



The Story of The Truro City Bowling Club

by Rex Barratt

With an Introduction by W. F. Hurley
President of Cornwall County Bowling Association



TRURO BOWLING GREEN
as it is to-day

INTRODUCTION by W. F. HURLEY
President of Cornwall County Bowling Association

I am very honoured as President of Cornwall County Bowling Association to say a few words by way of introduction to the history of the Truro City Bowling Club so ably presented by Rex Barratt.

Everyone in Cornwall who plays bowls, or who helps to administer the game, will know that Truro has been and still is one of the leading clubs in the county. I have had the pleasure of playing on the club's green many times in County games, Executive matches and in County League games, and have always enjoyed the happy atmosphere and the hospitality of the many friends I have there. It is my sincere wish that the coming years will be as successful as those of the past and make us all mindful of the tremendous amount of hard work that was done in the early days to make the game of bowls what it is today.

Bill Hurley.

FOREWORD

The game of bowls is the oldest British outdoor sporting activity, apart from archery, still in vogue. It certainly dates back to the 13th century. It is reported that a Bowling Club at Southampton still uses, or did until recently, the same green on which it has played since 1299 and some drawings of that period, still extant, depict players in the act of delivering woods to a jack as they do today. So popular did it become that it was one of the games legislated against as inclined to draw people away from archery.

In the 15th century bowling alleys, generally connected with inns or taverns, were established in London and in 1511, during the reign of Henry VIII, the 'lower classes' were banned by Act of Parliament from playing bowls except at Christmas and then, as the Act puts it, 'only in their master's presence'.

Biased bowls were introduced some time in the 16th century. In Shakespeare's *Richard II*, act III, scene IV, the queen, when one of her ladies suggests:

'Madam, we'll play at bowls', replies
' 'Twill make me think the world is full
of rubs and that my fortune runs against
the bias',

which indicates that women were playing the game even in those far-off days.

Subsequently the game became noted, not for skilful play, but rather for the revelry, brawling and drinking and betting which accompanied it. King Charles I was an enthusiastic bowler and it is recorded that on one occasion playing on a green at Barking he lost £1,000 in one day's play.

Great efforts were made in the 19th century to re-organise the game and put it on a sound basis, the lead coming from the establishment of Bowling Associations in Australia. In England the Imperial Bowling Association was formed in 1899 and the English Bowling Association in 1903; the former being amalgamated with the latter in 1905. Similar national associations were also formed in Scotland, Ireland and Wales and in many countries overseas, wherever British emigrants and settlers went, so that today it can be said that the game has a world-wide following.

THE STORY OF TRURO CITY BOWLING CLUB

EARLY DAYS:

As to when the game of bowls was first played in Truro there is some doubt. The game was certainly being played on 'The Green' - today a parking place for coaches and buses - in the 17th century. Richard Polwhele, the Cornish historian, records 'what is called The Green was once given as a play area for the use of the boys of the Grammar School'. Whether or not that was so the Grammar School boys seem to have regarded the bowlers as usurpers of their rights notwithstanding the fact that 'The Bowling Green' was the name given to this piece of land in 1680, which clearly indicates that this was its original use.

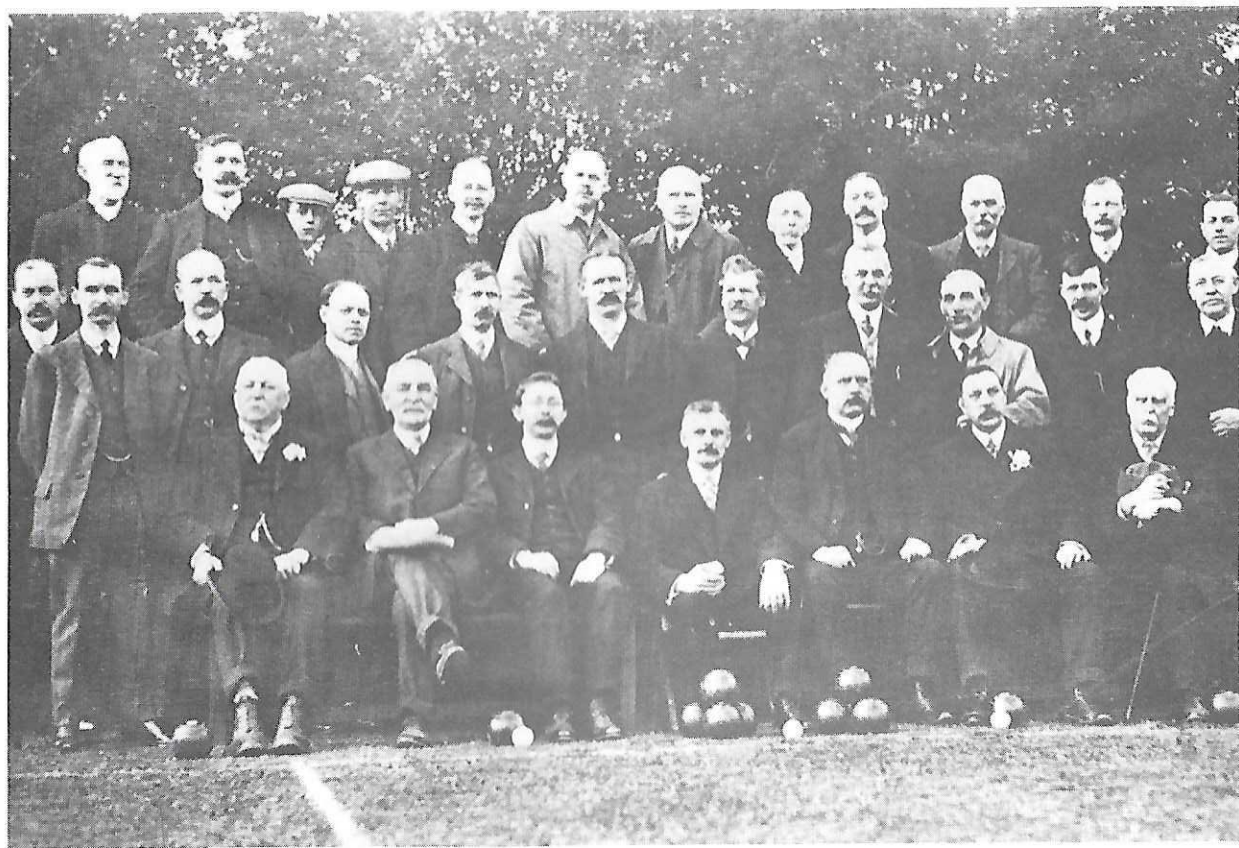
Polwhele further relates that he himself, then a young man of 20, one evening bowled and won two shillings on Truro Bowling Green, and that Henry Rosewarne, M.P., Vice-Warden of the Stannaries, was one of the players on that occasion.

In the 'Royal Cornwall Gazette' of 19th December, 1807, there appeared the following notice signed by the Town Clerk:

'Some idle and Disorderly Persons being in the habit of Sliding wearing Pattens, and committing other Trespasses in the Bowling Green a Reward of Two Guineas will be paid to any one giving to the Town Clerk of this Borough such information as may be the means of Convicting any person who within the last month has committed or may hereafter commit any such Trespass. Wm. Jenney, Town Clerk.'

The pattens referred to, now almost unknown, were clogs shod with an iron ring, and must have had a devastating effect on the turf. Evidently vandalism was a problem even in those days.

For how long bowls continued to be played on the Green is not known, but when the writer was a boy there was little evidence of turf there. In the latter part of the last century it was the site of a great exhibition of which he has heard his parents, who attended it, speak. The surface then was in fact mainly composed of clinker and ashes and it was chiefly notable as the place, or one of the places, where the Whitsun Fair was held, and provided accommodation for Brewer's and Hancock's Galloping Horses, Anderton & Rowlands' Gondolas, Hancock's Switchback, as well as Anderton & Rowlands' and Hancock's stage shows among other amusements. For a considerable time prior to the first World War it provided space for a 'Penny Gaff' where such educative melodramas as 'The



FOUNDER MEMBERS at the opening of the Truro Green, on 9th May, 1913

Murder of Maria Martin in the Red Barn' could be seen.

FORMATION OF THE PRESENT CLUB:

For several years prior to 1913 the plot of land in Kenwyn Road, now the Bowling Green, was the home of Kenwyn Tennis Club, one of several such clubs then in existence in the city. That club then ceased to exist probably owing to declining membership and a number of enthusiasts for the game of bowls decided to form a bowling club for the city.

Of the inaugural meeting the 'Royal Cornwall Gazette' of 10th April, 1913, had this to say:

'A meeting was held at Truro on Friday evening presided over by the Mayor (Mr. W. G. Goodfellow) to consider the question of forming a bowling club. Mr. T. G. Jones reported that the ground formerly occupied by the Kenwyn Tennis Club was available on a yearly tenancy and that the Pavilion and fittings of that club could be acquired. They originally cost £120 and could be procured for £30. The ground would admit of twelve rinks each 18ft. wide. Mr. E. J. Lodge submitted a provisional scheme on the basis of a membership of 60 at 10s.6d. with an entry fee of 5s.0d. Already promises had been received of 53 members. It was decided to form a bowling club. The Mayor was elected president; Mr. T. G. Jones, hon. secretary; Mr. R. Hawke, hon. treasurer; and Messrs. P. W. J. Treleaven, C. Knowles, O. Blackford, R. Cocking, E. J. Lodge, W. Hicks and H. W. Bland were appointed a provisional committee with power to carry out the business of acquiring the ground and to purchase the property of the Kenwyn Tennis Club.'

(The professions or occupations of those named were: W. G. Goodfellow, Jam Manufacturer; T. G. Jones, Journalist; E. J. Lodge, Schoolmaster; R. Hawke, Outfitter; P. W. J. Treleaven, Restaurateur; C. Knowles, Shop Manager; O. Blackford, Printer; R. Cocking, Rate Collector; W. Hicks, Garage Proprietor; H. W. Bland, Sgt-Major R. G. A. (T. F.))

In the same issue of the 'Royal Cornwall Gazette' it was reported:

'Mr. Edward Nicholl of Cardiff has offered a 20 guinea cup for competition for the

best bowling club in West Cornwall this year. The cup is to be won three years in succession before becoming the property of the winners. The clubs will be from Truro to Penzance, including Helston, and The cup will be named the 'Edward Nicholl Cup'.

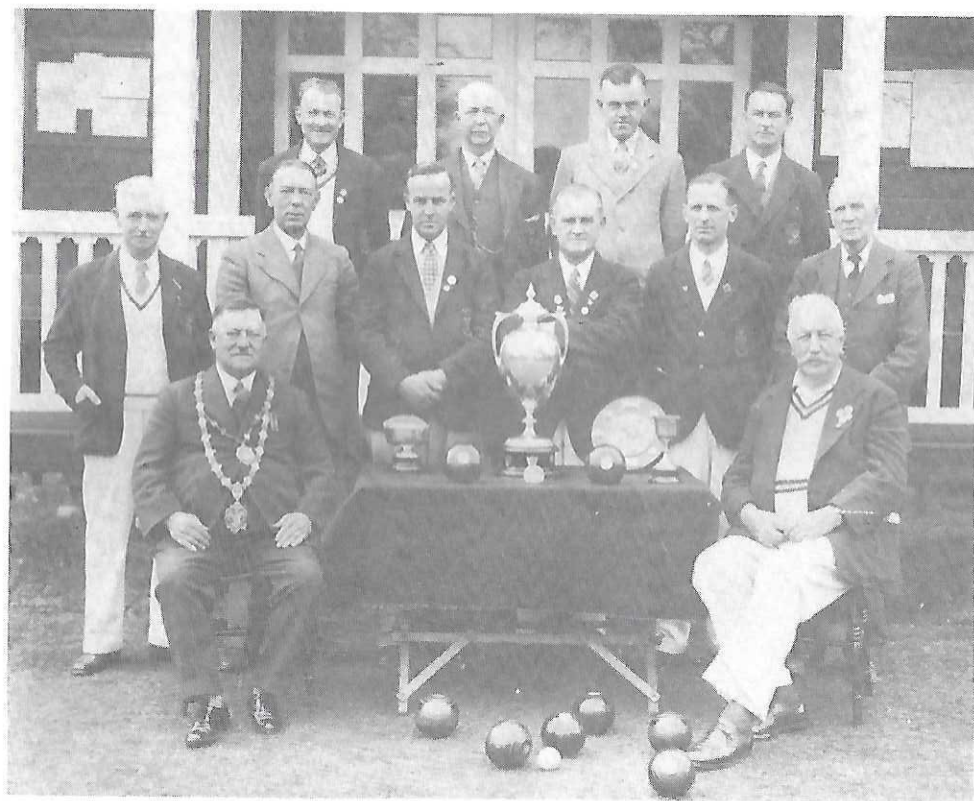
NOTE:-

Edward Nicholl, a Cornishman, was subsequently knighted and was elected as Conservative Member of Parliament for Truro in 1919.

The opening of the Green on Friday, 9th May, 1913, was reported in the 'Royal Cornwall Gazette' of the following Thursday: 'Truro City Bowling Club was formally opened on Friday by the Mayor (Mr. W. G. Goodfellow) who threw the first jack which, bearing an inscribed silver tablet, was presented to his Worship as a souvenir. A match between teams captained by the Mayor and Mr. E. J. Lodge resulted in a win for the former by 11 points to 6. Mr. E. J. Lodge said the Mayor had accepted the presidency of the club and had been a working president. They had an ideal spot for the game, over 70 members, and an enthusiastic committee. The Mayor said he was a great believer in outdoor exercise when men had to live so strenuously as they did at present. It was possible for a man to work too hard and his idea was that everyone should have a reasonable amount of recreation in order to be properly fitted for the duties of life. Because of this and because bowls provided recreation for those who were unable to indulge in more strenuous games he welcomed the formation of the club. He thought they could all reasonably look on the club as a distinct asset.'

Meanwhile the club had entered the competition for the Nicholl Cup with the following results:

Truro	71	Truro	107
Falmouth	167	Helston	132
Falmouth	106	Helston	144
Truro	74	Truro	129
Truro	120	Penzance	178
Penzance	121	Truro	81



WINNERS OF THE NICHOLL CUP - 1935 -

Back row: F. Lampier, H. Mitchell, H. Hore, F. Langdon
Middle row: F. Knee, T. Borlase, S.F. Whitford, I.J. Higgins, S.F. Ware, R. Grigg
Seated: Alfred Richards (Mayor), R.C.O. Cooper

These games of 32 ends were played with 4 rinks of three and not three rinks of four.

The club's first match outside the county appears to have been a friendly game played against one of Devon's strongest clubs in the following August when they travelled to Plymouth and, according to the 'Royal Cornwall Gazette' of 7th August, 1913, were 'heavily defeated' by the Sir Francis Drake club. By way of extenuation it was stated they 'had to contend with a much larger and faster green than their own but Messrs. Bland, Mitchell and Knowles proved excellent skips.'

At the first Annual meeting on 18th December, 1913, the secretary was able to inform the members that they had been granted a lease for three years whilst the treasurer reported an income of £53.0s.6d. and expenditure of £57.15.7d. necessitating a subscription of 15s.6d. per member for 1914. As an example of the value of money at that time the members were told that it was estimated that the 'cost of ground work for the forthcoming season would be about £7.10s.0d.,' that the flag flown on the opening day had been purchased from Tope & Co., for £1.2s.11d. and twelve sets of woods purchased at 12s.9d. per set.

COUNTY ASSOCIATION:

It has generally been thought that the Cornwall Bowling Association was formed in 1912. Is this so? The club's minute book records that at a meeting of the committee on 2nd March, 1914, the secretary was instructed to call a meeting of other Cornish Bowling Clubs to discuss the question of forming a County Bowling Association. The representatives of the Truro club who attended that meeting (E. J. Lodge and T. G. Jones) subsequently reported to the committee on 27th April, 1914, that the meeting held at Redruth 'at the instance of this club' for the purpose of forming a County Association was most successful and that rules governing such Association as submitted by the hon. secretary - T. G. Jones - had been provisionally adopted. This seems to indicate that the Cornwall Bowling Association was in fact constituted in 1914 and that the Truro club played an important part in its inauguration. It is understood that the other founder clubs were Falmouth, Helston and Penzance, i.e. those then competing for the Nicholl Cup which in 1913 had been won by Falmouth.

WAR:

The outbreak of the first World War in August, 1914, brought difficulties to the club, as no doubt it did to many others.

The secretary joined the forces and in May, 1915, the acting secretary (W. J. Treweek) found it necessary to inform 'the other clubs' that Truro could not participate in the Nicholl Cup competition in 1915. The same decision was reached in 1916 but in that summer the club did in fact play two friendly matches. The first mention of 'visitors' appears in the minute book for 1916 when it was agreed that any visitors who desired to play on the green could do so subject to the payment of sixpence for each day's play. In consequence of this it was ordered that the words 'Members Only' be deleted from the notice on the entrance door in Kenwyn Road.

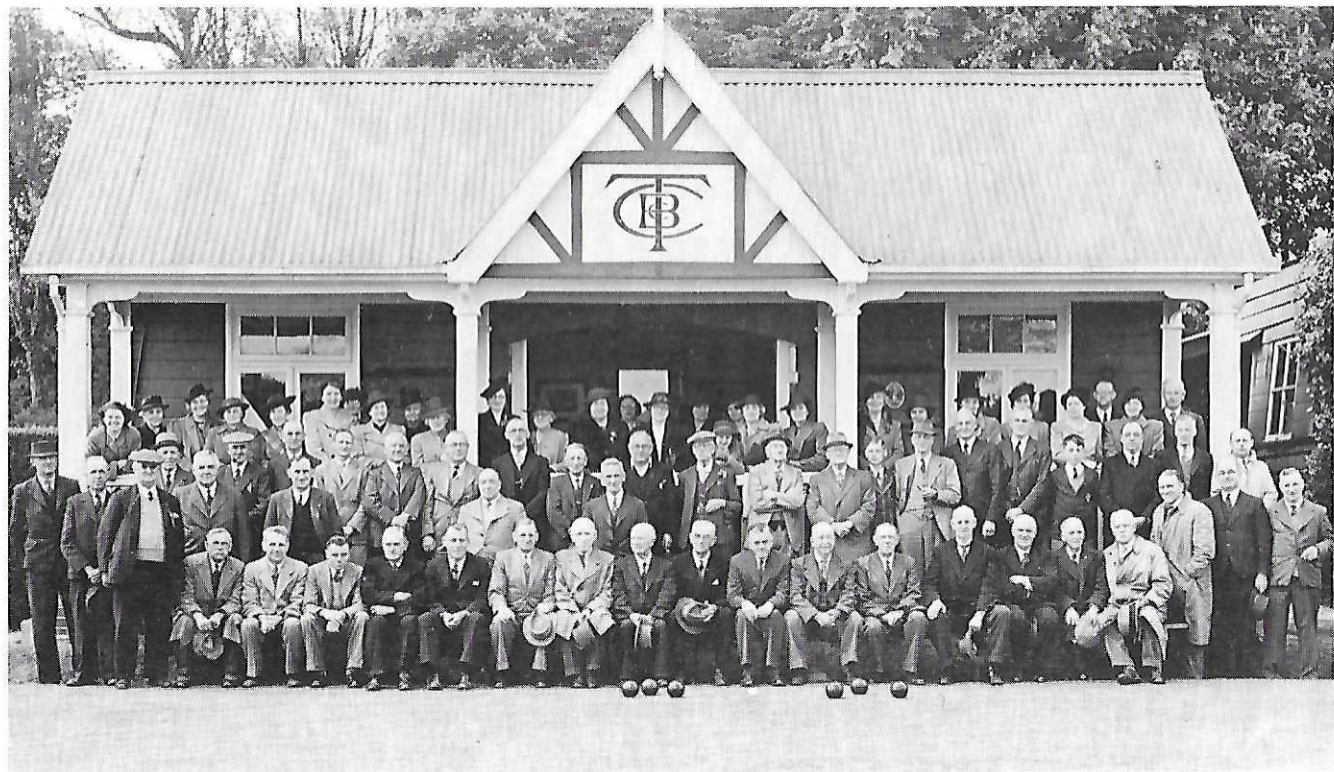
At the fifth annual meeting in February, 1918, the treasurer, C. B. Humphreys, was able to report for the first time a credit balance. True it was only £6.3s.0d. but he told the members that they 'could congratulate themselves on the prosperity of the club.'

BETWEEN THE TWO WARS:

Matches were resumed in 1919 - two being won and six lost with points for 994 and points against 1,000 - played under the rules of 'The Imperial Bowling Association'. During the ensuing winter what was called reconstruction work on the green was undertaken under the direction of Mr. Herbert Mitchell who had been club captain in 1917. Apparently that work resulted in a better standard of play and in 1920 of seven competition matches three were won and in a Bowls Tournament at Falmouth members of the Truro club carried off 6 out of the 10 prizes offered. At that time not many members were the owners of cars and the committee found it necessary to obtain quotations from the County Coach Factory and Taylors Garage for transporting players to away matches, the tender of the latter being eventually accepted but the rate per mile is not known. This contract was not of long duration and for several succeeding years the teams were conveyed to away games by the coaches owned and operated by Alfred Richards, better known, perhaps, as 'Shinnery'.

In the short space of three years the happy financial position of 1918 seems to have undergone a change for the worse because at the end of the 1921 season it was necessary to make a levy of 5s.0d. per member to clear the deficit and for 1922 the annual subscription was raised to £1.1s.0d. with a locker rent of 2s.0d. As it was then necessary to purchase a new lawn mower and box at a cost of £5.3s.6d.(!) the increase in the annual subscription was no doubt warranted.

In 1923 a scheme for the enlargement of the green was put



OPENING DAY - 1945

in hand towards the cost of which members voluntarily contributed £30.8s.0d. Two years later tenders were invited for a new pavilion in accordance with plans which had been drawn up by one of the members - R. C. O. Cooper - and that submitted by C. Endean of £165.17s.6d. was accepted. This is substantially the building still in use but it has over the years been extended and enlarged. Towards the cost of this work £95 was contributed by members taking £1 shares (repayable) and the balance by donations, rink money, and the proceeds of a jumble sale.

By this time the club was well established and had already furnished seven players to the county team, viz: Messrs. E. P. Adams, J. I. Higgins, S. Whitford, H. Mitchell, F. Knee, W. H. Foot and L. C. Thomas. As the number of matches, both in the Nicholl Cup competition and the friendlies, was increasing, the printing of fixture cards became a necessity and another indication of money values and prices is afforded by the fact that the supply and printing of 100 such cards in 1927 cost the club precisely 13s.6d.

TROPHY WINNERS:

For the club 1928 was outstanding. The Nicholl Cup was then won for the first time, Bude being defeated in a semi-final at Bodmin and Penzance beaten in the final at Newquay by 63 shots to 53 on the 24th August of that year. A group photograph of all the players who represented the club in that competition was presented to each of them by Mr. W. H. Foott, who had been chairman of the Cornwall Bowling Association in 1926 and 1927. In this year, too, four Truro players obtained their county badges: E. P. Adams, S. Whitford, R. Hawke and R. Cocking. Of the celebration dinner in October the 'West Briton' said:

'The success of the Truro City Bowling club in winning for the first time the Nicholl Cup was celebrated on Friday evening when a party of over 40 members dined together. The president, the Mayor of Truro, (Mr. R. K. Worth) was in the chair. The beautiful trophy occupied a prominent place on the table and the players who took part in the competition matches were presented with group photographs given by Mr. W. H. Foott, and the cup was filled by the vice-captain Mr. T. L. Barrett'.

(West Briton - 8. 10. 1928)

In 1929 the club felt strong enough to enter their reserve team as it was then called - now 'Truro B' - for the Constantine Trophy, presented by Mr. E. G. Constantine which was competed

for by the second teams of Newquay, Falmouth, Penzance and Truro.

CARE OF THE GREEN:

At one of their meetings in March, 1930, the committee had occasion to direct that the following notice be placed in the pavilion:

'The committee request all players to observe care in delivering their woods on the green to prevent injuring the turf. 1st and 2nd players must wait till the 3rd player has delivered his woods before proceeding to the other end of the green.'

The financial position was now evidently strong enough to warrant some heavy (!) expenditure, viz:

'A new entrance door from Kenwyn Road together with all necessary fittings and fixings, painted and left perfect for £2'

'One dozen new locks for lockers - 7s.0d.'

'Wood strips for the repair of ditches - 1d. per ft. run'.

LOSING FINALISTS:

At the annual meeting in December, 1931, the captain (S. Whitford) was able to report that once again Truro had reached the final of the Nicholl Cup competition but had been defeated on the St. Austell green by Penzance. During this season of 20 matches played only 5 were lost. The Truro rink of G.S.Downing, S.F. Ware, R. Grigg and S. Whitford won the county fours championship and were selected en bloc to play for Cornwall against Devon at Newquay.

Again in 1933, a summer of fine weather, Truro reached the final but once again lost to their old rivals - Penzance. Of 28 matches played this year only 7 were lost with a points record of 1,864 for and 1,543 against. The following season saw the reserve, or 'B' team achieve their best results to date. They won their way through to the final of the Constantine Trophy competition but were beaten in that game.

WINNERS AGAIN:

By 1935 the flag purchased in 1913 was getting somewhat tattered and a new one was presented to the club by an anonymous donor. The first team were successful in winning the Nicholl Cup for the second time and once again G. S. Downing, S. F. Ware, J. I. Higgins and S. Whitford formed the county championship rink.

The first mention of a 'Bowls Drive' appears in 1936. It

seems to have been a great success. These drives continued for many years and were (and still are) very popular with the members. In 1936, after leading their division for the second year in succession, Truro were beaten by Bude by one shot in the semi-final for the Nicholl Cup. The same four members who played in 1935 repeated their success in the county rinks competition whilst H. R. Grose and S. Whitford played for the county in Middleton Cup matches. At the annual meeting in December, 1936, the treasurer reported that the expenditure of £6 for a dozen ground sheets was 'rather exceptional' but there was a balance in hand of £9.17s.8d.

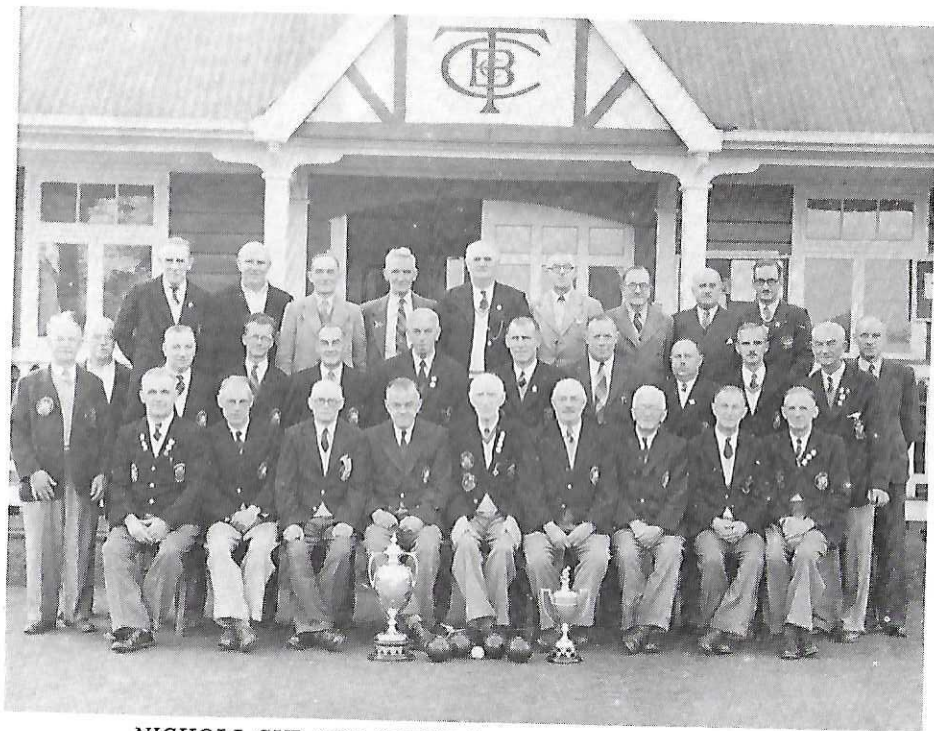
LADY PLAYING MEMBERS:

During 1937 two 'Special General Meetings' were summoned. The purpose of the first of these was to discuss the admission of lady members when, after considerable discussion, it was unanimously agreed that 'owing chiefly to lack of suitable accommodation the admission of ladies could not possibly be entertained'. The second Special Meeting dealt with the pressing matter of finance. The suggestion was made that the annual subscription - then £1.1s.0d. - should be increased to £1.3s.6d. Evidently the members of those days were careful of their bawbees because it was eventually agreed that the subscription should remain at £1.1s.0d. but 5s.0d. should be collected from each member as a 'donation'. What happened to any member declining to make such a donation is not stated.

The membership having fallen to 57 the club was unable to enter a reserve team for the Constantine Trophy but they were able to do so again in 1938. In order to attract new members it was resolved to have cards printed showing conditions of play, such cards to be hung in business premises to 'catch the eye of the public'.

GREEN EXTENDED:

This method of advertising seems to have been effective because in the following year at another Special General Meeting held in the British Legion Hall it was resolved to undertake work on a further extension of the green, to set back the pavilion and to widen the entrance from Kenwyn Road. This work cost something over £70 to meet for which interest-free loans were obtained from members. In spite of the fact that a groundsman was employed regularly after this work was done it was decided, in 1940, to call in 'the county greens expert', Mr. Alec Pascoe of Mawnan, to advise as to the best method of renovating the green. For so doing he and his son were made honorary members of the club.



NICHOLL CUP AND CONSTANTINE TROPHY WINNERS 1948

Back row: H. Gummow, S. Moxey, H. Roberts, J. Gill, M. Symons, H.A. Phillips,
W. Fugler, M. Jones, C. Hosken

Middle row: H. Philip, J.E. Griffiths, E. Love, J. Case, L.E. Edyvean, R. Symons,
J. Fillbrook, G. Goldney, R. Hill, E.F. Tonkin, R. Hawke, G. Davey

Seated: W.J. Courts, E. Horne, R.A. Bowden, H. Hore, E.P. Adams, S.R. Pascoe,
S.C. Harvey, F. Langdon, S.F. Ware

By this time of course the second World War was in progress and it was decided not to enter for either the Nicholl Cup or Constantine Trophy - 'owing to war conditions'. The club continued to function with the committee meeting from time to time. Apparently some of those meetings were somewhat protracted. The minutes of one such meeting held in the pavilion on 4th June, 1942, which started at 7.30p.m. (double summer time being in force) record: 'It was getting very dark and the business of the meeting then concluded', but at what precise time is not stated.

War time inflation was having its effect and in 1942 the subscription was raised to 30/- per member without demur.

(Note: At that time the same figure, 30/-, represented the groundsman's weekly wage. It is true that he was, in addition, provided with tea, soap and paraffin.)

LONG SERVING SECRETARY:

A significant step was taken by the club on 1st July, 1943, when Mr. J. Fillbrook was by a unanimous vote appointed hon. secretary. Significant because at every annual meeting since that date he has been re-appointed and such a long period as secretary of a bowling club must constitute a record of service unsurpassed. He also became divisional hon. secretary and a member of the County Selection Committee in 1953. In 1965 in consideration of his valued services to the game he was elected as a Life Member of the Cornwall County Bowling Association.

CUP WINNERS AGAIN:

In 1944 the club, having again entered both competitions, the Nicholl Cup was won for the third time. Now having a credit balance of £139 the club felt able in 1945 to purchase a new motor mower for £50 and to donate five guineas to the Mayor's Welcome Home Fund for members of H.M. Forces. At the same time they generously presented their long-serving treasurer with a cheque for £10.10s.0d. on his retirement.

1948 might be considered an annus mirabilis for Truro then succeeded in winning both the Nicholl Cup and the Constantine Trophy. In the senior competition the holders, Liskeard, were beaten in the semi-final by 6 shots and Penzance in the final by 14 shots, both games being played at Poltair. The Constantine Trophy team playing on the Tuckingmill green defeated Liskeard in the semi final by 5 shots and had a run-away victory in the final against Penzance by 20 shots. A celebration dinner was held in November to mark the achievement.

Blazer badges bearing the City coat of arms were now available at 2s.6d. each and club ties could be purchased by members at 4s.0d. each.

LARGE MEMBERSHIP:

In the following year the pavilion was again extended and renovated at a cost of £445 met by interest-free loans by members. In fact the membership of the club was stated to be now 'far away the greatest of any club in Cornwall' and for that reason the admission of ladies as playing members was again turned down. With such a large membership two teams were entered for the Nicholl Cup and two for the Constantine Trophy in 1950. Sunday play was still frowned upon - a proposal that it be allowed being defeated by 27 votes to 5 at the annual meeting. In 1951 the Constantine Trophy was won for the second time.

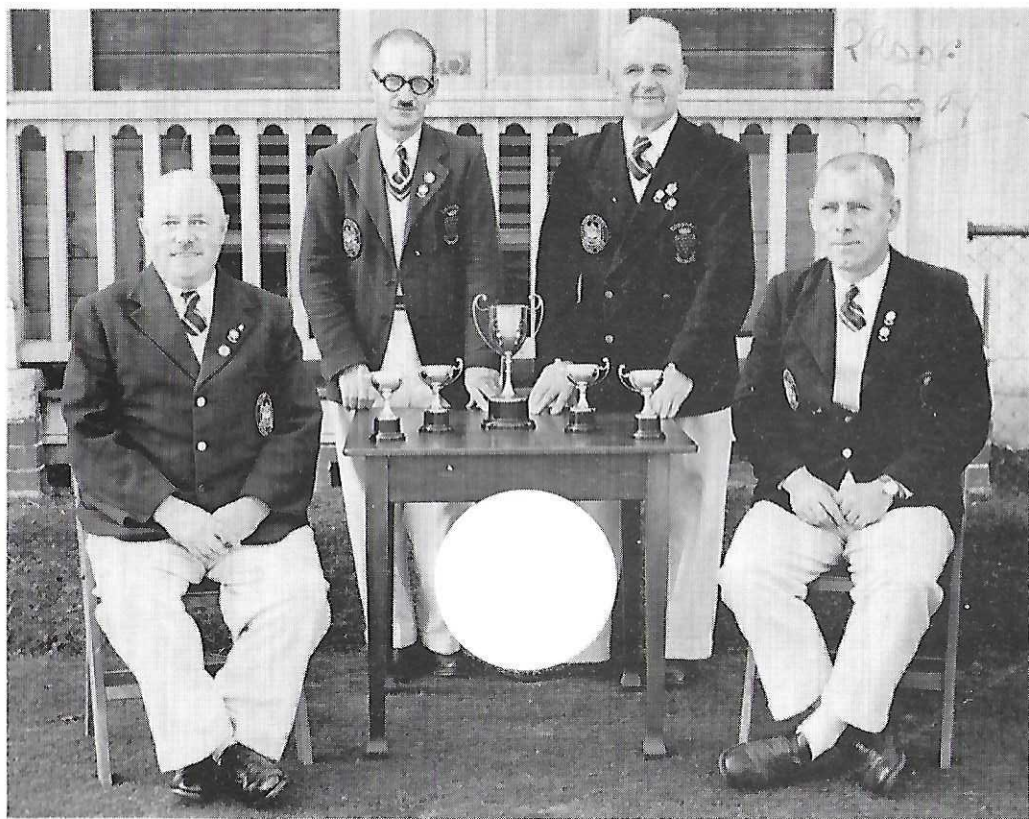
HONOURS BOARD:

In 1952 the annual subscription was again raised; this time to £3, and a licensed club bar was put into operation. It ceased to operate, however, after three short years. To mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 the club captain (H. A. Phillips) most generously presented the club with the splendid honours board now in the pavilion. By this time the financial position of the club was quite strong; the balance sheet showing a surplus of assets over liabilities of £1,020.

By 1956 the condition of the green was again causing much concern and a deputation from the club was appointed to meet representatives of Truro City Council with a view to the possibility of the Council taking over the green and laying Cumberland Turf. The ensuing negotiations, however, proved abortive although the club continued to discuss the possible purchase of the freehold of the ground for several years. Meanwhile, the following purchases were made from En-Tout-Cas Co. Ltd., - 1 Turfman outfit, 1 fine turf Scarifier, 1 Quiltot seed and fertiliser Distributor, 28lb. Super A seed, and 1 load of Perranporth sand, the members carrying out the work required under the supervision of their groundsmen at that time, Mr. R. Hawke.

LADY MEMBERS:

At long last, in 1960, the club agreed to instruct the General Committee to draw up suitable conditions to allow the green to be used by ladies who would form their own club. That was accordingly done and from that time members of the



*NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, FOURS Semi-finalists - 1953 -
S.R. Pascoe, C. Hosken, W.J. Courts, J. Fillbrook.*

Truro Ladies Bowling Club have been able to utilize the green and on Saturdays, which were to be considered 'Open Days' join with the men in play. For the privilege accorded to them the ladies club was required to pay an annual rent which has varied from time to time.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE:

In 1963 the Bingo craze had reached Truro and to augment the finances of the club Bingo sessions were held during the summer at Perranporth under the supervision of Mr. F. C. Phillips. Actually these sessions continued for several seasons and were a welcome source of additional income. To meet the ever-rising cost of upkeep the annual subscription was now raised to £4.1s.0d.

By 1964 it was felt desirable to seek the advice of Mr. Alec Pascoe once more and under his direction further improvement work was put in hand. In 1970 the Pavilion was extended to its present size by the provision of the rather imposing glass frontage at a cost of £500.

It was in this year that the very sensible arrangement was arrived at whereby in consideration of an agreed annual payment by the club the Truro City Council undertook the maintenance of the green under their then Parks Superintendant (Mr. Mervyn Steed) and this undoubtedly resulted in a vast improvement to the green and its playing surface. Without demur the members agreed that the annual subscription should be £5 - in 1976 again raised to £6. Sunday play, now almost universal, was eventually sanctioned by the club at the annual meeting in 1962.

CLUB TOURS:

For a number of years the club undertook an annual tour - the first Cornish club to do so - and over the years visits have been made to:

1949	Cheltenham	1950	Bournemouth
1951	Weston-super-Mare	1952	Brighton
1953	Bournemouth	1954	Hove
1956	Cardiff		

In more recent years, thanks largely to the organizing ability of one of the members (D. G. Hill), tours have been resumed, viz:

1976	Margate	1977	Eastbourne
1978	Weymouth		

whilst a similar tour is being planned for 1979.

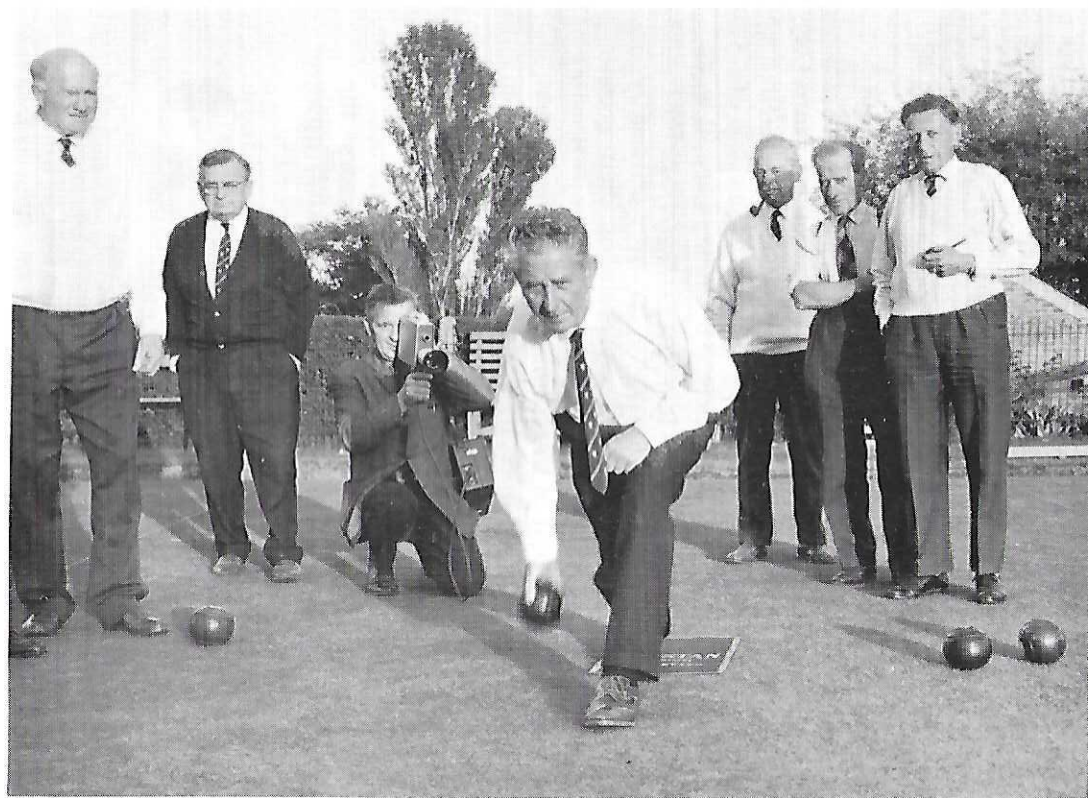
HISTORIC CONTINUITY:

Samuel Enys, an ambitious and forceful individual, who became one of the town's largest landowners and a very wealthy mineral owner, built the Old Mansion House - still standing - in Quay Street in 1706. In 1710 the Corporation granted him a lease for 999 years of the strip of land between his new house and the Green and there appears to be little doubt that Enys and his wealthy friends enjoyed many games of bowls on that Green. Today his successor in title, the Rev. C. R. S. Enys, holds the freehold of the land in Kenwyn Road let on long lease to the Truro City Bowling Club and thus the name of Enys associated with the game more than two hundred and seventy years ago is still, in a way, associated with it in Truro. In like manner Truro City Council, successors to the old Corporation, owners of the 17th Century bowling green, by arrangement with and at the cost of the club, as previously related, now do the necessary ground work to ensure a fine playing surface and pleasant surroundings for members and onlookers and, one must add, far more efficiently and effectively than the old Corporation ever did on their green in days now long gone by. By general consent the Truro Bowling Green is now one of the best in the county and has often been most favourably commented upon by many visiting teams from far and wide. Over the past 66 years the club has continued to afford recreation and give pleasure to countless numbers. The words of the first President (W. G. Goodfellow) spoken on the opening day on 9th May, 1913, have been amply borne out. If no national or county trophies have been won in recent years - the 'A' team were third in the central division league in 1977 however - the ancient game has always been played in a truly sporting spirit and the members today can be said to bear in mind these words:

For when the one great scorer
Comes to write against your name
He writes not that you won or lost
But how you played the game.

Or perhaps as our Cornish forebears would have said in their own language: *Fethy po fyliel an gwarry ha tra nahen.* (Win or lose the game and nothing else.)

That, one feels sure, was the spirit with which the handful of enthusiasts, none of whom had any experience of the finer points of the game, set out when they formed the club sixty six years ago.



A GOOD DELIVERY

*Left to right:- L. Roberts, A.F. Kitchen, A. Cole delivering a wood, E.H. Batchelor,
M. Ferry, R.W. Barratt.*

Its continued existence and successes form a sufficient tribute to their zeal and energy.

HONOURS

International Trialist:-

J. Fillbrook - 1957 (reserve 1955 - 1956)

County Championship:-

FOURS:-	1931	G.S.Downing, S.F.Ware, R.Grigg, S.Whitford.
	1935	G.S.Downing, S.F.Ware, J.I.Higgins, S.Whitford.
	1936	G.S.Downing, S.F.Ware, J.I.Higgins, S.Whitford.
	1939	H.R.Grose, T.Borlase, J.H.Hawke, E.P.Adams.
TRIPLES:-	1952	H.Roberts, M.Symons, F.Langdon.
	1958	P.Ring, G.A.Goldney, J.Fillbrook.
PAIRS:-	1938	G.S.Downing, S.Whitford.
	1939	G.S.Downing, S.Whitford.

Central Division:-

SINGLES:- 1971 A.E.Ferneyhough.

County Charity Cup:-

1933 S.Whitford.
1947 J.Fillbrook, F.Langdon.

Club Championship (Nicholl Cup):-

TRURO CITY - 1928, 1935, 1944, 1948
(Constantine Trophy):-
TRURO CITY - 1948, 1951

Presidents of Cornwall Bowling Association:-

1944 - J.H.Hawke	1948 - E.P.Adams
1956 - S.F.Ware	1963 - S.R.Pascoe
1970 - J.Fillbrook	

Life Member:- J.Fillbrook.

National Championships:-

Qualified on 8 occasions:- J.Fillbrook
Fours semi-finalists:-
1953 - W.J.Courts, S.R.Pascoe, C.Hosken, J.Fillbrook.

COUNTY PLAYERS

E.P.Adams
R.A.Bawden
W.J.Courts
R.Cocking
G.S.Downing
A.E.Ferneyhough
J.Fillbrook
W.H.Foott
G.A.Goldney
R.Grigg
H.R.Grose
R.Hawke
J.I.Higgins

C.Hosken
F.Knee
F.Langdon
A.M.J.Langridge
H.Mitchell
S.Moxey
S.R.Pascoe
P.Ring
H.Roberts
L.Roberts
L.C.Thomas
S.F.Ware
S.Whitford

CHAIRMAN

1913 - 14
1915
1916
1917 - 25
1926
1927
1928
1929 - 30
1931 - 32
1933
1934 - 35
1936
1937
1938 - 39
1940
1941
1942 - 51
1952 - 54
1955 - 58
1959 - 61
1962 - 65
1966 - 68
1969 - 71
1972 - 74
1975 - 77
1978 -

E.J.Lodge
J.P.Martin
J.T.Letcher
J.H.Keast
P.Penna
H.Mitchell
W.H.Foott
R.Hawke
T.L.Barrett
R.Hawke
S. Goodfellow
E.Tonkyn
S.F.Whitford
R.C.O.Cooper
E.P.Adams
J.Parrett
E.P.Adams
S.F.Ware
J.Fillbrook
S.R.Pascoe
C.Hosken
E.F.Tonkin
L.Roberts
W.R.Robbins
E.H.Batchelor
R.W.Barratt

Hon. SECRETARY:-

1913 - 14	T.G.Jones
1915 - 19	W.J.Treweek
1920	C.B.Humphreys
1921	W.J.Treweek
1922 - 23	G.H.Giles
1924 - 25	W.H.Foott
1926 - 32	R.C.O.Cooper
1933 - 37	H.Marshall
1938 - 42	J.E.Griffiths
1943	W.T.Sylvester
1943 -	J.Fillbrook

Hon. TREASURER:-

1913 - 14	R.Hawke
1915 - 19	C.B.Humphreys
1920	F.Knee
1921 - 24	C.B.Humphreys
1925 - 32	E.P.Adams
1933 - 37	R.C.O.Cooper
1938 - 45	H.Marshall
1946 - 48	J.C.Corin
1949 - 69	S.R.Pascoe
1970 -	L.Roberts

CAPTAIN

1913 - 14	C.B.Humphreys	1957	L.Roberts
1915 - 17	H.Mitchell	1958	E.Burley
1918 - 24	P.Penna	1959	E.F.Tonkin
1925 - 26	L.C.Thomas	1960	W.J.Stearn
1927 - 28	J.I.Higgins	1961	E.H.Batchelor
1929 - 30	T.L.Barrett	1962	F.H.Mitchell
1931 - 32	S.F.Whitford	1963	A.G.Tonkin
1933 - 34	E.P.Adams	1964	A.M.J.Langridge
1935 - 36	R.C.O. Cooper	1965	N.Sawle
1937 - 38	T.H.Borlase	1966	F.R.Mountford
1939 - 40	S.F.Ware	1967	W.R.Robbins
1941 - 42	H.Marshall	1968	C.Hosken
1943 - 44	F.Langdon	1969	R.W.Barratt
1945 - 46	J.Fillbrook	1970	C.J.Philp
1947 - 48	H.Hore	1971	A.F.C.Kitchen
1949	R.A.Bowden	1972	L.Edyvean
1950	S.J.Moxey	1973	T.J.Pope
1951	W.H.Seymour	1974	G.L.W.Beards
1952	S.R.Pascoe	1975	D.C.Miller
1953	H.A.Phillips	1976	D.G.Hill
1954	G.A.Goldney	1977	J.R.Knight
1955	S.C.Harvey	1978	C.Hynes
1956	W.J.Courts	1979	J.Gilbert

The club desires to express thanks to all those who have taken advertising space in this book. Without their assistance publication would not have been possible.