

## Coolangatta Bowls Club History

1921

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1991

Coolangatta Bowls Club's history commenced with the formation of the Tweed Heads and Coolangatta Bowling Club, in 1921. This club was sited on crown land in Coral Street, Tweed Heads adjacent to the mouth of the Tweed river. With only one green it prospered, and after some twenty-five years, formed a satellite club in Coolangatta, before harmoniously dissolving on the last day of 1948 to form two new clubs of Coolangatta and Tweed Heads.

The original club was formed at a meeting held in the School of Arts, Navigation Lane, Tweed Heads in the afternoon of Wednesday, 11th. May, 1921 - Chaired by Mr. Sid Thornton, "it was resolved that the club be managed by a President, two Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and a Committee of five other members".

After some persuasion, Mr. Charles Morley (leading retailer and chemist consented to accept Presidency and was elected by unanimous vote.

Vice Presidents elected were - W.R. (Wal) Greenwood, W.A. Loch, Treasurer' - E. (Ted) Duncalfe, Secretary - Mr. Tom Riddell and committee members -messrs. Sam Hislop, Hayden Christie, Sid Thornton, Miles McDonald and Les Kelly.

Other prominent citizens in attendance were A.W. (Arthur) Keys, John Alder, Joe Norvill, Andy Glass, Ben Shambrook, G.L. Gordon, George Baker, Jack Matters, Gus Toomey, Con Vlismas, P.J.(Paddy) Fagan, Sam Stanley, George Skinner, R.T.B. "Dad" Peak and H.F.(Herb) Hattersley

George Skinner was to become first club Patron and in 1937 Charles Morley became the first President of the S.C.D.B.A. - a position he held for 4 years.

The Secretary reported that the brush had been cut down in Coral Street at a cost of two (2) Pounds and that a satisfactory flow of water had been located at a depth of eight feet."

It was decided that the necessary timber for construction purposes be ordered at once through Mr.J.Walker and that the Secretary procure any other material required.

Water for all club purposes was pumped to a large corrugated water tank positioned on the hillside above the club. Mr. Sid Barton was appointed as greenkeeper.

The club was officially opened on 17th. March, 1923 and consisted of one green and a modest timber clubhouse.

In 1925 the club was affiliated with both the Queensland Bowling Association and the Northern Rivers Bowling Association of New

South Wales.

Green fees of 1 shilling & six pence for members and 2 shillings for visitors were first charged in November 1926. Sixpence (6D.) Of this charge was handed to the greenkeeper.

A meeting was held on October 6th. , 1931 to form a Ladies Club

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This became a reality and was officially opened on February 12th, 1932.

In November of the same year a tender was let for improvements to the clubhouse valued at £259/17/-. The new additions were officially opened by the president of the Q.B.A. Mr. W. Strachan, in December.

In 1933 the club received it's first notable award, when Len Ricketts won the Queensland State Singles Championship and later the Country Pairs Championship, partnered by Wal. Beard.

As the club prospered, tenders were again called in 1937 for alterations and improvements, to the clubhouse - however it was necessary to obtain suitable guarantors for the bank. With 335 pounds in hand, an additional dressing room, a kitchen for the ladies and other room facilities were constructed.

Throughout the 1930'S the club produced some of the finest bowlers in the State. So strong was the bowling talent that no less than eight members were included in one Interstate series versus New South Wales. Len Ricketts was outstanding and Skipped State rinks for many years. He won eighteen club singles titles, nine of which were won as a member of Tweed/Coolangatta and a further nine at Coolangatta.

Other members who represented the state were - Jim Adams, Len Peak, brothers Wal and Charlie Barrett, Graf Stokes, Herb Hattersley, Alan Winchester, father and son Cyril and Jack Halpin, Ernie Silverton, Wal Beard and George Sands.

Cyril Halpin achieved two unique distinctions. Firstly, he was chosen to represent both states to contest the same test series. Secondly, he represented his state both as a left handed player and as a right hander. Halpin was a champion left handed member of Byron Bay Club when he moved to Tweed Heads in 1942. He remained a member at Byron but as a Tweed resident joined Tweed Heads/Coolangatta. As a member of two clubs of different states, he was selected by both states and had to decide which to accept. He opted for Queensland and played many series. Following a shoulder injury, he was forced to practice and play right handed. His newly found right hand ability again won him State selection as lead player, but he confused many by rolling the jack with his left and delivering his bowl with his right hand. Cyril's son Jack at thirty years of age became the youngest ever to Skip Queensland rinks.

In 1936 it was considered that a district association should be formed between the three clubs then on the south coast, these being Tweed Heads/Coolangatta, Burleigh Heads and Southport, but the Q.B.A. Informed that it was necessary for four clubs to form an Association.

Faced with this problem they decided to try to encompass Murwillumbah which was the nearest club in New South Wales.

They were successful in first gaining permission from the N.R.D.B.A. For Murwillumbah to join in with the three Queensland Clubs to conduct a Fourway Pennant Competition. This situation prevailed until 1937 when N.S.W gave permission for the transfer of Murwillumbah Club to the Queensland Association. Soon afterwards, in the same year, a meeting was held on the 29TH October at which it was decided to form an association to be known As the South Coast District Bowls Association, incorporating the four clubs. Affiliation of this new association was made with the Q.B.A. On the 16th. February, 1938. Foundation office bearers were - Patron -hon.Jos.Francis m.l.a., President - Charles Morley, Secretary - A.W.K. "Athol" Dane and Treasurer - A.J. Bonamy.

Coolangatta as a separate club joined the Association following foundation in 1949, together with Tweed Heads, followed by Beaudesert in 1950, Kingscliff 1951, Broadbeach and Palm Beach/Currumbin in 1953, Condong 1956, Canungra and Mt.Tambourine in 1958 and in the Jubilee year, 1961, Mermaid Beach, Musgrave Hill and Cabarita.

By 1938 the popularity of the Tweed/Coolangatta Club had grown to such an extent that there was a call for expansion or relocation - there being only one green and little land for development.

At this time the Coolangatta Chamber of Commerce, moved to call a public meeting to gauge interest in the establishment of a bowling club in Coolangatta.

Accordingly, on Friday, May 27th., 1938 a notice appeared in the local "Border Star" newspaper advising of a meeting, to be held in the Coolangatta Town Council Chambers, on Monday, May 30th., to commence at 8 p.m. A well attended meeting adopted the proposal in principle and instructed Town Clerk, G.E. Gregory, to explore costs.

His findings were published on Friday, 10th. June under the heading - "Bowling Green, Clubhouse, Coolangatta - Total cost would be 1000 pounds."

"The Town Clerk, Mr. Gregory has been advised by the Queensland Bowling association that the cost of laying down a bowling green on Goodwin Park, including excavation and drainage would be 500 pounds."

"It was estimated that a first class clubhouse could be erected for a further 500 pounds, making the total cost 1000 pounds." (\$2000)

"Annual payment of interest and redemption on a loan of 1000 pounds At 4.2% interest over 15 years would be £92/8/4D. (\$184.83). Upkeep was estimated at 400 pounds per annum, including 260 pounds (\$520) per annum for greenkeeper's wages."

The Chamber did not proceed further in this quest, rather it was the Bowling Club requiring more playing space decided to seek land on which to expand or relocate. It could be reasonably assumed that the two parties would have become aware that they were pursuing the same objective and both were almost certainly considering land on Goodwin Park.

A survey was carried out and a plan submitted to the Department of Lands for consideration. This resulted in a thirty year lease being granted on May 1st., 1942 in favour of Herbert Francis Hattersley, Walter Venters Barrett and Leonard George Ricketts as trustees of "the Coolangatta Bowling Club". Lease rental for the first fifteen years of the period was fixed at £6/12/- (\$13.20) per annum.

The subject land bounded by Railway reserve 575 to it's North and unnamed, Kidston and Hume streets to it's West and Scott Street to it's South was described as special lease no. 12550, portion 145, containing "about one acre, one rood and twenty seven perches."

The Eastern boundary adjoined leasehold land occupied by the City Electric Light Co. Ltd. (later S.E.Q.E.B. And now T.A.F.E. College) upon which stood the obsolete brick powerhouse of the original Coolangatta Electric Supply Co.

In 1946 this lease was surrendered in favour of a revised department plan which required alterations and realignments to boundaries, resulting in a slight reduction of area.

The outbreak of world war ii in 1939 brought with it many privations. Food, clothing and petrol rationing was introduced and these were accompanied by extreme shortages of all kinds of services and commodities. The United States became involved following the bombing of Pearl Harbour and from early 1942 American troops established R. & R.Camps along the beachfronts of Kirra and Coolangatta, On Point Danger and at Tweed Heads recreation grounds. The Coolangatta Hotel was taken over and set up as Headquarters.

Throughout the years of this difficult period the Coral Street Club continued to function and in 1941 won the S.C.D.B.A. First Division Pennant. During 1944 daylight saving bowls were introduced between 5 p.m. And 7.30 p.m. In the-same year, foundation president Charles Morley was awarded Life Membership,

whilst Len Ricketts was elected Club President.

Ricketts became a driving force for the establishment of new greens at Coolangatta. The climate for expansion was good within the club and the war had not long ended before a special meeting was called in July of 1946. This approved 500 pounds (\$1000) for work to commence on the construction of two greens on the leasehold land acquired four years earlier on Goodwin Park.

Much filling was required and requests were made to Town Council and local contractors to deposit soil from other works on site. In this respect help came from all sides with local carriers Bill Garbett and Ron Underwood providing great assistance. In 1947 a further 1000 pounds (\$2000) was allocated for work to continue.

The problem of providing a clubhouse arose at a time when building was strictly controlled by priorities, apart from extreme shortages of materials and labour. These problems were overcome by the purchase of a wartime u.s.army dwelling "hut" at a government disposals auction.

This was delivered in two halves, placed on site, joined and modified somewhat to form the first clubhouse. Today's clubhouse is in fact built around this structure. Construction was of unpainted weatherboard and fibro cement. Internally it was unlined and unpartitioned.

After an expenditure of some £2656/3/9D. (\$5312.41) and the completion of one green and another under construction, a decision was made to use both greens, one each side of the border. The Tweed Green was allocated play on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, whilst Coolangatta was allocated Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Those drawn for play at Coolangatta faced some frustrating, if not distressing inconvenience.

Firstly all intending players were required to report to Tweed Heads Club and await the calling of the cards. Then they had to travel some 1.5. kms. To play

Hot water for afternoon tea was boiled on a kerosene "Primus" camp stove and for a time the only toilet consisted of one outhouse earth lavatory

In order to ascertain winning rinks, players then had to travel back to Tweed for presentations and announcements.

It quickly became obvious that this situation was untenable and that the management of two clubs under one committee was totally unpractical and creating stress and difficulties amongst members.

At a special meeting held on the 19th July, 1948 first discussions took place concerning the advisability of splitting the club into two, thereby forming two clubs.

After several such meetings members agreed that to divide would be the logical solution. It was agreed that all assets and monies of the club be equally apportioned and the leaseholds transferred. The date fixed for the separation was 31st. December, 1948, after which the Tweed Heads and Coolangatta Bowling Club would cease to exist.

To prepare the way for a smooth transition an inaugural meeting of the "Coolangatta Bowling Club" was held in the clubhouse on the 1st. November, 1948. L.G. Ricketts was appointed provisional Chairman, provisional Secretary - John Shinnie and Treasurer - H.F. Hattersley.

Messrs Hattersley and Ricketts, who were already trustees, were requested to continue in that capacity. Provisional finance and all required committees were appointed, the English Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd. Being nominated as bankers.

Decisions were made to immediately affiliate with the S.C.D.B.A. and to advise the Q.B.A. of the formation of the club and it's executive officers.

Fees for foundation members were set at one Guinea (\$2.10) . Subscriptions at three Guineas (k'3/3/-) (\$6.30) and mat fees at two Shillings (2/-) (20C)

To enable the club to establish and to operate it was decided to obtain a bank overdraft of 2000 pounds (\$4000).

On the motion of L. Peak - "It was resolved to forward a letter of appreciation to the Morley family for the donation of a trophy to be known as the "Charles Morley Cup" to be competed for by the Tweed Heads and Coolangatta clubs".

Club colours were specified as "Maroon and White lettering" and that designs for a pocket emblem be submitted for consideration within three weeks.

The date for the first Annual Meeting was set down for December 6th. This meeting was attended by forty members. At the election of officers the provisional appointment of Chairman Len Ricketts was confirmed as President as were those of John Shinnie and Herb. Hattersley as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. George Shambrook became Senior Vice President, whilst Bill Davies and Alan Winchester were elected Vice Presidents.

A ballot for five councillors resulted in the election of W.H. (Bill) Stafford, Alex. Black, Alan Brown, Alan Barrett and J.L. (Jack) Gordon.

The urgency of the situation facing the new committee was obvious - a new club had to be off and running in a little over three weeks. Accordingly, the committee called it's first regular meeting on December 13th.

At this, Treasurer Shinnie reported cash in hand of £187/4/6 (\$374.45) and accounts for payment of £3/4/6 (\$6.45) were passed.

Amongst the many important decisions made were:

1. Playing days to be Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
2. An application to Town Council to construct a 20 feet x 10 feet kitchen "to cost under £50 pounds". (\$100).
3. A blazer pocket design specified as "a map of Queensland in white outline with white lettering converging to a point marking Coolangatta".
4. That "The Booroodabin bowls club being the oldest club in Queensland be invited to be the first club to pay an official visit to the youngest club" - six rinks being requested.
5. That A.W. Hume be appointed greenkeeper from the 1st January and that he be paid 7 pounds (\$14) per week. Also, that an inquiry be made of the Repatriation Department regarding the availability of wage subsidy for a trainee greenkeeper.
6. That the Lands Department be advised of the change of Trustees.
7. That monthly meetings be held at the clubhouse on the second Monday of each month, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

The club officially opened it's doors and played on it's first day of coming into being on new year's day 1949 with only one green on which to play. Some seventy-six bowlers were welcomed, with play commencing with a "Spider" competition. By this time a septic toilet had been installed and the old earth closet was advertised and sold to member George Lonie for 5 pounds (\$10).

The immediate needs of the fledgling club were many. Plans for rearrangement of the clubhouse were approved as were plans for a soil shed, to measure 20 feet by 18 feet. Other approvals included the ordering of scoreboards, boundary pegs, table numbers, playing discs, hatbands, badges, new doors, a mowing machine, automatic level, electric roller and licences for the sale of petrol and tobacco.

At the first quarterly meeting of the club on the 14th. March 1949 President Ricketts voiced his "appreciation to the members for their loyalty to the club during the difficult period of getting the club going and playing the greens that had very little to recommend them in the way of accuracy", "he also stated that if they progressed at the rate they had done in the past twelve months, within four years time there would be no finer greens anywhere".

Regarding an official opening the president explained that it was the intention of the club to make a "Gala Day", and to have two greens in play. No date had been set.

Road access to the club from Griffith Street involved trespassing across railway property and existing railway lines. This problem was shared by the Blue and Red Bus Co. Who had sited a booking office nearby. Both parties subsequently negotiated a right-of-way with the department.

In April 1949 an application from Mrs. Mabel Ricketts to form a Ladies Club was approved and on the 9th. of the same month the club was advised that an inaugural meeting had been held. Subsequently, that club held it's first general meeting on June 20th., electing Patroness Mrs. M. Peak, President - Mrs. M. Ricketts, Secretary - Mrs. A. Lewis and Treasurer Mrs. I. Hattersley. This club attracted many members and soon proved itself of great assistance in many ways in establishing the new club. The ladies club was officially opened on Thursday 20th. April, 1950.

The Men's club undertook to contest S.C.D.B.A. Pennant play and nominated sides for First and Second Divisions. Charges were made payable by members travelling in other members cars to Pennant and other matches. Burleigh Heads 1/-, Surfers Paradise 2/-, Southport 2/-, Murwillumbah 21- and Brisbane 5/-.

The first official visit by the Queensland Bowling Association was welcomed on the 29th.May.

By the month of June, President Ricketts provided a progress report which showed that painting of the clubhouse had been completed, That work on the soil shed was almost completed, a flagpole installed, shrubs planted, seating painted, hedges planted and that an electric roller, gyrotary sieve, a refrigerator for the bar as ordered, should soon be to hand.

Not surprisingly, club expenditure throughout it's first year was understandably great and available cash consequently short. A remarkable gesture by Patron "Dad" peak of a loan of 500 pounds (\$1000) free of interest was gratefully accepted. Some six months later a letter from him read "With reference to my £500 pounds

Interest free loan to your club, it is my wish that this amount be transferred from my name to Leonard Ricketts of Coolangatta, whose receipt for same shall be full discharge to your club". Upon receipt of this at committee, Ricketts accepted the transfer and allowed the loan to remain - interest free. "Dad" Peak passed away in 1952.

By November of 1949 the second green was completed sufficiently for the committee to set the date for an official opening ceremony.

The opening day on Saturday 21st. January 1950 the greens presented a "Gala Appearance" when Claire Roden, President of the Queensland Bowling Association officially opened the club in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering. The grounds were outlined with flags and bunting and together with more than 100 bowlers, officials, guests and ladies created a picturesque scene.

At the invitation of President Len Ricketts, Mayor Len peak welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Roden, members of the Q.B.A. Party and all visitors and congratulated the club upon the progress it had made in such a short time.

In officially declaring the greens open, Mr. Roden also congratulated the club on it's great work. With the rolling of the first bowl would go the best wishes of the Queensland Association. Mrs. M.Ricketts rolled the first "kitty" and Mr. Roden drew the perfect shot with his bowl. Mayoress M. Peak performed a similar duty on no. 2 green and Q.B.A. Senior vice President Bob Gardiner played the first bowl. Games were then played until 4 p.m. When all adjourned to the nearby Scouts Hall, where the Ladies Club had prepared afternoon tea.

Over 200 sat down with the official party at the head. Mr. George Shambrook acted as Chairman.

President Ricketts explained, that following the harmonious dissolution of the former Tweed Heads and Coolangatta Club on January 1st., 1949 the Coolangatta Club had taken over one green and already had gained 153 members. Steady progress had been made and the second green had been used for the first time on June 8th.. The women's club had come into being on July 1st. and it's members had given great assistance socially and financially. They had presented the club with a piano, a public address system, electric urn, crockery and 180 pounds (\$360) in cash.

In emphasising the part played by the club in catering for bowlers, President Len said that in the first twelve months to 31st. December, 1998 games had been played. In the same period the club had expended 3627 pounds (\$7254) and it's receipts were a similar amount. More than 1650 pounds (\$3300) had been spent on plant and other items of a non-recurring nature, so the club could look forward with confidence to the future.

Mr. Roden paid tribute, not only to the club on its progress, but especially to President Ricketts who had worked so hard for its success. He welcomed the club to the state association commenting on the state's growth from 93 clubs with 6341 members in 1944, to 162 clubs with 15101 members to the end of 1949.

Justice Ben Matthews proposed the health of the ladies and stressed the value of the Ladies Club to the club and to bowls in general.

Forty-six members were in attendance at the first annual meeting on the 14th. August, 1950.

At this meeting a first suggestion was made for the acquisition of additional land on the northern side of the property to provide for future growth and development.

The suggestion was quickly acted upon with the result that at the following meeting, President Ricketts was able to report that the matter of securing the rights to a piece of land, part of local government (Council) reserve r754 measuring 175 feet by 150 feet, on the north-east side of the existing greens had been the subject of discussions between himself, the Town Council and the City Electric Light Company.

A sketch plan of the proposed section was presented for viewing, after which Len Peak moved that an approach be made to the Minister for Railways, to secure an area of approximately 26 perches (657M') of railway reserve and a similar approach be made to the Town Council to acquire the balance of some 70 perches (1770M") of park reserve necessary to annex the whole of the proposed area.

Soon after this meeting a new local authority came into being to be known as the Town of South Coast Council (later to become Gold Coast City). This amalgamated the various coastal bodies under one administration. Elections resulted in the appointment of Len Peak as the first Mayor, accompanied by two other townsmen, Alan Winchester and Bill Winders as Aldermen - the latter having served many years as Coolangattals Mayor.

The Council favourably considered the club's approach to sub-lease part of its reserve and joined with state member the Hon. Eric Gaven M.L.A. to expedite the application through the Department of Lands.

On February 6th., 1951 Town Council advised the club of the department's approval of the sub-lease for a term of twenty years

and that "it is to be a condition of the lease that the club will reclaim and level the whole area and develop it as a park and allow one half of the area to be available to the general public at all times for use as a park". The subject land was described as portion of local government reserve r754 containing approximately one acre and twelve perches, at a rental of one pound (\$2) per annum, the trustee being the Town of South Coast Council. Some months elapsed whilst the club negotiated and clarified lease conditions, when finally these were accepted at the August meeting.

Immediate steps were taken to acquire filling. Alderman Winchester was asked to arrange for council's works committee to inspect the area and confer with the club regarding filling of the area with surplus material from other works now in progress. This was subsequently co-ordinated with the Chief Engineer.

No further consideration was given to constructing a new green until it was discussed in October 1953 and a bulldozer engaged to level the site

In June a sub-committee comprising messrs. Ricketts, Winchester and Leo Brett was appointed to plan, organise and supervise construction of the proposed new green. Surveyors were employed and it was considered necessary to realign boundaries on the western side to build the green.

In order to achieve this it was found necessary to request a further eight perches (202M') of railway land to add to the new leasehold.

To this stage the sub-committee estimated that costs to instal the new green, including timber ditches and new scoreboards, was one thousand and twenty-five pounds (\$2050).

Green fees at this time were increased from 21- to 2/6d.

The application to the Commissioner was approved and a separate lease drawn up and agreed to in October, 1955 - "For a period of ten years at two pounds (\$4) per annum for each year of the first five years and a reappraised rental for each year of the second period of five years, in addition to any rates and taxes leviable".

The new boundaries were then fenced and Theiss Brothers contracted to raise the level of the new green area by six inches (150MM) at A cost of one hundred and fifty pounds (\$300) . A further 500 cubic yards of sand filling at a cost of 2/6d. Per yard was delivered and spread in January, 1956. South African couch grass was sown.

A request by the Ladies Club in June, 1957 to play on the new surface was agreed to, when it was considered that some amount

of use on it would be beneficial. It was played on for the first time on Thursday, 20th. June. The green was brought into regular play and used on Mondays and Fridays until it was officially opened for play in the Winter Carnival of that year.

The Club's total leasehold land holdings then totalled two acres, one rood, seven perches (approximately 9282M').

Several realignments and alteration to boundaries have taken place over the years, the most recent being registered in 1987 providing an extension and rounding of the Scott and Warner Streets corner.

Today's (1991) leaseholds are described as (a) lot 145 (clubhouse and greens one and two) comprising 5074 square metres and lot 208 (third green and parking areas) containing 5523 square metres, totalling 10,597 m'.

Throughout the post war years the scarcity of beer and tobacco supplies along with shortages of all commodities, brought about by almost six years of war, was a great problem to the new club. Hotels and clubs were on strict quotas - opening only for "sessions" at midday and late afternoon. This situation remained without much relief until some years after the opening of the Grafton brewery in 1953 which signalled the start of the break of the great beer drought in the region.

The club's limited beer quota was especially ordered in 5 gallon wooden kegs, without cold room or chilling facilities, the kegs were stored at John Grevis's, Kirra Ice Works until required. As wanted, they were picked up and delivered to the Hotel Coolangatta where "Mine Host" Les Townend and his family would syphon the contents into bottles, which were then picked up and stored in the club's refrigerator. The resultant "bottled draught" was sold at sixpence (7<J) per 6 ounce (180Ml) glass.

The job of triple handling the beer to and from the ice works and to and from the hotel became so onerous that committee voted the amount Of 3/- (30\*) to be paid to persons for picking up and delivering. In an experiment to try to supplement Supplies. The club purchased a quantity of imported German beer from Importers Tallerman and co. of Brisbane. This new product was not well received by members, nor was the "German made" aspect of its manufacture so soon after the war. The beer, therefore remained unsold causing the committee to request that the suppliers accept the return of the consignment for credit. The company, generously, consented to sell the beer on the club's behalf.

In 1950 green keeper Howe was dismissed after serving only twelve months and was replaced by long serving Stan Barton of "the old Mother Club". Incentive for job training for exservicemen was given by the rehabilitation department who undertook to provide

wage subsidies for trainees. Under this scheme the club employed Basil Dougherty as assistant green keeper.

With two greenkeepers now at hand, the committee instructed them to roster their duties to ensure that all times one would be available for serving at the bar. They were also required to assist members in painting the clubhouse.

The laws of the day forbade the sale of liquor on Sundays. In April 1951 the President announced that acting on a suggestion from the local Sergeant of Police and on the recommendation of the Q.B.A., the club's committee had decided that trading hours for all "spirituous liquors" be Mondays to Saturdays and then only on playing days. On these, the bar must be closed at 6.30 p.m. sharp.

At this meeting a motion was carried that the bar be closed also during the afternoon tea break, "as the noise and chatter prevented members and visitors from hearing the President's remarks".

Further, Herb Hattersley mentioned, that a proposed visit by the Commercial Travellers Bowling Club on Sunday, 29th. April would take place and he was concerned over the matter of supplying liquid refreshments on that day. The President advised that the local police Sergeant, who was a member, would not participate, in a game of bowls on a Sunday whilst the bar was open. He also mentioned a remark by the Hon. Justice H.B. Matthews, another member, that should the bar remain open for the sale of liquor on Sundays, he would have to consider his position as delegate, to the Q.B.A. "the association is definitely opposed to bowling club bars being open on Sundays".

In November, 1951 through the efforts of committeeman Ernie Fluck, The club was advised by the breweries that extra Xmas and New Year supplies; of beer would be made available. Accordingly a motion was carried that each member be entitled to purchase three bottles of beer "as Christmas Cheer".

Notwithstanding the providore's report in april 1952, that the queensland brewery had allotted a double issue of beer, all of which had been sold and that bar profit for the year to date was approximately 630 pounds with a further 100 pounds possible, before the end of the financial year, the price of a 6 ounce beer was increased to eight pence (9<J), per glass.

The new price was hotly objected to, by members, causing the committee to review the position, resulting in a reduction in price to seven pence (80) per glass.

Membership as at June 1951 stood at 136 financial and 19 associate. The Secretary was granted an Honorarium of twenty guineas (\$42), The charge for afternoon teas for visitors set at one shilling (100) and Championship prizes adopted - Singles one guinea (\$2.10), Pairs - two guineas and Fours - four guineas.

Mat fees remained at two shillings and sixpence (2/6d. - 250)

The beer and bar situation remained practically unchanged until after 1953 when supplies increased gradually. In January, 1955 the club installed a cold room at a cost of 500 pounds, together with a newly invented "Temporite" system, costing 300 pounds.

A special general meeting was called for May 23rd., 1955 to consider the introduction of new licensing laws.

Under the new act, bowling clubs were to be allowed three social nights per year, giving notice of such to the Queensland Bowling Association. Nominations for new members must be displayed for seven days before regular Council meetings.

Following a reading of all details necessary for application, it was decided to formally apply for licence. To this point of time bowls clubs in Queensland were not registered with the Licensing Commission. Certain guidelines were set down by the Q.B.A. And permits to serve liquor were provided and supervised by the local police officer in charge in each centre.

Bowling club licence no. 170 was granted on the 14th. September, 1955.

In April 1955 providore Leo Brett advised of an increase in the beer quota from five to seven barrels per week, upon which a motion was put that beer then be ordered, in ten gallon kegs. The motion was defeated on grounds that it was considered that the product in this size "would not hold".

Early modifications and alterations to the original "Yank Army Hut" clubhouse included partitioning of kitchen, tea room, bar and single pedestal male toilet-wash room and some linings, mainly of fibro cement. The introduction of a ladies club in mid 1949 brought about the installation of a female facility at the eastern end of the premises.

Various piecemeal modifications and installations, notably interior linings, paint work and electric lighting etc.. were carried out until plans for the first extension of the building were shown in August 1953. Application for a bank loan of 3000 pounds (\$6000) from the E.S. & A. Bank Ltd. To be secured under guarantors was made and tenders called for the extension work to be carried out.

Local builder Ken Beck's quote of 722 pounds was subsequently accepted. Painting of the exterior of the new work and a complete internal paint was let to contractor M. Swanson for £171/10/-.

At the club's seventh Annual Meeting in July 1956 the way was cleared for the appointment of a Club Manager. A notice of motion that - "in view of the rapid growth of Coolangatta Bowls Club we think it necessary to amend rule 6A, thereby making it

possible, if necessary, to appoint a Secretary-Manager, duties to cover Secretarial, Treasurer's and Providores duties at a salary, which would be sufficient remuneration, for those duties and the time taken in pursuit, of them. The amendment if approved would cancel all previous Honorariums then in force".

When the position of Manager was advertised in late 1957, some forty-two applications were received from which the sub-committee selected two. These were referred to the full committee for final decision. A Mr. Young of Stanthorpe was appointed as first club manager.

Coolangatta has had long association with the local Legacy contact group and has each year since first approached for assistance in April 1950, given over its greens and facilities for fund raising. Late member Bill "His Holiness" Pope, himself a "Tobruk Rat" of world war 11 conducted this project for many years and ensured its success. The club has set aside this day as an annual activity.

Throughout the years no fewer than four extensions, two at each end, have lengthened the clubhouse to an extent now that all available building space has been covered. At its last westward extension in 1985 the building by some chance, was found to project onto "closed road", which in fact, is footpath on town maps. As it appeared that no one was disadvantaged and the infringement small, the Lands Department re-surveyed and registered a rounding of the previously truncated corner at Warner Street.

To-day's building of brick, brick veneer, timber and plaster, has been re-roofed and provides adequate and comfortable surrounds for its male and female members.

The club has remained a force both in Bowls and in Bowls Administration, having provided six District Presidents, Len Ricketts (twice) 1944 and 1951, Len Peak 1956/7, Alan Pidgeon, twice, 1966/7 and 1968 and John Shinnie in 1975.

Its bowling strength is reflected in that the club has always contested First Division Pennant, being successful in 1974, 1981, 1982 and 1988. Its honour boards display the names of many illustrious members who have gained State, National and International, recognition. To date, an incredible twenty-three club members have represented Queensland. Some of these having represented other states and several having represented Australia.

State representatives include Len Ricketts, Jimmy Adams, Len Peak, Herb Hattersley, Alan Winchester, Aub Martin, Stan Willis, Noel Ogden, Arthur Cattell, Stew Shannon, George Makin, Lou Murray, Ray Lederhose, Bob Purcell, Bill Stafford, Neil Chrichton, Albert Newton, Fred Lewis, Greg Halpin, Ian Schuback, Robbie Dobbins, Kelvin Kerkow and Allan Collier.

Dual States Representatives include Arthur Cattell, George Makin, Bob Purcell, Albert Newton, Fred Lewis, Ian Schuback and Robbie Dobbins.

Ex Internationals have included George Makin, Bob Purcell, Albert Newton, Robbie Dobbins, Ian Schuback and Allan Rafton.

Schuback, who commenced his bowls at Coolangatta aged 28, became one of the world's best known and best performed bowlers. He worked hard at his game and after only two years won his first title, the 1983 R.Q.B.A. Country Pairs with clubmate Neil Crichton. He soon captured all club titles and was quickly selected into the State Side and after many Masters, District, State, National and special televised events, became the first Gold Coast Player selected to represent Australia in International tests and Commonwealth Games.

Corporate sponsorship of tournament and Invitation Masters Events Came into being mainly through the late 1970'S and throughout the 80'S. Expert bowlers were suddenly able to participate nationwide and overseas for greater rewards, "cash" rather than "cups and cutlery" at much less personal cost and at centres previously unheard of. Media coverage of the greater money events ensured the inclusion of these bowlers in the many new events in the playing calendar.

Among the many titles above district level by club members are -

R.Q.B.A. State Singles Championship -

Len Ricketts	Bob Purcell
Ray Lederhose	Neil Crichton
Fred Lewis	Ian Schuback

R.Q.B.A. State pairs Ian schuback

R.Q.B.A. State fours Noel Ogden, Aub. Martin, Alan Swan,  
Ernie Jacobs and Greg Halpin.

R.Q.B.A. Country pairs Fred Lewis (4 times) "Duke"  
Roberts,  
Aub. Martin, Ray Lederhose, Bob Purcell (3 times), Alan Swan, Ian Schuback (twice) and Neil Crichton.

Internationally, Ian Schuback represented Australia or took International honours on eight occasions, twice in tests versus New Zealand (1986 & 88) and once in Hongkong. He was Singles Silver Medallist at Commonwealth Games Edinburgh in 1986, won the National Champion of Champion Singles and World Indoor Pairs in

1987 and in 1988 won the Australian Pairs Title and the A.B.C. Bicentennial International Singles at Tweed Heads.

Coolangatta's Annual Calendar of Events features three major tournaments of long standing - the Bonanza Fours Carnival, the Spring Triples and the Invitation Master of Masters Singles Tournament.

The Bonanza Fours was first programmed in 1959 and each year has provided a meeting place, a welcome and warm up games to the many interstate and overseas visitors that come to participate in the famous Gold Coast Winter Carnival. Likewise, the Spring Triples caters generally for local bowlers and long staying visitors following the Winter Carnival.

The Master of Masters originated in 1973 and through it's nineteen years to 1991 has attracted and presented most of the nation's greatest and best performed singles players to the club's greens. The event has seen three changes in corporate sponsorship, from Benson & Hedges to Castlemaine Fourex brewery and currently F.A.I. Insurance Company. Australian Airlines (formerly T.A.A.) have remained the tournament carrier since 1976.

Throughout the first five years invited players from all parts of the nation met their own travel and accommodation expenses and vied for the honour of Champion and to receive such items as cutlery sets or wall clocks as trophies. Today's players have free air fares where necessary, free accommodation and compete for \$10,000 in cash prizemoney.

The 1985 Masters created history and a furore which focused nationwide media attention when President lloyd budd and tournament organiser Bill Stafford fielded the contestants in coloured shirts emblazoned with sponsors logos. Publicity surrounding the event was heard and seen across the nation, much to the delight of the sponsors. The result of this breach of A.B.C. Dress laws was a severe reprimand and a twelve months disqualification from inter-club and inter-district competition. However, a point was made and proven when within a short period the Laws of the game were reviewed to enable colour and sponsors logos to be worn, firstly in special events and more recently in interstate and district events.

To-day the club lives in the near shadows of its now famous twin and is close to other clubs of great size and enormous wealth. It is in a sound financial position and provides it's members and visitors with adequate facilities, a substantial clubhouse, a warm and intimate bar and excellent playing greens.

Impending legislation to permit the introduction of poker machines at this time is far from the thoughts of current members, who are content to play the sport and enjoy it's fellowship in the club they are happy to call "The Biggest Little Club on the Coast".

