

## West Heaton and the Great War



Photo: B Oswald

### Committee Minutes relating to WW1

#### Committee October 27<sup>th</sup> 1914

Resolved that a roll of honour be placed in the pavilion of those who go to the war and that a list of same be later incorporated into the minutes.

#### Committee January 26<sup>th</sup> 1915

The subscription of those members who have enlisted shall be waived for the period of their service.

#### AGM March 30<sup>th</sup> 1915

The season which has just concluded will always be remembered as the year in which the almost universal war commenced and although it did not to any extent affect the season of the club it of course directly concerned immediately all the members, some more directly than others. The number of members who enlisted in His Majesty's service was 17 and this included practically all the eligible members of the club and they were mostly sons of other members.

It was intended to hold a whist drive and dance during the winter but owing to the war it was thought it better to cancel it as it would probably not have been supported by the members under the circumstances.

Mr Shepard the tennis secretary stated his regret at being unable to give a tennis report owing to Mr J Kirk's absence in Egypt.

#### **Committee April 8<sup>th</sup> 1915**

It was decided that the question of a garden party sides game for ladies and gentlemen bowlers be deferred for the present. It was not considered desirable to engage any band for the forthcoming season.

#### **Committee April 30<sup>th</sup> 1915**

Resolved that the injured soldiers at Heaton Mersey be invited to the green on June 12<sup>th</sup> (25 in number) and that the arrangements for teas be left to the ladies.

#### **Committee July 9<sup>th</sup> 1915**

A letter from the secretary of the Red Cross Society thanking the committee for entertaining the wounded soldiers was read.

Resolved that the wounded soldiers at Heaton Mersey be invited to the Green on either August 7 or 14<sup>th</sup>, the date to be arranged by the president.

#### **Committee August 27<sup>th</sup> 1915**

Resolved that a subcommittee be appointed to arrange for a number of injured soldiers being invited to the green on September 11<sup>th</sup> and that the subcommittee decide the hospital from which the soldiers be invited.

#### **Committee October 31<sup>st</sup> 1915**

The President handed to the groundsman £6.15.0 being the amount collected for him. Mr Sharratt expressed his opinion that the groundsman be discharged owing to him being a single man and of military age.

#### **AGM March 31<sup>st</sup> 1916**

The past year is one which we shall all be glad to leave behind, as during the whole of the year a terrible war in which practically all Europe is engaged has been taking place and it is most sincerely hoped by everyone that the coming season will see it brought to a close.

This war is brought very closely home to all of us, as we have over 20 members at present in His Majesty's forces. These members are of course the tennis members as the bowling members are practically all over the military age, But although they are unable to take part in the fighting they have a very hard part to bear as the majority of them have near and dear relatives at the front, and I very much regret to say this year will never be forgotten by some of our members as there are a few members who have given their lives nobly fighting to defend the empire, and those who are unable to bear their share of the burden of the fighting, and we all hope that we shall not have to bear the loss of any more whom we can ill spare.

The season which has just passed has of course been seriously affected by the

war. The bowling section has been well supported under the circumstances, the tennis section as would naturally be expected as being used very little, and this will continue whilst the war lasts.

The committee carefully considered the arrangement of fixtures etc at the commencement of last season and thought it was desirable not to have anything of the social nature, and therefore the garden party also the whist drive and dance were abandoned and no band was engaged for the opening day.

It was thought desirable to continue the president and vice president sides game, the handicap and the American Tournament so as to keep the interest of the members as much as possible.

The only event of a social nature was the visit of the wounded soldiers from various hospitals on three occasions and they quite enjoyed the afternoon's entertainment.

#### **Committee April 7<sup>th</sup> 1916**

Resolved that the ladies be allowed to arrange tennis matches and that a sum not exceeding £2 be allowed for tennis balls.

#### **Committee May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1916**

Resolved that 20 wounded soldiers be invited from Stepping Hill Hospital for June 24<sup>th</sup> or July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Committee July 7<sup>th</sup> 1916**

The President reported that the invitation to the wounded soldiers at Stepping Hill Hospital had been accepted and 24 soldiers came to the green on June 24. A vote of thanks to be conveyed to Messrs Jackson and Gregory and the other gentleman who lent motorcars for the purpose of bringing the wounded soldiers to and from the Ground.

A letter was read with reference to a presentation proposed to be made to Sgt Gill on the occasion of his obtaining the DCM and asking the club to send representatives to a proposed meeting. Messrs Ball and Sharratt be requested to attend the meeting on behalf of the club.

#### **Committee August 4<sup>th</sup> 1916**

The President reported a sum of £6.18.0 was collected for the presentation to Sgt Gill.

Arrangements be made for inviting about 22 soldiers on Saturdays in August and September and the matter be left in Mr Ball's hands.

#### **Committee September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1916**

The president reported that wounded soldiers from Stockport Hospital had attended at the green on August 12 and September 9 (24 on each occasion). Hon Sec read the letter received from the groundsman applying for a war bonus. Resolved that he be paid a war bonus of three shillings per week to commence in November 18, 1916 to operate only duration of the war.

### **AGM March 30<sup>th</sup> 1917**

We regret that the general meeting is once more to be held whilst the war is continuing and creating so much trouble for everyone in this country and it is to be sincerely hoped that by the time the next meeting is held that a satisfactory peace will have been secured.

As practically all the available members had joined His Majesty's forces previous to this season there has been no addition during the year the number of members who are now serving being 15.

The committee very much regrets to report that another of our members has lost his life nobly fighting to defend the empire. And those who are unable to bear their share of the burden of the fighting and we all hope that we shall not have to bear the loss of any more than can be spared.

The season which has just passed has of course been seriously affected by the war and the committee thought it desirable that none of the social entertainments such as the garden party and that whist drive should be held under the present circumstances. After much consideration they decided to hold the usual Bowling handicap and an American tournament.

Wounded soldiers from Stockport were invited to the green on three different Saturday and the afternoons where much appreciated by them.

### **Committee June 29<sup>th</sup> 1917**

Resolved that about 24 soldiers be invited to the green on Saturday, July 21 from the Hollywood Hospital and that the entertainment committee make the necessary arrangements.

### **Committee July 20<sup>th</sup> 1917**

Resolved that 24 wounded soldiers be invited to the green on Saturday, September 1 from the Stockport military hospital.

### **Committee October 31<sup>st</sup> 1917**

A letter was read from Heaton Mersey Hospital thanking the committee for inviting wounded soldiers on Saturdays during the summer.

### **AGM April 5<sup>th</sup> 1918**

It was hoped when the last report was given that that would be the last to be given whilst the war was on but unfortunately we are still in the worst of it and it is to be hoped that this will be the last meeting whilst the war continues.

As can be well understood the war has severely affected the club. The finances will of course be dealt with by the treasurer but as regards the general position of the club the membership numbers have been increased which is very satisfactory under the circumstances.

The tennis membership has been increased by 13 but this is unfortunately very much less than what it was in pre-war days.

The bowling section has not been affected to the same extent, but of course the members cannot derive the same pleasure from the club as in former days. As they must be thinking of relations and friends who are fighting for us and some

of the members have unfortunately had to bear sad losses during the year. Under the present circumstances there have been none of the social functions which were accustomed to begin before the war but the committee thought it desirable to continue the annual handicap to try and raise interest for the members in the game and the tennis section also held a tournament for the same purpose.

Wounded soldiers were invited from the military hospital at Stockport on three occasions during the summer.

#### **Committee April 26<sup>th</sup> 1918**

It was reported that a discharge soldier was engaged as a groundsman on April 23 but he is not satisfactory owing to affliction (Suffering from shellshock).

#### **Committee May 31<sup>st</sup> 1918**

Resolved that six wounded soldiers from Heaton Mersey and Heaton Moor are invited for each Saturday during the summer

Resolved that 24 soldiers be invited from Greek Street hospital Stockport from June 16

Result that a subscription of 1/6 be asked for and provide entertainment for the wounded soldiers.

#### **Committee June 21<sup>st</sup> 1918**

Resolved 24 wounded soldiers to be invited from the Stockport Hospitals for July 20.

#### **Committee August 9<sup>th</sup> 1918**

Resolved that about 24 wounded soldiers be invited from the Stockport Hospital for August 31, 1918

#### **Committee September 26<sup>th</sup> 1918**

The vice president reported that the amount received for the entertainment of wounded soldiers was £6 and the amount paid for £6.16.2. Balance was collected from the committee present.

#### **Committee January 24<sup>th</sup> 1919**

Letter received from Heaton Norris District Ratepayers association re. public memorial "to the fallen" was read. It was agreed that our club be represented at the meeting.

#### **AGM April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1919**

The committee congratulated the members in holding the annual meeting without the war casting a shadow over all the members in the club. We have been for annual meetings held since the war started and it was hoped that each one that it would be the last but unfortunately these hopes like so many others were not fulfilled. But our soldiers together with our allies have fought splendidly and it is to be hoped that the peace that will soon be made will be a justification for such fighting.

Members of the club who were of military age responded splendidly to the call for soldiers and the tennis section of the club was very soon denuded of its

young men and consequently there has been comparatively little tennis for years.

The number of men who joined the army was 26 and it is with the deepest regret that the committee asked to report that nine of these gave their lives nobly.

The committee offers its deepest sympathy to the parents of the men and feel sure it will be some slight satisfaction to them in their sorrow to know that they gave up their lives in defending Great Britain against the enemy.

Besides the men joining the army a number of our Lady tennis members joined various institutions in connection with the army and it is hoped that they will all soon be seen on the green again.

The committee has considered what should be a suitable method of commemorating the services which are members gave to the cause.

But it was thought better to defer this question to a little later.

### **Committee April 29<sup>th</sup> 1919**

Report of Memorial Committee, estimated cost of cairn of stone complete with lettering £35 & also submitted particulars of a scroll to include a miniature of each soldier with name and estimated cost £30 to £35.

The decision be postponed for further necessary enquiries re photos.

### **Committee July 10<sup>th</sup> 1919**

Preparations for "Peace Day July 19 1919"

Resolved that the Annual Bowling Handicap be held as arranged, also a Tennis Tournament, Croquet Tournament for Ladies, Concert and Dance in the Evening and that Mrs John Roberts be requested to plant a tree to commemorate the occasion. Also that a photograph be taken of the Members present.

The tea for children of members to be free.

### **Committee July 25<sup>th</sup> 1919**

The memorial committee had been unable to come to a decision as to the best form the memorial should take.

After a full discussion it was resolved the memorial for the fallen members should take the form of a metal tablet.

### **Committee September 15<sup>th</sup> 1919**

The memorial committee had recommended a copper plate with the letters hammered out, the estimated cost being £25 and committee recommended the adoption of same to the General Committee.

A proposal that the years on the tablet should be 1914/18 not 1914/19 was not carried.

### **Committee March 10<sup>th</sup> 1920**

It was reported that the Memorial tablet was ready. It was decided that the same be placed in the Tea Room.

## **West Heaton soldiers lost in the War.**

click on the links to read their stories.

**Fred Binns** d 5 June 1915 aged 22

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=240](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=240)

**James Evans** d 20 August 1916 aged 31

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=815](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=815)

**Frank Grenville** d 22 August 1918 aged 22

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=1041](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=1041)

**Tom Kirk** d 4 June 1915 aged 25

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=1524](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=1524)

**Joe Kirk** d 10 February 1916 aged 23

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=1523](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=1523)

**Arthur Norcross** 9 October 1917 aged 24

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=1921](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=1921)

**Frank Norcross** d 30 July 1916 aged 19 of 1, Lynton Rd., Heaton Moor

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=1922](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=1922)

**Robert Sharratt** d 10 March 1916 aged 21

[http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name\\_id=2270](http://www.stockport1914-1918.co.uk/soldier.php?name_id=2270)

The list in the Club minutes of men who died also shows H Ashley, but he is not on the plaque.

## **Club Presidents**

*It is very likely that they were related to three of the fallen men.*

Mr Binns 1908.

A V Sharratt 1909.

R Grenville 1913.

**The soldiers are commemorated in the War memorial at St Paul's Church**

Programme of Events for the Peace Day July 1919

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Saturday. July 1919.

Peace Celebration Day.

Programme of Events.

3. pm Bowling handicap.  
4.30 " Members Photographed.  
5.0 " Tree planted by W<sup>rd</sup> John Roberts.  
Tennis Tournament.  
Croquet Tournament.  
Prize distribution by W<sup>rd</sup> Nicholl.  
7.30. Concert on Tennis Court.  
Dance " " "  
Bowling Members Conivial Evening.  
Weather fine, Enjoyment great,

Geo. Nicholl  
President.

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Complied by Chrissie Gibson, Club President 2014-15  
Based on the original Club minutes.