

## Thorndon Bowls Club

### Ancient History! 1914 to 1920's

#### Part Two

I have used online resources BUT I do not guarantee that these following 'facts' are necessarily correct as related to the Thorndon Bowls Club I am merely trying to follow logical lines of enquiry.

Looking at the list of players mentioned in 1906 and 1909 I referred to the 1901 and 1911 Census to see who could possibly be identified. I thought most people would be living in Thorndon if they played in Thorndon as people were not as mobile as we are nowadays, and possibly more loyal to their home village.

From the 'Reformatory School' were Mr Claxton and Mr Gill with Mr Weston the Head Teacher at the Primary school, aged 31 in 1911 and married to a local 'girl'. He had come from Wiltshire to the village. James Tydeman arrived between the two Censuses, around 1904, from Wetheringsett and was a farmer. Mr Harry Balls had arrived after 1901 and was a Publican and Bootmaker-I think this must be the Black Horse as I don't believe there was another pub in the village. Mr Hodgkinson was a Farm Bailiff, Rishangles Lodge 1901, and Farm Steward at Lampetts 1911 and was from Derbyshire. Although Mr Noller doesn't appear in 1901 he was present in 1911 and a Police Pensioner so may have retired to the village being aged 69 in the later census. Mr Cook may have been living in Hestley but was quite young and originally a Farmer and Dealer but then became a Tax Rate Collector. And I am really stuck with F. Clarke although his death is reported in 1924. AJ Hammond, brother of FJ lived and farmed at Brames Hall, Wetheringsett. Robert Hammond, brother of FJ and AJ lived in Red House Farm, Thwaite Road, Thorndon with his son Frank. Robert also had another son called Clem and he lived in a bungalow in Thwaite Road near Red House Farm. Clem had a brother called Cecil

**It is possible there are photos of these players associated with other reports in the newspapers-it is a long shot but possible.**

#### The Next Chapter

##### From 1914 and through the 1920s

The funeral of Robert Noller was reported in May 1914. The Diss Express report states 'ex-Police Sergeant Noller, who died suddenly,.... Deceased was for many years on the Sudbourne Hall Estate; he retired on pension 12 years ago [1902], and for the past 9 years [1905] had been living at Thorndon'. Many of the Bowling fraternity were at the funeral and the club sent flowers. In August 1914 Mr. Gill, Mr. Weston and J. Tydeman came second in the Block competition at Stradbroke. The other war years have no reports of Bowls for Thorndon-although some other villages continued with the next available mention being June 1919 when Mendlesham hosted Thorndon. Thorndon represented by F. Alderton, F. Clarke, S. Hodgkinson; F. Everson, F.J. Hammond, R.J. Cook; A. Gibbs, J. Green, J. Tydeman; A.J. Hammond, A. Everson and J. Lloyd.

On to the 1920's...

The next mention I can find is in August 1923 when the Framlingham Bowling Tournament took place.

*'It is not often that the future of an outdoor institution is threatened by a prolonged spell of fine weather but that is what has actually happened in connection with the Framlingham Bowling*

*Tournament. Following on the heels of the 8 days Tennis Tournament on the same ground, during which hardly a drop of rain fell the bowling executive found the surface so worn and parched that play was next to impossible. ...but the downpour which came with the break of dawn on Wednesday morning and continued for six hours converted executive frowns into smiles and imparted to the best of the rinks that near approach to perfection so beloved of bowls players'. Framlingham Weekly News 18<sup>th</sup> August 1923*

There were 288 singles players taking part and Thorndon was represented by F.E. Roe and H. Everson who only made a little progress through the knock-out rounds.

There are no reports for 1924 although Mr Frank Clark-'an ardent bowls player' was noted in April as having died. He was one of the players who I couldn't find in the Census I think.

## Diss Express 10 May 1929

<b>BOWLS.</b>	
<b>EYE v. THORNDON.</b>	
Played at the White Lion on Thursday.	
Scores :—Eye—J. Lewis, E. Vine, G. H. Nunn, 21; G. Goold, F. Whant, W. Tricker, 13; J. Smith, W. Botwright, G. Norman, 21; A. Smith, G. Barber, A. E. Maidment, 14.	
Thorndon—C. Hammond, R. Cracknell, F. Hammond, 9; T. Roe, G. Everson, D. Lockwood, 21; G. Norman, R. R. Cracknell, F. Alderton, 15; F. Rush, E. Brock, J. Tydeman, 21.	

Also in July 1929 the Bowls Club played home and away matches with Eye with a win for each team. The player's names are now quite familiar—J. Hammond, R. Cracknell, J. Tydeman, F. Rush, C. Hammond, D. Lockwood, T. Roe, W. Freeman, C. Alderton, H. Everson, E. D. Brock, F.J. Hammond, H. Clark, F. Rush, C. Hammond, A.J. Hammond and H.T. Birkenhead.

And in September 1929 Harry Balls, Licensee of the Black Horse died and was buried in the churchyard. He had been Landlord for 26 years and supported the Bowls Club through playing and the use of the Pub as well. It is also recorded that E. Alderton won the Bowls competition at the British Legion Fete in Eye in August of this year.

The final report from the 1920's relates to the Annual Meeting of Wilby Bowls Club where Thorndon was represented. This seems to have been a significant feature of the past that Clubs holding a Dinner would invite other local clubs to attend. A series of 'toasts' would be made and, it appears, a great deal of jollity went on! This often took place in pubs or Village Halls.

One thing I have wondered about for many years was something called 'Spoon Drives' and had never found anything out. One of our members, Ian Smith writes—  
Spoon Drives

Players are drawn into teams depending on the number present and play either triples or fours against one another for 7 ends. The teams are then drawn again for a further 7 ends before a final draw and play of 7 ends. Each individual carries his/her score from each match. The winner of the day's spoon is the player with the highest aggregate score. In the event of a draw, the winner is decided by the player nearest the Jack in one final end.

Quite simple then really-you win a spoon! That explains why my grandad had so many spoons with his bowls cups and photos