

Bothwell Bowling Club 1968 – 1993

At the start of our Centenary year the previous 100 years had been noted in a club brochure informing the reader about some of the clubs' history and development. A request was made by 1994 President David Fleming that something similar might be produced to cover the 25 years since the earlier publication. Likewise this document will attempt to bring the club history up to present date using information from the committee meeting minutes.

1968

6 new members joined one of whom was Andrew Mason the 1994 Vice President. (Andrew subsequently resigned through pressure of business and rejoined later.) The committee put a ceiling of 100 on the membership. The fees were fixed at £4 and 10 shillings, opening day meal was 4 shillings, and closing day meal free to members. George Mackie should have become the first President after our Centenary year but ill health caused him to forego the honour and the now Honorary President Jim Moore was elected. George Mackie passed away in March 1969. It is worth noting the problems existing today were equally prevalent during this time, socially poor attendance, bar staff needed, extensions requested for club ties and dissatisfaction with team selections.

1969

This saw the introduction of our first fruit machine and the club suffered a break-in.

1970

Sunday bowling was introduced for gentlemen only at first, then 2 rinks were reserved for ladies. An extraordinary General Meeting was held on 19 August to discuss extending the clubhouse.

1971

The telephone was installed and approval for a building extension was obtained.

1972

Membership increased to 115. President Andrew Carney donated the ironwork gates we have today.

1973

The first extension was built outwards towards the green incorporating a bowls room (part of the existing lounge) and gave the present day toilets and the flat roof. The club was subject to further break-ins. Two members George Anderson and Andrew Howie built the green keepers hut. The club also obtained a TV set which Joe Beltrami agreed to underwrite for its first year and Arthur Carney donated the metal frame still in use.

1974

Our first pool table was acquired and Joe Beltrami donated a trophy to encourage competitive pool. Tommy Morrison agreed to sponsor Sunday Bowling if members would enter on sheets provided and enable teams of equal strength to be selected. Past President Ray Taylor donated our flag pole.

1975

A review of bar prices on 18 April 1975 showed the new price for a pint of beer at 18 pence, lager 20 pence, and spirits increased by 25% to 20 pence. President Joe Beltrami obtained Glen Daly for an Opening Day cabaret. We were subject to further break-ins, 3 in quick succession with trivial losses but annoying.

1976

In this year the 1973 extension was finally settled after recourse to law and having involved all Presidents since 1972. Tommy Morrison and Joe Beltrami sponsored our first Fours Tournament and Charles Dobbin together with Bob Cain, Bert Brown and Andrew Lindsay were the winners beating a fine Dalsersf four skipped by internationalist Willie McQueen in an enthralling final.

1977

Plans for an extension to the present layout were put in place and we also received our first VAT inspection. The inspection highlighted irregularities regarding our method of stock control in the bar. This was also the Royal Jubilee and President John Livingstone hosted a visit from representatives of our twin town Jouy en Josas who were amazed to find ladies taking part in bowling with the men and they thought nothing of wandering round the green with their glasses of wine contrary to our licensing laws.

1978

The extension was partially completed when the club hosted a match between the SBA councillors and those of the other three British Associations to commemorate the internationals taking place in Uddingston. The Civic Week match took place for the first time, Past President John Livingstone donating the cup. The constitution was altered to permit the entry of Junior Members.

1979

The extension was completed and after some dispute the final bill was paid and our overdraft was £9000. This continued to rise and President Alistair McPhail initiated a loan scheme where members lending the club a £100 were guaranteed £120 returned. Two returns would be made each Monday after Promiscuous and three members would get their returns each week in the close season. £7200 was raised and a levy of £25 was imposed in addition.

1980 After several months of persistence the club received a grant of £1000 from the District Council. The good work of Past president Alistair McPhail and Councillor Terry Grieve was duly acknowledged. The overdraft in 1980 was £2800, this from a high of £17000. This year saw the first running of the Livingstone Triples, winners being Munro and Turner who had Jack Moore in their entry. October saw the start of our ongoing contract with Alex McIntosh to look after the green. The introduction of

honoraria was made by the committee, the recipients being Charles Dobbin and Don MacRae.

1981

President John Robertson hosted a unique and complex triples competition to mark the Ladies Section Golden Jubilee. There was only one prize, a crystal vase, won by Lynsey O'Hara. Tommy Morrision became sole sponsor of our Invitation Fours. Past President Tom Smith donated a commemorative Immediate Past President badge in respect of his fathers' memory. This badge to be passed on at each AGM. A very enjoyable Italian night was subsequently spoiled because the suppliers bill was much greater than their quote. This led to lawyers being involved before an amicable settlement was reached. Returns from the bar were giving concern and a general steward was appointed.

1982

One of the first functions of the 1992 committee was tackling the overdraft situation which was again £10000 with the bank requiring this to be no more than £6000 by closing day. The membership waiting list was abandoned and 24 new entrants were accepted. A scheme was introduced whereby members could purchase life membership by payment of 10 times the annual fee. Two members availed themselves of this opportunity and paid £250 each. The bar was still proving troublesome and our professional stocktaker was able to confirm our problem was with spirits especially whisky.

1983

President Jim Crawford opened his year with bar and overdraft problems with the bar stocktaker having discovered adulterated whisky on the gantry. There was also a visit from a tax inspector which resulted in a check of all payments over the years to greenkeeper Andrew Wardlaw. After months of negotiation we paid a tax demand of £1200 in four instalments. Jim Smart donated the metal hut at the rear of the clubhouse. John Robertson obtained two tournament sponsors from business contacts.

1984

Committee decided to renew boundary fence and Property Convener Andrew Lindsay obtained best quote. The District Council allowed a 25% improvement grant of £890. The bar was still causing headaches and the convener resigned, President Joe O'Neill and Vice President John Russell undertook the responsibility.

1985

President John Russell donated the honours board and had it entered from Centenary year incorporating the champions since then. This board would have a 50 year coverage. The President pursued S & N Brewery for a grant and managed to obtain £1000. Central heating was installed.

1986

This year brought about a review of the constitution and a sub-committee met regularly before producing the finished article for inspection by Bob Glover to ensure all legal requirements were met. President George Mason had a year of administration after 2 years of expensive improvements.

1987

The club purchased kitchen units assembled by Andrew Lindsay, £1933 worth of goods for £1088. A follow up visit by the tax inspector resulted in President Bill Robertson and Treasurer Don MacRae being summoned to meet the District Inspector. He appreciated the problems we faced but insisted we change our method of recording Bar & Green expenses. As it was evident there was no deliberate intention to defraud Inland Revenue there would be a modified demand for £1200. Secretary Charlie Dobbin and Treasurer Don MacRae having given one years notice of their intentions resigned at the end of the year.

1988

The new committee under President John Moonie asked Inland Revenue if payment in 6 instalments would suffice and this was accepted. The sprinkler system was introduced thanks to the perseverance of Andrew Lindsay and Bill Robertson obtaining a further £2000 from S & N Breweries. On opening day President John presented Charlie Dobbin and Don MacRae with inscribed pocket watches in recognition of their services. Bar problems continued. The Ladies section were granted their first Open Tournament. As no one had filled the position of Treasurer President John together with Vice President Jim Smart took care of club funds. Property convener resigned after 12 years in the position.

1989

President Jim Smart opened his year by having to abandon the AGM because a committee could not be formed and the clubhouse was to remain closed until the meeting could be reconvened. The second meeting proceeded smoothly and although a Treasurer could not be found Past President John Mooney stated his wife Mollie could undertake the position if this was acceptable and it was. Bar convener Eddie Stevenson produced the best figures for several years. Financially the club prospered as there was no capital expenditure.

1990 George McLintock took over the reins and experienced the same problems as Jim Smart in forming a committee. He was also dogged by ill health and it was to his credit he accomplished so many of his duties. The membership ceiling having been temporarily raised to 150 in the previous year was confirmed at that figure. The improvement in bar figures was maintained and helped to finance an expensive roof repair.

1991

President Walter Mair having served a successful apprenticeship as Social Convener and Vice President the previous year formed his committee and created a good atmosphere in the club. He hosted a visit from the ex-Presidents Association which proved to be an outstanding success. The bar turnover continued to grow.

1992

President Derek Aird had a most enjoyable term of office and successfully promoted the club image. He managed to persuade the LBA to hold District Finals at Bothwell green and proved an exemplary host, the councillors were loud in their praise of the hospitality for themselves and visitors. The competitors, winners and losers complimented the green. Our green keeper has proved to be an asset, meticulous in

his varied duties. The happy atmosphere within the club continued under President Dereks' stewardship.

1993

The club decided to celebrate their 125th year and President Andrew MacRae hosted games with the SBA, LBA, Lanarkshire Leagues and Ex-Presidents Association plus all Parish matches being played at home. He readily acknowledged the assistance of Vice President David Fleming and both the Ladies and Gents committees. Both the President and the club received many gifts to mark the occasion and two mixed matches with other clubs similarly celebrating a milestone were played at Victoria Coatbridge and Shotts Ironworks.

Throughout the last 25 years the positions of Convener grew in importance in that at one time they were appointments from within committee but are now elected at the AGM. House and Social are two extremely difficult positions and have been filled by some very hard workers over the period. Two conveners had extended reigns in House, Angus Burrell and John Livingstone. Frank MacGuire was the longest serving social convener. Match at one time was the prerogative of the Vice President until 1980 after which it became an elected post. Property enjoyed some consistency with Arthur Cairney, Andrew Lindsay, John Robertson and John O'Hara holding the position. The green too enjoyed continuity through Robert Naismith, Jack Moore and Charlie Hutchison with the late Bob Linton advising. Our green keeper for many years was Andrew Wardlaw. Treasurers apart from Don MacRae were Harry O'Neill, Bob Wallace, Bob McGhie, Matt Smith, Mollie Mooney, Crawford Steedman and now George Mason. Our Secretaries other than Charlie Dobbin were Tommy Hynd, Bill Gibb, George (Joe) Boyek, John Russell, Tom Smith and Jim Smart.

Honours brought to the club have been difficult to trace unless mentioned in a Presidents AGM report. While apologies are due to any omissions the following are worthy of note.

GENTS

1972	Frank Macguire	Selected by Lanarkshire
1976	Andrew Howie/Don MacRae	District Finals Scottish Pairs
1979	C Hutchison/A Howie/ W Gibb/R Naismith	Senior Fours Scottish Finals
1982	Senior Section	Seniors Winners Monkland League
1986	Club J O'Hara/T Phillips I Ledgerwood/Bob Cain	Division 4 League Champions District Finals Scottish Fours
1987	Senior Fours	District Finals Runners up

1988	A McMorrin Outdoor Top Ten	Junior Singles Scottish Finals Semi-finalists
1992	A MacRae A MacRae Senior Fours	Selected for Lanarkshire Semi-finals Scottish Singles Hamilton District Winners
1993	A MacRae Senior Fours	Selected for Lanarkshire & SBA Monklands League Winners

LADIES

1983	J Goodwin/H Mason	Hamilton District Pairs Winners
1984	M O'Neill/I Robson L O'Hara/A MacRae	West of Scotland Fours Winners
1985	J Donnelly/C McClintock M O'Neill/H Mason	Lanarkshire Fours Runners up
1986	J Goodwin/C McClintock M O'Neill/H Mason L McGhie/J Donnelly M O'Neill/A MacRae	Lanarkshire Fours Winners Scottish Triples Semi-finals
1986 - 1988	A MacRae	International Trialist
1988	A MacRae J Goodwin/H Mason R Wood/I Robson M Moonie/L O'Hara	Hamilton District Singles Winner Hamilton District Pairs Winner Hamilton District Fours Winner
1989	I Parsons/R Wood/M O'Neill A Wood/S Bruce M Moonie/L O'Hara	Scottish Triples Finals Scottish Fours Finals
1989- 1993	H Mason	Scottish Internationalist