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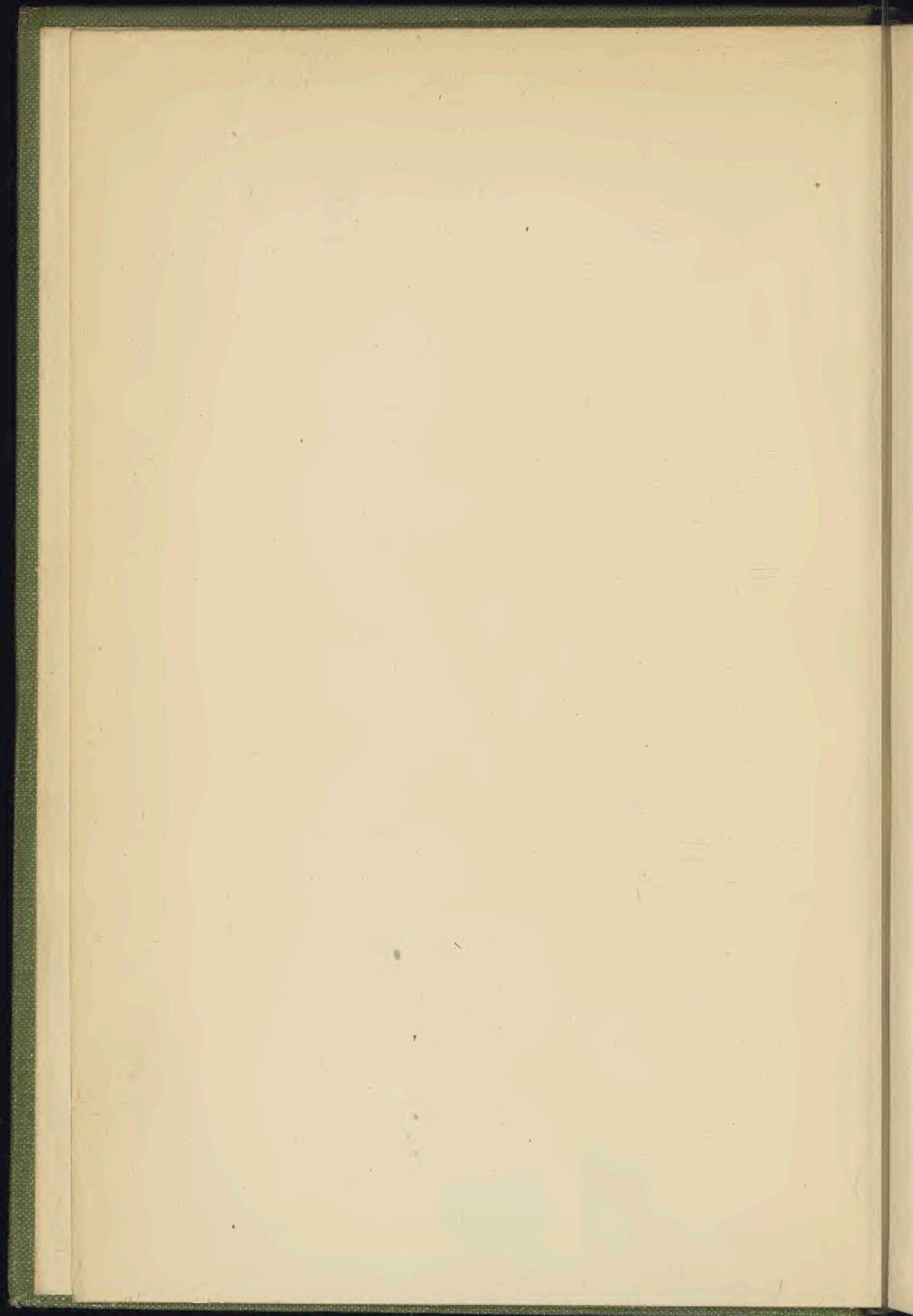
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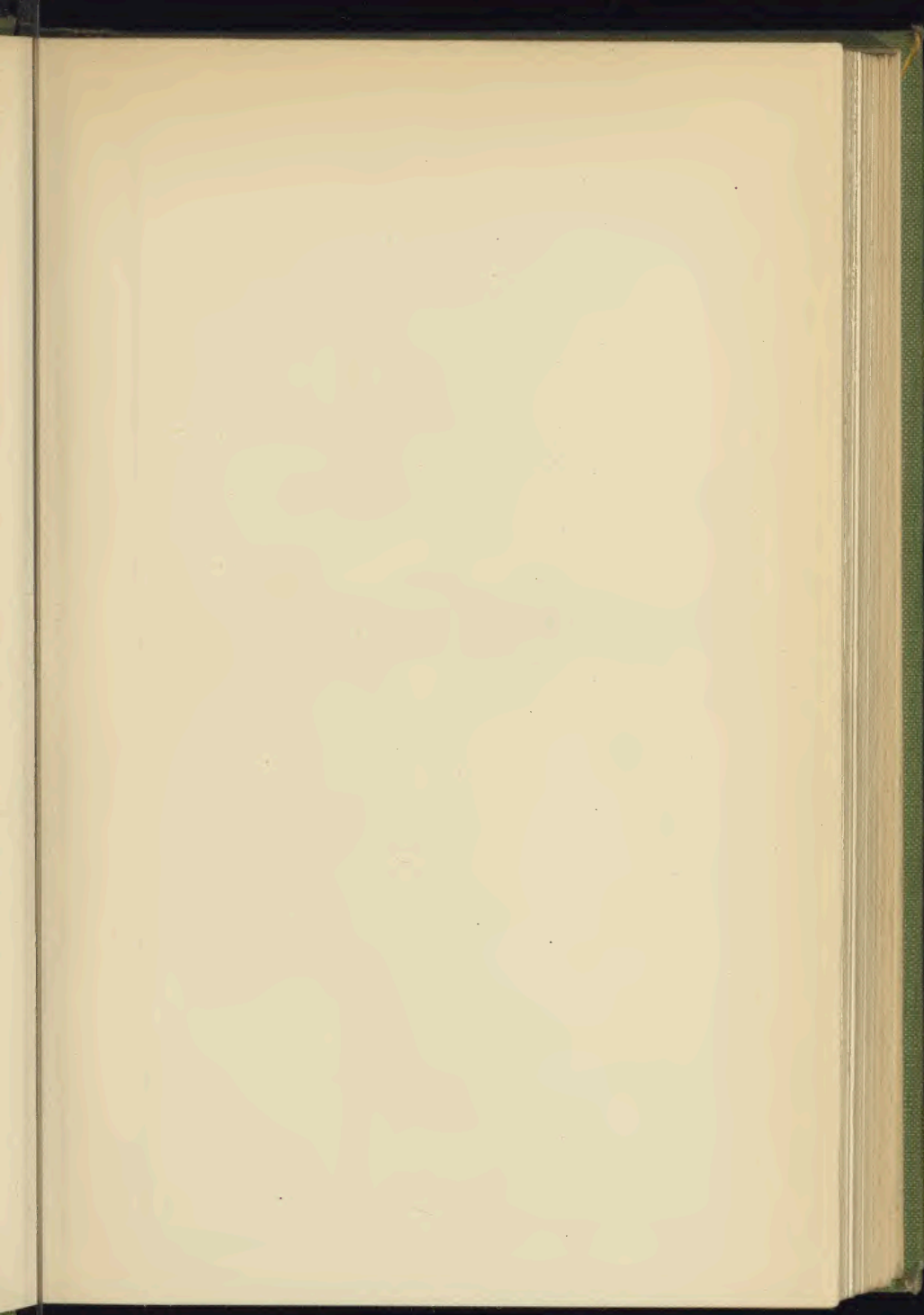
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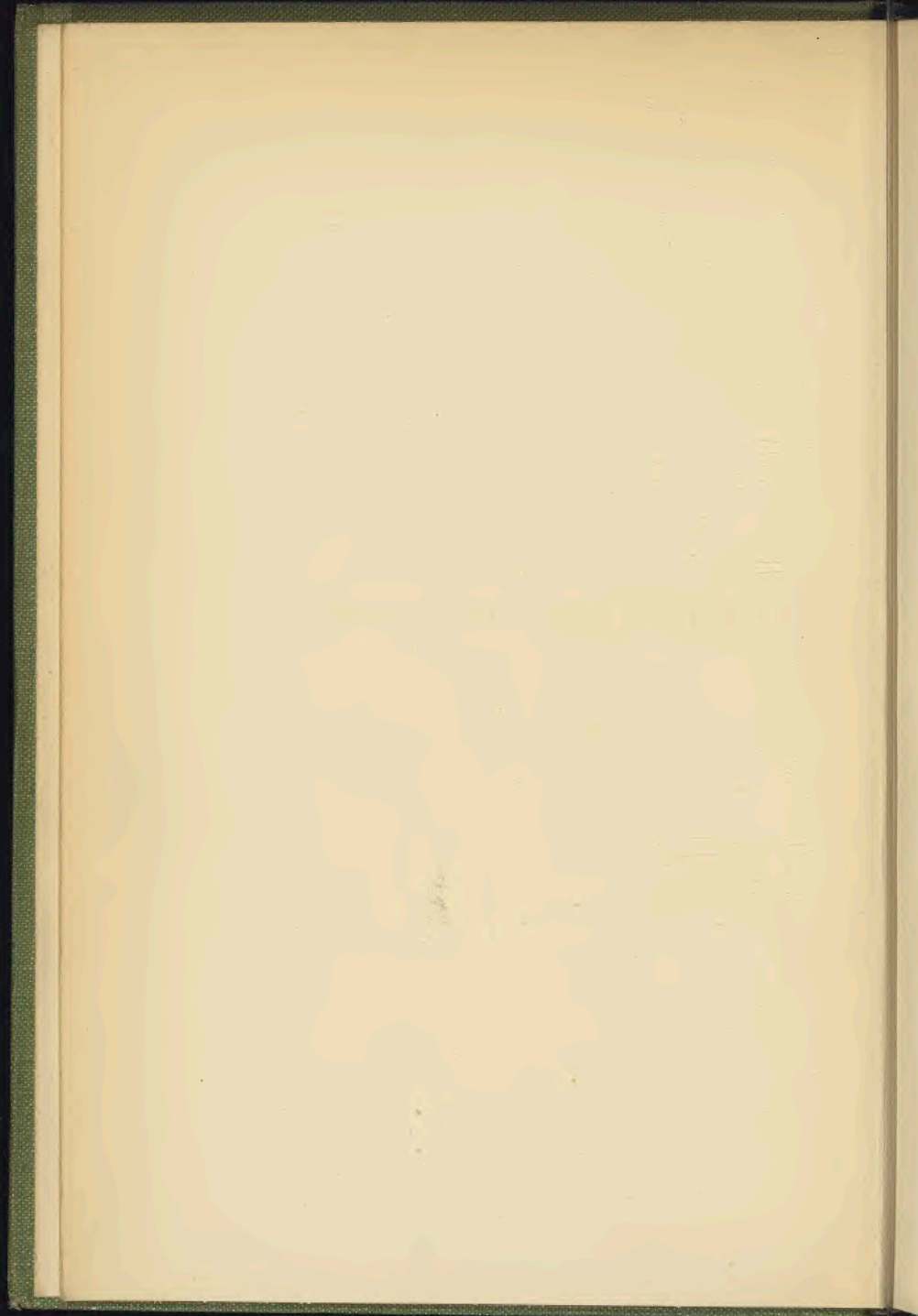


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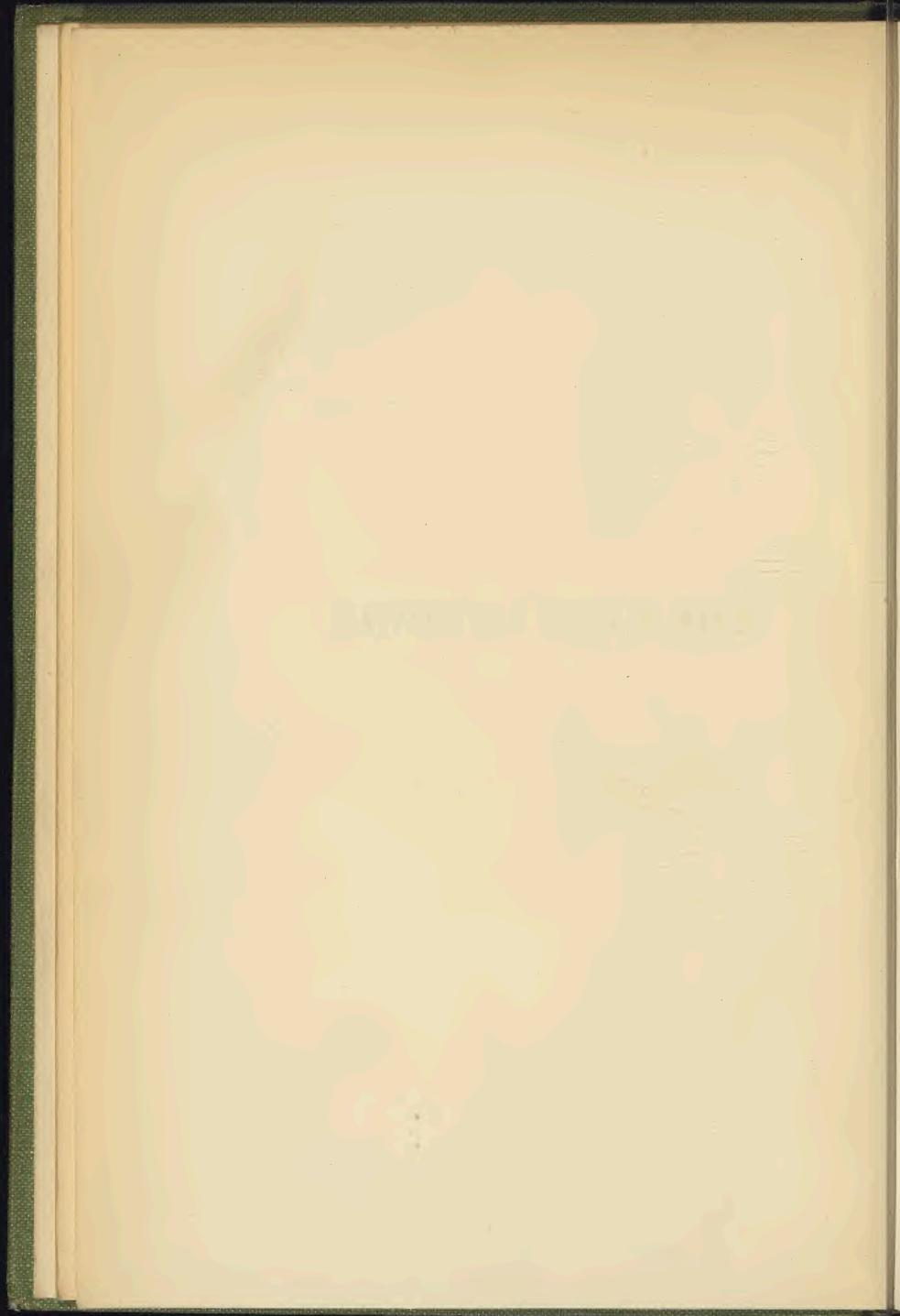


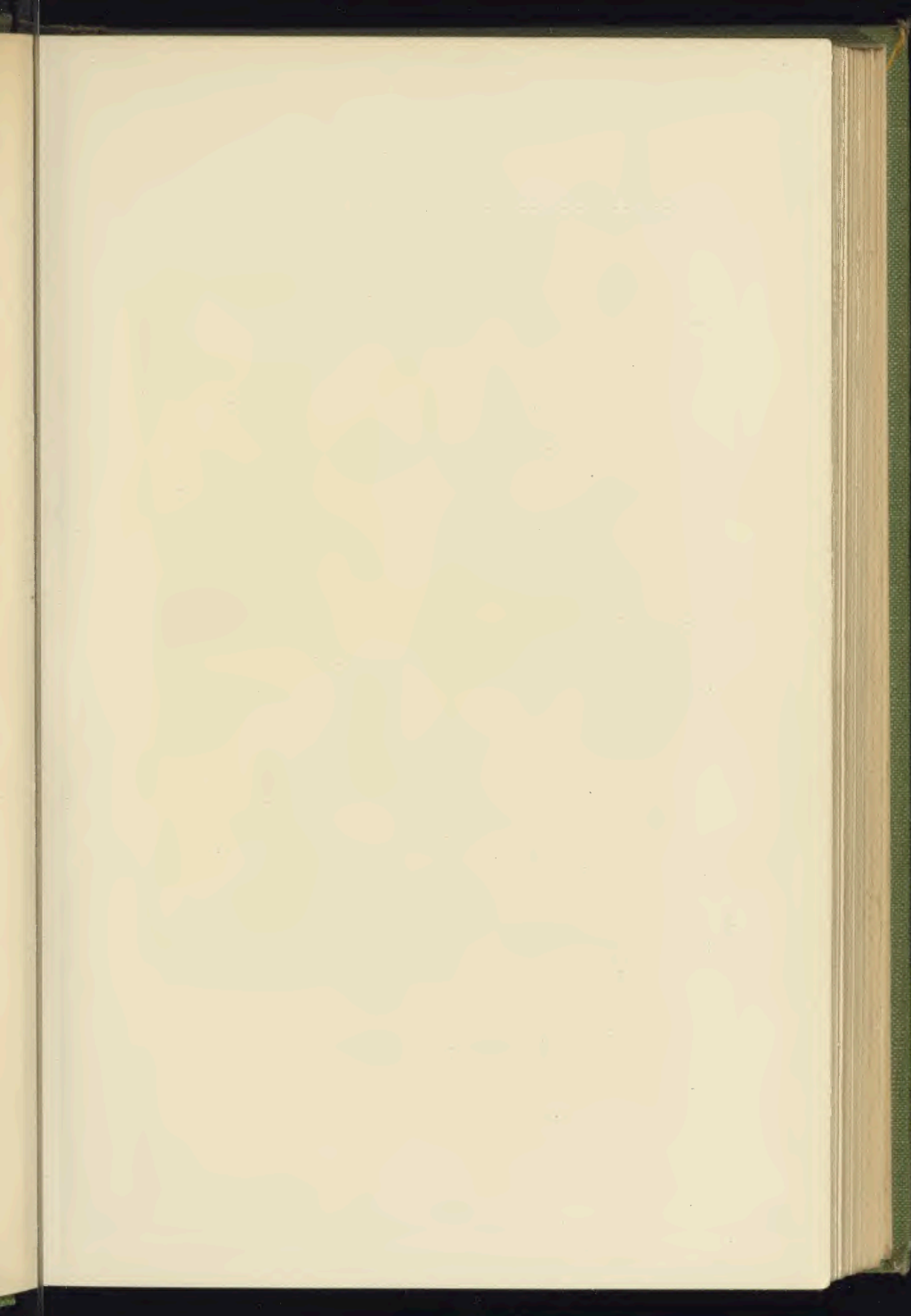






THE GAME OF BOWLS





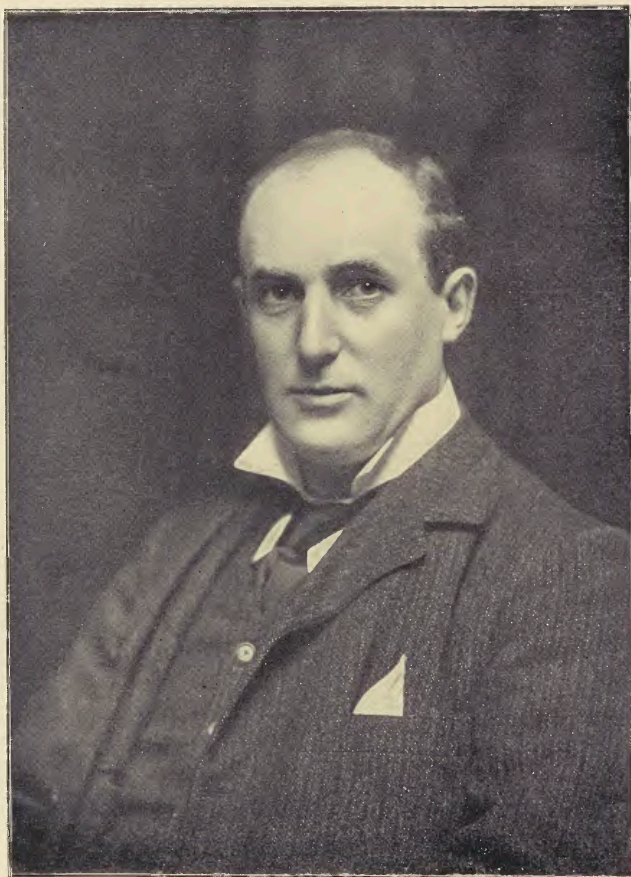


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[Drummond Young & Watson, Edin.

MR ANDREW H. HAMILTON, Secretary, S.B.A.

[Frontispiece.

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THE GAME OF BOWLS

PAST AND PRESENT

BY JAMES M. PRETSELL

WITH EIGHT PORTRAITS



OLIVER AND BOYD

EDINBURGH: TWEEDDALE COURT
LONDON: 10 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1908

THE HISTORY OF THE

ROYAL NAVY

OF GREAT BRITAIN

AND IRELAND

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE COLONIES

TO THE PRESENT TIME

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FIRST VOLUME

CONTAINING THE HISTORY OF THE

NAVY FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE COLONIES

TO THE PRESENT TIME

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE SECOND VOLUME

CONTAINING THE HISTORY OF THE

NAVY FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE COLONIES

TO THE PRESENT TIME

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE THIRD VOLUME

CONTAINING THE HISTORY OF THE

NAVY FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE COLONIES

PREFACE

ON the history of the Game of Bowls there is not so much obtainable as one would wish, and certainly very little has even been published hitherto on the subject. It is therefore with the knowledge that much of the matter in these pages must be new to many devotees of this "Ancient Royal Pastime" that we are encouraged to commit them to the public in this form.

In the compilation of these chapters my best thanks are due to my good friend, Mr A. H. Hamilton, S.S.C., Secretary of the Scottish Bowling Association, whose valuable assistance has been so generously given. I have also to thank the officials of the other National Associations for supplying me with the various records of championships; while for the historical part of the early public green movement, I am deeply indebted to Mr Walter Irvine and Mr Alex. Pairman, both of whom were members of St James' Club, Leith, at the time the events related in Chapter VII. happened; and also to my father, whose efforts in the interest of the game are well known. For the statistics I am able

to give regarding public greens in the large towns, I am indebted to the Park Superintendents of Edinburgh and Glasgow Corporations, London County Council, and to Mr James Telford, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

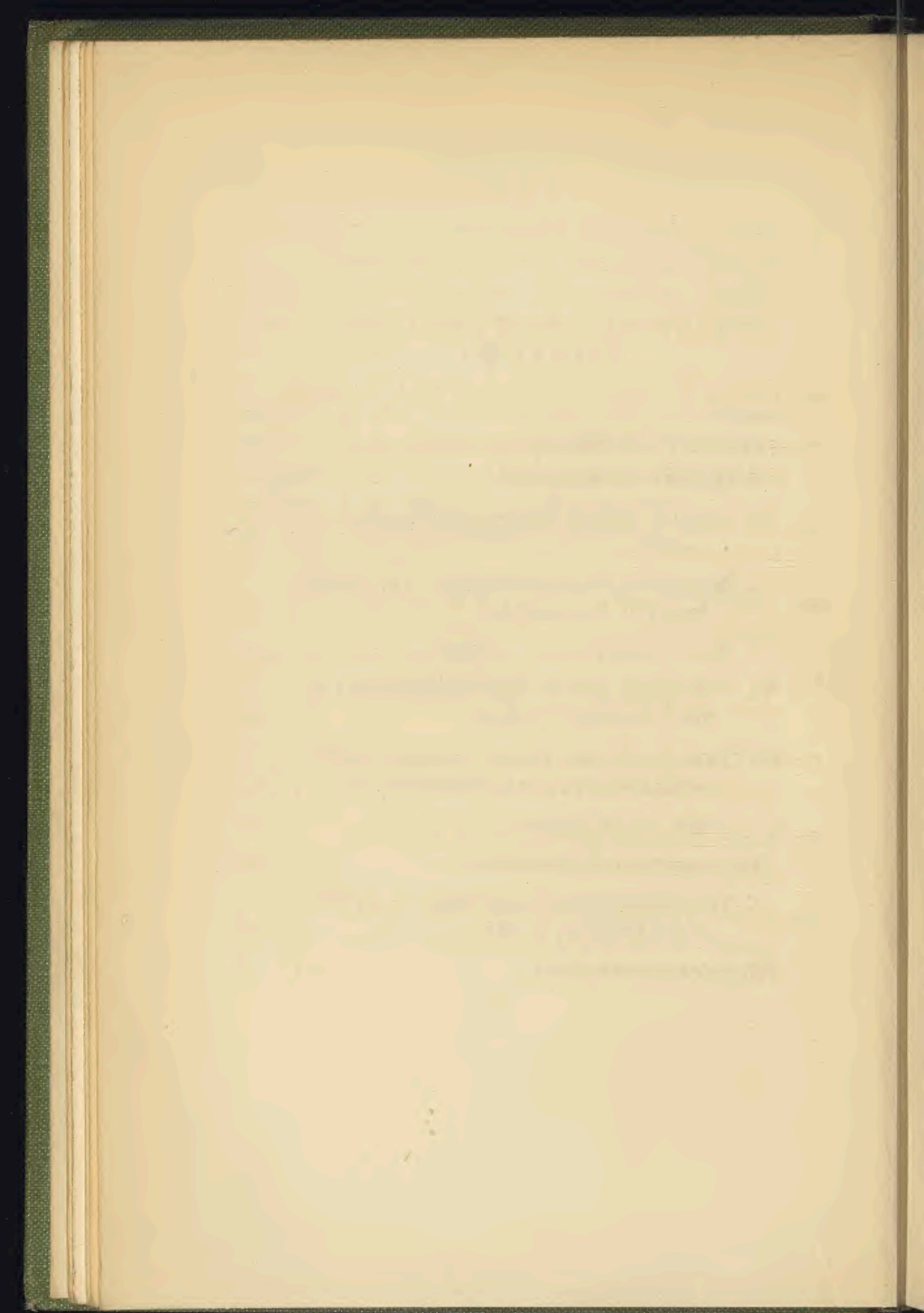
I should like here to acknowledge also the kindness of Mr Daniel Leslie, the well-known greenmaker, in providing me with the necessary information which goes to make up Chapter X.; also that of my friend Mr D. S. Calderwood, M.A., who undertook the reading of the proofs.

JAMES M. PRETSELL.

3 SPOTTISWOODE STREET,
EDINBURGH, *April* 1908.

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THE GAME OF BOWLS

CHAPTER I

HISTORY IN ENGLAND

INFORMATION from any reliable source on the early history of the game of bowls is of the most meagre description, but it is beyond doubt one of the oldest games in existence. Most writers on the subject point to the game as being an invention of the Middle Ages, but it requires little or no imagination to carry its origin back to more ancient times. It is well known, for instance, that one of the chief exercises of the Ancient Egyptians was the game of ball. From old records and remains found in Egypt, these balls were known to be of various kinds. Some were of bran or husks of corn, and others of rush stalks, both of these being covered with leather and sewed with string. Another kind was made of porcelain, being slightly smaller than the stuffed ones. This earthenware ball must have been played or rolled along the ground, as it would have been extremely risky to throw it in the same manner as the stuffed ones were handled. This porcelain ball,

in fact, must have been very similar to our present-day carpet bowls. It may thus be reasonably allowed that the game, through different forms, dates back to a time prior to 2000 B.C., when these exercises were in everyday use. The game is mentioned by Herodotus as being an invention of the Lydians in Asia Minor.

Coming down to the history of the game in Britain, its introduction to these islands cannot be attached to any particular date or event. Joseph Strutt, the antiquary (1742-1802), declared himself unable by any means to ascertain the date of its introduction, though he has traced it back to the thirteenth century. One writer in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, however, has gone farther back than this, and points out that William Fitz-Stephen (1477) includes bowls among the amusements practised by the young Londoners of the twelfth century on summer holidays. From these remarks, it is thus seen that the game is a very old one in this country, though from the early drawings of the players, it is evident that, like most of our pastimes, the game of bowls has passed through various changes and modifications in its long career. In the earliest of these representations of the game—a drawing in an MS. in the Royal Library, which is reproduced by Strutt—two small cones are placed upright at a distance from each other, and the business of the players is evidently to bowl at them alternately, the successful candi-

date to be he who could lay his bowl nearest to the mark. In others of these delineations, in which the players' attitudes are given with remarkable spirit and effect, we find other varieties of the game. For instance, one in which the player is required by the game, not to play to a mark, but to strike his opponent's sphere from its position. In process of time a third ball, of smaller size, and undoubtedly the progenitor of our present-day "jack," was introduced, to serve as a mark towards which to direct the bowls. The old drawings show each player with one bowl only, instead of two, as is general now. These bowls were round, and certainly up to 1409, and probably long after that date, were made of stone. Bowls of this kind were used in Scotland pretty commonly till about the end of the seventeenth century. In 1657, Lord Lorn, son of the Marquis of Argyle, while a prisoner in Edinburgh Castle, was struck by one of those stone bullets, and his life was despaired of for some time.

Strutt mentions that bowling-greens were originated in England. As to the accuracy of this, we are not in a position to certify; but certainly it is the case that the bowling-alley—a modification of the open green—originated in England. It is understood that the original greens were in some way prepared for the pastime, being smooth and laid to a certain extent, while the general deduction is that the bowling-alleys were intro-

duced in order that play might be engaged in in all weathers. Until recently—when the level green was introduced—we have been accustomed to think of the English bowling-green as being of the “crown” type, but the following quotation will show that even in the seventeenth century there were various styles throughout the country, and apparently in use. The reference is from *Country Contentments*, a book published about 1615, and says that bowling is a pastime—

“In which a man shall find great art in chusing out his ground, and preventing the winding, hanging, and many turning advantages of the same, whether it be in open wilde places or in close allies, and for his sport the chusing of the bowle is the greatest cunning; your flat bowles being best for allies, your round biazed bowles for open grounds of advantage, and your bowles like a ball for green swathes that are plain and level.”

This indicates some marked differences both in the greens and the bowls. The greens mentioned are probably the bowling-alley, “crown” green, and the nearest approach at that time to our present-day type of green. On the old crown greens, which were for a long time the style of green peculiar to the north of England, the game itself was quite different. As the name indicates, the green sloped from a point or apex to each side, and the bowls used had little or no bias at all. The green was not divided into rinks as

nowadays, but all played in any direction, the "jack" invariably being thrown from the last finishing place. This jack had the same bias as the bowls, and showed up any irregularity in the surface; while the games were always single-handed contests, rink play being little known or practised. It is not difficult for the Scottish bowler to realise the confusion this must have caused, and the pleasure which could be derived from the game played under such conditions is not appreciated by him.

To return to the bowling-alleys, it has unfortunately to be recorded that they became the haunts of idle and dissolute persons, and the discredit that fairly enough attached itself to them was extended to this most innocent and healthful recreation as practised on the green in the open air. There is little doubt that the early bowling-alleys were generally attached to taverns, inns, and such like establishments, and it is not difficult to understand how these came to deserve such a reputation. This discreditable relation it was that brought down on "lawn-bowls" the pains and penalties fulminated against it by so many statutes from the time of Richard II. to George II. No doubt, however, its own popularity and the consequent interference with the due practice of the all-important archery had caused it before then to be classed in the *Closs Book* of Edward III. in 1366 with other games, as being "alike

dishonourable, useless, and unprofitable;" that absorbed too much of the leisure of the king's famous bowmen. This popularity of bowls and its interference with the practice of archery brought forth in the reign of Henry VIII. (1541) an Act for "maintaining Artillery and the debarring of unlawful Games." The preamble states that the Bill was promoted by the "Bowyers, Fletchers, Stringers, and Arrowhead-makers," who found their living disappearing because of the people going in for games and plays. The first half of the Act, therefore, as might be expected, included provisions for the maintenance of archery and of butts in every parish, and then proceeded to impose penalties on all persons keeping any "common house, alley, or place of bowling," and also on all players. A long list of workmen, which practically aimed at the whole of the lower or labouring classes, were forbidden under severe penalties to play at (among other games) bowls, other than at Christmas, and then only in their masters' houses or presence; "also, no manner of persons shall at any time play at bowls in open places out of his garden or orchard," under penalty of 6s. 8d. a time. Then as yet worldly gear worked wonders, and owners of land of the annual value of £100 were exempted.

But these laws must have been systematically broken, for many old writers deplore the excessive numbers of these bowling-alleys and the evil

effects arising therefrom. Of course, as we have seen, the bowling-alleys were invariably attached to taverns or hostelryes—a circumstance which no doubt accentuated the evil. Stephen Gosson, in his *School of Abuse* (1579), speaking of the wonderful change, when “our courage is turned to cowardice, our running to ryot, our bowes into bowls, and our darts into dishes,” says that—

“Common bowling-alleys are privy mothes that eat up the credit of many idle citizens whose gaynes at home are not able to weigh downe theyre losses abroad; whose shoppes are so farre from maintaining theyre playe that theyr wives and children cry out for bread and go to bed supperlesse ofte in the yeare.”

Stow, the chronicler (1525-1605), is of opinion that the closing up for building purposes of the common grounds, before then appropriated to open-air amusements, drove the citizens to the bowling-alleys “and ordinarie dicing houses neer home, where they have room enough to hazard their money at unlawful games.” It is pointed out by Stow that on the decline of archery as a popular and fashionable amusement, more attention was paid to bowling, and the gardens of Northumberland House in Fenchurch Street were, in the reign of Henry VII., converted into bowling-alleys; and that in the following century the bowling-greens of London were the admiration of all foreigners. Up to the time of Henry VIII.,

however, bowling, both on greens and alleys, seems to have been a recreation or amusement little indulged in except by the lower classes; but not only did that bluff monarch add to Whitehall "divers fair tennice courts, bowling-alleys, and a cock-pit," but bowling-greens came to be looked on as indispensable in the laying out of gentlemen's gardens. The green, in fact, was the most important part of the pleasure garden during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and bowls and similar exercises were the favourite amusement of all classes. Timbs, in his *Curiosities of London*, says that Henry VIII. played bowls, and that in the last century it was much played in the suburbs, especially at Marylebone, and its bowling-greens were frequented by the nobility. He also mentions that Bowling Street, Westminster, commemorates the spot where the members of the Convent of St Peter amused themselves at bowls, and continues thus:—

"We have also Bowling Street in Marylebone and Turnmill Street; Bowling Green Lane in Clerkenwell and Southwark; Bowling Green Buildings in Bryanston Square, and Bowling Green Walk at Hoxton."

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, "gaming" on Sundays seemed to be the rule, and later became the law of the land. A Harleian MS., of date 15th January 1586, dwells on the great number of actors at that time performing in the

City of London, and deploras the fact that they not only played every day in the week, but also on Sundays. On the mention of Elizabeth's name, one naturally remembers the well-known and oft-told incident in connection with Sir Francis Drake. Drake was engaged with Hawkins in a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe when Captain Thomas Fleming brought the news of the appearance of the Spanish Armada off the Lizard. Drake's reply was characteristic. "There's time," he said, "to finish the game and beat the Spaniards afterwards." This celebrated game took place on the little terrace bowling-green behind the Pelican Inn. *The Pelican* was the name of the ship in which Drake sailed round the world. Dingley, in *Touchers and Rubs* (1893), writes:—

"Charles Kingsley relates that 'when Drake was asked by the Lord High Admiral of England, Lord Howard, for his counsel in the emergency, he answered, aiming his bowl: 'They'll come soon enough for us to show them sport, and yet slow enough for us to be ready; so let no man hurry himself, and as example is better than precept, here goes,' throwing his bowl and continuing the game. The game seems to have been played in rubbers—Hawkins, who won the game, thus addressing Drake: 'There, Vice-admiral, you're beaten, and that's the rubber. Pay up three dollars, old high-flyer.'"

During this period bowling-greens were as commonly the adjuncts of the Tudor mansions

as the croquet and tennis lawns of the present day.

The bowling-green being the usual adjunct to the mansion-house of his day, it is no wonder that we find Shakespeare making many kindly references to the game.

In *Richard II.*, Act iii., Scene 4, the young girl-queen, Isobel of France, is in low spirits while walking with one of her ladies in the Duke of York's garden, and asks :—

“What sport can we devise here in this garden,
To drive away the heavy load of care?”

to which the lady answers :—

“Madam, we'll play at bowls.”

The queen's remark to the suggestion evinces a knowledge of the game, as well as the condition of her mind, while it also discloses the fact that ladies played the game at that time :—

“’Twill make me think the world is full of rubs,
And that my fortune runs against the bias.”

In *Love's Labour Lost*, in the course of a rallying bout between Boyet and Maria, Costard advises the former to “challenge her to bowl,” to which Boyet replies : “I fear too much rubbing.”

In speaking of Sir Nathaniel, the curate, in the same play, the climax to honest Costard's simple laudation of the worthy parish parson is reached

in the following words :—" He is a marvellous good neighbour, faith, and a very good bowler." This sentence brings to mind a similar pleasant trait recorded of Dr Edward Young, the author of the *Night Thoughts*, who was in the habit of playing a game of bowls on a Sunday evening with his parishioners after having performed the service for them in the morning and afternoon.

Cymbeline, a play of the Augustan Age of the Roman Empire, contains the following reference to the game. In Act ii., Scene 1, before Cymbeline's palace, Cloten (son of the king) exclaims : " Was there ever man had such luck. When I kissed the jack upon an upcast to be hit away, I had a hundred pound on't."

In *Coriolanus*, Act v., Scene 2, at the Volscian camp before Rome, Menenius Agrippa says :—

" Nay, sometimes,
Like to a bowl upon a subtle ground
I've tumbled past the throw ; and in his praise
Have almost stamped the leasing ;"

while, in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Act iv., Scene 5, Petruchio refers to it thus :—

" Well forward, forward thus the bowl should run,
And not unluckily against the bias."

James I. in 1617 licensed thirty-one bowling-alleys at Westminster, Southwark, Lambeth, and other places, and in the following year brought out his *Book of Sports*, in which he counselled his son,

Prince Henry, to a rational indulgence in the game of bowls, and in which he also denounced football.

This book, however, was shortly afterwards withdrawn, the suggestion to indulge in certain games on Sundays after public worship bringing forth the strongest opposition. This royal patronage at once stamped the game as the fashion, and up to the time of the Commonwealth we find it retained its position as an outdoor pastime among the privileged classes. It is also noted by the writers of the day that at this time the game as a recreation was recommended and prescribed by physicians.

It was, however, in the reign of Charles I. that bowls attained its highest favour, as no other royal patron was so enthusiastic over the game as that accomplished monarch. At Barking Hall, in Essex, the seat of Richard Shute, M.P. for London, he was a frequent visitor, Shute having constructed one of the finest greens in the country. According to the custom of the day, they frequently played for high stakes, and it is recorded that the losses were paid punctually. On one occasion Charles's losses amounted to the large sum of £1000. Shute urged him to commence another game, in the hope that his bad luck would turn. The king, however, had had enough, and refused to continue, reminding Shute that he (Charles) must remember his wife and children. During his enforced leisure at Holmby, Northamptonshire, after he had been

handed over to the Roundheads, Charles often rode over to Lord Spencer's place at Althorp, or to Lord Vaux's at Harrowden, where the quality of the greens pleased him better than at Holmby. In fact, he is said to have been actually engaged in a game at Althorp, when Cornet Joyce arrived at Holmby to take him to other quarters. Even during his confinement at Caversham Castle he is said to have indulged in his favourite game, and visited, under escort, a green at a little place called Collin's End, on the Oxfordshire side of the Thames. In this connection it is interesting to note a quaint memorial of the king's love for the game in the shape of a sign at the old-fashioned hostelry near the green. On the sign-board appears a portrait of Charles, and the landlord also had the following inscription put on the sign-board in commemoration of the king's visits :—

“Stop, traveller, stop. In yonder peaceful glade
His favourite game the Royal Martyr played.
Here, stripped of honours, children, freedom, rank ;
Drank from the bowl, and bowl'd for what he drank ;
Sought in a cheerful glass his cares to drown,
And changed his guinea ere he lost his crown.”

It is also further recorded that while Charles was a prisoner at Carisbrook Castle, the governor converted the barbican into “a bowling-green scarcely to be equalled, and built at one side a pretty summer house.” Among other places,

Charles also played bowls at Hardurdy House, a place near Caversham, and when still of royal authority he himself caused a bowling-green to be made at Spring Gardens.

King James I.'s *Book of Sports* was re-issued by Charles, and an edict renewed ordering the people to indulge in certain games (described in said book) on Sundays after public worship. This was met with strong opposition by the Puritans, who saw in the action a blow aimed at their cause by the High Church party, the leader and instigator of which was Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury. William Prinne, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, was most severely treated for denouncing the pleasures and recreations of the day. He was fined heavily, put in the pillory, and afterwards sentenced to imprisonment for life. Those of the clergy who refused to read this decree from their pulpits were punished by being deprived of their livings. Prinne says that Laud "used to play bowls this very day—(Sunday)—a pretty archiepiscopeall Sabbath recreation." Referring to a more remote period, Laud's behaviour was surely no disgrace to "the cloth," when we find it recorded that even Calvin indulged in the game on Sunday, and was found thus occupied when visited by Knox.

With the example of the nobility and gentry, it is little wonder the lower classes took advantage of the licence authorised by the *Book of Sports*.

There were those, however, who gave both the game and players a very poor recommendation. John Earle, Bishop of Worcester, chaplain and tutor to Prince Charles, said that bowling was celebrated for three things wasted, viz. :—"time, money, and curses." Notwithstanding his tutor's views on the game, Charles II. was a lover of the pastime. In Grammont's *Memoirs* his frequent visits to Tunbridge for the game are described, while on Clarendon's authority it is recorded he went to a house in Piccadilly, where the bowling-greens were frequented by the gentry. On his escape from the battle of Worcester, disguised in company with Mrs Lane, they came, according to the same authority—

"To Mrs Norton's house, near Bristol, and it being a holiday, they saw many people about a bowling-green that was before the door; and the first man the king saw was a chaplain of his own . . . who was sitting upon the rails to see how the bowlers played."

At this time many an estate had been lost, it is said, on the bowling-green, and Canon Jackson, in one of his numerous articles in the *Will's Magazine*, states that Sir Edward Hungerford lost his estate in 1648 by gambling at a bowling match at which he staked his property, remarking as he threw his last bowl, "Here goes Rowdon." It was perhaps somewhat natural that a game so

strongly patronised by the sovereign should become so popular as to be seriously menaced and ultimately killed by the curse of betting, and this was undoubtedly the condition of the pastime towards the middle of the seventeenth century. Evelyn (1625-1706), who was a wealthy man and admitted to the best of society of his time, records that he went on 14th August 1657 to the Durdans (now Lord Rosebery's seat at Epsom), to a challenged match at bowls for £10, which he won. Evelyn's *Diary and Correspondence* contain many allusions to the game. In 1646 he found a "bowling place" when visiting Geneva; while in 1654 he also mentions being at bowls on the green at Winchelsea. In a letter to Hon. Robert Boyle, of date 3rd September 1659, Evelyn sketches a plan of his for a proposed retreat for himself and those like-minded and their wives, and to include therein a place "kept curiously and to serve for bowls." He likewise records a bowling-alley at Earl of Suffolk's Palace at Audley End, and states that being at the Ducal Palace at Norwich in 1671, Lord Henry Howard "advised" with him concerning the rebuilding of it, and his lordship's resolve "to convert the bowling-green into stables." In a note referring to the Precinct of the late Austin Friars, "now called my Lord's Gardens," Kirkpatrick's *Streets and Lanes of the City of Norwich* says: "So called from Lord Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, who built

the house at the corner of King Street and Mountergate Street, and turned the grounds into a bowling-green and garden about 1670."

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703), in his *Diary*, states that on 1st May 1661, he and others, with their wives, played at "bowles," and that on 26th July 1662 he went to Whitehall Garden and the bowling-alley, where lords and ladies were engaged at the game. Again, in 1668, he records that Sir W. Coventry, Commissioner of the Navy, and in his time holding high positions, was in the habit of playing "bowles" after business during the summer. The great John Locke (1632-1704), writing in 1679, says that the "sports of England for a curious stranger to see are—horse-racing, hawking, hunting, and bowling. At Marebone and Putney he may see several persons of quality bowling two or three times a week."

Evelyn seems to have had a good acquaintance with bowling-greens all over the country. He mentions going to Blackheath on 1st May 1683 to see the new fair, and says—

"This was the first day, pretended for the sale of cattle, but I think, in truth, to enrich the new tavern at the bowling-green."

In view of the difficulty of obtaining suitable sites for bowling-greens nowadays, it is interesting to note, in passing, an advertisement which appeared in a newspaper of 1684 stating that "the

bowling-green in Southwark Park" was to be let as a building site.

A rather curious phase of the life of the clergymen of this period is got from Macaulay's *History*. He refers to the Puritans' wholesale denunciation of such amusements as "rope-dancing, puppet shows, bowls, and horse-racing," and goes on to describe the position then held by the clergy (1685) thus :—

"A large proportion of these divines who had no benefices, or whose benefices were too small to afford a comfortable revenue, lived in the houses of laymen. A young Levite—such was the phrase then in use—might be had for his board, a small garret, and £10 a year, and might not only perform his own professional functions, might not only be the most patient of butts and of listeners, might not only be ready in fine weather for bowls and in rainy weather for shore board, but might also save the expense of a gardener or a groom." Again, in describing Buxton, he writes: "On fine evenings there were morris dances on the elastic turf of the bowling-green."

In the *Tatler* of 3rd January 1709, a correspondent wrote :—

"White's Chocolate House, January 2nd.—I came here to-day . . . and saw hung up the escutcheon of Sir Hannibal, a gentleman who used to frequent this place."

The writer continues thus :—

"The coat of the deceased is three bowls and a

jack in a green field, the crest a dice box, with the King of Clubs and Pam for supporters."

In Ashton's *Social Life in the reign of Queen Anne* we are told that the game spread rapidly in that reign, especially after 1706, in the suburbs of the metropolis. Greens started in, "among other districts, Putney, Hoxton, Maribone, Hampstead, Stoke Newington, Ham Lane, etc."

The position of the game among the amusements—for some of them were only amusements and not recreations—of the day was not very creditable, for in Stow's *Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster* it is stated that at the close of the seventeenth century, "the recreations of the citizens" comprised, "besides drinking," cock-fighting, bowling-greens, and others, while "the more common sort" diverted themselves at football, wrestling, nine-pins, cricket, and quoits. Drinking and cock-fighting seem to the present-day mind rather queer "recreations," for although the former habit still survives to a great extent, no one would think for a moment of upholding it as a "recreation." In short, it is very obvious that "the more common sort" of that day were also the more sane sort as regards their recreations.

The game of bowls on the green, however, was quite different from, and should not be confounded with, the game in the "alleys." These latter

resorts, invariably of course attached to taverns or hostelries, must be blamed for most of the abuses which we find linked to the game during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Let the reader imagine a skittle-alley—for preference attached to a tavern—with as little science and less skill necessary than is required for that amusement, and he should have a pretty good idea of the ancient bowling-alley of “mine host.” It is unfortunate that in both forms the pastime received the same name, which fact no doubt accounts for the odium which through time became attached to the game on the green. No wonder, therefore, that the game gradually lost caste, for there is also abundant proof that although betting was very common at this time, probably in no game was it found to such an extent as in bowls. It is recorded that the sisters of Sir John Suckling the poet were actually seen at the bowling-green in Piccadilly crying “for fear he should lose all their portions.”

Possibly the only circumstance which saved the reputation of bowls as a healthy and rational outdoor recreation was the fact that it remained through the eighteenth century one of the fashionable games of the first rank of society. Of course it is again pointed out that even in these quarters the game suffered from betting and gambling, but it should be borne in mind that at this time the standard of morality in England and also in Scot-

land was by no means lofty. In fact, our recreations are nowadays much healthier and freer from contaminating agencies than ever they were.

During the nineteenth century, and especially the second half of it, the game of bowls regained much of its old-time popularity, until now it holds rank as one of the foremost summer pastimes. This extension of the game took place in all the large centres of population, and notably in Newcastle, Carlisle, and London. Two of Newcastle's outstanding clubs were formed in the seventies, while in London Brownswood Club was formed in 1871. It was not, however, until the end of the century that the metropolis really took the game up to its present extent. During the last fifteen years, new clubs have been formed in almost every district, and the game has been taken up with great enthusiasm by the southerners. As in Scotland, the game has also been encouraged by the municipalities, particulars of which will be seen in a subsequent chapter.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY IN SCOTLAND

THE game of bowls in Scotland, as in England, has been played from an early date. There is very little, however, on record as regards the early history of the game north of the Tweed. This is principally because of the dearth of early Scottish writers and the absence of diarists like Pepys and Evelyn, who have left much interesting information as to the habits and customs of the people of their day. There is no doubt, however, that the game was among the pastimes of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Both James IV. and James V. were players at bowls, as they were of most games then known, but in the general estimation, "trulis," as the game was often called, seems to have been looked upon as rather a childish pastime. William Dunbar (1460?-1522?), the greatest of the old Scottish poets, in one of his poems, alludes to it in this light when he speaks of—

"So mony lordis, so mony naturall fulis,
That better accordis to play thame at the trulis,
Nor seis the dulis that commons dois sustene."

The bad repute into which most games fell in England never attached to them in Scotland, although, notwithstanding this freedom, the many other forms of the game could not compare in popularity with that played on the open bowling-green.

In April 1497, we find the Lord High Treasurer paying 18s. for James IV. to play at the lang-bowles at St Andrews, and in the previous year, while Perkin Warbeck was his guest at Stirling, we find James playing at "kilis" in Drummond Castle. The "lang-bowles," also called "Dutch-rubbers," according to Strutt, was a game performed in a narrow enclosure about twenty or thirty yards in length, and at the further end was placed a square frame with nine small pins upon it; at these pins the players bowled in succession, while a boy stationed at the frame set up the pins that were put down by the bowl, and returned the bowl to the player by means of a gradually inclined trough on one side of the enclosure. "Kilis," there is little doubt, is the same as Strutt terms "kayles." It was played with pins, and no doubt gave origin to the more modern game of ninepins. The pins, however, were placed in one row in the older game, and either bowls or clubs were used to throw at them.

In process of time the game of bowls grew in popular favour, and greens were made all over the country. It is said to have been the game at

which Lord Lorn met his severe accident in 1657, but this identification of the particular game is hardly borne out by the account of the mishap in the letters of Principal Baillie of Glasgow University. Baillie, in a long letter to his cousin in Holland, giving "a large account of our affaires this twelve months past" (1657-8), says:—

"My Lord Lorn, a most excellent and honest-minded youth, prisoner in the Castle of Edinburgh, walking about while the lieutenant of the Castle with others are playing with hand bullets, one of them, rebounding off the wall, stricks him on the head, whereon he fell down dead and speechless for a long time; his death sundry dayes was expected, but blessed be God, I hear this day he was better."

A little later in the century we get additional evidence of how widespread was the love of bowling. From the *Domestic Annals of Scotland* we find that in 1673—

"Two brothers, probably of English birth, Edward Fountain of Loch-hill and Captain James Fountain, had their patent formally proclaimed throughout Scotland as 'Masters of the Revels within the Kingdom.' They thus possessed a privilege of licensing and authorising balls, masks, plays, and such like entertainments. Nor was this quite such an empty or useless privilege as our traditionary notions of the religious objections formerly cherished against public amusements might have led us to suppose. The privilege

of the Messrs Fountain must have in time become an insupportable grievance to the lieges, or at least such of them as were inclined to embroider a little gaiety on the dull serge of common life."

So grievous did their exactions become, that Lord Fountainhall tells us "when the Scots Parliament sat in August 1681," among other proposals "rumoured as designed to be past in Acts" was one against Mr Fountain's "gift as 'Master of the Revels,' by which he exacts so much off every bowling-green, kyle-alley, etc., throughout the kingdom, as falling under his gift of lotteries." Nothing was done at the time, but three years later another complaint was made that the "Masters of the Revels" went "almost through all Scotland," taxing all who kept any such place of recreation. It was stated that they realised a sum of £16,000 from some 6000 persons, who were forced to compound with them.

Now, while about this period the game was falling in popularity in the south, it continued to be held in high favour in the Northern Counties and in Scotland. Edinburgh did not seem to be behind with facilities for the game. From a map of the Capital by William Edgar in 1742, we find no fewer than five bowling-greens, three of them within a stone's throw of each other, and all much larger than can be afforded for greens nowadays. It may be interesting to note where these were situated. One was immediately to the south of

Heriot's Hospital, and covered as much ground as the hospital itself; a second to the south-east of the Magdalene Chapel, Cowgate, where Merchant Street is now crossed by George IV. Bridge; a third to the east of Society, where the south-west part of the Royal Scottish Museum now stands; a fourth to the east of Potterrow, outside the old city wall and on the site of the present Empire Theatre; and a fifth to the east of Holyrood House. It will thus be seen that the Edinburgh of the first half of the eighteenth century was well equipped with bowling-greens, though in the second half at least three of these had to make way for the everlasting march of stone and lime. We find from the minutes of the Governors of Heriot's Hospital, that a lease for twenty-one years was granted in 1768 to the "Gentlemen Bowlers in Edinburgh" of a small bowling-green behind the hospital, and the inner garden immediately to the east of it, commonly known as "the wilderness," to be levelled and laid down anew at their expense. The governors were moved to make this surrender "that an exercise so beneficial to the health of the inhabitants might not be totally lost for want of greens." Further, in the records of Edinburgh Town Council, we also find that this club of "Gentlemen Bowlers" petitioned the Magistrates and Council, and were erected into a society for the keeping up of this amusement by a "Seal of Cause" granted by the Magistrates of

Edinburgh on 15th November 1769. A "Seal of Cause" was a name bestowed upon those deeds of the Council by which they erect certain companies within their privileges into bodies corporate, and approve of certain laws and regulations made for their good government.

The following is the substance of this petition as contained in the Town Council records. Under date 26th July 1769, we read—

"Anent the petition of the inhabitants thereto subscribing, who are in use to amuse themselves with the exercise of Bowling, setting furth 'That sometime agoe the several areas that had been laid out for Bowling-Greens came to be otherways occupied, and the remaining one in Heriot's Garden was also fallen into great disrepair: That upon application in behalf of the Bowlers representing that this wholesome and innocent recreation was in danger of being lost unless part of Heriot's Gardens were granted in Tack for the purpose of forming and laying two greens, the Honourable Governors of George Heriot's Hospital were so good as to grant a Tack of Heriot's Gardens to some of their number for the space of Twenty-one years, presumable by the Governors on the conditions mentioned in the Tack and to be occupied as therein directed: That in consequence of this indulgence the Tacksmen have caused execute one Bowling-Green in a very handsome manner, and have formed another, which may be finished against next Bowling season: That they were sensible the greens could not be so regularly managed nor kept in proper order unless a Seal

of Cause be obtained from the Honourable Council erecting the Bowlers into a Body corporate under the name and title of the Society of Bowlers, with power to meet annually on the first Fryday of April at the House possessed by Mr Wood in Heriot's Gardens, or such other place as the Society shall appoint, with liberty to adjourn themselves from time to time, and That the said Society at their aniversary meetings shall annually elect a Preses for the ensuing year, a Committee of four of their number to join with the Preses in the ordinary management of their affairs, and six other assistants to advise with the Preses and Committee from time to time as they may be called, as also to elect a clerk to minute their procedure, with full power to the Society at their aniversary meetings or other general meetings called by the Committee for that purpose, to make regulations for the better preservation of the greens, and to form Rules regulating the exercise of Bowling, and to enact such Bylaw as might be conducive to the good order and benefit of the Society. Further, that the said Society so erected shall have power to assume from time to time into the Society such other Bowlers of a decent character as should apply for the same, without prejudice to any other person or persons tho' not of the Society to amuse themselves with the exercise of Bowling. They always complying with the Regulations made by the Society for preserveing the greens and the Rules established for regulating the exercise of Bowling. Praying therefore it might please the Honourable Magistrates and Council to grant the Petitioners a Seal of Cause for the purposes above mentioned and authorize

their clerks to extend the same in the above terms or such other as should appear proper to the wisdom of the Council, which being read the Council remitted the same to Baillie Home and his Committee and they to report. Accordingly Baillie Home from the said Committee reported that they having considered the said petition were of opinion that the desire of the Petition should be granted, and that the Council should authorize their clerks to make out a Seal of Cause Accordingly to be recorded in the Council Books Together with the Rules shown to the Committee and therein referred to, and that such rules as shall from time to time be made shall be laid before the Magistrates for their approbation as the report under the hands of the said Committee bears, which being considered by the Magistrates and Council they approved of the said Report and enact statute and ordain accordingly.

“JAMES STUART, *Provost*.”

The Seal of Cause having been duly prepared according to resolution, the minutes of 15th November 1769 contain the following, viz. :—

“There was presented and signed in Council a Charter or Seal of Cause in favour of a number of the Burgesses and Inhabitants who are in use to amuse themselves with the exercise of bowling, erecting them into a body corporate under the name and title of the Edinburgh Society of Bowlers with certain powers and priviledges therein insert of which Charter together with the rules relative to the exercise of bowling referred to in the Committee's report the 26th July last.”

The tenor of the Seal of Cause follows, in the course of which we read—

“That the Council, having carefully perused the purport of the said petition, and being fully persuaded that granting the desire of it can be of no prejudice to the public, but convinced that granting a Seal of Cause in manner desired would be of use and contribute to the health of many of the citizens, and the design in itself being laudable and just, did ordain a Seal of Cause to be extended and erected into a corporation or body corporate the persons after mentioned, viz. :—

“Messieurs

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.	ROBERT CLARK.
THOMAS MABANE.	ROBERT BOYD.
THOMAS CLELAND.	JOHN M'PHERSON.
ROBERT SELKRIG.	WILLIAM VAIR.
WILLIAM ROBERTSON.	JOHN BROWN.
JOHN CARMICHAEL.	THOMAS THOMSON.
JAMES CRAIG.	GEORGE STEWART.
WILLIAM TOD, Senior.	ROBERT HALL.
CHARLES HOWIESON.	WILLIAM SCOTT.
ROBERT HUNTER.	GEORGE BOYD.
MATHEW LISTERIN.	DUNCAN M'QUEEN.
ALEXANDER BROWN.	MAITLAND BANNANTYNE.
JOHN THOMSON.	JOHN CUMMING.
JAMES GIBSON.	ROBERT WRIGHT.
EDWARD INGLIS.	JAMES EWART.
HUGH GRAY.	ANDREW KINNIER.
ANDREW M'CARA.	ALEXANDER WEBSTER.
JOHN MONCRIEFF.	WILLIAM LOTHIAN.
EBENEZER MACFAIT.	JAMES BAIRD.
WILLIAM HUME.	JOHN HEPBURN.”

A copy of the Rules and Regulations governing this bowling club is preserved in the Council records of that date, and as these are most interest-

ing nowadays, they are given as showing the condition of the game at that time.

Regulations at Bowls.

1. The Block is to lye wherever it's thrown, provided there be two Byasses and four or five feet from the water Table or Bank.
2. A right-handed bowler must keep his right foot on the trig when he plays, and a left-handed bowler his left foot.
3. If any bowler play his bowl immediately after his neighbour, the other party may take up the bowl while running and throw it into the Bank; but if they allow it to settle, it is a counting bowl.
4. If any of the bowlers accidentally stop a bowl when running, it must be played over again.
5. If any of the bowlers accidentally turn over his adversary's bowl when settled, it is left to the person who played the bowl to replace it.
6. If any bowler accidentally turns over his own bowl or any of his partner's bowls, his adversary is to replace it.
7. If any bowler touch or stop a running bowl, and if it is the opinion of the Company that he did it on purpose, if it be his adversary's bowl, it shall be lay'd touching the Block; if his own, or on his own side, it shall be thrown into the Bank.
8. The bowl that carys the Block into the Bank is a counting bowl, and all bowls that are drove into the Bank along with the Block are allowed to play in the Bank until they settle, and if they touch the Block are counting bowls till touch'd or bank't; if they do not touch the Block, they must be taken up and laid aside.

9. When the Block is in the Bank all bowls are allowed to play in the Bank till they settle, and if they touch the Block are counting bowls, and if a bowl touch the bowl in the Bank and afterwards the Block, the bowl it touched is banked and the other counts, but if the bowl that was in the Bank shall touch the Block again it shall count.
10. A bowl that lyes in the Bank touching the Block cannot be bank't with the first bowl that touches it, that is to say, it must be first separated from the Block and then touched.
11. All disputes anent a bowl touching the Block are to be decided by the bystanders.
12. If any bowler be measuring a Cast and put back his adversary's bowl he loses the Cast.
13. If a bowler accidentally alter the Block, his adversary must replace it.
14. If the Block is riden or rested and is accidentally touched or stopt by a bowler, he loses once that end; but if it is the opinion of the bystanders that he stopt it on purpose, he loses the game.
15. The trig must be laid within four feet of the place where the Block lay the last end.
16. No beter, wagerer, or bystander can give ground or advice in the game; if a beter, he forfeits his bets.
17. If a bowl be stopt or put out of its course by a stander before touching any of the bowls, it must be played over again. But if it has touched any of the bowls, it must lye there as a rub of the green.

The club made a new green in addition to that in use when the lease was taken, to the east of it,

on that part of the hospital grounds then known as "the wilderness," near the Greyfriars Churchyard wall, which cost, along with putting the former green in a state of good repair, a sum of £152. This lease, granted in 1768, should have expired in 1789, but in tracing up the minutes no mention of the renewal of the lease can be found. Dr Bedford, however, in his *History of Heriot's Hospital*, throws a side-light upon this matter. At that time the old city wall formed the southern boundary of the hospital grounds (as it forms part of the western boundary to this day), so that the bowling-greens were entirely secluded from the public gaze. Dr Bedford tells us that in 1786 the southern portion of the city wall was removed and a handsome iron rail substituted in its place. "The removal of this huge pile of building," he goes on to say, "was a decided improvement, as the hospital, previously enclosed like a monastery, was now thrown open to public view." The tenants of the gardens sought and obtained a small compensation in consequence of "the privacy of the ground being thus broken in upon and the desertion of his bowling-green, by which he lost the advantage of the bowling parties that assembled at his house after their amusement was over." The gentlemen bowlers evidently did not care about having their recreation under the critical gaze of a vulgar public. At that time—the end of the eighteenth century—Edinburgh

was rather famous (or notorious) for drinking clubs, and perhaps the gentlemen bowlers would transfer their patronage to some of these, where the on-lookers would be more select than those who intruded their gaze on the bowling-green to the north of Lauriston.

About the second mentioned of these old Edinburgh greens, viz., the one behind the Cowgate, there are to be found some interesting facts. Robert Chambers (1802-1871), in his *Minor Antiquities of Edinburgh*, states that the Excise Office was removed in the first half of the eighteenth century from the Parliament Square to the house occupied many years before by "Tam o' the Cowgate." This was the sobriquet bestowed by King James VI. on Thomas Hamilton, first Earl of Haddington (1627), who was president of the Court of Session (1592) and Secretary of State for Scotland (1612). The bowling-green to the south-east of the Magdalene Chapel was immediately behind this house, and was let out by the Commissioners of Excise to a man of the name of Thomson. From this fact it was called Thomson's green, and it is alluded to in a poem by Allan Ramsay (1686-1758), in imitation of the *Vides ut alta* of Horace.

"Driving their ba's frae tee to tee,
There's no ae gouffer to be seen ;
Nor doucer folk wysing a-jee,
The byas bowls on Tamson's green,"

Chambers continues, "The green was latterly occupied by the relict of this Thomson; and it is a curious fact that among the bad debts on the excise books, all of which are yearly brought forward and enumerated, there still stands a sum of something more than six pounds against widow Thomson, being the last half-year's rent of the green, which the poor woman had been unable to pay."

Bowling-greens in those days do not seem to have been financial successes, unless when "run" by the host of an adjoining tavern. But, from whatever cause, interest in the game appears to have vanished, or at any rate no records of it appear during the next half-century. The few facts, however, about these two give some little idea as to the condition of greens—private and public—at that time. The one at Lauriston, frequented by the well-to-do classes in the persons of the "Gentlemen Bowlers," was undoubtedly a private green, as we now understand and use the term. Thomson's green at the Cowgate, although situated in what was then a good enough locality, was conducted more on the same principles as the English greens of that time, being let to a tenant, who was at liberty to make as much as possible out of it. This type of green was the precursor of our present-day public green, although in our day it is invariably owned by the Corporation or Municipality. As will be seen, however, from

another chapter on this subject, it was left to the energies and enthusiasm of some of the players in at least one town in Scotland to show the authorities how a public green could be made to "pay its way"; and it was only after a most successful *regime* under such management that the Corporation could be got to take it over into their own hands.

Some of the earliest authenticated records of bowls and bowling-greens in Scotland are to be found in connection with the ancient Royal Burgh of Haddington, whose charter, like that of Edinburgh, dates back to the reign of David I. A history of Haddington mentions, among other institutions of that town, "a bowling club, established in 1709. Evidence of a bowling-green in Haddington, however, is met with prior to this date. From the minute of meeting of the Council of the Burgh, held on 18th August 1662, the following excerpt is taken:—

"The samyne day the provest, baillies, counsell, and deacons of craftis of the said Burgh, efter mature deliberatioun, ordanit and ordanis Wm. Allan, merchand burges, ye late Thesaurer to the Kirk Sessioun, to delyver and give up to Patrick Young, notar, the soume of ane thousand pundis scottis money or thairby collectit fra and paye it be the burgesses and inhabitantis of the said Burgh toward the pretendit building of ane bridge at Saltoun to be disposit of now be the said Patrick in name of the said counsell for building

ane house at and wall about and laying the ground of ane bowilling grein on the sandis of the said Burgh. Ordanit it and statute these presents sall be to the said William and sufficient warrand to free him fra all cost, skaith, damage and expenses that he sall incurr throw delyverence and upgiving of the said money to the said Patrick."

The green here referred to is still in existence, and was occupied by the Haddington Club until the formation of their present green in 1889.

Further, in a minute of Council of date 7th February 1670, we find that—

"The samen day the saidis provest, baillies, dean of Gild, counsell, and deaconis of craftis, considdering that John Hay, late gairdner in Tinninghame, is willing to take the boulling grein of the said burgh in tact, They have referrit and be their presents referris to the magistrates to meit with the same John Hay and aggrie with him theranent, and to mak report thereof the next counsell day."

Glasgow seems to have had a public bowling-green in 1695, the site being now covered by Bell Street and Candleriggs. Clelland's *Annals of Glasgow* records that in that year the Town Council of Glasgow disposed of a piece of ground to one Mungo Cochrane for a public bowling-green, with certain privileges which were afterwards abrogated. This early bowling-green was known as the Candle Riggs green, though it was not till 1724 that Candleriggs Street was projected

and begun. From a map of Glasgow in 1750 (Fleming 1764), there was a green in the Gallowgate belonging to John Orr of Barrowfield. According to the *Glasgow Journal* (1766), it passed into the hands of John Struthers, maltman, who turned it into a public green. The following advertisement is interesting as showing the position of this green at that time :—

“There is a beautiful Lodging and Pertinents thereof and a curious Bowling-green at back thereof for the diversion of Gamesters at Bowls there intill, and a stately pair of butts for accomodating the Archers of our City thereat and other gentlemen adjacent, all well fenced and enclosed by John Orr of Barrowfield, Esq., lying between his Village of Caltoun and the east part of Glasgow.”

This extract also throws a side-light on the position of the game at this time and under these conditions, this green being similar to many of those in England during the eighteenth and early half of the nineteenth centuries.

In Mackay's *History of Kilmarnock* is found the following :—

“In a minute of Council dated 5th March 1764, mention is made of a shooting prize of £5 having been placed about the year 1740 in the hands of a Mr Paterson towards erecting a bowling-green and purchasing bowls, as being thought a more agreeable diversion than shooting.”

From the earliest information obtainable, it appears that the site of the bowling-green between the years 1780 and 1790 was on ground near where the George Hotel now stands. The bowling-green house, as it was termed, was situated at the foot of Back Street, and was kept as an inn or public house by Sandy Patrick, a jolly individual, whose house was the rendezvous of the poet Burns when he visited Kilmarnock, and where he often met the renowned Tam Samson, Rob Muir, Gavin Turnbull the poet, and others of his early friends and patrons.

As showing the conduct of the game in those days, the following extract from the Rules and Regulations of the Kilmarnock Club, drawn up in 1811, is interesting :—

“The game is to be played by the club on the second and fourth Monday of each month beginning at three o'clock; that any member absent from three meetings without a satisfactory reason being given to the club be expelled; that the club meet every night after play at Bicket's tavern to expend the bets, calling the reckoning at 10 o'clock; and that no game be played under 6d. with a fine of 6d. for every member playing his bowl the wrong bias; play to close at 7.30 P.M.”

In 1821 the time for closing was fixed at 8.30 P.M. A player nowadays, in setting up his bowl with the wrong bias, generally gives rise to the jocular criticism, “half-crown,” “bottle of whisky,”

or some such phrase, it being implied that this should be paid as a fine. Few, however, may be aware that a fine was ever a regular custom on such occasions. The adjournment to Bicket's tavern every night at the conclusion of play "to expend the bets," savours too much of the social condition and habits of the end of the eighteenth century. This, of course, is now to a great extent eliminated from the game, but unhappily there are still certain quarters where great improvement might be wrought in this direction. The betting may not be present now, but the tavern is sometimes in evidence.

As in the capital at an earlier date, there flourished in Glasgow in 1804 "The Society of Bowlers." It is recorded at that time, that the game was practised by many gentlemen in the city. Several members of this society had some years previously purchased a piece of ground at the back of the Alms House, which they converted into a bowling-green for the use of the society. There was about the same time a bowling-green situated in the Candleriggs Street, which was apparently run by the tenant as a public green, anyone who wished gaining admission on payment of a small sum. This was, in all probability, the Candleriggs green of 1695. In 1817, the site of this green was acquired for the purpose of increasing the market accommodation, and, according to Clelland, there were still three bowling-

greens for the convenience of the public, viz., at St Crispin Place, Kirk Street; Sauchyhall Road, and Hutchesontown.

A map of the city in 1821 shows the position of the green of the Willowbank club as being at the west end of Bath Street and quite near Sauchiehall Street, so there seems little doubt that this is the green referred to by Clelland as Sauchyhall Road. This brings us to the present-day clubs of Glasgow, of which the oldest is Willowbank, dating back to about 1816. Next come the Albany in 1833, Wellcroft in 1835, and Whitevale in 1837. At this period (1837) there were many greens in different towns in Scotland, these including Troon, Moffat, Peebles, Wigtown, Newton-Stewart, Ayr, Dumbarton, Falkirk, and Thornhill.

The only three greens which can be traced in Edinburgh at the beginning of last century are those at Claremont, Coates, and Warriston. Of these only the first mentioned still exists. It should be mentioned, however, that in the premises of the Edinburgh Bowling Club there is preserved a framed newspaper cutting dated 1819, and intimating the opening of the green for that season, but of this no more evidence can be got. A club was formed there in 1848, after which followed Lutton Place, 1860; West End, 1861; and more than a score since that date. The Leith Club, the oldest in Leith, dates from 1858.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century

there is no doubt that the game was in a very dormant state. This condition of things was, of course, the result of that abuse to which it was subjected by its greatest devotees, together with a general improvement in the social conditions existing at that time, the combined effect of which was to make people look with suspicion—if not with something of a stronger growth—on a game with such traditions.

It was only after the inauguration of the beneficent reign of our late good Queen Victoria that bowling regained its place in the annals of pure sport. There is no doubt the late sovereign, by her lofty ideals, sterling good qualities, and by her own example, brought a much-needed improvement into the life of the nation in all its bearings, and bowling reaped its own little harvest. It seems the Act of 1541, which prohibited the "commoner sort" (as they were termed) from engaging in the game unless under severe restrictions, was not really repealed till 1845. This, however, could mean very little, for the game was played openly for many years prior to this date.

Nowadays almost every town and village in the country has its bowling-green, while most of the larger towns have come to see the necessity of laying down public greens. This, however, will form the subject of another chapter.

CHAPTER III

HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH BOWLING ASSOCIATION

IN sketching the history of this popular and extremely useful association, it is but fair that notice should be taken of the first attempt at the formation of a National Bowling Club or Association. This took place as far back as 1848, at a time when the number of clubs in Scotland was very small and when interest in the game as a pastime was nothing to what it is nowadays. This movement of 1848, however, was confined to the west of Scotland only, and in fact the final meeting was composed of delegates solely from Glasgow clubs. In the first place, a general friendly meeting of bowlers was held in the Town Hall of Glasgow in 1848, and was attended by upwards of two hundred gentlemen—mostly belonging to the Glasgow clubs, although clubs in Paisley, Greenock, and Falkirk were also represented. The meeting was presided over by the late Mr Alexander Hastie, M.P., then President

of the Willowbank Club. It was suggested by one of the speakers at this meeting that a National Bowling Club should be formed on the same principles as the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. This idea was received at the time with great enthusiasm, and was so cordially entertained that the whole of the Glasgow clubs appointed delegates to meet and consider it. The meeting was accordingly held in March 1849, when the project was fully discussed, but, according to Mitchell's *Manual*, shown to be impracticable. It was therefore abandoned.

There was, however, another matter which came within the province of such a representative meeting, and that was the drawing up of a Code of Laws for regulating the game. The representatives present resolved to go into the matter, and appointed one of the representatives from each of the clubs represented to act as a consulting body. They also appointed as general secretary the late Mr W. W. Mitchell (1803-1884), the author of *Manual of Bowl-playing*, and a leading authority on the game at this time. He, having accepted office, drew up a "Code of Laws," which was ultimately adopted by the whole of the clubs in the west of Scotland, and indeed by many in other parts of Scotland. This code formed the main chapter in his *Manual*, which was published in 1848. The game must undoubtedly have gained much at that time from such a "Code of Laws,"

but then again it was quite natural that their adoption should be peculiar to the west of Scotland clubs. Only delegates from the west country clubs had been present and therefore on the consulting body, so that the bowlers from the rest of Scotland, from their own point of view, had little interest in the proposal.

These rules were undoubtedly an improvement on the existing condition of things, but the game outgrew these rules, and ultimately matters were practically as bad as prior to 1848. About the eighties of the last century, many districts played the game under their own rules, and even different clubs in the same district did not always agree on many points arising in the course of a match. Mr Mitchell was a recognised authority, and revised his rules from time to time as new points came up or as his own opinion altered on old points. But while his *Manual* was considered the principal text-book and was pretty generally acted upon, still, many "Pharoahs arose who knew not Joseph," and they declined to be bound down to do everything he said. Questions arose as to the interpretation to be put on certain of the rules in the *Manual*, while many points cropped up which were not touched upon at all. As may be imagined, this state of matters did not tend towards the good of the game, being the cause of much confusion and misunderstanding, and in some cases even of no little enmity and strife. From this it will be

realised how clamant was the need for further legislation and organisation of the game. Some could not—or would not—see the necessity for such steps, but here, as at other times, Scotland was blessed with some men of more than average foresight and energy. One man to whom bowlers of this country are more indebted than to any other for bringing about the present-day position and condition of the game is the late Mr James Brown of Sanquhar, and to him is due in a great degree the honour of initiating the movement which led up to the formation of the Scottish Bowling Association.

Mr Brown, writing to *The Scotsman* on 16th March 1889, refers to an unfortunate dispute related by a correspondent as having occurred the previous season, and which he says shows the necessity of “an understanding being come to as to the interpretation to be put on certain of the rules relating to the game as laid down in Mitchell’s *Manual*.” Continuing, Mr Brown writes :—

“But in truth it seems to me extraordinary that while with respect to kindred sports, such as curling, coursing, racing, football, and cricket, steps have been taken to constitute a central authority and to establish everything connected with them on a clear and well-understood footing, nothing of the sort has hitherto been attempted for bowling. And certainly if one looks to the extended practice and increasing popularity of the game, and further, to the many nice points which arise in regard to

rules, it does seem that the time has come when a movement should be made to constitute a Scottish National Bowling Club. Such a club would bear the same relation to bowling that the National Coursing Club does to that sport; that is to say, it would not, like an ordinary club, hold meetings on its own ground (in fact, it would have no ground at all), but would be composed of representatives of all affiliated clubs; and I doubt not that so large a proportion of the clubs throughout the country would join as would clothe it with an authority which would obtain universal recognition. The duties of this club would be, first of all, to revise the existing rules, which are both obscure and imperfect, and issue a new code, drawn up in such clear and explicit terms as would prevent the unfortunate disputes that are constantly arising. Were it to become the common declaration that matches and tournaments were conducted under national club laws, any cause of difference not covered by these rules would fall to be decided by this central authority. There are other matters in which it will occur to all experienced bowlers such a national club would serve the interests of the game, but at this stage it does not seem necessary to discuss these. They may be safely left over for adjustment when, as I hope may prove the case, the formation of such a club has been finally decided upon. I hope, therefore, that through the intervention of some of our best-known bowlers the preliminary step may be taken to convene a general meeting of bowlers, at some central point—say Glasgow—at a convenient time, say on the occasion of the annual match between Glasgow and Ayrshire.

"The idea of a national club was first suggested to me a good while ago by my friend Mr J. B. Little, a well-known authority on coursing matters, who would, I am sure, have no more difficulty in convincing such a meeting than he had in convincing me that such an institution would do for bowling what the National Coursing Club has done for coursing. The ground is perfectly clear for the operations of such a club, for the proprietor of the *Manual* is now dead, and the publication is out of print. Time should be taken by the forelock, and therefore I trust that now this matter has been broached, it will not be allowed to drop. I should be glad to communicate with anyone who is disposed to promote such a movement."

In the same issue there also appeared a letter from the compiler of *The Edinburgh Bowling Annual* in reply to the same correspondent, in which, after referring to the dispute in question, Mr Pretsell continues:—

"My object in this note is to express the opinion that we might now have a revision of the 'Laws of the Game.' Bowling has developed very much since Mr Mitchell wrote them, and I would suggest that clubs, at their coming annual general meeting, should discuss the matter and instruct their representatives to the Edinburgh and Leith Association, who would then be in a position to take action either by themselves or in conjunction with the other bowling associations throughout Scotland."

These two excerpts are given in order to show that the same ideas were being formed by these

two enthusiasts who were located in different parts of the country. In the preface to *The Edinburgh Bowling Annual*, published in the following month (April 1889), occasion was again taken to press the claims for the formation of such an association and the revision of the "Rules of the Game," reference being again made to the proposal in the issue of April 1890. The first immediate fruits of such persistent reference was the movement taken by the Edinburgh and Leith Associated Bowling Clubs at their annual meeting held on 29th May 1890. At that meeting the association had the project under consideration, and ultimately instructed the secretary to communicate with the other associations, with a view to holding a conference on the subject. An unfortunate delay of ten months, however, occurred in the issue of the circular which, as before mentioned, was authorised in May 1890. The following is the text of the circular—

EDINBURGH AND LEITH ASSOCIATED
BOWLING CLUBS.

29 HANOVER STREET,
EDINBURGH, 31st March 1891.

"DEAR SIR—This Association, at their annual meeting held on 27th May last, had under consideration the laws of the game and the differences in certain of these laws as contained in Mitchell's *Manual* from other codes of laws at present in circulation and use among the various

bowling clubs and associations throughout the country. At that meeting I was instructed to communicate with the various Associations, with a view to holding a conference of representatives to consider as to the advisability of having one code of laws to be used and recognised throughout Scotland.

"It will be obliging if you will take an early opportunity of laying this communication before your Association or clubs in your district, and letting me have your views as soon as convenient.

"Yours truly,

"EDWARD SANG,
"Hon. Secy."

Little progress was made from this point, a circumstance, no doubt, due to the dilatory treatment the matter received at the hands of those in charge of it. In the issue of the circular, however, the late secretary (Mr Sang) had the utmost difficulty in communicating with many of the associations or clubs, because of the want of any list of the names of their secretaries.

Again, in the preface of *The Edinburgh Bowling Annual* of 1891 (issued on 28th April), the compiler, after regretting that little or no progress had been made by the Edinburgh and Leith Association with their circular, continues thus:—

"But within the last few days I have seen some correspondence which has passed between a most enthusiastic bowler, Mr J. Brown, Sanquhar, and the Glasgow Association, and am now convinced

this matter must go on. At least, with Mr Brown in the extreme West, and our Association in the East, we will not allow the grass to grow beneath our feet to attain this object ; as I am convinced that the bowlers of Scotland are quite ripe for a National Bowling Association, whose first work the redrawing of the rules would be."

There is no doubt the idea of a National Association was very popular with bowlers of Edinburgh and the East, but the Glasgow Association of that day did not just see eye to eye with the majority. They did not see the necessity for such an association, and argued that if such a thing as a uniform Code of Laws were required, the pastime could adopt those of the Glasgow Association. Any such slight opposition as this, however, was not to interfere with the progress of the movement, and ultimately on the 29th August 1892, the following circular was issued to the secretaries of the various associations or clubs throughout Scotland :—

National Bowling Association.

"DEAR SIR,—The opinion having been lately expressed by bowlers from many quarters that the time has come for the establishment of a National Bowling Association for the revision of the Rules of the Game and the promotion of its interests generally, the subscribers have agreed to call a meeting for the purpose of considering the matter.

"A conference of delegates, each club or association being represented by one delegate, will be held

in the Central Station Hotel, Glasgow, on Monday the 12th September next, at 4 o'clock P.M., when it is hoped that a large and widely representative meeting will be brought together for the discussion of this important subject.

"We have to request that you would call a meeting of your club (or association), in order that they may appoint a delegate to represent them.—
We are, Dear Sir, Yours respectfully,

JAMES BROWN, Sanquhar.

R. B. GARDNER, Secretary, Linlithgow Assocn.

D. L. INGLIS, Kirkcaldy.

H. M. KIRKWOOD, Stirling.

G. C. H. M'NAUGHT, Ex-President, Glasgow Assocn.

JAMES PATERSON, Rutherglen.

JAMES PRETSELL, Treasurer, Edinburgh and Leith Assocn.

EDWARD SANG, Secretary, Edinburgh and Leith Assocn.

D. G. SIMPSON, Kilwinning.

TOM SMITH, Hawick.

D. L. STEVENSON, President of the Glasgow Assocn.

JOHN WEIR, President, Rock Club, Dumbarton.

N.B.—"Please intimate the name of the delegate appointed to Mr James Brown, Sanquhar, on or before Saturday the 10th September, and clubs not to be so represented are requested to indicate in writing their views on the proposal."

The success of the meeting was great, over 120 delegates being present, and the result was that the gathering was the commencement of a new epoch in the history of the game.

Mr D. L. Stevenson, President of the Glasgow

Association, was called to the chair, and the first resolution put to the meeting was moved from the chair in the following terms:—"That a National Bowling Association be formed, having for its objects the regulation of all matters affecting the game, and the promotion of its interests generally." This was seconded by Mr R. B. Gardner of Linlithgow, and afterwards carried unanimously. A resolution, to the effect that a committee be appointed to draw up a draft constitution and rules for the Association, having been adopted, the meeting proceeded to the election of a committee of twenty-five members, four being from Edinburgh and a like number from Glasgow. Six gentlemen of this committee subsequently filled the office of President of the S.B.A., viz., the late Dr Clark (Partick), the late Mr D. G. Simpson (Kilwinning), Mr T. C. Cousin (Alloa), the late Mr John Scott (Glasgow), Mr James Pretsell (Edinburgh), and Mr John Weir (Dumbarton).

This committee at once got to work, and within the next month had a constitution and rules drafted, and these were submitted to, and adjusted and adopted by, the first general meeting, which took place in Glasgow on 23rd November 1892. At this meeting Mr Brown intimated that 122 clubs had joined the Association, a most encouraging set off. One of the first points tackled was the adoption of a standard bowl, which, after careful testing, was reported on by the sub-committee

appointed for that purpose, viz., Dr John Clark (President), Messrs John Scott (Whitevale), and James Brown (Secretary), all since deceased.

The Association was fully launched on its career in April 1893, when the first Annual General Meeting was held in Glasgow. A rink tournament was started that same season, the entries numbering 132. The main work of the Association, now that the Code of Rules had been drawn up and adopted, was to get the minor associations throughout the country to play all games and matches under that code. The rules of course gradually became known and recognised, until at the present time, in whatever town or village the game is played, it is under the Rules of the S.B.A.

Encouraged by the success of the rink competition inaugurated the previous season, the Association in 1894 started a single-handed competition on similar lines.

In 1895 Mr Brown, having decided to go abroad, intimated his resignation of the post of honorary secretary and treasurer. As a sketch of Mr Brown's career appears at the end of this chapter, it will be sufficient at this point to give the following excerpt from the minutes relating to the event:—

“The Committee record with much regret the resignation, in May next, of Mr James Brown,

honorary secretary and treasurer. The Association owed its origin largely to his initiation ; and to his zeal and enthusiasm the success of its annual competitions has been largely due. The bowlers of Scotland owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr Brown, and the Committee feel sure they express the universal sentiment in thus recording their regret at the loss of his services. Further, they desire to add their good wishes for his success in his new enterprise."

The Association, in appointing Mr Brown's successor, was most fortunate in its choice of Mr Andrew Haig Hamilton, S.S.C., Edinburgh, who has been secretary and treasurer since 1895. Mr Hamilton is an outstanding bowler in the country, and as an official is endowed with qualities which fit him specially for the multifarious duties of a post such as this. At the annual general meeting of 1896 Mr Brown's name was added to the list of honorary members in recognition of his services to the Association and to the game in general.

In 1898, through the influence of Mr James Pretsell, who was then president, the S.B.A. was presented with a handsome trophy for the rink competition, to be held for the year by the winner of the final stage. The trophy, which was the gift of the Right Hon. William M'Ewan (then M.P. for Central Edinburgh), was intimated by the president at the annual general meeting in May, while in September of the same year he was

successful in securing a trophy for the single-handed competition. This elegant bowl was given by The Right Hon. The Earl of Rosebery, K.T., and is held for the year by the winner of the single-handed competition.

The following year (1899) the Association received its third trophy, which was presented by the late Mr J. B. Richardson, Pitgorno, Stirling. The mode of competition for this trophy was considered by a sub-committee, and the method adopted practically resolved itself into East *versus* West, each club being represented by one rink and the competition to be finished in one day. But the line of demarcation was found to disagree so much with the number of entries that it was in 1901 resolved to experiment by drawing promiscuously (*i.e.*, without any nominal divisions of districts) club against club, the draw to be so arranged that no club played on its own green, and as far as possible that no two clubs from the same town or district were drawn against each other. This latter mode appears to have given more general satisfaction than the former, and has been continued regularly since that date.

The success of the three competitions annually carried through by the S.B.A. may best be judged from the following list of entries, the first column of figures signifying the membership of the Association :—

Year.	Membership.	Rink M'Ewan Trophy.	Single-handed Rosebery Bowl.	Richardson (Rink).
1893	173	132
1894	205	136	73	...
1895	212	162	88	...
1896	227	163	97	...
1897	230	154	96	...
1898	230	162	104	...
1899	234	168	107	...
1900	239	173	119	153
1901	251	181	126	158
1902	261	190	131	154
1903	267	198	141	144
1904	279	206	146	Not competed for.
1905	293	224	156	135
1906	316	244	179	139
1907	339	248	196	146

The following tables record the winners and runners-up in the Richardson Trophy Competition, and also in the Rink and Single-handed Championships:—

Richardson Trophy Competition.

Year.	Winner.	Runner-Up.
1900	Belvidere, Glasgow.	Motherwell.
1901	Wellcroft, do.	Wishaw.
1902	Stirling.	Halkhill, Largs.
1903	Titwood, Glasgow.	Kilmarnock.
1904	<i>Not competed for.</i>	
1905	Clydebank.	Bridge of Weir and Ranfurly, Cambuslang.
1906	Dunfermline.	
1907	Winton, Irvine.	

S.B.A. Rink Championship.

Year.	Winner.		Runner-Up.	
	Club.	Skip.	Club.	Skip.
1893	Kilwinning	J. Niven.	Carluke.	T. Frame.
1894	London Road, Kilmarnock	R. M. Kellie.	Pollockshaws, Glasgow	J. Stewart.
1895	Do.	Do.	Carluke.	T. Frame.
1896	Carluke	T. Frame.	Northern, Edinburgh	J. Gillespie.
1897	Rosslyn	R. Richardson.	Cathcart, Glasgow	A. Paterson.
1898	Uddingston	J. Paton.	The Edinburgh	J. M'Kie Thomson
1899	Abbotsford, Galashiels	T. M'Currick.	Bonnybridge	A. Mitchell.
1900	New Cumnock	J. Blackwood.	Halkhill, Largs	A. E. Barbour.
1901	Stenhousemuir	S. Niven.	Charlestown, Kenfrew	J. Dowans.
1902	Queen's Park, Glasgow	J. Christie.	Carluke.	T. Frame.
1903	Dumbarton	J. M'Clelland.	Darvel	W. Aird.
1904	Springburn	W. H. Scouller.	Tulliallan	W. Blyth.
1905	Larbert	W. C. Laing.	Burnbank, Glasgow	W. Aird.
1906	Gala, Galashiels	T. Douglas.	Garelochhead	D. M'Gregor.
1907	Stewarton	J. Robertson.	Cathcart, Glasgow	J. G. Maclean.

S.B.A. Single-handed Championship.

Year.	Winner.		Runner-Up.	
	Name.	Club.	Name.	Club.
1894	G. Sprott .	Wishaw.	G. McCulloch .	Queen's Park, Glasgow.
1895	J. S. Henderson	Dollar.	T. Forrest .	do.
1896	G. Sprott .	Wishaw.	T. Harvey .	West End, Edinburgh.
1897	A. Johnstone	Troon.	W. A. Russell .	Carluke.
1898	W. Blackwood .	New Cumnock.	J. Mitchell .	Bonnybridge.
1899	T. Dickie .	Hutchesontown, Glasgow.	W. Aird .	Burnbank, Glasgow.
1900	T. Allan .	Kelso.	A. Hopkins .	Galston.
1901	W. Law .	Kilbirnie.	A. Wilson .	Dumbarton.
1902	A. Wilson .	Dumbarton.	A. Black .	Rankinston.
1903	J. Brown, Jun. .	Blantyre.	A. Corbett .	Wellcroft, Glasgow.
1904	J. McNaughton .	Camelon.	T. Muir .	Beith.
1905	J. Aitken .	West End, Edinburgh.	C. Newall .	Grosvenor, Greenock.
1906	T. Logan .	Whitevale, Glasgow.	A. Goldie .	Springhill, Kilmarnock.
1907	Dr J. D. Robson	Maxwelltown.	P. Douglas .	Stirling.

The following are the names of those who have filled the office of President of the S.B.A. since its inception:—

1892	}	*Dr John Clark, Partick.
1893		
1894		*Mr T. A. Croal, Edinburgh.
1895		*Mr D. G. Simpson, Kilwinning.
1896		Mr T. C. Cousin, Alloa.
1897		*Mr John Scott, Glasgow.
1898		Mr James Pretsell, Edinburgh.
1899		Mr John Morton, Kilmarnock.
1900		Mr Peter Fyshe, Dunbar.
1901		*Mr Alex. Watt, Glasgow.
1902		*Mr John Muir, Dunfermline.
1903		Mr John Weir, Dumbarton.
1904		Mr James B. Henderson, Musselburgh.
1905		Mr James T. Morrison, Coatbridge.
1906		Mr Samuel Fingland, Glasgow.
1907		Mr Alex. Stevenson, Edinburgh.

From time to time the Association has also lost by death many valued members of Committee, of whom should be mentioned, Messrs J. B. Little, Sanquhar, Mr John Scott (Whitevale), Glasgow, and J. A. Young, Lanark. Mr Little was an authority on coursing matters, and rendered most valuable assistance to the late Mr James Brown in his pioneer work in connection with the formation of the S.B.A.

At present the Committee of the S.B.A. is

Deceased.

composed of delegates from the various districts as follows :—

Districts.	No. of Delegates.
Northern Counties . . .	One
Perthshire and Forfarshire . . .	One
Linlithgow and Stirling . . .	One
Clackmannan and Kinross . . .	One
Edinburgh and Midlothian . . .	Two
Eastern and Border Counties . . .	Two
Southern Counties . . .	One
Ayrshire—South . . .	One
„ Middle . . .	One
„ North . . .	One
Renfrewshire—West . . .	One
„ East . . .	One
Glasgow . . .	Three
Lanarkshire—Upper Ward . . .	One
„ Lower Ward . . .	One
Dumbarton—Bute and Argyll . . .	One
Fifeshire . . .	One

All parts of Scotland are well represented, and much of the success of the competitions is due to the energy, tact, and enthusiasm of the various local secretaries, many of whom are themselves outstanding men of the pastime.

The late Mr James Brown, Sanguhar.

This pioneer bowler, who did more for the formation of the S.B.A. than any other one man, was one of the most outstanding men ever connected with the pastime. This being the case, it may be interesting to bowlers of the present day to have the following short biographical sketch.

About the middle of the sixties of last century Mr Brown succeeded Mr George Osborne as Inspector of Poor and Registrar for the Burgh of Sanquhar, at the same time acquiring his predecessor's business of chemist and druggist. At the passing of the Education Bill for Scotland in 1872, he was appointed the first clerk to the School Board, which office he held for nearly a quarter of a century. Some years later he also took a prominent part in the subject of the Public Hall—at that time a great want—and that building will stand as a monument to the great interest Mr Brown took in the welfare and prosperity of Sanquhar. He also filled the offices of Chairman of the Gas Company, Assessor and Billet-master for the Burgh, Chairman of Directors of Sanquhar District Savings Bank, and clerk to Kirkconnel School Board. In short, it may be said that for thirty years he took an active part in all matters connected with the burgh. He was an enthusiastic volunteer, and for many years held a commission in the Sanquhar Company. He also acted as Secretary, and afterwards as President, of the Curling Society, and on the occasion of the club's centenary wrote and published a history of its transactions. He also published a *History of Sanquhar*, which was well received.

It is, however, in his bowling connection that this short sketch has been introduced. His reputation as a player and an authority on the game extended

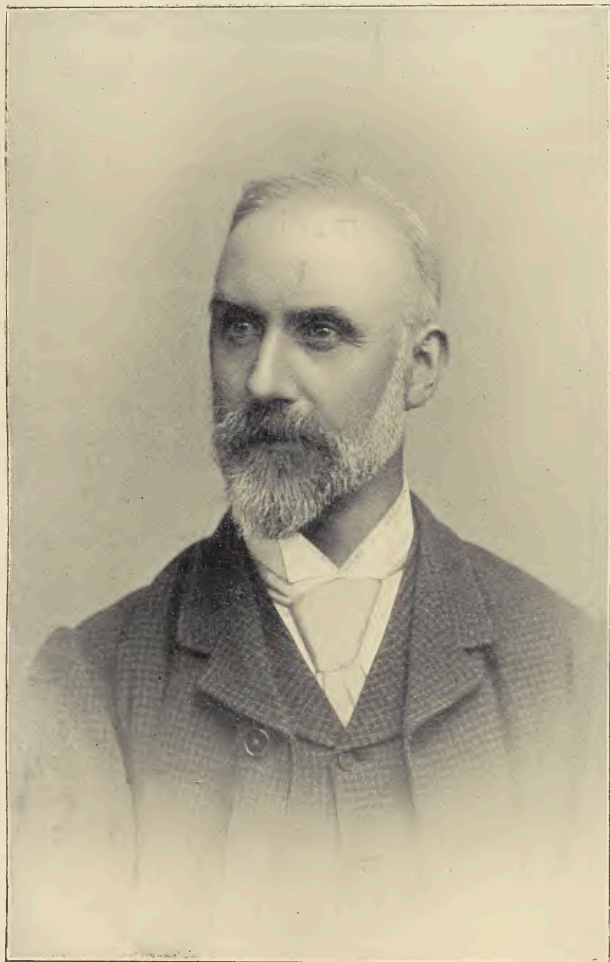


Photo by]

[O. Davis, Edinburgh.

The late Mr JAMES BROWN, one of the founders and first
Secretary of the S.B.A.

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throughout the country. He was successful in several tournaments, notably in those at Sanquhar in 1887 and 1890, and Kingston (Glasgow) in 1888. The latter was his crowning triumph, his victim in the final tie being R. W. Batty, the redoubtable champion of that club and a once-famous tourney player. It is not Mr Brown's skill at the game, however, but the great amount of work he did in connection therewith, that will ever keep his memory green in bowling circles, more especially throughout Scotland. It was in the summer of 1892, immediately preceding the formation of the S.B.A., that his *Manual of Bowling* appeared, and only those who know the amount of work he was doing at this time can fully realise his indomitable energy and spirit. The *Manual* is a very useful treatise on the game, its most salient features being the "Hints to Beginners," and "Directions to Bowlers." These two chapters are the product of a master hand at the game, and will always form good instruction for bowlers, experienced and otherwise.

As mentioned in another chapter, Mr Brown was elected Secretary of the S.B.A. on its formation, and held that office until in 1895 he decided to make his home in Canada. His great anxiety for the success of this undertaking is demonstrated by the fact that when it was proposed to vote him an honorarium for his work as secretary, he promptly scouted the idea

altogether, and assured the Association that he was well repaid for his labours by the ultimate success of the movement.

On his translation to Canada we find him as energetic as ever. It was about 1901 that the matter of a bowling-green was taken up in earnest by the people of Westmount, Quebec, and the construction of the green, made after the Scotch pattern, was superintended by Mr Brown. It is interesting to note that the club decided from the first to light the green by electricity, and thus greatly enlarge the opportunities for play to business men. The installation consists of nine arc lamps, suspended on wires at regular intervals over the surface at a height of about twelve feet, and the innovation has proved a great success.

Mr Brown was elected first president of the club, and it shows the interest which he still had in the game when we read that he headed a deputation to the Town Council to endeavour to persuade them to lay aside a portion of the public park for a bowling-green. Always an enthusiastic curler, his death took place while watching the progress of a curling match in which one of his sons was engaged at the Montreal Curling Club Rooms.

Thus ended the life of a great bowler and outstanding public man. The name of James Brown will be revered for many a day as that of a man of the highest integrity and outstanding ability.

CHAPTER IV

SKETCH OF THE ENGLISH, IRISH, AND WELSH BOWLING ASSOCIATIONS

ENGLISH BOWLING ASSOCIATION

AS in the case of the S.B.A., the credit for the formation of the English Bowling Association is due to the energy and enthusiasm of one or two individuals. The pioneers in this case were Messrs W. G. Grace, W. Stonehewer, and S. Fortescue, all members of the London County Bowling Club. These gentlemen it was who took up the task in its initial stages, and while they did not have so many barriers to surmount as had the originators of the S.B.A., they undoubtedly had their quota. That their efforts were appreciated and duly recognised is an honour both to themselves and the Association which conferred it.

The formation of the English, Irish, and Welsh Associations can be traced to visits of Scottish, Irish, and Welsh teams to London in the summer of 1901, where matches were played at the Crystal Palace with rinks representing the London County

Bowling Club, of which Dr W. G. Grace was and is Secretary. At these meetings the question of having international matches was discussed, and the idea being enthusiastically taken up by representatives of the four countries, correspondence took place with Dr Grace (England), Mr J. C. Hunter (Ireland), Mr W. A. Morgan (Wales), and Mr A. H. Hamilton, Secretary of the S.B.A. As a result of these meetings and the correspondence referred to, the first international games were played in London in 1903, and since that time they have been continued in Scotland, Wales, and Ireland alternately.

To facilitate the organisation of these international contests, and to further the interests of the game generally in England, it was felt by those who up till now had taken charge of the arrangements for these games, that it was desirable and expedient that an English Bowling Association should be formed. Consequently a meeting of all clubs possessing level greens in England was convened, and the Association was successfully launched in the end of 1903, Dr Grace being chosen the first President; Mr James Telford, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Vice-President; Mr Stonehewer, Secretary; and Mr Fortescue, Treasurer. The newly formed Association met with considerable success, and soon was the accredited authority of level green bowling in England. The English Association, as well as the Irish and Welsh



Photo by]

[Russell & Son, London.

MR WILLIAM STONEHEWER, London County Bowling Club,
first Secretary of the E.B.A.

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Associations, adopted the rules of the game prepared by the Scottish Association, and the four Associations fell readily into line.

In the summer of 1901 a team of Australian bowlers visited this country, and during their tour through England, they were impressed by what they described as the "chaotic condition of bowling organisation" in that country. The Australians suggested the formation of a central association, with the result that an association taking the comprehensive title of "Imperial" was that year formed. This association was intended to be a governing association of all bowling clubs in the United Kingdom and Ireland and in the colonies; but it was not very successful in its mission, and after the formation of the English Association it was evident that it was serving no good purpose. The result was that an amalgamation of the two associations took place in the end of 1905, under the name of the English Bowling Association, and the following gentlemen were elected honorary members of the Association, for special services rendered to the game, viz.:—Messrs W. G. Grace, E. C. Price, J. Telford, J. A. Manson, and F. W. Lilburn. The second President of the E.B.A. was Mr T. Robertson of the South London Club, Mr Telford declining nomination. Mr Robertson has been for many years a prominent Scottish bowler in London. He is a past captain of his club and of the English

international team, and was also the winner in 1903 of the Gold Badge Competition of the London and Southern Counties Association. Mr E. Pickard, Leicester, was then elected vice-president. Mr Pickard was at the time of the amalgamation President of the Midland Counties Association, a position he had occupied since the formation of that body in 1895. He was also a member of the British team which visited Canada during the summer of 1906. Messrs Stonehewer and Fortescue did much good "spade work" in the initial stages of the formation of the E.B.A., and along with their colleagues deserve much of the credit for the success of that body.

The English Association at once instituted rink and single-handed championship competitions on similar lines to those of the S.B.A., and they met with most encouraging success. In the first of these (1905) twenty-two clubs entered for the rink and twenty for the single-handed competitions. The finals were played on the Upper Clapton green, London, where Carlisle Subscription Club gained the first prize in the Rink Competition, Bounds Green Club being runners-up. It is rather significant that two Scotsmen, both natives of Dumfriesshire, met in the final of the other competition, Mr J. G. Carruthers (Muswell Hill, and formerly of Lockerbie) defeating Mr James Telford (Newcastle, West End, and formerly of Moffat).

The entrants for each of these competitions are

now divided into districts, the winners of each district playing down in a final stage, which is held on a convenient green. The rink champions have the custody for the year of the "Wood" Cup, a handsome silver trophy, while in 1906 the winner of the single-handed competition received a gold medal presented by Sir Thos. Brooke-Hitching.

Mr Stonehewer, who had been honorary secretary since the inception of the Association, intimated his resignation of the post at the Annual General Meeting of 1907, and in electing him honorary treasurer, Mr Tom Robertson paid a glowing tribute to his valuable services on behalf of the game, and the general regret at his having to relinquish the duties of that office. Mr J. Baines of Woodfield Club was elected honorary secretary. The committee of twenty included such well-known players as Messrs J. Telford, F. Telford, H. Childs, J. S. Emmerson, S. Fortescue, W. G. Grace, and T. Robertson. An important point—especially so in England, Ireland, and Wales—having reference to the composition of the international teams was discussed at the E.B.A. Annual General Meeting of 1907. It was suggested that the teams should be formed exclusively of players of the nationality of the country which they represented, but the President (Mr E. Pickard), supported by Messrs T. Robertson, W. S. Carmichael, W. G. Grace, and others, pointed out that

it would not be in the best interests of the game to adhere to such a principle. It is to be hoped there will never be any qualification introduced into the game of bowls in connection with international teams. The evils of the qualification principle are present to-day in the English County Cricket Championship, where a player can play for any county he prefers after a term of residence therein. The objection in the case in point is rather the antithesis of this, and one can readily understand that it must be rather hard for some native players to see Scotsmen being included in their country's team. But on the other hand, until the game obtains the same hold in the other countries which it at present has in Scotland, there is little chance of even an English international team being without one or two Scots. Take, for instance, the English team of 1906, which included such Scotsmen as Messrs T. Robertson, J. Telford, G. Muat, W. S. Carmichael, and others. These players, being resident in England and members of English clubs, would not be chosen for a Scottish team; and it may probably be some considerable time before Englishmen will be in a position to pass over Scottish bowlers of such a calibre in the selection of their international team.

The results of the E.B.A. Championships, and the office-bearers past and present, are as follows:—

E.B.A. Championships.

RINK.

Year.	Winner.		Runner-Up.	
	Club.	Skip.	Club.	Skip.
1905 1906 1907	Carlisle Subscription . Newcastle West End . Carlisle West End .	W. Johnson. J. Telford. M. Johnstone.	Bounds Green . Upper Clapton . Forest Hill .	J. Shaw. S. Moore. W. Stewart.

SINGLE-HANDED.

Year.	Name.	Club.	Name.	Club.
1905 1906 1907	J. G. Carruthers . C. L. Cummings . J. S. Emmerson .	Muswell Hill. Sunderland. Carlisle Edenside.	J. Telford . A. Taylor . H. W. Gibson .	Newcastle West End. Finsbury Park. Leicester.

English Bowling Association.

INSTITUTED 1903.

<i>President.</i>		<i>Vice-President.</i>	
1904	Dr W. G. Grace.		Mr J. Telford.
1905	Do.		Mr T. Robertson.
1906	Mr T. Robertson.		Mr E. Pickard.
1907	Mr E. Pickard.		Mr W. Johnson.
1908	Mr W. Johnson.		Mr W. S. Carmichael
<i>Hon. Secretary.</i>		<i>Hon. Treasurer.</i>	
1903 }	Mr W. Stonehewer.	1903 }	Mr S. Fortescue.
1906 }		1906 }	
1907	Mr T. Baines.	1907	Mr W. Stonehewer.

IRISH BOWLING ASSOCIATION

The game of bowls is spreading amongst the people of Ireland, and already holds a prominent place in the realm of recreation, especially in Belfast and the province of Ulster. Ireland, however, holds bowling claims much stronger than is generally recognised. While her premier club, the Belfast, only dates back to 1842, it is a fact that some centuries ago in the Elizabethan age, there were numerous greens in Ireland. At least two of these, or rather the sites of two of them, still remain; one near the old castle of Carrickfergus (County Antrim), and another adjoining the old country town of Coleraine.

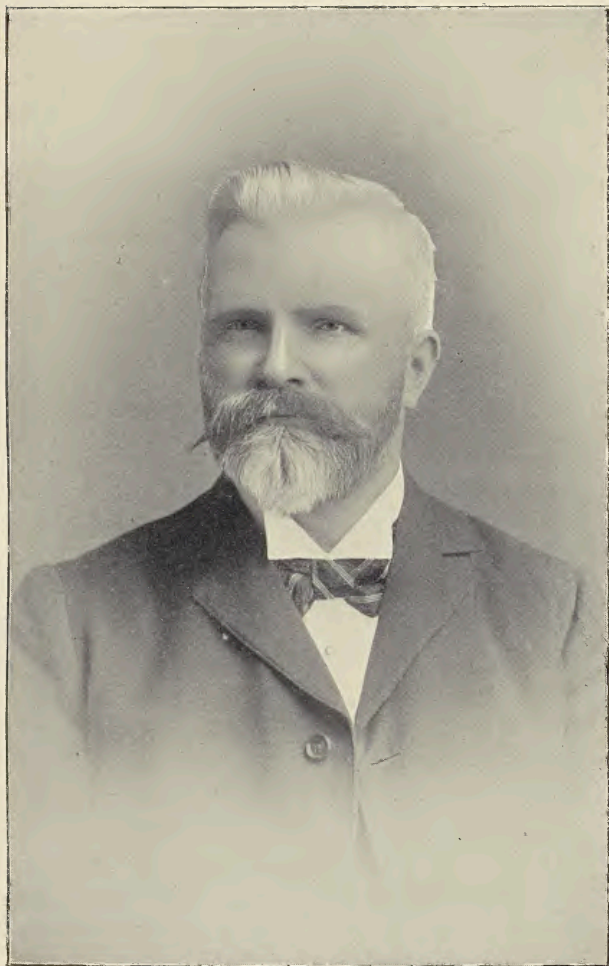


Photo by]

[Abernethy, Belfast.

Mr JOHN C. HUNTER, Belfast Bowling Club,
promoter and first President of the I.B.A.

[To face page 72.



The Belfast Club, however, has been long enough in existence to have had rather a remarkable career. For thirty years it had a solitary existence, being the only bowling club throughout the country. The club had many difficulties to contend with, principally short leases and high ground rents, and have been knocked about from post to pillar, having during its existence made no fewer than five greens. This has entailed a very heavy expenditure, and as the membership for many of the early years was small, it says much for the energies and enthusiasm of the old pioneers that they kept the flag flying. The result is that brighter days have now dawned for the premier club, as they enjoy a lease in perpetuity, and the membership stands at about 100. Much of the credit of this is due to Messrs John A. Murphy and Robert Andrews, while another member, Mr Andrew Gibson (originally of Glasgow), did much some fifteen or sixteen years ago to popularise the game. It was during the latter's term of presidency that the club reached high-water mark, and about the same time met with considerable success in matches with some leading clubs in Scotland. The Belfast Club includes in its ranks many well-known players, and among others might be mentioned the following, who have represented the Emerald Isle in the internationals, viz.:—Messrs J. C. Hunter, J. G. Johnston, A. Jamieson, R. McKee,

G. Paton, J. Millar, J. W. Naismith, F. Brown, and J. Clark.

The Belmont Club, which was the next to be formed in the country, was instituted some thirty years ago. The green is favourably situated in one of the leading suburbs of Belfast. Unlike the premier club, Belmont has neither been troubled with short leases nor high ground rents, and consequently has passed through years of great prosperity, the membership all along having been well maintained. The old turf has also worn well, and continues in fine playing condition. The first two days' play in the 1906 international contest took place at Belmont, the venue on the third day being the quaint old town of Coleraine. Among the outstanding players of this club are Messrs W. M'Letchie (President of the I.B.A.), D. W. Barnett, and C. Murray. Messrs M'Letchie and Murray were members of the team which visited Canada during 1906, while all three are internationalists.

The Ulster Bowling Club, the sporting club of Belfast, has now been in existence for about twenty years. Among its members are many skilful players, including Dr J. R. Davison, ex-President of the I.B.A. and Captain of the Irish international team of 1906. Other players who have found inclusion as internationalists are Messrs W. J. Finlay, T. H. Crowe, W. Govan, R. C. Bleakley, and J. A. M'Clune.

The other clubs in rotation are Ormeau, Shaftesbury, Ballynafeigh, Coleraine, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Falls, and Kenilworth (Dublin). The Coleraine Club was formed in 1902, and has a pretty situation in the town of that name of the River Bann. The club has a strong membership, numbering close on the century, and includes many good players, two of whom, Messrs S. A. Wray and D. M'Laughlin, have been members of an international team. The latter was also in the British team which visited Canada during 1906.

The game in Ireland is becoming more popular year by year, and now that a strong club has been established in Dublin, hopes are entertained that other centres will take up the pastime.

The Irish Bowling Association was formed in 1904, when Mr J. C. Hunter of the Belfast Club was elected the first President. The constituent clubs then were—Belfast, Belmont, Coleraine, Ulster, and Ormeau United, the last named being composed of the clubs playing on the public green in the Ormeau Park. This combination dissolved two years later, but the three clubs which formed it have each affiliated, this bringing up the number of clubs to eleven. The President for 1906 was Dr J. R. Davison of the Ulster Club, who was also Captain of the international team for that year. Few who visited Ireland on that occasion will readily forget the graceful and eloquent speech of the genial doctor in response to the official

welcome of the Lord Mayor (the late Sir Daniel Dixon, Bart.). The present President, Mr William M'Letchie of the Belmont Club, has been a skip in all the international contests, and has in these matches greatly enhanced his reputation as a player. Much of the success of the I.B.A. and also the internationals of 1906 was due to the untiring energies and ability of Mr J. Boyd, who was for three years (1904 to 1907) the Secretary of the Association. Mr Boyd resigned office last year, and his successor is Mr William Lindsay.

The Championship Competition of the I.B.A. was for the first two years conducted on the League principle, but this system was abolished in 1906 owing to the increased number of clubs affiliated with the Association. The winner both in 1904 and 1905 was the Ormeau United. The system now in force is a challenge cup competition on the "knock-out" principle, and for this purpose the Association provided a very handsome trophy. The finalists for 1906 were the Belmont and Shaftesbury Clubs, and owing to the absence in Canada of Messrs W. M'Letchie and C. Murray, two of Belmont's recognised club skips, the match was expected to be very close. The Belmont men, however, rose to the occasion, and, defeating their opponents by thirty shots, won the coveted Championship. The same club was again successful in 1907.

The following is the record of the Champion-

ship competitions and the past and present officials of the I.B.A. :—

I.B.A. Championship.

(Competed for in teams of 16 players.)

Year.	Winner.	Runner-Up.
1904 (League)	Ormeau United.	Ulster.
1905 (Do.)	Do.	Coleraine.
1906 (Cup)	Belmont.	Shaftesbury.
1907 (Do.)	Do.	Ballynafeigh

Irish Bowling Association.

INSTITUTED 1904.

President.

Vice-President.

1905 Mr J. C. Hunter.

Dr J. R. Davison.

1906 Dr J. R. Davison.

Mr W. M'Letchie.

1907 Mr W. M'Letchie.

Mr J. Gass.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

1904-7 Mr J. Boyd.

1907 Mr W. Lindsay.

Number of clubs affiliated, 11.

WELSH BOWLING ASSOCIATION

We now come to the principality, whose association is the youngest of the four countries as well as the smallest. The game, however, is undoubtedly growing in favour there also, and perhaps even at

a greater pace than in other quarters. The membership in 1906 was only 8, but it is confidently expected that this number will soon be considerably increased.

The pioneer of the game in Wales has undoubtedly been the Cardiff Club, which was founded in 1878. The membership is limited to 150, and includes several players well known to international fame, viz., Mr W. A. Morgan, who more than any other bowler in Wales assisted in the formation of the Welsh Bowling Association and the inauguration of the international contest; Mr J. Pollock, one of the most outstanding players in Wales; Mr H. A. Keenor, who as Secretary of the W.B.A. ably assisted in piloting that body through the first two years of its existence; Messrs C. Mattock, D. Davies, and W. M'Kenzie.

The Mackintosh Club of Cardiff was instituted in 1897, and has also given many players to the national teams. Among these may be mentioned Messrs J. Thomas, F. W. Thomas, W. A. Cole, E. Hunt, and E. Thomas. These two clubs, being both situated in Cardiff, may be taken as the first clubs of Wales, and as such, provide the bulk of the players for the international teams. Other clubs are Pontypool, formed in 1897, Newport in 1904, and Llanbradach in 1905, while Tredegar, which had an existence some years before, was revived about 1900.

The public green game is also taking root in



Photo by]

[Freke, Cardiff.

Mr W. A. MORGAN, Cardiff Bowling Club,
promoter and first Chairman of the W.B.A.

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Wales, for in 1904 the Corporation of Cardiff decided to lay down greens in some of the public parks. The result was that by 1906 four greens had been made and clubs formed at two of them.

In 1905 a green was laid down at Dinas Powis (a suburb of Cardiff), the Committee engaging an expert from Scotland to do the work. A club has now been formed here, and the membership stands at over 50.

The origin of the W.B.A. is much the same as the others. In 1902 a team of the Cardiff Club players made a tour of the south of England, playing matches at London, Reading, and Southampton. Included in this team were such well-known players as Messrs W. A. Morgan (who acted as captain), J. Pollock, J. Thomas, and D. Davies. It may be remembered that the second visit of a "Scottish eight" to London took place this same year. These two visits helped to bring about the conference which led to the institution of the international matches. When it came to selecting sixteen players to represent Wales, however, it was no easy matter to find that number who were prepared to devote the time to play at London for the three days. Notwithstanding this, a team was got together under Mr W. A. Morgan, and although they did not attain much distinction, the players at least gained some valuable experience. The event likewise supplied a stimulus to the Welshmen to popularise the

game of bowls, and at the same time to organise it in Wales under a central governing body. Cardiff, Mackintosh, Pontypool, and Tredegar—the only clubs available—sent representatives to discuss the project, with the result that on 30th April 1904 the W.B.A. came into existence. The Earl of Plymouth was elected the first president, Mr W. A. Morgan, vice-president, and Mr H. A. Keenor, honorary secretary and treasurer.

In 1904, at Glasgow, Mr Morgan again led the Welsh team, and although they did little better than previously, the contest infused greater interest in bowling matters generally. It was at this time that the Corporations of Newport and Cardiff resolved to lay down rinks in their public parks. When the internationals took place at Cardiff in 1905, Wales obtained her first victory, and it is satisfactory to think that this was at the expense of Scotland. These, however, were her only two points that year. In Ireland in 1906, Wales made some progress, for the two points gained there were against the Irishmen, which thus added another victim to the list. At Newcastle in 1907, while failing to notch points, the Welshmen gave England a good run in their first match, the latter only getting home by five shots.

The following is a record of the various Championships of the W.B.A., and a list of the office-bearers past and present of the Association:—

W.B.A. Championship Competitions.

INSTITUTED 1906.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

Year.	Winner.	Runner-up.
1906	Cardiff.	Mackintosh.
1907	Do.	Do.

RINK CHAMPIONSHIP.

Year.	Winner.	Runner-up.
1906	Cardiff (J. Pollock, skip).	Llanbradach (T. Moses, skip).
1907	Dinas Powis (D. Wilkinson, skip).	Cardiff (M. Pittard, skip).

PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP.

Year.	Winner.	Runner-up.
1906	R. Scott and J. Pollock (Cardiff).	E. Thomas and J. Thomas (Mackintosh, Cardiff).
1907	{ W. Thompson and D. Roberts (Beechwood, Newport).	R. R. Thomas and J. Pollock (Cardiff).

SINGLE-HANDED CHAMPIONSHIP.

Year.	Winner.	Runner-up.
1906	J. Pollock (Cardiff).	W. Thompson (Beechwood, Newport).
1907	Do. (do.).	E. Mills (Llanbradach).

Welsh Bowling Association

INSTITUTED 1903.

Chairman.

- 1903-5 W. A. Morgan (Cardiff).
1905-6 J. Thomas ,,
1906-7 J. Pollock ,,
1907-8 J. Tovey (Newport).

Vice-Chairman.

- 1903-5 No Vice-Chairman during this term.
1905-6 J. Pollock.
1906-7 J. Tovey.
1907-8 H. A. Keenor (Cardiff).

Secretary and Treasurer.

- 1903-6 H. A. Keenor (Cardiff).
1906-7 J. C. Jones ,,
1907-8 E. Lloyd ,,

Membership . . 11 clubs.

CHAPTER V

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

IT was in July 1901 that a "Scottish eight" visited London and engaged with two rinks got together by Dr W. G. Grace at the Crystal Palace greens. The Scottish players were Messrs R. Drummond (Whitevale, Glasgow), J. Pretsell, J. Good, and A. H. Hamilton (skip), all of Lutton Place, and Messrs J. Morton (Kilmarnock), T. Young, J. Muir, and the late John Scott (skip), all of Ayr. The game was then in its infancy in London and district, although at that time there were several clubs in and around the metropolis which played under the Scottish rules. The Scotsmen were successful against their southern friends, and again in the autumn, when return matches took place at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Ayr, the Scottish players were victorious. Another visit was paid to Crystal Palace in 1902, and to the promoters and participants in these three visits—two south and one north—is due the credit for the origin of the international contest. The suggestion came from Dr Grace, and was strongly supported by the

S.B.A., by Mr J. C. Hunter as representing Ireland, and Mr W. A. Morgan as representing Wales. With such a consensus of opinion on the subject, the idea was taken up at once and arrangements carried through for the first meeting of Scottish, English, Irish, and Welsh international bowling teams. The meeting was fixed for July of the following year (1903), the venue for the first contest being in England. The games took place in London on the London County Club green at Crystal Palace, and South London Club green at Wandsworth Common, the latter green being laid with Scottish strand turf. Play was keenly contested, and resolved itself into a struggle between England and Scotland for the Championship. The scores were as follows:—

First Day's Play.

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
J. Morton . . .	27	H. Ferguson . . .	11
J. Scott . . .	25	W. J. Finlay . . .	13
A. H. Hamilton . . .	13	J. C. Hunter . . .	18
S. Fingland . . .	14	W. M'Letchie . . .	23
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	79		65
Majority for Scotland . . .		14 shots.	
<i>England</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
T. Robertson . . .	27	W. A. Morgan . . .	16
W. G. Grace . . .	30	J. Pollock . . .	13
J. Telford . . .	21	W. Davies . . .	21
W. S. Carmichael . . .	28	C. Mattock . . .	12
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	106		62
Majority for England . . .		44 shots.	

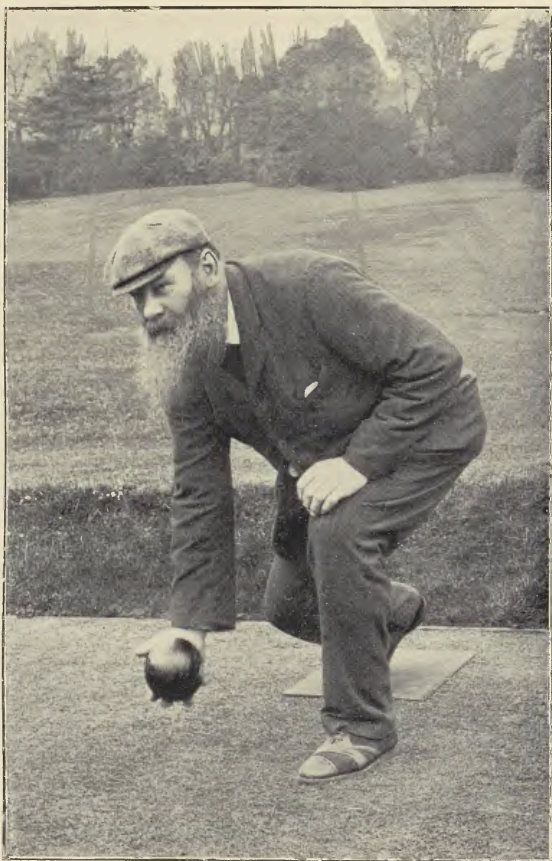


Photo by]

[Russell & Son, London.

DR W. G. GRACE, London County Bowling Club,
promoter and first President of the E.B.A.

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

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Second Day's Play.

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
S. Fingland . . .	26	C. Mattock . . .	11
J. Scott . . .	23	W. Davies . . .	12
J. Morton . . .	19	J. Pollock . . .	15
A. H. Hamilton . . .	19	W. A. Morgan . . .	19
<hr/>		<hr/>	
87		57	

Majority for Scotland . . . 30 shots.

<i>England</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
J. Telford . . .	17	W. M'Letchie . . .	16
W. S. Carmichael . . .	22	H. Renton . . .	17
T. Robertson . . .	21	J. C. Hunter . . .	19
W. G. Grace . . .	19	W. J. Finlay . . .	9
<hr/>		<hr/>	
79		61	

Majority for England . . . 18 shots.

Third Day's Play.

<i>England</i>		<i>Scotland</i>	
W. G. Grace . . .	16	A. H. Hamilton . . .	16
T. Robertson . . .	20	J. Morton . . .	19
J. Telford . . .	24	J. Scott . . .	10
W. S. Carmichael . . .	13	S. Fingland . . .	28
<hr/>		<hr/>	
73		73	

<i>Ireland</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
W. M'Letchie . . .	28	W. A. Morgan . . .	9
W. J. Finlay . . .	14	W. Davies . . .	21
J. C. Hunter . . .	20	J. Pollock . . .	17
H. Renton . . .	21	C. Mattock . . .	15
<hr/>		<hr/>	
83		62	

Majority for Ireland . . . 21 shots.

Summary of Results, 1903.

	Won	Drawn	Lost	Shots		Points.
				For	Against	
England	2	1	—	258	196	5
Scotland	2	1	—	239	195	5
Ireland	1	—	2	209	220	2
Wales	—	—	3	181	275	0

According to the rules and regulations governing the international contests, it is stipulated that each country shall play against the other three, and that a win shall count two points, a draw one point, and a loss nothing, the country gaining the greatest number of points being declared the winner. In the event of any two or more nations being equal in points, the one of these having the best net score against its three opponents shall be declared the winner, and should two countries be equal in points and also in shots, then the winner shall be ascertained by the result of the match already played between these countries.

From the foregoing table it will therefore be seen that England were the victors on a count of shots. The match between England and Scotland had a most exciting finish, Mr Tom Robertson with his last bowl and the second last of the game, bringing the scores level, a state of affairs which his opponent failed to alter with the last bowl of the match. Thus ended the first international in a narrow victory for England. The game in the south benefited greatly from this result, and it was in view of the forthcoming international matches that the E.B.A. had been formed in June 1903. There followed as a natural consequence the formation in 1904 of the Irish and Welsh Associations, so that the game has ever since then been fully and efficiently organised in all parts of the kingdom.

It was decided at this time that the venue of the international contest should be in each of the four countries in rotation—England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. As a matter of fact, the representatives of the four countries tossed for the order of rotation; Ireland actually came out second, Scotland third, and Wales last, but the Irish representative was gracious enough to permit Scotland to take her place, Ireland going fourth. It was therefore Scotland's turn to house the event in 1904. The beautiful greens in Glasgow, upon which these games took place, were a revelation to many of the players of the other countries, who had not previously experienced the pleasure of playing on such turf. The first day's play took place on Queen's Park green, when the games resulted as follows:—

<i>England</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
T. Robertson . .	25	D. Davies . . .	19
W. G. Grace . . .	25	J. Thomas . . .	16
W. Johnson . . .	30	J. Pollock . . .	8
J. Telford . . .	24	C. Mattock . . .	18
<hr/>		<hr/>	
104		61	

Majority for England . . . 43 shots.

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
G. Snedden . . .	29	J. C. Hunter . . .	12
J. Scott	25	J. R. Davison . . .	13
J. Muir	21	H. Renton	16
J. Paton	15	W. M'Letchie . . .	21
<hr/>		<hr/>	
90		62	

Majority for Scotland . . . 28 shots.

The second day's play took place on Willow-bank green, which at that time was, and is still, generally recognised as the finest green in Scotland. The rinks were very keen, and to increase the difficulties a strong breeze blew across the green. Many of the visiting players were consequently at a great disadvantage, as at home the turf on their greens is of a much coarser texture. The day's play resulted as follows:—

<i>Scotland</i>				<i>Wales</i>			
J. Muir . . .	25	J. Pollock . . .	12				
J. Paton . . .	18	D. Davies . . .	17				
J. Scott . . .	22	J. Thomas . . .	13				
G. Snedden . . .	30	C. Mattock . . .	16				
	<hr/>						
	95						58
Majority for Scotland . . .				37 shots.			

<i>England</i>				<i>Ireland</i>			
W. Johnson . . .	22	J. R. Davison . . .	15				
W. G. Grace . . .	22	H. Renton . . .	18				
T. Robertson . . .	16	J. C. Hunter . . .	20				
J. Telford . . .	21	W. M'Letchie . . .	11				
	<hr/>						
	81						64
Majority for England . . .				17 shots.			

It will be seen that as in the previous year Scotland and England again stood level in points at the end of the second day's play, and a keen match between the representatives of these two countries was assured. The third day's play took place on Titwood Club's greens at Pollokshields. Rain had fallen during the night and continued

until shortly before the commencement of play, and the greens were consequently heavy. In their match in the forenoon the Irish and Welsh players were much more at home on the heavier turf, and play was very good. The match of the contest was played in the afternoon between Scotland and England before a gathering of fully 500 spectators. As in the forenoon, the wind was very troublesome, but otherwise the turf had greatly improved. The game, owing to the magnificent majority gained by the rink skipped by the late Mr John Scott of Kelso, resulted in a win for Scotland by 10 shots, but the Englishmen being up in all the other rinks secured a moral victory. The results of the day's play were :—

<i>Ireland</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
H. Renton . . .	20	J. Thomas . . .	27
J. R. Davison . . .	22	C. Mattock . . .	12
J. C. Hunter . . .	19	J. Pollock . . .	25
W. M'Letchie . . .	26	D. Davies . . .	12
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	87		76

Majority for Ireland . . . 11 shots.

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>England</i>	
J. Muir	22	J. Telford	26
J. Scott	30	T. Robertson	8
G. Snedden	20	W. G. Grace	21
J. Paton	18	W. Johnson	25
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	90		80

Majority for Scotland . . . 10 shots.

Summary of Results, 1904.

	Won	Lost	For	Shots. Against	Points.
Scotland	3	—	275	200	6
England	2	1	267	210	4
Ireland	1	2	213	247	2
Wales	—	3	195	206	0

The series of matches had been a great success, the players of all the teams being men who had earned reputations in the game. Considerable improvement on the former year's play was manifested in the Irish and Welsh teams, and an increased interest and enthusiasm was now abroad in England, Wales, and Ireland. This had by this time shown effect in the formation since last internationals (1903) of the Associations in these three countries, on similar lines to that of the S.B.A. The latter body is to be congratulated on the care and foresight displayed in the framing of the rules and laws of the game, which code has done so much good in the extension of the game.

In 1905 the international matches took place at Cardiff, and here let the Welshmen receive all credit for being the first to introduce the official welcome of the teams by the civic authorities. On this occasion, in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy-Mayor extended a hearty welcome to the teams in the Town Hall, while on the concluding day of the contest all the players and reserves, through the kindness of the Mayor, were conducted through the new municipal buildings. Again, by

the kind permission of the Marquis of Bute, members of the visiting teams were allowed to view Cardiff Castle, while the W.B.A. on their tastily arranged programme indicated various other places of interest which might be visited to advantage. Altogether it must be admitted that Wales showed the way in the matter of arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the players, and it is to be hoped that such practice will be adhered to on all future occasions.

The first day's play took place on the green of the Cardiff Club, which, though rougher than Scottish greens, was in fairly good condition. The scores for the day were as follows:—

<i>Ireland</i>		<i>England</i>	
J. C. Hunter . . .	18	W. Johnson . . .	17
J. R. Davison . . .	15	W. G. Grace . . .	23
W. M'Letchie . . .	19	J. Telford . . .	18
D. W. Barnett . . .	22	G. Muat . . .	11
	—		—
	74		69
Majority for Ireland . . .		5 shots.	
<i>Wales</i>		<i>Scotland</i>	
C. Mattock . . .	28	J. J. Jagger . . .	15
J. Thomas . . .	18	J. Paton . . .	20
W. A. Morgan . . .	23	J. Muir . . .	15
J. Pollock . . .	11	G. Snedden . . .	27
	—		—
	80		77
Majority for Wales . . .		3 shots.	

From these figures it will be seen that Ireland and Wales each sprung a surprise victory over

their opponents. In the case of the former, much of the credit is due to Messrs Hunter and M'Letchie, as they were pitted against England's strongest rinks. In the afternoon the Scotsmen were beaten in a game in which the Welshmen played splendidly. This was the first occasion on which Scotland had been defeated in the international matches.

The second day was spent at the green of the Mackintosh Club, at the Mackintosh Institute, when England met Scotland and Ireland met Wales. The games resulted as follows:—

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>England</i>	
G. Snedden . . .	14	W. Johnson . . .	18
J. Muir . . .	21	G. Muat . . .	14
J. Paton . . .	21	J. Telford . . .	24
J. J. Jagger . . .	31	W. G. Grace . . .	12
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	87		68

Majority for Scotland . . . 19 shots.

<i>Ireland</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
J. C. Hunter . . .	20	J. Pollock . . .	16
J. R. Davison . . .	25	C. Mattock . . .	16
D. W. Barnett . . .	25	W. A. Morgan . . .	13
W. M'Letchie . . .	20	J. Thomas . . .	24
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	90		69

Majority for Ireland . . . 21 shots.

The Scottish and English teams were level on three rinks, and it was only Mr Jagger's splendid majority against his famed opponent that enabled Scotland to annex the points. The Irishmen proved themselves too heavy all over for the

Welsh players, who disappointed their friends after the victory of the previous day.

For the concluding day's play of the contest the teams were again back at the Cardiff Club's green, when the playing conditions were much the same as on the first day. The position of the teams infused a considerable interest and excitement into the proceedings, as Ireland was leading with 4 points and Scotland and Wales had 2 points each. England, as will be noticed, had lost both matches. Assuming that England defeated Wales (as was subsequently the case), Scotland's only chance depended on her majority over Ireland. The game, however, produced a very close struggle, and Scotland was rather fortunate in annexing the full points, even by one shot only. The scores were as follows:—

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
G. Snedden . . .	25	W. M'Letchie . . .	14
R. M. Kellie . . .	26	D. W. Barnett . . .	12
J. Paton	13	J. R. Davison . . .	33
J. J. Jagger . . .	17	J. C. Hunter . . .	21
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	81		80

Majority for Scotland . . . 1 shot.

In view of Scotland's victory over Ireland, it was possible for Wales with 2 points already to her credit, to obtain first place, but this meant she must have a majority of over 43 shots against England. Such a result was not to be, and in place of Wales winning by 43 shots, the gallant

lads were actually beaten by that number. The following were the scores :—

<i>England</i>			<i>Wales</i>		
J. Telford	.	29	C. Mattock	.	10
G. Muat	.	13	J. Thomas	.	17
W. Johnson	.	26	W. A. Morgan	.	13
W. G. Grace	.	27	J. Pollock	.	12
<hr/>			<hr/>		
95			52		
Majority for England			43 shots.		

This result proclaimed Ireland as champion country, although Scotland had also won 2 matches but was 8 shots behind in the net majority. The following summary of results shows the positions of the teams :—

Summary of Results, 1905.

	Won	Lost	Shots		Points.
			Up	Down	
Ireland	2	1	244	219	25 up 4
Scotland	2	1	245	228	17 „ 4
England	1	2	232	213	19 „ 2
Wales	1	2	201	262	61 down 2

At the conclusion of the first day's play, a meeting of delegates, appointed by the Scottish, English, Irish, and Welsh Associations, was held for the purpose of forming an International Board. It was decided that two representatives from each Association should form the Board, and Messrs J. T. Morrison and A. H. Hamilton, both of the S.B.A., were elected president and secretary respectively. The other representatives selected were Messrs W. G. Grace and W. Stonehewer

(England), D. MacLaughlin and J. C. Hunter (Ireland), and W. A. Morgan and J. Thomas (Wales). The objects of the Board are :—

To arrange the dates of the international matches for the following year, and other matters connected therewith.

To arrange tours for Colonial or other bowling teams visiting the United Kingdom for matches with constituent clubs, and for teams visiting the Colonies, to be played under the laws of the Board.

To settle all disputes which may arise between the several associations in connection with said matches and tours.

It will thus be seen that the game, as a national pastime, is well organised, a fact which tends towards all that is best for its welfare.

The International Contest of 1906 fell to be played in Ireland, and the matches were arranged to take place at Belfast on the first two days and at Coleraine on the third. Prior to the opening of the contest the teams were welcomed at the Town Hall by the Mayor (the late Sir Daniel Dixon, M.P.), and then proceeded to the Belmont green, where, after further preliminaries, England and Scotland opened the ball. The Englishmen were successful on merit, a tit-bit of the game being the play between Messrs Johnson and Snedden's rinks. All eight players were in truly inter-

national form, and gave a great exhibition. The match finished as follows:—

<i>England</i>		<i>Scotland</i>	
W. Johnson . . .	20	G. Snedden . . .	11
W. G. Grace . . .	7	R. M. Kellie . . .	29
J. Telford . . .	22	J. A. Macmillan . . .	19
T. Robertson . . .	34	G. Pearson . . .	11
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	83		70
Majority for England . . .		13 shots.	

As in the forenoon the game of the match between Ireland and Wales was that on No. 1 rink, where Messrs Hunter and Thomas tried conclusions. All over, however, the play was of a good standard, and Wales earned a creditable victory as follows:—

<i>Wales</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
F. W. Thomas . . .	20	J. C. Hunter . . .	19
J. Thomas . . .	13	D. W. Barnett . . .	22
D. Davies . . .	13	W. M'Letchie . . .	14
J. Pollock . . .	26	J. R. Davison . . .	13
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	72		68
Majority for Wales . . .		4 shots.	

As in the previous year, Wales started with a victory and went forward with renewed confidence to meet Scotland. Before commencing play on the second day, the teams were again met by the officials of the I.B.A. and were shown over the new city hall, the finest building in the city. Play was over the same green as on the previous day, the forenoon game being between Scotland and

Wales. The Scottish "western" rink had undergone a slight change, Mr George Pearson (who skipped the previous day) playing third to Mr T. Steel, who had led for Mr Kellie against England. Three of the Scottish rinks finished up, the scores being as follows:—

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
R. M. Kellie . . .	22	J. Pollock . . .	15
G. Snedden . . .	24	J. Thomas . . .	18
J. A. Macmillan . . .	23	D. Davies . . .	13
T. Steel . . .	16	F. W. Thomas . . .	17
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	85		63

Majority for Scotland . . . 22 shots.

England and Ireland, who opposed each other in the afternoon, provided some very good play, especially in rink No. 1, where Mr Telford had all his work cut out to keep down the Irishmen's score. The game finished as follows:—

<i>England</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
J. Telford . . .	17	W. M'Letchie . . .	11
W. Johnson . . .	23	J. R. Davison . . .	22
T. Robertson . . .	20	J. C. Hunter . . .	14
W. G. Grace . . .	27	D. W. Barnett . . .	15
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	87		62

Majority for England . . . 25 shots.

The next morning the players journeyed by train to Coleraine, the concluding day's play taking place on the green of the club of that name. England, thanks to the superiority of the Carlisle and Newcastle rinks, accounted for the Welshmen by 15 shots, a victory which assured her of the

Championship. Two rinks of each country finished up, the scores being as follows:—

<i>England</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
J. Telford . . .	25	D. Davies . . .	14
W. G. Grace . . .	24	J. Pollock . . .	27
T. Robertson . . .	18	J. Thomas . . .	21
W. Johnson . . .	25	F. W. Thomas . . .	15
<hr/>		<hr/>	
92		77	
Majority for England . . .		15 shots.	

The fact that England had won the Championship robbed the concluding match between Scotland and Ireland of any vital interest. Nevertheless, the game was followed by the largest gathering of spectators seen during the contest. After possessing a substantial lead half-way through the game, the Scottish players fell away considerably, and were only 8 shots up at the finish. The following were the scores:—

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
J. A. Macmillan . . .	24	W. M'Letchie . . .	19
R. M. Kellie . . .	12	D. W. Barnett . . .	24
G. Pearson . . .	21	J. R. Davison . . .	17
G. Snedden . . .	25	J. C. Hunter . . .	14
<hr/>		<hr/>	
82		74	
Majority for Scotland . . .		8 shots.	

The following summary of results shows the positions of the teams:—

Summary of Results, 1906.

	Won	Lost	Up Shots	Down	Points.
England	3	0	262	209	6
Scotland	2	1	237	220	4
Wales	1	2	212	245	2
Ireland	0	3	204	241	0

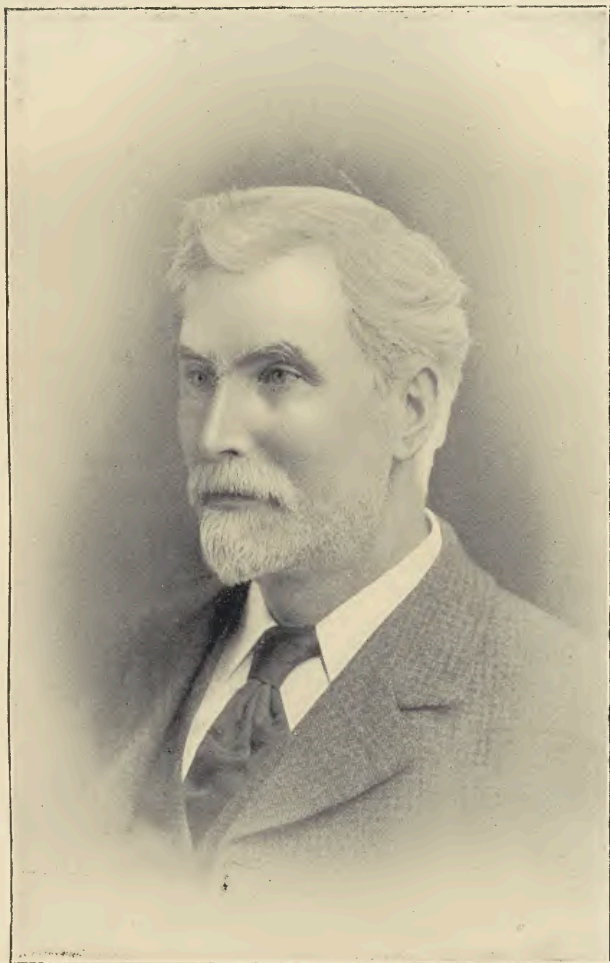


Photo by]

[Davidson, Moffat.

Mr JAMES TELFORD, West End Club, Newcastle,
a prominent English Internationalist.

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At a meeting of the International Board, held at the close of the first day's play, Mr W. G. Grace attended, and on behalf of the proprietors of the *News of the World* presented a magnificent trophy for competition amongst teams representing the four Associations. The generous donors received the cordial thanks of the Board for their munificence, as did also Mr Grace for his good offices in procuring the trophy. It is an excellent specimen of the silversmith's art, and is certainly adding to the interest in the international matches. On a silver plate on the plinth are inscribed the names of the winning countries since the international matches were started.

A special feature of the contest of 1906 was the kindly hospitality of the Irish Association, everything being done for the comfort and entertainment of the visitors. After the conclusion of the third day's play the majority of the visitors continued their journey to Portrush, where the weekend was spent. A visit to the Giant's Causeway had been arranged for the Sunday by the Irish Association, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody.

In 1907 England was again the scene of the contest, the games being played at Newcastle. Here the players received a civic welcome at the hands of the Lord Mayor (Councillor J. M. Oubridge), who pointed out what that corporation was doing for the pastime in the public parks of

the city. The teams afterwards proceeded to the Portland green, where the first day's play took place. England and Wales opened the contest, and, as on former occasions, "gallant little Wales" made a good start. Three of the Welsh rinks finished in all 11 up, and but for the fact that Mr Telford gained a majority of 16, the Englishmen had the worst of the encounter. This local majority, however, gave them a margin of 5 shots. The scores were as follows :—

<i>England</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
W. G. Grace . . .	20	H. A. Keenor . . .	22
H. Childs . . .	18	J. Pollock . . .	25
J. Telford . . .	27	J. Thomas . . .	11
W. Johnson . . .	23	T. C. Jones . . .	25
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	88		83
Majority for England . . .		5 shots.	

The position in the afternoon between Scotland and Ireland was very similar, the Scottish team, thanks to Mr J. A. Macmillan's rink, being able to finish 10 shots to the good. The scores were as follows :—

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Ireland</i>	
J. A. Macmillan . . .	32	S. Windrim . . .	15
W. E. M'Coll . . .	22	D. W. Barnett . . .	19
H. Young . . .	17	J. C. Hunter . . .	24
G. Snedden . . .	13	W. M'Letchie . . .	16
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	84		74
Majority for Scotland . . .		10 shots.	

Play on the second day took place on the

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prettily situated green of the Gosforth Club, where in the forenoon England were somewhat unexpectedly beaten by Ireland. Mr Telford's was again, as on the previous day, the only English rink up, but on this occasion he had the verdict by 2 shots only, so could not avert the defeat. The scores were as follows:—

<i>Ireland</i>		<i>England</i>	
W. M'Letchie . . .	21	W. Johnson . . .	15
J. C. Hunter . . .	27	H. Childs . . .	13
S. Windrim . . .	18	J. Telford . . .	20
D. W. Barnett . . .	18	W. G. Grace . . .	18
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	84		66
Majority for Ireland . . .		18 shots.	

The match between Scotland and Wales was productive of the largest majority of any international game, none of the Welshmen showing up well except Mr Pollock's rink, which scored rapidly towards the finish. The scores were as follows:—

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
W. E. M'Coll . . .	28	J. C. Jones . . .	10
G. Snedden . . .	30	J. Thomas . . .	6
H. Young . . .	20	J. Pollock . . .	17
J. A. Macmillan . . .	26	H. A. Keenor . . .	7
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	104		40
Majority for Scotland . . .		64 shots.	

The third day's play was on the West End green. In the forenoon Ireland made her position as second in the contest tolerably secure by



defeating Wales by 30 shots. This success was in large measure due to the play of Mr Barnett's rink, who finished 22 shots up. The scores were as follows:—

<i>Ireland</i>		<i>Wales</i>	
W. M'Letchie . . .	22	H. A. Keenor . . .	18
J. C. Hunter . . .	21	J. Thomas . . .	20
D. W. Barnett . . .	33	J. C. Jones . . .	11
S. Windrim . . .	20	J. Pollock . . .	17
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	96		66
Majority for Ireland . . .		30 shots.	

Scotland's substantial victory the previous day practically assured Scotland of the Championship, as it was unlikely that her team would do so badly against England as to lose this commanding lead. The Scottish team did not disappoint their followers, and finished the only unbeaten team in the contest, securing the handsome *News of the World* trophy for the year. The scores in the match were as follows:—

<i>Scotland</i>		<i>England</i>	
H. Young . . .	23	W. G. Grace . . .	17
J. A. Macmillan . . .	20	J. Telford . . .	18
W. E. M'Coll . . .	17	W. Johnson . . .	21
G. Snedden . . .	25	H. Childs . . .	11
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	85		67
Majority for Scotland . . .		18 shots.	

The following is a summary of the results of the 1907 contest:—

Summary of Results, 1907.

	Won	Lost	For	Shots Against	Points.
Scotland	3	0	273	181	6
Ireland	2	1	250	216	4
England	1	2	221	262	2
Wales	0	3	189	288	0

List of Scottish Internationalists.

- Aitken, J. (West End, Edinburgh), 1907.
 Allan, W. (Camphill, Glasgow), 1906.
 Anderson, W. M. (Grangemouth), 1905, '06.
 Borland, R. (Falkirk), 1903 R.
 Brown, J. (Biggar), 1907.
 Brown, J., junr. (Blantyre), 1904, '06.
 Carswell, J. (Grahamston), 1904.
 Colthart, J. (Queen's Park, Glasgow), 1905.
 Craig, J. (Kilmarnock), 1903 R., '04 R., '05, '06, '07.
 Devlin, J. (Dunfermline), 1903, '04, '05.
 Doyle, D. (Mossend), 1903.
 Fingland, S. (Broomhill, Glasgow), 1903, '04.
 Gardner, A. (Wellcroft, Glasgow), 1907.
 Geddes, J. (Leith), 1903 R.
 Gerrard, J. D. (Kirkcaldy), 1905.
 Hamilton, A. H. (Lutton Place, Edinburgh), 1903.
 Harvey, T. (West Linton), 1907.
 Henderson, J. B. (Musselburgh), 1904.
 Hunter, J. (Lossiemouth), 1905.
 Hyslop, J. (Uddingston), 1907.
 Jagger, J. J. (Galashiels), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
 Kellie, R. M. (Kilmarnock), 1905 R., '06.
 Law, R. (Kilbirnie), 1904.
 Law, W. (Maxwelltown), 1907.
 Learmont, R. (Milngavie), 1904 R., '05, '06.
 Lee, W. (Galston), 1904.

- Leith, A. (Titwood, Glasgow), 1905.
Little, J. (Queen's Park, Glasgow), 1903, '04.
Logan, W. (West End, Edinburgh,) 1904 R., '05.
M'Coll, W. (Partick), 1907.
Mackenzie, J. (Dunbar, New), 1906, '07.
Macmillan, J. A. (Dumbarton), 1906, '07.
Miller, R. A. (Troon), 1907.
Mitchell, D. (Polmont), 1903.
Morrison, J. T. (Coatbridge), 1903, '05, '06.
Morton, J. (Kilmarnock), 1903.
Muir, J. (Ayr), 1904, '05.
Muir, T. (Beith), 1905, '06, '07.
Newall, C. (Grosvenor, Greenock), 1907.
Paton, J. (Uddingston), 1904.
Pearson, G. (Burnbank, Glasgow), 1903 R., '04 R., '06.
Reid, T. L. (Cambusbarron), 1907.
Richardson, J. (Annan), 1904, '05.
Robson, J. D. (Maxwelltown), 1906.
Sands, A. (Aberdeen), 1907.
Scott, J. (Kelso), 1904.
Scott, J. (Perth), 1903.
Smith, A. (Queen's Park, Glasgow), 1906, '07.
Smith, J. (Kirkcaldy), 1903, '04, '05 R., '06.
Smith, W. (Dunfermline), 1906, '07.
Snedden, G. (Lutton Place, Edinburgh), 1904, '05, '06, '07.
Steel, T. (Gourock), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
Stevenson, A. (West End, Edinburgh), 1903, '06.
Stewart, J. (Coatbridge Victoria), 1905 R.
Thorburn, T. (Beith), 1903.
Tweddle, J. (Sanquhar), 1903.
Watson, R. (Galashiels), 1907.
Weir, J. (Dumbarton), 1903.
Young, H. (Wattfield, Ayr), 1906, '07.

List of English Internationalists.

- Addicott, C. (Weston-super-Mare), 1905.
 Baines, T. (London County), 1906, '07.
 Baird, E. K. (Temple, London), 1903.
 Barbour, J. (Gosforth, Newcastle), 1903.
 Battensby, T. (Durham City), 1907.
 Bowen, J. (Gosforth, Newcastle), 1907.
 Brough, G. G. (Carlisle Subscription), 1904, '05, '06, '07.
 Bryant, J. (South London), 1903, '04, '07.
 Carmichael, W. S. (London County), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
 Carruthers, J. G. (Muswell Hill, London), 1905.
 Chapman, J. R. (Ashbrooke, Sunderland), 1906, '07.
 Childs, H. (Reading), 1905, '06, '07.
 Cummings, C. L. (Sunderland), 1905, '06.
 Dodwell, W. S. (South London), 1905, '07.
 Fenwick, R. (West End, Newcastle), 1906, '07.
 Fingland, J. (Banbury), 1906, '07.
 Fortescue, S. (Streatham, London), 1903, '06, '07.
 Godlonton, B. D. (London County), 1903.
 Grace, W. G. (London County), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
 Graham, R. (Holme Head, Carlisle), 1904.
 Graham, W. A. (Courtfield, Carlisle), 1907.
 Hall, R. (Muswell Hill, London), 1904.
 Hamilton, W. F. (West End, Newcastle), 1907.
 Hay, J. (Temple, London), 1903.
 Hogg, J. (London County), 1903.
 Hume, J. (Alnwick), 1904.
 Jelf, F. H. (Herne Hill, London), 1907.
 Johnson, W. (Carlisle Subscription), 1904, '05, '06, '07.
 Johnstone, M. (West End, Carlisle), 1904.
 Kerr, W. (South London), 1903, '04.
 M'Ewen, H. (Bounds Green, London), 1904.
 M'Sully, O. (Leicester), 1906.

- Moffat, J. (West End, Newcastle), 1903, '04, '05, '07.
Moore, S. (Upper Clapton, London), 1905, '07.
Mossman, T. (Heathfield, London), 1906.
Muat, G. (South London), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
Oubridge, J. M. (Portland, Newcastle), 1907.
Park, J. (Ashbrooke, Sunderland), 1904, '05.
Pearson, S. (London County), 1905.
Pickard, E. (Leicester), 1907.
Reeves, W. H. (Stanwix, Carlisle), 1905, '06.
Robertson, T. (South London), 1903, '04, '06.
Robinson, T. (Gosforth, Newcastle), 1907.
Shepherd, W. A. (Valentine's Park, London), 1906.
Stonehewer, W. (London County), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Telford, F. (Carlisle Subscription), 1905, '06, '07.
Telford, J. (West End, Newcastle), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Thompson, E. (Lyndhurst), 1907.
Todd, W. (Silloth), 1904.
Turner, M. (Carlisle Subscription), 1905.
Wells, C. (Gosforth, Newcastle), 1903.
Wills, T. H. (Torquay), 1907.

List of Irish Internationalists.

- Archer, R. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1904, '06, '07.
Ballard, A. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1904.
Barnett, D. W. (Belmont, Belfast), 1904, '05, '06, '07.
Blakely, R. C. (Ulster, Belfast), 1903, '05.
Brown, F. (Belfast), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
Cherry, A. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1904.
Clarke, J. (Belfast), 1905, '07.
Colvin, T. (Shaftesbury, Belfast), 1903.
Cooper, G. W. (Kenilworth, Dublin), 1907.
Crowe, T. H. (Ulster, Belfast), 1905, '07.
Davison, J. R. (Ulster, Belfast), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.

- Dickson, A. (Belmont, Belfast), 1907.
 Dunlop, H. A. (Ballymena), 1906.
 Ferguson, H. (Ulster, Belfast), 1903.
 Finlay, W. J. (Ulster, Belfast), 1903, '05, '06, '07.
 Gardner, D. E. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1905.
 Govan, W. (Ulster, Belfast), 1905.
 Hetherington, J. (Falls, Belfast), 1906.
 Hunter, J. C. (Belfast), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
 Jamieson, A. (Belfast), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
 Johnstone, J. G. (Belfast), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
 Kirkpatrick, D. (Belmont, Belfast), 1907.
 Lindsay, J. (Belmont), 1907.
 Lindsay, W. (Shaftesbury), Belfast, 1907.
 M'Cann, J. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1903, '04, '06.
 M'Clenahan, R. (Coleraine), 1904, '05.
 M'Clune, J. A. (Ulster, Belfast), 1906.
 Macdonald, A. (Belmont, Belfast), 1904.
 Macdonald, S. (Belfast), 1903.
 M'Kee, R. (Belfast), 1903, '04, '05.
 MacLaughlin, D. (Coleraine), 1904, '05, '06.
 M'Letchie, W. (Belmont, Belfast), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
 M'Millan G., (Belmont), 1907.
 M'Neice, G. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1903.
 Malcolmson, A. (Belmont, Belfast), 1903.
 Maunsell, F. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1905, '06.
 Millar, J. (Belfast), 1903, '05.
 Mitchell, J. B. (Kenilworth, Dublin), 1906.
 Mitchell, W. (Belmont, Belfast), 1904.
 Murray, C. (Belmont, Belfast), 1906.
 Naismith, J. W. (Belfast), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
 Paton, G. (Belfast), 1903, '05.
 Pollock, J. (Ballynaveigh, Belfast), 1907.
 Renton, H. (Ormeau, Belfast), 1903, '04.
 Rusk, Dr (Shaftesbury, Belfast), 1907.
 Torney, A. (Belfast), 1903, '07.

- Wallace, J. (Belfast), 1903.
Windrim, S. (Shaftesbury, Belfast), 1903, '06, '07.
Wray, S. A. (Coleraine), 1904, '06, '07.

List of Welsh Internationalists.

- Aikman, Captain (Mackintosh), 1906 R.
Beeston, W. J. (Newport), 1906, '07 R.
Birney, H. (Cardiff), 1903.
Bowles, W. L. (Cardiff), 1904 R., 1907 R.
Brundrett, A. (Cardiff), 1903, '04, '05, '06.
Burt, F. W. (Newport), 1906 R.
Cole, W. A. (Mackintosh), 1904, '05, '06, '07.
Davies, D. (Cardiff), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Edwards, W. M. (Mackintosh), 1904, '05.
Francis, D. H. (Cardiff), 1903 R.
Goodfellow, W. C. (Mackintosh), 1906.
Goodyer, R. B. (Cardiff), 1903.
Hardwicke, C. (Cardiff), 1903, '05, '07.
Hunt, E. (Mackintosh), 1904 R., '05, '06, '07.
Jones, J. C. (Cardiff), 1904, '05, '06 R., '07.
Keenor, H. A. (Cardiff), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Lawrence, W. (Mackintosh), 1907.
Lloyd, E. (Cardiff), 1907.
M'Kenzie, W. (Cardiff), 1903, '06.
M'Morland, W. (Mackintosh), 1904.
Mattock, C. (Cardiff), 1903, '04, '05.
Morgan, W. A. (Cardiff), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Nicol, W. (Cardiff), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Onions, Z. W. (Pontypool), 1903, '05.
Pittard, M. (Cardiff), 1905.
Pollock, J. (Cardiff), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
Quinlan, T. (Cardiff), 1906 R.
Reynolds, T. (Tredegar), 1905.

- Roberts, T. (Mackintosh), 1905.
 Rodway, G. (Mackintosh), 1907 R.
 Scott, R. (Cardiff), 1903, '05, '06, '07.
 Sutherland, W. (Newport), 1907 R.
 Thomas, E. (Mackintosh), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
 Thomas, F. W. (Mackintosh), 1904, '06.
 Thomas, Jn. (Mackintosh), 1903, '04, '05, '06, '07.
 Thomas, Jos. (Cardiff), 1906 R.
 Thomas, R. R. (Cardiff), 1906, '07.
 Travers, W. J. (Mackintosh), 1907.
 Wilkinson, D. (Cardiff), 1905, '06, '07.
 Wilson, W. (Cardiff), 1903, '04.
 Winn, J. (Cardiff), 1904.

R. *denotes* Reserve.

CHAPTER VI

THE GAME ACROSS THE SEAS

AUSTRALIA

IT follows quite naturally that a pastime so popular in the British Isles should also be a great favourite in the Colonies, and especially is this the case with Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

In Australia, New South Wales seems to have led the way, when, as far back as 1866, the game was introduced at the Botany Hotel. The late Mr John Young, who did so much to further the interests of the pastime in New South Wales, records that there was no club at this time, the game being engaged in by the visitors at the hotel. The green, which was very rough, seems to have been introduced by way of a novelty.

Mr A. T. Holroyd, who possessed a private green at Sherwood Scrubs, near Parramatta, published a pamphlet on "Bowls and Bowling" in 1874. In his introduction the writer expressed the hope "that it might induce gentlemen to follow his example in making a bowling-green an indispens-

able appendage to their country residences." However, it seems that this green was also very uneven. In 1876 a club was formed, the membership then being mostly confined to the ranks of government officials and the city merchants (Sydney). The green, it is interesting to note, was made by the then director of the Botanical Gardens, Mr Charles Moore. The club, however, could hardly be called a public club, as the majority of bowling clubs now constituted are, it being kept very select; but, in any case, it was done away with in 1878, when the Exhibition building was erected, part of this covering the site of the green.

As an example of the English method of a former generation—and, indeed, in many English towns and villages of the present day—it is recorded that Mr N. Paton, who kept the Woolpack Inn at Parramatta, had a bowling-green at the rear of the hotel for several years before and after 1879.

Parramatta, it may here be noted, is a town some 14 miles west from Sydney, with which it is connected by steamer and railway, and is, next to that city, the oldest town in the colony, having been laid out in 1790. In 1880 there was also a green at the college at Parramatta, while in 1878 a club was formed, which had its headquarters at the green laid out by the late Mr John Young at his residence. It was greatly through the influence of that well-known player that the intercolonial

matches were instituted—the first, between the Victorian Association and Sydney, or rather, New South Wales, taking place in 1880. Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, had then several greens and clubs, many of which had been in existence for ten years previous to this.

The South Australian Bowling Association was instituted in 1901 with only two clubs. So popular, however, has the game become in this state that many new clubs have been formed since that date, and most of these have joined the Association, the membership of which has now reached double figures.

This first intercolonial match excited great interest, and undoubtedly gave the game of bowls a considerable impetus in the colony. Such strides has the game made, indeed, that now there are over a score of clubs in Sydney and suburbs.

In 1880 the Bowling Association of New South Wales was formed with at first only four clubs. With the spread of the game, however, the membership has also increased, and now approaches thirty clubs.

In 1904 a visit was paid by the Tasmanian bowlers to Sydney, while during the same year a representative team of Queensland bowlers took part in an interstate match at Sydney. In the following year, teams from the various States exchanged visits. The game in Australia is therefore quite as well organised as it is in these islands,

although, as is well known, the rules of the two centres disagree in certain minor points.

A few Australian bowlers visited the United Kingdom in 1899, playing three matches in England and five in Scotland. The visit was in no way official, the sole object being to see what arrangements could be made for the tour of an Australian team in this country. At this time, of course, there was no such body as the E.B.A.; so the enterprising colonials, headed by Messrs John Young and Charles Wood, and with the assistance of one or two English bowlers, formed the "International Bowling Association," afterwards called the "Imperial Bowling Association." After getting the new body into working order, the visitors returned to Australia. The following year (1900), during the progress of an interstate match at Melbourne, a meeting was called for the purpose of obtaining a bowling team to visit this country in 1901. After preliminary arrangements, it was agreed to meet in London in May 1901. The party which assembled there was found to consist of 28 Australians and 12 New Zealanders, and it was ultimately decided that the two colonies should play as separate teams. During that tour the Imperial Bowling Association arranged the matches in England, and those in Scotland were arranged by the Secretary of the S.B.A. The tour of the Australian team was followed with much interest by bowlers throughout the kingdom, and the results were

very successful. The following are the results of matches played in England and Scotland:—

AUSTRALIAN TOUR—JUNE-JULY 1901.

Results of Matches.

	Shots.		Shots.	Australians.	
				Up.	Down.
Brownswood . . .	111	Australians	88	...	23
Bounds Green . . .	97	"	69	...	28
Chichester . . .	95	"	127	32	...
Southampton County .	73	"	87	14	...
Reading . . .	79	"	109	30	...
Cheltenham . . .	50	"	130	80	...
Leicester . . .	97	"	91	...	6
Newcastle (West End) .	106	"	80	...	26
Carlisle . . .	102	"	54	...	48
Hawick . . .	76	"	97	21	...
Galashiels . . .	91	"	61	...	30
Edinburgh (Braid) . .	75	"	89	14	...
Do. (Lutton Place)	90	"	74	...	16
Perth . . .	76	"	77	1	...
Glasgow (Bellahouston) .	96	"	70	...	26
Kilmarnock . . .	74	"	82	8	...
Ayr . . .	108	"	79	...	29
Maxwelltown . . .	86	"	76	...	10
	1582		1540	200	242
				42 shots down.	

From these results it will be seen that out of 18 matches the Australians won 8 and lost 10, and that their successes were not confined to any one district, but generally divided. They showed great liking for short jacks, and, indeed, won many of

their games through this policy. The colonials do not strike one as being so keen on the game as the average Scot; at least they enter into it in a much lighter and happy-go-lucky frame of mind than the latter. But then the Scot is well known for his serious earnestness in all games, as compared with his friends from the other parts of the empire.

Three or four Australian players, finding themselves in Britain during the summer of 1907, played one or two games, although in no way officially. Visits to and from Australia, however, mean too much to ever become regularly organised, at least as present conditions exist. They entail too great an expenditure both of time and money, and there are very few British players who could afford the best part of a year and several hundred pounds in order that a team might go out from the home countries to Australia. The beauty of the game of bowls, and one which is never likely to forsake it, is that it does not lend itself to professionalism. It is impossible, and so long as that is the case, organised visits to Australia are equally so.

NEW ZEALAND.

Regarding New Zealand, where bowling is also a very popular pastime, the game there was first introduced in a definite way in the year 1863 by the late Mr Macfarlane, who, together with three

or four brother Scots, laid down a green in Auckland, now the headquarters of the Grafton Bowling Club. There are now three associations in the young Dominion—the New Zealand Bowling Association, the Northern Bowling Association of New Zealand, and the Southern Bowling Association of New Zealand.

The N.Z.B.A. was formed twenty-one years ago, and boasts of a membership of forty-seven clubs. In a recent report the Council of this body record "that bowling is more popular than ever, and is certainly the most attractive of outdoor pastimes." Intercolonial matches seem to be fairly established, and it is more than likely that these trips between New Zealand and Australia will become annual events. In 1906 a team of bowlers (now known as the "All Whites") from all parts of the Dominion of New Zealand visited the Commonwealth. The tour, which extended over a period of seven weeks, was most successful, matches being played in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. The N.Z.B.A. carry through a most successful Annual Tournament, the competition comprising the three sections—rinks, doubles, and singles. At this meeting a match between the North and South Islands, sixteen rinks aside, is also held.

The N.B.A.N.Z. was formed in 1891. This body is also strongly supported, the membership standing at forty-seven clubs and representing over

3400 bowlers. The Association carries through annually an interclub tournament, and has all along done much for the general development of the game. The S.B.A.N.Z. has only recently been instituted.

Dunedin, the greatest centre of the pastime beneath the Southern Cross, has fifteen greens—an average of one to less than 4000 inhabitants. There is scarcely a populated spot from Auckland to Invercargill which does not possess a bowling ground. Maoris have taken to the pastime, and are reported to have played in tournaments with all the keenness of the veriest Scot. A number of the New Zealand clubs have native names, as in the case of Hawera, Patea, Kaitangata, Kaituna, Oamaru, Taieri, Timaru, and Waimate.

New Zealand was first represented in this country by a team in 1901 which, as noted elsewhere, consisted of twelve members and provided two playing rinks. The late Mr James Paul, who led the combination, reported on his return home that the greens they played over were excellent, and he was especially high in the praises of those in Scotland which the team visited. Of the twenty-seven matches engaged in, the New Zealanders won fourteen and lost thirteen—an excellent record, Mr Paul contended, considering that they had only eight bowlers and met the picked players of each club. One member of the team, Mr J. Dingle, won the Crystal Palace

Tournament of that year, arranged by Dr W. G. Grace—the first gathering that ever took place comprised of bowlers of the Motherland and the Colonies.

In 1907 a second team visited this country, and although hardly holding their own in the metropolis—greatly due, they maintained, to the turf being heavy after the rains—their success in Scotland was greater than that achieved by any other team that ever visited Caledonia.

The New Zealanders are great sticklers over the observance of the discipline of the green. They believe in the first three players remaining at the end of the rink until it comes to the skips' turn to play, when two processions make their way to each end of the rink. The one consists of the first three players on each side going from the mat to the head, and the other of the two skips going from the head to the mat to play their bowls. This is all very methodical and no doubt good in its way, but it strikes the average Scottish bowler as being much too funereal. The latter are nothing if not enthusiastic, and to be held to the mat after delivering one's bowl goes sadly against the grain in the majority of cases. It is certainly the case that much of the pleasure derived from the game of bowls—whether from the point of view of spectator or player—lies in the interest, enthusiasm, and even excitement, shown by the players themselves.

The New Zealand Associations have a rule to the effect that a declaration of the club colours must be made by all secretaries, and such distinguishing features must be worn in all tournaments and matches. The idea here is certainly a most praiseworthy one, and might well be followed with advantage in the Motherland. The benefit would be felt in all local and national competitions, and it may be that this custom will eventually find general adoption in the home countries. Already one or two clubs have shown the way, and the innovation has been very favourably criticised.

The New Zealand greens are carefully kept and invariably play keen. With a view of endeavouring to acclimatise the Silloth turf to his native country, Mr W. Wakeman, a member of the team which visited here in 1907, took out a small quantity of the turf and a sample of the grass seed of the Solway Strand.

CANADA.

In the dominion of Canada the game is also in a very healthy condition, although there are no distant records of its introduction to that colony. It would appear, however, to have been first indulged in about the year 1734, when a tract of government property was officially granted for the purpose to the officers of the garrison of Port Royal, Nova Scotia. In that part of his history

of Nova Scotia which refers to Annapolis (Port Royal), Murdock makes the following reference :—

“A.D. 1734.—*Proceedings in Council, 10th April, 1734.*—The officers of the garrison prayed that ‘that small enclosure adjoining the Governor’s garden and the White House field, and lying opposite to the Fort Gate, known by the name of Bowling-green, shall be reserved and set apart for them and their successors, and all other gentlemen who may contribute towards the expense of making the said enclosure a bowling-green, and of repairing and fencing the same from time to time as the same may require forever.’ The prayer of the petition was granted.”

This shows that while it had not been used as a bowling-green by any of the garrison before this year, it had been known as the Bowling-green, indicating a previous connection of some sort with the game.

It is therefore apparent that Nova Scotia can fairly claim to have introduced the game into the dominion, and from evidences in various parts of that province it seems to have been adopted as a popular pastime. It is known that the Duke of Kent, the illustrious father of Queen Victoria, enjoyed the game, for on his lands at Prince’s Lodge, Bedford Basin, near Halifax, he had a bowling-green laid, and it is further established that during his time bowls was quite a common outdoor recreation in the vicinity of the Acadian capital.

Notwithstanding the generous official patronage which it received at Annapolis, however, it subsequently seems to have lacked for enthusiasm or encouragement, for it is recorded that it is now many years since the game was played in that locality. That it has retained its hold on the province, weak though it may be, is demonstrated by the fact that it is made a feature of the Wanderers' Athletic Club at Halifax, while it has also been heard of at Truro and other points. The foregoing historical facts, found in the Canadian Lawn Bowlers' Handbook, give an interesting side-light on the early condition of the game at a period previous to the American War of Independence. There is no doubt the game has not attained the popularity which it deserves, it being comparatively little known in the maritime provinces, while in the west there are only a few scattered clubs. The headquarters of the game seem to be in Ontario, where it has gradually come to be one of the most popular of summer sports.

Regarding the outstanding clubs, it is interesting to note that one in the city of Toronto—the Caer Howell—traces its history continuously back to the thirties. The earliest minute-book of this club extant covers the period from 1837 to 1850, and not once is the word lawn quoted, as is now the general rule in Canada. The necessity for this distinction of the present-day green may have arisen out of the existence of bowling, or (in

reality) skittle alleys, but at the same time it should be mentioned that almost without exception, the present-day greens in Canada are, strictly speaking, not "greens" but "lawns." In the early days of the game in this colony—the matter of some fifteen or twenty years ago—the bowlers were playing the game simply on lawns which were devoid of any limitations whatever. The absence in these of any "ditch" or its equivalent, naturally robbed the game of considerable interest, and indeed of many of its finest points. Of course the Canadian bowlers were then playing under the same rules as were in force in this country, except in so far as they did not suit the "lawn" type of green. The first attempt to remedy these defects was made by the late Mr Q. D. McCulloch, in 1892. As Secretary of the first Dominion Bowling Tournament that year, he suggested that an imaginary ditch be formed, the front and back boundaries of which should be indicated by lines drawn fifteen inches apart. This change was put into practice and found satisfactory, and subsequently was adopted and incorporated in the revised rules. This, then, is the present style of the majority of Canadian "greens," and, as may be imagined, is rather strange to players from the home countries.

It is only within the last twenty years that bowling has developed in the colony. In 1888 the number of clubs could be counted on one

hand, while now there must be about 100 clubs in the province of Ontario alone. The development dates from the formation of the Ontario Bowling Association in 1889, followed a few years later by the Western Ontario Bowling Association formed at London, Ontario. The former was first considered during the progress of an annual tournament which had been inaugurated in 1886, and which has ever since been a most successful meeting. The Western Ontario Association was instituted in 1896, and started with a membership of 9 clubs. Since that date the game has grown to such an extent that the Association can now boast of a membership of almost 40 clubs.

In 1891 Messrs Hiram Walker & Sons, Ltd., of Walkerville, Ontario, gave a handsome trophy for annual competition by the lawn bowlers in the Dominion of Canada. From very modest beginnings this tournament has grown, until now there are very few clubs which do not send at least one rink. The trophy was won outright by Toronto Granite Club in 1899, and the following year the same donors gifted another valuable trophy, to become the absolute property of the club winning it oftenest in ten years. With patrons such as these, the game in Canada is not likely to go back in any way.

In the summer of 1904 a team of Canadian bowlers visited the mother country, playing matches in England, Scotland, and Ireland. They were re-

ceived with great hospitality, and although by no means very successful in their matches, they seemed to thoroughly enjoy the tour. It must be kept in mind that the greens in this country were very much keener than those the Canadians were accustomed to ; and, added to this, there is the banqueting and travelling, which are always more or less necessities of such a tour. At the same time the visitors did themselves considerable justice, and achieved one or two very creditable victories. Among these may be noted that over the Bounds Green Club, a powerful London combination of bowling talent, many of whose members are originally Scottish bowlers.

The results of the tour are given, which will show that the visitors tested the British strength in almost every district of the United Kingdom.

It is gratifying to know that at every town they were hailed with most cordial greetings, and in all cases were they most hospitably entertained.

The Canadian team of 1904 consisted of members of clubs connected with the Ontario and Western Ontario Associations, and on the conclusion of the tour they suggested that a return visit to Canada in 1906 from bowlers of the United Kingdom would be welcome.

A joint invitation was duly received in 1905 from these two associations addressed to the International Board, requesting that a British team of eight rinks might visit Canada in 1906. The

Results of Tour of Canadian Team of 1904.

Date.		Shots.	Name of Club.	Shots.	Up.	Down.	No. of Rinks.
June							
13	Canadians	38	Heathfield . . .	46	...	8	2
14	"	60	Muswell Hill . . .	122	...	62	5
15	"	80	Bounds Green . . .	75	5	...	4
16	"	91	South London . . .	114	...	23	5
18	"	102	Brighton . . .	102	5
20	"	66	North London . . .	78	...	12	4
21	"	85	London County . . .	79	6	...	5
22	"	79	Upper Clapton . . .	80	...	1	4
23	"	91	{ West of England and South Wales League }	93	...	2	5
24	"	111	Cardiff . . .	100	11	...	5
25	"	85	Welsh Bowling Assoc. .	114	...	29	5
27	"	59	Brownswood . . .	89	...	30	4
28	"	72	Southampton County .	91	...	19	4
29	"	76	Southampton . . .	88	...	12	4
30	"	77	Bromley . . .	75	2	...	4
July							
4	"	15	Newcastle West End . .	44	...	29	4*
5	"	48	Carlisle . . .	113	...	65	4
6	"	71	Glasgow Bowling Assoc.	136	...	65	5
7	"	77	Dumbarton . . .	106	...	29	5
8	"	63	Whitevale (Glasgow) .	74	...	11	5
9	"	89	Ayr . . .	113	...	24	5
11	"	54	Lanark . . .	139	...	85	5
12	"	48	Stirling . . .	88	...	40	5
13	"	93	Perth . . .	110	...	17	5
14	"	78	Inverness . . .	125	...	47	5
16	"	65	Aberdeen . . .	136	...	71	5
18	"	95	Dundee . . .	87	8	...	5
19	"	82	Dunfermline . . .	116	...	34	5
20	"	16	{ Edinburgh and Leith Bowling Association }	34	...	18	5†
21	"	38	{ Whitehouse and Grange (Edinburgh) . . . }	40	...	2	2
22	"	51	Galashiels . . .	125	...	74	5
23	"	88	S.B.A. (Edinburgh) . .	109	...	21	5
25	"	78	Dumfriesshire . . .	125	...	47	5

* Stopped by rain.

† Five ends.

invitation was cordially accepted, and after consultation with the National Associations, the Board allocated the players as follows:—England 15, Scotland 15, Ireland 5, and Wales 5. It will be noticed that these figures complete 10 rinks, the Board being of opinion that 8 reserves were necessary in view of the long, heavy programme of matches which had been arranged. Wales, however, was unable to send any representatives, and England could only muster 10; while Ireland providing her 5, left Scotland to complete the team. It is very creditable to the latter country that 25 bowlers were found willing to undertake the trip.

The British visitors received a royal welcome on their arrival in the Dominion, one or two of the prominent members of the 1904 team having travelled far to greet them. The team landed in Montreal two hours before their first engagement, this, however, being due to the boat having been detained some hours through fog. This first match was played on a green of the Scotch pattern, the only one of that type met with during the tour. The late Mr James Brown, founder and first Secretary of the S.B.A., settled in Montreal in 1895, and had been largely instrumental in forming the club, which fact accounts for it being this style of green. In all, 23 matches were played, 15 against constituent clubs of Ontario Bowling Association, and 8 against those of Western

Date.	Where Played.	Clubs Engaged.	Shots		Majority	
			For	Against	For	Against
July 28	Montreal .	Westmount (Montreal)	129	93	36	...
31 Aug.	Valleyfield .	Valleyfield .	159	72	87	...
1	Peterboro' .	Peterboro', Port Hope, Oshawa, and Stouffville .	205	123	82	...
2	Toronto .	Queen City, Lorne Park, and Parkdale (Toronto)	172	129	43	...
3	Niagara on the Lake .	Canada, St Matthews, and Parkdale .	150	136	14	...
4	Toronto .	Balmy Beach, Kew Beach, and St Matthews	194	118	76	...
6	" .	Granite and Prospect Park	202	127	75	...
7	" .	Royal Canadian Yacht Club and Caer Howell .	212	89	123	...
8	" .	Victoria and Thistle .	155	162	...	7
10	St Catharines	St Catharines and Niagara	193	128	65	...
11	Hamilton .	Hamilton Thistle	176	131	45	...
13	" .	{ Hamilton Asylum, Dundas, Grimsby, and } Hamilton Yacht Club .	221	112	109	...
14	Brantford and Paris .	Brantford and Paris .	182	133	49	...
15	Guelph .	Guelph and Brampton .	168	127	41	...
16	Berlin .	Berlin, Waterloo, and Galt	140	121	19	...
17	Stratford and Mitchell	Stratford, Owen Sound, and Mitchell .	148	145	3	...
18	Goderich and Clinton	Goderich, Wingham, Clinton, and Seaforth .	147	162	...	15
20	London .	London and Thistle	178	141	37	...
21	" .	Aylmer, St Thomas, Strathroy, and St Mary's .	177	126	51	...
22	Ridgetown .	{ Ridgetown, Blenheim, Chatham, Bothwell, and } Thamesville .	175	104	71	...
23	Chatham .	{ Chatham, Dresden, Thamesville, Ridgetown, and } Leamington .	147	133	14	...
25	Walkerville .	Walkerville, Windsor, Detroit, and elsewhere .	180	124	56	...
27	Woodstock	{ Woodstock, Listowel, Brussels, Mount Forest, } and Tillsonburg .	155	142	13	...
			3965	2878	1109	22

Ontario Bowling Association. Of these 23, 21 were won and only 2 lost. Considering the great amount of travelling undertaken, and the oft-repeated expressions of hospitality overtaken, it was really a grand performance. On their return to this country, it is understood that more than one member suggested that on a future occasion two teams should be taken, the reason of course being obvious.

The preceding table shows the results of the games played during the tour.

Everywhere the visitors were received most hospitably, and each town vied with its neighbour to make the occasion a pleasant success. The extreme kindness of the Canadians was deeply appreciated, and those who had the privilege of enjoying it will see that we in this country are not behind with our reception on the occasion of the next Canadian visit.

There is every probability of a Canadian team coming across this year (1908), but if these tours and return visits are to continue as successfully as desired, then the Canadian Associations must adopt the S.B.A. rules of the game. This, of course, would necessitate the Scotch type of green being adopted in Canada, and while it might mean a large undertaking to effect this change on every green, there is no doubt that the increased interest in and popularity of the game resulting therefrom would more than compensate all con-

cerned. The change would also lead to an increased interest being taken in these biennial tours, and there is little doubt that there would be an advance in the standard of play. It is to be hoped that the outstanding men of the pastime in Canada will shortly recognise the advisability of such a change, and that before long we may see every green in Canada of the universal type. One thing which may do much towards this end is the fact that within the last few months the following Canadian clubs have joined the S.B.A.—

Royal Canadian Yacht Club			
Victoria . . .	}	Toronto	
Granite . . .			
Westmount . . .		Montreal	
Stratford			

As these are among the leading clubs in Canada, there is little doubt that others will follow their example, and there is therefore every reason to expect that the Scottish type of bowling-green will soon be introduced generally throughout the Dominion.

CHAPTER VII

THE GAME ON PUBLIC GREENS UNDER MUNICIPALITIES AND CORPORATIONS

WHILE bowls has been in successive centuries a favourite pastime with royalty and the upper classes, it is to-day undoubtedly a pastime for the masses. Of all recreations of the present day, it is best suited to their opportunities. Golf, for instance, is more expensive, and, besides that, requires more time than the average employee has at his disposal, unless it be for a month or two in the height of the summer, when a game can be got after five or six o'clock. Cricket, again, is to a great extent a pastime of the classes and schools, for the reason that, except in the cities, there are very few facilities for playing the game, and even there these facilities are very much restricted. But in the case of bowls, the man who has only an hour—or a penny—to spare can go down to the green and enjoy himself as well as the player who is a member of a private green. There is also another argument in favour of bowls, and one

which means much in our thickly populated centres. It gives rational recreation to the greatest number on the smallest possible area. In what other pastime will a piece of ground 45 yards square give room for as many as sixty-four players? Then, on the supposition that each played for one hour, we find that during an average summer evening of three hours no fewer than 192 persons are deriving enjoyment on that one small area, which, after all, is little more than two-fifths of an acre. Looked at, therefore, from a utilitarian point of view, it will be seen that there is no other recreation which can compare at all favourably with the game of bowls.

To turn now to the subject of this chapter—the game on the public greens—it may be interesting to see how this has evolved. The greens one hundred and fifty years ago, alike in Scotland and England, were of the same two kinds as now—private and public—but both in somewhat different styles. The average private green then was attached to town and country residences, very much as a croquet lawn is nowadays, while the public green of that period was oftener than not let out to a tenant, who paid a rent for it (and the tavern to which frequently it was attached). The tenant drew such income as he could derive from his patrons, but in the majority of cases the green was really the precarious part of the income and could not be relied on. Many such greens are

still to be met with in England, which, although the headquarters of a club, are still the property of the landlord of the inn. This, it is needless to point out, is a very undesirable state of matters, and the sooner it is remedied the better.

Of course, the present-day type of public green is that laid out by the corporations and generally situated in some public park or garden. The first public recognition of the game by city corporations which we have been able to trace was in Edinburgh and Leith, both of which had a green in the public parks as far back as 1858. It is further known that at the end of the sixties there were three greens at Princes Street Gardens (Edinburgh), and two greens at Leith, adjoining the Links. Round the latter there lies very great interest to all bowlers, and more especially to those who have used or now use the public greens: for here it was that the possibilities of the public greens were tested and established. The following is a record of the proceedings, in which the public green bowlers took the leading part.

In 1873 the bowling-greens at Leith were the two situated to the east of James' Place, on ground which belonged to the Edinburgh Corporation. These two greens were in existence until last year, and were the two original greens of 1858. The inner green of the two was at that time (1873) let by Leith Town Council to a private club, the outer green being open to the public at

one penny per hour. This latter green was much too inadequate for the needs of the public players, who accordingly presented memorials to the Edinburgh and Leith Town Councils, requesting that more bowling-green accommodation might be provided. A plan having been prepared by the then Burgh Surveyor of a proposed new green of much larger dimensions to the east of the existing ones, the Town Council replied that they had no money for that purpose. The question was then raised by the public green players, whether the Leith Town Council had, in terms of their lease, any power to let one of the greens to a private club, it being a condition of lease that the ground was to be kept for the purpose of public recreation, and on no account was it to be let to any private parties without the sanction of the Edinburgh Corporation. The following excerpt from *The Leith Herald* of Saturday, 31st May 1873, will give the best account of the subsequent proceedings :—

“THE BOWLING-GREEN DISPUTE”

“Since the public meeting in St Andrews’ Hall, and the subsequent memorials to the Town Councils of Edinburgh and Leith, there has been a strong feeling among the Leith bowlers about the subject of dispute ; and as no satisfaction has been obtained, several parties took the law into their own hands, and on Wednesday evening entered

the private green and commenced to play. This procedure has since continued, to the great discomfiture of the 'gents.' Not to be beat, however, the members of the private club applied for an interdict to stop this 'little game,' and accordingly a copy of this document was served on Mr James Smart, President of St James' Club, while he was at play on the private green last night between seven and eight o'clock. Several of those mentioned were present at the time, and at once left the ground, their places being immediately filled by another half-dozen, ready and willing either to be allowed to play in peace or to furnish work for the lawyers. It appears, however, that to 'play in peace' is not to be their fate, as the new rink had no sooner been formed than about 30 or 40 well-dressed but evidently ill-educated children began to romp and walk over the bowling-green; nor was it until after they were warned, and their 'papas,' premising danger to the limbs of their youngsters, interfered, that they were compelled to desist. It is satisfactory to know that upwards of £30 have already been raised by voluntary subscription for the defence of the public rights.

"We give the interdict, as served on Mr Smart, in full:—

UNTO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE LORDS OF COUNCIL AND SESSION
NOTE OF SUSPENSION AND
INTERDICT

FOR

ALEXANDER DUNSMURE, merchant, Leith, the President, and JOHN BEVERIDGE, merchant, Leith, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Leith Bowling Club, for themselves and as representing the whole constituent Members of said Club;

AGAINST

WILLIAM M'CALL, wireworker, residing in Leith; WALTER IRVING or IRVINE, in the employment of Messrs Scott & Allan, Leith, and residing there; DAVID STEWART, wharfinger or porter, residing in Leith; JAMES CALDER, clerk, Baltic Street, Leith; ROBERT HAMILTON, warehouseman or porter, St Andrew Street, Leith; JOHN BOWDEN, clerk, residing in Leith; GEORGE ANDERSON, residing in Leith; and JAMES SMART, residing in Bath Street, Leith.

“That the complainers are under the necessity of applying to your Lordships for suspension and interdict against the respondents, as will appear to your Lordships from the annexed Statement of Facts and Note of Pleas-in-law.

“That the complainers consider that, in the whole circumstances of the case, they are entitled

to have this Note passed and interdict granted, without caution or consignment.

“May it therefore please your Lordships to suspend the proceedings complained of, and to interdict, prohibit, and discharge the said respondents from entering upon the bowling-green situated in or near James’ Place, Leith, used and occupied by the said Leith Bowling Club; and from occupying or in any manner of way using the same; and from doing all and every thing whereby the exclusive use and enjoyment of the said bowling - green by the said Leith Bowling Club might be infringed upon or interfered with; or to do otherwise in the premises as to your Lordships shall seem proper.

“*According to Justice, &c.,*

“J. CARMENT,

“*For complainers.*”

“*Edinburgh, 30th May 1873.*”

“*Edinburgh, 30th May 1873.*—To see and answer within eight days; meantime grants interim interdict, and to be intimated.

“A. B. SHAND,

“*G.N.*”

“I, George Nicolson, messenger-at-arms, by virtue of an interlocutor, dated the thirtieth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-three years, pronounced by Lord Shand, Ordinary officiating on the Bills in the Court of Session, on the Note of Suspension and Interdict given in and presented

for and in name of the therein designed Alexander Dunsmure, merchant, Leith, the President, and John Beveridge, merchant, Leith, the Secretary and Treasurer, of the Leith Bowling Club, for themselves, and as representing the whole constituent members of said Club, complainers, do hereby, in Her Majesty's name and authority, and in name and authority of the said Lord Ordinary, lawfully intimate the said Note and Interlocutor thereon to you, the also therein designed James Smart, residing in Bath Street, Leith, respondent, by serving you with the prefixed copy thereof, that you may not pretend ignorance of the same, and desire and require you to conform yourself to said interlocutor and pay obedience to the interdict therein contained, with certification as effairs : This I do upon the thirtieth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-three years, before and in presence of George Nicolson, junior, residenter in Edinburgh, witness to the premises.

"GEORGE NICOLSON."

The public green bowlers mentioned in this document conformed to the interdict, but at the same time pointed out in a petition to the Leith Town Council that they had no power, in terms of their lease of the ground, to let one of the greens to a private club. This statement, on being looked into, was found to be perfectly correct, so the Council agreed to give to the public half of the green the next season and the whole of it in 1875. At the latter date the private club players were thus wholly dispossessed, and the cry was then

raised that there was far too much money spent on public bowling-greens, and that the greens would have to be closed unless the players were prepared to accept an increase in the charge for play. This proposal was resisted by the bowlers, who contended that the greens were self-supporting if properly managed. They were thereupon asked by the Town Council to put forward ten of their number who would become security for the rent of the greens, and at once the requisite number were obtained. This Committee of ten took the two greens on the responsibility of paying the rent of £25 per year, the bargain being that the Committee were to prepare the greens for opening, keep them up, and at the close of the season to relay where necessary, the Town Council providing the turf only. A responsible green-keeper was appointed, to whom this Committee paid a wage 30 per cent. in excess of that which the Town Council had previously been paying. During the first two years, notwithstanding a considerable outlay on the greens, the income balanced the expenditure, while during the following years one season's drawings amounted to over £90, and the balance on hand once reached the sum of £16 after meeting all liabilities.

Great credit is due to this Committee—all members of St James' Club—who took up a strong position when public rights were endangered. It was on behalf of the public that

they took over the greens and became security for the rent, though not themselves tenants of the greens, anyone being then at liberty to have his game on either of the greens. The following gentlemen formed the Committee:—Messrs Alex. Pairman, Walter Irvine, Wm. Donaldson, Robt. Duncan, Gilbert Cuthbert, J. Fairley, Robt. Hamilton, Alex. Ramsay, James Smart, W. Thomson, and James Calder, while Mr James Adamson was the appointed green-keeper. Some of them are still playing the game—Mr Pairman being connected with Braid Club, Edinburgh, while Messrs Irvine, Cuthbert, and Adamson are all members of Seafield Club, Leith.

Probably few present-day bowlers realise what St James' Club has done for the game, not only by the stand they made for public rights at this time, but also through the Annual Tournament managed by the Club. This tourney was instituted by them in 1859, and has been held annually ever since. It has always received a large measure of support from members of public and private clubs in Edinburgh and Midlothian, and has done much to stimulate the interest in the game amongst the public green players.

Although Edinburgh and Leith each possessed public greens as far back as 1858, public opinion was slow to move any further in the matter. It was only after long and persistent advocacy of the necessity for some more adequate provision in this

direction, notably by Mr James Pretsell and one or two others, that the Town Council of Edinburgh were prevailed upon to lay down another green. This was the West Meadows green, formed in 1877, since which time the Capital has led the way in the matter of municipal bowling-greens. For many years now Edinburgh has been fortunate in having a Town Council, and especially a Parks Committee, fully alive to present-day requirements in the matter of facilities for outdoor recreation. This, however, is only as it should be, for in the provision of these facilities we have an opportunity of affording the best counter-attraction to many of the evils permeating our city life at the present time. The number of greens now in full use in most of our large cities is the best possible argument in favour of this branch of municipal enterprise.

The success of the Edinburgh municipal bowling-greens can best be gauged from the following official returns for the last four years:—

	Dues.			Players.	Shoes.			Total.		
1904	£825	3	1	198,037	—			£825	3	1
1905	726	14	4	174,412	—			726	14	4
1906	653	15	8	156,908	£108	4	9½	762	0	5½
1907	671	17	1	161,245	121	0	11½	792	18	0½

There is now at every green an ample supply of shoes, these being hired out at ½d. per pair, while for the penny charged for the hour's play the player can have the use of a pair of bowls. The

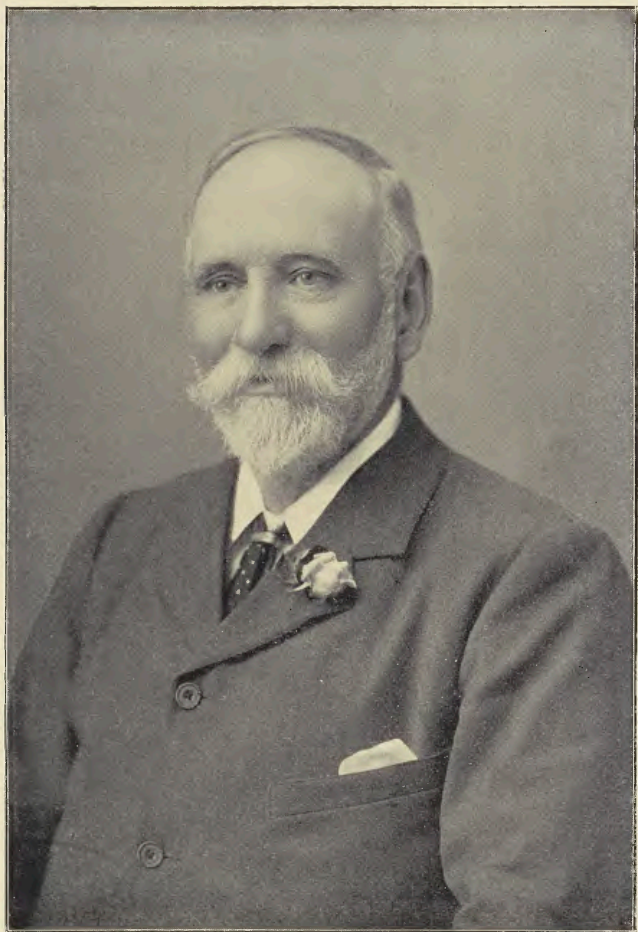


Photo by]

[Marshall Wane & Co., Edin.

MR JAMES PRETSELL, Edinburgh, one of the founders of the
S.B.A., and a pioneer in the Public Green movement.

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number of clubs playing on the Edinburgh public greens during season 1907 was 134.

In Glasgow the first two Corporation greens were laid down at Glasgow Green in 1903, after which there followed, in 1905, two in Kelvingrove Park, two in Queen's Park, and two in Springburn Park; in 1906, two at Kelvingrove Park; in 1907, two at Glasgow Green, two at Alexandra Park, and one at Queen's Park, while other two are ready for opening this season at Ruchill Park, making now seventeen greens in all. The success of the scheme may be proved from the following returns:—

	No. of Greens.	No. of Games.	Revenue.		
1903	2	19,880	£204	15	0
1904	2	23,462	268	9	1
1905	8	44,982	528	18	2
1906	10	88,256	1,038	19	4
1907	15	119,116	1,424	17	4

Although late in beginning, there is no doubt that Glasgow is making good progress in the matter of public greens. The charges for games on the Glasgow greens are slightly different from those of Edinburgh. For a full rink of eight players, each pays twopence per hour; but if a rink be occupied by four players playing a pairs game, then each pays threepence per hour. This, however, does not give recreation to the same number as might otherwise be obtained, and there is no doubt that Edinburgh and Leith follow the best course in this matter.

Up till the middle of last century, England had many more greens than Scotland, but they were almost without exception attached to inns or taverns. Newcastle, now a great industrial centre, was probably one of the first English municipalities to take up the question of public greens. Although most of the public green clubs there were only formed in the eighties, there were one or two public greens before a club was thought of. That Newcastle's enterprise has been appreciated, is shown by the fact that there are now thirteen greens in the six public parks, while there are fully a dozen public green clubs. As far back as 1882, there was formed the Northumberland and Durham Public Parks Bowling-Greens Association, a body which has since done much to stir up local enthusiasm in the pastime.

The development of the game in London and district would require a special chapter if gone into in detail. The first public green was laid down by the London County Council at Battersea Park, and was opened in 1895. So great was the demand for space for the game, that that body has had to make greens at other centres of the metropolis ever since. Clissold Park followed in 1897, Dulwich Park in 1899, Finsbury Park in 1900, Island Gardens (Poplar), Ravenscourt Park (Hammersmith), and Victoria Park in 1901; Brockwell Park and Sydenham Well's Park in 1902, Ladywell Recreation Ground (Catford) in 1904,

Hilly Fields, Brockley, in 1906, and Mountsfield Park (Lewisham) in 1907. At Clapham Common, in 1902, a tennis court was adapted for the game of bowls and opened to the public, while it is also allowed on the tennis courts at Northbrook Park and Wandsworth Park. In all, 76 rinks were available for play during season 1907, the fully equipped greens numbering fourteen, all of which have been laid out by the Council's own staff of workmen. Up to this point everything is eminently satisfactory, but now appears the want of proper organisation.

Up till 1906 no charge was made for the use of the greens. No bowls were available for hire, and little or no record was apparently kept of the numbers using the greens. In 1906 a charge of one penny per hour per player—including the use of a pair of bowls—was made as an experiment on the Finsbury Park Green, twenty pairs of bowls being provided by the Council. On all the other greens, however, the conditions were the same as formerly. The number of games played during 1904 and 1905 were 14,550 and 17,683 respectively, while in 1906 it had increased to 24,749, of which 4550 were paid for at a penny each. The number of games played in 1907 was 21,927, of which 2454 were paid for at one penny each on Finsbury Park, the charge having been discontinued on 25th June, about half-way through the season. There was, therefore, no charge made on any of the L.C.C.

greens during the second half of the season. Bowls have now been provided at Clissold Park and Ladywell Recreation Ground for the use of the public. By a careful perusal of these facts and the following remarks, readers interested will be able to judge wherein the management of this municipal enterprise might be improved and made more efficient.

Hitherto the method followed on the L.C.C. greens has been that once a player's name is taken, he can that day engage in as many games as he pleases for the single registration. Thus, thousands more of these free games take place on the greens during each season than find tabulation. It also stands to reason that, no bowls being provided, the greens could be used only by those who were able to possess a pair of their own. As this, however, means a serious item to many of the workers, it may be said the L.C.C. have in a measure failed to achieve their purpose in laying out the money spent on these greens. Undoubtedly, the first remedy is to have an ample supply of bowls at every green, and charge each player one penny per hour, whether he plays with his own bowls or hires a pair. This policy, in addition to increasing the revenue considerably, would also ensure the greens being taken advantage of by the men for whom they were originally intended, viz., the workers, most of whom are more in need of such outdoor

recreation than many of those hitherto occupying the rinks.

The L.C.C. have now enforced the wearing of rubber-soled shoes, and this precaution must have saved them a considerable amount in repairs on turf. An ample supply of these shoes should be provided at each green, and one halfpenny charged for hire. This investment would soon repay itself, and would certainly increase the revenue. Once a policy of this sort is followed, then will the L.C.C. derive all the good—financially and otherwise—it is possible to get from this source.

While the L.C.C. public bowling-greens may not have been the success which they might, every credit is due to Sir A. M. Torrance, an ex-Chairman of L.C.C., and of the Public Parks Committee, for the very devoted manner in which he has worked from the first to provide means, whereby the workers of the metropolis might have the same facilities for engaging in the game as can be found in so many parts of his native Scotland. To men such as he, communities are under a deep debt of gratitude, and the great pity is, that their good efforts are so readily forgotten by many of those who are really reaping the greatest benefits therefrom.

For the benefit of those not conversant with the subject, it might be pointed out at this stage what constitutes a satisfactory financial return in any branch of recreation—outdoor or indoor—provided

by a municipality. Many who do not have a good word to say for such schemes are always ready to denounce them as not "paying their way." Now, any recreation started by a municipality means a considerable initial expense before one penny of revenue can be got, and it is entirely out of the question to expect the returns to repay the capital sum spent on any such scheme. Such a thing is never intended. The most that can be looked for is that the revenue should pay for repairs, general upkeep, and wages of staff, while in the case of a popular recreation under good management, the income can also be made to cover the interest on the capital expenditure. Surely if the enterprise can achieve such a result, the public money is well spent on a pastime which—in the case of bowling—is a rest to most men after the day's work is over, and a counter attraction to many recreations and amusements of a doubtful character which abound in the midst of city life.

A word of commendation is due to the directors of public works, and also other large employers of labour, for the kindly interest which many of them are now taking in the recreation of their employees. Fresh evidences of this friendly relationship are met with every year, especially as regards the bowling-green. In many cases the green is laid down free of expense, while in others the site is given rent free. It is very gratifying to know that such a relationship between employers and

employees now exists in many large centres. The benefits of such a policy are on both sides to be desired. The employers get the very best out of their employees, while such generous treatment makes the employees feel that they are more than mere machines from the employer's point of view.

The public green movement has spread enormously during the last decade. In several towns throughout the north of England the penny a game principle has been applied with much success, whilst in the south Bournemouth has especially come to the fore of late with its municipal rinks. Ireland has also joined in the advance, some of her public green players even finding a place in her international teams.

Across the seas the number of municipal greens is rapidly growing. According to the late Mr John Young, in the *New South Wales Bowlers' Annual*, in the State of Victoria they have been laid down in Melbourne and its suburbs, Bendigo, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Geelong, and in nearly all other towns. In Queensland, where the game found a footing only some four or five years ago, there are public rinks in Brisbane and several other towns. Western Australia has excellent public greens at Perth, Freemantle, and Kalgoorlie, while Tasmania is represented by Launceston.

In New Zealand almost every town has its bowling-green—Dunedin has over a dozen—the majority being in public parks. In India there

are excellent rinks at Calcutta, while the Japanese have had greens laid down in the public parks at Kobe and Yokohama. Then at Hong-Kong the officials have allowed a green to be made and used at Kowloon, while in the British quarter of Shanghai there are two such grounds for the public use. In America also there is a growing popularity of this movement of bowls for the people.

CHAPTER VIII

HINTS TO BEGINNERS

AS in other games, there are points in the game of bowls upon which hints to beginners may be useful, and it is with the desire of simplifying, to a little extent at least, the difficulties which all beginners are prone to experience that we are prompted to give suggestions to those who may be desirous of achieving some degree of success in a game which brings into play many scientific points and which tends to promote the social welfare of all who take part in it.

When a beginner commences the game, the first step he should take is to consult some one who has acknowledged skill in the game. By so doing he will obtain practical demonstration of the game, with the necessary explanations as to the size and bias of bowls, the position on the mat, the mode of delivery of the bowl, and, generally, such initial tuition as will enable a beginner to become interested in the game.

SIZE AND BIAS OF BOWLS.*

A beginner should at the outset try several sets of bowls, so that he may have an opportunity of properly judging what size and bias of bowl will suit him best. A player of experience will be of great service with advice on such a matter. When the size of bowl is determined, there need be little difficulty in fixing the bias to be selected. What is recognised among bowlmakers as No. 3 Bias is generally accepted as the most suitable for the keen Scotch greens, and we would advise the beginner to purchase a pair—or, if he intends to take part in single-handed competitions, a set of four—bowls of that description. On no account should he play with what are called narrow bowls, and we also deprecate the playing with bowls of different bias. On a good green—and good greens are very general in Scotland—the bowls known as No. 3 Bias are sufficiently wide for all practical purposes, and it is manifestly in the interest of the player to have a set of bowls which do not per-

* Bowls are made from *lignum vitæ*, the wood of a genus of trees which grow in the West India Islands and in some of the continental parts of America. The wood is noted for its hardness and heaviness, and is remarkable for the direction of its fibres, each layer of which crosses the preceding diagonally. It is much valued, and is used for other purposes besides bowls, such as for ship's blocks, rulers, pestles, etc. Shavings of the wood are also bought by apothecaries for medical use.

ceptibly vary in bias. We have every confidence in the efficacy of such bowls, and we strongly recommend them for use.

The bowls which we have recommended take a beautiful sweep, and they bring out the fine points in the game and make it extremely attractive. Narrow bowls, on the other hand, bring the game down to a low level, and eliminate altogether the skill required in calculating the bias necessary to be taken. In playing narrow bowls, the question of distance is practically the only point to be attended to, and those who play with such bowls cannot have any regard for the elevation of the game or for sportsmanlike action.

POSITION ON THE MAT

Having secured his set of bowls, the beginner will be anxious to try his hand, and we shall now place him on the mat ready to deliver his first bowl. The initial difficulty is the position of the bowl in his hand. As everyone knows, bowls are not round, but are fuller on one side than the other; and as the best-delivered bowl runs smoothly up the turf, it is essential that the position of the bowl should be carefully studied. The first point to make sure of is that the bowls are of a convenient size for the hand. Unless the player has a bowl that he can grasp with ease, he will have little or no control over it. When the right size of bowl has been secured, the next question is,

how to hold it for the delivery. There are divers and wonderful methods, each upheld by its special devotees. On one point, however, there can be no question, and that is, the bowl must be held *straight* in the hand. This ensures its running smoothly when grassed, whereas, if it be in the least screwed to one side or other, it is sure to "wobble" and take some considerable time to gather itself. This of course is fatal; for if it had the proper strength when delivered, it would finish its course short of the jack, and be the worst of all shots—a useless bowl.

When the bowl has been properly placed in the hand, the player should have a thorough grip of it. Here, again, every player has his own idea as to the best method of holding the bowl. The way to ensure the best delivery, we think, is to have the middle fingers spread over the front of the bowl, *i.e.*, on its running surface, the thumb and little finger being stretched as much as possible on each side, and in the ideal case these will reach the small discs on top and bottom of bowl. Having now seen how the bowl is to be placed and grasped in the hand, the next instruction the beginner will receive from his tutor will be to acquire a graceful and sweet delivery of his bowl. He must, in the first instance, however, take up a natural position on the mat. There are many and varied styles of such positions—some stooping, others crouching, and probably more standing upright. We think

the last is the most satisfactory, and certainly the most natural position, and it is the one we would recommend the player to adopt. In such a position, the player has much more control and purchase over the bowl, and, when it is necessary to play a fast shot, the swing of the arm is much freer than it is in either of the other positions. The player can also see the position of the bowls at the other end, and judge the distance better when he is standing erect than when he is in a crouching or stooping position. Therefore, let the beginner study carefully his position on the mat before he proceeds to the actual delivery, as it is the player with the most natural ease in his movements who develops the most graceful style. It is advisable in delivering the bowl that the beginner should be facing slightly to the side he intends to play on. Nothing tends to make him play "narrow" bowls more than his facing "straight on" at the mat when learning the delivery.

THE DELIVERY

In position now for the delivery of the bowl, the beginner meets what is probably the most difficult part of the performance. The arm should be brought back in an easy and natural swing, the player should step squarely forward with the left foot (or right, in the case of left-handed players), and the arm again brought forward. The whole body thus swings forward with the arm, and the

bowl is assured of a smooth and even course up the turf. In "grassing" the bowl the greatest care should be taken that the bowl meets the turf as it leaves the hand. It should not be allowed to fall on the green, as this not only interferes with its intended course, but also injures the green. Neither should the bowl "graze" the turf, for this frequently alters its course, as well as counteracting some of the strength necessary for its journey to the jack. The actual process of delivery is, as we have said, *the* difficulty to be overcome, and until he has thoroughly mastered this and developed what to his mind is a perfectly natural style, the beginner should pay no heed to bias, strength, or any other feature of the game. In all clubs, we are sure, older players are only too pleased to initiate and instruct a beginner in these essential points, which at this stage go so far to the making of success. Many beginners are rather diffident of joining in a rink of more experienced players, but prefer to sit and look on. Let us advise them that the "looking on" should be done before they have tried the game, and we are of opinion that by carefully watching the styles of the various players, a beginner may learn much that will make these points easier for him when he comes to practise the game.

The next point of the game is the bias, and, as mentioned before, we would suggest that the beginner should have several games before

purchasing a pair or set of bowls. It is understood that when he commences the game he has either joined a club or intends joining one. He should take the advice of the older players as to what sort of bowl will suit him. There is no harm in having the largest bowl his hand can command (it of course, being within the limits allowed by the laws of the game as to size and weight). The beginner should shun "narrow" or "straight" bowls, *i.e.*, bowls with very little bias. These, it will be understood, do not admit of much science in the game, and are frequently (at least in rink games) more of a drawback than otherwise. He should start with bowls of medium bias, and when his taste as to both size and bias has been determined, he can then entrust the purchase of bowls with some one experienced in that direction, possibly the secretary or ranger of his club. By practice alone does the beginner master the bias of the bowl, and with practice also will come that delicacy of touch which enables him to know exactly the strength to give for varying lengths of jack.

A very frequent failing in the case of the beginner is his readiness to "run" or "ride" the jack. It has a subtle attractiveness which seems too good to miss, and has also to a certain extent a show about it which he imagines is wanting in the ordinary drawing game. He will come to find his mistake before long, and in the process he will

also discover that the practice has deprived him of any accuracy in the drawing game. A skip should certainly be able to strike a jack when necessary, but the beginner will find that the little skill required for such a stroke will be there waiting him when he has gained the experience to fit him for that position.

Let no beginner be discouraged should he not be making the progress he anticipated. Like all other games of skill, the game of bowls needs not only practice, but in the case of the beginner, constant practice. Advantage should be taken of every available opportunity of engaging with better players, for, as in golf, this helps to stretch the inferior player to his utmost ability. Again, bowling is, *par excellence*, the sociable game of all summer outdoor recreations, and it would be well if this were at all times borne in mind—especially on the part of older players towards the beginner. Nothing helps a man more to enjoy himself and at the same time excel himself at the game, than the fact that he is being made welcome. We often think we hear too much of another social side of the game, but let us all endeavour to advance the social side on the green by our kindly welcome to the beginner as well as our general demeanour towards our fellow-members.

CHAPTER IX

DIRECTIONS TO BOWLERS

WHILE considerably greater attention is paid to single-handed play nowadays than was formerly the case, the older form of the game—rink playing—is really the attraction of bowls to the average player. It is at once the more interesting, alike for player and spectator, and it is also the most sociable of all forms.

RINK PLAY

The rink, composed of four players—lead, second, third, and skip—play two bowls each against another rink of four players. The only point of any difficulty is how to place the players, in order to get the very best out of the four. The lead should be a good drawer, and one who never throws a short bowl. Whatever fault or failing can be excused in a lead, playing short can never be so. His first effort should be as near the jack as he can put it, after which it is quite advisable to have the second a short distance behind the jack.

In the majority of cases, the jack is not in the same position at the finish of a head as it was at the beginning, and a back bowl is therefore most useful. No player, unless when specially directed to do so, should ever have a short bowl, for the chances are that it is either in his skip's road, or else it simply supplies an "inwick" for one of his opponents' bowls, which might otherwise have gone harmlessly past.

The second player should likewise be a good drawer, so that he may at any time make good any failure on the part of the lead. The lead may have failed at an end, and the opponents captured the shot. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that the second player should be able to retrieve the position, for it frequently happens that the other two players have enough to do to hold their own with their immediate opponents, without having to face any arrears of the first two members of the rink. The second player should also be able to play, to direction, a trail or other sharp shot, when matters are in such a position that a change would be expedient. This is seldom the case so early in the head, but still there is always the possibility of its being required. When it is required, this is just an occasion when young players especially, either fail to discriminate between "a yard on," and a "run," or else take the law into their own hands, and interpret the former as the latter, and play accordingly. A

player—in any position—directed to play “a yard on,” should endeavour to make it as near the literal truth as possible, and at all costs must not lose his bowl. Ties and games innumerable have been lost in this manner simply through players “losing their heads,” and not conceiving the difference in weight between these two shots. The chief point which the lead and second players have to watch, is not to lie short of the jack, and the latter should remember that even if he has failed in what was attempted, so long as he is “jack-high” the road is left clear for the next attempt. We are inclined to think the second player generally holds the key to the situation, for it is often at this stage that the character of an end is formed. A hard and fast rule, which all leads and second players—or, in fact, all players—should remember, is that when the shot is lying against them, they should in no case lie short, but always make sure of being the length of the jack. It is most discouraging to a skip to have the shot lying against him and his players throwing up short bowls; it does not improve the situation in any way, and in addition simply blocks the way for the skip himself.

Now we come to the third player, who, if possible, should be a thoroughly experienced bowler, and one capable of as great variety of play as the skip himself. We are afraid many third players seldom realise how much their skips depend on them, or what it really means to the skips in the

event of their failure at an end. Many of the qualities of a skip are required for the position of third player, and in addition to what has already been noted in regard to the first two players, a thorough knowledge of the game is necessary. To the Canadian bowlers, both here in 1904 and in Canada in 1906, the most wonderful feature of the Scottish game was the "head-building," and even yet this quality of the Scottish players is the admiration of all bowlers of the other countries in our international contests. The latter have, in fact, paid it the sincerest flattery by imitating it, a branch of the game they are rapidly and successfully developing. This scheming of the position falls partly on the third player along with his skip, so that it is clear that the former must be a thoroughly reliable player, to whom one shot is as easy as another. Then when it comes the skip's turn to play, the charge of the game devolves upon the third player, and while, according to rule, he is entitled to direct his skip, every bowler knows that in almost all cases a skip's bowls are played as the result of the combined opinion of his third player and himself. In the few cases of non-agreement which do arise, it is certainly the duty of the third player, as a matter of courtesy if not of honour, to give deference to the skip's opinion, as the latter is the responsible head of the rink. Only in the case of an alteration in the head after the skip has left it, and while he is at the other end, is there

any necessity for the third player giving him directions.

The skip of the rink must, indeed, be a versatile player, and a man of strong nerve, although, as regards his play, nothing more can be asked of him than of the third player. As being in command of the rink, however, it is most essential that the skip should possess certain moral qualities of character which need not be present in the other players. In the event of any of his rink being "off colour," he has to encourage them; and, if one persists in playing short or blocking the hands, the skip must be careful that any word he says on the subject should not discourage the delinquent. For this reason it had better be given privately, and kindly withal. In this matter there are two types of skips, who are not, and never will be, popular. First, the one who has neither commendation nor remonstrance, and second, the one who has nothing but the latter. The ideal skip remonstrates when it is necessary, and commends when it is deserved. It is well also for a skip to watch not only what his own players' bowls can do, but also what those of his opponents can achieve on each hand and at varying lengths of jack. Of course, it need not be impressed here that it is the duty of every bowler in a rink to find out at once what his bowls can do on each hand up and down the green, and so be able at any time to tell his skip accordingly. The want of this know-

ledge frequently means a bowl lost. Suppose, now, a bowl lying in the draw for the jack and two or three yards short: a bowl must be played heavy or not, according as it is to pass the obstruction on the inside or the outside. Unless there be a shot near the jack which can be rested out, and in a good position for such an action, a bowl played heavy and passing inside the short bowl is usually lost, or at least useless. In the majority of cases the failure to draw round such a bowl, or even to try to do so, is simply the result of "want of faith."

The player should always find out as early as possible a mark over or near which he requires to pass with a bowl drawing weight to the average length of jack. This to some people may seem a very mechanical process, but it is really nothing of the sort. It is the only way to master a "quirky" hand, and he is the best player who studies all these points, the peculiarities of the rink at all lengths of jack, and the possibilities of his own and opponents' bowls under these peculiarities of the ground. The skip must also see that no opportunity is given the other side to count a big head, and the best way to ensure this is either to have a back bowl judiciously placed, or a bowl among a few of the opponents' which may have become grouped together. A large count is often procured by means of a run, so that a bowl lying well back is never lost, but in reality provides against contingencies.

On the skip devolves the question as to the methods most suitable to the state of the game from the point of view of his own side. In rink play the length of game is invariably a certain number of ends—generally twenty-one. Should he be up a few shots with one or two ends to go, then it will be well for him rather to prevent his opponents scoring than actually playing for a number of shots for his own side. It is the same as playing for the odd trick in a rubber of whist—nothing must be risked. In no case will it do to take unnecessary risks, otherwise all the advantage hitherto gained may vanish in one end. The best procedure under the circumstances is to mix the bowls well, and never allow an important position to be “unmarked.” If in the opposite condition, *i.e.*, down a few shots, with an end or two to go, it is a very common desire to start and risk everything. This, however, should be firmly guarded against, and it should rather be borne in mind that before now 6, 7, or 8 shots have been counted at the last end. The sensational finish, for instance, by the Gala rink, in the final tie of the S.B.A. Rink Tournament of two years ago, should be a lesson to all bowlers. Their opponents were in the comfortable position of being 5 shots up with an end to go, when the men from Gala actually counted 6 shots, and thereby won the Rink Championship of Scotland.

SINGLE-HANDED PLAY

As regards single-handed play, this comes to be much more of a test to a bowler, as he is thrown entirely on his own resources and responsibility, whereas in the rink he probably occupied a minor position, which practically freed him from anything in the nature of responsibility. To succeed as a single-handed player, a man must of necessity be a good exponent of the game. But at the same time, there are many other qualities, some of which are absolutely essential. A player must first of all be able to keep cool and collected, and it is well that he should have that necessary amount of confidence which enables one to bring off a difficult shot. Absolute command of the temper and extreme patience are also highly advantageous, the former being especially desirable, as its absence simply means disagreement from start to finish and the ultimate upsetting of one's game.

In playing a tie, a man should pay as much attention to his opponent's bowls as to his own. He will in this way learn how much green they take, and will know, as well as the opponent himself does, exactly how much they can do. Along with this, of course, he learns how the rink is running, and which hand is the truer drawing of the two. It is always policy to keep to the better drawing hand, although he should at the same time find out as much about the other hand

as will enable him to manipulate it when forced to use it. He should also determine what kind of game his opponent excels in, whether drawing, running, or "a yard on." The man who indulges in drawing only is the most dangerous rival in the end, as even although he should not be deadly, his style of play has the fewest risks. The bowler who shows a keenness to run—well, it is soon apparent whether he is skilful or not. If he is not, then his opponent can almost afford to let him go on, as for every time he takes the jack or bowl he will probably miss thrice. The deadly striker, of course, should be combated by providing a good back bowl every end. The player who generally indulges in striking is often of the reckless type, and just because of his weakness in this direction does not have the confidence—nor ability, for that matter of it—to draw the shot. The "yard on" exponent is frequently a stiff nut to crack, yet it is wonderful that he is not perfect either. At the same time, his effectiveness can be greatly reduced by keeping one's bowls rather wide of the jack. There is such a thing as putting them too near, and against strong players the policy simply amounts to "tempting Providence." In all cases a player should take the measure of his opponent as soon as possible, and regulate his own game accordingly.

A matter of the greatest importance is the length of jack. In the first place, however, let it

be said that far too little attention is paid to the throwing of the jack. There is as great an art in this small matter as in playing a bowl. Bowlers are frequently seen having friendly single-handed games, working with a jack at each end, which, of course, means that the jack is always placed and never thrown. This circumstance is a matter of convenience, no doubt, but it does not improve the play in any way. The varying of the length of jack by an opponent sometimes makes a fatal change in the aspect of the game, so players should rather practise throwing the jack and playing to where it is thrown, whether straight or not. So long as its position does not interfere with the play in an adjoining rink, it makes all the better practice to play to a jack which is not exactly straight with the centre pin of the rink.

Should a player be losing end after end at his opponent's length of jack, then at the first opportunity he can safely vary it—longer or shorter—and have the expectation of a change of luck. He should at the same time remember that a game is never lost until the opponent has scored his last shot necessary for victory.

As an example of this, the following description of a remarkable game which occurred twenty years ago on a well-known Edinburgh green may be given. A new member was drawn in the Championship competition against one of the crack players, who ran up a score of 14 to the former's 1,

and had scored 19 shots in a 21 game when the new member had only registered 6. From this point, however, the latter scored end after end, and after running up to 18 shots while the opponent had scored 20, secured the necessary three shots the following end, and won the tie.

The tendency in many clubs nowadays is to encourage single-handed play by competitions, to the detriment of the sociable rink game. We deprecate very strongly this multiplication of prize competitions, which in many cases fosters a spirit of over-anxiety to win to an unsportsman-like degree. Whenever a player allows his anxiety to win to dominate everything, then all pleasure in the game is taken away completely. Let us make an appeal for a return to the friendly rink game, with all its pleasures and harmless "chaff," and in which the only anxiety is to extract as much enjoyment as possible out of the relaxation and companionship which it so well affords.

CHAPTER X

THE CONSTRUCTION AND CARE OF A FIRST- CLASS BOWLING-GREEN

[The following hints on the construction of a bowling-green and the care which ought to be observed for its welfare are given from the experience of Mr Daniel Leslie of Glasgow, one of the first rank of bowling-green makers. Mr Leslie, however, makes no claim for them of exhaustiveness or finality. They are simply intended to indicate in a general way the *modus operandi* on the subject in question.

—J. M. P.]

THE subject of bowling-green making may be to some what the dictionary was to the man who proposed to read it through consecutively—"unco dry and unconnectit." To those, however, who possess the spirit of bowling, it should not be without interest. A bowling-green is the place *par excellence* where the motto of the French Republic—Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity—can be most readily realised. It has been well said that all are equal on the turf and under it. Social distinctions are for the time being dropped, and all are on perfect equality with the exception of the

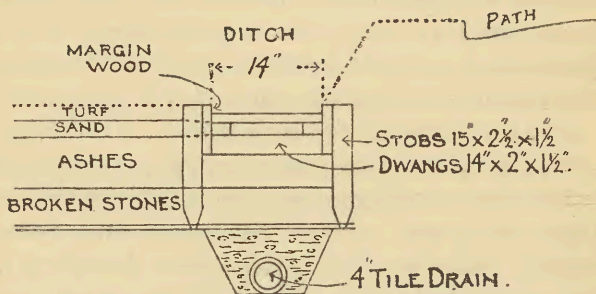
green-keeper. He, of course, is an autocrat, and is as superior to the others as the Headmaster of Rugby was to the King of England. But in order to enjoy all these social qualities and equalities, it is necessary to have both a green-keeper and a good green, and the following hints will indicate in a general way how the latter may be obtained.

The first thing is to obtain a site. This should always be done, where possible, with an eye to the picturesque, allowing a sufficient margin round the green to admit of the gardener's skill being brought into play. It is well known how largely the sense of sight in places of recreation contributes to the gratification of the other senses. The next step is excavating the foundation, which should be done to a depth of not less than 15 inches below what will ultimately be the finished surface of the green (see following page). Then comes the draining, which is usually accomplished by running several agricultural tile drains through it, all leading into a main drain down the centre or into one right round the sides, which drain will be at the bottom of the ditch when the green is completed (see accompanying diagram). This method will be found quite efficient, but the nature of the ground and the architect's plans sometimes make other methods necessary.

Now comes the bottoming, which should be done with slag or other rough metal, engine ashes, and sand to a depth of twelve or fifteen inches, put down

SPECIFICATION FOR A HIGH-CLASS BOWLING-GREEN

SIZE OF GREEN, 42 Yds. Sq., OR 1764 Sq. Yds. PLAYING SURFACE
WITHIN DITCHES; DITCHES, 14" WIDE; AND HEIGHT OF BANKS
10" ABOVE FINISHED SURFACE OF GREEN.



EXCAVATION.—To excavate and embank all over area of ground as required, to raise banks, walks, and borders 10" above finished surface of green, bringing all the ground to a true and uniform level for receiving bottoming. Say about 600 cub. yds.

DRAINING.—To dig trenches for and supply 4" agricultural tile drains all round ditches of green. 172 lin. yds.

Also 10 lines of parallel drains through ground of 2 1/2" tiles. 420 lin. yds.

Wheeling away soil and filling trenches with ashes to surface level.

BOTTOMING.—Provide and spread over area of green a thin layer of gas lime to kill worms and other vermin. About 20 tons.

Provide and properly pack a 4" layer of stones, broken bricks, clinkers, or other suitable and approved material over area of green and ditches. 2196 sq. yds.

Provide a 6" layer of hard burned engine ashes, raking rough ones into bottom, thoroughly rolling and consolidating whole. 2196 sq. yds.

Provide and wheel on a 2" layer of sand for bedding turf. 1764 sq. yds.

WOOD WORK.—Provide and place in position all round green and bottom of banks, margin wood 6" x 1 1/2", nailed to stobs 15" x 2 1/2" x 1 1/2" every 5 feet, and cross-stayed by dwangs 14" x 2" x 1 1/2" also 5 ft. apart. 1020 lin. ft.

Provide a complete set of ditch rails made in the usual spar and space style, of 2" spars and 2" space or 4" centres. All redwood and creosoted. 510 lin. ft.

BANKS, WALKS, AND BORDERS.—Form banks, walks, and borders all round green; walks and borders to be each 6 ft. wide, or as near that as configuration of ground will permit.

Make walks with a 6" layer of ashes, and leave borders ready for planting.

TURFING.—Provide and lay over area of green, banks, and verges, best sea turf from Cumberland. 1954 sq. yds.

This green was made in Edinburgh, and cost in round figures £400.

in layers of a few inches at a time. Each layer should be finer than the preceding one, finishing up with sand on which to bed the turf. If good turf is now procured and well laid, and placed under the care of a good green-keeper, a club possesses a place of recreation which for cheapness, health, and harmless enjoyment, takes easy precedence among games of recreation and amusement.

The question is often asked of green-keepers and others who are supposed to know—What is the best top-dressing for a green? Well, many men, many minds. Soot, guano, ammonia, horse manure, road sweepings, and other things all have their own advocates. But Mr Leslie testifies that after an experience extending over twenty-five years, he knows of nothing better and safer than bone meal covered with a little sand. It is a fertiliser without being a forcer; most of the other remedies mentioned force grass, which is always an unsatisfactory growth where wear is needed. A little lime occasionally is very good, but care should be taken to have it slaked into flour and put on dry.

Two very common troubles in a bowling-green are "fog" and worms. For a green that has fog the best top-dressing is basic slag and bone meal. Of course, other things are considered beneficial, such as guano and ammonia; but here, again, these tend to force the grass too much and soften it. The basic slag and bone meal harden the grass. A green very bad with "fog" is hard to cure, and

especially so if the fog be caused by dampness. Mr Leslie states that he has given such a green 6 cwt. bone meal in the autumn and 10 cwt. basic slag in the month of March, and is of the opinion that this is the best time and way to do it. This dressing can be helped greatly by thoroughly harrowing the green all over with a fine toothed rake, or, what is better still, with a piece of heavy board about five feet long and ten inches broad stuck full of nails projecting about one half-inch. Before putting on the top-dressing, the green should be harrowed all over, and in both directions, with this improvised rake, the harrowings being lifted off with the cutting machine.

Regarding worms—too common a pest in some greens—there is no certain cure. They must simply be taken out at every opportunity. There are various applications which will bring them to the surface, such as lime water, or salt and water, about a handful to two gallons of water. Perhaps the most powerful, however, is corrosive sublimate in the proportion of two ounces to a quart bottle of water, a wine-glassful of the solution being used to a two-gallon watering can. These are the best things known, but as already mentioned, the green-keeper must keep at worms whenever they make their first appearance, at which stage the trouble is much more easily dealt with.

WINTER BOWLING

While on the subject of the construction of a green, it may be interesting to many to give a few hints and suggestions as to the winter form of the pastime, viz., the indoor bowling rinks. This game, which is played with the ordinary bowling-green bowls, was introduced in Edinburgh fully ten years ago. The rink consists of a cement floor, covered with cocoanut matting, the roughened surface of the latter being the most suitable to provide the necessary resistance to the progress of the bowl. In laying out the rinks, the amount of floor space at disposal must be considered, but a very satisfactory size of rink is 75 feet long by 12 feet wide. The matting, which can generally be got in 6-foot width, is sewn together up the centre of the rink, which in no way interferes with the course of the bowls. At each end a board suffices for the "ditch," while at each side of the rink it is advisable to have a strip dividing it from the one adjacent. This strip may be grooved out and filled with sand, in order to serve the purposes of a side ditch for those who take "too much green." As it is comparatively easy to successfully strike a jack or bowl at such a short distance as 75 feet, it is advisable to place across the centre of the rink, and about midway between each ditch, a board which shall prevent "running" or "riding." The board need not be more than one foot long

and an inch or two in height. A jack and mat are used, as in the summer game. As a winter form of the original pastime, the game has much to commend it, and is deservedly popular wherever it is introduced.

The following extract is taken from the preface of *The Edinburgh Bowling Annual* of 1899 just after the introduction of the winter bowling rinks in Edinburgh, and forms an interesting note of the first attempt at anything of the kind.

“The introduction of winter bowling recalls to my memory an attempt in the same direction twenty years ago by that keen and hearty bowler, Mr William Macrae, then President of the Drumdryan Club. Winter bowling was then troubling many of us, who wished to see a good, healthy, indoor winter game introduced. Mr Macrae, with his usual energy, took the matter up, and had a groove a quarter of an inch deep by two inches made on the ordinary bowl, and in this groove inserted a rubber band of like dimensions. His contention was that the rubber band would cause the same amount of friction on a cement floor as the ordinary bowl on the grass. Everything ready, he secured the Drill Hill in Forrest Road for the night, and asked me to send invitations to all the outstanding bowlers in the town to witness what was expected to be the introduction of a new era in bowling. Mr Macrae and I repaired there half an hour before the visitors were expected, in order to have a quiet trial by ourselves. But I am afraid our dejected faces would quite indicate our inward feelings when we found that, delivering the bowl

with only a very moderate force it reached the other end of that long hall at nearly the same pace that it left our hand. 'Mac,' ever buoyant with hope, replied, on seeing my downcast visage, 'It's all right, Jamie, that's down hill, we'll try it from the other end.' But the bowl found the 'ditch' or wall with the same force from that end also, when we had both to admit the friction was too light. But what was to be done? In twenty minutes our guests would be arriving. 'Mac' was at his wit's end. I suggested a sprinkling of sawdust. 'The very thing,' and away he ran to the nearest 'pub.' and in a few minutes a lad arrived with a bag, which I started to sow as if I had been sowing oats. And when the company began to arrive, our 'green' was in fairly good order. But although the sawdust was an improvement, all had to admit that if we were to have winter bowling, we would require something else than the cement floor and the rubber band."

It is now thirty years since this attempt was made, and while the experiment was not very successful, it was at least an effort in the right direction. Those who were responsible for the introduction of the winter game as now played, deserve the hearty thanks of all bowlers and others who wish to encourage a good, healthy, winter form of the game.

CHAPTER XI

LAWS OF THE GAME

(Printed by permission of the Scottish Bowling Association, and adopted by the English, Welsh, and Irish Associations).

I.—RINKS OR DIVISIONS OF THE GREEN

1. THE green shall be divided into spaces called rinks, not less than 19 nor more than 21 feet in width, numbered consecutively, the centre of each rink being marked on the bank at each end by a pin or other device, and the four corners of the rink by pins driven into the ditch. The side boundary of the rink shall stretch from bank to bank.

[To prevent disputes, it is recommended that the pins at the opposite ends of the rink should be connected by a linen thread drawn tight on the surface of the green; and that, where practicable, the boundary pins of an outside rink be placed at least two feet from the side ditch. It is also recommended that the bank be not less than 18 inches in height, with an angle from the green of not more than 120 degrees.]

2. When a match is to be played, the numbers of the rinks should be put into a bag or other receptacle, and drawn at the green by the skips or their representatives.

3. Ordinary games may be played, without having recourse to drawing, on a rink mutually agreed upon.

II.—BOWLS: SIZE AND BIAS

1. No bowl shall exceed $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference, nor $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. in weight, nor have a less bias than the standard bowl adopted by the Association.

2. Any bowl to which objection is taken, shall be tested by comparison with a standard bowl of the Association, bearing the Association's stamp. Any objection must be taken at the start, or not later than the sixth end of a game.

In the case of a club match or competition, the test shall at once be applied, at the distance of 32 yards, by two referees appointed by the parties; and if the referees disagree, they shall appoint an oversman. In the event of a bowl being declared of a less bias than the standard, the further use of it in that club match or competition shall not be allowed, and the party at fault shall, from the stage at which the game then stood, play with any bowl, conform to standard, selected for him by the referees or oversman, or forfeit the game. In

the event of the game being so forfeited, the objecting rink or player shall, in addition to being declared winner, be entitled to add to its or his score one shot for such number of shots or ends as may still remain to be played.

In the case of a tournament, the bowl or bowls objected to by an opponent shall, at the conclusion of the game, be taken possession of by the secretary of the tournament, who shall have the same forthwith tested by two of the *umpires of the tournament*, who are not members of the same club as either of the parties, and who, if they cannot agree, shall call in another of the umpires, who must also be a neutral person, to determine whether the objection is *frivolous*; but if there be reasonable ground for doubt, the bowl or bowls shall at once be sent to one of the officers of the Association, to be tested by him. The officer shall test and return without delay all bowls thus sent to him, and shall also send to the secretary of the tournament a written report of the result of the test. The decision of the umpires, oversman, or officer, as the case may be, shall be final. The objector shall lodge with the secretary of the tournament the sum of two shillings and sixpence, to cover the expense of testing, and to discourage frivolous objections, which sum shall be returned to him if his objection be sustained, and in that case the secretary of the tournament shall recover said fee from the owner

of the bowl or bowls before they are returned to him, and the competitor who used them shall be disqualified, and his opponent held as having won the tie.

[*Note*.—To facilitate the testing of bowls under the rule, the Association trusts that each constituent club of the Association will provide itself with a standard bowl, made and stamped by one of its officers. Competitors in a public tournament are recommended to have their bowls tested and stamped beforehand.]

3. *Markers*.—In single-handed tournaments one marker only shall act in each game. The marker may answer queries as to position of bowls and their distance from the jack, but shall not give directions to, nor consult with, either player as to the play. Markers shall be appointed by the directors of the tournaments, local secretaries, or umpires, whom failing, by the competitors themselves.

III.—SIZE OF THE JACK

The jack shall be about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

IV.—CONDITIONS OF A GAME

1. A game may consist of any number of shots or heads, or may be played for any length of time, as previously agreed upon.

2. When a match consists of more than one

rink on each side, the total scores of the respective parties shall decide the contest.

3. When a game consists of a stated number of heads, and there is only one rink on each side, should it be found when the given number of heads has been played that the scores are equal, one extra head shall be played, so as to decide the contest, and should the extra head result again in a tie, one more shall be played.

V.—RINK OR TEAM OF PLAYERS

1. A rink or team shall consist of four players, each playing two bowls, and called respectively, according to the order in which they play, leader or lead, second player, third player, and skip or driver. Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, it shall be determined by tossing or by playing a trial head, which party is to play first, the winner of the toss or the head to have the choice. In all subsequent heads, the party which won the previous head shall play first. The leaders play their two bowls alternately, and so on, each pair of players in succession, to the end. The order of playing shall not be changed after the first head has been played. No one shall play until his opponent's bowl has ceased to run; a bowl so played may be stopped and sent back to be played over again.

2. A bowl played by mistake shall be replaced by the player's own bowl.

3. When a player has played before his turn, the opponents may stop the bowl in its course, or allow it to remain when it comes to rest, or cause it to be played over again in its proper order. If it has moved either jack or bowls, the opponents shall have the power to cause the end to be begun anew.

4. No player shall change his bowls during the game, except with the consent of the opposing party.

5. If less than three players appear on either side, the game, so far as that rink is concerned, shall not proceed, and the rink with which this occurs shall be held as having *failed to appear*, and shall forfeit the game. Should such forfeiture take place where more rinks than one from each club are concerned, and where the aggregate or average scores are to decide the contest, the scores of the remaining rinks only shall be counted, but such average shall, as a penalty in the case of the defaulting club, be arrived at by dividing the aggregate score by the number of rinks which should have played, and not, as in the case of the other club, by the number actually engaged in the game. In the absence of a single player, from one or both sides, in an ordinary club match or friendly game, the number of bowls shall be made up by the party or parties playing odd bowls, these odd bowls being played by the first and second players. In a match for a trophy or other prize, where

more rinks than one from each club are engaged, odd bowls may, in the absence of one of the players of any rink, be played in the manner above provided, but one-fourth of the total shots gained by such rink shall be deducted from its score at the end of the game. In a match for a trophy or other prize, where a club is represented by only one rink, such rink must play with four men, but should only three men appear on one of the sides, the whole details of the case shall, unless an amicable arrangement be made for another date within the authorised limit of time, be reported by the umpire to the local secretary, who shall in turn report them to the Secretary of the Association. The Secretary of the Association shall then call a meeting of Committee, to dispose of each such case on its merits.

VI.—SKIPS OR DRIVERS

1. The skips shall have sole charge of their respective rinks, and their instructions must be obeyed by the other players.
2. The skip shall have the control of the play, but he may delegate this duty at any time to a substitute, who is usually the third player.
3. As soon as a bowl is greened, the director must retire behind the jack.
4. The players not engaged must stand *jack-high*, or behind the mat-line.

5. The last player should remove the mat to the bank.

6. The two skips shall be judges of all disputed points, and, when they agree, their decision shall be final ; if they cannot agree, the point shall be decided by the umpire previously appointed, whom failing, by a neutral person mutually chosen.

VII.—THE CLOTH OR MAT

1. Each player, when playing, shall stand with at least one foot on the mat.

2. The mat shall, at the first head, be placed by the leader of the party which is to play first, and in every subsequent head by the leader of the party which lost the previous head, but it shall be in the option of the winner of any head to have the mat laid at the place where the jack lay, or between it and any point backwards not less than one yard from the ditch, the mat in any case being placed in the centre of the rink. In starting play, or when the jack at the finish of a head lies in the ditch, or less than one yard from it, the mat shall be placed forward to about that distance. The mat shall not be moved till the head is finished, but if moved by accident or inadvertently, it shall be replaced as near its original position as possible. It is recommended that the size of the mat be 22 x 14 inches or thereby.

VIII.—THROWING THE JACK

1. The leader of the party which is to play first shall throw the jack.

2. If the jack run into the ditch at the first throw in a game, it shall be placed two yards from it. If it be thrown into the ditch at any subsequent head, the opposing party shall throw it anew, but shall not play first. When thrown less than two yards from the ditch, it should be moved out to that distance.

3. The jack shall be thrown not less than 25 yards from the mat, and if it run to one side it shall be moved straight across, and placed in the line of the pins numbering the rinks. If it be thrown less than 25 yards, it shall be treated according to the rule applicable to a jack thrown into the ditch after the first head. (See clause 2 of this rule.)

4. If none of the foregoing rules have been transgressed, the jack shall be played to wherever it has been thrown; or, if moved, it must be by mutual consent of parties.

5. After having been played to, it shall not be touched or interfered with in any manner, otherwise than by the effects of the play, until the result of the head has been determined.

IX.—MOVEMENT OF THE JACK AND OF BOWLS

1. If the jack be driven into the ditch, within the limits of the rink, its place shall be accurately marked, but it shall not be removed from its place (either on to the green or elsewhere), except by a toucher. (See Rule XII., sec. 5.) Should it be driven beyond the limits of the rink—that is to say, over the bank, or past the side-boundary of the rink—by a bowl in play, *it shall be counted dead*; but if moved by a bowl *out of play*, it shall be restored to its place.

[*Note.*—A bowl played or driven to the ditch which is not a toucher shall, when it falls into the ditch, be out of play.]

2. The foregoing rule as to being counted dead when driven beyond the limits of the rink shall likewise apply to bowls, whether they be *touchers* or not, but neither jack nor bowl shall be counted dead unless it be *wholly* outside the boundary when it comes to rest, even though it may have been so in its course.

3. A bowl when “dead” must be at once removed to the bank. Whenever the jack is “dead,” the head must of necessity be played over again, and it shall in no case be counted a played head, not even though all the bowls have been played.

4. The jack (though driven to the side of the rink, if not beyond its limits) may be played to

on either hand, but any bowl played to it which, when it has come to rest, lies wholly outside the rink, shall be counted dead.

5. In the event of the jack being broken, the head shall be begun anew.

X.—JACK OR BOWL REBOUNDED

1. Should the jack run against the bank or a bowl in the ditch, and rebound on to the green, or after being played into the ditch it be so operated upon by a toucher as to find its way again on to the green, it shall be played to in the same manner as if it had never been moved. But a bowl similarly rebounding shall, *unless it be a toucher*, be counted dead, and any bowl or jack moved thereby shall be put back to its former position.

XI.—JACK OR BOWL BURNED

The term "burned" is applied to a jack or bowl which has been interfered with or displaced, otherwise than by a bowl in play.

Jack Burned.

1. *While in motion on the green.*—When a jack while in motion on the green is burned (*a*) by one of the players, the opposing party shall have the option of letting it lie where it stops and playing the head out, or of beginning the head

anew; (*b*) by a neutral person, or by a bowl belonging to a neutral person, the parties shall come to an agreement as to its position, otherwise the head shall be begun anew.

2. *While in motion in the ditch.*—Bowls in the ditch which are not touchers should be immediately removed to the bank (see Rule XIII.); but in the event of an omission to remove them, the jack or touchers coming in contact with them shall be allowed to lie where they rest. In such a case, these bowls should then be removed to the bank.

3. *While at rest.*—When a jack while at rest on the green is burned (*a*) by one of the players, the opposite party may replace it in its original position, or allow it to remain as moved; (*b*) by a neutral person, or by a bowl belonging to a neutral person, the parties shall come to an agreement as to its position, otherwise the head shall be begun anew.

4. *While at rest in the ditch.*—(See Rule IX., sec. I.)

Bowl Burned.

1. *While in motion.*—A. When a bowl, during its original course, and before it has passed the jack, is burned (*a*) by the party to whom it belongs, it shall be counted dead; (*b*) by an opponent, the player's party may claim to have it played over again, or to let it lie where it rests, or to have the head begun anew; (*c*) by a neutral

person, it shall be played over again. B. When a bowl which, in its original course, has passed the jack, and being still in motion, is burned (*a*) by the player's own party, it shall be counted dead, whether it has touched the jack or not; (*b*) by an opponent or a neutral person, the player's party may choose to let it lie where it comes to rest, or to have the head begun anew. C. When a bowl which had come to rest is afterwards set in motion by a bowl in play, and, while still moving, is burned (*a*) by the party to whom it belongs, it shall be counted dead; (*b*) by an opponent, the party to whom it belongs may choose to let it lie where it comes to rest, or place it where they think it would probably have rested had it not been interfered with; (*c*) by a neutral person, it may be allowed to lie, or be placed to the mutual satisfaction of parties; where agreement cannot be attained, the head shall be played over again.

2. *While at rest.*—When a bowl while at rest is burned (*a*) by either party, it may be replaced by the opposite party, or, in the latter's option, be allowed to remain where it lies; (*b*) by a neutral person, or by a bowl not in play, it should be replaced as near its original position as possible.

XII.—TOUCHERS

1. A bowl which touches the jack during its original course on the green, although previously

it may have also touched one or more bowls, is called a *toucher*, and counts in the game wherever it rests, if on the rink ; but should a bowl, after it has ceased running, fall over and touch the jack, *after another bowl has been delivered*, it is not to be accounted a toucher. No bowl can in any circumstances become a toucher when the jack is in the ditch.

2. If a toucher run into the ditch when played, or be driven into the ditch during the course of the subsequent play, the place where it rests shall be marked, but its position shall not be altered except by the action of another toucher or the jack.

3. A toucher must be distinguished by a chalk or other distinct mark. Unless it be marked before the second succeeding bowl is delivered, it is not to be accounted a toucher. If the mark be not removed from the bowl before it is played in the succeeding head, it may be regarded as a *burned* bowl, and be removed to the bank.

4. If a bowl be moved *outwards* from the jack while being marked, it must remain as it is ; but if moved *towards* the jack, it must be restored to its original position.

5. Touchers may act on the jack or touchers in the ditch.

XIII.—DITCHERS

1. A bowl which does not touch the jack in its original course on the green, and runs against the

bank or into the ditch, or is driven into the ditch by the effects of the play, is called a *ditcher*, and must be immediately removed to the bank.

2. Should a ditcher under any circumstances return to the green, it must be placed on the bank.

XIV.—POSSESSION OF THE RINK

1. As soon as each bowl stops running, the possession of the rink is transferred to the other party, time being allowed for marking a toucher.

2. The party in possession of the rink for the time being must not be disturbed or annoyed by their opponents.

XV.—RESULT OF HEAD

1. When the last bowl in a head stops running, half a minute shall elapse, if either party so require, before the shots are counted.

2. Neither jack nor bowls shall be moved until both parties are agreed as to the shots.

3. If a bowl requiring to be measured is resting on another bowl, which prevents its measurement, the best means available shall be taken to secure it in its position, whereupon the other shall be removed. The same course shall be followed when more than two bowls are involved.

4. No measuring shall be allowed until the head has been played out.

5. When, at the conclusion of a head, a tie for the first shot occurs, it shall, in a game of ends, be counted a played head.

6. The duty of keeping the score, and of announcing the state of the game at the end of each head, should be assigned to the second player.

XVI.—OBJECTS ON THE GREEN

1. Under no circumstances is any object to be laid on the green, or on a bowl, or on the jack; but it may be displayed in the hand for the guidance of the player.

XVII.—ONLOOKERS

1. Persons not engaged in the game must confine themselves to the banks, and preserve an attitude of strict neutrality.

THE GAME OF POINTS

RULES

1. The game shall consist of 32 shots, viz., 8 each at *drawing*, *guarding*, *trailing*, and *driving*. It shall be played in two rounds of the green, 4 shots at each point, and bowls shall be played on the fore and back hand alternately.

2. Ties shall be decided by playing two shots, one on the fore, and one on the back hand, at each point.

3. Each player shall use four bowls, and no change of bowls shall be permitted.

4. Before commencing, each player shall be allowed two trial shots at *drawing*, one on the fore and one on the back hand.

5. A marker shall be appointed to take charge of each rink, and it shall be the duty of the marker to declare the value of each shot, when the bowl comes to rest, to enter the same in a book or form ruled for the purpose, and, when each player's shots are finished, to declare the result.

6. An umpire shall be chosen before play begins, and he shall decide finally all disputes that may arise.

7. No interference with the marker shall be allowed, and any dispute as to the value of a shot shall be referred to the umpire.

8. When play is finished, the markers shall hand in their scores to the secretary of the match, who shall enter each score in a book or sheet, ascertain the total score of each competitor, and declare the result as soon as possible, in presence of the players.

9. In the Points Game, Rule IX. of the Laws of the Game shall not apply.

DRAWING.—Three concentric circles, of 1, 2, and 3 feet radius respectively, to be drawn with a chalk or made with thread and pins round the centre-pin or mark, upon which a jack is to be placed.

Two bowls to be placed in front, 5 feet apart and 15 feet from the tee.

GUARDING.—Six lines of thread, placed as on the accompanying diagram, p. 195, the two centre ones 11 feet long, the two next 10 feet, and the outermost 9 feet, to be fastened 6 inches apart to the green by pins, a jack being placed at each end of the centre space.

TRAILING.—Two bowls to be placed 3 feet apart, with two lines drawn across their front and back, and a jack to be placed equi-distant from both, immediately before the line drawn in front. A semi-circle to be drawn at back of bowls, having a radius of 9 feet from jack.

DRIVING.—Two bowls to be placed 2 feet apart behind the jack, and each 15 inches from it.

[*Note.*—It will be convenient to have the position of each bowl or jack marked upon the turf, so as to facilitate replacement in case of one or other being moved.]

A separate rink should be laid off for each section of the game.

SCORING

The highest possible score is 96 points.

DRAWING.—If a bowl, having passed outside

without touching either of the two bowls placed on the rink, rests within 3 feet of the centre pin or tee, it shall score 1, if within 2 feet it shall score 2, and if within 1 foot it shall score 3.

GUARDING.—If a bowl come to rest on the centre space it shall score 3 points, if on either of the two next it shall score 2 points, and if on either of the outermost it shall score 1 point.

The jack in front shall be temporarily lifted should a bowl played be thought likely to touch it, and thereby be affected in its destination. A bowl which touches the jack which is being guarded, shall not count.

TRAILING.—If a bowl trail the jack through between, and past the line square to the back of, the stationary bowls, it shall score 3, provided both jack and bowl be entirely over said line.

If a bowl trail the jack past, but do not itself entirely cross the said line at back of bowls; or if it trail the jack past the line in front and not over the line at back, but itself cross the back line, it shall score 2.

If a bowl passes between the jack and either of the stationary bowls over the back line without having touched the jack; or, having touched it, does not carry it over the front line, but itself passes over the back line; or if it trail the jack over the front line, though it does not itself cross it, it shall score 1.

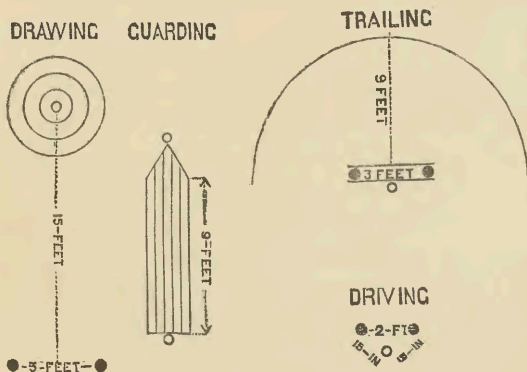
No score shall be made if the jack, though touched, be not trailed clear over the front line, or the bowl played does not cross the back line.

In all these provisions it must be understood that the bowl played must not touch either of the stationary bowls, and that neither the jack when trailed nor the bowl played shall travel outside the semi-circle.

DIAGRAMS SHOWING HOW THE RINKS ARE TO BE LAID OFF

Distance between mat and jack should be 100 feet, and between jack and ditch, 9 feet at least.

Bowls marked ● ; jacks ○



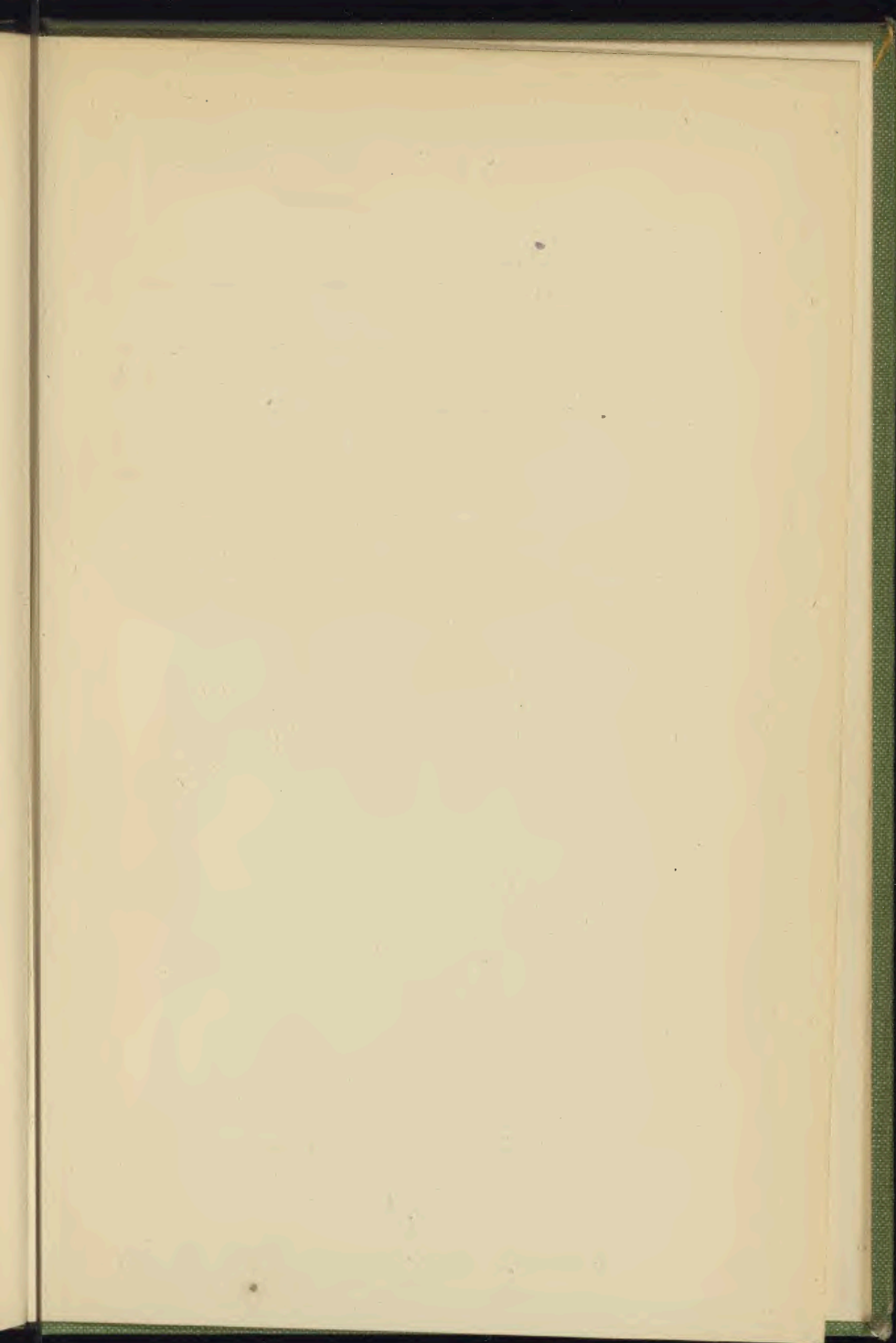
DRIVING.—If a bowl drive the jack to the ditch through between the two bowls, it shall score 3.

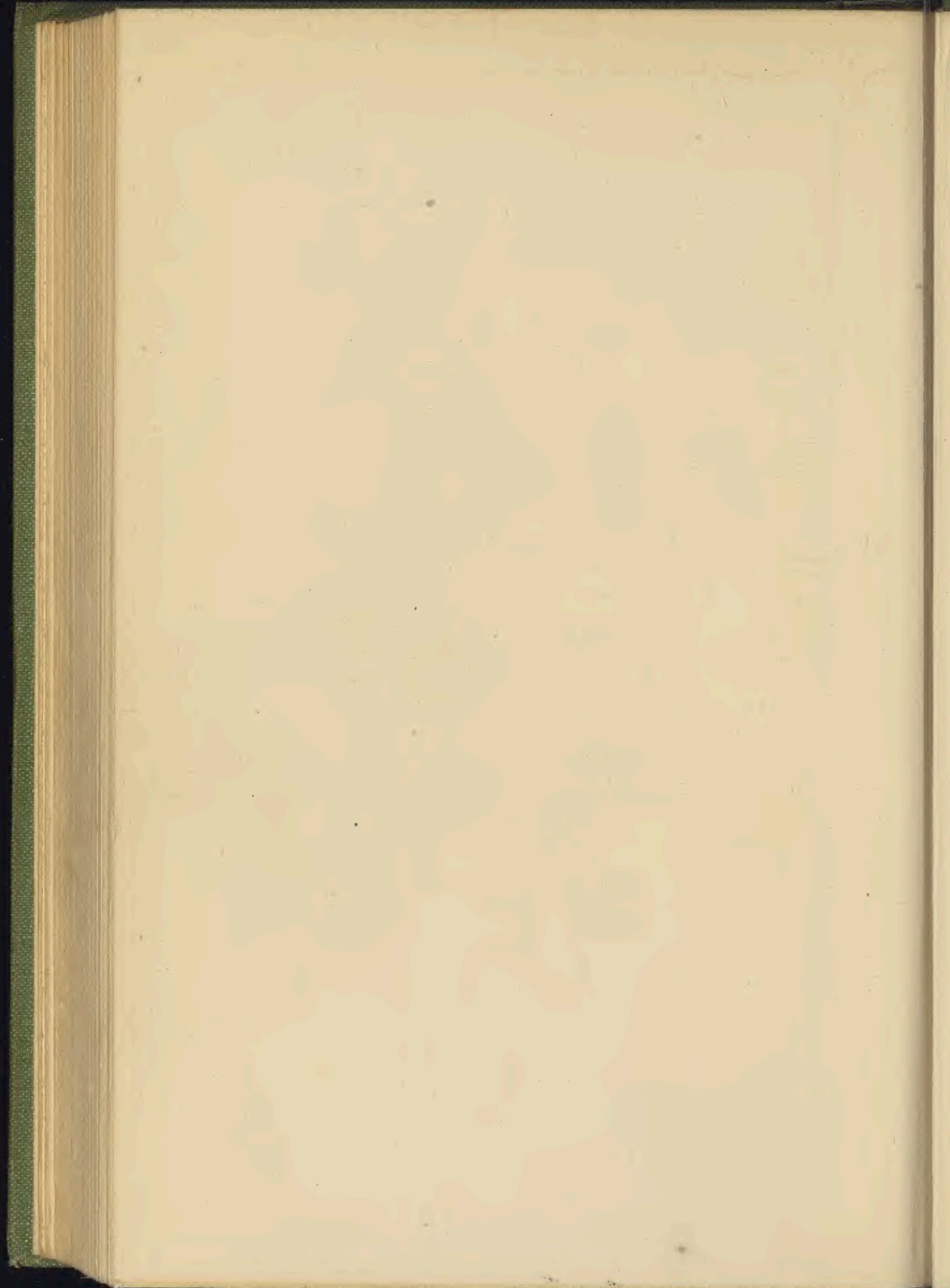
If a bowl shift the jack, without carrying it through between the two bowls to the ditch, it shall score 2.

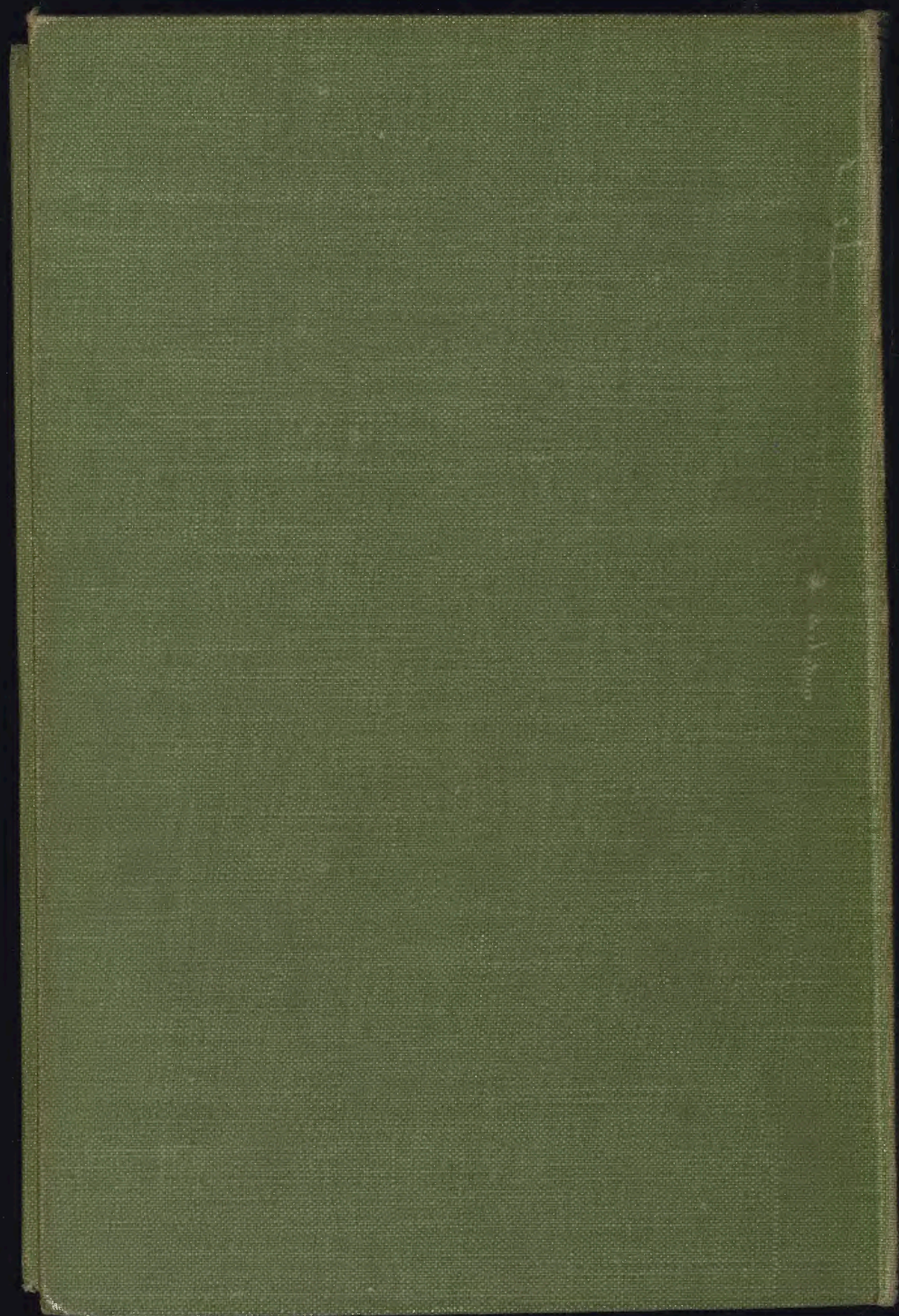
If a bowl touch the jack without shifting it, or pass between the jack and either of the two bowls, it shall score 1.

In all these provisions the bowl played must not touch either of the two bowls on the green, and must itself run into the ditch.

[*Note.*—No bowl is to be held as outside any circle or line unless it be entirely clear of it. This may be ascertained by looking perpendicularly down upon it or placing a square on the green. In the case of guarding, the whole thread must be visible to the eye of the marker, standing at either end of it.]





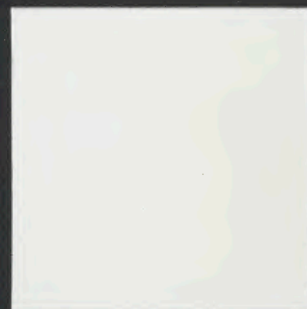
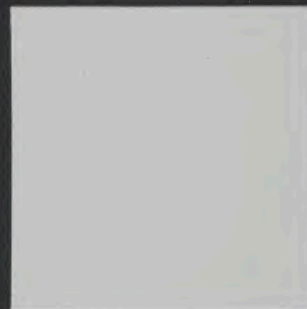
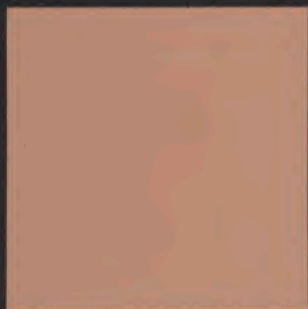
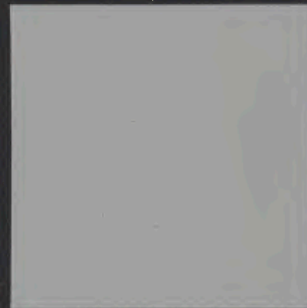
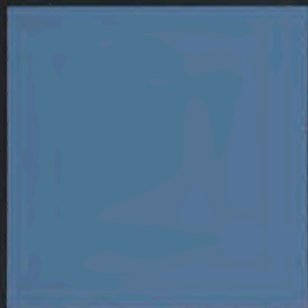
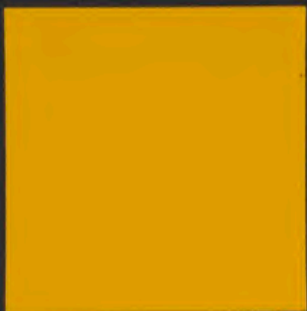


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