

Andover Bowling Club

Centenary Celebration



1913 - 2013

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Acknowledgements

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Foreword

Much of the contents of this 'Centenary Celebration' has been gathered by members of the club and generously given for inclusion. Our thanks to everyone concerned. Special mention must be made for Christine Spencer's contribution in giving us access to her many volumes of archive material, without which this book would have been considerably thinner! Thanks also to Irene Hunt whose records of recent years enabled us to bring the Archive Section right up to date. We would also like to put on record our thanks to Mike Corden who took on the task of compiling the Appendices and in so doing, dug-up a lot of historical data regarding the past glories of the Club and it's members' successes. Also to Sue Milton who arranged the printing and binding of the book.

Inevitably, we have had to make hard decisions when choosing which items to include from the material supplied, but we have tried to make the selection varied and to include as many members as possible.

In compiling the book, we have learnt a lot about the club and its members both past and present. We have had a lot of fun (and some frustration) in putting it all together; - we hope you find the result of interest.

Mike and Jenny Ford

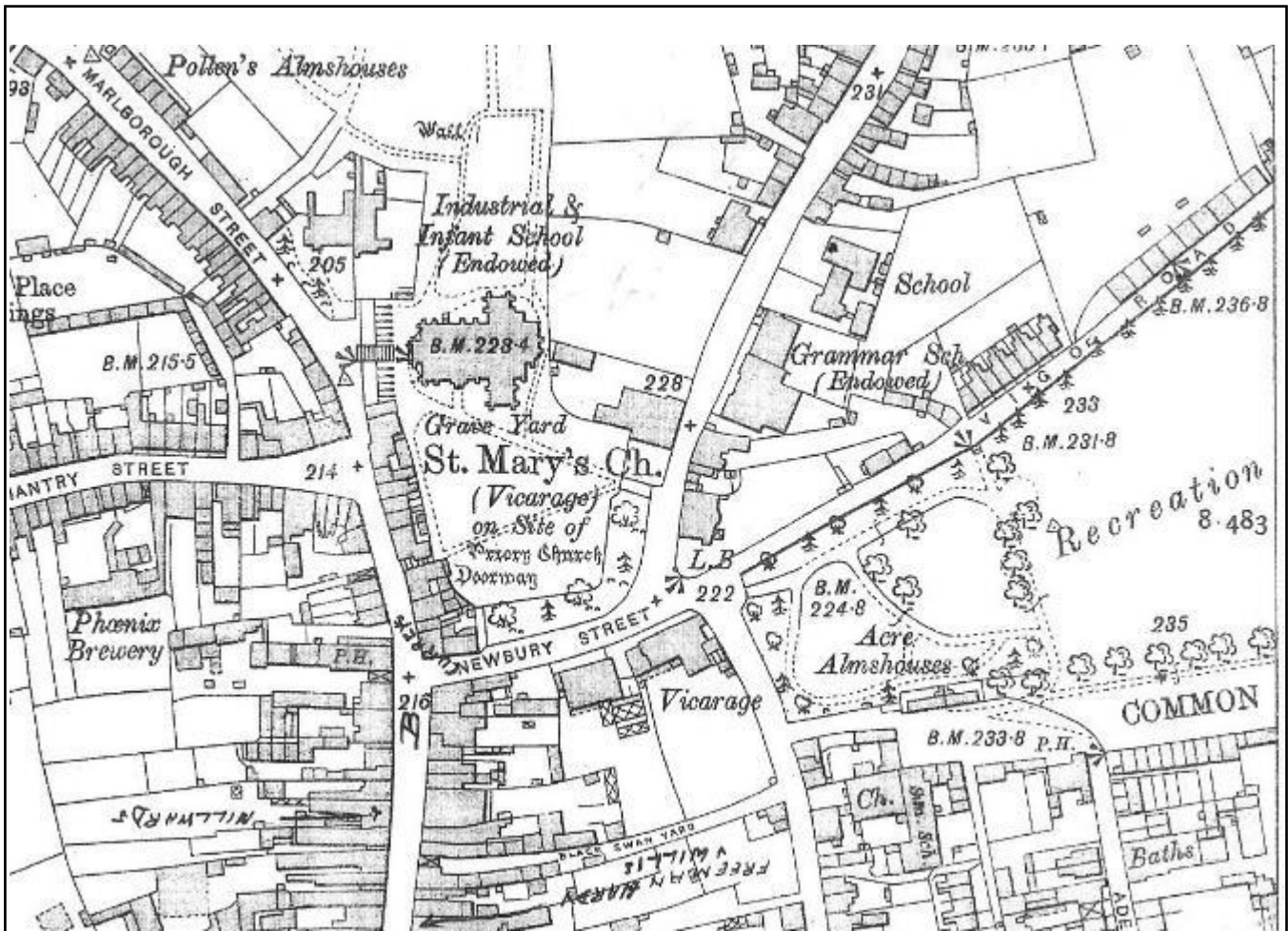


Figure 1 1909 Area pre Bowls Green

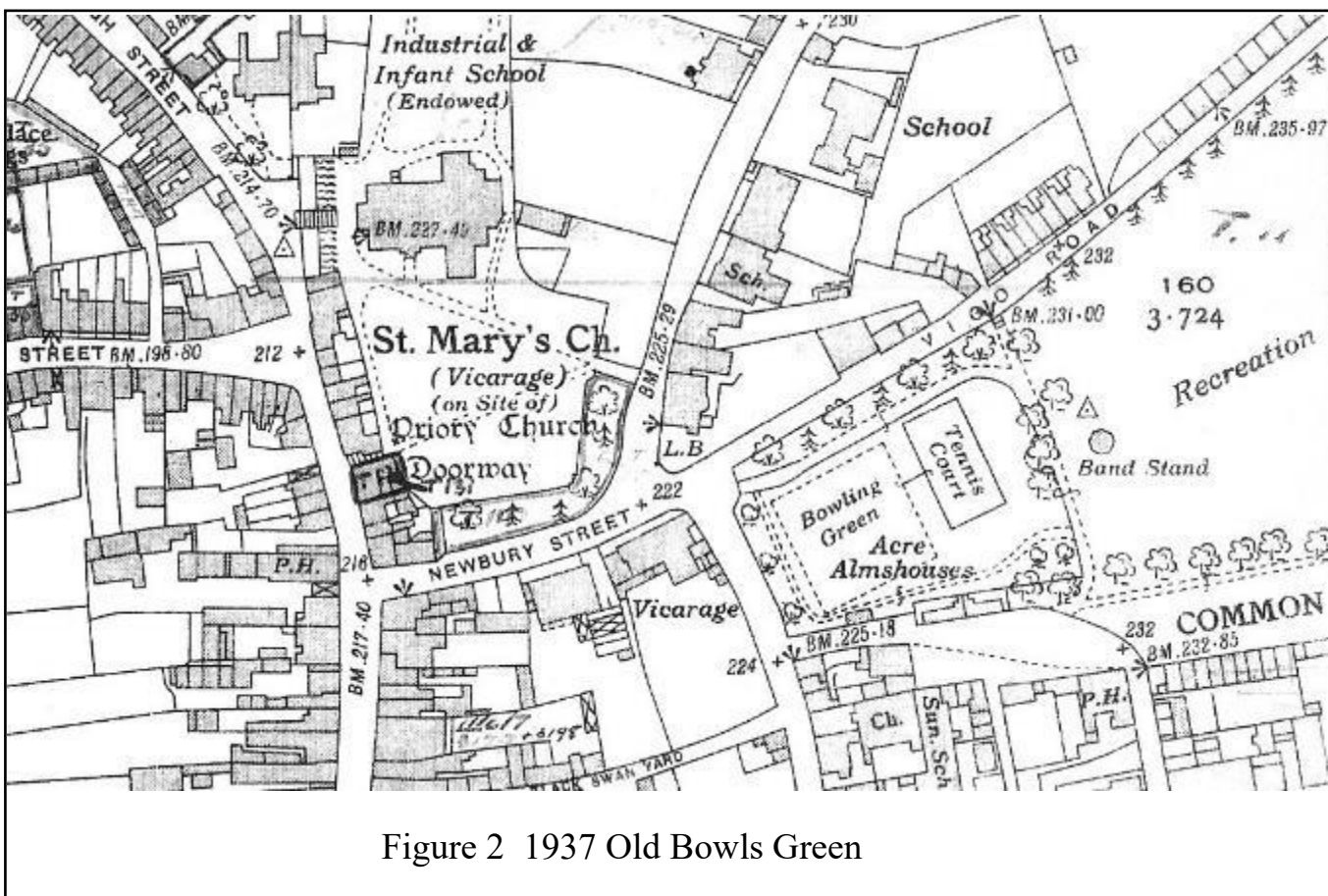


Figure 2 1937 Old Bowls Green

In the Beginning

A reflection and pictures of Andover Bowling Club in its earlier days as recorded by Derek Spencer since he joined the club in 1957 and knowledge gained from past members and from many conversations with the late Archie Mitchell, Jack Blake and Harry Paris.

Derek Spencer, Club Secretary for 10 years and Green Keeper after the club took over the maintenance of the green, was keen to record his memories permanently. He found great pleasure in wandering down memory lane and he researched much history of the club's earlier days.

Andover Bowling Club

The Green was originally situated on the corner of Vigo Road and the then East Street (now known as Eastern Avenue) and is now the site of a roundabout and under-pass. This site was in earlier times known as Coronation Gardens, specially laid out to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII. (Figures 1 and 2)

During 1913 this area of grass was mown short and enough land prepared for bowling so a club was formed. Membership consisted mostly of council officials and employees and of local businessmen.

When the war broke out in 1914 membership dwindled as some were called up to serve in the forces which caused the club to disband until 1916 when again the same area was prepared and a trial game was arranged. The same two rinks were cut and rolled by a Mr. Jim White, a Council parks employee.

A report on this trial game was featured in the Andover Advertiser and it was stated that the game was played before a good ring of spectators assembled around the upper tennis courts. [not the present ones]. It was decided that the eastern half of the lawn provided a fair Green. The Mayor hoped that the revival of the game in the Borough would meet with success and provide an enjoyable recreation for many of the residents. He then bowled the jack and the first wood.

It was decided that during the coming winter a club should be re-formed and hope that all sections of the community would join so that in the future matches could be arranged with other clubs. It depended on the numbers of people showing an interest how far the council would go in providing a full sized green.

A game took place on September 23, 1916. The club was re-formed, a committee elected and the club successfully applied for membership to the Salisbury and District association. Other clubs in the league were Salisbury, Durrington, Wilton, Amesbury, Great Bedwyn, Alderbury and Pewsey Vale.

During 1917 with the war still in progress, the local club entertained a team from New Zealand who were stationed at Bulford and Tidworth.

The Whitchurch bowling league was formed in 1934. At the inaugural meeting, Mr Vic Bull (Andover delegate) proposed that the entrance fee to the league be ten shillings and sixpence for the first team and seven shillings and sixpence for additional teams. The motion was accepted, and it was decided that only clubs within a 6 mile radius be allowed to join. Once the league was established, it was decided to extend the limit beyond 6 miles, which then included the Basingstoke area.

The Andover Club became affiliated to the Hampshire County Bowling Association during the late 1920s. There are no records of any local success in the county competitions until the 1940s.

The Andover Club had the honour of providing the president for the HCBA. The person nominated from the club was Mr Rowland Bramwell Kendall, a Master Printer, Newsagent and Stationer. He was also an Alderman of the Borough Council, a Justice of the Peace, and was Mayor of Andover in 1925 and 1937.

The clubhouse was built of timber during the late 1920s. It had a corrugated roof, double doors facing the green and a back door leading to the road alongside the alms houses (which are still occupied). This clubhouse was financed by members of the club; it was built and maintained by the Council.

It was eventually extended to incorporate a small kitchen and a gent's toilet. The kitchen was very small and narrow and contained only a sink and a gas copper for heating water for teas and for washing up. A very small window was situated high up. When the copper boiled it was like a Turkish bath. Food for matches was mainly prepared at home by the lady caterers, or on some occasions sandwiches were laid on at the Borough Arms opposite.

Each year the Club President changed, as the position was always held by the Mayor of Andover. The presentation of trophies was carried out at the AGM, which was held at the library (then in Bridge Street) but later in the clubhouse.

By the early 1930s the Green had been extended to six rinks. Play continued until the end of September. Autumn maintenance commenced in October. Top dressing was delivered loose by lorry and shovelled onto the concrete floor of the clubhouse via the single back door, as there was no vehicular access to the green. In those days it consisted of sterilized loam, agricultural sand, peat, bone meal and dried blood from the slaughterhouse - no chemicals in those days!

During the 1952 season, a very prominent member of the Club reached the quarter finals of three County competitions, Singles, Pairs and Triples. He was Archie Mitchell.

In the 1960s a letter was sent to members wives asking them to meet at the clubhouse in the hopes of getting volunteers to take on the catering as the old stalwarts were, through age, no longer able to cope. Phemie Forrester, Maggie Setters and Chris Spencer came to the rescue. In 1968, some of the ladies showed an interest in bowling, but a few of the men (mostly quite elderly) were not too happy to have ladies encroaching on their green. However, they finally gave in and Mrs. Spencer was asked to contact clubs in the region to arrange friendlies, which resulted in several matches being played.

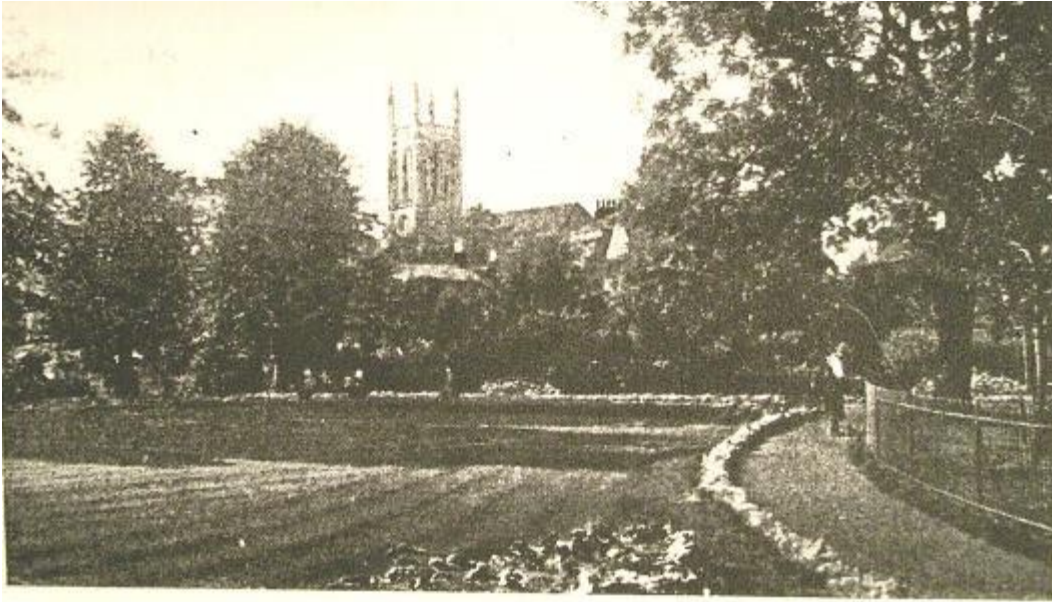
As the ladies membership grew and reached the required eight members, they were able to apply for entry to the Hampshire County Womens Bowling Association (HCWBA) and were duly affiliated and eligible to enter County competitions and also to play in Southampton and District friendlies. As the ladies gained experience they applied to enter a ladies team in the Whitchurch League and were accepted, going from strength to strength. It was decided in 1990 and accepted at the AGM that Andover Bowling Club becomes a mixed club, with the exception of County competitions and the ladies championship. It was in the mid 70s the ladies were allocated Thursday evenings for matches plus afternoons, with the men having preference.

When the ladies were given the go-ahead, fixtures were arranged with the following clubs, Basingstoke Town, Great Bedwyn, Hungerford, Kingsclere, Newbury, Pewsey Vale, Salisbury Victoria, Whitchurch, Thatcham, Old Basing, Friary, Amesbury and Wilton. As we were not experienced at this time it was these other clubs who gave us confidence and experience.

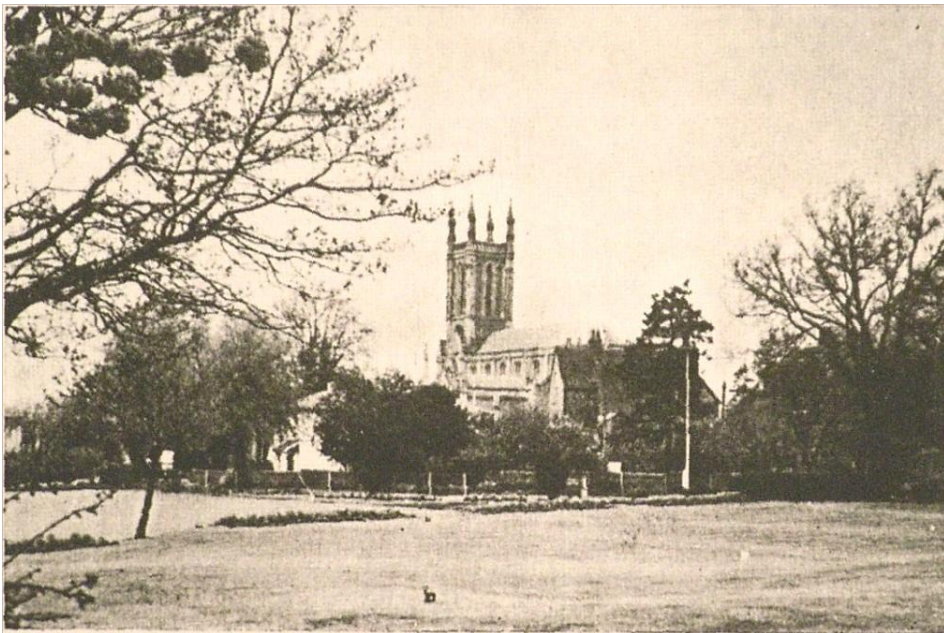
The Club was told by the Council that it must always leave one rink available for any member of the public to pay and play and we also had to delegate non-working members as daily stewards to be in attendance on their allocated day to issue tickets and collect money.

A ten foot extension was built on the front of the present clubhouse by the Council and the floorboards covered in vinyl, and later the Council allowed us to incorporate the unused public toilets and the attendance office [once used for hiring out tennis courts and putting equipment] to allow us more space to reorganise our clubhouse.

A bar was installed and changing rooms improved. Due to the lack of funds the Council was unable to give the green the treatment required, and delegates from the club met to discuss the problem and it was suggested that the club take over the maintenance of the green and pay a peppercorn rent on a twenty-one year lease.



The lower or western end of the Recreation Ground in 1910. One gardener hard at work!



The lower end of the Recreation Ground as it was in the thirties and forties, showing (in the middle distance) the old bowling green and, in the foreground, the putting green. Swan Court roundabout now occupies this area.



The top, or eastern end of the Recreation Ground in, it is believed, about 1920, showing the cricket pavilion and the conifers which then bordered Viao Road.



When we first occupied the clubhouse we were faced with a floor of bare boards which were badly pitted by spikes worn by the cricketers, as it was actually built as a cricket pavilion. When we brushed the floor we used to water it first to keep the dust from flying everywhere. Later the council laid a Vinyl covering. When we took over the maintenance of the green the club also purchased the mats, jacks and seats. One seat was the club's property and was brought up from the old green, it was presented to the club in memory of a Mr Seagrove and is still in use.

The old black-and-white painted honours boards were put in store by the Council in their depot in Bachelors Barn Road. They were riddled with woodworm and have since been burned.

Several county friendlies have been played on both our old green and the present one. The ladies only played on the new green. For quite a few years on both greens we used to run open tournaments both ladies' and men's Singles, Pairs and Mixed Triples. They were so popular that visitors would ask to be booked in for the following year. Sadly, in recent years they have been dropped. It was not unusual to make around £300 profit on one event. Our regular supporters were very disappointed.

There have been several Bowling Greens in Andover over the years; the Peacock Inn, Hovis, Folly Inn, Andover Old Green and Andover present Green.

From the Archives

Since the early days, the club has kept the eager populace of Andover abreast of the Club's activities through the columns of our local journals. Recent years have seen several members of the club submit weekly reports - among them: Derek Spencer, Ken Eaton, Johnnie Johnson and Jim Horne. The following extracts, relating to Andover Bowling Club, are from cuttings from the Andover Advertiser and Evening Echo collected by Chris Spencer and Irene Hunt.

1968 - Andover Open Tournament (Old Green)

Soton Players Meet in Final

Two of Andover's county players, Jackie Blake and Archie Mitchell, justified their selection for Hampshire by reaching the last four of 62 entries in the Andover Bowling Club's Open Tournament on Saturday.

But what could have been an all-Andover final turned out to be a Southampton affair when they were eliminated by R. Lott of Atherley and C. Bridle of Banister Park respectively.

Mr Lott went on to win by 15 shots to 3 in the last final to be held on the old green. He was presented with a trophy by the Mayor of Andover (Ald. L. A. Porter) who added: "Perhaps next year some of you would come along to help the Mayor's side; beat the bowling club for the first time on the new green in the Recreation Ground."

Play lasted for over nine hours on the club's six rinks with competitors from Lyndhurst, Southampton, Aldershot, Hungerford and Pewsey taking part.

There were some early shocks, too. Last year's winner, Mr. H. Baker of Whitchurch, was knocked out in the preliminary rounds by Frank Mew of Andover. Then several county players from Hampshire and Wiltshire were eliminated in the later rounds. These included Mr. Laurie Marles, last year's President of the Hampshire Bowling Association.

Mr. Bill Howard, the organiser of the event said: "It's not a record entry, but it is certainly the biggest we have had for some years. At least we have been lucky with the weather last year we had a thunderstorm half way through the tournament."

Mr Sid Butler, the Captain of the Club, thanked those who had helped with the tournament, especially Mrs. D. Forrester and Mrs. D. Spencer for their help with the refreshments. After welcoming the Mayor he went on to present Ald. Porter with the Andover Bowling Club badge.

1969 - Last ABC v Mayor's Team on the Old Green

LAST ANNUAL FIXTURE

What was probably the last annual Mayor's side v. Andover Bowling Club fixture on the old green took place on Friday. Next year's fixture will take place on the newly constructed green on the Recreation Ground.

However, after the match the club's captain, Mr Sid Butler, expressed the wish that a special match between the club and a Mayor's side should be staged to mark the end of the old green. The Andover side had finished a successful evening, winning four of the five rinks by 123 to 74 shots. Councillor Cecil Horne - newly capped by Hampshire - was a member of the team which prevented an overwhelming victory by the club.

Bowling Club v. Mayor's side

W. Palmer	Cllr. W. Taylor	R. Humphries	Ald. H. Randall
J. Whiscombe	Cllr. G. Few	A. Bridges	Cllr. K. Bingham
F. Mew	T. Grundy	C. Greening	Ald. G. Lynn
G. Cook	J. Instone	L. West	V. Edmonds
28	17	30	3

G. Clark	H. W. Earney	S. Butler	E. W. Bryant
Mrs. Bradley	Cllr. Mrs. Thorne	T. Rolfe	Cllr. B. Baker
D. Forrester	The Mayor	W. Hewitt	Ald. F. Samuels
S. Underwood	Cllr. L. Hunter	C. White	Cllr. C. Horne
26	22	15	20

D. Spencer	Cllr. Mrs. R. Lynn
Mrs. Spencer	J. D. Sly
J. Glazier	R. Stockley
H. Saunderson	J. Blake
24	12

1969 - Ladies Accepted as Full Members of Andover Bowling Club

BOWLS - described contemptuously by the young as "an old man's game" - has undergone a dramatic "face-lift" in recent years.

The "old man" image has gone, young men - some of them in their teens - are making their mark in this leisurely paced, sometimes back-aching but nevertheless skilful game favoured by the retired as a means of relaxation and exercise. In many parts of the country the arrival on the lush greens of the opposite sex has been welcomed and encouraged.

Andover Bowling Club, however, long resisted any female invasion of this male stronghold. "The masculine sanctuary must be preserved at all cost." was the cry. But the anti-feminine brigade eventually crumbled under unrelenting pressure and last year the Andover green was opened to women for the first time.

There was, however, no immediate clamour for a place on the hallowed membership. Andover women were understandably a bit shy in coming forward to join. Membership-(at 25/- a season) slowly built up to six. They have all renewed their membership for the present season, now in full swing; they are now accepted by their male counterparts as part of the Andover bowling scene and are anxious to swell their ranks.

Enthusiasm

They make up for their lack of numbers and experience with endeavour and enthusiasm. The potential is there, as one Hungerford man recently learned to his cost. He was soundly beaten by one of the Andover ladies playing in her first tournament.

Afterwards the embarrassed gent commented: "I daren't go home and tell them I was beaten by a woman." A comment which will no doubt be repeated many times when the Andover ladies get into their stride.

One of the first women to join the Andover club was Mrs. Cissie Clark, a former Mayor of the town, and a silver medalist in the All-England Junior Cross-country Championships. "I enjoy the game very much. I find it very relaxing and entertaining," she said.

And how about the male attitude to women players? "They are very friendly. They certainly don't consider us a nuisance. I would like to see many more women take up the game." Another who enjoys the game is Mrs. Margaret Hewitt of Corunna Main. "It gives me an

interest outside the home. I play a couple of times a week - usually on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and sometimes on a Saturday."

It was Margaret, mother of two, who claimed the scalp of the Hungerford man in her first tournament a couple of weeks ago.

"The men are really good about it all and help us all they can. They certainly don't make me feel I am in the way."

Mrs. Euphemia Forrester, also of Corunna Main, joined the club last season. "My father-in-law was a keen bowler when he was alive. My husband and son are both members and when they opened membership to women I decided to join".

Helpful

"I like the game, but I will need to improve a lot before I take part in competitions. I find the men very helpful." she said.

Mrs. M. Bradley of Millway Road, has lived in the town for 12 years: "I would have joined years ago if I had been allowed." A bit more experienced than most of the others, Mrs. Bradley says she enjoys playing in the competitions.

"The men treat us as equals; they are most helpful."

Said Mrs. Christine Spencer of Recreation Road, Andover: "My husband is a keen bowler and I decided to follow suit. If you can't beat them--join them. The men treat us very well indeed. They are a very cheerful crowd up here. They welcome us any time to join them in a game." Mrs. Spencer plays as often as she can, usually on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and sometimes at the week-end.

Mr. Victor William Bull of Vigo Road, Andover, is the club's oldest playing member.

He has been a member for 33 years and was one of the founders of the Whitchurch and District Bowling League. "I am quite happy to see the women here. I think it is a very good thing." he said.

Any woman interested in joining the club (membership 25/- a season) is invited to "roll along" to the green on the Recreation Ground any Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday afternoon.

25 April 1970 - New Andover Green Opens

After the opening the club played their first match on the green of Cumberland turf against a team of County bowlers led by County President Mr. H. Symes of Winchester. Due to the poor weather conditions only 15 ends were played, but despite this, an enjoyable afternoon was had by both teams. The President's team just had the edge on the local players and won the match by six shots, 81 to 75. Club chairman Cecil Horne, thanked the President for attending the opening and in replying, Mr. Symes said that the new green could be used for county games. Andover skipper Sid Butler thanked the borough council, Parks and Properties Committee and the Parks Department employees who laid the new green.

27 August 1973 - Bowls Club's First Ladies' Tournament

ANDOVER BOWLING Club's first ever tournament held at Vigo Road green on Saturday, turned out to be such a success that it is likely to become an annual event.

There were 30 entries representing Clubs from Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire. Play started in the morning and by mid-afternoon the quarter final stage was reached.

Andover's last representative, Mrs. C. Spencer, was eliminated at this stage, leaving Mrs. Wyer and Mrs. Parry both of Devizes, Mrs. Ford of Whitchurch and Mrs. Chapman of Newbury in the semi-finals.

Mrs. Wyer defeated her clubmate by 16 shots to 7 in one semi-final and Mrs. Chapman beat Mrs. Ford by 15 shots to 12 in the other.

In the final Mrs. Chapman proved no match for Mrs Wyer who become Andover's first ladies champion with a convincing 15 shots to 3 victory.

Prizes were presented by Andover ladies section chairman, Mrs. C. Clark, who also thanked Mr and Mrs Spencer for organising the competition and the ladies who provided the refreshments.

Back at club level Andover played two matches in the past week. Last Thursday Basingstoke Police visited the local rink for a Whitchurch League game and were defeated by 18 shots.

Andover also finished winners on Sunday when they visited Camberley to play a friendly match. The ladies section were beaten by 11 shots in their match with Camberley ladies.

February 1972 - Bowls Club Dinner

After a lapse of fourteen years, Andover Bowling Club held a dinner at the Western, Bridge Street, Andover, on Friday, and it is hoped that once again it will become an annual event. Afterwards the Mayoress, Mrs. G. Finch, presented a cup to Mrs. "Cissie" Clark on behalf of the Ladies - section to be known as the Josie Finch Cup. It will be competed for in a ladies open tournament each year.

30 June 1973 - Open Singles Competition

Mitchell wins bowls title

ARCHIE MITCHELL, one of Andover's most experienced bowlers, won the local club's open singles title for the second time, last Saturday, in a bowling career that has spanned more than 40 years.

Mitchell, a former National pairs player, showed all his skill on the Vigo Road recreation ground green to defeat Salisbury's Tony Ward by 15 shots to seven in the final.

There were 64 entries from as far afield as Swindon and Southampton and, at the quarter final stage, things were looking bright for the host club with five players still in the competition. It soon became apparent that due to the draw Andover would have at least one player in the final.

Mitchell cruised through his quarter-final match with a 15-4 victory over club mate Jack Black and Ward beat Andover's John Forrester by 15-8.

Andover's Frank Mew won through to the semi-final with a 15-8 win over Jack Cook and Fleming Park's Mick Spreadbury, last year's finalist, beat Amesbury's Dennis Shipp 16-12.

In an all-Andover semi-final Mitchell defeated Mew 15-8 and Ward beat Spreadbury 16-9. Mitchell then went on to beat Ward in the final and his victory was greeted by loud cheers from local supporters.

The prizes were presented in the club pavilion by chairman Cecil Horne, who thanked Club secretary Derek Spencer for his fine work in organising the tournament and to the ladies for providing the refreshments.

14 July 1973 - Ladies Open Singles Tournament

Pewsey Player Wins Ladies Bowls Title

The ladies section of the Andover Bowls Club held their annual Open Singles tournament at the Vigo Road green last Saturday.

Ladies from Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire, including some with county experience and others who had played in the All-England championships at Wimbledon, were among 31 competitors. Some of these players were the victims of "giant-killing" acts in the early rounds and only one Andover player, Maisie Spinks, reached the quarter-finals.

The quarter-finals provided some thrilling contests for the spectators. Mrs Spinks came through quite easily with a 15-4 victory over Miss D. Gilbert of Pewsey. Last year's winner, Miss Maymie

Spelman of Winchester disposed of Mrs Beryl Herbert of Pewsey, 15-8. Mrs Margaret Pocock of Pewsey defeated her clubmate, Mrs Diana Giswick 15-9, and Miss E. Ellis of Southampton gained a 15-4 victory over Mrs Kay Nicol of Pewsey.

In the semi-finals Mrs Spinks fought back from behind at one stage to level the scores 10-10, against Mrs Pocock but eventually lost 15-10. In the other semi-final Mrs Spelman beat Miss Ellis 16-4.

The final between Mrs Pocock and Mrs Spelman was a close game which took 70 minutes to complete. After some tight bowling from both players, Mrs Pocock pulled ahead to win by 15 shots to 10, and became tournament winner.

Mrs Cissie Clark, chairman of the section presented the Josie Finch cup to the winner.

28 July 1973 - ABC Pairs Tournament (England Internationals Defeated)

ANDOVER Bowling Club's third annual open pairs tournament on Saturday was the most successful yet staged by the club.

It attracted entries of international and county players from Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire and the list had to be closed well before the day of the tournament.

England captain Peter Line and his partner Mike Walton (Atherley) threatened to run away with the tournament which, up to the quarter-final stage, was dominated by Southampton players.

But Line and Walton were defeated 11-5 in their quarter-final by the Whitchurch pair Alan Ashfield and Ken Alexander. Ashfield and Alexander went on through to the final where they were leading another Atherley pair, Bill Hayman and Arthur Fletcher, both Middleton Cup players, by two shots with one end to play.

But Hayman and Fletcher picked up three shots on the last end to win by 12 shots to 11 in one of the most thrilling finals seen on the Andover green.

The cup and other prizes were presented by the Mayor of Andover, Alderman Martin Loveridge.

May 1974 - Bowlers Win County Badges

ANDOVER bowlers Derek Spencer and Frank Mew, who also play for St. Mary Bourne, were awarded their county badges after representing Hampshire for the fourth time last week.

In the Whitchurch and District League, Andover lost when they visited Portals, gaining only one point, but then recorded a fine home win over last year's runners up in the league, St. Mary Bourne. The rink, skippered by H. Saunderson, was the only winner against Portals, finishing three-shot victors over H. Tilbury's trio.

J. Forrester, H. Smith and P. Morris were the successful skips against St. Mary Bourne with a team total of 65 shots to 41.

Andover were out of luck in their friendly matches last weekend, losing to Thatcham by nine shots and Wimborne by two shots.

1974 - Andover Bowl to Title

ANDOVER Bowls Club's grip on the Salisbury League title was still as strong as ever as the club overcame late challenges to grab their second successive championship.

Facing a strong Pewsey chase, Andover had to gain good results in their last matches to take the top spot. They boosted their hopes with an 88-61 win over Great Bedwyn at home, but almost immediately suffered a setback by dropping a point to Wilton in a 63 all draw. But Andover showed their character by edging home by 69-64 against Salisbury. This left just one match each for Andover and Pewsey. Club President Archie Mitchell led the side for a return against Wilton.

There was no repeat of the previous surprise result with Andover walking home by 98-54. After a long delay the Pewsey result was known - a defeat for the challengers, and Andover took the trophy.

Four members of the Andover club recently travelled to Aldermaston to play for Hampshire against Berkshire. Len West, John Forrester, Harold Saunderson and Jackie Blake did well on their rink to win by 21 shots to nine, but Berkshire took the honours to win the match by 112-111. John Forrester was playing his first game for the county, while Harold Saunderson received his County Badge on his fourth appearance.

The Hampshire County team will be entertaining Gloucester on the Vigo Road green next Wednesday at 2.30 with two members of the Andover club in the side, Archie Mitchell and Jim Whiscombe.

13 July 1974 - Ladies Singles Tournament

Record Turnout Despite Wet Weather

DESPITE last Saturday's wet weather, a record entry of 61 players from Hampshire, Wiltshire and Berkshire took part in Andover Bowling Club's women's open singles tournament at the Vigo Road green.

Play started at 9 a.m. in heavy rain, which continued throughout most of the day and some early round shock defeats were witnessed.

Miss M. Spelman, last year's runner-up, was beaten by Mrs. F. Figgins (Marlborough) and Mrs. Spencer the former indoor singles champion from the Atherley Club, Southampton, went out 15-10 to Mrs. A. Smith of the Friary Club, Winchester.

By the time the quarter-finals were reached late in the afternoon, the host club only had one player, Mrs. C. Spencer, remaining in the competition.

Mrs. Spencer, wife of the Andover Club secretary, was beaten by 15-6 by Friary's Mrs. M. Eldridge. The Winchester club had a second semi-finalist when Mrs. Bowen defeated clubmate Mrs. A. Smith 15-9.

The Mayfield Park Club, Southampton, also had two players winning through to the quarter-finals. Mrs M Deane moved safely through with a 15-6 defeat of Pewsey's Mrs D. Criswick but Mayfield Park's Mrs. D.

Acaster went down by the narrow margin of 15-13 to Pewsey's Mrs. M. Pocock, last year's tournament winner. Mrs. Pocock won through to the final with a convincing 15-1 defeat of Mrs. Eldridge and Mrs. Deane beat Mrs. Bowen 15-3 in the other semi-final.

Mrs. Deane maintained her good form in the final when she beat Mrs. Pocock by 15 shots to 6.

7 June 1974 - Andover Executive Match

Women bowlers receive President's "blessing"

THE WOMEN'S section of Andover Bowling Club entertained the Hants County President and her team at the club's Vigo Road Recreation Ground green last Friday afternoon.

The match was arranged for the Hants President to officially accept the Andover women's club into the County Association.

The "blessing" - as the occasion is generally known - was played in blustery conditions.

Nevertheless the bowling was enjoyed by all, and many new friends were made.

Refreshments followed the game at the clubhouse after which Andover chairman, Mrs B. Jones welcomed the president and her team.

County president, Mrs. Elfrida Saunders, of the Aldershot Underwood Club, replied and thanked Andover for a warm and friendly welcome. The result of the game was a win, for the President's team by 18 shots.

29 August 1975

Bowls Honour

LOCAL history was made last Friday when Mrs Christine Spencer became Andover Bowls Club's first woman member to gain her county badge.

24 July 1976 - Ladies Singles Tournament

Mrs Spinks Runner-up in Ladies Tournament

MAY SPINKS, Andover ladies' captain, won through to the final of the local club's annual open ladies singles tournament last Saturday but lost to Southampton's Atherley Club player Mrs. E. Fairhall.

A total of 64 players took part in the event and a Triples Consolation competition for those knocked out in the first and second round was won by Mrs. M. Bradley, Mrs. J. Setchell (both Andover) and Mrs, D. Crisswick (Pewsey).

The Andover ladies' section was again honoured by the Hampshire Women's Bowling Association last week when Mrs Spinks was awarded her county badge after the Gloucester v Hampshire match. Also playing her first game for the county was a second Andover player, Mrs Jo Graetz.

11 September 1976 - ABC Win S & D League

Champions for the Third Time

Despite losing two of their last three matches Andover Bowling Club have again won the Salisbury League.

After losing at home to Salisbury the previous week, Andover again lost in the return. That meant they had to win their final match against Wilton on Saturday. They returned to form and pulled off a 32-shot victory to capture the title on shot average. Andover's record for the season being 11 wins and 2 draws in 16 matches. Their average of plus 219 shots compared to Salisbury's plus 108.

13 August 1977 - Men's Open Pairs Tournament

Bowling stalwarts Win Pairs Title

ANDOVER Bowling Club stalwarts Archie Mitchell and Len West became the local club's open pairs champions for the first time when they beat Jim Bullen and Ernie Mansfield from Devizes by a single shot (10-9) in last Saturday's final.

Seventy four year old Mitchell and West (60), who represented Hampshire in the 1969 national pairs at Mortlake were in action for nearly nine hours on the club's Vigo Road green.

"I was pretty tired at the end of the day," said Mitchell, Andover's longest playing member having been with the club for 35 years. "The spirit was willing but the legs were not," he added.

There were 36 pairs in the tournament, including Whitchurch's Graham Standley and Marlow's Ian Harvey who were playing in this week's national event at Worthing.

Mitchell and West's hardest match came in the third round against the Andover scratch pair of Sid Hayter and Fred Hunt but they won through 8-6 and went on to beat Amesbury's Ron Sharland and Dennis Shipp, a former finalist, 13-4 in the semi-final.

Hayter and Hunt came up with one of the best performances of the earlier rounds when they defeated Southampton's experienced duo of Clive Tancock and Joe Bridle, an ex-England international, by five shots (7-12).

1977**Bowling Club Maintain Position**

Although results of matches during the season were not as good as in previous years, Andover Bowling Club maintained a creditable position in both the Whitchurch and Salisbury Leagues.

Secretary Jack Keel also reported at the club's annual meeting last week that Andover players reached the final of both the Whitchurch and Salisbury Pairs.

Keel and Charlie White reached the final of the Salisbury League's Gala Day Pairs and club captain Jim Whiscombe and John Forrester the final of the Whitchurch Pairs. Peter Morris also won through to the semi-final of the Salisbury Singles event.

Treasurer Peter Longman reported a healthy state of the finances and club captain Whiscombe thanked all the members for their support during the season. Officers elected were as follows:

President, Jack Leeson; vice-president, Derek Spencer; chairman, Charlie White; captain, Pete Morris; vice-captain, Sid Hayter; secretary, Jack Keel; treasurer, Pete Longman; match secretary, Sid Butler.

1977**Longman winner of new award.**

ANDOVER Bowling Club's first "Clubman of the Year" award has been awarded to Peter Longman. Cllr. Mrs. K. Williams, chairman of Test Valley Council's recreation and amenities committee, presented the award at the club's annual dinner and dance at the Rothsay Hotel recently.

4 August 1978 - Ladies Triple play at Worthing**Privileged Triple**

Three members of the ladies section of Andover Bowling Club, Chris Spencer, May Spinks and J. Graetz represented Hampshire in an inter County match at the famed Beach House Park Bowling Club at Worthing recently.

The Worthing greens are among the finest in the country and is the venue for the English Bowling Association's National Championships each year "Most bowlers consider it a privilege to play on them" said an Andover club official. Last Friday's match was a particularly special day for Mrs Graetz for she was awarded her County blazer badge after the game, her third for the county. Mrs Spencer and Mrs Spinks are already holders of the coveted badge.

4 January 1979 -**New Indoor Rink Opens**

CLLR LAURIE PORTER, chairman of the Test Valley Council's recreation and amenities committee, bowled the first wood to officially open the new indoor rink at Andover sports centre last week.

Cllr Porter met with a group of players from Andover Bowls Club to try out the newly laid £4,000 green which was bought with money from the Borough Lottery.

Favourable comments were made by the bowlers present about the quality of the green, which should provide them with the base for much needed winter practice.

Charges for the use of the green have been kept to a reasonable level and it will be available four days a week, including weekends. Sandra Braxton, the sports centre supervisor responsible for the green, is hoping that a league will be running by next season with two rinks in operation.

1980 - You Can't Win Them All!!

Setback for Bowlers

Andover Bowling Club, who lost the top spot in section "B" of the Whitchurch and District League last week when they were beaten by their ladies' team, suffered a further setback on Wednesday. They travelled to bottom-of-the-table Oakley but were beaten by default after one of their players, Jack Keel, was unable to find the Oakley ground. The match was awarded to the home side but Andover at least had the consolation of winning the matches that were played by 37 shots to 28. Jim Whiscombe's triple of Frank Gordon and Alan Compton won by 10 shots (23-13) but the other Andover rink of Frank Doran (skip) Bob Coleman and Chris Greening lost (14-15).

1980

Bowling Club to Take Over Maintenance of Green

The bowling green in Vigo Road is to be let to Andover Bowling Club at an annual rental of £10. The move was agreed by Test Valley Recreation and Amenities Committee after being told that the club was perturbed at the reduced standard of maintenance of the bowling green.

At a meeting with club representatives, council officers acknowledged that, due to the financial restrictions, the standard of maintenance had fallen and they could see no improvement in the foreseeable future. The officers suggested that the council might be prepared to agree to the club taking over responsibility for maintenance of the green.

The club has since submitted a scheme which would represent an annual saving £1,425. The scheme would include the club buying various maintenance and playing equipment from the council.

The committee agreed that the bowling green be let to the club for a period of 21 years at an annual rental of £10 and that the council offer to the club various equipment at current market value.

1980

No hoppers pull off shock win

HIGHLIGHT of Andover Bowling Club's week was the display by the Turner brothers, Roy, Billy and Arthur, in the Hampshire County Triples Competition.

They were virtually given no hope when being drawn against the Atherley Club from Southampton trio, skipped by last year's county triple winner Mike Walton but the Andover rink pulled off a marvellous win to go through to the last 16.

In the Hampshire Club Championship however, Pirelli General proved far too strong for a below-par Andover side and ran out easy winners by a 20 shot margin, the only successful rink being skipped by Derek Spencer.

1981 - Andover Pairs Tournament

Forrester Returns to Take Trophy

ANDOVER Bowling Club's annual pairs competition attracted so many players that the tournament secretary, Peter Longman, had to limit the entry to 32 pairs for last Saturday's event at the Vigo Road green.

Play started at 9 o'clock on a league basis so that all the players were guaranteed at least three games with the respective winners going through to contest the quarterfinals.

The Andover club had three pairs through to the last eight. Bob Coleman and Frank Doran along with Eddie Scoates and Ginger Cox made it through to the semi-final with the latter combination facing John Forrester, an ex Andover bowler now living in London, and his partner, St. Mary Bourne's Helmut Dettner in the final.

The visiting duo took the title by winning an exciting final by the narrow margin of 2 shots.

1982 - Mixed Triples Tournament

Andover Triple Triumph in Open Tournament

ANDOVER Bowling Club staged a successful tournament at the Recreation Ground last Saturday despite the adverse weather when 28 triples took part in their annual open event.

Bowlers from as far as Eastleigh, Southampton, Devizes and Basingstoke fought out a thrilling competition which saw the Andover triple of Arthur Turner, Masie Spinks and Dave Hamilton beating a triple from Devizes in the final.

Despite the rain, the Andover green was in excellent condition and the first part of the competition saw the teams split into seven leagues, with the winners plus the best other team going through to the quarter-finals.

The final between Andover and Devizes again saw close and superb bowling. The game hinged on the last end, with the scores level at 5-5, the Andover skip played his last wood into the jack to clinch a memorable victory.

The Andover trio were presented with the Lloyds Bank trophy by the Andover club president A. Normand-Sweet.

1983 - Successful Year for ABC Players

Bowlers Win Salisbury League

ANDOVER Bowling Club have had another successful season with the Salisbury and District League side winning the title for the 18th time.

Local players also did well in the league's competitions. Bryce Edwards, Alf Sweet and Fred Hunt won the Gala Day triples, Derek Spencer and George Hacking the Gala Day pairs and Frank Doran nearly swept the board but lost in the singles to Salisbury's Ernie Fahey 21-17.

The Andover trio of Sweet, Spencer and Hacking also reached the semi-final of the Worthing Triples Tournament, only to lose on an extra end, while in the Watney event staged at Whitchurch the triple of Frank Gordon, Spencer and Hacking lost in the final to a Berkshire triple skippered by Bracknell's Tom Eaton by 3 shots.

July 1983 - Ladies 13th Open Singles Tournament

Lucky Thirteenth for Masie

Andover Ladies Bowling Club held their 13th singles tournament at the Vigo Recreation ground rinks on Saturday and what a triumph it was for club member

Maisie Spinks who carried off the trophy; the first Andover player to do so since the tournament began!

In blazing sunshine on a perfect green with a closed entry of 64, with bowlers from Berkshire, Wiltshire and all parts of Hampshire.

It was a splendid day for a tournament. Included in the field were 28 county players plus an English international. Competition was very spirited and there were many close games, some of the favourites falling very early. Maisie Spinks, for Andover, lived very dangerously. In the first three rounds she came from behind to win in the last two ends. She had a comfortable win in the semi-final but it was a different story in the final. She was up against Joyce Doig (Kingsclere) and Joyce

raced away to an 8-0 lead but Maisie stuck to her guns and gradually got into the game. At the end of the 12th end the score was 9-8 in Joyce's favour.

It was "nip and tuck" all the way to the 19th end with the score 14-14 on a measure!

It was all to play for on the last end - Maisie got a bowl right on the jack only to see Joyce take it away but Maisie again crept in for shot and for the very first time in the history of the local open an Andover player had won, to the great and somewhat noisy delight of the home side.

1984 - ABC Players Triumph at Worthing

Worthing Open Bowls Tournament (*Worthing Paper*)

In the triples final, Alf Normand-Sweet of Andover Club, Hampshire and fellow clubman Derek Spencer playing alongside Graham Standley of Bannister Park, Southampton, beat Ted Boyle and 18 year old son Ian, from Bookham, Surrey, and Dick Lamdin, of Woking Park. Normand-Sweet played particularly well, setting up the heads consistently for Graham Standley, a current indoor international player to consolidate during their 23-18 win.

Bowlers Triumph in Worthing Triples (*Andover Paper*)

ANDOVER Bowling Club's Alf Normand-Sweet, Derek Spencer and the celebrated indoor and outdoor international Graham Standley did the local club proud when winning the Gateway Building Society sponsored Triples title at the famous Worthing Beach House Park greens last week .

The Andover triple beat a team skippered by the English international Dick Lamdin from the Woking Park Club in Surrey by 23 shots to 18 in the final.

Ian Boyle, an 18 year-old who already has his county badge and is potentially a bowler of the future, led against Andover's Alf Normand-Sweet and after a few ends it was apparent that both teams were in excellent form.

Andover scored two shots on the first end, lost two on the second and after 5 ends were 6-7 down. By the ninth end the local Triple had lost 1, 3 and 4 to find themselves with it all to do as they trailed to 15-8 but some fine bowling under pressure saw them regain 5 shots lost previously to bring the score back to 15-13 at 10 ends and put them back into the game.

Scores of 2, 2 and 1 saw them lead 20-16 at 15 ends. On the 17th they gained another 3, leaving the Surrey trio trailing by 6 shots. On the last end Lamdin's lead put the jack out of the rink twice when the Andover side were holding shots, but on the ultimate end Spencer trailed the jack for two shots to put Lamdin under pressure, with him needing 7 shots to win.

He was forced to kill the end once more by firing the jack out of the rink but, unfortunately for him, it went into the ditch with his bowl only gaining 2 shots.

Worthing Park's second bowl being some three yards up the green.

With only one bowl from each Skip to be played,

Andover were sure of the title and Graham Standley, who played superbly throughout the tournament, drew second wood with his last bowl, thus clinching the victory.

1985 - Hampshire versus Gloucester

Special Day for Ladies

ANDOVER had two bowlers in the Hampshire team when the local dub were proud hosts of the ladies inter-county match against Gloucester at the Recreation Ground last week.

Mrs Chris Spencer and Mrs Cissie Clark are both county regulars but although Hampshire eventually won a fiercely fought game by five shots (111-106), the two local players both finished up on the losing side on their rink.

A third Andover player, Mrs Masie Spinks was also selected to play for the county but she stood down as she had already arranged to help out with the day's catering.

The last time the Hampshire ladies team played at Andover was three years ago so it was rather a special occasion for the local club and tributes were paid by Mrs Mary Spearing, the Hampshire president, and Mrs Elsie Mills, the Gloucester president, to the great work put in by the Andover members. The tables at a special supper were decorated in red and blue (the Hampshire colours) and the respective county flags were flown on the newly erected flagpole.

ANDOVER Bowling Club four of Pat Colby, Lilly Gordon, Chris Spencer and Ciss Clark, substituting for Margaret Hunt who played in the previous rounds, have won through to the final of the Hampshire Championships.

They defeated rinks from Southbourne and Gosport in the quarter and semifinals on Monday and in today's county finals at the Atherley Bowling Club in Southampton they face another close game against a four from the Bournemouth BC.

In the quarter-finals they defeated Southbourne by 22 shots to 21 and in the semi final were matched against the Crofton BC side from Gosport and had a comfortable 21-16 shots victory. Whatever the outcome at Atherley today the Andover team and their final opponents will be going forward as Hampshire's representatives in the national championships at Leamington Spa in August.

1986 - ABC Reach National Two-rink Quarter Finals

Best yet by Bowlers

Andover Bowling Club went out of the EBA national two-rink trophy when they lost in the quarter finals - their best ever placing in the competition - to a Torquay BC side that had two England internationals in their eight-man team.

Unfortunately, Andover were missing one of their leading players with Jim Hobday away on holiday and Torquay established an early lead which they retained throughout the match played at Oxford. Graham Standley led one of the Andover rinks and the other was skipped by Andy Ross. Standley's side went down 21-12, Ross's by 25-18 to give Torquay a match winning score of 46-30.

The Andover rinks were P. Longman, A. Turner, B. Turner, G. Standley and B. Edwards, R. Turner, C. White, A. Ross and are to be congratulated on reaching the last eight - a considerable achievement for the Andover club.

1988

Break-in at Bowling Club

Discarded matches were left by an intruder who broke into the Andover Bowling Club on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. An untidy search of the Recreation Road site was made after the door was forced, but nothing was taken.

1988 - 75th Anniversary Celebrations

ANDOVER Bowling Club, led by president Ken Wayland, were beaten by 118 shots to 115 when they entertained a Hampshire team at the Vigo Road recreation ground as part of the local club's 75th anniversary celebrations.

The six rink match against the Hampshire team under county president Tom Bayliss was played in glorious sunshine and friendly atmosphere but both sides were keen to win.

The bowling on both sides was of an extremely high standard and only in the closing ends did the Hampshire team snatch victory.

After the match both teams and visitors attended an anniversary dinner at the Fiesta Hall in Andover where Andover president Ken Wayland, a local insurance broker, welcomed their visitors and presented the Hampshire president with a carriage clock to mark the occasion.

Tom Bayliss, who is a member of the Fareham Club, thanked all concerned who made the day such a success and Derek Spencer, the Andover club chairman, rounded off the day with a resume of the club's achievements over the last 75 years obtained from records and photographs.

Guests of honour included 88 year-old Sid Butler, a life vice-president of the local club, who was the Andover match secretary for 20 years and also club captain for several years and Peggy Grace, president of the Andover ladies section, and past president of the county.

The Andover players who took part in the six rinks included John Clark, Derek Todd, Danny Todd, Derek Spencer (skip); Bill Warren, John Coleman, David Hamilton Harold Niblett (skip); Bernard Rennie, Stan Wiltshire, David Cairns, Billy Turner (skip); Bill Blackmore, George Morris, Tony West, Arthur Turner (skip); Roy Turner, Vic Jarman, Eric Turner, Ken Wayland (skip); Frank Gordon, Stan Maslen, Ernie Hallin, Bob Coleman (skip).

February 1990 - HELP!!!

Bowling Club Hit by Cash Crisis

ANDOVER Bowling Club is in danger of closing after 73 years (*sic*) unless they receive financial help.

Tournament secretary George Morris revealed the pressure the town club was under this week with an appeal for sponsors from local commerce and industry. 'We are not looking for a handout but have a genuine need,' he said. 'Help is needed if the club is to survive.'

He added that any kind of help would be appreciated, whether it be providing fertilizer for their Vigo Road Green or sponsoring any one of the six rinks at the three open tournaments they run each year.

Morris has written to all the members of the Andover and District Chamber of Commerce asking them to help the local club which now has a membership of around 70 players.

The Andover club official said they provided a means of recreation and social activity for both men and women from the Andover district. The club was run with minimal outside help and club members maintained the playing area along with the clubhouse throughout both winter and summer. Despite doubling the annual subscription to £25 they found that costs were still increasing. Last year they spent more than £3,000, with fertilizer alone costing £800.

They also had the additional expense of running two teams in the Whitchurch and District League and an another in the Salisbury League. They were the Whitchurch Division Four champions last year, were runners-up in Division Three and also ran three successful tournaments to boost funds, with players coming from as far as Bristol, Southampton and Reading to play.

Morris added that their biggest expense was the playing green and that the expensive equipment needed to keep it in a prime condition was now becoming obsolete.

They also had all the other usual bills to pay like rent, insurance, fees, postage and stationery, and had raised club fees by more than 56 per cent over the last two years in an attempt to make ends meet. But as most of our members are senior citizens there is a limit to the amount they can afford.

The Andover club's hard-working committee decided to launch an appeal to prevent the club from closing and anyone who could help is requested to contact Morris on Andover 51202.

June 1990 - Survival

Bowling Club House

ANDOVER Bowling Club, is set to widen its activities at Vigo Road by providing a club house. It hopes to increase its membership and make the club eligible for inter county matches of the England Bowling Association.

Test Valley Borough Council, owner of the land, has agreed that, subject to one rink remaining available for public use, the bowling green and the pavilion can be leased for a further 21 years.

The club has 80 playing members and the alterations, paid for by the club, will include relocating the ladies changing room and building a small bar.

September 1991 - Southampton and District WBA Championships

Andover Ladies in Excellent Form

Audrey Todd, who is this year's Andover Bowls Club ladies champion, added another title to her collection. by winning the Southampton and District Women Bowling Association's Champion of Champions fourwood singles title,

Mrs Todd was in top form at the Southampton Sports Centre based championship and beat the Atherley club's Helen Phillips by a convincing 21 shots to 11 shots in one of the semi-finals.

In the final she faced Mayfield Park's Doreen Headland, who received a walkover in the other semi-final, but she was no match for the Andover champion who romped home a comfortable victor by 21 shots to 13.

Andover players also reached the finals of both the pairs and triples championships. Jackie Morris and Chris Spencer beat the Pirrie Park pairing of Mrs. M. Hawkins and Mrs. D. Boothroyd 32 shots to 11 in the semi-finals but found the opposition too strong for them when going down 21 shots to 11 to the Sports Centre's former international Enid Fairhall and her partner P. Sutton in the pairs final.

In the triples, Diane Timms, Pam West and Margaret Hunt had an easy semi-final victory over the BTC trio of B. Butcher, E. Payne and E. Kendall and the Andover team bowled well in the final against a team from the Winchester based Friary Ladies. Forceful bowling from the Friary skip however converted the heads into her favour and Friary eventually emerged as 28 shots to 8 victors.

Andover Ladies however have had a successful season and rounded things off by winning their way through to the area final of the Thornbery Trophy, the prestigious Hampshire interclub competition, with excellent wins over Fleming Park (Eastleigh), Esso (Fawley) and Banister Park (Southampton) before losing to the Friary club from Winchester in the final.

1991 - Ladies Pairs tournament

'Teamen' on Parade

George Morris, Bob Coleman, Tony West, Reg Boxall and Frank Gordon, in fetching attire, provided sterling service with the refreshments during the tournament.

November 1992 - Presentation Evening

Annual Awards Presented to Club Bowlers

ANDOVER Bowling Club had its usual sparkling array of cup and trophies on display when it held its annual presentation evening and dance recently at the Wolverdene Club's Hayward Suite.

More than 60 club members enjoyed an evening of dancing and a superb buffet was laid on after the presentation of awards to the competition winners who were as follows:

Men's Singles, winner, Danny Todd, runner-up, George Morris

Ladies Singles, winner, Pam West, runner-up, Jackie Morris

Men's Handicap, winner, Charlie Mabey, runner-up, Fred Corden

Ladies Handicap winner, Margaret Hunt, runner-up, Audrey Todd

Men's Novice, winner, Charlie Mabey, runner-up, Fred Elloway

Ladies Novice, winner, Dianne Timms, runner-up, Chris Winton

Men's Pairs, winner, Reg Boxall and David Hamilton, runner-up, Ernie Hallin and John Sage

Ladies Pairs, winner, Audrey Todd and M Hunt, runner-up, Beryl Boxall and Pam West

Men's Triples, winners, Charlie Mabey, John Clark, Bill Warren; runners-up, Alan Bevan, Ernie Hallin, Tony West.

Bradley Memorial Trophy, winner, Audrey Todd, runner-up, Masie Spinks

Sid Butler Singles Trophy, winner, Derek Spencer, runner-up, George Morris

George Hacking Mixed Pairs Shield, winners, Doris Jordan and Ken Wayland, runners-up, Masie Spinks and Harold Niblett.

Len West Mixed Triples Trophy, winners, Dianne Timms, Charlie Mabey and Frank Gordon, runners-up, Ann Eaton, Frank Davis and Bill Warren

Jack Keel Mixed Triples Trophy (League, one day event), winners, Masie Spinks, Sid Williams and Fred Hunt, runners-up; Joan Leonard, Alan Bevan, Eric Turner.

Whitchurch League Over-60's Singles, runner-up, Tony West

Whitchurch League Triples, winner, Masie Spinks, Bob Coleman and Arthur Turner.

August 1994 - Winning Through

Andover four in final

ANDOVER Bowling Club's team of M Ford, A Sweet, W Warren and J Sage (skip) has won through to the final of the Basingstoke and District League's Fours Knockout Cup after narrowly defeating a team from Oakley by 19 shots to 18 in the semi-finals at Howard Park in Basingstoke. In a match that was always competitive but evenly contested the Andover team held a slight advantage throughout.

September 1994 - Strong Opposition

Andover club beaten by Mayor's team

ANDOVER Bowls Club were recently beaten by 19 shots (118-99) when they took on Test Valley Mayor's Team in a friendly match at the Vigo Road Recreation Ground,

Mayor Robert Gardiner included several TVBC councillors and officers in his side as well as a number of leading players, including current UK international and EBA national fours champion Andy Wills; Gloucestershire county players Graham and Robert Griffiths; Andy Ross, the former UK indoor champion and a gold medalist at this year's Transplant Games, and Graham Standley, a runner-up in this year's EBA national fours championship,

The Mayor's team also played a match against the Romsey club the previous day and were beaten by 60 shots (158-98).

Wills and the Griffiths father and son combination were visiting from the Cheltenham club and gave coaching clinics to local players on the morning of the match.

October 1994 - TVBC Discusses Car Parking at Bowls Club

Tennis Courts may be Converted

Residents living around Andover's Vigo Road recreation ground are to be asked their views on converting part of three derelict tennis courts into additional parking.

Their opinion will also be sought on the proposal to retain one as a tennis court and mark the third out for basketball, at a total cost of £12,000.

The courts have been targeted for the face-lift treatment to improve outdoor facilities for adolescents in the area and help provide more parking for the Andover Bowling club. The club has approached the council on several occasions about additional parking, which could help alleviate problems encountered on busy club days when members and visitors park on neighbouring roads, to the residents' annoyance.

But councillors at the recent leisure committee pointed out that although they agreed with the proposals, the additional parking would have to be monitored. Cllr George King added: "It's very close to the shops and I'm certain we would get a lot of shoppers using it. The bowlers wouldn't see any improvement so there must be some control over it."

November 1995 - Council Agrees Grant for Watering System

Bowled Over by Lottery Rejection

Andover Bowling Club was nearly bowled over when it didn't get the £9,700 it expected from the National Lottery.

But today the leisure committee of Test Valley Borough Council was to try to remedy the situation. At the November meeting of the committee a grant of £5,100 was approved to provide an automatic sprinkler system at the club.

A report said "It was anticipated that National Lottery funding would be available for further works required to banks and ditches. This has proved not to be the case and the club has now requested a loan of £9,700 to facilitate this work." The committee has been recommended by officers to grant a loan of up to £9,700 to the club on terms to be agreed by officers.

October 1995 - VIP Club Celebrate First Year of Bowls

VIPs take to the greens in style

BLIND and partially sighted bowlers from Andover have been rewarded for their efforts.

Eight members of the Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) club took up green bowling this year and were presented with trophies and certificates during their monthly meeting at the Oval Centre on Smannell Road.

Each player has an expert helper who stands at an angle instructing on the distance of the shot. The bowler aims toward them with the bowl's bias taking it toward the jack.

Fern Heathcock from Andover Bowling club helps run the session. "Amazingly, the two best bowlers are the most visually impaired. One member is now very keen to start entering individual competitions and we have been trying to contact the British Blind Bowling Association to organise some team fixtures," he said.

Ida Gray and Rod Ballance were given special awards for good progress, though Mrs Gray was unwell and was unable to attend.

December 1995 - Pam West Elected Hampshire Ladies President

Top Honour for Bowling Club

ANDOVER Bowling Club's Pam West was elected president of the Hampshire County Women's Bowling Association at their annual general meeting at the Bannister Park BC in Southampton last Friday.

Mrs West takes up the appointment after two years as junior vicepresident and senior vice-president, and will serve one year in office as the Hampshire county president.

It's the first time in the local club's long history that Andover has had the honour of providing the ladies county president.

Mrs West started bowling in 1985 and was Andover's ladies club president in 1991, and was awarded her County badge in the same year.

Andover ladies club champion in 1992 and 1993, Mrs West told 'Advertiser Sport' that 1996 was going to be a very busy year but was looking forward to it with enthusiasm.

Andover Bowling Club is always ready to welcome new members, both men and women, at their headquarters at the Recreation Ground in Vigo Road. Tuition can be given to new and inexperienced players.

1996 - VIP Club's First Inter-club Match

Bowled Over

ANDOVER'S newly-formed Visually Impaired Persons bowling team played its first inter-club match at the Vigo Road Recreation Ground last week when they played host to two triples from Loddon Vale and Howard Park (Basingtoke).

The visitors came out on top in the match 28-14 but players on both sides declared how much they enjoyed the occasion and are now planning to make it an annual fixture. The Andover team is hoping to play a return match at Loddon Vale later in the year and would like to arrange other matches with similar teams.

Frank Grey captained the Andover side and Andover Bowls Club president George Morris also turned up during the afternoon to add his support to the Andover team.

The game originated from the weekly sessions run for the partially sighted by the Andover club at their Vigo Road Green.

June 1997 - ABC Triumphant

Club Bowlers beat Hants County Team

ANDOVER Bowling Club recently played host to an experienced Hampshire county side at the Vigo Road Recreation Ground - and beat them for the first time in 25 years!

The six rink match against the Hampshire team led by senior vice-president Barry Melsom from the Cove club was played in glorious sunshine (reports Derek Spencer).

Both teams were keen to win and the standard of play was of an extremely high quality. Players from Cove, Farnborough, Lee-on-Solent, Littleton, Southampton and Bournemouth were welcomed by Andover club president George Morris.

At the halfway stage Andover held a commanding 56-41 shot lead, and continued to hold the upper hand throughout the rest of the match to run out impressive 130-91 victors.

George Morris, who formally welcomed the visitors after a tea provided by Ruby Coleman and her helpers, presented Barry Melsom with two wrist watches and an Andover club badge to commemorate the occasion.

Barry Melsom congratulated Andover on their win and told the gathering that it was the first time the County side had lost a fixture this season. He also presented the Andover president with a pen set and the caterers with a small gift.

Results of the match, Hants skips only, were as follows:

Andover 130 Hampshire 91

Rink 1 B. Rennie, P Roache, D Hamilton, A Turner (skip) 27; D Woods 12

Rink 2 R Caush, S Jeffries, D Morgan, R Boxall (skip) 17; David Teal 18

Rink 3 R Turner, K Eaton, G Morris, B Turner (skip) 26; Arthur Robinson 18

Rink 4 J Coleman. D Canniford, W Warren, J Sage (skip) 26; Mick Newton 16 **Rink 5** F Corden, F Elloway, M Ford, R Coleman (skip) 18; Peter Kay 12 **Rink 6** J Ash, R Hunt, J Griffiths, A Belcher (skip) 16; R Parsons 15.

A number of Andover club players have been selected to play for the Hampshire Bowling Association in forthcoming matches.

R Turner, K Eaton, G Morris and B Turner will be in the Hampshire side that takes on the London Parks BA at Hornsey in London; A Belcher, J Sage and W Warrren will play against the Hertfordshire BA at Watford and J Ash and D Hamilton will play in a presidents match in aid of the Hants County Benevolent Fund at the Old Basing club.

August 1997 - Mason's Gift to VIP Bowlers

Bowled over by Mason's Cheque

Andover's partially sighted and blind bowling club is now £300 richer after a donation by the Hampshire and Ilse of Wight masonic grand charity. The handover was arranged by Anton Lodge member Peter Broadhurst who is a member of the Andover Bowling Club.

Fellow bowler Bill Warren told him about the special club which needed more sets of woods. Master of Anton Lodge, Brian Silver is pictured handing over the cheque to the club's Joy Fernyhough with Peter Broadhurst, Frank Watson, secretary of the Hants and IOW grand masonic charity, and Andover Bowling Club member Bill Warren.

August 1998

Bowlers beat Mayor's Team

ANDOVER Bowling Club recently entertained the Test Valley Mayor's' team in a friendly match at their Vigo Road green (reports Derek Spencer).

Mayor Tony Jackson included several councillors and officers in his team as well as bowlers from other local clubs such as Whitchurch, St Mary Bourne and Romsey but they had to admit second best to the Andover bowlers, who won by 135 shots to 79. Both teams enjoyed the game, which was played in a relaxed and friendly manner and enjoyed the exercise.

After tea Andover club president John Griffiths officially welcomed the Mayor and his team while the Mayor thanked the club for their hospitality and hoped the fixture would continue for many more years. A successful raffle was run and a generous donation also given to the Mayor's charity appeal.

Club Hosts Inter-county Match

The Andover club were also hosts to an inter-county friendly match recently between the Essex and Isle of Wight bowling associations.

In warm sunny weather, local bowlers witnessed some fine play from both teams with Essex ahead by 12 shots after seven ends with a score of 42-30. They continued the pressure and

were well in command at 84-64 after 14 ends. Although IOW fought back during the closing ends, Essex eventually finished victors by 118 shots to 105 after 21 ends.

Both visiting teams thanked the local club for the use of their impressive facilities and have booked the Vigo Road green for next year's fixture.

July 2000 - ABC versus Plymouth Tourists

Bowlers Play Host to Touring Team

ANDOVER Bowling Club played host at the Vigo Road green last Friday to a strong touring side from Plymouth, drawn from 10 men's clubs and four ladies clubs, with a number of Cornwall county players also included.

The afternoon saw perfect weather for lawn bowls, wonderfully sunny with just a little breeze, and a good crowd of spectators turned out to watch the seven rinks (seven teams from each side with four players in each).

Roy Turner skipped the successful home rink and two others skipped by Tom Hazard and John Sage were unfortunate to lose on the last end.

The strength of the visiting side soon became apparent and the Andover players battled to stay in contention, but were not too far adrift when they went into tea after 10 of the 21 ends.

The tourists presented Andover club president Ken Eaton with a plaque to commemorate their visit during the interval and when the tussle resumed play was much more even. But the class of the Plymouth players eventually told. In the closing stages and they won all but one rink, winning by a margin of 26 shots (167-141).

"It was a wonderful match on a wonderful day." said Ken Eaton. "It was a pity we lost but very enjoyable."

2001 -

Andover Club Welcomes Hampshire President's Team

Last Saturday the president of the Hampshire CBA brought 24 of the best bowlers in the county to play against Andover, which was quite a feather in the cap for the local club. An excellent meal was provided by Carole John, the club's caterer, and her helpers plus Ann Eaton and Irene Hunt behind the bar, and they all did the club proud.

The score, although not too important, saw Andover come out on top with Tommy Hazard's rink being the highest winners with a 38-7 triumph.

The Andover club will welcome any extra support this Saturday when they have their annual match against Andover's visually impaired bowlers at the Vigo Road green, starting at 2pm.

Triples Triumph for Andover Club

Hampshire's bowling fraternity are beginning to sit up and take notice of Andover Bowling Club. Not only have the town club's 'B' side won promotion to Division One in the Whitchurch & District League but recently an Andover club trio won the Whitchurch Triples Open Tournament after beating players from all over the county.

The triumph by Pete Merritt, Bernard Rennie and Steve Drewell is certainly a feather in the cap for the Andover club but local players seem to have displayed a will to succeed this season.

The Andover 'C' team is still in with a chance of a promotion spot in the Whitchurch League, although they will have to beat top-of-the-table Hook 'B' away in their last game of the season. It will be a tough task but by no means an impossible one as they have played some superb bowls at times this season.

The Sid Butler Singles & Bradley Memorial Tournament, which recently had to be postponed due to adverse weather, was held last weekend in glorious sunshine, with Tommy Hazard winning the men's title after beating Roy Turner in the final and Pam West took the ladies crown after her victory over Irene Hunt in the final.

The following day the Andover club were the hosts when the Salisbury & District League representative side took on the Aldershot & District League side at the Recreation Ground. A good day's bowling, lovely sunshine and a nice meal at the end, who could ask for anything more. By the way for anyone interested, the Aldershot & District League won the match by 137 shots to 99.

Successful Andover Season Ends with Fun Tournament

Andover Bowls Club brought down the final curtain on what has been a successful playing season for the town club with a Fun Day Tournament at the Vigo Road green.

Billy Turner was in the frame again as he teamed up with club champion Mike Ford and Dave Canniford to win the wine. It was a pleasant day, with good food and good company, and thanks go to all who made it so.

Mike Ford will be the Andover representative in the Hampshire Champion of Champions Tournament after becoming the club's singles champion, beating Tommy Hazard in the final.

The Turner brothers were at it again at the recent Sunday social spoon drive, with Roy Turner this time winning the whisky after beating a 32-strong field in an enjoyable fun event.

Also a reminder for club members not to forget the next monthly get-together in the clubhouse (details in the fixtures booklet) and also the annual presentation event, which takes place on 27 October. The club's annual general meeting also takes place on 5 November, starting at 7pm.

Good luck to all those who will be bowling indoors at the Longmeadow Club in Whitchurch this winter and finally: a good bowler is not necessarily a person who plays bowls well. If a bowler can play the game with a free hand and heart, if they can win with a smile for their conquered, or lose with a smile for their conqueror then they are good bowlers; what's more, good bowlers leave their bias on the green and never take it into the clubhouse.

Club roll of honour 2001 season:

George Hacking Shield (24): winners, Brenda Griffiths, Jack Ewens, Roy Turner; runners-up, Mille Southwell, Madge Morgan, Richard Hunt.

Hamilton Cup (22): winners, Madge Morgan, Bob Black, Johnnie Johnston; runners-up, Brenda Griffiths, Peter Roach, Dave Sims.

Jack Keel Tournament (30): winners, Madge Morgan, Ernie Middleton, Dennis Morgan; runners-up, Brenda Griffiths, Fred Corden, Peter Roach.

Sid Butler Singles (12): winner, Tom Hazard; runner-up, Roy Turner.

Bradley Memorial Cup (6): winner, Pam West; runner-up, Irene Hunt.

Men's Knockout Finals Championship (31): winner, Mike Ford, runner-up Tom Hazard.

Handicap (32): winner, Ken Eaton, runner-up, Tom Hazard.

Novices (6): winner, Steve Drewell, runner-up, Ray Westbrook.

Pairs (32): winners, Mike Ford & Ernie Middleton, runners-up, Tony Lucas & Ken Eaton. **Triples** (24) winners, Bob Black, Peter Roach, Tom Hazard, runners-up, Fred Corden, Jack Ewens, Roy Turner.

Two Woods (29): winner, Dave Sims, runner-up Dave Hamilton.

Women's Knockout Finals Championship (6): winner, Ann Eaton, runner-up, Pam West.

Handicap (10): winner, Ann Eaton, runner-up Pam Wyles.

Novices (2): winner, Maria Baird, runner-up Jill Goulding.

Pairs (10): winners, Cynthia Hamilton & Beryl Boxall, runners-up, Jill Goulding & Madge Morgan.

Two Woods: winner, Pam West, runner-up, Pam Wyles.

2002 - Theft at Bowls Club

Stop thief! Bowler, aged 62, gives chase

A fit 62-year-old bowls club member in Andover nearly collared his man when he chased over Vigo Road recreation ground after a thief.

"I surprised myself," the club member said. "I covered 200 yards; entirely on the spur of the moment; and I nearly got him. He was on a bike and just casually riding away. He did not know I was there but at the last minute, looked round, saw me and cycled off towards the Borough Arms."

The young man went into the bowls pavilion while members were enjoying a tea break halfway through a match. He made the excuse that he had used the lavatory and as he walked through, picked up a woman member's handbag.

A small amount of cash was taken and the handbag and other contents thrown away near Winton School in London Road.

The thief is described as being aged about 20, nearly five feet 10 inches tall and wearing a fawn fleece.

August 2002

Jill Leads Way for the Ladies

Claims of unfair play were made by some of the men at the Andover club when it was decided to let the ladies play in the annual Novices Knockout Cup.

They thought that the greens would be 'too heavy' for the ladies but in this year's final Jill Goulding beat Shaun Bird 21-12 to take the trophy and deserves to be congratulated on the way she played.

The town club's last hope of winning promotion in the Basingstoke & District League ended with last Friday's 5-0 trouncing at Hook; however in the rearranged game against Alton the local side finished 4-1 victors.

The Salisbury & District League team went to Alderbury last Saturday and were beaten 10-4 by the champions. They were away again on Monday against Wilton II but the outcome was no different with the hosts winning comfortably 12-2.

What a day Andover Bowls Club had last Saturday when they held the annual fixture against the club's visually impaired bowlers (VIP's).

I'm always amazed at the enthusiasm of the VIP's and their enjoyment of the game, especially when every day I am surrounded by the cynicism and criticism of people who have all their faculties, it beggars belief.

I would like to thank the six sighted players who took part, they played the game as it should be played, competitive but fair. For me it was certainly a humbling experience and after a hard fought game one VIP team won 8-7. Unfortunately, the other team lost 11-5 so the sighted won 18-13 to retain the trophy. If there are any visually impaired people who fancy a game of bowls then they would be made more than welcome at the local green.

The Andover club are proud of their association with the VIP's and are looking to do much more in the future, with both them and Andover's youth, maybe with the help of sponsorship, so if any local firm could help it would be greatly appreciated. They can contact me via the club and could prove to be very rewarding.

Last Friday evening's game against Alton was abandoned halfway through owing to the green being waterlogged; the match has been re-arranged for this Sunday, 18 August, starting at 11am.

On Sunday the in house tournament for the Jack Keel Trophy, another mixed triples event, was won by Dave Sims, Madge Morgan and Jack Ewens, with Dennis Morgan, Ken Eaton and Irene Hunt the runners-up.

Monday saw the return game with Wilton in the Salisbury League. The Wilts team had beaten Andover in the semi-final of the Herbie Turner Cup and they were again too good for the local rinks, winning a one-sided contest 13-1.

2002

Apathy Blast for Andover Bowlers

Andover Bowls Club vice-president Johnnie Johnston has blasted the local club's members for their apathy. Johnston, the Andover club's press correspondent, said: "Unless there is an influx of new blood or the older members get a transfusion the Bowling Club is going nowhere!"

Johnston complained after what was another poor turn out for last Saturday's annual Sid Butler men's singles tournament and the ladies Bradley Memorial Cup.

"We've got 80 members but only 12 turned out for the men's competition and just six for the ladies," revealed Johnston. In the men's event club champion Mike Ford once again finished the winner after beating Tony West in the final while in the final of the ladies competition Nora Johnston surprised everyone by drawing two of her games and winning three to take the title for the first time.

Andover bring down the final curtain on the season at Vigo Road with friendly matches against Wootton-on-Edge this Sunday and the Isle of Wight touring side on Monday.

November 2002

Sponsorship Plea after Grant Bid Rejected

Andover Bowling Club is looking for sponsorship to help pay for new paving stones replacing the 40-year-old slabs surrounding the green. The uneven paving is causing problems, particularly for the 24 visually-impaired players who only recently became members.

But the club is disappointed that Test Valley Borough Council has refused a grant application to help for the work, which will cost between £4,000 and £5,000. The grants panel decided the club had enough assets to meet its costs for the next 12 months.

But vice-president Johnnie Johnston said: "What this means is that because we look after the club and don't waste our money we can't have a grant."

The original green was built in 1913 near the site of what is now the Vigo Road roundabout. When the roundabout was built the club relocated in the 1960s to its current site in the recreation ground. It was then the paving stones were laid. The club took over the lease of the green for 20 years in the 1990s.

Mr Johnston said: "We can afford to pay for the re-paving but that means that other projects would have to go by the wayside."

They were planning, for example, to extend a pergola to provide more shelter for members. Mr Johnston said the only alternative now was sponsorship.

Test Valley Borough Council community development officer Steve Lincoln said the council had a system of criteria in place to ensure limited funds were distributed fairly and went where they were most needed. In the case of the Andover Bowling Club the panel decided it had sufficient funds to reinvest in improving facilities for members.

If anyone can help with sponsorship they are asked to contact Mr Johnston.

2003

The Mower the Merrier

It has been another week of mixed fortunes, with the B&C teams both suffering defeats. Our mixed Thursday afternoon team were also beaten five to two, but the A team won four to one and the Basingstoke league rinks team went to Alton on Friday evening and won by four to one.

On Saturday our open mixed fours tournament took place, when bowlers from various counties battled it out for the prizes on offer. The £200 first prize went to Mr and Mrs Foulkes and Mr and Mrs Kenway from Littleton, while the runners-up prize of £100 went to the Surrey foursome of provided by Carole and her gang.

As the photograph shows, the bowling club has been able to purchase a new mower for our green, as the old one was in permanent need of repair. Although our appeal for sponsors fell on deaf ears (maybe our sport is not popular enough), Craig Suckling of Orchard Hill Farm Machinery at Upper Clatford heard of our plight and sold us a mower at a price the club could afford; thanks to them, the pristine condition of our green can be kept up. I'm sure the club members will join me in congratulating the greenkeepers on the condition of the green this year.

The bowling club would also like to thank Mr Danny Mulberry of Whyte & Mackay for his kind donation to our raffle prizes last Saturday.

September 2004

Finals Day Rounds Off Fine Bowls Season in Style

Andover Bowling Club rounded off a fine season with the club finals day at the Rec. on Saturday. They were blessed with good weather as six titles were decided throughout the day.

In the Pairs tournament Joe Hodges and Tom Hazard were victorious over Richard Ross and Pam West and in the Two Woods Johnnie Johnston was beaten by Dennis Fowler.

Johnnie Johnston was again in the final of the Handicap where he took on Dennis Morgan but unfortunately for the Scot, he was runner up once more.

Richard Ross recovered from his defeat in the pairs when he took the novices title from Jim Horne. The club ladies championship was won by Cynthia Hamilton who beat Pam West and the men's champion for 2005 is Ray Westbrook, who beat Dennis Fowler.

The annual Ladies v Gentlemen challenge brings the curtain down on the season on Sunday where all members are welcome to play. The club is appealing for more lady members to make themselves available for the day, which begins at the green at 2.30 pm.

The presentation evening is on Saturday, October 23 where a buffet meal has been arranged rather than the formal meal which has been over subscribed in the past.

Tickets are £10 each.

The annual general meeting is scheduled for Monday November 1 and to this end the nominations list is on the club notice board.

Games for next season are now being arranged and include a number of friendlies which need to be supported

2005 - ABC Bowlers in Over 60 National Final

Pair are Northampton Bound

ANDOVER bowlers Andy Ross and John Ash, (pictured), have won the area final of the indoor Over 60s Pairs competition. They successfully negotiated a number of rounds before beating a pairing from Southampton's Bannister Park IBC.

Playing over the weekend at a neutral venue in Portsmouth, they had a convincing win by ten shots in the final.

Andy and John teamed up three years ago but have only managed to reach the semi-finals previously. Andy has a distinguished bowling career having won the British Isles and English Indoor Championships as well as gaining medals at the Transplant Games. They now go to Northampton to play in the National Championships and hopefully return as English Champions.

June 2006

Top of the Table Andover C

IN THE Whitchurch League, the Andover Bowls Club C team went to the top of the table with a 4.5-0.5 win over the league leaders Oakley.

The D team also won by the same result while the A team won 5-0 away at Howard Park. Unfortunately the B team were beaten 3-2 at the Rec against Littleton.

In the Thursday Afternoon Mixed League, the club returned to winning ways with a 5-2 win at home. On Friday last they faced Alton in the second round of the Hants and Berks Cup, and at the last end

Andover were a shot ahead with one opponent bowl to play. They wrecked the head and finished up lying three shots to send Andover out of another competition.

The ladies had a stunning result, winning 6-0 against Kingsclere.

As reported, the game against Alderbury was a close match with only seven shots separating the teams at the end, unfortunately they were all from the opponents, inflicting the first defeat of the season in the Salisbury and District League.

The friendly last Sunday against Lee-On-Solent resulted in an Andover victory .

Tomorrow the club have another friendly away at Devizes and on Sunday at the Rec they play for the George Hacking Shield, a competition postponed from May.

July 2006

Revenge is Sweet for Town Team at Alderbury

There is something to ponder for all the bowls historians this week. Playing away in the Whitchurch League at Littleton, St Mary Bourne drew on all three rinks, after 18 ends of bowls, with three players in each team per rink, and with three bowls each and not one shot separating them at the end. It sounds incredible but it happened. It has everyone asking if it has happened before. Andover B team in the same league won 3-2 . Unfortunately the A and C teams are in the same section of the Whitchurch League and faced each other for the second time this season. The A team had a more favourable result this time winning 4-1. After going down 7-0 at Aldermaston last week the Thursday afternoon mixed league team bounced back with a 7-0 win against Old Basing B.

In the Basingstoke rinks league last Friday they faced top of the table St Mary Bourne and were beaten 4-1, and are still chasing hard. The ladies continued their encouraging season with another two points against Laverstoke to keep a smile on lady captain Irene Hunt's face.

On Monday last, Andover were away at Alderbury playing their second string where revenge was sweet, returning with a 14-0 victory, after being beaten by their first team.

The Len West Tournament, which was postponed because of Wimbledon and the World Cup, will be played this Sunday.

April 2007

Ladies get Season Up and Running

THE HONOUR of opening the outdoor league season at Andover's Vigo Road green, went to the ladies who played their first ever match in the Salisbury Ladies Triples League.

Facing a strong Amesbury team, they started nervously and were behind during the first third but slowly started to weld together and by the 14th end of the 18 to be played had clawed themselves into a slim 37-34 lead. The first game to finish saw Sue Milton, Irene Hunt and Anne Eaton holding a 15-10 lead after 15 ends, and they looked well in control. Amesbury, however, had other ideas and fought back in the closing stages, but they couldn't quite stop this very experienced Andover triple holding on for a 15-14 win. There was also a tight game on rink two, with Andover holding a one shot lead going into the last two ends. Alison Baker provided a firm foundation with consistently accurate lead play, further built upon by solid performances from Brenda Griffiths and skip Brenda Kirby. This trio eventually took the match by scoring four shots on each of the remaining two ends for a well deserved 17-12 victory.

On rink four Jill Ross, Deirdre Page and Cynthia Hamilton were engaged in the most exciting of the three matches. Despite excellent play from Page, and with Hamilton playing at the top of her form, the Andover triple still found themselves 11-15 down with two ends left. On the 17th end they picked up a good count of three to reduce the arrears to 14-15 but the best shot of the night was yet to follow. With Amesbury holding two shots on the final end, Cynthia Hamilton managed to move the jack a yard to some waiting Andover bowls with a superb running wood that gave her side a count of five and an unexpected 19-15 win. With two points awarded for each winning triple and with a four points bonus for the overall combined score, (which Andover won 51-41), the team picked up a maximum ten points. Amesbury's ladies contributed greatly to a very fine match indeed, which was competitive but also sporting and a fitting way to start the season. Later on in the week the ladies followed up with an away trip to Pewsey, when once again they picked up a superb full ten points victory, for a continued perfect start to their league campaign.

10 August 2007

Atherley Next as Ladies Progress in Thornbury Cup

ANDOVER Bowls Club Ladies recently played their semi-final of the central section of the county Thornbury Cup.

They faced a strong side from Waterside (formerly known as Fawley Refinery) at the Vigo Road green, but yet again came up trumps with a superb win. Alison Baker, Jill Goulding, Linnie Catchpole, and Cynthia Hamilton won their match 22-18 while Brenda Griffiths, Jill Ross, Deirdre Page and Beryl Boxall ran out victors by 19-15. This gave the ladies a comfortable 41-33 win to continue one of their best seasons to date.

Their central section final opponents will be probably the strongest team in the county in the form of Atherley from Southampton. The game is to be played this Sunday at the neutral green of Hyde Abbey, Winchester. Captain Irene Hunt will have a few selection problems to overcome but should the ladies win they will face the other three section winners to decide the county champions.

In the Salisbury and District triples league the ladies are currently in second place behind Alderbury. In this, their first season in the league, a top three finish would be an excellent achievement.

This year's ABC ladies champion will be decided in a final between Cynthia Hamilton, and Ann Eaton. Hamilton, a past winner, beat reigning champion Alison Baker in her semi-final, while Eaton, last year's runner-up, defeated Sue Milton.

The club recently held its annual invitation mixed pairs and the early rounds were played in group format and produced some top notch bowling. Eventual winners of Group A were Jill Ross and Ray Westbrook who beat Brenda Kirby and Jeff Jeffery on shot difference after both couples had won two and lost one match. Group B saw Ann Eaton and Richard Hunt defeat Alison Baker and Jim Horne in the group decider to go into the final.

A feature of the final was the accurate lead play by Eaton as she continued with her group stage form. The eight ends saw a low scoring match ensue with Ann and Richard beating Jill and Ray 7-2.

Andover held the last of the four drawn triples tournaments they run throughout the season on Sunday with the Jack Keel Trophy. With the return of the sun, conditions on the green were very hot and as the surface baked so did the bowlers. The running-surface of the green just got quicker and quicker and more resembled an indoor surface. With each match played over ten ends the finalists qualifying from Group A were

Terry Roll, Linnie Catchpole and Jim Horne after winning all three games, while Patsy Dobson, Peter Bushnell and Roy Turner were runners-up. Group B was a very tight affair however Jean Jeffery, Richard Ross and Ray

Westbrook beat Jill Ross, Cliff Appleby and Richard Hunt on shot difference by +13 to +12 after both had won two games and lost one.

The final was quite an endurance test at the start but some welcome shadow cooled the players as the match wore on. Eventually Roll, Catchpole and Horne won by 11-8 with the significant end being the ninth, when Horne's trio picked up a three count to go into an 11-6 lead with one end to play.

September 2007

Ann Flies the Ladies' Flag at Bowls Finals Day

LAST Saturday Andover Bowls Club staged its annual finals day, where all of the season's knockout competitions come to fruition.

With the greens in excellent condition and running freely, it helped to produce some of the best bowls of the year and some intriguing matches.

In the final of the handicap competition between Dave Sims and Ann Eaton, Dave needed to score 24 and Ann needed 22 to win so on handicap there was very little difference between them. Sims held a slender 15-13 lead after 18 ends but Ann took all the remaining five ends to win 22-15, to become the trophies' first lady winner since the competition became mixed in 2002.

The Novice competition is for all those who have bowled for less than five years and who have not won a singles event. This final pitched three year bowler Den Brown against first season player Chris Sutton. They made some excellent drawing shots and there were no more than three shots separating them but Sutton held on for a 21-18 victory.

On rink four there was a three hour marathon in the drawn pairs final between Mike Cheatle and Jim Horne and Bernard Rennie and Ray Westbrook.

Cheatle and Horne built up a healthy 9-1 lead by end five and they kept their opponents at arms length by playing containment bowls. In the 20th end Westbrook drew three superb woods to take the score to 18-21 and in the last end and facing two down, Horne's third wood trailed the jack to hold a count of five. Westbrook fired with his last shot but Cheatle and Horne held shot for a 22-18 win.

In contrast the quickfire two woods final between Dave Sims and Bob Wood lasted a mere 45 minutes. After 16 ends Sims was holding a substantial 13-9 lead, but in similar fashion to his handicap final he lost the remaining five ends and Bob won 16-13. Probably the best final of the day came in the ladies' singles between Ann Eaton and Cynthia Hamilton. Ann led for much of the

game, creating a 19-11 advantage by using long jacks but Cynthia disrupted Ann's game and started a considerable fight back. Eventually the score stood at 19-19 but Ann pinched the two shots to take the final 21-19.

The men's singles final between Richard Hunt and 2004 champion Ray Westbrook never quite materialised as the spectacle that was expected. Both struggled with line and length throughout but Hunt worked hard for a 19-11 lead. Westbrook took it to 19-16 but the match was won on the 24th end when Hunt drew four for a maximum count, and his first men's championship.

Many thanks go to all who officiated over the proceedings. These and all other trophies won throughout the season will be presented at the gala dinner dance on October 27. Tickets are on sale.

22 August 2008

Mixed Week for Town Bowlers

A MIXED bag of results this week for Andover Bowls Club with the critical ones going against them. Looking back over the season however, it has been encouraging with most of the teams leading their divisions at some stage.

The Salisbury League men's side travelled to play Mere on Monday and enjoyed the wonderful facilities and hospitality and it was a fruitful journey as they took maximum points in winning 14-0.

Unfortunately a trip to Alderbury later in the week was just the reverse, losing 14-0. The ladies fared little better in their home match with Amesbury, losing 10-0.

In the Whitchurch League the A team played a rearranged match with Littleton at home on Monday and won 4-1 but went to Basingstoke on Wednesday and lost 5-0. It was only their second defeat in 12 matches and they remain top. The B team won 3-2 at home to Old Basing, the C team lost 4-1 at Hook B and the D team lost at home to St Mary Bourne 5-0.

In the Basingstoke Rinks League, Andover entertained Howard Park B of Basingstoke on Friday and remain on course to win the divisional championship. The 5-0 win was very encouraging, especially for Pete Merritt who has nursed this team along.

On Sunday the club players contested the Jack Keel Triples in pleasant weather. An inspired draw brought the club's most senior member, Fred Corden, to play with the youngest, Chris Rowe, balanced with Janet Mitchell. This triple contested the final with Ray Westbrook, Rosemary Marshall and Bill Rawlinson. Ray's triple dropped six shots on the first end, usually a death blow, but they fought back to take five on the last to tie the final. The extra end tie-breaker reflected the match with the winning shot coming with the last woods, as rather against the odds, Westbrook's triple claimed the title.

4 September 2010

Sarum Cup Next for Town

LAST Saturday Andover Bowls Club held its annual finals of all the knockout competitions which ran throughout the season.

In good weather and on a good free running green the first final to be contested was the drawn pairs. This pitted Terry Carr and Richard Hunt against Joe Hodges and Jim Horne over a 21 end game. Carr and Hunt had the better of the first 13 ends with lead Carr giving his pairing a good foundation that had the opposition always trying to retrieve the situation. Over the final eight ends however Hodges and Horne scored well taking seven but Carr and Hunt held on to win 17-15.

In the Handicap singles KO Ken Eaton and Chris Sutton were on level handicaps with both needing to score 22 shots. Eaton started the game brightly; winning eight of the opening nine

ends and leading 11-3. Sutton made an improvement by getting the score to 14-9, but there was only ever going to be one winner as Eaton saw out the game comfortably 22-11.

In the two woods Eaton once again figured, playing previous two wood winner Bob Wood. This quick fire discipline proved to be an even affair at the 14 end mark and things were all square 8-8. Eventually though, the in form Eaton completed his win of the day with a victory by 15-11,

The novice competition by bowlers who have played for less than five years was between Andy Hooper and Terry Carr. This proved to be a disappointing final with some very loose heads, as neither could master the quickening green due to the sun and dryness. Hooper acquitted himself best as Carr's earlier form deserted him and the score went in Andy's favour 22-13.

The Ladies' championship was between Cynthia Hamilton and Sue Milton. Sue started the better and after seven ends led 6-2 but Cynthia then took control as she strove for her third championship in three years. Over the next ten ends Sue managed only a single but it was a well deserved triumph for Cynthia 21-13.

The Men's Championship saw 2008 beaten finalist Jim Horne take on Robin Kingston. Despite the two players being friends off the green no quarter was given, and an excellent match ensued. Horne had the drawing edge throughout the first 16 ends going into a 20-11 lead with just one shot needed for victory. Good play and a good driving shot saw Kingston close the gap, but Horne kept drawing, eventually taking shots to win 22-19.

Many thanks go to the greenkeepers for a superb playing surface and umpire Dave Canniford and everyone who officiated at a great day of bowling watched by 30 spectators.

At Andover tomorrow at 2.30 pm, the men take on Alderbury in the final of the Salisbury and District Cup, a trophy Andover have never won. Spectators are very welcome.

11 September 2010

Long wait is over for Sarum Cup

ANDOVER men's triples squad won the Salisbury and District KO Cup last Saturday for the first time in their long history, beating Alderbury in the final.

With Alderbury A having won the league and their B team finishing fourth, this was always going to be a hard match for league runners up Andover to take. The first six ends went to Alderbury, with all six scores from the six matches being added together to find the winner, they held a decent seven shot lead. Things got worse for Andover as they slipped 16 shots behind at the 11 end mark, and the game looked to be slipping away. On rink one Richard Hunt's trio were 1-23 down and finding things tough going, as was Ray Cozzi on rink four at 7-15, and on rink six John Ash was down 6-14. There was one shining light on rink three where the triple of Mike Ford was having a good time at 23-5 up, while Dennis Fowler on two held at 14-9 and Jim Horne on five was level in a tight match 9-9.

Over the course of ends 12 and 13 Andover had an amazing rally which swung the match in their favour as they not only overcame the deficit but leapt into a four shot lead. This was partly due to Hunt's triple beginning to score and Ash and Fowler having good ends. The match eventually got to the final end of the last game where Alderbury needed a count of six to tie. Skip Bill Middlecote fired down the last wood to try and make something happen against Chris Sutton, Alan Bevan and Ray Cozzi but he just managed a two to finish 14-19 to Alderbury. The overall score however had amounted to a great and memorable victory to Andover by 107-103. This was the first Salisbury Cup win for Andover in their history and completed a tremendous season. Other team scores were: Terry Carr, Ken Eaton and Richard Hunt lost 13-25. John Allenby, Dave Canniford and Dennis

Fowler won 20-12. Pete Merritt, Jim Catchpole and Mike Ford won 30-8. Pete Bushnell, Robin Kingston and Jim Horne lost 14-18. Tom Hazard, Bob Wood and John Ash lost 16- 21.

In the Whitchurch and District pairs KO Mike Ford started the season with playing partner Chas Mabey up to the semi-finals. After a spell of ill health Robin Kingston replaced Chas for the semi and final. Mike and Robin took on Heath and Fensome from Oakley in the final winning 24-17 to deservedly pick up the silverware.

25 May 2011

Title defence is off and running

This week saw the Andover Ladies bowls team kick off their defence of the Tuesday Night League title they won so superbly last season.

Playing Basingstoke Town, the away four skipped by Ann Eaton claimed a 12-10 win, while Sue Milton's rink at home, came back from the dead to snatch victory 17-16 for a great start. In the Whitchurch Mixed Wednesday League, Andover B team have had the most success, winning 5-0 away at Kingsclere B to make it four wins in five. Also in Division One Andover A have yet to find their form after winning two and losing three. In the bottom division Andover C are bleeding some of their new bowlers. and in the last match they had a very hard fought tie against Basingstoke C. The triple of Mike Corden. Jill Ross and skip Ray Cozzi came back from 11 shots adrift with four ends to play, to steal their match and complete a 5-0 team win. Chris Sutton should be pleased with his team's efforts in the Basingstoke and District First Division, as they are currently in fourth place with a game in hand over their rivals. Last Friday they travelled to last season's runners-up Oakley and took two away points. Robin Green, Ken Eaton, Bob Wood and skip Peter Anthony were cruising at the half way stage, before losing their form, but eventually hung on to win 18-17.

Bill Rawlinson, Terry Carr, Jim Catchpole and Cozzi struggled to keep close to their opponents and with the Oakley early order giving them the advantage, they took this game 24-11. Sutton, debutant James Freino in his first season of bowling, David Hamilton and skip Jim Horne were 9-16 down with six ends left, but played their way out of trouble for an amazing turn around to take the match 20-16 .

In the Salisbury and District League Andover men beat Tisbury 10-2 to make it three wins out of three so far. Yesterday they took on Wiltton away from home and today the men take on Hamble in the county 16s.

June 2011

County Bowlers take Town Green by Storm

It has been a very busy couple of weeks at Andover Bowls Club, with some high profile games.

Recently they hosted a Johns Inter County KO Trophy match between the Isle of Wight and Berkshire Ladies. Arriving on coaches the 48 players also brought many supporters and the club was full to the brim. What occurred was a colourful and noisy match, with blowers and rattles being played after every good shot. Berkshire won by more than 50 shots, in a very sporting contest.

Meanwhile in the county championship, Andover men travelled to Atherley in Southampton for the quarterfinal of the southern section.

Atherley can boast three greens and a huge membership which rather dwarfs Andover's club but they made a close contest of the match while always slightly behind. The final score was Atherley 76 Andover 65. Individual scores were Chris Sutton, Terry Carr, Ray Cozze and skip Jim Horne won 22-17. Robin Green, Mike Corden, Bob Wood and skip Peter Anthony won 17-13. Bill Rawlinson, John Allenby, Roy Turner and Mike Ford lost 13-19. Richard Ross, Bill Turner, Pete Merritt and Richard Hunt lost 13-27.

Andover, Pewsey and Alderbury A are neck and neck at the top of the Salisbury and District Men's Triples League. Andover lost their first game in eight matches at Pewsey recently, but returned to winning ways with a 12-0 win over Tisbury last week.

In the first division of the Whitchurch and District Wednesday Mixed Triples League, Andover A played Andover B. The competitive match went to the wire and ended with a draw 49-49. Both teams received 2.5 points. The B team however are still keeping in the top two and vying for the title.

The club has held its Ladies Invitation Pairs tournament with many of this year's new bowlers taking part and swelling the numbers. It was the experienced pairing of Ann Eaton and Peter Anthony which joined forces and who won the day however, beating Janet Mitchell and Robin Kingston in the final. All the new bowlers acquitted themselves well springing some surprise results along the way.

July 2011

Triples looking to end 25 year drought

ANDOVER Bowls Club is just over half way through the summer season.

In the Salisbury and District Mens' Triples League their last two games have ended in important wins. They travelled to Alderbury B and had an impressive 12-2 win and then followed that with a good 12-2 win over Salisbury. The Salisbury game was a very close fought contest. On rink six Robin Green, Bob Wood and Peter Anthony were involved in a tight battle up to end 13, when the score stood in Andover's favour 13-11. A fine last five ends saw them come through safely 20-12. On rink five for Robin Kingston, Roy Turner and Jim Horne it looked as if it was going to be one of those off nights, as at end six they trailed 2-12. However some fine play conjured them up a victory from nowhere with it ending 24-14 to Andover. Richard Ross, Ray Cozze and Dennis Fowler had an excellent steady performance, being always in the lead for an 18-12 win.

Things did not go so well for Peter Bushnell, Ken Eaton and Richard Hunt but they rallied well in the closing stages, eventually going down 12-25. This puts Andover firmly in the top two with a great opportunity to win the league for the first time since 1986.

Chris Sutton's fours side recently travelled to the in form Alton Social. Peter Bushnell, John Allenby, Jim Catchpole and Richard Hunt lost 14-17. Robin Green, Ken Eaton, Bob Wood and Peter Anthony lost 9-22. David Hamilton, Robin Kingston, Ray Cozze and Jim Horne won 2118. Despite this defeat the league season is still in the balance for the team, while they also face Howard Park in the Hants/Berks semi-final on Sunday, in an attempt to lift the cup for the first time.

Andover ladies are once again doing their utmost to win the ladies' two rink Tuesday Night League, an honour they picked up last season. They are currently league leaders and are playing full of confidence.

In the In-house tournaments it was success all the way for Robin and Jackie Kingston. In the shoot-out singles tournaments. Robin beat Ray Cozze by one shot in the eight ends while Jackie beat Sue Milton fairly comfortably in the ladies final. The club's drawn triples was a well attended tournament that saw Janet Mitchell, Deirdre Page and Mike Ford beat Diane Timms, Mike Corden and Billy Turner fairly comfortably 13-6 in the final. The feature of the final was some excellent bowling from Page that gave her team that vital edge.

8 September 2011

Fine Bowls Campaign drawing to a Close

ANDOVER Bowls Club's league season is virtually at an end and good results were had by all of the teams.

The ladies had a great win in the Tuesday night league. It all hinged on the final match but results went their way as they retained the title. The victorious members were Joy Anthony, Linnie Catchpole, Ann Eaton, Jill Goulding, Kay Green, Cynthia Hamilton, Irene Hunt, Jackie Kingston, Mo Leake, Sue Milton, Deirdre Page and Jill Ross.

In the Whitchurch and District Mixed League Division 4, Andover C blooded some of this year's new crop with some experienced bowlers. After a slow start to the season they picked up well eventually finishing mid-table and showing some good promise for next season. Andover A in Division 1 had a minor relegation scare in this tight division, but in the end were comfortably sixth. Andover B in Division 1 sadly ended the season with two poor results which cost them the title. Kingsclere A were the winners with Andover B just losing out by six points to gain runners-up.

In the Salisbury and District Men's Triples League Andover were bitterly disappointed to narrowly miss winning the league. Alderbury A won with 179 points while Andover scored 171.

Alderbury had lost four games during the season, while Andover lost only two, but the heavy scoring system caught Andover out. They can be proud of winning the runners-up trophy for the second year running as the success has come after a barren spell of 25 years.

Tomorrow Andover take on Alderbury in the Knock-out Cup, Andover are current holders after winning the cup for the first time last year.

In the Basingstoke and District Mens Fours Division the Andover 1 team have been unfotunate to have had a season where they played well but the situation has been tight.

With one game left to left to play, a defeat could see them relegated, but a win leap to fifth in this ten team league.

10 September 2011

Salisbury K O Cup Stays in Andover

ANDOVER BC recently played in the men's team final of the Salisbury and District-KO Cup.

Andover were very keen to win it this season as they only just missed winning the league, by a point to their final opponents Alderbury. Last year Andover won the cup for the first time in their history with that final being played at Andover, but a tougher match was expected this time, as Alderbury had home advantage, on this the last day of the season.

The match consisted of six triples per team, the total scores for all six matches added together to find the top club. The scores started in Andover's favour, and by end seven they had a nine shot lead having led from the first. It was at this point however that Andover really got going with a superb display of team bowls, with each triple willing each other on. By end 11 they had moved into a big lead of 31 shots and just needed to see out the match. Alderbury had no reply to the onslaught and by the end Andover had an emphatic victory by 109-71, 38 shots clear.

Richard Ross, John Allenby and Dennis Fowler won 17-14; Bill Rawlinson, Roy Turner and Mike Ford won 24-12; Jim Catchpole, Peter Merritt and Ray Cozze won 15-8; Robin Green, Bob Wood and Peter Anthony won 20-11; Chris Sutton, Robin Kingston and captain Jim Home drew 12-12 in a super low scoring tight game where 14 of the 18 ends scored just one shot. Peter Bushnell, Ken Eaton, and Richard Hunt won 21-14 despite being behind with just six ends to go.

This season has been the best for silverware in the history of the club. The men's team won the Salisbury and District Cup (the Herbie Turner), and the league runners-up trophy. The men also won the Hants/Berks team KO Cup for the first time ever which encompasses teams in the Basingstoke and District. Back in March the men also won the indoor Morton Plate KO at Longmeadow. The Ladies won the Tuesday night league for the second year running, which runs in the Basingstoke area and Andover B in the Whitchurch and District Mixed League gained the runners-up in Division One.

Individuals have fared well in the districts also. In the Whitchurch and District, Jackie and Robin Kingston won the mixed pairs at the first time of entering. Peter Anthony won the over 60s singles for the fourth year running and Jim Horne was runner-up in the Brookhouse Singles Cup. Horne also became the area champion of club champions.

With 22 new players to bowls joining this year alone, and a second to none mentoring and coaching scheme in place, the future looks good. The green is in tip top condition and the club can also look forward to their centenary in 2013.

13 May 2012

Wet Weather Leads to Mixed Start for Town

ANDOVER Bowls Club have had a mixed start to the season.

The weather has certainly not helped outdoor sports this year, but hopefully the greens will get faster and it will be more of a test of skill than endeavour soon. Andover had got off to a poor start by their standards in the Salisbury and District Men's Triples League, losing their first three games 10-4. However the team has finally started to play and recently went to Pewsey to secure a 14-0 win on an excellent playing surface. They followed that up with a hard fought 10-2 win over Tisbury.

In the Basingstoke and District Men's Fours League first division, Andover started with a 4-1 loss to Whitchurch but then took a very good 5-0 victory over Howard Park, followed by an away win over Alton Town 3-2, on what has to be one of the worse greens they will ever have to play on this season.

The best club success by far has been in the national men's top club knockout. The country is divided into regions with Andover having reached the last 16 of the Hampshire section. They beat Lockwood from Southampton 4-1 and then travelled to Littleton

Winchester to gain another 4-1 win. Mike Ford lost the two woods singles 7-16 and Jim Horne won the four woods singles 21-11 while Tom Hazard and Peter Anthony came back from 1-10 down to take the pairs 30-11. Chris Sutton, Ray Cozze and Ray Westbrook took the triples and finally Andover's fourth point came from Pete Bushnell, Ken Eaton, Richard Hunt and Dennis Fowler 24-22. Andover's last 16 match will be at Banister Park, Southampton after they narrowly beat Woolston 3-2.

The club recently held the first of its Sunday tournaments. The first was the drawn pairs and luckily the competition was held in lovely sunshine and the green played well. The nine pairs were eventually whittled down to the final between Chris Sutton and Peter Merritt against John Allenby and Bill Rawlinson. Bill and John won the seven end final comfortably 16-4. This Sunday Andover will run the George Hacking two wood drawn triples.

27 May 2012

Hacking Shield beats the wet weather

ANDOVER Bowls Club has so far had a rain affected season.

The mens' team in the Basingstoke and District first division are currently in a creditable mid table position. In their last encounter they travelled to current league champions Basingstoke Town and came away with a hard fought 3-2 victory.

In the Salisbury League they have to pick up some results in order to have any chance of repeating their top two position of the last two seasons. They have been involved in some tight matches but have just come out wrong side of the results, having won three and lost four.

In the Whitchurch and District Mixed League Andover have two teams in Division One. The A team recently played the B with the latter winning 1-4, a result that puts them in the top three. Andover C in Division Four continues to blood its new bowlers and is in mid table position.

The club recently held its two woods drawn triples Shield.

The weather was, for once, kind and the day was played out in continual sunshine. The 30 players were drawn into ten triples and after a round robin where all the triples won a game, the final was reached. Bernard Rennie, Janet Mitchell and Tom Hazard played Les Mitchell and Jackie and Robin

Kingston. It saw Les Mitchell playing in his first triples event and his team went into the lead by 7-5 with one end left to play. Holding two shots to make it a tie, Tom Hazard took a gamble and drew into the tight head with his last bowl, and it paid off, with his triple gaining a three count to pinch the excellent game 7-8.

September 2012

Anthony Top Man at Town Bowls

Andover Bowls Club held their finals day last Saturday, the culmination of the season long knockout competitions.

First to play were Ann Eaton, needing to score 21 and Chris Sutton needing 24 in the Handicap Final. This proved to be a fairly even contest, but saw Chris have the slight upper hand. A big score of four allowed Eaton to close the gap to 16-13 at end 20 but Chris held his nerve and nullified any comeback to win 24-16 after 25 ends.

James Freino and Peter Anthony played Bernard Rennie and Diane Timms in the Drawn Pairs. After nine ends James and Peter had moved into a comfortable 14-2 lead, and they continued that form throughout for an easy 26-10 win after 18 ends.

The Novice Final saw Mike Corden play Mike Withers which proved to be an exciting game with the advantage swinging both ways. At the 12 end mark Withers held an 8-9 lead, but then Corden took the next six ends to go 18-9 up. The match looked finished but Withers bounced back taking the next six ends to level 18-18. Corden then scored a three count to win the title of best novice.

The Two Woods Final also proved to be an excellent match between Jim Catchpole and Jim Horne. Both were very accurate and there was little to separate them. Going into the last end Catchpole held a 13-11 lead where Horne was just three inches short on a measure for his second wood in order to take the match to a tie break. The score stood at a win for Catchpole 13-12.

Linnie Catchpole played Ann Eaton in the Ladies Championship and Ann took nine of the first 11 ends to go into a commanding 12-4 lead, Linnie made a bit of a fight back in the middle stages but Ann eventually cruised to victory 21-9.

The Men's Championship saw Peter Anthony play Ray Westbrook. Both struggled to find the green up to the half way stage of 11 ends, where Anthony held an 11-9 lead. He then took a three and a rather easy four count to increase the gap. The match finished on end 20 when he took another three count to win 21-15. Anthony will now go forward into next season's BDBA champion of champions again. This season he missed out by losing in the final to Gary Johnson from Alton Social.

Tomorrow, Andover's men's triples team go to Pewsey where they play Amesbury in the final of the Salisbury and District Cup (the Herbie Turner). Kick-off will be at 2-30pm as Andover bid to win it for the third year in succession. Supporters welcome.



It's only a fun game, chaps!

Preparing for the big match.
Berkshire v Isle of Wight



The recruiting team get
ready to drag them in