

# ROLLING BACK THE YEARS



## History of Newick Bowls Club

### **PREFACE**

Newick Bowls Club was formed in 1911 with a membership of 8 ‘gentlemen’ and few resources. Nevertheless, it could draw encouragement from the fact that it was participating in a broad movement sweeping across Sussex in the first quarter of the twentieth century which would see the emergence of a score or more Bowls Clubs as part of the great revival in the game in England. It is not the oldest Club in the county—that honour belongs to Chichester, formed in 1850 and re-formed in 1881 (but with a Green as early as 1658), whilst Uckfield laid its Green in 1887. Formed in the same year as West Hoathly, Newick closely followed Burgess Hill (1902), Lindfield (1903), Haywards Heath (1905), and slightly ahead of Seaford (1912), Hurstpierpoint (1913), Nutley (1915), and Chailey (1923).

Until the Gaming Act of 1845 legalised Bowls the game had enjoyed a rather dubious reputation. Southampton Club, reputedly formed in 1299, is probably the oldest Club in

England. A number of versions of the game were known. One version has the players bowling towards a small bowl, or 'jack': another shows 2 small cones at either end, the players being required to bowl at them alternately, rather like 'skittles'; yet a third version shows neither 'jack' nor cone, a player apparently bowling at his opponent's wood. In all these versions each player appears to have only one wood. Henry V<sup>11</sup> enjoyed bowls (and built indoor alleys at his Whitehall Palace), but he, too, passed severe laws against the game. As early as 1511 he stated that bowls was played 'in conjunction with saloons or dissolute places' and that it was not a sport but 'a form of vicious gambling'. In 1541 he insisted that whereas any nobleman might obtain a licence to bowl on his own lands, no labourer, artisan, apprentice or servant could play, except at Christmas (and only then in the house or presence of their masters). In 1555 Queen Mary introduced even stiffer legislation against the game, claiming that it had become 'an excuse for unlawful assemblies'. In 1567 A Lewes draper and 5 men from Brighton appeared in court for playing the game. Perhaps the government's concern was justified for, in 1628, it was said that 'a bowling Green or bowling- alley is a place where three things are thrown away besides the bowls, to wit, time, money, and curses, and the last ten for one'.

These references make it clear that the game was played indoors as well as outdoors. The term 'alley' (usually 20 feet wide by 120 feet long) was applied to both forms of the game. A Seventeenth Century writer described the outdoor game as being played 'in open. wild places or in close alleys' and that 'your flat bowls being best for alleys, your round, biased bowls for open grounds...and your round bowls, like a ball, for Greens... that are plain and level'. It is also clear that by the Seventeenth Century such term as 'rubbs', 'cutting out', 'knocks', and 'hits' were in general use in the game.

The game recovered its 'respectability' during the nineteenth century, and with it, its popularity. By the start of the twentieth century Clubs were appearing everywhere. Within a few miles of Newick 13 Clubs were formed for, in addition to those mentioned above, Clubs opened at Maresfield, Barcombe, Isle of Thorns, Sheffield Park, Ditchling, and Ringmer. A national organisation was created in 1903 with the English Bowling Association, and regional affiliations to the Sussex County Bowls Association (SCBA) in 1909. Although Ladies had played bowls from its earliest days, the formal affiliation to a national body only came with the formation of the English Women's Bowling Association (EWBA) in 1931, which followed the success of an Open tournament held at Eastbourne that year. The Sussex County Women's Association (SCWBA) was formed in the same year. In 2014 SCBA and SCWBA become unified as part of Bowls England. Indoor Bowls Centres developed during the early part of the twentieth century after the introduction of the first woollen carpet at Hastings Pavilion which replaced cocoa-matting, and increased rapidly towards the end of the century. The nearest Centre to Newick, the 'Wealden Bowls Centre', opened on 20 November 1985.

## BEGINNINGS

Although no record of it has survived, there is a tradition that the game of Bowls was first played at Newick, in the garden at the rear of the 'Bull' Inn, as early as 1900. In 1909 it seems that some men had mown a section of ground behind the 'Bull' to play bowls during the summer. In the following year they decided that the village needed a Bowling Green, and so an approach was made to the owners, E. Robins and Son, Anchor Brewery, at Waterloo Street, Hove. It was not until Tuesday, 1 August 1911, however, that a meeting of possible members was held at the 'Bull' for 'the purpose of forming a Bowling Club for this district'. The meeting was presided over by Mr J. Bannister, who explained that letters had been received from the Anchor Brewery, 'dealing with the making of a bowls Green' - letters which detailed the conditions which would attach to the offer. The letters confirmed that the Brewery would both lease part of the land to the Club and, during the autumn, carry out the necessary work to create a 3-rink Green. The annual rent was fixed at £3. Of the 12 men who attended that meeting, 8 immediately agreed to become members of the Club at the subscription rate of 5/-, which was based on the rates levied at the Haywards Heath and Uckfield Bowls Clubs. They were G. Bannister (Newick grocer), T. Clarkson (butler at Sutton Hall), A. J. Godden (School Attendance Officer), H. W. Hellyer (baker), H. F. Houghton (Landlord of the 'Bull' Inn), W. Chisholm (head gardener at Beechlands), E. J. Richards (coal merchant and farmer), and J. Wood (butcher). A Club Secretary (A. Godden) was duly elected and a Committee formed of the remaining 7 members, with the expressed purpose of drawing up Club Rules.

The first Committee meeting was held in the 'Bull' on 21 September when A. J. Bannister was unanimously elected chairman. A draft set of 14 Rules, 'with the guidance of copies as used by the Haywards Heath and Uckfield Bowling Clubs', were considered at this meeting and at a second session held on 3 October, when a final version was agreed.

The Club was fully aware of the considerable initial expense that it faced in setting up a Bowls Club, expense that could not be met solely from the subscriptions paid by a small membership. The solution seemed to lie with Honorary membership and Vice-Presidents. At first, only six names were forthcoming - one received a letter from the Club suggesting that he increase his payment if he wished to serve as President! Five other people declined to make a donation, some even suggesting that 'a Bowling Club should be self-supporting'. Matters had improved sufficiently by its first Annual General Meeting held on 21 March 1912 for the Secretary to announce that 'several Ladies and Gentlemen have either given or promised subscriptions or donations in order to start the Club successfully' and to express the hope that the club would one day rank as 'one of the first class clubs in this county'. Even so, the financial situation remained precarious and, in 1913, the Accounts were only balanced by the Groundsman, Mr. Houghton, agreeing to take a 'cut' in his wages from £5 to £4.10 shillings, with the 'ten shillings' being shown in the audited accounts as an 'anonymous' donation! He also

offered the Club the use of his mower. The 1913 Account showed a credit balance of 15/6d, and an arrangement with the Cricket Club to borrow its roller. Unfortunately, it lost the services of Mr. Houghton who was replaced as the Landlord of the 'Bull' by Mrs Meeten. At the suggestion of the Brewery, the Club invited Mrs Meeten to a meeting of the Committee where she received 'a hearty welcome'; after which it was agreed that (1) the Club could continue with its use of her mower (provided it undertook its maintenance); (2) the Club would erect a wire netting fence on the eastern side of the Green (in place of the existing hurdles); (3) the Shed erected by Mr. Houghton could still be used; (4) the key for the gate would be kept in the 'Club's box of bowls'; and (5) the Visitors Book would be 'likewise deposited'. Later that summer a new 'shelter'/pavilion was erected in the south-east corner of the Green (re-using the galvanised roofing from the previous building) and paid for by the Brewery.

In October 1911 the Club had received a letter from the Sussex County Bowling Association (SCBA) referring to the Association's 'manual for Bowlers', but deferred buying a copy until the following Spring, by which time the SCBA had written to the Club inviting membership of the Association. Again the Club deferred any consideration of the offer to 'some future occasion'. The Club finally agreed to be affiliated to SCBA in November 1920, at the same time as it joined the new Mid-Sussex League (which required Clubs to have County affiliation) – although it delayed payment of the affiliation fees until 1921, because of the considerable expenses it faced in renovating the Green towards the end of 1920. Delegates to each Association were appointed in April 1921.

During 1914 the Committee expressed its concern over the condition of the Green. Members were urged to wear either rubber or plain leather-soled shoes or boots when playing, and a number of turves had to be replaced at a cost of £5.10 shillings, an expense which reduced the Club's credit balance at the year's end to 3s.7 d. Members appeared to have ignored this request about proper footwear for, in 1915, it was claimed that some players continued to wear 'nailed or spiked shoes'. A Notice was displayed to the effect that 'Members are not allowed on the Green with hobnailed boots or shoes'. Members agreed to 'use their influence to check any disorder' caused by the 'conduct of boys frequently assembled'. The Brewery agreed to a final renovation of the Green which, an inspection had shown, had a 6 inch slope along its 120 foot length from south to north, and a 1 inch slope from east to west along its southern boundary; the northern edge appeared to be level.

The outbreak of the First World War undoubtedly had an effect on the Club. Although membership remained steady, the Subscription rate was reduced in 1915 'due to the war', and, in 1917, suspended for the duration of the fighting. The War also caused disruption to the schedule of matches. Only 5 games were played in 1915 (including those against West Hoathly, Nutley, and Newhaven). No Fixtures were planned for 1916, 1917, and 1918. Fortunately, a number of Clubs made contact with Newick during the 1916 season



and 11 matches were actually played, and, in 1917, the Club organised more competitions for its members to offset the lack of matches. Matters started to return to normal in 1919, when it was hoped that 'during the coming season full advantage will be taken of the Daylight Savings Bill, and that a series of evening matches, as well as others, will be arranged with outside Clubs'. It had also been agreed to make the Green available every Wednesday to the wounded soldiers at the Beechlands Hospital 'on the condition that no intoxicating liquor should be consumed on the Green and that access to the Green should be via the 'Bull' and not across the field'. This arrangement proved very popular and many long and lasting friendships were established between the soldiers and Club members.

Owing to the War and the financial state of the Club, the Brewery agreed to waive the rent for 1917, a year when the mower was found to be beyond repair and, once more, the Cricket Club loaned its machine. Concern was expressed about the condition of the Green. The village blacksmith, C. Croucher, was appointed Groundsman in 1917, only to be replaced by E. Wilkins in the following year. Although the Club later purchased its own mower in 1917 for £6 and a roller in 1918, the resumption of matches after the war took its toll of the Green.

Towards the end of the 1920 season, despite drainage work which had been carried out, the condition of the Green had so deteriorated that a turf expert was called in to advise the Club. The Brewery proposed that the Club should meet the cost of renovation, with the Landlords providing a loan at 5%. The Club declined the offer, but suggested that the Brewery should carry out the work at its expense, offsetting the cost by increasing the rent from £3 to £5 annually! This proposal was agreed and the new turf was purchased by the Brewery. However, in order to meet the increased rent - in addition to membership of SCBA, the Mid- Sussex League, and a further purchase of bowls by the Club - the Subscription was raised to 10/-, 'as it was realised that ours was practically the only Club working on such a low rate up to the present'. By 1921, it was clear that the Club had overcome many of its initial problems and with a new Green, membership rising from 27 to 35 (its highest level), and with a growing reputation, it was no surprise that optimism was the key theme of its Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting in March 1921. The Club, he claimed, 'has more than fulfilled the expectations of those early members who were called together in August 1911 for the purpose of considering whether the formation of a Bowling Club in Newick was desirable'. Unfortunately, such optimism was somewhat premature, as events were to show!

With the formation of the neighbouring Chailey Bowls Club in 1923, a number of members left Newick, and the Club immediately struggled to meet its very full playing commitments, particularly the League matches. In his report on the 1923 season, given to the Annual General Meeting in March 1924, the Secretary apologised to 'those members who had been called upon to participate in nearly all of the contests'. In the inter-war period, the Club was, in fact, regularly confronted with problems, often of a

recurring nature, such as the state of the pavilion and the Green, the need for an experienced Groundsman, and the raising of funds to pay for improvements to its facilities. In 1920 J. Neve replaced E. Wilkins as the Club Groundsman at the usual fee of £5, 'plus any necessary extras' (his wage was subsequently raised to £5.5.0 and 'topped up' by a further 8/- which had been collected on the occasion of the Brighton Licensed Victuallers match). Three years later a new Groundsman, G. Hodges (a gardener at Beechlands) was appointed on the terms of £7 per annum and free membership of the Club. His task was not made any easier by children playing on the Green and so it was decided that C. Croucher should, at a cost of £24, erect a wire fence around the Green and fit the present iron gate at the entrance in the south-east corner. The annual change of Groundsman continued with the appointment of A. Gilbert in 1924 for 12 months at the greatly increased salary of £10 plus free membership. Finally, in 1925 the Club set up a Ground Committee empowered to employ any necessary labour at a cost not exceeding £10 - it must have been successful for, in 1926, SCBA arranged for the fourth round of the County Singles and Pairs to be played at Newick.

In October 1926 the Club, whilst taking account of any Rule changes which the English Bowling Association and 'like associations' might make, considered shortening the Green by '3 feet, independent of the ditch, and that the bank be cut back 2 feet to the height for allowing seats to be placed'. These improvements would ensure that members would not have to disturb the ends of the rinks, nor have to climb the existing bank; drainage would be improved, as well as making it possible for teas to be served in the additional space. Concern was expressed at the cost involved (estimated at between £3.10s and £3.15s) which would be 'a cause of depleting the Club's finances, and creating a deficiency'. Nevertheless, 3 seats were purchased for the new area, and, not surprisingly, at the Annual General Meeting in January 1928, the Club reported a deficit of £3.17s7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. The solution suggested was to ask the Brewery for a reduction in the rent from £5, arguing that the Club 'consider £3 per annum a reasonable rent'. The Brewery agreed to the reduced level.

In 1929 the Anchor Brewery was taken over by the Tamplin Brewery who were immediately informed by the Club of the poor condition of the Green. Tamplins arranged for the Head Groundsman of the Hove Greens to inspect the surface. His comprehensive list of work that needed to be done gives some indication of the condition of the Green by this date. All weeds were to be removed by hand, the hardest places pricked over with a fork, the whole area raked and swept, the Green covered with mould and sown with seed, and the Green ends re-turfed. Since the estimated cost of this work was £35, Tamplins agreed to assist the Club. Subsequently, 500 turves from the Firle Estate were delivered by William Martin (Land and Seed Merchant) of Allington Road, Newick. Extra wire netting was also erected 'as neighbours with chickens were causing havoc to the playing surface'. Surprisingly, the Club ended the season showing a financial surplus of £5.17.10.

With new turf having been laid, the Committee delayed the start of the 1930 season until the 7 May. Finding a satisfactory Groundsman became a problem in 1930 when, mid way through his one year contract, he was dismissed with a payment of £3 'on account of the indifference shown by him in the putting off the weeding suggested'. At the start of 1931 the Committee decided to abandon its Ground Committee in preference for the appointment of a Club member who would act 'as overseer' to the new Groundsman. An advertisement placed in the local Post Office finally elicited 3 applications, the successful candidate, Mr. Hamper, accepting the post at the rate of 9 pence per hour. None of these arrangements appear to have proven satisfactory – the Club continued to repair the Green, with the support of the Brewery, and chickens continued to be such a nuisance that 'the effects of their work was proving disastrous to the Green'. Some stability in the tenure of Groundsmen came with the appointment of W. Croucher mid way through the 1935 season. Except for the period of the Second World War, Mr. Croucher remained in his post until 1955, only retiring then 'owing to other commitments'.

Another long-serving Committee member Secretary A.J. Godden, who had held this office with that of Treasurer since the Club was formed, had retired in 1931.

Other changes occurred in the few years before the outbreak of war. A new mower was purchased in 1932, metal Club lapel badges for the first time in 1934, and, in 1936, G. Bannister presented the Club with a wooden seat, which is still in use today. In the same year a Special General Meeting of the Club was held to consider the matter of Sunday bowling. It was decided, by a 12 to 8 majority, to permit bowling on Sundays after 2.00 p.m., but 'competitions and playing for penny on the Jack would not be allowed'. After the War, in 1950, these restrictions on competitions and matches played after 2.00p.m were lifted.

The Second World War naturally caused some dislocation to the running of the Club, but it did manage to extend its playing area from 3 rinks to 4. Although no actual account of this change has survived, there is evidence to suggest that it occurred either in the Autumn of 1938 or the Spring of 1939. Home matches against Newhaven, Nutley, and Lewes in August 1938 were played over 3 rinks, whilst that against Lewes in June 1939 was a 4 rinks game. In July 1946, when Newick, at home, played Lewes in a match which was 'tied' at 80 shots each, the match was played as 4 triples.

In 1939, D.W. Wilkins, S. Tompsett and some other members belonging to the Observer Corps occasionally attended meetings of the Corps at Horsham. Since these meetings were usually held in the evenings they were invited by the Horsham Bowls Club to play on their Green in the afternoons. Thus began the close association between the two Clubs which has continued. In 1942 it was agreed that all Club members who were serving with H.M. Forces should be made honorary Vice-Presidents of Newick for the duration of the war.

In this period the Club temporarily lost the services of its most regular Groundsman, W. Croucher, and it is no surprise to learn that the condition of the Green deteriorated until, in 1944, the Club called upon the advice of Mr Blunden, the Professional and Greenkeeper of the Piltdown Golf course. As ever, the Landlord was asked to meet the costs, and, again in 1949, when extensive relaying and re-boarding of the Green took place (at over £300), which resulted in the Green being closed in July and August, and the Club being obliged to ask other Clubs to 'accommodate us on their ground'. With the Green in such poor condition all Club competitions were cancelled for the season.

From time to time, the Club sought to protect its boundaries, and to prevent the encroachment of weeds from neighbouring fields. When the Club was opened it was proposed that a 'narrow wire netting at the lower end of the Green' should be erected – a suggestion which was almost immediately cancelled since it was felt that 'the one already placed there by Mr.Houghton would serve the purpose for the present'. In 1913 the fence near the Green entrance needed repair: Later that year, the Groundsman was instructed to 'continue the same around the back of the existing shelter' and that 'a row of wire run through the top of the netting in order to give support, and also that an additional line be placed, about a foot above, throughout the length of the eastern side'. By 1936 the Committee was still being urged to 'consider the question of improvements at the north end of the Green, namely waste ground'. The advent of the War may have delayed any improvements for, in 1950, the Club received a formal complaint from the 'Bull' Inn regarding the weeds and ground elder growing along the boundary which had invaded the Pub's garden. The Club would not accept blame, claiming that it had already started a tidying-up operation and complaining in turn that the 'Bull's' actions had upset their Groundsman 'who has already given notice over the incident and whom we have had great difficulty in pacifying'. The Brewery intervened and the Club's secretary agreed to 'open up a friendly atmosphere again'. When a proposal to erect a brick wall, or 'some type of wall' along the 'Bull' Inn side of the Green came to the Committee it was opposed and, instead, it was agreed that 'all the rose trees should be scrapped, and the bed dug during the winter months to dispose of the weeds, and then kept in good order'. Amicable relations appear to have been re-established with the 'Bull' for the Landlady agreed to serve teas for the 1951 season. In 1951, as part of the winter dressing of the Green, the Club recommended that 'a ditch be dug out on the west side to prevent the rough grass of the bank linking up with the Green'. Before the start of the 1953 season, it was decided to ask the Ground Committee to dig the Club's flower beds.

In the Spring of 1952 the Green was inspected by the County association and 'passed' as generally satisfactory although its ditches needed deepening. Probably encouraged by this report, the Club had, by that Autumn, built a new Pavilion at a cost of £89.8.11, despite the fact that it had only £62 available for the project, and had received some of the materials free of charge! Some damage to the old Pavilion had yielded £12 in



compensation from the Balcombe Timber Company which had reduced the deficit, with the builder (the Club Chairman) prepared to await the remaining amount of £15. The 'damage' to the Old Pavilion might explain why a New Pavilion was erected so quickly and without the necessary Club funds in place since, at the same time, the Committee had been preoccupied with the need to purchase a new mower at a cost of £33 - money which it clearly did not have. Fortunately, a loan of £35 from another member resolved that dilemma!

The Brewery continued to assist the Club financially. In 1955, when further repair of the Green amounted to £60, Tamplins contributed £40. Two years later the landlord's cheque for £50 helped in the purchase of 400 turves. However, in 1960, further financial help could not be provided, and when in 1961 and again in 1962 the Club argued the need to extend the Green from 4 to 6 rinks, Tamplins, whilst supporting the proposal, was unable to offer assistance. It needed the persuasive powers of Mr P. Allsebrook (the Club's Vice-President, but soon to become President) to obtain £100 from the Landlords (without any increase in the rent!), so that work could commence in March 1963; it was completed at the end of the year. A square Green of 40 yards was made by extending half a rink width on the east side, nearest the 'Bull', and by one-and-a-half rinks on the west side (involving much excavation of the earth bank). The total costs reached £320, but, through donations, raffles, and a Christmas Draw the Club raised £308 – and still managed to reach the end of the financial year with a surplus of 6/6d!. Plumpton Nurseries had made the final levelling, a Club member had supplied his rotovator, and a 'pricking machine' was borrowed from the mushroom farm (the handle had to be repaired, and, having been repaired, the machine was retained by the Club!). Thirty nine matches were arranged for the 1964 season, although the new 'extension to the Green was not used'.

Having improved the playing facilities for its members, the Club next turned its attention to the size of the Pavilion and the need to extend it by 10 feet. In the autumn of 1964 the Committee recommended that the extension was needed 'as, with more rinks available, and more members expected, more accommodation was necessary and more lockers required'. It was proposed to double the current space. The costs amounted to £154 for the extension and a further £18 for new lockers. The money was raised through donations, the lockers were paid for by a member, and Messrs Wilkins provided a 'lean-to' to house the new motor mower. The Pavilion was completed in the winter of 1965. Five years later, the farm land to the north and east of the Green underwent residential development creating Oldaker Road and Marbles Road, and new boundaries to the Club, marked out with close-boarded fencing.

Financial stringency frustrated the Club's expansion ideas. Repairs to the Green carried out by Chipman Chemicals in 1973 and 1974 could only be met by raising the subscription to £5 and a composite payment of £100 from the Club's President. Measures introduced to increase membership included a Junior Membership for those

between 10 and 15 years at a reduced subscription rate of 50 pence. All mowing and maintenance work had to be done by the members since there was no Groundsman. Advice had been sought from Mr.S.Allen, the Greenkeeper of the Piltdown Golf Club, who, in 1979, became a member of the Bowls Club, and was immediately engaged as a 'consultant' Greenkeeper (a position he retained until 1984, when 'consultation' was sought of G. Long of the Isle of Thorns Club). In 1974 a loan of £100 from the National Playing Fields Association was arranged which was repaid in 1977, and, almost immediately, the Club renewed plans to improve its Pavilion. Although donations and fund- raising encouraged such ideas, they suffered a setback in 1978 when it was found that the mower was beyond repair and the Club was faced with buying a new one for £440 (the price was later reduced to £422). Once more the Club was not to be denied. A grant of £75 was obtained from the Sussex Playing Fields Association, together with the promise of a loan of £250, whilst a letter to Club members explaining the Club's plight produced an amazing response from numerous sources. Following a newspaper article, donations were received from both the current and past County Bowls Presidents, from the President and members of the Burgess Hill Bowls Club, from the Preston Club, from Newick's own members and Vice-Presidents, and from people living in the village - in all, a total amount of £320 was collected (as a result of which the Playing Fields loan was not required). The mower was purchased in 1978, and, with a further gift of £100 from a member, Mr. R. Richards, a new shed was bought to house it.

With its 'mower crisis' over, the Club turned with renewed confidence to the provision of a New Pavilion. By the end of 1978, an application for outline planning consent had been made to the Lewes District Council. Although this consent was granted early in 1979, the Club was undecided as to its financial capability to meet the cost of such an expensive project, compared to the lower expense of refurbishing its existing building. After a rallying call from its Committee 'that surely it was a state of mind', and what was needed was 'a resolve to do it and the ways and means worked out', it was agreed to ask members to consider interest-free loans. An alternative plan which was suggested involved moving the existing Pavilion from the south side of the Green, which would have the advantage of letting more sunlight onto that section. Whilst the Club was discussing this option, a dramatic turn of events forced it to revive the more ambitious scheme of a New Pavilion. In November 1980 the Club learned from its Chairman, Mr. K. Guest, that Eastbourne Hospital had advertised for sale at £500 a cedar building, 30 feet by 11 feet, and partially glazed. The Club went ahead with the purchase, at a reduced price of £300. The building was dismantled by D.W. Wilkins & Sons and transported by trailer to Newick by a local farmer, Mr D. Alexander. Throughout 1981 D.W.Wilkins & Sons and Club members worked on re-assembling the building. Costs were mitigated by grants from the Lewes District Council and, once more, from the Playing Fields Association, but, even so, a special levy on members was necessary (it raised £467), as was a further grant by the Lewes District Council. The Pavilion was opened on 10 July 1982 by Commander A. Deats, M.V.O., a Vice-President, who had done much to

obtain grants for the Club. The highlight of 'a most successful afternoon' was a Club Triples Competition, won by P.Carter, N.Birch and R.Rogers.

Shortly before the Official Opening, the Club had announced that, although it intended to dismantle the Old Pavilion within 2 years, it hoped in the meantime to use it as 'changing room- cum- toilets'. However, in 1983 the Club decided to build a 15 foot x 14 foot extension on the western end of the New Pavilion to accommodate Changing Rooms and Toilets at an estimated cost of £3000; by the following year the figure had risen to £5,500 and, subsequently to £6,400, requiring a bank loan and another grant from the Council. Through the work of D.W.Wilkins & Sons and T.Cheshire the new facilities were completed (and the Old Pavilion removed, again through the help of Mr.D.Alexander) in the summer of 1985.

The Club's 75th Year, 1986, was celebrated in a number of ways. The opening event was a Dinner/Dance held on 25 April, where the guest was Mr.H.Gould, President of the Sussex Bowling Association. Special fixtures included matches against the English Bowling Association, London Welsh Bowling Association, and the Sussex County Bowling Association. A Flag Pole and Club Flag was provided by R.D.Wilkins, and by Mr & Mrs J.R.Wilkins, who also organised an Invitation Triples Day with entries from 24 Clubs – a highly successful annual event which continues to the present day. A Garden Fete was held at the home of the Club's chairman, Mr L.Withey. The game with the V.C.D. Athletic Club of Dartford resulted in a commemorative poem celebrating the Club's past 75 years. The season closed with a second Dinner/Dance in November, with the declared intention 'for several years we have held a young people's disco at the Village Hall purely as a fund-raising; this year will be for members only'. Nevertheless, fund-raising was an essential part of the Club's activities, and the season continued with a Race Night held at the Pavilion, a Car Boot Sale, and ended with a Dance on New Year's Eve. The Club also published a booklet recounting its history, written by Mr H Ainsley which eventually sold nearly 1,000 copies.

The Club continued to plan improvements to its Pavilion facilities, including the Kitchen and Bar, and, in the forlorn hope of satisfying Charity status conditions, re-wrote its Constitution and Club Rules. However, an event occurred in the winter 1987/1988 which put a temporary hold on these developments. An act of vandalism, when a drum of paraquat was poured over the end rinks along the northern and western sides of the Green, caused considerable damage, with costs amounting to over £6,500, even after receipt of an insurance claim of £1,950. Not surprisingly, the Club decided that work on a Pavilion extension 'will be left until the financial situation allows completion'. By March 1988 the situation had improved sufficiently for the outer edges of the Green to be replanted, and concrete ditches installed. Members dug footings for the Pavilion extension, tree stumps were removed, and foundations laid. In 1991 the paving alongside the Pavilion was also laid, costs being met through a donation from two members.

Improvements to the boundaries of the Green had also been made. In 1989 a conifer hedge was planted along the eastern edge which acted as a very necessary wind-break. Between January 1992 and the start of the new season Mr D.Baker and other members built a brick wall along the western side of the Green (again from an anonymous donation of £1,000), which not only held back the grass bank but also provided extensive seating. A Machinery Store and separate Equipment Store additions were built onto the pavilion, and, in the winter of 1992, a decision was taken to install an automatic watering system - which was not effected until the following year, at a cost of £4,550 (which the District Council supported in February 1994 with a grant of £1,340).

'Farewell to 1994, a mischievous year: did a malaise fall upon our Club?' was a theme of the Club Newsletter for that winter. The Social Committee disbanded for lack of support, 16 matches were lost to bad weather, 3 away games were cancelled because the Club was unable to raise teams (despite a membership of 116) and several key, playing members had left the Club, and nominations for office were found only 'at the last minute'. Concern had also been expressed by the publication of an article in the Parish Magazine which, it was feared, 'could only attract ridicule'. The Green was flooded in September, 'to a degree not experienced in the past' and affected club Finals day (further flooding in 1999 interrupted the club's Invitation Triples Day). A change in Landlords left the Club uncertain of its position – uncertainty which was realised in April 1995 when the rent was increased by 42% to £540 (plus VAT). The Club's woes continued that summer when the Chairman of its Green Committee reported that 'in his opinion (the Green) is the worst he has seen at Newick.... some patches had deteriorated to an extent where they were causing woods to jump as they travel across the patchy areas'. To meet the costs of re-laying the Green the Club felt that it probably should seek funding, which meant that it should aim to buy the freehold. Over the previous 12 months it had been owned by 3 different landlords. However, in 1996, before any discussions could be opened, the 'Bull' Inn went into private ownership for the first time and the Club, yet again, had new Landlords.

In 1996, PVC windows and doors were installed in the Pavilion, and the new, brick garden plots along the southern side of the Green were built, with a donation from a Club member. In 1997 the Club proposed a comprehensive 'Capital Plan' which would encompass purchase of the freehold, improvement of the Green, a brick built Pavilion, and the fundraising necessary to support this ambitious scheme. Most of 1997 and 1998 was taken up with these plans, and, when it became clear that the freehold purchase was unlikely, with the need to secure a 10 Year Lease in order to be eligible for external funding. This was finally reached in July 1999 when the Club considered a comprehensive expansion plan. At this stage, the Club recognised that the first stage in any development would necessitate the re-laying of the Green. As we have seen, numerous and varied remedial measures had been attempted in the past, often drawing upon outside expert advice, and money and labour had been committed in a vain



attempt to provide a level playing surface with good drainage. Members also recognised that, once the Green had been re-layed, attention must be given to improving the general facilities of the Club. This programme of improvements was likely to continue for the next decade, with the Club needing to raise the necessary funds and release them steadily at each stage. Although the programme underwent a number of modifications the original aims remained constant, and, at the end of this period, the Club emerged as a centre with excellent playing and support facilities. Throughout, members were fully involved in each stage of decision-making and provided not only the financial backing for the project but also engaged in fund-raising and, when required, their labour.

### **EXPANSION 1999 -2011**

Continued resilience in membership numbers ensures that the Club regularly reviews and updates its facilities. In 2000 a CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLAN was drawn up which was to be implemented in three stages.

- Stage 1: This involved the re-laying of the Green at a cost of £25,000, to be met from the Club's own resources and supplemented from external funding.
- Stage 2: This stage included the building of a new Pavilion, Changing Rooms, substantial improvements to Toilets, a brick Boundary Perimeter along its frontage with Marbles Road, relaying of Paving around the Green and improved Access for disabled members and visitors.
- Stage 3: Pavilion improvements, including the Kitchen and Bar areas, and a full-length Canopy. This stage would be dependent upon the success or otherwise of Stage 2.

#### **STAGE 1: RELAYING THE GREEN**

The winter of 1999/2000 saw the first major improvement to the Club's facilities – the laying of a new Green at a cost of £24,249, raised from Club capital, members' donations, grants and loans, both internal and from outside bodies.

The decision to lay a new playing surface was taken in July 1999 although the matter had been under consideration for much longer. When in 1939, a fourth rink was added and, in 1963, the playing area was further enlarged to its present size of 6 rinks, the Green was laid on earth without the incorporated layers of drainage normal today, and, despite regular maintenance and remedial work undertaken by members, occasionally under professional guidance, was by the mid 1990's in serious need of relaying. Although early closing of the Green in the 1997 season enabled extensive remedial work to be undertaken under the direction of the English Bowling Association, the flooding experienced over many days during the following year left the Club with no alternative to a full re-lay. Briefly the Club considered an alternative suggestion that the Green might be re-laid with an artificial, all- weather surface, but the initial cost and subsequent

maintenance treatments were held to be prohibitive and so the decision was taken to relay the Green using traditional materials.

The Club recognised that, faced by the largest single financial outlay in its history, a major fund-raising programme was needed. In March 1999 a ten-year lease, underwritten by Trustees, had been agreed with its new landlords which provided the minimum level of security expected of the Club from all external sponsors. A full 5-Year Business Plan was drawn up which confirmed the Club's ability to meet the costs of relaying the Green and other projects which had been identified, including improvements to the Pavilion. A Grant of £500 and a Loan of £3000 was provided by the Sussex County Playing Fields Association, followed in October 1999, by a Loan of £3,750 from the Lewes District Council. The response from Club members was outstanding - 'pledges' amounting to nearly £11,500 (with further offers of loans totalling £1,600) ensured that work could start immediately.

The contract was awarded to 'J.Randall', a Sports Turf and Garden Contractor from Hove and the initial excavation began on 22 November. Inevitably in a project of this scale which had to be undertaken during the winter closed-season some delays occurred through poor weather (including snow) and vandalism (road barriers broken down and thrown onto the roof of the Health Centre, building timbers thrown onto the Green, cement tipped over a footpath, and football played on the prepared surface of the Green). Although the work was completed on 7 February 2000, and the Green formally 'opened' by Baroness Cumberlege of Newick, on 13 May the Club had taken precautions to protect the new surface by obtaining permission of the Haywards Heath and Beech Hurst Bowls Club for Newick members to use its Green when playing County competitions. Word soon spread about the excellence of the new playing surface, and it was no surprise when the Sussex County Bowls Association chose to play the Quarter and Semi-finals of the Men's Singles competition at Newick from 2002 to 2005.

## **STAGE 2: PAVILION, CHANGING ROOMS AND TOILETS**

When preparing its plans for re-laying the Green, the Club had also identified the need to improve its Pavilion. The original building or 'shelter' on the south side of the Green which was said to be in a 'bad condition' as early as 1924 and was replaced with a new pavilion in 1952, which was itself extended by 10 feet in 1965. In 1980 a cedar wood building at Eastbourne Hospital which was being demolished was bought for £300, transported to Newick where it was erected on the north side of the Green and opened in July 1982. The Pavilion was extended a further 15 feet to the west in 1985 to include new Changing rooms and Toilets at a cost of £6,400 which was secured by a Barclays Bank loan and a grant of £1,600 from the Lewes District Council. In 1987 further improvements resulted in a slight widening of the building to accommodate the Kitchen and Bar areas, and a 20 foot extension to the eastern side. Finally, in 1992 a small brick

Equipment store was built to the side of the Changing Rooms and a Machinery Store on the north side of the Pavilion.

As early as the Annual General Meeting of October 1997, the Club declared its intention 'in the longer term' (i.e. after relaying the Green) 'to rebuild the existing pavilion as a brick structure, including using the land at the rear of the property'. After exploring possible scenarios for the development of the pavilion at its meeting in September 1998 and March 1999, the Management Committee set up a Steering Committee in January 2000. At the same time, in response to the proposed relaying of the Green, the majority of members confirmed the improvements to the Pavilion should be considered once the new Green had been opened. Meetings with all interested parties followed and continued through the year, and architect's drawings were produced which suggested a cost which could only be met through Lottery funding. An initial design which sought to enlarge the existing pavilion had evolved into a proposed new, brick /wood-clad building estimated at £170,000 - £200,000. The Club continued to pursue this ambitious plan, taking professional advice and opinion from many sources. However, by May 2001 it was clear that the scheme would have to be modified – any Lottery application was unlikely to be successful in view of the sound structural condition of the existing Pavilion and the Club's perceived ability to raise its own exceptional funding when needed (about £70,000 of the final amount would probably have to come through the Club's own 'initiatives').

And so, in May 2001 the members were asked to choose from a range of improvements which the Club might afford. The preferred option was to proceed with plans to 'modernise' the existing pavilion, with plans being drawn up by the Club itself. A further meeting of members in November 2001 clarified these plans and agreed the following schedule of phased improvements:

New Changing Rooms for Ladies and Gentlemen

New Toilets

Kitchen, Bar, and 'Social Area'

Pavilion Canopy

Equipment Store

Disabled access

The new Changing Rooms were to be housed in a separate timber building to the side of the main Pavilion; the structure was to be purchased from 'Passmores' of Rochester (who would also erect it) for a cost of £7,500. Because the land on the Marbles Road boundary was on made-up ground, reinforcing foundations would be needed for the Changing Rooms and for the new brick Boundary wall. This part of the contract, valued at £14,900, was awarded to R.J. Tester of Uckfield in September, and work continued throughout the winter months, with the Changing Rooms finally completed in February 2003. Additional work undertaken at the same time included relaying the paving stone

around the Green, which increased the ground costs to £19,000, resulting by July 2003 in an overall bill of nearly £30,000 – at which date the Club had a splendid set of Changing Rooms, and an imposing entrance from Marbles Road, complete with a set of Gates donated by George and Kathy Davidson, and, in 2004, a Garden with plants donated by members, and planted and maintained by Mr J.Payne. The Club was able to meet these costs because of a most generous donation of £25,000 received from a member in August 2002. At the same time the Club registered under a new scheme announced by the Government whereby the Charity Commission recognised as charitable ‘the promotion of the community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities for playing particular sports’. This Scheme ensured that any donation received qualified for a tax rebate from the Inland Revenue. By this means the Club was able to recover a further £7,000 towards its costs.

During 2004 the Club re-opened discussion on a new Pavilion – this time a timber building was proposed. To this end, quotations were obtained once more from Passmores and R.J.Tester which, when taken with other costs which would be incurred from building a new Equipment Store at the same time, indicated a total outlay of £54,500. The Club was again most fortunate in receiving an offer of a loan of £10,000 from a member and, encouraged by this put in an application for external funding of £43,000. In spite of a favourable response in July 2005 the bid was eventually unsuccessful, and so, in 2006, the Club finally decided to undertake a more modest refurbishment of the Pavilion based upon its own financial resources. This refurbishment would include new Toilets to replace the existing units that had been installed in 1984, since which date the membership of the Club had increased significantly.

### **STAGE 3: ROOF, CANOPY AND EQUIPMENT STORE**

#### **NEW ROOF**

In all its discussions about Pavilion improvements the Club had serious concerns regarding the weatherproof condition of its roof which had last been re-felted in 1982 and, in December 2004, leaks occurred on the Marbles Road side of the building causing damage and discolouration of fittings. An inspection revealed that windows and some cladding were rotten and, although repairs were made in January 2005, the incident was seen as an early indication of a more general deterioration in the fabric of the Pavilion. The roof was ‘boarded and felted’ in October 2006 by M.Haynes Ltd at a cost of £7,500. In 2007 a Pavilion Clock donated in memory of Bill Herron was added. Some modifications to the roof over the former Machine Store had been necessary and the decision was taken to proceed with the conversion of the Store into a Bar which would be incorporated into the main Pavilion.



## PAVILION BAR/KITCHEN

The Club did not operate a Bar until 1987 when J.R.Wilkins obtained a bar counter which provided limited facilities to the side of the Kitchen. Work on the Bar followed immediately upon the re-roofing of the Pavilion and was completed in March 2007 at a cost of £220, which included fittings. Although some re-arrangements were made to the Kitchen area in 2007 and again in 2009, a more comprehensive renovation was completed in 2010.

## EQUIPMENT STORE

Although planning consent to fell a tree in the south-east corner of the Green where the new Equipment Store was to be located was obtained in February 2002, the tree was not felled until the autumn at the request of the neighbour. Work started on the new, brick-built Equipment Store in December 2005 at a cost of £7,600, with a donation from two Club members of £600 and fitted out by Mr. J. Couper.

## CANOPY/VERANDAH

In November 2001 the Club learned that the estimated cost for a canopy to run the length of the south (Green) side of the Pavilion was almost £5,000, at which date it was decided to postpone any action until adequate funds were available. A more substantial design was eventually accepted and the Canopy was erected in the winter of 2008 at a cost of £7,000. At the same time the paving in front of the pavilion was re-laid – again, the costs were met from a private donation.

## MEMBERSHIP

Until 1974 the Club had an all-male membership, despite the fact that Ladies had bowled at Newick since the Second World War. By the Club's 75 th Season (1986), the number of Ladies at the Club had risen to 21 out of a total membership of 74. Today the figure stands at 50 out of a total membership (playing and non-playing) of 104. The Club's Constitution had debarred women from holding the post of Club Captain, a discrimination which was removed when a new Constitution was written in 2002. The constitutional position today is that the Men and Ladies have their own Captain and Vice-Captain; all four are members of the Club's Management Committee, and subject to annual election.

Until the 1980's membership numbers fluctuated regularly, often dramatically, and with serious consequences for the Club's survival. Although the Club membership had risen fairly steadily to 27 within 10 years of its formation, it was still at that level 50 years later, despite the occasional years when the figure had risen promisingly to the mid 30's. In order to increase its membership, it realised that it had to improve the playing and accommodation facilities. To do so meant that a number of things had to happen – including a substantial increase in its income, which would best come from an increase in its membership! It was very dependent upon contributions from Vice-Presidents,

members' donations, successful loan-raising, and a supportive attitude from its landlords. It achieved all these objectives, and, by the 1980's, saw its membership numbers double, and, since 1990, even quadruple. In 2003 it introduced a new category of 'Social membership' which, today, has 15 names.

## DISABLED ACCESS

For many years, the Club has been mindful of its commitment to provide disabled access and has already made improvements in this direction under its scheme 'Access For All', and will continue to make improvements as they are identified. In 2004 the Club appointed Mr A.Lucas as the Disablement Officer, and acquired a Loop hearing system for the pavilion. At present, 6 players from 'Headway' bowl on a Friday morning when the Club holds a 'Drive'.

## LADIES

On 3 September 1924, 'wives or lady friends' were invited to 'witness' a game of bowls played at the Club; unfortunately, because of 'insufficient number of entries .... the matter had fallen through'. In 24 January 1946, it was agreed that 'Ladies who wished to play bowls, may play on this Green at 1/- (i.e. one shilling/5pence) per game, per head'. In April 1952, the Committee proposed revisions to the Club Rules, which were formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting in January 1953. These changes included a revised Rule 12 which stated that 'Ladies who wish to play bowls may do so at a charge of 1/- per game on Thursday and Sunday afternoons and evenings provided no match has been arranged'. In August 1964, the committee decided that 'Lady members were not considered appropriate because no accommodation or toilets were available'.

At the Annual General Meeting in February 1965, two men spoke in favour of forming a 'Ladies Section' but were unable to gain support. An amendment proposing that 'wives of members and other Ladies could play provided they did not interfere with any game, and they would be welcome' was defeated by 11 votes to 9, and Rule 12 confirmed. However, in 1971 it was proposed 'to extend the Club by sponsoring a Ladies Section', and members' wives should be invited to the Club Dinner at the Bull Inn. Other factors may have influenced this change in attitude. The introduction of a Ladies Section encouraged the Club to ask the Brewery if it would 'be prepared to sell the Green as it was felt that if a Ladies Section was to be formed, some alterations would need to be made in the accommodation, and that the present insecurity' (i.e. a 3 year Lease)'did not encourage the spending of large sums of money, and was a severely inhibiting factor on the Club'. Another factor was the continuing slump in Club membership in the 1970's (23 members in 1970, 25 in 1971, 26 in 1972) which prompted the Secretary to urge members 'to do their best to increase the numbers'. To ensure that the Club met its commitments, Ladies were called upon to play in 'friendly matches'. In 1973, for instance, the Club acknowledged that 'on one or two occasions the inclusion of Ladies in the team had enabled the Club to take a full team to the fixture'.

In April 1972 the Club had agreed that 'any Ladies desiring to play on the Green should be welcomed but that they could not be members under E.B.A. rules, but that any attempt to form an affiliated Ladies Club should be given every assistance'. To this end their subscription was set at the reduced rate of £1, 'to enable the Ladies Club to get organised and because it was recognised that most of the Ladies would have the expense of buying equipment'. Mrs Golledge, the first Lady member (and believed to have been a County bowler when she joined the Club from Worthing) sought to form a Ladies Club on these terms. At the November Annual General Meeting, it was reported that this attempt had been unsuccessful 'due to lack of members'. The Ladies 'who were keen should be encouraged to continue in the hope that the effort would eventually succeed'. Club Rule 12 was then changed to read: 'Ladies who wish to play bowls may do so as Associate Members at a charge to be fixed annually by the Committee and in accordance with Club Rules'. In 1973 (confirmed in 1974) Ladies finally became 'associate members' at a rate of £2. By this time Newick was in discussion with other Clubs 'who will agree to mixed teams, also to the arranging of separate matches with the ladies of teams the men are playing'. Burgess Hill, Seaford, Beechhurst, and Nutley were identified as 'quite agreeable to lady members forming part of our teams' alongside the men. At the 1974 Meeting, Mrs Golledge suggested that although 2 Ladies had joined the Club during the year, a report of the Meeting should be sent to the local papers and to the Parish Magazine 'with a mention of the need for new members of both sexes'.

On 17 February 1975 the Committee was advised that the Ladies had finally formed their own 'Section', with Mrs Golledge as their secretary, whereupon it took the following decisions –

- (1) Monday was to be 'Ladies Day' ( 'providing it did not interfere with any County Competitions, usually played from 6.00p.m.')
- (2) A section of the Noticeboards was to be made available for their 'exclusive use'
- (3) The men would be 'only to pleased to arrange a 'Ladies v. Gents' match
- (4) Ladies would have access to the Green on Saturdays 'providing four rinks were always available for Mens' matches'.

That summer, Mrs Golledge was declared the winner of the Bowls Drive but had died before receiving her prize (a Premium Bond), which was then given to the member with the highest score in any one Drive. The chairman recorded that she 'was a very ardent supporter of the Club and an enthusiastic player'. Her death meant that the Ladies were asked to nominate one of their number 'to act as liaison with the men's section'. The season ended with the first 'Ladies v. Gentlemen' match; unfortunately, no details are available. At the Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 1976, the Club Captain stated that 'all Club members should give grateful thanks to the Ladies for making the teas at our matches'. A similar vote of thanks in 1977 added that 'nobody could thank

the ladies enough for their efforts for teas in sometimes restricted conditions'. The first of many such acknowledgements!

In 1978, eleven Clubs attended a meeting at Burgess Hill Bowls Club to discuss forming a Mid – Sussex League. Newick Club 'had no objection to playing with or against Ladies but wished to point out that we had no 'facilities' for them'. At the Annual General Meeting in November 1980 further discussion of Rule 12 (see above) listened to a suggestion that if the Rule were deleted then the Ladies could become 'full members' of the Club. In rejecting this proposal the Club felt that the ladies should 'not become full members but participate more, (and) that they do not take office'. The meeting agreed to this suggestion. However, in 1981, the Club agreed to co-opt a lady member to its Committee; Mrs K.Davidson, as Lady Captain, took up the place at the February meeting. Thereafter, this arrangement of co-option remained the only means whereby the Ladies might gain representation on the Committee (or even on the Social Committee), although they were still denied the right to elect Club officers. In fact, in 1983, the Club was reminded that, 'to comply with County regulations', Club officers 'must be male'. However, change was in the air. In 1981 Ladies entered the Club 'Mixed Pairs' competition. In 1982 it was decided to award the Nancy Johnson Trophy to the Ladies Champion (the Competition Secretary was to organise this competition 'until the Ladies form their own section'), and in 1985 they played in the 'Drawn Pairs'. In 1984, co-option to the Club Committee had been increased to two ladies.

Early in the 1984 season 'some criticism had been received regarding some ladies dress at matches'. In August of that year, it was agreed that a lady should join the Selection Committee 'for games incorporating ladies rinks'. In the following summer a meeting of the Ladies was called to elect the Lady Selector for that season. By the Annual General Meeting of 1984 it is clear that the Selection Committee was to comprise Captain, Vice-Captain, Immediate Past Captain, Mid-Week Captain, and 'a lady elected by the ladies'. It was not until December 1988 that the Club was advised that 'Ladies may now take appropriate offices within the Club'. The posts of Ladies Captain and Vice-Captain were created in 1990, and, like all other official posts, are subject to annual election; both are members of the Club's Management Committee. The Ladies were eventually affiliated to the S.C.W.B.A. in 1986. On 17 August 1986 the first 'Ladies Day' was held with the men providing the meal at the end of the day.

Although the Club is a 'mixed' Club and plays 'mixed' games, it also arranges occasional 'Ladies-only' matches. In 1987 the Ladies arranged separate matches against the Ladies of The Insurance Bowling Association, Crowborough Wolfe, and Haywards Heath, and this popular practice of arranging some 'Ladies only' matches continues.

Newick Ladies soon achieved success in external competitions at County and National levels (see pages 37-38), but a distinctive honour occurred in 2009 when Mrs J.Birch, having become a SCWBA Selector in 2005 and a Junior Vice-President in 2006, became the President of SCWBA.



## JUNIORS

In September 1973, the Club considered charging junior players ‘a small subscription... with the idea that it might give them a closer association with the Club’. Until the matter could be resolved at the Annual General Meeting, it was agreed that they could make use of the Club’s facilities ‘under the strict supervision of a member without payment of the Green fee’. Consequently, the A.G.M. agreed that juniors between the ages 10 and 15 would be allowed to join the Club on payment of a subscription of 50 pence.

In June 1974, on the registration of a 15 year boy, it was agreed that the title of ‘Junior’ would not apply to younger members, and that the scale of all subscriptions should be as follows:

10 to 15 years of age	50p
15 to 18 years	
18 to 21 years	£1.00
21 years and over	£5.00
Lady members	£2.00

At the Annual General Meeting in November, the Chairman reported that ‘the Junior Section was not only increasing but they were showing great enthusiasm and progressing well’. Nevertheless, it was felt that ‘something more constructive should be done to encourage younger members’. These sentiments were repeated in 1975 and in the following year, when it was agreed to organise ‘specific evening games and instruction for junior members, particularly with regard to Green etiquette’. That year, two juniors tied for first prize in their Bowls Drive (each receiving a Premium Bond). The Chairman commented on ‘the keenness and enthusiasm of the junior members, some of whom are now of a good enough standard to form members of the teams playing other Clubs’. In his Report to the Annual General Meeting in November 1976 the Captain recorded his appreciation of the young players in the Club whose ‘interest, enthusiasm, and play augured well for the future of the Club’. In the early 1980’s a number of young players joined the Club but, after showing great promise, did not continue with their membership – a situation which has repeated itself from time to time.

Junior members have achieved success at Club and County level. In 1984 the Drawn Pairs Club competition was won by Philip Carter and Bob Rogers who, at the time, were the youngest and oldest members respectively! In 1986 and, again, in 1994, Marion Elcock was the Ladies Singles Champion, also winning the Ladies Two Wood competition in 1990. Malcolm Roberts won the Handicap competition in 1985. A particular achievement was Stephen Awcock’s selection for the Sussex County Under 25’s in 2003.

Various methods have been used to attract the interest of young players - word-of-mouth, advertisements in various local magazines, and posters (copy of one appears below). Newick Village is an active community offering a wide range of social amenities

and sports. In its annual publication, 'Newick Directory', the Parish Council lists over 30 Clubs and Societies, 12 of which are sporting activities, including Badminton, Cricket, Rugby, Tennis, Stoolball, and Angling - all catering for a range of interest and ages.