

Background

When the Arbroath Bowling Club committee, in early 2010, decided to produce a booklet on the history of the Club it was made easy by the fact that every minute book, except the very first one, has been kept and has been made available.

During the reading of these minute books newspaper cuttings have been found and used in the production of this document.

Introduction

Congratulations to Arbroath Bowling Club on its 150th anniversary!

The game of bowls has been around for centuries, Sir Francis Drake is the best known bowler in 1588. Bowling Clubs up and down Great Britain appeared more in the 1800s. A cutting from the newspaper, The People's Journal of 1939 said "The game of bowls was probably played on the commons of Arbroath prior to 1860, but it was in April of that year that the Town Council recommended the laying down of a bowling green for the use of the community on the south east corner of what was known as the Cannon Common which in the 40s and 50s was occupied by the public tennis courts opposite the bathing pool. Early in 1861 a two-rink green was laid down and properly fenced and there was the birth place of Arbroath Bowling Club. Around 12 players comprised the first membership of the Club and it was there and then that they called it Arbroath Bowling Club. Six of the 12 original members are on record, James Littlejohn, the first President, Robert Gleig, James Craigie, a well known local postman, J Jefferson Anderson, the first Secretary, John Murray and Mr Greig. The others are unknown. This was in agreement with the Town Council. The Club continued to play there for five years when the green became very over-crowded. In 1866 the Club moved up to Dishland Hill where three rinks were laid down but by the end of 1879 the six-rink green was provided for the members. Play began on the new green on the 5th May 1880".

James Littlejohn was President from the opening until 1867 and oversaw the move from the Cannon Common to the Hill. He was the first President in a line of 105 to date.

William Cargill, President 1868 – 1872, was the very first 50 year member of Arbroath Bowling Club.

Without the first minute book there is no record of when the first meeting was held or whether a green keeper was hired however the second book records that annual membership fees were set at 10 /- (50pence). A shed was erected for the members' bowls and overshoes. The Club welcomed a number of new faces but no accurate record of numbers was kept at that time. In the 1880s the new Club House was erected with an £80 loan borrowed from Provost Reid. A wooden fence was erected around the green and Club house from these funds. Accounts from the 1880s showed that the Club turned over almost £62 with expenditure of £58 and the Club therefore made a surplus of the £4. With this money the loan commenced being paid back.

In 1885 single-handed bowls was introduced. The first singles Champion, David Littlejohn, was crowned in that year, 24 years after opening.

A Mr Murray was green keeper in 1886 but gave his resignation so the Club had to appoint a new green keeper. The Club advertised and 14 applications were received for the position. Mr Alexander Fife, 21 Ponderlaw Street was chosen with a weekly wage of 12 /-.

The first bowling matches in the 1880s were played in the Hilltown, Dundee and Hawkhill Club, now Balgay. Members travelled by train and tram at their own expense. In the ensuing years they played a number of games all round Angus.

The owner of the Imperial Hotel was a member of Arbroath Bowling Club. In these days the annual supper was held after the very last game of the season in the Imperial Hotel. There was a good turnout of members and the tickets were 2/6d. Suppers continued at this venue for a number of years.

The AGMs at this time were held in the Masonic Hall, Hill Street though ordinary meetings were held in the Club house which was known as the veranda. In these early days entry money for bowling competitions was set at 1d.

Mill Owner Francis Webster was the longest serving President 1880 – 1896 inclusive; 17 years. He was President during the 25th year of the Club. There is no record of any celebrations for the anniversary. During those 25 years President Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated, the north had gone to war against the south of America and history tells us there was a gun fight at the Okay Corale. Custer and his seventh cavalry were massacred and the Zulus were at war in Africa, but Arbroath Bowling Club boys played on!

By 1887 the AGM recorded income of £58-4/3d with expenditure of £50 /9-1d. The club's profit was £7- 5/-2d. The debt to Provost Reid's loan was now down to £65. Green Skips were appointed at the AGM, a total of 12. Mr Alex Fife continued to be green keeper.

In these early years the green opened the first weekend in May and finished well into October. The winter months were spent, by the curator, painting and doing odd jobs.

In 1888 the curator reported that the wood around the green was in a state of disrepair. The committee agreed to look further into this and asked the curator to get a joiner to look at it. One joiner reported that all of the wood was rotten and it would cost approximately £8 to repair. A second joiner said it would cost £4/10. Guess who got the job! In this same year the Provost's loan was down to £60.

For the 1889 season it was recommended by the AGM that members would continue to pay 12/6 but any new members would have to pay 25 /-. During the year very few members joined the Club. They probably went to the Newgate or the Abbey as Arbroath Bowling Club was the most expensive in the town. Therefore the balance on Provost Reid's loan remained at £60!

The curator at the end of 1888 was told to make good the green and put the usual top dressing of soot on the green. Soon after bone dust and sand replaced soot in the treatment of the greens at season end.

There is not much recorded between 1889 and 1890, just the normal programme of events – friendly matches home and away.

At a meeting before the AGM in 1891 it was agreed to recommend that entry money should be reduced as few new members were coming through the door. Also the death of green keeper Alex Fife was reported. Provost Reid's loan was down to £50.

Francis Webster, the President at the AGM moved that entry money should be abolished altogether, leaving all members paying 12/6. This was seconded by a Mr McNeil. Provost Keith, also a member, proposed as an amendment that entry money should be reduced to £1 per new member and Mr J Sutherland seconded. On a vote the President's recommendation was passed and all new members therefore were charged 12/6.

At a meeting in April 1891 there were 12 applicants for green keeper and Mr James Christie, 12 Green Street, was appointed at 12 /- per week. Nothing else of any significance is noted during this year.

In 1893 the members' fees remained at 12/6d.

The Club considered some circulars that had been received from a Mr McIntyre of Dundee referring to the formation of a local Bowling Club Association with the meeting to be held in Dundee on Friday 17th November 1893 and another on 8th December 1893.

Provost Reid's debt was down to £30 by 1894 (29th March).

In April 1894 the players had to pay 6d for refreshments provided (tea). That year they did not have a formal supper but had it at the end of season day's play on the veranda. At the end of the season leaf mould and bone meal was applied as a dressing to the green.

Saturday 6th October 1894 a meeting was held for the purpose of joining the Scottish Bowling Association and, at the same time, it was agreed to build a new veranda at a cost, not exceeding, £100. On Friday 20th November 1894 the committee met with the Architect and all measurements were taken and the committee agreed that the Architect's drawing would suit with one or two small alterations.

On Monday 25th March 1895 the plan for the proposed new veranda was put forward to the committee. The cost of the new build was to be £99/18. At the AGM held in the Masonic hall, Hill Street it was decided to go ahead with the new build. It was put forward at the AGM by Mr George Harris and seconded by Captain Leslie, that in view of the expense, the annual subscription should be £1/1. An amendment was put forward to pay 15 /- and the amendment won! Further to this a loan was taken out from J C Peats Trustees to pay for the new veranda and drainage that was required in the street and this also covered the remainder of the loan due to Provost Reid.

On 26th April, Mr James Christie, Green Keeper was replaced by Mr George Brand, due to sickness, at 15 /- per week but this was soon reduced back to 12 /- when he was taken on a temporary contract!

The new veranda was completed by the end of October 1895.

In April 1896 Mr James Christie had resigned his post of Green Keeper. There is no mention of Mr Brand being invited to stay on as Green Keeper after Mr Christie's resignation, and a new Green Keeper was recruited – Mr Duncan McLaren took the post at 12 /- per week!

Over the summer more friendly games were played on a Saturday than ever before with the usual wins and defeats. The weather played its part in 1896 with a few people being put off due to the rain. There was one abandoned game, so some things don't change!

In April 1897 at a meeting the condition of the cutting machine was under consideration and the Curator was to report on how much this would cost. At a meeting later that month it was reported that it would cost £1 to have the necessary work done on it. This was approved.

On Tuesday 31st August 1897 at a meeting held in the Secretary's room the Secretary was instructed to record an expression of regret at the loss sustained by the Club on account of the sad and distressing death of Mr Robert Reid, the Treasurer, who was found drowned at the cliffs on the morning of the 27th August. One of the committee members took on Mr Reid's duties until the end of the season. At the AGM on 31st March 1898 Mr William Cant was appointed as the new Treasurer.

On Thursday 14th April 1898 the committee met on the green to discuss with the Curator the possibility of buying a new lawnmower on the best terms possible and to dispose of the old one as advantageously as they could.

On Wednesday 5th July 1899 Arbroath played Carnoustie away from home. The score recorded was Carnoustie winning by a record number of shots, namely 70, the biggest defeat for the Club in its history so far.

An estimate from Mr James Kidd, Joiner, for an awning around the front of the veranda was sought. This was set at £16/10.

By 1900 Chief Constable D McNeil was President and the number of committee members was set at 12. The members paid 6d per home game for their teas. Mr Alex Whitton was appointed Green Keeper. Opening day was held back for a number of weeks due to the condition of the green after a bad winter. Mr Whitton asked for a raise in his wages in this year, due to having to lay a large amount of turf. His wages were set at 18/- per week during the period he was laying the grass. The cost of re-turfing the green, with various works around the green and veranda, amounted to £67/5/8 of which £42/10 was privately subscribed by the members.

On the motion of President McNeil it was resolved that the office bearers and committee should sign a new bill for the amount of the loan held by the Club and in each subsequent year the office bearers elected should sign the same bill for the amount of debt due by the Club so long as any proportion thereof remained unpaid.

A letter was received from the Lochlands Bowling Club on 19th June 1900 asking for an annual match to be set.

After all the work had been completed The Green Keeper asked the committee to consider his request for a wage increase and his wage was subsequently reset on 21st August 1900 at 15 /-. It

was also reported that there were leaks in the veranda and discussions took place on what could be done about it.

At a meeting held on 23rd April 1901 it was agreed to pay the Green Keeper 16 /- per week. On 8th May the committee agreed to the Lochlands request for annual matches, these to be played home and away.

At the AGM held at the Masonic Hall on 27th March 1902 it was decided to recommend that an entry fee of 10 /- should be paid by parties joining the green for the first time, in addition to the annual subscription of 15 /-. This was agreed by the members.

On 22nd October the members arranged for a dinner at the Imperial Hotel. Tickets were priced at 2/6 and over 40 men were present for a very enjoyable evening.

A whist club had been meeting in the veranda for a number of years and they asked the committee if they could put gas in to warm themselves over the winter. It was agreed, but at their own expense.

A new Green Keeper, James Borthwick, was appointed on 25th May 1903 and he would be paid 18 /- a week if he provided satisfaction. New rubber mats had been ordered.

On Wednesday 25th January 1904 a meeting of the committee was held in the veranda. The Secretary explained that the meeting had been called with the purpose of considering the conditions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1903 as affecting the registration of Clubs. The Club at this time had to apply for a certificate of registry. At a special meeting on 27th January members agreed to the application for the provision of the certificates and conditions being lodged to the Sheriff. All private Clubs had to apply for this certificate.

By 31st March 1904 Mr Borthwick had resigned and was replaced by Mr William Fahën who continued to receive 18 /- per week.

On Saturday 30th April 1904 the green was opened for the season with a large turnout of members; a full green. At the conclusion of the match President Charles Miles bought everyone their tea and refreshments.

On Monday 18th July 1904 a contingent of Canadian bowlers was to visit Dundee on the Balgay green... a long way for a game of bowls. The Club was represented by Mr Miles, President, who skipped one of the rinks. All of the bowlers came from around Angus and Dundee.

Games went on during the season as per usual, some wins and some defeats, but on Wednesday 16th August the Club played Montrose which resulted in a 92 shot win for Arbroath! One rink won 46 – 6.

The green closed for the season 5th October 1904 when weather was so bad the game had to be abandoned.

On Tuesday 20th March 1906 Mr Fahën, the Green Keeper for the last two years, was not working to the satisfaction of the committee and it was decided to advertise for a new man. On 30th March a

number of applications had been received and the committee appointed Mr James Laing at 18 /- per week.

Over the past few years the Club's debt had marginally come down to £70.

On 5th May the green was opened for the season only for play to be cancelled due to inclement weather. President, Provost Alexander entertained the large turnout of members with tea and refreshments. On 15th May a game against Monifieth was also cancelled due to the weather.

On Wednesday 6th June Arbroath entertained Newgate with an 80 shots win for Arbroath.

On 17th September the committee held a meeting and the Secretary was asked to write a letter to a firm in Bishopbriggs asking how much a wagon of turf would be. The committee were complaining about the amount of patching and repairing that was being done however the price quoted was too expensive and the Club did not proceed.

On 21st March 1907 a letter was received from James Laing, Green Keeper, tendering his resignation and it was decided to advertise once again. Mr Whitton returned as Green Keeper.

On 1st May, while washing their bowls, a member broke the basin. This had happened a few times and the Club decided to extend the veranda several feet southward and erect a metal basin area to avoid any more accidents. At the next committee meeting they agreed proceed with the work with a total cost of £11. It was left to Mr P Smith, Burgh Surveyor, to ensure the work was carried out.

A match that was to take place against Wormit had to be postponed on Wednesday 10th July because of inclement weather.

On Monday 12th August the Secretary intimated that he'd received a letter from the Three Counties Bowling Association with a 5 /- honorarium to be paid to the Green Keeper in recognition of his services on the Saturday past.

A meeting was called on 22nd January 1908 with the purpose of deciding on whether or not the Club should renew the Club registration and Mr D McNeil (proposer) and Mr Miles (seconder) said the Club should not renew as very few Clubs in the District were registered. Mr Thomas Aitken proposed an amendment that the status quo be maintained and Mr D Moncur seconded. After a vote it was decided the Club would register.

For a number of years all the Wednesday and Saturday Skips picked their own team and at a meeting on 26th March 1908 it was hinted that there was ill feeling in the Club as a consequence of some members never being chosen to play in these matches and it was decided that the first and second players who wanted a game would be balloted by the committee with the Skips being able to choose their own third player. By 15th April it was mentioned that there was some discontent amongst the Skips complaining that the first and second players were chosen by the Club. It was resolved to put the matter before a full meeting of the Club to be held on opening day. On opening day, after a full discussion, the subject was remitted to a joint meeting of the committee and skips to be held in the club on 13th May where the decision was made to allow Skips to revert to choosing their own teams.

The Three Counties played on 8th August, resulting in a win for Arbroath, with 49 shots up.

In early September the Clubhouse was assessed by the Council and asked to pay £5 per annum, this being the first time the Club was liable for rates.

In 1909 Mr Whitton was again elected Green Keeper. On 17th May the committee recommended that all members of the Club should provide themselves with rubber soled shoes for the better protection of the green and this was recommended to be put into the bye-law.

On Monday 20th September the committee recommended that there be no supper at the end of the season and the prize winners would be given their prizes at the end of the game (there is no reason given for this).

On Wednesday 23rd February 1910 from Mr Whitton the Green Keeper tendering his resignation due to advancing age. The committee thanked Mr Whitton for his work on the bowling green. After an advertisement in the local paper 21 applications were received and the committee shortlisted and interviewed three. The committee asked Mr Whitton to stay on for a couple of weeks to initiate the new Green Keeper into the system and methods he used for feeding and upkeep of the green. Mr George McPherson, 54 St Vigeans Road, was appointed.

On 20th May 1910 the green was closed from 1pm – 6pm on account of King Edward's funeral.

On Monday 13th June a letter was read from the newly appointed Green Keeper requesting that his wages be increased from 18 /- to 20 /- per week. This was deferred until the next meeting where it was fully agreed that the Green Keeper's wages would remain as was but it was agreed to give him an honorarium at the end of the season, the money being raised by funds from the Club.

Monday 27th June 1910 the Secretary received a letter from Dunfermline Bowling Club asking if they could arrange a game for Saturday 16th July. This was agreed.

At the AGM on 9th March 1911 Mr George Sheriffs was put forward for re-election by the committee and this was agreed. At the same meeting the present Green Keeper resigned from his post having obtained a situation elsewhere. Andrew, the son of the former Green Keeper, Mr William Whitton, wanted the position, but his father William actually got the job! Mr William Cargill was elected a life member of the Club. He was the oldest member and still one of the best players and everyone agreed to the proposal. The President asked the Secretary to send a letter to Mr Francis Webster on the occasion of his Knighthood. The letter read "the members of the Arbroath Bowling Club at their AGM agreed to convey to you their hearty congratulations on the Knighthood which the King has recently bestowed on you. We do this with the greatest of pleasures because of your long association with this Club and trust you and Lady Webster may be spared to enjoy the honour".

On Wednesday 3rd May 1911 the Green was formally opened for play at 3pm, the President George Sheriffs throwing the first jack, but owing to the inclement weather, the match was not played. This being the golden jubilee year of the Club, in commemoration of this event, a mulberry tree was planted in the Club grounds.

On Thursday 22nd June 1911 in commemoration of the coronation of King George V, which took place on this day, a tree was planted in the grounds of the Bowling Club by Provost Alexander. There was a large turnout of members. The Provost, after delivering a "neat speech" performed the ceremony and was thanked by President George Sheriffs.

Monday 4th September 1911 it was agreed to have a supper in the Imperial Hotel on Wednesday 11th October, tickets priced at 2/-6d each. This being the golden jubilee year of the Club Mr Alex Ramsay was asked to write a short history of the Club from minute books supplied to him and this would be read at the next meeting.

On Monday 2nd October 2011 the Curator said that part of the green on the eastern side had subsided and the grass would require to be raised, but at that time that area of the green was unplayable. After considerable discussion, and because of the expense that this would entail, it was agreed to defer the matter in the meantime.

At the golden jubilee supper, attended by 60 men, the Secretary read out a short history from the Club inception in 1861 to the present. In his speech the Secretary stated that the first available minute book dated from 1871. It was noted that the first Secretary, Mr John Jefferson-Anderson, had died a few weeks before this meeting. Mr Sheriffs remarked that "the Club continues to prosper".

By 7th March ¹⁹¹²1812 the Club was needing another Green Keeper and the committee agreed to advertise for one in the Guide and Herald. Wages £1 per week. On Thursday 21st March 1912 there were a great number of applicants and after full deliberation it was agreed to appoint Mr William Davidson, 54 Helen Street to commence employment on Monday 1st April.

Thursday 11th April 1912 the Curator mentioned at the meeting that he was in need of some manure for the green. He was asked to procure some.

At a meeting on 6th May 1912 it was agreed to give Mr Carnegie Soutar the supplying of teas for the season. He had a restaurant in the High Street.

On 17th July 1912 a team of Australians were visiting Dundee and Mr George Sheriffs was appointed as the Club's representative, each Club donating £1 towards expenses.

On 16th September 1912 the Club received a beautiful new flag that was presented by former Arbroathian, Johnston Webster who resided in North Berwick. It was noted that "he takes a great interest in the affairs of the Burgh and is a keen bowler at the North Berwick Club".

Saturday 3rd May 1913 the Club opened for the season but due to the weather no game was played, but the members were entertained with tea and refreshments by the President. At a Monday meeting on 5th May the Secretary reported that Mr James Keillor and Son was 8d per head and Miss Mann was 6d per head for teas during the season. Miss Mann got the contract.

On Monday 30th June 1913 the Club lost another longstanding member, Captain Henderson. He had been a member for 40 years and was Secretary and Treasurer during this time. The minutes recorded that they had lost a great member and office bearer and sent a letter of condolence to the family. The family wrote back showing their "appreciation for the touching and beautiful tribute the Club paid to their old father's memory, the green being a source of unfailing pleasure to him".

On 4th August 1913 another old member died, David Littlejohn Snr, a very unexpected and sudden death. He also was a past Secretary and Treasurer and also an Honourable President of the Club.

One of the inter-county games; Forfarshire v's Perthshire, which was to have taken place at the Arbroath Club had to be postponed on account of heavy rain and, this being late in the season, was declared 'off' by the Secretary John Rea, Dundee.

The Green closed on 4th October. At a meeting of the committee on 27th October 1913 a letter from the Whist Club was read calling attention to the bad ventilation of the Clubhouse. This was to be looked at by the committee.

Between 1912 and 1914 there were a number of meetings where, after the minutes from the previous meeting were read, there was no business to discuss and the meeting would close with a vote of thanks to the Chair!

The War Years

On 23rd April 1914 it was agreed to open the green for the season on 2nd May. At the same meeting Montrose Bowling Club asked if six rinks could be sent on a Wednesday to Montrose but the committee felt it would be impossible to get as much as six rinks and to travel on a Wednesday and the Secretary was left to respond to this effect. Miss Mann was again asked to supply the teas for the home matches.

Saturday 8th August 1914, the three counties tournament was postponed until further notice owing to the outbreak of war and, in consequence, the unreliability of the train service. 12th August the Brechin match, in Brechin, was cancelled as train services were unavailable. On 19th August Forfarshire v's Perthshire was postponed, the feeling being that, in the present climate through which the country is passing it would not be right to proceed with such a fixture.

At a meeting on 31st August a circular was read from the Secretary of the Scottish Bowling Association appealing to the Club and its members for subscriptions to the National Relief Fund in aid of the sick and wounded. After consideration it was moved by Mr Littlejohn and seconded by Mr Tough that it would not be expedient to subscribe to this as the members would subscribe otherwise. Thereupon Mr Sheriffs moved, as an amendment, that members should subscribe a shilling and the Secretary seconded the motion and, on a vote, Mr Sheriffs won by six votes to two.

At the same meeting it was announced that another longstanding member, Mr John Aitken, had died.

Monday 7th September at a meeting of the committee it was decided to play a match on the following Saturday in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund, the winners to pay a shilling and the losers 2 shillings each and this was agreed. On the Saturday the game was played and the sum raised was considered very satisfactory - £11. After the game Mr Carnegie Soutar supplied the teas free of charge, for which he was thanked by the President.

The annual supper was not held this year due to the war.

It was decided to re-engage the present Green Keeper, William Davidson and to increase his wages to £1 /-1.

Tuesday 16th March 1915 a circular letter was submitted from the Scottish Bowling Association enquiring whether the Club was in favour of the annual competitions. The Club favoured an abandonment for the season. All friendly games that the Club had with the County Clubs were also stopped during this year. The Committee still encouraged its members to play bowls on the green.

It was agreed to open the green on Saturday 1st May played on the lines agreed; winners would pay 1/6d and losers 2/6d, this for the Red Cross Fund.

The Secretary read letters from Hillcrest, Canmore, Brechin, Newgate and Kirriemuir; these Clubs were willing to have a friendly when they could be dated.

The game on 1st May had to be postponed because of rain. On 8th May, the rescheduled match had to be postponed... more rain!

At the meeting on Monday 5th July the only business brought up before the committee was the admission of ladies as temporary members of the Club. After discussion it was moved and seconded that they not be admitted, neither as temporary members nor as ordinary members, thereupon an amendment was moved and seconded (names unknown) and carried by five votes to three, one member declining to vote.

At the Friday 8th October meeting the Treasurer informed the committee that no insurance company would insure the green against aircraft and bombing.

On Friday 21st March 1916 the Treasurer submitted his accounts at the AGM, these showing the Club was practically clear of debt. The Club was due 13/8d. The Treasurer also reported the sum of £17 had been paid out to various war funds. Mr Littlejohn resigned as Treasurer owing to the fact he was still eligible for military service and could be called up at any moment. The committee thanked him for all his work in the past. Mr Charles Hill was appointed Treasurer.

It was reported that many members' sons had gone to war.

At a meeting on Friday 5th May 1916 the Curator said many parts of the wood surrounding the green was rotten. He was advised to seek out joiners for quotes.

Saturday 6th May 1916 the green should have been opened at 3pm but owing to the weather the match was postponed. On Saturday 13th May the match was again postponed because of rain.

Despite the war a few friendly games were played.

In July 1916 the committee invited the war wounded from the hospital to tea and if any of them wanted a game they could do so free of charge.

By Friday 15th September 1916 quotes were in from various joiners, one for £12, one for £16 and one for £11 from Mr Seivwright, who got the contract.

A letter arrived on 29th September from the Matron, Miss Hutton, of the Red Cross Auxiliary thanking the committee and members for entertaining the wounded soldiers.

Saturday 14th October, the green was closed but owing to the weather no game was engaged in. During a cup of tea it was mentioned that there was a dark cloud hanging over the country but the

President hoped that by the time the green opened next year a different state of matters would prevail.

Throughout the season President J B Fraser had not attended meetings due to illness and on Monday 13th November it was announced that he was the first President to die in office and on Thursday 30th November at a committee meeting it was reported that the longest serving member and past President, Mr William Cargill died. He had been a member since 1865.

A subcommittee was set up to approach the Colville Trust enquiring about the possibility of leasing the garden areas surrounding the Club. They received communication from the Trust saying they could rent the land at £10 per annum. On the land was a house and some pigstys and the Club did not require these therefore the whole matter was to be brought before the full membership on a date to be fixed.

12th April 1917 the Green Keepers wages was 25/-6d. By Friday 15th June the lease was signed on behalf of the Club by three Trustees elected for that purpose. It was agreed to allow the Club to sub-lease the gardens, pig-stys and the wooden house on the site (which he subsequently purchased for £15) to George Paterson for £15 per annum.

On 5th October the Treasurer reported that the total sum collected for the war funds was £80 which was shared between wounded soldiers, sailors and the local hospital.

Nearing the end of the war in 1918 the Club once again invite the hospital wounded for tea and a game. This time the town band was invited and played music of the day. Everyone present had a great day. There is no report in the minutes of deaths during the war of Club relatives. After the war the Club started to fill up with new members.

A fete was held in late summer of 1918 at the Club which the wives catered and this was deemed a success. The Club started playing regular games again in 1919.

During the war years and the years following, the Club recruited and lost a number of Green Keepers. The green was in bad condition and required a lot of work to be carried out. The Club spent a lot of money on painting and repairing the small veranda and sheds around it. They also started a fund to build a house.

On 2nd August 1921 the question of permitting ladies to play on the green was considered. After discussion it was agreed to hold this over.

(1924) The sub tenant, George Paterson, had been Green Keeper for a few years but, unknown to the committee, he sub let his ground to Mr Moir, tenant of Rosebrae Farm. The Secretary reported that he had received no formal notice regarding the matter. The Secretary was to contact Mr Paterson to see what was going on. Since the last meeting Mr Paterson said he had made a provisional arrangement with Mr Moir. The Secretary explained the terms of the Club's lease and obligations. The committee unanimously decided that the Club should give up the tenancy of the ground and hand it back to the Colville Trust.

A full week's bowling was lost in 1924 due to storms, the green being unplayable and the match Secretary was having nightmares!

On 3rd August the Curator said a new scoreboard for outside was required. This would cost between £2 and £3. The committee said it would be done at the start of the following season. At the same meeting there was dissatisfaction amongst the committee and asked that the caterer doing the teas should be sent a letter asking that the catering be improved. A Mr Buchanan was given the job of catering for one game at the three counties. He had been very good at the teas but it was decided to keep Carnegie Soutar until the end of the season.

At the meeting on 17th August there were congratulations to the three counties players who had won the competition for the fourth time.

In September at the closing of the green the Curator was told to raise the banks on two sides of the green before the following year's opening.

In 1926, due to the general strike, a few games were postponed as there were no buses or trains. Of those games that were to be played some were abandoned because of rain! Very few new members joined this year due to the situation. It was announced at the Thursday 31st March meeting in the Clubhouse that the Club had saved up quite a handsome amount of money for the new pavilion. They went ahead with the building and it cost £330. Although the Club ran at a loss that year, owing to the money spent on the new pavilion it was deemed a satisfactory year and the Treasurer was thanked for his handling of the accounts. Despite the strike there were still a large number of games played over the season.

On Tuesday 1st July 1928 the final of the Hutchison trophy was played on the green. Sir Robert Hutchison, donor of the trophy, and his wife and a few other dignitaries and those ladies and gentlemen invited to a function afterward were entertained to tea by Arbroath & Newgate Clubs. The very first winners of the Hutchison was the Lochlands Rink.

At a meeting on 28th March 1929, the Treasurer's report showed £29 had been cleared over the season. Mr J A Carlisle, committee member, moved that the membership be limited to 120 men and be opened to ladies to play on the green on certain days at certain hours. Mr Duncan, seconded by Mr Thorneycroft moved that the Club do not admit the ladies, but the Club did limit the membership to 120. By 16 votes to four this was carried and no ladies were allowed into the Club.

During the 1920s Arbroath Bowling Club won the Barclay Cup three times in a row.

In 1930 20 games were supposed to be played and the usual committee sessions were going on. Members were dying and new ones were coming into the Club which now had a waiting list.

On Saturday 2nd August 1930 the Club was to play the Newgate but this was off due to a rain storm and on Wednesday 13th August the rain again played havoc.

On opening day, Saturday 25th April 1931 the green was formally opened for the season and again rain prevented any play, but the company was entertained with tea by the President in the veranda.

On Tuesday 2nd June the Club travelled to Craigie, Dundee. There was no play because of rain! Saturday 6th June the Club travelled to Canmore, Forfar; rain prevented the match being played!

Over the past few years the Club presented trophies to its winners in the Club house. No dinners were held.

On 31st July 1934 Mr A P Lowson, the oldest member of the Club, died and due to the fact his funeral was fixed for a Saturday it was instructed to write to Maryfield, Dundee cancelling the fixture for that afternoon and no play would take place on the green until after 3pm.

In 1934 Arbroath played 20 friendly games. On August 1st they beat Broughty Castle by 92 shots and went through the season, winning every game, the first time this had been done by the Club.

A recommendation came from the Committee that a list of past Presidents be put up in the Clubhouse and it was left to the Secretary to go through the books to see who was President and for how long.

By 1935 the pavilion was falling around the members' heads, it was needing upgraded and painted so, instead, they decided to go for a completely new pavilion so an application was made to the Trustees for a lease of additional ground. The Club was looking for members to finance the scheme. Loans would be paid off on a yearly cycle. The Club wanted a 30 year lease from the Colville Trust. The members decided not to go ahead with the new build until half the cost was in the bank. There had been good financial reports over the past few years and the Club was sitting on £60.

At the 1936 AGM a lengthy discussion followed regarding the obligations of the President and Vice President as regards dispensing hospitality at the opening and closing functions on the Green. Some members said it was a financial burden and many members were debarred from accepting these offices due to the cost. The meeting decided that the President should pay for the teas on the opening day where the teas on closing day would be paid by members.

On 29th September a meeting, where all members attended, decided they had spent enough on the old pavilion and the new pavilion should go ahead. The committee was to be empowered to take steps towards finding out the various prices.

At a special meeting on 11th February 1937 the members had promised to contribute £460 by gifts or loans. The Club had £90 to its credit so a total of £550 was accounted for. It was reported at committee that Mr J H Peacock had prepared plans for a new building to cost around £500, however when the various estimates had been received, they amounted to £750. After discussion it was decided to go no further in the matter due to the high cost.

It was decided by committee to spend some money on renovation to the pavilion and the Curator with the Secretary was to find out how much repairs would cost. On Thursday 22nd April 10 new members were admitted to the Club including Mr James Inglis from Nolt Loan Road.

On Thursday 24th March 1938 the Treasurer reported that £61 had been paid on repairs to the pavilion.

The Second World War was now imminent however on 24th February 1939 a new President's Board, detailing Presidents from 1861, was ready and this was to be put up and unveiled at the start of the new season. The President and Vice President paid for this as a gift to the Club.

On Saturday 29th April another seven new members joined the Club.

On 27th June the committee decided to draw attention to the general untidiness of the bowling Club and the dirty condition of the basins and also whether the green had been getting rolled properly after cutting; the Curator was to put up a notice to this effect.

The Curator reported that the Green Keeper had asked for an increase to his weekly wage and the committee recommended that he be awarded a war bonus of 3shillings per week bringing his weekly wage to £2-8.

At a meeting on 27th May 1940 it was moved that, in view of the present war conditions, all matches for the year should be cancelled. After a vote it was decided to continue playing fixtures that had been set out for the season and it would be agreed to cancel them if it became necessary.

On 13th June a letter was read from Dr W J Dewar, Arbroath, requesting permission to display in the Clubhouse bills appealing for blood donors to support the government scheme. This was agreed.

The remainder of the season was fairly uneventful as there were shortages due to the war. Buses and trains were also out of operation on occasion.

On Friday 28th March 1941 it was decided to open the Green on 3rd May at 3pm.

On 17th April it was agreed to play the three Clubs in the town twice due to the war situation. It was also agreed to supply teas for the visiting teams. In a letter from Carnegie Soutar tearooms, they explained that due to current ration restrictions teas would not be of pre-war quality.

On 28th May it was reported that the Club would need a new grass mower as the current one was in poor working condition. One of the committee members at the next meeting on 11th June said he had acquired a good second hand mower at a cost of £3-5s and the Green Keeper was pleased with its condition.

During the war years there is mention of money from a war fund that was being distributed in the area but there is no mention of any call ups to the forces by any of the members. There seems to be more games played during the second world war than there was during the first world war.

On Thursday 2nd October 1941 the members congratulated the Curator on the excellent condition of the green which it is noted was largely due to his careful and constant supervision of the Greenkeeper throughout the season, although there is no mention of him getting any thanks!

When the Club lost another Green Keeper the Secretary was instructed to display in the Clubhouse a notice to the effect that the Green Keeper would only take orders from the Curator in the discharge of his duties. The members were rebuked.

On Thursday 26th March 1942 the Secretary read a letter he had received from Mr William Christie who resided in Glasgow but always paid his green fees. He had decided to resign from the Club owing to his age; he was 92! He was sent a warm letter thanking him for his membership over a number of years.

During the season the south fence of the green had been damaged by fire, cause unknown. It was reported there was no insurance policy to provide for such damage but the Club would write to the Colville Trust to see if they would pay for the damage.

By July of that year another 10 members had joined the Club.

In early 1943 it was reported that the Green Keeper had been very ill over the winter and it was undecided if he would continue on the green. On Thursday 9th March he resigned. Another Green Keeper was appointed.

11 new members joined in 1943.

On 12th July it was reported that one of the Club members (not named) died and left the Club £150.

23rd August 1944 another 10 people were given membership. James Anderson one of those who joined.

On Saturday 5th May 1945 the green was opened and at a meeting on the 10th it was decided to arrange more games around the County as the war was coming to an end.

11th May 1946 a letter from Carnegie Soutar said they were unable to provide the catering owing to the reduction of rations. The Club enquired at various tearooms and everyone was in the same predicament.

All available monies at this time were being put into a building fund as the Clubhouse was in a terrible state.

On 4th March 1947 the match secretary had prepared a full fixture list for the season and at the same meeting the Curator said no more money should be spent on the pavilion due to its state. At that point the green was covered by deep snow. A few weeks later the Curator reported on the condition of the green which was the same as all the other local clubs; suffering from snow mould but he had fertilised the green and it was showing signs of promise.

The committee decided, due to the weather, that the opening of the green would be Wednesday 14th May.

In April a new scarifier was acquired.

On Monday 25th August 1947 a singles challenge match between Mr W McLeod, age 91 and James Young of Scone, age 92 was arranged to be played on Saturday 6th September. Monies raised would go to the Old Men's Club. The outcome is unknown.

The Green Keeper also complained to the committee that certain rinks he had closed were being played on by the members and after some debate and consideration the committee unanimously agreed to support the Green Keeper and a letter was put up in the Clubhouse informing members to obey the Green Keeper.

As the war had now ended a number of new members were joining the Club.

Tuesday 27th April 1948 the Secretary displayed the following notice in the Clubhouse – "It has come to the notice of the committee that certain members have bowls belonging to the Club locked in their boxes. It is requested that all such bowls be placed in the open compartments not later than 15th May". Members were asked to give this matter their immediate attention. At the same time it

was requested that all shoes, jackets, jerseys etc being scattered all over the men's room be sorted out or they would be thrown out!

After a discussion the committee asked the Secretary to write a letter to see if the Club could receive additional ground from Mr W Chapel, Colville Trust. The idea was to lay down another green and erect a suitable pavilion to be placed between the two greens. Although the Club was not in a position to afford another green they asked the Trust if they could sub-let in the meantime.

On Saturday 8th May 1948 24 new members were accepted.

On Sunday 16th May the Secretary reported on the correspondence he had with Mr Chapel regarding the additional ground. It was agreed this should be placed before the members of the Club at a special meeting where all members agreed to the additional ground. The Club went on to sub-let this additional ground for a number of years.

At a meeting on 25th November 1948 a proposal by the Whist Club was received. They asked if the Club could install electric lighting to the Clubhouse. Lighting was to be placed in the committee room, the bowls room and lavatory and there was to be a power point for an electric fire. After consultation with an electrician it was priced at £20 and the job got the go ahead.

On Wednesday 8th December 1948 it was decided to have a dinner dance in the Café Moderne. All members were asked to bring their lady friends and wives. This was to be held the beginning of February.

The Social Committee that year made the sum of £81 profit from all the small functions held at the Club.

On 10th January 1949 the Social Committee spokesman, Mr Mann, said he had provisionally booked the Café Moderne for 25th February for the dinner dance. A company of around 100 were to be in attendance at a cost of 7/-6d per head. The Club would have to provide 25lbs of meat and the Social Committee thought it would be difficult to get such a large quantity of meat due to food shortages. It was unanimously agreed to depart from the dinner and dance meantime. The Social Committee was thanked for the preliminary work they had carried out.

At the 15th February meeting the Curator submitted an estimate of £63 for painting work to be done on the pavilion. After discussion it was agreed to spend this money. It was also agreed that the annual subscription be £2-2s and entry fee for non members be £3-3s.

The committee decided to buy 120 new bowl boxes. The Secretary got prices from Thomas Cargill - £136-3-6, James Robertson and Sons £119-13-10 and Seivwrights the Joiners £98-2-6. Mr Seivwright won the contract. It was reported the Club needed a new tea urn. It was agreed to get costings for this.

2nd February 1950 the Curator reported that the green was in a highly satisfactory condition and a new 500cwt roller was required. At the same meeting the Treasurer informed the committee that an anonymous donor had gifted the handsome sum of £1000 to the Club for the benefit of the extension scheme.

It was agreed that the Secretary inform the Colville Trust that the Club was now financially able to afford the laying down of another green.

On Wednesday 1st March the Treasurer said the building fund stood at £1383. The date for AGM was set to be held in the assembly hall of the Webster Memorial Theatre on Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm.

At a committee meeting held in the High School on 29th March 1950 it was noted that the Angus and Dundee Clubs would be meeting at the Royal Hotel Dundee for the purpose of considering the formation of a County Association for private Clubs.

The President and Secretary attended the meeting in Dundee and all the Clubs were in agreement to forming a new Association so on Friday 5th May a meeting would be held to create a constitution.

Thursday 27th April 1950 a letter was received from a number of members regarding the frequency that non members had been playing on the green. The members' argument was why they should pay fees when others were misusing the green. The committee decided to observe in the forthcoming season and report back.

Thursday 5th October 1950 the Club lost another Green Keeper. Mr David Rae, 15 Duke Street, was given the position.

In 1951 there was a waiting list and the Club was doing well. The Club approached the Trustees looking for a new lease to be entered into for ground. The Club was to pay £25 per year for this. Mr D Chapel wrote to the Club on behalf of the Colville Trust asking for the size of the ground required. On 22nd April 1951 the Club purchased a new mower at a cost of £84. The Club purchased two dozen chairs for the pavilion at 43s each. It was also agreed to pay 10s each to Mrs Cant and Mrs Rae for washing out the Clubhouse and serving the teas on opening day and 7/6d each for matches during the remainder of the season for friendly games.

It was unanimously agreed to accept in principle the admission of ladies to membership of the Club and it was decided to give the matter full consideration at the next meeting of the committee on Thursday 16th May. On the agenda: 1) that ladies be admitted to membership of the Club, 2) that nominations be received from members of the Club of wives, sisters or daughters, 3) that the maximum number to be admitted would be 32, 4) that the subscription be 10/6d 5) that the green be made available for play to the ladies on any afternoon and Saturday evening provided that a match is not being played.

At the meeting in May the committee put forward their recommendation. Mr J Keir seconded by Mr J Inglis moved that the recommendation not be accepted and that approval not be granted for the admission of ladies. On a vote being taken 30 voted for the amendment and 23 for the motion. The President therefore declared that no ladies would be joining the Club.

On 22nd November 1951 the Secretary read a letter from the Arbroath Allotment Association requesting the Club rent to them the additional ground which had been granted by the Colville Trust. 29th November 1951 it was agreed not to meet the representatives of the Arbroath Allotment Association. Members of the committee were of the opinion that the proposed rental of £25 from the Trust was excessive and it was agreed to meet with some members of the Board.

11th April 1952 Mr W Milne, 9 Colville Place, said he was prepared to cultivate the additional ground. The Club gave Mr Milne the ground free of charge but he would have to pay £3 next year. On 2nd May 1952 Mr Milne refused to accept the conditions of let.

18th May 1952 the Club Secretary said that Mr Buick, Potato Merchant, had agreed to plough the additional land and he was to plant potatoes and any donation to the Club from Mr Buick would depend on the nature of his potato crop.

11th December 1952 all the trees that had been planted within the Club grounds the committee said were becoming a nuisance and these trees were ultimately to be removed. At the same meeting it was decided to write to the Education Authority requesting the erection of a wire fence on the wall adjacent to St Thomas School to prevent pupils in the playground encroaching on the Club grounds in the pursuit of bowls. At the next meeting the Secretary stated that he had received an acknowledgement of his letter.

On 5th March 1953, after a committee discussion, it was again agreed to recommend to the Special AGM of 29th April admission of ladies to membership on the same terms as decided at the meeting on 15th May 1951.

At the special meeting President Mr W Wilkie said the meeting had been called to consider the question of admittance of ladies to membership. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the meeting should first of all agree on the principle of admission of ladies to membership. Mr D A Logan, seconded by Mr J Inglis moved that ladies not be admitted to membership. Mr Joss, seconded by the Reverend Pool, moved that ladies be admitted to membership. On a show of hands the vote was 25 for the amendment and 26 for the motion. Mr Joss requested a recount. Mr Logan objected. Considerable discussion ensued. Finally Mr Logan moved that the matter be deferred until the next AGM. Mr Joss withdrew his request and seconded Mr Logan's motion which was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

On 21st May 1953 further consideration was given to the matter of an erection of a new pavilion.

Tuesday 25th August 1953 the Secretary requested that members of the Club should be consulted regarding the desirability or otherwise of celebrating the Club's centenary in eight years time. The committee decided to hold a special general meeting on Wednesday 30th September at 8pm.

At that meeting the President expressed his appreciation at the large turnout of members. He said the meeting was to discuss the centenary of the Club. The committee was of the opinion that steps should be taken now to build up a sufficient fund to erect a modern pavilion. Regarding the centenary year it was suggested that a large committee be appointed. These would be divided into sub committees, each being entrusted with the running of a particular part of the scheme, especially for raising money and that the committee should be made up of comparatively younger members of the Club.

On the motion of Mr Littlejohn, seconded by Mr Skea steps should be taken to obtain a longer lease of the ground that was held at present. One of the committee read the names of around 50 members who were prepared to serve on the committees. One of the committees would be made up of all the building tradesmen who were members of the Club.

At a meeting on Thursday 5th November 1953 a large collection had been taken and the Club added to the proceeds for contributing to the Arbroath Lifeboat Disaster Fund.

25th March 1954 Mr T Mann was elected President. He asked the meeting to consider the matter of admission of ladies to membership. Mr E Joss seconded by Mr G Webster moved that the ladies be admitted to membership on the same terms as previously submitted to the general meeting 23rd May 1951. Mr D Logan, seconded by G Ferrier moved as an amendment that no action be taken. On the amendment three votes and the motion 29. At last the ladies were to be members of Arbroath Bowling Club.

On 15th June 1954 the committee agreed to a request from the ladies that the toilets be cleaned up as they were in a poor state. One of the toilets was to become ladies only from then on. The ladies also said the clubhouse was in such a mess they requested keys to get in and clean the place up which was agreed.

At a meeting on 13th July it was reported that Mr David Rae, a "most competent greenkeeper, having given great satisfaction in his services", had passed away.

Tuesday 31st August it was reported by the Secretary that the ladies had been paying 1d each time they came up for a game. They thought half the drawings might go to the Club and the remainder to the ladies fund. The committee discussed this and agreed to let the ladies keep all the monies!

The ladies organised whist drives, daffodil teas, coffee evenings during the early stages of their membership.

On 8th February 1955 the Secretary read a letter dated 31st January 1955 with the approval of an anonymous donor of £1000 for the Club. This was Mr James Ingis, Nolt Loan Road, Arbroath, a member. This money was to be used on a new pavilion. The committee granted an Honorary Presidency on Mr Ingis.

17th March a subcommittee was set up to meet with the ladies regarding the redecoration of the kitchen, toilets and committee room at a cost of £23/10s. The President reported that the ladies wished to provide teas for the opening of the green. The committee appreciated this fine gesture and granted its approval.

The committee reported on 7th April that it had met with the Colville Trust where the pavilion was discussed. The outcome of the meeting was that the Club could build a permanent brick pavilion, but the duration of the lease of the ground was to be negotiated. It was reported at the same meeting that the ladies had made £72 at a dance and whist drive. This was considered highly satisfactory.

25th April the ladies passed the sum of £20 to the Club as a donation to the building fund. It was also decided that members of the Club be informed, by a notice on the noticeboard, of how much the ladies were working for the Club.

In August it was reported that the Three Counties was won by Arbroath and this success made it the sixth occasion on which the Club had won the trophy.

13th September the building subcommittee who had met on a number of occasions, reported back to the management committee, that everything had been set down in drawings and this was to be placed before a Quantity Surveyor who would prepare the necessary schedules and request estimates. It was also suggested that the existing pavilion be offered for sale and if no offers were received some of the material would be used in the erection of a new pavilion.

At a meeting held on Monday 12th March 1956 the Treasurer reported that the Club had raised £725 to date to help with the new build.

19th March the Club had sent out to the members appealing for loans to build the new pavilion and within a few days another sum of £925 was raised. It was agreed to pay these members back yearly on their interest free loans. In future years there were a few members who died before their loans were paid off and their relatives wrote off these loans.

23rd August the following offers were accepted for the erection of the new pavilion: Anderson & Christie Builders, J Anderson Joiner, Herron & Colville Plumbers, Jim Cuthill Slater, Brand & Son Plasterers, W Anderson Electrician and it was agreed to make further enquiries regarding the cost of the roof. The Secretary was instructed to post a notice in the pavilion requesting the members to remove their bowls, shoes and possessions by the end of the season as the old pavilion was to be demolished.

31st August it was anticipated that a start would be made on the new pavilion quite soon after closing the green and it was stated that the committee would call up the interest free loans which some members had kindly offered.

14th September the committee asked for members to come and assist in removing material from the Clubhouse to a place of storage given by Mr Robb, Dishlandtown Street.

Monday 8th October, the Secretary told the committee that Brechin Bowling Club wanted the old pavilion and the sum of £25 was agreed. The Brechin Club removed everything from the site and, as a gesture, the President of the Brechin Club donated £5 towards the building fund. At the same meeting the Curator had made arrangements to sublet the Club's additional ground for the sum of £10 per annum.

18th November the Secretary reported that the Club had obtained the sum of £76 for the sale of the lead from the roof of the pavilion and £8/10s for the sale of old wood. It was also reported that by having a wooden roof, instead of a steel structure, the total cost of the new pavilion would be reduced by £379. All the estimates for the pavilion were in and the total would be £3200. This included the laying of an oak floor throughout.

On 15th January 1957 it was reported that the first payments had gone out - £600 to the joiners and £750 to the builders.

On 17th February the building subcommittee reported there had been a slight fall which had occurred on the roof and it was unanimously agreed to jack up the roof. This they did round the bay windows, putting in concrete lintels, and metal poles into the bay windows.

At a meeting on 19th March it was unanimously agreed that Mr James Inglis should be approached to see if he would be prepared to open the new Clubhouse and the President should make certain enquiries about a suitable presentation to be made to Mr Inglis.

On 26th March the Secretary reported that Mr Inglis would be highly delighted to open the new Clubhouse. The Secretary said he had the following estimates for painting the new Clubhouse: Goodwillie - £104, Grant & Son - £78, Watt Brothers - £74 with the latter getting the job!

9th April 1957 it was agreed that the green and the new Clubhouse be opened on Saturday 27th April at 2.30pm. Invitations were to go out to the Colville Trust, President of the Angus BA, Mr Norman Allan District Councillor the Angus BA, Presidents of the local clubs and to the ladies section. The procedure would be members and guests to stand outside where the president would call on Mr James Inglis to open the Clubhouse followed by the presentation of a gift to him. An opportunity would then be given to the Provost to address the gathering. Votes of thanks would be made by the immediate past President. While the opening game took place, all the visitors would be given light refreshments as guests of the Club.

At a committee meeting on 7th May the Club took on its first cleaner – Mrs Wyllie of St Mary Street. She would work two hours on a Tuesday and Friday at 10s per week.

On 13th May the Club bought an electric geyser so that the ladies could have their first coffee evening in the new Clubhouse.

On 20th May Mr James Anderson Jnr, 45 Clifftown Road was admitted to membership of the Club.

8th July a brass plaque was placed in the pavilion commemorating the opening of the pavilion by Mr James Inglis.

For the remainder of the 1950s the ladies worked very hard for the Club and hundreds of pounds from coffee evenings etc were raised and the management committee were very happy with the ladies contributions.

In 1959, in recognition of Arbroath Bowling Club's upcoming 100 years of existence in 1961, asked for volunteers to sit on various sub-committees and between 50 and 60 members volunteered to be on such committees. These committees were set up to invite the Town Council and other players and others were set up to make arrangements in order that this event be a success. The Club continued to be successful and membership was on a high.

In 1961 the Club welcomed a lot of bowling talent from various parts of Scotland, with only the President's rink winning on the day, but everyone commented on the day being of a high standard. The members were welcomed on to the green by the pipe band and every sub-committee had done a wonderful job in bringing everything together on the day. A sit down meal was provided for everyone which only contributed to the success of the day. The Provost was in attendance along with a few members of the Town Council. Various other games took place during the centenary year and at the end of the year President J C Ross thanked the members for having him as the President as he had really enjoyed his time in this post.

The 60s continued with the Club having a good waiting list with the usual games, friendlies etc and rain continued to cease play on numerous occasions, but as the 1970s approached things got more interesting. The members wanted to buy the ground and Clubhouse and they went into discussion with the Colville Trust and a total was agreed in 1970 to purchase the area for £5000 which, in those days, was a grand sum of money. The Colville Trust returned to the Club saying they could buy the area around the Club, into Albert Street and the area south of the Club for an additional £2000. After discussion by the committee it was decided that £5000 was enough to spend at that time. In later years they rued the decision not to buy!

In the 1970s Mr Peter Smith qualified for the Scottish Singles down in Glasgow where he finished fourth, no mean feat with the number of quality bowlers there were in Scotland. This is the furthest any member of the Club had gotten at that time.

The Club continued to prosper during the 70s. Membership of men was full and the ladies numbers continued to grow. In the 70s many of the Club dances were held in places such as the Seaforth and the Clifftown with all 140 tickets sold. In fact there were so many members that the Club thought of extending the premise due to lack of space for the numbers using it.

In the early 80s the open area between the two bay windows was made into a sun lounge with new flooring etc and there was more talk of a new extension being built on the south part of the Clubhouse. The committee asked an Architect to make up drawings and at an AGM chaired by Mr Eric Scott the proposals were approved. When the Club received various quotes the extension was going to cost in excess of £40,000. At this time the Club did not have sufficient funds to pay for this. It was decided that, if the Club went ahead, various volunteers would be required. Mr T P Nicol took charge of the project. In total, along with a time served bricklayer, 27 members, some of whom were tradesmen proceeded to build the south extension which saved the Club thousands of pounds. A bank loan assisted with payment of this extension which was opened at the start of the season 19???. This gave the committee a meeting room, a visitor's room and a men's changing room with a boiler house and disabled toilet. This extension resulted in the ladies losing their Club area and they were promised a future development for themselves. In the meantime they took over the men's former dressing room. A few years later Mr Gordon Preston was the Club Treasurer who suggested extending the north side of the Club for the ladies. When this went to the vote at another AGM this was passed and a drawing and quotes were sought. This extension was also to cost £40,000. Yet again, approximately 30 members and non-members gave their time and efforts in this second development. The bricklayer, who had been involved in both developments, died very suddenly only four weeks after completion.

From the 1980s until the present day membership has dropped. This is not a local problem, but a national one. Over 30,000 bowlers have ceased membership.

With the 150th anniversary year completed, celebrations over the open season have been held. President Joe McKelvie welcomed the Angus Clubs on four Mondays over the month of May to a game and buffet. The Club had a day where both ladies and gents attended and a good day was had by all, raising £2000 for CHAS.

Over the past 150 years the Club has done well.