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NORTHCOTE

Auckland Star, Volum

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NORTHCOTE CLUB'S OPENING

The opening of the Northcote Croquet Club's croquet and tennis lawns for the season took place on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering of members and visitors, including several representatives of Auckland and suburban clubs. The pavilion and grounds presented a gala appearance, while the ideal situation of the club's lawns, unfolding a picturesque panorama of the Waitemata Harbour and its environs, was favourably remarked upon. The croquet lawns were in excellent condition, and the green superintendent, Mr Jas. T Fearnley, was complimented upon the highly satisfactory manner in which his duties had been discharged.

The patron of the club, Mr. James Trousseau, welcomed the visitors, and congratulated the club on its satisfactory numerical and financial position, and the energy of the committee, who had been responsible for the carrying out of the arrangements resulting in such splendid croquet and tennis lawns. He then called upon the president, Mrs J T Fearnley, who opened the lawns for play for the present season, by hitting the ball across the sword. Enjoyable games of croquet and tennis were indulged in until interrupted by the heavy showers later.

During the afternoon those present were entertained at afternoon tea by Mr M. Walsh, on the Northcote Hotel grounds, which are adjacent to the Northcote Croquet Club's lawns. On the motion of the president, Mrs J T Fearnley, a very hearty vote of thanks was tendered on behalf of the club to Mr. Walsh for his generosity.

NORTHCOTE.

The Northcote Borough Council met last evening.

• Health Inspection — The chief health officer notified that a house to house inspection had been arranged for. It was resolved to ask for a monthly report.

Croquet Club — The Birkenhead and Northcote Croquet Club asked permission to use the town hall site in Hotel Road for a croquet ground. Referred to the Legal and Finance Committee.

Little Shoal Bay — The president of the Waitemata Bowling Club forwarded a donation of £5 towards the acquiring of Little Shoal Bay as a reserve for recreation purposes. The club also agreed to guarantee a sum of £10 within the next five years for the same object.

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CROQUET.

NORTHCOTE LAWNS OPENED.

The Northcote Croquet and Tennis Club's lawns in Princes Street were opened on Saturday afternoon, though the rain precluded the games being proceeded with. The president (Mrs J. R. Bethwaite) stated that a number of new tennis players had joined this year, and these players would be accommodated on the lawn adjoining the croquet lawn, and also the lawns adjoining the hotel grounds. A successful season was anticipated.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1899 - 1999

EVOLUTION OF A NAME

Waitemata Bowling Club - 1899

Waitemata Bowling and Croquet Club - 1912

Northcote Bowling and Croquet Club - 1951

Northcote Bowling Club (Inc) - 1973

The original name of the club was the Waitemata Bowling Club although from its commencement the greens were used on a regular basis, mainly by the wives of club members, for the playing of Croquet. For outsiders to join the Croquet Club their names had to be submitted to the Bowling Club executive for acceptance as members of the Croquet group.

This situation applied until 1912 when there was a somewhat "major upheaval" between the two groups. Following numerous letters and "diplomatic" negotiations the issues were finally resolved and in November 1912 the club was officially renamed the Waitemata Bowling and Croquet Club. The Croquet Club was to have its own organising committee. The provision that the membership was restricted to lady members of the household of a member of the Bowling Club or such others as had been approved by the Bowling Club executive was retained.

The Bowling Club was to collect all subscriptions, provide playing requisites (excluding mallets) and be responsible for the upkeep of the lawns. More importantly, perhaps, the Bowling Club was to give due notice to the Croquet group should any of their lawns be required for bowling on any special day -(one gathers that the bowlers may have been rather lax in this area before this date).

In 1951 Mr N. G. Swanson (a Past President of the club) proposed that the word Waitemata in the club title be changed to Northcote. There seemed to be general agreement in the club that the name Waitemata was too general in nature and did nothing to assist in identifying the location of the Club within the greater Auckland area. The decision was finally made to change the name to the Northcote Bowling and Croquet Club. Two old faithful members felt so strongly that they had their names recorded against the decision.

By the early 1970's the numbers using the Croquet Lawn had fallen and in 1973 as only two or three ladies seemed to use it - and then 'not regularly' the club decided to cease providing Croquet facilities.

The name of the club was changed to the **Northcote Bowling Club** and all the croquet gear was given to one of the two ladies to dispose of.

In actual fact the words Croquet Club being included in the Club's name has always been somewhat misleading. There has never been any doubt (in a legal sense) that the ownership, control and maintenance of the property has rested in the hands of the Bowling Club and its executive whilst play on certain days and in certain areas was controlled by a Croquet Committee.

The final development of this road and parking area became possible because the council had commenced the reclamation of the mangrove area and work had begun from the Council Terrace end and was gradually reaching out into the mangroves. The money for this road had come from the Bowling Club, the Kon-Tiki motel (owners of the caravan park), and the Council in equal proportions.

For many years there were tennis courts in the area to the north of our small green. The courts covered quite an extensive area having ten chip courts with a pavilion built into the bank from Wilding Avenue. There was a lawn area between the pavilion and the courts. The members of the tennis club used the bowling club right-of-way as an alternative access and disagreements over the sharing of costs for maintenance of the right-of-way meant that relationships were not always cordial.

In the late 50's the tennis club moved to its present site in Lake Road and in 1958 the bowling club allocated one hundred pounds to purchase and shift the tennis pavilion. The bid was later raised to one hundred and fifty pounds, however, the club was unsuccessful in this bid.

Following the decision to sell off the upper section of land there were discussions with the council over the possibility of obtaining the tennis courts for a new green area for the bowling club. These discussions have continued on an irregular basis over the ensuing years and, even today, there are those in the club who still see this area as a possibility for future expansion of the club -notwithstanding that the court area has now largely reverted to swamp and would now be much more costly to reclaim.



*1,2,3 indicate the three sites of the club.
4 indicates the tennis club behind the
bowling club, off Wilding Ave.*

With regard to the major plans for club extensions, mentioned at the 1951 Jubilee, little had been done and it was not until the late 50's that any major alterations occurred. At first there were lengthy discussions as to whether, in light of the possible development of the upper green, the old pavilion should be demolished and a new pavilion built on the approximate site of

Notes from Minute Book of Waitemata
Bowling and Croquet Club — renamed 1981
Northcote Bowling and Croquet Club

23/9/48 Invitations to opening day to
Mt Albert, Mt Eden, United, Remuera,
Mt Hobson, Hallyburton - Johnstone & Malvern

23/5/50 Need to augment B grade interclub
team with members from other clubs.
Members losing interest in progressive play

14/10/50 The charge for afternoon tea with
cake and biscuits to be raised to 9 pence

24/5/51 " Mrs Aspden, with a few nicely chosen
remarks presented Mrs McKenzie with a
very dainty handkerchief "

27/4/55 " Discussion arose concerning Handicap
Doubles. No matches being played but prize
claimed ". Secretary to write to A&A.
(money prizes then)

12/6/57 Will not enter interclub this year

11/9/57 Invitations to Pt Chevalier, Mt Eden,
Otahuhu, St Heliers Bay, Takapuna, North
Shore, Carlton and Mt Albert

10/6/58 The Match Committee to draw all
club matches in private

30/4/59 Membership 21

14/6/62 Agreed to make one bigger green from
two existing small greens.

2/7/63 A time limit on all matches

A letter to Northcote Bowling Club (their parent) advising they had overlooked sending an invitation to croquet members to their prize giving evening.

8/6/64 Membership 13

4/5/67 Unable to play matches as our greens were not in the usual good order (green maintenance responsibility of Bowling Club)

26/9/67 Request from Epsom Croquet Club for surplus balls declined, as these are the property of the Bowling Club

18/6/72 Bowlers advised a new pavillion to be erected on croquet greens. Name changed to Northcote Bowling Club. Ladies wished well

Northcote Bowling and Croquet Club Inc.
14 Church St., Northcote
Rules (adopted 26/6/66)

Bowls — membership adult males

Croquet — — — — — females

" Bowling Club Executive shall have full control of the Croquet members "

This seems to relate to
the early Northcote Club

PAPERS

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ARCHERY AND CROQUET

THE regular weekly meetings of the Saturday Afternoon Recreation Club, since the opening of the present season, have been held at **Denby's gardens, Northcote**, and the owner of this favourite resort has given such complete satisfaction by his endeavours to anticipate the requirements of the Club, and by his excellent catering that its continued patronage may safely be relied on. In accordance with tacit understanding on the part of the members, the usual archery competitions are not to be opened until the beginning of March, in order that sufficient time may be allowed for practice. So far, however, croquet has received the greatest amount of attention, and the majority of the players are proficient in the game. A new code of rules, based upon those in vogue with the best croquet clubs in England, has just been adopted, and will be submitted to a special meeting which is to be convened this week. The principal changes which they propose are, the abolition of "tight croquetting," and the adoption of "side strokes" in place of the present mode of striking, which consists in the player standing behind his ball and propelling it in front of him. The alterations are expected to conduce to more skilful playing. Upon the representations of the club, the Ferry Co. have made provision for an additional trip from Northcote on Saturday evenings, the steamer leaving the wharf at 7.30, so that Queen-street is reached before 8 o'clock. This suits the convenience of the visitors admirably.

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Papers Past | CROQUET. (New Zealand Herald, 1913-06-23)

WAITEMATA CLUB'S MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Waitemata Croquet Club was held in the Masonic Hall, Northcote, on Friday night. There was a good attendance. The president (Mr. P. W. Bolland) occupied the chair.

The annual report stated that through the courtesy of the Birkenhead and Northcote Lawn Tennis Club the Croquet Club's opening had been held on the tennis grounds, and was a great success, fully 200 friends of the club being present. Though the club was hampered during the year owing to the want of a playing ground in the district the members of the club had secured a large amount of play on other clubs' lawns, but principally in Victoria Park, Auckland. The trophies donated by the president (Mrs. Bolland) were played for at Victoria Park, the winner of the A section being Mrs. J. T. Fearnley, while the B section was won by Mrs. R. Martin. The socials held by the club proved most enjoyable, and the funds of the club were augmented from this source during the year by £9 3s. The total receipts, including last year's balance of £6 11s. 9d, were £10 12s. 9d, and the expenditure £10 9s. 9d, leaving a credit balance of £10 4s. The committee referred to the loyal support accorded the club in the many difficulties met with. The encouragement received by the members had borne fruit, and led the committee to conclude arrangements with Mr. M. H. Walsh, of Northcote, for the lease of a block of land at the corner of Princess Street and Hotel Road. The area is sufficient to lay out two full-sized croquet lawns, besides a smaller court. The ground would be immediately converted into croquet lawns for the use of the club, the committee having accepted a tender for the work, and it is anticipated that the lawns will be in readiness for play in November by the latest. The acquisition of this ground has resulted in a large increase of membership the club having over 40 names handed in as new members, and it is expected that this number will be added to when the season for play arrives. The committee congratulated the club upon the most excellent prospects for the coming year, and had every confidence that the future prosperity of the club was now assured.

On the motion of Mrs. J. R. Bethwaite, seconded by Mrs. R. Martin, the report and balance-sheet were adopted.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. P. W. Bolland; vice-presidents, Miss V. Ball, Messrs. J. Leonard, and Jas. T. Fearnley; hon. secretary, Mrs. J. T. Fearnley; hon. treasurer, Mrs. Arthur E. Greenalade; reporter, Mrs. W. M. Jacks; committee, Messdames J. R. Bethwaite, Speight, R. Martin, J. Leonard, G. E. Adams, and E. d'Estierre; auditor, Mr. H. G. McCreary; ground superintendent, Mr. J. T. Fearnley; Match Committee, Messdames Jacks, Speight, and Bolland.

The subscription was fixed at £1 1s for the year, and it was decided to also charge an entrance fee of 10s 6d from September 1 next.

The club's colours were altered to red and black. A subscription list was ordered



Northcote Croquet Club 1958



Northcote Bowling Club 2011
 June 1972 "Bowlers advised a new
 pavilion to be erected on croquet greens"