

Thorndon Bowls Club

Ancient History!-(but maybe not that Ancient)

It is possible that as we are now in the **1930's** there are people around who will be able to recall these people and possibly events-if so please get in touch. In fact I had a link to the past passed to me recently. (I have to return it of course as it is a precious family piece but a photograph is further down)

The first reference in the Diss Express for the Bowls Club in our next decade is in **May 1930** when the team played at Mendlesham and lost by 17 shots: the team comprised-Ribbons, Clarke, Cottrell, Everson, Roe, Lockwood (x3), Rush, Brock, Tydeman, Freeman and Alderton. And one month later a victory over Bedfield-courtesy of Diss Express

sent.

THORNDON
BOWLS.

The match between Thorndon Bowls Club and the Bedingfield Club, played on the Bedingfield Rectory Green, on Wednesday, resulted in a win for the visitors by 7 points.

The scores were, Thorndon names first :
C. Ribbons, H. Clarke and F. Hammond 21 ; D. Wright, R. Coleman and A. Brady 19. H. Everson, E. Brock and R. Cook 14 ; A. Claxton, W. Last and H. Coleman 21. C. Alderton, F. Rush and J. Tydeman 21 ; C. Cracknell, R. R. Cracknell and W. Cracknell 4. D. Lockwood, C. Hammond and G. Norman 15 ; D. Black, W. Everson and A. Edwards 20. totals, Thorndon 71, Bedingfield 64.

The end of season in 1930 came on 26th October with a half day tournament for the Cripps Cup. If anybody has any knowledge of that do please let us know! Twenty one players are listed as having taken part with Mr. D. Lockwood triumphing 16 points ahead of Mr. F. Hammond. The report goes on to say

'Tea was afterwards provided at the Black Horse, by Hostess, Mrs Balls, and later the Captain, Mr F. Hammond presented the cup and prizes. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the subscribers and donors of the prizes.' It finishes by saying *'The rest of the evening was spent in toasts and songs and all members present spent a most enjoyable time'*. Now what could that mean I wonder?

June **1931** sees Thorndon top of the table!!

FELLOWSHIP CHALLENGE CUP.

The results of the matches played during the month of May, in the Eye and District League are somewhat remarkable for the number of away wins.

Thorndon thoroughly deserve their position at the head of the table, as two of their three matches were played on opponents' ground. They have played Mellis at home and away and have visited the cup-holders (Bedingfield), defeating them by 11 points which was a very good achievement.

Wortham and Scole are new contestants for the Fellowship Cup. The former club should go a long way. When they visited Scole on the 13th May, they won by 13 points and on entertaining Eye a week later they won by 5 points.

EYE and DISTRICT LEAGUE TABLE.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Thorndon	3	3	0	237	180	6
Wortham	2	2	0	148	130	4
Bedingfield	2	1	1	148	137	2
Eye	1	0	1	64	68	0
Scole	1	0	1	66	79	0
Mellis	3	0	3	174	242	0

I had never heard of this so a little digging in the archives uncovered a reference...from a 1930 Diss Express

BOWLS.

NEW CUP FOR LOCAL CLUBS

Some considerable interest has been stimulated in the bowls clubs, playing in the Eye district, in a new cup that is being offered for competition among them.

A branch of the Fellowship of Freedom and Reform has been formed in Eye this month, and the first chairman is Mr. F. C. Coe, with Mr. C. Thomas as secretary. With a view to furthering the interests of sport, the headquarters of the Fellowship has presented a challenge cup, value £20, to be competed for by bowls clubs within the district.

For the remainder of this season, the Fellowship intends inviting clubs to a knock-out competition for the trophy at an entrance fee of 2/6. Next year they propose going a step further and form a Fellowship League. The cup will be presented to the winning club and there will also be medals and other prizes for the remaining clubs in the competition.

Thorndon were obviously at the top of their game as they beat Sproughton by 40 shots in July! Moving to the end of 1931 season a presentation was held in Eye

further delay. General Bruce, who was received with acclamation and prolonged applause gave the toast of the "Thorndon Bowling Club", champions of the League. The General in the course of his remarks, gave the latest news of the Fellowship movement and commended "The Bulletin" to the members as one of the most interesting and informative magazines in print. He emphasised many of his points with interesting stories.

Mr. F. J. Hammond, captain of the Thorndon Bowls Club acknowledged the toast and spoke of the pleasure it gave him on behalf of the club members to receive the cup. Each member of the team was presented with a medal.

The Rev. H. E. C. Marshall (Oxford) presided.

This was the Fellowship Challenge and as mentioned at the beginning of the article one of our members has a relative's medal from that very evening in October...



The season's end was 'a very happy gathering at the Black Horse Inn' on 15th October. Mr C. Alderton won the Cripps Cup and the toast, given by Mr Brundell (Vice-President of Eye White Lion Bowls Club) included the words

'some of the best sportsmen I had ever met had been members of bowling clubs' and he thought 'it was really the kind of bowling club he would like to belong to, because it seemed that every one of its members won a prize...he had seen both veterans and novices, as far as age was concerned coming up and taking prizes.'

1932 seems to have been a year of big wins-51 points against Debenham, 42 points against Eye White Lion. 43 points vs Eye Division Police, 53 points Mellis...but also a loss by 36 points to Mendlesham. Thorndon though could not retain the Fellowship Challenge Cup having played the semi-final at Stayer House in Eye and getting a draw with Hoxne Swan they re-played the following week and lost by a narrow margin of 5 points. I must declare an interest here in that my Great Uncle H. Knights was playing in the Swan team. This may be Herbert or Harry but I can't tell from the report! Hoxne went on to meet Wortham in the Final. Mr D. Lockwood won the Cripps Cup which was presented at the dinner at the Parish Hall.

The following year the club had 67 members, an Annual Dinner at the Recreation Hall and Mr Lockwood was again successful with winning the cup. Ten matches out of sixteen were won that year. **1934** began with the demise of a club member Mr Mayhew aged 82. He was gardener at Stanwell Lodge and had been a member for many years. Fifty members attended the Annual dinner. The highlight for **1935** seems to have been the inauguration of the Jubilee Cup and an evening at Stanwell Lodge by kind invitation of the Conor family.

Once again in **1936** Thorndon won the Fellowship Challenge Cup beating Eye White Lion in the final. The winning team was Messrs Coy, Brock, Cook, Woods, Lockwood, Ribbons (C), Alderton, Everson (J), Everson (H), Ribbons (W), Cracknell, Norman and Rush. Thorndon were also runners up to Leiston in the Soames Cup which was a Suffolk Countywide competition.

The following year-**1937**- Thorndon lost in the second round of the Soames Cup to Nobel's Works team from Stowmarket by thirty shots. (Anybody know what, or where, Nobel's were?)

The Mellis and District Challenge Bowls Cup pitted Thorndon against Scole Inn in the second round in June 1938. Scole were the winners of that game by only 5 shots. **July 1938** was truly ground breaking as it saw the arrival of Eye Ladies team to play Thorndon! Quite an innovation apparently. We, at Thorndon Bowls Club are proud of-and welcoming to-all members and visitors who come to the Green and the Club is much the better for it. The first lady playing for Thorndon-which I can find is mentioned just a little further on. Mr D. Lockwood won the Jubilee Cup which again was held at Stanwell Lodge. The Challenge Cup was won by Mr Ribbons-a local Policeman-who had the cup filled for him and his health was drunk!!

The final team list for 1939 was-H. Everson, A.E. Bailey, C. Alderton, E. Bailey, J. Coy, ?. Lockwood, F. Rush, R. Cracknell, J. Cook, E. Brock, R.R. Cracknell and **MISS ROPER!**

...the next edition will deal with the war years and to the end of the 1940's. In the meantime I will look through the 1939 Register to see if I can identify any of those names mentioned this edition to see where they lived and what they were doing. This register was taken by the Government to assist with planning for the war and is really useful as there is no 1931 Census (destroyed) nor 1941 Census (wartime) so family historians have a long wait to get to 1951!!