



# **THE PENYLAN CLUB**

## **CENTENARY YEAR**

### **2009**

# **The Penylan Club**

## **In the Beginning**

The most important date in the history of our Club was Tuesday 3rd December 1907. For it was on this date that an eminent local resident, Mr Thomas Mackenzie of 77, Connaught Road, circulated an invitation which read as follows:

### **"Proposed New Bowling Green For Roath"**

Dear Sir,

You are invited to attend a meeting in connection with the above in the Hall, Wesleyan Church, Albany Road on Thursday December 5th at 8.00pm. As business of importance will be transacted you are particularly requested to attend.

Yours Truly

T.Mackenzie

At this meeting it was decided to form a Club and establish a Limited Company to control its affairs. The first Club Committee was elected and it was decided to defer giving the Club a name.

## **The Founders**

Alderman C.H.Bird, Newport Road

Mr J.Bulman, 143 Donald Street

Mr Arthur Edwards, 74 Angus Street

Mr F Jackson, 75 Ninian Road

Mr Thomas Mackenzie, 77 Connaught Road

Mr W.T.Morgan, Tydraw Road

Mr J. Ingram Rees, 58 Oakfield Street

Councillor Dr Robinson, Albany Road

Secretary: E.J.Keene, 71 Penywain Road

A further meeting was held at 'The Creamery', Wellfield Road on December 31st 1907. A site for a bowling green had been offered by the Estate Agent acting on behalf of The Right Honourable The Lord Tredegar VC. The Committee considered the cost of establishing this site and estimated this to be over £400. 0s 0d, which it felt was prohibitive. Further discussions with the Tredegar Estate were sought. The next meeting held at 'The Creamery' on January 8th 1908 considered an alternative site which had been offered.

Estimated cost for laying out this site were put forward and they were as follows:

Fencing the site	£100. 0s 0d
Private Improvements	£160. 0s 0d
Laying of Greens	£400. 0s 0d
Building a Pavilion	£150. 0s 0d
Incidentals (Furnishing Pavilion etc)	£100. 0s 0d
Total:	£910. 0s 0d

The site was adopted and an Architect was to be appointed. Advertisements were to be placed locally for laying out, levelling and draining the site.

The Lease being offered could be terminated by the ground landlord after either 7 or 14 years and, in view of the outlay of approximately £1000.0s 0d the Committee felt that the termination period should be not less than 21 years.

A Company would be formed to control the affairs of the Club.

Efforts would be made to engage Mr J.McDonnell of Glasgow with regard to laying out the green.  
*(As the Minutes never mention Mr McDonnell again it would appear that these efforts came to nothing. Ed)*

*(It is also worth noting that we will never know where the originally intended site for the Club would have been as this is not revealed in the minutes. It also seems strange that the first site was rejected because of the prohibitive cost of £400. 0s 0d, yet the second site with costs estimated at nearly £1000. 0s 0d was readily accepted. Ed)*

Most of the Committee meetings were now being held at the home of the Hon Club Secretary, Mr E.J.Keene at 71 Penywain Road. It was the intention to call a General Meeting of interested parties in early 1908 and to this end the committee set about listing a series of proposals to place before the General Meeting. The main proposals were the following:

- a. To form a Limited Company to hold the assets of the Club:
- b. To name the Company "The Penylan Pavilion Club Co Ltd"
- c. To consider a re-drafted Lease:
- d. To consider the plan of Mr W.Cooper. Architect:
- e. To raise the levels of the whole site by 18 inches and set the height of the Tennis Courts above that of the Green: (Tredegar Estate having agreed to this)
- f. To make recommendation of names to become Officers of the Club.

### **The First General Meeting**

The first General Meeting of the Club was held at Albany Road Council School on Friday June 26th 1908.

Mr W.T.Morgan was elected to the Chair and the subject before the meeting was:

#### **‘Proposed New Bowling Green, Tennis Courts and Croquet Lawn at Roath’**

1. Directors of the Limited Company were confirmed and the company named “The Penylan Pavilion Club Company Limited”.
2. Mr E.J.Keene was elected Honorary Club Secretary.
3. Mr Till, Manager of Lloyds Bank, Newport Road was elected Club Treasurer.
4. Name of the Club. On a vote the names “The Marlborough Bowling Club” and “The Sandringham Bowling Club” were defeated. The name “The Penylan Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club” was adopted.
5. That the Limited Company be registered with a nominal share capital and the balance raised by debenture.
6. Debentures of £5. 0s 0d were taken up by all those present.
7. The Trustees of the Club were confirmed.

#### **The First Trustees**

Mr William Thomas Morgan  
Cllr Dr James Robinson  
Mr James Ingram Rees

*(So not only could we have been playing at a different site but under a different name. Ed)*

#### **The First Meeting of the Directors of the Limited Company**

A site inspection was held and the following action taken:

Articles of Association were drawn up by the Trustees and a meeting of the Company was to be held at Naish’s Café, St Mary Street on Friday July 31st at 3.00pm to sign the Articles of Association. The Company Secretary and Company Treasurer would also be appointed.

It was agreed to amend the amount raised to £1500. 0s 0d, nominal share capital being £100. 0s 0d in 2000 one shilling shares with the balance being raised by debentures.

## **The First Captain**

Mr Thomas Mackenzie

It was appropriate that Mr Thomas Mackenzie, who had sent out the notice of the original meeting in December 1907, should be elected Penylan's first Captain in 1909.

At Marlborough Road School on 30th April 1909 the membership voted that the 3 Officers be joined by 7 others to form a Club Committee. The members also passed a hearty vote of thanks to the Founders of the Club.

A letter was received from the Welsh Bowling Association stating that the Penylan Green had been approved and the Club admitted into membership of the Association. This meeting also discussed possible matches and Competitions.

The first Club Bye Laws were drawn up on 7th May 1909.

## **The First Club Bye Laws**

1. The number of members shall not exceed 150.
  2. Any member desirous of playing must state his name on the notice board and will play in rotation.
  3. No person under the age of 16 shall play on the Green.
  4. No two, four or six players shall occupy a rink to the exclusion of other members. Tournaments and Matches excepted.
  5. All players must wear rubber sole footwear.
  6. The Bowling Committee shall select all teams for club matches.
  7. Inter Club matches will be arranged from time to time.
  8. No playing for bets allowed on the Green.
  9. The Laws of the game shall be those of the Scottish Bowling Association.
- (It's a good job that Bye Law 8 is not enforced today. Ed)*

## **The First Team Selection**

For the record the first team selected to represent the Club against Cardiff B.C. on May 15th 1909 was as follows:

Skips:	Tom Mackenzie	Chas Harwicke	W.Edwards	Mat Dent
Thirds:	J.Bulman	G.W.Lloyd	P.J.Swain	T.Beable
Seconds:	J.S.Mackie	D.Till	J.Tindall	J Fisher
Leads:	JJ.Rees	E.J.Keene	CJ.Thistle	Dr Thomas

*(The Second team had not yet been formed. The above game was lost by 54 to 114, Ed)*

In May 1909 the Committee agreed to widely advertise the Single Handed Championship Competition to be held by the Dinas Powis Club.

They also came up with the suggestion that 6 Skips be nominated for each game with the 4 that play being drawn by ballot. This idea was dropped because there was a shortage of names.

A pairs tournament was arranged and drawn by ballot.

The first fixture against a 'foreign' side took place on 31st July 1909 with the visit of Weston Victoria.

*(Fixtures both home and away against Weston Victoria figured heavily in the Club's early days. I was told by some very long standing members that the favoured mode of transport for these away fixtures were Taxis to Pier Head and White Funnel Steamer to Weston, then by Taxi to the Victoria ground. Ed)*

### **Annual General Meeting for 1909**

The Annual General Meeting of the Club held at Marlborough Road School on the 4th February 1910 indicated that the democratic will of the membership prevailed. A Standing Order put forward by the Management Committee which dictated the number of persons to sit on that Committee was voted down and "referred back to them with protest, and this General Meeting will elect such number on the Bowling Committee as they see fit".

Prizes to the following members were presented for the 1909 season:

#### **The First Club Champion**

Mr J. Tindall                      Runner up - Dr. Thomas

#### **The First Pairs Champions**

W. Goodfellow & W. Smith              Runners up - J. Bulman & C. J. Thistle

#### **The First International Player**

Mr W. Edwards (1909)

Six League matches had been played with 2 won and 4 lost.

A Championship Board was to be erected in the Club Pavilion.

Henceforth all Annual General Meetings would be held on the 1st Friday in October.

A proposal to set aside one rink for the use of Ladies was defeated.

A change was made in the Pairs Competition for 1910 and a handicap introduced.

“Entry fee one shilling - 21 points up - Maximum handicaps (receive 8 - owe 5)”.

*(The pairs competition for 1910 was subsequently deferred and finally cancelled due to ‘the congested state of the Green’. Ed)*

No more than 3 rinks be available for Competitions and no Competitions to be played on Saturdays when Club Matches were being played.

On the 13th September 1910 permission was granted for a match to be played on Wednesday 14th September in which Ladies would participate.

### **An Open Tournament (The Proposal)**

The Club Management Committee, on 17th September 1910, recommended to the Bowling Committee that an open pairs competition be held the following year.

The Bowling Committee amended this recommendation and proposed to put before the next Annual General Bowling Meeting that a Singles Open Tournament be held in 1911.

### **Annual General Meeting of Bowlers 1910**

Mr Charles Hardwicke, Captain for the season 1910, presided over an attendance of over 50 members at the Annual General Meeting of Bowlers on October 7th 1910, held in the Penylan Pavilion.

During the past season 45 members had represented the Club in matches and of these 13 had played Skip. Of the 14 matches played, 6 had been won and 8 lost. In the 6 league matches played 460 points had been scored with 498 against. The other matches played were 8 friendlies, 4 being won and 4 lost.

Henceforth, all sections of the Club would select representatives on to Management Committee.

A Second Team shall be formed for the 1911 season. Mr Wignall to act as Secretary.

A recommendation to Management Committee was carried “that Ladies be allowed to play on the Green”

*(It appears Management did not take up this recommendation. Ed)*

A motion “that the Captain be allowed to select his Vice-Captain” was rejected.

Three interesting internal fixtures were proposed by the Bowling Committee for 1911. They were:

- a. Captain's -v- Vice-Captain's Team
- b. 'Commercials' -v- The rest of the Club
- Cc. Juniors (under 40) -v- Seniors (over 40)

It was proposed to hold a rinks Competition during Coronation week.

Entrance fees to Club Competitions was increased from One Shilling to Two Shillings.

### **The Open Bowling Tournament ( The Establishment)**

A Sub Committee of seven members were co-opted to assist in running this Competition.

1. The August Bowling Tournament was to be called "The Penylan Open Bowling Tournament".
2. To be held on the Saturday before Bank Holiday and during Bank Holiday week.
3. Entry fee each Competitor 5 Shillings.
4. Admission fees to the Green during Tournament:

1st,2nd and final days -	Gents 1s 0d	Ladies 6d
Weekly season tickets -	Gents 2s 6d	Ladies 1s 6d
Other days -	Gents and Ladies 6d each	

Competitors and Members free entry ;

Club Members privilege to bring visitors to the Green suspended during Tournament.

#### **Prizes.**

1st Value	15 Guineas	2nd Value	7 Guineas
3rd Value	3 Guineas	4th Value	3 Guineas

Four other prizes (each to the value Half-a-Guinea to runner up of each section).

200 Posters and sufficient entry forms were ordered.

The Welsh Bowling Association were informed of this Tournament.

Mr T.W.Rees of Amesbury Road was prepared to give £5. 0s 0d for full rights to prepare and sell the Tournament Programme and receive all profit thereon. This was accepted.

The draw for the inaugural tournament was to be made on 2nd August 1911 and representatives from Cardiff and Mackintosh Bowling Clubs were invited to witness the Draw. The Reverend C. Joshua was also invited to represent the Public Green Clubs.



Some newspaper reports of the early Open Tournaments are in the Club's possession and are available for members to view and these make interesting reading. The Press were particularly enamoured with a Mr Johnny Pillans of the Carluke Club, Scotland, who was Runner up in the 1912 Tournament. He is described as "a crack bowler" and "a star man" and his games are reported almost bowl by bowl. *(He had a large reputation and was loved by the press, but he never won the Penylan Tournament. Ed)*

The Western Mail of 20th May 1912 reports a Penylan victory in a Welsh Association league match against Radyr by 141 shots to 35 shots. This being a record for a four rink league game at that time.

That same week the same paper reported a Penylan defeat by St Fagans, who were "helped" by the efforts of the Rt Hon The Earl of Plymouth and Lord Windsor. *(The St Fagans selectors were clearly not overawed by rank as both their Lordships played at third. Ed)*

These Penylan bowlers had the week before been hailed as heroes when the Western Mail of the 15th May 1912 reported:

"Some bowlers playing on the Penylan green on Tuesday evening observed flames in the neighbourhood of the Roath Laundry. They stopped play immediately and ran to the fire. Climbing a wall, they discovered that a big pile of clothes hampers were alight against the wall, and at once toppled them over. Police Constable Harold Breese arrived, and the flames were put out soon after the appearance of the tender from central station'.

### **The First Member to be Scratched.**

31st July 1911 - 'Mr A. E. Rale for failing to arrange to play a game by the stated date. Mr. Randall to be given a walk over'. *(Clearly, rules were meant to be kept. Ed)*

A collection was taken up for the Groundsman (Duthie) which looked like it would come to over £2. 0s 0d. A recommendation was sent to the Management Committee to pay the Groundsman double wages for Tournament week and also pay for any outside labour engaged.

### **The First Open Tournament Winner**

Winner - P. Thomas (Mackintosh)

Runner Up - J. Robinson (Newcastle upon Tyne)

It would appear that the Runners-up prize of a Tea and Coffee set was exchanged for a Case of Cutlery at Mr Robinson's request.

On the 30th of September an internal match between the 'Commercial Travellers' versus 'The Rest of the Club' was played.

*(The season seemed to last from mid May until the end of September or even into October. Ed)*

During 1913 the Club continues to pay amounts of money in rents to 'the Company'. An organisation of members calling themselves 'The Wizards' was set up to 'organise musical evenings and social intercourse between club members'. The Club held its Annual General Meeting on the 7th November.

### **The First President and Vice Presidents.**

President -	The Rt Hon Lord Tredegar VC
Vice-Presidents	Lord Ninian Stuart MP The Lord Mayor Alderman Sir J. W. Courtis Alderman C. H. Bird Messrs. F. Fifoot, T. Morgan, Dr Thomas McKelvey

Club fees were increased to £1. 5s. 0d for Gents for Bowls and Tennis and £1.5s. 0d for Ladies for Tennis.

1914 saw a further £84.19s. 3d being paid to the company in Rents.

Refilling of the ditches was authorised and 2 tons of pebbles were purchased at a cost of 25 shillings per ton.

Later in 1914 the resignation of Mr R.Douthwaite was demanded "due to his conduct on the green". Police Superintendent Bingham was also contacted to see if the matter had been reported to the authorities.

*(Whatever could he have done? Ed)*

The Annual General Meeting of 1915 decided that all members serving in His Majesties forces at war should not pay subscriptions for this year and the Hon Secretary was instructed to prepare a Roll of Honour of all members serving in the forces and special police.

Mr R. Duthie the Groundsman since the opening season was awarded a pay rise of 3s 0d per week. *(I have given him the title of Mr as all through the minutes he is always referred to as just plain Duthie. Ed)*

It was also resolved that "the membership fee for 1915 (only) be reduced to 10s 0d, 'in view of all the circumstances and the war etc'.

In March 1916 the tennis courts were fenced with wire fencing "except the Sandringham Road side". Each member of Management Committee to contribute the sum of 10s 0d to cover this cost.

In May further payments of £50. 0s 0d and £100. 0s 0d were paid to the Company to cover rent.

The Club decided to entertain 20 wounded soldiers from Albany Road and Splott Road Military Hospitals. A subscription list posted on the Notice Board had a good response.

The War cast heavy shadow over the club and for the 1917 season all membership fees were waived 'in view of the endurance of the war'. All revenues from Whist Drives etc, were donated to the local Military Hospitals. The club purchased packets of cigarettes which were sent to members serving in the forces. Bath chairs were purchased and distributed to all local Military Hospitals. Proposals to relay the green and the painting of the premises were deferred. On the brighter side bowling teas were to be introduced. These could be provided under the food regulations at a charge of 6d per head.

A Sub-Committee was set up to investigate the possibility of purchasing the interest of the Company in the ground and pavilion.

In March 1918 it was decided to offer Mr Duthie, the Green Keeper since the inception of the club, the following terms of payment. A weekly sum of £2. 5s 0d this reducing to £1. 0s. 0d per week in the close season. If these terms were refused then the Secretary was authorised to increase the offer to £2.10s 0d per week. Mr Duthie refused both offers and it was resolved to employ a new Groundsman in his place. A new man was employed, but less than a month later Mr Duthie was reinstated with the offer of a deputy to assist him.

Fees for 1918 were again waived and contact was maintained with the local "Food Controller" regarding supplies for match teas.

The Secretary of The Penylan Pavilion and Ground Co Ltd wrote requesting that the club put in writing its proposals for the suggested reconstruction scheme.

Whist Drive monies amounting to £35. 4s 1d were handed over to the "Starving Prisoner of War Fund".

The new Assistant Groundsman, Bray, would work under the direction of Mr Duthie who would supervise the new man in his main duty of "scything" the green. His wage would be £2. 0s 0d per week.

On the 16th May 1918, at the written request of 27 members, a Special General Meeting of the Club was held to discuss the purchase of the whole of the interest of the Penylan Pavilion and Ground Co Ltd.

A provisional offer of £305. 0s 0d had been made covering the Pavilion and remaining period of lease, with the Club taking over the Company's current liabilities of about £84. 0s 0d. An overdraft was to be arranged with our bankers for this sum guaranteed by certain club members. It was resolved to proceed on this basis.

Ten days later the overdraft was in place and a large number of members came forward as guarantors.

It was, therefore, in June 1918 that the Penylan members took ownership of the club, albeit on a leasehold basis, that lease being held by the Tredegar Estate.

As the Great War drew to an end the club turned a brave face to the future. Old rules were amended and new rules drawn up. The Croquet lawn was voted out of existence. Plans for new paths and surrounds for the green were put into effect. Mr St Leger presented the Club with new tennis nets and the Bowls scoreboard was painted. The Tennis sections membership was capped at 100 members as membership numbers rocketed. In one single month 22 new Tennis members joined together with 14 new Bowlers. A waiting list now existed for entry into all sections of the Club.

*(It was at this time, early 1919, that all the Bath Chairs that had been distributed annually throughout the war to the Military Hospitals were returned to the club. This plethora of wheel chairs were re-distributed to four local churches and St Dunstons. Ed)*

By 1920 some new portable structures had been erected. The entrance fee was now £2. 2s. 0d with subscriptions increased to ladies £1. 7s 6d, Gents £2. 2s 0d, but it was resolved that all Ministers of Religion officiating within one mile radius of the Club be admitted free and only pay half subscription.

1921 saw the Club entertain the New Zealand touring side and photographs were taken of this event. The AGM for this year also saw a vote of thanks to Mr Chas St Leger for the handsome profit shown on the sale of mineral water on club premises. Bowls membership stood at 135 and Tennis at 84. The green was "probed" and dressed with sheep's manure. Mr John Duthie, Groundsman since 1909, retired and was elected a member of the Club. Mr Naylor, his successor, died and the post was advertised.

In 1922 the green was completely re-furbished with a layer of clay being removed from below the surface. The work was carried out by Mr Robert Proven of Glasgow at a cost of £180. 0s.0d. The bank balance of the club was £240. 0s. 0d.

Electric light was installed during 1923 at a cost of £7. 7s 0d. Massive problems with the greens playing surface manifested themselves. Experts were brought in from various parts of the country to try and find a solution as this was the first year that chemical feeds had been used as opposed to the animal manures used in the past. The advice of Mr James MacDonald, Grass Specialist, of Harpenden, Herts. was taken and his plans implemented with the assistance of Groundsmen borrowed from a number of local Clubs. It appears the green was brought back to standard. At the end of the year it was to club member, Mr John Duthie, Former Groundsman, that the Club awarded an honorarium of £5. 0s 0d. for his assistance in resolving the problems with the bowling green.

Winter social activities continued to be run as a separate section and during 1924 new arrangement regarding rent and lighting costs were agreed with the section secretary Mr Sidney Parr. The

General meeting for that year reported a profit despite the large outlay on green expenditure. The Club sent a donation of £5.5s.0d to The Royal Infirmary Building Fund. The meeting also resolved to approach the Ground Landlord, Lord Tredegar, regarding securing the freehold or extending the Lease for a much longer period. It was also agreed that once the freehold had been secured consideration could be given to building substantial permanent premises on the site.

In May 1926 the old clubhouse was broken into and, Mr H.Hayes, the son of a member, was badly mauled and had his personal effects damaged, in trying to arrest the intruder. The Club compensated Mr Hayes in the sum of 5 Guineas and paid his medical bills. The behaviour of the Police in not having Mr Hayes medically treated was reported to the Club President, Alderman A. J. Howell who would take the matter up with the Watch Committee (Police Authority).

The Committee were pursuing the extension of the Club Lease for a further 21 years.

At a special meeting of members it was decided to relay the green with Cumberland sea washed turf at a cost of £395.

At the AGM of 1928 Mr Robert H. Coath was elected as Treasurer. He was to serve the Club in this position and that of President for a further 44 years until his death in 1972.

During the 1928 season it was decided to change Tennis Court number 2 from grass to a hard surface court. Also in that season Mr Thomas Mackenzie, the Club's founder, was made a life member.

Following a severe gale on the 16th November 1928 an emergency meeting was called to assess the damage done. All palings on the club house and surrounds were destroyed together with wire netting and fencing and it was resolved to replace the fencing with corrugated steel fencing.

Objections were received from residents to the erection of these fences and both the Agent for the Tredegar Estate and the City Engineer intervened on behalf of the residents. Both parties were told that if the residents wished to contribute the sum of £25. 0s. 0d, being the loss sustained by the Club in cancelling the contract, then erection would cease. As no payments were forthcoming the fence was built.

In view of the gale and its aftermath the Club took out insurance on the premises for the first time.

In 1929 a second tennis court was converted to hard surface. A further improvement took place in 1931 with the club house being extended by some 16 square feet at a cost of £16. 12s. 0d. A new Lease for 21 years was signed at this time.

The Club's Solicitor was instructed to proceed to court for recovery of outstanding subscriptions from one member in the sum of £10. 10s .0d. Alderman A.J.Howell, the President, passed away in 1932 and a rule change followed combining the positions of Club Chairman and Club President.

It was not until 1934 that a letter was received from Tredegar Estates indicating that they were prepared to allow the Lease to be purchased by the Club. A valuation was to be carried out by an independent Valuer appointed by the Estate and his fees were to be paid for by the Club even if an agreed sale did not come about. This was agreed by the Club on 11th September 1934.

On the 22nd of October it was reported that progress was being made on the purchase of lease negotiations and an Architect was consulted on the building of a new Pavilion. Mr Jones of Messrs Edwards and Jones, Architects, 10, Edwards Terrace attended a meeting on the 19th November and explained that the proposed building would be more costly to erect on the Sandringham Road side of the site and recommended that it be built on Marlborough Road Lane. Plans were received on the 3rd December and exhibited in the Pavilion.

The Annual General Meeting of 1st February 1935 approved a motion for purchase of the freehold for the sum of £987. 0s 0d, plus legal and valuation costs.

The proposal for a new building was referred back to Management for further discussion. The AGM elected seven members from the floor of the meeting to join Management for the careful examination of this proposal and they were instructed to report back to a Special General Meeting. The seven members elected were Messrs J. Duggan, S. Parr, S. Jones Snr, C. E. Phillips, T. Dunford and J. Hopkins.

By April, the promissory notes from members [*see Appendices A and B. Ed*] amounted to £672. 0s 0d and the building programme could not immediately proceed. A letter had been received from The Carpenters Arms Air Rifle Club expressing an interest in purchasing the old pavilion. It was at this time, in April 1935, that the Club Solicitors advised that confirmation had been received from Tredegar Estates of transfer of the lease in the sum of £987. 0s 0d plus £20. 0s 0d legal fees.

Further loans by members increased the total to £700.0s 0d and Lloyds Bank agreed to support the scheme with a further £800. 0s 0d loan and it was now decided to proceed. Quotations for building work were obtained from A.E Ward (£2,325), O. C. Hoskins (£1,370 , if the structure be built at the level of the present Pavilion or £1,438, if built at lane level).

It was agreed to accept the quote by O.C.Hoskins and to proceed once the plans had received the approval of Cardiff Corporation and Tredegar Estates.

At the AGM on the 7th February 1936 members were requested to remove all their belongings as it was expected that the present building would be demolished before the end of the month.

Meetings in March and April 1936 were held at Sidney Jones Garage in Albany Road, but on the 22nd April the committee met in the new Pavilion. The chairs for this meeting had to be borrowed and the first items authorised for purchase were two table tennis tables with Mr. St Leger donating a piano.

The Official Opening of the new Club House took place on 30th June 1936 and was carried out by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Alderman G. Fred Evans. Also in attendance were the Presidents of the Welsh

Bowling Association, Private Greens Association and Glamorgan County Bowling Association. The guests of honour were Mr W .T. Morgan, First Chairman and Trustee of the Club in 1908 and Mr and Mrs O. Temple Morris.

In September 1936 the Committee decided to recommend to the Annual General Meeting that the Club apply for a licence to sell alcoholic refreshment. They also received a letter from Miss L. M. Duggan, 55, Marlborough Road complaining about the parking of motor vehicles outside her house. *[So parking was a problem in 1936! Ed]*

In October 1936, 20 members of the Tennis Section forced the calling of a Special General Meeting on the proposal that "The courts be opened for Sunday play". The meeting accepted the proposal by 44 votes to 28. At the following Management Meeting seven resignations, including that of the Lord Mayor, were received on account of the decision to allow Sunday tennis. *[These resignations were subsequently withdrawn, but clearly what was seen as a breaking of the fourth commandment brought about a furious reaction. Ed]*

The years leading up to 1939 were uneventful and it is only then that the "National Crisis" which became the second World War enters the records of minutes. The ladies tennis room was requisitioned by the Government for use as an Air Raid Wardens room and despite the new "black-out" regulations it was decided the Winter social activities should continue.

The heating of the Club would be affected by the introduction of coke rationing with the Club requesting extra rations because of the Air Raid Wardens use of the premises.

For the 1940 season all members serving in His Majesty's forces would be granted free membership.

The Special General Meeting of 05 October *(see Appendices. Ed)* resulted in agreement that all members subscribe to a "War Levy" to replace loss of income from Whist Drives etc., which could no longer be held. The levy, payable before December 1940 amounted to Bowlers £1.1s.0d; Social £1.1s.0d; Tennis (men) 10s 6d and Tennis (ladies) 5s.0d.

It was at this meeting that the gentlemen's dress code on the green was emphasised - no member be allowed to play without blazer and waistcoat.

Cardiff Warship week was also supported by the Club.

The AGM on 04 March 1942 stood in silence in memory to a member - Mr Bert Rich - whose son was killed whilst on military service.

In April 1942 it was decided that members of the forces may have use of the tennis courts on payment of a fee of 7s 6d per month - members limited to twelve. The lockers in the ARP post had been appropriated by the Wardens and the return of these would be requested.

The Lord Mayor, writing on behalf of the Anglo-Soviet Friendship Council asking for donations to raise £1500.0s.0d for an X-Ray machine for Russia. Those present at the Committee meeting

immediately contributed £8.8s.0d and a fund was opened. A month later the fund stood at £27.10s.7d.

In October 1942 a protected Air Raid shelter was built adjacent to the Air Raid Wardens room. This was done at the request of Mr Kelvin Rees, Town Clerk.

A retirement gift in the sum of £1.1s.0d was given as a Christmas Gift to the Groundsman Mr Prosser and his wife.

Requests for rebate of subscriptions came in from members who were being called for National Service and this was agreed to.

The 34th AGM held on 03 March 1943 recorded the deaths of a number of Club members and also those posted missing whilst on active service. Amongst those deceased was Mr Alf Richards, Club Secretary and Captain elect for 1943.

Mrs Richards was to wear the Club Captain's badge for 1943 in her husband's name.

In September 1943 the Club caused controversy by asking three Jamaican visitors to leave the premises when they came in search of a game of tennis at the invitation of the Club's Groundsman. At this time appeals had been issued by the Government and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff to welcome Colonial visitors to Britain from Countries whose Soldiers were fighting alongside our own. A letter of protest was received by the Club [*see Appendices. Ed*] and an article and cartoon appeared in the local Press. The Management Committee had to write to H.M. Colonial Secretary, the Lord Mayor, the local MP Sir Walter Grigg and the Western Mail before the matter was resolved.

In early 1945 the air raid shelter was removed and the ARP Wardens, in appreciation of the Club's kindness shown to the Wardens during the years of conflict, presented the Club with a "Wireless Receiving Set".

The Club installed a short mat green in 1946 to compete with the highly successful St Margaret's Church Short Green Club.

The introduction of a Club Members evening was proposed in 1949 with silver plate spoons being presented to each player in the winning rink. Fourteen dozen spoons at £1.2s.6d per dozen were ordered together with a die stamp with the Club emblem.

During annual tournament week in 1950 an occasional License for the sale of alcohol was applied for. The refreshments to be served from a marquee erected at one end of tennis court number 3. Discussion began on the suitability of the Club obtaining a full License. It was agreed that Wm Hancock & Co., Ltd., would operate the occasional License with the Club receiving 6% of the bar profits during tournament week.

On 08 November 1950 a Special General Meeting with 124 Members in attendance voted by 78 to 34 votes that the Club should obtain a full License for the sale of beer, wine and spirits.



A plan to purchase 32 Sandringham Road for the purpose of housing the Groundsman so that his cottage could be converted into a licensed premises was abandoned. It was accepted that the bar would have to be housed in the main body of the building which was currently used as the billiard room and that a new hut (costing £250) would have to be built to facilitate billiards.

The AGM of February 1951 approved the building of this hut and installation of the bar at a total cost of £750.00. The City Council rejected the plans for the hut but would approve a plan which would cost £450.00.

The bar opened in June 1951 with Mr Caradog Davies being in charge of sales at a wage of £2. 0s.0d. per week.

During the remainder of the decade the Club continued to improve its facilities. Shower units in the Tennis changing rooms were updated. The small dispense bar in the main hall was altered and decorated.

In 1961 a full decoration of the hall, entrance porch and inner lobby was carried out by J C Merrett (Builders) Ltd at a cost of £124.6s.0d.

Disaster struck in 1962 when the Groundsman treated the green with weed killer instead of fertiliser. Most of the Private Clubs in South Wales offered the use of their greens during the recovery period.

The sum of £105. 0s.0d. was dropped in the lane by the person doing the Club's banking. The money was found by three small boys from Tremorfa who returned it and received £15. 0s.0d. for their honesty.

Gaming machines had been installed and were bringing in additional income. After the annual License fee of £75 had been paid a large surplus was being accumulated from the fruit machines.

In 1964 some alterations to the bar area together with new changing rooms and showers for the Tennis section were undertaken. The tennis changing rooms to occupy the former Billiards Room.

During 1969 the Club was enclosed for the first time by solid walls, albeit breeze blocks were used. The Club withheld £700 of the payment to the Builders as the work was not up to specification.

The next major improvement occurred in 1973 when the Trustees authorised expenditure of up to £4,000 which would allow the Management Committee to pursue plans for a major extension of the Club lounge. This would entail including the outside veranda area into the lounge area. Initial plans were drawn up.

Work on the alterations commenced in August 1973. The main hall was utilised as a bar area until the lounge extension was opened by President Stan Thorne on Saturday 06 October 1973. The total cost to the Club amounted to £6,475 and the Contractors were Messrs Swatbridge & Sons.

In October 1974, on the instructions of the Trustees, the Club instigated negotiations to purchase 53 Marlborough Road for use as accommodation by Club staff. The purchase was completed in December 1974 with the purchase price being £8,750.

All three tennis courts were re-laid with red ash in 1976 at a cost of £3,500. Following the further re-laying of the Tennis Courts in the mid 1980s which was funded by substantial loans obtained during the 1987/88 period, the Club found itself in a serious trading deficit situation.

It was decided that following the grant work which had been completed by the Club on the house at 53 Marlborough Road that the property would be sold. Each of the two flats would be sold as separate entities at an opportune time in the future.

Members were invited to purchase Membership for a number of years in advance to increase the Club's cash flow.

In September 1989 initial discussions were began with one of Wales' premier Bridge Clubs with a view to amalgamation. At a Special General Meeting held on 20 December 1989 it was decided that the long standing Badminton section would in future play at a venue away from the Club. A motion that "Cardiff Bridge Club be incorporated into the Club and become a new section of the Club" was carried.

In February 1990 the boundary wall on the Sandringham Road side of the Club collapsed in its full length and had to be replaced by a brick built wall.

*(Minutes 1994 to 1996 not available Ed)*

In 1995 a Ladies Bowling Section was formed and has since prospered.

The August 1998 Minutes record that at this mid Season point the Tennis Section Membership numbered 13 full Members and 13 Junior Members. Grave concern was being expressed about the viable future of the Section.

By the following Season the Tennis Section which had played a large and important role in the life of Penylan had ceased to exist.

The AGM of 1999 saw a substantial increase in subscription fees to compensate for the loss of income from the Tennis Section.

In May 1999 Management consulted an Architect regarding the use of the now defunct tennis courts.

It was proposed by Management to sell the former tennis courts for the building of flats. This was rejected by the Membership at the 2002 Annual General Meeting.

As we move towards our Centenary year the main lounge was extended to include the television room and the whole area was refurbished.

A new category of Membership was devised and there was a large response from local residents who joined as non-voting Associate Members.

Now the Club has been in existence for 100 years. It has survived two World Wars and regular periods of financial turbulence. It has protected the integrity of its original boundaries and the use for which its Founders intended.

We give thanks for the dedication, over the years, of those Members and Staff who have served the Club in whatever capacity so enabling generations to enjoy its facilities.

*Extracted from the Minutes by G Richie Evans Trustee*

PENYLAN SOCIETY

## TENNIS CLUB.

APPEAL - A-B

23rd February, 1935.

DEAR SIR (or MADAM),

In the Notice you are receiving herewith, you will observe the unanimous recommendations of the Joint Committee you appointed at the Annual General Meeting, as to the amended scale of subscriptions necessary to place the Club's finances on a sound footing, together with the increased liabilities consequent upon the acquisition of the Freehold, as well as alternative proposals to give effect to the decision at the same Meeting to build a permanent Pavilion.

As your President and Chairman I am venturing to make a personal appeal to you all for practical support and ask your indulgence to place before you a few facts.

It is now just about twenty-seven years since the Club was started, and the pioneers of the Club then took their courage in both hands when they took over a piece of land in a district undeveloped, with the idea of preserving the same for the purposes of our sport, and provided the necessary funds. Whilst the original lease was only for a period of twenty-one years, the Club was fortunate in obtaining a renewal for another period at the same nominal rental.

From time to time the question of building a Pavilion worthy of the Penylan Club has been mooted, only to be shelved, but recently a more insistent demand has arisen, and for some months your Management Committee has had the matter under discussion; realising that this was not practicable unless we had an extended lease, or better still, possessed the Freehold, negotiations were opened with the Tredegar Estate, resulting, as you know, in our having practically completed the purchase. The Joint Committee has thoroughly probed into every side of the question, and their recommendations are placed before you, with every confidence they are sound and workable, and that the cost to the individual is kept at the lowest, compatible with the facilities the Club offers. The increase in subscription is very little individually, and bearing in mind we shall then possess premises not surpassed and rarely equalled in any other Club in the neighbourhood, I feel assured the Members will whole-heartedly support the Proposal.

As one of the original Members of the Club, may I suggest the Members have here a golden opportunity of showing their appreciation of what was done so long ago, and will realise we are now doing something which will preserve the Club for all time as far as we are able to.

I hope you will make a Special effort to be present at the Meeting, and that each and every one will be prepared, according as their means will permit, to loan the Club such money as will be necessary to carry on the Scheme. If we can be assured of the Loan of £1,000, surely not a large sum divided amongst so many, especially as Four per Cent. Interest will be paid, then the Committee will be encouraged to go on with the work forthwith. As you are aware, I have the best interests of the Club and its Members at heart, as I think I have evidenced over the long years of my association, and I am hoping that EVERY MEMBER will endeavour to be present at this SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING on MONDAY, MARCH 4th.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK H. LLEWELLYN

*President and Chairman.*

N.B.—A SPECIAL EFFORT, PLEASE,  
TO ATTEND.

TYGWYN CRESCENT,  
PENYLAN HILL,  
CARDIFF.

February 23rd, 1935.

Dear Sir (or Madam),

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club will be held at THE MARLBOROUGH ROAD SCHOOL, MARLBOROUGH ROAD, CARDIFF, on MONDAY, MARCH 4TH, 1935, at 7.30 p.m. sharp, to consider the recommendations of the Special Committee appointed at the General Meeting held on Friday, February 1st, 1935.

The following alterations of the Club Rules will be proposed:—

RULE 8. Delete the first paragraph and substitute either of the following:—

A. The Annual Subscription shall be: Gentlemen, for Bowling £3 0 0; Tennis £2 5 0; Bowling and Tennis combined £3 10 0; Ladies: Tennis £1 17 6.

or alternatively, if the New Pavilion Building Scheme be accepted—

B. The Annual Subscription shall be: Gentlemen, for Bowling £3 3 0; Tennis £2 5 0; Bowling and Tennis combined £3 10 0; Ladies: Tennis £1 17 6; Social Members £1 1 0; Present Non-Playing Members (Summer only) 10s.6d. Additional Subscription Bowling and Tennis Members to cover Social Section £1 1 0.

Should the alteration B be accepted and carried, before the Committee can proceed with any Building Scheme, it will be necessary for the members to provide a certain amount of money, and the minimum has been fixed at £1,000.

It is proposed to invite loans from the members in multiples of £1, for which promissory notes will be issued, and the same will bear interest at the rate of 4% per annum. Such loans to be redeemed as the Trustees' think expedient or by resolution of the members at an Annual General Meeting.

In order to put the above into effect, the Meeting will elect by ballot five members of the Club to act as Trustees, in whom shall be vested all the property and assets of the Club.

To provide the balance funds necessary to complete the scheme, the Trustees shall be empowered to borrow from the Banks or any other source, giving as security a Mortgage on the Club's property.

The following alterations of Rules will also be proposed:—

"That Rule 14 shall be suspended, and the Management Committee be authorised to make such temporary alterations of the Rules, including one to provide for the appointment and powers of Trustees to carry on the affairs of the Club until the next General Meeting."

In view of the very important business to be considered I am to make a special request that every member will attend.

Yours faithfully,

G. WALTER LLOYD,  
*Hon. Secretary.*



# Penylan Bowling & Lawn Tennis Club.

1, MARLBOROUGH ROAD,  
ROATH PARK,  
CARDIFF.

*26th September, 1940.*

Dear Sir (or Madam)

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING  
will be held at the Club Pavilion on Saturday,  
5th October, 1940, at 6.30 p.m.

The business is to consider how the  
Club is to be maintained during the present war.

It will be appreciated by all members  
that the present circumstances present very serious  
financial difficulties, which have to be faced. As  
the subject to be discussed is of the utmost im-  
portance, I trust you will make every effort to  
be present.

Yours faithfully,

ROBT. H. COATH,

*Hon. General Secretary.*

APP - D

THE COLONIAL CENTRE,  
136, BUTE STREET,  
CARDIFF.

8th. September 1943.

Mr. W. Sanders, Hon. Gen. Secretary,  
Penylan Bowling & Lawn Tennis Club,  
4, Minster Road,  
CARDIFF.

Dear Sir,

For some time I have been seeking a Club with which I could be affiliated. The Management of the Welsh Sports Stores, who has come to know me quite well, commended your Club to me. I spoke with your Mr. Prosser on the 'phone from the Welsh Sports Stores and he invited me up to meet you. Unfortunately you did not attend the Club that evening. I need not make any inference; it should be obvious that those who know your Club thought that I was the kind of person you would welcome there.

I visited your Club on Friday with the hope of meeting you. I did not see you and so I was informed that I might meet you there the following day. As I expected to be there, I asked if I could have a game of Tennis, and Mr. Prosser promised to speak to a member who would entertain me at Tennis. On Saturday morning I 'phoned your Club and learned that everything was arranged, that I could bring a friend and could stay to tea. I now learn from you that Mr. Prosser exceeded his authority in his exercise of goodwill.

In coming to your Club I also had in mind the National Appeal by the Secretary of State to the Colonies, that there should be better understanding between the British People and the Colonials, of which I am one. This Appeal had the sanction and support of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, who himself has graced the Colonial Centre and the Colonial Community, and has expressed his goodwill.

There were over 100 people in your Club who saw me and two of my associates enter the Club on Saturday. We were escorted to the Dressing Room where you subsequently met us. We left as gentlemen should, but certainly hurt that our willingness to express goodwill towards the English Community was not reciprocated.

I am led to wonder if your attitude is a true expression of your Club. I know it is a private Club, and I have had experience with distinguished private Clubs here in England and at home in the West Indies and as an executive of our Club in Jamaica, I have had to compromise rigid principle to accommodate Englishmen. I now see our goodwill towards foreigners in the Colonies is not reciprocated here. If your attitude is an expression of your Club's attitude, then I must conclude that I would be uncomfortable in my associations there, for I am as easily embarrassed by crude contact, as you could ever be embarrassed by my complexion.

I am reporting this incident to the Lord Mayor and to the Secretary of State, that they may see what happens when Colonials in England respond to a National Appeal of great importance.

Yours sincerely,

*Edward Lewis*

The Lord Mayor

For Colonial Secretary

The Western Mail

Cardiff, E. M. D. N. S. Public Office