



**The Priory 1885, Guisborough**

# **Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**

## **The Formative Years**

**A History of Lawn Bowls in Guisborough**

## Introduction

Welcome everyone and I hope you enjoy reading this document which will hopefully give you some insight into the history of lawn bowls in Guisborough leading up to the formation of Guisborough Priory Bowls Club and beyond.

You might ask the question “why is he doing this?”

Well let me take you back around 10 years to the time I was elected as the Club Secretary. George Kearton, the previous Club Secretary turned up on my doorstep the day after the AGM and presented me with three old shopping bags, you know the type from around the 60’s, heavy, plastic, scruffy with age and one with a snapped handle.

Each one was stuffed with hard backed A4 writing books & lots of folders stuffed with documents. I remember well, the knowing smile that George had on his face that day. A smile that said “Thank god I’ve got rid of that lot.”

Well eventually I got around to sorting through the files and putting them into some sort of order and lo and behold, I found a wealth of information in the early meticulously handwritten meeting minutes and various files, from the foundation of this Club to the present day.

Having taken the interest on board, I got curious about some of the content of these documents and of the people mentioned in them, and so I began to search the internet, Guisborough Library, Guisborough Museum, Sunnyfield House archives and local historians in an effort to find out more.

Having compiled this information I felt that somehow, I had to get this into the Club domain so that future members could access their clubs’ beginnings.

This document will be the start of this objective.

Although I started this project as a powerpoint presentation, I realised that this may not be the best method of storage for the future and so I changed course and put the information in this document format so that it can be accessed easily by any member and may even be useful on the Club website.

Anyway, let’s get on with the show.

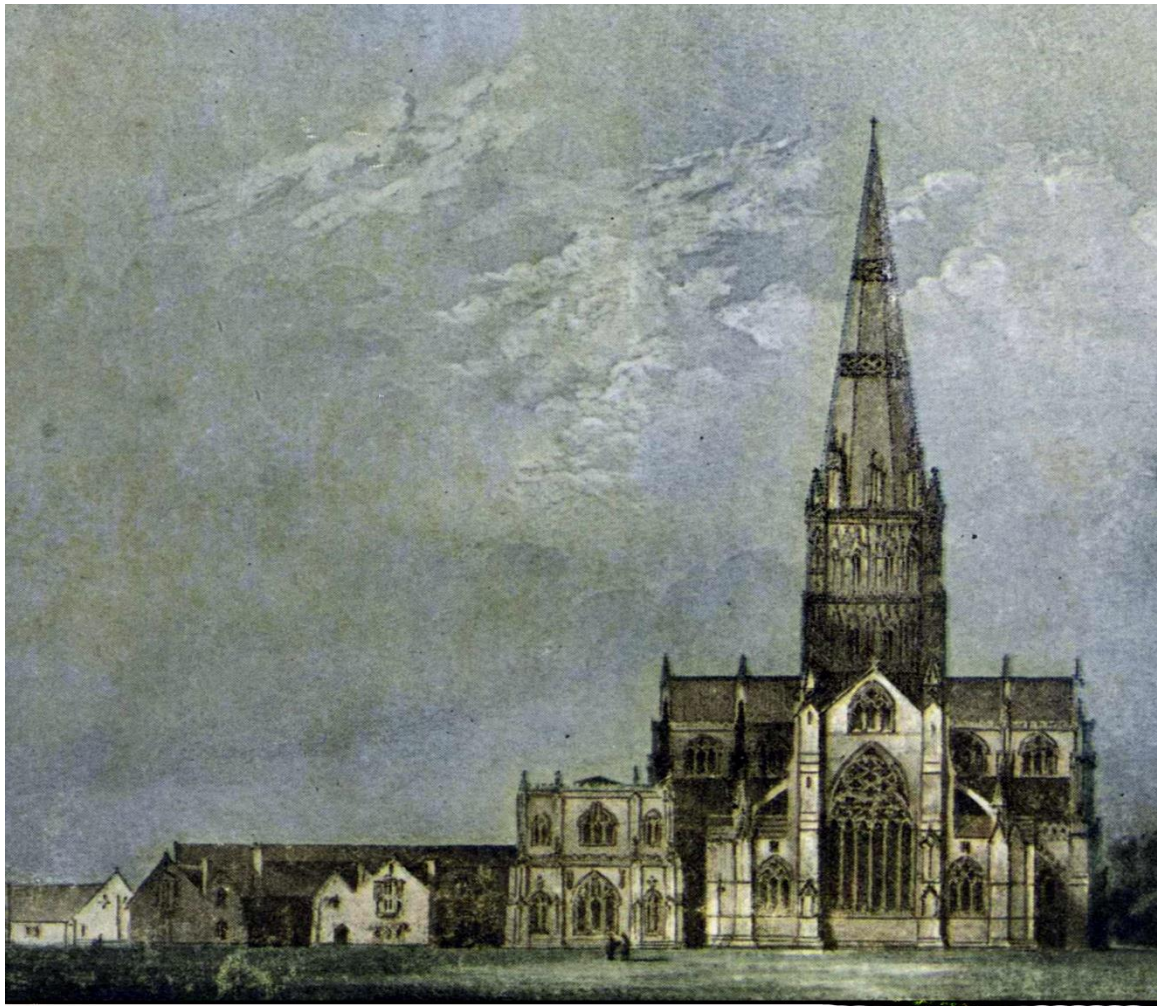
I intend to start by posing a question and hopefully I will go on to answer it in the forthcoming content.

And the question is... *How did King Henry VIII influence the sport of lawn bowls in Guisborough?*

*Alan Heath*  
2018

## Bowls in Guisborough

# THE YEAR IS 1540



**GUISBOROUGH PRIORY,**

**(FROM AN OLD PRINT)**

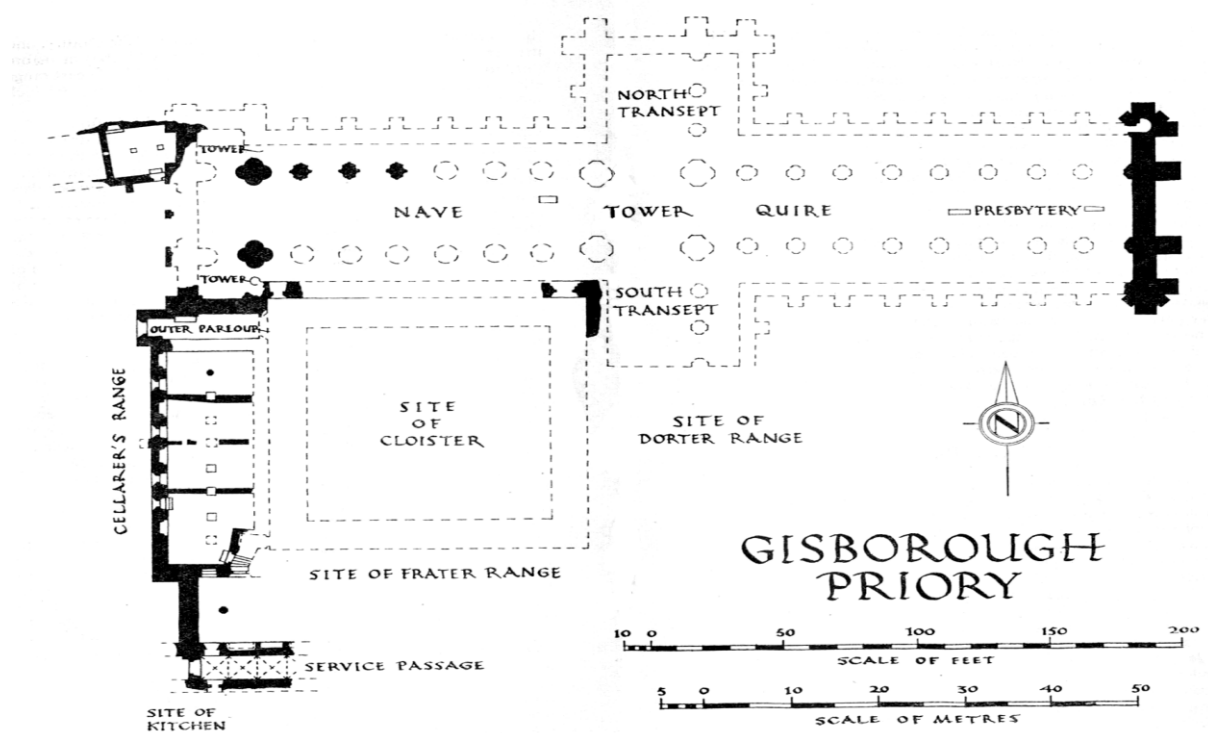
**BUILT ABOUT 1119.**

**Destroyed by fire, 1289.**

This is a copy of a painting of Guisborough Priory as it looked before being destroyed during the Dissolution of Monasteries in the year 1540 as ordered by Henry VIII.

If you look at the large window section, this is what you can see today minus the actual window.

The main tower of the building was collapsed and the Priory buildings were demolished.



A plan of the Priory shows how the visible remains fit into the full plan of the priory. The shaded section to the right is the Great Window which was the east end of the Priory Church.

Therefore, the section you see as you look at this from the town side would have been a view from the inside of the priory.



**The Priory 1885, Guisborough**

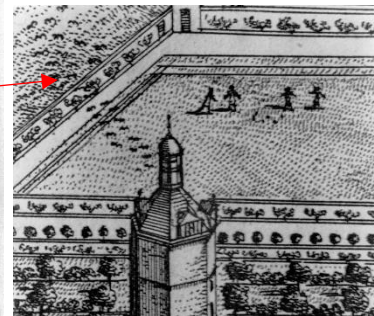
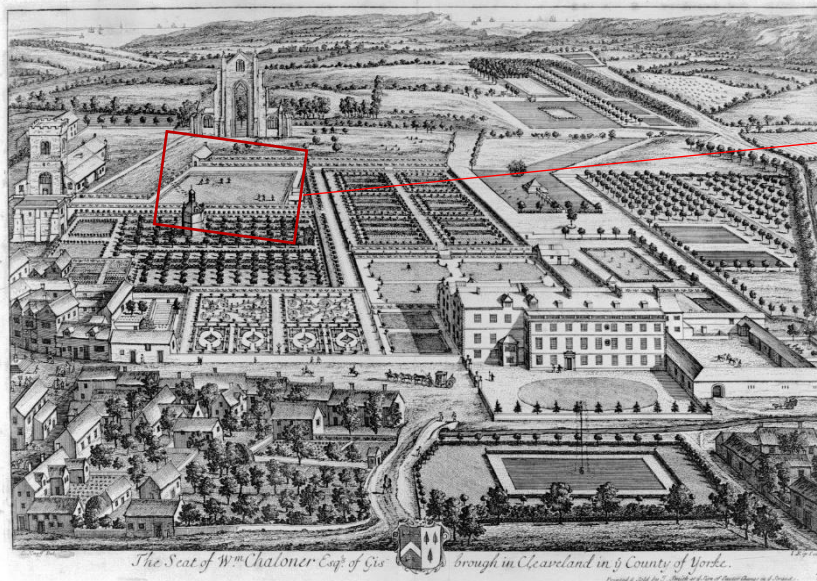
The east end of the priory church was left standing with its great window forming a distinctive arch, which is now a well-known landmark and is used as a symbol for Guisborough.

Stone from the demolition was re-used in many other buildings in Guisborough and beyond.

The grounds became part of the estate of Sir Thomas Chaloner, who acquired the land in 1550.

One such building that benefited from the surplus stone was the old Guisborough Hall built around the year 1680 and is shown in the view below with its extensive grounds.

This is a copy of a drawing from 1708 by the Dutchman, Leonard Knyff. The road directly in front of the Manor is Bow Street and across from this is Fountain Street. To the right of Fountain Street there is a fountain, probably fed by the beck which still exists in this vicinity and the likelihood is that this is where the street name came from.



Some of the buildings you can see along Bow Street in this drawing are still present to this day and the wall running from the white building with the two doors

which is currently the church hall boundary wall, is probably the same wall as depicted in the drawing.

When designing the estate, the Priory East Window was preserved by Chaloner to provide a *Romantic Style* vista adjoining their seat.

What is interesting about this picture is, what is going on in the rectangular piece of land in front of the priory ruins?

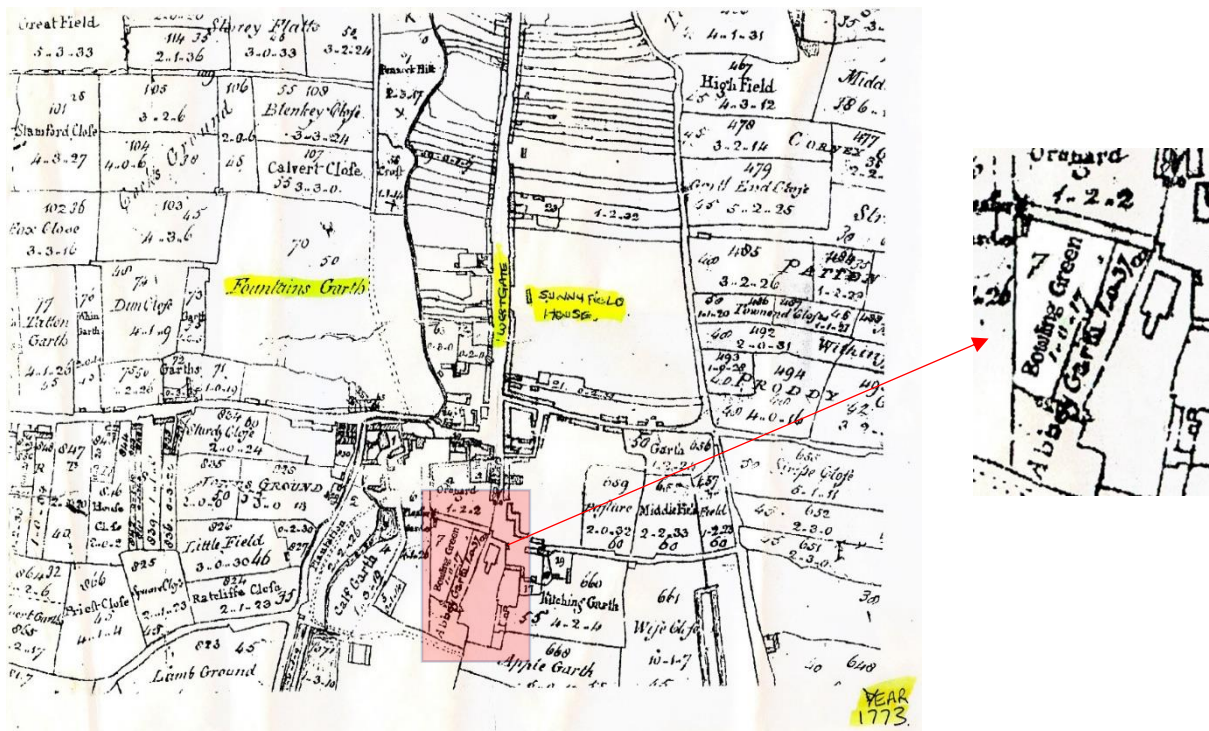
Well, this is a bowling green.

So, this maybe answers the question I posed earlier about how did King Henry VIII influence lawn bowls in Guisborough.

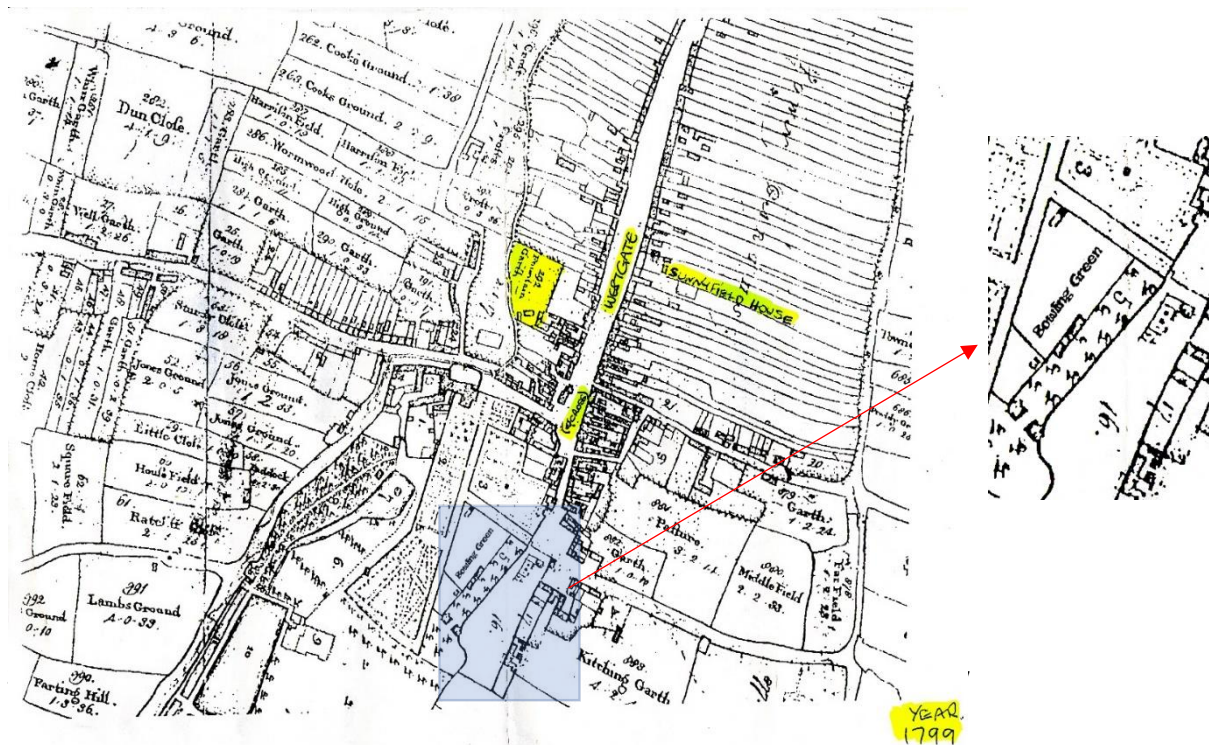
As, without his Dissolution of the Monasterys Act, the Priory could well have survived and the Chaloner Manor and its estates may never have existed.

So, let's look at the evidence supporting the claim that this is in fact a bowling green.

Below is a land drawing of the area naming all the various plots in the vicinity of the estates and dated 1773. The bowling area is clearly marked up as Bowling Green (see the enlargement) with its location adjacent to the church (Shaded).

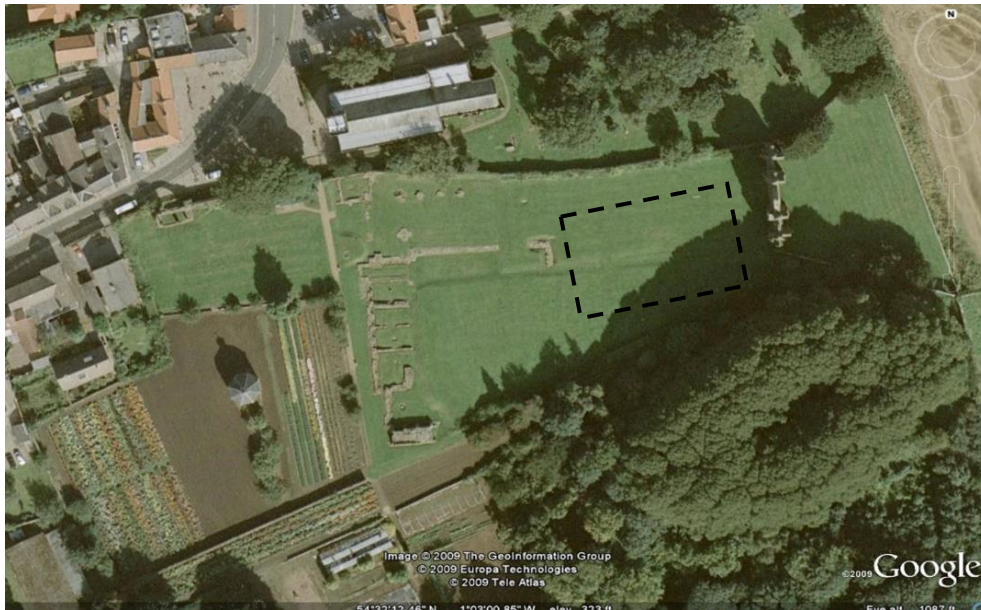


Moving forward. The updated drawing below is dated 1799 and the bowling green is still present. One thing that has changed is that the estate now looks much more developed in line with the Kniff drawing.



So, given the bowling greens close proximity to the Priory, could this be the very first Guisborough Priory Bowls Club??

The oddly shaped plot shown on the drawings can still be seen to this day as shown in this overhead view, with the bowling green probably located as shown by the dotted rectangle.



The existing Gisborough Hall was built in 1857, again by the Chaloner family and the old hall was demolished, presumably around the same time.

So, we have now traced the existence of lawn bowling in Guisborough dating back some 330 years.

So, what happened to bowling after this period??

Well, enter the Guisborough Provident Co-operative Society.

You may have thought they only did haberdashery, meat, milk & furniture etc.?

No, the Co-op established a store in Guisborough in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, complete with a bowling green to the rear of the store.

So, given that the old Guisborough Hall was demolished at around the same time as the creation of the Co-op green, and probably the old Priory bowling green was disabled at the same time.



It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that bowlers from the Priory would transfer their attention to this new bowling green in the town centre.

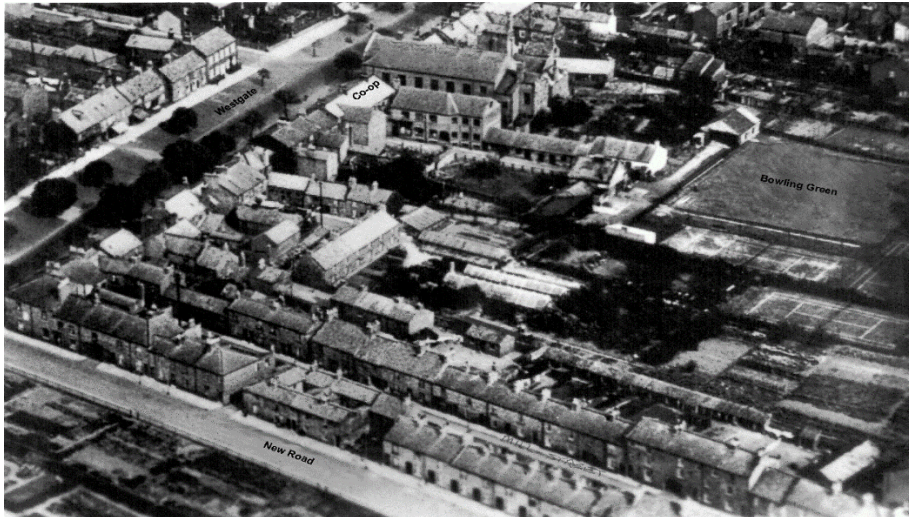
After all, there would only be a finite number of those who would have the time, the equipment or the inclination to play lawn bowls in these days.

And it may be that the new Lord of the manor, Robert Chaloner who was obviously a bowls fan, could have had some influence with the Co-operative Society management to provide for the bowling green in their plans.

A few assumptions here, but they are realistic probabilities.

Historical records show that the general manager of this store was a Mr WH Mayhew. Can I ask you to keep this name in mind for the time being?

The next three pictures were supplied by one of our members, Margaret Ainsley, some time ago.



This picture was taken from the west end of the town and the Co-operative buildings can be clearly seen along with the annexes running from them and there, clearly behind them, a bowling green.

The tall building to the right of the Co-op is the Methodist church.

Margaret used to live

in Mill Street as a child, this is the road behind New Road, and she can remember looking over their garden wall to see the tennis courts and bowling green. Although she doesn't remember who took the pictures, she thinks they were taken around 1920.

The shed in the top right corner of the green was the milk house from where a horse drawn cart would take the milk deliveries out along the track at the top of the green. The tennis courts can be clearly seen on the outsides of the bowling green.



Another view from the west end, with the priory in view.

The bushes to the right hand of the green, border the beck at the rear of Fountain Street running beyond.

This is still present today.



This view is from the east end of the town. The green can be seen in the top left hand corner of the picture.

Just one point of interest about the last three slides.

How did the photographer take them?

There were no photographic drones in those days was there??

And just to verify that the pictures above were of a bowling green and not just someone's back lawn...



Here are some of the Co-op bowlers measuring for shot on the green

Now a few pages ago, I asked you to keep someone's name in mind. Anyone remember???

### Members of the Co-op Bowls Club

Mr. Cowan. Mr. Robertshaw. Mr. Cubitt.

Mr. Mayhew. Mr. Wilkinson

OK, it's Mr W H Mayhew, the Co-op Store General Manager, 4<sup>th</sup> from the left with the suit, flat hat & watch chain. Has anyone spotted a link with this important man yet?



The founder Chairman of the present Priory Club was the one and the same Mr WH Mayhew.

Not a very clear picture, but this was our very first Chairman in 1946. Mr Mayhew passed away during the 1949 season having been ill for most of that year. In his will he bequeathed the princely sum of £10 to the club.

The following is a copy of the minute in the AGM minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> November 1949:  
*A proposal was adopted that the club purchase a trophy with the legacy left by the late Chairman. This would be named the "**Mayhew Cup**" and would be played for each year by the members.*

And on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 1950 at a committee meeting in the Post Office, a proposal was carried that  
*The new cup should be engraved*

**Guisborough Bowls Club  
 H Mayhew Cup**

It was also proposed and accepted that the cup should be insured to the value of £10.



**Members of Guisborough Provident Industrial Society Bowls Club  
 on the Green behind the central premises.**

This is a group picture of some Co-op bowling members on the green behind the main premises.

Unfortunately, there are no names to these faces and no date.

But there are one or two points of interest.

Namely:

Behind the gentleman on the right is Guisborough Conservative Club.

The building on the left with the four chimney pots looks exactly the same today as it did then.

From this you can get an idea of the green's location..... Exactly on top of the overspill car park at the back of Morrisons and stretching down almost to the beck at the rear of Fountain Street.

So, look for the prominent 4 chimney stacks the next time you go to Morrisons overspill car park and be aware that bowlers from over 150 years ago would have tread that same ground.

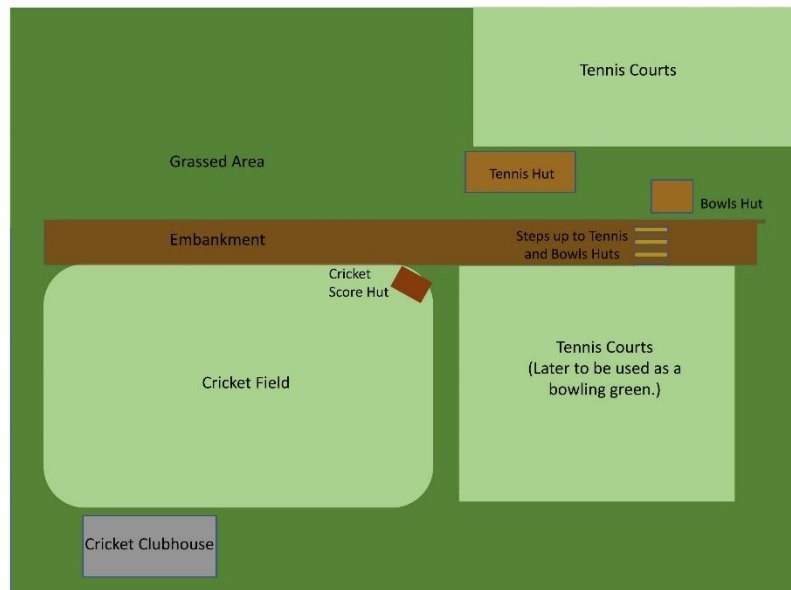
Local information suggests that the Co-op bowling green was closed in the mid - late 1930's to make way for the Co-op coal yard with all the bowling equipment transferred to the towns Cricket Club.

Documented history is very sketchy during this early period, we do know however from local EBA (English Bowling Association) records that **Guisborough Bowls Club** was one of the founder members of the local EBA league which was formed in 1936.

This period in club history is a grey area, in the respect that the date is so close to the closure of the Co-op green and bowls being played at the Cricket Club, that we cannot be absolutely sure of which green the players were using when they joined the EBA.

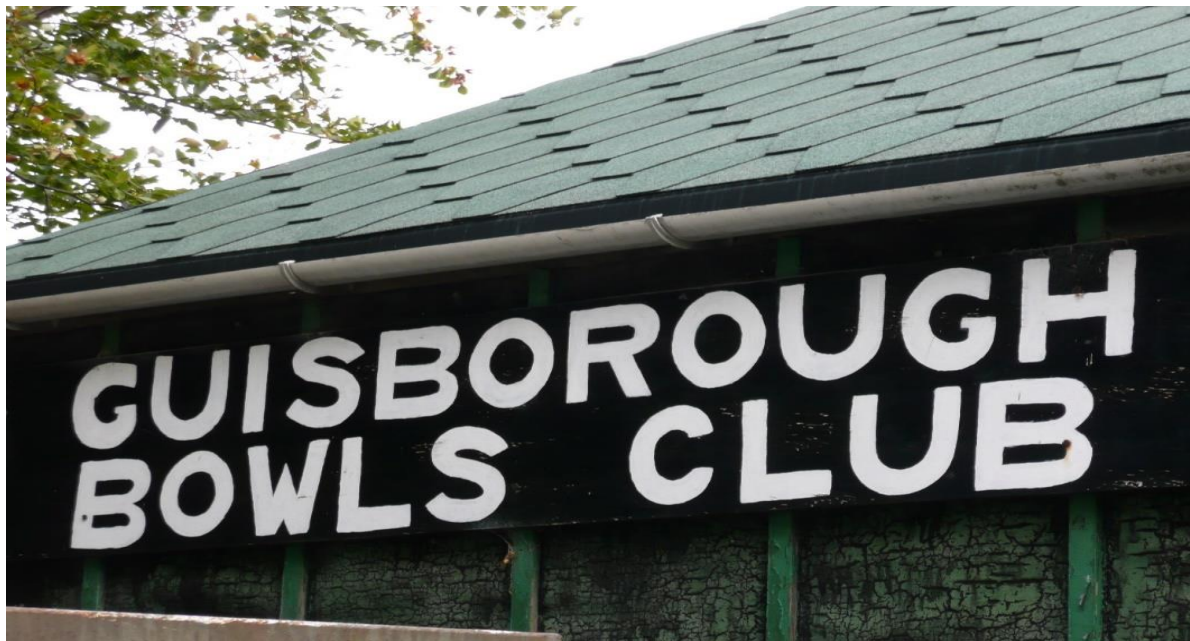
It would almost certainly be the same bowlers. The fact that Guisborough Bowls Club is mentioned in EBA records would suggest it was a Cricket Club green being used as an informal playing surface, possibly one of the tennis court areas, as the bowls club wasn't formalised until 1947. The name Guisborough Priory Bowls Club came much later.

Assumed Layout of Guisborough Cricket Grounds c1930



It is known that the Cricket Club had tennis courts in their early days and it is generally considered that their location was in the present bowling green area. The sketch above is a general arrangement of the area utilising local knowledge which has indicated that the area of the Priory bowling green was in fact tennis courts in the early 1930's, with further tennis courts at the top of the embankment. Two huts can be seen above the green with steps leading to them which exist today. The huts can be seen in the picture on page 13 with the larger Nissan round topped hut being the tennis hut and the smaller wooden hut being used as the bowls hut, there was no bowls pavilion at this time.

In a number of the pictures later in this document, you will see that there is no backstop on the green (1958) and the ground looks to be flat from green to skirt, which could suggest that this was the suspected, previous tennis courts area, with the bowls ditch simply cut around the perimeter to turn the surface into a bowling green, both tennis and bowls textures being of similar make up.



It is interesting to note that the club name recorded in the EBA records is Guisborough Bowls Club. Above is the original sign on the east end of the club pavilion, removed only recently.

Another uncertainty is what affiliation the Cricket Club had with the Guisborough Co-op. However, there could be an explanation in the fact that as previously mentioned, the first recorded Chairman of Guisborough Bowls Club was in fact the General Manager of the Guisborough Co-op, very likely a gentleman of influence and with probable links to the Cricket Club.

It is recorded in EBA records that during the war years of 1942, Guisborough Bowls club had to withdraw from the EBA league due to "lack of travelling facilities". It is fairly safe to assume that bowls were now being played in the Cricket Club grounds.

A period of exclusion from the EBA ensued which lasted until 1950 when the club was re-elected to the league at the EBA annual General Meeting held on 2nd December 1950.

The first year in the EBA was not crowned in glory as this quote from the club secretary Mr J Hutchinson suggests in his annual report at the Club's 5<sup>th</sup> AGM held in the Post Office on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1951:

***"In the North Yorkshire EBA league, the club played 16 games, won none and lost 15. We drew our last match with Eston. I should therefore imagine that we are bottom of the league with one point."***

The "new" bowling club was formally acknowledged by the cricket club in 1946 to "provide members of the cricket club with a less demanding sport when they retired from active participation on the cricket field", with the formal name of **Guisborough Cricket Bowling Club** (recorded in the GPBC AGM minutes 1976), later to be renamed Guisborough Priory Bowls Club.

All of the original equipment was provided by the cricket club, most of which was probably the equipment mentioned earlier which was transferred from the Co-op bowling club.

In the early days, the bowling section was governed by the Cricket Club committee, with one or two representatives from the bowling section. This situation was later reviewed and the bowling section was allowed to break ties with the cricket club and govern themselves. However there has always been strong links between the two organisations

The "new" clubhouse opened in 1958, but prior to that, the bowlers used one of the tennis huts which were positioned to the south end of the green.

There are two huts shown in the following picture of play from the Captain v Chairman competition of 1958. The wooden hut directly behind the steps is the one used by the bowlers, this is reported to have been removed during the season in the 1963 AGM minutes and repositioned adjacent to the clubhouse. The second hut is the tennis hut which would serve the tennis courts behind them.

To the left of the picture and directly in between the two bowlers can be seen the cricket score shed.

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**  
**Captains Team v Vice Captains Team**



**September 1958**

Note the attire of the bowlers in this picture. It was normal in those days to wear suits & ties and in many cases, bowler hats or trilbys.

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**  
**Captains Team v Vice Captains Team**



**September 1958**

The view above shows the close proximity of the old Blackett Hutton foundry behind the club, part of which was located over the current club car park.

The club pavilion in the background was opened earlier in 1958 by Mr N Sellars, an ex-cricketer and Chairman of the Cricket Club.

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**  
**Captains Team v Vice Captains Team**



**September 1958**

If you look closely at this picture, again from the Captain v Chairman competition in 1958, around 20 years after the move from the Co-op green, there is a gutter around the green but no raised backstop, suggesting that all of this would be flat as you would expect a tennis court to be. So, it may be that a gutter was simply cut into the ground around the tennis court with no backstop embankment when the bowling green was first created.

A member of interest in this picture is the balding gentleman in the left front with the dark suit. This is Jimmy Campbell who was the Club Captain for many years.

Jimmy Campbell is well known for bowling the first wood on the KGV bowling green when it opened in 1962. (See picture below)

At the time of the KGV green opening, Jimmy was the oldest member of Guisborough Bowls Club.



The caption on this picture states:

*"The oldest member of Guisborough Bowls Club, 89 year old Jimmy Campbell, bowls the first wood after Mrs AS Waller (on right) had officially opened the new bowling green on the King George V memorial playing field."*

And from Guisborough Priory Bowls club records:

#### **17th AGM Held at the Cricket Clubhouse at 7.15pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> November 1963**

The Secretary commented that 30<sup>th</sup> June 1963 would always remain a memorable date in the history of the club. This being the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of the club's oldest members, Mr Jim Campbell. He continued by reporting that the members celebrated the event in "grand style".

A special match had been arranged in his honour in the evening in which he had captained one of the sides. It had been "short and sweet" and had been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

"To cap the proceedings", the members had adjourned to the clubhouse to celebrate "in another fashion and a happy get together one could not wish for."

#### **Club Competition Trophy History.**

In order that members don't lose sight of trophies and their original purpose, dating back almost 70 years I have listed some of them below.

They were generally donated by well respected deceased members or their families and were usually designated to a specific bowls format. The format for which they are played today may differ from the original purpose of the trophy.

### **The Mayhew Cup**

Purchased in 1950 using a donation of £10 bequeathed to the club by the founding Chairman WH Mayhew who died in 1949.

This is the Mens Singles Championship trophy and is one of the most prestigious and frequently mentioned trophies in the clubs history

### **The Campbell Cup,**

introduced in 1966, was donated by JS Campbell's family following his death.

The initial purpose of the trophy was to be a singles trophy. Mr Campbell was the club's oldest member at 90 years old in June 1963.

### **The Mackenzie Cup**

Presented to the Club by ET Mackenzie (Eddie) after his retirement as the club secretary in 1965, a position he had held for some 9 years following a long period as club captain.

Eddie was a dedicated lead bowler at the club and had apparently insisted that the trophy was presented to reward lead bowlers and singles players in a two wood format.

### **The Charles Graham Trophy**

Presented to the club by Charlie Graham's wife after Charlie's death in the mid 1980's. Charlie was a long time member of the club and was a great supporter of the mixed competitions.

## **Meet some of the early members**



**WH Mayhew**

WH Mayhew was the club's founding Chairman and the General Manager of Guisborough Provident Co-operative Society. He was one of the Co-ops bowlers on their own green as shown in one of the earlier pictures.

A bit of conjecture would suggest that as the General Manager, it would be him that would sanction the Co-op bowls equipment to be transferred to the Cricket Club when the green was closed to make way for a coal stockyard and due to his esteemed position he would probably have been an influential Cricket Club member who would very likely have been involved in arranging somewhere within the Cricket Club grounds for a bowling green. He would therefore be more influential in the creation of this club than anyone else of this period. He died during the 1949 season leaving the club £10 in his will. This was used to purchase the prestigious Mayhew Cup, which is the clubs mens champion trophy which is still played for to this day.



**ET Mackenzie**

ET Mackenzie (Eddie) retired as the club secretary in 1965, a position he had held for some 9 years following a long period as club captain.

**CW Scase**

Charlie was Vice Captain from 1948 until 1955 then 1956 until 1959 when he was elected Club Captain, a position he held for two seasons before retiring to a more leisurely role as a committee member serving for a further 3 years.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1958, the Secretary praised those who had helped with green maintenance during the season paying particular attention to Charlie Scase with the following statement.

*"Another outstanding worker on the green is our worthy vice captain, Mr Scase, who, this season, has spent most of his leisure time, weather permitting, working on the green or on the surrounds & a really grand job of work he has done. Towards the end of the season he has spent hours at work on one particular section of the green, which henceforth, shall be called "Charlies Square". It has already gained mention in the National Press."*

It should be noted that this area is currently remembered as *Bill Caxton's Hole* who is probably remembered as he did further work to rectify the problem area within living memory of some members.

The particular area running about 1.5 metres wide and 7 metres long running diagonally from the edge of the green at the centre of the garage towards the middle steps at the south end of the gardens. The problem area was a minor trough in the green that was finally rectified by our more recent greenkeeper, Terry Alderson.

**JC Baitup**

Founding Club Secretary in 1948 followed by many years serving on the club committee. He was selected as one of the four main Club Skips appointed in 1949 who would select 4 rinks of 3 men each. The players would be selected for a 1 month trial each.

**J Knights**

One-time greenkeeper, taking up the work full time in the early 60's after retiring from full time work. He became the clubs first paid greenkeeper when the committee agreeing to pay Jack the sum of £30 per year, the cost of which was borne between the bowls club and the cricket club.

Jack was a member of the club team which won the Redpath Dorman Long Cup in 1976.

**A Colbourne**

Committee member for over 12 years. What a bowler!

Arnold won the prestigious Mayhew Cup 7 years out of 8 between seasons 1954 and 1961 the final win going right to the wire with a nerve-wracking final score of 17 – 16.

Arnold was the Cleveland League champion skip in 1962.

**R Collett**

Ron Collett, one of the greenkeepers along with Jack Haith gets a special mention in the AGM 1954 IE: *"A special mention was made of Mr Ron Collett who, on several occasions, had cut the green entirely on his own."*

A pretty arduous task when using a **12 blade Telpher hand mower**.



**JA Davis**

Elected as Club Chairman in 1964 following the retirement of Ron Collett due to ill health.



**S Forrest**

Elected as the first Club Treasurer at a committee meeting held in the Church House on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1949, a position he held for over 16 years.

In 1955 Sam was elected as the club vice captain

Then in 1958 he was also elected Club Captain.



**A Laverick**

Was a committee member during the period 1957 and 1961. He is mentioned in club minutes for his work in maintaining the green and for maintaining the grass cutter.



**B Wyatt**

Master of ceremonies at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual dinner & presentation night in 1960. Is mentioned in the minutes for his measurements of the green with the aid of "certain instruments" to determine true levels over a large section of the green.

## Early Club Records

An interesting fact from the old club minutes is that one of the pastimes which drew members into the club during these early days was the Friday evening roll up where members would indulge in a game of "Penny on the Jack".

All players would pay the fee of a penny to participate and the first to knock the penny off the jack, would take the kitty. It is not recorded how many games would fit into the evening before the membership retired to the pub.

For more comments from early committee meetings read on.

In the initial research into the formation of the club and the history of bowls in general in Guisborough, I found that the first book of club minutes was missing. This covered the period from 1948 until 1965.

This important document was eventually traced to the relative of a club official who maintained that the book had been given to him in recognition of the service he had given to the club when he retired. The book was loaned to the club in 2012 and the minutes were summarised such that the club at least has a general record of events during those early years. This original book has since been returned.

The following section shows all of the salient points of interest taken from this early record book covering seasons 1947/48 – 1964/65.

**1<sup>st</sup> AGM 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1948**

A resolution was passed instructing the committee to formulate suggested rules for the approval by the Cricket Club management committee. This resolution was followed up at the next committee meeting with the committee drawing up new rules for submission to the cricket club.

**2<sup>nd</sup> AGM 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1948**

It was decided at the meeting that Ladies should be allowed to become members of the club.

A resolution was passed that the club should apply for membership of the **Cleveland League** for the 1949 season.

In view of heavy expenditure required in the near future, it was decided to run a sweep on the 1949 Grand National to raise funds.

**Committee meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1949**

The Secretary reported that the club is now called "**Guisborough Bowls Club**" and that the bank required that TWO officials of the club should sign cheques. It was necessary that a new mandate be signed. The signatories would be the Treasurer and the Secretary.

The meeting also agreed that members needing keys to the hut should pay the sum of 1s-3d each towards the cost. This sum would be refunded on return of the key.

**3<sup>rd</sup> AGM 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1949**

A minute's silence was observed for the late members Messrs. Mayhew & Walton.

In his report, the Secretary announced that the late Chairman Mr WH Mayhew had left the Bowls Club the sum of £10 in his will. This will be discussed later in the meeting to consider spending the money on something that would "perpetuate his memory" rather than being lost in the club funds.

There were **36 male and 1 lady** member so you can see that we are a good deal stronger than last year when we had 28 male & 1 lady, although not anything like strong enough. The aim is to double the number, with more playing members taking part. The Secretary stated that he hoped everyone would do their utmost to bring along one new member for the coming season.

The Secretary continued by stating that although the club had decided to allow lady members, they had not joined. One point put forward by several prospective lady members was that men could play bowls by paying an additional 10/6d whereas ladies were called on to pay an additional 17/6d. The Secretary didn't wish to enlarge on this point other than to say that in his opinion, lady members would be of great assistance to the club.

The Secretary thanked the Cricket Club for their help and stated that the clubs prospects would not be very bright if we had to rely on membership fees alone.

A proposal was adopted that the club purchase a trophy with the legacy left by the late Chairman. This would be named the "**Mayhew Cup**" and would be played for each year by the members.

**4<sup>th</sup> AGM 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1950**

During the year it was reported that the club consisted of 33 members, one of whom had resigned due to ill health.

In the Cleveland League, the club had played 14 matches, winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 10. At the close of the season, the club were level with Eston at the bottom of the league with 7 points.

4 Friendly matches had been played, 2 of which were won & the other two drawn.

In the club competitions, congratulations were given to Mr Taylor on being the first member to win the "**Mayhew Cup**" with a convincing win over Mr Pybus 24 – 10. Congratulations were also given to

Messrs. Baitup & McKenzie, the winners of the pairs competition and of 2 pewter tankards very kindly presented by Mr Bernard Pybus & Mr JFS Haith.

The Secretary announced that the Grand National sweep held earlier in the year made a profit of **£17/13/0**. This sum had enabled the club to hand over the sum of £20 to the Cricket Club general fund.

### **Committee meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct. 1950**

The main purpose of the meeting was to propose that the club joins the **North Yorkshire EBA bowling league**. The proposal was carried.

A further proposal was adopted, that to assist the general funds of the Cricket Club, the club should organise a raffle for a Christmas Hamper. Several members offered to provide prizes.

### **5<sup>th</sup> AGM 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1951**

The Secretary commenced his annual report by commenting that only 27 of approximately 33 members actually took part in any play during the season, giving great difficulty sometimes in fielding teams.

In the Cleveland league, the club played 18 games, winning 4 & losing 18.

In the North Yorkshire EBA league, the club played 16 games, won none and lost 15. "We drew our last match with Eston. *I should therefore imagine that we are bottom of the league with one point.*"

A statement of accounts was handed round showing a balance in the bank of £10-12-7d.

### **Committee meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1952**

After some discussion, it was agreed that the club should purchase a **Telpher Hand Cutter (12 blade)** for use on the green from Mr W Jeffels. It was also agreed that the groundsman be allowed to use the cutter for preparation of a cricket wicket if necessary.

### **Committee meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1952**

The Secretary reported that the sum of £14-13-4d had been raised from the raffle for funds for the new cutter purchase. A sum of £15 had been paid to Mr Jeffels towards the cutter, leaving a balance of approximately £10 still to be paid.

It was suggested that a jumble sale be held and that the date of this would be arranged by the Secretary.

### **6<sup>th</sup> AGM 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1952**

The Secretary commenced his report by commenting on the club's performance in both leagues. In the Cleveland league, the club had played 18 games winning 9 & losing 9, giving a much improved position.

"In the North Yorkshire EBA league, we had won **1 and lost 15**. The club had scored 888 shots against 1512 scored by our opponents. In 1951 we played the same number of games scoring 862 shots against 1497 by our opponents. **It therefore shows that evidently we are playing against better class in this league**, but we are not without hope that we will put up a much better performance in this league next year."

The Secretary announced that the club had purchased a new "Zephyr 12 bladed cutter" for use on the green, the money having already been raised, mainly from a raffle and a jumble sale which had realised over £36.

**7<sup>th</sup> AGM 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1953**

**The Secretary opened his report by expressing his disappointment in the league results.** The club had played 16 games in the Cleveland League, winning only 6 and losing 10. In the NY EBA, the club had played 18 games and only won 2.

The Secretary continued by commenting on the work carried out on the green since the season ended and he hoped that it would be in a more satisfactory condition than at the start of the present season. The club had to do their own preparations to get the green in a playing condition & this had been the case all season. He went on to thank all who had assisted in dressing the green with many tons of sand together with fertiliser & peat moss. He also thanked Mr John Pickering for undertaking to do all the levelling of the green and supervising the other improvements. His final thanks were to the cricket club who provided the funds for all the improvements.

**Committee Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1954**

The Groundsman Benefit was discussed and the Secretary stated that Mr Michinson had offered to give a **Plum Cake** to be raffled on behalf of the fund. It was agreed that very grateful thanks be given to Mr Mitchinson.

**8<sup>th</sup> AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 1954**

The Secretary commenced his report with a review of league matches and was pleased to inform the meeting that the club had done better in the Cleveland league this year, winning 10 and losing 8 matches. In the EBA the club won 3, drew 1 and lost 14 games, finishing second from bottom in the league.

The Secretary praised the efforts of Mr Jack Haith for the work and expense he had undertaken on the green on the club's behalf. A special mention was made of **Mr Ron Collett** who, on several occasions, had cut the green entirely on his own.

On the club accounts, the Secretary thanked Mr Sam Forrest for his work and announced that the club held a balance in the bank of **£20-1s-8d.**

**Committee Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1955**

The meeting discussed prizes for club competitions and finally determined that prizes would only be awarded for the winner and runner up of the Mayhew Cup and the winners only of the pairs and the rinks competitions.

A proposal that the prizes for the rinks and pairs competitions would be 10/- each was overruled in an amendment that the pairs and rinks competitions would receive spoons again. The final position was that the Mayhew Cup prizes would be 20/- for the winner, 10/- for the runner up and a total of 25/- to purchase spoons for the winners of the rinks and pairs.

**9<sup>th</sup> AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1955**

The Secretary presented his annual report and it gave him great pleasure to announce a very successful season, a season which will long be remembered for the excellent summer weather and the success in the Cleveland league, finishing **joint second with Eston**. Games played were 13 won and 3 lost. In the EBA league, the club continued to make progress, playing 20 matches & winning 6 & losing 14.

The Secretary reported that the green had stood up to some testing times during the season, with 18 matches being played at home and play has taken place every evening and practically every afternoon. Despite this, the green has kept in fairly good condition and has stood the strain well.

The Secretary continued by thanking those who had maintained the green throughout the year and commented "**We hope that ere long, we should be able to say that we have one of the finest greens in the area**".

The question of **Lady membership** was discussed at some length but no progress was made at this meeting. Again, this was left in abeyance.

#### **Committee Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr. 1956**

A letter was read out from the Secretary of the County Bowling Association with regard to nominations for county matches to be played during the season. The meeting agreed that the Secretary be nominated to play in the friendly games on June 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr J Haith & Mr CW Scaise were nominated to play in the annual Presidents v Vice Presidents match at Middlesbrough on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1956.

A new set of rules were produced by Mr Forrest for the Friday competition. These were accepted by the meeting.

#### **Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> Jul. 1956**

It was decided after some discussion, to purchase an **Atco Motor Cutter** for use on the green as soon as possible.

#### **Committee Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1956**

The committee held a long discussion on the affairs of the Cricket Club and the request of the Chairman Mr N Sellars for assistance in **raising funds** by means of "Football Doubles". It had been stated that by using this method, the club could raise as much as £100 per year. The meeting decided that the club do everything it possibly could to help.

#### **Committee Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1956**

It was stated at the meeting by the Treasurer that the sum of £45 had been paid off the purchase of the new **Atco cutter**.

It was decided at the meeting that the AGM would be held in the **Wesleyan School room on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1956 at 7.30pm.** (Note. This was later amended to 28<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> AGM 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1956**

The Secretary's report declared that this had not been a successful season for the club. The weather had interfered a good deal and it had, at times been rather unpleasant having to play on a "sticky wicket". From a social point of view, the members had a very happy period and although it had sometimes been very wet, the members had many pleasant evenings on the green.

Membership was recorded as being "around" 36, **including 3 ladies.**

In the EBA league, the club won 4, drew 1 and lost 15. In the Cleveland league the club won 8 games and lost 6. There were 25 entries for the Mayhew cup singles competition, 26 entries for the pairs and 24 entries for the rinks.

A number of members were reported as enjoying a game of "**Penny on the Jack**" which the Secretary thought was very good practice.

The Secretary mentioned **the Atco Cutter** which had been purchased at a cost of over £50. The club had paid off £45 leaving a balance to pay of approximately £9 which he hoped would be paid off in the near future.

#### **Committee Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1957**

It was reported that the outstanding balance owing on the Atco Cutter had been settled.

A report from the EBA AGM initiated an interesting topic in that if the captains could not agree to the number of ends in adverse weather conditions, **the match should be decided on the toss of a coin.** The report from the Cleveland league AGM stressed the need for more entries into the league competitions.

### Committee Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1957

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Chairman of the Cricket Club had borrowed one of the clubs cutters without the clubs sanction. **A proposal that the two cutters be chained together** was accepted as a precaution against this happening in the future was agreed.

### Committee Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1957

The Secretary commented on **the outing to Scarborough**, in which he stated that everybody had had a happy time despite the wicked wind. Although the game with the South Cliffe Club had resulted in a convincing win for the home team, the game had been played in the friendliest of spirits. Their Chairman and Secretary were invited to dinner with the Guisborough team and thanked warmly for having entertained everyone so well.

The Secretary conveyed to the committee the very best of thanks from a party of Sunderland bowlers who had spent a happy afternoons bowling on the green on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

After some discussion, it was decided that the club should have an annual dinner with the details to be formulated later.

The Chairman announced that as a result of a conversation with the Cricket Club Chairman, the prospect of the club getting **a new pavilion** had arisen with the Cricket Club being prepared to consider financing such a scheme. The announcement prompted a proposal that the club should accept the offer and that a sub committee be formed in order to draw up a plan for submission to the committee at an early date.

### 11<sup>th</sup> AGM 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 1957

The Secretary commenced his report by thanking the Chairman and committee members for their support during his first year as club secretary. He commented that despite the bad weather at times, the season had been a happy and successful one with the club **winning the Cleveland League** and an improved position in the EBA league.

The Secretary went on to mention that there had been 82 entries for the club competitions which was a record for the club & for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, Mr A Colbourne had won the Mayhew Cup beating Mr K Ditchburn by 19 shots to 11.

The Secretary mentioned that this year the club had its first "outing" which had been a very happy occasion despite the wicked wind. Although the friendly with Scarborough South Cliffe Club resulted in a convincing win for the home side, everyone had seemed to enjoy themselves. The players were treated to a cup of tea and biscuits at the break in the game.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September a party of bowlers from Sunderland had visited the green. A friendly had been played & judging by the comments in a letter of thanks sent by the Sunderland Secretary, they had experienced a very happy time and hoped that another meeting could be held next year.

The Secretary continued by commenting on the continuing improvements to the green and thanking the Chairman/Chief Groundkeeper Mr Collett for the tremendous effort he had put in to ensure the green continued to make improvements. Mr A Laverick was also the recipient of thanks for his work in maintaining the new cutter and for cutting the grass on numerous occasions. Mr CW Scaise and Mr E Smith were also thanked for their work in keeping the surrounds looking neater and trimmer than ever before.

In reply to the Treasurers comment at the meeting that the club should not really have a private fund, Mr N Sellars, the Cricket Club Chairman remarked that it would be more in conformity with the present policy of the Cricket Club if all league fees were paid by these funds. He also stated that he saw no reason why any monies accruing from private efforts should not be spent on improvements etc.

Following the announcement of competition results, it was decided that prizes for all competitions would be presented at **the Annual Dinner on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1957**.

### Committee Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> May 1958

The meeting authorised the purchase of two chairs at a price of £2 from the Mechanics Institute.

It was decided that in all competitions, 15 ends be played in preliminary rounds and 21 ends in finals and that in pairs and triples, one substitute be allowed on either side providing he has not previously competed during the current season. Finally, it was agreed that **EBA rules** would apply to all club competitions.

**The committee unanimously agreed that the Chairman of the Cricket Club, Mr N Sellars be asked to perform the official opening of the new pavilion on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 7pm.** After the ceremony, a match between members of the bowls section would play members of the Cricket Club. The Secretary was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

### 12<sup>th</sup> AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1958

The annual dinner had been held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1958 at the Fox Inn. The night had proved to be a great success providing first class fare & first class entertainment. Mr Sellars, chairman of the Cricket Club had proposed the toast to the Bowling Club and Mr S Forrest responded for the club. Following prize giving, the Chairman of the Cleveland League, Mr Radcliffe, **presented the Cleveland League cup** to the club captain Mr JS Campbell.

In the leagues this season, the club had finished runners up in the Cleveland league to Brotton, winning 5 and drawing 1 of the 8 matches.

In the EBA the club had their 2<sup>nd</sup> best season winning 8 of 20 the games despite a poor start to the season losing the first 4 games in succession.

There had been 85 entries into club competitions which was a new record for entries.

The winner of the Mayhew cup had been Mr C Skidmore beating Mr J Haith by 23 shots to 14. Mr Skidmore had been in the unique position of being in the finals of all three competitions, being successful in both the singles and the pairs.

The Secretary reported that the singles semi final must go down in the clubs records as **one of the best displays of bowling ever witnessed on the green**. The score of 13 – 12 indicates how close was the struggle.

The club invited three of the Garden Cub officials to be the clubs guests at dinner in the Copper Kettle Café and the Secretary stated, “a splendid meal it was”.

**The new pavilion had been officially opened on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1958**, with members of the bowls section and other sections in attendance. After the official opening and speeches, a bowls match between a team representing the bowls club and one representing the Cricket Club took place.

**The match ended in a narrow victory for the bowls section. The Secretary commented that several of the cricketers seemed to have the idea that the jack, like a cricket ball, had to be hit with as much power as possible, and delivered their woods accordingly, often striking the target with uncanny skill.**

After the match, most of the participants retired to the Unionist Club to celebrate the occasion in a different fashion.

The Red Cross event had been postponed from 30<sup>th</sup> May due to inclement weather and had been held on 6<sup>th</sup> June. A special Friday night competition had been arranged **and instead of members paying the usual 3d**, they were invited to give any amount they wished. This event along with a raffle, raised the total of £8 for the Red Cross society.

The Secretary continued by praising those who had put a great deal of effort into maintaining the green and the surrounds, paying particular attention to the efforts of Mr Charlie Scaise who had spent hours of work on one particular section of the green “**which henceforth shall be known as Charlies Square**”

Another member to be mentioned was Mr B Wyatt who, assisted with the aid of “certain instruments”, found and indicated true levels over a large section of the green.

### Committee Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1959

The meeting agreed that the delegates to the Cricket Club committee should request permission to erect a **plaque** in the club commemorating the opening of the new pavilion. It was also proposed that the delegates request a **Life Membership for "our worthy ex captain" Mr Campbell**.

### Committee Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 1959 (Held in the Bowls Cub Pavilion)

A letter was read out by the Secretary from the Treasurer of the YCBA regarding a donation towards a "Championship Flag". The meeting agreed to donate the sum of 10/-. It was agreed that this sum would be paid from bowling club funds and **not be requested from the Cricket Club**. The Cricket Club would be informed of this action.

The Secretary was instructed to go ahead with the purchase of a **suitable plaque** to commemorate the opening of the pavilion.

### 13<sup>th</sup> AGM 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1959

The Secretary commenced his report by saying that this had undoubtedly been the most enjoyable that anyone had experienced as far as the weather was concerned and one that nobody wanted to come to an end. All records for practice session attendance had been well & truly broken with the result being that the standard of play had is still on the upgrade. The Secretary reported that the club now has over 40 members, 6 of which were new to the club this season. On the downside, three regular playing members had left the area.

In the Cleveland league, the club had finished runners up for the second season in succession, this time to Skelton. The club had won 6 out of the 8 matches. In the EBA the club had its 2<sup>nd</sup> best performance, winning 7 & drawing 1 of 19 games.

There had been 89 entries into club competitions, all of which were completed on time, Mr Colbourne being the singles champion for the 5<sup>th</sup> time, beating Mr Hudson by 28 shots to 10.

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August, the Captains team v the Vice Captains team had been played with more keenness and bite than last year, and the reason for this had been that it was **"t'old uns v t'young uns"** (**Over 55's v Under 55's**) and after a "bitter, close struggle" t'old uns had won, "God bless em".

### 14<sup>th</sup> AGM 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1960

The Secretary commenced his report by stating that it had been a disappointing season brought about by the inclement weather. There had been fewer Friday night games, but on a brighter note, the lack of available practice had not affected the standard of play in league games with results being comparable with those of other seasons.

There had been 40 members this season of which 39 had played bowls on the green. 29 bowlers had represented the club in league games. There had been 4 new members during the course of the season. Unfortunately, **the club had lost one founder member who had transferred his "affections"** to a neighbouring club.

**In the Cleveland League, the club had finished as Champions scoring 30 out of a possible 40 points under the new scoring system adopted by the Cleveland League this season.** (This had been a recommendation by Guisborough Bowls Club.)

In the EBA, the club had fallen a little short of past achievements, winning only 5 & drawing one of the 19 games.

Although the Club had fallen short in the EBA league, the Club had become **District Champions in the Marshall Shield competition**. Unfortunately, the club did not progress through the quarter finals, getting knocked out in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at York.

Once again, after a hard fought game, the **over 55's beat the under 55's** by a very narrow margin. The Secretary stated that although the bowling had been keen, with no quarter given & none taken, no blows were struck. Members of the Ladies Tea Committee had "very kindly" supplied the players

with tea & refreshments. The match is reported to have been a "very happy occasion for all concerned."

In closing, the Secretary made a vote of thanks for all those who had assisted in maintaining the green and the surroundings, stating: ***"I suppose it must be the same in every organisation that the brunt of the work always falls on the willing and faithful few."***

### **Committee Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1961**

After some discussion, it was decided that the club should donate the sum of 15/- to the **Wesleyan Centenary Chapel Fund** as a token of gratitude for the use of the schoolroom for the clubs meetings. It was also agreed that the club should arrange a friendly against Northallerton bowling club.

The Secretary was instructed to arrange the purchase of one EBA yearbook at a cost of 2/6d.

A proposal that the clubs delegates to the Cricket Club committee, bring to the general committee's attention for the **removal and renovation of the gents toilet** & hut to a site alongside the new pavilion was carried.

### **15<sup>th</sup> AGM 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1961**

The secretary reported in his annual address that the weather had been disappointing this season and that "few have been the evenings when we were able to play with our jackets off & shirt sleeves rolled up". Friday nights had remained a favourite with members, "when nothing short of a **cloudburst or an earthquake** would drive players off the green".

There remained around 40 members at the end of this season, with 2 leaving & 3 joining the club.

**The Secretary commented** "So great is their enthusiasm that a few of our members have made the bowling green the destination of their Sunday morning walk, and when they get there, they continue their walk up & down the green, with short pauses at either end for a smoke & a chat. But at 12 o'clock, with almost dramatic suddenness, all walk off the green at a faster pace, and hurry away, apparently bent on an early lunch."

In the Cleveland League, **the club had topped the league for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year** in succession and thereby becoming champions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 5 consecutive seasons. It should also be remembered that the club had been runners up twice during this same period.

In the EBA, the club had won 8 & drawn 1 game, scoring 17 points from a possible 50. **This result had surpassed** the previous best result from 1957. The Secretary reminded the meeting that when the club first joined this league in 1951, the end of season result was: Played 16, won none, drawn one. He therefore proclaimed that this years result had made him proud of the progress which had been made in the last 10 seasons.

In the **Mayhew cup 4 wood singles**, Mr Colbourne retained the championship for the 7<sup>th</sup> time in 8 years. The final had been a hard fought match ending with a score of 17-16. Mr P Deighton the previous years semi finalist was the runner up, "beaten a short head".

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1961, the Captain v Vice Captain match was played, with the result being a **draw 34-34**.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 1961, as the **Cleveland League Champions**, the club played the rest of the league and were well beaten, with all rinks down, 62-79.

The annual **over 55's v the under 55's** was played on September 9<sup>th</sup> 1961 on a fine afternoon. The Secretary reported that to cap the proceedings, three of the members wives, namely Mrs. Platts, Mrs. Flower & Mrs. Wood supplied the players with light refreshments during the interval. The result of the match was a narrow victory for the over 55's of 80-76.

On Saturday evening in September 1961, the club had held a match between the **Bowls club members & Cricket Club** members to round the season off and as the Secretary reported, "The Bowling Club members had all the advantages, but surprisingly, the Cricket Club team won one rink." The match had been enjoyed by everyone and afterwards, some of the players adjourned to the

clubhouse with their wives where they celebrated the occasion with “all sorts of delightful refreshments” which had been provided by Mr & Mrs Sellars.

### 16<sup>th</sup> AGM 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1962

In the Secretary's address, he made comment that the weather, on the whole had not been pleasant.

He reported that the club now had about 44 members, 42 of whom have played on the green during the course of the season. The club had gained 6 new members and retained all the old members **despite the opening of a new green in the town.** In the EBA, the club had won 9 of its 18 games. In the Cleveland league, the club had “**flopped dismally**” dropping from the top to almost the bottom of the league.

Mr Colbourne was congratulated by the meeting for being the **Cleveland Leagues champion skip**, a position held for many years by the Club Chairman Mr Collett.

The **Cleveland league Champions** v the Rest had to be cancelled owing to the green being unplayable.

The annual over 55's v under 55's match was keenly played and yet again resulted in a **win for the old ones.**

The annual **Bowls Club v Cricket Club** was thoroughly enjoyed by one & all and after the match, all were invited to the clubhouse to partake of delightful refreshments, kindly provided by Mrs Sellars and the various beverages that are kept on the premises.

A proposal to adopt a **club badge** based on a design by Mr Gibbon was adopted. A further proposal was adopted that the club should adopt a metal badge.

### Committee Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 1963

The meeting also agreed that those successful in the Cleveland Rinks competition 1962 should receive 10/- each to pay for suitable trophies.

A proposal that the **window overlooking** the Cricket Field should be improved was carried.

It was agreed that prizes for all competitions would remain the same as the previous year with the exception of the 2/6d **wooden spoon** prize for the weekly rinks. The 2/6d prize this year would be spent on purchasing a new wooden spoon to replace the one which “appears to have been put to some other use”.

### 17<sup>th</sup> AGM 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1963

There had been 41 members this season 39 of whom had played bowls during the course of the season. The club had lost 6 members, 2 of whom had left the area & four were presumed to have lost interest. Four new bowlers had joined and seemed to be very keen bowlers.

In the **EBA**, the club had only won 7 of their 18 games.

In the Cleveland League, the club had fared much better, scoring an aggregate of 43 points from a maximum of 60 over 12 games. As Skelton Bowling Club had the same aggregate, there had to be a play off which the club unfortunately lost by ONE point.

The **Mayhew Cup** had been won by Mr Forrest, who “romped” through his final. This was the first time Mr Forrest had won this competition despite having previously been in 3 finals.

In the **Cleveland League competitions**, Messrs Robinson & Ditchburn became this year's pairs champions.

The Secretary commented that 30<sup>th</sup> June 1963 would always remain a memorable date in the history of the club. This being the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of the **clubs oldest members**, Mr Jim Campbell. He continued by reporting that the members celebrated the event in “grand style”. A special match had been arranged in his honour in the evening in which he had captained one of the sides. It had been “short and sweet” and had been thoroughly enjoyed by all. “To cap the proceedings”, the members

had adjourned to the clubhouse to celebrate “in another fashion and a happy get together one could not wish for.”

**The old shed** had been removed during the course of the season and a new one erected near the pavilion. Dismantling of the toilets had also taken place & their re-erection near the shed had been completed.

A further proposal from the meeting that the club should erect an **honours board** on which the club champion's names backdated to 1950 should be recorded, was adopted.

### **18<sup>th</sup> AGM 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1964**

Mr Collett, the Chairman since 1955, had declined nomination for the Chairmanship owing to ill health.

The weather for the season was reported by the Secretary as being very good for bowling. There had been over 40 members this season, 4 of these being new members and reported by the Secretary as being very keen bowlers.

In the EBA, the club had won only 8 games from a total of 18.

In the **Cleveland League**, the club had topped the table once again to become the **Champions for the 4<sup>th</sup> time**, scoring 40 points from a possible 60. Brotton had missed the “gold” by just half a point with 59.5 points.

There were 96 entries in the club competitions and all competitions were completed on time. The Mayhew cup had been won by Mr P Deighton who beat Mr A Colbourne, a former 7 times champion, in convincing style.

The Secretary made his usual thanks to those who had worked on the green, and also to Messrs CW Scase & J Clarke “the terrible twins” for all the odd jobs they had carried out including the stringing & unstringing of the rinks.

Mr S Clarke, the Cricket Club Chairman, paid tribute to Mr R Collett for the grand job of work done by him over the years both as Chairman and Groundsman of the Bowling Club, adding that the committee would have to start thinking seriously about the future care & maintenance of the green. He also thought that bowls trophies would have more appeal on account of their attractiveness & durability. This proposal was accepted by those present.

### **Committee Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March 1965**

It was decided by the meeting that a bill from Atco for the overhaul of the **Atco cutter** should be brought to the Cricket Club general committee for payment.

A discussion took place regarding the **remuneration to Mr Knights** for the voluntary work he had done on the green in acting as voluntary groundsman. It was generally felt that he should receive some remuneration for his work and the meeting agreed that this matter should be brought before the Cricket Club general committee as “**diplomatically**” as possible.

### **Committee Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> May 1965**

The **Cricket Club** general committee, in response to the clubs request to settle a bill from Atco, had decided to pay the account, and that they had agreed to pay some remuneration to Mr Knights for taking on the groundsman's work, towards the end of the season.

The **Cleveland League Champions v the Rest match** was discussed & the Secretary was instructed to ask Mrs Wyatt & the Secretary of the Ladies Tea Committee if they would cater for a high tea for this event at a charge of between 2/6d & 2/9d per head.

It was agreed by the meeting that the home players would pay for the visitors teas.

### **Committee Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1965**

The Cricket Club general committee had agreed that **Mr Knights** should receive the sum of £30 for his work as the groundsman, with half of this amount to be paid from bowling club funds. This was agreed by all as being a satisfactory outcome.

### **Committee Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1965**

The Chairman suggested, and the meeting agreed that in view of the impending retirement of Mr McKenzie, and to recognise the “wonderful” work he has performed as the club secretary since 1956, the club should launch a testimonial fund and that a suitable gift should be purchased for presentation at the annual dinner.

### **19<sup>th</sup> AGM 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1965**

Mr McKenzie had tendered his resignation from the secretaryship following 9 years of deriving “considerable satisfaction and pleasure in serving the bowls club.”

The annual report had been presented by the Chairman due to the illness of the club Secretary Mr McKenzie.

In his report, the Chairman reported on the illness of Mr McKenzie stating that he hadn’t been fully in touch with the seasons activities although his condition was improving and he hoped that he would be fit and well enough to participate in bowls for the 1966 season.

In the EBA, the club had achieved its highest ever position of 9<sup>th</sup>, winning 10 & drawing 1 match.

In the Cleveland League, **the club became Champions** for the second year in succession and for the 5<sup>th</sup> time overall with a total point score of 48 points, beating Brotton by 1.5 points. Out of 14 matches, the club had won 11 and lost 3.

The **Mayhew Cup** was won by Mr K Ditchburn who beat Mr R Collett in the final. In the EBA competitions, the Chairman, Mr J Davis had reached the semi finals of the singles championship beaten 21 – 18 after holding a lead of 17 – 11.

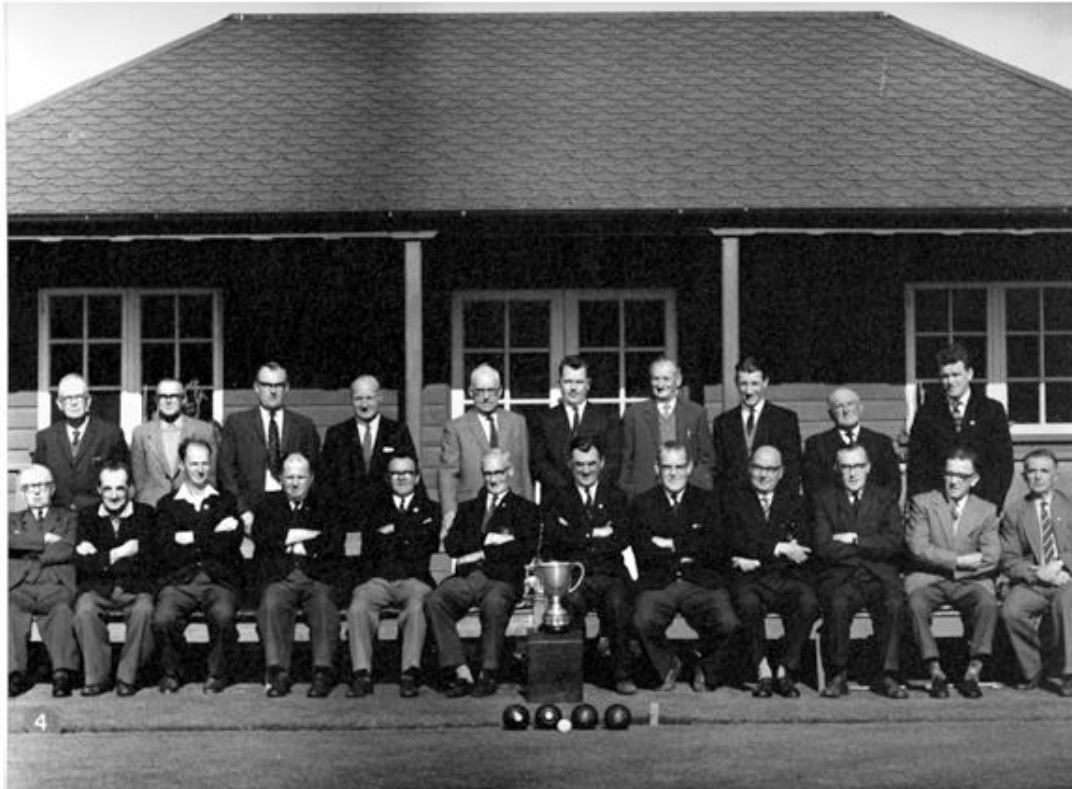
The Chairman continued by reporting that this season saw the introduction of a **new green keeper**. He stated that the club were fortunate to obtain the services of Mr Jack Knights on his recent retirement from regular employment and under the advice and guidance of Messrs. Haith & Collett had done remarkably well.

## Early Club Victories

### Roll of Honour (1964 – 2009)

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club	
Roll of Honour	
	
1964	Cleveland League Winners
1965	Cleveland League Winners
1970	N. Yorks. EBA Rinks Champions
1970	Cleveland League Singles Champion
1971	N. Yorks. EBA Singles Champion
1972	Cleveland League Winners
1972	Cleveland League Pairs Champions
1972	N. Yorks. EBA Triples Champions
1976	RDL Cup Winners
1977	N. Yorks. EBA Triples Champions
1978	N. Yorks. EBA Rinks Champions
1979	N. Yorks. EBA Rinks Champions
1979	N. Yorks. EBA Pairs Champions
1980	Middlesbrough League Winners
1982	Cleveland League Triples Champions
1982	N. Yorks. EBA Pairs Champions
1984	Middlesbrough League Winners
1984	Cleveland League Triples Champions
1986	Cleveland League Singles Champion
1986	N. Yorks. EBA Champion of Champions
1987	N. Yorks. EBA Pairs Champions
1987	Middlesbrough League Winners
1988	Middlesbrough League Rinks Champions
1989	Middlesbrough League Rinks Champions
1992	Middlesbrough League Rinks Champions
1995	Middlesbrough League Winners
1997	Cleveland League Winners
2003	Cleveland League Winners
2004	Cleveland League Winners
2005	Cleveland League Winners
2007	Cleveland League Winners
2007	Teesside Ladies Champion of Champions
2007	N. Yorks. EBA Champion of Champions
2008	Cleveland League Winners
2008	Teesside Ladies Doris Lowe Champions
2009	Cleveland League Winners
2009	Middlesbrough League Rinks Champions
2009	Teesside Ladies Champion of Champions
2009	Teesside Ladies Pairs Champions

**Guisborough Bowls Club**  
**Cleveland League Champions 1964 - 1965**



**Back Row (left - right)**

*E Lancaster, J C Baitup, B Wyatt, H Pletts, J Exley, J Tosdevin, A Taylor, C Robinson, J Clarke, P Marshall.*

**Fron Row (left - right)**

*C W Scase, J T Haith, H Gibbon, R Collett, E T Makenzie (Secretary), K Ditchburn (Capt. 1964.) N E Robinson (Capt. 1965.)  
J A Davis (Chairman), S Forrest (Treasurer), A Colbourne (Vice Capt.) A Laverick, J Knights.*

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club

Presentation 1975



P Milburn      C Raby      P Marshall (Being presented with the Runner up Trophy Yorkshire  
McKenzie Cup      Campbell Cup      Singles by P Welch)  
K Ditchburn      N Robinson  
Mayhew Cup (Pairs)

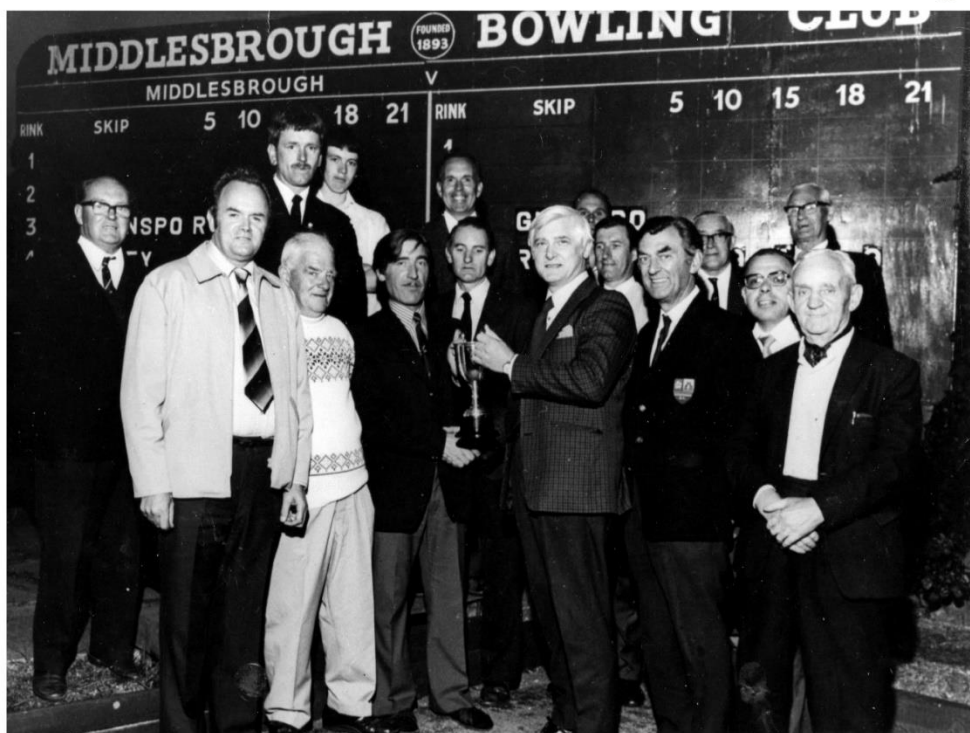
Guisborough Priory Bowls Club

Redpath Dorman Long Cup Winners 1976



Back Row (L - R) R Collett. ??????. H Brunton. B Bumby. J Knights. J Hale. C Robinson. J Walker.  
R Stockton. S Marshall.  
Front Row (L - R) E McEwan. R Dickens. N Robinson. B Gittings. K Ditchburn. J Exley. B Banks.

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club



Presentation of the Redpath Dorman Long Trophy after the Final v Middlesbrough Transport August 1976

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club



North Yorkshire EBA Triples Winners 1977



Peter Milburn

Ray Stockton

Paul Milburn

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**



**North Yorkshire EBA Rinks Champions 1978 & 1979**



**B Harrison**

**S Marshall**

**P Marshall**

**B Goodings**

**B Bumby**

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club  
Middlesbrough League Winners 1980 (Jubilee Year)



Standing (L - R)  
C Graham. R Collett. S Flounders. J Hale. F Plews. S Marshall. T Duckworth. A Morrison. G Harris

Seated (L - R)  
B Bumby (Capt.) K Ditchburn. S Florence. P Marshall. R Stockton. J Walker.

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club  
Middlesbrough League Winners 1984



Back Row. Left to Right R Lowery. K Ditchburn. W Claxton. G Harris.

Front Row. Left to Right B Bumby. G Graham. J Moore. J Hale (Capt.) R Stockton. S Florence.

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club



Cleveland League Singles Championship 1986



W Claxton

H Readman

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**



**Cleveland League Singles Champion 1986**



**H Readman**

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**



**North Yorkshire EBA Champion of Champions 1986**



**C Robinson**

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**

Middlesbrough League Rinks Competition: 1987  
1988  
1989  
1992

Runners Up  
Winners  
Winners  
Winners



**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**

**Middlesbrough League Winners 1987**



**Back Row (left - right)**

A Stonebanks S Flounders R Lowery W Claxton K Willett J Moore S Naylor

**Front Row (left - right)**

B Bumby (Capt.) J Hale C Graham H Readman S Readman E MacKuin

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club  
North Yorkshire EBA Pairs Winners 1987



S Adamson

S Readman

Guisborough Priory Bowls Club  
Eston Ladies Open Pairs 1990



J Robinson  
Skelton

A Lowery  
Guisborough Priory

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**



**Guisborough & Brotton Ladies Open Winners 1991**



**M Smith**

**J Smith**

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**  
**Middlesbrough League Winners 1995**



**Back Row (L - R)** G Coughlan, D William, J Hale, R Terry, T Edwards, P Byers, K Willett (Snr.) J Waterson.

**Front Row (L - R)** B Bumby, T Boyes, K Cook, J Moore, R Lowery, B Hurn, R Davey, R McLoughlin

**Cleveland Bowls League Champions 1997**



**Front Row (left - right)** J McLoughlin, M Lloyd, M Ainsley, M Cowell, M Smith (Capt.), J Smith, E Terry, M Dowson, N Arnett.

**Back Row (left - right)** B Bumby, R McLoughlin, J Smith, P Briggs, E Smith, M Bainbridge, D Cochrane, R Terry, T Moore.



**Cleveland Bowls League Champions 2003 & 2004**



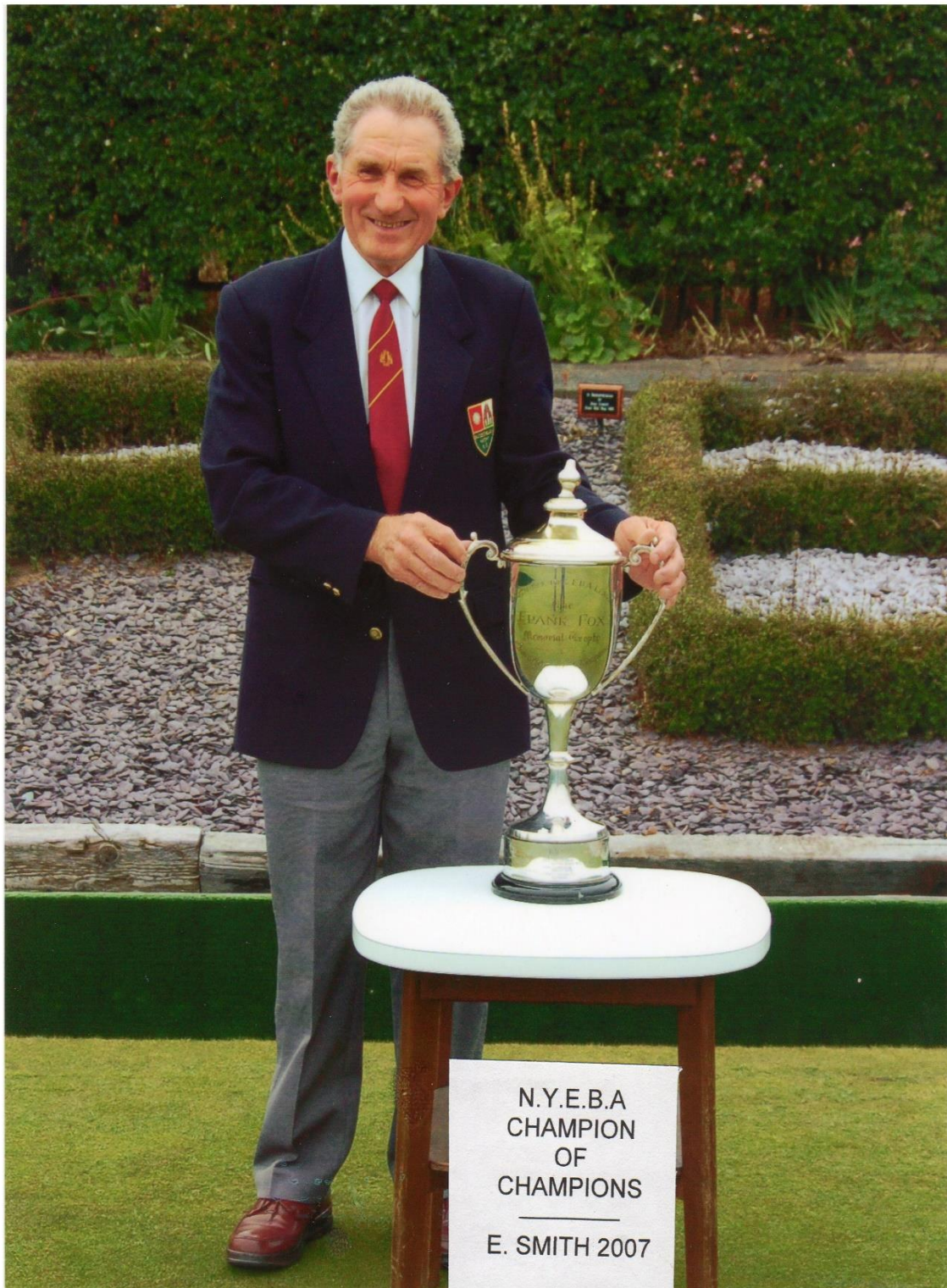
**Front Row (left - right) E Terry. M Cowell. J Smith. M Smith (Capt.) M Dowson. D Forbes.**

**Back Row (left - right) D Atkinson. P Briggs. R Terry. A Lowery. M Ainsley. J Smith. M Bainbridge.  
R McLoughlin. E Smith. B Bumby.**

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**



**North Yorkshire EBA Champion of Champions 2007**



**Eric Smith**

**Guisborough Priory Bowls Club**



**Teesside Ladies Bowls Champion of Champions 2007**



**Mary Smith**

### Historical Notes, Assumptions & Acknowledgements

I would guess that in all historical stories, there are unknown elements which have been lost in the sands of time. But they have to be resolved one way or another in order that a story can have some credibility. It has probably always been the case that over the passage of time, hearsay becomes fact after a while and facts get lost or forgotten. But with perseverance and sometimes, the interpretation of available evidence, a credible truth can be achieved.

This is the case with elements of this story where most of the information is historical fact or from records of meeting minutes, so in general this story is pretty much based on fact.

The “grey” areas are the points of change from the old Challoner bowling green in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to the Co-operative green, again in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are no recorded defined dates that can give assurances of any continuity of bowling other than the fact that the dates appear to be correct for the closure of the Challoner green and the opening of the Co-operative green and that bowling did take place at both venues at around the same period.

The second “grey” area is a little clearer following the discovery with some certainty, that the existing Priory bowling green was in fact a tennis court. It was already known that Guisborough Bowls Club was a founder member of the EBA which was created in 1936.

There can be no doubt that players from the Co-operative bowling green transferred to the Cricket club bowling green and it is recorded that the Co-operative green closed in the mid 1930's when their equipment was transferred to the cricket club. The only area of conjecture is the timing and continuity of bowling between the two greens, but recorded dates point to the transfer of players from the Co-op green to the Cricket club before the creation of the EBA in 1936, as the recorded name is the one in use by the Cricket club bowls players at that time. So, it must be considered that there was continuity of bowling from the Co-op period through to the Cricket club bowls commencing. None of this really matters in the greater sense, as we know it did happen, the only thing the “grey” areas influence is continuity in order to make the claim that the heritage of Guisborough Priory Bowls Club can be traced back to the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century and I believe that there is sufficient evidence to substantiate this claim.

In the introduction to this story, I raised the question “why am I doing this”. Well, as I said, I wanted to put all of this information into the club domain so that members can identify with our forebears. This story will now become an important historical document for the club, particularly for the newer members to understand where we have been and the early struggles to keep this club alive.

You can now see and read about the early members, these are the people whose memories live on in the trophies they provided and which can now be linked to an actual person. These are the people who tended the green and the grounds all those years ago so that we can still enjoy the sport in Guisborough today.

I have demonstrated in this story that we have links with lawn bowls going back over 300 years, but looking to the future, I wonder if the club will survive the next 200-300 years, and whether during that time, will someone take up the mantle to carry out this exercise again. Hopefully it will be much easier for them to find the facts.

I will take this opportunity to give thanks to those who have helped with the compilation of this document, either by the supply of documents and pictures or useful general information. These include, Brian Bumby who was a wealth of information right at the start of this project. Freddie Dadd who had an abundance of old Guisborough photographs and drawings, many of which appear in this document. John Atkinson who provided some of the early history associated with the EBA. Margaret Ainsley for the loan of pictures associated with the Co-op bowling green. John Dunn and Terry Alderson for information relating to the historical location of Cricket Club tennis courts and work associated with “Claxtons Hole” formerly known as “Charlies Square” and finally Brenda Marshall who sponsored the Mary Morgans competition for many years and who was a great help in identifying the old competition trophies and their original purpose.

*Alan Heath*  
2019