

FORMATION OF A BANBURY BOROUGH BOWLING CLUB

INAUGURATION MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL

On Thursday evening, under the presidency of the Mayor, Mr. J. Collingridge, who was supported by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. E. Chapman, The Town Clerk, Mr. A. Stockton, the Borough Accountant, Mt. G. H. Oakes, and the Borough Surveyor, Mr. S. Hilton, the proposed town bowling club was considered and the regulations adopted by the Council for the Bowling Green were gone into. There was a large attendance.

It will be remembered that under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor, a bowling green has been made in the Park. It had been beautifully laid with Cumberland sea washed turf and every attention had been given to it. It is situated in delightful surroundings and it was evident on Thursday night that the bowlers of the town fully appreciated the Town Council's enterprise. It was decided by the Town Council that there should be a Banbury Borough Bowling Club, and the meeting was to place the idea before Banbury bowlers.

The Mayor, in opening the meeting, said on behalf of the Corporation he would like to thank them for their attendance. As they knew they had recently laid down a green at a cost of about £1000 and, frankly, they wanted it to fulfil a two-fold object. They wanted it looked upon as place where anyone that wanted could come and play, and as they had to look after it, they wanted a certain amount of revenue from it. They wanted to see something come back, and it was quite obvious if they lost on it they would have to pay the rates. A committee under the chairmanship of Mr Alderman Chapman had put in a great deal of time in drawing up certain regulations and they had also drawn up a list of suggested regulations and they could be adopted as rules. They had felt the best course that would be, after any suggestions had been made, to take down the names of those willing to join and summon them a short time hence and elect their own members and officers.

The Mayor then read through the list of regulations made by the Council which were as follows:-

The Committee recommended that a club be formed under the name of the Banbury Borough Bowling Club The club to be managed by a committee to be elected by the members of the club, and one member of the committee shall be a member of the Council nominated by the Council.

The club shall pay to the Council to sum one pound per annum for each member of the club. The subscription to the club shall not exceed the sum of one pound two shillings and sixpence.

Lockers to be provided by the Council at charge of 2s 6d. Per annum.

Three rinks be reserved for the club and other rinks may be used when not required by private members, and that the private players may use the rinks set aside for the club when not required by the club members.

The charge for private games shall be sixpence per hour, which shall include the use of bowls and slips.

That seasons tickets be issued at a charge of £1.2s 6d., to include the use of bowls and slips.

The regulations for the formation of the club shall be prepared by the Council and the rules for the management of the club shall be drawn up by the committee of the club elected by the members, such rules shall be subject to the approval of the Council. Several questions were asked and then from these it was gathered that a person might take a season ticket and not be a member of the club. Lockers were optional and could be taken by members if they wished. The suggested regulations were then gone through and some discussions occurred over these. The question of county matches and ordinary club matches, in relation to the number of rinks that would be required, was discussed and it was left with the committee to settle. The question of the number of members was also raised and the Mayor, in a short speech, said that it would be left to the committee to decide how many they could comfortably accommodate.

It was decided that a meeting of all those who wished to join and and who had given in their names and addresses should be called in a fortnights time to elect a committee and officers.

Banbury Guardian, Thursday, October 10th 1929

BANBURY BOWLING GREEN

OPENING MARRED BY BAD WEATHER THE NEW BOROUGH CLUB PRESENTED WITH TWO CUPS

The rain on Tuesday rather spoilt the opening of the new bowling green in the Peoples Park. Long before the time fixed for the ceremony it was practically certain there would be no play as rain had fallen incessantly since the previous evening.

This was a pity as those responsible had made arrangements which, had the elements been kind, would have assured the Town Council's new venture and the Borough Club a royal start. However, as the time for the civic opening approached, members of the new club, and bowlers belonging to the Chestnuts and the Conservative Bowling Clubs began to arrive and it must have been with tantalising feelings that they viewed the lovely greensward of the Lancashire sea-washed turf and realised that they would not be able to bowl any woods on it that afternoon.

The civic ceremony took place on the terrace in front of the pavilion. His Worship the Mayor (Councillor W.G. Mascord) presided, and was supported by Alderman J.Collingridge (Deputy Mayor), Alderman E.Chapman (Chairman of the General

ALDERMAN CHAPMAN TRACES THE HISTORY OF THE PARK

Alderman Chapman said he thought it was his duty as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee to say a few words before they came to the business of the afternoon. He was very the weather had not been kind them that day. If he had had his way there would have been a balmy breeze blowing over the green and the sun shining. Had that been the case they would have a much larger gathering and have spent a good time at the bowling. The history of the park was known to most people but to some it might be a bit fresh to know a few particulars. As they knew, it was given by the late Mr Ball, a chemist in Parson's Street; that was at the further end of the park now: and a syndicate was formed to secure the remainder of the Neithrop Estate occupied by Miss Rothe. The Council took over this part of the park, and it was very nice to know that the loan was raised for that purpose had now been paid off. In 1925 he was appointed Chairman of the General Purpose Committee and it had always been his ambition to make the park worthy of the town and a place where people could come and find recreation and rest. In 1925 they made a start by putting down some hard tennis courts and a putting green and also made some other paths round the top end and a shelter, which had been appreciated by the people generally. It was not until the death of Miss Rothe that they could touch the other parts. Since then they had put down that bowling green and done the children's corner by an unemployment scheme, and although it had cost a considerable amount of money he thought everyone felt it was better to have given the men work so that they could see something for their money rather than they should be on the dole.

Now they had come to the last stage and those who had read the papers knew how they had in view the completion of the park, and were on would be open and free to the publicly waiting for the sanction of the loan of the money. This work would employ a considerable amount of labour and when done he was sure the park worthy of the Borough of Banbury. They would have a car park on the other side of the bowling green, which did not look a very pleasant spot just now in it's finished state. There would be flower beds, and bridges across the stream into the other part, and the whole place would be open and free to the public. The work they had done, he believed, had been well done. When they had put down the hard tennis courts they did not select the cheapest but what they thought the best and would last the longest. The same had happened with regard to the bowling green, it was Lancashire sea-washed turf, and he believed the best that could be obtained.

He did hope that the burgesses of the town would use the facilities now given them for recreation so that they may get some return commensurate with the outlay. After that green was laid, or rather before, the Council thought it would be a great help of a bowling club was formed and a meeting was held in the Town Hall with that object in view. They had a very successful meeting , and about forty gave their names in at the time.

He was sure they all wished success to the newly formed club. About thirty matches had been arranged and he was quite sure the members would record a good many wins. Before he finished he would like to pay tribute to the work of the survey he had undertaken They had had a good surveyor and he had taken a deep interest in all the park work and everything had been done very nicely. They were fortunate to have some cups to start with. Mr. S. J. Mawle had given one, and the Club appointed him (the speaker) their first President, an honour he appreciated very much, and so he had also given one. It was usual to have some bowling the first by bowling the first ball. Before his Worship did so, however, he would ask Mrs Mawle and his wife to present the cups to the Chairman of the Banbury Bowling Club.

PRESENTATION OF CUPS

Alderman Collingridge said Mr. S. J. Mawle asked him to apologise in his absence. During the speaker's Mayoralty he promised a cup, and the details of the competition were to be left to the Committee, but Mr Mawle wished the cup to become the property of any person winning it three times, not necessarily in succession.

Mrs. S. J. Mawle then handed the cup to Mr. F. T. C. Webb, expressing her pleasure in doing so and observing her husband regretted being unable to be there. They wished the club every success and hoped the inhabitants of Banbury would thoroughly enjoy and spend many happy hours on the green.

The cup bore the inscription:-

*"Banbury Borough Bowling Club.
Banbury Cross Cup, 1930".*

Mrs. E. Chapman then handed the cup her husband had given to Mr. Webb and wished the club every success.

On this was inscribed:- Banbury Borough Bowling Club. President's Cup. 1930. Mr. Webb said it was one of the proudest moments of his life to be at the opening of that bowling green. It was a beautiful green and they had had ladies and gentlemen good enough to present them at the start with two nice cups, and it was his duty to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Mawle and Alderman Chapman and the ladies presenting them. Mr. Chapman. Their president, had mentioned the Central Club and most of them were members of that club. It was said that a rose known by any other name would smell as sweet, and no doubt they would play as well now and possibly better than when they did for the old Central Club. No one was more sorry than he to leave the old Central green, but that sorrow was tempered to some considerable extent by the anticipated pleasure on that green in that most beautiful spot. Mr. C. J. H. Chamberlain seconded and said that the presentation of those cups would give an impetus to the club. He felt it a great honour to be captain, and he impressed on all the players to put in as much time as possible and make themselves competent and so stand a good chance of winning one of those cups.

THE MAYOR OPENS THE GREEN.

The Mayor having expressing regret at the weather prevailing, said it was very nice of the ladies and gentlemen to have given those cups. He hoped the members would enjoy the games in all senses and would carry the game on in the spirit it should be. The Town Council had laid the green at a cost of £1100. The club had about 40 members, so there was a mission for them to go out and get another 40, so that the Council might have some income for the money they had spent on the green. He hoped they would have a pleasant season and he had great pleasure in declaring the green open.

The Mayor and Alderman Chapman the each sent down two bowls towards a jack and the Mayor with his latter succeeded in putting it "on" amid applause.

Teas were served in the house by Lorna Cafe.

Unfortunately there was no play owing to the wet weather. A match had been arranged between rinks chosen from the club and two from The Town Council, two from the Chesnuts, and two from the Conservatives.

Play was commenced on the new green Wednesday. The membership of the club now numbers around 70.

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