * * *

Oh how the grounds man must have rejoiced when it was resolved to purchase a motor machine to replace the “very worn out” hand machine. A Qualcast 16in motor mower was to be purchased for £15-15s-0d. Just as well that a demonstration was requested as this mower proved to be most unsatisfactory. A Greens 16in mower was found acceptable, the list price being £37-15s-0d but the Secretary very cleverly negotiated a discount and paid £33-2s-6d. He was congratulated.

It was felt that a sign directing people to the Club could be advantageous if erected at the corner of Queens Road. The Secretary reported that Mr Barlow, Assistant Manager Tramway Dept. had undertaken to have a board fixed at a cost of 10/- or 15/-.

Keeping well in? The green was made available to the Police for a bowling match with tea to be provided, the cost to be borne by the Club.

Reference is made in the November 1933 minutes to a Children’s Christmas Party to be held on the same lines as last year. As there was no mention within the minutes of 1932 one can only assume that this event was introduced for the first time in 1932.

The use of the bowling green was constantly being requested and the Club continued to agree to requests subject to availability.

In May 1936 it is recorded that Mr Fisher was desirous of entertaining 30 to 40 Masonic Brethren on the 20th May, this date being available as the Club had a match with Stockport Cricket Club away.

Within the same year it was agreed to pay the Urban District Council 2/6d per annum to test electrical installations. Safety was paramount.

A "House Committee" was appointed in September 1936 and immediately called upon to investigate the feasibility of extending the car park in the direction of the lower gate so that the latter could be used as an outlet. It was recommended that the flowerbed be removed and cleared at which time a view of the best arrangement would be made.

* * * * *

Minutes of the Clubs activities from 1936 to 1941 are missing but one can only assume that the same tempo was maintained by the General Committee and members. Nothing major occurred as this would more than likely have been recorded in the minutes of the Limited Company whose Directors met yearly to discuss by and large the Shareholders activities and ensure the election of three of their members to the Clubs General Committee.

* * * * *

A significant decision was taken at a special meeting of the General Committee held on the 14th July:-

"That lady members be allowed to play bowls on one afternoon per week from 1.30 until 5.30".

It is interesting to note that the steward was requested to keep the Putting Green in good order. (These facilities must have been introduced at some time between 1936 and 1941).

It is recorded at the start of 1942 that bowls matches were arranged to play Disley Metro Borough District, Stockport Police and charity matches with the Royal Oak home and away.

The Second World War was into its 4th year and the Club was actively holding events regularly, proceeds going to the Stockport Infirmary Fund.

In 1943 Mr John Clayton was elected forthwith to Life Membership of the Club with full use of all Club facilities as a slight recognition of the very valuable services he had undertaken.

The 40th A.G.M. held in July 1943 records that the Club had a net gain of 40 members there now being Tennis 60, Bowling 94, Non Playing 148 totalling 302.

Bye Laws decided upon in 1943 closed the Club at 11pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week a decision largely influenced by the light and fuel order.

* * * * *

The Secretary reported , that 30 members were serving in His Majesty's forces and that the Ladies Committee had very kindly arranged social events which resulted in them being able to send each of those members a postal order for 5/- each in August and one for 10/- each in December.

It was also sadly reported that "Leslie Swift is officially presumed to have died at sea and that Fred Tebb is a Prisoner of War."

An application for the use of the Club lounge was agreed for the Ladies Committee "Bring and Buy" sale proceeds to go to towards the cost of buying a Rubber Dinghy for the Royal Airforce. British Red Cross to use the lounge for their A.G.M. this facility also being extended to the Hazel Grove and Bramhall Sick Nursing Association. As part of the Troop comforts the knitting circle used the lounge every Tuesday afternoon. An application for use of the small committee room as a "Fire Guard Section Point" during night-time air raids was granted.

* * * * *

GOOD HEAVENS ABOVE. The ladies were granted permission to play bowls on two afternoons , Tuesdays and Thursdays. The good relationship with Hazel Grove Golf Club continued as their members were invited to a social evening.

Very significantly in December 1943 the General Committee thought it would be advisable for the Lady members to call a General Meeting with a view to forming a Ladies Committee solely elected by the members.

The constitution of the Clubs General Committee had always been very important. An amendment to rules taken by the Club A.G.M. held in February 1944 was accepted as follows:-

"The control of the Club shall be vested in a Committee consisted of an elected President, Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer and nine other members, namely three Directors of the Hazel Grove Bowling and Tennis Club Ltd. and six members (to be elected at the A.G.M.)

Of the six members appointed the two obtaining the most votes to serve for 3 years. The next two for 2 years, the remaining two for 1 year.

* * * * *

In spite of the war the comradeship was such that the membership grew to 352. At this point 45 members were serving in His Majesty's Forces and it was good news to be able to report that Petty Officer Puketh who had been reported missing was in fact a Prisoner of War.

Special efforts throughout the year had realised £16 for the Comforts Fund, £79-6s-0d gift and £200 invested in "Wings for Victory" also £70-5s-0d to the Stockport Infirmary. The President and Secretary thanked everyone.

In May 1944 Mr J Gosling applied and was granted the use of the bowling green for 2 nights for the Stockport Infirmary competition. In addition "Infirmary Day" was held on Saturday 2nd September, bowls, snooker, dancing in the evening and a Bicycle to be bought and raffled. (THOSE AT HOME WERE DOING THEIR BEST AND THE CLUBS FACILITIES APPEARED TO BE PLAYING A VERY IMPORTANT PART).

There was a Special Committee Meeting called on the 12th January 1945 for the purpose of discussing the Clubs funding. Mr Buckley reported "The financial position was very unsatisfactory and as such we are not in a position to create a reserve fund for repairs and renewals which will be necessary immediately after the war. A recommendation to increase subscriptions was approved and was to be placed before the A.G.M. to be held in February. It was resolved at the subsequent A.G.M. that the following be adopted:-

Full Member Tennis and Bowling	35/-
Tennis (Lady)	25/-
Bowls	30/-
Non Playing Gent	20/-
Lady including Bowls	15/-

At the May meeting the General Secretary reported that Billiard Payment Clocks were now procurable from Merrick Manchester at a cost of £10 per clock. It was agreed to try one on a months trial and to have the following charges arranged :- 6d per 15mins.

* * * * *

AT LAST THE WAR WAS AT AN END AND THE CLUB PROPOSED TO CELEBRATE WITH A VICTORY PARTY.

The Secretary reported at the 43rd A.G.M. held in February 1946 of the pleasure that he felt at being able to present his report especially in view of the fact that Peace had been restored to the world.

He paid tribute to the 50 members who had served in H M Forces and thanked them all for the services they had rendered. It was with regret that he had to inform the meeting, that two of our members had paid the supreme sacrifice. MR LESLIE SMITH and MR ALAN ROBERTS.

He added that the membership, now standing at 377 had celebrated V E and V J day by impromptu evenings these being followed by the organised Victory concert all of which were enjoyed by everyone present. He paid tribute to two members who had gained honours. Councillor H Smith having been elected Chairman of H.G.B. Council and Mr F Allen who was awarded the M.B.E. and later appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Reference is made in March 1947 to the tool shed that was to be re-roofed with corrugated sheets. (wonder if this is the existing boiler house?).

The Ladies Committee arranged for outside caterers for Presidents Day at a cost of 3/- per head for adults and 1/- for children. Whilst on Presidents Day Mr Hadfield said he would supply Linoleum for the Committee Room and passage provided the Club spent the equivalent amount on providing entertainment for the children. The Kilven Production Ltd. Merry Mack Party was engaged at a cost of £20.

Throughout the next few years the General Committee applied itself to the playing side of the Club and periodic decorating and maintenance, and the Ladies, to social events. Funding was such that there was little in reserve for further development.

A number of minuted items are produced that are hopefully of interest :-

In 1948 the Ladies Committee were empowered to arrange dancing classes and the same minutes recorded that the "Vice Chair" had been appointed to the Finnish Consul.

An offer was received of whisky at 51/- per bottle. Not surprisingly 24 bottles were purchased.

In 1949 bar prices were set at, Spirits 1/9d, Wines 1/3d, Guinness 1/2d, Bottled Beer 1/1d and Draught Beer 7d per half pint.

After lengthy discussion, it was finally agreed that the Ladies would be allowed to use the green on Thursday evenings.

There were numerous references recorded throughout the years of Hot Pot Suppers which appeared to be very popular and held annually.

It was agreed in 1949 that members serving in H.M. forces (National Service) to have their subscriptions suspended during their period of service .

It is recorded in April 1950 that mixed bowling shall be allowed on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, also on Thursday evenings.

Bar stock takings over quite a number of months had recorded cash deficiencies and the steward was interviewed repeatedly.

In an effort to solve the problem and increase efficiency it was agreed that a cash register be purchased at a price of £70 to £75.

The Treasurer in 1954 said that the bar needed to be supported more as it was the mainstay of the Club

The Treasurer in 1955 reported and requested that a further £100 income was required if all the repairs and decorations necessary were to be carried out. Following his report the General Committee recognised the urgency of addressing the problem and called a General Meeting in October to place before them proposed increases to subscriptions.

The following subscriptions were set for 1956 :-

Full Membership.	Tennis and Bowls.	Gent	£3-5s-0d
		Lady	£2-15s-0d
	Bowls	Gent	£2-10s-0d
		Lady	£1-10s-0d
Non Playing Member			15s-0d
Junior Member			10s-0d

* * * * *

League tennis was mentioned for the first time in September 1955 when the players were "sounded out". This must have met with approval as the March 1956 minutes record that the steward was instructed to prepare the courts as early as possible to enable players to practice for their league matches.

The 53rd A.G.M. held in February 1956 recorded a cash deficit of £255. Hopefully the increase in subscriptions would assist in addressing this

March must have brought smiles to the members of the ladies bowling section as the General Committee agreed that they be allowed to use the green all day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and also on Friday afternoon. Friday evening being reserved for men only, all of course being subject to availability.

It was approved that the Ladies Committee book a Dinner Dance at the Davenport Cinema on the 8th November 1957.

Arrangements for Presidents Day were in hand and interestingly there was to be amongst many other things pony rides and a skittle alley.

Throughout the next few meetings concern was expressed as to the lack of heat and of the inefficiency of the boiler. Initial repairs to the boiler and stack unfortunately did not resolve the problem and with insufficient funds the matter was referred to the Limited Company who very kindly met the cost of further repairs. £95.

At the 57th A.G.M held in February 1960 the Treasurer reported a small surplus on the past year's financial activities, this being the first time for very many years that a surplus had been recorded.

A Special General Meeting was called in February 1961 to review subscriptions as it was accepted that there was insufficient funding. It was agreed to increase all subscriptions, with the exception of Juniors by 5/-. The membership stood at 258. (Quite clearly the subscriptions were not revised annually).

The President W.L Taylor Esq, offered to purchase a large shed at a cost of £73, and for the Club to repay same in monthly instalments. This offer was gratefully accepted.

The Limited Company addressed a problem that had arisen with a neighbour over the question of a boundary hedge. The Secretary reported to the Directors that a Solicitor had been consulted, who advised that, having examined the conveyance from Mr Gelling to the Limited Company dated 3rd December 1913 he was satisfied that the hedge is the property of the Limited Company. The neighbour was advised of this and told that the hedge was not to be touched.

February 1964 the 61st A.G.M.. The Treasurer's report was all too familiar

"That but for the Ladies Committee efforts the Club finances would be very unsound".

In view of the Clubs financial difficulties it is with surprise that one reads that in May a Special General Committee Meeting was called to consider the purchase of 59, Chapel Street for a sum of £1.550 for housing any future stewards. After considerable debate on this and other properties it was finally agreed to defer the matter.

* * * * *

The minutes of the 62nd A.G.M. record that there were 229 senior members and 30 juniors who were not enjoying the best in terms of heat, as whilst new and improved heating plant was being considered, it was recognised that the financial position did not allow for any increased expenditure.

On the 23rd April, St Georges Day, something different from the usual functions:- Mr J Lovelock F.R.G.S. was to show his collection of slides covering the journey from the U.K. to the Himalayas, the conquering of one of the major peaks by a small party of 4. Price 2/-.

Throughout a number of years the Stewarding of the Club had been a problem, a decision to dismiss the steward and stewardess (his Wife) was thwarted when they got wind of this and tendered their notice.

There was a revolutionary change, as a groundsman was employed for the outdoor duties, green etc. In addition a lady cleaner and finally a steward to work 5 evenings a week with the Club Committee being rotated to cover Wednesday evenings.

Minutes of the 65th A.G.M. February 1968, record again the sterling work done by the Ladies Committee who had handed to the Club funds of £578 throughout 1967.

* * * * *

The Directors at their 1967 meeting paid tribute to Mr A.O. Dearden who retired from his position as Secretary, having served in that capacity for 47 years, being appointed in 1920.

* * * * *

In March 1968 it was finally decided to replace the coke fired boiler with an oil fired boiler for the central heating, oil storage tanks and an additional radiator in the billiards room at a cost of £407.

The years from 1960 to 1969 show an upturn in fortunes, greater support from the members resulted in increased bar profits, increased fruit machine profits plus substantial profit from the "250" club and as ever a very active social calendar that supported the Ladies Committee's activities.

The year 1969 was successfully concluded and suitably celebrated at the Annual Supper Dance held at the Deanwater Hotel.

At a cost of £198 it was agreed that the Space Electrical Co completely rewire the Clubs premises and for wall lights to be fitted

Provision for water heating for the bar to be placed in the roof space. The water heater, currently in the bar, to be moved into the Ladies room, to provide hot water for washing. The Dartboard, to be removed from the Lounge, and all areas disturbed to be suitably decorated. What a difference having sufficient funds had made.

* * * * *

Quotation accepted from Eastwood Cash Registers for £23 for conversion of the cash register to Decimal. "1970"

* * * * *

It was agreed to commence the installation of a new bar this being possible as a result of interest free loans from members of £875. (These loans were later repaid in 1972)

Quotations regarding a "White Jack", for a bowler with bad eyesight was discussed. Agreed that one surplus jack be painted. (Where there's a will there's a way).

The Ladies had their request to play snooker denied as it was explained that the difference in subscriptions, the men paying more, enabled them to use this facility.

At the 69th A.G.M. held in February 1972 the Treasurer reported a surplus of £524 which in view of the bar loan repayments was extremely pleasing. He believed that the bar alterations had played a significant part as the bar takings showed an increase of 29%.

1973 saw the introduction of Coaching for juniors.

It was agreed with the steward that he would undertake a 6 day week as from the 1st January 1973 his wages being adjusted accordingly. As such the bar rota operated by the General Committee was discontinued with the exception of the steward's holidays.

The Club was V.A.T. registered in 1973.

Unfortunately the gates and flagpole had seen better days and as they had rotted and were becoming dangerous it was agreed to take them down. Potholes in the car park were also filled in (Mend and make do where possible).

The minutes for October 1973 record the purchase of the Clubs first Automatic Glass Washer.

* * * * *

OH DEAR! It had to be announced that subscriptions in 1974 would be subject to V.A.T.

* * * * *

Whilst there had been mention of "Fruit Machines" on a regular basis within the minutes it is only in November 1973 that one realises that they had all been hand operated.

"The present machine costs £6-50p plus V.A.T. an electric machine would cost £8 plus V.A.T. " It was agreed to have an electric one."

In early May 1974 the General Committee agreed to the tarmacing of the path, from the gate along the front of the Club, at a cost of £90. (The gate referred to has since been closed and landscaped with a hedge and shrubs).

* * * * *

Two significant rule changes were brought in by those attending the 72nd A.G.M. held in February 1975.

"Children of Tennis Members will be admitted at 10 years of age as Junior Tennis Members subject to being accompanied at all times on Club premises by a parent".

"The Committee shall be empowered to affix the amount of subscriptions or charge for Membership, i.e. daily, weekly, monthly or annually and also Visitors fees".

* * * * *

Membership at this time was close to 300. On the playing side the Tennis Section were extremely active playing and obtaining promotion over the years within the N.E.Cheshire Tennis League and also holding domestic competitions. The bowling section continued with friendly match events that grew over the years and now occasionally included mixed team events these of course being in addition to domestic competitions.

In house the Ladies Committee work was as invaluable as ever and the resultant spin-off, namely bar takings, were very welcome.

The General Committee discussed the necessity for increasing subscriptions in 1976 as they had not been increased since 1971. A proposal to increase all subscriptions by 50% was eventually amended to read "an all round increase of £1 per adult member" this being carried. This approximated to roughly 33%.

Subscriptions for 1976 were therefor to be:-

Gents	Bowls	£4-50p	
Ladies	Bowls	£4-00p	
Gents	Tennis	£4-50p)	
Ladies	Tennis	£4-00p)	Ball Fees £1-20p
Non Playing		£3-00p	
Juniors	10—14	£1-50p	
	14—16	£2-50p	
	16—18	£3-50p	

It is recorded in the May 1976 minutes that a new flagpole was obtained.

As the Kitchen was, and still is in the basement it was decided to consider a catering lift, Dumb Waiter, from the basement to the ground floor. The quotation obtained of £1.148 was rejected, as there were insufficient funds.

Minutes of the 74th A.G.M. held in February 1977 record a deficit for the year of £998 due to a lot of necessary work carried out on the Tennis Courts and Bowling Green. The Treasurer warned that, they may not be able to hold subscriptions at the present level.

Subscriptions were again, reviewed, adults to increase by £1 from the 1st January 1978. Family membership was discussed and it was finally agreed that the Head of the family pay the full amount and the other members get a 20% reduction.

The Secretary was able to report at the 75th A.G.M., held in February 1978, that a shower had been installed in the Gents toilet area, and that the ceiling in the kitchen had been replaced.

In March, it was felt that the fact of not having gates at the entrance suggested that this was not a private club, and it was therefor agreed to obtain prices for wrought iron gates.

Regrettably there had been a number of break-ins and it was decided, following discussions with the Clubs Insurers to install an alarm system at a cost of £320.

It was agreed in June 1978 that Track Suits could be worn on court but only in extreme weather conditions. Tennis playing kit was to remain predominately white.

Whilst the Club's rooms had been used by numerous organisations and individuals over the years the first mention of a Fee was recorded as follows.

"The use of the Club by the Electrical Association for Women for a day course 10am to 4pm on Wednesday 1st November 1978 at a fee of £5 was agreed"

In September it was felt necessary to interview all new membership applicants. The interview committee to be comprised of President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tennis or Games Secretary.

League bowling is recorded for the first time in November but only to say that there was insufficient interest.

1978 came to an end leaving a headache for the General Committee as a newly appointed steward had failed to turn up. Very fortunately another was found but remembering that this was a part time position it was suggested that the question of a full time steward be considered.

Yet again the Ladies Committee had excelled themselves having donated £1.000 to the Club.

Many schemes had been discussed by the General Committee over the past few years but very few had come to fruition. It was felt that more attention and detail should be given and a planning Sub-Committee should be formed. The first Committee, formed in May 1979 had quick results as they recommended seating in the bar, namely additional tables and chairs and bar stools, This was approved for the sum of £697-50p.

October 1979 minutes record that 28 bowling members were showing an interest in league bowling and the Secretary agreed to make enquiries as to joining, either the Cheadle and Gatley or Stockport League. This resulted in a visit from the Secretary of the Cheadle and Gatley League who advised that the Club would be accepted in the New Year. They went on to win the Third Division at the first attempt.

It was agreed that as from the 1980 season juniors of 14 to 16 would be admitted as bowling members, subscription to be £6.50p plus V.A.T.

The General Committee had for some time been considering changing from an oil fired boiler to gas and had repeatedly shied away due to cost. However in May 1980 the boiler packed in. Repairs would cost £268 as compared with a new gas boiler costing £702. After discussion the committee agreed that this was as good as any time to change and it was duly authorised.

Following a Development Committee recommendation it was agreed that an opening be made between the function room and bar lounge with a concertina type screen/door the cost of £247 to include labour and materials. An offer from a member to supply an R.S.J. free of charge, supported by two members being prepared to pay totally the cost, repayment being made through their subscriptions in further years, was gladly accepted as money was still tight.

A Bye-Law was agreed ruling that all members of visiting Bowls and Tennis teams automatically become honorary members for the day or evening of any such match.

Every avenue was explored to raise funds, Not quite so surprising then when it agreed to install a "Space Invader" machine on a month's trial. Subsequently removed.

The question of floodlights for the green was raised in October 1981 and referred to the Development Committee. From the same minutes it is recorded that the ladies could play snooker on Tuesday evenings, and on other evenings, only by invitation by the gentlemen. (The thin end of the wedge).

A further category of membership was introduced, Students undergoing full-time education to have subscriptions set at 50% below the set rate. In addition, the distance outside of which country membership applied was raised to 50 miles.

At this time many members favoured an extension of the function room subject to cost. The Development Committee obtained quotes in the region of £10.000 to £12.000. As the Asbestos roof was badly in need of treatment at considerable cost there seemed little likelihood.

As the snooker clocks, both time and cost had not been amended for some time they were altered in early 1982 to 10 mins play for 5p. It was at this time the General Committee decided that a snooker table should be reserved for the sole use of the Ladies on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Visitors playing charges were reviewed, for playing snooker or outdoor games 50p to be paid.

The Fire Authorities had instructed that emergency lighting must be installed, and this was carried out by Overdale Electrics at a cost of £850.

This was a typical unforeseen cost that periodically was called for and rocked the Clubs plans and finances considerably.

Towards the end of 1982 subscriptions were reviewed and the following items were resolved for implementation on 1st January 1983.

There should be no difference between the Ladies and Gents Subscriptions, and Table Tennis, should not be identified as a separate section. In view of this the ladies were able to play snooker at all times.

There was an entry fee for all senior new members of £5 plus V.A.T. and £2 plus V.A.T. for juniors.

Tennis	£14-50 + V.A.T. (Ball Fee £4 plus V.A.T.)
Bowls	£14-50 + V.A.T.
Non Playing	£12-50 + V.A.T.
Juniors	£ 9-50 + V.A.T.
Country	£ 2-00 + V.A.T.

The 80th A.G.M. held in February 1983 reported that in spite of unexpected costs funds were sound with a balance of £7,000. Decorating the entrance hall, bar lounge and snooker room had been authorised, to cost £716 excluding paper, and this together with Tennis Court and Green and Club maintenance meant that the extension plans would have to be held in abeyance.

Following a request for a pool table, this was duly authorised at a cost of £250 complete with cues and balls.

* * * * *

It was reported that the Club had never had a proper lease with the Limited Company. Legal advice had been obtained and a draft lease prepared for a 30 year period. The General Committee agreed the terms and the President, Secretary and Treasurer were duly authorised to sign on behalf of the Club.

* * * * *

Billiards/Snooker clocks , always of interest to the snooker fraternity were altered to allow 15 mins play for 10p.

There was an excellent offer of kitchen units, second hand, for £50 which was snapped up with a further amount authorised for fitting.

The men's league bowling was going from strength to strength and it came as no surprise when after considerable discussion it was agreed that in addition to the existing two teams in the Cheadle and Gatley that another team would be registered to play in the Stockport and District League for the 1984 season.

It is worth recording that the Secretary, Mr Joe Cuddy, at the 81st A.G.M. held in February 1984 within his report to the meeting said:-

"Finally the success of the Club might be engendered in the pleasure and friendliness it offers to members.

It was at this meeting that it was agreed to appoint an Assistant Secretary.

* * * * *

Not since 1927 when the Pavilion was extended had this Club seen such plans as were proposed for an additional tennis court and an extension to the car park. These proposals would address the needs of the tennis section and resolve the quite serious problem of members and visitors parking on Douglas Road. Throughout the years complaints from neighbours, quite understandably, had been recorded.

At the May 1984 meeting, it was reported that planning permission had been approved, by the Local Authority, covering the whole of the tennis court project. Namely to create two new All Weather courts alongside the bowling green on the south side, and to convert the shale courts alongside the existing car park into car parking.

The area on the south side had served the Club well throughout its lifetime namely as a croquet lawn, putting green and then for children's races and other activities on Presidents Day, and in addition, for bonfires on Guy Fawkes night celebrations. As with most things the sedentary way of life of the first half of the 20th Century was slowly being superseded by a greater demand for more active recreation.

Whilst this major change was afoot the General Committee as ever applied itself to the day to day running of the Club, together with proposals for improvements and change. Security of the premises was paramount and as such it was agreed that Yale locks be fitted to both entrances with as many keys cut as required by members wishing to pay £2 for a key, returnable upon ceasing to be a member.

Upon request it was agreed to install a cabinet shower in the ladies changing room, and also to advertise sweaters with Club logo.

The new Courts were laid, by Reeves Hardcourts, at a cost of £12.000.

It was reported at the July 1984 meeting that Stockport Golf Club were prepared to sell a tineing machine with interchangeable hollow and solid tines for £500, The Secretary was authorised to accept. Interestingly the Hazel Grove Cricket Club arranged to hire the machine for one week at a cost of £25.

For many years the minutes record that the paths on the three sides of the bowling green were in a poor state the shale being full of weeds. In addition the grounds to the North & East of the Club were in an over grown state. Following the completion of the two all weather tennis courts it was felt that this should be addressed.

The General Committee agreed to a proposal that invited members to purchase a paving stone or stones each at a cost of £3, (For this price a 3ft x 2ft slab could be purchased and laid). Enough slabs were purchased there being sufficient to pave the patio and the paths to either side of the bowling green. The mood of the members was infectious as they supported this scheme in both donating and attending a disco to raise funds.

In November 1985 a request from the lady bowlers to enter a team in the Alderley and District Bowling League for the 1986 season was approved. It had taken 82 years but now finally league play was to be undertaken by both ladies and gentlemen of the Club in both Tennis and Bowls pursuits. It was this meeting that recorded that "league bowling was replacing social bowling in many instances".

The General Committee at its 83rd A.G.M. in February 1986 meeting reported a proposal from the tennis section that team members are permitted to bring their own children, under the age of 8 to play, the parent to pay half the junior subscription.

Whilst the paving of the Patio and paths either side of the bowling green had made a tremendous difference the surroundings were badly overgrown and in order to address this the General Committee appointed a Grounds Man, to be employed one day a week.

Following on from the two new courts laid in 1984, the General Committee, with the necessary approved planning permission had patiently awaited the treasurer's approval to obtain a contract for the laying of a new car park. At their September 1986 meeting they finally agreed a tender from Timperley Surfacing of £4.400 plus a further £480 for machine laid parking lines.

It was agreed in early 1987 that the pool table be advertised and sold in order that further seating be fitted in the bar area.

The Secretary reported on a "Community Council" meeting that he had attended on behalf of the Club, at which it was decided, to hold a future meeting to discuss the proposed

"Blue Route". (For those not familiar this was to be the Hazel Grove Bye pass a subject still of much frustration and amusement).

A long awaited Bowling Pavilion was finally erected in 1987 thanks to Mr Brian Kelly assisted by Mr Jack Riley who had diligently built the sections, giving of their time, the cost of materials being £340. This excluded the glass, which was kindly donated by Mr Malcolm (Mac) Mclellan.

* * * * *

It was agreed that both Mr Joseph Cuddy and Mr Arthur Bradbury whose invaluable service to the Club over very many years should be recognised and recorded by naming two of the newly laid paths after them:-

BRADBURY WALK
CUDDY PARADE

Later recognition of Mr Jack Riley's efforts were also recognised in a similar way by naming the Patio area :-

RILEY SQUARE

Landscaping in the shape of turf along Cuddy parade between the new tennis courts and the bowling green was laid and the area either side of the bowling pavilion was cleared and seeded which together with additional paving to the sides and front of the pavilion completed Bradbury Walk

* * * * *

It was agreed to landscape the rear of the car park by planting a row of conifers thus screening a newly seeded lawn and of course the shale tennis courts. (What was to be a simple task of planting small conifers turned into a nightmare as Mr Stuart Whyatt and Mr Ron Edy discovered. From digging the first hole, they found that the remains of the shale tennis court was only a few inches below the newly soiled area, each hole had to be Pick Axed and the job took the best part of 4 hours.(Who would volunteer?)

Throughout 1986 and 1987 the landscaping undertaken had changed the image of the Club.

The members had to be congratulated for having in Phase 1 paid for the paving and laying of the Patio and side paths and then finally providing 100 further paving slabs for the far end of the green subsequently laid by the then Secretary.

The employing of Mr Marsden as grounds man, one day each week had proved well founded as it is recorded the he greatly assisted with the clearing and landscaping of the grounds when the weather permitted and with re-decorating as directed, at other times.

There were numerous tributes paid at the 85th A.G.M. held in February 1988. Mr Kelly was presented with a Tankard in appreciation of his having constructed the bowling pavilion and Mr McLellan was thanked for building the Bar-B-Cue pit and laying the paving from the rear door to the car park.

It is recorded that the area at the far end of the bowling green had finally been seeded in the Autumn of 1988 thus completing the pleasant surroundings of the bowling green.

* * * * *

The Committee was concious of the fact that the Presidents Board had little room for further names and were delighted when Mr Douglas Parrott with his considerable expertise very generously designed, manufactured and donated two further wings.

Considerable amounts of money had been spent on the "outside" namely the new tennis courts, car park and the subsequent laying of a Patio, new paths and landscaping. Whilst all this was going on repeated expressions of concern were recorded over the years by the General Committee as to the poor state of the Club House.

It was felt that there was little point in re-decorating and re-furbishing whilst the asbestos roof repeatedly leaked, the guttering between the two sections of the building also being a particular problem.

Whilst the House and Development Committee had taken almost two years in funding a roofing contract for the rear part of the Club they had not been idle on other matters as it was then thought feasible to install and re-site the bar and thoroughly overhaul the lounge.

At the 86th A.G.M. held in February 1989 the Secretary reported that Marstons Brewery had advanced the Club £10.000 which would be discounted against barrelage. (The more you drink the quicker the loan will be re-paid).

He added that in view of this the General Committee had agreed a contract with B & V Ltd to completely re-roof the rear part of the Club at the cost of £8.000 this to also include a seamless gutter between the two sections.

The work on the roof was quickly completed, and bar contractors Smith (Sharman) were brought in to remove the existing bar, (at that time it was situated in the centre of the lounge), then to create a window in its place, and subsequently brick up the existing window in the corner of the lounge and install the new bar. In addition there was to be installed small bore central heating with a radiator installed for the first time in the gents toilet area. This was then to be followed with a dividing partition between the bar lounge and the snooker room and finally new seating and lighting the cost to be £7.400. As this wasn't enough the Committee topped it off with a new carpet throughout the lounge at a cost of £1.471. PHEW!

* * * * *

The Treasurer at the General Committee at the November 1989 meeting reported on an estimated shortfall in the 1990 budget of £3.000. As such the Committee agreed to increase adult subscriptions to £40 per year. They also agreed that the entry fee for new members be abolished.

It is reported at the A.G.M. held in February 1990 that Mrs Enid Pearson was elected as Treasurer this being the first lady to be appointed a "Top Table" senior official.

The 88th A.G.M. held in February 1991 records an amendment to the subscription categories. These were to be as follows:-

Club Member.
Bowls.
Tennis.
Intermediate.
Junior.
Country.

An attempted break in was thwarted by an alert member, and the culprit arrested. The member was suitably awarded by the Committee "Free beer throughout the next evening he attended the Club". CHEERS.

Throughout the past few years two names appeared regularly within the minutes in connection with emergency work carried out around and within the Clubhouse, particularly whenever there was a break in.

Yet again at the February 1992 meeting Mr Jack Riley and Mr Malcom McLellan (Mac) were proposed a vote of thanks. At the same meeting it was recorded that thieves of another sort had managed to get into the loft and chew through an electric cable. It was hoped that the Squirrels had not damaged their "nuts."

The request for Floodlighting of both the Bowling Green and Tennis Courts had been repeatedly placed before the General Committee. Throughout many years this had been deferred because of insufficient funds however in 1992 it was finally agreed to seek planning permission. Considerable disappointment was recorded in September when the Club was notified that the application had failed by one vote on three points:- namely

1. Illumination would be detrimental to nearby residents.
2. Construction of lighting columns.
3. The floodlights would allow a greater use of Club facilities thus causing disturbance.

It was unanimously agreed to appeal against this.

There was cause for celebration in March 1993 when the Secretary reported that "we have won the appeal subject to four conditions".

1. The work must commence within a five-year period commencing on the 17.3.93.
2. Local Authority must approve the construction/materials etc.
3. Lights can only be used 3 days per week and no later than 22.00 hours.
4. Any trees that die within five years of installation must be replaced.

* * * * *

Whilst the "fruit machine" had provided welcome income for many years it had become attractive to thieves there having been numerous break-ins and subsequently damage to windows and doors. The General Committee at its meeting in February 1994 decided that enough was enough and the machine was removed.

* * * * *

The 91st A.G.M. held in February 1994 proved momentous when it elected Mrs Carol Shaw to the position of Club Secretary, the first lady to hold this position. Membership stood at 257 and the ladies committee was congratulated having donated in 1993 £3.354.

Over the years there had been a number of Club photographs all recorded in black and white, however the Clubs President Mr David Matthews organised a "shoot" on the 2nd July 1994 which resulted in a coloured grouping suitably framed and presented to the club.

Whilst the Club were anxious to install its long awaited floodlights it was felt that common sense should prevail and that the renewal of the Club roof that covered the entrance, snooker room and function room be given priority.

Finely the, often leaking asbestos roof was removed and renewed with more suitable material (metal tiles) by Malmac Construction at a cost of £12,290-50p –September 1994.

* * * * *

Autumn seemed an appropriate time for the V.A.T. “windfall” that the Club became entitled to as H.M. Customs and Excise gave notice that certain sporting facilities were exempt from Tax on subscriptions from 1st January 1990. The accumulated total of £8.205 was more than welcome.

The January 1995 General Committee meeting records that a further amount of £1908 was received, this being the accumulated interest on the V.A.T. refund. In view of this unexpected windfall it was now thought that the long awaited “floodlighting” could be realistically undertaken. The Treasurer Mr Jeffrey Shaw undertook to obtain the necessary forms in order to make an application for a National Lottery Grant.

The Treasurer reported, month by month, on the progress of his extremely time consuming and complicated lottery application. Finally it is recorded in December 1995 that he reported to a delighted General Committee that he had been successful.

The Secretary Mrs Carol Shaw in her report to the 93rd A.G.M. held in February 1996 said:-

The main project for the year had been the erection and wiring up of the floodlights to the two all weather tennis courts and the bowling green. This had involved a lot of hard work by a lot of people who came down weekend after weekend to complete the project. At this point I would like to thank Jeff (Treasurer) for all his hard work in preparing a business plan and completing the application form for a Sports Council Lottery bid. Only I know how relentlessly he worked and how much time and effort was put into it.

Fortunately for the Club his efforts were rewarded with a grant of £10.707.”

As a result of Mr Shaws efforts the General Committee awarded him Life Membership.

At the same meeting the Treasurer referred, amongst other things, to the cost of erecting and implementing the lights £14.039, and as well, to the Committee’s who had donated £4.999. (This included £3.106 from the Ladies committee).

EVERYTHING COMES TO THOSE WHO WAIT. (93 Years to be precise).

The minutes record the very long awaited "Switch On" of the floodlights on the 29th March 1996.

Invited officials namely:--

Peter Howarth	President Stockport Sports Council.
Chris Dodd	Senior Officer of the N.W. Reg Sports Council.
Mike Atkinson	Stockport M.B.C. Lottery Liaison Officer
Tony Bryning	Secretary Cheshire Crown Green Bowls Assoc.
Eric Pickstone	Treasurer -do- -do- -do- -do- -do-
John Hoffman	Secy Cheshire Lawn Tennis Assoc.
Mr Cowell	Area Manager Lawn Tennis Assoc.
Bill Abernethy	Rep. Marstons Brewery.

By the President Mr Alan Pearson.

Mr Howarth was invited to "switch on" to the delight of the many members in attendance, this was followed by a buffet and "bubbly".

It was recorded in 1996 that Mr & Mrs Shaw landscaped the land to the rear of the Club planting trees and shrubs including laurels to screen the equipment shed.

Whilst 1996 closed with a balance of funds in excess of £23.000 the Club house was badly in need of renovating.

There was a flurry of activities in 1997 as recorded in the minutes of the 95th A.G.M. held in February 1998. The Secretary Mrs Carol Shaw reported :-

"As you can see the facilities of the Club have changed beyond recognition, We started in April with the complete refurbishment of the ladies and gents changing rooms and toilets, then the bar lounge and bar were completely refurbished. In addition all of the windows have been replaced with new frames and double glazed units".

The Secretary also referred to :-

"My "A" team as they became known, namely Jeff Shaw, Enid and Alan Pearson and Sheila and Stuart Whyatt between the six of us spent about a total of 400 hours plus on decorating, electrical and plumbing work. I elected to be "Boss" and had the team been paid employees I would not have begrudged a single penny. No job was too small or too large and all were done with enthusiasm and good spirit."

It was also reported that new and very splendid wrought iron gates had given additional security and instances of vandalism had almost disappeared.

* * * * *

Sadly in September 1998 it was reported that the table tennis team was being disbanded due to a shortage of players.

* * * * *

The General Committee turned its attention to the function room authorising French Windows to open onto the Patio at a cost of £1400 and a suspended ceiling at a cost of £800.

Immediately following these major alterations Carols "A" Team set to work. Ceiling and Wall Lights, extractor fan, skirting boards, dado rail, completely redecorated with new curtains "run up" by Carol completing the transformation.

Finally the "piece de resistance", the wiring and installation of four spot lights and a central revolving mirror ball for dance functions.

* * * * *

The Millennium was celebrated with a New Years Eve dance and a Fireworks display that was memorable.

* * * * *

The Secretary's report to the 97th A.G.M., held on February 2000 referred to the refurbishment of the function room.

"The floor has been sanded and polished, the room redecorated and the curtains replaced. We have redecorated the entrance hall and replaced the carpet tiles with a warm and welcoming carpet. All this work has been carried out by my willing? band of workers".

Mrs Shaw went on to report that in January a suspended ceiling had been put in the Snooker Room at a cost of £800 and the subsequent ceiling lighting installed. The snooker table hoods were redecorated and relining of the curtains, was undertaken by the "A" team thus completing the major internal refurbishment.

* * * * *

At the A.G.M. thanks were given by the Bowling Secretary for the construction of the additional shelter during 1999, which was much appreciated by all members and visitors.

* * * * *

Thanks were given to Roy Cheetham for placing the Club on the website.

www.hgbtc.co.uk.

* * * * *

Mrs Margaret Lawson was thanked for making and donating two beautiful stained glass panels, depicting a tennis player and a bowler, for the doors from the entrance hall into the bar lounge.

* * * * *

Whilst the Clubhouse was being refurbished the House and Development Committee regularly met to discuss and format plans for a complete upgrading of the tennis courts, this to include floodlights for the two shale courts

During 2001 little was done in the way of refurbishment or alterations all energy being channelled into investigating the ways of raising funds for future projects.

The Clubs funds were such that it was agreed to seek assisted funding including a lottery grant.

In order to expedite this it was agreed to seek planning permission from Stockport Metro Boro Council. At the Clubs 99th A.G.M. held in February 2002 The Secretary reported that the first hurdle had been cleared as approval to our plans had been given. Now for the funding!

The Secretary, at three consecutive A.G.Ms., had thanked Stuart Whyatt for single handily tackling the wilderness on the South Bank. (of the Club not the Thames)

This area of land on the far side of the tennis courts is 100yds long and varies in width from 2 to 13 yds. Suitably paved alongside the All Weather courts, cleared and lawn seeded, and the lawn enhanced by a number of conifers.

* * * * *

Further in 2002 it was agreed that the all weather tennis courts should be upgraded to Astro Turf surfaces. The original courts laid in 1984 at a cost of £12.000 had served the club very well but time had taken its toll and obviously again the time to move forward had come. The conversion was carried out in time for the 2003 season thanks in some way to members who had kindly given loans and gifts in order to meet the cost.

Other ground breaking events took place in 2003.

At the A.G.M. in February 2003 the first lady President was elected namely Mrs Ann Fildes. Mrs Fildes was followed in the Centenary year by our second Lady President namely Mrs Wendy Tonge.