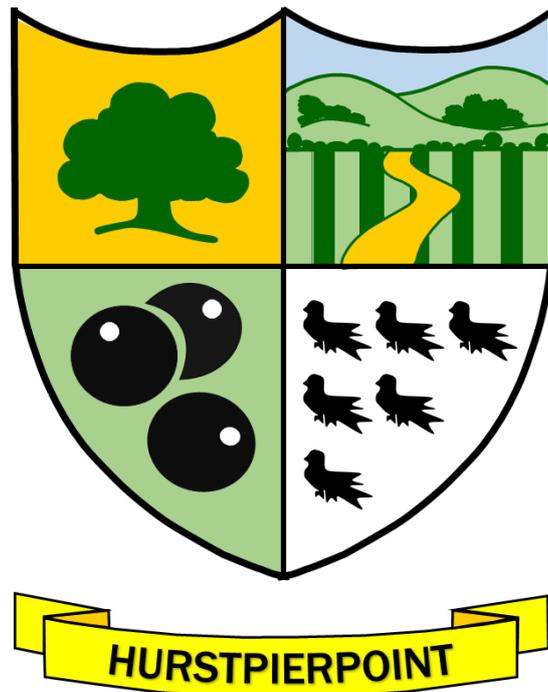


THE FIRE & BEYOND

THIRTY YEARS OF MEMORIES
BY
KEITH JACKSON





Keith's Recollections From 1991

My recollections of the club are about members who were there when I joined in 1991 and have been around for some of the next 27 years.



We start in 2018 with us looking forward to our new extension. Who would have thought that 25 years ago we would be spending £170,000 on a new extension!



The 2018 committee comprising of: President Chris Barnden, Chairman Bob Mitchell, Vice Chairman John Pierce, Treasurer Stephen Hand, Match Secretary Brian Truran, Social Secretary Gill Welsh, Clubhouse Manager Paul Burnett, Recruitment Officer Anne Clifford, Secretary, Peter Cooper, Green Ranger Tony Lank, Captains Chris Thomas, Keith Jackson, Jo Kaddish & Tony Gough. Past Treasurer Maureen Spratling had recently retired from office.

The club is in fine shape on and off the green, it is difficult to know but I believe we are experiencing a golden age for the club. We have had 12 members who have been awarded their County Badges since 1992. We have had National Men's over 55 Pairs Champions and National Ladies Seniors Fours Champions who have now represented England.



The social side continues to thrive even without a clubhouse this winter but with a larger clubhouse coming there will be some exciting times ahead. All events on & off the green contribute to making us a very happy club. It's all down to the members.

I apologise if my memory lets me down and I leave out things that should be in but this is what I think I remember



The clubhouse has a new bar, a just reward for Dick Goodman & Tony Gough's hard work in setting up our existing bar.

Dick received his county badge in 2007 following success in the County fours.

Dick & Tony

The 2017 captains were Jenny Goodman, Chris Thomas, and Ken Leaney & David Welsh. David suffered a severe stroke in April ending his illustrious bowling career. David was awarded Life Membership in 2016. More of David's bowling career later.

The 2018 captains were Chris Thomas & Keith Jackson with Jo Kaddish & Tony Gough as vice-captains with Keith & Tony joining up for a fourth time.

We were Mid-Sussex League Division One Champions in 2016 & R.U. in 2017. Sadly relegated in 2018

We were John Spriggs League Division One Champions in 2017.

1991

I attended my first A.G.M. in 1991, which was held in April in those days, following my retirement from Cricket after thirty years where I finished up being Chairman; Suddenly I was the new boy on the block.

I had to be proposed and seconded by members although I had lived in the village for forty years, but recently married and living in Burgess Hill, I was not returning to live in the village until May, this came as a surprise to me considering my new father-in-law Les Sayers was the club captain. This meeting was all male.



Les Sayers life member

My first visit to the club was to look at the work that was being carried out on the new ditches on the Saturday morning. Leaning on the front gate was Albert Mabbitt who greeted me by saying 'Hello young Keith how are you'? I suddenly became younger overnight by joining the bowls club, at 45 becoming the youngest male member after Andy Robus gave bowls a break, this continued for almost ten years until Rod Thomas joined the club.

Albert, for years the local Barber who had given me my first hair cut was one of the club's most respected bowlers but was coming towards the end of his illustrious bowling career. Albert, one of the longest standing members of the club was captain 4 times. He enjoyed helping new bowlers. A great sportsman, a gentleman respected throughout the bowling fraternity of Mid-Sussex even in 2018! Sadly no longer with us.

That Saturday morning there were several stalwarts of the club in their wellies standing in about two foot of wet concrete waiting for another barrow load to fill a section of the new ditch. On a match day you would not find a smarter bunch of bowlers in their blazers and ties but on that day John Chandler, Charles Killick, Alan Holdsworth, Ian Hunt, Derrick Stenton & Gordon Bravery looked quite a sight, if only a camera had been available, and then there was Les Sayers and Frank Heafield supervising from the bank on dry ground. Derrick is still with us in 2020. Three of the group John, Charles and Derrick were affectionately known as the Three Musketeers. Derrick would be captain the following season.

The ladies were not full members at this time, Connie Smith was probably the most prominent lady of the time being the ladies chairman, however bearing in mind that the two sections were separate I have few memories of the ladies until the club became mixed. Pat Wilson would also be well known. My memory of Connie is that she tested me for my cooking badge when in the Cub Scouts & being one of the tea ladies with Nora Sayers at the cricket club many years before.



Connie Smith

The following weekend saw the wooden pavilion completely destroyed by an arsonist leaving all the members of the club devastated and in shock. The arsonist was never caught. Not a great start after 2 weeks but it was nothing to do with me, honest!

This was a time for action & Chairman Norman Wilson and Secretary Sid Goss stood up to be counted, they immediately swung in to action organising several committees to deal with this dreadful situation.

Gordon Bravery was asked to take the helm of the fund raising committee, he set up the first mixed committee that the club had ever had. With Gordon proving to be such a success it was no surprise that he succeeded Norman as chairman when Norman became President following Bob Hanna's fifteen-year stint as President came to an end. Some stint!

Despite the disaster, members did not allow this huge set back deter them and started bowling as soon as they could, many matches were played away thanks to our bowling friends. Some of the men playing at that time are listed below:

Ray Aldridge, Tony Smith, Ben Bennett, Norman Wilson, David Hesketh, John Blanford, Frank Heafield, John Chandler, Charles Killick, Derrick Stenton, Bob, Birch, Dick Brockes, Brian Joyce, Trevor Graham, Arthur Warburton, Bill Aked, Reg Grimer, Fred Jackson, Albert Mabbitt, Bert Carter, Ian Hunt, Alan Holdsworth, John Meaden, Sid Goss, Andy Robus, Jimmy King, Ray Morley, John Flamont, Walter Bennett, Keith Jackson & Les Sayers (Captain), strangely I do not remember Dave Welsh or Ted Pennicard at that time but they must have been there although I did know Ted through his sons.

Bill Aked years later probably became the club's first centenarian, followed in 2018 by John Creaton.

Only Ben Bennett and myself are playing today in 2019!

Club competitions continued to be organised and all were completed. A tent loaned by Dick Brockes enabled teas to be served for home matches. The Ladies provided the teas and the men worked on the green, that's the way it was.

Tony Smith, the league team's captain & selector became champion for the second time, with Doreen Brockes taking the ladies crown. Doreen & Bridget Parr dominated the ladies scene for six or seven years. Bridget won the County Champion of Champions before moving to Dorset a few years later, returning some years later. Both were regular League players as was Kay McPate & Joyce Bennett



Doreen Brockes

I was lucky enough to play with Tony in the Men's pairs in my first season replacing Robbie Robinson who sadly suffered a stroke before the competitions had started and we reached the final and played Fred Jackson & Ray Aldridge winning my first bowls trophy, thanks to Tony. A committee decided the handicaps for the competitions back then. The handicappers were not generous to new or average bowlers with the maximum being +2 with no minus; there were not too many surprises or different winners. I imagine the senior bowlers decided the handicaps!

Later on, Don Penny offered to devise a system based on results, not sure when Don joined but it must be before 1994 as he played in the Edward Rowland rink that won the Cup that year, the only time we have won it. He was a neighbour of Frank Heafield.

The new clubhouse was ready for the start of the next season and was officially opened by the Chairman of the Parish Council & celebrated with a finger buffet. It was an exciting day for the club with the prospect of many new members joining. Within three years I with help of Chris Barnden and Les Sayers installed the central heating. Ray Aldridge and Dick Brockes were also very active carrying out electrical and carpentry work.



With the club now in full swing everyone was in a positive mood with Tony Smith attempting to win his third title, this was not to be with the emergence of the now legendary Dave Hesketh who dominated our singles championship with ten wins in 13 seasons, quite remarkable. David won 2 consecutive County Singles Championships in 1993/4. He represented Sussex in 47 Middleton Cup matches. He also won the County indoor title. Some player!

Doreen Brockes won the ladies championship.



David Welsh, a rising star was making his mark and in 1994 & 1996 captured our title with Dave Hesketh winning the next six. The two men combined to win two consecutive County Pairs Championships in 2002/03.

2003 David W. reached the County singles final & may well have won it but for heat exhaustion following a long pairs final. The match was played at Hastings in a heat wave with a good number of members present supporting both Daves. Dave Hesketh was awarded Life Membership in early 2000's for his bowling achievements. The two Davids were very involved in the county competitions and invited Alan

Holdsworth to join them in the triples where they reached the semi-final, which gave Alan his County Badge.

Alan had a very flamboyant style, arms and legs flailing everywhere and also that very special hat but he somehow managed to get those bowls near the jack.

The following season I joined them in the fours & we reached the quarter- finals, the following season I joined the Daves in the triples & we reached the semi-finals with me gaining my County Badge.

At this point I apologise to the ladies but I will come to them later. My recollections are poor about the ladies until the early 2000's because we were still not a mixed club but at about this time the ladies really started to make an impression on the County & National scene. There were no Sunday or mixed matches at this time.

With the new clubhouse up and running, with new members joining all the time it was decided that we should become a fully mixed club. This decision made the club what it is today. The Treasurer John Blandford moved to Devon and Ben Awcock took over the reins & enjoyed about 15 years of service. He was made a life member several years after standing down.

Gordon Bravery the new Chairman was the man entrusted to bring the transition to a mixed club about and he steered the club in the right direction with considerable style. He made it look easy.

He was eventually to become President and then a Life Member. Gordon Bravery



At about this time Sid Goss stood down, as secretary after a mammoth stint of 26 years, Sid at this time was a dominant force in the club and would be a hard act to follow but fortunately Chris Barnden a relative new member was willing to takeover. Sid was deservedly awarded Life Membership and was presented with a garden seat on his retirement. Chris carried on the tradition of long service, serving 17 years. He also became a life member and then President in 2017 when Mary Hunt stood down as the first lady President.

Derrick Stenton was captain in 1994 when the club won The Edward Rowland Cup for the only time with a scratch team of Keith Jackson, Don Penny, Ben Bennett & skip Frank Heafield against Rottindean. Next season, they lost in the first round away to Mackie in the pouring rain.

Gordon had two vice-chairman during his five-year term, Sally Coleman followed by Joan Pernet. Joan compiled a hand printed list of past men & ladies competition winners due to the Honours boards being destroyed in the fire. This has been displayed in the clubhouse keeping our history alive, which I have now recorded on a computer, which can be updated easily.

Barbara Awcock succeeded Joan Pernet as Vice Chairman for Stephen Coleman's two-year stint as chairman and for the full five years of my term of office. Barbara was duly elected chairman following my term. What a change, unthinkable 12 years before.

I like to think that I helped that happen.



Life Members Ben & Barbara Awcock



Derek Rogers, as publicity officer enjoyed the chance to get his teeth into a good news story.

A lady chairman, whatever next!

Derek was publicity & recruiting officer for a good number of years, which provided many new members. Derek also keeps the honours board up-to date.

Bob Birch succeeded Derrick Stenton as captain with Fred Jackson his vice captain, after one season Bob indicated he wished to stand down thus breaking the tradition of two years vice-captain and two years as captain.

Interesting fact about Bob was that Max Miller the legendary comedian was Bob's best man at his wedding, not a lot of people know that!

Fred took over, as did Mary Hunt for the ladies and both served one-year leaving me captain after only one year as vice-captain. I served two years, but from now on it was no longer automatically expected that the vice captain would serve two years and take over the captaincy. I went on over time to be captain a further 8 times totalling 10 breaking Norman Ball's record of 5. A new record so far!

1995, everything changed for the ladies when cousins Jenny Goodman and Brenda Davies joined, within three or four seasons both these players were winning everything with Jenny winning a record number of Championships with Brenda close behind. With Doreen Brockes, Sally Coleman and Pat Avis already members things were looking good & then Kathy Green joined in 2002 and our ladies were getting stronger all the time and with Chris Thomas joining around 2013 adding to the strength, the rest is history.

A new era is about to begin.

Good times ahead, our ladies were about to dominate the County competitions & beyond
More details later.

1998 was our 75th year anniversary year and several events were planned, the main being a tournament against all the clubs that we have played over the years. It was organised by David Welsh and myself. On the day David was involved in the Tom Francis tournament so Derrick Stenton stepped in to assist with the help of Sally Coleman and all went well. Anniversary pennants and pens were produced to commemorate the occasion.

It is possible during this period or before that many new members joined and some became our most successful bowlers. John Callagan, John Avis, John Creaton, Colin Arthorne, Ken Leaney, Bernie Tyrrell, Peter Davies, Mike Webster, Graham Saunders, Brian Tite, Tony Bullock, Dennis Rushbrook, John Harris, John Butler, Tony Tabor, Ron Wright, Howard Manners and Tony Gough. Dick Goodman was already a member but work commitments restricted his availabilities.

With the club now mixed more ladies were joining all the time, Pat Avis, Trixi Barnden, Pauline Butler, Anthea Leaney, Gill Welsh, Jackie Wright, Ruby Arthorne, Angela Bullock, June Rivett, Helen Spalding, Jackie Pannett, Anne Sayers, Audrey Harrowing; six of these becoming a captain at some stage. Sunday mixed matches were now being arranged.

Barbara Bravery was already there with Kay McPate, Bridget Parr, Doreen Brockes Mary Hunt, Pat Wilson, Joyce Bennett, & Nancy Barnet who was regularly playing for Sussex as a skip.



The Millennium plate match was established between Adastra and ourselves with a fine piece of engraved pottery the prize to be displayed in the winner's clubhouse for the following season. A mixed six-rink match to be played on alternate greens every year. We lost the first one at Adastra even though we won 5 out of six rinks, but since then we have been in the ascendancy, but not in 2017 but we have it back for 2018/19

Alan Holdsworth with David Hewer

Alan Holdsworth & Sally Coleman were captains in 2000 the new millennium;
Alan's wife Vera became the ladies captain in 2001.

The plate was destroyed when the clubhouse was broken into and was replaced 2 years later. The green working party in 1992 was under the leadership of Frank Heafield, because of advancing age he stood down with David Welsh taking on the job.

Dave became an expert on green keeping and four years later the green was transformed into the green we have today.

Dave was awarded Life membership in 2016.

The working party became known as the Monday morning crew. The personnel have changed over the years but it is the envy of most other clubs.

A few names come to mind, there was Bernard Tyrrell who was proud to be called the best ditch cleaner in the county, actually he was also a very good lead playing in the Mid-Sussex League team.

As Chairman I awarded him the first Chairman's special award.

Mike Webster walked the green with his little spray bottle, beware any little weed!

Jim Lower was prepared to do anything.

Derek Rogers became our expert sprayer amongst many other things. Sid Goss & Ted Pennicard mowed the green for many years with Sid notching up 1000 cuts. All three men awarded life membership.

Ted Pennicard



Vic Harrowing was our do it yourself man conjuring up some weird and wonderful contraptions for use on the green. Alan Holdsworth looked after the hedges, followed by Ken Leaney both future captains.

John Chandler supplied and served the refreshments for a number of years followed by former captain Bob Birch who carried on the tradition followed by another former captain me. Since then Stella Rogers has had a go but with Jim Morley standing down with ill health, it is now shared around although I seem to be the man again.

Mary Hunt became President of the club in 2009 the first lady President that again provided good copy for Derek Rogers.

Mary Hunt



John and Pat Avis ran the 50+club with Fred & Jill Reynolds organising the annual social evening which is a highlight of the year & raises funds for the club throughout the year. John and Pat took over from Ian & Mary Hunt and Pat and Norman Wilson who took over from Robbie Robinson who created the club. Chris & Alison White were the current organisers in 2018. Now Gordon & Sarah Porteous in 2019,

John & Anne Clifford looked after the garden and surrounds which earned much praise from visiting teams. Anne served as ladies captain on two occasions and is now doing an excellent job as our recruitment officer.

Kathy & David Green became custodians of the gardens continuing the excellent work, adding plants and shrubs in their own particular style.

Those blue Hydrangeas still thrilling our visitors. Our records show that they were planted in the 1950's.

Kathy served twice as lady's captain and as a selector, more later about Kathy & Dave.

Linda Witcher now looks after the north west side border, her efforts on hold until the work on the new 2018 extension is completed.

Some more members joining, Pat & Frank Bogle, Pat & Brian Mellor, Beryl & Jack Payne, John & Jeanie Allen, John & June Carthew, Brian & Maureen Spratling, Peggy Stoner, Raynor Howland, Peter Cooper, David Burrows, Jim Roberts, John & Shirley Murrell, Bob & Deryn Mitchell, Stewart & Denise Hall, Roger Smith & Jim Morley.

We must not forget Tony Lank, secretary after Chris Barnden and assistant to Dave Welsh the Green Ranger, unfortunately having to take over from David after his stroke. Tony will relinquish the secretary's job at the following A.G.M.



Derek (Ben) Bennett a well-known member introduced wife Jean to bowls and she finished up the club's long serving housekeeper. They both kept the clubhouse spick & span for many years. Ben, a great club man, organised the Brockes & the Mary Brown Cups many times plus serving on the selection committee for years.

He played in the successful Edward Rowland Fours in 1994. Ben a very experienced bowler with a faultless delivery, which enabled Ben to win the two wood-handicap cup three times and a championship singles finalist.



Local 'boy' Jim Morley, a star bowler joined, a great addition to the club, increasing the strength of the men's representative teams. Jim was born in the village. 2010 saw Jim skip a rink in the club's first ever final of the County Abergavenny double fours. The team defeated five previous winners to reach the final, eventually becoming runners-up to Eastbourne. 2010 captain was Dick Goodman.

The Mid-Sussex League has been rich pickings for the club with us dominating Division One, winning the league more than any other club. The team has been settled for almost all of the 2000's so far using only about twenty players.

It is difficult to remember exactly when everyone joined the club but several players have come into the team in the 2000's Brian Truran, David & Kathy Green, Jim Morley, and recently Chris Thomas replacing some of the old favourites.

Ben Bennett, Anne Sayers, Bridget Parr, Ted Pennicard, Pat Avis & Doreen Brockes have moved to the back benches, Continuity has been a major factor plus we have been a very good team.

The John Spriggs team has also been successful over the years providing the Mid-Sussex team with bowlers that have excelled and at the same time winning the Spriggs divisions on several occasions, the last being 2017.

Mid-Sussex Champions 2009 & 2016



John Spriggs Champions 2009 & 2017

Ladies County Competitions & Beyond

2007 County Fours Champions. Jenny Goodman, Pat Avis, Brenda Davies and Sally Coleman
2008 Jenny Goodman finalist in the County Singles losing 21-20
2009 Jenny Goodman & Brenda Davies over 55 Pairs reach Leamington
2010 Jenny Goodman & Brenda Davies over 55 Pairs Sussex Champions
2011 Sussex Double Fours Champions. Sally Coleman, Brenda Davies, Kathy Green, Jenny Goodman, Anne Clifford, Ann Sayers, Doreen Brockes & Anthea Leaney
2012 Jenny Goodman Sussex Delegates, Secretary & Treasurer's Cup Winner
2013 Jenny Goodman Sussex Delegates, Secretary & Treasurer's Cup Winner
2013 Brenda Davies Sussex 2 Wood Champion
2015 Jenny Goodman & Brenda Davies Sussex Pairs Finalists.
2015 Sussex Fours Finalists. Chris Thomas, Jenny Goodman, Kathy Green & Brenda Davies.
2015 National Fours Runners-Up Leamington
2016 Jenny Goodman & Brenda Davies County Pairs Finalists.
2016 Jenny Goodman Sussex 2 Wood Finalist.
2016 Brenda Davies elected Sussex Ladies Junior Vice-President.
2017 Kathy Green, Brenda Davies & Jenny Goodman selected County John's Team
2017 Sussex over 55 Fours Champions. Chris Thomas Jenny Goodman, Kathy Green, Brenda Davies.
2017 National over 55 Fours Champions. *Champions of England*
Chris Thomas, Jenny Goodman, Kathy Green, Brenda Davies.



*Chris
Jenny
Kathy
Brenda*

*Champions of
England 2017*

Four local ladies from a village called Hurstpierpoint in Sussex that hardly anyone in England have ever heard of but Champions of England. Well done everyone!

2017 has seen a real influx of new members carrying through to 2019 with many new members not knowing some of the old stalwarts of the club which I suppose has always been the case although I find it strange to think that I am now one of the few that remember these people, I suppose that's life.

Sussex County Double Fours Champions 2011



Sally Coleman, Brenda Davies, Kathy Green, Jenny Goodman, Jill Reynolds, Anne Clifford, Anne Sayers, Doreen Brockes, Anthea Leaney.

2010 Jim Morley and David Welsh Men's Over 55 National Pairs Champions.

Champions of England
Dave & Jim



If this was not enough the Men's County Double Fours (Abergavenny) team reached the final after defeating five previous winners on the way. The final was against Eastbourne who proved just too strong.



County Double Fours Finalists 2010

M. Thornhill, K. Jackson, H. Manners, R. Goodman (Capt.), D. Welsh, J. Morley, D. Hesketh, D. Bennett



Club Champions

Since 1993

**Doreen & Bridget
David H & David W**



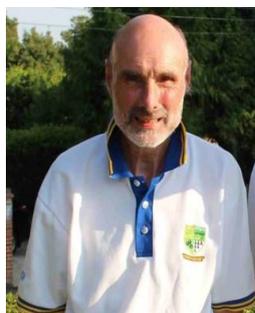
**Mary & Anthea
Ian & Jim**



**Brenda & Kathy
Brian & David G**



**Jenny & Chris
Mike & Keith**



Deryn & Roy



Doreen Brockes	4	David Hesketh	10
Bridget Parr	7	David Welsh	5
Mary Hunt	1	Ian Cox	1
Anthea Leaney	1	Jim Morley	4
Brenda Davies	5	Brian Truran	3
Kathy Green	2	David Green	1
Jenny Goodman	8	Mike Thornhill	1
Chris Thomas	2	Keith Jackson	2
Deryn Mitchell	1	Roy Dale	1

Captain Keith with County Chairman John Kinnard



Brenda Davies Woman's Sussex County President 2019





**Chris White, David Burrows, Keith Jackson, Dick Goodman, Tony Gough, Brian Truran Roy Dale, Roy Walter, David Green,
Linda Witcher, Jo Kaddish, Anne Sayers, Kathy Green Brenda Davies, Jenny Goodman, Anthea Leaney, Chris Thomas, Deryn Mitchell,**

Winners of the Henfield Community Cup 2016

Hurstpierpoint Bowling Club
Men's Section (1923-98)
The 75th Anniversary Year

Photograph taken at Henfield on Saturday, May 9th, 1998.

Back row: Ray Aldridge, Reg Grimer, Bernie Tyrrell, Tony Smith, Ted Pennicard, Les Sayers, Brian Tite, Dave Hesketh.
Front row: John Callagan, John Harris, Norman Wilson (President), Keith Jackson (Captain), Tony Gough, John Meaden, Alan Holdsworth.

The Last Word

Before I became a member there was very little competitive play apart from several members playing in the county competitions and also the club competitions which were very popular. The main activity on the green therefore proved to be day time roll-ups with workers playing in the evenings. There seem to be more members of working age before the period of early retirement came in which made a quite a difference reducing the average age of the members of the club. There was just one League team, The John Spriggs League, Nick Soames cup and Nellie Mercer League had not been formed. At this time with no Sunday matches, clubs were holding Invitation Days throughout the season, a good way to raise some funds and have a good days bowls as well.

Friendly matches were arranged on Wednesdays and Saturdays for the men with Tuesday and Thursdays for ladies. There were no Sunday matches until the club became fully mixed and then some games were arranged bringing an end to most of those Invitation Days.

On bank holidays, drives were organised between ourselves but over the years these faded out mainly due to lack of an organiser. Not so many members would remember them. With younger grandparents wanting to spend time with their families drives lost their popularity.

Interesting to note that the Wednesday and Saturday teams (Men) were usually completely different with the workers playing in the Saturday matches and the retired members on Wednesdays.

What a difference in the club's financial position in thirty years with the club now having a main sponsor in Mishon Mackay and many other business supporters.

Bob Mitchell the Chairman at the time was the leading light in promoting the extension and by his tenacity he subsequently guided the scheme to a successful conclusion with the professional help of John Pierce and the wholehearted support of committee members especially the treasurer.

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