



150th
ANNIVERSARY
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OUR MILESTONES

1865 Linlithgow Bowling Club formed. The club was founded and situated at the east end of the town.

1882 Linlithgowshire Bowling Association formed. Linlithgow Bowling Club was a founding member of the association along with Armadale, Bathgate, Bo'ness, Queensferry and Kirkliston.

1890 Rosebery Cup Winners. The club celebrates its 25th Anniversary by winning the Rosebery Cup for the first time.

1900 Opening of a New Green. The club opened its new green in Philip Avenue.

1903 County Champion. Mr Henry Shields is crowned County Singles Champion, becoming the first player to win a county championship.

1911 New Clubhouse officially opened. The keys to a new clubhouse are handed over at the same time as the new season opens.

1915 Jubilee Year. Founding member Mr Robert Mickel is awarded with the club presidency.

1920 Roll of Honour Unveiled. The club unveils a roll of honour in recognition of the members who had served in the war.

1953 Ladies Section formed. Since 1865 the club had been a male only membership but in 1953 it was agreed ladies should now be admitted and a ladies section was formed.

1956 Ladies win first trophy. Mrs Hall and Mrs Ronaldson win the East of Scotland Pairs Championship.

1965 Centenary Celebrations. The Scottish Bowling Association send a representative team along to recognise our centenary which was followed by a civic reception and centenary dinner.

1968 Club Bar built. After many years of discussing and voting against the selling of alcohol the decision was finally made that the club should become a licensed premise, the licence was granted and a bar was built.

1981 Success at the National Championships for the first time. Malcolm Graham is crowned Scottish Junior Singles Champion.

1985 Gents International Cap. Malcolm Graham is picked to represent Scotland becoming the first internationalist from the club before going on to compete at the commonwealth games in Edinburgh in 1986.

1987 County Champion of Champions. Stewart Getty wins the County Champion of Champions in a first for the club.

1987 Junior Ladies International Cap. Elizabeth-Ann Meenan (nee Wallace) represents Scotland to become the first female member to play at international level later going on to represent the senior side in 1991.

1989 Major Trophy Haul for the club. The club captured both the National Scottish Triples and Scottish Fours titles as well as the Rosebery Cup and Livingstone Trophy in what was a remarkable year.

1990 125th Anniversary Celebrations. An invitation pairs featuring international stars is the highlight of the calendar.

1997 Scottish Triple Champions again. For the 2nd time in a decade the club wins the National Scottish Triples title.

2002 County Senior Champion of Champions. George Charleston adds this title to his collection of trophies.

2008 A Unique Double Act. Gary Smith represents Scotland having previously represented England, at the same time his wife Lorna Smith joins the club having previously been ladies World Number 1 whilst living in South Africa.

2014 History Maker. Lorna Smith wins the National Scottish Ladies Singles title for a record breaking 3rd time in a row before going on to become the first woman representing Scotland to be crowned World Champion of Champions.

Introduction from the chairman

Colleagues,

2015 marks an incredible milestone for our great club and it will be a very special year to remember for all connected with the club and I am honoured to be the Chairman of the club for the year.

I take this opportunity to thank the Management Committee and 150th Anniversary Committee, current and previous members, staff and all those who have contributed in their own way to produce the flourishing and successful club Linlithgow B.C. is today, respected not only within the bowling community but also within the whole local community.

I have always said that those of us who are lucky enough to be present at this time as members of our club are guardians, with the responsibility to ensure the on-going prosperity of the club so that future generations are able to enjoy continued excellent facilities and camaraderie.

I trust that you all agree that this quality anniversary publication provides an expertly presented and fitting memento of our 150th Anniversary year, which not only records all the important history and major bowling achievements of the club to date, but also highlights our determination to secure a healthy and prosperous future for the club.

Thank you to all those who have provided their valuable time in researching and providing the content of this publication and to those past and present members for their valuable input. Sincere appreciation is extended to all our valuable sponsors and supporters and to the producers of this special Anniversary publication.

I trust that you all enjoy this momentous year, both on and off the green, and that you will all fully support the club programme of events throughout the bowling season, which will include some special 150th Anniversary fixtures and culminate with the very special Anniversary Dinner Dance on Saturday 3rd October.

Gary Smith, Chairman

A message from Provost Tom Kerr...



Personal Congratulations

I give my personal congratulations to Linlithgow Bowling Club on their 150th Anniversary. For any local sports club to have lasted 150 years not only shows a commitment to their sport but also to the community.

The Club was a founding member of the Linlithgowshire Bowling Association in 1882 now the West Lothian Bowling Association. The club's Roll of Honour from 1865 to 2015 is impressive. The most recent member achievement was to have the first woman representing Scotland to be crowned World Champion of Champions. What a great incentive to younger members.

Although not a bowler, I have been fortunate over the years to have known many of the club's players, members and characters. It would be unfair to mention any one of them by name. However, no matter what their contribution was to the club they have all added to the success of the club and to the rich tapestry of the local community.

This book will list the club's achievements, successes, characters and will be a record to be treasured by the club and the community. The book will tell a story and record factual history which is vital for future generations who love the town and want to keep our town's history alive. I have been a Councillor for Linlithgow for 23 years and Provost of West Lothian for 8 years. Therefore in my role as Provost I congratulate the club on behalf of West Lothian Council and the people of West Lothian. Also I wish the club a successful future and many happy and enjoyable years to come.





Our beginnings...

The game of bowls has been played across Scotland for centuries with the town of Linlithgow being no exception. During the 15th century King James IV enjoyed a game in the grounds of Linlithgow Palace. The game in Scotland gradually became more common and during the 18th century some hotels and public houses were holding games on their lawn.

These games were often unregulated so by the early 19th century a code of law was introduced, this code was then adopted by the Scottish Bowling Association when it was formed later in the 19th century. The game of bowls by this stage was popular and by the end of the 19th century all the main settlements in West Lothian (formerly Linlithgowshire) had a bowling green.

Club Formation

It was 1865 when Linlithgow Bowling Club was formed by a group of local businessmen including a couple who had been playing in Bo'ness after it opened in 1863. The same businessmen then went on to purchase the land for the green which was situated near the eastern boundary of the town. The green, just off Provost Road, is now currently closely occupied by the tennis courts next to Bellsburn Bowling Club.

In 1881 the game of bowls in Linlithgowshire was acknowledged by Lord Rosebery, he had offered a cup to be played for by the clubs in the county. As the offer was made late in the bowling season it was decided the first game would wait until 1882.

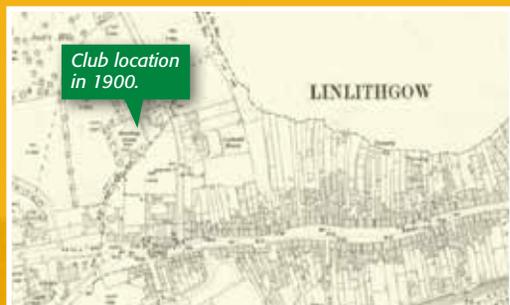
On the 20th April 1882, a few months before the Rosebery Final, the Linlithgowshire Bowling Association (now West Lothian Bowling



Association) was formed in the Star and Garter Hotel, Linlithgow. Our club is proud to be one of the six founding members along with Bo'ness, Bathgate, Armadale, Queensferry and Kirkliston.

The date for the inaugural Rosebery Cup final was set, 20th July 1882, the finalists being Bathgate and Bo'ness. Linlithgow was to host the final after being defeated in an earlier round 108-69 by Bo'ness at Queensferry. On the day of the final things took an unexpected twist when Bo'ness didn't turn up, the umpire waited an hour past the start time before awarding the cup to Bathgate. Not to let the day pass without a game the members of Linlithgow entertained Bathgate in a friendly with Bathgate running out 99-61 winners after which they celebrated late into the night.





Success was just around the corner

In the early years the club hadn't been that successful on the green but went close to winning the Rosebery Cup in 1889 only to be defeated by Bathgate 76-46 at Uphall. The 1889 tournament was played over a single day on the same green and wasn't concluded until around 10.30pm with white handkerchiefs waving to show the way to the jack. There had been some light hearted comments suggesting the play in the dark was just as good if not better than what it had been in the daylight and that Bathgate played better in the dark!

The breakthrough win came the following year in 1890, the club's 25th anniversary. The Rosebery Cup was still played over a single day but to remove the drama of a late finish it was played on two different greens with the winners from each green playing at Bathgate. The final was again between Bathgate and Linlithgow with Bathgate having home green advantage, however, there was to be no repeat of last year's result as Linlithgow came out on top 54-47. Perhaps they had been correct the year before when they said Bathgate played better in the dark! Linlithgow would celebrate the win and with it skips J. Russell, J Roy, J McKay and W.C. Johnston entering the history books.

Out with the old

In 1898 after the season closed a decision was made that the club would need to find a new location due to the long lease on the site expiring and a committee no longer willing to lease the site on a year by year basis. There was renewed interest in the club and a welcome boost in that 40 new members had joined for the 1899 season taking the total to around 80. In April 1899 a sub-committee was formed to look for a new location and after visiting many locations throughout the town they reported back that there was only one suitable for a bowling green.

The location was a field at the west of the town belonging to Major Chalmers of Longcroft, the description was that it had an elevated position with picturesque views of the palace and loch. Major Chalmers was most generous with his terms at £8 per imperial acre and being subject to the club paying the agricultural tenant a fee for the unexhausted manure. The terms were accepted by the members at a general meeting held in April 1899 and by means of £1 debentures at 3% interest per annum £190 was promised there and then by the members. By the end of the season the members had pledged £350 towards the new green.

The 1899 season was opened in May and proved to be the last season at the east of the town. The club only engaged in 4 games during 1899 defeating Polmont and Slammanan but losing to Grangemouth and Queensferry. The last game on the green was between the President and Vice-President teams with the President's team winning 41-24.

During the prize giving ceremony the feeling was that everyone had wanted to win during the season as the prizes handed out would be a lasting memento of the old green.

Estimates for the relocation had been coming in throughout the 1899 season with the total cost projected to be around £400. In September 1899 the contract for the green was awarded to the well known greenmaker Mr Daniel Leslie of Stirling Road, Glasgow. A fee of £316 10s was agreed on the basis he had the new green ready for May 1900. This gave Mr Leslie seven months to turn a field into a bowling green!

And in with the new

Wednesday the 16th of May 1900 had arrived and with it sunshine beaming down on a newly built clubhouse and green. The green was made from the finest Cumberland turf, Mr Leslie was one of the country's leading greenmakers and he didn't disappoint with what he had produced at Linlithgow. The green was now regarded as one of the best in the county if not Scotland. The condition of the green and its surroundings were described by many as "beautiful" thanks to Mr Leslie with the help of green ranger Mr Storey and the newly appointed green keeper Mr David Black.

Mr W.C. Johnston, the club president, extended a warm welcome to Mr Leslie, club members, invited bowlers and local guests to the opening of the new green. Major Chalmers who had been generous with his terms for the land was also in attendance to see first hand how well laid out the green and grounds were. The Major in his speech commented on how he felt the bowling club was going to be a credit to the area and the town. The president then asked the Major to do the honours and raise the club flag up the pole, which he did to much applause. A pair of silver mounted bowls with inscription along with stands were then presented to the Major. After this presentation the Major was then asked to throw the first bowls on the green to which he said he was truly honoured.

A game of ten ends was then played between rinks representing the President and Vice-President, the Vice-President winning 54-53. Tea, cake and wine was then served in the clubhouse for the players and guests.

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New Clubhouse

The next big development for the club was in August 1910 when the decision was made to replace the clubhouse. The new clubhouse was designed by Mr William Scott who was a club member as well as being the local architect who had redesigned the front of the burgh halls a few years earlier. At its completion the cost of the clubhouse was £146 of which the members had contributed £95 with further donations made by those outside the club including a sum from Lord Rosebery.

The clubhouse was officially opened on the same day as the green, 4th May 1911, with Provost Jamieson in attendance along with members and guests. Mrs MacDonald, wife of club president Mr Robert MacDonald, accepted a silver key from Mr Scott which officially opened the new clubhouse. Mr MacDonald then gave a speech thanking Mr Scott for all his work on the new building and stated how the silver key would be cherished in his home as a memento and kept in the MacDonald family to be handed down the generations.

The customary game between the rinks of the President and Vice-President took place with the Vice-President victorious 85-77.



Our Jubilee...

Jubilee year during the war

1915 saw the club celebrate its jubilee year – Robert Mickel JP of Rivalsgreen as the only surviving original member was accorded the position of president. The opening day was marked with a game made up of rinks representing the president and vice president (Mr Alexander Grant). The president thanked the members for according him such an honour given that he had not played on the green for 40 years despite retaining his membership. He recalled some of the original members and their mannerisms noting that many of the better players today were sons of fine players from the past – Mr Alexander Dougall and Mr John Roy whose children had come to the fore too.

He also recalled when bowling was first mentioned in Linlithgow the wives thought their men were going mad as bowls was a child's game and would be lucky to last a year or two. In closing he remembered a particular member who was known by the nickname "Dead as Mutton" because of his mannerism and his shouting of "Dead as Mutton" when a bowl was sent up, (well mutton was always dead) but the bowling club was always alive and prospering instead of failing as many other things did and so to the next 50 years!

Interestingly in those days there was a Linlithgow Bridge Bowling Club within our own club and at their AGM they appointed Hon President Colonel Chalmers of Longcroft, Hon Vice Presidents Mr James Lovell of Glenavon and Sheriff MacConochie of Avontoun. It was also agreed that their members on active service would be made honorary members for the season – Messrs Jas Lewis, Thomas Newlands, George Waddell Jnr and Robert Ward. It was also agreed that the club would not join Linlithgowshire Bowling Association that season. On the green there was success for our club in the County Pairs with Messrs P Lawrie and W Strang defeating the team from Whitburn 22-12 in the final.

In 1920 Mr James Russell unveiled a Roll of Honour of the members who had fought in the Great War, this can still be seen hanging up in the Dalrymple lounge. Out of a membership of 59 when the war broke out 18 club members had joined up, Capt Harry Wakelin was awarded the Military Cross (MC) and Sergt. Wm T Stirling the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), 6 members were wounded and 1 sadly died after his return home.

Roll of Honour

Capt Harry Wakelin (MC), Capt Norman Main, Capt George L Grassick, 2nd Lieut Wm Burt, Sergt Fraser Finlay, Sergt Wm Porteous, Sergt Wm T Stirling (DCM), Bomr John Bathgate, Pte George Peggie, Pte John Porteous, Pte Thomas Bathgate, Pte Robert D Anderson, Pte Thomas Duncan, Pte W J McCombie, Pte Henry Shields, Pte Wm H Cockburn, Sapper James Sleigh, Sapper James Gregor.

In addition there was a brass plate in memory of Pte Wm H Cockburn who had died on 8th of November 1918 from his wounds.

Welcome to the tourists

Back on the green 1922 saw Linlithgowshire Bowling Association play host to an Australian touring team that was on a 3 month tour of Great Britain. The game was played in Linlithgow and arranged through Mr Jas Livingstone from Bathgate who was a member of the executive of the Scottish Bowling Association.

Their visit started at the Broxburn oil works with the ladies in the party taken to the West Lothian hosiery factory in Bathgate, this was followed by a visit to Linlithgow Palace and St Michaels church with lunch at a civic reception organised by the town magistrates and town council. In the afternoon 6 rinks played a Linlithgowshire representative side, the game was a close fought affair with Linlithgowshire winning 83-72. Visiting Linlithgowshire was unique as the first Marquis of Linlithgow was the first Governor General of Australia. The 1922 season ended on a high with Mr R Scott victorious in the county singles.

Success for the club was becoming scarce but in 1929 it won the county pairs with members Mr W Callender and Mr T Younger, this proved to be

the last trophy the club would win until the 1950's

The club entered into negotiations with the town council in 1931 over the building of a brick wall on the west and north sides of the green to replace the wooden fence which was in a poor state of repair. Discussions were amicable as the provision of such a wall would be beneficial to both parties with the building of a new housing scheme at Philip Avenue.

In 1932 the club lost one of its finest bowlers with the passing of Mr Henry Shields who was also the local butcher trading from 62-64 High Street. As a bowler Henry was the first single handed champion of Linlithgowshire in 1903, a great bowler and by all accounts to see Henry draw or run was an education to all. Although there was no green championship in his days he was undoubtedly Linlithgow's finest single handed player of that era. He is also remembered as a member of the team that won the Rosebery Cup in 1890.

Our next international touring party was the South African bowlers when they visited Linlithgow in 1948. The Torphichen pipe band led the visitors, resplendent in their white trousers, white pullovers and black jackets emblazoned with the badges of their respective clubs, with a stirring rendition of the Roke and the Row to the cross. Provost Ford gave a rousing welcome speech where he indicated "You are here to lick or be licked by the Linlithgowshire Bowling Association". The rinks skipped by both Mr T R Newlands and Mr H Shields of Linlithgow enjoyed wins in the overall 128-116 victory.

No go for a bar but doors open to female members

At the 1951 AGM held in the West Port Hotel with Mr John MacKenzie presiding, a motion was submitted by Mr J Fairbairn seconded by Mr J Harvey that the club should consider applying for a licence to allow it to sell alcohol throughout the bowling season. Mr W McCombie proposed a status quo this was seconded by Mr M Melrose - status quo was carried by 28 votes to 7.

Two years later at the AGM in 1953 and after some 88 years in existence it was agreed that the club would admit lady members. The admission of lady members wasn't smooth and much

discussion was had on when ladies could play on the green, many wished that it should be afternoons only whilst others wanted to allow their participation in hat days. It was agreed they should be allowed to play in the afternoons and hat days with the initial subscription set at 15 shillings.

After a barren spell of 25 years 1954 saw the club win its first silverware since the county pairs in 1929 by winning the Livingstone Trophy. President Mr Jas Wellington congratulated the victorious skips Mr J Shanks, Mr J A Ronaldson, Mr J C Fairbairn and Mr J Orr and their respective teams. Mr J A Ronaldson said the players were delighted for president Wellington as they knew how proud he was of this success and thanked him for all his hard work for the club especially the summer fete which was a success largely due to him.

Not only were the gents back winning but after a mere 3 years in existence the ladies section enjoyed their first success in 1956 when Mrs Hall and Mrs Ronaldson won the East of Scotland Pairs.

There was a clubhouse extension in 1956 and the ladies section donated a healthy £20 towards this, the pavilion fund had sat at £123-19 shillings, the improvement account at £156-4 shillings and the general account at 11/7.

During the 1957 AGM held in the West Port Hotel, president Marshall Melrose expressed his dismay at the poor turnout of members especially given the work undertaken over the winter months on the clubhouse extension and members help would still be required to complete the extension by the start of the new season.

Once the season was under way the ladies section continued to enjoy success with Mrs Hall and Mrs Ronaldson winning the East of Scotland Pairs for a second year running.

More members required to keep club viable

President Melrose opened the 1958 AGM in the West Port Hotel, the treasurer reporting that although the club was still in the black monies had to be taken from the improvement fund to balance the general account. Currently the club membership was 62 and to be a viable club it required at least 70 members.



In March 1958 the clubhouse finally had electricity installed at a cost of £15 and fitted by the South East Scotland electricity board. The SBA then used the green to host international trials on Saturday the 14th of June.

At the 1959 AGM a new president was appointed with the treasurer again expressing the need for more members. Membership stood at 58 full members, 7 OAP's and 20 ladies, to be a viable club it required at least 70 full members. It had taken £207 to run the club the previous year but a further £250 of improvements had been made to the facilities. President Geddes stated that the level of fees had to be addressed given the current levels of expenditure. Mr W Hall proposed the fees be increased to £2-10 shillings, Mr J Finnegan seconded by Mr P Hume suggested £2-15 shillings. Mr J Dalrymple seconded by Mr A Dalrymple went for status quo. After 4 votes it was agreed to set the fees at £2-10 shillings and that OAP's be set at 30 shillings. Mr J McGleave seconded by Mr J Russell proposed the ladies fees be raised from 15 shillings to £1. Mr J Paterson seconded by Mr H Shields proposed status quo. The status quo won by 12 votes to 5.

Next on the agenda was the club having a bar, this was raised by Mr J Russell who moved the club should establish one and was seconded by Mr J Fairbairn. Mr J Paterson seconded by Mr M Melrose moved there be no bar, after a vote of 14-6 the club still remained without a bar.

The ladies section was also approached to see if they would be willing to undertake the window cleaning and dusting. Mr Melrose assured the committee that he would arrange for a woman to wash the floors. With regards to the green several

members expressed concerns about the state of it and were assured that it was in good overall condition although there had been an attack of fusarium.

1960 Bowling Champions "The Two Humes" Peter and George, who were not related, both won their respective championships with Peter winning at Linlithgow and George winning Philpstoun. Sadly the ladies section suffered a loss when their oldest member Mrs Baxter passed away.

A letter was submitted from the South Eastern joint fire committee in 1961 requesting the observations of the club on a proposal to remove the entrance gate to a point several yards nearer the club premises and to construct a footpath from Philip Avenue to the new entrance. It was agreed that the club offer no objections to the proposal provided that the club would still have vehicular access into the club premises.

Additional funding required

Mr W Hall had been appointed as magistrate of the burgh in 1962 and was congratulated by president Paterson. The town council had also written to the club intimating the application for partial relief of rates under the Financial Provisions (Scotland) Act 1962 had been refused. The committee felt that the town council had not fully appreciated the implications of this Act and the secretary replied asking they reconsider their decision. In 1963 the town council agreed to the partial relief, the committee's work aided by the help of Councillor G. H. W. Beattie had paid off.



Mr D Taylor said that the club was badly in need of funds and other clubs were making money from having a bar on the premises. After a good deal of debate Mr W Hall proposed and seconded by Mr A Anderson that a sub-committee be formed to investigate with other private clubs the advantages and disadvantages of a bar and to submit their findings to a special meeting before the next AGM.

The sub-committee then visited Kirkliston and Queensferry noting these clubs were making between £300 and £400 profit and this additional income seemed to go towards improving the club. In September a special meeting discussed at length the advantages and disadvantages of a bar but the final decision was deferred until the AGM in 1964. At the AGM Mr J Geddes seconded by Mr James Shanks moved that there be no bar but Mr Alexander Anderson seconded by Mr George McNicholl moved for a bar. On a vote of 15-11 it was agreed status quo of no bar.

1964 saw the return of the South Africans to Linlithgow for a game against Linlithgowshire with club president Paterson selected to play in the game. A civic reception was then held in the Masonic Hall where the president and his wife accepted a gift in the form of a pendant for the club.

Centenary Celebrations 1965

In preparation for the centenary the club had purchased a new flag and sought approval from the Linlithgowshire Bowling Association to commission a new club badge which was largely similar to that of the county.

The year opened on a sad note with a minute silence at the AGM for the passing of past ladies president Mrs Morrison as well as a club favourite Mr George Walker who had passed away at a football match.

To enhance club funds Mr S Doak proposed and seconded by Mr J Russell that the club should install a gaming machine, Mr W Hall seconded by Mr W J Meek proposed against this. The original proposal was favoured 13-8 and a gaming machine was bought.

On the 11th August 4 rinks made their way to Bo'ness to take part in a game to celebrate 100 years of friendship, this was then followed on the 21st August with a centenary game against a SBA select consisting of 5 rinks and a 6th rink made up of members from the other founding Linlithgowshire Bowling Association clubs.

The town council agreed that hospitality and a civic reception would take place in the burgh halls after the centenary game with 60 tickets available to be distributed by the club. It was further agreed that ladies could attend the evening dinner event which was held in the masonic hall. A total of 90 guests enjoyed evening dinner with the Douglas Singers from Bo'ness providing the entertainment. Invitations as guests of the club were extended to Provost Baird, Hon Treasurer Byrne, the Town Clerk plus their wives. A complimentary ticket was also given to Mr John Orr and his wife with Mr Lewis Laurie supplying the drink that was sold on the evening.

Allan Old, Honorary President

Linlithgow Bowling Club are proud to be able to celebrate what is a significant milestone in reaching our 150th anniversary and we would like to recognise that in honouring one of our finest members. In this anniversary year we are delighted to have Mr Allan Old as our Honorary President.

Allan having joined the club in 1957 is our longest serving member and can be regarded as one of the finest bowlers to have graced the green, not only in our club but in the county.

As a young man Allan never contemplated playing the game of bowls until Jimmy Ronaldson, a member of this club back then, suggested he give it a try. When Allan eventually joined he took everyone by surprise, including himself, when in his first season he captured the Provost Cup (The Handicap) beating Jock Robertson 21-12 in the final. Even though Allan had a 4 shot start the significance of this win was heightened by the fact just two days earlier Jock Robertson had been crowned club champion. This was just the start of a long and successful bowling career.

Allan has won 5 club championships and throughout the 1970's he represented Linlithgowshire Bowling Association (now West Lothian Bowling Association) in the Hamilton Trophy. After playing for almost a decade at county level he was rewarded in 1978 when he was part of the team that eventually captured the trophy.

Scottish title success was next when in 1989 along with William Watson, Graeme Byrne and John Graham he lifted the national fours title. In 2003 at the age of 75 Allan was still showing signs that he could mix it with the best when he was part of the club's Top 10 team that won the West Lothian Bowling Association Top 10 Final.

Allan hasn't played as much in recent years but still frequents the club on a regular basis and will often be heard offering advice to other bowlers.

When we look back through the history books it is apparent from the very early days we took pride as a club in playing bowls in a dignified, gracious and hospitable manner. These attributes may well have been the foundations of a club celebrating its 150th anniversary, yet these are the very attributes you find in Allan Old.

For over half a century Allan has always been the true gentleman especially the way he played his bowls and served this club with pride, grace and dignity. We also cannot forget the numerous occasions where Allan and his accordion provided the entertainment to our members and guests.

Allan we feel it is fully deserved you serve as Honorary President in this 150th year and look forward to seeing you around the club.





LADIES INTERNATIONALIST
E.A. WALLACE

1993

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

DISTRICT JUNIOR CHAMPION
R. GIBSON

1993

COUNTY FOURS CHAMPION
K. DOWDALL | J. WOOD

DISTRICT PAIRS CHAMPIONS
W. WILSON | M. GIBSON

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

COUNTY SENIOR FOURS CHAMPION
G. CHURCHTON | T. CLAYTON
L. HITCHCOCK | T. HITCHCOCK

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

ROSEBERG
KELSO

04 DISTRICT PAIRS CHAMPION

04 COUNTY PAIRS CHAMPION

DISTRICT SENIOR

COUNTY SENIOR FOURS CHAMPION
1993

BRITISH ISLES BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Mr Alexander 'Sandy' Dalrymple

The centenary year had been a success and at the AGM in 1966 Mr John Paterson decided to step down as president. The members voted in Mr Alexander 'Sandy' Dalrymple as the new president, Sandy was a popular member of the club and a well known face in Linlithgow through his newsagent business on the High Street.

Our Future...

Raise a Glass to Sandy

It is almost unthinkable now but up until 1968 the club survived without a bar, the decision was made to apply for an alcohol licence and by the May of 1968 the club's first bar had been built. This was a major step forward for the club given the previous objections to a bar, it was an attraction for new members plus the extra income came in handy for the next large project. Sandy had the foresight to see that the clubhouse wouldn't be large enough in the years ahead and with building costs rising all the time he called an EGM in July 1973 to discuss extending the clubhouse.

It was agreed at the EGM a tote double and debenture shares scheme would be issued to support the cost of a new building. The extension had the backing of the members and at a committee meeting on the 1st February 1974 the estimate of £20,797.77 for the building work was accepted. Mr Howard Douglas was the architect with the building work carried out by the Linlithgow Construction Company. In July, during the construction work, the club played host to the Northern Ireland Bowling Association, Linlithgow winning the game 125-123 after which a high tea was served in the nearly completed clubhouse. The work was finally completed in August 1974.

Wednesday the 18th September 1974 was the official opening day of the new clubhouse, over 170 members and guests were in attendance. Provost Dr William Wilson had the honour of officially opening the clubhouse before ladies president Mrs Margaret Laurie handed over a plaque to Sandy Dalrymple with an inscription "The Dalrymple Lounge 1974", this plaque still hangs proudly on the lounge wall along with a photograph of Sandy. A dinner dance closed the proceedings of what was truly a historic day.

Sandy was recognised in 1978 by the Linlithgowshire Bowling Association when he was made an honorary president.

Away from bowls Sandy certainly had Linlithgow and Linlithgow Marches in his blood and it was in 1978 he turned his hand to writing a poem

for the Marches day. The poem was about the demise of the town council on regionalisation, some of the older Marches stalwarts will remember it poking fun towards the dignitaries at that time. The family have now very kindly donated the poem to Linlithgow Bowling Club and is now available for all to read.

Sandy served as president of Linlithgow Bowling Club between 1966 and 1977, during those 11 years the club changed dramatically for which we are forever grateful and almost certainly one of the reasons we are still in existence today. The introduction of the bar and opening of the Dalrymple lounge continues to be a major factor in generating income especially through private functions. The bar is now run in a business like manner by our bar manager Peter Brown, this was recognised when the club was awarded Gold at the Best Bar None Awards in 2010, a first for a sporting club in Scotland and a standard which has been maintained. We are sure Sandy would be delighted by the way in which the lounge is now used to cater for all the community.

The Golden Era

The club was proving to be popular once again and at times during the 70's and 80's there was a waiting list to join. The junior section had taken off and in 1981 Malcolm Graham had made it through to the National Championships, a first for the club, in the Junior Singles. He entered as the underdog but came away from it as Scottish Junior Singles Champion. Malcolm then went on to represent Scotland in 1985 before competing in the 1986 commonwealth games on home soil in Edinburgh.

In 1987 there was further first time achievements for the club when Stewart Getty was crowned County Champion of Champions and Elizabeth-Ann Meenan (nee Wallace) was picked to represent Scotland at junior level before going on to earn her senior cap in 1991. Just as Elizabeth-Ann was earning her senior cap Nicola Fleming (nee Stein) was earning the first of her junior call up's.

The 80's and 90's was a successful era with the club reaping the rewards from the numerous younger members who were maturing into established bowlers, this also meant that the

Cheers to success...

senior section was gaining in membership and with it a whole host of county and district championship wins particularly in the Senior Rink.

1989 was without doubt the most successful year to date in the clubs history as it captured both the Scottish Triples (M McNicol, R Graham and G L Laurie) and Scottish Fours (W Watson, G Byrne, J Graham and A Old) at the National Championships as well as the Rosebery Cup and Livingstone Trophy in West Lothian.

1990 saw the club celebrate its 125th anniversary with various friendly matches before completing the celebrations with the Jubilee Pairs. This event attracted the best of the Scottish internationalists with the final played out between the pairings of Malcolm Graham/Hugh Duff and Willie Wood/Richard Corsie with the Wood/Corsie pairing winning the event.

Success at county level continued throughout the 90's for all sections of the club culminating in 1997 with the club again winning the National Scottish Triples Title (W Scott, G L Laurie and G Byrne).

A Generation Game

During 1998 it was agreed that the ladies section would have equal rights and the club has been run as a joint membership ever since. Lots of hard work has been put into the ladies section since it was formed in 1953, special mention going to two of our longest serving female members Mrs Margaret Laurie and Mrs Rae Stuart who have served this club for a magnificent 40 plus years. The ladies section has and continues to play a significant role in the shaping of our club, ladies membership was steadily declining but we have managed to attract new members over the last few years and hope to have the ladies section competing as a force again in the coming years.

The seniors continued to be strong as we entered the 21st century, George Charleston in 2002

as the County Senior Champion of Champions following that up with the Senior Masters title in 2005. The ladies also proving victorious as they lifted the County Rink (P Dowie, B McKenna, M Byrne and D Kilgallon) in 2003 with the same rink going on to win the Scottish District Rink in 2005.

The club has had a successful 150 years and will continue to succeed but integral to this is having a strong membership. If we are going to survive another 150 years and continue to be successful we need to continually attract new members especially younger ones, lots of work has been done in West Lothian and the local schools to attract kids to our club but with so much on offer bowling isn't often high on their list. Saturday morning coaching during 2014 was attracting on average a dozen kids of various ages, in addition to Saturday mornings we had a summer camp which attracted a host of other kids. This is a move in the right direction and we will continue to encourage kids along to the club so we have a healthy and competitive junior section. As an added incentive for our juniors 2014 saw the re-introduction of the Junior Championship which was played for throughout the season amongst the regular attenders with the scores added up at the end of the season to determine the winner. At the closing day ceremony Alex Gavin was the proud recipient of the Junior Championship Trophy.

Throughout our 150 years the club has been a part of family life for so many and today is no exception, Nicola Fleming (nee Stein) followed her mother Linda and father Colin into the game. Not only is Colin a former Glasgow Rangers footballer, having joined the club in 1972 which was the same year he lifted the European Cup Winners Cup, he is the record 6 time club champion winning the last of his titles in 2005. Colin was also the manager of the West Lothian Hamilton Trophy winning team in 2009. Nicola's husband Steven Fleming keeps his family tradition going and can lay claim to being a 3 time club champion winning his 3rd title in 2014 as well as being the West Lothian Champion of Champions in 2009. It should come as no surprise to see their kids Emma and Jack getting involved now as well. We also have the Byrnes, Millars and Orrs carrying on the family tradition, the next generation is already starting to come



through with brothers Rory and Lucas Millar attending Saturday morning coaching on a regular basis. Having come through the junior ranks many years ago we have siblings Gary and Louise Orr with 3 club championships each, both will be aiming for a 4th title so we will be watching out to see who gets there first.

Attracting membership isn't just an issue for our club it is a national problem, the game has to be made more attractive for new members. We are gradually moving away from the traditional grey and white clothing, in 2015 our club has adopted shirts featuring white, black and gold. Coloured bowls are also becoming a popular choice which is a move away from the more traditional black or brown sets, the small coloured bowls and new age bowling equipment that the club purchased for coaching appears to be a hit with the kids, some of whom are only 7 years old.



On top of the World...

Lorna Smith

Current gent's president and club chairman Gary Smith joined the club in 2006 as a former World Indoor Pairs champion when representing England. Gary made an instant impact by winning 3 club championships in a row before going on to win the West Lothian Masters in 2010. Having represented England for a number of years Gary was selected to represent Scotland in 2008 and was a member of the international team until 2011.

Gary was later joined at the club in 2008 by his wife Lorna Smith, Lorna had spent a number of years playing in South Africa where she was world number 1. Since joining Lorna has dominated the ladies club championship by winning 7 titles in a row and has also made her mark nationally and internationally as well.

Lorna has won the National Ladies Scottish Singles title for the past 3 years, the first person to do so. In between those wins she has also captured the British Isles Championship in 2013 before being runner up in the World Champion of Champions later that year.

Lorna made amends for her 2013 final defeat by going one better as she was crowned the World Champion of Champions on the 29th of November 2014 after defeating Saskia Schaft of Holland in the final held at Fendalton Bowling Club, Christchurch, New Zealand.

To win a 3rd Scottish title in a row and be crowned World Champion of Champions all in the same year is a truly outstanding achievement, this was recognised by the club at a function held in the Dalrymple lounge.

A platform for the future

Linlithgow Bowling Club continues to grow in stature, not only are we competitive on the playing front but we actively participate within

the community. In recent years we have entered a family themed float in the Marches procession and raised over £1500 for the Children's Gala Day fund. When the bowling season finishes many of our members continue to attend the club on a social basis as well as supporting other organisations including the local football team Linlithgow Rose.

Bowling clubs have to embrace change and meet the challenges that lie ahead, our own history shows how we have changed over the years and we will continue to do so going forward. At a time when many bowling clubs are facing hardship we hope that our ongoing efforts within the community and on the green will ensure a successful future for us. If your interested in becoming a member or sponsor then please get in touch with us.



Lorna Smith with the world championship trophy



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