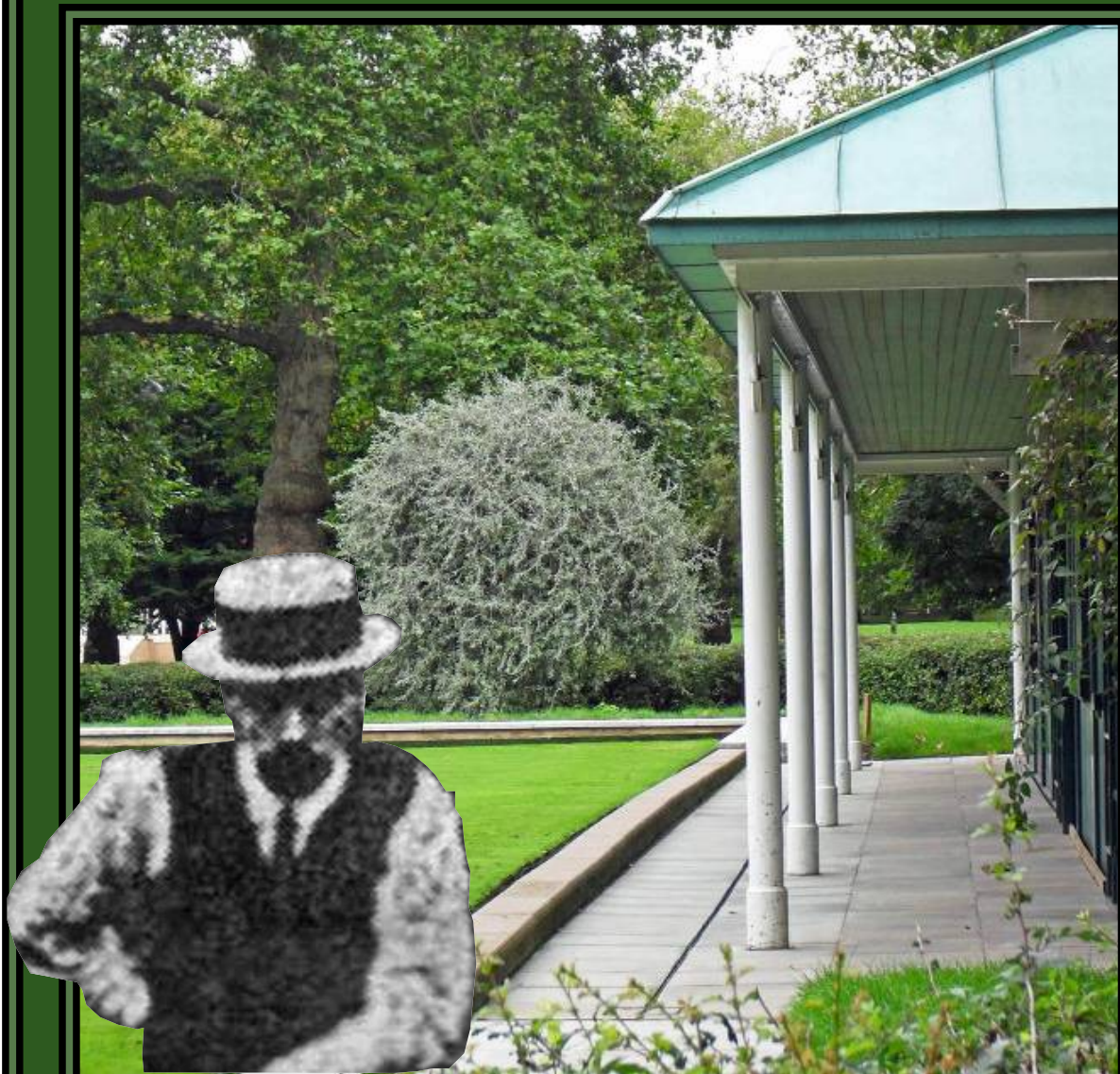


SOUTHWARK PARK BOWLING CLUB 1908-2010

Pat Kingwell



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**“There is plenty of time to win this
game, and to thrash the Spaniards too.”**

Sir Francis Drake



Southwark
Park Bowling
Club
1908 - 2010

Foreword

"Bowls! That's an old man's game."

This is normally the response when you tell people that you play bowls, and to a certain extent this was true. A lot of clubs in London have a dwindling membership and are being forced to close down, because young blood is not coming into the game.

But now with indoor tournaments on BBC, internationals on Sky, and bigger and better sponsorship packages, this need not be the case. Look at some of the players from the southern hemisphere teams. Are they surfers or cricketers with their bleached blonde hair and body piercings? Are those girls glamour models? No, they're international bowlers, and you certainly wouldn't say they were old.

Now I'm not saying you will see surfers or models at Southwark Park, but you will meet people who enjoy the skill and competitiveness of a game of bowls. People willing to pass on their knowledge of the game to beginners. There is also the comradeship that only team games can produce. And not least, some will say surprisingly, the exercise. It is also one of the few sports in which men and women can compete on an equal basis. What follows is a history of Southwark Park Bowling Club, originally researched and written in 2008 by Pat Kingwell to celebrate one hundred years of lawn bowls in

Southwark Park. A couple of years on we are now in a position to publish our book.

Our grateful thanks go to Pat Kingwell, Debra Gosling for her design and David Toogood for his photography.

Colin Smith
Former President of the
Southwark Park Bowling Club
September 2010



Introduction

Bowls is such an old game that its beginnings will surely never be known. It was probably played in the Stone Age, and manuscripts from the thirteenth and fourteenth century show two players delivering one bowl each towards a conical marker.

In England the pastime was so popular the powers that be worried it would distract men from the serious business of archery, so it was outlawed to commoners by various Acts of Parliament. Remarkably these laws remained in force until 1845, though perhaps less surprising is how noblemen continued to play the game without hindrance.

We all know about Sir Francis Drake's game on Plymouth Hoe, and both William Shakespeare and Samuel Pepys mention the game in their writings.



Introduction

The Scottish were responsible for the introduction of the modern game, with the laying of truly flat greens, often using sea washed turf, and the formulation of a code of laws in 1849.

A year later the London County Council (LCC) agreed in principle to the playing of the game within its parks and open spaces, and in 1901 the London Parks Bowling Association (LPBA) was formed.

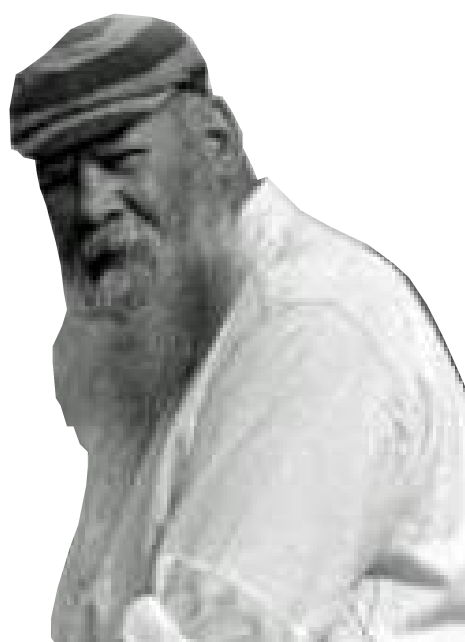
Two years later the English Bowling Association (EBA) was established by Dr W. G. Grace, the famous cricketer, and by 1906 about a hundred clubs had affiliated.

This small booklet sets out to tell the story of one of the oldest sports clubs in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. Southwark Park Bowling Club celebrated its centenary in the summer of 2008 and it is surely right that such an achievement is recounted, albeit two years later!

As with all histories, it is inevitably an incomplete story. Sadly nearly all the club records

were lost during a fire in 1997, in an act of vandalism which completely destroyed the club's pavilion, but not its will to carry on. By using the records of the LCC, EBA, LPBA, the Surrey County Bowling Association and the excellent local newspaper, The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder, it has been possible to piece together a picture of the origins and growth of the club up to the present day.

The recollections of current and past members have also been invaluable.



The Early Years

The first decade of the twentieth century saw the initial moves to introduce bowls into Southwark Park, although compared to some other sports, it was a relative latecomer.

Organised cricket commenced in 1870, a year after the opening of the park.

In 1884 lawn tennis courts were provided, and in the early 1890s football pitches were laid out. Athletics also became a regular feature of the summer scene in the park during that period. All very healthy and rather energetic for those willing and able.

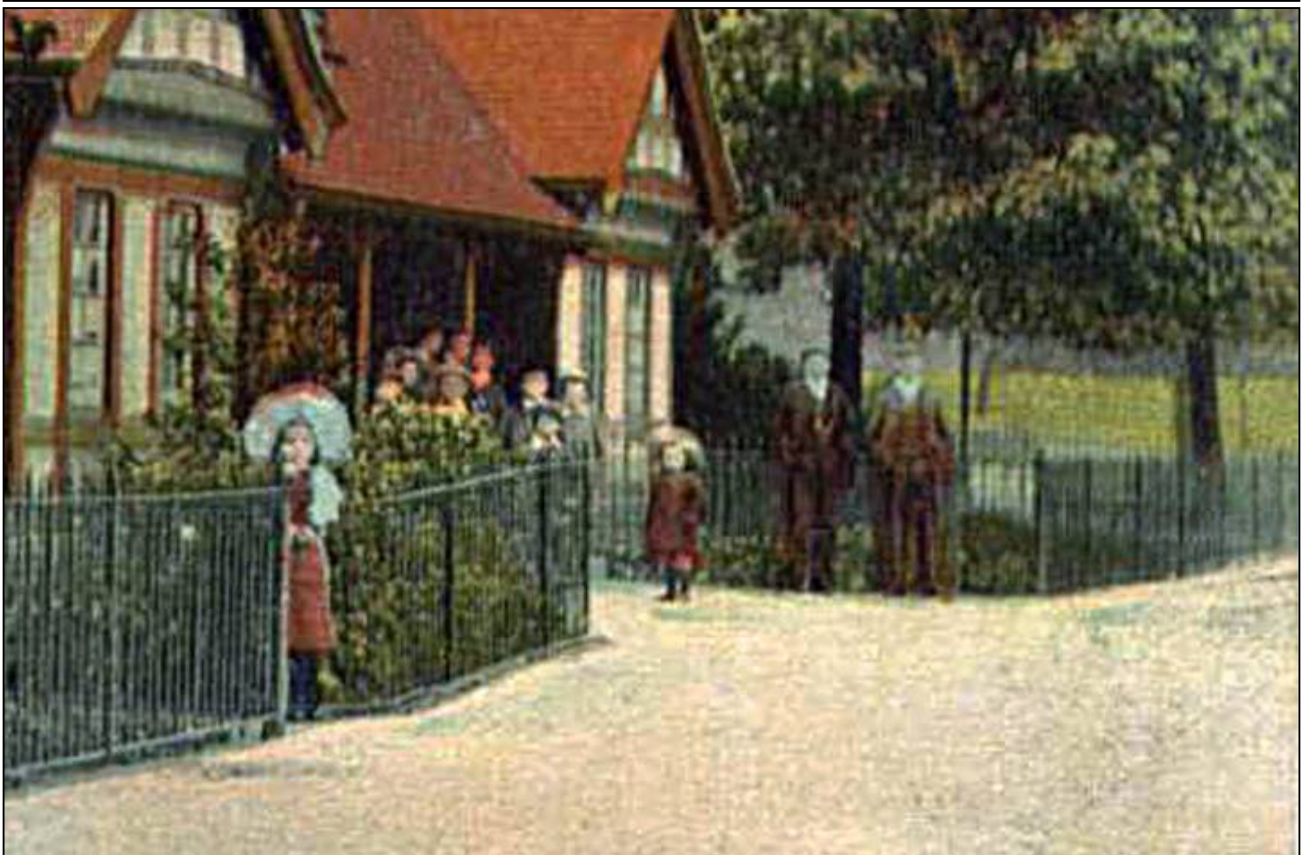
On 12th October 1906 the LCC considered a letter from B. Titheridge of 431 Southwark Park Road, calling for a green in Southwark Park, which was refused.

However, the local people were unwilling to take no for an answer, and continued to

press for their sport.

On 26th June 1908, following letters from T.H. Benson, 163 Lower Road and Thomas Hansom, the Chief Parks Officer was instructed to look into the possibility of providing a green.

BOWLING GREEN WANTED IN SOUTHWARK PARK.
To the Editor of the "Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder and South London Gazette."
Southwark Park Road,
June 25th, 1908.



The Early Years

On the same day the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder published this letter from W.H. Hobbs, a draper of Southwark Park Road:

"Now that we are in measurable distance of disporting ourselves in the way of boating on the enlarged lake in our local park, I thought it an opportune time to ventilate the question of a bowling green being added. There are many men, who like myself, are too much 'in the sere and yellow leaf' to fully enjoy the delights of cricket or football, and yet we could obtain a great deal of pleasure from a game, that a great county man of mine was very fond, I allude of course to Sir Francis Drake. Now I have button-holed our member, Mr. Pomeroy, on this question, and he

says our only hope of getting a green set out and maintained in Southwark Park is by agitating and petitioning for it, and the sooner we begin the better. My chief

object, sir, in writing to you now is to ascertain if there is a widespread desire on the part of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe men for the establishment of a bowling green in our local park. They have been established for years in other parks, and it seems to me the inhabitants of this district are quite as much entitled to the advantages thus afforded, as say,

Dulwich or Finsbury. My idea is that a local committee should be formed to agitate this question, and I should be glad to hear from anyone who is willing to help in this matter."

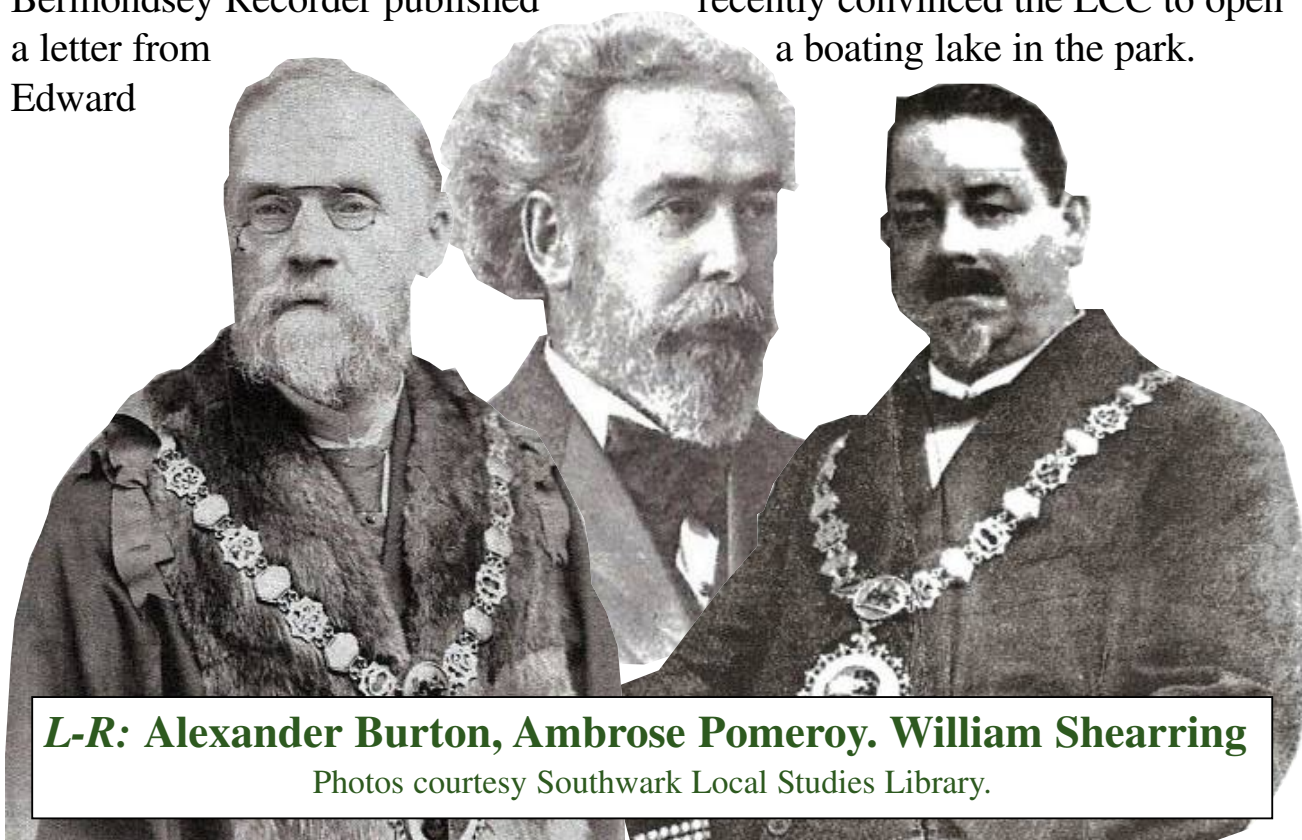


The Early Years

A week later on 3rd July 1908 another letter from T. Swales of 62 Monnow Road was published: "Many of your readers may not know that a very famous green once existed within a few yards of the park, in the grounds of old Jamaica House, more popularly known as the old Cherry Gardens. Mr. Hobbs mentions with pride that he is associated with Plymouth - the scene of Drake's last game of bowls before bowling over the Spanish Armada. We Cockneys ought also to feel pleasure in the thought that old Sam Pepys, the great diarist, often used to drop down to the Angel Stairs and enjoy his game of bowls on a pleasant afternoon at the old Cherry Garden."

On 10th July 1908 the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder published a letter from Edward

Collins, 100 Union Road: "It may not be generally known, sir, that Bermondsey has two expert bowls players in Mr. A. Burton and Mr. W. Shearring, and I am informed, sir, that these gentlemen intend to challenge all comers when the green is made. When the time comes I shall on behalf of Rotherhithe try and lower their colours. Wishing success to the green." The campaign for a bowling green was also supported by the Southwark Park Recreation Committee. This group of local people was under the chairmanship of an enterprising boat builder, William Smith who lived in Park Buildings. After years of lobbying and petitioning, Smith and his colleagues had recently convinced the LCC to open a boating lake in the park.



L-R: Alexander Burton, Ambrose Pomeroy. William Shearring

Photos courtesy Southwark Local Studies Library.

The Early Years

The Committee's backing for bowling was an important advance because they had the ear of Bermondsey's LCC representative, Ambrose Pomeroy, who was also Chairman of the Parks Committee. On 10th July 1908 the LCC approved the playing of bowls in the park, but "under the distinct understanding that no bowling green will be formed at the park at a later date."

The reason for this rather curious decision was the unwillingness of the authority to pay for a member of staff to look after a bowling green. If it was less than the bowls enthusiasts wanted, it was at least a step in the right direction, and a stimulus to the creation of a club, as a report in the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder for 21st August 1908 confirmed: "The newly formed bowling club which plays at Southwark Park is

making great progress. There are already over thirty members, and a number of prospective club-men; and some of these are to be seen on the green before breakfast, in the afternoon, and on the evening of every day that is at all fine.

The green is situated at the back of the Oval refreshment bar, and the turf is in fair condition. It is to be relaid before next season. The players are of the working and tradesmen class, aged from thirty years upwards, and form a jolly and social company - good sportsmen, but better fellows. Old hands are welcomed; amateurs are encouraged; and the effect of the game is seen in renewed youth and health to all who play. The exercise is not too violent for even invalids, and the science of the game, while interesting, is not too subtle for the normal ken."

The Early Years

The report also noted that a final of a competition would be held on 29th August, the day of opening of the new boating lake, and that the club secretary was Thomas Hansom of 19, Henwood Road. So we can see that by 1908, not only had bowls been allowed in the park, but Southwark Park Bowling Club was in existence, and an informal grassed area on the west side of The Oval had been allocated for the playing of the game.

Over the next four years the club set about convincing the LCC it should provide a proper green and a pavilion. On 13th November 1908 the LCC considered a letter from the club on the subject, and on 22nd January 1909 received a deputation.

A month later when the Parks Committee agreed £140 for a new green, it seemed as if the lobbying had paid off, however, just one month afterwards the earlier decision was adjourned.





The Early Years

The details of the debate are no longer known to us, but a debate there must have been, for the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder shows that on 1st May 1909 the informal bowling green was moved from the west side of The Oval to a spot between The Oval and Lower Road: "It is intended to arrange matches with bowling clubs associated with other parks, and thereby create an intense local interest in this old English sport. As an encouragement to those contemplating membership, we may add the County Council will provide a bowls house, and it is intended to provide a first class green next year." It was also noted that the Mr. Penfold was the club captain and

that the subscription was 2s 6d for the season. The change of location, presumably to a better site, and a promise by the LCC to supply accommodation in the form of "a small disused fire box for the convenience of the players" was not seen by the club as the end of the story.

They wanted a proper green and pavilion, and their case was supported by the Parks Superintendent, F.W. Wright, in his 1910 annual report.

By February 1911 the club had gathered together a petition of 1102 signatures calling for better bowling facilities in park.

The petition was presented to the LCC by the local representative, Mr. Stuart, and while not immediately successful in its objective; the momentum for change was not to be denied.



1900s: Early members of Southwark Park Bowling Club

The Early Years

In October 1911, following a further presentation of the petition by J.W. Hemborough, it was agreed to install a new green, on the present site, although not a pavilion. As it looked forward to a new facility the Southwark Park Bowling Club was flourishing. During the 1911 season sixteen matches had been arranged, including one for the LPBA's Jackson Shield Competition against Sir Francis Drake Club. The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder of 26th May 1911 carried a photograph of the teams.

On the 2nd June 1911 the newspaper reported a match against Wood Green in the London Shield Competition, and also that the secretary Thomas Hansom (by now a Bermondsey Borough Councillor) had played two matches in the bowls Singles Championship Tournament.

SOUTHWARK PARK BOWLING GREEN.

There is a numerous section of ratepayers in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe who are keen lovers of a game of bowls, consequently the making of the new bowling green in Southwark Park is being watched with special interest. This week it is being turfed. This new green is situated near the band-stand, and all will agree that the position is a good one. On its completion we venture to say no one will be better pleased than Mr. Ambrose Pomeroy, who, when chairman of the Parks Committee, induced the London County Council to make a provision in the estimates of £200 for this purpose. It has been an advantage that Mr. R. L. Stuart is a member of the Parks Committee, his influence being in favour of the scheme.

Mr. Dobson, who was recently appointed the superintendent of Southwark Park, is one of the best practical gardeners in the service of the London County Council; under his skilled supervision everything will be done to make the "green" one of the most perfect in South London.

The Early Years

At the club's annual general meeting on 14th March 1912, held at the old Jamaica Tavern, Southwark Park Road, it was decided to join the English Bowling Association.

Two players - Hansom and Mills - were elected to represent the club on LPBA's Committee.

The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder reported:

"There were some remarks about the new green, which unfortunately will not be ready in time to start the new season, but has been promised for June. The players having waited patiently

for four years for the new green will not grumble to wait another month.

'It is to be a full-sized green, and up to the present it looks as though it is going to be properly laid.

'The LCC are putting down a good foundation of ashes to prevent the worm trouble which has been very great on the old green.

'So it only remains for the Parks Committee to procure good and suitable turf, and we shall have a green that will compare favourably with any public parks green in London. "

The Early Years

On 3rd May 1913 the club began the season with their first match on the new green against Finsbury Park, won by the visitors 60-58.

The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder of 9th May lists the Southwark Park Club players as Messrs. Faith, Lee, Lawrence, Cole, Jackson, Sturgess, Benson, Hansom, Baston, Symonds, Mills and Cox.

Mr. Hobbs was President, and Mr. Mills, vice-President.

"The green is a very fine expanse of perfectly level turf, thoroughly drained and banked. In all there are six rinks, so that it is possible for forty-eight players to be indulging at the same time in the ancient game patronised by the immortal Drake in the stirring times of the Armada; any gentleman wishing to join the club should apply to Thomas Hansom or

Mr. Lee, 471, Southwark Park Road."

The match was followed by high tea and a musical evening at the Jamaica Tavern, the club's headquarters:

"The Misses Dixon gave two pianoforte duets. Mr. Adamson rendered a Scotch ballad, 'I Love the Lasses.'

'Mr. Fortescue, President of the Finsbury Park Club, greatly pleased the company with his song, 'Goodbye sweetheart, goodbye'.

Little Miss Dixon, a maiden of only eight summers, fairly brought the house down for the charming manner in which she gave two dances, the sailor's hornpipe and a skirt dance. Her movements were in perfect tune with the music, and she showed evidence of very careful training.



The Early Years

Mr. Dixon contributed to the harmony of the evening by giving two songs, 'The Flight of Ages' and 'My Dreams.' Mr. Tyler sang 'The Monarch of the Wood,' and Mr. Ellis gave a humorous recitation on babies by Mark Twain."



THE FLIGHT OF AGES (I).

I heard a song, a tender song,
 'Twas sung for me alone,
 In the hush of a golden twilight,
 When all the world was gone;
 As long as my heart is beating,
 As long as my eyes have tears,
 I'll hear the echoes ringing,
 From out the golden years."

BOWLING.

SOUTHWARK PARK BOWLING CLUB.

The 1913 season was inaugurated by the Southwark Park Bowling Club on Saturday, on their new green in the park. The green is a very fine expanse of perfectly level turf, thoroughly drained and banked. In all there are six rinks, so that it is possible for 48 players to be indulging at the same time in the ancient game patronised by the immortal Drake in the stirring times of the Armada. It was explained to our representative that the bowls as used in these days are somewhat different from those of Drake's time, as then the bias was gained by the bowl being weighted with lead, but now a peculiar process in the manufacture gives the bowl its bias.

A friendly game was played with the Finsbury Park Club, three rinks being played, Messrs. Faith, Lee, Lawrence, and Cole (skip), of the Southwark Park Club, opposing Messrs. Collinson, Nash, Brown, and Adamson (skip), of the Finsbury Park Club; Messrs. Jackson, Sturgess, Benson, and Hanson (skip), of Southwark Park, played against Messrs. Hilton, Fortescue, Tyler, and D'Aintree (skip), of Finsbury Park; and Messrs. Baston, Symonds, Mills and Cox (skip), Southwark Park, engaged Messrs. Cherry, Bailey, Burnett, and Sinclair (skip), of Finsbury. The result was as follows:—

RINK I.

Southwark Park, 22; Finsbury Park, 26.

RINK II.

Southwark Park, 19; Finsbury Park, 10.

RINK III.

Southwark Park, 17; Finsbury Park, 24.

Total: Southwark Park, 58; Finsbury Park, 60.

Finsbury Park thus won the match by the very narrow margin of two points. Some very close play was seen, and it was anybody's game all along.

At the conclusion of the match both clubs adjourned to the Jamaica Tavern, where Host Dixon had provided high tea, which after the strenuous afternoon was thoroughly appreciated.

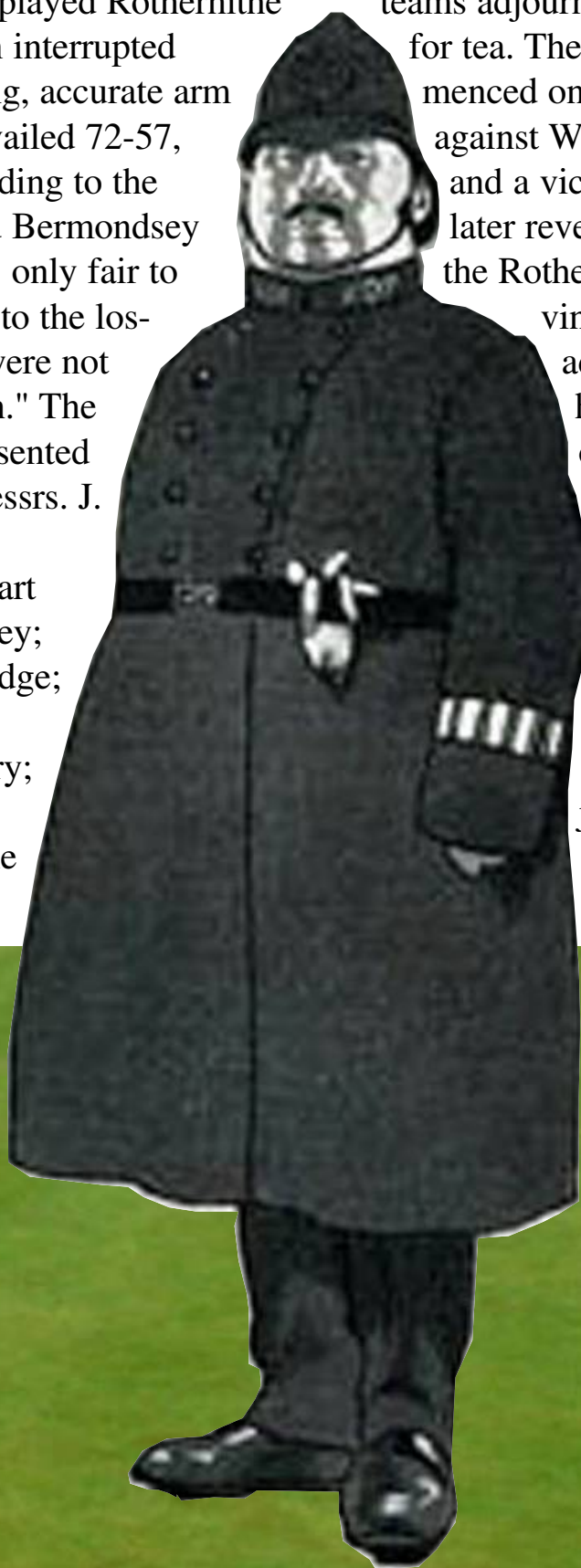
Councillor Hanson, in proposing the health of the members of the Finsbury Park team, said that he was most pleased to meet them again in friendly rivalry. They had come over to South London at great personal inconvenience, and he thanked them for a very interesting game. He was, of course, sorry that his club had not won, but he had thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Mr. Fortescue, president, Finsbury Park Club, said, in reply, that their reception had been so warm, hearty and spontaneous that he hardly knew how to answer. He thanked

The Early Years

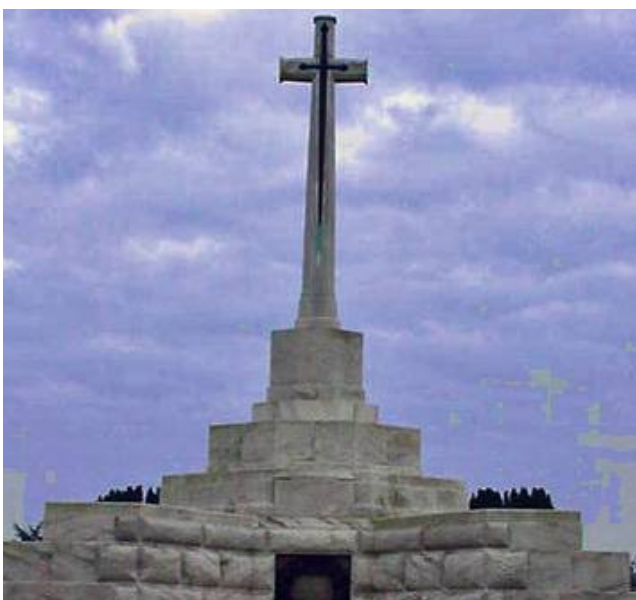
On 5th July 1913 Southwark Park Bowling Club played Rotherhithe Police in a rain interrupted match. The long, accurate arm of the law prevailed 72-57, although according to the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder, "it is only fair to state in justice to the losers, that they were not all full strength." The club was represented that day by Messrs. J. Lee; H. Lee; Skewers; Stewart Maffey; Handley; Diddans; Aldridge; Walker; Pye; Martin; Gregory; Dinnard and Lucas. After the game, in the

absence of their own facility, the teams adjourned to the park pavilion for tea. The 1914 season commenced on 2nd May with a match against Waygoods Bowling Club, and a victory by 57-46. A week later revenge was gained over the Rotherhithe Police by a convincing 70-43 margin. In addition to those who had played in the previous season, the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder listed Messrs. Stevens; Maul; Beech, Shearring and Lawrence as members. By 1914 the club had joined the Surrey County Bowling Association.



World War One

The onset of the First World War in August 1914 changed the lives of so many people forever, but one small side-effect was the decision by the authorities to largely suspend organised sports leagues and competitions. At a time when service men and women were dying in Europe, games were regarded as frivolous at best and even traitorous at worst. However, in recognition of the need to maintain some form of recreation sport was not closed down completely. Bowls, perhaps because of the older age of its participants, was played more than most sports, but it received only sporadic coverage in the local press, so we have only a few glimpses of the bowling activities in the park. The most important devel-



opment seems to have been the emergence of the Borough of B e r m o n d s e y Bowling Club in 1914, probably brought into being because of the installation of the new green. This meant the area had two local clubs using the park on a regular basis.

At the annual general meeting of the Borough of B e r m o n d s e y Bowling Club on 27th April 1916, held at the Old Jamaica Tavern, Southwark Park Road, it was reported that Mr. J. Lovell Dixson (landlord of the Tavern) was re-elected President and Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. Cole was re-elected as captain. It was also decided again to enter for the Shield competition of the Surrey County Bowling Association.

World War One

On 26th May 1916 the club played Commodore Venning's team of veterans, and won 30-15. The Bermondsey players were Messrs. Cole, Weeks, Dixson and Buller.

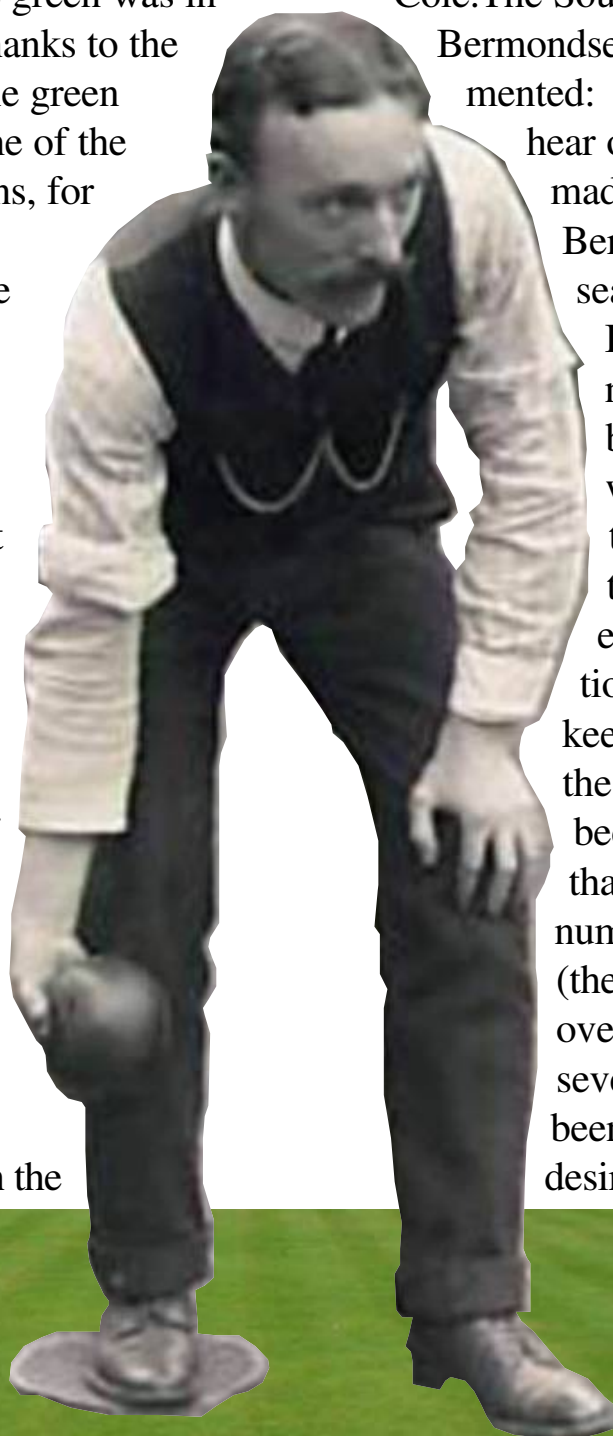
The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder noted: "The green was in splendid condition, thanks to the painstaking care of the green keeper; in fact it is one of the best of the LCC greens, for the majority of them leave very much to be desired, taking into consideration the charges they have levied on the players this year; they are out of all proportion to other municipal greens, where bowls, jacks and mats are provided, but the LCC provide none of these, the players having to provide their own equipment."

On 15th June 1916 a match took place with the local police, which the

boys in blue won 68-62. Names that are recorded as playing for the Borough of Bermondsey included Messrs. Clarke; Lee; Land; Dixson; Hatton; Cast; Turner; Plevin; Trotman; Richardson; Siddle and Cole. The Southwark and

Bermondsey Recorder commented: "It is interesting to hear of the progress made by the Bermondsey Club this season.

In 1915 they only numbered 19 members, several of whom are missing this season, owing to their being employed on munitions work, yet so keen have many of the inhabitants become on the game that the club now number 40 members (the majority being over military age) and several names have been received as being desirous of joining..."



Pic: Debra Gosling

World War One

On 6th July 1916 the local derby between Southwark Park and Borough of Bermondsey was contested, with the

latter running out winners by 65-44. This was the scorecard on that day:

No. 1 Rink:

Bermondsey-Messrs. Siddle, Lacey, Padgham and Cole (skip), 27.

Park-Messrs. Lunn, Ellis, Gurney and Hansom (skip), 15

No. 2 Rink:

Bermondsey-Messrs. Stewart Maffey, Turner, Land, and Butler (skip), 20.

Park-Messrs.

Matthews, Symonds and Jackson (skip), 13

No. 1 Rink:

Bermondsey-Messrs. Sutherland, Richardson, Sida and Dixon (skip), 18.

Park-Messrs. Blower, Shearring, Baston and Stevens (skip), 16

On 20th July 1916 "the annual" match between Rotherhithe Police and Clissold Park Bowls Club was played, which the latter won 64-57. The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder painted the scene and observed an important social moment:

"The bowling green at Southwark Park presented a very animated appearance on Thursday evening when the well-known north London club, Clissold Park paid their annual visit to play the local police. It was the first time ladies had been allowed on the green, and on the present occasion many of



the gentle sex were seen to be intently watching the game. It is a question whether a finer or better contested match has ever been witnessed on this green before. The weather was all that could be desired. The groundsman, Mr. Fuller, or 'Henry' as he is best known to the players, had worked most energetically, and fully deserved the unanimous praise bestowed upon him by the players of both teams."

Looking at those who represented the Rotherhithe police that day it is interesting to see the names Stewart Maffey, French, Sida and Butler, who were also members of the Borough of Bermondsey Club.

World War One

On 27th July 1916 Southwark Park won the return derby fixture against Borough of Bermondsey, 60-50. The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder commented on the bowls facilities:

"The green at Southwark Park is now in beautiful condition, and visiting teams speak very highly of it. Great credit is due to Mr. Giles, superintendent of the Park, and his assistants who are always working hard to keep the turf in good condition and by doing so earn the grateful thanks of all the players.

The clubs using the green regret the loss of "Henry," the groundsman, who has now left to join the colours. Mr. Stevens, his predecessor, has been at the front many months - they are, however, proud of the fact that they are now doing their bit. Garlick, the new groundsman, looks like being a good successor, and during his first week has been kept very busy. "

A year later, on 2nd August 1917



Bermondsey Bowling Club held a concert for wounded soldiers at the Rotherhithe Working Men's Conservative Club. It was originally planned to hold the concert on the bowls green but "the club failed to come to terms with the Clerk of the Weather, who did all that was possible to upset the committee's plans." Mr. Stewart Maffey of the Entertainment's Committee commented on the fact that there had been a certain amount of criticism about the playing of bowls during wartime. He was pleased to say that the members of the club were members of the local police, Special Constabulary, Volunteer Training Corps, and others engaged in war work. He indicated that the Bermondsey Club had contributed to many charities including Sportsmen's Ambulance Fund and the Princess Club Hospital.

The War Ends

In the years soon after the First World War the Borough of Bermondsey Club progressed well. Mr.

J.H. Land was captain and other notable players included Padgham, Spittal, Jackson, Read senior and Walker. The records show that in 1922 a full fixture list was completed, including matches against Borough of Greenwich, Southwark Radical Club and Elm Grove Bowls Club from Peckham Rye Park. The Southwark

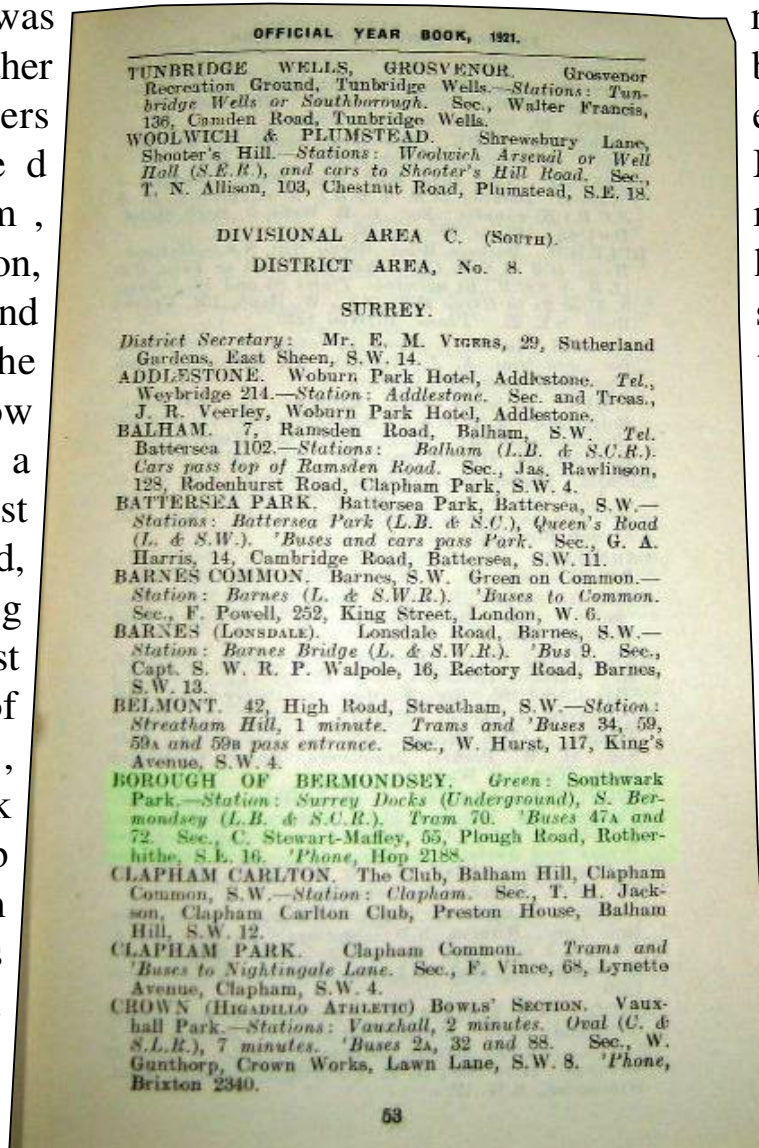
Park green was kept in splendid condition, and was considered one of the finest in the London parks. The final of the South-Eastern and District League between North Greenwich and Ladywell was contested there in September 1922.

In 1923, the club's Annual general meeting was held on 27th February,

and was reported as "being the most successful since the reorganisation of the club in 1916, an exceptional large

number of members being present." Mr. Stewart Maffey, the secretary, submitted his report, which showed that in the previous season inclement weather had made it difficult to complete fixtures. During the season twenty matches were played, eleven won and nine lost. The club events proved a great success. The election of officers returned:

President: A. Foster; Vice-President: F. Walker; Captain: J.W. Jackson; Vice-Captain; R. Spittal Secretary: C. Stewart Maffey; Treasurer: T. Turner
Votes of thanks were given to W.H. Mills (one of the founders of the club), A. Mendoza, Jessett and Baston for their continued support as members.



Hard Times

The early years of the 1920's witnessed a good deal of economic hardship, and Bermondsey was a very poor area.

When the L.C.C. decided to raise fees and charges for activities in its parks, the impact was felt in bowling. Season tickets for Southwark Park increased from £1.1s to 30s 6d and hire of lockers from 2s 6d to 4s. On 13th April 1923 Stewart Maffey wrote to the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder to express concerns:

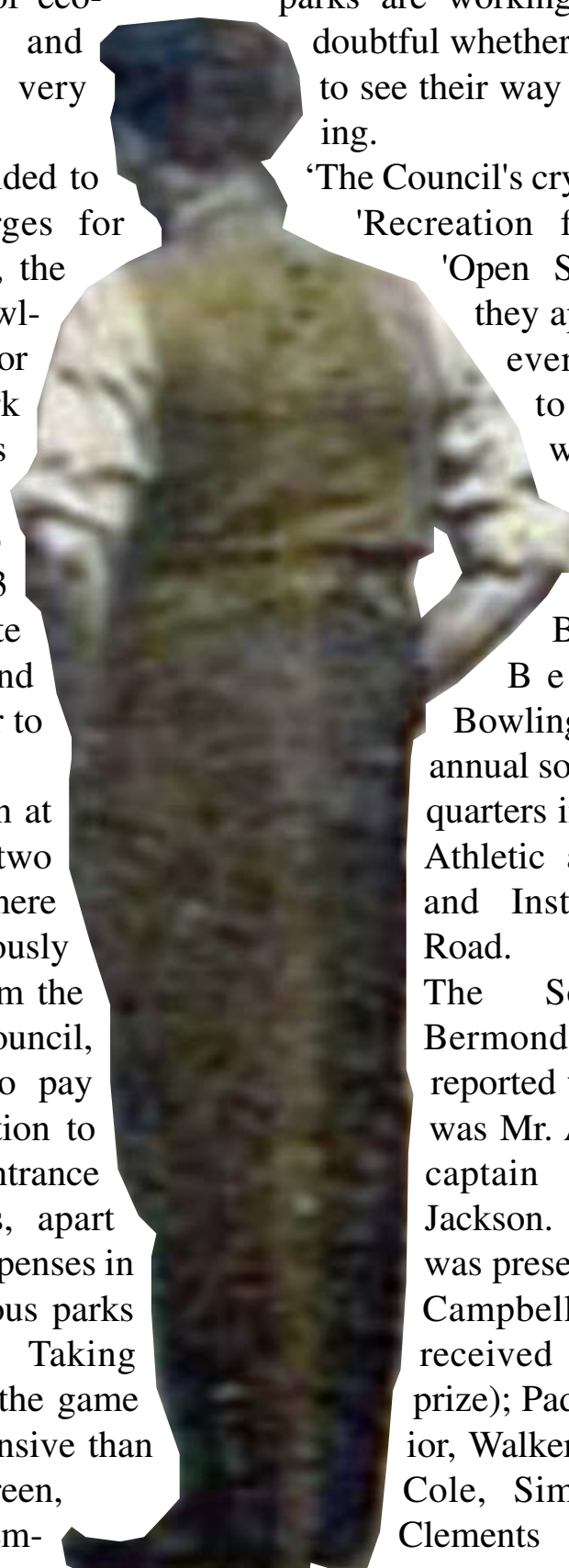
"As regards the green at Southwark Park, the two local clubs playing there are likely to be seriously affected, as, apart from the fees charged by the Council, the members have to pay their annual subscription to the club, also the entrance fees to competitions, apart from their personal expenses in travelling to the various parks to meet opponents. Taking those items together, the game will prove more expensive than playing on a private green, and as many of the mem-

bers of many clubs playing in the parks are working-class men it is doubtful whether they will be able to see their way to continue playing.

'The Council's cry has always been 'Recreation for the People,' 'Open Spaces, etc.,' yet they appear to be doing everything possible to deprive the working man of his sport."

That same evening the Borough of Bermondsey Bowling Club held the annual social at their headquarters in the Rotherhithe Athletic and Social Club and Institute in Union Road.

The Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder reported that the President was Mr. A. Foster and the captain was, Mr. G.W. Jackson. A large company was present, including R.J. Campbell; Land (who received the President's prize); Padgham, Read senior, Walker, Baston, Spittal, Cole, Sims, Blowey and Clements



Merriment



Money may have been short, but it seems a good time was had by all:

"The hall was gaily decorated, the decorations having been kindly left hanging by the promoters of a previous party.

Sandwiches, fruit, ices, chocolates and other refreshments were freely distributed.

'The programme was of a varied description. Mesdames Spittal, Nancy Jones

and Symons delighted the company with pleasing songs, and fully deserved the applause accorded them. The duets by Mesdames Spittal and Jones were greatly appreciated. Mr. Percy Watts, so well-known locally, was in his best form. Messrs. Jack Roper and J.C. Hinkins also caused great merriment in their amusing items. Dancing was indulged in at intervals, the fantastic step being continued until the early hours of the morning. Miss Ruby Callow, whose qualifications are so well-known, was at the piano, which, with Mr. Fred Brown Junr.'s Jazz Band, added greatly to the enjoyment of the dancers, who were bedecked in fancy hats, coloured streamers being freely thrown across the hall."

1924 AGM

Just over a year later, on 27 March 1924, Bermondsey Bowling Club's Annual General Meeting was held, and attendees included the President A. Foster; H. Mills and A. Cole (both founder members); C. Braithwaite, Walker, Williams, Baston, Jackson, Johnson, Read and many others. Secretary Stewart Maffey reported that despite the "excessive and exorbitant park fees" the club remained in a firm and sound condition. Although they had not done so well in the Jackson Shield, having won just one out of four matches, they had reached the third round of the Surrey County Cup before being narrowly beaten by South Norwood. In the Chalet Cup they reached the sixth round, accounting for Cobham A, Dorking, Cobham C, before losing to Redhill. Mr. Stewart Maffey, in congratulating Walker on winning the championship, stated that Scott was to be

heartily congratulated also, for joining the club two seasons ago, practically a novice, he had won a prize in each event. Stewart Maffey referred to the expected good season ahead, confirming the club would be taking part in the London Parks Competitions (Jackson Shield and Prescott Pairs); South-Eastern District League (Shield and Delegate Pairs); Surrey County Competitions (Shield and Chalet Cup), and also the usual club competitions. The election of officers for the 1924 season was as follows: President A. Williams; Vice President A. Foster; Captain F. Walker; Vice-Captain G. Padgham; Secretary C. Stewart Maffey; Assistant Secretary J.H. Land; Treasurer T. Turner; Auditors Read and Plevin; General Committee Burton, Cole, Johnson, Le Clerq, Plevin, Read and Scott.

Club Competition Results

The following results were reported:

Tournament:

1. F. Walker
2. G. Padgham
3. J.H. Land
4. Scott
5. Blowey
6. Baston

Handicap:

1. G. Padgham
2. Scott
3. Jackson
4. Clements
5. J.H. Land
6. Baston

Umbrella:

1. Baston
2. Scott
3. Johnson
4. Foster

A Merger Of The Clubs

In 1925 it appears that the two clubs using the Southwark Park green may well have merged.

We cannot be certain, as the records of the present Southwark Park Club were lost in the fateful fire of 1997. Events are so far away in time now that there is no living soul who can confirm just what happened and so a chunk of the bowls club history is now just the stuff of legend.

We know that the Southwark Park Club was still in existence in 1920, because the local press reported in that year that Thomas Hansom, by now an Alderman on Bermondsey Borough Council, was elected as President of the London Parks Bowling Association.

Thereafter the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder made no mention of the activities of the club. In contrast, the fortunes of the Borough of Bermondsey Bowling Club were

regularly reported, and on 2nd April 1925 at the annual general meeting it was agreed to change the name to Southwark Park Bowling Club at the end of the season.

The motion to do so was put by Mr. Land, and seconded by Mr. Plevin. Secretary Charles Stewart Maffey explained the reason for not changing the name earlier was due to all the various yearbooks having been printed, so the club would need to retain its present name until the end of the season.

This practicality tends to suggest that the original Southwark Park Club may have folded just before the commencement of the 1925 season. Stewart Maffey's annual report showed that the Bermondsey Club had experienced a wet and frustrating 1924 season, and that sixteen matches had been played, seven being won and nine lost.

Club Competition Results

Tournament:

1. F. W. Walker
2. F.R. LeClerq
3. H. Read Senr.
4. J.W. Jackson
5. W. Clements
6. A. Blowey

Handicap:

1. C. Taylor
2. G.H.Padgham
3. F.W. Walker
4. H. Scott
5. H. Read Senr
6. W. Johnson

Umbrella:

1. J.W. Jackson
2. J.H.Land
3. F. Walker
4. Johnson

A Delightful Green

While generally there had been little success in competitions, the club did get to the divisional final of the Surrey Cup but lost to Morgan's A.C. F.W. Walker was applauded as club champion for the second year running, as was C. Taylor who was in his first season.

It was also reported that a collection for St. Dunstan's, 'The Bowler's Tribute,' had raised £3 14s 7d. The election of officers for the 1925 season was as follows: President F.W. Walker; Vice President A. Williams; Captain H. Read Senr.; Vice-Captain G. H. Padgham; Secretary C. Stewart Maffey; Assistant Secretary J.H. Land; Treasurer T. Turner; Auditors H. Read Senr. and M.W. Plevin; General Committee Burton, Baston, Foster, Johnson, Le Clerq, Plevin and Scott. Delegates to London Parks Bowling Association H. Read Senr. and Baston. Walker, as club champion, was chosen to represent the club in the Surrey Singles Championship.

In August 1925 F.W. Walker reached the fifth round (last 32) of Singles Competition in Hastings Festival, one of the principal bowling events of the season.

It was Walker's first attempt in an Open competition, and he beat Herbert of Finsbury Park, 21-12; Rusconi of Rosemount 21-15; Perkins of Rushden 21-11; and Turner of Hastings, the favourite, 21-9. He was ousted by Gibbons of Chelmsford 15-21. The 'Recorder reported, "Mr. Walker was heartily congratulated by a well-known player at Hastings, who considers that with another two or three seasons experience Mr. Walker has the making of a great player. No doubt many clubs would be pleased to welcome him, but he is quite satisfied sticking with his old club." It was also reported that the Southwark Park green "was in better condition than ever, visiting teams being delighted with it," and that A. Cole, one of the founders of the club, had died.



Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

The end of the 1925 season saw the beginnings of efforts by the club to improve the changing facilities on the bowls green. It will be recalled that in 1914 the L.C.C. had provided a fire-box from Ruskin Park, which presumably had been in use ever since. In November 1925 the club wrote a letter to the LCC expressing appreciation of the excellence of the bowling green,

but asking that the accommodation be improved for next season. The records show a similar letter was sent by the club at the end of season for many years, but to no avail.

However, in March 1934 the Labour Party gained its first ever majority in the LCC elections, and local representative, Ada Salter, was appointed as Vice Chairperson of the Parks Committee.



Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

Ada pushed for more investment in Southwark Park, and in April 1935 a major three-year programme of special works to provide further amenities and additional recreational facilities for London was approved. It included seven new bowling greens and pavilions in London parks and nine new pavilions at existing greens.

It is not certain exactly when a new pavilion was installed in Southwark Park, but an LCC Parks Department inventory report of 1939 listed Southwark Park with a bowling green pavilion. So, the Arts and Crafts style wooden pavilion, which became a familiar landmark, was most likely in place sometime between 1935-39.



Pic: Chris Lordan

Above the trees: A bird's eye view of the bowling pavilion

Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

Another significant improvement took place in 1939 when the LCC agreed to upgrade the size of the green from 40 to 42 yards square to allow Class A fixtures, at an estimated cost of £900. Sea washed turf replaced meadow turf. As the report to the LCC noted, "There appears to be a keen demand in the locality for facilities for first class playing." The investment in better facilities was well deserved for during the inter-

war years the Southwark Park Club was a thriving organisation, so much so that on 18th September 1926 Ernie Moore, President of the English Bowling Association, paid a surprise visit to the bowling green. He was introduced to the members and congratulated the club on having such a fine green. He was an old Bermondsey boy, an international who played for Bellingham Club.



Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

The social side of things remained important. In January 1928 a dance was held at the Surrey Dock Institute and Club in Lower Road and "the pleasing feature of the evening was the attractive music of the Co-optimists Dance Orchestra, the artistes being purely local. The dance was held somewhat under a cloud, owing to the fact that on the same day the funeral took place of former president, T. Burton, a very keen player, and always of a most breezy and jocular disposition."

In June 1928 the club held a 'flannel dance' which according to the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder "proved a great success, there being a large gathering, many wearing tennis, cricket and bowling attire." The organising committee consisted of Messrs. Jones, Hoyle, Card and W. Plevin. As to the game itself, rain had taken its toll in several matches, although the

club had been victorious in the third round of the Daily News Cup, defeating Leatherhead by 26-16. Another innovation was the establishment of a perpetual trophy for competition amongst members of the club, provided by The Fellowship of Freedom and Reform (Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Committee.)

On 5th March 1929 the annual general meeting was described as, "one of the most enthusiastic in the history of the club."

In his report, the Secretary, C. Stewart Maffey, referred to the history of the club. It was formed in 1914 and for first two seasons membership stood at sixteen. In 1916, when he took over, membership rose to fifty, and it had remained at that figure ever since. During the 1928 season 23 matches had been played, of which 16 had been won. The club reached the fifth round of The Daily News Cup.

Club Competition Results 1929

Tournament:

1. F. Justice Senr.
2. F.R. LeClerq
3. G.H. Padgham
4. Pywell

Mid-week Spoons:

1. Blowey
2. Justice
3. Scott

Saturday Spoons:

1. Clements
2. Jones
3. Justice

Umbrella

Competition:

1. Blowey;
2. Scott
3. Padgham
4. Cable

Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

In the 1929 season the club was going to enter London Parks Jackson Shield; Claymore Cup and Prescott Pairs; The Daily News Cup and the Surrey County Rink.

The election of officers for the 1929 season was as follows: President H.

Baston; Vice President

G. Padgham;

Captain F.

Justice; Vice-

Captain

A.C.

Fields;

Secretary

C.

Stewart

Maffey;

Treasurer

T. Turner;

Auditors

Jones and

Stoyles;

Entertainments Secretary:

W. Plevin; Match Secretary: F.

Cable; General Committee Burton,

Baston, Foster, Johnson, Le Clerq,

Plevin and Scott. Delegates to

London Parks Bowling Association

were Barton and Field.

It was also reported that the Royal

George in Union Road had been

adopted as the place to entertain

opponents on Saturday afternoon

matches, and Mr and Mrs Boatman

were complimented for their cater-

ing. On 28th June the 'Recorder

reported on a very successful period

for the club: "The brilliant weather

recently experienced proved a won-

derful tonic to the Bermondsey and

Rotherhithe bowlers, who are now at

the height of their glory; the club is

now enjoying one of the

finest seasons in its

history." In just

one week five

matches had

been won,

and a

place in

the finals

of the

Jackson

Shield and

the Surrey

Rink competi-

tions secured. It

then broke new

ground with its first

annual outing to Great Marlow.

On 24th September 1929 the club

was host to the Licensed Victuallers'

Benevolent Institution Sports Club

and won 42-21. At the end of the

game the visitors were entertained

by Mr. And Mrs. Boatman at The

Royal George, including tea and a

concert by "Miss Mai Kenchatt as an

excellent child impersonator; Mr.

and Mrs. Knott and Mr. A. Howard."



*The Boatman: Once the
Royal George*

Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

On 31st January 1930 the club held the annual dinner and prize giving. Guests from other clubs were present, as was Leonard Percey, London Organiser of the Fellowship of Freedom and Reform.

The Fellowship had presented the club with a trophy, and in his speech Percey referred to the part sport could play in fostering team spirit and good relations in the community:

"Members of the Southwark Park Bowling Club were good sportsmen, and their bias was in their woods, but not their heads."

Representatives of Waygoods Otis were present and it was reported that the club also used the green in Southwark Park. "During the evening a splendid programme was presented. Special mention must be made of Mrs. Charles Knapp for her valuable servic-

es at the piano. Mrs. Knapp played lively airs throughout the dinner, and accompanied many of the artistes. Miss Lily Ashmore fully earned the hearty applause accorded her for several pleasing songs.

Mr. George Lamb (a well-known local favourite) was heard to great advantage.

Mr. Boatman duly sang his popular 'Alpine' song, and the following also contributed to the programme: Messrs. Bert Jones, Moore, Card, Reader and others."

Two months later Fred Boatman, the genial host, died. He was one of the oldest members of the club. Messrs. Jones, Warwick, Moon, Plevin and Stewart Maffey attended the funeral, and a handsome wreath with the club colours of chocolate and gold attached was sent.

Club Competition Results

Tournament:

A. Stoyles (Fellowship Silver Cup and a set of woods)
A. Foster (a pipe)
H. Jones (a blazer)
G.H. Padgham (a pipe.)

Pairs Competition The Edwards Silver Cup: Foster & Edwards, plus a valuable silver spoon

Spoons Competition: Jakeman; Le Clerq; Foster; Dibsdall; Justice, Blowey, Scott, Lawson, Jones and Clements, each receiving a silver spoon.

Umbrella Competition:

G. Padgham; H. Scott, Le Clerq and Justice, each receiving an umbrella.

Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

An indication of the use of the Southwark Park bowling green at this time can be found in an LCC return of 5th December 1930, which showed in that year fifteen season tickets had been taken, and 1823 hourly tickets resulting in £ an income of over sixty pounds.

On 26th February 1931 the club's annual dinner was once again held at The Royal George. A.H. Foster, the captain, occupied the chair at the request of H.G. Edwards, the President, and he began by reporting the death of J.H. Jakeman, a former President. Foster said that the club had produced some very good bowlers who were well known, and he hoped that this would continue, but bowls was not just about winning prizes - he consid-

ered it the best pastime any men in their position could have in the summer. Nothing appealed to him more than getting on the green with its

BOWLERS DINE AT ROTHERHITHE.
THE SOUTHWARK PARK CLUB.

This popular club had its annual dinner and prize presentation on Thursday night of last week at the Royal George, Union Road, where about fifty members and friends sat down to a capital repast. Mr. A. H. Foster (captain) occupied the chair at the express wish of Mr. H. G. Edwards, the President.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Stewart-Maffey, read a letter from Mrs. Jakeman announcing the death of Mr. J. H. Jakeman (Walworth Road), who was the Club's President for the 1930 season.

The members stood for a moment's silence, and the Hon. Secretary intimated that he would send a letter of condolence to the widow.

Proposing the toast of "The Club," the Chairmen said they were eagerly looking forward to getting on the green again, and having a very successful season, under better weather conditions than those that prevailed last year. The Southwark Park Bowling Club had produced some very good bowlers who were well known, and he hoped that it would continue to produce such bowlers, but not merely with the idea of winning prizes. He considered that bowls was the best pastime any men in their position could have in the summer. Nothing appealed to him more than getting on the green with its pleasant surroundings and the jolly good company that bowlers always were.

Coupling with the toast the name of Mr. Blaine (of the Southwark Park staff), the Chairman stated that the bowling green had been repaired where necessary, and five tons of sand had been applied to it. The club would be having some open competitions, and he went on to point out that any members wishing to enter must advise the Hon. Secretary before March 15th. In conclusion, the Chairman remarked that they were all delighted to see their secretary, Mr. Stewart-Maffey, with them, after his very severe illness, and they hoped that he would soon get completely back to normal health, and in the coming summer be able to fulfil his duties on the green. The Chairman then coupled Mr. Stewart-Maffey's name with the toast.

pleasant surroundings, and the jolly good company that bowlers always were. Compliments also went to Mr Blain, the Park Superintendent, for repair work on the green; over five tons of sand had been applied to it. Foster also said how good it was to see Mr. Stewart Maffey back with them after a very serious illness. Stewart Maffey replied by saying this was his fifteenth year as Secretary, and he felt proud of the fact because the club was one of the finest in London. He went on to say that the club had not done

as well as it would like in open competitions, but now a special committee had been formed with a view to doing better during 1931.

Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

Stewart Maffey mentioned the player Bernard Dibsdale, who had entered for county play and won several medals. Dibsdale had represented London against the London Scottish team. He doubted whether any London club could produce a player like Dibsdale, and his distinguished success reflected honour on the club. On the financial side Stewart Maffey reported the club position as "highly satisfactory and a long way from its beginnings when it was in debt. Membership stood at fifty. In the club competitions the prizes were awarded to E. Justice, one of the youngest members (a cup and a travelling case); A. Blowey and Plevin; Pairs Competition The Edwards Silver Cup - Fred Russell and Edwards.

Spoons Competition: Stoyles, Clements, Blowey and Plevin.

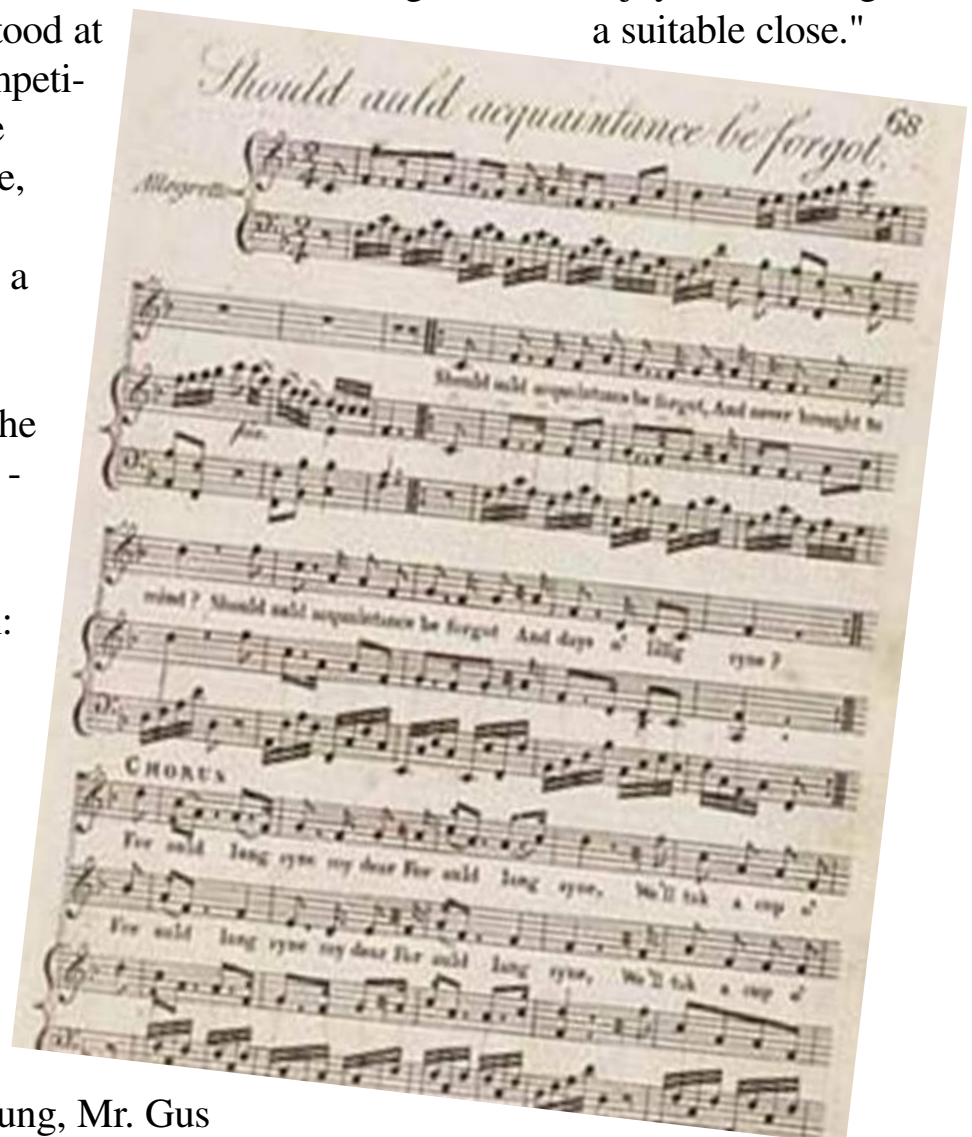
Umbrella Competition:

Jakeman, Russell, Moore and Clements.

"Between the speeches some capital songs were sung, Mr. Gus

Head ably presiding at the piano, and Mr. Bert Jones popularly acting as musical director with two other members of the Entertainment Committee, Messrs. A. Stoyles and E. Justice.

The vocalists were Miss Lily Ashmore, Mr. George Lamb, the Dusty Boys, Mr. Moore, and Mr. J. McLaren, each of whom received several encores, Miss Ashmore fairly bringing down the house. 'Auld Lang Syne' and the National Anthem brought a most enjoyable evening to a suitable close."



Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

The annual general meeting held on 12th November 1931 was a significant one, for after fifteen years in office, Stewart Maffey tendered his resignation as Secretary.

At almost sixty-five years of age, he considered it time to hand over to a younger member.

General regret was expressed at his decision, and he was elected a life member of the club. The same honour went to Mr. Hamby.

The election of officers then took place as follows: President: W. Plevin; Vice-President J.W. Cable;

Captain: H.G. Edwards; Vice-Captain: W. Clements; Secretary:

H.H. Jones; Treasurer: H.G.

Edwards; Auditors: Messrs.

Baston and

Stewart

Maffey;

Delegates to the London

Parks

Bowling

Association:

Messrs.

Cable and

Baston; General

Committee: Messrs. Baston, Edwards, Stewart Maffey, Moore, Percy and Russell. It was decided in the 1932 season to enter for the Surrey County Rink; The Daily News Cup; The Daily Telegraph Cup; the Jackson Shield; and the usual club competitions.



Club Competition Results

C h a m p i o n s h i p
(Fellowship Cup and
President's Prize):

1. H. Baston
2. Stoyles
3. Moore
4. Edwards.

Pairs Competition
(Edwards Cup and



Club Prize):

Plevin and Collins.

Umbrella

Competition:

Edwards, Scott, Moore
and Plevin.

Spoons Competition:

Percy, Plevin, Collins
and Moore.

Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

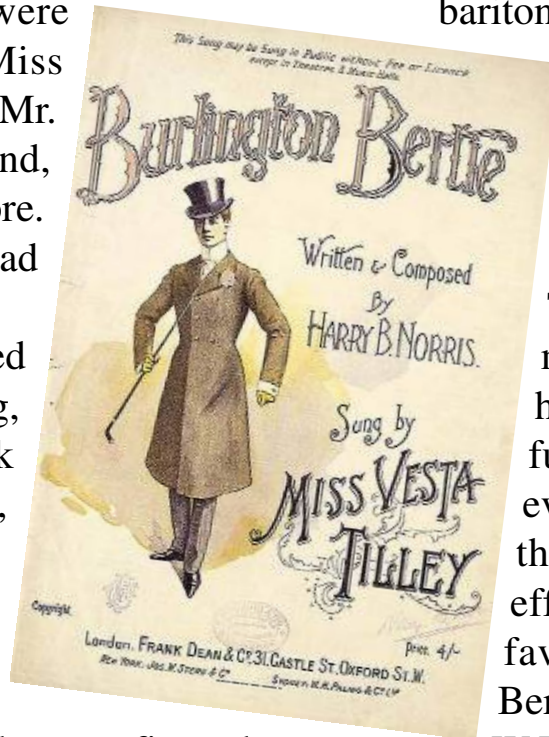
In February 1932 the Southwark Park Bowling Club annual dinner was held at Southwark Park Tavern. Among those who contributed to the after dinner concert were George Lamb, Miss Lamb, H.H. Jones, Mr. Bliss, George Holland, and Mr. 'Pony' Moore. Once again Gus Head tickled the ivories.

"The guests assembled early in the evening, and at about 7 o'clock the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Pearcey, provided a substantial and most enjoyable repast, in one of the courses of which, by the way, figured roast ribs of English beef. Called upon to sing, Borough Councillor "Jack" Phillips responded with a well known sentimental song, his expres-

sive rendering of which brought the house down, and resulted in his being compelled to give three or four encores. Possessor of a powerful baritone voice, under perfect

control, Councillor Phillips achieved a personal triumph, and afforded great enjoyment to guests. The humorous element as one would have wished at such a function was well in evidence, especially in the very successful efforts of that old favourite ("Burlington Bertie"), Mr. H Jones."

W.T. Plevin, the President, referred to the bowling success of Mr. Justice and it was also mentioned that Albert Foster was leaving to join the Temple Club.



Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

In 1933 the Southwark and Bermondsey Recorder merged with South London Press and regrettably this led to far less press coverage of events in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. The detailed reports of annual general meetings, social events and matches which help to form a picture of the life of the Southwark Park Club in its first twenty five years are replaced by sporadic reporting up to the advent of the Second World War in 1939. We do know that during this period the club was successful in various LPBA competitions. In 1934 the "Prescott Bowl" Pairs title was won, followed a year later by the "Haven Cup" Triples Championship. In 1937 F.E. Justice won the London Parks Bowling Association "Cornish Cup," a champion of champion's trophy, defeating E. Jones of North Greenwich in the final.

The South London Press ran a bowls tournament and the club was usually well represented. In 1933 the following men competed: A. Russell of Marden Road, B.J. Dibsall of Brunel Road; H. West, Ilderton Road; William F.

Tyler of Drummond Road; A. Stoyles of Lower Road; William Lawson of Devon Mansions; A.W. Higgs of Valentine Road, Ilford; H.H. Jones of Sandrock Road, Lewisham; G. Holland, of Manor Lane, Lee; and A. C. Collins of Albion Street.

In 1934 the entrants were W.F. Tyler, G Pywell, George Holland, A.J. Russell, G.E. Mead, H.H.J. West and W. Lawson. Although there was a ladies competition Southwark Park did not take part. In 1935 the club was represented by Tyler, W. Nicholson, Pywell and Russell.

In 1936 the entrants were Richard Tyler, W.T. Tyler, G. Holland, G. Pywell, T. Nicholson and H. Donald.

In 1937 the entrants were W. F. Tyler, T.C. Smith, Richard Tyler, Thomas Nicholson, George Holland, G. Pywell and Harry Demaid.

In 1938 there were six representatives - Richard Tyler, A. Collins, W.F Tyler, George Holland, T.C. Smith and Harry Demaid.

In 1939 the South London Press reported just one Southwark Park player competing, A. Collins.

Flourishing Years: 1925-1939

"SOUTH LONDON PRESS" BOWLS TOURNAMENT

1934

"SINGLES" CHAMPIONSHIPS

TWO SECTIONS: (1) MEN (2) WOMEN

ENTRIES will be accepted from Men and Women Bowlers (in their respective sections) resident in the Metropolitan Police Area South of the Thames, or who are members of Bowling Clubs with Greens in the same area.

LAST DAY FOR ENTRIES—MAY 12

RULES

- (1) Immediately after the closing date a draw will be held and competitors will be advised against whom they are drawn to play in the first round. (In the preliminary rounds the draw will be made in district areas.)
- (2) In each match the competitor named first will be responsible to provide playing accommodation, and to arrange a convenient time with opponent.
- (3) A score-card, signed by the players and countersigned by Club Secretary or other responsible official, must be forwarded to the "South London Press" not later than the date specified for the conclusion of each round.
- (4) The games shall consist of 21 points, 4 bowls each player.
- (5) The Semi-Final and Final Matches will be played on one day at a South London Club (date and place to be announced later).
- (6) All bowls used must bear the I.B.B. stamp.
- (7) In any case of dispute the decision of the Sports Editor of the "South London Press" shall be accepted as final.

TROPHIES and PRIZES

MEN'S SECTION: WINNER to hold for one year the "SOUTH LONDON PRESS" CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.

Present Holder: Mr. J. E. Delfield (Grangewood B.C.)

Prize—Set of Jaques' "Imperial" Bowls. Value £4 10s.

RUNNER-UP: Prize—Pair of Jaques' "Imperial" Bowls. Value 45s.

WOMEN'S SECTION: WINNER to hold for one year the "SOUTH LONDON PRESS" CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY.

Present Holder: Mrs. C. L. Vasey (Peckham Park Ladies' B.C.)

Prize—Set of Jaques' "Imperial" Bowls. Value £4 10s.

RUNNER-UP: Prize—Pair of Jaques' "Imperial" Bowls. Value 45s.

"SOUTH LONDON PRESS" BOWLS TOURNAMENT

I wish to enter for the MEN'S WOMEN'S SECTION, and agree to accept the Rules of the Tournament.

NAME (BLOCK LETTERS)

ADDRESS

NAME OF CLUB

The Entry Form should be addressed to:
BOWLS TOURNAMENT, "SOUTH LONDON PRESS,"
70/74, London Road, Elephant and Castle, S.E.1.

BRILLIANT PLAY IN OUR BOWLS TOURNEY

Chaddock, Won 21—20,
Was Once 10—0
Down

SECOND-ROUND RESULTS

The second round of the South London Press Men's Bowls Tournament has produced many exciting contests.

The closest was that in which P. Chaddock, the Vauxhall Park and ex-Surrey player, beat R. Ball (Price's Athletic) at the 26th end by 21—20.

Ball had the advantage by 20—19 at the 25th end, and on the first five ends actually took a lead of 10—0!

The following results have been received:—

P. Chaddock (Vauxhall Park) beat R. Ball (Price's Ath.), 21—20.
W. Savage (Price's Ath.) beat A. Hilyer (Milton Hall), 21—15.
F. Holdaway (Southern Railway) beat H. A. Poulton (Acc. and Tab.), 23—15.
F. C. Lewis (W. Streatham) beat A. W. Pearce (Grangewood), 23—13.
H. McGready (Vauxhall Park) beat G. W. Burbridge (Sylvan), 21—12.
G. Booth (Plumstead Engineers) beat W. Denmark (L.C.C.), 21—15.
H. Lancaster (Tooting Constitution) beat W. G. Bungay (Temple), 23—7.
H. Trevillion (Peckham Rye Park) beat H. H. Martin (L.C.C.), 21—13.
A. Luff (Bromley Town) beat T. B. Watt (L.C.C.), 23—13.
W. Tongue (L.C.C. Bellingham) beat A. G. Walden (Barry), 21—18.
A. J. Russell (Southwark Park) beat Geo. Holland (Southwark Park), 21—14.
W. Godsmark (Crystal Palace and Penge) beat F. H. Page (Midmost St. Mildred's), 23—11.
G. Glover (Waddon Residents) beat G. Woodcock (Southern Railway), 21—14.
H. V. Clarke (West Streatham) beat G. J. Harding (Broomwood Methodist), 21—4.
G. W. Griffiths (Morgan Recreation) beat W. Betteridge (Morgan Recreation), 23—5.
H. Auty (Barry) beat G. Edmonston (All Saints, Peckham), 21—19.
J. Williamson (Queen's Mead) beat H. W. Rogers (Dulwich Park), 23—18.
J. Lansberry (Sylvan) beat J. E. Cratwick (Croydon Municipal Officers), 24—10.
Wm. Rivers (L.C.C. Bellingham) beat D. Fudge (Sydenham Wells), 21—13.
L. G. Bush (Grangewood) given w.o. by S. Broughton (Price's Ath.).
P. Kennedy (Vauxhall Park) beat H. L. Millward (Grangewood), 21—20.
G. Webb (Sydenham Wells) beat C. W. Langley (L.C.C. Bellingham), 23—16.
W. F. Tyler (Southwark Park) beat Samuel Wood (Plumstead Casuals), 21—16.
W. H. May (West Streatham) beat F. H. Eccles (Vauxhall Park), 21—17.
A. D. M. Webb (Waddon Residents) beat L. W. Lewis (Sylvan), 21—18.
A. Scarpenier (L.C.C.) beat G. Iken (L.C.C.), 21—8.
J. M. Walker (Grangewood) beat J. T. Cousins (Sylvan), 21—15.

LADIES' SECTION

Second-Round Results

Mrs. Helen Male (Brooklands, Blackheath) beat Mrs. Palmer (Hilly Fields), 21—16.
Mrs. M. Gibson (Peckham Park) beat Mrs. Passingham (Hilly Fields), 22—17.

Second World War

The advent of war with Nazi Germany in September 1939 had an immediate impact on the park, which was requisitioned by the government for defence of the important wharves and docks in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.

The military authorities closed practically the whole of the southern end of the park and anti aircraft guns were located on The Oval.

In October 1939 to help protect citizens from Goering's Luftwaffe, trenches for 250 people were dug in the northern end of the park, and elsewhere grass areas were converted into allotments as part of the Dig for Victory home food production campaign.

Throughout the war most of the recreational facilities were closed to

the public, and indeed full access to the whole park was not completely restored until 1950.

Bombs frequently landed in the park, and at various times damage was caused to the paddling pond, boating lake, the lido, bandstand, the tennis courts, the main carriageway drive, The Oval and the superintendent's lodge.

The bowling green was not reported as being hit, but it may well have been.

The bombs also fell close to the park. Houses in nearby Gomm Road, Rebecca Terrace, Hawkstone Road, Henwood Street and Litlington Street were destroyed or badly damaged, as was St. Olave's Hospital.

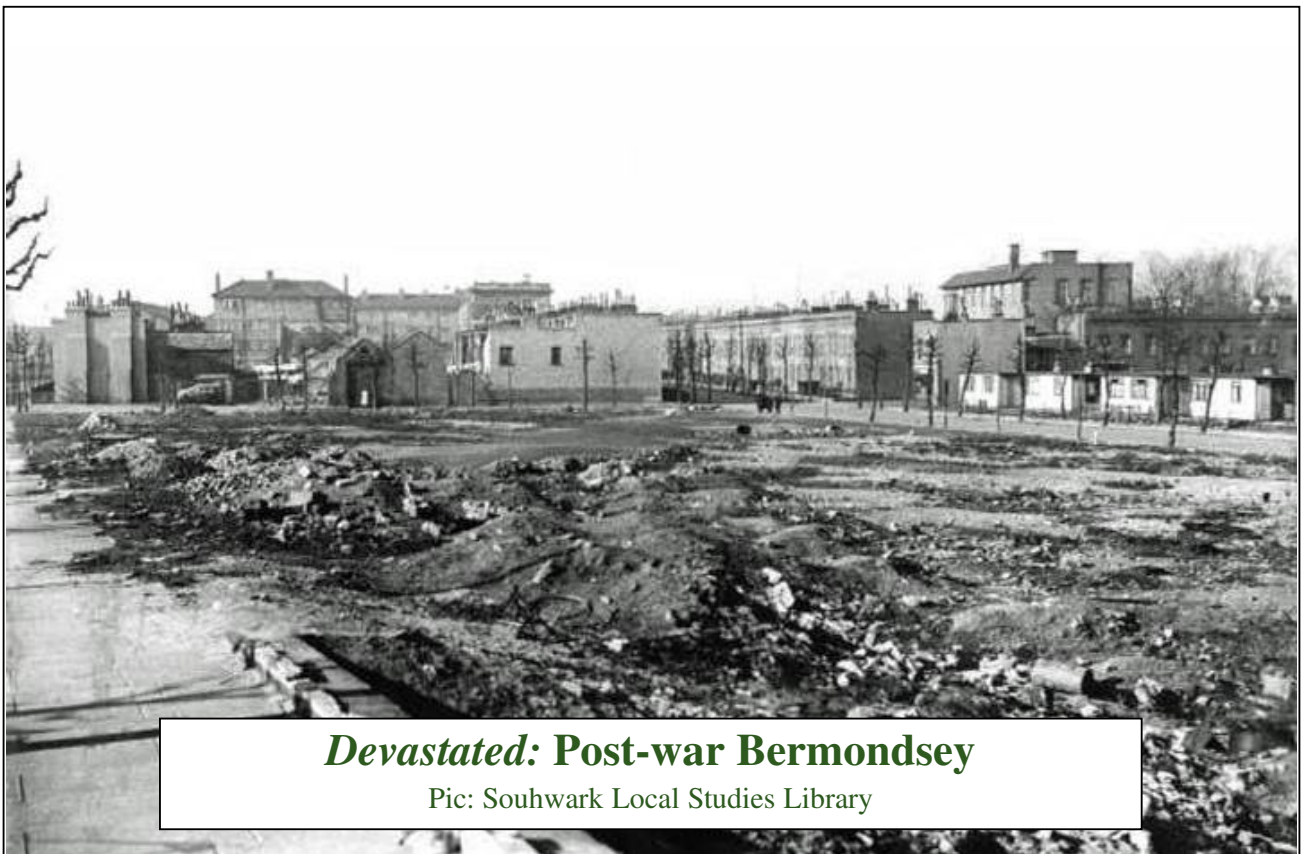


Clearing The Aftermath

The devastating impact on the area can be measured by the fact that by the time peace was declared practically all 19,020 dwellings in Bermondsey were damaged and 4,242 vanished completely or were rendered unusable. Nearly three-hundred warehouses had been obliterated, half the schools gone, the Town Hall and other public buildings mostly destroyed or damaged. More than half of Bermondsey's pre-war population of 90,000 people had gone for one reason or another.

Although Southwark Park was largely given over to the war effort, the authorities did sporadically make use of it for morale-boosting community events and activities. Bermondsey

Borough Council set up a Shelter Council which organised community singing, open air concerts, drama and games. The Bermondsey and North Southwark Band of Hope held its annual open-air demonstration, involving local children. The Ministry of Labour, LCC and Bermondsey Council organised special attractions to encourage people to spend their holidays at home and thereby free transport for military use. Home Holiday Programmes for Southwark Park consisted of various sports competitions and entertainments, but bowls was not included, which would suggest the bowling green was out of action.



Devastated: Post-war Bermondsey

Pic: Southwark Local Studies Library

After The War

Unfortunately the story of Southwark Park Bowling Club since the Second World War is not wonderfully well documented. The loss of virtually all of the club records in a fire has already been mentioned, as has the lack of coverage in the local newspapers compared to earlier years. However, it is possible to get some glimpses of the club's activities.

What we do know is that in the immediate post-war period the Secretary was T.C. Smith of Grange Road and later Orchard House, Jamaica Road.

He served in that capacity for nine years from 1938 to 1947. It is very likely he was the same man who had previously been Financial Secretary of the Bermondsey Labour Party Bowls Club in the 1930s, though we

can't be certain of that. In 1948 and 1949 R.E. Brewster of Litlington Street was Secretary, followed in 1950 by D.P. O'Brien of Layard Road.

From 1951-1957 G.H. Phillips of Southwark Park Road and later Verdant Lane Lewisham, held the position, although R.C. Henry of Neckinger Estate, Spa Road, did so for the one season in 1956. A.S. Easton of Aylwin Estate, Grange Road was Secretary in 1958.

Little is recorded about the playing side of the club in the 1940s and 1950s, but it is reasonable to assume it took part in the London Parks Bowling Association's competitions. Certainly it did in 1956, when the club won the "Clarke Bowl" defeating Ruislip in the final.



©Gary Magold 2010

The Fifties

In September of the same year the club won the single rink L.C.C. Challenge trophy at Parliament Hill Fields, on the way beating Metropolitan Police (Tower Bridge) BC 20-19 and Clissold Park BC 25-24. Team members included A. Easton, E. Roberts, J. Dorney, H. Golding and J. O'Brien (skip).

A surviving membership card and fixture list from the same year shows a full range of matches at the week-

end and a club night on Wednesdays. It also tells us the officers were: President: H.J. Clements; Vice President: J. O'Brien; Captain: A. Cordier; Vice-Captain: J. Dorney; and Treasurer J. Sewell. The Committee consisted of J. Church; A. Cunningham; A.S. Easton; E. Roberts; E.J.T. White and J.W. White. Life Members were W. Clements and H. De Maid. Trustees were J. Sewell; E. Roberts and H. Clements.

President	H J.Clements	SOUTHWARK PARK BOWLING CLUB (Founded 1913)
Vice-President	J.O'Brien	
Captain	A.Cordier	
Vice-Captain	J.Dorney	
Hon Treasurer	J. Sewell, 22 Gomm Road, S.E.16	Fixture & Membership Card 1956
Hon Secretary	R. C. Henry, 559 Neckinger Estate, Spa Road, Bermondsey, S E.16 BERmondsey 2441 (9 - 5)	
Committee -	J. Church, A. Cunningham A.S. Easton, E. Roberts, E J T White and J W White	
Life Members:	W. Clements & H DeMaid	
L.P.B.A Delegates -	H Clements & R C Henry	
Hon Auditors:	H Abraham & H Sewell	NAME <u>J PERRY</u>
Trustees:	J.Sewell E.Roberts H.Clements	CARD No <u>18</u>

The Fifties

In September of the same year the club won the single rink L.C.C. Challenge trophy at Parliament Hill Fields, on the way beating Metropolitan Police (Tower Bridge) BC 20-19 and Clissold Park BC 25-24. Team members that year included A. Easton, E. Roberts, J. Dorney, H. Golding and J. O'Brien (skip).

In 1956 the LCC agreed to use the bowling green pavilion during the winter as a shelter for older people. Lighting and gas heating was provided

at a cost of twenty pounds, thus ensuring the more senior members of the community had a place to meet, talk and while away the hours on pleasant winter's afternoon. The pavilion may well have been used as a replacement for the popular pre-war Winter Garden, which had been destroyed during the wartime bombing campaign. The senior citizens certainly welcomed the move and it kept the building alive during quieter times.

LIST OF FIXTURES			FOR SEASON 1956			(All Matches commence at 3.0 p.m.)
Saturdays			Sundays			
Date	Fixture	Venue	Date	Fixture	Venue	
Apl 28	Opening Day		Apl 29			
May 5	x Francis Drake	WON Home	May 6			
12	x Ladywell	LOST Away	13			
19	x Beckenham	WON Home	20			
26	x Hillyfields	WON Away	27	Dolcis	WON Away	
June 2	x Mountsfield	WON Home	June 3			
9	x Mayow	WON Away	10	(1)		Home
16	Northbrook	WON Home	17	Metropolitan Police	WON Away	
23			24			
30	Mountsfield	WON Away	July 1	Molins		Home
July 7	Beckenham	WON Away	8	Piscatorial	WON Home	
14	Francis Drake	WON Away	15	Northbrook	WON Away	
21	Dulwich	WON Home	22	Metropolitan Police	WON Home	
28	St. Christopher's	WON Away	29			
Aug 4			Aug 5			
11	Hillyfields	WON Home	12			
18	St. Christophers	WON Home	19	Molins		Away
25	Dolcis	WON Home	26			
Sep 1	Club Finals		Sep 2	Club Finals		
8	Dulwich	WON Away	9			
15	Ladywell	WON Home	16			
22	Elm Grove	WON Home	23	Travellers Bowling Club	Home	
29	Mayow	Home	30			
x Jackson Shield			(1) Rink of Internationals			LOST. 5
Every WEDNESDAY - Club night on the green - novelty prizes			Rink of Surrey County B.A.			WON
			Rink of London Parks B.A.			WON
			Rink of London Scottish			WON

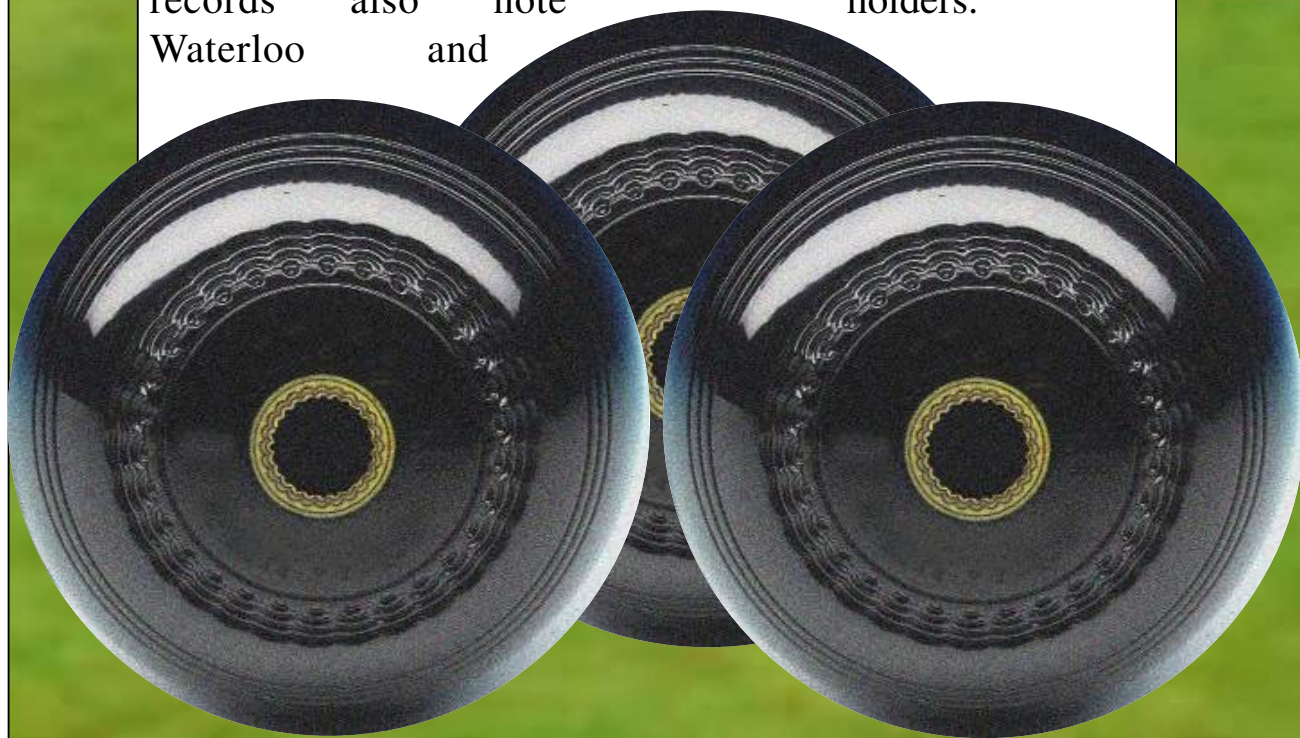
The Sixties

For the most part of the 1960s the Secretary was A.E. Thrussell of Thorburn Square (1960-1968), followed in 1969 by J. Garrett of Kinsale Road, Peckham.

In competition the club reached the final of the LPBA's "Clarke Bowl" in 1963, but was defeated by Acton Park. The Greater London Council (GLC) Parks Department records show that in 1968 the club had twenty-one members, and played regularly on Saturday afternoons and an occasional Sundays. The records also note Waterloo and

Southwark (GPO) Bowls Club was based in Southwark Park, had eighteen members and played on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

The same records contain a return of hourly use of the bowling green throughout the summer of 1968 and they show some three-thousand, three hundred and fifty plays by £4.10s season ticket holders; five-hundred and eighty plays by £1.10s OAP season ticket holders and five-hundred and fifty six plays by 12s hourly/weekly ticket holders.



1970s & 1980s

From 1970-1975 we know George Aldridge of Pine House, Ainsty Estate was Secretary, and he was followed into the 1980s by Tom Beesley of Arica House, Slippers Place. According to an undated press cutting, but most probably from the 1970s, the following players are known to have represented the club: Ernest Roberts, Ernest

Cunningham, Robert Fenson, Albert Thrussell, Thomas Shrewsbury, Joe Martin, George Jones, Charles Magill, and William Kemp. The photograph denoted Jack Clements as President and John Whipps as captain. In 1971 John Whipps won the LPBA Secretaries Championship defeating

R. Goodwin of London Transport Croydon Trams in the final. In 1978 he repeated the feat with a victory over R. Jacobs of Ravenscourt Park. In 1972 the club reached the final of the LPBA's "Clarke Bowl," but was defeated by Harlington. In 1989 for the first time the club reached the final of the LPBA's Jackson Challenge Shield, but lost to Barking Borough.



The Feminine Touch

One of the most important changes begun during the late 1970s was the establishment of the Southwark Park Ladies Team. Grace Beesley was a leading light in developing the women's game, along with enthusiasts like Eileen Box, Mercie Butler, Eileen Crew, Lily Fleetwood, Doreen Hams, Joyce Heather, Maud Holmes, Mary Horne, Brenda Johnson, Violet

Jones, Irene Kemp, Ethel Leverington, Pearl Pike, Beryl Prevett, Kit Saunders, Mary Sawyer, Violet Shrimpton, Pat Spence, Mary Stanley, Michelle Statham, Rose Trotman, Winnie Waller and Wendy Webster. At its height the Ladies team had fifteen members and was affiliated to the Surrey County and South London Women's Bowls Association.



The Feminine Touch

DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Dance 16th April 1993
Presentation Dance 12th November 1993

CLUB MEETINGS

28th September 1993
3rd January 1994 (AGM)
4th April 1994

NOTE

- * 31st July 1993 HOME and AWAY MATCHES
- 30th August 1993 GEC AVIONICS
- * 11th September 1993 HOME and AWAY MATCHES

SOUTHWARK PARK BC

Affiliated to the E.B.A. S.C.B.A. L.P.B. A.

FIXTURES 1993

President:	G.WELLER	071-236 3846
Vice President:	J. HOLMES	
Secretary:	P.SULLIVAN	071-237 5671
	8 Bromfield Court	
	Jamaica Road	
	S.E. 16 4SG	
Treasurer:	P. SMITH	071-237 1844
Match Secretary:	B. ROLFE	071-639 3485
	26 Leybourne House	
	Lovelinch Close	
	SE15 1HL	
Club Captain:	G. GARDINER	071-231 2508
Vice Captain:	K. HUDSON	071-237 0808
Ladies Captain:	Mrs. G. BEESLEY	071-237 6476
	44 Arica House	
	Slipper Place	
	SE16	
Vice Captain:	Mrs. E. CREW	

MENS' FIXTURES				
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	TIME	RINKS
APRIL				
Sat. 24	ROLL-UP			
Sun. 25	POPLAR			
MAY		H		4
Sat. 1	LEWISHAM TRADES	A		3
Sun. 2	BLACKHEATH	H	3.15	3
Sat. 8	G.E.C.	H	3.30	6 MIX
Sun. 9	CHARLTON	H	3.15	4
Sat. 15	DULWICH PARK J.S.	A		3
Sun. 16	NORTH GREENWICH	A	3.15	6 MIX
Sat. 22	LADYWELL J.S.	H		3
Sun. 23	WANDILEA J.S.	A	3.15	6 MIX
Sat. 29	RUSKIN PARK J.S.	A		3
Sun. 30	CHARLTON J.S.	A	3.15	4
JUNE				
Sat. 5	DULWICH PARK J.S.	H		3
Sun. 6	POPLAR	A		4
Sat. 12	LADYWELL J.S.	A		3
Sat. 19	RUSKIN PARK J.S.	H		3
Sun. 20	TOM BEESLEY TROPHY	H		4
Sat. 26	LADYWELL	H		3
Sun. 27	BANNERETTE	H		3
JULY				
Sat. 3	DULWICH PARK	H		3
Sun. 4	BERY PREVETT TROPHY	H		3
Sat. 10	PRESIDENTS V CAPTAINS	H		3
Sun. 11	CLACTON-ON-SEA	A		6 MIX
Sat. 18	BLACKHEATH	A	3.15	3
Sat. 24	MOUNTSFIELD	A		3
Sun. 25	WANDILEA	H	3.15	6 MIX
Sat. 31	FRANCIS DRAKE	A	2.45	3
AUGUST				
Sun. 1	FENGATE	H		3
Sun. 8	DULWICH CONSTITUTIONAL	A	3.15	4 MIX
Sat. 14	LEWISHAM TRADES	H		3
Sat. 21	DULWICH PARK	A		3
Sun. 22	DULWICH CONSTITUTIONAL	H	3.15	4 MIX
Sat. 28	BELMONT	A	3.30	4
Sun. 29	MOUNTSFIELD	H		3
SEPTEMBER				
Sat. 4	FINALS DAY	A		6 MIX
Sun. 5	HORSELL	A		

Whites will be worn unless otherwise stated.
All Matches begin at 3.00pm unless otherwise stated.

MENS' FIXTURES (Continued)				
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	TIME	RINKS
SEPTEMBER				
Sat. 11	FRANCIS DRAKE	H	2.45	3
Sun. 12	* MAYOW PARK	A	2.45	3
Sat. 18	FINALS DAY	A		
Sun. 19	LADYWELL	A		4
Sat. 25	NORTH GREENWICH	H	3.15	6 MIX
	RUSKIN PARK	H		3

LADIES' FIXTURES				
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	TIME	RINKS
APRIL				
Sat. 24	ROLL-UP			
Sun. 25	POPLAR			
MAY		H		1
Sun. 2	BLACKHEATH	H	3.15	2
Sat. 8	G.E.C.	H	3.30	6 MIX
Sat. 15	DULWICH PARK	A		1
Sun. 16	NORTH GREENWICH	A	3.15	6 MIX
Sun. 23	WANDILEA	A	3.15	6 MIX
JUNE				
Sun. 6	POPLAR	A		1
Sun. 20	TOM BEESLEY TROPHY	A		1
Sat. 26	LADYWELL	H		2
JULY				
Sat. 3	DULWICH PARK	H		2 T
Sun. 4	BERYL PREVETT TROPHY	H		2 T
Sun. 11	CLACTON-ON-SEA	A		6 MIX
Sat. 18	BLACKHEATH	A	3.15	2
Sat. 24	MOUNTSFIELD	A		2
Sun. 25	WANDILEA	H	3.15	6 MIX
Sat. 31	FRANCIS DRAKE	A	2.45	2
AUGUST				
Sun. 8	DULWICH CONSTITUTIONAL	A	3.15	4 MIX
Sat. 21	DULWICH PARK	A		2 T
Sun. 22	DULWICH CONSTITUTIONAL	H	3.15	4 MIX
Sat. 28	BELMONT	A	3.30	2
SEPTEMBER				
Sat. 4	FINALS DAY	A		6 MIX
Sun. 5	HORSELL	H	2.45	2
Sat. 11	FRANCIS DRAKE	A		2
Sun. 12	FINALS	A		2
Sat. 18	LADYWELL	A		2
Sun. 19	NORTH GREENWICH	H		6 MIX

Whites will be worn unless otherwise stated.
All Matches begin at 3.00pm unless otherwise stated.

1990s



Points, prizes and cups: Winners in the 1990s

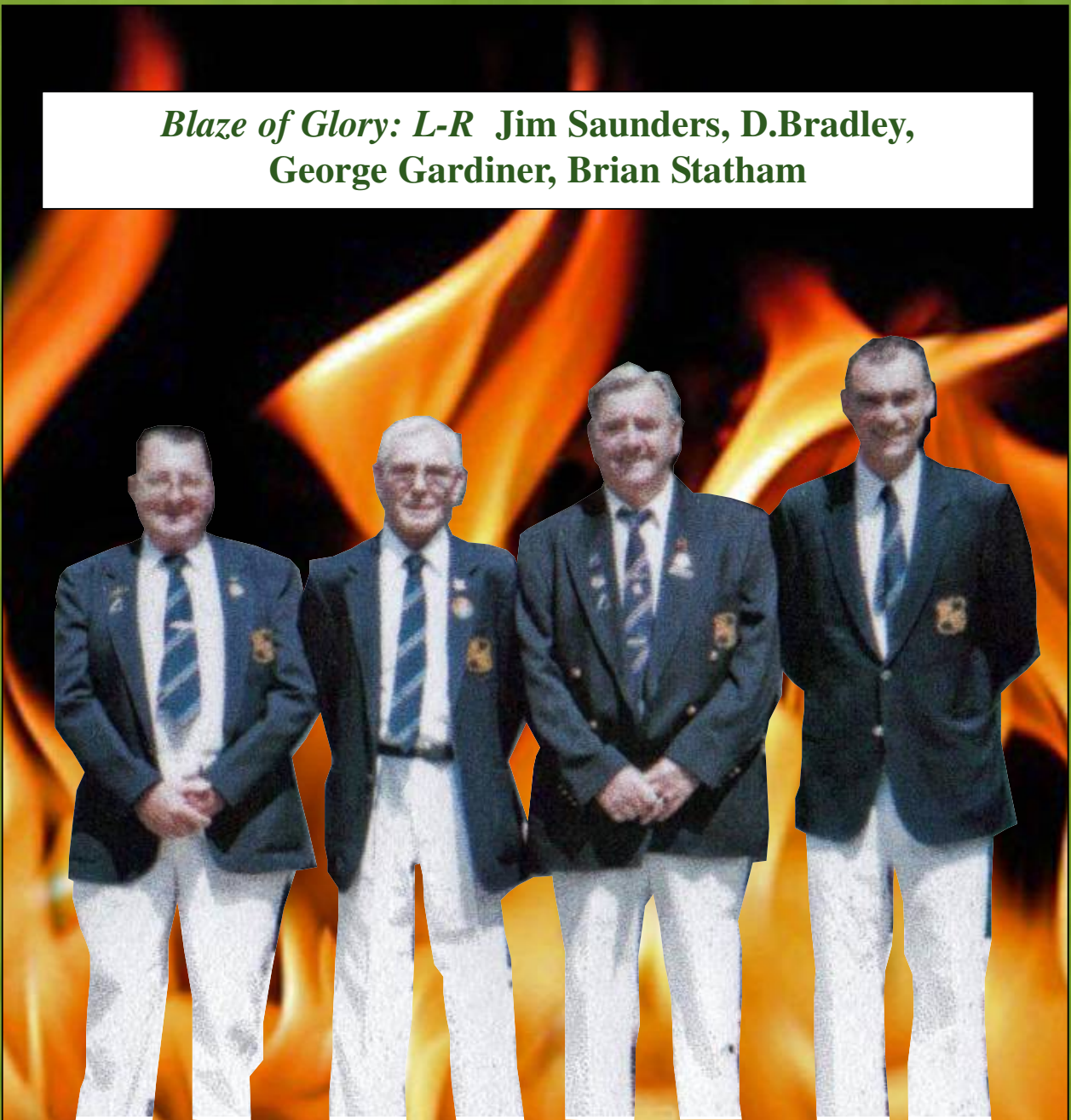


Hotshots

On the green itself, 1997 saw the victory for the Southwark Park rink of George Gardiner, D. Bradley, Jim Saunders and Brian Statham Senior, during a match against Lewisham Traders.

The final score was 33-15 and the team members named were awarded "Hotshots" certificates and badges (all shots counted for one team on one end).

Blaze of Glory: L-R Jim Saunders, D. Bradley, George Gardiner, Brian Statham



Disaster

Throughout this period the Secretary was Pat Sullivan of Broomfield Court, Jamaica Road, an almost unparalleled period of service in the club's history.

Sadly Pat died in 2009, but during his time there were some important moments.

The 1st February 1997 was a bleak day. The bowling pavilion was burned down in an act of vandalism, most likely caused by young thugs. For some time players had to make do with temporary arrangements, reminiscent of the early days of the club.



Pat Sullivan



Rising From The Ashes

Better news came when it was decided to include a brand new

pavilion in a wider Southwark Park restoration project. The Heritage Lottery Fund approved the scheme, and thanks

to the knowledgeable input of the bowlers, the diligent attendance at

numerous funding and design meetings by Grace Beesley, and the sup-

port of The Friends of Southwark Park members, Marjorie Hill, Gary Glover, Gary Magold and Councillor



Ann Yates, a new purpose built pavilion was opened in 2002.



© David Toogood

Into A New Decade

On 7th August 1999 the club played a remembrance match for a former member's widow and raised £150 in cash.

At this time John Mannering was reported as the club captain.

Three years later Grace Beesley became the first, and to date, only recorded woman President of the Southwark



Park club. In 2008 the club passed its centenary in fine fettle, including playing a friendly game against F.A. Albin and Sons, local funeral directors. From this game over three-hundred pounds was raised for the Evelina Children's Hospital, part of the Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Trust..



2000s

On a warm and pleasant Thursday afternoon in September 2003, the then Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, graced Bermondsey with his presence by touring Southwark Park. This somewhat historic visit was planned by Bermondsey Beat, better known as Phil Burkett and Russell Dryden, that dynamic duo who organise The Event each year.

After digging the earth and planting a hornbeam tree nearby he continued his visit to the Bowling Green. There he met and chatted with members. He then tried his hand at the game and was



joined by other distinguished players that day, such as Simon Hughes and Val Shawcross.

Ken & Friends try their hand on the green



2000s



Above: 2008 AGM Below: 2008 Members

Pics ©Pat Kingwell



2000s



Poster Produced by The Friends of Southwark Park

The Future

In July 2008 another important step in the history of the club came when the Rotherhithe Community Council approved funding towards the cost of creating an artificial practice rink.

The work has now been completed, and despite an initial setback caused by vandals, the facility is up and running.



©Pat Kingwell

The Future

Located just to the south, and alongside the main green, the new rink offers a great opportunity for greater access to bowls. It is smaller than the traditional grass area. However, the high durability of artificial turf and low maintenance means that the rink should not fall victim to the elements and can remain a suitable playing surface all year round.

It is very much hoped that people with disabilities, such as wheelchair users, will be able to come and play the game for the first time in Southwark Park. The practice facility will also encourage young people and local schools to take up, and learn the game.



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The Future

A very clever man once said that he never thought of the future because it comes soon enough. Another very clever man said that he liked the dreams of the future better than the history of the past. That just goes to show how differently people look at the world.

However, perhaps we can all agree that thanks to the great efforts of many Bermondsey and Rotherhithe people, past and present, the Southwark Park Bowling Club can look confidently towards another one hundred years. Let us raise our glasses to that!



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An A to Z

An A-Z of Players, Officials and Supporters Mentioned in the Text of this book: a Reference & Almanac For Bowlers

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1908-1925

Mr. Adamson

Mr. Aldridge

Mr. Baston

Mr. Beech

**Mr. T. H. Benson,
(163 Lower Road)**

Mr. A. Burton

Mr. Bustin

Mr. Cole, Captain 1919

**Mr. Edward Collins,
(100 Union Road)**

Mr. Cox

Mr. Diddans

Mr. Dinnard

Mr. Ellis

Mr. Faith

Mr. Fortescue

Mr. Gregory

Mr. Gurney

Mr. Handley

**Mr. Thomas H. Hansom,
(19 Henwood Road and
later Rebecca Terrace).
Secretary 1908-1913**

Mr. J.W. Hemborough

**W.H. Hobbs,
(404 Southwark Park
Road).**

President 1912 and 1913

Mr. Jackson

Mr. G. Lawrence

**Mr. H. Lee,
(471 Southwark Park
Road)**

Mr. Lucas

Mr. Lunn



An A to Z

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1908-1925

Mr. Martin
Mr. Matthews
Mr. Maul
Mr. Mills
Mr. Penfold,
Captain 1908
Mr. Ambrose Pomeroy,
London County
Councillor for
Bermondsey and
Chairman of LCC Parks
Committee
Mr. Pye
Mr. W. Shearring
Mr. Skewers
Mr. William Smith,
(Park Buildings)
Southwark Park
Improvements

Committee
Mr. Charles Stewart
Maffey,
(55 Plough Way, SE16)
Mr. Stevens
Mr. Stuart,
London County
Councillor
Mr. Sturgess
Mr. T. Swales,
(62 Monnow Road)
Mr. Symonds
Mr. B. Titheridge,
(431 Southwark Park
Road)
Mr. Tyler
Mr. Walker
Mr. F.W. Wright,
Southwark Park
Superintendent



An A to Z

Borough of Bermondsey Bowling Club 1914-1925

**Mr. Baston,
Delegate to London
Parks Bowling
Association 1925
Mr. A. Blowey
Mr. C. Braithwaite
Fred Brown
Mr. Buller
Mr. Burton
Mr. Butler
Miss Ruby Callow
Mr. R.J. Campbell
Mr. Cast
Mr. Clarke
Mr. W. Clements
Mr. A. Cole,
Founder member;
Captain 1915 and 1916
Albert Foster,
President 1923;
Vice-President 1924
Mr. French
Mr. Garlick,
Southwark Park
Groundsman**

**Mr. 'Henry' Fuller,
Southwark Park
Groundsman
Mr. Giles, Park
Superintendent
Mr. Hatton
Mr. J.C. Hinkins
Mr. G. Jackson
Mr. J.W. Jackson,
Captain 1923
Mr. Jessett
Mr. W. Johnson
Mrs Nancy Jones
Mr. Lacey
Mr. J.H. Land,
Captain 1919; Assistant
Secretary 1925
Mr. F.R. Leclercq
Mr. Lee
Mr. J. Lovell Dixon,
(Old Jamaica Tavern,
Southwark Park Road).
President and Treasurer
1915 and 1916**

An A to Z

Borough of Bermondsey Bowling Club 1914-1925

**Charles Stewart Maffey,
(55 Plough Way).**

Secretary 1916-1925

Mr. A. Mendoza

Mr. W.H. Mills,

Founder member

Mr. G. H. Padgham,

**Vice-Captain 1924 &
1925**

Mr. M.W. Plevin,

Auditor 1924 and 1925

Mr. H. Read,

Senior, Captain 1925;

**Auditor 1925; Delegate
to London Parks**

**Bowling Association
1925**

Mr. Richardson

Jack Roper

Mr. H. Scott

Mr. Sida

Mr. Siddle

Mr. Sims

Mr. R. Spittal,

Vice-Captain 1923

Mrs. Spittal

Mr. Stevens,

Southwark Park

Groundsman

Mr. Sutherland,

Mrs. Symonds

Mr. C. Taylor

Mr. Trotman

Mr. T. Turner,

Treasurer 1923-1925

Mr. F. Walker,

Vice-President 1923;

Captain 1924

Mr. F.W. Walker,

President 1925

Mr. Percy Watts

Mr. Weeks

Mr. A. Williams,

President 1924; Vice-

President 1925

An A to Z

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1925-1959

Miss Lily Ashmore

**Mr. H. Baston,
President 1929; Delegate
to London Parks
Bowling Association
1929; 1931**

**Mr. Blain,
Southwark Park
Superintendent**

Mr. Bliss

**Mr. Fred and Mrs.
Boatman,
(The Royal George,
Jamaica Road)**

**Mr. F. Cable,
Match Secretary 1929;
Delegate to London
Parks Bowling
Association 1931**

**Mr. J.W. Cable,
Vice-President 1931**

Mr. Card

**Mr. W. Clements,
Vice-Captain 1931**

**Mr. A.C. Collins,
(Albion Street)**

Mr. Harry De Maid.

**Mr. Bernard J. Dibsall,
(Brunel Road)**

Mr. H. Donald

Mr. H.G. Edwards,

**President 1930; Captain
& Treasurer 1931**

**Mr. A.C. Fields,
Vice-Captain 1929;
Delegate to London
Parks Bowling
Association 1929**

**Mr. Albert H. Foster,
Captain 1930**

Mr. Hamby

Mr. Gus Head

**Mr. A.W. Higgs
(Valentine Road, Ilford)**

**Mr. George Holland,
(Manor Lane, Lee)**

Mr. Hoyle

**Mr. J.H. Jakeman,
former President**

**Mr. H.H. Jones,
(2 Sandrock Road SE13
and after 1935 23
Ladycroft Road SE13).**

Secretary 1932-1937

Mr. E. Justice

**Mr. F.E. Justice,
Captain 1929**

Mrs. Charles Knapp

Mr. George Lamb

Miss Lamb

**Mr. William Lawson,
(Devon Mansions)**

An A to Z

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1925-1959

Mr. J. McLaren
Mr. Charles Stewart
Maffey,
(55 Plough Way).
Secretary 1926-1931
Mr. G.E. Mead
Mr. Moon
Mr. E.E. Moore,
President of the English
Bowling Association 1926
Mr. 'Pony' Moore
Mr. Thomas Nicholson
Mr. W. Nicholson
Mr. G. H. Padgham,
Vice-President 1929
Mr. and Mrs. Pearcey,
(Southwark Park
Tavern)
Mr. Leonard Percey,
London Organiser of the
Fellowship of Freedom
and Reform.
Mr. 'Jack' Phillips,

Bermondsey Councillor
Mr. W. Plevin,
Entertainments
Secretary 1929;
President 1931
Mr. G. Pywell
Mr. Reader
Mr. Alfred J. Russell,
Marden Road.
Mrs. Ada Salter,
Bermondsey Councillor
and Vice Chairperson of
LCC Parks Committee
Mr. Scott
Mr. Stoyles,
(Lower Road)
Auditor 1929
Mr. Richard Tyler
Mr. William F. Tyler,
Drummond Road
Mr. Warwick
Mr. H. H. J. West,
(Ilderton Road)

An A to Z

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1945 - 2010

H. Abraham	Secretary 1948 and 1949
Barry Albin-Dyer	Bob Brown
George Aldridge,	John Butler
Secretary 1970 onwards	Mrs. Mercie Butler
Harry Bailey	Eric Church
Sid Baker	J. Church
Harry Barnett	Jack Clements, President
Ben Beech, Secretary	Jim Cook
Mrs Grace Beesley,	A. Cordier, Captain 1956
President 2002 and	Mrs. Eileen Crew,
Ladies Captain	Ladies Vice-Captain
Tom Beesley, Secretary	1993
c1980-1988	Ernest Cunningham
Phil Beven	Mick Denham
Ken Bowdrey	Len Dillon
Mrs. Eileen Box	Dennis Donovan
George Box	John Donovan
Mr. D. Bradley	Mr. J. Dorney
Arthur Brent, Secretary	John Drake
Beryl Brevitt	Mr. A.S. Easton
Peter Brevitt	Secretary 1958
Mr. R.E. Brewster, 8	Roy Ebdon
Litlington Street, SE16.	Tom Evans

An A to Z

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1945 - 2010

**Robert Fenson,
President
Bill Fleetwood
Mrs. Lily Fleetwood
Kevin Fletcher
George Gardiner, Club
Captain 1993
John Gardiner
Tony Gardiner
Brian Garratt
Mr. J. Garrett, Secretary
1969
Gary Glover Friends of
Southwark Park
Mr. H. Golding
Kevin Griffiths
Albert Groves
Mrs. Doreen Hams
Ted Harris
Ms. Joyce Heather
Mr. R.C. Henry,
(359 Neckinger Estate,
Spa Road, SE16).
Secretary 1956
Mr. Chris Hewlett
Ms Marjorie Hill,**

**Friends of Southwark Park
Danny Hodges
George Hodges
John Hodges
John Holmes, Captain
and Vice President 1993
Mrs. Maud Holmes
Mary Horne
Ken Hudson, Vice-
Captain 1993
Mrs. Brenda Johnson
George Johnson
Kim Johnson
Arthur Jones, Vice
President 2008
George Jones
Mrs. Violet Jones
Albert Joy
Mrs. Irene Kemp
William Kemp
Wally Kingston
Mrs. Ethel Leverington
Phil Leverington
Bob Levett
Steve Lewington
Stan Liddon**

An A to Z

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1945 - 2010

Albert Mack	Road SE16,
Mick McManus	later 294 Verdant Lane,
Charles Magill	SE6).
Gary Magold,	Secretary 1951-1955
Friends of Southwark Park	& 1957
Dennis Mahoney	Ms. Pearl Pike
Dick Mannering	Jim Pooke
John Mannering,	Fred Porter, Captain
Captain 1999	2008
Joe Martin	Mr. Pat Prevett
Ron Mathers	Mrs. Beryl Prevett
Fixture Sec. 2007, 2008.	Peter Richardson,
Charlie Milburn	Southwark Park
Michael Nelligan -	Greenkeeper 1970's/80's
Captain 2006, 2007.	John Ricketts
Arthur Nourse	Ernest Roberts
Mr. D.P. O'Brien,	Stephen Roberts
(44 Layard Road, SE16).	Brian Rolfe, Match
Secretary 1950	Secretary 1993
Mr. J. O'Brien	Peter Rolfe
Steve O' Hara	Fred Rolt
Harry Padmore	Brian Rose
Ronnie Perkins	Harry Rose
Mr. G.H. Phillips,	
(404 Southwark Park	

A to Z

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1945 - 2010

**Jim Saunders, President and
Greens Manager**

2004-2006

Gill Saunders

Mrs. Kit Saunders

Jim Sawyer

Mrs. Mary Sawyer

Tom Sawyer

Harry Sewell

Jack Sewell

Thomas Shrewsbury

Ms. Violet Shrimpton

H. Silverman

Bill Simmons

Mr. T.C. Smith,

**(136 Grange Road and after
the war 23 Orchard House,
Lower Road, SE16).**

**Secretary 1938 and 1939;
1946 and 1947**

Colin Smith,

President 2008

Mr. P. Smith,

Treasurer 1993

Bill Spence

Mrs. Pat Spence

Charles Stanley, President

Mrs. Mary Stanley

Brian Statham Junior

Brian Statham Senior

Ms Michelle Statham

Mr. Pat Sullivan, Secretary

1994 -2009

Albert E. Thrussell, Secretary

1960-1968

Fred Toft

Sid Tomlinson

Mrs. Rose Trotman

Arthur Waite

Jim Waller

Mrs. Winnie Waller

Alan Wallis,

President 2007

Sid Want

Rod Webster

Mrs. Wendy Webster

George Weller,

Captain and President 1993

John Whipps,

Captain

E.J.T. White

J.W. White

Ted Whorley

Arthur Williams

Councillor Anne Yates,

Friends of Southwark Park

Club Officials

Southwark Park Bowling Club 1945 - 2010

We do not have a full record of club officials, but are aware that the positions were filled as follows:

Southwark Park Bowling Club (1908-2010)

Secretary:

1908-1913 - Thomas Hansom, (19 Henwood Road)

1914-1925 - not known

1926-1931 - Charles Stewart Maffey, (55 Plough Way)

1932-1937 - H.H. Jones, (2 Sandrock Road, SE13 and later 23 Ladycroft Road, SE13)

1938-1947 - T.C. Smith, (136 Grange Road and later 23 Orchard House, Lower Road)

1948-1949 - R.E. Brewster, (8 Litlington Street)

1950 - D.P. O'Brien, (44 Layard Road)

1951-1955 - G.H. Phillips, (404 Southwark Park Road and later 294 Verdant Lane, SE6)

1956- R.C. Henry, (359 Neckinger Estate, Spa Road)

1957- G.H. Phillips, (294 Verdant Lane, SE6)

1958- A.S. Easton, (12 Aylwin Estate, Grange Road)

1959- not known

1960-1968 - Albert Thrussell, (12 Thorburn Square)

1969- J. Garrett, (22 Kinsale Road, SE15)

1970-1974 - George Aldridge, (16 Pine Hse, Ainsty Estate)

1975-1979 - not known

1980-1988 - Tom Beesley, (44 Arica House, Slippers Place)

1989-1992 - not known

1993-2008 - Pat Sullivan, (8 Broomfield Court, Jamaica Road)

2009- Kevin Griffiths

2010- Miss Minette Wright

Club Officials

President:

1908-1911 - not known

1912-1914 - W.H. Hobbs,
404 Southwark Park
Road

1915-1928 - not known

1929- H. Baston

1930- H.G. Edwards

1931- W. Plevin

1932-1955 - not known

1956- H.J. Clements

1957-1992 - not known

1993- George Weller

1994-2001 - not known

2002- Grace Beesley

2003-2006 - Jim Saunders

2007- Alan Wallis

2008-2009- Colin Smith

2010- Fred Porter

Captain:

1908 - Mr. Penfold

1909-1911 - not known

1912 - Mr. Cole

1913-1928 - not known

1929- F. Justice

1930- Albert .H. Foster

1931- H.G. Edwards

1932- 1955 -not known

1956- A. Cordier

1957-1992 - not known

1993 - Grace Beesley
(ladies); George Gardiner
(men)

1994-2005 - not known

2006- Phil Beven

2007- Michael Nelligan

2008- Fred Porter

2009- Michael Nelligan

2010- match by match
rotation

Treasurer:

1908-1911 - not known

1912 - Mr. G. Lawrence

1913-1928 - not known

1929-T. Turner

1930- not known

1931- H.G. Edwards

1932-1955 - not known

1956- J. Sewell

1957-1992 - not known

1993- P. Smith

1994-2001- not known

2002-2010- John

Mannering

Club Officials

Borough of Bermondsey Bowls Club (1914-1925)

Secretary:

1914- not known
1915-1925- Charles
Stewart Maffey,
(55 Plough Way)

1920-1922- not known

1923- J.W. Jackson
1924- F. Walker
1925- H. Read, Senior

President:

1914- not known
1915-1916 - J. Lovell
Dixon,
(Old Jamaica Tavern,
Southwark Park Road)
1917-1922 - not known
1923- Albert Foster
1924- A. Williams
1925- F.W. Walker

Treasurer:

1914- not known
1915-1916 - J. Lovell
Dixon,
(Old Jamaica Tavern
Southwark Park Road)
1917-1922- not known
1923-1925- T. Turner

Captain:

1914- not known
1915-1916- Mr.
Cole
1917-1918 - not
known
1919- J.H. Land



Acknowledgments

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