

Bowling Down the Years

*The history of the Portsmouth
& District Bowling Association*



by **FRANK EELES**



1980 • Crofton BC

In 1979 the Fareham Borough Council constructed a bowling green alongside the Crofton Community Centre and invited people in the Stubbington area to form a bowls club.

A meeting was held in the Community Centre on 29th May 1980, and over 100 local people attended. A committee was formed to organise the club. The first President was Norman Jones, the Secretary was Dorrine Burton-Jenkins and the Treasurer was George Woodiwise. The club was formed as a mixed club and the name was to be Stubbington Bowls Club.

In July 1980 the Mayor of Fareham Mrs Rosemary Pockley officially opened the green, and she requested that the club be known as Crofton Bowls Club.

The first year attracted 120 members, but only a few had experience in bowling, and it was those members who set out to teach the newcomers the rudiments of the game.

There was no clubhouse or toilet facilities in those days and being alongside the Community Centre members had to use the Centre and if that was closed make the trek to the toilet facilities in the village.

In 1981 the club undertook to entertain visiting teams in friendly matches, but found that difficult due to the lack of facilities.

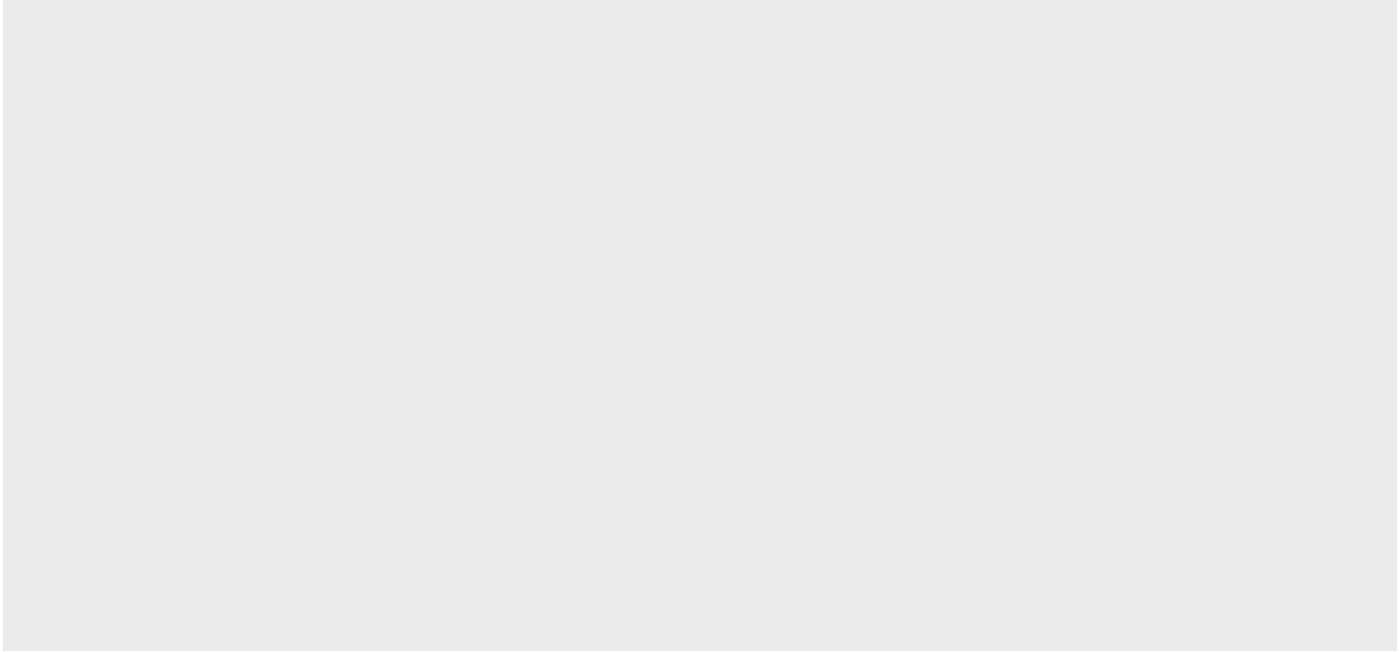
In 1982 the club decided to seek permission to erect a pavilion, this was granted and by the following season the club had raised enough money from raffles, coffee mornings, bring and buy sales etc; to purchase a wooden building from a local firm. Members set about digging the foundations for the new facility. After the pavilion was erected, volunteers decorated and fitted it out.

Since the first building in 1983 two more extensions have been added, the final one in 1997 when the ladies toilets were

re-sited, and a large kitchen facility was added, and at the same time a separate building was erected to house the men's changing room and toilet. The entire finance for all of these projects was paid for from club funds, which had been raised by Club Members.

In 1984 the club entered the Portsmouth & District league, and it was in 1987 that the club gained its first honour by winning the Division 4 title and gained promotion to Division 3, and eventually to Division 2.

The club currently play four teams in the Gosport & Fareham Mixed Triples League, and teams in the ladies and men's leagues of the Portsmouth & District.





PORTSMOUTH & DISTRICT
BOWLING ASSOCIATION
Officers for the year 2000

Back row (left to right) Ivan Robb, Brian Ivemey, Les Jones,
Mike Weatherill, Richard Edmonds, Jim Bartlett,
Steve Sprake, Harold Sawyer.

Front row (left to right) Frank Eeles, Dave Saunders,
John Powell, Keith Newman, Bill Hellier.

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