

Umina Beach Men's Bowling Club

The First 25 Years

1957-1982

Jack Hinwood
June 1982

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The following was researched from the available minutes of the club, no anecdotes have been included as they tend, at times, to move away from the real details of the situation under discussion.

Jack Hinwood

My sincere thanks go to Christine Blackmore for the many hours she spent in helping me to collate and arrange all sections of the book, Christine came to us during my term as president and she has been a tower of strength to succeeding Presidents and club officials.

The Presidential Parade

Arthur Wolfe - 1957-1960

John McLeod - 1961-1965

John Aldridge - 1966

Alex Fyffe - 1967

Fred Ballam - 1968-1969

George Dixon - 1970-1972

Frank Cahill - 1973-1977

Jack Hinwood - 1978-1980

Keith Wah - 1981

The Beginning

A group of interested local men, several of whom were members of the Woy Woy Club, met in June, 1957 to lay the foundations for a club to be known as the UMINA BEACH BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB.

The meeting was held in the Rand Hall, which is situated behind the Progress Hall and those attending paid 2/- to help defray the rent.

Later, some 14 enthusiasts met at the picture show at the corner of Ocean Beach Road and West Street, (now the Shell garage) where further discussions took place concerning the ramifications of the club.

During the formative period, the executive Arthur Wolfe, Secretary Bill Pettiot and Treasurer Norm Neighbour, together with Vice Presidents Fred Ballam and Harold Winterburn, met at Wolfe's home on the first Sunday of each month, to maintain the business of getting the club underway.

During this time, the interested members gathered in funds and following the 1959 meeting the club sought a section of land in Melbourne Avenue, from the Gosford Council and at Easter of that year with £300 (pound) in hand, the task of clearing the land was given to a plant operator named Williams, who took £250 (pound) from the kitty, to do the job leaving £50 (pound) to commence operations.

The area on which the club now stands was originally to have been a golf course but a better site (Everglades) was found and it left the way open for the club to make a successful application to the council.

The No. 1 green was sited and the back breaking task of forming up the area began. Indeed, during that time, the members who formed the working bees went through two or three wire mattresses screening the sand and working out roots.

The 40 x 20 clubhouse was set behind the initial green and it was here that the volunteers and the "professionals" began to get the building up from ground level.

Charlie Barrow and Turf Brown did the brickwork in foundations and Sid Gilkes and Wally Rossiter assumed the responsibility for the erection of the building.

One well known phrase gave those days a real meaning when the cry went out "who is going to buy the nails this week".

With the green licked into shape, George Vaughan put down the first spear to allow the original greenkeeper Mat Neave to get to work and later he placed water pipes around the green.

Until the clubhouse was wired, a job done expertly by Les Verrell who later became a hard working bowls secretary, Vaughans supplied the power.

During 1959 the club gained a guaranteed loan from the Woy Woy Commonwealth Bank and that eased the strain on the financial position and work on the green and clubhouse alike accelerated.

The green carne into play in September, 1960 and rosters were instituted to cover watering and greens maintenance.

Eric Connelly, a motor transport official who lived near the club often set the early sprinklers in motion to help rostered members who lived some distance from the club.

When Mat Neave resigned as greenkeeper, Len Spiller took over the job and he gained much valuable assistance from Harold Winterburn, a member of the club, who had had a great deal of experience in grass maintenance before he carne to the area to live. Jim Waite, the greenkeeper at Everglades was another expert to help the club.

It is said too, that when Arthur Wolfe, the first President, was using the heavy roller he had to have a "cockatoo" to give him the right directions.

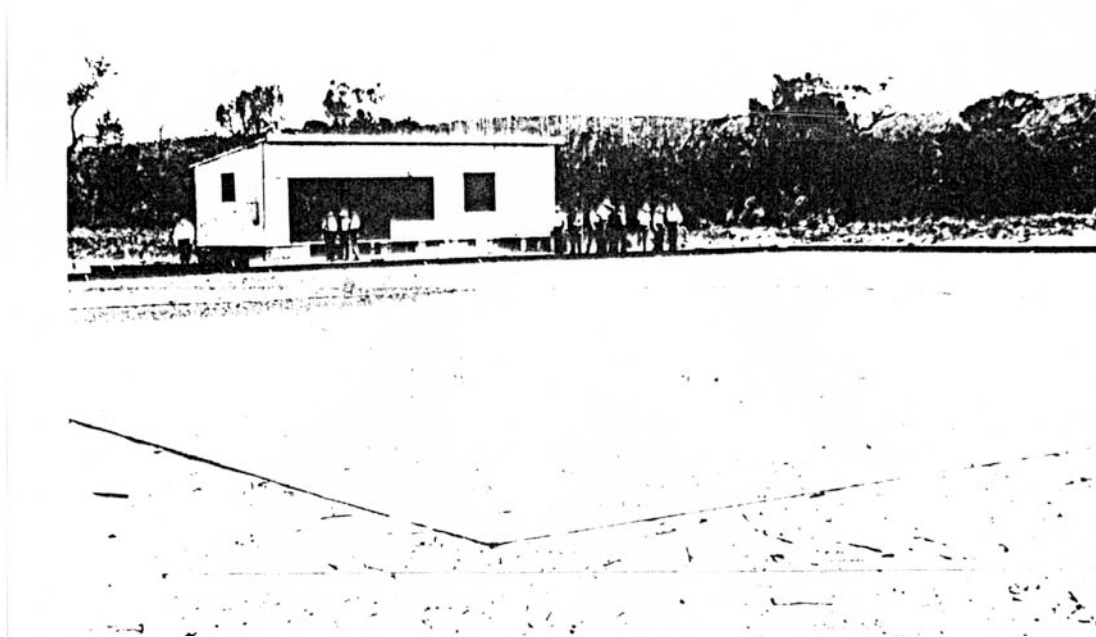
Wolfe was an original Anzac with the 17th battalion and the spirit engendered of those days was transferred to the small band of enthusiasts and they welded into a strong fighting force to give the club the start it needed to continue as it has done today.

His term of office extended from 1957 to 1961 and he died on the North Coast in retirement several years ago.

During the formative years Wolfe shared the executive burdens with Bill Pettiot and Norm Neighbour for the first two years and over the last three years of his term of office Percy Holt acted as Treasurer.

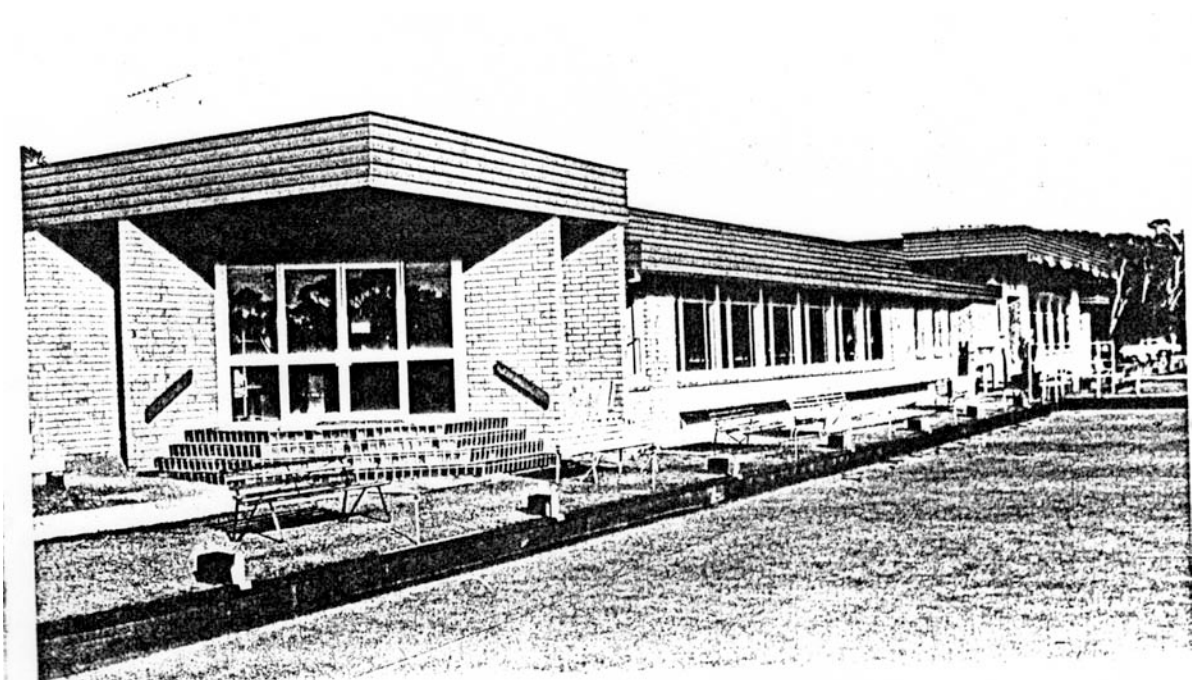
The first title matches were played in 1962 when Norm Neighbour won the singles from Torn Ayling while John Langford teamed with Ayling to take the pairs.

How it all began



ABOVE:-The first green boundaries mark out the playing area which demanded many hours of work and sweat before the first grass was planted.

BELOW:-The final product of our building line, today's club house. It was preceded by our beloved 40 x 20, then a fibro clubhouse with a brick auditorium added and finally the reorganised bricked in building of today.



New Name

Forty eight enthusiasts attended the inaugural meeting of the Umina Beach Bowling Club on 21st January, 1962 and from that number, 32 made application for membership of the new club.

John McLeod occupied the chair and the meeting was told the move had been made because of the failure of the original club, the UMINA BEACH BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB to obtain a conditional licence.

A draft constitution was presented by the solicitor Mr. Stephen Taperell and was accepted unanimously.

The elections followed and the initial office bearers were:-

President:- Mr. John McLeod.

Vice Presidents:- John Aldridge, Fred Ballam,,Norm Neighbour.

Treasurer:- Percy Holt.

Secretary:-Bill Pettiot.

Bowls Secretary and Publicity Officer:-Turf Brown.

Greens Director:-Len Spiller.

Building Supervisor:-Vic Warnecke.

Committee:-Charlie Todd, Charlie Barrow, Hec Plasto, Alex Fyffe Snr., Sid Gilkes.

At this juncture, Secretary Bill Pettiot, presented a letter from the Umina Beach Bowling and Recreation Club offering the assets and liabilities of the initial club to the new organisation.

The meeting was unanimous in its decision and the committee was instructed to complete the changeover.

Bill Pettiot, Arthur Wolfe the inaugural President and Norm Neighbour were elected trustees.

Hec Plasto and Percy Holt triggered a move to obtain a liquor licence and the Commonwealth Bank was asked to increase the existing loan to £5,000 (pound) to clean up the outstanding indebtedness to the Umina Beach Bowling and Recreation Club.

Team selection was a bone of contention in those early days and Norm Neighbour suggested social interclub visits be taken in order of the names on the board, but in interclub fixtures the selectors choose from those available to travel and it was accepted.

Our first pennant representation came in 1962 and at that stage the full adult membership fee was four pound· four shillings and lady social one pound one shilling and for new male members one pound one shilling nomination and four pound four shillings fees, Lady social one pound one shilling nomination and one pound ten shillings fees.

Bill Pettiot was transferred to Yaralla following a stroke and Chris Christian was elected to carry on until the annual meeting and John McLeod replaced Pettiot as a trustee.

August 1962 saw the first annual meeting of the club, but it was tinged with sadness by the announcement of Bill Pettiot's death in hospital. He had made a wonderful contribution to the club in the hurly burly of getting it off the ground.

Percy Holt said the club had made steady advancement financially since the January meeting and President John McLeod, congratulated the social committee on the success of the first annual ball.

The elections resulted:-

Patrons:- R. Dean MHR, H. Jackson MLA.

President:- John McLeod.

Vice Presidents:- John Aldridge, Fred Ballam, Norm Neighbour.

Secretary:- Chris Christian.

Treasurer:- Percy Holt.

Minute Secretary:- Alex Taylor.

Bowls Secretary:- Les Verrell.

Committee:- Alex Fyffe, Sid Gilkes, Charlie Todd, Hec Plasto, Charlie Barrow.

Selectors:- Norm Neighbour, Vic Warnecke.

Publicity:- Alex Taylor.

Delegates Central Coast District Bowling Association:- John McLeod, Chris Christian, John Aldridge;

to the Southern group a new organisation on the peninsular:- Fred Ballam, Norm Neighbour.

Greens:- Len Spiller.

Assistant:- Charlie Todd.

Social Secretary:- P. Holt and his committee,

Harold Neve, Alex Fyffe, Hec Plasto, Frank Maguire, Charlie Barrow.

Two firsts came from the meeting, candidates for membership had to appear before the committee with sponsor and the Finance and Building committees to be chosen from the club's committee.

To enable all members to attend the annual and quarterly meetings, it was decided to transfer them to Sunday mornings.

A garden seat was obtained and a plate attached to honour Bill Pettiot.

Fees from entries for the club championships were split 75% for the winners and 25% for the losers, and, in addition, members of the club's pennant teams were asked to meet the team fee of three pound six shillings.

Poker machine taxes, the bane of our existence today, reared its ugly head at this stage and clubs were asked to register protests through their local member, in our case, Mr. Jackson MLA.

Wal Johnson, an earth moving man was instructed to clear the remainder of the club's property and Eric Connolly, who lived close to the club, presented a notice of motion, seeking debentures of five (pound) and upwards to finance the construction of a second green, the money to be used solely for that purpose.

It was accepted by the club at a special meeting and in all, £2000 (pound) was raised, and Johnston's tender of £1000 (pound) was accepted for the construction of the green, as well as a tender of £845 pound and 15 shillings from J. Reilly to cover the costs of the concrete ditches.

Thursday bowls as we know them today, had their beginning on 20th December, 1962 and the club made a further effort to move from a provisional to full liquor licence.

Tender Accepted

The committee had had discussions with architect, Tom Vote, relative to a new club, as our 40 x 20 was feeling the pinch with the increased membership, and he explained the possibilities with a series of sketch plans and they were accepted without demur.

Turf Brown resigned office in January, 1963.

With a new clubhouse in the offing and the possibility of a full licence and poker machines, the committee met with Vince Baumer, our "Pokie Doctor" for many years, and he answered many questions put to him by the committee to prepare them for the task of choosing machines at the appropriate time.

President John McLeod and his executive had been busy trying to line up finance for the project but without any amount of success.

The quarterly meeting of 1963 was highlighted by the announcements that the club had:

- (1) Accepted a tender for the No. 2 green.
- (2) That debenture response had reached £2000 (pound)
- (3) That the whole area of the club had been fenced on its exterior boundary.
- (4) That concrete ditches had been arranged for the new green.
- (5) That irrigation watering had been obtained.

April, 1963 saw a tender worth £12,500 (pound) submitted by D. Sharpe, accepted for the construction of the new clubhouse and a move was made to obtain a five year loan from the C.B.A. but the ultimate amount came from the Commonwealth Bank.

Amendments to the plans were passed by the Licensing Court and the building got under way with our big holding water tank situated under the existing strongroom.

Twelve months after the opening of the new club, officials obtained a provisional licence, and into that structure was built a canteen service under the control of Alex Fyffe, he supplied the much needed soft drinks, tobacco, cigarettes and some well known brands of "Horehound beer".

Mixed bowls, a matter for discussion in most clubs came forward at this stage, when the women's club asked the men's club to consider weekly Sunday mixed games.

Following a meeting of the males, the women were informed that a 35-5 vote had been registered against the proposal.

The executive continued its heartbreaking task of finance chasing and the Rural Bank offered an £8000 (pound) loan which was inadequate and was rejected.

A foundation President's badge was struck for Arthur Wolfe in July, 1963 and it was also decided the club would present past presidents with a suitable badge at the end of their term of office.

Percy Holt signified his intention of retiring from the Treasurer's position and he was complimented on his efforts for the club, as was Hec Plasto, who had served on several committees since the commencement of the new club.

In his 1963 presidential report, John McLeod said it was a year of heartbreaks and many disappointments in the search for financial assistance.

Moves to obtain a longer lease from the Lands Dept., to move from a 21 year option to special lease did not proceed smoothly and, in fact, the department seemed loath to make any positive move.

On the poker machine front, a deal was completed for machines to be purchased at £175 (pound) per machine for cash and the Commonwealth Bank came to the party and financed the deal.

A further move was made towards the employments of a permanent greenkeeper, but the greens committee led by Len Spiller, supported by Pat Johnston, George Newton and Charlie Todd continued in their efforts to give members good surfaces to play on.

On the question of finance, McLeod said never had any club had so little income (raffles, donations and green fees) to keep its head above water and meet its OBLIGATIONS without losing friends and support.

He thanked and congratulated the committee on the manner it kept the flag flying.

Alex Fyffe's skilful control of the canteen brought special mention from McLeod.

Looking Back

Hec Plasto. One of the founding members who worked tirelessly for the club in the formative years. He was in several committees and was a Vice President for several years.



Alex Fyffe. Regarded as the Grand Old man of the club who joined forces with the founders a few months after the club began. He was in charge of the canteen for years and when the club gained a license he held the office of a Vice President and later served a term as President. He was a patron for many years and one of his most widely accepted tasks was to recite the ode to MOTHER on our Mothers Day bowls and present each lady present with a hankie.

Green Problems

The 1963 elections resulted:-

Patrons:- W. Bingham, R. Dean MHR, H. Jackson MLA.

President:- John McLeod.

Vice Presidents:- John Aldridge(Snr.), Fred Ballam, Norm Neighbour.

Secretary:- Chris Christian.

Treasurer:- Ian Drinkwater.

Bowls Secretary:- Les Verrell.

Social Secretary:- Harold Neve.

Committee:- Alex Fyffe, P. Johnston, Charlie Barrow, Charlie Todd, George Newton.

Minute Secretary :- Alex Taylor

Greens Director:- Len Spiller.

Auditors:- Tom Ayling, Reg Watson.

Publicity:- Alex Taylor.

Delegates C.C.D.B.A.:- Tom Ayling, Fred Ballam, Fred Madden.

The Club was represented in the 4 and 5 pennants in that year and the latter months of the year saw mixed bowls played on the green.

The club had tried through financier Donald Cameron to obtain finance in various directions and ultimately Millers agreed to act as guarantor for the finances to be obtained from the Newcastle Finance Co.

Two title events completed the competitive side of the club in 1963 when Norm Neighbour retained his singles title at the expense of Ayling.

Ayling changed his partner in the pairs and with Pat Johnston he took the final in good style.

The opening series of the Hepple Cup saw Rose Wilson and Vic Warnecke take the prize.

The No. 2 green had not progressed as rapidly as was expected and the annual meeting had two motions placed before it:-

- (1) To seek legal protection for the club with the contractor
- (2) A further demand that the contractor, Johnston, be asked to do further work to ensure the green came in as required.

Many will remember the weeding shifts that took out many "strangers" to the area as the grass spread slowly.

A specially mounted photo of Wally Rossiter, one of the founders, was prepared and hung in the club.

Once again the women's club sought to have Sunday mixed brought into the playing calendar and a special meeting returned the same answer as before. Not at this stage.

Merv Horsley who was to become the first bar manager, addressed the club, relative to debentures in a bid to gain extra money and made an offer of £1000 (pound) loan. Later, he went to Millers for management training in readiness to take over when the licence was obtained.

The quarterly meeting was told loan matters had been completed and the erection of the clubhouse could be undertaken.

The financial position of the social committee was raised by Hec Plasto and Harold Neve and the meeting was told all profits from the various functions, there were no failures, had, under the direction of the Licensing Court, been paid into general funds.

Two special meetings were held in June, 64 with Vince Baumer, (Sapphire Machines) and R. Hazell (Nutt and Muddle) to prepare for the installation of machines and at the same time it was announced the Lands Department had recommended a new lease but did not disclose the type.

The following month, Alex Taylor and Fred Ballam sought to have the executive responsible for the poker machine purchases and the opening purchase to comprise six new machines, one sixpenny three reels, one sixpenny four reels, three one shilling three reels and one two shilling three reels.

Duncan Campbell, who had applied to the club some time previously for the greenkeepers job, was appointed on 13th July, 1964 and at the same time the No. 2 green debenture fund was finalised on a 97% vote of members and the balance of funds transferred to general funds.

The 1964 elections resulted:-

Patrons:- W. Bingham, R. Dean

President:- John McLeod.

Vice Presidents:- John Aldridge, Fred Ballam, Hec Plasto.

Secretary:- Chris Christian.

Treasurer:- Ian Drinkwater.

Bowls Secretary:-Les Verrell.

Committee:- Charlie Barrow, Alex Fyffe, Frank Hyde, George Newton, Charlie Todd.

Selectors:- Pat Johnston, John Langford.

Greens Director:- Len Spiller.

Publicity:- Alex Taylor.

Delegates to C.C.D.B.A.:-Tom Ayling, Fred Ballam, Mat Neave.

Social Secretary:-Alex Forrest.

Merv Horsley gave the club details of visits to several city clubs as he prepared to take over the bar and at that stage Alex Fyffe began to make his final payments to the club to conclude his successful control of the canteen and he was roundly congratulated on the efforts he had evinced during the period.

The committee decided to use the area beneath the club for a board room and billiard room and the builder, D. Sharpe, was called in to quote, a figure of £240 (pound) was agreed upon.

Alex Forrest resigned from the social committee at the quarterly meeting in November, 1964 and his place was taken by Les Knock, and at the same meeting, Stan Hepple accepted the office of patron.

The club traded as a licensed club from 30th October, 1964. The liquor licence was granted at 1.30 p.m., the poker machines at 3.20 and by 4.00 p.m. the club was in full cry.

Green Changed

Twilight bowls had their beginning in the club in December, 1964. Following discussions relative to poker machines, the Committee decided in December, 1964 to purchase one two shilling three reel, one,one shilling three reel, and two sixpenny three reels.

They were bought on a half deposit and the balance in six months.

Tom West became a member of the Social Committee at that stage and later took over the indoor bowls.

The growth of club support was evidenced in the same month by the acquisition of further tables and chairs to seat visitors and members alike.

Stock control came under the microscope in the early months of 1965 and a committee of seven was formed to set out the necessary requirements.

Tom West was appointed indoor bowls secretary and the club decided on a ceiling of £100 (pound) for trophy buying.

A special meeting in January, 1965 turned the "old faithful" No. 1 green from the reliable couch to Hybrid bent and an amendment for the introduction of a third green was lost on a show of hands.

The greenkeepers wages at that point of time were increased to £25 (pound) per week.

Umina greens were the scene of the Central Coast St. George clash, while Tom Ayling was appointed chairman of the May carnival committee and accorded a delegates job at the Royal.

The Chief Secretary's department called for a payment of £800 (pound) for poker machines and now with a greatly expanded battery our payment to the department in 1985 is \$58,098.

The quarterly meeting in February, 1965 was highlighted by the return of outstanding bar figures through Manager, Merv Horley, and a comprehensive three monthly report from Millers Brewery.

The meeting sent a letter of appreciation to Horsley.

The deeds for the club area were finalised in April, 1965 and when the trustees were finalised, the Lands Dept. agreed to return the necessary papers.

Charlie Todd, one of the great stalwarts in the opening years of the reformed club and Eric Connelly, another great worker for the club passed away during May and the quarterly meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect.

John McLeod suffering ill health was absent from the club for a period during which time John Aldridge took over the presidential chair.

In July, 1965 the question of a Secretary-Manager emerged but any action in that direction was deferred for six months.

A special meeting sought to have the committee increased to nine, the selectors to four, and the Social Committee to five, but the move was defeated.

The 1965 meeting saw John McLeod back on deck, and in his report he said the club had both liquor and poker machine licences and the club now owned 10 machines, all of which were paid for.

The funds of the club he added, were in a healthy state and all calls had been met. He paid tribute to the secretary and treasurer for the buoyant state of the clubs affairs.

He concluded by advising members that committeemen spent many hours at the club, at times between nine and twelve hours in anyone day.

The elections resulted:-

Patrons:- E. Humphries, S. Hepple.

President:- John McLeod.

Vice-Presidents:- John Aldridge, Alex Fyffe, Hec Plasto.

Secretary:- Alex Taylor.

Treasurer:- Ian Drinkwater.

Bowls Secretary:- Les Verrell.

Publicity:- Alex Taylor.

Greens:- Len Spiller.

Social:- Les Knock.

Delegates to C.C.D.B.A. Tom Ayling, Fred Ballam, Mat Neave.

Coach:- Frank Hyde.

Selectors:- John Langford, Frank Hyde, Sid George.

Committee:- Fred Madden, Les Knock, Frank Maguire, Fred Ballam, George Newton, Len Spiller, Roy Weedward, Jack Hook, Norm Blott.

The opening of the new clubhouse had to be deferred in August, 1965 because the greens were not sufficiently advanced to permit a major opening ceremony and 6th March, 1966 was decided on and Ted Downie, the Royal President agreed to perform the ceremony.

Norm Neighbour, one of the opening vice presidents retired from the club.

A coring machine was purchased from Canberra South and, after adjustments, it did good work.

Diggers Day had its beginning in April, 1965 and it has been one of the main features of the bowling calendar ever since.

The club gained a lease from the Lands Department and that remained in force until we bought the land in the seventies.

Moves were made at this juncture to have Merv Horsley elevated from bar manager to manager and the quarterly meeting was asked to make suggestions to the committee relative to the matter.

A subsequent special meeting in November, 1965 saw Horsley appointed as manager from 1st December, 1965 a roster of board members was formulated to take care of his days off periods.

The opening of 1966 saw the women's club seek permission to play some of their championship matches on Sunday mornings but any decision on the matter is still a well kept secret because it was not put to paper.

Len Spiller, the greens director, suggested the club employ a trainee greenkeeper and following advertisements, Keith Eadie was appointed in February, 1966.

Ray Wright, well known to most of us through his prowess on the greens, was a member of staff and following the February quarterly meeting he was trained to become the chief steward and he later moved up to the assistant to Merv Horsley.

The family of Chris Christian thanked the club for its support on the death of Chris and John Langford announced he would present a shield to commemorate Christian, to be known as the Chris Christian Shield for handicap singles.

At this stage the annual fees were \$10.00 for full membership and \$5.00 for social.

John McLeod was accorded a months leave of absence in a bid to regain full health. The women's club thanked the club for a \$300.00 loan and use of the club's facilities for their opening day.

The club's finances remained buoyant and in April, 1966 a total of \$4,636.29 was paid to creditors and \$2,500.00 was transferred to the reserve fund, leaving a credit balance of \$908.00.

The Social Committee was empowered to spend \$24.00 on music for a Saturday. A long way from the \$400.00 paid for a band today.

New fees at this point of time were full joining fee \$12.00 sub \$10.00; social joining fee \$8.00 sub \$5.00. Players changing from local clubs to add \$4.00.

Continued ill health forced the postponement of John McLeod's president's day.

Frank Hyde resigned as coach in July, 1966 and recommended Bert Haylock be asked to assume the duty.

The 1966 annual meeting saw Bernie O'Donoghue accept the position of auditor and the meeting decided to demand that all new members play at least six games per year.

The elections resulted:-

Patrons:- Stan Hepple, Roy Hill, E. Humphries.

President:- John Aldridge.

Vice-Presidents:- Alex Fyffe, John Langford, Fred Ballam, Hec Plasto.

Secretary & Publicity:- Alex Taylor.

Treasurer:- Jim Ward. Bows

Secretary:- Les Verrell.

Committee:- George Newton, George Retford, Frank Maguire, Roy Woodward, Les Knock.

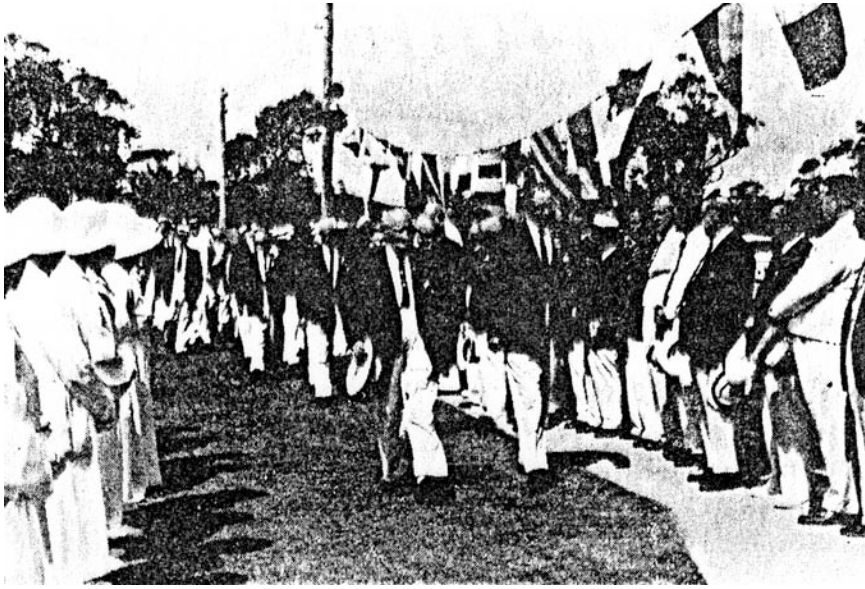
Delegates to C.C.D.B.A.:- Tom Ayling, Fred Ballam, Tom West.

Selectors:- Frank Hyde, Pat Johnston, Jim Levett.

John Langford presented yet another trophy to be called the John McLeod trophy for the most improved player of the year.

It was decided the annual meetings would in future, be held on Friday night.

The Royal Honors Club



ABOVE:- Senior Vice President John Aldridge walks State President, Ted Downie, to the clubhouse steps at the 1966 opening.

BELOW:- Downie replies to the welcome extended by President John McLeod (behind Downie) while John Aldridge, Hec Plasto and Alex Fyffe look on



Extreme Merit

When John McLeod stepped down in August, 1966 after five years in office, Jack Pateman, the district president, in presenting him with his past president's badge, added these words, "For extreme Merit and the satisfaction in seeing your club launched on the road to success."

Ted Downie, president of the Royal New South Wales Bowling Association opened the new clubhouse on Sunday, 6th March, 1966.

He included a future state president in Don Bray in his team and his other players were Jim Anderson and George Matthews.

The District was represented by Don Hudson (President), Geoff Richardson (Vice President), Hugh "pop" Jeffreys (Vice President) and Allen Harkus (Secretary).

The officials were taken on a tour of the district and after lunch they were met at the gate by Senior Vice president John Aldridge, who presented Downie to President, John McLeod on the steps of the club.

Downie, after officially opening the club, played in the social bowls, and Mrs Nita McLeod, wife of the President, threw the jack and on its alignment by Vice President Hec Plasto the State President officially opened the green.

At the high tea, Bill Maxwell M.H.R. and Ted Humphries M.L.A., Bob Vaughan, the Shire President, Tom Vote, the architect and Doug Sharpe the builder were among the honoured guests.

The club had its first visit from those who move in the night during August, 1966 and our security brought congratulations from the local police.

John Langford and George Retford, moved in the same month to have \$2,700.00 taken from the reserve fund, to pay off the overdraft in the Trustees Account and to seek a further overdraft from the bank to be taken up when required.

Alex Taylor moved to have a further \$1000.00 taken from the buoyant general funds to be placed in the reserve fund and at the same time, like today, there were moves to have the parking area upgraded.

Bert Haylock was accepted as the official coach at this point in the club's activities.

Thursday bowlers also found August, 1966 a bonanza, as from that date trophies were to be presented to the winners and losers.

A special meeting in September, 1966 saw Merv Horsley tender his resignation from 28th September, 1966. It was received with regret and a motion of appreciation was passed by the board on behalf of itself and the members generally, Peter Webb was invited to tender an application for the job.

At a special meeting the following week, the committee agreed to appoint Webb on a three month trial basis at \$74.00 a week, with a \$10.00 allowance.

A weekly euchre tournament became an actuality at this stage, \$2.00 for men and women winners, with a \$10.00 prize for the best aggregate between October and December, and January to Easter.

Bar staffing problems, its one of the problems of today's activities, worried the committee and the manager was assigned to bring order into the numbers game.

At this juncture. Ray Wright resigned as assistant manager.

Merv Horsley and his wife Jean, who was a familiar figure behind the bar during Horsley's stay at the club, were each presented with gifts at the high tea on 23rd October, 1966.

Tom Ayling retained his chairmanship of the May carnival and was a member of the district greens committee, Tom West a member of the district entertainment committee, with John Langford a delegate to the Registered Clubs Association.

The green provided some headaches during the October period, with the bent requiring plugging in bare patches and five rinks were available for Sunday play.

The No.2 green, provided three alternatives:-

1. Immediate reconstruction,
2. Core with 1 1/2" tynes to 15 to 18"
3. A patch up job as in the previous year.

The committee decided on a proposal by Fred Ballam, to use the cheapest means available to have the greens back for the Christmas play.

A contractor was to be approached to carry out the deep coring.

George Retford was seconded to the indoor bowls, to help clear up some friction that was affecting the smooth running of the section.

In November, 1966, the club decided to place teams in the No.5 and 6 pennants in the New Year. Through lack of support the euchre tournament closed down.

Duncan Campbell, the club's first official greenkeeper, resigned on the 21st November, 1966 and the club received eight replies to its advertisement and during the period the club took to decide on a replacement, Keith Eadie, the assistant, was given \$10.00 extra per week.

The caterer of the day in January, 1967 sought compensation for profits lost when the club conducted a barbeque.

A further \$1,500.00 was placed in the reserve account from general funds which retained a buoyant figure and Peter Webb was confirmed as the club's secretary manager.

Selection problems, the No. 1 whinge in all clubs got an airing at that juncture when the match committee was instructed to interview the selectors, concerning one selection in the pennant sides.

Two Honored

At a special meeting in February, 1967, life membership was accorded to inaugural president, Arthur Wolfe and to the founding president of the new club, John McLeod.

Wolfe was in attendance and he was invested by senior vice president, Alex Fyffe.

George Dixon was the new president of the indoor bowls section and to bring the club into line on the constitution front, Tom West joined forces with Fred Ballam and Bert Haylock to review the rules and report back to the committee.

February, 1967 saw George Retford and Les Knock initiate a move for a six hour weekend carnival and the support of Everglades, Woy Woy and Ettalong was sought. In the initial stages, only Everglades showed any interest in the proposal.

Indoor bowlers got a new mat in March, '67 and the healthy state of the club's finances induced the board to consider the repayment of all debentures and interest to the end of April, 1967.

Alex Taylor intimated he would not seek re-election at the annual meeting because of increased responsibility in his school work.

Green boundary lines were given a trial in social games at the instigation of the district, but the use of the lines was not made final.

George Retford and John Langford moved to have sketch plans prepared for future extensions which were presented to the April, 1967 meeting by architect member, Tom Vote.

After they were viewed by the committee, he was invited to prepare plans for stage two of the expansion programme.

Alex Fyffe was in the chair following the collapse of John Aldridge in Adelaide, and there was a grave doubt at that point if he would be able to resume his duties as president.

Claude Knight was congratulated on his address at the funeral of the late John McLeod. Mrs. McLeod a little later sent a letter of thanks to the club for voting her husband as a life member.

Jim Ward, the treasurer and George Retford were appointed trustees in the stead of John McLeod (deceased) and John Aldridge (incapacitated).

The '66 board began the first check on insurance for members and their property on the club's premises and, in another direction, we began to lift bowls from the greens at tea intervals to help preserve the No. 1 area which was a bent.

Harvey Trinder Insurance carne to the party and it was left to the club and members to decide.

The year ended on the announcement that Roy Hill has presented a trophy, the John McLeod trophy, for play between Umina and Toukley District.

Barbeque functions in the long summer days brought a request from the caterers for compensation for interference to their trading.

Trophy days were next on the agenda and they were played over two games of 11 ends with winners playing winners in the second round.

Sustained trading allowed a further \$1,500.00 to go to the Reserve Account and that happy "halfway house" in the centre of the No. 1 and 2 green had its beginning in the opening month of '67.

Increases in the prices of additives and a cent rise on rum featured February, '67 quarterly meeting, but the move was lost as it failed to get sufficient support.

The monthly meeting of February, '67 saw the indoor committee in discussions with the club committee and several solutions were hammered out to overcome obvious difficulties and the reserve fund was further bolstered with a \$1,500.00 transfer.

Australian Performing Rights considered the club's activities and issued a licence at the cost of \$40.00.

The greens section sought a new 30 inch mower and a rotary fertilizer spreader and the request was granted.

George Retford and John Langford sought to have sketch plans drawn up to enclose the western side veranda.

Torn Vote was at the following meeting with the sketch plans and answered questions from board members and following that discussion he was asked to prepare plans, and specifications for stage 2.

At that juncture, George Retford and Treasurer, Jim Ward, moved an amendment which sought to have half of stage one proceeded with, and that the width of the work be kept to a minimum of 11 feet. The amendment was lost.

Treasurer Jim Ward announced that after the payment of all accounts and the repayment of the debentures etc. the club had a credit balance of \$718.00.

Mrs. Leff, the caterer, was congratulated on her efforts for the Diggers Day presentation and Claude Knight was applauded for the manner in which he gave the address.

Fred Ballam told the meeting the amended constitution was available for perusal.

A special meeting in May, '67 saw George Retford and Jim Ward explain the finances of the club and the general situation that pertained and a meeting of 52 members carried the motion to split the amount of work to be done previously passed by the club's committee.

That old story about "pokie payments" came forward at the May '67 quarterly meeting when some members sought an extra card on the machine and more small pays but the matter was left to the new committee.

The May '67 meeting saw moves to have the plans submitted for the extensions which included half of the veranda and to extend to the end of the present building facing Melbourne Avenue covering the width of the veranda.

Hec Plasto and Les Verrell moved to have the veranda deleted from the extension plans and their motion was carried.

June '67 saw two special meetings held in the fast growing club, the first discussing the questions of overtime and allowances and there was a move to cut the hours of trading in a bid to cut costs.

The second related to throat fills in machines as set out by the auditors.

The meeting demanded key changes for all machines and a move was made to have a duty officer present when service was carried out. They also sought a Duty Officer for Saturdays and Sundays.

Vic Warnecke and Bob Eves were delegated the task of finishing the machine shed. On the constitution front an important addendum was added which said "That a letter from a person who has been cited to appear before the committee offering resignation will not be accepted while the member is under citation to appear."

The committee at that stage accepted the tender of W. Buckeltz for \$1,865.00 to carry out the extension programme.

The poker machine licence fee for that period was \$4006.00, a far cry from \$21,366.00 in 1982.

Mixed Promotion

Club delegates to the Central Coast District Bowling Association were instructed to vote for the promotion of a mixed fours competition and the club allocated \$100.00 towards the initial costs of the promotion.

Artist, Frank Kelf, was congratulated on his work on a special mural he presented to the club which hung over the stage in the auditorium.

Treasurer, Jim Ward, transferred \$2,810.00 from the Reserve account to the general account to meet an emergency, leaving a balance of \$5,500.00 in the reserve fund.

Car park grading and sealing was, another MUST when funds were available. (That's a long, long story) .

A special committee meeting was held following the death of the club coach, Bert Haylock, on the green and it was decided to continue play on that day. Prior to the restart, Vice President, Fred Ballam spoke feelingly about Haylock's contribution to the club and also about Norm Neighbour, a foundation member, who had collapsed the same day at the Ettalong Memorial Club of which he was a member.

Licensing police did not object to the club alterations and architect, Tom Vote represented the club at the official hearing when the matter was recorded.

Gosford Shire Council advised that moves in previous months to have a special lease on the property extended had not been granted. Jim Ward, the Treasurer, had discussions with District Surveyor in a bid to have the matter reopened without success.

Charlie Barrow, one of the originals, and a member of the bricklaying team when the first clubhouse - our beloved 40' x 20' building sought a clearance to play at Ettalong.

The caterer sought an increase in the fee for afternoon teas because of increased costs and the committee decided to increase the weekly subsidy to \$20.00 to overcome the move from 25¢ to 30¢.

Frank Hyde was appointed the coach for the women's club and Tom West the coach for the men's club.

At the annual meeting August '67, District President, Jack Pateman presided in lieu of President, John Aldridge, who had suffered a stroke while visiting Adelaide.

A motion by Alex Taylor and Ossie Pickering to have a preferential secret ballot was defeated and in its stead a motion by A. Taylor and Geo Newton that the various ballots be taken during the meeting was accepted.

John Langford withdrew from the presidential ballot as did H. Wall from the committee vote.

The meeting congratulated Alex Taylor for the work he had done and would continue to do, and, in accepting these thanks, Taylor said he did not seek re-election as Secretary.

It was announced that the final draft of the constitution would be available for the incoming committee.

The elections resulted:-

Patrons:- Stan Hepple, Roy Hill,

President:- Alex Fyffe.

Vice Presidents:- John Langford Frank Maguire,

Treasurer:- Jim Ward.

Ted Humphries. (Snr), Alex Taylor Fred Ballam.

Secretary:- Maurice Healey.

Bowls Secretary:- Roy Woodward.

Committee:- George Newton, Jack Forewell, George Dixon, Les Knock, G. Retford.

Selectors:- Bill Stewart, Dal Morris, Bert Webb.

Delegates to C.C.D.B.A.:- Tom Ayling, Fred Ballam, Alex Taylor.

Publicity:- Alex Taylor.

The meeting recorded the long services given to the club by Les Verrell as the Bowls Secretary.

In the succeeding month, Peter Webb, Secretary, sought increased publicity on all facets of the Club's activities and the club sought an electric coin sorter.

Petersham Bowling Club, through the agency of Frank Maguire, presented several disused honor boards to the club.

One board carried the early singles and pairs and the other recorded the triples and fours.

They held pride of place until the new board which extended over the then bar took their places. John Langford and George Retford were the donors of the multiple event board.

Charity Day

It was decided a date in February in each year be set aside for a charity day, and to seek the co-operation of service clubs in its promotion.

Following the 1967 mixed carnival, each club was allocated \$60.00 from funds received but members moved to have it retained as basis for future carnivals and, at the same time, the club retained its delegates to the committee in the persons of George Retford and Tom West.

George Newton, a wonderful worker for the club, stepped in and took over the secretarial reins while Maurie Healy was ill. His actions were recorded in the minutes at the request of the members.

In October, 1967 the prices of beer took a move up, 7 oz 12¢; 10 oz 15¢; Scotch half 12¢; Rum half 12¢.

Hard on the heels of the increases the Committee bought a coin counter.

It was decided at that point new members should pay a fee of \$2.00 when submitting their applications and members winning competitions were awarded open orders.

October, 1967 saw George Retford resign from the board.

The question of championship trophies was discussed and it was decided to make the following:- Major Singles winner: \$17.50; Runner up \$9.00; Minor Singles: \$10.00 and \$6.00; Pairs: \$10.00 and \$6.00; Fours: \$10.00 each for winners; Triples: \$10.00 each for winners; Handicap Singles: \$10.00 and \$6.00.

Tom Ayling was again made chairman of the May carnival and he co-opted Roy Woodward, the Bowls Secretary, to his Committee.

Jim Ward and Alex Taylor were successful in having quarterly meetings deleted and in their stead, half yearly and annual meetings were substituted.

A special meeting in November '67 saw life membership bestowed on John Aldridge.

Discussion of Treasurer, Jim Ward's report on poker machine percentages highlighted the November, 1967 meeting as clubs were switching to metrics and he was able to indicate the percentages, needed from most club's machines.

In the last month of the year, a special meeting gave its assent to the purchase of three new machines.

January, 1968 saw twilight bowls introduced while February's meeting was highlighted by the Treasurer, Jim Ward announcing the club had a credit balance of \$4,413.00 This prompted the club to discuss the appointment of a Secretary-Manager at the end of the financial year in June.

The club membership at that stage was 155 Full members and 50 Social. The indoor section of the club failed to function and the duties of the secretary were split between Les Knock, George Cook, Jim Ward and Maurie Healey.

Staff Changes

The long standing discussion with the Lands Department Maitland office went a further step when it informed the club that its application for a special lease had been sent on to Under Secretary for Lands.

Peter Webb intimated he was going to New Guinea and a sum of \$100.00 was set aside for a presentation in July.

Mr. E. F. Wilson was subsequently appointed as Secretary/Manager and the variable expenses of June saw the reserve account provide \$702.50 to help put the club on an even keel leaving \$272.00 in reserve.

A renethon machine for greens work was purchased in Newcastle at a cost of \$350.00 repayable over four months.

A move was made to have the large manually operated roller motorised but the quote was not acceptable and the club advertised for an 8 cwt motorised roller.

B. Leffs was appointed head steward and the wearing of slacks by women in the clubhouse was carried on an amendment to be effective only on Saturday and Sunday and not any time during the week.

Men's dress regulations were relaxed to allow members to use the club to 7.00 p.m. each night in work clothes.

The No.2 green came under scrutiny in June, 1968 in a bid to get rid of the black soil under-the couch. It was decided to make inquiries and obtain a specialist to carry out the work.

The long running discussion with the Liquor Trade Union and our agents, the R.C.A., concerning the dismissal of steward, A. Hughes was completed by the payment of \$197.00 by the club.

A special meeting in July, 1968 saw the sub-committee handling the new constitution hand in its finished product and receive the thanks of the club, but a motion was put forward inviting objections to be forwarded to a special meeting later in the month.

Another special meeting the same month brought forward the construction of a third green.

George Retford moved the costs of renovation to No. 2 green and the figures deduced to cover the erection of the third green be taken together to minimise time.

After several members had spoken, Retford moved the committee's decisions about the No.2 green be rescinded. It was carried.

A further motion sought the construction of a third green and, after much discussion about its siting, it was decided to carry out the work on the area behind the clubhouse.

The annual meeting came along in August, 1968 and it attracted 79 members.

The meeting opened with a suspension of standing orders to consider,

1. The duties of a Secretary-Manager
2. To amend rule 10B to delete the words Hon. Secretary and insert a new clause which gave the club the right to appoint a Secretary or Secretary-Manager with or without remuneration and set out the duties to be carried out by the person so appointed.

Les Verrell moved a further amendment to Rule 10 to have the committee numbers increased from five to six.

Rule 7 was deleted taking from the annual meeting its right to appoint delegates to the Central Coast District Bowling Association, such appointments to be made by the board of the year.

Alex Fyffe Honored

After many glowing tributes from board and ordinary members, life membership was accorded to Alex Fyffe for his untiring efforts for the club.

The election resulted:-

Patrons:- Roy Hill, Stan Hepple, Ted Humphries.

President:- Fred Ballam.

Vice Presidents:- Alex Fyffe, Alex Taylor, Ossie Pickering & Jim Ward.

Committee:- Jim McCabe, Les Knock, Geoff Anderson, George Retford, Ray Smorti, & Wally Rainbow.

Selectors:- Dal Morris, Jim Levett, Ralph McGibbon.

Treasurer:- Ern Currey.

Bowls Secretary:- Roy Woodward.

Publicity Officer:- Jim Ward.

At a special meeting in August, 1968, Alex Taylor, George Retford and Ossie Pickering were elected as delegates to the C.C.D.B.A. with F. Ball the alternative, while the match committee comprised Alex Taylor, Geoff Anderson and Ray Smorti.

In August, 1968 the Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club offered the men's club a contribution of \$1000.00 which was received with grateful thanks.

The club's first pennant success came in this year, but not before rain washed out the first days play with Umina ahead but few ends played against Toukley R.S.L. at Avoca.

The match was completed the following week at the same venue and the final teams came from Alex Taylor, George Jennings, Jim McCabe, Wally Rainbow, Ralph McGibbon, Roy Hill, George Matthews, Ray Smorti, Ossie Pickering, HecPlasto, John Langford, Dal Morris, George Retford and Jack Hinwood. Manager, Tom West.

The match committee sought recognition for a move to provide medals for the winners of singles and pairs as well as triples and fours.

A quote for \$5,725.00 from Walters and Preece was accepted for the third green and after discussions on the financial standing of the club to carry out such works, Treasurer, E. Currey moved members be asked to act as guarantors for \$400.00 or more to cover an overdraft of \$8000.00 with the Commonwealth Bank.

Immediate work on the new green was halted until such times sufficient money was available to cover the overdraft and the contractor was advised he could start work as soon as funds were available.

Complaints were made by drinkers that the early placement on of mats for the indoor bowls nights affected the area for their nightly drinking, we had no auditorium these days, but the Secretary-Manager promised to have sufficient tables available for the drinkers.

Trading in the June, July, August quarter was encouraging and despite greens work and payments for machines, the September balance was \$2,083.00 in the BLACK.

Alex Taylor gained further kudos for the club by being elevated to the district match committee,

The bent green was giving trouble in September, 1968 and, in a bid to keep it in top condition, the committee decided to ban "bumpers", coaching -and roll ups on the surface.

To help the greenkeeper the club accepted a motion by Roy Woodward, Les Knock to advertise for an assistant.

The club experienced a fall of revenue from the 20¢ machines during September and the finance committee was asked to explore all facets of the problem in a bid to find a solution.

A motion prohibiting club employees becoming members was carried on September, 27th 1968.

The October meeting of the club received a notice from the club auditor, Bernie O'Donoghue, intimating a decrease in revenue for the July-September quarter as opposed to the previous year and he recommended the hiring of a permanent steward instead of several casuals in a bid to improve the position.

The finance committee, after discussions, told the main club committee, the losses appeared to be in the Poker Machines, high entertainment figures and that there should be a cut in staff, the latter having created an increase of \$1,060.00 in the costs.

The Secretary-Manager, Foster Wilson, was given a month to get the affairs of the club in order.

New Trustees

George Retford resigned from the committee and the club and, as a result Fred Ballam (President) and Ern Currey (Treasurer) were appointed as trustees to cover the resignations of Retford and H. Wall.

Three 20¢ machines were given some "throat treatment", which brought them back to the 10¢ scene.

At a special meeting in December, 1968, the finance committee in discussing work performed by the Secretary-Manager pointed out the auditors had not received stock sheets for October etc., and, as a result, they had not been able to give the club a true return.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided to give Mr. Foster Wilson one weeks pay in lieu of notice and terminate his employment on 14th December, 1968.

Ray Smorti became the temporary Honorary Secretary and Jim Ward assisted the Treasurer, Ern Currey in his duties.

December, 1968 saw the rear veranda enclosed in wire mesh and steel posts and the President, Fred Ballam and his wife Min, donated the first garden seat for the new No.3 green.

Following various wage rises which the greenkeeper had not enjoyed, the club brought the matter up-to-date by making a retrospective payment of \$500.00 taking payments back to September, 1968. All future basic wage rises would, under the direction of the committee, flow on to the outside staff.

George Retford rejoined the club during December. The board decided to play mixed bowls on Sundays on the first and third weeks but allowed only mixed play on the other Sundays provided sufficient space was left for men's games.

The New Year saw the price for beer jugs go to .70¢ and the old 5¢ machine was traded for a more up to date model

Peter Webb and A. E. Caldwell sought interviews in relation to the Secretary-Managers job.

The half yearly meeting in February, 1969 saw the finances in a healthy state due largely to the fact the club had not found it necessary to go into the arranged overdraft.

Alex Taylor was accorded an accolade for his work and it was duly noted.

An election to fill a vacant Vice President's slot saw George Dixon successful while Ian Drinkwater was similarly elected to bring the committee up to full strength.

George Retford moved the club limit visitations to 16 a year but an amendment saw the wording changed to not more than 16 a year which received the support of the meeting.

Suddenly for the indoor bowls showed a marked improvement and the mat work by Claude Tattersall was well received.

A motion by A. Taylor to bring half yearly meetings to the 3rd Wednesday in February at 8.00 p.m. was passed by the meeting.

Cleaners at the club in December, 1969 were given a \$4.00 a week increase but, for the lift, they had to keep all windows, venetians, fans and bar grills in top condition.

Bar closing times was, as of now, a very vexed question and it was left to the bar manager and secretary to announce the closing time half an hour before closure.

Frank Hyde resigned as club coach and the Social committee, under the guidance of Les Knock sought permission to buy a grand piano for all shows at the club. After a solid debate the vote on the matter was even at 4 all with one abstention and the casting vote of President put the project on the road. The piano cost \$1,305.00 and it was paid for over the years by social gatherings and chicken boards. It's our pride and joy today. Thanks boys.

Finances at this stage were buoyant again and \$1,000.00 was transferred to the reserve.

The new constitution was forwarded to the Licensing Court for approval or variation.

The meeting also moved to have a 10¢ charge placed on players, men and women, for play outside recognised days, without success.

A special meeting in May, 1969 saw the members reverse the decision by making the charge for ordinary days play at 5¢. The Thursday game went to 30¢ while the cost for trophy days was set at 40¢.

Counter Lunches

Counter lunch was introduced in May, 1969 on a Thursday and the Club provided sausages, cheese and biscuits.

The poker machine supplementary tax at that point of time totalled \$3,518.00 and the Liquor Licence \$1,306.60 and in 1985 they are poker machine supplementary tax \$58,098.00 and Liquor Licence \$21,466.00.

The local official for Licensing section sent the new constitution to the Sydney Licensing Court for approval.

A special meeting in August, 1969 received a survey from the Treasurer on poker machine activities for 12 months and it showed the 5¢ and 10¢ machines gave the club the best return. The meeting moved to have four old machines, two 20¢ and two 10¢ traded in and in their stead to purchase three new 10¢ and three 5¢ machines.

The annual meeting in August, 1969 attracted 75 members and when voting commenced moves to have postal votes accepted was vetoed by the President, Fred Ballam, as no provision had been provided in the club's constitution.

The election resulted:-

Patrons:- Stan Hepple, Roy Hill, Ted Humphries.

President:- Fred Ballam.

Vice Presidents:- Alex Fyffe, Alex Taylor, Geoff Anderson, George Dixon.

Committee:- John Langford, Frank Cahill, Wal Rainbow, Frank Maguire, Jim McCabe.

Selectors:- Dal Morris, Frank Hyde, Ralph McGibbon.

Secretary:- Ray Smorti.

Treasurer:- Ern Currey.

Bowls Secretary:- Les Knock.

Publicity Officer:- George Newton.

Life Membership was accorded Len Spiller, "Mr. Greens" for his long and faithful service to the club.

George Dixon and Ray Smorti were congratulated on their joint efforts to supply a yard arm for the flagpole.

Harry Winterburn, one of the club's oldest members was unable to play bowls and the committee maintained his membership by placing him on the social listing.

Saturday night attendances were down for the dance but the Sunday music nights attracted an improved following.

Beer prices were given another "kick" in September, 1969, the small glasses staying at 10¢ but the middies went to 17¢ and schooners 22¢. Jug users paid 75¢.

Frank Callaghan was appointed assistant to Treasurer, Ern Currey, while Jim McCabe was seconded as additional delegate to the C.C.D.B.A.

The T.P.I. Association was given the freedom of the club for their meetings and were allowed to practice on the greens. Later Andy Kay and Jim McCabe gained selection in the N.S.W. team to play Queensland and the club voted them some "pocket money".

Alex Fyffe thanked the club for helping to make his diamond wedding celebrations with May such a huge success.

During the month, Wayne Read was appointed as greenkeeper in place of Fred Lord, to commence duties in November. He started on \$70.00 a week for a 3 month trial.

The talent quest proved a huge success and the social committee received congratulations from all sides.

A steep drop in the cash balance in October, 1969 centred around the purchase of a new ice machine and poker machines.

The R.N.S.W.B.A. was given three dates for the opening of the third green, 11th April 1970, 2nd May and 23rd May 1970.

The Central Coast executive made a move to have the transistors banned from the greens for all times and our delegates were instructed to vote against the move.

The Social Committee announced at this juncture the new piano debt had been reduced by half.

The club bought a batch of trees from the Forestry to be planted around the No. 3 green to form a breakwind against the strong southerlies. Later, those planted on the south side of the green had to be taken out as they threatened the green while those on the western side grew into fine specimens.

An October move to restrict women's activities at the club on Mondays and Tuesdays brought a protest from the women's club but the December meeting decided to stick to its time slotting, Monday 12.30 p.m. and Tuesday 9.30 a.m.

Michael Butt was signed on as an assistant greenkeeper and arrangements were made for him to attend the Hornsby Technical College.

Fred Lord resigned and the committee accepted his actions, he later withdrew the resignation and a move to have his resignation as a bowler accepted was defeated.

At this stage 18 year olds could become members. They were banned from poker machines but could use bar facilities.

Dress regulations were given another twist. Thongs were banned, but long socks and shorts were acceptable at all times.

To help carry out the week-end trade, bar stools were banned on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. That magical "six feet from the bar" for drinkers reared its ugly head once again and the committee had to act.

December, 1969 saw Jim McCabe become the women's club coach and the earlier ban on thongs were relaxed to allow the wearing thereof till 6.00 p.m.

Bottle Sales

Turning into December, 1970, the club had to curtail bottle sales on a Sunday until the situation was clarified.

Dal Morris dropped out of selection and Frank Maguire was appointed for the balance of the year.

The plumbing for No. 3 green was in the hands of Brinkman and Bartlett at the cost of \$418.70.

The half yearly meeting in February attracted 57 members.

In a four way tussle, John Langford and Bill Stewart were voted in as selectors.

George Retford moved that all future half yearly and annual meetings be transferred to Sunday mornings and it was carried.

Mr. G. Brown was appointed as caterer and to stop instructions being given by various members of the board and other members to the caterer it was resolved to have all discussions between the caterer and the Secretary-Manager only.

The car park surface was sealed and fences painted for the 11th March opening of the third green, to which 52 invitations were issued to outside clubs, etc.

April, 1970 proved a testing time for the club, and, after a series of events, the secretary washed his hands of the catering and Frank Cahill agreed to act as a liaison officer between the two parties.

May saw the club commence preparations for a transfer to a Non Pty. Ltd. status while, the billiard table was given to the scouts.

The final payment on the piano, car park sealing and a new mower, dented the clubs balance a little.

In a bid to bring playing times into line, John Langford moved that from 6th June 1970, only players in attendance at 1.15 would be assured of a game, this was to apply to all afternoon games throughout the week.

Solicitors, Tapperall and Rutledge sought a declaration of trustees to negotiate a special lease with the Lands Department. Wayne Read sought permission to tryout a new piece of equipment, a dew roller before purchasing one for use by the greens staff.

In July 1970, it was decided to invite the incoming committee to set up a building fund and that 10% of profit~ for each month to be channelled into the fund. The new committee decided to accept the idea and the money to be placed with the R.S.L. Building Society.

The August 1970 annual meeting attracted 103 members and the ballots resulted:-

Patrons:- Roy Hill, Alex Fyffe, Ted Humphries.

President:- George Dixon.

Vice Presidents:- Frank Cahill, Fred Ballam, Alex Taylor, Geoff Anderson.

Committee:- Jack Hinwood, Merv McDonald, Jack Turner, Dick Bird, George Knock.

Secretary:- Ray Smorti.

Treasurer:- Reg Sellman.

Selectors:- Jack Forewell, Dal Morris, Jim McCabe.

Bowls Secretary:- Tom West.

Publicity Officer:- George Newton.

Life Membership was sought for George Newton, Les Verrell, and Alex Taylor, but the motions were lost.

The meeting appointed the President, Secretary and Treasurer to carry out the work necessary to provide the changeover to Non Pty. Ltd.

Club constitution changes as directed by the Taxation Department earlier were agreed to by the meeting.

The question of honorariums brought considerable discussion and the meeting decided in the case of the President he should receive an annual allowance of \$350.00 to be paid when requested.

The Chief Secretary gave us a windfall in August, 1970 when an amended licence fee provided a concession of \$1,833.33.

The No. 2 green was levelled and was ready for grassing and Ray Smorti was appointed Secretary-Manager while Alan Morrissey was asked to take over the ladies club coaching.

September, 1970 was a mixed bag as the costs of the No.2 green work had reached \$2,205.00, beer prices rose, small glasses to 12¢, and schooners to 24¢.

A steep rise in maintenance figures for poker machines caused the committee to change the arrangement from a once a month to a two monthly visit.

The match committee came under fire from some members who claimed they could lean a little more to requests by players. Its the same old story today.

December, 1970 saw John Langford resign as a selector and Ossie Pickering took his place.

The finance committee had letters sent to members re debentures and at the same time the committee raised all liquor prices to conform with neighbouring clubs and local hotels.

Definite moves were set in train to have a full-time Secretary-Manager appointed and a reputable business consultant was employed to find a suitable applicant.

The Treasurer, Reg Sellman, announced the special building fund had been opened and was in use.

January, 1971 saw a marked improvement in bar and poker machine figures as compared with the previous year and another amount was transferred to the building fund.

Treasurer Reg Sellman was all smiles in February when he revealed the balance was \$9,570.00 which allowed a further \$1,000.00 to be transferred to the building fund. The banking for January reached \$16,387.00 of which the net Poker Machine figure was \$7,100.00. "

Royal Fees Up

The Royal announced an increase in all fees, a sign of the times.

Geoff Anderson, the finance controller, told the February meeting he envisaged an increase of 50% in fees to cover the cost in wages etc.

Sketch plans for proposed alterations were being prepared for consideration at a later meeting.

At this juncture, Ray Smorti announced his retirement as Secretary but agreed to stay on until the half yearly at which it was intended to amend the club rules other than those which affected the Liquor Act requirements.

A gala day was suggested for the re-opening of the No. 2 green in March 1972, especially as the green had never been officially opened.

The half yearly meeting in February, 1971 drew an attendance of 82 and the meeting approved the committees work in relation to the alterations and Tom Vote was asked to complete the planning section.

The need was brought home by the Christmas figures and the crush they provided making it very evident a change in conditions was needed.

Ray Smorti sought an increase of fees to full member \$14.00, Social \$7.00 and indicated the Royal intended to make a 100% rise in fees.

Rising costs forced the move by Smorti but Wally Rainbow suggested the costs had not risen 40% as was the case for members if the club agreed to the suggested fee changes. On a vote the motion was lost.

Frank Cahill and Jack Hinwood moved for the appointment of a Secretary-Manager and as the motion was already on the books the meeting directed the committee to act on the matter.

The club continued to progress financially in the second six months of the year despite a \$2,500.00 cost for No.2 green.

An all time record for New Year Eve trading in the bar was shown when the gross action hit \$1,000.00 while the net pokies for the New Year period was \$3,000.00

Wayne Read, the green keeper, was congratulated by the meeting on the wonderful state of the greens.

President, George Dixon asked the members to bring their complaints to the club and not air them in the "local" and in that way they could be ironed out successfully.

Ray Smorti told the board he would stay in office until the annual meeting or until a Secretary-Manager was appointed.

Delegates to the C.C.D.B.A. announced moves were being made to have all pennants state events.

The wheel turned slowly and it was not until 1982 that the No.5 pennant became a state competition.

Joe Salvia was elected as a Vice President and a later ballot saw him gain the Senior Vice President spot while Ossie Pickering and Fred Ballam were voted in as selectors.

During March 1971, match committee decisions as promulgated by Fred Ballam (chairman) and Jack Hinwood were disputed and the committee decided to leave the decisions to the elected members of the committee in future and asked the committee to respect the needs of players who represent the club officially or play in district championships when announcing matches.

This situation arose when members of the board went to a President's Day at Waverton and to another game at Gwandalan and at the subsequent board meeting the match committee, on a vote, was instructed to return the offending players to the competition.

A special meeting was called and the action of the committee was rescinded and the players remained forfeited players.

At the same meeting the plans prepared by Tom Vote for the new auditorium were accepted and open for discussion and a two week period was accepted for written suggestions to be handed to the secretary.



The Kingfisher Trophy

This trophy is a memento to a family of kingfishers which inhabited the area adjacent to the site of the Umina Beach Bowling Club. Following its establishment, the birds disappeared and to preserve their identity, the emblem of a kingfisher forms part of the motif of the badge of the Club and is again featured in the design and naming of this plaque.

The trophy is competed for annually on Queen's Birthday week-end at Umina Beach Bowling Club; the tournament being open to teams of three bowlers, with the winning club holding it for the ensuing twelve months.

First Time

The club opened for the first time on Good Friday and it proved highly successful financially and bowls wise.

The beer "hike" was on again and 6 oz went to 13¢, middies to 19¢ and schooners to 26¢ while jugs were retained at 80¢.

At this point the match committee announced the completion of an overhang of 1970 titles and at the same time announced the current titles were well ahead.

Dick Bird resigned from the board in April, 1971 and at the same meeting the greens boys scored a new mower at a cost of \$680.00.

May, 1971 saw an announcement that women players had control on Tuesdays and men in greys could not roll up with the women.

Dick Bird protested over a match in the Hepple Cup and after hearing evidence the match committee decided to play the game on 6th June, 1971.

The Central Coast section of the R.C.A. circularised clubs re "unfair trading" in drink pricing and suggested public bar price 26¢ for schooners - a price the club had decided on previously.

The club was visited by prowlers in the night during May, 1971 without too much loss. Jack Turner completed a neat job in the flooring through which they made their entrance.

A special meeting in June, 1971 saw Tom Vote explain the variations to the plans previously displayed in the club and the meeting accepted same and Vote was instructed to prepare the necessary plans for the council to invite tenders.

Debentures became available and a letter written by the finance committee was sent to all members.

Moves were made for life membership for Alex Taylor and Les Verrell but at the annual meeting later, members failed to support the proposals of the committee.

Social workers said the annual ball had made a deficit of \$60.00 but were quick to explain full members had not supported the evening but social members had pulled their weight and had prevented a much larger loss.

August, 1971 saw the greens wages increased to full award rates and a meeting with the initial Secretary-Manager on the 6th August, 1971.

Following the commencement of the Secretary-Manager, Mr. Neville White's employment, the committee met and appointed Mr. Ray "Snow" Forrester as his assistant.

The elections at the annual meeting resulted:-

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe, John Langford.

President:- George Dixon.

Vice Presidents:- Alex Taylor, Joe Salvia, Fred Ballam, Ray Smorti.

Treasurer:- Reg Sellman.

Committee:- Jack Turner, Keith Johnson, Sid McFarlane, Clarrie Heath and Jim McCabe.

Bowls Secretary:-Tom West.

Publicity Officer:-George Newton.

Selectors:-Ossie Pickering, Frank Hyde, Bill Coghlan.

The meeting was asked to arrange a trophy day for mixed bowls on the last Sunday in each month.

During the month vandalism was detected on the greens and police were informed in a bid to catch the offenders. The initial talent quest got under way to cover a period of five weeks and then the semi-final and finals.

September, 1971 saw the committee decide to discharge the \$4,000.00 overdraft with the bank and invest \$5,000.00 in the R.S.L. Building Society.

Three new 10¢ poker machines were also ordered.

A long running discussion between the R.C.A. on our behalf with a cleaner and a steward saw the club conclude the discussions in October, 1971 with payments to the cleaner \$615.45 and steward \$264.00

The poker machine purchase had by this time grown to four, three 10 centers and one 2 center.

Ken Johnson was elected to the Royal committee's strength and Alex Taylor and George Dixon were voted on to the district match committee.

In November, 1971 Tom Vote explained the tenders received, Ross \$99,376.00; Reece \$99,527.00; Thompson \$104,904.00.

The committee decided to accept Ross's tender if investigations were favourable and finances available.

Unusual Move

The new year, 1972, opened on an unusual note when a special meeting in January saw Clarrie Heath, a member of the board and E. Madden seek to have the Umina Beach Bowling Club disbanded.

An amendment by George Retford and Frank Cahill that such action be deferred until a further meeting be called for discussion by the members concerning the Memorandum of Articles of Association. The board later called the meeting for 12th March, 1972.

At that special meeting it was moved that the Umina Beach Bowling Club Ltd. take over the assets and liabilities of the Umina Beach Bowling Club and that action was supported unanimously.

Various adjustments to make the transition to the new area of club management were carried by the meeting.

During December, a Carols by Candlelight function was enjoyed by members and in January, 1972, the candle holders were auctioned and a sum of \$114.00 was raised which was shared equally by the Kincumber Orphanage and the Heart Machine Appeal.

"Jack Forewell offered at this stage to become the Welfare Officer and the committee agreed to the move.

The general committee concurred with the finance committee in a decision to pay architect, Tom Vote fees totalling \$1000.00 and to abandon the original concept in this regard.

Fred Smythe, Frank Maguire and "Burl" Ives were congratulated on the excellent work they carried out on the greens surrounds during the Christmas period.

A sub committee consisting of R. Smorti, Alex Taylor and J. Turner was formed to formulate by-laws and house rules.

Tape Recorders

The half yearly meeting in February, 1972 attracted 54 members and they were told by Joe Salvia, the finance chairman, that the building project would have to be revised because of financial difficulties and the inability of the club to repay such loans.

The meeting decided to carry out stage one only, the auditorium, if funds were available.

Geoff May took over the duties of Publicity Officer because George Newton was ill.

Bill Garrett was made chairman of the Queens Birthday mixed carnival and President George Dixon said he would turn his Presidents Day into a members day which was readily accepted.

Tom West foreshadowed a motion which would rescind the motion banning employees from membership of the club.

A move to increase green fees to 20¢ was defeated.

February, 1972 saw the board examine a suggestion to play spiders to build up a welfare fund.

Tape recorders, banned from club meetings, caused the board to write a letter of censure to George Retford who had used a tape recorder at the half yearly meeting. The board sought the return of the tape.

The following month the club sent a letter to Retford asking him to appear at the April meeting to show cause why he had not respected the wishes of the committee in returning the tape.

In April, 1972 Retford sent a letter of apology to the club.

A special meeting in February, 1972 accepted the by-laws as set out by the investigating committee.

New quotes were sought for the auditorium work and they were J. Reece \$49,720.00; C. Thompson \$54,378.00; K. Ross \$69,928.00 and that of John Reece was accepted and plans lodged with the council for the erection of the building.

The Secretary-Manager, Neville White, told the board he had checked around the areas clubs and an estimate for carpets and curtains would reach \$10,000.00

The Kingfisher trophy, the magnificent copper working cost \$95.00.

A special meeting in May, 1972 saw club solicitor, Mr. Tapperall announce the only way the club could alter the Articles of Association would be by a three quarter vote of total membership by either personal or proxy voting.

Tapperall was thanked for his valuable work in guiding the club through the transition period.

The women's club was instructed to open its book and take in members and to keep the figure over 150 at all times.

May, 1972 was a mixed month, the resignation of John Langford as patron, the clinching of the \$40,000.00 loan from the C.B.C. Bank and the news of increased wage allowance to cost the club \$2,000.00 a year.

A special meeting in June, 1972 saw it accept the Memorandum and Articles of Association presented in five segments.

A second meeting convened immediately after the earlier meeting agreed to the various alterations embodied in the articles previously accepted.

Members who failed to attend the meeting, only 59 were on hand, were asked why they failed to attend or record their vote by proxy and were reminded their attendance was necessary at a further meeting 28 days later at which further discussions would take place relative to the articles.

Joe Salvia, the finance director told the July, 1972 meeting it was vital the club look for extra promotions in the months to come to maintain a cash flow.

The annual meeting in August, 1972 attracted 106 members and auditor, Bernie O'Donoghue congratulated the club on its continued progress and sound management.

The ballot for positions resulted:-

Patron:- Alex Fyffe.

President:- George Dixon.

Vice Presidents:- Alex Taylor (snr.), Geoff Anderson, Fred Ballam, Ray Smorti.

Directors:- George Mathews, Jack Hinwood, Jack Forwell, Frank Cahill, Jack Dean.

Treasurer:- Reg Sellman (unopposed).

Bowls Secretary:- Torn West (unopposed).

Publicity:- Geoff May.

Selectors:- Bill Coghlan, Ossie Pick~ring (unopposed), Neil Murray from floor.

It was interesting to note that eight offered themselves for the Vice Presidential position while the directors berth attracted 16 nominations.

The meeting decided to discontinue the handicap singles and pairs and a move to gain life membership for Alex Taylor was defeated.

The August, 1972 meeting was tinged with sadness by the announcement of Alex Taylor's sudden death.

The club's balance at that point was \$13,099.00 and the August expenses totalled \$8,502.00 while the intake reached \$8,313.00.

Board Changes

Despite claims by members that the brickwork of the auditorium was not up to standard the architect allowed the work to proceed but the board issued a direction that all extras must be thoroughly investigated before such work proceeded.

Jack Hinwood was elevated to a Vice President and Geoff Anderson moved to the senior spot while George Retford came on to the board as a director. All the changes followed the death of Alex Taylor.

After discussion relating to fees for social members, saw the fee set at a \$2.00 entry fee and \$5.00 per annum.

September, 1972 found the director's unhappy about a bill for \$1,400.00 for extras in the auditorium construction, about which they knew nothing. However, Mr. Vote told the meeting the foundations had to be lifted two inches by order of the council engineers and that face bricks and not commons were used in the south wall which also carried two windows not previously shown in building details.

The beer plumbing quote came under fire but it was pointed out that if the cheaper Sydney quote was accepted, no maintenance would be carried out by coast operators.

A ceiling of \$200.00 was set up for the architect to cover any situation that may arise if a firm decision had to come from the board.

The club decided to buy 8 Mark 12 and 2 Mark 5 machines from Nutt and Muddle at the cost of \$10,000.00.

The casting vote of the President saw transferees and new bowlers face a \$2.00 entry fee and \$10.00 a year.

At the November, 1972 meeting the board took the responsibility of outdoor staff off the shoulders of the greenkeeper, Wayne Read, and instructed the Secretary-Manager to assume that phase of the club's administration.

Twilight bowls were introduced on Wednesdays and Fridays, 4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. with a barbecue meal available on a Friday night at a cost to the players.

Frank Cahill was elevated from director to Social Vice President while Geoff May came into the directors panel.

George Dixon was congratulated on the manner in which he attended Min Ballam at the funeral of her husband, Fred, and the board had it recorded in the minutes.

The beer hike was on again in November, 1972 when 6 oz went to 13¢, middies 20¢ and schooners 27¢.

The building costs in December, 1972 totalled \$62,000.00 and the club's balance at that stage was \$10,424.00.

On Christmas Eve, 200 attended the club while the New Years Eve night attracted 400.

Mat Egan went into the selection panel following Neil Murray's resignation.

The new year saw canned music piped through the club in January, 1973 and it continued through the years until March, 1982.

The unsatisfactory method of skips chosen by selectors and they in turn select their teams, was reflected in the results and the board rescinded the decision and passed the whole selection exercise over to those chosen to do the job, the selectors.

The women's club presented a cheque for \$400.00, the proceeds of their open day in February, 1973.

Extras for the auditorium cost an additional \$16,000.00. In some cases increased cartage was a factor and in others the final figure doubled the original assessment.

Frank Hyde was seconded to the selection panel following the illness of Bill Coghlan.

The club's first handyman commenced duties in February, 1973 on \$65.60 per week.

Wage Increases

The half yearly meeting in February, 1972 was told that wage rises in the last two years had been reflected in almost every avenue of the club's activities. The money for the auditorium had come from a C.B.C. loan and \$30,000.00 from members, but at that stage the final accounts had not been received.

March, 1973 saw the caterer seek a 33 ⅓ % increase in the cost of visitations and special days, but the club considered a 25% increase would suffice.

The catering demand was bolstered by an announcement that inside staff wages were up \$2,500.00 a year and the outside staff \$1,000.00 a year.

April, 1973 saw 2G.O. begin its first advertising for clubs and we gave them a chance to help our turnover with mixed results.

The costs of the auditorium at this stage had reached \$78,520.00.

Resches beer - "wreckers" - gained a foothold in the club for the first time and it is still on "tap".

The June count in membership found the tally 527 ...men 280; ladies 130; social men 87; social women 30.

There was a move to pay the one year debentures as the club's finances were satisfactory, but in the words of "Old Scrooge", Reg Sellman, the club was not "out of the financial woods".

Green Move

Special meetings in July, 1973 saw money voted for furnishings and adjustments to the auditorium and to keep the club shipshape improvements to the old auditorium were contemplated.

Selection of teams, a hot potato for some time in the club, came to the surface again in July, 1973 and the board decided to instruct the selectors to choose the teams and to eliminate the "out of the hat" method previously in vogue. Opinion was sharply divided on the matter and it was only won on the casting vote of the President.

The club's solicitor completed the paper work to allow the club to expand to a membership ceiling of 1,000.

Peninsula clubs met for the first time at the Ettalong War Memorial Club to discuss bulk buying and any other avenues which would be effective for all clubs.

August, 1973 saw yet another annual meeting which attracted 124 members while 17 voted through proxies.

The voting resulted:-

Patron:- Alex Fyffe.

President:- Frank Cahill.

Vice Presidents:- Geoff Anderson, Jack Dean, Jack Hinwood, George Matthews.

Treasurer:- Reg Sellman.

Directors:- John Dennis, Arch Hannan, Geoff May, George Retford, Ray Smorti.

Selectors:- Bill Coghlan, Frank Hyde, Bill Stewart.

Bowls Secretary:- Tom West.

Publicity:- Geoff May.

Former Greens Director Jack Forwell, told the meeting shadows cast by the auditorium affected the grass growth on the east side of the No. 3 green and suggested the green may have to be moved west at a further date. (That move was carried out very successfully several years later).

Auditor Bernie O'Donoghue, congratulated the club on its efforts, but sounded a warning in regard to finances as the completion of the auditorium and the contingent, increase in staffing etc, would make further calls on the club's cash flow.

Affected water from spears came before the August, 1973 meeting, when greenkeeper, Wayne Read said the water had affected some plants in the garden and the holding tank was pumped out until test results were known.

A building committee under the direction of Jack Dean began estimates of the costs surrounding the revamping of the old auditorium and they came up with a total figure of \$10,000.

The work was subbed out and was completed in time for the Christmas rush with no loss of trading and minimal discomfort to the members.

Arch Hannan produced a foldaway board for the championship score sheets and its success prompted him to manufacture a second board for the women's club.

Don Leggett sought the use of a 2¢ machine to gain funds for the relocation of Meals on Wheels from the kitchens of the Woy Woy Hospital to a new centre. To gain further assistance the committee of Meals on Wheels had to show a continued source of income.

The club agreed to the suggestion, and paid the \$140 licence fee on the machine. Tom West was the one dissident as he wanted the club to make both the two cent machines available to the appeal.

Our current metal flagpole came into being at this juncture and Harold Tellefsen donated five sets of halyards for the pole.

Spirit drinkers were "nipped" when halves went up 2 cents and fulls 4 cents.

September, 1973 saw the pokies battery increased by a further 2 cent machine at a cost of \$1,295 and at the same time the raising and lowering of the flag or flags was resolved. The handyman was the "flag officer" Monday to Friday, while the week-end was in the hands of the Bowls Secretary.

October, 1973 brought the strength of our indebtedness into perspective, Bank \$25,000; Poker machine manufacturers \$6,500 and debenture holders \$14,500.

The water tests showed that it was not suitable for some flowers but did not affect the couch or bent greens.

A move by the Social committee to have a booking fee of \$1.50 per person for the New Years Eve dance met solid opposition, but when Arch Hannan pointed out the costs would be between \$700 and \$800 the board readily accepted the move to charge the fee.

Following the citing of a member who refused to leave the green when incorrectly dressed during a Thursday competition day, George Retford introduced a by-law which made it a must for players rolling up on a competition day to be dressed in the clothes of the day. It was passed without dissent.

The Sunday schooners got another airing in November, 1973 but the committee adhered to its previous decision to retain NO SUNDAY SCHOONERS.

Games played in the 150th celebrations of the state saw Meals on Wheels receive 80% of the income in the area.

Singles Protest

Barry Saunders protested against the decision of the Match Committee in awarding the major singles final to Bill Stewart. He claimed he had had insufficient notice but the board supported the Match committee and the decision stood.

Poker machine tax at that stage of our history totalled \$6,632. December figures were Income \$23,673; Expenses \$21,975, the top call being wages \$6,229 while beer gained second spot on \$5,409.

January brought a difficulty over Sunday morning bowls and after several consultations, a two game schedule was reached and play went on merrily.

The Royal suggested in February, 1974 that spiders be staged to help the flood relief fund, but the club decided to give ours to the Salvation Army for its flood appeal work as that which went to the Royal was being channelled to affected golf clubs and not to the many individual affected.

Mike Butt, by this time had completed his tech studies, but found it difficult to express himself in words, but was an able worker in practice, so the club decided to retain his services on the greens staff.

The January figures were \$33,896 while the excess took back \$24,087.

At the half yearly meeting in February, 1974, Kevin Claxton, the auditors nominee, told the meeting the club had made a profit in excess of \$6,000 in the first half of the year and despite increased charges the finances totalled \$17,710 to meet outstanding cheques etc.

Bar sales had shown an increase to \$21,226, 57.1%, but wages had increased to \$5,525 and the gross profit had hit 70.8%. Poker machines in the same period showed \$24,560, 71.9%.

President Frank Cahill said the building committee had set a five year plan to make overall improvements and the first would be a new cool room with kitchen changes to follow.

The meeting was told, the club would invest \$10,000 at 8% in a 12 month arrangement with C.A.G.A.

A T.V. set made its first appearance in the club following support for the move at the same meeting,

The flood appeal monies to this point had reached \$135 and the club made it up to \$200 and sent the cheque to the Army.

Geoff Anderson moved a motion to have \$1,000 invested at 10% to provide the basis of a Long Service Leave fund and this was duly executed by the club's executive.

Bar wages were scrutinised following sharp increases but increased sales called for extra staff to maintain a good percentage, and the Secretary/Manager, Neville White, stated he had the figure down to the lowest point to achieve success.

Mr. A. Jordan, an architect with Westfield, visited the club and after inspecting the building suggested a six plan campaign which would resite toilets, bar, cool room and kitchen etc., and the drawing to cost \$600. The matter was carried forward.

The President, Frank Cahill met the ladies club with a view to having the books opened for additional players but met with little success. As a result the board instructed the women's club to take new members up to 165 and a few weeks later they agreed to the suggestion.

May, 1974 saw the A.M.P. talk to the board about superannuation but the overall cost was too prohibitive.

Beer prices were on the "up" again and there was a 1¢ rise right across the board.

The donation to Meals on Wheels for the month reached \$63.50 from the two center and the total Poker machine tax to that point hit \$12,457.

To the delight of the "Sunday sailors" schooners came back over the "bar" on Sundays and they were warmly received.

First Year

In the first full year as a registered club, July, 1974, the wages spiral proved to be the greatest source of worry and called for a strict limitation on casuals and a close watch on permanent employees.

Casual barmen at that stage received \$6.50 for a Sunday shift and today in 1985 its 12.0474 per hour, a pointer to the escalation stakes.

Bar sales showed 47.2%, an increase on the previous year and the net figure was \$21,039up \$3,000 and the pokies showed a 51.7% return.

At this juncture it was suggested part of the executive wages be costed against the poker machine turnover as the staff spent a fair proportion of time attending to the poker machine needs. It was subsequently ruled that 10% be charged against the machines.

Frank Maguire and Les Verrell were nominated for life membership but the annual meeting the following month, ruled against the proposal.

Holiday Loading

Another first came along in July, 1974 when staff members going on holidays received the 17 ½ % loading.

A special meeting in July, 1974 discussed an attack on "Snow" Forrester by two visitors who were drinking in the club on a Sunday night after a local football match. Forrester sustained facial cuts and a "fat" lip. Police apprehended the person and he was charged with assault. A duty officer roster was continued over the week-end and all visitors had to sign in to try and avoid a recurrence of the blow up.

The annual meeting in August, 1974 saw the following voted in.

President:- Frank Cahill.

Vice Presidents:- Jack Dean (Senior), Jack Hinwood, George Matthews and George Retford.

Retford and Geoff Anderson tied and Retford won the spot on the toss of a coin.

Directors:- Arch Hannan, John Dennis, Pat Cassidy.

Bowls Secretary:- Tom West.

Treasurer:- Reg Sellman.

Publicity:- John Ryan.

Selectors:- Neil Murray, Percy Gill, Norrm Herd

Bernie O'Donoghue, the auditor, said the club's trading was very satisfactory considering the rising cost structure and was a great effort in the first year of company trading.

Geoff Anderson, the finance controller and his assistant, Geoff May were accorded special thanks as was Ray Smorti who handled the greens.

The August, 1974 monthly meeting received a pointed reminder of cost increases when they were informed that the heavy roller on order for \$735 would be marked up to \$980 and a six weeks delay in delivery, but the club decided to go ahead.

The board decided in September, 1974 to ensure interviews for new members would be completed prior to the monthly meeting to facilitate the entry of those accepted.

The club at this stage had a liquid balance of \$13,225 while the building loan was \$20,000 and the debenture list \$13,000.

The greenkeeper was given a \$10.00 a week rise with the proviso there would be no further application for six months for wage increases unless of course the court made a decision on a rise.

The 10 year milestone came up on 29th September, 1974 and a function was arranged to celebrate the occasion, drinks being free with a \$2.00 fee to cover food.

Catering caused another blow up in September, 1974 and a special meeting saw the current caterers dismissed. Officials were finding it difficult to engage suitable replacements.

At the same time the selection of teams for the trial games created a great deal of dissatisfaction and the board supported a vote of no confidence in the selectors and the Bowls Secretary. Tom West and his Assistant Ron Wilson acted as selectors.

The following month a special meeting was sought which claimed the board had acted incorrectly in dismissing the selectors.

Members spoke feelingly about the situation and it was pointed out that 30 complaints had been received on a list of 90 players and a further 10 had been given verbally. The motion to restore the selectors was lost 43-28. As a result Gill retired from the panel and Murray resigned. Ron Wilson and Alf Regan were voted in to complete the year with the remaining selector Norm Herd.

The October, 1974 meeting was told George Retford had retained his place on the district match committee, while Jack Dean had been voted on to the greens committee.

Meals on Wheels received \$70.00 from the two cent machine set aside for them in November, 1974 and at the same time rising costs, wages, beer etc., caused a one cent rise on middies with bottles going up 3 cents and cans two cents.

A robbery in the club was short lived as Mrs. Forrester saw the man leave the club and he was arrested the next morning and the stolen money recovered.

December, 1974 saw the poker machine tax hit \$9,763 up \$3,000 on the previous year. Income for the month was \$32,730 with a balance of \$15,261 added but expenses got to \$33,887, the principal items being liquor \$5,539 and wages \$9,164.

Power Troubles

January, 1975 saw a converted 20¢ machine attract solid business and to make it more attractive the board decided to give it a maximum payout of \$200 to be raised from the basic \$100 each quarter until it "went off" and then revert to the basic \$100 for another climb to the \$200 ceiling.

At a special meeting in January, 1975 Dave Moore undertook to provide concrete ditches on the No. 3 green and at the same meeting the booze hike was on again, beer and whisky being the drinks under fire.

The half yearly meeting in February, 1975 showed the club had had a good six months, the bar up to \$78,000 from \$58,000 with costs at \$40,000 from \$30,000 and the final net figure was \$16,700.

The pokies showed \$85,000 up \$18,000 with expenses \$69,000 for a net gain over the six months of \$15,900.

Cec Gray sought to place a three way motion before the meeting relative to selection. He sought pennant sides by team selection rather than individual entries. He claimed team entrants who were compatible could possess a high team spirit ratio.

Others suggested in a spirited debate that teams should be chosen and vetted by selectors and the final disposition be found when the selectors had discussed possibilities with the skippers.

On a vote, 45 favoured the team method with 32 against and a massive fence sitting group of 43, with no mind to VOTE.

In February, 1975 a \$10,000 investment with CAGA unsecured at 8% was reinvested with the same company at 12% still unsecured.

A replacement safe was sought for the increasing demands of our growth and \$500 was set aside for the purchase.

Power blackouts were beginning to show and Jack Dean spoke of the need for a power plant of our own and moves were put into train to have the market checked for a possible installation. Several sets were inspected and after a deal of discussion a power set was installed in March, 1975 at the cost of \$770.

George Retford sought the means to set up our articles of association to bring us up to date in the new company sphere and in March, 1975 he, together with Frank Cahill, and Jack Dean sat down to make use of articles from various organisations and produce rules to cover the activities of the club.

April, 1975 saw the club have mixed fortunes. The Taxation Department refused an exemption of Sales Tax on the generator, while the Customs Department granted a concession in the purchase of diesel for the unit.

Balance at this point was \$61,045 with the March expenses \$27,626 for a balance of \$33,419 and once again the two "demons" were wages \$11,832 and liquor \$7,172.

Gosford Bowling Club announced a midweek President's Day in May, 1975 to ease the burden on week-end invitations and the commitments of members.

Ettalong Lions thanked the club for its \$1,010 donation to its Darwin cyclone appeal.

Long Service Leave funds were placed with the Bank of N.S.W. in an investment account at 9%. A dishwasher was purchased at the cost of \$1,500 after several units had been discussed.

Full members at this stage were 440 men's; social 146; women's social 76 and Ladies club 144, for a total of 806 and in a bid to retain control, it was decided all new full members had to play within a month of acceptance and appear 12 times a year.

A further 20¢ machine was under discussion and it was found the club was at its peak for tax in this avenue and a further 20 cent machine would add \$300 to the annual tax.

Peninsula clubs considered the possibility of eliminating President's Days in favour of a member's day, with the Presidents of sister clubs only invited.

Secretary/Manager, Neville White told the board a pensioner member sought half rates for any member so placed with five years or more continuous membership and the matter was deferred to the annual meeting for a decision.

In June, 1975 there was a move to have a ceiling of 1,000 for membership and George Retford told the meeting he had had the pensioner request computerised and it showed members paid 19.23 cents a week for all amenities while parents in the area were paying 30 cents or more for their children to play sport.

A permanent doorman for Saturdays and Sundays was put forward but was defeated as board members believed they should do the duties pertaining to admission of visitors.

A steep rise in rating from the Lands Department featured July, 1975 activities, the figure going from \$750 to \$1,050. The new 20 cent machine showed a profit of \$570 in the first ten days on the floor.

A 60 gallon tank had to be fitted to augment the 40 gallon tank series in the hot water circuit because of the excessive amount of water used in the washing machine.

A special meeting in July, 1975 saw members examine the amendments and additions to the Articles and Memorandum of Association, and, after discussion, they were accepted. A special word of thanks was accorded Frank Cahill, Jack Dean and George Retford for the many hours they put together in bringing the articles to the acceptance stage, at club level.

The annual meeting in August, 1975 featured the report of Bernie O'Donoghue the auditor, who said the club had made remarkable progress and had recorded a nett profit of \$43,920 following a deficit of \$4,102 in the previous year. He added Umina was one of two clubs in the area to show so much progress and financial gain.

He added the last 10 years had shown a remarkable and sustained effort year after year.

The voting resulted:-

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe, Roy Hill, Ossie Pickering.

President:- Frank Cahill

Vice Presidents:- Jack Hinwood (Senior), Jack Dean, George Retford, Pat Cassidy.

Directors:- Arch Hannan, Lou McClymont, Tom Sullivan, Mat Egan, Sam Hartley.

Selectors:- Merv Jolly, Ron Wilson, Bob Holland, Alf Regan.

Treasurer:- Reg Sellman.

Bowls Secretary:- Tom West.

A notice of motion from Mat Egan sought to have the half yearly meeting motion handing the selection of pennant teams to skips returned to the normal method of choosing through selectors.

After animated discussion, the President ruled that the previous motion (the half yearly motion) be expunged from the records and it was carried on voices.

The meeting also decided to allow the four selectors in the ballot to carry on with Tom West added to the panel as the Bowls Secretary with voting rights.

Greenkeeper Wayne Read sent a letter of complaint to the board in August, 1975 decrying the actions of members who had complained about the surfaces of the green and of some who had left pieces of match on the grass to ascertain whether the greens were properly prepared.

It was felt the surfaces were not at peak and the board sent Read a strong letter of instruction as it considered the greens were not up to standard, despite the increased volume of machinery at his disposal.

Chit System

Heavy expenses in July cut the profit to \$7,000 with wages \$10,963 and liquor \$6,539.

The steep rise in lease fees, the first of possibly many more, had board members worried and George Retford put forward a plan to buy the land progressively over a period of 10 years at an expected cost of 7% in the opening years. The matter was not proceeded with at that juncture.

Poker machine tax in September, 1975 was \$11,340 and the Secretary/Manager sought a further 10 cent machine and the board voted to make the purchase.

Payments to some board members under special circumstances was the background for a special meeting in September, 1975. Treasurer, Reg Sellman, wanted to know to whom and why payments were made to some board members. President Frank Cahill said he gave nominated members money to assist him in entertaining visitations and on other special days as he didn't believe they should have to shoulder such responsibilities.

It was decided that payments to approved board members be \$5.00 on such occasions and all other entertainment be on a chit system to be accepted at the following board meeting.

Sellman handed in his keys and left the meeting.

A further 20 cent machine was purchased in November and a circular stand for machines was purchased from Davistown for \$200.

During the period the club helped the Girl Guides with their finances and made it possible for them to have a debt free meeting place.

The balance coming into December was \$25,156 but our major costs were liquor \$12,579, wages \$10,210 and electric light \$3,731.

Jack Dean was accorded spontaneous thanks for his efforts as Greens Director for the completion of concreting on No. 2 green ditches and the rubber belting obtained from a Vales Point outlet for the ditch walls. He spent days chasing up the materials for the job.

The question of suspended members playing at other clubs was taken to the district for clarification in January, 1976 but they in turn sent it to the Royal for decision.

Land Department officials assured the club there would be no valuations on the club's area until March, 1976 and the lease fee was currently \$1,050.

Increases in the club's funds saw an investment of \$10,000 taken out with C.A.G.A. making it an overall \$40,000 at 10% for 12 months.

A discussion followed on the balances in the club funds and Reg Sellman pointed out to George Retford that the \$12,000 difference between the bar and poker machine figures was largely covered by the \$11,000 supplementary poker machine tax.

The half yearly meeting February, 1976, saw auditor's nominee, Peter Treston point out that despite increased costs during the first six months of the year the results were excellent.

Liquor sales \$95,000 (1974 \$78,000); , gross profit \$46,000 (\$38,000) 48.6% (49.2%); Bar expenses \$24,000 (\$22,000); net profit \$21,800 (\$16,700); Poker Machines nett clearances \$99,000 (\$82,000); Expenses \$25,000 (\$21,000); nett profit \$73,500 (\$60,600); Total income \$104,000 (\$85,700); Total expenses \$81,000 (\$69,000); Greens costs \$10,600 (\$9,700); Entertainment \$15,300 (\$12,900) Nett profit \$23,000 (\$15,900). Assets totalled \$215,000 (\$164,000).

The sustained bar and pokies operations were commended by the auditor.

A balance of \$15,000 was still owing on the auditorium and it could have been met without affecting the normal club operations, but the board announced the bank wanted the overdraft honoured according to the agreed period. As a result money being accumulated was invested and was working for the club.

Jack Fardy took over the duties of badge board controller in February, 1976 and prepared all the available badges for display. An amended sound system was voted in by the board at a cost of \$330.

The long service leave account reached \$3,000 in April, 1976 and it was broken down to \$500 every six months and the balance reinvested progressively.

Ray Forrester attended his first official board meeting.

The Lands Department, a month late, advised verbally that the valuation would be \$48,000. A new counting machine was purchased for \$489.

Air conditioning in the lounge was mooted and inquiries were set in train to have the matter adjusted.

Recission Motion

In June, 1976 the membership had reached 900 ... Men 499; Social Men 157; Social Women 89; and Ladies 155.

The Lands Department in a further letter said the land would cost \$46,500 and the meeting moved for it to be paid in two equal parts over a period of one year which was carried.

If the land was bought on long term over 30 years the club could pay in the vicinity of \$80,000.

The following month Jack Dean gave notice of a recission motion regarding the purchase of the land and he was supported by George Retford.

The auditors in their pre annual meeting with the board suggested all unsecured notes held by the club worth \$50,000 should be changed to secured notes which would cut just 1% off the earning power for the year.

They said the board must face up to the change because if a monetary collapse happened the club would not be covered with unsecured notes.

The board agreed to make immediate changes to circumvent such a happening.

The nett profit was \$54,109 being \$10,277 up on the previous year representing a 23.28% gain.

The bar nett take was equivalent to 40.8% while the Poker Machine gross was \$215,000 a 16.9% increase on nett figures.

At the annual meeting he reiterated the club was in a healthy state.

In the last five years the club had come from \$12,083 in 1972 to \$54,109 in 1976.

The elections resulted: -

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe Snr., Roy Hill, Ossie Pickering.

President:- Frank Cahill.

Vice Presidents:- Reg Sellman, Jack Hinwood, Jack Dean, and Pat Cassidy.

Directors:- Mat Egan, Arch Hannan, Sam Hartley, Lou McClymont and Jack. Fitzgerald.

Treasurer:- Trevor Jones.

Bowls Secretary:-Tom West.

Selectors:- Bob HolLand, Ron Wilson.

A notice of motion put forward to clarify minor singles. Any player who had not won the major title was eligible to play in minors but a qualifying period for the latter was deleted.

The meeting decided that an Assistant Bowls Secretary should be voted on and the successful candidate be accorded an honorarium.

Two notices of motion came forward, one to buy the land by two six monthly instalments and the second a recission motion by J. Dean and G. Retford to remove the June, 1976 decision by the board to buy the land and retain the current special lease.

The President, Frank Cahill, rules both motions out of order under our Articles of Association and the relevant sections of the Liquor Act. Amid uproar that followed Bill Best moved the meeting endorse the purchase of the land.

Jack Dean demanded to be heard but the President said the decision stood and a motion of dissent against the chair was moved but failed.

Dean said he could not work with the committee and handed in the badge he had received shortly before and despite pleas from members to change his mind, he stood firm. Arch Hannan the top of the beaten candidates for Vice President was elevated and Roy Tipper was brought in to fill Hannan's spot as a Director.

Allan Dansby, beaten in the Bowls Secretary ballot, was unanimously elected to fill the assistant's post.

The August, 1976 meeting paid out \$13,100 in poker machine tax and the committee moved to have the sale of land completed.

A special meeting in September, 1976 saw the land question raised again and Dean said the club should not spend all the accrued profits in one venture. He said the club should leave it in perpetuity as the land could not be taken away and Lands Department preferred to accept payment over 30 years and such payments would allow funds to be channelled into other aspects of club activities. Its money down the drain, let posterity pay for it, he concluded.

Eddie Madden supported the extended payments but wanted it contained from 5 to 10 years and the money thus saved could be used elsewhere.

It was pointed out by speakers, that when buying was first mooted the figure was \$12,000 and then \$18,000 and now when the club was capable of carrying out the purchase it was \$46,500.

Asked what money the club could raise, Secretary/Manager, Neville White said the club could put its hands on \$100,000.

Tom Jamieson moved, Dick Hayward seconded the land be bought at the current figure as further delays could bring the price to astronomical figures and interest rates might reach as much as \$1,000 a year.

Dean sought to move an amendment that the purchase be made over 33 years at the Department figures but Reg Sellman, who controlled the meeting, ruled it out of order.

The Women's Club sought an assistant for coach Tom West in September, 1976 because of increased membership, but West declined to have an assistant and the women's club accepted his decision.

The land sale came forward again in this manner ...The Maitland office had erred in not forwarding the Club's proposal for a two payment sale in one year and instead they passed on the suggestion of a sale over 33 years at \$2,790 in instalments plus 5%. The head office immediately set matters in train for the sale and the meeting endorsed the action of the committee.

In October the Lands Department assessed the payments as \$24,892 in the first payment, \$23,250 in principal and \$1,642.88 in interest with the final payment six months hence.

The ping pong balls and their box, our avenue of finding winners and losers for many years went into retirement with the purchase of a wire raffle dispenser.

November, 1976 saw our investments providing \$2,000 in interest and it was promptly re-invested.

Haphazard purchasing in the greens section began to provide office headaches and the board instituted a proper ordering system which was extended to take in all club purchases.

The board moved to engage an architect to prepare sketch plans for the proposed extensions and Frank Cahill spoke of work done by an architect previously but whose work was opposed by a former committeeman and the board suggested he be contacted before any further move was made.

Beer prices were on the up again after the club had absorbed two previous rises and the key figures were 7's - 23¢; middies - 34¢; schooners - 48¢ and pints - 61¢. Bottles and cans up one cent.

Greenkeeper, Wayne Read, terminated his employment with the club in December, 1976 and while the club sought a replacement, Michael Butt had charge of the greens.

Resigned

Air conditioning for the lounge was agreed upon at a special meeting in December, '76 and two Kreisler Air temperature units were installed at a cost of \$10,770 with additional costing for electrical work.

Before the year ended, Sam Hartley resigned from the board and Ted Parker, the top of the beaten candidates list came on to the board.

A further December special meeting agreed to commence stages 1 and 2 of the proposed extensions plus the necessary septic system and the sketch plans to be available for members to peruse for 14 days and an extraordinary meeting would follow at which a full run down would be carried out.

The New Year saw the board have a preliminary run down on facts and figures with auditor Peter Treston who said the club showed a general improvement but escalating expenses held back greater advancement. He instanced nine areas in club activity which cost the club a total of \$13,284.

He said the bar trading was 49.1% (48.6 last year); Poker Machines, \$99,000 (\$105,000) for a nett profit of \$73,000 (\$76,000).

At this juncture, Ray Burton joined the staff from Merriwa as greenkeeper and he was working well on the greens.

Mr. White broached the subject of the bonuses paid to himself and his assistant, Mr. Forrester and suggested the figure might be amended as the club had had a good year. He said neither sought overtime but maybe the club would prefer it that way. When the scale of taxation was presented relative to increases through overtime the matter lapsed.

Improved prizes were sought for indoor bowlers and the need for an extra mat was promoted again. The prizes were increased in value for a month and the board was asked to consider cutting three feet off the carpet on the western side of the auditorium to accommodate the extra mat.

The board had a special meeting in February, 1977 following the resignation of the Secretary/Manager, Mr. White, and after a lengthy debate, it appointed Mr. Ray Forrester as Secretary/Manager on a three months trial with Vic Bokholt his assistant and Rus Kenworth bar manager for a similar period.

The half yearly meeting in February, 1977 attracted 118 members. Fixed assets totalled \$253,137 (last year \$195,000) Current assets \$82,138 (\$70,686); C.B.C. loan and debentures \$17,670. Total liabilities \$53,124 (\$26,925). The nett profit from the bar \$51,500 (\$46,600); Poker machines \$105,495 (\$99,295).

Sunday men's play got a lot of airing and finally it was decided to find the winners out of the hat.

Jack Dean addressed the meeting claiming defamatory remarks had been made against Mr. White after his five years service and sought a motion of no confidence against the chair.

The President said Mr. White had resigned and had been given a reference and at no time had members of the board made any claims against Mr. White. He said that nobody on the board thought Mr. White had "touched" the club and if such had been thought he would not have received a reference.

The motion of no confidence was lost.

Bill Anderton raised the question of bonuses and payment of expenses to an official while on holidays.

Bill Best told the meeting bonuses were parallel to the 17 ½ % loading which at this juncture was being written into almost every award. Crawford Duncan said bonuses were given to members of staff in appreciation for work done by the recipients during the year.

A. move was made to allow the new greenkeeper, Ray Burton, to play bowls but it was pointed out that the Articles of Association would have to be changed to permit such an action and the motion was changed to cover all members of staff.

Coming into February, 1977 a special meeting was called with the building committee and the architect, Ian Rixon, available to answer questions. Rixon said his firm had costed the job on the maximum scale it was closer to \$300,000 than \$250,000 thought the peak by the club. In fact, Mr. Sellman said the board envisaged the work to be done would cost in the vicinity of \$179,000 with a possible dining room on the front of the building deleted from the plans.

Frank Cahill reminded the meeting that the addition of the auditorium had cost \$80,000 and it had been completed through money from debentures and loans.

Ted Parker said the committee suggested stage one be accepted as the club should not extend itself for further work which would go to an overall \$320,000 as the interest would be too great.

The meeting decided to carry out stage one at a possible cost of \$180,000.

Rixon answered a series of questions relative to the preparations and building of the extensions which he said would be completed in 5 to 6 months after commencement of the work.

The question of debentures was resolved when the basis of \$50 units at 9% for one year and 11% for three years.

Vic Bokholts was made supervisor to allow him to move and work behind the bar.

Dennis Broughton, the Gosford insurance broker, addressed the March, 1977 meeting and gave the board a full run down on all facets of the clubs insurances. He said Directors should be covered as they worked for the club and in addition the Treasurer and his assistant would be similarly covered as they went to and from the bank several times a week carrying money. He was instructed to bring to the board at its next meeting a concise plan for insurances.

Members were asked to take first aid classes, paid for by the club, to enable them to use the oxygen system available at the club in emergencies.

Treasurer, Reg Sellman reminded the board they should clamp down on expenditure as the figures were not relative to the previous year and he suggested a switch of the Thursday game to Friday and when necessary switch back to Thursdays if the club was being used for a function on a Friday night.

Roy Tipper became the assistant to Trevor Jones, the Treasurer at this point of time.

A special meeting in March, 1977 set the framework for the issuing of debentures and the outgoing letter to members with a couple of amendments was passed by the meeting.

To allow the club to retain control the board decreed that no more than 20% of debentures should be for one year.

A special account was opened to handle interest payments and the club had to face a costing of \$2,000 a month to meet the payouts. It was decided that if trading did not allow for the \$500.00 weekly deposit to be met the maximum available cash should be placed in the account.

It was decided to examine all financial certificates held by the club and have them placed in a special deposit box at the bank.

A special meeting in April, 1977 decided to seek a male clerk to replace Bokholt who resigned and Roy Curnow was subsequently appointed. He underwent further training to allow him to work behind the bar and adjust minor poker machine difficulties.

Debenture intake reached \$75,000 in April, 1977 and at the same time the club arranged for an enlarged photo of Patron Alex Fyffe to be prepared and hung on the wall in the sports room.

Our greenkeeper suggested the bent green No. 1 be taken out and a couch replace it. It was suggested the cost would be \$5,000 but Burton said the sale of the bent turf and the purchase of Paxton couch from a source known to him would complete the job for \$600.00. Amended costs however saw the changeover reach \$1,090.00.

A watering system to be hired would cost the club \$200 a month with the alternative a system of our own and the use of the hire plant or our own plant was deferred for further consideration.

The debenture figure had now gone to \$93,950. Plans had been lodged with the shire council and tenders were to be called in June, 1977. The architects first fee was received at a cost of \$3,800.00.

The board was very pleased with the efforts of Mr. Forrester during his trial period and May, 1977 saw him appointed full time.

June, 1977 saw the debenture figure hit \$121,450.00 and the social committee resigned because they were not permitted to make decisions.

The July, 1977 debenture figure saw a further rise to \$135,950.00.

Following his defection from the original architects, Willis Denoon and Partners, Ian Rixon was appointed to control the extensions of the building.

Big Year

The tenders were examined in August, '77 and Fred Butt was given the job on, a tender of \$194,000, a fixed price with the work to be completed in 20 weeks. Subsequently the builders said a mistake had been made in the costing and the club accepted an amended quote for \$200,400 at a fixed price.

The annual meeting in August, '77 saw the auditor announce that from every angle the club had had a good year and with the purchase of the land and the installation of two air conditioning units in the lounge, the assets of the club had been greatly increased.

A nett profit drop of \$2,000 from \$54,000 to \$52,000 was of little consequence as big wage rises had made for testing conditions.

Bar trading increased by \$4,000 and Poker Machines increased by \$20,747 and machine profit before taxes had gone up \$10,308.

President Frank Cahill said he was doubly happy to announce the strong financial front as well as success by the No.3 and 4 pennant sides on the bowling front.

Arch Hannan, a vigorous worker on former boards, had to face a ballot for the right to stand again as he had reached the fixed retiring age but he failed to get the necessary majority.

The ballot resulted:-

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe Snr., Roy Hill, Ossie Pickering.

President:- Frank Cahill.

Vice Presidents:- Reg Sellman (Snr.), Ted Parker, Jack Fitzgerald, Mat Egan.

Directors:- Jim Cuthbert, Bob Holland, Guy Cupitt, Arthur Tolland, Keith Wah.

Bowls Secretary:- Tom West;

Assistant:- Allan Dansby.

Selectors:- Keith Hines, Tom West.

Publicity:- Jack Fitzgerald.

The meeting decided that all employees could apply for membership without voting rights.

The advent of 18 year olds in clubs had its first airing at an August, '77 special meeting when it was decided that persons under 18 were not permitted to play poker machines.

A disturbance while the club was on a visit to Hunters Hill in which bad language and punches predominated saw Don Charlton expelled for life, while Alan Moore who denied fighting but admitted to bad language received a six months suspension.

During October, friction was apparent in the board operations and at a special meeting, the President, Frank Cahill, told the meeting that a ballot for all board positions should be held following the resignation of board members. A move for a special general meeting was lost but an amendment seeking an election of board members was carried.

Bob Holland resigned at the October, 1977 meeting and the board instructed Allan Moore he could withdraw his verbal resignation as he would be considered for membership again after his suspension was completed.

The outside staff, Ray Burton, Dave Hawkes, Stuart Tinnock and Mike Butt all joined the club but had no voting rights.

An extraordinary meeting in November, 1977 discussed the resignation of four directors.

Frank Cahill left the chair which was taken over by Patron Roy Hill and the club's solicitor was in attendance. Cahill was asked if he would give an explanation of the incident which surrounded the resignations.

He said the directors might like to give their own versions of the actions which caused the upset.

Ted Parker speaking on his own behalf and that of the other three directors involved, said the four discussed the question of whether a suspended man, Allan Moore, would be eligible to accompany a party of bowlers organised by Merv Jones on a visit to Redhead Bowling Club. Moore said he was a member of Scarborough and under that club's banner he would make the trip but proof of that membership was sought.

Parker continued and said the President, and Mat Egan, a member of the board, approached a table where they were seated and the President banged loudly on the table and declared board members could not make such decisions. Parker said he was accused of being disloyal to the President and he with the other three were insulted by the President's attitude in public.

When there was no written evidence for a special meeting the President closed the meeting and although a motion of no confidence in the chair was passed the president refused to move and the four directors resigned.

Mr. Trevor Jones said he had controlled teachers for years and when he wanted to speak to anyone he took them into his office.

Bob Holland said he had been insulted by the President who had refused to carry out a meeting to discuss the problem.

Holland said bottles of whisky had been added to the first prize in the mixed carnival for which he and Alf Regan had spent a day buying trophies in Sydney without receiving any recognition and the attitude had affected his health and he was forced to resign.

The President said he had thanked and congratulated the board members for their purchases and if extra gifts, such as bottles of whisky were available from firms in the future he would repeat his actions if board members held private meetings in the club.

Later the club solicitor held a meeting with the board at which a full discussion ensued and apologies were given and received and the matter closed.

The meeting moved to have the existing directors carry on the business of the club and the vote was unanimous.

Guy Cupitt resigned for business reasons from the board at the November '77 meeting and from that meeting came the \$60.00 question, where were the knives on members night?

The caterers provided only a fork to eat the salad provided and when asked about knives they replied "Washing knives would be \$6.00 an hour extra.

Ken Conaghan came on to the board to fill the vacancy caused by Cupitt's retirement.

Noel Pilkington was appointed caterer in December, '77 and at the same meeting Arthur Tolland resigned from the board and despite several attempts to change his mind he stayed firm.

Moves were made to set up a carnival in October, '78 to mark the 21st anniversary of the club. The board also decided to open on Good Friday commencing at noon.

The slow progress of the building alterations were sheeted home to the foreman who worked too hard for his gang the February, '78 meeting was told and the architect had to discuss the situation with the builders.

A disco starting date for 31st March at a cost of \$100 was set but the board, under pressure from outside interests, decided to cancel the project the next month.

The club had a credit balance of \$48,000 in April, '78 but trading accounts were beginning to soar and strict control was necessary to meet the rise. Air conditioning for the auditorium was discussed and a figure of \$36,000 was announced and tenders were called.

A dining room was costed at \$39,000 but the board decided not to go on with that section of the changes.

At this stage the membership was 1,018. Men 537; Men Social 190; Ladies Social 111 and Ladies 182.

Cleaners R. Pilkington and K. Foley claimed at the June '78 meeting that board members were setting traps in unlikely places to see if the cleaning was being done correctly. Allegations against board members were not sustained and the matter lapsed.

Our Auditor, Bernie O'Donoghue, told the club he had installed a computer to assist in print outs for all clubs for poker machine returns etc. and it would cost \$1.50 per month.

Voting Change

The Secretary/Manager, Mr. Ray Forrester started negotiations for a home at this juncture and he asked the board for an indication as to his further tenure of employment and suggested he be placed under a three year contract.

Jack Fitzgerald and Mat Egan moved that the contract be drawn up by the club solicitors.

The matter was completed at the July meeting when Roy Tipper moved, seconded Keith Wah that Forrester be given a three year contract and the matter was passed.

The Central Coast District Bowling Association suggested all clubs contribute to a fund at \$50.00 per club to defray travelling expenses of teams going to Sydney for title events. The board replied in the affirmative.

Ray Burton sought a \$500.00 bonus for himself and a \$250.00 bonus for his assistant for putting down No. 1 green in Paxton couch. The request was deferred until the end of the financial year.

It was pointed out at the time that the moving of the No.3 green 10 feet to the West, and the sowing of the new area with Paxton couch could cost the club \$6,000.

At an extraordinary meeting in July, 1978, Articles 8, 13, 15 in the constitution relative to voting were amended on a vote of more than 75% of the members present.

During the same month a petition signed by more than 100 members sought the purchase of a full sized billiard table, a dart board and shelving for a lending library handled by Harry Kurts.

The board decided on a 10 x 5 table, the shelving and a dart board and the Thursday raffle was to be channelled towards the cost.

The No. 2 green ,was taken out for a re-do at a cost of \$6,000 and the board was told Mr. Wran, the Premier, was to open the extensions on 28th July, 1978.

The official party comprised the board members and their wives; the Patrons; the Auditor; the Club Solicitor and Alderman Don Leggett, the then Shire President.

The club left the Registered Clubs Association and joined forces with the opposition, the Licensed Clubs Association in August, 1978.

The catering subsidy was raised from \$60.00 to \$100.00 per week and Dennis Broughton was instructed to act as the club's insurance broker following his move to open in his own stand on the coast.

Expenses for July were more than \$5,000 over the income but the balance of \$12,510.91 acted as a buffer against the rising costs and the club finished with a balance of \$7,366.79.

At the annual meeting in August, 1978 the following officers were elected:-

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe Snr., Roy Hill, Ossie Pickering.

President:- Jack Hinwood

Vice Presidents:- Reg Sellman (Senior), Jim Cuthbert Ted Parker, Jack Fitzgerald.

Directors:- Syd Harrison, Jim Hickey, Vince Crow, Barry Harrington, Keith Wah.

Treasurer:- Trevor Jones.

Bowls Secretary:- Allan Dansby.

Assistant Bowls Secretary:- Tom West.

Selectors:- Alf Regan, Guy Cupitt, Alan Coey.

At a subsequent special meeting, Roy Tipper was voted in as Assistant to the Treasurer in the poker machine counting.

The Royal officials expressed their surprise and regret that the club had failed to invite a Royal or District Representative to the opening of the club extension on 28th July, 1978 at which the Premier, Mr. Wran carried out the task.

The board sent a letter of explanation to the head body and the President had discussions with District President, Stan Butcher and later at the Gosford Club's unveiling of pennants he discussed the situation with the State President, Harold Tapner, and, after being admonished, the matter was closed.

Roy Curnow asked the club to finance a management course at a cost of \$115 to be repaid at \$10.00 per week, but the course was delayed.

Again in August, expenditure overtook income by more than \$19,000 but the big increase was due largely to the arrangements which surrounded the opening of the extensions, leaving a balance of \$12,457.

The building committee were unhappy with the work in the lounge ceiling area and an acoustic specialist accompanied the architect to the site to endeavour to settle the difficulty.

Gassing of the No.3 green for the shift and realigning cost \$1,250,000.

A petition carrying 110 names in October, 1978 saw the games room declared out of bounds to women members.

The outgoing continued to exceed the income. The September expenditure totalled \$17,782 against an income of \$15,782.

The noise factor in the lounge was a constant worry and the board decided to replace most of the panels in the room at a cost of \$1,500 and the architect promised to assist in the disposal of the panels that were replaced.

Disco Noises

At this point the club's total investments totalled \$53,810.

Moves were being made relative to the air conditioning in the auditorium and, as a result, the building committee Messrs. Sellman, Parker, Fitzgerald and Harrington disassociated themselves from the departure from the original plan, as the previous President had authorised the changes without consulting the committee and the meeting accepted their demand.

Partitions prepared by Dave Moore were placed in position for portable walls around the dining area and they were later lowered a little to make them more stable.

The disco was showing signs of improving and bar taking had gone to \$14,300 while poker machines showed an increase of \$400 on disco nights.

The performing Rights Association advised the club it would levy the disco takings at 2% of the annual return and a cheque for \$55.00 to that point was forwarded to the Performing Rights Association. The Xmas hamper showed a profit of \$200.

The air conditioning was working satisfactorily in the auditorium and teething troubles were being gradually ironed out.

The budget for the No. 3 green changes came in under the planned \$6,000 when the final figure was \$5,650.

A special meeting in December, 1978 saw residents from Carawa St., protest against the noise nuisance from the Wednesday night discos. Roy Hill said the noise was very bad and departing cars continued the noise and bad language was constant.

Other residents said their rest was broken till about 5 a.m. the following morning, while others claimed they had to have their T.V. sets up high to blot out the Disco beat and kindred noises.

Noise level meters and monitoring systems were discussed and constant checks were made during the performances.

The club's P.A. system came under scrutiny in January, 1979 and a complete change in the system was carried out, but it still gave trouble.

A barbecue was mooted and like so many other things didn't come to maturity until 1981.

Door duty men were given a \$4.00 allowance and at the same time it was announced the costs were \$83,315 as against an income of \$71,716 for a balance of \$23,724.

The state pennant finals took a new format at this stage. The City and Country playoffs were discarded and a round robin was decided upon with eight city and 8 country teams competing.

The January balance was \$10,802 after income reached \$97,984.

Prawn nights proved a success but the control, had to be tightened to eliminate those who made their way into the auditorium without paying the fee for the night. At the half yearly meeting in February, 1979, Peter Treston, the auditor, said the income for six months was \$165,291 up \$17,391. The expenses \$151,458 up \$45,368 and there was a trading loss of \$7,977.

Total assets reached \$648,476 up \$109,130. Bar trading sales \$77,261 up \$15,067. Gross profit % was 44.8%, a drop of 5.6%. The net profit was \$37,838 up \$9,309. Poker machine nett clearances were \$165,910 up \$51,598.

A staff special meeting in March, 1979 saw anomalies in the wage structure corrected and supervisors were given a 23 cents an hour rise.

Bill Brooks, who came to us from a sister club, appeared before the board following an incident at indoor bowls and, on investigation at another country club relative to his behaviour, he was suspended for five years.

Rus Kenworthy, a supervisor, intimated he would retire after 4 years and seven months service and, after discussion the board moved to recognise his excellent service by paying him Long Service pay for the period of his employment.

Beer increases took a hike with 7 ozs to 29¢; 10 ozs 43¢; schooners 63¢; bottled beer 92¢; cans 52¢ and stout 93¢.

The club's charity fund came to the for when a Red Cross spider realised \$25.00 and sub from the fund for \$50.00 took the donation to \$75.00.

Glass breakages and "lost" glasses reached a total of 655 for the month of March.

In April, 1979 Tom Hutt was appointed as a bar stock auditor.

In that month the board considered a clash between Vince Crow and Bob Pilkington over play in the major singles, and after taking evidence, the board forfeited Crow's game and allowed Pilkington to continue.

Bert Bowen joined the club as a cellarman-barman. The cleaning staff with the exception of Arthur Ward, who was channelled to other work, were dismissed and a contract cleaner was given the job at \$383.40 a week.

May, 1979 saw the board give Roy Curnow a month's trial as the Secretary/Managers Assistant and at that time the club's membership was full members 588; ladies 186; men's social 226; ladies social 146, for a total of 1,146.

The club was elated with the activities of the No. 4 pennant as the side gathered in the district and zone titles and were poised to go to the "big smoke" for the playoffs, and after an exciting week-end in which, we survived the Round Robin by a narrow margin we reached the final with a win over Canberra North only to go down to The Hills in the final, the last two games being played at Drummoyne. The earlier series was decided at West Epping.

Arrangements were completed for a In Memoriam board which was constructed by Syd Harrison, name tags of departed members were attached as a permanent record.

At the same meeting the disco was discontinued after a lengthy discussion at board level.

George Retford spearheaded a move at a July, 1979 special meeting to have the new voting methods, previously passed by the members and accepted by the relevant department replaced with the original method.

He said the vote ... taken in the week preceding the annual meeting ... was too impersonal and he believed the candidates for all positions should stand at the annual meeting so that attending members could see who was up for election.

Ted Parker opposed the motion and said many major clubs in the industry had embraced the current system with success.

Jack Dean sought to move an amendment to have paragraphs 8, 13 and 15 (1971) restored but was told he should have handed in such an amendment, 21 days prior to the meeting.

An animated discussion followed and the President moved the amendment out of order. On a vote the motion was lost 48-38.

A subsequent special meeting in the same month saw a motion carried which called on members seeking election to supply a photograph of themselves of specific size and a short resume of their past and current activities to guide members in the choice of candidates.

A further months trial was accorded Roy Curnow in June, 1979 and at that time Michael Butt resigned from the club's outside staff.

The club entered the Spring garden competition and Dave Hawkes, our outside man's wonderful display gained second place, a fact we all hotly disputed but the judge's decision had to be FINAL.

Pokie Cheats

A special meeting of the board in June, 1979 discussed exhaustively the club's liabilities and the foreshadowed future payments and it was decided to increase the annual fees to \$13.00 for a full member and \$7.00 for social for 1979-80.

After a two month trial the board decided in July, 1979 to make Mr. Curnow a clerical assistant and advertise for an Assistant Secretary/Manager.

Dishonoured cheques previously presented in the name of a member were investigated by police and as a result three persons appeared before the court: The police department advised compensation would be paid in November, 1979.

Ray Burton gained a \$25.00 rise but was told future adjustments would be controlled by indexation.

Balance at June was \$6,510 following deposits of \$60,090 and expenses totalling \$84,791.

Paul Barker joined the staff as a greens labourer during the month.

The annual meeting in August, 1979 attracted 157 members and the auditor painted a rosy picture for the future if the figures shown by the club for the year continued and he could see little difficulty in meeting debenture repayments.

The elections were:-

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe Snr., Roy Hill, Ossie Pickering and Reg Sellman.

President:- Jack Hinwood

Vice Presidents:- Jack Dean (Senior), Ted Parker, Barry Harrington, Keith Wah.

Directors:- Jim Hickey, Mat Egan, Syd Harrison, Sam Matchett, Vince Crowe.

Bowls Secretary:- Alan Dansby.

Assistant Bowls Secretary:- Tom West.

Selectors:- Guy Cupitt (Chairman), Bob Holland, John Ryan.

Treston listed the major figures for the year, all of which showed a rise except the percentage in the bar which dropped 2.8%. Total income was \$341,099 up \$66,102. Total expenditure \$300,297 up \$59,588. Nett Profit \$40,802 up \$6,514. Bar Sales \$346,732 up \$101,240 for a nett profit of \$79,752 up \$19,740. Poker machine expenses totalled \$118,622 up \$39,295 with a nett profit of \$227,650 up \$47,089.

Members of the board had their first lesson in combating poker machine cheats etc., when they visited Hamilton R.S.L. in Newcastle for a well planned lecture as well as an address on poker machine security.

In October, 1979 the club swung to new "Jewish Piano's", computerised tills and it was a little time before the staff had them operating efficiently.

With increased work for poker machine returns to the Treasury etc., the Auditors asked for an increase and their overall figure was raised to \$6,000 per annum.

The blank wall at the end of the then existing bar area was taken out and swing doors placed in its stead to allow full use of the corner of the bar.

One of the club's two petrol driven rollers was the brain child of Ray Burton who built it up from spares and it proved a valuable unit.

The soil mixer jointly used and owned by the four peninsula clubs was in use and made the task of greens work a lot easier.

The death of State President, Harold Tapner saddened members in November, 1979 and members were told of lower percentages on beer sales followed the boards decision to carry the increases from the two Sydney breweries. Harold Gillard, from Newcastle was elected the new State President and his work began in December, 1979.

A special meeting in December, 1979 saw several applicants interviewed for the Assistant Secretary/Manager and ultimately the board chose Mr. David Brann.

Heavy refill demands on some machines saw the poker machine returns out of step with the club's activities and to overcome the problem the board purchased three new machines at a cost of \$10,800 and with trade-ins adjusted the club had to meet \$10,050.

The offending machines were eliminated from the bank and figures began to return to normal.

Selectors Resign

The New Year January, 1980 was ushered in on the wings of new beer prices, 7 oz 30¢, 10 oz 45¢ and schooners 65¢.

A proposed wage increase of \$8.00 per week from the L.T.U. for bar staff prompted the calling of a special meeting at the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club at which Jack Dean and Jack Hinwood attended and the move to fight the increase was heavily supported.

Alas in the light of further thinking major clubs, League and R.S.L. compounded and paid up and many clubs were forced to follow on to keep trading. So much for solidarity. We refrained from making the increase part of our wage complex until the court ruled in its favour.

The December, 1979 bar figures showed a 48.3% turnover despite the Christmas Eve happy hour which was packed at an \$806 cost to the club.

David Brann, the new Assistant Secretary fitted into the club's working plan in good style.

Our week-end bushfire appeal was strongly supported and the two day effort brought in \$618.00.

A new bank of lockers was approved and the cost per member would be \$2.00 a year.

The half yearly meeting in February, 1980 saw current assets fixed at \$117,224 up \$8,139; Freehold clubhouse and greens \$66,052 up \$4,047; Light fuel and power \$6,129 up 25%; Printing and Stationery \$3,028 up 62%; Staff meals and drinks \$3,023 up 43%; Total expenses \$159,452 up 5.3%; Nett profit \$9,005 down 34.9%.

The bar sales were \$176,028 up 2%; Nett sales \$33,296 down 12%.

The Poker machine clearance was \$176,842 up 6.6%; Total expenses \$55,773 up 6%; Nett profit \$121,069 up 6.8%.

The major problem in the bar variations sprung from the sharp increases in wages from \$145.00 to \$162.00 and that made a material difference to the penalty rate costing.

In addition entertainment reached \$27,025 of which \$10,200 had been used in the promotion of Bonanza.

Greens labourer, Paul Barker, began a technical college course at his own expense and was showing an aptitude for the job.

Another round of selection problems surfaced in March, 1980, when the current selectors Guy Cupitt, John Ryan and Bob Holland resigned. The resignations were accepted by the meeting and in their stead Jack Harris, Percy Laycock and Bert Waller accepted the task of team making for the balance of the year.

At this point it was announced five sponsors had agreed to support the coming Kingfisher trophy series for an overall \$800 and further moves were made to increase the listing and bring the figure to \$1,000.

March, 1980 saw the reintroduction of Wednesday indoor bowls and architect Ian Rixon was still making efforts to have Fred Butt carry out uncompleted works.

April, 1980 was marked by staff problems in the bar area. The bar staff pulled down the shutters on Friday, 11th April at 5.00 p.m. in the midst of the raffle with a prawn night to follow.

The President Jack Hinwood, put the shutters up two minutes later and to the cheers of the members and friends the board traded through the night and everything went off with a bang.

Support received from the members in assisting with glass clearances etc., made the task a little easier.

Saturday trading was in the balance following a discussion with the union representative, Bruce Sneddon who claimed the staff would not return until after the Monday's union meeting if the board persisted in working the bar on 12th April.

With two dissentients the board decided to forgo trading for that day and the staff returned for work on the Sunday, Sunday rates of course.

Subsequently the board met with seven members of the bar staff and gave them a list of rules for future work against which they presented a log of claims covering drinks, meals, Bundy on in office, disagreements with Board members and sought a decision through the Secretary/Manager on the latter matter.

The board told the staff that if they contemplated a further closure as was the case on the previous Friday night they must approach the Secretary/Manager re the matter and have their representative Bruce Sneddon discuss the question with the board.

During April, 1980 a new mower was purchased to replace the ageing piece of equipment in use at a cost of \$2,263.94.

The resignation of Secretary/Manager Ray Forrester, on 9th May, 1980 saw a special board meeting decide to terminate his employment with all payments on 14th May.

Rus Kenworthy who was previously employed as a supervisor was asked if he would return on a temporary basis to assist Assistant Secretary/Manager Dave Brann, until the matter was adjusted.

The bar staff discussed the return of Kenworthy and the move was not proceeded with.

A move to obtain suitable assistance from a management consultant proved ineffectual and the club advertised for a replacement between the ages of 40 to 50.

Late May, 1980 Bruce Sneddon was appointed Assistant Secretary/Manager on a temporary basis.

Dave Hawkes had a second try at the club section of the annual spring garden series and his efforts were rewarded with a first prize.

The board appointed Noel McCall Secretary/Manager in July, 1980 and Sneddon went back to a job behind the bar and with Brann on hand the new adjustment made it possible for the club to have one or the other on duty at all times.

Jeff Julian, a greens worker at Ettalong and a member of the club's pennant side suffered a serious illness and when he was returning home the club prepared ramps at the front and rear entrances to assist in the movement of his chair.

The C.B.C. bank accepted the sponsorship for the October mixed carnival and at the same time Tom Hutt, the bar auditor, reported discrepancies in many areas of the bar and the executive staff were instructed to make a full inquiry and eliminate the problem.

Norm Tritton was sought to assist in the club's coaching classes.

The Friday night raffle passed its first milestone on 29th August, 1980 and four special prizes were given to mark the occasion.

A poker machine was used to draw the numbers from 26th August but it did not prove a success ... it was too impersonal and so it was back to "screwing" for the members of the board and their helpers.

Julian Appeal

The Jeff Julian appeal held in early August provided a grand sum in excess of \$600 and it was used to help Jeff make a better life for himself and his family.

The club's annual meeting in August, 1980 was told total expenditure reached \$331,747 an increase of \$31,450 as against total income of \$358,485 which was up \$17,386 giving a nett profit of \$26,738 a fall of \$14,064.

Bar trading showed a nett profit of \$79,552 which was \$200 below the previous years figures.

The nett poker machine figures were \$249,149 an increase of \$21,499 and the expenses of \$130,550 was up \$11,928 on the previous year.

The President said the board would have to take a strong look at the overhead as they sought to complete essential works ... a new septic pit; a new pump and water service to make the club independent of town water for outside watering.

New poker machines had been added to the battery and their popularity had almost covered their respective costs.

On a motion by Matt Egan, which was strongly supported by the meeting the club conferred life membership on former treasurer, Reg Sellman.

The annual ballot resulted:

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe Snr" Roy Hill, Ossie Pickering.

President:- Jack Hinwood.

Vice Presidents:-Ted Parker (Snr.), Barry Harrington, Syd Harrison, Keith Wah.

Directors:- Max Clancy, Sam Matchett, Jim Hickey, Bert Dodd, Bob Pilkington.

Treasurer:- Jack Dean.

Bowls Secretary:- Allan Dansby.

Assistant Bowls Secretary:- Joe Dunstone.

Selectors:- Max Brix (Chairman), Guy Cupitt, Tom West.

The Royal put up their capitation fees to \$1.00 per player in September, 1980 while the Zone 6 capitation took a rise as did the fee for Grass Research.

Contrary to expectations Dave Harcher the long time Zone 6 president did not retire but continued his 21st year as President.

Ted Parker moved to have the sportsman bar turned into a dining room and the board was unanimous in its acceptance of the proposal.

Lakes Security was asked to improve the sound of alarms on the poker machines in November, 1980 and they were asked additionally to have the main alarm a silent one ... for the surrounding residents only and the work was completed satisfactorily.

The installation of a pump to give 10,000 gallons an hour from spears in series was decided upon and the installation was carried out with expediency.

The club advertised for an assistant to the Sectary/Manager in October, 1980 following the resignation of David Brann who went to Toukley District. Mr. Lambert, a brother of board member Gordon Lambert who had retired from the Air Force was permitted to work for several weeks on all facets of club control and the club terminated his stay and signed the necessary papers to indicate he had completed a work feasibility study.

Noel McCall's trial period was extended for a further three months

In November, 1980 the billiard table was sold for \$1,000 to facilitate the conversion of the room to a dining area, the initial work costing the club just \$350.

Noel McCall decided he did not want the stresses of the Secretary/Managers job and asked to be made Assistant and following a close check on possible candidates the board decided to make Kevin Lovelock, previously at Mangrove Mountain the club's Secretary/Manager.

The new year 1981 ushered in a special meeting which sought to have the decision to change the sportsmans room to a dining room and the disposal of the billiard table etc., but after several members had spoken on the matter for both camps the motions were lost 95 -44.

Ian Rixon sought a final payment for his duties in the rebuild in February, 1981 and the figure was \$689.87.

There was movement at the club in March, 1981 as Sam Matchett retired from the board for greener fields in the north which proved adverse and he returned to us at a later date.

Eddie Madden came on to the board as a director.

Another move was made to try and resuscitate a disco at the club and on the basis of \$210 cost per week it failed to bring back a following and had to be discontinued after several weeks.

The Peninsula clubs combined to buy a Ryan Turf Shaver for an overall cost of \$1,500 a \$75 share for each club.

After a period of viewing the club decided to retain the Thorn P.S.T. and Thorn recorder and its purchase was effected in the next few weeks.

Jim Hickey retired from the board in April, 1981 and discussion ensued on the board relative to the staging of our Bingo sessions and, after considerable discussion it was left to Fairhaven to continue with the promotion. At the same time the Thursday night indoor bowls were terminated.

May, 1981 saw our insurance cover in all sections reach \$8,653.31, and the membership at that point was 1,086; Full members 583; Womens Club 193; Social Men 180 and Social Women 120.

Consideration was given at board level to the fees for the following year and on a vote it was decided to make full members \$15.00; Ladies \$10.00; Social Men and Women \$10.00 with pension rates for accredited players \$10.00.

Lobby Failed

Despite strong lobbying by the Umina Rugby League Football Club it was found impossible for us to consider a proposed \$4,000 sponsorship.

Noel McCall, who had dropped to the Assistants position previously resigned from the club in June, 1981 and at the same time Mrs. Noel Pilkington surrendered the catering section after several years with the club.

Tar sealing of the car park posed a problem as two quotes received reached \$6,680 and \$8,227 respectively. We sought a price from the Gosford Council but they failed to make a final appearance in the cost stakes.

Roy Curnow decided to leave the club in July, 1981 and Joe Adams our supervisor was appointed following the insertion of advertisements in local papers.

In August, 1981 the women's club was asked to take in players who could not attend on the official playing day.... Tuesday.

The annual meeting was well attended and the auditor, Peter Treston gave the following explanation of our trading.

Bar sales \$373,756 down \$343.00; Cost of sales \$180,740 down \$8,652; Gross profit \$193,106 up \$8,309; Percentage 51.6% up 2.2%; Total expenses \$113,116 up \$7,961; Nett bar profit \$79,900 up \$348

Poker machine nett clearances \$367,852 down \$11,847; Total expenses \$137,762 up \$7,212; Nett profit \$230,090 down \$19,059.

Total income \$356,468 down \$2,019; Total expenses \$342,324 up \$10,577; Nett profit \$14,142 down \$12,596.

The bank overdraft had been extended to help repay debentures and in the 12 months the club returned \$98,900 in principal and added \$16,058 in interest.

The adjustment for a percentage of wages for executive and bar staff relative to poker machines was explained by the auditor who said all members of staff were concerned with the payment of jackpots, adjusting machines and arranging refills as well as a lengthy list of records which have to be kept for the Treasury and as a result a percentage of wages paid was listed against the poker machine activities.

A remake of the No. 2 green and the installation of the \$6,396 pump were other major financial outlays.

The elections resulted:-

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe snr., Ossie Pickering, Reg Sellman

President:- Keith Wah.

Vice Presidents:- Phil Hughes (Snr.), Allan Dansby, Bob Skone, Ted Parker.

Directors:- Guy Cupitt, Arthur Ward, Gordon Lambert, Len Connors, Ernie Bowen.

Treasurer:- Jack Dean.

Bowls Secretary:- Joe Dunstone.

Assistant Bowls Secretary:- John Walters.

Selectors:- Jack Harris (Chairman), Max Clancy, John Walters.

The new fee structure came under fire and after some discussion the meeting accepted the proposal of the board. The new figures called for were just 28 cents a week for green space on any number of playing days.

The surfacing of the car park continued to be a headache and the meeting was told the council delayed any move to cost the job, Sharpe's wanted \$8,000 while Robsons quoted to fill with base metal and rollout the entire area for \$1,000 which was accepted.

Ryan Case

Diane Ryan applied for membership of the men's club in September 1981 and the matter was taken up on all levels.

Roy Curnow, previously employed on the bar staff sought payment for sick leave which was not adjusted on the termination of his employment and, after due consideration, the club met the payment of \$1,350.27.

The Anti-Discrimination Board contacted the club relative to Diane Ryan, claiming the club was exercising sexual discrimination. It was claimed working women had to play 12 Sunday games during the year but at this stage no application had been made to the Umina Beach Women's Bowling Club. The matter was referred to the Equal Opportunities Committee and Irene Moss (ADB) was seconded to make the necessary inquiries.

Subsequently in October, 1981 the counsel for the Equal Opportunities Board said Mrs. Ryan should be registered with either the mens or womens clubs at Umina Beach. Such action was deferred.

The building alterations came to the surface again in November, 1981, when a letter from Fred Butt, the builder, claimed \$8,394.54 was still owing. Correspondence had been going on between Ian Rixon, the architect, and Butt from 1st January, 1981 and the builder was informed that a final certificate would be issued when all the work was completed to the satisfaction of the club.

The caterer found he could not make the dining room pay and suggested bistro type of meals at times to suit himself and the club set down the times most suitable to the members.

Beer prices took a rise at the source barrels costing \$65.00 but the bar figures maintained their healthy outlook of 52.8%.

The board allocated a sum of \$325 for the erection of a barbecue area and Barry Harrington controlled the job.

December, 1981 saw the board decide on a food display counter at \$658 and a stand for same at \$110.

The club experienced a break in during December, 1981 and the visit cost the club \$1,239.72.

During the same month the club's overdraft of \$57,000 was overdrawn when payments for the period totalled \$91,000, and, of that amount, \$23,000 went in the supplementary tax for the pokies.

The New Year, January 1982, saw the Umina Rugby League Football Club seek an amalgamation with the club with a membership of 300 to a ceiling of 1,000 but the board declined the offer.

Ian Rixon's final payment for the alterations was received and the board agreed to a payment of \$4,421.54.

Further correspondence was received by the club relative to Diane Ryan's application but the matter was left in abeyance.

Reg Sellman, a life member and Patron, was the only trustee left of the original group and the club decided to reform the trustee panel and appointed Allan Dansby, Jack Dean, Keith Wah and Phil Hughes to carry out the business of trustees.

Ian Rixon issued his final certificate showing \$1,473.00 to Butt plus a final payment of \$5,894.54.

Licence Fees took a hike from 8% to 10% retrospective to 1st January, 1981.

The proceedings surrounding the application of Mrs. Diane Ryan was left in the hands of the Royal New South Wales Bowling Association during March, 1982 and the following month President Keith Wah, Secretary/Manager Kevin Lovelock and the club's solicitor attended a meeting of the conciliation committee in

Sydney and from that meeting letters were sent to the Royal New South Wales Bowling Association and the New South Wales Women's Bowling Association relative to the matter.

The club decided to stage a weeks bowls in July to mark the 25th Anniversary in June and a booklet was produced by Prinrite in Gosford for \$475.00 with Jack Hinwood to provide the copy and photos etc.

The club was experiencing a good year according to Treasurer Jack Dean. The bar was up on the previous year while the Pokies were well ahead.

Licence fees for the two sections were in sight and would cost the club collectively up to \$37,000.

The No. 5 pennant side won its way to the district flag in good style but failed to clear the first hurdle at Maitland in the zone playoffs.

Electricity shortages in May, 1982 were becoming a way of life and in a bid to overcome the problem, Gordon Lambert installed fluorescents in the lounge and bar to make it possible for our own unit to carry the load if required.

This was done to assess the possibility of looking for a KVA 7.5 generator to further bolster the club's own power battery.

The adjustments proved successful as it gave power for the prime pump, postmix and poker machine illuminations and Lambert was commended for his efforts.

The club's greens maintenance came under fire and many members were unhappy with the surfaces offered for play and ultimately the board intimated to the greens section their jobs could be in jeopardy if the greens did not improve.

Peninsula Fours

The greens staff was given a boost when Paul Barker, who had put himself through the Hornsby Tech for green keeping while the greens labourer, received the Umina Rotary's Pride of Workmanship award for the year and Greens Director, Ted Parker attended the function when the award was presented.

Late May, 1982 John Ryan was suspended for six months following a disturbance at the club.

Fred Butt sought to recover \$2,765 at 15% for non payment of costs in June, 1982.

Curtains for the stage from Kelly's cost the club \$1,047 in July, 1982 and the choice was hotly discussed by both sections of the club.

A letter from the Woy Woy club in July, 1982 got the Peninsula fours competition, for players from the four clubs who play their championships at the respective clubs off the ground and we were represented at all meetings to get the series underway.

The August, 1982 meeting was informed that the matter concerning the application for membership by Mrs. Diane Ryan had cost the club \$650 in legal fees to that point.

The Annual meeting in August, 1982 registered its appreciation for the good work carried out by Jack Dean while acting in his second term as Treasurer. He had guided the club to a healthy balance.

Len Connors demanded an apology and a letter covering an error in the listing of attendances of meetings which affected his time on the board.

The officers elected were:-

Patrons:- Alex Fyffe Snr., Tom West. Ossie Pickering, Reg Sellman,

President:- Keith Wah.

Vice Presidents:- Syd Harrison (Snr.), Gordon Lambert, Allan Moore, Bob Skone.

Directors:- Ernie Griffin, Bob Jenkinson, Arthur Ward, Mike Chifley, Clarrie Hoepfer.

Treasurer:- Allan Dansby.

Bowls Secretary:- Joe Dunstone.

Assistant Bowls Secretary:- Harry Kurts.

Selectors:-Percy Laycock, Max Clancy.

The cost of drinking came into centre stage once again in September, 1982 and following a special board meeting the costing was 15 oz - 85¢; 10 oz - 60¢; 7 oz - 45¢. Bottles and cans at recommended prices while the costing for spirits was left to the Secretary/Manager.

Another first came in September, 1982 when all board members and their wives were invited to attend the staff Christmas party and to assist the night the club gave \$250 towards the costs.

John Walters and Ern Bowen joined the selection panel and Bert Dodd became Joe Dunstone's assistant in the bowls secretary's office.

Bob Skone and Ern Griffin brought a new approach to the social games when they moved, and it was passed, to give two winners and two losers trophies for all playing days, that teams for the second Thursday in each month be out of the hat and that on the last Sunday in each month a \$1.00 sausage sizzle be available to the morning players.

The greens department sought a new coring machine which was in excess of \$6,000 and, after discussion, the purchase was approved.

At this point of time the board discussed the bingo situation and figures showed that in a given month the costs were \$1,600 and the return \$800.

The motion to have it discontinued was carried with five dissenting but at a later date the motion was amended to retain Monday and eliminate Tuesday nights.

In addition the burden of attending to the fixture was transferred to several women members who agreed to a roster to carry out the duties.

Jack Hinwood was accorded life membership by the meeting following a period of service to the club in all capacities.

October, 1982 saw the club's poker machine returns down \$9,531 which seems was the norm for most clubs in the area, but the bar trade was up \$5,540.

The club made arrangements for a resident band between November and February to cover the Christmas period.

Paul Barker, our greens labourer completed his green keeping course at Hornsby Tech in grand style and the club voted \$ 50 towards the cost of his fees as he had undertaken the course at his own expense.

Diane Ryan's application for membership went another stage and the case was to be heard by the Equal Opportunity Tribunal on 3rd February, 1983.

At this point the bar trading was up \$9,000 on the corresponding period of the previous year but the poker machines showed a \$19,000 drop from \$107,000 to \$88,000.

The half yearly meeting in February, 1983 was told the nett profit to that point was \$50,695, the bar showing \$38,611 and the poker machines \$139,298.

A notice of motion to change the numbers required for a quorum, article 18, was amended to 10% and was carried, after discussion 63-21.

The cessation of members loans brought criticism but it was pointed out that \$290 was still owing with little chance to regain same and after discussion the boards action was endorsed by the meeting.

Dave Moore spoke of an addition to the front of the building to be used as a dining room the cost being \$48,000.