

Bracknell Bowling Club



Centenary Year 1904 ~ 2004

Affiliated to:

English Bowling Association

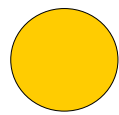
English Women's Bowling Association

The Royal County of Berkshire Bowling

*Association Berkshire Women's Bowling
Association*

*London & Southern Counties Bowling
Association*

*Church Road,
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 1EH*



Telephone 01344 423494

A brief extract of the club's history

INTRODUCTION

The information recorded in this booklet is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate record obtained mostly from the minutes' books of the Bracknell Bowling Club. My thanks to A.A. Chalker and the late M.J.Smythe for some of the initial research.

Thanks must also be extended to the Main Committee of B.B.& SC. for their co-operation and some of the older members of the club for the contribution of sharing their memories.

Thanks to Clover Leaf Cars Honda, Nat West Bank, Scottish Courage, Bracknell Glazing Ltd and Carlsberg-Tetley, for supporting our 100th anniversary year.

Last but not least, my thanks go to my wife Terrie for her help and support in producing this booklet.

I hope by reading this brief extract of our club's history you derive as much pleasure as I did by writing it.

Written, collated and edited by Peter.
A. Hawkins.

According to "Who's Who in the Encyclopedia of Bowls" the six oldest clubs in Berkshire are Hurst (1747),

I send my heartiest congratulations to Bracknell Bowling Club and wish the club and its members a successful and memorable centenary year.

Bill Dover

£1

Suttons (1906) and Desborough (1907).

Bracknell Bowling Club

Reading (1803), Bracknell (1904), Maidenhead Thicket (1906),



In 2004 Bracknell Bowling Club will celebrate the centenary of its foundation - what a wonderful achievement. Any club that attains one hundred years of age has much to celebrate and this deservedly applies to Bracknell Bowling Club.

Over the past 100 years Bracknell has played a

full part in all aspects of County matters. The club has had its fair share of County Champions who have gone on to represent the County with honour at

National Championships. Bracknell has been a gracious host for the final stages of County competitions-as well as producing officers willing to serve the County's needs. The club has much to be proud of in its history and I am sure it's current membership will continue to bring future success to the club.

Bracknell has asked the County to celebrate this Centenary year and I shall have the greatest pleasure and honour in bringing an invitation team to play against the club later in the season.

I am sure this will prove to be a year for the club to remember and give much satisfaction to all those members who have worked so hard towards this celebration year.

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President 2004-The Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association



To be President of The Bracknell Bowling Club in this historical year (100 years) is really special to me. The club has succeeded for so long due to all the members and committees who have worked hard down the years a big thank you to everyone. During 2004 the club wishes to welcome old and new friends in enjoying a truly memorable year.

Keith Colbourn.

President 2004-Bracknell Bowling Club

The Bracknell Bowling Club

was founded on Monday October 24th 1904 at 8.30pm

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THIS WAS OUR BEGINNING.....

General Meeting held at the Victoria Hall on Monday October 21st 1904 at 8.30 pm.
Chairman: Mr A. Binham

The proposition from the chair as to the desirability of forming a club having been put & carried unanimously it was then proposed by Mr C Phillips & seconded by Mr J Smith that the gentlemen present be asked to subscribe to the fund necessary to be raised to pay for the laying out of the green & which it was expected would amount to about £50. This having been carried and

There were 34 gentlemen present and each promised subscriptions of £1 each. The chairman Mr A Binham said that he had promises from others not present which would bring the amount up to the estimated outlay of £50. The Officers of the club were elected as follows:- President: E A Baber, Captain: G Panter, Secretary: A Binham, Treasurer: C Phillips, Vice Captain: S Carter and a committee of 8: J R Taylor, W J May, H Frith, J Fletcher, C Cole, W Poynter, R Dearlow and J Street.

An offer had been made by Mr S Raven of Sloane Square Chelsea (presumably the owner) to allow the laying of a bowling green in The Royal Forest Hotel meadow on a 7 year

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lease from 1st January 1905 until 1st January 1912, at a fee of 5/- per week during the playing months of the year and 2/6d per week for the remainder. Other conditions being that hotel visitors would be allowed to play upon the green. The entrance was to be through the hotel and occasionally through a private gate in Church Road and all refreshments had to be supplied from the hotel only.



The Royal Forest Hotel which was situated on the corner of Church Road and the London Road, approximately where Bracknell College now stands. The clock on the tower was later to become known as the Fielden Clock.

It was proposed that Vice Presidents became such by a subscription of not less than 10/6d a year. This was passed. It was further proposed that the yearly subscription should be 5/- for ordinary members.

The next day a Committee Meeting was held at the Royal Forest Hotel to consider three tenders for the

construction 5

of the green. After considerable debate it was agreed that the tender of Phillips & Taylor be accepted for the sum of £48.

1905

The contractors had completed the green by 20th February.

The club held its first Annual General Meeting on 11th April at which 23 members were present.

Rules were prepared by the committee and based upon those of the Reading Bowling Club. Rules of interest being:-

RULE 1. That the club to be called the Bracknell Bowling Club, that the place of meeting be the Royal Forest Hotel Bowling Green and the colours, green and white.

RULE 4. That any gentleman signifying his desire to become a member shall be duly proposed and seconded by two members and elected by the committee. The committee alone shall have power to elect members. Committee meetings for the election of members shall be held when necessary. Every member shall within fourteen days of his election pay his subscription and sign the book of membership.

RULE 9. Any member rendering himself obnoxious or breaking the club's rules shall be liable to expulsion by a resolution passed at a special meeting of the committee.

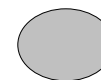
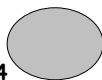
RULE 10. That the games shall be governed by rules adopted by the London and Southern Counties Bowling Association a printed copy of which is displayed on the green.

Ten members offered to pay for six seats for the green at a cost of 12/6d each.

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In the spring it was decided to expend £3 on the purchase of bowls for the use of players and 100 copies of the rules were printed at a cost of 17/6d and sold at 3d each.

It appears that from 11th May the green was closed for four weeks owing to the cold winds and dry weather preventing the grass seed from germinating. Owing to the green being closed



the match arranged for 27th May with the Reading Biscuit Factory had to be abandoned. During this period practice was held in the Tennis ground at 'The Elms' at a rent of 12/6d.

Below is a copy of the first balance sheet:-

BRACKNELL BOWLING CLUB.			
1905 SEASON.			
Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Members' Subscriptions	12 8 8	By Hire of Victoria Hall	0 0
" Visitors	4 5	" Rent of Lawn "The Elms"	12 6
" Games Receipts	17 5	" Labour on ditto	1 8 8
" Rules sold	0 8	" Rent of "Green"	1 7 5
" Bats	2 5 0	" Purchase of Bats (eight)	3 0 0
" Entries for Tournament	1 13 0	" " of Bodge	8 5 8
" Amount subscribed for Green	0 0 0	" Labour and material, bounding round "green"	2 18 0
" Balance transferred from Capital contributed to make "Green"	16 0 0	" Purchase of six white "jacks"	2 6
		" " " two pairs Bows	8 0
		" " " First Prize in Competition (won by P. Tucker)	1 3 0
		" 6 s. Dividend paid on 208 subscribed to make "green"	9 10 0
		" Postages, Stationery, Account Books, Cheque Books	2 7 10
		" Balance at Lloyds' Bank	1 13 11
	<u>281 8 5</u>		<u>281 8 5</u>

Examined and found correct.
 Witnessed 27th, 1906.
 H. T. Jones,
 W. Bunsell.

Two pairs of bowls were purchased for use by the members at a cost of 4/- per pair also 6 white jacks at a cost of 2/6d.

A long running saga was a "green's box".

At a Committee Meeting held on 19th July 1905 it was decided that a cash box be put on the green and that a penny be charged for 11 up, longer games to cost tuppence,

winners to collect the same from the losers. At the A.G.M. 5th February 1906 after a lengthy discussion, Mr Jones proposed and seconded by Mr Frith that no box be placed on the green. This was carried by a large majority. At the A.G.M. February 1907, a proposition of a box was again raised, an amendment to this proposal was that subscriptions were raised from 5/- to 7/6d, and no box on the green. This was carried. At a Committee Meeting on 8th March 1907 it was discovered that according to Rule 8 it was not in order to pass this resolution unless notice of the proposition was made for a Special General Meeting to be called for an increased charge for membership. A Special Meeting was held on 25th March when the question of the box and the increase in membership was once again proposed and carried unanimously. This again had to be put off because it was discovered that the proposal to alter the rules had not been included on the agenda. The saga of the "greens box" continued until 1909.

1906

From the club records it appears that on 3rd March the Reading Bowling Club held a meeting at which two delegates from Bracknell attended. As a result Bracknell Bowling Club joined The Reading and District Bowling Association the following season.

At a Committee Meeting on 10th May it was decided to compete for a Club Cup, which was presented by G Panter.

During this year a further 3 pairs of bowls were purchased for the use of club members at a cost of 12/4d.

Col. F J Mackenzie was elected a member.

1907

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Inter club tournaments were arranged with Maidenhead Thicket, Suttons, and Ascot Bowling Clubs for the 1907 season. A request from the Chelsea Bowling Club for an inter club tournament was not accepted.

The club played 6 matches and won 5 in the 1907 season.

W Burridge, the Secretary, was the first winner of the Club Cup and J R Taylor won the Singles Tournament of The Reading & District Bowling Association.



Example of Prizes awarded in 1907:-

The winner was awarded with the Cup plus 10/-, the runners up prize was 10/6d.

The committee received a letter from Mr S Raven in which he complained that ladies and children had been admitted to the green in the previous season and as this action had not included in the terms of the lease it should not be continued.

A Mr Hounsell was engaged to convey members to the game at Ascot for the sum of 1/- per person.

Mr H Lawrence was elected a member on 16th May 1907.

Herbert Lawrence was the son of Thomas Lawrence. Lawrence & Sons began making bricks in 1860 and by 1898 the company was making 12 million bricks a year "T Lawrence Bracknell" (TLB) bricks were sold throughout the world and used in buildings including Madame

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Tussauds, Harrow School and Eton and Holloway Colleges. Herbert was an active member of the club serving for many years on the committee as well as being Captain and President.

The first Annual Dinner was arranged to be held on 30th October. The price of the tickets was 3/- each. The venue was subsequently changed to The Station Hotel because Mr Raven refused permission for music to be played at The Royal Forest Hotel.

1909

At the A.G.M. held on 8th March the annual subscription was raised from 5/- to 7/6d and the "greens box" abolished only to be reintroduced in 1911.

Inter club matches for the 1909 season were arranged with Suttons, Addlestone and Ascot bowling clubs.

On 4th June The Reading & District Bowling Association received a challenge to play the County of Gloucester and Bracknell were asked to provide four players and two reserves for this match, which was played on the Reading green.

Lord George Pratt, the tall man smoking the pipe in the centre of the picture below was elected a member.



Lord George Pratt had been in the army, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was to become President of the club in 1910.

Owing to the fact that although there was some time before the lease ran out, the green needed improvements and before considerable sums of money could be spent the club had to ascertain whether Mr Raven would renew the lease.

It is reported in the Minutes of a Committee Meeting on 13th October that Mr Raven would not renew the lease on the green because one of the conditions requested by the club was "to have the option of taking ladies on the green." The committee decided that Mr Panter approach Messrs. Lawrence & Sons about the possibility of purchasing a portion of land located at their Sawmills Yard in Stanley Road.

It was estimated that this undertaking including the cost of laying a new green would involve an outlay of £600.

A letter was received offering for sale, a piece of land for the valuation price of £330, on the understanding that the

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club would put up all the necessary fencing and not obstruct the windows on the east side of "**The Social Club**".

Negotiations with Messrs Lawrence & Sons on the purchase of land for the new green continued throughout the non playing season.

1910

At a Committee Meeting held on 21st February 1910, it was decided to accept Messrs. Lawrence & Son terms of £330, for a piece of land with a frontage of 132 feet in Stanley Road, with an average depth of 142 feet.

It was reported in the minutes of a Committee Meeting on 1st April that The Berkshire County Bowling Association had been formed and replaced the Reading & District Bowling Association. Bracknell then became affiliated to the County Association together with Reading, Hurst, Maidenhead Thicket and The Biscuit Factory (Huntley & Palmers).

Matches arranged for the 1910 season were against Addlestone, Ascot, Hurst and Suttons.

Recorded in the Committee Meeting Minutes held 13th May is a vote of sympathy to the Queen and The Royal Family in the great loss sustained by them, this country and the whole world by the death of King Edward.

A Special General Meeting was held on 10th June, at which the "New Green" Committee reported the minimum cost of fencing the ground, constructing the green and providing a small pavilion would be £150.

To raise the necessary capital for taking over the lease and making the green a Limited Company was formed.

12

The Challenge Cup having been won 3 times in succession by the Secretary W Burridge became his own property. In the light of this, a new Challenge Cup was presented by H Lawrence and G Panter on the understanding that it would always remain the property of the club.

Field Marshall Sir Charles Brownlow G.C.B. donated £10 towards the new green.

1911

On 10th April at a Special General Meeting in the Victoria Hall the subscription was increased to 10/6d for members and 1 guinea for Vice Presidents.

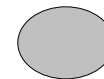
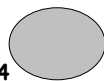
The new green was opened on 30th August with a match against Suttons. This season also saw home and "out" (away) matches against Addlestone, Ascot, Desborough and The Biscuit Factory bowling clubs. The challenge by Palmer Park was declined and according to the club minutes book it is recorded that Bracknell's first match against Wokingham was played, resulting in a win for Bracknell.

Members were asked to buy more shares in the Ltd Company



Although there is no exact date of the above picture it is believed to be about 1911/12 just after the green was relocated to Stanley Road. To the right is the Social Club which occupied two of the cottages. T Lawrence & Sons Sawmills can be seen painted on the side of the cottages.

Mr Panter informed the Committee Meeting on 26th October that he had purchased at a sale at Wokingham, a pavilion for £4.10s. At the same meeting Mr Brown submitted a plan to cover the west side of the green between the entrance gates and the Social Club buildings with a corrugated iron roof supported by posts with an open front to the green at a cost of £22.10s. Mr Brown was asked to approach Lord George Pratt to use his influence with Mr E Gardner MP with the view of making



a donation towards the cost in place of his promised donation of a Cup.

1912

14

At the Annual General Meeting on 12th March, a lengthy discussion took place over a resolution to allow lady members to join at a fee of 5/- per annum. After a number of the members expressed their views strongly against allowing ladies to play, the resolution was defeated. A proposal that ladies be admitted on to the terrace of the green to watch the play free of charge, except on County match days, was agreed.

Dr. E. Fielden (MB. BS. Durh) elected a member in 1912



Dr Fielden purchased The Forest Hotel in May 1914. He used it as his private residents and surgery. Dr Fielden also pulled teeth and performed surgery at Ascot Cottage Hospital. He was a public vaccinator and factory surgeon. He was the medical officer for the workhouse in Easthampstead (Churchill House).

Dr Fielden served on the committee of the club for many years up to his death in 1949. The Fielden Clock can be seen to this day in Fielden House which is just past the underpass towards 'the banks' only 100 yards from the club and around

50 yards from the site where

The Royal Forest Hotel once stood.

The County Singles Championships was won by J R Taylor.

The County Double Fours Competition was also won this year.

The first County Match to be played at Bracknell was on 24th July. Berkshire played Oxfordshire.

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The date of the above picture is unknown. The Social Club is visible behind the fence.

1913

The fixtures for the 1913 season were with Suttons, Desborough, Reading West End, The Biscuit Factory, Palmer Park, North Oxford, Ascot and Luton bowling clubs.

The County Match Berkshire v. Essex was played on the Bracknell green on 13th August.

The membership given in the 1913 Annual Report was 75 and the Balance Sheet showed a deficit of £13.10.11d.

1914

Sir Charles Brownlow and Lord Haversham were elected members on 25th February 1914.

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Sir Charles Brownlow took part in the Punjab Wars and other Indian Campaigns. He was awarded many honours and became ADC to Queen Victoria. He married Georgina King in 1890 and moved into his wife's home "Warfield Hall". Sir Charles bred horses and enlarged the estate. After the death of his wife he gave much of his wealth to local

communities and instigated the building of The Brownlow Hall.



The Right Hon, Lord Haversham, Sir Arthur Divett Hayter Bt. PC. MA. DL. MP. He was educated at Eton and Oxford. He became a Liberal MP and represented Wells, Bath and Walsall. He inherited his father's title and estate in 1878. The estate consisted of South Hill Park mansion and 800 acres with 3 lakes. Sir Arthur had most of the mansion rebuilt with T.L.B. bricks. In 1906 he was created Lord

Haversham of Bracknell. He was an active member of the club until his death in 1917.

17

The last Committee Meeting to be held at the Royal Forest Hotel was on 6th March.

Only a few matches were played during the 1914-1918 war. The membership dropped to 53 during this period.

The accounts for this year showed a deficiency of £11.5s.0d, this was put down solely to the fact that the war seriously interfered with the season's programme.

1919

At the Annual General Meeting annual subscriptions were increased to 15/6d.

1921

The 1921 season was the first season in which a match with Sunningdale is mentioned.

Mr S Western was appointed groundsman at 17/6 per week.

On 12th July Lord Ormathwaite was elected a member. Lord Ormathwaite lived in Warfield Park and often entertained royalty. It's reported that one evening no fewer than 7 crowned heads of state sat around his dining table. He planted the well known Wellingtonia trees in Warfield Park to surround the mausoleum of his wife Lady Clementine. He presented the Ormathwaite Cup. The conditions were that it should be a perpetual Cup to be competed for between members of the club only. This Cup took the place of the existing Challenge Cup, which was then competed for, as a Club Handicap Cup.

Entrance fee to all competitions was 1/-.

The winners of the Challenge Cup were:-

18

1907/8/9 - W Burrige

1910/11 - J R Taylor

1912 - H P Hambling

1913/14/15 - J G Grierson

1916/1918 - no tournament

1919/20 - T Spragg

1922

J Spragg and W Noyes won the County Pairs Competition

1
9
2
4

The Annual General Meeting held on 3rd March at the Hinds Head. It was resolved that no match or tournament game on the Bracknell green was to be played by any member except those with bowls bearing the official stamp of the English Bowling Association.

1925

On 3rd February a proposition to allow lady members was ruled out of order as this would have meant a change in the rules.

Fixtures for 1925 season were made with Guildford, Southern Railway, Staines, Ashford, Windsor & Eton, Aldermaston, Sunningdale, Park Institute, Fleet and Bruce Castle bowling clubs. Out of the 17 matches played, 16 were won and 1 was lost, which was away to Guildford.

Bracknell played a game against The Berkshire County Bowling Association and won the game by 7 shots.

The ditch at the High Street end of the green needed retimbering and an estimate for the sum of £5 had been obtained and accepted. The work was to commence before the start of the new season.

Bracknell won the Berkshire County Double Fours.

19



1925 Berkshire County Double Fours Winners
Back row from left to right: W T Stevens, T Spragg,(skip) W Noyes, J R Taylor.
Front row from left to right: H P Hambling, W J Poynter, T G Stewart (skip & captain) A Taylor.

1926

A proposal at the Committee Meeting on 9th February, that one afternoon during the coming season was to be reserved for a ladies tournament was carried. One lady per member would be allowed to play. It was announced that Dame Florence Simpson had offered to provide tea for this occasion. The Secretary was instructed to acknowledge this offer and stated that the members considered it their privilege as hosts, to provide refreshments on this occasion.

Palmer Park appeared in the fixture list for the first time. 20 games were played in this year, 13 were won, 3 were lost and 4 cancelled.

20

1927

In 1927 a request was received from the editor of the "Bowls News", asking for a short history of the club, for publication in his paper. There is no record of what, if anything was sent.

The fixture list contained two fixtures with Island Bohemians. One was won 102 to 43 the other lost 88 to 96. There were also matches against Desborough (Maidenhead), Fleet, Ashford, Palmers Park, Southern Railways, Caversham, Windsor & Eton, Bruce Castle and Sunningdale bowling clubs.

1928

Sunningdale were dropped from the fixture list.

1929

The Lavinia Turner Memorial Cup was presented to the club on 8th April by Mr J Turner and was to be competed for as a pair's trophy.

The County Fours Championship was won by Bracknell.

1930

Bracknell retained the County Fours Championship.

1932

At the Special General Meeting on 21st July, a resolution that ladies be eligible for membership. The voting by ballot was in favour.

1934

Mr T G Stewart was elected Deputy Captain of the County.

On 18th October a Special Meeting had to be called to discuss the state of the green and some 600 turfs had to be re-laid. Members were asked to loan money, approximately

21

£30, free of interest to the club. £28 was forthcoming from the meeting and eventually £32 was raised. Only £2 had to be repaid as the members generously surrendered £30.



1935

Mr David A Slyfield pictured by one of his lorries owned the Down Saw Mill. His company had 2 yards in Bracknell, one was

situated in the High Street and the other in Easthampstead. He was Chairman of the Easthampstead Rural District Council and served the Bowling Club as Captain 1932-1934 and President 1935-38 and again 1954-5.

1935

The Social Club allowed their premises to become the regular venue for The Bowling Club meetings.

1936

During the season the Bowling Club purchased the freehold of the green from the Bracknell Bowling Green Ltd for the sum of £675.

T G Stewart was elected County Captain



T G Stewart served on the Bracknell Bowls Committee for numerous years as President, Captain and Secretary. Thomas Stewart owned chemist shops in both Bracknell and Egham. He won the Bracknell Singles Championship 9 times, a record which it is doubtful will ever be beaten. He played for the County for many years. This is a photograph of his County Captain's Medal. The medal is on display in the gentlemen's changing room. A generous benefactor bought it at a "boot sale" in Essex and sent it to a member of the club. In 1953 Mr Stewart toured Canada with the English Bowling Association. He continued to be an active member until his death in 1961.

1937

At the Annual General Meeting in November 2 Captains were elected, a Wednesday Captain and a Saturday Captain.

It was also proposed that a Ladies section be formed, and their subscriptions to be 10/6. They would not be eligible to play in the men's section's matches or competitions, neither could they serve on the committee. This was carried.

It was decided that County members i.e. those living beyond three miles of the green should pay annual subscriptions of 1 guinea.

1938

23

The County Bowling Association again returned to Bracknell on 22nd June when Berkshire entertained Surrey.

The 1938 season saw T W Noyes bring the County Singles Championship to Bracknell. It was last won by a Bracknell player Mr J R Taylor in 1912.



**1938 COUNTY SINGLES
CHAMPION W Noyes**

The membership was 38 men, 9 ladies. It was feared that expenditure would be greater in 1939 so a call for new members was made. The Club made a loss of £4.15s.9d. The main reasons given were due to the war some games had to be abandoned, resulting in fewer teas. There was also an increase in the expenditure due to more work having to be carried out on the green.

Bracknell won the County Double Fours competition.

24

The County expressed the wish that all clubs were to carry on to the best of their ability during the war.

1940

In 1940 Mr Stewart, Mr Slyfield and Mr Noyes won the County Red Cross Triples.

1943

The ladies asked to apply to join the Berkshire County Association in February.

1944

In February 1944 the President gave a report from the County A.G.M. on the question as to why players from this club were not being selected for County games. The County Secretary's

reply was that the selection committee had adopted the attitude that they refused to consider players from the Bracknell Club in view of the lack of support given by members in County competitions. The committee considered this unjustified victimization, but would try to obtain more entries for County competitions in the future.

In June a Bowls Drive was held in aid of the National Bowlers Day. £8 was raised for the Red Cross. In all £10,000 was raised by the English Bowling Association.

From the records it seems that very few fixtures were played during the war years and only matches with local clubs arranged. No charge was made to servicemen who played.

1945

At the Annual General Meeting in December it was proposed and carried that there should only be one Captain.

1946

In 1946 the men recorded their congratulations to the ladies for a rink qualifying to play in the English Women's Bowling Association finals at Wimbledon.

1948

At the Annual General Meeting in December the Secretary reported that the time had arrived when it was quite impossible to run the club on subscriptions alone. It was considered to be imperative to raise income by other means. A sub-committee was set up to look into the matter. Whist drives proved a popular way to raise money.

1949

At the Annual General Meeting a proposal to encourage a bigger membership by reducing subscriptions from £2 to £1.10s and subscriptions for County members, i.e. those living beyond 3 miles of the green to be reduced from £1.11s.6d to £1.5s was carried.

1950

The committee acknowledged their indebtedness to the ladies for the very valuable gift of a new flag, for the trouble taken in the provision of teas and for maintaining the gardens surrounding the green.

1951

Enquiries were made as to the possibility of having a gas supply, meter and gas ring installed in the club.

1953

In June The Bowling Club joined the Bracknell Community Association as a constituent body.



Bracknell Bowling Club members in front of the pavilion at Stanley Road-date unknown.

1954

Mrs E Paine was elected Berkshire County Women's Bowling Association President for 1954.

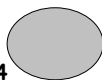
The fact that the club was 50 years old in 1954 seems to have been missed as there is no mention of this in the records.

1955

A ladies County game with Gloucestershire was played on the Bracknell green on 10th June.

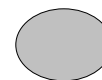
1957

In November the tea shelter and fence to the car park were blown down by severe gales.



1958

Extensive work was carried out to extend the pavilion to enable tea to be taken there in the future. Electricity was also installed. Much of the work was carried out by the members



and some materials were salvaged from the remains of the tea shelter. £175 was withdrawn from the Post Office account to pay for the extension.

Sperrys' Sports and Social Club (Bowls Section) requested affiliation to the club for the purpose of using the green. The request was denied but the staff of Sperrys were invited to join the Bowling Club in the normal manner. As a result some members of Sperrys' staff applied to join.

28



Bracknell Bowling Club in Stanley Road with the Parish Church behind. The houses pictured to the right must be quite near the proximity of the present green. The date is unknown but

the chain link fence was erected in 1958 after the severe gales in 1957.

1959

During an audit at Lloyds Bank the deeds of the club were examined and the auditor Mr Wilkinson noticed that in the Deed of Conveyance of the site of the green it was described as being in **ROCHDALE ROAD** and not Stanley Road as was thought to be the case. It was decided that in future the green should be described as being situated in Rochdale Road.

1960

Membership numbers had dropped to only 20 men (2 of whom were non playing members) and 13 ladies.

1962

For the first time the ladies outnumbered the men with 20 lady members and 19 men, three of whom were non playing members.

29

Mrs V Broome and Mrs M Noyes won the County Pairs competition and also reached the finals of the English Women's Championships at Wimbledon.

In November a letter was sent to the Bracknell Development Corporation, to ask what affect the proposed development of the town centre would have on the Bowling Club. A letter from them stated that it **would** be affected, and their proposals

would show an alternative site. This was shown on the plan to be on the east side of Church Road.

1963

In a letter dated 15th November, a compulsory purchase order was made by the Bracknell Development Corporation in respect of the property belonging to The Bowling Club.

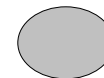
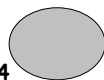
1965

At the Annual General Meeting on 22nd November the President informed the members of a request from the Development Corporation that Bracknell Social Club and the Bracknell Bowling Club amalgamate. A proposal was

made to this effect and carried. The compensation awarded by the district valuation officer was £8,820 for the bowling green and the proposed amalgamation with the Social Club.

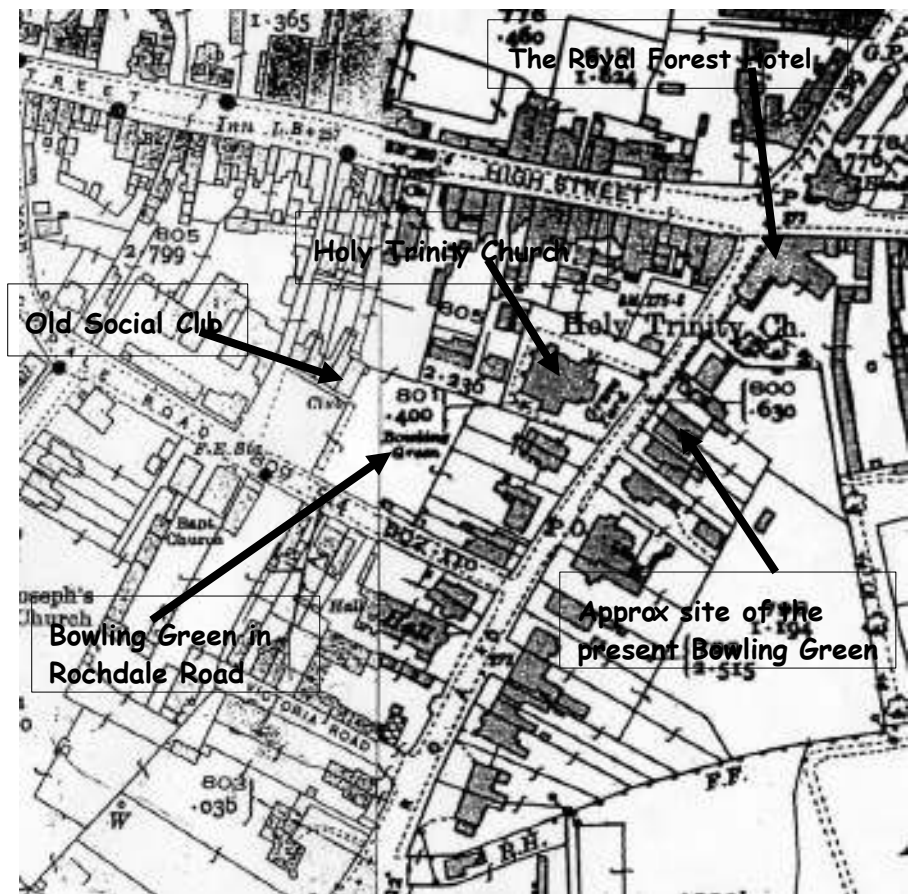
1966

T Garman won the County Unbadged Singles title.





1966 COUNTY UNBADGED SINGLES WINNERS
TA Garman



1968

The new Green was opened on the 26th April 1968 with two rinks played on. A request was made by the committee that all players wore flat bottomed shoes! As you can see by the map (circa 1932) above, the Bowling Green was now situated in virtually the same location as the original green was when it was in the meadow of the now long demolished Royal Forest Hotel. **The Club had come home.**

"Gainsborough" in Church Road until alternative premises could be found.

1969

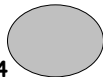
The Development Corporation offered the Bowling Club temporary use of a house next to the bowling green at a rent of £1 per week. Some of the members decorated the house known as "Churchcote" and all the members were invited to tea by the ladies section in April of this year.

A new club badge and tie designed by George Levear and Tony Bacon were worn for the first time by the team at the Festival of Sport at Basildon on 13th September.

Subscriptions were raised to £3.3s for men and £1.10s for ladies.

1970

On 1st January **The Bracknell Bowling Club** amalgamated with **The Bracknell Social Club** and became **The Bracknell Bowling & Social Club**.



Owing to the fact that the Bowling Club had a green but no premises, permission was given by the Bracknell Development Corporation Social Club to use their temporary premises at

The English Bowling Association made a decision to host "The World Bowls Championship" in this country in two years time (1972). The sum of £42,000 would be required and the club's county representatives were asked to obtain the sum of 4/- per annum from each member for the next 2 years to help with the cost of hosting the games.

Authorisation was given to H Calcutt to purchase and have sign written a new match scoreboard for the coming season at a cost of £6.

1971

Bracknell Bowling & Social Club Members

Men's Bowling Section





Back Row from left to right A E Smith, G C Levear, W Stephens G Smith, R Betsworth, L Handley, M J Smythe, G Hamilton, J Hemple and A R Skells.
Front Row from left to right A J Hazell, W Moore, T A Garman H Calcutt, R Mackenzie and A R Bacon.

1972

Les Handley bought significant recognition to the club by winning the County Singles title. He was also selected to represent Berkshire in the Middleton Cup squad.

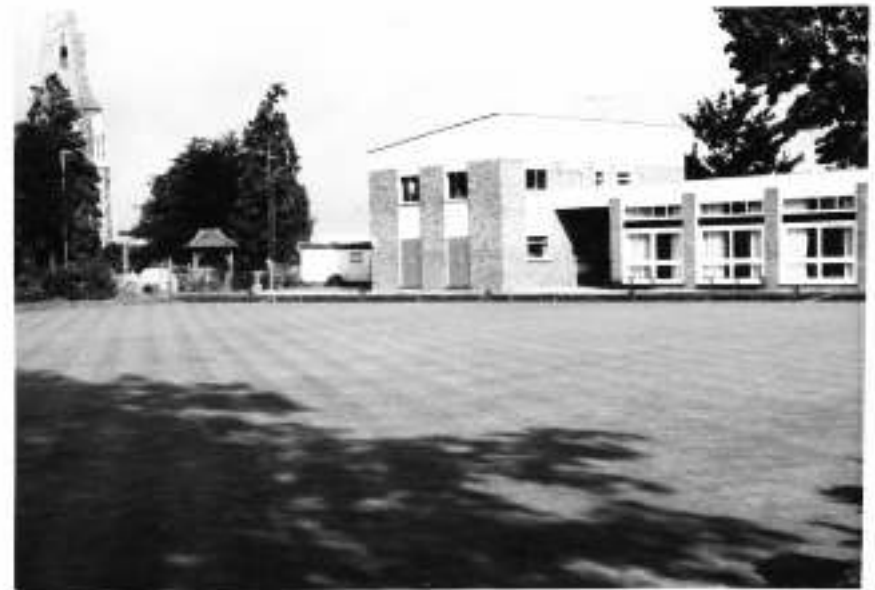
1973

In October the club was offered the site of the Baptist Church for an indoor bowling green. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to leave this item in abeyance, until more was known.

Les Handley was again selected to represent Berkshire in the Middleton Cup squad.

34

1973 BRACKNELL BOWLING AND SOCIAL CLUB



In this picture, notice that the clubhouse is only a single storey building and the Church entrance can be clearly seen across the road. Church Road is now a dual carriageway making the Church no longer accessible from this road.

The Scottish British Legion bought a tourist side to play against Bracknell.

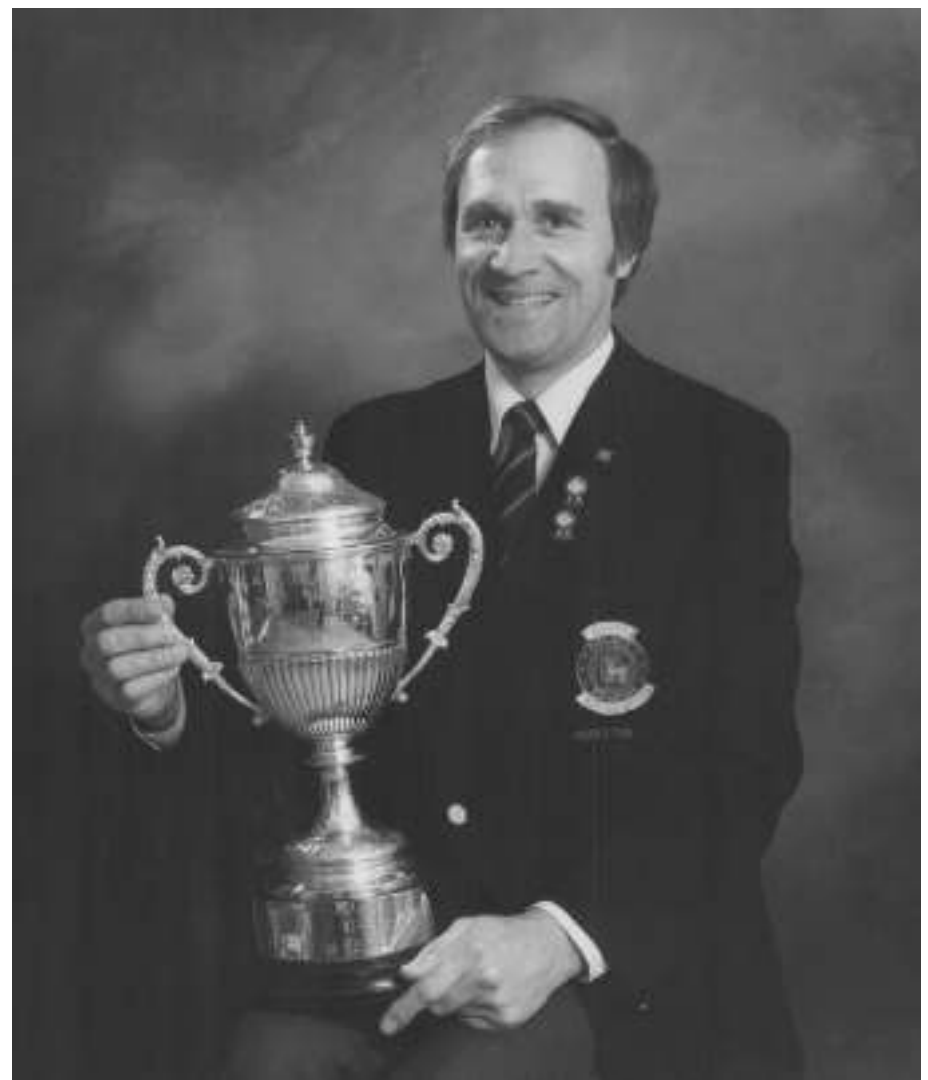
Mrs Dorgan agreed to supply meals for the men's section at a cost of 25p per head. In the event, a match fee of 25p was agreed for all home and away matches.

1974

Reg Betsworth, Bowling Section Treasurer from 1970 until 1974, sadly collapsed and died on the bowling green on Sunday morning 1st August. He was playing Tony Bacon in a club singles competition.

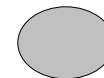
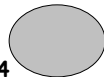
Les Handley won the County Singles title for the second time.

35



1972 and 1974 COUNTY SINGLES CHAMPION L
Handley

Once again Les Handley was selected to represent Berkshire in the Middleton Cup squad.



Geoff Smith, Roy Mackenzie and Les Handley won the County Triples.



1977 COUNTY TRIPLES WINNERS
R Mackenzie L Handley G Smith

Bracknell Bowling Club won the County Club Championship for the first time in its history.

38



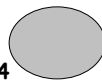
1977 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS
Back row from left to right K Hawes, R Mackenzie, R Jenkins, C Perchard, A Judd, L Handley J Martin and M Smythe.
Front Row From left to right G Smith, T Garman, L Chalmers, H Calcutt, T Bacon and A Garman.

1978

Les Handley was again selected to represent Berkshire in the Middleton Cup squad.

A fixture including one ladies rink was accepted to play the Broadmoor inmates (an away match!!)

Bracknell won a Bannerette game against Berkshire for the first time in the club's history.



1979

The club's 75th anniversary was celebrated with special badges being produced.

A County match was played at Bracknell when Berkshire hosted a game against Kent.

Mrs. Lorraine Hawes won the England Ladies Singles title.

39



1979 E.W.B.A. SINGLES WINNER and BRITISH ISLES CHAMPION Lorraine Hawes 1980

Les Handley and Tom Garman won L & SC Pairs



1980 LONDON & SOUTHERN COUNTIES PAIRS WINNERS

Les Handley

Tom Garman Ray

Jenkins was selected to represent Berkshire in the Middleton Cup squad.

1981

Ray Jenkins played Middleton Cup again for Berkshire.

40

1982

R White, H Richmond-White and A R Bacon with the help of reserve L Handley won the County Benevolent Triples.



1982 County Benevolent Triples Winners

Roy White Tony Bacon Hugh Richmond-White

Ray Jenkins and Keith Hawes were members of the Berkshire winning team that won the Middleton Cup.

1983

The first games were played against the new Great Holland's Bowling Club.

Ray Jenkins retained his place in the Middleton Cup Squad.

1984

In 1984 a letter was received from Bracknell District Council, re: an indoor bowling green in Bracknell. The council was asked to clarify the proposed site. After a meeting with the council, the site proposed was where the Kerith Centre is now situated, and there was talk of Bracknell Bowls Club running it. The church got to hear of the proposal, and objected to

the Council, as they wanted the site. They also wrote to the Queen. No more was heard from the Council.

Tony Cottis won the Berkshire County Singles.



1984 COUNTY SINGLES CHAMPION Tony Cottis

Ray Jenkins was once again selected to represent Berkshire in the Middleton Cup squad.

1985

Bracknell won the Morton Cup, an indoor competition for outdoor clubs. In the Nat-West Double Fours Bracknell lost the area final on an extra end.

Ray Jenkins was yet again selected to play in the Middleton Cup for the 6th time.

1986/1987

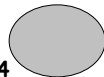
Keith Hawes won the County Singles Championship for two years in succession.

42



1986 & 1987 COUNTY SINGLES CHAMPION Keith Hawes

Les Handley and Malcolm Woodley won the London & Southern Counties Pairs.



The L.X. Kennet League was formed.

1988

Tony Bacon, Mrs Phyllis Bacon and John Horsman won the Windsor Hospital Cup with the help of "super sub" Ray Jenkins.

1989

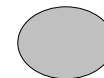
43



1989 MENS BOWLING SECTION

1990

Mrs Doreen Emmins, Mrs Jackie Hayes, Ernie Emmins and Roger Hayes won the Hospital Cup.



Bracknell played a Bannerette game against the County but unfortunately lost.

1991

Mrs Grace Hicks, Mrs Hilda Clay and Mrs Anne Moulton won the Berkshire County Triples.



1991 COUNTY TRIPLES WINNERS

Mrs G Hicks Mrs A Moulton (Skip) Mrs H Clay

1992

Two commemorative seats were purchased in memory of Harry Calcutt and Len Scott.

44

1993

Doug Turner was made an Honorary Life Member for all his work in past years.

1994

Bracknell celebrated its 90th year and was marked by visits from The English Bowling Association, The Berkshire Bowling Association, The Berkshire County Indoor Bowling Association, The London Scottish Bowling Association and The Warwickshire County Secretary Tourists.

Tony Bacon was made a Life Member for all his hard work and long service to the club.

1995

Bracknell was granted a Berkshire County Bannerette game in June.

Les Handley was made a Life Member for all the honours he had brought to the club. Bert Smith was also made a Life Member for his long, hard working service to the Club.

Bracknell held its first Open Tournament. It was won by Woodley B.C.

Our club played host to a County game between Berkshire and Warwickshire.

A very enjoyable weekend was spent in Stratford-upon-Avon, the venue chosen for the 1995 annual bowls tour.

1996

Bracknell won promotion to Division One of the Kennet League.

45



1996 KENNET LEAGUE DIVISION 2 WINNERS.

Back row S Jack, B Good, B Humphries, R Jenkins, C Flood,
L Handley, D Farnish, P Roberts, R Fowlie, T Barnes & F
Lay.

Front row J Horsman, P Hawkins, G Jousiffe, T McCarthy & A Leigh.

1998

Bracknell ladies had a wonderful year with Mrs Brenda Cottis winning the County over 50's singles title for the second time

Bracknell Bowling Club Centenary 2004

in five years. Mrs Phyllis Bacon reaching the National Two Woods singles semi-finals at Leamington. Mrs Brenda Cottis, Mrs Beryl Goddard, Mrs Jackie Hayes and Mrs Jeanette Tomlin joined her at Leamington in the fours.

Les Handley, one of Bracknell's most successful bowlers, retired from competitive bowling.

1998 Mrs Phyllis Bacon

46

Berkshire C.W.B.A. Champion of Champion Finalist
Berkshire C.W.B.A. 2 Wood Singles Finalist E.W.B.A.
2 Wood Singles Semi - Finalist

1999

Bracknell won the Club Championship for the first time since 1977 and only the second time in the club's history.



Bracknell Bowling Club Centenary 2004



1999 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Back row. C Peters, C Flood, R Fowlie, G Jousiffe, J Horsman and C Perchard

Centre row. J Copeland, K Sawdon, R Hayes, T McCarthy P Roberts and D Farnish.

Front row. S Jack, P Hawkins, M Graham and R Jenkins

The Club also reached the semi-final of the Double Fours.

Floodlighting was installed by Chris Peters.

The committee decided to end running an Open Tournament due to lack of support.

2000

Peter Hawkins, Colin Flood and Ray Jenkins with the help of reserve Richard Fowlie won the County Benevolent Triples.



2000 BENEVOLENT TRIPLES CHAMPIONS

Colin Flood Peter Hawkins Ray Jenkins.

Peter Hawkins was selected to skip a rink in the Middleton Cup. Berkshire reached the quarter finals at Bath where they were narrowly defeated by Devon by 4 shots.

Mrs Doreen Humphreys and Mrs Jeanette Tomlin bought the County Pairs Championship to Bracknell.

Mrs Jeanette Tomlin won the County Singles Championship.



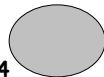
2000 BERKSHIRE COUNTY WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION Mrs Jeanette Tomlin

2001

Bracknell played host to a County Match between Berkshire and Surrey.

Richard Fowlie won the County over 55 singles and went on to compete in the later rounds of this National competition.

Peter Hawkins and Ray Jenkins were selected to represent Berkshire in the Middleton Cup squad.



Mrs Jackie Hayes became President of The Berkshire County Women's Bowling Association.

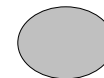
49

Mrs Shirley Durkin and Mrs Jeanette Tomlin won the County Pairs but due to an unfortunate accident Shirley was unable to go to Leamington and Mrs Brenda Cottis played for her.

Bracknell Ladies won the County Travelsphere Final and went on to beat Kent but lost to Essex by a mere 4 shots.



2001 BERKSHIRE TRAVELSPHERE CHAMPIONS



Back row: Mesdames Brenda Cottis, Jeanette Tomlin, Phyllis Bacon, Doreen Humphreys, Connie Jousiffe, Lynne Quibell, Shirley Durkin.

Front row: Jackie Hayes, June Hook and Terrie Hawkins.

The hedge was removed on the College car park side and replaced with a metal fence, planted with pyracantha and a new seating area.

2002

Mrs Doreen Humphreys and Mrs Lynne Quibell won the Berkshire County Women's Pairs Championship.

Mrs Brenda Cottis and Mrs Lynne Quibell won the over 55 pairs.

50

For only the fourth time in the history of the club Bracknell won the County Four Championship. Peter Hawkins, Simon Greenwood, Phil Roberts and Richard Fowlie represented Berkshire in the National Championships at Worthing.



Royal County of Berkshire Fours Winners 2002

Simon Greenwood	Peter Hawkins	Richard Fowlie	Phil Roberts
(Three)	(Skip)	(Lead)	(Two)

Peter Hawkins and Ray Jenkins are again selected to play in the Middleton Cup. Simon Greenwood was recalled to play and was awarded his Middleton Cup Flash.

2003

Peter Hawkins reached the semi-finals of the County Singles and was picked to play in the Middleton Cup for the fourth year running.

Bracknell Bowling Club suffered a great loss when Tony Bacon sadly died. Besides bringing honours to the club Tony had also

served on the committee for many years and had served as President for 12 years. He worked tirelessly as

51

our greenkeeper and with his dedication and hard work Bracknell became known as having one of the best greens in the county. He will be sadly missed.

2004

Shanks Jack is presently serving as President of The London Scottish Bowling Association.

For the 5th consecutive year running Peter Hawkins has been selected for the Middleton Cup squad.

We will be celebrating our centenary in the company of:
The English Bowling Association, The Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association, The English Women's Bowling Association, The London and Southern Counties Bowling Association, The London Scottish Bowling Association, The London Irish Bowling Association, The London Welsh Bowling Association and our many friends from bowling clubs in Berkshire, Surrey, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Sussex and Hampshire.

From "A Short History of the Game" by Keith Phillips.

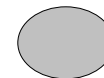
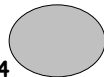
Apart from the game enjoyed by the aristocracy, bowls has until recent years, had a very bad reputation indeed. Usually played at alehouses, it was associated with drunkenness and gambling. Participants were considered to be of the

"lower orders", and to be lazy and aggressive. The latter was probably true, because in the late 1800s a Scottish lawyer named W.W. Mitchell introduced a law forbidding "kicking, hacking and tripping" by players.

Despite strong pockets of resistance, bowls became organized, standardized and respectable as "lawn bowling".

2004 BRACKNELL BOWLING AND SOCIAL CLUB

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In this picture taken on 6th March, notice that the clubhouse is now a two storey building and the steward's garage and the boundary fence block the view of the old church entrance.

This is not our end.....

