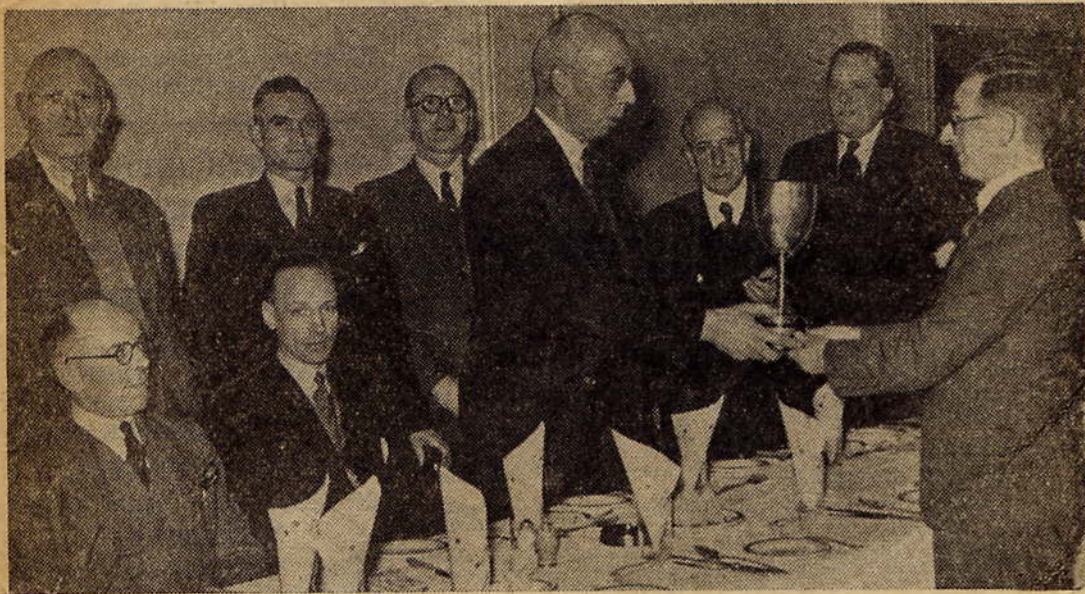


TAMWORTH CASTLE BOWLING CLUB DINNER



"If we can only capture in our daily life, at work and at play, the spirit of true sportsmanship, as depicted in the game of bowls, I am sure we shall again lead the world, in the not far distant future," said the Mayor of Tamworth (Councillor H. V. Powell), principal speaker at the Castle Bowling Club's annual dinner and presentation of prizes, on Monday evening.

The President (Mr. L. W. Batkin) presided, supported by the Vice-President (Mr. H. Dymond), Captain (Mr. E. S. Thompson), Vice-Captain (Mr. E. T. Grent), Secretary (Mr. F. Whitehead), and Treasurer (Mr. J. W. Parker).

One of the Oldest

The Mayor was toasting the club and its officers. He said he understood the club was one of the oldest sporting organisations in the town. Its membership included many prominent citizens and representatives of all walks of life enjoyed that social recreation which the club provided.

The club was celebrating a very successful playing season and had upheld the name of Tamworth against its many opponents. He congratulated all concerned.

A happy spirit of comradeship was necessary for success at anything, particularly sport, and that was surely true of the Castle Bowling Club. To have

built up such a fine club was due in no small measure to the very able team of officials.

The game of bowls, said the Mayor in conclusion, was one of the oldest of British sports and one at which we could at least hold our own in the sporting world.

Replying, the President said he felt it his duty to recall to all members that, but for the untimely interference of "the man with the sickle," there would have been present one, who by his service to the club as vice-captain, captain and vice-president showed how great was his interest—Mr. S. Skerritt.

The President called upon the members to stand in silence—"in memory of a real sportsman."

Although it was a great honour to be an old club, he continued, it was a still greater honour to possess a sense of comradeship which the club had always had and would always retain. It was their keynote.

The club had had a really fine season. The weather had been grand and the green played exceptionally well, thanks to Mr. J. Talbot, the groundsman, and Mr. S. S. Smith.

A Fine Spirit

During the war the club had to do without inter-club matches and developed a parochial outlook, which died out with the return of peace.

Great hospitality had been enjoyed in away matches and he had been very pleased to see

members matching that spirit on their own green.

The club won ten out of 14 games last season but it was not the result of the match that mattered so much as the real social spirit it inspired.

Proposing the toast of the visitors, the Captain said his team had always found their opponents "jolly good sports."

Messrs. J. W. Davies (Royal Sutton), Fancote (Goldeslie), A. Hazel (Wylde Green), Dixon (Boldmere and Wylde Green) and Handley (Erdington Conservatives) replied.

"The Ashes"

Maker of the casket containing the "Ashes," for which Wylde Green and the Castle club battle annually and which were retained at Tamworth this year, Mr. Hazel spoke of enjoyable visits to "your delightful little cemetery," and compared visiting clubs to lambs doomed for slaughter. He hoped the club would maintain its present high position.

The President presented the following prizes:—President's prize, J. Lycett; vice-president's prize, F. Bills; captain's prize, W. B. Ross; vice-captain's prize, F. Whitehead; championship trophy, R. Brain; runner-up, P. Brain.

The artistes were Alan Bromley (baritone), Frank Cardoe (comedian) and Billy Godderidge (pianoforte), introduced by Mr. P. Matthias.

My parents gave me this cutting in 2003. From using dates in the Classified Section on the reverse, I think it is November 1949. Reg and Percy are mentioned in the penultimate paragraph, with Reg collecting a trophy in the photo.

Courtesy of the *Tamworth Herald*



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