

Yarragon Bowling Club The Early Days

A public meeting was called on the 16th February 1960 with a view to forming a Bowling Club in Yarragon. A committee was formed with the following positions being filled:

President – W. Hay
Vice President – E. Smythe
Junior Vice President – T. Burgess
Secretary – L. Petch
Treasurer – G. Abell

It was decided that land in Loch Street known as Radford's, or any other land available be investigated. The 29 people at the meeting paid £1 to start the club funds. It was agreed that the joining fee for the Club would be £5 for men and £3 for ladies. (Ladies were to be admitted as associates).

On the 29th February 1960 a further meeting was held and 27 people were present. Again £1 each was paid to assist with petty cash. The main discussion was centred on the land available known as Moffat's – 1 acre for £500, Hillis on Market Street, ½ acre for £400 and O'Neil's in Loch Street - ¾ acre. It was decided that an approach to Mr Moffat for an option on 1¼ acres along Waterloo Road. L. Petch agreed to supply the material needed for cost price. There were further offers of land from Ern Dowton of 1¼ acres cost £450, £100 of that would be taken up as debentures and A. Barton offered 1¼ acres in Hazeldean Road for £150 plus the cost of the road. It was decided that further information on the Moffat land was required. At a meeting on 29th March 1960, it was reported that money collected as debentures now amounted to £1325.

On 4th April 1960, a letter of thanks was sent to Mr McIntyre for his donation to the club. There was then a discussion on the various parcels of land on offer, and it was moved by H. Borland, and seconded by G. Hammett that the club would purchase the Moffat land. It was further moved by E. Evans and seconded by P. Fletcher that the Dowton block be purchase, however this proposal was lost.

The first Trustees for the Yarragon Bowling Club were appointed – Mr H. Bayley, H. Borland and W. Roberts. It was agreed that tenders be called for the green and the ladies to hold a street stall on the 21st April 1960. At a meeting on 26th May 1960, W. Hay resigned and it was moved by W. Roberts and seconded by G. Abell that H. Borland and G. Fitzgerald be added to the committee.

A meeting on 26th September 1960, Mr. S. McIntyre was appointed the Foundation President of the Yarragon Bowling Club. It was moved by H. Bayley and seconded by T. Burgess that E. Cook be given the contract for the green for £2365, and the committee looked at the terms of the contract.

At the Annual General Meeting on 11th September 1960, officials appointed were:

President – S. McIntyre
Vice President – T. Burgess
Junior Vice President – H. Borland
Secretary – G. Fitzgerald
Treasurer – G. Abell

Associates 15th February 1960 The Early Days

At their first meeting, the ladies appointed the following positions:

- President – Mrs W. Roberts
- Vice President – Mrs C. Ireland
- Junior Vice President – Mrs S. Tyrell
- Secretary – Mrs T. Burgess
- Treasurer – Mrs R. Deppler

Meetings were to be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8pm.

Fundraising began in earnest with a paper drive being held raising £21, with a further drive to be held in May, and a garden party was held on 21st February 1961, with all members to bring their own cups, saucers and spoons.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 16th May 1961 this the following positions filled:

- President – Mrs W. Roberts
- Vice President – Mrs C. Ireland
- Junior Vice President – Mrs S. Tyrell
- Secretary – Mrs T. Burgess
- Assistant Secretary – Mrs G. Hammett
- Treasurer – Mrs R. Deppler

By this stage, the ladies had raised a total of £322 and it was decided to purchase equipment for the club with these funds. During 1961 and 1962 the Associates purchased mats, jacks, a chain measure, cups and saucers, an urn, a jug and a fridge.

Yarragon Bowling Club Associates became affiliated with the VLBA on 4th July 1961, and on the 17th July one dozen VLBA named badges were purchased and on 15th August 1000 score cards were also purchased. Clearance requests were sent to Trafalgar Bowling Club for Mesdames Deppler, Ireland, J. Roberts, Tyrell, W. Roberts, Ick and Burgess.

On the men's opening day, each lady was required to bring 3 plates of sandwiches and 2 cakes, and on the ladies opening day, Mrs Ferguson rolled the kitty and Mrs Algie had the first bowl.

