

Forward : Junior Vice President Jack K. Stephen who offered his services to the present Committee of the Angus Bowling Association as researcher of the Association's History had a very difficult task indeed. This was mainly owing to the lack of documentation from the period prior to the first Annual General

Meeting in March 1951, until December 1965 when the minutes were re-established by Mr. F.G. Russell of Lochee Bowling Club when he was Association Secretary. No explanation can be found as to why fourteen years of minutes were missing and this is still a mystery today.

THE ANGUS BOWLING ASSOCIATION'S 50TH. ANNIVERSARY AND ITS HISTORY 1951 - 2001.

The Idea - The First Steps.

Early in 1950 the first meetings and discussions took place between the pioneers of the Angus Bowling Association, all fine and very determined and dedicated gentlemen - Messrs. R. H. Boyle, J. M Ireland, E.S. Ramsay, Carnoustie Bowling Club, P. Emslie, Maryfield B.C. and Mr. N. M. Allan Broughty Bowling Club to research the possibilities of forming an Association within the County of Angus incorporating Clubs from the County of Angus and the City of Dundee. All Clubs having membership of the Scottish Bowling Association and their own private greens. In the first instance letters were sent to 22 Clubs who had these basic requirements.

The First Meeting,.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday 8 April 1950 in the Royal Hotel Dundee, the first meeting of these twenty two Clubs took place with fifty six representatives in attendance.

The Clubs represented were, Arbroath B.C, Arbroath Newgate B.C, Balgay B.C, Barnhill B.C, Baxter Park B.C, Brechin B.C, Broughty B.C, Broughty Castle B.C, Carnoustie B.C, Craigie B.C, Dudhope B.C, Edzell B.C, Fairfield B.C, Forfar B.C, Forfar Canmore B.C, Hillcrest B.C, Kirriemuir B.C, Lochee B.C, Maryfield B.C, Monifieth B.C, Montrose B.C. and National Cash Register B.C.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Peter Emslie who welcomed the assembled company. Mr. Emslie then introduced the other four sponsors who had drawn up the letters of invitation to the various Clubs in attendance.

The honour of chairing that first meeting went to Mr. R. H. Boyle of Carnoustie Bowling Club. Mr. Boyle in his opening remarks laid the outline plan to the Company, for the formation of an Angus Bowling Association, separate from the City of Dundee and Forfarshire Bowling Associations. Mr. Boyle was shown strong support from the fifty six representatives who were strongly in favour of the outline plan, the general view being that such an Association was the best way forward for Bowling in the County of Angus.

After some free discussion and debate, motions were passed to formulate the Angus Bowling Association within and according to the Rules of the Scottish Bowling Association and within a Constitution of Rules and Laws to be drawn up by a duly elected Committee at that first meeting, namely : R.H. Boyle, Carnoustie B.C., Chairman, N.M. Allan, Broughty B.C., Vice Chairman and a Committee consisting of P. Emslie, Maryfield B.C., J. M. Ireland and R S. Ramsay, Carnoustie B.C, W. S. Mortimer, Fairfield B.C, J. M. Cameron, Dudhope B.C., T. Cameron, Balgay B.C., J. C. Ross, Arbroath B.C. and W. Splitt, Canmore B.C. This Committee was to be the first to prepare the way forward for the Angus Bowling Association by forming the Constitution and by formally applying to the Scottish Bowling Association Honorary Secretary, Mr. Logie, requesting a form of application for admission as an Associate Member of the Scottish Bowling Association. This first meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks from the fifty six representatives in attendance.

The Groundwork.

The next meeting of the Committee was to be held at 5.30 p.m. on the 14 April 1950 in Wallace Tea Room, Castle Street, Dundee. A full Committee attended and after much debate, the members of Committee who had been charged to present their views for a constitution presented them at this meeting and so the Constitution of the Angus Bowling Association was formed and drafted. This Constitution basically is still in place to this day with only minor alterations being made to keep the Constitution up to present day trends.

The Inaugural Meeting.

A meeting was held in the Royal British Hotel, Union Street, Dundee on Friday 5 May 1950 at 7.30 p.m. at which nineteen of the twenty two Clubs invited attended, namely : Arbroath B.C., Brechin B.C., Broughty B.C., Barnhill B.C., Broughty Castle B.C., Carnoustie B.C., Balgay B.C., Baxter Park B.C., Craigie B.C., Dudhope B.C., Fairfield B.C., Hillcrest B.C., Lochee B.C., Maryfield B.C., Edzell B.C., Forfar B.C., Forfar, Canmore B.C., Kirriemuir B.C. and Monifieth B.C. Apologies were offered on behalf of Arbroath Newgate B.C., National Cash Register B.C. and Montrose B.C.

The Chairman Mr. R. H. Boyle, Carnoustie B.C., opened the meeting by welcoming members of the invited Clubs and in his opening remarks he conveyed an apology from the Newgate representative who was absent due to illness. Mr. Boyle then went on to W. S. Wilson pass onto the assembled representatives the good news that confirmation had been received from Mr. Logie, Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Bowling Association regarding the acceptance and recognition of the Angus Bowling Association by the Scottish Bowling Association. W. Logie expressed the wish of the Scottish Bowling Association that the Angus Bowling Association would participate in the Andrew Hamilton Competition in the year 1951.

The meeting then proceeded to the formation of the Angus Association. It was formally moved by the Barnhill B.C. representative and seconded by the representative from Balgay B.C. that the Angus Bowling Association be formed. Eighteen of the nineteen Clubs represented voted in favour, with the Monifieth representative being the only member not to vote, due to the uncertainty within the Monifieth Club members regarding the formation of a new Association within Angus.

The Chairman went on to state that it was extremely gratifying that so many Clubs were in favour of the new Association and he hoped that confirmation and cooperation would be forthcoming from Monifieth B.C., Newgate B.C., Nation Cash Register B.C. and Montrose B.C. once the necessary meetings had been held within these Clubs and proposals accepted by their representatives.

The new Constitution and Rules for the Angus Bowling Association were duly presented for approval by the assembled meeting and were accepted by all of the representatives present.

Further debate continued regarding the forming of the Angus Association and the possibility of Inter County matches and County competitions being considered as this type of competition could only serve to elevate the level of bowling within the County of Angus.

Chairman R. H. Boyle raised the point that the work of Secretary and Treasurer be carried out by a professional firm of Chartered Accountants, This was agreed and Messrs. James Cram and Sons, C.A. were appointed at cost of £5, 5/- per Annum. Included in this charge was the use of a room for Committee Meetings

Mr. Boyle went on to state that in view of the enthusiasm and work of Mr. Peter Emslie Maryfield B.C. who contributed considerably to the success in forming the Association, he would like to propose Mr. Emslie as Honorary President of the Angus Bowling Association. This proposal was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The formulation and acceptance of the Constitution along with the ratification of the Scottish Bowling Association's acceptance of the Angus Bowling Association's application for membership was to be put before the Member Clubs for acceptance at the first Annual General Meeting of the Association on the 24 March 1951 after which time copies of the Constitution and Rules of the Angus Bowling Association would be sent to Mr. Logie, Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Bowling Association and to all Member Clubs of the Association and the Association would be officially established.

The Early Competitions, Invitations and Trophies

Despite the Association not being formally established for several months, the first Committee was extremely active and was involved in organising Inter County and local matches, the first competition being set up as a result of the generous donation of a Solid Silver Cup, 8 inches high and 10 inches in diameter. This cup, donated by Ex Baillie John Thompson was to be played for in a rinks competition and is still being played for today and is indeed a handsome Trophy.

Several Inter County matches were played at this time and also matches against other Scottish Associations which included Perthshire and Fife. The Angus Association also played against touring teams from New Zealand, Australia and America.

Honorary Secretary W. Logic of the Scottish Bowling Association confirmed the invitation for Angus Bowling Association to participate in the Andrew Hamilton Trophy Competition in Season 1951 and Mr. Logic took the opportunity to say that "he was grateful to see the forming of a new Association" and formally welcomed the Angus Bowling Association as a member of the Scottish Bowling Association.

A Northern Tour for 19 May 1951 was arranged to play against Clubs at Moray B.C., Elgin B.C., Banff B.C. and Cullen B.C. Fifty Six players would be selected to travel on this tour.

Secretary D. I. Worsley received invitations from Dudhope B.C. and Maryfield B.C. to participate in the celebrations to mark the 750. Anniversary of their Clubs in July 1951.

In 1951 Mr. N. M Allan moved that the Association run a Singles and Doubles competition in addition to the Fours Competition. A Singles Trophy was donated by National Cash Register and was inscribed 'NACARECO'. This Trophy is now known as the Angus BA. Singles Trophy and one Mr. John Fyffe of Carnoustie donated a doubles Trophy. Both of these original Trophies are still competed for.

Mr. Andrew Clark donated this well known Trophy to be played for between The Angus and City of Dundee Associations on an annual basis. This Trophy is still played for with the venue alternating between Angus and City locations each year.

The only Charity Trophy played for in the Angus Association was donated by Messrs. Henderson the Jewellers of Dundee. The Henderson Trophy is competed for in September each year and the money received from Member Clubs is distributed throughout a variety of charities in Angus and Dundee.

The Angus Association were gifted a Triples Trophy in May 1971 by Vice President Mr. Ron Wallace of Dudhope B.C. to enhance the other competitions already established within the Association. This Trophy which was an unusual and indeed unique Trophy was played for until 1999, but owing to damage through the years and lack of space for inscriptions it was replaced for Season 2000. Past President of the Association Gordon Allen donated a new cup as a replacement

In April 1975 the Angus Committee of that time proposed that an Angus League Competition be implemented. Much hard work was undertaken by Secretary Bill Gibson and John Millar of Broughty B.C. (Later to become Angus BA. President.) Sponsorship was arranged by Cream of the Barley Whisky which carried on for many years. Much of the credit must go to the efforts of John and Bill.

Initially the League was played in four groups with the Clubs grouped geographically.

Typically Sections would consist of:

- A. Edzell, Brechin, Kirriemuir, Forfar, Canmore.
- B. Montrose, Newgate, Letham, Carnoustie, Monifieth etc.
- C. Barnhill, Broughty, Broughty Castle, Craigie, Baxter Park etc.
- D. Strathmartine, NCR, Muirhead, Balgay, Hillcrest, Lochee etc.

Due to the repetition of matches this system was abandoned for a full ballot of Clubs, a system which is still in place.

In 1979 Secretary Bill Gibson raised a proposal that the Association should run a Champion of Champions Competition. This proposal lay dormant for four years until the proposal was finally accepted and in 1983 President Jack Hampton of Kirriemuir donated a Trophy for this competition.

The next move was to replace an outdated Angus League Shield which was replaced by a Cup at a cost of £120. 00. At the same time a Top Ten Competition had been formed and a Cup for this competition was purchased at a cost of £87. 50. In addition both of the above competition winners receive a flag to be flown above their Club for a year.

In the year 2000 the Angus Committee decided that in an effort to encourage younger bowlers an Under 25 Competition should be implemented. This commenced in Season 2000 where nineteen Under 25 Players competed for a Trophy donated by the President that year, Jim Lorimer. We hope these numbers will be improved on in the future.

The Andrew Hamilton Trophy.

Back to 1951 and the Angus Bowling Association's acceptance to in the Andrew Hamilton Trophy Competition from 1951. In that first year there was no record of any success in Andrew Hamilton, however in 1952 they did reach the final, only to be beaten by Edinburgh and Leith. Success however was only put on hold, as the following year 1953 Angus defeated Fife County to win the Andrew Hamilton Trophy for the first and only time in their history, The successful Team were : H Smith, (Lochee), H. Wallace (Brechin), E. Lee Snr. (Forfar), D. Robertson (Brechin), W. Ogilvie, (Barnhill), A. Hendry (Monifieth), S. Hay (Canmore), W. Splitt (Carnoustie), I. Hay (Broughty), A. Watt (Maryfield), W. Cowe (Carnoustie), J. Martin (Craigie), J. Gardner (Craigie), G. Watkins (Dudhope), S. Ornierod (Canmore), L. Brown (Forfar), P. Smith (Arbroath), J. Duncan (Arbroath) W. Fyfe (Forfar), J. Stewart (Lochee), Rev, Dick (Dudhope), J.P. Addison (Maryfield).

We are deeply indebted to Phil Addison and Syd Ormerod for their excellent powers of recall to remember the names of Team Members who recorded that historic win for Angus and who kindly permitted the recording of these names.

Unfortunately Angus Bowling Association have not enjoyed a great deal of success in the Andrew Hamilton since 1953 other than in 1960 and 1980 when they were defeated in the Final by Lanarkshire and Ayr respectively.

A younger breed of bowlers are arriving and with our experienced players are giving a good balance of youth and experience. In two of the last three years Angus has been runner up in the Northern Section and hopefully this will develop to the knock out stages in the near future.

Men Of Note.

The Angus Bowling Association since its inception in 1951 has enjoyed the support and loyalty of many Honourable Men, men whose vision, strength of purpose and determination pioneered the early establishing of the Angus Association to reach the great standing and respect it enjoys today among the many Bowling Associations in Scotland.

50 years have produced 50 Presidents listed below:

1951	R H Boyle	Carnoustie	1976	H Leslie	Baxter Park
1952	N M Allan	Broughty	1977	W Duncan	Forfar
1953	W Splitt	Canmore	1978	J Kidd	Lochee
1954	T G Herron	Barnhill	1979	G L Watson	Carnoustie
1955	J C Ross	Arbroath	1980	W Swain	Broughty
1956	P C Emslie	Maryfield	1981	H Mullen	Newgate
1957	W S Wilson	Forfar	1982	W Neil	Fairfield
1958	A Ruddiman	Broughty	1983	J Hampton	Kirriemuir
1959	T Johnstone	Newgate	1984	W Gaffney	Hillcrest
1960	W M Suttie	Dudhope	1985	F Black	Canmore
1961	R W Smith	Monifieth	1986	A Smith	Broughty Castle
1962	F G Russell	Lochee	1987	G Smart	Montrose
1963	J B Strachan	Forfar	1988	M Hutton	Fairfield
1964	A G Baird	Dudhope	1989	J M Martin	Newgate
1965	M Ritchie	Newgate	1990	J C Miller	Broughty
1966	G Clark	Craigie	1991	L K Neave	Kirriemuir
1967	W H Nicoll	Strathmartine	1992	D M Smith	Barnhill
1968	J R Stark	Broughty	1993	J Allison	Forfar
1969	R B Drummond	Kirriemuir	1994	D E Ewing	Strathmartine
1970	D Macleod	Hillcrest	1995	S Smith	Letham
1971	SW Stewart	Newgate	1996	G K S Black	Lochee
1972	R B Wallace	Dudhope	1997	G Allen	Carnoustie
1973	S Smith	Friockheim	1998	N Dorricot	Broughty
1974	W Fairweather	Broughty Castle	1999	G M Fitchet	Parkview
1975	G D Simpson	Canmore	2000	J Lorimer	Broughty Castle
			2001	T Fraser	Newgate

All of the above Presidents gave their time and invaluable experience over the past 50 years and brought honour to the Angus Bowling Association and to their Clubs and along with their Committees

the work they did created a higher level of bowling throughout the Angus County and the Association is deeply indebted to them all.

During the 50 years of the Association several men stand out for special mention, especially the first Committee Members. A name which stands out is Norman 1VL Allan, Broughty, who was Association President in 1952. Norman became the first Angus BA. S.B.A. Councillor in 1951, S.B.A. President in 1966 and was an Honorary Angus B.A. President.

In 1967 Jim Allison, Forfar, became an S.B.A. Councillor following in Norman Allan's footsteps, became S.B.A. President in 1986 receiving Honorary S.B.A. Presidency in 1987. Jim became Angus B.A. President in 1993.

Jim Bell, Broughty Castle, was elected to the S.B.A. Council in 1987 and has served the Association as District 4 Councillor for 14 years. Jim works hard on behalf of our District and is a well respected Councillor.

The early secretarial work was carried out professionally at a cost of £5.5/- by D.J. Worsley of James Cram and Sons C.A. Dundee, up to the last recorded minutes dated 22 February 1951. Contained in that last minute was news that an Australian Touring Team had left a donation of £150.00 for food parcels for needy bowlers.

The minutes were unaccounted for from February 1951 up to the A.G.M. of the Association in December 1965 and are deemed to be lost forever.

The ensuing minutes from December 1965 were complete and give a clear picture of the Association's workings, This work was recorded by F.G. Russell of Lochee who gave excellent service until April 1972 when illness forced him to retire, indeed a valued Secretary for seven years.

At that time W.H. Gibson (Bill) of Broughty B.C. had been assisting whilst Mr. Russell was ill and Bill was duly elected to the combined position of Secretary/Treasurer in April 1972. This position Bill held for over 27 years and his contribution over this period was second to none for over half of the Association's History. Bill is an Association Honorary President and still contributes a lot to bowling with his Jack High column in the Evening Telegraph.

In 1999 Bill Gibson was succeeded by Gordon Allen, the present Secretary/Treasurer. Gordon was unanimously voted on at the 1999 A.G.M. Gordon was President of the Angus Association in 1997 and has now served over ten years in Committee. Gordon by his own admittance has no desire to emulate Bill Gibson's 27 year record.

Players Of Note.

Several of the Association players gained the honour of playing for their Country and in the early years of the Angus Association players from both the City of Dundee and Angus County represented Scotland and were Members of the 29 Member Clubs in the Angus Association. They are as follows:

1968 J.P. Addison Maryfield B.C.

1964, 65, 66, 67 L. Brown Forfar B.C

1955, 56, 60 S. Hay Canmore B.C

1953, 54 55 W. Niven Broughty Castle B.C

1955, 56, 58 W. Ogilvie Barnhill B.C

1995 R. Christie Parkview B.C

1999, 2000 D. Burnett Lochlands B.C

1984, 85 L. Topen Dudhope B.C. (City of Dundee)

The 1953 President W. Splitt, Canmore B.C. was a most accomplished bowler, gaining caps in 1935, 36, 37, 38 and 1946

At Under 25 Level, Angus Bowling Association had considerable success with selection of the following bowlers for Scotland:

1994 R. Barlow Dudhope B.C. (City of Dundee)

1993, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99 S. Ferguson Newgate B.C

1999, 2000 J. McKelvie Dudhope B.C. (City of Dundee)

1992, 93 M Small Forfar B.C

1993, 94, 97, 98 D. Burnett Lochlands B.C

Darren Burnett in recent years has become one of the most successful bowlers to have represented the Angus Bowling Association. Darren has been extremely successful on the Indoor Bowling Scene at both Junior and Senior Level and is regular at televised indoor bowls events. His successes indoor are too numerous to mention however his winning the Scottish Singles Championship at Ayr in 1999 was an excellent performance as he was the first player North of the Tay in 100 plus years to have success in that competition and he is only 25 years old.

It would be amiss of me if I did not mention our Sponsors during the last 50 years. These sponsors have contributed in various ways to the success of the Angus Bowling Association and we thank them for these contributions:

Stewart's Cream of the Barley, Key Centre and Cowgate Motor Company

Conclusion.

This history, although relatively brief has revealed from within the many members who have contributed by helping to build and establish this fine Association. I am sure the work which began with these pioneers who were involved in these meetings of 1950 will carry on with the dedication shown by future generations of Committee and players alike. The Association in the past 50 years has grown to 29 Member Clubs and in that time only the NCR Club has withdrawn from the Association.

I trust that this history has conveyed an insight as to how it all started 50 years ago and I am sure that the Angus Bowling Association will continue to flourish and prosper over the next 50 years. I am proud to have served and contributed in some small way

Jack K Stephen

Junior Vice President

Angus Bowling Association