



1873 - 2013



***Happy 140th Anniversary to
West Heaton Bowling,
Tennis and Squash Club***



Painted by Fred Allwood 1994



2013



1957

Dedicated to Marjorie Mason (1922 - 2013) and to Raymond Prior

Compiled by Sue and Alan Mansfield

with many thanks for all who supplied photos and stories.

We hope this brochure will appeal to long-standing members who may well know many of the faces and events that appear and also to newer members who may appreciate reflections of our rich history

£2

First of all, a word for our Volunteers

West Heaton wouldn't be anything without its volunteers.

Practically everything has been achieved by people giving up their free time so the Club can thrive. Some people give time by occasionally running a competition or helping on an Open Day, others have been instrumental in guiding the Club through its developments, helping run sections, organising entertainments, improving the decor and facilities, running the bar and keeping the grounds in tip-top order.

Thank you all.

You will have seen on the front cover of this booklet that we have dedicated it to two people in particular - Raymond Prior and the late Marjorie Mason. Those two can justifiably be labelled the "King and Queen of Volunteers". In 1987 they were both granted "honorary" membership status and continued to be extremely active in supporting the Club.

Marjorie joined West Heaton in 1960 and her enthusiastic and committed service to the Club included being a key member of the Ladies Committee for many years during which time she was behind catering and clothing for the famous Penguin Club, two pantomimes and countless other social events. For many of her 53 years' membership she was one of the leading figures in making sure such events happened. Marjorie produced the equivalent brochure to this for our 125 years in 1998 but sadly passed away in March 2013 and is sorely missed by her friends and family.

Raymond is "Mr West Heaton". He joined in 1956 after moving from his home town of Huddersfield to work in Manchester and has played tennis, bowls and (briefly!) squash at West Heaton. Raymond has a virtually unbroken record of 46 years on General Committee - Tennis Secretary for 2 years, Club Secretary for 5 and now in his 40th year as Subscriptions Treasurer. For 11 years recently he doubled as Club Treasurer. Raymond is also the unofficial historian of West Heaton and the source of much of the historical information in this brochure.

Marjorie pictured on the right, during a bowls presentation in Mike Gibson's tenure as President in 2000. Alan Woosey, Eric Greenhalgh, Enid Monks, Mike Gibson, Paul Gibson, Lucy Fay, Marjorie.

Raymond having a well-earned rest following the 20 mile sponsored walk in 1969 to raise funds for the pavilion re-development. His fellow walkers resting their feet are Anne Woodhouse and Karen Holt



The story so far.....

West Heaton has celebrated quite a few milestones over the course of its history and many members can recall the Centenary in 1973 and our 125th birthday in 1998, both of which had their own commemorative publications.



And then there was the most recent celebration, the special dinner to mark 130 years in 2003.



*To put our anniversary in perspective - what **HADN'T** yet happened in 1873 ?*

Man United had not yet been founded (as Newton Heath, 1878), City had not been founded (as St Mark's, West Gorton, 1880), nor Stockport County (as Heaton Norris Rovers, 1883) and the first modern Olympic games had not been held (Athens, 1896).

The telephone had not been invented (Alexander Graham Bell, 1876), no one had swum the English Channel (Captain Matthew Webb, 1875) and General George Custer had not met his Last Stand at the Little Big Horn (1876)

So just what has happened over the years ? How has the Club changed ?
The following pages will give you a clue.

How we got here - the paperwork

In many ways the Club hasn't changed at all - people have always played sports and always enjoyed a social life - since 1892 anyway, when we have the earliest record of a bar. The Club has always been run by volunteers and we've always been in our current location.

The opening of the railway station in 1851 was a key factor in the development of Heaton Moor and the ensuing years saw the building of housing and shops along Heaton Moor Road and some of its surrounding areas. Much remained green fields in 1873 and they were developed over time to become the vibrant suburb we know today.

What made a group of people decide to create a sports club, and on this location ?

We don't know - only that on 15th July 1873 the first meeting of the Club took place. These members formed West Heaton Bowling Club Ltd. The land had been obtained on lease from Mr J. Brown, the freeholder, for 21 years.

Since then, there have been some key events that shaped the Club - in particular there are the legal formalities and processes to create the Club.

1873.....on 24th July the Bowling Green and Croquet Lawn opened as West Heaton Bowling Club Limited.

1880.....Lawn Tennis arrived (the modern game had only been "invented" in 1873 and the first Wimbledon Tennis Championships held in 1877)

1890 - 1901.... a new 11 year lease. Would this new Club be around for a while ?

1902.....The Licensing Act of 1902 required compulsory registration of all Clubs. As a result of this legislation, the six members who had signed the lease were named as Trustees of the Limited Company.

1913.....On renewal of registration it was decided that a Club must be formed "apart from the Limited Company" and was named "West Heaton Bowling and Tennis Club". The Club paid the Limited Company a rent so there was a landlord (Mr Brown), a tenant (the Ltd Company) and a Sub-tenant (the Club).

1921.....Following the death of the freeholder, Mr Brown, the freehold was purchased for £450 by West Heaton Bowling Club Limited.

1933 - 1935.... The Club and the Limited Company were growing apart. In 1935 the Club bought sufficient shares in the Limited Company to gain control. A Declaration of Trust (20th December 1935) declared that the Club Committee had appointed trustees in whose names (and those of their successors) the Club's shares in the Limited Company were to stand. The Club bought most of the £5 shares for £2.50 each and accumulated 196 of the 230 shares issued. The remaining 34 shares proved untraceable.

So what does this mean for us today ? Basically, that the freehold of the land is owned by the Limited Company in which the Club has a controlling interest and from which the Club holds a lease. The shares in that Limited Company are held in the name of trustees (all Club members). The day to day business is, of course, conducted by the committees of the Club.

This may seem a bit technical but this structure provides the foundations for our Club to operate today.

Other milestone developments were

1937.....The Entertainments Section was formed.

1960s.....Croquet dying out.

1962.....The tennis team entered into the local competitive tennis league.

1966.....Football section and table tennis formed

1969.....Badminton section formally disbanded as play had been impossible due to false ceiling

1974.....First squash team entered into league.

1979.....Bowling team entered into league for the first time.

1999.....Football section disbanded

2002.....Club name changed to West Heaton Bowling, Tennis and Squash Club (29 years after the first squash court was built !)

How we got here - the “House and Grounds”

So, the first 60 years or so created the basic business and financial structure that serves us 80 years on. Sections have come (tennis, squash) and gone (croquet, football, badminton) and throughout all this the “House and Grounds” themselves have continued to evolve as you can see from the aerial view below, with summary of the main developments.

In the course of the various developments, there have been many difficult decisions to make and work to be done. Not all members have agreed with all decisions and no doubt there have been tears of despair, joy and frustration along the way. But we have what we now have - a Club in which we can be proud.



Our last major development was in 2003. The improvements built a 2nd squash court, replaced the three shale tennis courts with an artificial grass carpet and floodlights and improved disabled facilities and landscaping. Once the paperwork was done (Sport England grant, Lawn Tennis Association interest-free loan), it was time for this -



And all this

The committee minutes paragraph referring to this working party to replace turf outside the pavilion was famously headed "Sod off!"



Before we had these



Local MP, Ann Coffey, together with our President Barbara Dunne, officially opens the new development together with key West Heaton members who made it possible and representatives of the LTA and Sport England



Barbara then tries the new glass-backed squash court with Nigel Geddes, Diane Wilson, Steve Cooper and Carolyn Trembath together with James Willstrop, former junior world champion and Nick Taylor, then world no. 14, who played exhibition matches as part of the court opening

Spotlight on Peter Jackson

Sport is about the sheer enjoyment of taking part but also about winning and losing and the most notable winner over the course of our history has to be Pete Jackson. Pete won the Gentlemen's Singles Final for a massive 24 times as well as playing for the squash and football teams. This year, Pete clocked up 50 years as a member at West Heaton so to mark the happy timing of that milestone and our Club's 140th Birthday we sent our roving reporter to ask Pete about his memories.

In action in 1984



Question : Pete, who would you say was your most difficult opponent ?

Pete : That would be Graham Haslam. He gave nothing away and you were never sure you'd won till the final point.

Question : How about your most frequent opponent ?

Pete : My brother Alan. We met 6 times in the Club tournament and played dozens of times socially - and they were never "friendlies" ! We both represented Lancashire at County and Under 21 and Alan left to play at a higher standard at the Northern, although I just loved West Heaton. I stayed and have never regretted it.

Question : What was your most memorable match ?

Pete : That would have to be winning my first Final in 1964 at the age of 19, against Graham Haslam. Graham was the best known player at the Club and I'd only joined the year before. It was three tough

sets and I was overjoyed to win.

Question : Which match gave you most satisfaction ?

Pete : There were a few really. Obviously the first win but also when I beat my brother Alan in 1970. Alan was well in command at 6-2 and 3-0 when the heavens opened and the match was delayed till the next day, when I won the 2nd and 3rd sets. Even the local press covered it and reported that I "came back on Sunday!" Funnily enough our parents only saw the Saturday as they went on holiday on the Sunday and in the days before mobile phones they couldn't believe it when I casually told them two weeks later that I'd won !

I was also especially pleased when I beat Ian Carroll in 1995 at the age of 50 but I was "really chuffed" when the West Heaton Football Team achieved runner-up of the Stockport and District Sunday League Divn 6 in 1968, our inaugural year, and I got a medal ! They were great times !

And with the long-suffering Linda



Question : Tell me about 1976, when you didn't enter ?

Pete : Well, I'd won easily the previous year so I wanted to let someone else have a go. But I didn't do it again !

Question : Have you had much trouble with injuries ?

Pete : Not really. Two major ones but not many minor, niggling ones. I had to give up the football after an ear operation in March 1971 made heading the ball too risky and I ruptured my Achilles tendon playing squash in February 1990. I've got a dodgy knee at the moment and I'm not used to it !

Question : What was your biggest disappointment ?

Pete : I guess that would be the Achilles as I missed almost all the tennis season. I'd previously been captain of the first team from 1972 to 1989 and not missed a match.

Question : Finally, what are your overall memories ?

Pete : Everything really, its been great. As well as the tennis I played team squash for 12 years, played table tennis and in the football team and meeting club members led me to badminton. I met Linda at West Heaton and we've had great social times and met so many friends. As my good buddy and sorely missed Pete Dunne would have said "Haven't we met some nice people here?". We have

Reporter : Thanks, Pete.

Pete receives the 1988 trophy from President Pete Dunne.

And is that youthful future President wondering if he will ever get his hands on the trophy ?

That'd be a "No", Martin Sharman.



Name that face

A few group pictures - how many of these do you know ?



West Heaton members and friends
enjoy a dinner dance at Old
Trafford in 1978

You may know one or two
faces here from the 70s !



Bowling members have a great night out at
West Heaton



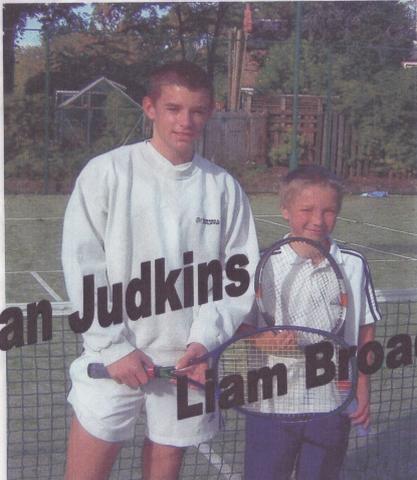
Rick Moores, Tony Buckley, Martin Sharman,
Neil Cocker, Geoff Richards and Dave
Sanderson look pleased !

And we've always had a youth policy...

We'll start with a very young Matt Jackson, following in father's footsteps



WEST HEATON JUNIOR TENNIS 2003
UNDER 16 BOYS FINAL: Centenary Cup



Alan Judkins
Liam Broady

Two young men with Wimbledon in their sights - and one of them even won it!

Alan won on this day in 2003 but Liam went on to win the Boys Doubles at Wimbledon in 2010



Pint anyone? John and Carolyn Woosey on the right - but who are their friends?



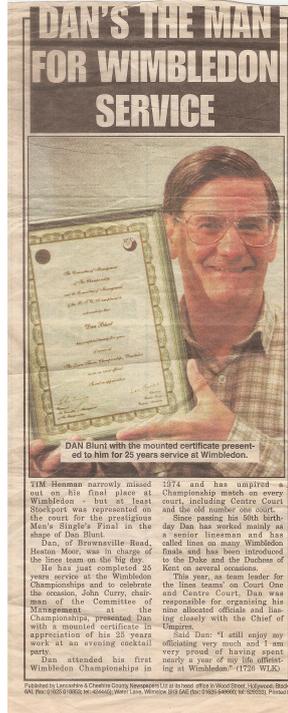
Too many to mention - Mums, Dads and kids enjoy the 2012 Generation Tournament

And a not-so youthful policy-- some of our Presidents Past



No, Bernard McGrath has not just had life-changing surgery - he is preparing to start the Opening Day ceremony in 1987 by bowling the famous Oundle Woods (more about those later)

In 1999 Dan Blunt, President in 1985, was presented with this plaque by Wimbledon to commemorate 25 years of officiating at the Championships. The occasion was also marked by Dan being asked to take charge of the lines team for the Men's Singles Final.



Barry -wannabe paparazzi and 1994 President - Oswald cuts a debonair figure (so he says). Buy him a pint and he'll tell you what it was really like in 1873.



Pete Dunne (front and President in 1988) forms a close doubles partnership with Bob Stringer (2008 President)



And a huge millstone, sorry, milestone for the club - our first Lady President, Barbara Dunne in 2003 following in the footsteps of husband Pete from 1988.



Norma Eccles (2011 President) with two past Presidents' ladies (Marjorie Mason on the left and Mary Greenhalgh on the right) and Irene Tutton and Doris Moores.

Lost and Found

Its amazing really that perhaps our most historic possessions could have been lost forever.

Oundle Woods

Many members, especially bowlers, know that the president officially opens each Bowling season by bowling an "end" with the famous Oundle Woods, pictured.



But what are the Oundle Woods ?

They are two woods with engraved silver mounts which were presented at West Heaton in 1886 as a competition prize from William Adam to Alexander Adam (its not known if they were related). After then there was no trace of them till 1985 when a lady in the Northamptonshire town of Oundle found them in an old box in her attic when helping to clear a house following the death of her God-daughter who was married into the family of Alexander Adam. The lady passed them

to her local bowling club asking if they could find the original owner. The President of the Oundle Club then set about this task and placed enquiries, adverts etc and finally received a response from a Jack Smith in Cheadle who knew of West Heaton. No internet and social media to help then ! Interestingly, the adverts had been placed in flat green bowling magazines and it was quite by chance that a bowler from a crown green area should see the advert and link it to West Heaton !



Raymond Prior acted on behalf of the Club and passed on our sincere thanks. The woods are very heavy at over 3 pounds each so it was decided to use them for the very appropriate traditional ceremony.

Great War Memorial

Much less is known about the story of this memorial but it was found in a mill in Manchester which was about to be demolished in the 1970s and was returned to the Club.



When a REAL Wimbledon Champion “played” at West Heaton (not to mention a World Cup winner)

In the Autumn of 1972, Graham Chadwick, who was to become President in 1977, knew someone who knew someone and he was helped by the then Immediate Past President, Ken Gordon, to arrange a sporting Question and Answer evening at West Heaton with not one, but two stars of sport of the time and two prominent sports media personalities.

The stars were Ann Haydon-Jones who had won the Ladies Singles at Wimbledon only three years earlier, in 1969, against Billie-Jean King and a fairly well-known footballer called Robert Charlton who was still playing First Division football at the time with Manchester United (he retired in April 1973).

The media personalities were the very well-known Peter West, who was a lead BBC sports presenter (including being Wimbledon co-commentator with Dan Maskell from 1955-1982) and Robin Marlar, who had played cricket for Sussex between 1951 and 1968 and was a lead cricket correspondent for the Sunday Times at the time of the Sportsman's Evening. So that line up would be the modern equivalent of a female Andy Murray, Ryan Giggs (without the World Cup medal), John Inverdale and any major cricket writer you wish to name.

Any chance our current Immediate Past Present could arrange a similar line-up, Alan ?



Unusual fact :

These photos were taken at the start of the evening when the top table was on the stage (the stage being for a coming drama production) and the Club members at floor level. The sound engineers were unhappy and all were asked to retreat to the bar. The hollow space under the stage was found to be the problem. The solution was for the members to be split, some on the stage and some at the bar end of the pavilion, and the distinguished visitors to sit between them. A few days later, the evening was broadcast on the radio.

And there has always been entertainment by the members for the members

The 1940s come to 1987



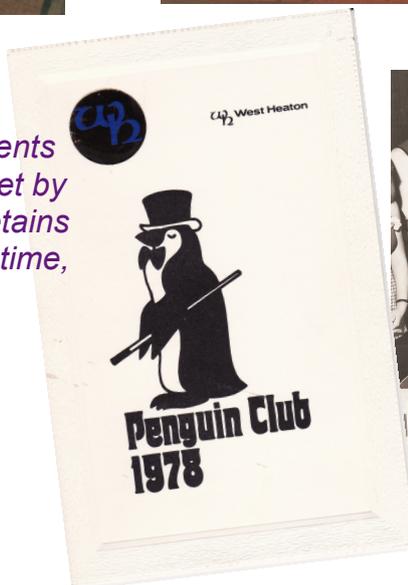
Pantomime in 1980



The famous "Penguin Club"

This was an occasional series of events providing dining, dancing and cabaret by the members, for the members. It retains great affection with members of the time, being held on the following dates :

- Mid or late 50s
- Nov 1965 - 2 nights
- Dec 1970 - 3 nights
- Oct 1973 - 4 nights
- Feb / March 1978 - 5 nights
- March 1982 - 5 nights
- March 1987 - 5 nights



Penguin Club waiters and waitresses in 1978

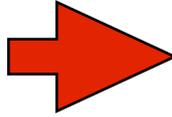
John Luke gets his audience fully prepared during one of his infamous renditions of "Pidling Pete" ! (approx 2007)



Would you serve this "man" ?
No, neither would the Crown on
Didsbury Road serve Dave Porter in
1975.
At least Anne saw the funny side !



And from Tarts and
Vicars 1975, its
over to the 2012
version !



The "Entertainers" in 2012



Liz Jordan, Lorraine Tasker
and Jane Philpott ARE Tina
Turner !

Renee and Renato - move
over for Stan and Maggie
Judkins



The flags are out for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012



And finally - a roll-call of our recorded Presidents

Members often remember events or what they were doing by who was President at the time, so here you are with some memory joggers. (The Presidents from 1873 to 1921 are not recorded on our Honours Board but became known thanks to diligent work for the Centenary brochure in 1973 by our 1949 President, Fred Towns.)

1873-1875	W.R. Callender, MP	1933	Len Worsencroft	1974	J. F. Wright
1876-1877	None elected	1934	Geo. H. Byrom	1975	D. E. R. Swallow
1878-1880	J. Chadwick	1935	A. E. Travis	1976	I. Lunn
1881-1889	B. Marsden	1936	Wm Dootson	1977	G. B. Chadwick
1890	Mr. Newby	1937	Wm Dootson	1978	S. H. Mattinson
1891	Mr Withy	1938	Harold S. Todd	1979	R.L.E. Rimmington
1892	J.W. Berra	1939	Wm Sidebotham	1980	G. N. Stephens
1893	Mr Laidlaw	1940	Wm Sidebotham	1981	R. W. Woosey
1894	J. Roberts	1941	2nd world war – none elected	1982	D. W. Porter
1895	F.Pearn	1942	2nd world war – none elected	1983	P. H. Locke
1896	J. Roberts	1943	2nd world war – none elected	1984	Owen Corrigan
1897	J. Bowker	1944	2nd world war – none elected	1985	Dan Blunt
1898	E. Walton	1945	Arnold Welch	1986	Peter F. Mundy
1899	W. Lewis	1946	Arnold Welch	1987	Bernard McGrath
1900	J. Watson	1947	George Ball	1988	Peter E. Dunne
1901	S. Knowles	1948	R. A. Brittain	1989	Alan Woosey
1902	J.R. Frame	1949	F. W. Towns	1990	Roger Knowles
1903	W. Curbstone	1950	C. H. Sheldon	1991	E. Greenhalgh
1904	Mr Tomlinson	1951	H. K. Harrison	1992	Peter Jackson
1905	S.A. Jackson	1952	J. Arthur Stewart	1993	G. T. Kay
1906	N. Bradley	1953	Eric A. Todd	1994	W. Barry Oswald
1907	G. Jarvis	1954	S. Locke	1995	John H. Whitby
1908	Mr Binns	1955	G. B. Mattinson	1996	Peter Podmore
1909	A.V. Sharratt	1956	Frank R Grieve	1997	Keith Anderson
1910	C.E. Thomas	1957	T. Bowden	1998	Michael Coward
1911	H. Mushlian	1958	J. O. Lupton	1999	W. P. Henderson
1912	J.H. Abbott	1959	Ernest M. Kershaw	2000	Mike Gibson
1913	R. Grenville	1960	R. H. Sheldon	2001	John P. Howarth
1914	F.G. Smith	1961	H. Q. Mann	2002	Barrow Gaskarth
1915	G.W. Wild	1962	R. Brelsford	2003	Barbara Dunne
1916	J.R. Ball	1963	J. Marsh	2004	Andrew M. Rayner
1917	J.T. Wainwright	1964	D. N. Rothwell	2005	David G. Hopwood
1918	J. Ware	1965	R. S. Brown	2006	Janet E. Cowan
1919	G.Nicholl	1966	G. M. Davies M.B.E.	2007	Elizabeth A. Jordan
1920	G. Mason	1967	J. W. G. Mason	2008	R. D. B. Stringer
1921	J.N. Hopwood	1968	R. Holt	2009	John R. Helliwell
1922 – 1928	Not recorded	1969	F. G. C. Atkinson	2010	Edward Tasker
1929	Gerald Linfoot	1970	I. R. Duncan	2011	Norma Eccles
1930	Gerald Linfoot	1971	K. J. Gordon	2012	Alan C. Mansfield
1931	Stan H. Heighway	1972	R. D. Lodge	2013	Martin Sharman
1932	George Mason	1973	G. M. Haslam		