



Epsom Bowling Club



1909 - 2009

100 Years of Bowling at Depot Road & Worple Road

Foreword - Roy Ward

I am honoured and privileged to be asked to write this introduction to the Epsom Bowling Club Centenary Booklet. I hope members and visitors to our club will find it of great interest.

We can only try to visualise what bowling greens were like 100 years ago before the introduction of motor mowers, sprinklers and other equipment which make our greens as near perfect as they have become today. Club subscriptions were measured in shillings rather than in excess of the £100 that is now the norm at most clubs. Travelling to away matches was presumably by public transport involving long journey times which can still be the case now when an accident blocks the M25 and local roads become jammed. Who would have imagined 100 years ago we would arrive for matches accompanied by half a ton of steel for which we have to find a parking space.

Many clubs are celebrating their centenaries at about this time but sadly due to declining memberships some are falling by the wayside. I have been a member of E.B.C. for one quarter of its 100 year history having joined when we celebrated our 75th anniversary in 1984. Soon after this, bowls reached its peak in popularity. From 1990 onwards we have seen many clubs struggling with lower memberships and fewer entries into National and County competitions. The number of clubs in Surrey has fallen from over 200 to around 150, many with 20 members or less. This cannot be blamed on our typical British summer weather as the indoor situation is similar with clubs that had waiting lists a few years ago now desperate for more members. This may sound like a message of doom and gloom for our wonderful game but I am convinced our club and many others will continue for the next 100 years. We must adapt and change with the times and go forward together to secure the future of bowls. Perhaps in a few years time grass greens will be a thing of the past and be replaced by artificial ones. Who knows??

To celebrate this year we have many special matches arranged and hope our summer will not consist of just two fine days followed by a thunderstorm.

In closing, my thanks go to the "workers" who are always in attendance, doing jobs that are not always noticed but are essential to the efficient running of the club. Also to those who have contributed to the club's survival so far and those who have carried out the research of our history to make the publication of this book possible. I have refrained from mentioning any names as this can lead to someone being overlooked and I prefer to think of each of our members as one of a team. I wish you all good health and prosperity for the future.

Roy was President of Epsom Bowling Club in 1992, 1993, 1994 & 1995. He was President of the Surrey Bowling Association in 1999. Roy was awarded Life Membership of King George Indoor Bowling Club in 2001 and Surrey County Certificate of Merit in 2006. He was Vice Captain in 1986 & Captain in 1987, 1988, 1989 & 1991.

Centenary Year

Now is the time to celebrate the Centenary of our Club and pay tribute to the men who had the foresight, in 1909, to call a public meeting to form a bowling club in Epsom. Flat green bowls had been around for a very long time and, with Croydon B.C. already one hundred and sixty years old and with local clubs in Reigate, Redhill and Leatherhead, it must have occurred to them, why not Epsom? At that time, the English Bowling Association was still in its infancy, formed in 1903 and the Surrey County B.A. yet two years away in 1911.

Needless to say, I am very honoured and proud to be Club President in Centenary year. Mr F.H. Trower served nine years between 1909 and 1921 and Liberal Prime Minister, Earl Rosebery, eight years from 1922 until his death in 1929. Also holding office were gentlemen of the Cloth, military officers, Justices of the Peace and local dignitaries, mainly in the period up to the second World War.

We have been very fortunate to have had many benefactors over the years, in particular the donation of our present pavilion by Mr W.J. Payne in 1924 and also others who have donated silver trophies for which we play in our annual Club competitions.

I joined the Club in 1983 and served twenty two years as Men's Secretary assisted, for nine of those years, by Colin Hunt and later became Club Secretary. In 1998 the Club status changed to a mixed club and then, in 2005, to a Community Amateur Sports Club. Prior to 1998, it was a men's club with a ladies' section which had been formed in 1947.

Mrs Alice Gardner, whose husband Albert, was Mayor of Epsom in 1957, served as Ladies' Secretary for the first forty years. Another prominent lady member is Mrs Vera Deane, who joined the club in 1966 and did much to keep the Ladies' section together in those early days. She is a County player and has been Ladies' Singles Champion for a record eight times.

During the past few years we have been very fortunate to have been sponsored by the National Counties Building Society and I am most grateful for their financial support, some of which we channel back as prizes in our "Invitation Fours" competition, founded by England International Jack Pilbrow and now organised by his son Graham.

I am very grateful to the Centenary Committee, set up last year, to plan events for 2009.

The fixture list has now been finalised and includes, in addition to our normal League and friendly games, eight Prestige matches against various Associations. These are highlighted by visits by teams selected by Men's and Ladies' Surrey County Presidents and by a mixed match versus Bowls England. We look forward to entertaining our visitors and I know it will be a very busy year for us all, in particular Captains, Les Owen and Anne Hoffmann, Club officers and members. Social Secretary Betty Day and her Committee have arranged events including "Centenary Day" on 18th July, a fun day for all club members and the "Centenary Awards Dinner" which is to be held on Saturday 26th September at the Surrey Downs Golf Club. Like Roy, I am pleased to contribute to the Club Centenary Handbook compiled and edited by Les Owen. Not only has Les taken on this work but, with son Huw, updates the Club website and now edits the Club Newsletter, originally introduced in 1994 by Derek Barnes. I wish all members and visitors a very happy year and trust they will enjoy sharing the celebrations planned.

Club President - Tony Jackman

Officers and Committee 2009

Club President:	Tony Jackman
Club Senior Vice President:	Maureen Trumble
Club Vice Presidents:	Clive Allum Betty Day Vera Deane Bill Ellis Pat Felloni Laurie Garrett Eileen Godfrey Colin Hunt Ruth Hunt Tony Jackman Peter Miller Cyril Newman George Sperring Gill Sperring Maureen Trumble Peggy Shuttleworth Arthur Upward Roy Ward
Club Secretary:	John Warren
Club Treasurer:	Arthur Upward
Club Social Secretary:	Betty Day
Club Property Secretary:	Cyril Newman
Men's Captain:	Les Owen
Ladies' Captain:	Anne Hoffmann
Men Playing Members:	Peter Miller Roy Ward
Lady Playing Members:	Doris Flintham Sylvia Pearce
Premises Managers:	Peter Miller Cyril Newman
Green Ranger:	George Sperring
Health & Safety:	Cyril Newman
Bar Manager:	John Hart
Child Protection:	Anne Hoffmann
Catering:	Nancy Smillie
S.C.B.A. Officials:	Roy Ward (Past President & an Hon. Vice President)
Club Coaches:	Peter Humphreys Graham Pilbrow Joan Robson Gill Sperring Maureen Trumble
Auditors:	Gordon Mitchell Bill Truckle
Trustees:	Tony Jackman Cyril Newman Eileen Mills Clive Banderet

Presidents from 1909

1909 - 10	F H Trower	1957
1911 - 14	Rev E W Northey	1958
1915 - 21	F H Trower	1959 - 60
1922 - 29	Rt Hon The Earl of Rosebery KG KT	1961
1930	Brig General C C Wrigley CB	1962 - 63
1931	W J Payne	1964
1932	E J Pullinger JP	1965
1933	A Grieve	1966
1934	G King	1967 - 69
1935 - 36	H B Whitby	1970
1937	D Menzies	1971 - 76
1938	Rev Canon C R Pattison Muir	1977
1939	E J Hodsdon	1978 - 80
1940	W H H Grahame	1981 - 83
1941 - 44	G C Barnes	1984 - 86
1945	F Ward	1987 - 89
1946 - 47	G MacKintosh	1990 - 91
1948	F E Roll	1992 - 95
1949	R Law	1996 - 97
1950	H C Pettett	1998 - 99
1951	E E Crooks	2000 - 01
1952	H Skelton	2002 - 03
1953	J Knowles	2004 - 05
1954	A W Gardner	2006 - 07
1955 - 56	A E Tuck	2008 - 09

Ladies' Captains from 1947

1947 - 49	Mrs H D Hoare	1981
1950	Mrs W K Russell	1982 - 83
1951 - 53	Mrs M M Butler	1984 - 86
1954 - 56	Mrs W K Russell	1987 - 88
1957	Mrs M M Butler	1989
1958 - 9	Mrs D Otway-Cave	1990
1960 - 62	Mrs N Mann	1991 - 93
1963	Mrs M M Butler	1994
1964 - 65	Mrs P Soulsby	1995 - 96
1966 - 67	Mrs D Trowbridge	1997
1968	Mrs W Russell	1998
1969	Mrs D Trowbridge	1999
1970 - 71	Mrs P Powlesland	2000 - 01
1972 - 75	Mrs Vera Deane	2002 - 03
1976 - 78	Mrs J Hotchkiss	2004 - 05
1979	Mrs L Rayner	2006 - 07
1980	Miss Eileen Ward	2008 - 09

Men's Captains from 1909

1909 - 10	?	1955	F Giles
1911	L T Chamberlain	1956	Frank Gardner
1912 - 13	F H Trower	1957	C J Rhodes
1914 - 16	?	1958 - 60	S W Roberts
1917 - 22	Chas Cropley	1961	A T Savage
1923	Brig General C C Wrigley	1962 - 63	P E Worth
1924	C E Stredwick	1964 - 65	A R Emerson
1925	S F Jackson	1966	F Giles
1926	J H Birch	1967 - 68	Frank Gardner
1927	W J Payne	1969	Frank Gardner/Tommy Melville
1928	F Cragg	1970 - 71	A R Emerson
1929	Major Hamilton Pott	1972	Jim Davidson
1930	E C Pullinger	1973	T W Woolmore
1931	A G Reive	1974 - 75	Doug Soulsby
1932	C King	1976 - 79	Brodie Helder
1933	H B Whitby	1980	Harold De'Ath
1934	W J Keeling	1981 - 82	Charlie Palmer
1935	D Menzies	1983	Brodie Helder
1936	J P Gow	1984	Wally Stevens
1937	J T Pranker	1985 - 86	Brodie Jenner
1938	W H H Grahame	1987 - 89	Roy Ward
1939	C C Barnes	1990	Clive Banderet
1940	F Ward	1991	Roy Ward
1941 - 44	G MacKintosh	1992 - 03	Joe Felloni
1945	F E Roll	1994 - 96	George Sperring
1946	H C Pettett	1997	Eamonn Mulligan
1947	R Law	1998 - 99	Bill Ellis
1948	C C Barnes	2000 - 02	Bill Sandford
1949	F Giles	2003	Bob Coppard
1950	E E Crooks	2004	Bob Coppard/Geoff Purrott
1951	J Knowles	2005 - 06	Graham Pilbrow
1952	A W Gardner	2007 - 08	Derek Hoffmann
1953	F Wilkinson	2009	Les Owen
1954	A C Hoare		

Men's Secretaries from 1909

1909 - 12	F Goldsmith
1913 - 16	A Reynolds
1917 - 31	J H Birch
1932 - 38	J Pranker
1939 - 44	J Pranker/A E Tuck
1946 - 51	S J J Fox
1952 - 58	J J Treacher
1959	R Law
1960 - 64	R Grant
1965 - 71	Doug Soulsby
1972 - 75	Alec Oates
1976 - 79	J C Clark
1980 - 85	Jack Pilbrow
1986 - 2007	Tony Jackman
2008 - 09	John Warren

Ladies' Bowling Secretaries from 1947

1947 - 83	Alice Gardner
1984	M Seare
1985	Jean Stapleton
1986	Margaret Lomas
1987	Pauline Hartfree
1988 - 90	June Wheatley
1991 - 98	Ruth Hunt
1999 - 2007	Maureen Trumble
2008 -	Dolly Snow

Men's Bowling Secretaries from 1998

1998	Colin Hunt
1999 - 2006	Tom Cheesman
2007 - 2008	Jim Robson
2009	Vacant

The History of Epsom Bowling Club

The early years:-

1909

On the 8th July 1909 seven men with a vision met at Mr Chilton's Mill Room with the object of starting a private bowling club in Epsom. A pavilion and some equipment for it was acquired, but it seems doubtful whether the members, and perhaps others, who advanced loans for these ever got debentures worth the paper used - or their money back. It was proposed to call it "Ebbisham Bowling Club". The club was offered an acre of grassland in Depot Road, at the rear of Epsom Urban District Council's building, at a lease of £10 a year. This was considered too high! The small committee, which had been formed, considered £7 was a better price and this was agreed. The cost of admission to the club was fixed at 10/6d with the yearly subscription a similar amount.

Each of the seven men advanced some of their own money, acquired some equipment, and got under way.

1914

The club gradually raised sufficient funds from members to build a wooden rustic pavilion at Depot Road.

The opening ceremony was performed on 29th April by Epsom's vicar, Rev. Bainbridge-Bell of St Martin's Church.

1917

Realising they couldn't go on with the green they were using, members decided to look for one they could buy and lay with Cumberland turf. A new pavilion fund was also started at the club. Also, the secretary wrote to the Council asking them to cut off the water supply at Depot Road from 30th September 1917 as, although they were being charged £1 per annum, they didn't even have the use of a tap!

1921

Members came up with a scheme for acquiring another green. In June, 'meadowland' (the present site, minus the car park and entrance) and a small rectangular entrance patch in Worple Road, were leased in two parcels from the old family of Furniss, well known builders and undertakers, with an option to purchase both for £600. A 12 foot wide passage across intervening Glebe land was purchased for £40 to connect the two parcels. Mr Charles Cropley (Captain in 1919), with the aid of his brothers, at net cost, demolished the Depot Road pavilion and, stick by stick transported and re-erected it at the new Worple Road site.

1922

The green opened on 2nd May 1922. The new green having been laid was open for play but, unfortunately, a phenomenally dry summer and inadequate watering facilities caused problems for some years. Brigadier-General Wrigley provided new mats, jacks, markers and other equipment.

1924

William Payne, one of the founder members, demonstrated his continuing support for the club by donating the present pavilion, which was erected in 1926. At much the same time, his wife advanced £600 to enable the club finally to buy the leased lands.

1936

The parcel of Glebe land (car park) was purchased for £95 completing the club lands as we know them today. The money for this was again obtained by loan, from Mrs Whitby, to whom this parcel of land was promptly mortgaged

1947

The ladies' section was started and one of the founder members, Mrs Win Russell, played at the club for 49 years.

1949

No Ladies were allowed to enter Men's Competitions. Ladies were forbidden to play on weekends. Playing time for all was extended to 5.30pm from 4.30pm. Ladies always had to have permission to enter and use the Clubhouse!

1950

First recorded match Men v Women was a Triples match.

1955

Our solicitors were able to assure the Midland Bank, with supporting documentary evidence from sundry Authorities, that we had a 'good and marketable' freehold title. The whole property was then mortgaged to the Midland Bank Ltd. as security for overdraft facilities of unnamed extent, an associated paper mentioning £600, to be repaid at £100 a year. No doubt with overdraft money from the Bank, the £600 owed so long was cleared to H B Whitby.

1964

The club obtained a valuation of their lands for development. The total site area of 1.43 acres was worth £20,000.

1971

The Cropley Cup was returned to the Bowling Club by Chas Cropley's son. His father had been an outright winner. It was originally presented by Robert Tyler in 1915. This cup is now played for in an annual competition between the ladies and men.

1976

In March the club decided to sell the land behind the pavilion to the Epsom & Ewell Housing Association for £13,000. Some of the money from the sale was used to make improvements to the green and clubhouse, including installing Marley folding doors at a cost of £293.

1977

The club was so full that new members could only join if they agreed to play only in the afternoons.

1986

Considerable applications for membership. Two major projects completed - Pavilion extension provided new kitchen, toilet facilities & central heating.

1989

80th Anniversary. The 100 Club, organised by Des O'Connor was introduced.

1991

Gift of removable fencing from a specialist contractor – hopefully to put off the foxes. In return the club agreed for photographs of the green to be taken for publicity purposes.

1998

Epsom Bowling became one Club when the Ladies section became part of the Club.

2000

A valuation of the buildings was estimated to be £293,000

2005

May - Web Site designed and constructed by Huw Owen (son of member Les Owen) www.epsombowlingclub.co.uk The Club changed to a Community Amateur Sports Club.

2008

Valuation of buildings now estimated to be £430,000. The change of status to 'Community Amateur Sports Club' has again brought benefits to the Club. 100% Rate Relief this year.

Internal Competitions - Ladies (notable successes)

Four Wood Singles: Vera Deane has won the Ladies' Singles a record 8 times. She first won it in 1969 and her latest victory was in 2006, a span of 37 years - remarkable.

Handicap Singles: Gill Sperring has won the Handicap Singles on 6 occasions.

Outside Honours - Ladies (notable successes)

The first recorded success in outside competitions came in 1961 when the triple of Mrs C Morgan, Miss Eileen Ward & Mrs Nellie Mann won the Surrey County Women's Triples.

Further successes achieved are as follows:

1987	Surrey Women's	Singles	Winner	Margaret Lomas
1989	Sutton & District BA	Pairs	Winners	Margaret Lomas Marjorie Smerdon
1990	Sutton & District BA	Pairs	Winners	Margaret Lomas Marjorie Smeardon
1996	Surrey Women's	Singles	Winner	Fran Exton
1998	Times Herald		Winners	
1998	Sutton & District BA	Pairs	Winners	Freda Starkey Gill Sperring
1999	Surrey Women's	Pairs	Winners	Freda Starkey Gill Sperring
2005	East Surrey League	2 Rinks	Winners	
2006	East Surrey League	2 Rinks	Winners	

Internal Competitions - Men (notable successes)

Four Wood Singles: Graham Pilbrow has won the Championship a record 19 times. His first win came in 1975 and his most recent in 2008. Quite a remarkable record over 33 years.

Outside Honours - Men (notable successes)

The first recorded success in outside competitions came in 1938 when G C Barnes won the Surrey County Bowling Association Selley Cup.

Further successes achieved are as follows:

1947	Paddington Pairs	Pairs	Winners	F Giles C Russell
1948	Surrey County BA	Pairs	Winners	J W Morgan W T Titherley
1949	County Trial	Singles	Winner	W Oldham
1949	Brighton Open	Singles	Winner	C Russell
1950	Surrey County BA	Triple	Winners	G C Barnes C Russell W Oldham
1951	Surrey County BA	Triple	Winners	G C Barnes R Law W Oldham
1955	County Trial	Singles	Winner	Tommy Melville
1958	Brighton Open	Pairs	Winners	C Russell (& partner)
1980	Surrey County BA	Secretary Singles	Winner	Jack Pilbrow
1991	Eastbourne	Singles	Winner	John Exton
1992	Worthing	Singles	Winner	Graham Pilbrow
2006	Surrey Area 4	Top 4	Winners	Pat Buckley Peter Miller Ted Ray Martin Harbottle
2008	East Surrey League	Top 10	Winners	

Surrey County Bowling Association

County Badge

Although there are no specific details regarding the first member to be awarded the County Badge it must be assumed that the first recipient of this coveted badge was F Cragg in 1934. F Cragg was the losing finalist in the Secretaries Singles. Since then there must have been several men who were awarded their badges, but no reference has ever been made to these in minutes discovered.

Of the current men members there are 10 members who have been successful in being awarded their County Badge. These are:-

Clive Allum, Martin Harbottle, Peter Miller, Graham Naish, Les Owen, Graham Pilbrow, Jim Scott, David Sowdon, George Sperring & Stefan Tomm.

One other major success in Surrey was in 1992 when Graham Pilbrow reached the final of the Championship Singles.

Surrey County Women's Bowling Association

As with the men there are no specific details of which lady was first to be awarded the County Badge.

The first recorded Badge winners were Mrs C Morgan, Miss Eileen Ward & Mrs Nellie Mann in 1961 when they won the Surrey Triples.

There are currently 6 lady members who have been awarded their County Badge.

These are:-

Janet Cheesman, Vera Deane, Eileen Mills, Joan Robson, Gill Sperring & Freda Starkey.

In 1999 Freda Starkey & Gill Sperring won the Surrey County Women's Pairs title.

One other major success in Surrey was in 2008 when Eileen Mills reached the final of the Championship Singles.

Surrey President

Epsom Bowling Club have had the honour of two members being President of Surrey County Bowling Association.

They are:- Chas Cropley (1932) & Roy Ward (1999).

Surrey Leopard Award

The award to be conferred on members of clubs in recognition of outstanding and distinguished services to the administration and management of the game at club level.

Epsom have two members who have been awarded the Surrey Leopard Award.

They are:- Tony Jackman (1999) & Dennis Neville (2003).

Middleton Cup Players

The Surrey County BA, having been formed in 1911, held an inter County Trophy called The John Bull Cup. This was competed for until 1921 when a Surrey man, P C Middleton of Northwood B.C., presented to the EBA The Middleton Cup by the instigation of Mr J O Grant of the same club and the Hon. Treasurer of Surrey. The winning County hold the "Middleton Cup" for one year and the runners up the "Brooks Trophy".

Four players have represented Epsom Bowling Club in the Middleton Cup.

These are:- G C Barnes, W Oldham & J H Birch. (There is no record of which year this happened). Paul Goodbun played in the Middleton Cup in 2000.

King George Fields I.B.C. (Jubilee Cup)

Epsom have won the Jubilee Cup on two occasions.

In 1995 winning 60 - 49 against Leatherhead

In 1999 winning 83 - 43 against Merton Park

The East Surrey League - Men

The East Surrey League was formed in 1987.

Epsom's first league game took place on the 6th June 1987 when they played against Old Coulsdon. Unfortunately this ended in defeat by 70 shots to 82. Of our current membership (2008) Clive Banderet, Ted Emmett, Laurie Garrett, Ron Perkins, Graham Pilbrow, and Roy Ward played in this very first league game.

In the early years Epsom fared reasonably well in the league. However no league positions are available from 1989 - 1991. In the seasons 1995 - 1997 Epsom did not fare too well - finishing 9th out of 9 in 1987 and 11th out of 12 in 1997. Since then, however, there has been a great improvement in performances. In 1988 Epsom finished 2nd and since then Epsom have finished in 3rd place on 5 occasions. In 2006 Epsom came closest to actually winning the league, finishing just 2 points behind the winners (Shirley Park), and ½ behind the second club (Old Coulsdon). Epsom finished 3rd in 2007 & 2008.

Since 1987 Epsom have a good record in the East Surrey League:-

Played 245 Won 137 Lost 104 Drawn 4

Shots For 19,286 Shots Against 18,762

Top 10 Competition

This competition started in 2000 & each Club enters a Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours.

Epsom Bowling Club have lost in three Finals - all against Shirley Park (2000, 2003 & 2006).

In 2008 Epsom won the Top 10 for the first time by beating Warlingham Park 71 - 70

The team was:

Singles: Ted Ray Pairs: Stefan Tomm & David Sowdon

Triples: John Hart, Graham Pilbrow & Les Owen

Fours: Martin Harbottle, Terry Hoyer, Pat Buckley & Peter Miller

The East Surrey League - Ladies

Unfortunately records for the Ladies have only been kept since 1987.

Played 76 Won 49 Lost 26 Drawn 1 (5 abandoned)

Shots For 2979 Shots Against 2495

The Ladies won the East Surrey League in 2005 & 2006

The Times Herald & Past Times Competition

Men

The Times Herald Competition was entered by Epsom between 1966 - 2001. This Competition was ended in 2001 and replaced with the Past Times Competition in 2002.

Epsom Bowling Club won the Times Herald Trophy in 1975 (against Mellows Park 35 - 34), but have not been successful in the Past Times Competition.

Epsom have lost in the three Finals in the Times Herald Competition.

1980 Lost to Leatherhead 33 - 36 1990 Lost to Old Coulsdon 33 - 44

1997 Lost to Supreme 27 - 50

Ladies

The Ladies won the Times Herald Competition in 1998. The team was Mrs Freda Starkey, Miss Eileen Godfrey, Mrs Betty Day, Mrs Janet Cheesman, Mrs Jean Crayden, Mrs Anne Pearce, Mrs Eileen Mills, Mrs Gill Sperring

Bowls England

Graham Pilbrow reached the area final of the E.B.A. Champion of Champions Singles in 1998.

David Sowdon & Archie Flashman reached the Area Final of the Over 55's Pairs in 2002.

The only other significant success is when the Club reached the Fourth Round of the Top 11 Competition in 2005 & 2008. (a game consisting of Two Wood Singles, Four Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours).

Sutton & District Bowling Association

Epsom have won the Yonwin Cup (3 Rinks) on 7 occasions, 1980, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1995 & 2003.

Paston Cup

Graham Pilbrow has won the Paston Cup on 5 occasions & Les Owen once.

BLESMA Pairs (The **B**ritish **L**imbless **E**x-**S**ervice **M**en's **A**ssociation)

Peter Pearce & Les Owen reached the Final in 2000

Arthur Hughes Triples

Epsom has had limited success in this competition. Les Crowhurst, Wally Stevens & Bernard Jenner reached the final in 1985, and more recently Bill Lawrence, Bill Sandford & George Sperring reached the semi final in 2004.

The Ted Pierce Trophy

This singles competition is open to all Delegates, Officers, Life Members and Honorary Vice Presidents of the Association. The only success Epsom has had was when Roy Ward beat Clive Banderet in the Final in 1994.

St Raphael's Cup

This is a Mixed Pairs Competition. This Cup has only been competed for since 2004. Graham Pilbrow and Eileen Mills lost in this final.

The Newsletter

The Newsletter, published at the beginning of every month during the summer, was originally started by Derek Barnes (Life Member). Les Owen, who joined the Club in May 1987, took over and published his first issue in May 2005. The Newsletter aims to inform all members of bowling matters including reports from Committee meetings, reports from officials (captains, secretaries etc.), results of matches and funny stories/interesting facts/jokes. Every member has the opportunity to contribute to the Newsletter. The Newsletter went on line in March 2008. However, only bowling matters are published on the Web Site.

The Club Web Site

The Club Web Site went on line in May 2005. It was designed and constructed by Huw Owen, son of member Les Owen. Huw is Senior IT Consultant with a firm of Chartered Accountants in London.

A great deal of work was undertaken before the site went on line. Cupboards, and dark corners were searched for documents and items related to the Club. Some exciting times were had when old notice boards were found indicating Presidents & Captains from 1909. Sadly many minutes and documents have been lost. However, the original minute book for the very first meeting in 1909 has been found and is now in a safe place. This discovery was a real 'magic' moment.

Its contents are now available to be read in the 'History' section of the Web Site. The Ladies Section, formed in 1947, also has minutes and documents missing, but here too the original minutes exist and are also reproduced in 'History'. Much work has gone in to recording the results of competitions and facts/analysis have been worked out on the various competitions throughout the years. The Web Site contains photographs from the past and present including Dad's Army and Fun events held at the Club. You can visit the Web Site at www.epsombowlingclub.co.uk

100 Club

The first draw for the 100 Club took place in May 1989 when Des O'Connor was the organiser. Vic Shrosbree took over 2 years later and now it is organised by Clive Banderet. 700 prizes have been awarded in this time with 45% of the proceeds going to the maintenance fund.

The Chrystie League

The history of the Chrystie League dates back to 2000 when a group of bowlers from Bookham Bowling Club got together to decide upon trying to form a new league. They wrote to about 17 clubs seeking interest and from this a league of 6 clubs was formed who then played each other in 2000. However, Cobham dropped out in the same year. During 2000 Epsom were playing at Bookham in a friendly match and enquired as to whether they could join the league. Epsom were offered the opportunity to play the rest of Cobham's fixtures on a friendly basis. One of our former members, Bill Sandford, reported this offer back to the Club which was then approved. In 2001 Epsom then joined the league and since then have played each year. It was decided from the beginning that this league be set up for lower handicap players in the clubs, and is played on a two rink basis with the rink scores for each side added together to decide upon the winner. Two points are awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

The origin of the 'Chrystie' league name stems from the fact that Bookham B.C. play in The Chrystie Recreation Ground and since the league was originated at Bookham it was decided to call the league after the Recreation Ground. The origin of the actual Recreation Ground name comes from a Mrs Chrystie, a wealthy lady who donated the ground. Bookham B.C. was built in 1933 on this ground.

Since 2001 Epsom have a very good record in this league, winning in 2004, and 2nd in 2005 & 2006.

Club Night

At the 2005 Club AGM it was decided to introduce the Club's first weekly Mixed Roll-Up. It takes the form of a competition held on Friday evenings throughout the season. Competitors play Triples or Rinks depending on the number attending. Individual scores, both positive & negative, are recorded. These scores are the shot differences at the end of the evening. At the end of the season the player with the FIVE largest positive scores wins the First Prize (a player must play in a minimum of SEVEN games). The player with the FIVE largest negative scores receives the Consolation Prize (again a player must play in a minimum of SEVEN games). Other Prizes go to the Runners-Up. This 'Club Night' competition has proved very popular and many enjoyable evenings have resulted. Social activities have substituted for Bowls when bad weather has intervened.

The Event (previously known as The September Open)

Up to the mid eighties Epsom Bowling Club's pavilion contained no ladies or gents washrooms. They were housed in what is now the visitors dressing room. It was decided in a committee meeting to build an extension to house washrooms and a kitchen. However, there was a problem, no money!! The problem was overcome by loans and gifts from members and a grant from the sports council. Jack Pilbrow also suggested that a competition could be organised aimed at raising club funds with visiting and Epsom teams participating. Jack put this idea into operation.

The competition was a great success and very popular with visiting teams to the extent that it is still running. After the demise of his father Jack Pilbrow in 1998 his son Graham continued, on behalf of Epsom Bowling Club, to run the event. He was helped greatly by Vic Shrosbree. Over the years adjustments have been made to the format, but the event still remains hugely popular, and a good fund raiser for Epsom Bowling Club. The profit made over the years has been helped by sponsorship from such companies as Young's Brewery, Saga Holidays, BPT Bridgewater and presently our local National Counties Building Society. The event takes place on three Sunday mornings in September. The first two are qualifying rounds, the last the final. Epsom Bowling Club rinks still participate in the event. Since 1986 thirty clubs have participated in this competition. There have been 9 individual Clubs that have won the competition.

Congratulations on reaching 100 years

National Counties Building Society would like to congratulate Epsom Bowling Club on reaching the grand old age of 100. National Counties realises how important this centenary year will be for the club, with lots of exciting matches and events planned for next year's season.

Jessica Harris, Marketing and Communications Officer, National Counties Building Society says, "As a local, mutual organisation we are committed to supporting the local community which we operate. We have been a sponsor of Epsom Bowling Club since 2003 and we are really looking forward to continuing this support throughout this important year. It is a great achievement for the bowling club, and we at National Counties wish them great success for the next 100 years!"

National Counties Building Society is based in Epsom and offers a range of competitive savings and mortgage products to over 57,000 customers throughout the United Kingdom via post, telephone and the internet. A branch in Ashley Square, part of Epsom's busy Mall Shopping Centre, provides added convenience for customers living and working locally. For more information, visit National Counties website at www.ncbs.co.uk or call its Customer Centre on 0845 603 4876.

Nobby's Triples

Nobby's Triples was introduced around about 1976 when a member J C Clark (Nobby) - Secretary 1976 - 1979, introduced a Men's Triples for afternoon bowlers. This has continued to the present day.

Albert's Triples

It is thought that this Triples began in 1979 and was introduced by Albert Emerson who was a member at the beginning of the 1970's. This triples competition was played on a Thursday Evening. As the years passed by the triples was re-named firstly Des's Triples (after member Des O'Connor) then Harry's Triples (after member Harry Partington). The Competition no longer takes place, but has been replaced by Club Night which takes place on Friday Evenings.

Short Mat Bowls

Short Mat bowls, which takes place on a Tuesday evening during the Winter, started some 10 years ago when Geoff Reynolds bought a carpet. Peter Humphreys organised the evening in the first instance but recently Ken Lacey has taken over the responsibility but is still assisted by Peter. In the early years it was very popular with sessions in the morning and afternoon as well as the evening. However, it now only takes place in the evening where the average attendance has been around 18. The evening is very popular and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend.

Miller's Triples

Peter Miller who joined the Club in 1992 introduced 'Miller's Triples' in 2005. He was concerned that after Finals Day the Club became more and more deserted. In order to make full use of the green and facilities he suggested a Triples Competition. After much discussion it was decided that teams could be all male, all female or mixed and that games be arranged by mutual consent. Rules were drawn up as follows:-

18 ends, 1 shot to be taken on the first two ends.

The first winners of the competition in 2005 were:-

The Young Ones - Brian Kenyon John Hart & Graham Pilbrow

Social

There has been a strong tradition of Social Activities in Epsom Bowling Club throughout the years. In recent times many trips have been organised by individuals and the Social Committee. Trips have included visits to:- De Pann, Belgium, Warwick Castle, Arundel Castle, Leeds Castle, Houses of Parliament, Bluebell Railway & The Royal Albert Hall.

Other activities include organising Plays, Special Evenings (e.g. Valentines Night, Christmas Parties etc. Specialist Talks). Much work goes into the organisation of such activities so grateful thanks must go to the various Committees throughout the years.

The Bridge Club

Bridge takes place every Monday afternoon 1.30pm to 4.30pm (except Bank Holidays). It has been in existence since June 1987 having been formed by Mrs Elsie Hardy and her brother Harold De'Ath who were Bowls Club members at that time. Elsie continued to play Bridge until she was well over 90.

Clive Banderet (Secretary in the 1990's), Peggy Shuttleworth, Jennifer Robson (not a bowls member) were among the founder members who still continue to play. Many other members have also belonged for many years.

About 1994 Vernon and Joyce Gutteridge took over the running of the Club, and from about 1997 Peter Taylor became Secretary. Diana Taylor and Jan Allum have run the Club since 2002. New members are always welcome.

The Annual Subscription is £12 and each session is £1.50 which includes tea and biscuits. All profits go to the Bowls Club.

Whist Drives

Cyril Newman and Laurie Garrett started the Whist Drives in 1983. These were held on a fortnightly basis during the winter months with an average of 20 attending each time. The pavilion in the beginning was heated by a gas heater which was lit about 4pm, by Laurie, to enable players to be kept warm in the evening. Eventually central heating was installed (donated by John Skilton, a member at the time).

Dad's Army

Although the Dad's Army Competition no longer takes place it remains part of Epsom Bowling Club history.

'Dad's Army' played an important part in the History of the Club during the late 80's and early 90's.

The term 'Dad's Army' was given to afternoon bowlers and came from Janet Cheesman's father Henry Starkey.

The fixture was run in its entirety by Ted Emmett and his dear wife. Ted starting it all off wearing a tin hat which led to other trophies, namely, Tin Hat, Shield and Wooden Spoon.

The format of 'The Army' parade in the car park, suitably dressed, and then marching around the green became an accepted part of the ritual.

It developed further from there with others dressing up in Patriotic Costume. At one time the group boasted 20 - 30 members.

The initial match was played on the 16th July 1989 and involved Dad's Army playing against The Rest. The result was a tie but, the winners were declared on the number of ends won.

The supper given after the game was traditional 'Bangers & Mash'. Formal speeches and presentations were made.

'Dad's Army' continued to be played until 1993 when Ted withdrew due to the loss of his grandson.

The whole idea was then turned into a mixed triples event.

Acknowledgements

To all the members responsible for the record keeping over the years, especially to Vic Shrosbree.

**To the following for supporting our Centenary Year:-
Bowls England, East Surrey League, London & Southern Bowling Association,
Medway Bowling Association, Surrey Ladies' Presidents, Surrey Men's Presidents,
Sutton & District Bowling Association & The Zippers Association.**

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**To our many sponsors throughout the years including:-
Young's Brewery, Saga Holidays, BPT Bridgewater, W S Atkins, W A Truelove.**

To our present sponsors National Counties Building Society

To the Printers - The Print Centre Epsom Surrey

To all who have helped throughout the years with the Up Keep of the green and the Property.