

Thorndon Bowls Club

Ancient History!-although I was around in the '50's.

This will be the last part of the Bowls Club history taken from online resources which I can access at the moment and as we get closer to the present there is much more opportunity for people to contribute their own, or family's, stories, anecdotes and photographs. Also, of course, people remember things differently...I am providing what I find!

The first mention of the club which I can track down is of a bowls drive at Stanwell Lodge in July 1952 which was held, in conjunction with a croquet tournament, so that the then MP Harwood Harrison could meet and greet some of his supporters in a social atmosphere. He didn't make a speech. The winners of the bowls drive were three men whose names we have got used to seeing-E. Bailey, R. Wright and J. Coy.

The next entry comes from the

Norfolk and Suffolk Journal and Diss Express — Friday, May 15th, 1953

Thorndon

BOWLS CLUB.—The bowling green laid down by Mr. J. Coy, of Poplars Farm, Thorndon, and which he has placed at the disposal of the Thorndon Bowls Club, was officially opened on Saturday by the club president (Mr. W. M. Balch), of Hestley Hall, Thorndon. In his speech, Mr. Balch paid tribute to Mr. Coy, the club chairman (who was unavoidably absent), on the excellent condition of the green, and congratulated the members for so successfully re-forming the club. He also promised on behalf of Mrs. Balch and himself to present a trophy to be competed for annually by club members. Mr. Albert E. Thomas, the secretary of the club, read a letter from Mr. Coy proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Balch. This was supported by Messrs. Cubitt and E. Bailey, members of the committee. Mr. J. Wells, sen., a vice-president, was present, but Lt.-Col. Harwood Harrison, M.P., another vice-president, was unable to attend. After Mr. Balch opened the green by cutting a tape stretched across it, the oldest member of the club, Mr. H. Everson, bowled an excellent first wood.

Thursite

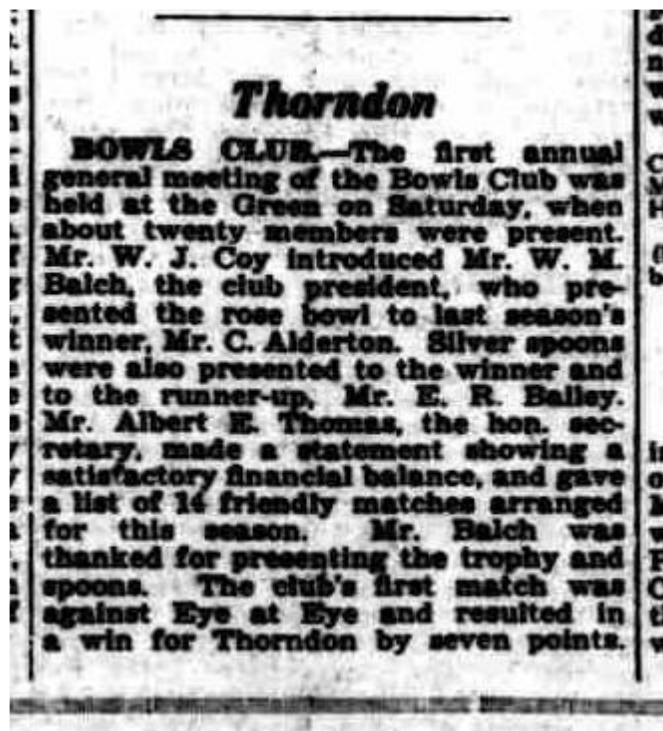
This leads me to a bit of interpretation of facts-and please correct me if I am wrong those who know better. My supposition is that although this was the official re-launch of the club in 1953 the kind offices of Mr J Coy were such that the Green had been in process of being developed and improved since the previous year i.e.1952. Now whether there had been bowls played on the green in the accession year of 1952 or not I don't know but we can be certain that May 1953 saw the official re-start of the club on its current site. As the Queen has two birthdays perhaps the Bowls Club does as well! In 1952 when Mr Coy first placed the green at the club's disposal and the second birth date on 9th May 1953 as per the Newspaper report above. **Opinions are sought on this please!**

July 1953 beat Mendlesham by 73 to 67 shots

In a report in the Diss Express of 16th October 1953 it says

Bowls Club Finale-sixteen players took part in a drive on Saturday week, (10/10/1953) on the green at Poplar Farm, by invitation of Mr W. J. Coy, to wind up the Bowls Club's first post-war season. Tea was provided and in a brief speech Mr J G Damant mentioned the enjoyment the re-formation had given the members. Prizes were won by: 1. T. Coy; 2. R. Wright; 3. W. J. Coy

Diss Express May 21st 1954



Thorndon

Bowls Club—The first annual general meeting of the Bowls Club was held at the Green on Saturday, when about twenty members were present. Mr W.J. Coy introduced Mr W.M. Balch, the club president, who presented the rose bowl to last season's winner Mr C. Alderton. Silver spoons were also presented to the winner and runner-up, Mr E.R. Bailey. Mr Albert E. Thomas, the hon. Secretary, made a statement showing a satisfactory financial balance, and gave a list of 14 friendly matches arranged for this season. Mr Balch was thanked for presenting the trophy and spoons. The club's first match was against Eye and resulted in a win for Thorndon by seven points.

In the following week's Diss Express 28th May 1954 Thorndon beat Eye by 68-61 shots; team W Havers, A. Timothy, H Cubitt, H. Everson, E Parr C Alderton, E Bailey, T H Coy, W J Coy, J Lockwood, K Lockwood, G Lockwood

...and the final report that I can find in the resources that I have access to is that from July 1955 when Thorndon beat Bedingfield by 23 shots.

I now need to find ways to put together the next 65 years somehow and for that I will need the help of others please. Clearly at the club house we have an honours board, and series of cups etc. which have names of winners on them and some photos but they tend to be much more recent. Perhaps in our old minute books there are some details but we won't have any photos and there must be some from the 1950's and 1960's... aren't there?