

# **THE HISTORY OF DORNOCH BOWLING CLUB AS DERIVED FROM AVAILABLE SECRETARY'S MINUTE BOOKS**

The Dornoch Bowling Club according to information obtained from the oldest members was founded as early as 1919 but possibly not until 1921, in any event soon after the end of the First or Great War as far as is known but could have been even earlier.

The only reference to bowling by the club prior to the end of the 2nd World War is contained in the minutes of the Sutherland Bowling Association which date from 1938 and from these it was learned that Dornoch was active in the S.B.A. together with Brora, Golspie and at that time Lairg B.C.

The club was certainly in existence in 1923 which is the first year that the current club Championship Cup was played for, being won by A.J. Moore

## **1940**

In 1940 the "Crakaig Challenge Trophy" was cancelled and S.B.A. competitions were played on a friendly basis without entry fees or prizes no doubt due to the outbreak of war.

Business for D.B.C. resumed in 1946 on the 2nd May with the first AGM since 1940.

Two members mentioned in those minutes were D. Macdonald who was elected as Secretary and Treasurer and who has recently retired from bowling (after kindly donating his very large, intimidating and accurate bowls to the Club), the other being our current Vice President Dodd Manson who was nominated as a Vice Skip (there seems to be a lot of Vice in him!) At this same meeting it was agreed to give a donation to Royal Dornoch Golf Club of Ten Pounds (£10) for help with upkeep of the Green. The Club balance at this time stood at £32.10.1. Times have changed as it was discussed to hold a Fancy Dress Dance but in the end it was decided to hold an ordinary dance. In Year 2000 holding a dance seems a remote possibility. It should also be noted that handicaps ranged from scratch to as many as 12 shots so the better players had better take note, it could happen again.

## **1946**

Entry Fees in 1946 were 1/- (one shilling) for singles and 6d each for pairs competitions. The dance mentioned above generated £22. 1. 0. for Club funds. Later in the same season at a meeting held at the request of the Royal Dornoch Golf Club Committee it was agreed that £20 would be paid for their help in restoration work on the green.

Prizes in 1946 for competition winners were as follows:-

Championship Winner.....£1	John Shearer
Runner up.....10/-	David Duff

Semi Finalists (Losing).....	5/-	
Single Handicap winner.....	Cigarettes	Alexander Macgregor
Runner up.....	Book	Donald Macdonald
Pairs Winners.....	Pair of socks each	R.Grant & J.Sutherland
Runners Up.....	Tie each.	D.Manson & W Sampson
Rinks winners.....	No Prizes	D Macdonalds Rink

The Club Balance at the end of 1946 stood at £27.19.5d

### **1947**

At the Annual General meeting of 1947 only 9 members attended.

Winners of Club competitions will be given as an appendix at the end of this history where known any not included can possibly be found on the trophies themselves.

### **1948**

In a Minute for 1948 it was proposed to post entry sheets in the **SHED** which some current members will know doubt remember.

In 1948 Miss Argo presented a cup to the Sutherland Bowling Association for a Rinks competition which is still a major county trophy.

In 1948 it would appear that a play off for the Craikaig League Trophy was necessary and Dornoch seemingly were successful. The official minutes of the SBA do not at this time list competition winners so the only check will be on the cup itself (which Dornoch have not held for far to long)

### **1949 - 1951**

Little of note took place to 1951 but attendance at the 1951 AGM had seen a general improvement such that the number of members at that AGM was 20. Up until now no mention of annual or match fees but at the AGM it was agreed that the rink match fee would be raised to a 1/- (one shilling). By 1951 the Club balance had dropped to £14.19.2d

The reason is not clear at this time but the tie up between the R.D.G.C. and the Bowling Club was much closer than today an extract from the minutes of the 1951 is as follows:-

“A discussion then took place regarding the annual subscription.It was finally agreed to recommend to the Royal Dornoch Golf Club that the subscription fee be reviewed at their AGM

and suggested that the Annual Bowling Subscription be doubled to £1” so it is assumed that the fee prior to then was 10/- per annum.

## **1952**

1952 it was agreed at the AGM that the meeting approved maintenance charge of £35 to be levied against the Club by the R.D.G.C. for the upkeep of the green. It was at this meeting that it was unanimously decided to raise the annual subscription to £1 .

Entrance to the clubhouse (Shed) via a gate so positioned obviously meant that to reach it was necessary to cross the green as H. Steele requested that R.D.G.C. be asked for permission to relocate the said gate.

The green needed considerable work as at a special committee meeting authority to spend £125, a considerable sum in 1952. was given.

Membership in 1952 was some 33 of which only 2 were ladies.

## **1953**

The sum of £5 was approved at the AGM in 1953 to the Coronation Fund, at this same meeting the question of a pavilion was raised but the matter was left to the Management Committee (Not much changes!). From the accounts 1953 it seems that this was the year that the seats currently undergoing repair (2000) were constructed from timber and steel seat ends and put together by persons unknown.

## **1954**

The provision of a pavilion was again raised in 1954 but again left in abeyance until one became available (from this it seems the requirement was for a second hand building). If the season proved to be a dry one it was decided to approach to local Fire Brigade to provide a watering service so it is apparent no water supply was installed at the green. The Club funds balance in 1954 had risen to £95.6.3d

## **1955**

1955 saw the matter of provision of a pavilion again postponed. RDGC was to be asked to relay bad areas on the green.

## **1956 - 1961**

At a Special General Meeting in February 1956 the then President Mr.R.A.Murray informed the meeting that information had been received that a former Nursing Home at Embo was to be sold and that it may be suitable as a pavilion. The acquisition of the building was discussed and

it was decided to offer £10 to £15 for it. From the accounts for 1956 it shows the building was purchased for £10.

Members at the Special General Meeting being Messrs.R.Macrae, D.Manson, D. Duff A.Duff, T.Munro, J.C.Campbell, J.G.Duncan, D.Murray, D.Maclean, T.Robertson, W. Ross, H.Steele, G. Sim, A. Maclean, W. McCulloch and J. Shearer volunteered to dismantle and then re-erect the building at the green. Mr E.W. Brannen to draw up the plan for the pavilion and Mr. R.Y. Thomson offered the use of a vehicle to transport the material from Embo to Dornoch. How many of the above actually got involved physically is not known but certainly W.Ross, F.Macrae, T.Munro, R.G.Thomson and A G Macdonald were involved and R.J. Thomson again providing transport for materials during construction. Work on the pavilion went on until 1961. Electricity was connected during 1960 and lockers had been installed which were charged at 2/6 per annum. Membership by 1960 had dropped to 26 persons the numbers of each sex not being stated. In 1959 a loan was obtained from the Amenities Committee in the sum of £100 this necessary to pay for work on the pavilion and Hydro Electric for connecting an electric supply otherwise the Club would have been some £3.10.0 in the red at the end of 1959.

The practice of the RDGC Professional to provide access to and collect fees for the Bowling Club from visitors on a percentage basis started in 1960 and has been mutually beneficial ever since.

## **1961**

In 1961 the Rink prizes were to be "Filter Tipped " cigarettes to the value of 1/9d or sweets to the same value (This was 75% more than the Rink fee, today the chocolate prizes are 10% less than the Rink fee!!)

The verandah foundations were not started until 1961 and completed 1962.

Womens liberation was presumably not a problem in 1961 as at Committee meeting agreed to ask members wives to organise a sale of work the ladies themselves not of course except for one or two being members, it is thought that such an approach today would lack enthusiastic support. Also due to the need to increase the Club funds two dances were to be arranged, Andrew Macleods Band was to be engaged for one venue, this has been included as it will probably revive memories for some of the more mature members who are longer term residents of Dornoch and its environs.

Half the £100 loan from the Amenities Committee was repaid in 1961 leaving a balance of £161.6.1d mainly due to the afore mentioned sale of work which made a profit of £121.10.0, this together with the profit from the two dances of £52.4.2d kept the Club in the black Without the two fund raisers the end of year deficit would have been £11.8.1d

## **1962**

It is interesting to note that problems in 1962 persist to the present day. A motion at a management meeting being that a knockout match in a club competition not completed. by the due

date should result in BOTH players being scratched from the competition. Also that in the case of none appearance of one player at an arranged match that player would be scratched and the match awarded to the player attending was passed without amendment. As today the first named player was and is still responsible for arranging the fixture.

A proposal to raise the annual fee to £1.10.0 was defeated, therefore it is interesting to note that it was muted that another sale of work be organised due to the state of the funding situation so the failure to increase the fees is surprising.

The then President obtained 30 chairs from Embo hall as a gift .

The “Bring and Buy Sale” ie. a sale of work(?) was arranged to take place on the evening of the “Midnight Bowling Competition” on 20th June 1962. The Ladies did their bit again and the sale realised a profit of £30.1.0d, this together with profit from two dances at £35.9.6d kept the club balance healthy at £106.13.4d but £50 was still owed to the Amenities Committee which if paid in 1962 would have resulted in a red ink balance sheet.

### **1963**

In 1963 another attempt was made to raise the annual fee to £1.10.0 but was again defeated but only by two votes 12 to 10. Three dances were held in '62 (£42.9.3d) together with a Midnight Bowling Competition and another “Sale of Work” (63.17.8d), a raffle was separately itemised in the accounts for '63 which realised £61.6.2d all the above led to a healthy balance of some £233.12. 7d. During 1963 the fee to R.D.G.C for maintenance of the Green remained at £35 the same sum as for the past 11 years.

A monetary gift was made to the Club by Mr. A.Duff for purchase of something useful for the Club in memory of his father, the original suggestion to purchase a table was not now necessary a table having been given to the Club by Mrs K. Mackay of River Strut Dornoch still used today as the Committee Table. The decision of what to acquire for a suitable memorial to Mr. Duff Snr. was left in the hands of the Committee.

### **1964**

1964 saw profits from previous excellent fund raisers drop, two dances yielded only £20.18.10d and a “Bring and Buy” sale £25.8.8d although still of great importance to Club resources. Membership had increased to 37. At the Club A.G.M it was finally agreed to raise the annual subscription to £1.5.0d an increase of 5/- a year or put into perspective 1.15d per week and in decimal currency terms is just less than ½ a new penny a week.

In 1964 the Maintenance fee to R.D.G.C. remained at £35 for the year.

### **1965**

1965 saw the repayment of the outstanding £50 due on the loan from the Amenities Committee. Again a “Sale of Work” came to the rescue and contributed £121.0.1d to Club funds

approximately three times that produced by members annual subscriptions. (What would the Club have done without their Ladies?).

A new fence was erected along the West side of the Green to give some protection at a cost of £106.1.7d paid in 1965 which left the Club with its best balance yet of £300.12.2d. No dances were held in '65.

## 1966

1966 saw the **election of the first LIFE MEMBER Mr. T.MUNRO** who was at the time the Clubs oldest member.

The R.D.G.C. was according to the minute of the DBC Committee of 20th June 1966 suffering from a staff shortage such that they were having difficulty cutting the Green as often as it was necessary. The Club had been asked if they could find someone to cut the Green using the R.D.G.C machines. This was agreed by those present on the understanding that it was a temporary arrangement(?!!) until the RDGC difficulties were overcome. It is recorded in the 1966 end of year accounts that the sum paid to RDGC was reduced to £30 for the year no doubt to offset the work carried out by the Club on a self help basis. Membership was 32 one of which was a junior. The ladies of Club members again produced £25.5.0d at a bring and buy sale. Whist has for many years produced a small but steady income for the Club and due to its cumulative benefit to Club funds is thought worthy of mention

In a steadily improving financial situation the Clubs end of year (1966) balance was £435.2.7d

## 1967

The 1967 AGM saw the then President Mr. T.Robertson pay a special tribute to John Shearer, George Mackay and David Laird for the excellent work in keeping the Green and surrounds in so neat and tidy a condition. Also Mr. Laird was congratulated on his vigilance with regard to visitors fees resulting in some 51% increase on the previous year (Mr. Laird collected £47.3.0d) In 1966 on the recommendation of Mr.T. Robertson most of the Clubs funds were lodged in a deposit account which provided interest of £25.2.6d for the 1966 accounting year an amount similar to the Bring and Buy sale of that year (£25.5.0) and obviously at no effort to the hard worked members wives!

It is noted that in 1967 and for some years previously an annual match was played with Alness.

1967 appears to be the first year that Prize giving was combined with a social evening held in the Eagle Hotel, tea being provided by the Hotel. At the AGM it was also approved to provide and erect interwoven fencing on the East side of the Clubhouse and also to provide cupboards for use in the kitchen together with an electric boiler of the "Burco" type or other suitable urn. During the season Mr. F.W. Grant had made and presented the Club with "three handsome marker boards" for which he was warmly thanked together with Mr. Laird who had provided the timber.

1967 saw no "Bring and Buy Sale" but Mr. Laird did even better this year collecting visitors fees and amassed £61.0.5d, no whist drive either but interest on the deposit account continued to help with £14.15.1d. The increase in the Club balance made only a modest gain during 1967 of some £28.2.5d. The fee to the RDGC was kept at £30 as for the previous year and the same Club members as before kept the surrounds of the Green tidy so one must assume that RDGC was still maintaining the Green during 1967.

## **1968**

The AGM of 1968 informed the meeting that the choice of the D.Duff memorial had not yet been resolved and it was suggested that an electric battery clock could be suitable and the Secretary was asked to research the matter. A lack of suitable teapots and tea spoons gave rise to approval to purchase the items and members were asked if they had odd tea plates at home to donate them to the Club if possible, this last request from the Ladies. (Authors Note:- It is the attention of and to, such seemingly small matters that makes for the efficient running and happy atmosphere in a club.)

It was declared that during the height of the season a serious shortage of bowls were available for visitors to use. It was agreed to advertise in the "Ross-shire Journal" and the "Northern Times" for bowls to try and offset the shortage.

It was also decided at the 1968 AGM to try and attract more lady members by posting of bills in various shops and by word of mouth, any respondents could attend the Green on 17th May at 7pm when tuition would be available from members.

Three further marker boards were presented to the Club by Mr. F.W.Grant, the members showing their appreciation in the usual way. These boards are still in use today mainly at "Crakaig League" matches.

## **1969**

So to the 1969 AGM, 20 members attended of which 5 were ladies a marked improvement on any previous year. The only thing of note at the AGM other than the normal repetitive items was to approve the installation of guttering to the back wall of the Clubhouse (One must ask how this was not done originally as the roof is pitched and water must have cascaded down the wall)

No financial statement was included with the minutes but a statement indicated that the balance had reduced by some £37 from the previous year to £426.13.11d. This in view of the nature of the expenditure was considered satisfactory. (The nature of the expenditure was not stated)

The great loss to the Club was recorded due to the deaths of Messrs. C McHardy, P. Wright and J. Shearer.

## **1970**

1970 saw the "Prize Giving" take place at the AGM so the social get together to present prizes such as took place in 1967 did not survive as a continuous event at this time.

No payment is shown as having been made to RDGC in 1970 and reference is made to a starting date for a Greenkeeper so it seems the long association with RDGC where they maintained the Green had come to an end. Mr. Laird and Mr. G. Mackay were thanked for collecting green fees and for general maintenance of the Green and surrounds for which the Club members approved a £10 honorarium each. Since the detailed accounts are unavailable in the minutes it is possible that the RDGC ceased to maintain the Green in 1969.

The matches with Alness B.C. were still being held and the Secretary was asked to arrange a match for the 1970 season.

Membership in 1970 had shrunk to 25 being 19 @ 25/-, 5 @ £1 and 1 junior for whom no charge is recorded. Nowhere in the minutes has it been possible to determine the difference in category of member to explain the variation in fee. (one can assume the £1 membership was for ladies, this being the case the drive to recruit more ladies in recent years appears to have failed)

The Club balance at the end of 1969 showed an increase of about £59 over the year and stood at £485.0.9d

Another loss to the Club was the death of Mr. N.S. Munro a long serving and valued member.

## **1971**

The 1971 AGM recorded the untimely death of Miss D. Munro and of the Club's oldest member Mr. T.Munro. The widow of Mr. T Munro gifted his bowls and garden tools to the Club.

The balance of Club funds at £424.2.4d gave a loss over 1970 of some £60 due to the purchase of a new shed @ £63.4.0d, a mower @ £105.6 0d and fertilisers @ £17.6.0d together with £20 honorariums most of these charges being over and above those incurred in past years by the Club.

The secretary was tasked with making what arrangements he could regarding maintenance of the Green and surrounds and to arrange a friendly match with Alness B.C.

It was also agreed that the Prize Giving would take place in the clubhouse when all competitions were completed.

Membership in 1971 was 25 consisting of 19 male and 6 ladies the one junior member either having ceased membership or becoming a full member.

The biggest expenditure during 1971 was Greenkeeping fees @ £53.75 and buying fertiliser @ £32.79 ( Note this is the first time decimalisation of currency has been used in Club accounts). At



the end of the 1971 season the balance was £499.9 a yearly increase of about £75.

## **1972**

1972 was a quiet year with regard to policy or other major changes. It was agreed to obtain and have erected a club name board over the verandah roof. (No longer in place). The match with Alness was again to be arranged if possible.

The provision of a cup to be held by the winners of the annual pairs competition was proposed but turned down in favour of presenting each of the winners with a small cup for their retention permanently.

1972 did see an increase in membership to a total of 32 consisting of 21 gentlemen 1 undetermined as that persons fee was outstanding and 10 ladies.

Greenkeeping fees are seen to be increasing yearly together with fuel and repairs to ground maintenance machine which cost together £92.12 in 1972. As in past years a considerable income is derived from visitors fees the Golf Professional collecting £46.6 for the Club and the secretary collecting £98.67 .

The club showed a healthy balance at the end of 1972 at £560.61 an increase of £60.71 for the year.

## **1973**

The attendance at AGMs had historically been poor and 1973 was no exception with on 9 members making the effort to guide and influence Club policy and programmes.

Rink charges remained at 8p ( new pence) following on from the 1/6 charged prior to decimalisation.

Mr.J. Mackay was to be asked to continue to maintain the Green as he has done since RDGC gave up carrying out the work. The secretary was tasked with trying to have someone undertake the green rangers role, getting volunteers to take office obviously being a problem.

The Chairman Mr. H.Steele informed the meeting that the town council were willing to grant a new lease of the Green. THIS LEASE WOULD RUN FOR 99 YEARS AT AN ANNUAL COST OF 5p (new pence) IF PAYMENT WAS REQUESTED, TOGETHER WITH A ONE OFF £10 CHARGE AND THE LEGAL COSTS INCURRED TO BE PAID BY THE CLUB. The meeting approved the proposal and authorised the Management committee to sign the necessary legal documents. This was ultimately done and the Clubs copy of the agreement is held by Dornoch solicitors Arthur & Carmichael.

THE NEW LEASE INCLUDES ALL THE GROUND BEHIND THE CLUBHOUSE WHICH WAS FORMALLY A TENNIS COURT, THE CLUBS REPRESENTATIVES AGREED TO ALLOW CARS TO CROSS THIS LAND TO ENABLE THEM TO HAVE

## ACCESS TO THE ROYAL DORNOCH GOLF CLUB LOWER CAR PARK, BEING PART OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT.

Visitors green fees were increased to 15p per game and £1.25 for a weekly ticket.

Membership in 1973 was 22 gentlemen and 10 ladies, fees being as for previous year. The Clubs balance improved by £24.28 to stand at £584.89 to carry forward to 1974. Visitors fees continued to be a major source of income contributing £165.95 to club funds (Mr. Skinner £77.65 and Club Secretary £88.30). Some unusual expenditure in 1973 was:-

Cost of new lease.....	£18.34
Renovating three and a half sets of bowls.....	£31.66
Laundry.....	£1.07
Printing notice board.....	£2.00
Repairs to clubhouse (Joiner).....	£49.15
Outside paintwork.....	£25.00

### **1974**

1974 saw 16 members attend the AGM of that year of which 5 were ladies. With the usual decisive manner a recommendation to provide a cup of tea and a biscuit on rinks evenings was put on hold for consideration at a later date!

Prize Giving as had been the custom over the last few years was to take place in the clubhouse when all competitions were completed.

Visitors Green fees were to remain at 15p per game.

Members fees to remain at £1.25 for gentlemen and £1 for ladies.

The membership saw little change in 1974 being 19 men and 9 ladies but temporary memberships which had in the past seldom exceeded 7 increased to 15. Visitors again proved to be the biggest contributor to the funds with £174 (less Golf shop commission of £16.94).

During the year expenses included a stationary charge of £32.66 the reason for this large spend is not recorded. Fencing timber cost £45.50 for repair work and repairs to the mower cost £12.50.

Profit over the year was some £63 giving a balance to carry forward of £647.68 to 1975.

### **1975**

19 members attended the 1975 AGM at which Mr. Mackay the green keeper told the meeting that the Green needed to be top dressed with a sand and soil mix. The Secretary was instructed (?) to approach the members who had indicated willingness to help apply the dressing

when Mr Mackay was ready. Mr Mackay was instructed (?) to approach the RDGC with a view to obtaining the top dressing from them.

It was decided to hold the Prize Giving in the RDGC clubhouse and that it should include a steak supper followed by some form of entertainment.

Fees for members and visitors were to remain as for last year.

It was decided that as the number of ladies had increased a ladies section should be formed.

## **1976**

In 1976 the best attendance to date at an AGM was recorded at 27 members, 10 of which were ladies.

Club Competitions until 1975 consisted only of :-

- Singles
- Club Handicap Singles
- Club pairs

Now in the minutes for 1976 they include the Annie Ross Cup for ladies, from the cup engraving the first year for which this trophy was played was 1975 being won by Mrs. B. Maclean. This cup is still the trophy awarded to the Ladies Singles Champion each year.

Fees for playing on Rinks nights was increased to 10p at the 1976 AGM. All other fees to be as for the proceeding year.

Prize Giving to be held in the RDGC clubhouse at a club dinner.

For only the second time in the clubs history to date the members elected a **LIFE MEMBER:- Mr. R. A. Murray**. For his many years of service to the club both as president and member of the club.

The meeting were read the financial statement and this was approved by the meeting but a copy of that statement is not included in the minutes of the meeting. However the balance carried forward to 1978 was £807.93 which shows an increase in the balance of £160.25 from the sum carried in to 1975 giving an average increase of some £53 per year.

## **1977**

Nothing out of the ordinary occurred at the 1977 AGM and accounts for 1977 are not available from the minutes of the meeting.

## **1978**

The accounts from 1978 show that both full and temporary membership had increased substantially over any previously recorded being:-

22 gentlemen  
15 ladies  
5 juniors  
21 temporary

The Junior annual subscription at this time was £1 similar to that levied in 1999.

The major contributor to club funds continues to be visitors fees which in 1978 amounted to £203.25. Expenditure in 1978 exceeded income by £108.73 leaving a balance of £699.20 to be carried forward to 1979. Major spends included £150 to a J & M Patterson for hose , £63.50 to B. Urquhart for cement and £62 for green keeping wages. Repairs to mower and petrol for the grounds machinery cost a further £53.05.

Bank interest at the end of 1978 contributed £28.78 less bank charges of £3.20.

## **1979**

In 1979 no statement of accounts was included in the secretary's minute book but the treasurer's report was read and approved by the members at the AGM. At this same meeting it was decided that members would be paid for food provided, the Club to provide bread and fillings for sandwiches, and a tea convenor was appointed, a post held at the time by Mrs. Thompson. A proposal to hold a finals day on which all Club knockout competitions would take place was dropped when it was realised that it was impractical. Mentioned were five competitions but the fifth is a mystery as from 1976 the only ones mentioned are:-

Club Champion Singles  
Club Handicap Singles  
Club Pairs  
Annie Ross Cup Ladies Singles Championship

So at this time the only clue is that it could possibly be the (BOY'S) Under Sixteen Cup which has been found in a note of competition winners at the back of the minute book which closed in the 1978 season.

## **1980**

1980 and again no accounts detail is available but the AGM approved the Treasurer's report.

Since the formation of a Ladies section they had a night set aside and in 1980 Mr R. Shaw presented a trophy for which the Ladies could compete, today this trophy is presented for the winners of the Ladies Handicap Singles.

The AGM of 1980 approved an increase in the annual fees due to the cost of repairs to the clubhouse.

Membership Fee was raised from	£1.50 (1979) to	£4.00 (1980)
Visitors Fees ( Temp Member) from	£1.50 (1979) to	£3.00 (1980)
Members Over 70 years	?	£2.00
Juniors	£1.00 (1979)	£2.00 (1980)
(Note from minutes;- “No new Juniors under 14 yrs.)		
Visitors day fee	£0.20 (1979) to	£0.30 (1980)
Locker fees also increased to 25p per season.		

Estimates for repairs to the clubhouse were discussed but no detail as to what those repairs were is given but agreement was reached in that they were to go ahead.

## 1981

1981 and still no detail on the years accounts recorded in the secretary’s minutes as for immediate preceding years but the accounts were presented at the AGM and approved by the members present being some 25 in number.

A Mr. Patterson (Greenkeeper at RDGC) offered terms for greenkeeping duties for the Club at £50 per month which the Club accepted.

A further trophy was presented to the Club by Mr. J. Brown of Glasgow to be presented to the winner of a Senior Citizens Singles Competition for ladies over 60 and men over 65 being eligible to play.

The annual prize giving as for preceding years was to be held in the RDGC Clubhouse at a social evening.

It was agreed that members children under 14 years of age could play bowls on the green but the member would be responsible for their behaviour.

## 1982

From the 1982 accounts which are compared to 1981 it can be seen that the sum carried forward to 1982 was £581.87. During 1981 repairs to the clubhouse cost the Club £680.87. Greenkeepers wages by this time had risen to £370.00 and purchase of bowling delivery mats £48, other expenditure had also risen dramatically.

Fees were again increased, rinks nights to 20p and annual fees as follows;-

Members	£4.00 (1980) to	£5.00
Pensioners(Ladies 60, Men 65)	£2.00 (70 +) to	£3.00
Juniors	£2.00 to	£3.00
Visitors	30p (1980)to	50p per game

Mr. W. Patterson agreed to continue greenkeeping on the same terms as for 1981 at £50 per month.

1982 saw a further trophy presented to the Club by Mrs. Cowie to be known as the “Broom Bank Trophy” The competition for this new cup was to be a Triples format and this is still keenly contested.

A Mr.A. Mackenzie was asked to construct additional lockers as approved at the 1982 AGM.

During 1981/82 two valued members were lost to the Club with the deaths of Mr. G. Mackay and Mr. Dobson their loss being marked, as a token of respect by a minutes silence at the AGM of 1982.

Affiliation to the Scottish Bowling Association was considered but not pursued.

An invitation to introduce indoor bowling in the Community Centre was given a mixed reception and further inquiries were to be made before any decision was made.

Major items of spend in 1982 were;- Greenkeeping at £300, Repairs to mower £40.83, towels £17.25, Verdone and tools £13.03, tea supplies £16.80, grass seed £18.56. Other expenses incurred were those of a repetitive nature such as engraving trophies, electric bill, petrol for grounds maintenance machines, Sutherland Bowling Association affiliation fee( at £25 by this time), competition prizes, insurance and bank charges etc.

The balance brought into 1982 was £581.87, by the end of 1982 this showed an increase of £303.62 to stand at £885.49

1982 saw membership at a very healthy level consisting of :-

30 gentlemen (19 full and 11 pensioner members)  
17 ladies (10 full and 7 pensioner members)  
No junior members  
23 temporary members

Visitors fees (excluding Temporary Members) was still the greatest contributor to Club funds providing £315.12 against members fees which produced £293. Other fund raisers were raffles £82.25, weekly rink fees £129.70, bank interest £50.85 and novelty bowling £69.

### **1983**

At the AGM in 1983 only 13 members attended. A matter from the previous AGM arose in that the addition lockers had not been installed as Mr Mackenzie had been unable to oblige. The meeting was informed that recent repairs to the mower had made serious inroads into Club funds such that an increase in membership fees should be made as follows:-

Members	£7.00
Pensioners and juniors	£5.00
Temporary Members	£5.00

Day Visitors	£1.00
Visitors per game	50p

Although the above is not recorded in the minutes as being approved the fees charged in 1983 are as above. Concern was expressed at the lack of junior members.

Thanks were paid to Messrs J.R. Maclean and J. Morrison for repairing storm damage to the boundary fence.

Novelty Bowling was again to take place twice, once for Club funds and once for the Community Association this to be held in Dornoch week (5th-12th August). These events had been held for a number of years making steady contributions to both organisations.

**Life Membership was conferred on Mrs. B. Maclean by members at the AGM in recognition of fifty years continuous membership and services to the Club.**

Repairs were considered to be needed to the roadside boundary fence, the opinion was that this was a responsibility of the District Council

J. Bonthron instanced a case where damage had been caused to the green by poison transferred to the green from the surrounds on players shoes. He recommended that bowling shoes should not be worn "off green". This was considered to be impractical especially with regard to visitors, so not pursued, it was agreed however to place notices forbidding shoes with heels being worn on the green.

The Secretary had been requested to raise the matter of the green being used on Sundays, objections were raised and a motion seeking that no play be allowed was proposed and seconded, there was no discussion and no amendment so Sunday play was banned.

## **1984**

At the 1984 AGM matters arising from the 1983 minutes concerned the provision of additional lockers, the Secretary he had received estimates from C Matheson, A Lewis & C & M Builders the lowest tender being for £42.50 submitted by C Matheson which had been accepted. Tenders had also been received from the same firms for the erection of a 1.8m high "palisade" fence along the West and South sides of the bowling green, the lowest tender also submitted by C. Matheson was for a sum of £1928. Another estimate had been requested from Mr C Macleod for provision of a 6 inch block wall of the same height (1.8M) along the same West & South sides as above the quoted price being £3548. A wall along the South side only would cost in the region of £1758. A discussion then took place, it was noted that the damaged sections of the existing fence had once again been repaired by Messrs.J. R. Maclean & M. Morrison due thanks being registered by those present. The meeting proposed that information should be awaited on any grant aid which may become available to pursue the building of the wall.

18 members attended the AGM OF 1984. Novelty Bowling was again agreed should be held for both Club fees during Glasgow Fair week and in Dornoch week for the Community Association.

It was moved and approved that the Senior Citizen competition should be non handicap, played over 17 ends all players being off scratch.

It was also moved and approved that only members having paid their fees would be included in competition draws.

A. Lawson suggested a "Spider Competition" to take place before Rinks at 10p per head as a fund raiser, all entrants to deliver one bowl from the edge of the green to the jack placed in the centre of the green. ( the bowl nearest the jack wins). Wins what, is not stated but it is assumed a percentage of the entry fee, to make it more interesting one also assumes that all bowls would be delivered at the same time such that collisions would almost certainly occur introducing a large element of chance. No evidence is available that such an event ever took place.

G Manson proposed holding Whist Drives in the clubhouse throughout the winter but emphasised that heating would be necessary, this was approved.

Membership in 1984 remained at a good level with 25 gentlemen (10 Pensioners), 13 ladies ( 9 Pensioners), 3 juniors (All boys) and 25 temporary members.

In 1984 visitors green fees amounted to £415.60 , members annual fees £368 and Novelty bowling £122.80 ( a very successful fund raiser) being the main income to club funds, bank interest also gave a good return of £51.22 on a deposit account of approximately £1000. The main expenditure was predictably green keeping at £300, other costs included new lockers at £48.88 ( slightly over the original estimate), timber for edging the green £77.34, fencing £63.62 and repairs to the clubhouse £44.62 (not specified) together with the more repetitive annual spends.

The balance to be carried in to 1985 stood at £1159.61 an increase in the year of £397.13.

## **1985**

The 1985 AGM saw 22 members attending. Matters arising from the last AGM were that raised by Mr.A.Lawson who reminded members that the "Spider Competition" recommended at that AGM had in fact never been tried. The Chairman commented that due to the melee of organising the weekly rinks it seemed impractical. The meeting was informed that fence repairs had again been necessary and these had been carried out once more by Messrs. M. Morrison and J.R. Maclean who expressed doubt as to further repairs being possible. It was proposed to proceed with the erection of a boundary wall, the Secretary being requested to approach the Sports Council, H.I.D.B.( as taken from the minutes but not familiar to author) and the District Council for grant assistance. It was agreed that fees would remain as for previous year. A motion to raise rink fees to 50p from the current 20p being defeated.



From the minutes it would appear that in the past all members were entered for Club competitions but at this meeting it was agreed that entry lists would be posted in the clubhouse three weeks prior to the competition for members wishing to compete to append their names, a practice still in use except that the posting of the lists is usually early in the season for all competitions.

It was agreed that novelty bowling evenings would be held again one in aid of Club funds and one for the Community Association if that was requested.

A motion by Mr. J. Bonthron that rinks nights should be games of 21 ends was adopted.

Mr.H.Steele supported by Mr.J.Bonthron questioned the Club donation to the Mrs. Stewart-Fitzroy memorial fund, originally agreed as individual contributions. After considerable discussion it was decided by vote to make a Club contribution of £20.

Mr. A.Lawson put a motion that every member should have the opportunity to play in the Craikaig League that was accepted and it was agreed that members wishing to play should put their names onto a notice to be posted on the notice board.

Another attempt to have the green opened on Sundays was defeated on a vote by 9 to 4. This means that 11 members present abstained from voting.

Dissatisfaction had been expressed with the presentation dinner shortly after taking place and a motion was put to members that the 1985 presentation should be made in the clubhouse, this motion failed with a majority in favour of a return of the event to the RDGC clubhouse as in previous years.

In October of 1985 an Extraordinary General Meeting was called to which 14 members attended. The President intimated that Mr.Patterson the present greenkeeper would be leaving Dornoch in November but had said that he would spike the green now and top dress before the end of October.

The disrepair to the clubhouse and boundary fence were discussed and it was proposed that the possibility of erecting a new clubhouse and boundary wall be investigated. It was felt that should a new clubhouse be built it should be large enough to contain indoor bowling rinks.

The Secretary was requested to investigate the extent of the ground coming within the bowling club lease and to ascertain the options for buildings etc.

It was stated that a sub committee would be needed to organise fund raising to provide the financial input the Club would need to make.

A further meeting was arranged for 6th November.

If the meeting which was arranged for 6th November ever took place it was not minuted in the Secretary's minute book.

## 1986

The next entry in the minute book was of the 1986 AGM of 8th April 1986, at which 19 members attended.

Members were advised that Mr.Robert Patterson had agreed to take on the duties of greenkeeper at a fee of £50 per month.

The Secretary reported that prices had been obtained from firms specialising in prefabricated buildings. For the erection of a new pavilion with facilities for indoor bowling prices ranged from £56104 for a completely finished product ready to use to £12850 for a timber frame kit requiring to be clad and lined. It was therefore estimated that a sum of at least £30,000 would be required.

Members present endorsed the idea of a combined building and determined to initiate a building fund and support fund raising efforts. It was noted that there could possibly be grant aid up to 70% of the costs available.

A fund raising sub committee was formed consisting of S.Black, D.Macleod, J.Bon throne and F.Hayward.

Membership for 1985 consisted of 25 gentlemen ( 13 pensioners), 8 ladies ( 5 more mature) and 4 juniors (all boys) together with 23 temporary members. Although of reduced numbers for the first time the major contributor to Club funds were membership fees being £330, although visitors fees came a close second at some £261.10 .

The balance carried forward into 1986 was £1359.74 an increase of £200.13 generated over the 1985 season.

The clubs attention was drawn to the fall in membership especially in the under 60's age group and members were asked to endeavour to recruit new members.

The Club fees were raised in order to support the building fund, the new fees were:-

Members.....	£10.00
Pensioners.....	£ 7.50
Under 16's.....	£ 1.00
16-18's.....	£ 5.00
Temporary Members.....	£ 7.50

Weekly rinks were to be held for the first time twice a week, on Tuesday and Saturday evenings, the rink fees to be 30p per player ( an increase of 10p) the rinks night raffles to continue.

Competitions to be as previous years with the exception of the Triples which was to be tried as a one day event.

Mr. G.Manson moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Belle Maclean who had for eight years served as Club Treasurer.

**A plea that the toilets required regular cleaning was noted ( this applies to this day but not many, if any rush to do the job)**

Mr.C.Macleod proposed that consideration be given to the employment of Manpower services labour to erect a wall along the West side of the green. It was agreed to investigate this possibility. A report that the roadside fence was dangerous was noted.

A proposal to paint the clubhouse externally was adopted.

Members were informed that MR.R.Patterson the greenkeeper was to be married on the 10th of May. Mr. H.Steele proposed that a wedding present be purchased by the Club members by individual contributions and this was agreed.

Expenditure as for many years now is in the main accounted for by maintenance of the green (£350), repairs to the pavilion (£82) other regular costs include engraving of trophies, fuel for maintenance machinery, rinks prizes, insurance, tea supplies and electrical supply charges. More unusual spends in 1985 were a donation to the Mrs. Fitz-Roy Memorial Fund (£20) and raising the edge of the green (£40).

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 17th June 1986 for the purpose of debating a motion raised by Mr. S.Black to have the green open on Sundays for playing bowls.This motion was seconded by Mr. J.Bontrone. An amendment was then proposed by Mr. H.Steele and seconded by Mr. R.Shaw that the Green should not be available for play on Sundays.

Both motion and amendment were put to the members, only four members voted for the amendment the remainder of those present appearing to support the motion which was carried. The President recommended that the green should not be opened until 2pm of a Sunday which received a favourable response from the members, so as of that meeting Sunday play was possible on any Sunday after 2pm. There being no further business the meeting closed.

## **1987**

A Management Committee Meeting took place on 4th March 1987 to discuss the condition of the boundary fence which had suffered severe damage during the winter.

It was suggested that a wall should be built to replace it, the cost was estimated to be in the order of £300-£350 for the materials only, for a self build effort by club members. The committee ( of 8 members) agreed and sought to have the work completed before the green opened. No other business was discussed at this meeting.

The 1987 AGM took place on 6th April with 24 members attending. The minutes of both the last AGM, Extraordinary General meeting of June 1986 and the Management Committee meeting of 4th March were read and all approved.

The President Mr. F.Hayward took the opportunity to thank all the members who had helped in the construction of the wall along the West side of the Green and also to Mr. D.Macleod for arranging assistance from the Manpower Services with whom he is involved.

It was at this meeting a proposed Constitution was presented for the members consideration. After discussion and minor amendments the constitution was accepted by the members present.

Club fees were to remain as for 1986. Both rinks night fees were to be 30p as for previous year but raffle tickets were to be raised to 20p per strip. Cheaper Saturday rinks prizes were to be obtained.

Tuesday rinks were to be of 21 ends weather permitting as for Saturday rinks.

The Senior Citizens Competition was in future to be a handicap Competition.

The cost to enter the Skibo Plate and the Bob Shaw 4's was fixed at 75p per person per event. Novelty bowling was to be held during Glasgow Fair.

Membership in 1986 was 27 gentlemen (13 pensioners), 9 ladies (8 pensioners), 2 boys (@ £5) and 5 juniors also 19 temporary members. Visitors fees once again lead the way in Club income raising just in excess of membership fees. More unusual costs in 1986 were a subsidy for a buses to Wick and Invergordon (this is the first mention of visits to Invergordon and is probably the start of the annual end of season match which is still in year 2000 one of the most popular events in the Clubs calendar) and a charge of £48.00 dinner dance band etc. Also more wood was bought to repair/install green edging costing £127.88, C.Matherson was paid £91.80 for "Window", D.Purvis £81.78 for what, is not mentioned, plumbing again has an entry at £11.50 and last but by no means least was aeration of the green which cost £150.00.

The balance at the end of the 1986 season stood at £560.38 a fall over the year of some £799.36.

A Management Committee Meeting held in April 1987 decided that the Club Triples would be played on the 4th July, a one day event? Also decided was that all competitions matches had to be played by the dates shown on the "draw" sheets and both players or teams would be disqualified from the competition unless one player or team could prove that the none compliance was due to the opponents, the committees decision in such cases would be final.

It was decided at this same meeting that no Green Rangers would be appointed but instead all members were to be asked to contribute towards the upkeep of the Green and surrounds.

To assist with fund raising a coffee evening was to be tried in July and the date for the Novelty bowling held on 22nd July.

Application was to be made for a "Drinks Licence" for certain competitions.

The costs for insurance have risen at an alarming level over the years and the Treasurer was asked to obtain quotes from other companies.

An interesting development was the decision to so mark the green that the heads could be moved a foot a day before being turned around every 4 days.

Membership in 1987 was 21 members paying £10, 21 pensioner members paying £7.50, 4 junior members paying £1 and 20 temporary members @ £7.50 these fees generating £521.50 by far the largest single contribution to Club funds in the year.

Other large contributors were once again visitors fees which with the golf professionals commission deducted amounted to £273, whist drives a creditable £196, raffles £187, weekly rinks £151, **donations £110**, and a few lesser amounts. The bar after expenses produced £22.42 but this does not include a combined cost of £74 for china and glasses, how much each element cost is not shown but in 2000 the Club is well supplied with both categories.

The overall balance for the years activities was a loss of some £307 brought about by annual spends in some cases rising such as greenkeeping wages at £400 and one off spends like £293 for a new wall and fencing. Other greenkeeping items, fertiliser, tools and aerating the green cost a collective £236.

Although a loss was made on the years balance in the Club funds proper the Building fund mentioned for the first time showed that at the pre 1988 accounts a sum of £1702 was held in a deposit account. The balance being brought forward from 1987 being £886 so over the 1987 season the fund had increased by £816. On this account it is interesting to note that the bar made a loss of £20.18. The main contributor was an item for “Skibo Teas” at £666 this from doing the catering at Skibo Castle “open day” it is believed although not stated in the minutes.

## 1988

A pre 1988 Management Committee Meeting was held on 13th April and at this meeting it was decided to recommend a £2 joining fee and increases in the annual subscriptions of £5 for adult members( to £15), £2.50 for pensioners (to £10) but others to remain as previously.

It was further recommended that the greenkeeper should receive an increase for his services of £20 per month subject to his agreement which would be effective immediately.

Rinks nights were to be arranged on a different basis to previous years in that:-

- 1) All discs to be “in the pot” and players have to play the position drawn.
- 2) Skips would be picked but positions would change every 4 ends.

The number of ends would normally be 20 but in poor light or weather conditions be reduced to 15.

Harling the wall was costed at £475 by S.Gunn and the Committee agreed to accept this quote. S.Gunn was to be asked to provide a price for erecting a wall along the east side and a further estimate for a wall along the West side of the pavilion.

D.Macleod was required to obtain an estimate for seats which are to be built into the new wall on the East side.

It was proposed that Mr. & Mrs. D.Holt should become the Clubs first Honorary Members and a scroll presented to mark the occasion.

It was at this meeting that it was decided that the Club should become a member of the Sutherland Sports Council.

Drink Licensing was to continue as for previous year.

Competitions were to be run as previous year with the exception that any player winning a singles competition would play off "Scratch" in handicap competitions.

The format of the "Skibo Plate" was to be changed to "Round Robin" with four sections of six (Pairs?)

It was arranged that a bus would be laid on for a visit to go indoor bowling in November.

The 1988 AGM took place one week after the meeting as above on 20th April 1988. 18 members attended with seven apologies being recorded.

Mr. E.Courtney on behalf of the Treasurer who was unable to attend, drew the members attention to the loss in the Clubs balance over the 1987 year and that a close watch be kept on spending over the coming year.

Recommendations made by the outgoing committee and **accepted** by the members were:-

- 1) Rinks were to be tried in a new format on Tuesdays as detailed above
- 2) **That Mr. & Mrs. Holt to be invited to become "Honorary Members" of Dornoch bowling Club.**
- 3) To join the Sutherland Sports Council.
- 4) That members having won a singles competition would play off scratch in handicap competitions but that would not apply to the Ladies Handicap or Senior Citizens competitions.
- 5) The new format for the Skibo Plate was to be a Round Robin with 4 sections of six competing for the trophy.

The subscriptions were increased as recommended but an amendment by G.Manson seconded by H.Steele to increase Temporary Members fees in line with Seniors Fees (O.A.P's) was adopted. A second amendment was brought by A.Lawson and seconded by D.Macleod that the visitors game fee should be raised to £1 but the day fee remain at £1.50. This was also adopted.

The Entrance fee was fixed at £2.00 and locker fees raised from 25p to £1 per annum.

The fees for 1988 after the amendments were:-

Member.....	£15.00
Senior member (O.A.P).....	£10.00
Temporary Member.....	£10.00
Juniors (Under 16).....	£1.00
16 to 18 years.....	£5.00
Visitors per game.....	£1.00
Visitors per day.....	£1.50

The outgoing officers and committee members were re-elected on block.

Mr W.Ross stated that every third year placed a heavier burden on the tea committee and the present committee had had to cope with that last year. He suggested that the two ladies on the committee could hold a meeting with all the lady members to sort it out. Mr. E. Courtney asked why men were not included in this committee, the response from the President was that there was no valid reason for men not to be involved.

To raise funds it was proposed that in addition to the Novelty bowling a fete should be run at the same time.

Mr. A.Lawson suggested a beginners night to try and encourage new members and they would be held on Monday evenings for 4 weeks starting on May 6th.

The general fund balance of the Club showed a marked gain over the season and £643 was the balance at the end of 1988 an increase of £390.

The "Building Fund" saw a considerable income but this was offset by a large payment of £670 toward the clubhouse wall. The bar again showed a loss of about £20. Overall the building fund showed a modest rise of £35.89 in 1988 to stand at £1738.44.

Greenkeeper costs rose to £525 in the year. A donation of £50 was made to the M.S. Society and a visit to Inverness Indoor bowling green was subsidised to the tune of £126.

Standardisation of fees for ladies and gentlemen means that from the accounts included in the Secretary's minute books it is not possible to detail the membership in terms of numbers of each sex. The membership in 1988 was 38 of which 22 were pensioners with 1 member aged 16-18 and one junior (under 16). Temporary members numbered 13

## **1989**

A Management Meeting was held in mid March prior to the AGM where the departure of the Secretary Mrs. S.Black was noted with regret and after discussion Mrs. S.Campbell agreed to consider the post.

The meeting recommended that subscriptions and fees should remain as at present.

It was reported that recent gales had badly damaged the South fence and all agreed that a wall should be built with materials being purchased from S.Gunn and building work carried out by YTS under supervision of D.Macleod. S.Gunn to be asked for a price to ‘harl’ and fix coping to match the West side wall. D.Macleod also agreed to provide labour to paint the external woodwork if the Club supplied the paint and materials. The screen net purchased during the summer of 1988 needed volunteers to fix it to the tennis court fencing.

It was to be recommended that rinks be run as last year but doubts were expressed about Medal Competitions (First time these have been mentioned)

Also to be recommended that strict adherence to “Play by dates” in competitions is made or both parties to be “scratched”.

It was agreed that a Licence (drinks) application be made for the Festival Rinks, Skibo Plate, Bob Shaw Fours, Invergordon visit and closing day events.

As it was said that details of membership of the Sports Council were to be obtained for the AGM, earlier references to joining must have come to nothing.

Arrangements were made to go to Inverness to visit the Indoor Bowling rinks in April.

It was agreed to make an effort to continue the junior practice sessions and Mr. R.Bromley was to be contacted regarding the matter.

The 1989 AGM saw 28 attending. A matter arising from the previous years AGM concerned the membership of the Sutherland Sports Council the meeting was informed that membership had not been achieved.

The Treasurer reported an increase of £390.65 in 1988 in the clubs balance and a small increase of £36 in the building fund limited by expenses incurred in repairing the clubhouse walls.

The introduction of bank charges was raised by H.Steele and it was moved that the Bank of Scotland be asked their position on charges and if no charges will be levied that the account be transferred to them.

The club still had at this time a Ladies Committee members being Mrs. A.Livingstone Mrs. B.Hutton, Mrs. S.Campbell and Mrs. B.Maclean.

Weekly Rinks, subscriptions and competitions all to be as previous year.



It was agreed that as recommended by the Management Committee a licence to sell drink would be sought for the Festival Rinks, Skibo Plate, Bob Shaw Fours, Invergordon visit and the "Closing Day Rinks".

The Membership gave agreement to seek membership of the Sutherland Sports Council.

It was further agreed that both junior and beginners practice sessions should be held.

A "Football Pool Syndicate" was suggested as a possible way to raise funds for the "Building Fund" but this was not supported.

The President on closing the meeting thanked Inspector M.Macdonald for the use of the room at the Police Station in which the meeting was held.

Membership in 1989 was some 41 of which 30 were pensioners 11 full and one at £5 being a member aged between 16 and 18 years. Additionally there were 11 temporary members during the year. The Inverness bowling trip was subsidised by the club to the tune of £67.50. From the balance sheet it would seem that the bar again run at a loss, drinks costing £119.47 with takings at just £48.20 a loss of £71.20, if the cost of the licences is included which cost £20 from the Sutherland District Council, the total loss was £91.20. The balance sheet shows no bar stock in hand. Income shows that whist drives produced £81.80 and a match against the police £32, sale of badges £28.50 but the main income after subscription fees was derived from visitors fees which after the Golf Professionals commission was deducted came to £237.64. Greenkeeping fees amounted to £475 being the biggest single item of expenditure.

## **1990**

Two Committee of Management meetings were held early in 1990 prior to the AGM the first concerned the resignation of R.Patterson as greenkeeper as advised by the President Mr. Fred Hayward, a letter received from Mr. Patterson agreed that he would reseed patches prior to the start of the 1990 season, the mowers were reported to be in a state of readiness for use. It was agreed that Mr H. Steele would place a advertisement seeking a new greenkeeper in the Northern Times.

The second meeting was called to advise that there had been no response to the advertisement placed in the Northern Times for a greenkeeper. Mr.G. Manson agreed to make enquiries of the RDGC greenkeeping staff to see if any were interested in maintaining the bowling green.

The A.G.M. was held on 19th April with 22 members attending.

The Treasurer Mr. H.Steele stated that the club had a balance of £1276 after some £1500 had been spent on improvements to the green. He requested that the Building Fund and the deposit account be combined into one account and this was agreed.

Subscriptions for 1990 included a levy such that the fees were	
Members	£15 plus £5 levy = £20
Pensioner Members	£10 plus £5 levy = £15
Joining fee (New Members)	£2
Temporary Members	£10
Juniors (16-18)	£5
Juniors (under 16)	£1
Visitors per game	£1
Visitors per day	£1.50

Licences were to be obtained to sell drink for the Skibo Plate and the Bob Shaw open competitions.

The opening of the green could not be decided at the A.G.M as the condition of the green would dictate when it could be used, the date of Dornoch Week would also be subject to the condition of the green.

The meeting was informed that the South fence needed to be replaced and the President Mr. F Hayward said that an estimate had been obtained from Mr. Lockie for a ranch type fence at £700 for treated foreign timber or £500 for home grown. There being no further business the meeting closed.

A Committee of Management meeting was held on 10th May were Mr. Alastair Matheson was appointed greenkeeper. The green was to be cut diagonally twice a week.

It was proposed to open the green on the 9th June at 2.30pm. With competitions starting in July. It was proposed to hold another meeting on the 5th June but no record of such a meeting taking place is available in the Secretary's minutes.

The membership in 1990 was:-  
 28 Pensioner Members  
 8 Full Members  
 4 Junior (Under 16) Members  
 5 Temporary Members.

The levy on members of an additional £5 on subscriptions raised £180 toward club funds. All in membership fees plus the levy provided £634 the major income in 1990. Other income came from the club providing teas at Skibo Castle open day £497, visitors fees some £275, rink fees £208, rinks raffles £185, whist drive £80 and bank interest £134.

Major expenditure was made on maintenance to the green with the contractor Souters of Stirling being paid £1466, grass seed £51 and £391 to Mr. A. Matheson the greenkeeper. Rinks and raffle prizes cost £100 so over all the raffles showed a profit of £85 for the season.

## **1991**

Only 12 members attended the A.G.M held on 10th April 1991.

The Treasurer reported a loss over the 1990 season of £454 leaving a balance of £2524 to carry into 1991.

The Secretary reported that the club were now members of the Sports Council and negotiations had been under way since 29th August to try and obtain a grant for the erection of a ranch style fence. The hope was expressed that the grant would be approved in the near future.

The green had been inspected in March by Souters of Stirling and they had left recommendations for work needed to be done by the greenkeeper.

The Greenkeeper reported that the green had been treated with sulphate of iron and ammonia and the green was to be fed in two months time. He also reported that the North West corner of the green needs to be lifted and would require assistance. It was recommended that he should seek assistance from the Royal Dornoch Golf Club greenkeeper for help.

Fees and subscriptions for 1991 were agreed as follows:-

Members	£20	an increase of £5
Pensioners	£15	an increase of £5
Temporary Members	£10	no change
Junior Members (under 18)	£5	increase of £4 for under 16's
Rink Fee	50p	increase of 20p per occasion
Visitors game fee	£1	no change
Visitors day fee	£2	increase of 50p

Basically this meant that apart from minor changes to the rink and visitor fees the levy imposed the previous year has been incorporated into the fee structure.

Repairs to the clubhouse approved were replacement of the toilet window sills by Mr.P. Lockie and painted by A. Matheson and new planks fitted to the wall seat.

Mr. E. Courtney recommended that any competition having less than eight (8) entries should be cancelled and this was approved by the meeting.

Mr. Basil Hellier suggested that a grant be sought to allow the green to be levelled and turfed at the end of the season, the president Mr. Fred Hayward recommended that the green be given time to settle down and develop after having spent some £1500 on the green the previous year to which the meeting agreed. There being no further business the meeting closed.

## **1992**

The 1992 A.G.M was held on 22nd April and saw 24 members attending.

The Treasurer gave a resume of the club account balance which showed that some £248.86 was in a deposit account and £432.01 in the current account. This was a reduction in the clubs balance over the 1991 season of £1843.62.

The membership could not be determined from the Secretary's minutes but membership fees raised some £755 in 1991, donations to the club were £40, visitors fees amounted to about £495, rinks fees £471 and raffles made a profit of £157, the club volunteers providing teas at Skibo Castle again did very well and helped the club funds to the tune of £475.

The grant application to the Sutherland District Council for help to replace/ erect fencing was successful to the sum of £874.20. The Skibo Plate "Bring and Buy" sale raised £30 and competition fees £53.

Expenditure in 1991 was very heavy, although the Sutherland District Council granted £874.20 toward the fence costs the club had to contribute £308.91. Major maintenance to the green carried out by Souters of Stirling cost a staggering £2918 with greenkeeper costs adding a further £538. Trophies and engraving accounted for £225 an increase of £85 over the 1990 spend. A mower was purchased for £60 and a long tape measure for £13. Other expenses were electric costs £72, signwriting £31.50, fuel for the greenkeeping machinery £40, insurance £170, W. Macdonald paint and cleaning materials £58, affiliation to S.D.C. Sports Council and Sutherland Bowling Association together £30.

From the accounts this was the year that sweatshirts were obtained with one presumes the club logo of that time.

Mr. Basil Hellier suggested a "Fun Day" to raise funds but the consensus was that with the current commitments it would be difficult to fit in and the idea dropped.

The provision of teas was discussed ( a problem to this day) but was to be as previous years. The meeting was then closed.

## **1993**

At the A.G.M the Vice President welcomed all to the meeting and asked for a minutes silence in remembrance of the club's late president **Mr. Fred Hayward** who died in October 1992.

22 members attended the meeting which was held on 2nd March.

The treasurer Mr. E. Courtney recommended that the club's accounts be transferred from the Bank of Scotland to the Clydsdale Bank as a better rate of interest could be obtained. The balance brought forward to 1993 was £799.80 an increase over the carry in to 1992 of some £118.

Fees and subscriptions were to be as for previous year.

A coffee morning was to be arranged to take place in the Royal Dornoch Golf Club clubhouse use of which had been offered free of charge.

Alan Strachan agreed to spike the green and treat the green to remove the moss which was abundant this year. Mr. A. Matheson was to be asked to maintain the green as in former years.

Mr. E Courtney was asked to research insurance companies to see if fire theft and storm damage cover could be obtained at a more economical price.

Mrs Hayward presented a cup to be played for in memory of Fred Hayward. The trophy to be called "The Fred Hayward Memorial Day" the type of competition being left to the Committee of Management to decide.

The Treasurer Mr. E. Courtney explained to the meeting the "ins" and "outs" of applying for grants and the red tape involved in such an application. He was requested to proceed to see if a grant could be obtained for green improvements and a mower.

It was agreed that fund raising was a priority to save the club. The President elect Mr. G. Manson thanked all who worked so hard for the good of the club and then closed the meeting.

A Committee of Management meeting was held on 31st March at which the dates for competitions was discussed but it was decided to wait until the S.B.A. competition dates were known before setting club dates.

The Committee agreed that the "Fred Hayward Memorial Day" competition would be played as a "Two Bowl Pairs" on a round robin basis playing four ends the winners moving on. The winner would be the pair being the greatest number of shots up, in the event of a tie the pair winning the most ends would be the winners.

At this meeting Mr. W. Duhigg volunteered to do the external painting with the help of others. Mr. H. Steele would undertake the cleaning of the kitchen whilst Mrs. S. Campbell and A. Livingstone would carry out a general clean toward the end of April.

It was decided to get two estimates for re-roofing, Mr.W. Duhigg to obtain the same. Mr. D. Allan joined the meeting at this point when grants possibly available were discussed. £5000 from the Common Good Fund had been promised but it was decided to wait until the money was to hand before making a commitment. A new mower was the highest priority which would cost in the region of £1600 to £2000 which would include attachments.

The meeting learned that the green had been scarified early in March.

Messrs. Courtney and Manson agreed to go to Brora and view their new mower to assess its suitability prior to any commitment being made to purchase a similar model.

At a Committee of Management meeting on 13th May Mr. E.Courtney informed those present that the visit to Brora to view the Auto Autorakes mower made it possible to recommend that a similar model would be suitable for Dornoch B.C. The only other business carried out was to fix the dates for several competitions.

Membership in 1993 was 12 full members paying £20 each, 22 senior citizen members paying £15 each, one junior member at £5 and 6 temporary members paying £10 each, total subscription income being £635. Visitors fees contributed £236. Rinks and competition fees produced £446 raffles a further £363 and donations from unnamed sources some £158. Social functions helped the club funds with a whist drive raising £66 and two coffee mornings £379. Grants to the club were £4296.

Expenditure incurred was some £4673 for equipment which although not detailed almost certainly included a new mower, greenkeeper costs were £372 and rink and competition prizes together with raffle prizes cost £398, insurance was £261 and repairs a further £195.

Over the year the club funds were reduced by some £154 to stand at a balance of £645 to be carried in to 1994.

## **1994**

The 1994 A.G.M was held on 20th April with 20 members attending.

In welcoming the members to the meeting the President brought to their attention the death of Willie Ross a much esteemed member of the club who would be sadly missed.

The Treasurer gave a detailed report on club finances and referring to the grants of £12000 some of which still had to be received would pay the outstanding bills. The balance on hand was £1022. (This varies from the carry in from 1993 the reason not being discernible from the Secretary's minutes)

Subscriptions for 1994 would remain as for 1993 being Full Members £20, Pensioners £15, Juniors £5 and Temporary Members £10. Rink fees 50p and visitors day fee £2 with a single game fee of £1.

**At this meeting the members agreed that only flat smooth soled shoes (heel less) would be allowed on the green and trainers were not acceptable.**

A request from the Tennis Club to use the Bowling Club toilets was turned down unanimously.

Income over the 1994 season was composed of £575 from all types of membership fees, visitors fees £284, **grants £9407**, rinks, competition and raffles together produced £887, **Donations (not detailed) £284** and other sundries £150, the total income being £11598.

Apart from the green running maintenance costing £764 which includes fuel, machinery repairs etc. More unusual spends were on restoration of the roof costing £2937, new windows £1069, painting £600, store shed £1786 and Invergordon match costs of £159. Carried forward to season 1995 was some £2514.

A Committee of Management meeting held on 10th May 1994 decided to accept an offer from the "Foundation for Sport and the Arts" and accepting the terms of the offer (not stated), the Treasurer was requested to action the response, the sum being offered was £2525 and the committee decided that the grant would be used to restore the green in particular to reform the ditches and S.Gunn and Fairns to be approached for estimates to do the work.

The treasurer also reported that CASE was expected to pay the club £1500 in the near future which would clear outstanding bills.

It was decided that the machinery shed should be included in the club's insurance policy.

A notice to visitors was to be displayed regarding conditions of play, a visitors book would be provided which visitors would need to sign and tickets taken on payment which must be shown on request.

The Royal Dornoch Golf Club were to provide a notice regarding car parking and display the same.

Mr. J.Mackay was asked to take on the duties of green convenor and instruct the green keeper Mr.Matheson of the clubs requirements.

It was decided that "The Fred Hayward Memorial Day" competition was to be confined to Dornoch Bowling Club members and would be played as a "Round Robin 2 Bowl Pairs".

It was also decided at this meeting that the painting of the windows etc. should be done immediately at which point this seemingly productive meeting closed.

## **1995**

The 1995 Annual General Meeting was opened by the President Mr. G.Manson who welcomed the 15 members present which included a new member Mr. G.Munro then remarked on the loss of a much respected and valued member Mrs. Beatie Hutton a member since 1974 who would be sadly missed.

The Treasurer Mr. E.Courtney gave a detailed report on the club finances.

The sarking and green cover still had to be finished on the new wall around the green, the members responsible for building the wall who put so much time and effort into the project thereby saving the club considerable expense were Messrs C.Macleod, J.Mackay, R.MacAskill, W.Reid and J.Henderson.

Subscriptions were to remain as for the previous year.

6 jacks were donated to the club by a regular and valued summer visitor Mr. Campbell Wilson.

Saturday evening rinks were favoured over afternoon rinks and although not stated a motion on having afternoon rinks must have been put to the members.

After the busy financial years proceeding 1995 especially 1994 it was a quiet year with no major or exceptional spends. Most notable financial element was a donation or donations of £311.

The membership in 1995 was 12 full members, 25 pensioner members and 7 temporary members producing £685 in fees. Visitors fees during 1995 was £386 this a considerable rise over the previous year.

## **1996**

The Annual General Meeting was attended by 13 members. The President Mr. G Manson welcomed all present and announced with regret the death of H.Munroe a valued member of long standing.

The Treasurer Mr. E.Courtney gave a detailed account of the Club finances. He reported that the Golf Club Shop were granting Temporary Memberships at a loss of £2 per member to the Club .It was decided that Temporary Memberships could only be obtained through the Club Treasurer.

**On proceeding to the election of officers the meeting failed to find any one willing to accept either the post of secretary or treasurer at which point the meeting was abandoned and a extraordinary general meeting was to be convened on the 10th April, all members to be notified of the meeting by post.**

### **Extraordinary General Meeting**

At the Meeting officers were elected and comprised of:-

President	G.Manson
Vice President	S.Campbell
Secretary	C.MacAskill
Treasurer	W.Duhigg
Comp Sec	B.Hellier

Subscriptions were reduced to £15 for Ordinary Members.

On a vote Saturday evenings were preferred to afternoons and would start at 6.30pm.

The Green Rangers were continue being J.Mackay and R.MacAskill.

The Meeting then closed.

### **Management Meeting 17 April 1996**



Present at the Meeting were G.Manson, S.Campbell, C.MacAskill, H.Steele, B.Hellier C.Cameron and E.Courtney.

Only 7 days after being elected as president G.Manson asked to be relieved of the post due to health reasons, this was accepted and it was agreed that E.Courtney take over as President.

Mr. E.Courtney and Mrs. S.Campbell would attend the S.B.A. Meeting as the Dornoch Bowling Club representatives at a meeting to be held on 19th April.

It was agreed that temporary member ship should have a limit of 4 games any increase requiring full membership, it was also agreed that temporary membership could only be obtained at the club and not through the Golf Club Shop.

Quotations were to be obtained for new bowling mats and if proceeding to purchase B. Hellier generously offered to pay for three.

The meeting closed.

A Management Meeting was held on 14th May at which skips were picked for the coming year and these were H.Steele, W.Mezzetti, S.Campbell and G.Manson with reserve skips J.Mackay, C.Cameron and E.Courtney.( Up until the present time ie. Year 2000 this was the last year that skips were selected to officiate on team selection or skip on rinks nights exclusively.)

It was agreed at this meeting that in future a deposit of £5 was to be applied for members receiving clubhouse keys.

Also agreed that one of the green convenors be co-opted onto the committee.

A second Committee of Management (CoM) meeting was held on 3 June 1996 at which it was recommended that Betty Ross should be nominated as a life member. This proposal was never put to the membership at an Annual General Meeting.

At this same meeting it was agreed to make a small gift (£50) to Mr. Robert Patterson (The greenkeeper at R.D.Golf Club) for helping with the green feeding and advice to J.Mackay and R.MacAskill and lending sprayers to the club.

Members in 1996 were 42 ordinary at £15 each, 3 junior members and 5 temporary members.

The main expenditure not considered normal was £294, the clubs contribution to entertaining Invergordon Bowling Club to a meal after the usual end of season fixture which in 1996 was held on Dornoch green.

Club funds carried over to 1997 was £1672 an increase over the year of some £362

## 1997

A Committee meeting was held on 6th March 1997 to make arrangements for the A.G.M. and items for the agenda.

It was decided to approach S.Robertson to accept nomination as Treasurer and in which case W.Duhigg the current treasurer would be willing to accept nomination as secretary.

Due to the unavailability of the secretary and treasurer at the A.G.M. the President agreed to submit both the treasurer's and secretary's reports.

It was agreed that Mrs. S.Campbell would receive nomination as president recommended by the outgoing committee.

It was proposed to recommend to the members that the annual subscription be raised by £5 and rink fees increased to £1 to generate sufficient funds to properly maintain the green.

It was also proposed to amend the Rule 6 of the constitution to allow the committee to fix the date of the A.G.M.

The A.G.M. took place on 2nd April 1997 with 21 members being present.

The president reported an increased membership, thanked the outgoing committee for their services.

The election of officers took place after the treasurer's report had been accepted and the new committee took office with Basil Hellier taking the chair as President. Other elected officers were Vice President S. Campbell, Treasurer W. Duhigg, Secretary C. Plaister and members G. Manson, J. Henderson, P. McGrath and C. Cameron.

The Immediate Past President Mr. E.Courtney commented that the reduction in annual subscriptions had obviously led to a loss of revenue at a time when insufficient spend on the green was being made and that the club must be willing to maintain the green and find the money so to do. It was also noted that other nearby clubs were increasing their subscriptions at this time and Dornoch should consider doing likewise.

After many proposals and counter proposals and amendments the following fee structure was agreed for the 1997 season:-

Full membership	£20
Temporary membership	£10 (Limited to 14 days)
Youth membership (under 16)	£5
Rink fee	£1
Junior rink fee	50p
Visitor day fee	£2

Competition fees were discussed but it was decided that these should be fixed by the CoM.

The Immediate Past President commented that the increases were in line with the Treasurers recommendations to increase revenue.

The president B. Hellier outlined problems in staffing maintenance work on the green. It was proposed by J. Mackay that a greenkeeper should be sought, if necessary by placing advertisements in appropriate publications. A general discussion took place and it was agreed that the Committee should resolve the problem.

Also discussed were possible improvements to the clubhouse which included re-planning locker provision, bar facilities, improvements to the toilet areas and kitchen and possible internal redecoration. It was agreed that the committee would consider what if any practical measures could be taken.

**It was proposed that Rule 6 of the Constitution and Rules should be amended by E.Courtney seconded by H. Steele such that:- The Annual General Meeting of the club not be held later than 31st March in any year.**

**The motion received unopposed support and Rule 6 was therefor amended in accordance with the motion.**

The meeting agreed that the lower junior age limit should remain at 12 years but that for younger more able players exception could be given by the Committee.

K. Milne commented that access to the green should be restricted to designated entry/ exit points to limit damage to the green and that the practice of players dropping bowls over the boundary wall onto the green should be stopped. The committee would look into ways and means of limiting such damage and consider making / changing local rules.

Peter Fleming had earlier in the evening presented the club with a beautifully painted club name board, E. Courtney proposed a vote of thanks to Peter which was enthusiastically supported by all members present.

Some discussion then took place on ways to boost income but nothing was resolved and the meeting closed at 20.30.

Membership fell slightly during 1997 but income from annual subscriptions rose due to the increase of £5 per annum for membership, members totalled 40 with 2 juniors and only 1 temporary member. Greenkeeping costs increased by some 54% in wages from £800 in 1996 to £1231 in 1997.

A Management Committee meeting was held on 8th April 1997 at which it was agreed that the club would employ L. Mackay as greenkeeper for the coming season at £4.50 per hour. Also agreed that grounds maintenance should where possible be carried out in the mornings as the rinks were little used at this time.

The format for the Cross Roads Care competition was discussed together with possible catering requirements, trophies were to be supplied by Cross Roads Care organisation, a round robin type contest was discussed.

At this meeting it was also decided that the visitors fees would be increased to £1 for adults and 50p for juniors, visitors would be welcome to attend rinks nights.

Also it was decided that “in house” competitions fees would be increased to £1 per person per event. G Manson agreed to have the notice board amended. (ie. the one at the top of the green)

The President proposed a vote of thanks to C. Cameron for her past services especially regarding raffles which all present whole heartedly supported.

It was agreed that on Saturday nights club skips would be H. Steele, G. Manson, W. Reid, S Campbell and W. Mezzetti.

At a Committee of Management meeting held on 28th July 1997 the President reported that he had been approached by Mrs. C MacAskill who expressed the wish to initiate a competition to commemorate to the memory of her late husband Rory. Her favoured format would be a triples with self selected teams ( i.e. not drawn as the Gough pairs or as on rinks nights). It was unanimously agreed that Mrs. Catriona MacAskill’s request should be granted and that the club would be honoured to compete for such a trophy to remember Rory a friend and member who had contributed so much to the club. Mrs. Mac Askill also requested that she be allowed to supply the trophies.

At this same meeting it was agreed that the dates for competitions should be fixed and announced at the AGMs and where possible on the same respective dates each year.

Reports indicated that the greenkeeper was doing a satisfactory job, the greenkeeper considered that additional advice should be sought from specialist grounds maintenance contractor(s) to which those present agreed.

There followed a financial update from the treasurer W. Duhigg which forecast a slightly reduced balance at year end due to the increased cost of a professional greenkeeper and purchase of a strimmer and seed/fertiliser applicator.

Discussion took place on the feasibility of installing a rope barrier around the green to ensure use of the designated entry and exit points, W.Duhigg agreed to investigate the likely costs involved.

A further Committee meeting was held on 4th August specifically to discuss the green, its condition and the maintenance it required.

Specific problems were requested by the secretary and the treasurer such that any remedial work could be targeted and so avoid unnecessary expenditure.

G. Mansion reported that the greenkeeper had recommended top dressing that three treatments a year were ideally required and that this work would assist in levelling the green, it was stated that top dressing was currently unavailable and that to provide it would cost in the order of £210 per annum.

The quality of grass cutting was questioned and the probable cause was considered to be that the mower blade was not set correctly one side being higher from the ground than the other.

W. Duhigg said he had arranged for a visit by McNab Sports Supplies to inspect the green and in short order report on the condition of the green and produce costed remedial measures.

Further discussion took place and a second specialist firm was to be asked to inspect the green and report and the green keeper asked to quote a price for:-

Scarifying, top dressing, hollow tyning, fertilising the green once per month, applying sulphate of iron to kill the moss and apply selective weed killers. All these reports and prices were to be available in 10 to 14 days.

It was reported that the cost of trophies this year would cost marginally more than in 1996.

The secretary proposed that entry fees for the MacAskill cup should be £4.50 per triple (£1.50 per person) and that this and subsequent years Mrs. C MacAskill should not be required to pay if she chose to play in one of the teams. Additionally that Mrs. C MacAskill would so long as she chose so to do present the trophies each year to the winners. This proposal was approved unanimously and so adopted.

The meeting closed thereafter.

13th September saw the committee reconvene to discuss the amount of work the club would authorise to be carried out by McNab now that their prices for individual tasks was to hand. W. Duhigg had agreed provisionally and booked McNab to attend the green on 23rd September, the only date MacNab had free. The following was agreed:-

W. Duhigg and C. Plaister would scarify the green using the club's machine prior to the contractors arrival.

McNab to hollow tyne and clear cores from green (this necessary for work continuity of operations). Apply top dressing and "Drag mat" as required the top dressing being obtained from R.D.G.C. sufficient to treat the green and provide a surplus of approximately 1 ton.

The green keeper will lay grass seed after core clearance in conjunction with McNab and apply fertilizer one week after McNab finishes work on the green as recommended by McNab.

Heavy duty black plastic was to be obtained (W. Duhigg) on which to place the top dressing material prior to use and the plastic sheeting then used to line the sanded ditch around the green as anti weed protection.

The Annual Dinner and Prize giving was then discussed, the R.D.G.C. could not oblige so it was decided to accept the offer from the Eagle Hotel this was agreed the date of the function to be 20th September.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

An emergency meeting was convened on 16th September 1997 attended by the President B. Hellier, Treasurer W. Duhigg, Secretary C. Plaister and at the request of the attending members L. Mackay the greenkeeper.

The meeting was called to discuss McNab's latest report to W. Duhigg.

McNab stated that they could not now attend until 1st October and also that a problem existed with the clubs requirements that they supply the top dressing material. McNab explained that with top dressing dumped in one position additional handling would be required to distribute the material over the green with possible damage to the green surface by the wheels of laden wheelbarrows. It was explained that the normal practice was to have the top dressing delivered in bags which were then carried to the green and distributed evenly over the green. They also stated that top soil supplied by them was guaranteed sterile i.e. weed and disease free having been treated with formaldehyde.

After discussion it was agreed that subject to obtaining a quorum of committee members in favour, that addition moneys would be allocated from club funds to purchase the top dressing from McNab.

McNab were informed accordingly and provisional acceptance of the date for and the extent of work was agreed subject to obtaining approval from a majority of the committee.

Later that same day C. Cameron, J. Henderson and G. Manson were contacted and agreed to the proposal already approved by messrs. Hellier, Plaister and Duhigg.

McNab was so informed and the work ordered and confirmed to be carried out on 1st October 1997.

## **1998**

A Committee meeting was called by the president and the secretary which was held on 4th March 1998 to fix the date and venue for the Annual General Meeting and also for the president to make a special announcement.

All the committee were present with the exception of S. Campbell who had sent her apology.

The President B. Hellier asked the Secretary to read out a letter he had prepared in which he tendered his resignation with immediate effect and asked the secretary to chair the remainder of the meeting. The reasons for resignation were stated as increasing health problems and reading between the lines, a lack of members willing to act as officers of the club and general lack of co-operation or as stated in his letter an “attitude of Laissez Faire”.

A copy of the letter was later sent to all members at the request of the immediate past president.

W. Duhigg proposed a vote of thanks to B. Hellier for all he has done for the club in the past and especially in 1996 as President, this was unanimously supported by all present who all expressed their own thanks.

G. Manson expressed concern over the condition of the green and an apparent lack of follow up work post the major maintenance carried out in October 1997. The general view was it was not too late to carry out the required works prior to the start of the new season. Particular areas of concern were moss growth and the green surrounds which due to the mild winter has seen much more growth than normal. B. Hellier commented that the green had been cut at too low a level and that bird damage was considerable. This was noted but the bird damage was much less severe than observed on the golf course and indicated that the anti bird treatment had been beneficial.

The A.G.M. was fixed for 25th March which met the requirements of the revised Rule 6 in that the A.G.M. must be held before 31st March in any year. All local members were to be advised by letter together with a copy of the past President’s letter.

The Secretary asked for items for the agenda of the A.G.M. of which several were forthcoming and these would be included in that agenda.

The A.G.M. was held on 25th March 1998 with 15 members attending and 10 members submitting apologies.

Matters arising from the minutes of the 1997 AGM :-

Due to a lack of interest no improvements to the clubhouse were considered. Even the cleanliness of the clubhouse was ignored except on the fewest of occasions otherwise the burden fell on Marilyn Plaister assisted by the Secretary, she kept the clubhouse swept and regularly cleaned the toilets hand basins etc. It was recommended that in the coming season a rota system be initiated to share the burden of these necessary and repetitive chores.

Access points were provided, the steps being provided free of charge by a friend of B. Hellier and members encouraged to use them.

Additional revenue was generated by the increase in rinks night and competition charges, a “49’er square draw” run by the Secretary and M. Plaister raised £24 and the newly formed

“Thursday Club” made a surplus of £32 which was passed to the Treasurer. Apart from the forgoing no other fund raising initiatives were seen.

Although individual copies had been sent to local members the Secretary read the Presidents letter of resignation.

The Secretary’s report included information on the employment of L. Mackay in accordance with proposals made at the 1997 AGM to employ a greenkeeper.

Also detailed were the increase in fees for rinks and competitions the £3 per pair entry fee for the Gough Pairs and the employment of McNab to carry out major maintenance immediately after the scarifying of the green by Messrs W. Duhigg and C. Plaister which took place in October 1997.

The newly introduced “MacAskill Club Triples” was a great success and the committee had agreed that Mrs.C. MacAskill would not be required to pay the entry fee to this competition in future years when competing and would so long as she wished make the presentation to the winners. Mrs C. MacAskill was one of the triple that won the trophy in its inaugural year.

Weatherproofing was carried out to the wooden fences, gates and machinery sheds by Messrs. :- W. Duhigg, J. Henderson, J. Mackay, E. Mackay and C. Plaister in the late Autumn of 1997.

#### Treasurers Report.

There were 43 members this year compared with 50 in 1997 but due to the increased annual subscriptions having been raised the income from this source increased by £125.

Receipts from visitors increased by about 20%. Rinks income has more than doubled the increase in rink fees having been raised to £1 from 50p in preceding years and the revenue from raffles was up by some 50%.

Donations to the club have increased considerably and although the club benefactors were reluctant to be named thanks must be tendered to Messrs. Steele, Kay and Hellier.

Expenditure on the green in 1997 was some £2500 as against £700 in the preceding year. The treasurer warned that similar spends could not be afforded on current income levels and consideration should be given to introducing new ideas and actions to increase the funds. Clubhouse maintenance increased by £250 due to retrospective water rates being demanded by the new water authority for the past two years.

The treasurer continued that he considered that too much was being spent on trophies and cheaper alternatives should be considered.



The balance reduced markedly at the end of 1997 to less than half that held at the end of 1996 and payments were continuing to be made to the greenkeeper and further bills had been received since the “income and expenditure” balance had been drawn up.

The election of officers item of the agenda as at nearly all previous AGM’s was difficult. The President had already resigned and the Vice President resigned for domestic reasons. The chair asked for volunteers and or nominations which was greeted by a deafening silence!

After some discussion it was proposed that C. Plaister accept the Presidents role. C. Plaister stated that he would consider accepting the post and continue as Secretary so long as the club supported him and shared some of the responsibility of running the club.

C. Plaister then requested that W. Duhigg give consideration to continuing as Treasurer, he agreed to this proposal and agreed to act as Competition Secretary subject to the support from members as requested by C. Plaister was forthcoming. Both stated that if the requested support was not given that they would immediately resign.

After proposals and secondment and agreement of members the following members were elected to form the committee:-

President/Secretary	C. Plaister
Vice President	G. Manson
Treasurer	W. Duhigg
Members	J. Henderson K. Martin C. Cameron W. Reid

C. Plaister would act as “Open Competition Secretary” until further notice.

The maintenance of the green could not continue by employing a green keeper without bankrupting the club in two years according to the treasurer. The committee has approached the R.D.G.C. seeking assistance with green maintenance and their response was awaited. Another possibility was for a member or members who are willing for a fixed annual sum to maintain the green.

A motion was put to members that only one rinks night should be subject to the “Points System” and the Monthly Medal Shield be awarded to the winner over the season. The second rinks being used for coaching or practice and a much less formal occasion than a “Points” rinks night. After discussion it was agreed that Tuesday evenings only would be run as a Points rink by a majority of members.

### **Sunday play restrictions.**

A motion was proposed that all restrictions on Sunday play be withdrawn.

The motion was put to the membership and approved by a large majority such that all restrictions on Sunday play are null and void.

The treasurer highlighted the high cost of both providing and then engraving trophies the matter was discussed by members in lively fashion. The President proposed that as the club pairs championship trophy was now fully engraved that the “Fred Hayward” competition should count as the pairs championship, this would cut costs and reduce the number of competitions in what is a crowded season.. The strong opposition from the floor and the suggestion was dropped like a hot brick. Another suggestion put forward was to cease the practice of presenting “Runners Up” prizes, this idea met a mixed reaction and the committee was to decide the whole matter of individual prizes and make decisions for the coming season.

At the request of M. Plaister the committee agreed to advertise rink nights in various locations throughout the town in the hope of attracting both new members and visitors.

Subscriptions were largely to remain as for previous years the exceptions being that on a proposal put by W. Duhigg and adopted by a majority of members Juniors would not pay any annual or rink night fees.

Thursday afternoon rinks would continue to be free to members.

Proposed by W. Duhigg and seconded by C. Plaister and receiving members support it was agreed that visitors day fee would increase to £2 and having paid this would also include playing in the evening rinks if falling on the day the ticket was valid. It was also commented that this would make membership more worthwhile. Temporary membership was to remain at £10 per 14 days and club competition fees at £1 but would be reviewed by the committee.

It was proposed that a “Suggestion Scheme” be introduced. The President commented that suggestions were always welcomed but that suggestions involving additional tasks on the committee should also see the proposer becoming practically involved themselves.

The Treasurer proposed that the greenkeeper be given one months notice and after discussion of both the physical and financial implications it was reluctantly agreed by all that such notice be served, appreciation of the greenkeepers work was muted during the aforementioned discussions. Notice was agreed should be served as soon as possible.

It was at this point that S. Campbell produced a trophy presented by W. Mackay to the Dornoch Bowling Club to be known as the ‘**James (Jimmert) Mackay Cup**’ to commemorate Jimmy’s long membership and association with D.B.C. and other local clubs. It was requested that the cup should be presented to the winners of an “Open” competition involving members of Golspie and Brora Clubs. It was further requested that the said competition should **not** be held on a Sunday. The meeting decided that the competition should be of a “rinks” format such that the maximum numbers of players could be involved. The competition was recommended to be held quite early in the season.

The meeting closed at 20.50hrs.

A Committee meeting was held on 1st April 1998. It was reported that the greenkeeper from Royal Dornoch Golf Club had visited the green in company of G. Manson and W. Duhigg and a provisional inspection made of the green and the club ground maintenance machinery. The RDGC greenkeeper said he would prepare a report on requirements for the green and that further negotiations would be needed to determine if and how the RDGC could assist with green maintenance. At this point it was thought that the bowling club would certainly be required to maintain the surrounds.

Samples of engraved glasses were exhibited and it was agreed that they would make good trophies. The type of glasses and the motif were discussed and agreed, the winners would receive wine glasses or whiskey tumblers engraved with the Dornoch coat of arms with "Dornoch Bowling Club" also engraved around the coat of arms. All "Runners Up" would receive a "Tot" glass similarly engraved.

The cost of the trophies was determined and it was reluctantly decided that competition entry fees would have to be increased to make each competition self supporting.

The President proposed that:-

In House Competitions.....	£1.50
Open Competitions.....	£2.00

The motion was seconded by J. Henderson and approved by 6 in favour with one abstention.

An amendment was made and approved that junior members would pay 50% of the adult fee i.e. 75p for "In House" competitions.

The details for the James Mackay Rinks were made with the competition to be held on 20th June the format being an "Open" of self selected rinks opponents drawn by rinked marked score cards and the winners being the rink winning by the greatest number of shots.

W. Duhigg showed the committee a notice to advertise the opening day also showing club membership fee and casual rink fees, the format was agreed and several members agreed to try and have the notices displayed at various places throughout the town and beyond.

W. Duhigg had been approached by The Burghfield House Hotel to see if the bowling club would entertain visitors from Zetel the German town twinned with Sutherland. The committee considered this a worthy task and approved unreservedly.

The Invergordon visit was discussed and it was decided that The Burghfield House Hotel would be approached to see if accommodation could be reached on menu and price for after match hospitality, W. Duhigg volunteered to approach the hotel and negotiate on behalf of the DBC.

G. Manson brought up the need for the external decoration of the clubhouse. W. Duhigg said that paint bought last year was available and K. Martin said he would do the painting and have it finished before the start of the season.

W. Duhigg reported that the greenkeeper had been given notice on 30th March which would expire on 30th April. The greenkeeper had given assurances that the green would be in order for opening day 2nd May. RDGC had said they would assist with green maintenance during May to assess the actual requirements and then decide what assistance could be rendered in the long term. The meeting closed.

A meeting was called by the President and Treasurer and held on 14th May to discuss the possibility of running a "Grand Draw".

Those attending were C. Plaister, W. Duhigg, K. Martin and J. Henderson. With co-opted members J. Martin and M. Plaister.

It was agreed that any such draw would necessitate tickets being sold throughout the locality to make the venture viable.

The costs involved in promoting such a draw were discussed e.g. printing costs, prizes etc. were assessed to be in the order of £100. It was decided that sponsors would be required to donate prizes and those present elected to approach various organisations for sponsorship. Those agreeing to donate prizes were:-

The Burghfield House Hotel  
Royal Dornoch Golf Club  
Central Garage Dornoch  
Grannie's Heilan' Hame  
"One Up Carvery"  
City Link Coaches  
The Dornoch Bookshop  
Dornoch Inn  
Scotch Larder  
Castle Hotel  
Country Images  
Gordon Davidson  
Grants Store  
And others

The legal requirements to hold such a draw were investigated by C. Plaister.

The proposed date for the draw was to be the same as the annual dinner and prize giving. W. Duhigg was asked to arrange for a buffet meal at the Burghfield House Hotel.

M. Plaister proposed a fete be organised, the committee agreed it was a feasible idea and M75. Plaister was asked to try and form a Fete Committee and organise the event. J. Henderson

said that if the event was held in mid July he could supply garden produce for a stall. (The fete never came to fruition)

J. Henderson said the Vice President G. Manson had volunteered to sell tickets for the draw at the Tain Co-op if the draw went ahead. This was thought to be a good idea but that at least six people would be needed so that shifts could be worked of say 1 to one and a half hour stints.

The meeting closed.

The President called a Committee meeting for Sunday 30th August, Those present were C. Plaister, W. Duhigg, G. Manson, W. Reid, K. Martin, C. Cameron & J. Henderson.

The Grand Draw was discussed and the President said that all the sponsors prizes or prize vouchers should be secured, the Burghfield House Hotel voucher and the bottle of whiskey donated by the Castle Hotel were handed over at the meeting.

The secretary/president raised the question of posters and was assured that they were posted around the town, also requested was that draw ticket counterfoils and cash for tickets sold should be handed in so the record of ticket issues could be updated. It was pointed out that time was running out and that every effort should be made to sell as many tickets as possible.

The idea of approaching Tain Co-op seeking permission to sell tickets in their entrance was raised and K. Martin agreed to approach the manager for his approval.

W. Duhigg asked if the whereabouts of a drum suitable to use for the draw was known and K. Martin said he would investigate.

It was agreed that no raffle would be held on the Invergordon visit whose members would be encouraged to purchase draw tickets instead.

The Treasure asked to give an end of year forecast of the balance to be carried into 1999 estimated that it would be in the order of £1500 to £1700.

Based on the Treasurers forecast it was agreed that £900 to £1100 was to be made available for the end of season green maintenance (or other contractor) with out further reference to the committee. G. Manson raised the percieved problem with the near (to the Clubhouse) right hand corner of the green which he considered needed to be returfed. This was agreed subject to the contractors recommendation.

Selection of Dornoch rinks to play for Sutherland in the match with Caithness was raised with the President stating that ad hoc and seemingly casual way of selection should cease and a judgement made as to the players best suited to represent the county.

After some lively discussion it became apparent that any selection board would have difficulty in agreeing so for this year the President would select the teams and be judged on results.

It was confirmed that the Annual Dinner and Prize Giving arrangements were in order with the Burghfield House Hotel and W. Duhigg was to liaise re layout and provision of a table for prize giving purposes would be made.

The attendance was expected to be in the order of 60 persons and the cost £6.50 per head. The committee agreed that the club would subsidise the event by paying for the Invergordon guests (24 to 30 but yet to be confirmed). G. Manson offered to provide a bottle of whiskey for welcome drinks and a further two bottles being sought from donors and if not forthcoming being purchased by the club together with a good sherry for those who preferred it.

It was agreed that the match would start at 2.00pm and a 20 to 30 minute break after 8 ends then 8 ends after the break it could be assumed that arrival at the Burghfield House Hotel would be at about 4.45 pm. It was agreed that the Grand Draw would take place immediately after the dinner with the prize giving following on.

The meeting then approved dates for the following seasons competitions. Dates were also agreed to hold preliminary and first rounds of the triples and pairs.

Sam Kay offered to donate £20 to a Juniors Members Fund if matched by other members donations. W. Duhigg offered to start it off with a pledge of £2. The Secretary would action a pledge list to see if the initial offer can be accepted. The fund would be used for junior equipment (shoes bowls etc.) transport or competition entry fees. The committee should approve any use of the fund or possibly form a junior section sub committee.

The meeting then closed.

## **1999**

A management committee meeting took place on 3rd March 1999 at which the President/Secretary and Treasurers reports were read and it was agreed copies of each should be sent to members together with the notice of and AGM agenda.

C. Cameron and J. Henderson advised that they would be unavailable to serve on the committee in the coming season.

W. Duhigg, W. Reid, C. Plaister, G. Manson and K. Martin agreed if selected to serve on the committee, W. Duhigg added that he would not however take on the Treasurers post but would be willing to act as green convenor and C. Plaister said that he did not wish to carry out the duties of two posts.

It was confirmed that dates for the triples and pairs first and second rounds had been selected.

The President proposed that Rule 4 of the constitution should be amended such that the requirement to have membership applicants complete a written application to be posted in the clubhouse for two weeks prior to committee consideration should be abandoned and be considered

by a quorum of committee members and an instant decision made. Also that Rule 8 be amended such that the club should have a committee of management comprising President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer plus 3 members (currently 4). That 4 members should form a quorum (currently 6) one at least of which must be an office holder.

The amendments were supported by the committee and will be put to the members at the AGM.

G. Manson raised the question of the status of Junior members since they paid no annual subscription at present. A discussion took place and it was decided to raise the matter at the A.G.M. under the agenda item dealing with subscriptions.

The meeting closed

(A post meeting note was entered in the Secretary's minute book quoting Rule 4a of the constitution, this Rule states "A new ordinary member or junior member, on admission shall be notified by the Secretary, whereupon his/her entry fee and annual subscription shall at once become due and on payment he/she will be held to have signified his/her submission to the rules and bye laws of the club" The forgoing would indicate that a nominal subscription is required but can be of any amount.)

The Annual General Meeting of 1999 took place on 17th March 1999 in the Dornoch Bowling Club clubhouse.

23 members attended and apologies were received from 4 members.

A copy of both the Secretary/President's report and that of the Treasurer are included which give a picture of the 1999 season and some indication of the proposals for 2000.

Comments were invited on matters arising from the minutes of the 1998 AGM and the reports which were sent out with the AGM agenda well before the meeting. The only query was raised by Mr E. Courtney regarding the annual dinner held at the end of the 1998 season and the extent that the club subsidised the event. The Treasurer commented that no club members had been subsidised all paying for their own meals but that the club had paid for all costs of our Invergordon guests which included paying for their meals, mid match hospitality which was alcoholic beverages, tea and light refreshments and at the dinner wine for both guests and club members.

The President proposed changes to the Rules and Constitution as follows:-

Rule 4 Proposed that Rule 4b and 4d be amended by removing all reference to formal applications for membership being in writing and display of them in the clubhouse prior to consideration for granting membership.

Past president E. Courtney said that the changes should not be made as he considered that the procedure as it stood was required in the constitution to enable the club to qualify for grants. Accepting the advice C. Plaister withdrew his proposal and no change would be made to Rule 4.

Rule 8 Committee of Management

The President C. Plaister proposed changes to Rule 8 previously discussed and recommended in the committee meeting of 3rd March 1999.

The proposed changes were that the committee should comprise:-

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

And 3 Members (Reduced from 4)

and that a Quorum should be reduced from 6 to 4.

Mr. Courtney asked why the changes were considered necessary, the response from the President was that due to the difficulty of persuading members to take office, for example 1998 where the President also had to act as Secretary and with only 7 serving on the committee it was almost impossible to ensure a quorum of six if and when required. It was felt that the changes would assist the efficient running of the club.

The proposal was seconded by W. Duhigg and put to members where 17 of those present supported the proposal giving it a simple majority and so the proposal was accepted and adopted such that the committee would be a maximum of 7(seven) members and a Quorum requiring a minimum of 4 (four) committee members.

( Note:- All members present were offered copies of the Constitution and Rules of the club)

Next came the Election of Officers for Year 2000.

Prior to the election the President C. Plaister expressed his concern about members not being willing to take office and said the extreme burden placed on those that do could result in difficulties in the future.

The members were then requested to put forward nominations or volunteer for the following posts:-

#### President

No volunteers or nominations were made initially, S. Campbell was approached but refused to be considered.

B. Hellier proposed the immediate past president. C. Plaister said he would serve but this would certainly be the last year he would accept office. L. Duhigg seconded the proposal of B. Hellier and C. Plaister was elected unopposed.

#### Vice President

Nominations were invited and G. Manson was proposed by S. Campbell and seconded by C. MacAskill and elected unopposed.



### Secretary

Several nominations were made but the members concerned refused to be considered for the post for various reasons.

An impasse was reached and the President elect said that he would exceptionally continue to carry out both duties of President and Secretary and that he also on the clubs behalf held the posts of Secretary and Treasurer of the Sutherland Bowling Association. The burden was intense and once again stated that he would not accept any office in the club next year. C. Plaister was approved as Secretary unopposed.

### Treasurer

W. Duhigg the immediate past Treasurer said he would not consider carrying on in the post, he had carried out the duties for a considerable number of years and considered a change was both in his and the clubs interest.

Nominations were sought and J. Bonthron was suggested but he refused to be considered.

The complete lack of enthusiasm by members to accept office was again demonstrated.

L. Duhigg broke the deadlock and commented that he would have considered the post but that due to his frequent absences would be unable to do the collections of fees or subscriptions himself.

After discussion it was agreed that the Treasurers job should not necessarily include the collection of moneys but rather the recording, accounting and banking elements and that the cashier functions could be carried out by club committee members or ordinary members so long as supporting paperwork was submitted with moneys to the Treasurer.

L. Duhigg said that if the procedures as above were implemented he would be willing to accept the post.

L. Duhigg was then proposed by C. Plaister and seconded by J. Henderson.

L. Duhigg was elected Treasurer unopposed.

### 3 Members

Nominations or volunteers were sought but once again the only response was a deafening silence.

The President after a substantial pause said that the situation had been foreseen and that at the committee meeting of 3rd March W. Duhigg, W. Reid and K. Martin had agreed to continue to serve on the committee if required and elected. All three were elected unopposed.

W. Duhigg offered to act as Green Convenor. W. Reid offered to act as House Member.

Members were told that both the Green convenor and house members would need every support and assistance in carrying out the functions of these posts and this was made clear to members.

### Subscriptions

The maintenance of fees and annual subscriptions at the same level as for 1998 was unanimously approved.

Fees for juniors was raised, the President said he had consulted the Constitution and Rules and that under Rule 4e “new members” it states that “... the payment of the annual subscription will be held to have signified his/her submission to the rules and bye-laws of the club”.

Although Rule 5 “Subscriptions” subsequent to the initial Annual Subscription paid by New Members under Rule 4e does not specifically say, it is considered that the same spirit is implied and that by payment of the annual subscription signifies continuance in obeying the rules and bye-laws of the club, therefore juniors should pay something.

The President proposed that the annual subscription for a Junior member should be £1

The recommendation was seconded by W. Duhigg and received a majority in favour of the proposal.

The question of juniors being allowed to enter competitions was raised and the President commented that providing the junior had paid the annual subscription due the acceptance of entries from juniors would be vested in the committee who would decide if the said junior was of acceptable ability to compete.

### Fees for 1999

Member Annual Subscription	£20
Temporary Member (14 day maximum)	£10
Junior member	£1
Rinks fee	£1
Junior rinks fee	Free
In House Competitions	£1.50
In House Competitions Juniors	£ 0.75
Open Competitions	£2.00

### Rinks

Some members had indicated that Saturday rinks may be preferred on a afternoon rather than in the evening.

It was pointed out that a number of competitions take place on Saturday afternoons both club and Sutherland County (SBA) and therefore at least some rinks would need to be played in the evenings.

The matter was put to members and by a considerable majority voted for rinks where possible to be held on Saturday afternoons.

Starting times for rinks was agreed as:-

1st May to 31st August	7.00pm
1st September to 15th September	6.30pm
15th September to seasons close	6.00pm
All afternoon rinks	2.00pm

#### Club Triples League

C. Plaister recommended consideration be given to having a triples league on Wednesday evenings with each team having a panel of at least five club members from which to select a triple for each match.

A six team league would enable a ten (10) match season and a five team league eight (8) match season.

The members present indicated a positive attitude so the secretary agreed to place a poster on the notice board so teams could be registered to see if the proposal was viable.

The league would need to set up it's own small governing body to decide on such things as a match fee, trophies etc. and a secretary to keep league tables up to date and the league would need to be self supporting.

#### Club Competition Trophies

The members were asked to comment on last years engraved glasses as trophies and if the same should be adopted for 1999. A vote was taken and a large majority supported continuing having glasses as trophies.

#### Team Selection

The president said that teams representing the club should be picked on merit and that members selected should make every effort to play. This included teams for the Craikaig League and Inter County competitions.

#### Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils Scottish (S.A.L.S.C.) over 50's Competition Year

#### 2003

The Secretary read two letters from the local Highland Sports Council requesting the club's agreement to host part of the over 50's S.A.L.S.C. Bowls competition.

The secretary advised the Sports Council that a decision could only be made by the membership at the AGM.

A small discussion ensued but it was generally agreed that we should accept the proposal.

The proposal to accept was made by W. Duhigg and seconded by D. Macleod and accepted by a large majority.

The Secretary would advise the Sports Council in due course.

Any Other Business

a) Sale of large unused roller

The President said that last year an opportunity had arisen to sell the very large roller which is unused and occupying a large space in one of the maintenance sheds.

Under Rule 18 the direction of the full membership is required to sell club property and such authority was now being sought..

A vote was taken and it approved the sale of the said roller if a buyer could be found.

b) Rink opening date

C.Plaister said that a suitable date would either be Saturday 1st May or Sunday 2nd May.

It was pointed out that either or both Golspie and Brora would probably open on Saturday so that by opening on Sunday Dornoch members would be able to attend the Golspie or Brora opening and their members would be able to attend ours.

After some discussion L. Duhigg proposed the Sunday 2nd May be opening day and this was seconded by W. Duhigg. A majority voted in favour of the proposal so opening day will be Sunday 2nd May at 2.pm.

It was also agreed that Chrissie Cameron would open the rinks by bowling the first bowl, she was due to do so last season but due to ill health was unable so to do.

c) Fixed dates for first rounds of club triples and pairs competitions

The President proposed that due to past difficulties with keeping club championship fixtures to time the first rounds of multi player teams should be played on set days. It was suggested that this year:-

    Triples to be played on 19th June

    Pairs to be played on 3rd July

After a lively debate the proposal was rejected by the members.

d) Fred Hayward Memorial Day Cup

Mr. E. Courtney objected to the form that the above cup was annotated in the "Proposed Competition Dates" published with the AGM agenda and Secretary's and Treasurer's reports i.e. "Fred Hayward 2 Bowl"

The Secretary apologised if the entry had offended Mr. Courtney's sensibilities but that no disrespect had been intended to Mr. Hayward or anyone else.

Mr. Courtney then said that the proposed date was incorrect and that the date for the trophy was fixed for the last Saturday in July. The Secretary said the date was selected to give some interval greater than 4 days from the Gough Pairs but was quite willing and indeed would change it to 31st July 1999.

In a Post Meeting note the secretary states that the secretary's minute book had been read from the date of presentation of the "Fred Hayward Memorial Day Cup" by Mrs. Hayward in 1993.

In 1993 the trophy was played for on 24th July (CoM meeting of 13th May)

The "Fred Hayward Memorial Day Cup" was to be confined to Dornoch Club Members (CoM meeting 10th May 1994 and the format would be a round robin 2 bowl pairs).

The only other reference to the Cup was at the CoM meeting of 17th April 1996 when several competitions had FIXED dates for 1996 i.e. "Fred Hayward Trophy" 27 July 1996.

In none of the references above or elsewhere in the minutes is the date of the said trophy "Fixed" for the last Saturday in July.

However for this year 1999 the "Fred Hayward Memorial Day Cup" would be competed for on 31st July a change to the originally proposed date.

e) M. Plaister proposed that for competitions requiring team entries ( self selected) where only skips names are required on entry sheets a list a place should be available where players can append their names if seeking a game but not yet committed so that teams can possibly be formed from such players or skips seeking addition players are aware of who wishes to play.

The Secretary said he would see that such entry lists had provision for such a scheme.

f) Competition Rules

J. Martin asked for clarification in the following situation:-

A match has been arranged but one player decides that for reason of weather or other reason wishes to call the match off and postpone it to another date.

It was agreed that in such a case the player willing and able to play will be given a "Walk Over" and proceed to the next round or in the case of final win the competition .

There being no other business the AGM was closed at 8.50pm.

A meeting of the committee was called by the president which was held in August and was attended by C. Plaister, L. Duhigg, W. Duhigg and G. Manson to discuss possible improvements to the clubhouse. Previous ad hoc discussions had led to estimates being received from:-

Jim McCue (Plumbers & Heating)

A) For provision of hot water supplies to both ladies and gentlemen's toilets and the kitchen by 2 x 3kW Redwing handwash heaters in the toilets and 1 x 3kW redwing 7ltr. storage heater in the kitchen.

B) oil fired central heating in the whole clubhouse.

The Secretary said he had obtained information on application for grants from "Awards for All"

Discussion ensued on what was really required and it was agreed by all present that with or without a grant the hot water provision should go ahead.

Heating for the clubhouse proved more difficult to justify and it was noted that if heating was installed double glazing was desirable. Also discussed was the possibility of enclosing the verandah with glazing and providing "French Doors" at the entrance. W. Duhigg agreed to obtain estimates.

Post meeting note It was generally agreed after reflection by a majority of the committee that heating could not be justified due to the likely use being small and the probable prohibitive cost of maintaining frost protection for a "Wet system". By a vote taken of the committee being contacted by phone it was agreed that heating the clubhouse would now not be considered.

No further action would be taken until a price was obtained for enclosing the verandah.

A further committee meeting was held on 26th November 1999 called by the president having given due notice to all committee members.

Members attending were :- C.Plaister, L. Duhigg, W. Duhigg and W. Reid.

The estimates had been received from the contractors for both the hot water provision for the toilets and kitchen and for the enclosing of the verandah.

The president then suggested consideration should be given to moving the current fence line from the clubhouse to the wall along the access road to a position back to the rear of the clubhouse and fencing parallel to the existing fence line alongside the access roadway then turning through approx. 90 degrees to join the wall to form a grassed enclosure.. The area could then have shrub beds or flower beds along the periphery and the remaining area used for extra seating or as a functional area for sales etc.

All agreed and a costing was to be obtained and included in the request for a grant together with hot water provision and enclosing the verandah. which the secretary would submit to "Grants for All".

W. Duhigg said that planning permission from the lessor would be needed prior to the work being carried out but such application it was agreed should be made only when the funding was available.

#### Life Membership

The secretary said that in researching the club secretary's minute books he had found several "Life Memberships" had been granted but no record of these was readily available to club members. It was agreed by all present that a suitable board should be obtained and hung in the clubhouse bearing the names of past and present life members.

It was proposed that two names be put forward to the AGM for consideration for life membership and this was agreed by all present .

#### Organisation of Club Rinks nights/ activities

The secretary commented that the duties to run the club should be distributed to a greater number of members.

The proposal was that :-

Saturday and Tuesday Rinks should have a Rinks Captain for each day who would organise the rinks, list members present (for Treasurers records) and collect rink fees to be passed on to the treasurer. These Captains to enlist the help of other members in advance if possible to sell raffle tickets and collect the money for same. The Captains and their helpers should arrive at the clubhouse at least 20 minutes before rink starting times.

The Wednesday League would require a secretary to collect match fees and update the "League Table" immediately after matches.

The Secretary said he was willing to continue to run the Thursday afternoon rinks whether or not being a committee member.

Also required in addition to the club general secretary was a "Competition Secretary" to oversee/organise all club and open competitions, this should be a committee post.

After discussion it was agreed the rinks Captains need not necessarily be committee members.

All the above was approved and would be put to the members at the AGM in the hope of filling the posts.

#### Order of agenda items at the AGM :-

It was agreed that the current committee recommendations would be discussed and voted on by the members at the AGM prior to the "Election of Officers" for the coming year.

The secretary referred back to the previous item regarding the application for a grant for club improvements regarding the proposed clubs contribution. After a short discussion it was decided that £250 should be made available.

The treasurer produced a provisional summary of the club's accounts which anticipated an end of year balance of a little in excess of £2500.

There being no further agenda points it was agreed that the AGM should be held on a Wednesday in mid March which the Secretary could decide.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

## **2000**

The AGM was held on Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30 in the Bowling Club Clubhouse.

Present were :-

Mrs. J. Martin, Mrs. M. Plaister, Mrs. A. Hush, R. Bremner, S. Ross,  
Mrs. S. Campbell, W. Reid, D. Macleod, J. Bon throne, C. Macleod, B. Wilson, D.  
Brennan, W. Duhigg, Mrs. J. Mezzetti, W. Mezzetti, Mrs. A. Hellier, G. Cameron,  
Mrs. C. MacAskill and C. Plaister.

Apologies

A. Green, Mrs. M. Green, L. Duhigg, Mrs. J. Duhigg, G. Manson,  
Mrs. C. Cameron, E. Courtney, Mrs. E. Courtney and K. Martin.

There were no matters arising from the AGM 1999 minutes.

Secretary's Report

The comments about "in house" knockout competitions and the difficulties of members working unsocial hours prompted discussion. The fact that problems with playing ties on time continued year after year was re-emphasised by the chair. A question was asked "Are in-house competitions necessary?" or would some other format be acceptable. The question remained unanswered.

It was left to the new committee to decide how the competitions would be run.

Treasurer's Report

The annual balance sheet includes the 1998 figures for comparison was in error in that the 1998 bank interest was shown as nil when in fact was £40, attention being drawn to this by the former treasurer W. Duhigg. The totals were correct so it was assumed that the £40 was included under the wrong heading. The 1999 accounts were audited by Mr. R. Bruce (an independent



auditor) and acceptance of the accounts was proposed by C. Plaister and seconded by W. Duhigg and accepted by the meeting.

The balance of club funds increased by £733 to a total of £2618.

The treasurer recommended that fees remain unchanged for year 2000. Put to the vote this was agreed.

#### Green Matters

Discussion took place as to members assisting with maintaining the green, surrounds etc.

W. Duhigg suggested that set mornings such as e.g. 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday mornings of each month be club maintenance mornings and set so members could arrange to help.

C. Macleod offered to cut the surrounds and after discussion this was accepted. No other arrangements were made at this time.

#### Clubhouse Matters

C. Plaister told the meeting that the newly laid green carpet laid in the clubhouse was a gift from the "Dornoch Seniors Indoor Bowling Club" the carpet not being suitable for indoor bowling and surplus to requirements. The carpet had been laid by C. Plaister with assistance of W. Duhigg.

L. Duhigg offered a carpet vacuum cleaner and a similar offer was made by B. Hellier.

The improvements to the clubhouse subject to approval of the applied for grant were outlined to members.

Rinks and other competitions:- Tuesday rinks would continue as in previous years and a trophy awarded to the member gaining most points over the season.( 3 pts. for a win 2 pts for a peels match and 1 point for a loss and attendance).

The chair proposed that Rinks on a Saturday should revert to the evening to enable members to enter other club open competitions and attend rinks as well. This was put to the members and a majority supported the change.

C. Plaister informed the meeting that he was willing to continue to organise the "Thursday Club" rinks which was greeted enthusiastically.

The Wednesday Triples League would continue and hopefully seven (7) teams would compete this year one more than last year.

The organising of the club in house and open competitions was to be left to the committee.

The meeting was asked to vote on the suitability of the glasses presented to competition winners and runners up over the last few years continuing to be the prizes in the coming year and the majority agreed.

### Rule change

The president proposed that **RULE 18** of the club's "Rules and Constitution" should be amended such that the paragraph:-

"In the unlikely event.....covenanted for the purpose" should be deleted and the following added :-

### **Club assets**

No profit or surpluses will at any time be distributed to Members and if upon the winding up or dissolution of the Club there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any heritable property whatsoever, the same shall be given or transferred to some organisation or organisations having objects similar to the objects of the Club, such organisation or organisations to be determined by members of the Club by resolution passed at a General Meeting at or before the time of the dissolution and insofar as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to some charitable organisation.

All profits and surpluses generated by the Club activities shall be devoted to maintenance or improvement of the Club facilities."

W. Duhigg raised the question as to the liabilities of members should the Club cease with debts. C. Plaister said he didn't know but considered the possibility remote.

The proposal was being made to meet requirements of bodies awarding grants.

The proposal was put to the meeting and approved by a majority.

### **Life Membership**

C. Plaister proposed that Life Membership be granted to two long serving members who have served as officers on very many occasions and been keen loyal and active members, deserving of the proposed honour, the members being:-

Mr. D. Macdonald and Mr. H. Steele

The proposal was put to the meeting and approved unanimously

### **Election of officers**

After requests for volunteers to be considered for the secretary's post, and then for any post which did not receive a constructive response, the chairman asked for nominations for Treasurer. The deafening silence was broken by W. Duhigg who said that the immediate past Treasurer would continue on the same basis as last year (i.e. Not involved with actually doing a cashiers job ). On that basis L. Duhigg was proposed as treasurer by D. Brennan and seconded by W. Reid and approved by the meeting.

D. Macleod was prevailed upon to accept the post of Vice President and was proposed for the post by W. Reid and seconded by R. Bremner and duly elected.

No further progress was made and the Chair said there would be a five minute interval which members should use to discuss the way forward, if no progress was made the meeting would be closed and reconvened in one weeks time which the chair would not attend.

On resumption of the meeting W. Duhigg offered to take a post if relieved of the green convenors responsibilities. C. Macleod after discussion with W. Duhigg agreed to accept the green convenors post. It was then proposed that C. Macleod become a committee member by W. Reid seconded by D. Brennan and duly approved by the membership.

W. Duhigg was proposed as secretary by C. Plaister and seconded by S. Campbell and duly elected by a majority.

C. Plaister was proposed by W. Duhigg as President and seconded by C. MacAskill and was elected by a majority.

Two further committee members were elected, M. Plaister proposed by C. Plaister and seconded by W. Reid, and W. Mezzetti proposed by S. Campbell and seconded by M. Plaister.

It was then, as recommended at the pre AGM Management Committee meeting put that two "Rinks Captains" should be appointed to run rinks nights on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Bob Wilson volunteered to cover one night and with a little prompting the Vice President elect D. Macleod agreed to be the second official. The meeting approved the selection and captains would work together to carry out the functions of:-

- Listing Members attending rinks
- Collect fees
- Organise the raffle
  - Provide an account of the fees and raffle proceeds and as soon as possible pass to the Treasurer
- Select rink skips for the night
- Arrange the draw for rinks from remaining members (discs)

#### **A.O.B**

A) The question was raised as to a competition secretary for "in house" competitions. It was decided that this would be left to the committee to arrange.

B) The Secretary elect proposed that if the AGM minutes were made available in the clubhouse over the season the minutes need not be read out at the next AGM. Members could raise matters arising as necessary by pre reading the minutes and bringing only those matters of concern to the attention of the meeting. This proposal was put to the meeting and approved by a majority vote.