

# Mottram St. Andrew.

THE SITUATION OF  
MOTTRAM ST. ANDREW  
IN RELATION TO  
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE.

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

The Story of Mottram Bowling Club

# INTRODUCTION



The compilation and writing of this story of Mottram Bowling Club has been a great pleasure, such is the nature of the club and the people in it. It was thought appropriate to write it because something of its nature was needed. For longer serving members, it is hoped that it brings back many happy memories, and for those of us new to the club it gives a context of where the club has come from.

The title took some thought and several alternatives were thought of before the current one was adopted. As the club is in a rural farming area, "Tales From The Bales" was one and another was "Green With Envy" because of the frustration of so many visiting bowlers when viewing the success of Mottram bowlers on their own green.

Ultimately these were thought too flippant considering the blood, sweat and tears (and laughter) that went into the creation of the bowling club at Mottram.

As the research into the club's history unfolded it became apparent that the vision of Reg Gardom and other founding fathers, was to create something of value to the village. They did build it and the people came and have continued to come.

A number of people must be thanked for their support.

- Denis Price for his invaluable generosity with the graphics and printing.
- Vera Hammond, Phyllis Kennerley, Syd Kennerley, Malcolm Eley for their encouragement to undertake it.
- Syd, Phyllis, Don White, Brian Kavanagh and Alice Eley for the hours given which highlighted significant early developments.
- Norman Palmer for the fun of hearing about humorous incidents in the club's story
- Beryl Bayley for her contribution about the White family.
- Vera Hammond for her Chair's address
- Gloria Friend, Janet Lewis and Tony Bird for their thoughts about the ethos of the club.
- Eric Wallwork and Jillian Hillary for supplying the minutes of meetings which have proven so invaluable and Jillian for providing further insights into the early history



- Phyllis and Syd Kennerley for reading the text for factual accuracy particularly that relating to the early years
- To all club members past and present for making the Mottram Club what it is.

If I have inadvertently omitted some important detail, misinterpreted something or made errors and caused any upset I unreservedly apologise.

Paul Jackson  
December 2017



## A MESSAGE FROM VERA HAMMOND, THE CHAIR OF MOTTRAM BOWLING CLUB



As the current Chairperson of Mottram Bowling Club I am delighted to have been asked by Paul to write this opening Passage. I have been with the club now for eighteen years and during all that time the club has continued to follow its initial aims of being a friendly and sociable club. Bowling is a great way to spend time outdoors with good company.

New members are always amazed at the spread of refreshments and convivial atmosphere our internal competitions have.

Besides being a fun and competitive game, bowls also offers us numerous health benefits. (Especially those of us 'creaking' at the knees, hip and back). A big advantage over many other sports, bowls can be enjoyed by anybody, regardless of age or gender.

I hope the club continues to grow for many years and to maintain its reputation outside of being a friendly and welcoming club. We are indebted to Paul for coming up with the idea and pursuing through to its final production, the history of our little gem, Mottram Bowling Club.

I am sure you will enjoy reading this biographical account of the club and chuckle at some of the photos of when members had a little more 'thatch on top.'

Vera Hammond



# IF YOU BUILD IT. THEY WILL COME

## THE STORY OF MOTTRAM BOWLING CLUB



And in the beginning there were pheasants -----??

### AN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The earliest mention of the village of Mottram Saint Andrew is in the Domesday Book in the year 1086. It says it was,

*“A wasteland with an eyrie for hawks.”*  
(the Bowling Club minutes for that year seem to be missing!)

The Mottram family owned the village from 1310 and various families after this, owned and lived in the hall of Mottram.

In 1871 the population of the village was 428 and current estimates put the population between 500 and 600. The village has always largely been a rural community and the publication, “Village Life Into The New Millennium”, edited by Pam Barfield, testified to the village always being a close knit community, “The village hall, the church and the school are the core of the village.” This close knit community feel is very much in evidence in the village bowling club and certainly, in its beginnings.

In 2018 Mottram Saint Andrew is a sprawling, beautiful village with a wealth of interesting old buildings. Despite the changes that modern life have brought, there is still a community feel, accentuated by a thriving village hall. Within this community feel there is the great ethos of, “If it has to be done, we can do it ourselves”. Herein lies a clue to how the bowling club was initiated and been maintained, for such an ethos has always permeated the club. Many people from within the village (and some from without), pulled their weight to support and organise the creation of a bowling green and bowling club.



## EARLY BEGINNINGS



After consultation, early stalwarts, Brian Burgess and Frank Edge attest to the beginnings being in the period between 1978 and 1980. There are no existing club records to pinpoint the exact date of these beginnings. Such formal records came later.

The site of the existing green was an old shale tennis court which had become overgrown with weeds and other fauna. This was utilised by one Mike Bann for the rearing of pheasants and he had built pens for the purpose.

The initial idea for making this into a bowling green came from villager Reg Gardom and he had the vision to create this for the use of the village community. All longer affiliated club members are very clear in citing Reg Gardom as being the initiator and driving force behind the creation of Mottram Bowling Club.

The idea was approved by the committee of the village hall club, and, most importantly, by the village community.

A quote of £17500 was received for the building of a green. This was a huge amount in those days and was dismissed. Reg Gardom then cajoled and encouraged villagers and others into building the green themselves. The idea was quickly taken up and the ensuing self determined work became a hallmark of Mottram Bowling Club and to this day it is still part of the Club's DNA.

*"If it has to be, it is up to we."*

As Brian Cavanagh has said,

*"Everyone mucked in and did their bit."*



New pavilion build - 1995



Left to right - Malcolm Eley, Syd Kennerley, Dave Whitehead, Ken Simpson



All this “mucking in” created camaraderie, fun, banter, goodwill and mutual support. The research into this story has revealed that these qualities have always been part of the Club’s ethos. As Syd and Phyllis have said, “Friendships were formed which have lasted down the years.”

Eventually, supported by Pete Brocklehurst, who worked with him, Syd put in a main drain from the stream to the site. It crossed the site diagonally, with herringbone wings, four paces apart, right across the area. Syd and Pete then removed clay and added topsoil. Ted Adshead, a villager, had a sand quarry, and he provided topsoil, which was “cadged” after ‘persuasion’ by Reg Gardom. Then Reg, who was Head of Physiotherapy at Macclesfield Hospital, “cadged” coke cinders from the boiler house there. These were added to the drainage. Syd, with his JCB, then spread the coke cinders and levelled them.

Before he could do this, Syd noticed a pewit’s nest in the middle of the area. On investigation the pewit was sitting on a few eggs. Syd insisted that this must not be disturbed and no work was to commence until they had hatched and flown.

After levelling Syd used a rotterra to finish it off and create a crown. This still exists to this day, much to the delight of Mottram’s bowlers and the dismay of generations of opponents. Syd then sowed grass seed with an ‘aero hand fiddle’, (please ask Syd for all technical explanations!!). When he had finished he found his footwear, ‘wellies’ full of grass seed.

To harrow the seed in, Syd and his helpers, including Don White, stretched a piece of sheep netting across the green. Wooden poles were attached to the end and four men on either side pulled it back and forward. When this was finished a team of volunteers spent hours hand raking and picking stones from the green. It is from a most reliable source that Rose Simpson was acknowledged to be a dab hand at stone picking!! It is where she earned her nickname, “Chuck!”

Following this, Reg’s enthusiasm had amassed a large squad of volunteers and he drove them on, to embed concrete posts and panel fencing around the perimeter of the site. These had been brought by Syd from Middleswich in his pickup truck. This volunteer work was done mainly on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. A cowling level was used to keep the levels uniform.

Mention must be made of Edme Camm, who lived in the nearest bungalow to the developing green, (a stone’s throw away!). She brought tea, cakes and biscuits on a regular basis to feed the volunteer workers. There are many existing photographs of these tea breaks and it is obvious from these that much happy banter prevailed. This also raises the question of whether Reg’s drainage underlay should read cake not coke and were these the early beginnings of the ritualistic tea drinking ceremonies which exist to this day on all bowling days?



Sunday competition ‘with refreshments’

The day came to concrete the path all around the green which took several work parties of willing helpers. One party consisted of seventeen strong men and true, with Syd and Donald White being responsible as the main levellers. This is the same Mr. White who later became known as 'The Don of the Green.' It is apparent from records that Don has always been involved in developments up to the present day. In his inimitable unassuming way he has always been a stalwart of Mottram Bowling Club. Thank you Don!

Making this path did keep them all on the straight and narrow! The concrete was delivered ready mixed and prior to this it had been mixed on site for cementation of posts, with tea breaks also occurring!

Villager, Eric Garner, used his skill as a bricklayer to build retaining walls, the mower sheds and several other projects. He also helped Syd with the front extension of the pavilion in 2014. Eric refused payment but gets his hedges cut for free each year.

A wooden hut was built by Pat Casey and Syd in the workshop at Lower House Farm. This measured 12' by 4' with an open front. It has always been referred to as 'the pavilion'. When games eventually commenced Beth Gardom always took centre stage in the pavilion, behind a table for marking purposes and woe betide anybody who obstructed her view or even worse, took her seat!

It would be remiss if this chronicle did not express the gratitude of all subsequent club members for all this voluntary hard work by so many people. It is from this that we have all benefited. Brian Cavanagh has said, "A lot of hard work was put in voluntarily by so many people and that is not always known."

Appreciation must be recorded to Syd Kennerley, who has worked so hard down the years for all our benefit, seeing all his hard work as "a pleasure." There is a sneaking suspicion that part of his pleasure also comes from seeing the anguish suffered by visiting teams who vainly try to master the Mottram green which he has lovingly looked after!





## BOWLING COMMENCES



The green was eventually opened in the summer of 1982. There are no records which identify the specific date of its opening. A large crowd came to watch and, fittingly, Reg Gardom, bowled the first wood and Syd Kennerley the second. Many of the crowd then tried their hand at this new fangled game and were bowled over by it!



Reg Gardom bowls the first wood



Bowling Green Opening Day - 1982

The earliest minutes are dated Thursday 25th March 1982. As they are the first they are included verbatim below.

### ***Bowling Green Minutes, Inaugural Meeting - Thursday 25th March***

*Present: Mr. Bentley (Chairman), Mr. Ford, Mr G. Barson, Mr. Gardom*

*Three letters have been received following the advert for a groundsman, and the three applicants will be seen on Tuesday, 30th March at 7.30 pm. If one of them is suitable he will be offered 6 hours a week at £2 p/h. If extra time is required to tell the sec. and the committee to decide if time is necessary.*

*A job description is needed for Tuesday.*

*Membership. After discussion it was agreed that as the groundsman could cost us £300 a year, the membership fees should approach that sum. A figure of £10.00 was agreed. New non club members would pay £12.00 which would include the club sub. and joining fee. Present members would pay their £1.00 club and £10.00 bowling.*

*All paid up members will receive a key and membership card, thus making it difficult for non members to gain access. Non members to pay a 'green fee' of 30p and would be the responsibility of the member.*

*Rules were to be as the British Crown Green Bowling Association.  
Bowlers to wear suitable footwear.*

*The green keeper's decision to use the green is final.*

*Jacks; RG to get four white jacks.*

*It was agreed that we try to get the shed finished, RG to continue to look for suitable seats.*

*Our final point was made and that was that members were to have priority over non members should the green be busy.*

### ***Meeting Wednesday 31st March***

*Present: Mr. Ford, Mr. Bentley, Mr. Barson and Mr. Gardom*

*Three candidates for interview for groundsman, only two attended. Mr. Kiefer was not suitable and Mr. Gary Fletcher was appointed. He indicated he would start work on Saturday.*

*The following is of a meeting held on Tuesday 19th October 1982. The minutes do not indicate it as such, but it can be reasonably presumed that it was the first A.G.M., due to the numbers present and the extensive agenda. As it was the first, it is again included in entirety and is again verbatim.*

Meeting Tuesday 19th October 1982

Present: Mr. Millward, Mr. E. Hatch, Mr. Cavanagh, Mr. Gary Fletcher, Mr. D. Fletcher, Mr. Preece, Mr. D. White, Mr. F. Trenholme, Mr. S. Kennerley, Mr Keith Holland, Mr. P. Barson, Mr. B. Barlow, Mr. A. Capp and Mr. Gardom.

Apologies: Mr. Meier, Mr. and Mrs. McClory, Mrs. J. Adshead.

Minutes of Previous Meeting were read and as there was only the Sec. present from these meetings approval was deferred.

Election of Officers for New Committee

Chairman : Mr. Bentley prop. Mr. Fletcher

Treasurer : Mr. Ford prop. Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Millward

Sec. : Mr. B. Burgess prop. Mr. Millward and Mr. Kennerley

It was agreed that Mr. Preece assist Mr. Burgess

Nominations for Committee followed: Mr. Kennerley

Mr. Cavanagh  
Mr. A. Capp  
Mr. D. White  
Mr. K. Holland  
Mr. D. Millward

These were approved and appointed.

The groundsman Mr. G. Fletcher reported that he was satisfied with the progress of the green. It had received a top dressing of soil at the beginning of the season and several applications of fertiliser during the season. Before the beginning of next season he would like to spike and scarify the surface and apply another top dressing to fill in some of the depressions. Mr Fletcher went on to say that we would need approx. as follows;

10 tons top dressing	£200
10 bags fertiliser	£100
Hire equipment	£40
Weed killer etc.	£20
Salary	£315

Expenses Total                      £675 pa.

These costs are a liberal estimate and should only be exceeded by inflation. He went on to say that the ground would close asp. end of October until April '83. Mr. Fletcher's report was accepted and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Preece and endorsed by the committee.



The Sec. then reported that we had 36 members, their subs amounting to £164.00.  
His expenses during the season:

5 sets of woods	£87.00
Advert	£12.80
4 Jacks	£50.00
July wages	£48.00
	-----
	£197.80
Less inc.	£172.50
	-----
	£25.30

There were green fees amounting to £8.50  
Subs.: £164.00  
-----  
Income £172.50

Balance owing to Secretary £25.30

If the membership should be increased to sixty we would have approx. £300.00 a shortfall of expenditure of £375.00

The Sec. went on to report that there had been two friendly matches :

- 1) Parkside Hospital BC.
- 2) South Park BC.

Both had been successful and much enjoyed.

There had been a club singles knockout leaving Mr. Kennerley and Mr. Bentley as finalists. This was deferred owing to the lateness of the hour.

A.O.B. Mr. Kennerley expressed surprise at the costs and discussion resulted in the difference between expected income and expenses. In the end it was agreed to refer back to the management committee.

There was discussion about whether or not to join a league. Reg Gardom suggested the fourth division of the Macclesfield League might be suitable as less regular players were needed. Mr. Burgess wanted to know what night matches were played.

Mr. Fletcher then suggested it might be difficult to comply with a full season's commitments and its financial implications and that we might be better having regular friendlies.

The meeting was closed having arranged a committee meeting for Tuesday 16th November 1982.

It is interesting to note the formality of address in these minutes, despite people knowing each other so well. The other interesting item is the mention of Don White and Syd Kennerley being on the Management Committee. They were stalwarts in those early days and have maintained this all the way down the years to the present day.

Mention must also be made of some of the outstanding early stalwarts of the club. It is recognized that many volunteers were responsible for the formation of the club. But some names stand out as being indefatigable champions to establish the club and drive it forward. Some of these names include Mr. Ford, Brian Burgess, Mr. Millward, Mr. Grange, Mr. Cavanagh, Mr. Slater, Mr. Capps, Mr. Preece, Reg Gardom and Norman Bentley as well as our Don and Syd.

Mr. Ford and Mr. Grange were the first treasurer and secretary respectively. Alice Eley became treasurer in 1985 and Norman Bentley Secretary in 1987, as well as Chairman which he held until 1989 when Phyllis Kennerley was appointed.

The Chair (Norman Bentley), The Secretary (Reg Gardom) and the Treasurer (Jack Ford) were the three musketeers who drove the club forward in those early days. Jack Ford is fondly remembered as being "Mr. Mottram". He was the quiet member of this trio, but his contribution was immense. He not only made a huge contribution to the formation of the bowling club where his stewardship of club monies was described as, "He looked after the money efficiently, treating it as though it was his own", he also served on the Parish committee for fifty four years. He also bought the field, adjacent to the club for the use of the village. This is now used at events such as the annual bonfire. In addition he organised the village flower show. The family tradition continues, as Jack's proud daughter is the current bowling club secretary, Jillian Hillary.



Mr Mottram (Jack Ford)

## EARLY GAMES



For the first couple of years the bowlers practiced among themselves and arranged friendlies with other local teams . These included, Thorn Grove, Chelford Farmers, Congleton Railway, South Park and Parkside Hospital. Players had to be patient at this last venue!!



Proof that Mrs. Gardom actually bowled

These matches always seemed to include food and the inevitable tea drinking ceremony which became part of the repertoire and ethos of the Mottram Club, Brian Cavanagh has declared, "You always got a good feed at Chelford and the chip butties at Congleton Railway were to die for!"

After playing mainly at Mottram, which is a relatively tight green, Brian was dumbfounded on his first visit to the Congleton Railway green (chip butties apart). It had an expansive acreage and Brian was shocked by the length of his opponent's first jack and wood. Both disappeared over the crown, down a dip and out of sight into the far distance.

"Blimey", said Brian, "I don't go that far for my holidays!" (It has not been confirmed that he actually said "Blimey"). In order to locate the jack he obtained the services of Phyllis to place a white handkerchief down. It is not known whether this waving white cloth was for jack location or another purpose!



Another story was unearthed about Brian Cavanagh from these early days. The match was at Mottram and Brian's opponent was an amply proportioned lady. After the polite introductions including, "Good game", the lady informed Brian, "I'm going to win this game." "Well good luck then," said Brian, as always, a gentleman. "No," said the lady, "You don't understand, I'm going to win, because if I don't, then you and I are going to to that bike shed over there and a liaison will take place." The game was played, Brian won. One of his team mates asked, "What steps are you going to take now Brian? The reply came, "Great big ones!" He then displayed a previously unknown talent, leaving the Mottram club with a speed, grace and determination of which Usain Bolt would have been proud. And from a standing start!

As seen in the above minutes discussion was held about joining the Macclesfield League. This was deferred and the friendlies continued whilst the Mottram players honed their skills. Little did the Macclesfield League know what to expect!



Sunday tea time with Margaret Oakes, Glynis Holt, Gloria Friend, et al

In 1984 Mottram made application to join the Macclesfield League for the 1985 season in division 4. At this momentous time the club officials were ;

- Chairman and captain - Mr. Bentley
- Treasurer - Mr. Ford (Mrs. Eley from 1985)
- Secretary - Mr. Grange
- Macclesfield League Delegates - Mr. Bentley and Mr. Cavanagh

The committee was: Mr. Beard, Mr. Slater (Brian's dad), Mr. Kennerley, Mr. White, Mr. Capps, and Mr. Gordon.

Minutes from the meeting on Tuesday 26th February 1985 before the league debut season reveal :

- The green was to open on 24th March;
- Mr. Cavanagh volunteered to repair and paint the gutter boards;
- A working party was to creosote the fence;
- Mr. Kennerley was to look into the best method of providing floodlights;
- A notice board was to be provided on the machine shed;
- A dance was to be arranged and Mr. Capps said his daughter would provide the disco;
- Two cups were to be bought for internal competitions.

The 1986 AGM minutes reveal that during the inaugural league season in 1985 Mottram had finished in fifth place in the league. "Several visiting teams had remarked on the friendly welcome given by the Mottram players". This is another hallmark of the club which has lasted down the decades.

The officers were the same as at the 1985 AGM except that Alice Eley had taken on the responsibility of Treasurer. Alice maintained this role with distinction for thirty years until 2015. AGM minutes during this period attest to the highly efficient and diligent way Alice discharged the duties of the role.



Malcolm checks his 'spends' he had just received from Alice

Phrases which consistently occur in these minutes state, "another good year's work from the treasurer", "a very good and detailed Treasurer's report", "the treasurer gave her report and as usual it was up to her impeccable standards, showing that the finances are in a very healthy state." etc.

The newly appointed Vice- captain was Syd Kennerley.

Mr Preece expressed concern about a lack of meetings throughout the year. Mr. Grange replied that there had been nothing to discuss

After further discussion Mr. Preece and the Chairman were appointed to represent the bowling section at Village Hall management committee meetings. It was also agreed that trophies be obtained for singles', pairs' and ladies' internal knockout competitions. It was proposed to enter a second team in the newly formed division of the Macclesfield League.

The 1987 AGM showed that the team had finished 5th in the league in 1986. Mr. Kennerley was to look into the cost of timber for building a shelter for visitors. (Mr. Gardom suggested that there must be a lot of disused bus shelters about!!) . Mr. Grange stood down as Secretary and Mr. Bentley replaced him. The bowling committee was Mr. Slater, Mr. Casey, Mr. Kennerley, Mr. Gardom and Mrs. Burns. The league delegates were Brian Cavanagh, Ken Grange and Norman Bentley. Alice Eley volunteered to captain the new B team with assistance from Mrs. Burns.

During 1987 several fundraising events were organised. A dance was held with raffle prizes donated by Brian Cavanagh, Alice and Malcolm Eley, Ken Grange and Norman Bentley. Tickets were supplied by Mrs. Gardom. Brian Cavanagh ran a 100 club. Marion Oates remembers that her and Lawrence came to one of these dances and were cajoled by Norman Bentley into joining the bowling club. Neither had played bowls before and were initially apprehensive, but both have become long standing and valued members, as well as good bowlers.

At the 1988 AGM it was suggested that a C team be initiated and entered in the Macclesfield League. This three teams in four years showed how Mottram was now flourishing. Pete Bayley said he would organise the Cav. Cup and sort dates for the other club competitions. Everybody was pleased with the new shed which Syd had organised. Approval was given into looking into the feasibility of club sweaters. Brian Cavanagh was appointed A team captain. Other officials remained the same as the previous year.



It is noteworthy to remark on the procedure for the election of officials within the club. Tradition dictates that the Chairperson asks for nominations. At this point tradition also dictates that the assembled members look downwards to ascertain if their shoes need polishing that night. Then, one timorous voice almost inaudibly whispers, "I nominate X." At which point thirty or forty raucous voices simultaneously bellow, "I second that proposal!" The matter is then complete.

In 1988 the A team finished 5th and the B team finished 3rd. Again, many plaudits had been received about the quality of the green and the friendly welcome at Mottram.

At the 1989 AGM the following officials were elected.

Chairperson - Phyllis Kennerley. This was a position she held with great distinction until 2015, a remarkable length of service to the Mottram Club. She brought and encouraged a relaxed, calm and supportive atmosphere to meetings and the developing growth of the club are testimony to Phyllis' leadership qualities. From discussions with members it has become apparent of the great pride Phyllis has for Mottram and for all her great service to the club thanks must be recorded.

Secretary - Norman Bentley

Treasurer - Alice Eley

A team Captain - Alice Eley

Vice captain - Syd Kennerley

B Team Captain - Pete Bayley

Vice Captain - Reg Gardom

Special Committee - John Slater, Reg Gardom, Matt Casey, Bob Burns.

League Delegates - Brian Cavanagh, Ken Grange.

In the time honoured tradition these appointments were unanimously agreed to a collective tsunami of relief.

Phyllis Kennerley was thanked for the wonderful Presentation Night at Lower House Farm.



Chuckle Time at Lower House Farm with Phyllis, Syd, Ken Simpson and Maureen Parkinson



Presentation night at Lower House Farm

This 1989 AGM indicates that a working party was established to undertake any repairs and maintenance work.

It was decided to enter a C team in the Macclesfield League, subject to finding a captain. The finances were healthy and £200.00 was donated to the village Hall to help defray expenses.

During the 1980's and 1990's the Presentation Nights were held in Lower House Farm. The format of these was devised by Phyllis and Syd, who kindly hosted the events. They became popular and well attended. There were also many fund raising activities which took place, including dances, jumble sales, raffles and the 100 Club.

## THE 1990's



In 1991 all captains were pleased with their team's efforts during the season. At the AGM the distinctive Mottram selection process ensured that all serving officers were selected again. (pew! Got away with it again!)

At the AGM Pete Bayley proposed, seconded by Malcolm Eley, that the Secretary (Norman Bentley), be paid an honorarium for expenses such as phone calls, postage etc. This was carried unanimously, but the motion for it to be paid in beer tokens over the bar was defeated. It was not thought that enough tokens existed for this! Also, "It was not known that Elsie had so many friends!

The annual trip to Benllech in Anglesey became a popular annual event. These were organised by Brian Cavanagh who was a popular club member who had become very involved with his organisation of social and fundraising events. His sense of fun also endeared him to club members. When Brian was asked if he hailed from Mottram he replied, "No my wife Sheila does I'm a city slicker from..... Wilmslow! "



Annual day trip to Benllech, Anglesey - May 1990

Another popular social event were the Sunday friendlies organised by Pete Bayley. Pete was another member who gave so willingly to the club. He was a captain, vice captain, helper, organiser and undertook much practical work around the club's facilities, including the making of the cabinet for Frank, our club mascot. Syd says that if a job to be done was raised at a meeting, him and Pete would look at each other, nod, and that was it. The job was sorted.

In 1992 a new Secretary was elected, Ken Simpson, as Norman Bentley informed the meeting that 'tempus fugit' had caught up with him. Norman was always known as 'Benny' and had been a driving force to ensure that the vision of Reg Gardom, for a bowling club at Mottram, became a reality. He was an energetic and humorous man who in his enthusiasm for the club embraced many roles. These included being Chairman, Secretary, Team Captain and Vice Captain. He was described as a life and soul of the club and was one of the founding fathers.



Alice and Benny on the pegs

In the 1992 season the A team were promoted and Phyllis Kennerley, Jean Potts and Pat Casey received awards for finishing high in the league averages.

The minutes record that, "At ICI Presentation Night, Mottram held their own with the Plough and Pack Horse." It is not clear whether this refers to bowling or an obscure agricultural event!

In 1992 the Charity Commission insisted on the Village Hall Committee and the Bowling Club Committee become separate entities.



The League reps. were Norman Palmer and Don White.

In 1993 subs were raised to 70p per game to help with the cost of green maintenance. The Management committee of the Village Hall agreed that the Bowling Club would take a lease of the green. The lease would include electricity, water and parking for the Bowling Club. Mottram Bowling Club would take the responsibility of the maintenance of the green.

As well as league matches for the three teams, friendlies were arranged with Moss Rose, Thorn Grove, Wilmslow and Wilmslow Con. Club. This ensured that many members got regular games.

In 1993 the A team did not shine too brightly, but the B team reached the semi-finals of the floodlit competition and Jean Potts was once again top of the League's ladies' averages. The team squads had healthy numbers, ensuring that there were few problems with putting teams out.

The 1993 minutes indicate that the bowling club members agreed for Paul Bradley, (the green consultant), to oversee the green maintenance in terms of fertilisers, moss killer, spiking etc.

In 1994 the players in the various teams were the following:

### A Team

Alice Eley (captain)  
 Syd Kennerley (vice- captain)  
 Phyllis Kennerley  
 Brian Cavanagh  
 Norman Palmer  
 Don White  
 Jean Potts  
 Ray Scrivens  
 Lawrie Oates

### B Team

Pete Bayley (captain)  
 Reg Gardom(vice-captain)  
 Frank Argent  
 Marion Oates  
 Tom Potts  
 John Ellis  
 Ann Smith  
 Eric Wallwork  
 Marjorie Mellor  
 Roy Mayers  
 Janet Arrowsmith

### C Team

Norman Bentley (captain)  
 Ken Simpson (vice-captain)  
 Malcolm Eley  
 Marjorie Norbury  
 Elsie Mayers  
 Brenda Norbury  
 George White  
 Judith McAllister  
 Beryl Bayley  
 Dave Whitehead  
 Geoff Beard

### D Team

Ray Scrivens (captain)  
 Keith Nicholas (vice-captain)  
 John Oates  
 Dennis Arrowsmith  
 Joy Whitehead  
 Graham Norbury  
 Rose Simpson  
 John Kay  
 John Pearson  
 Alan Beale  
 Leslie Ellis  
 Duncan Ward  
 Albert Sproston

In 1994 teams did well. The A team came third in Division 3 and Syd Kennerley was top of the league averages. The B team finished runners-up in Division 4 and Lawrie Oates was top of the league averages in that division. The C team finished 7th in Division 5.

1994 was the first year the members maintained the green themselves and they made a good job of it. Thanks were extended to Syd for the excellent job in maintaining the mowing machine, which he has always done on our behalf. He was well supported with the mowing by Don White, Pete Bayley, Ken Simpson and Tom Potts.

It was a great year for the Mottram W.I. team, who, against all the odds, "walked away with the Cheshire W. I. Trophy."



WI Team Cheshire Champions 1996 - Marion Oates, Jean Potts, Phyllis Kennerley, Brenda Norbury, Marjorie Norbury, Rose Simpson, Alice Eley

At the AGM, After the usual ominous silence, Pete Bayley proposed, seconded by Norman Palmer, that the officers be re-elected en bloc. After a delay of a micro-second this was passed unanimously.

1995 was a landmark year in the club's history with the opening of the new pavilion and clubhouse. This was the brainchild of Syd Kennerley, who, with his team of faithful workers, laid a new base and fed in all the services, water, electricity and drains. The new clubhouse was a wooden construction and came in twelve sections. The supplying company delivered and erected it on the same day.



Laying foundations for new pavilion - 1995  
Left to right - Syd, Dave Whitehead, Norman Bentley, Reg Gardom, Malc, Ken Simpson, Don White

Syd and his team then connected the services and laid carpets. Pete Bayley fitted sink units, cupboards, lined the interior with insulation board. It was essential that electric kettles were installed, otherwise members would have been boiling over! These inevitably came first as the work induced much thirst only alleviated by frequent brew breaks with biscuits. This was in keeping with the rich tradition and custom and practice of Mottram Bowling Club.



The Workers having 'baggin'

The minutes from the AGM on 23rd November 1995 record, "the workers' list is endless, so when I say thank you to all who have helped, be it by donating fittings and fixtures and using various skills, I say it on behalf of all the members of this club. The project we have just completed can only be achieved when we all pull together and that is what makes it great to be a member of our club."  
(Ken Simpson)

This tribute can be reiterated down the years to the present day, for all the voluntary work undertaken by so many people. The sentiments expressed do permeate all records of the Mottram Bowling Club and still make it a very special club.

1995 was also a successful season. The A team gained promotion to Division 2 and although the B team were relegated to Division 4 the C team gained promotion from Division 5. The newly inaugurated D team had a credible first season in the league finishing 9th in division 5. Syd Kennerley was top of the averages in Division 3 and Jean Potts was top of the ladies' averages in the same division. Elsie Mayer was top of the ladies' averages in Division 5. The minutes state, "All in all, one of our best seasons."

That year was an unusually hot summer which was testing for the green keepers, but, "They were all up to the task and stuck to it under the keen supervision of Paul Bradley."

"Don White and Norman Palmer carried out their duties as our league reps. with their usual efficiency and dedication that we have all become used to ."

"Benny (Norman Bentley) is still doing a sterling job organising and running the Wednesday dances."

"Our usual trip to Benllech was another success. Brian Cavanagh always does us proud on this trip and it is a date in our bowling calendar that we all look forward to."

"It goes without saying that our W.I. ladies make the nicest refreshments, as we want that trophy back in Mottram."

"The treasurer (Alice Eley) presented her report and as usual it was up to her impeccable standards. She showed that our finances are in a very healthy state."

The next item on the agenda was election of officers and a deathly hush descended on the meeting. The silence was broken by an audacious member, equally supported by another audacious member, that the the officers be elected en bloc. After a massive show of hands and mopping of brows, the officers were elected en bloc.



There was also an interesting discussion of a motion proposed by Don White and seconded by Malcolm Eley, that visiting teams should not be allowed to practice before a game. The validity of this was questioned by Pete Bayley. The motion was carried but the League introduced an amendment to their rules that, "The away team players are not allowed to bowl on the green on match days, unless in a scheduled match from another league, even if members of the home club."

*"Malcolm Eley and Pete Bayley proposed that Syd Kennerley and Norman Bentley be appointed honorary members for services rendered. They both declined this."*

These are quotes from the AGM minutes of November 23rd 1995, written by Ken Simpson. They do give a true flavour of the club ethos, in which co-operation, teamwork, dedication and good humour flourished.

The 1996 minutes show that the club's internal competitions were flourishing and were organised by different pairs of members. The success of these has been maintained thanks to the commitment and dedication of Alice and Malcolm Eley and the Sunday afternoon competitions are very much enjoyed by members, with the obligatory good food and lashings of tea!



"It's mine!" "No it's not!"  
and an interested Jean Potts

It is apparent to members that Malcolm is always present whenever events take place and he is exemplarily supportive of members. He is an invaluable club member and a good officer as well. Thank you Malcolm!

Reg Gardom provided the trophy for the MSA Bowling Club merit competition.

The en-bloc election of officers “in ten seconds flat left the officers absolutely gob-smacked and in a state of shock! Members agreed for the prestigious Cheshire Junior Merit be held in Mottram in 1997. The minutes also reveal that the Chair (Phyllis Kennerley) commented, “How efficiently the club is run and I can only put this down to the happy atmosphere that members generate and the support they give to the officers, so a thanks all round is in order.”

Still so true!

The election of officers that year was unanimously carried (again!) and Ken Simpson commented, “This audacity is beyond my comprehension and it is carried reluctantly!”

It is noteworthy to remark that the extended White family (there were millions!!) had a big input into the club in terms of support and contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the club. They also introduced a popular event each summer in the 1990’s, a Sunday afternoon match between The White family and the Mottram Club. this is described in greater detail later in this document by Beryl Bayley (White). One old photograph shows the jubilant White family the year they won the “White Cup”. There are fourteen of them in the photograph, so it is no surprise they won, there were only eight players in the Mottram team! The White family tradition and involvement with the club is still maintained through respected members Don and Beryl.



The Whites v Mottram - No wonder The Whites won, as there were only 8 Mottram players



The winner, Beryl Bayley, with Malc and Derek Rathbone - 2015

Some repair work was carried out in the close season, involving renewal of concrete posts and repairing panels. Working parties volunteered to do this in the winter months. Pete Bayley offered to make a showcase for Frank, the club mascot. This is still on display in the clubhouse.

In the 1998 AGM (19/11/1998) the green was discussed. Syd reported that Paul Bradley, green consultant, had scarified, slit, re-seeded, fertilised and dressed the green. He had further advised that the profile of the green not be altered too much, as it had become the green's feature which was expected by members.

On the election of officers Ken Simpson reported, "Why is it when we come to this item it is greeted in stony silence? Or some joker pipes up, 'I propose they be elected en bloc' and another joker says, 'I second that and all in favour say 'aye'. But this time you have all been thwarted. During the strong silence, Phyllis, Alice and I had a little chat and decided we would carry on for another year, but then you will need three new faces to start the new millennium. These three faces need a well earned rest because there are not sufficient funds to give us each a new facelift!! So please note you have been warned."

The team captains were:

### **A Team**

Alice Eley  
Syd Kennerley (vice- captain)

### **B Team**

John Ellis  
Reg Gardom(vice-captain)

### **C Team**

Norman Bentley  
Ken Simpson (vice-captain)

### **D Team**

Ken Moore  
(non playing captain)

In 1998 Alice Eley won the Ladies' Handicap Competition. Reports indicate her opponent was over competitive to the point of being unpleasant, but Alice's calm and steady nature prevailed.

In 1999 after many years dedicated service Don White relinquished his role as League Rep. and Norman Palmer offered to replace him, alongside Eric Wallwork.

Marion Fowler of Dean Row W.I. requested to hire the green on Tuesday mornings . This request was accepted and the ladies still use the facilities of the Club

The Merit Competition was scrapped and replaced by a handicap competition and the 'Gardom Trophy' would replace the 'White Cup'. It was agreed to upgrade the floodlights by investigating those of Wilmslow Conservative Club which were being replaced.



## THE NEW MILLENNIUM



In 2000 the new Secretary was Eric Wallwork who delivered a warm and well deserved tribute to the work carried out by his predecessor Ken Simpson, who had made a tremendous contribution to Mottram Bowling Club. Ken had been Secretary and Vice-captain and his commitment to the club and infectious good humour endeared him to members.

Frank Argent Proposed that the Club not enter the Floodlight Competition due to lack of enthusiasm for it. This was carried. Ray Scriven's proposal to introduce indoor bowling in the Village Hall was carried and the event would commence on Tuesday 12th December 2000. This is still organised on Tuesday evenings in the winter months, thanks to Malcolm Eley.

In 2001 interest was expressed in entering a team to play on Thursday afternoons in the Alderley and District League. A proposal was accepted to make a formal application to the League.

This was the first year of Eric's tenure as Secretary. He carried on for another fourteen years carrying on the good work of his predecessors with efficiency, dedication and commitment. He has also been (and still is) the captain of the B Team and was a league delegate for many years. Thank you Eric!

Mention of Frank Argent raises an interesting tale. Frank was a friend of Norman Palmer and they both joined the club together. He was well liked and respected throughout the club and the club mascot, "Frank", is named after him. Frank was a retired police inspector and brought the gravitas of this role to the club, particularly when he walked across the green. No! He did not plod! He strode in a majestic fashion across the green with his feet set at ten to two. He had a presence. This was augmented by his propensity to flatulence every four or five paces. But never mind, whenever Frank played he was sure to come up trumps for Mottram!! That is, after he got his second wind!

Norman recalls the story of when he and Frank went to Southport for the Lancashire Flat Green Championships. It must be remembered there is a stricter dress code in flat green than in crown green bowls. After the Southport event was finished, they returned to the Mottram Sunday afternoon bowls, resplendent in their full flat green regalia. They walked through the gates in blazers, white trousers, white shirts and Lancashire County ties, to the refrain of the "Eton Boat Song". There was a dumbfounded silence from the Mottram members. Norman and Frank then proceeded to harangue the club members about their Sunday best attire of jeans and trainers. "This is how you should dress you lot. This is a sophisticated game. This is Mottram Bowling club, not Macclesfield Market!!" All tongue in cheek it must be added.







Brain Cavanagh with Ken Simpson, present the Cav Cup to Frank Argent (who put the wind up his opponents)

In 2002 the team in the Alderley League won the League in its first season and also reached the final of the handicap knockout competition. Appreciation was expressed to Phyllis Kennerley for her captaincy. Jean Potts was the top lady in the League average in Division 2 of the Macclesfield Mixed League. Phyllis Kennerley won 15 out of 18 games for the B team. Duncan Ward, Beryl Bayley and Alan Macklin had performed well for the C team and John Parsons had won 10 out of 14 for the D team



The B Team

Back row - Phyllis, Dave W, Alan Beale, Norman Palmer, Eric Wallwork.  
Front Row - John Ellis, Rose, Frank, Marion

In all AGM reports tributes were always paid to the many members who contributed to the efficient running of the Club. These included the elected officers and all those volunteers who ran the jumble sales, dances, kept the green in good condition, looked after the flower displays, organised competitions and maintained the fences and the clubhouse. It is fitting to note that such selfless contributions have ensured that Mottram Bowling Club has existed for almost forty years.

In 2004 a team was entered in the Macclesfield Vets. League. All teams performed satisfactorily in the various leagues. Congratulations were tendered to Marjorie Mellor who had won the ladies' averages' prize in the Macclesfield League, Division Two. Particular mention was also made to: Lawrence Oates who had won 16 of his 23 matches in the B Team; Ron Davies 13 out of 14; Marjorie Norbury 12 out of 14 and Colin Philpott 13 out of 19.

There was a proposed change of rule recommended by the Management Committee, in line with one from the Macclesfield League. It aimed at overcoming the practice of some teams to play A Team players in the early stages of the season.

Syd suggested upgrading the floodlights and this was accepted

The membership fee of the Village Hall Club was increased to £10.00 a year. The fees for the use of the green by Prestbury Probus and Second Macclesfield Probus were increased. It was agreed that blue club sweatshirts should be purchased and be available for members.

2005 was a satisfactory season for the club. The A Team finished third in the Macclesfield League winning 16 out of twenty games. The B Team were 9th out of 14, the C Team 7th out of 13 and the D Team 11th out of 14. In the Alderley Mixed League Mottram finished 6th out of 10.

Jean Potts led the A Team averages with +6.1, Norman Palmer the B Team with +2.0, Derek Rathbone the C Team with +6.2 and Renate Scriven the D Team with +3.3. The Vets' Team finished 3rd in the Macclesfield Veterans' League and Rose Simpson led the averages with +9.2.

The fine condition of the green had been maintained throughout the season and Syd Kennerley and his helpers were complimented on this. This was a significant factor in Mottram hosting the County Junior Match between Cheshire and the Potteries and District. In all minutes Syd and his team of helpers were complimented on the way they worked tirelessly to keep the green in good condition. This has always been appreciated by Club members.

A significant feature of AGM's is the consistent high attendance by members. This has always been acknowledged by the Chair. Another feature has been the appreciation for the work of the Club officers demonstrated there always being unanimous approval for their work when presented as a proposal.

In 2006 the leading Mottram players in League averages were:

A Team - Jean Potts +4.9, Phyllis Kennerley +4.5, Syd Kennerley +3.5, Marjorie Mellor + 3.4;  
B Team - Alan Beale +2.2, Norman Palmer +1.7;  
C Team - Marion Fowler +4.2, Beryl Bayley +3.1;  
D Team - Dennis Arrowsmith +2.7, Margaret Machin +2.6.

In Division 1 of the Alderley Mixed League Mottram finished 7th out of 11. In the Macclesfield League the A Team finished third in Division 2. The B Team avoided relegation by gaining a good win on the last day of the season. Pride of place went to the C Team who finished second and were promoted to Division 2. This meant that the A, B and C teams would be in the same division in 2007. It is noteworthy that there was only one other C team in the top two divisions.

The Vets' Team were champions of Division 2 of the Macclesfield Vets' League and were automatically promoted.

In 2006 Mottram supported the East Cheshire Hospice again with a donation of £50.00 and also donated a similar amount to Parkside Bowling Club to help with the rebuilding of their vandalised clubhouse. It has traditionally been a feature of Mottram Bowling Club to make charitable donations.

In 2006 the Macclesfield League proposed a reorganisation for the 2007 season. There were to be five divisions instead of four and only A teams would be eligible to play in Division 1. All A and B teams would play on Tuesdays and C and D teams would play on Thursdays and Fridays. The main reason for extending the League was because of complaints received about the season being too long with four divisions. The proposal was defeated by one vote and so the league structure remained unchanged.

In the League in 2006 Mottram C were relegated from Division 2, the A Team finished 9th from 14, the B Team 11th from 14 and the C team 14th. These were all in Division 2. It was recognised that relegation was no bad thing as there were significant gaps in standards in the various divisions.

Four Mottram players played in all matches in the Macclesfield League in 2006, Phyllis Kennerley, Duncan Ward and Vera and Peter Hammond.

The better individual averages were:

A Team; ;Syd Kennerley +3.67 (won 19 out of 24 matches), Phyllis Kennerley +2.92 (18/26), Vera Hammond +2.58 (14/26)

B Team; Norman Palmer +2.25(13/20); Eric Wallwork +1.77(12/22), Peter Bayley+1.26(10/19);

C Team; Duncan Ward +2.26 (9/26;; Colin Philpott +2.86 (8/21)

D Team: Fred Spatchcock +3.52 (13/21), Gloria Friend +2.7 (11/24), Albert Oakes +1.27(12/20), Robert Oakes +6.1 (6/9).

The Vets' had endured a difficult season and it was anticipated that they would be relegated back to Division 2. The best average was Colin Philpott, +4.8 (11/15) and Duncan Ward +1.3 (9/15). The Mixed Team also had a difficult season finishing 11th out of 12 teams in the Alderley Edge League and so were relegated. The best averages were Norman Palmer +4.1 and Phyllis Kennerley +3.1.

Eric Wallwork's report states, "The green remained in very good fettle and compared favourably with other greens on which we play. The spirit at Mottram was good with plenty of banter (most of it friendly!). It was suggested that players waiting to play or had finished, could move around the green to support players on the green, as a friendly, supportive voice would be appreciated, particularly by those players who may be struggling." (How true!)

Eric's report went on, "Ted Bullock proposed, seconded by Phyllis Kennerley, that Rose Simpson be appointed Vice Chairperson. This was approved unanimously. Ted Bullock offered to provide two trophies for the doubles' tournaments."

In the Alderley Edge League in 2007 there were changes to the rules and a 42 metre maximum length was introduced. The averages would be worked out by: total points won minus total points conceded divided by the number of games played. Seventy five percent of games must be played to qualify for prizes.

In 2007 pride of place, among the Mottram teams, went to the Vets' Team and the Thursday afternoon Mixed Team, both of whom finished top of their respective Leagues resulting in promotion for both. In the Vets' Team top of the averages was Gloria Friend, closely followed by Janet Wickens, Jane Arrowsmith and Ruth Potts. Gloria had been selected for 'The Best of the Rest' in a challenge match against the Division 1 champions.

In the Thursday Mixed Team Colin Philpott had the best average with +8.9, Don White had +8.8 and Duncan Ward +7.0.

The A Team finished 4th in division 2 of the Macclesfield League winning 16 of their 24 matches. Phyllis Kennerley had the 5th highest average in the League on +6.17 (18/23). She was also second in the ladies' averages. Syd Kennerley had the next highest on +4.9 followed by Vera Hammond +2.9. Both Syd and Vera had (15/21).

The B Team finished 10th out of 13. Top of the averages was Alan Beale on +2.0 of whom the report states, "He bored his opponents to death!" He was followed by Pete Bayley on +1.1. "Everybody else had a minus average so no further details are available." (So there!)

The C Team finished 3rd out of 12 in Division 3. Duncan Ward had the best average on +5.15 (14/20), followed by Derek Rathbone on +5.0 (16/20) and Colin Philpott on +4.7 (14/18).

The D Team finished 5th out of 13 teams in Division 4. Top of the averages was Malcolm Eley on an astounding +11.1 from seven matches. The report concludes that, "He picked his matches with care!" Next was Graham Holt on +7.6 (15/16), Robert Oakes on +6.1 (11/14) and Gloria Friend on +5.2 (13/18).



The minutes record the results of the various Club competitions.

	Winners	Runners Up
Reg Gardom Handicap	Pete Bayley	Betty Wood
Scott Cup	Robert Oakes	Gloria Friend
Ted's Two's	Robert Oakes/ Phyllis Kennerley	
Cav. Cup	Rose Simpson	Phyllis Kennerley
Pairs Comp.	Margaret Oakes/ Betty Wood	Peter Hammond/ Gloria Friend
Ladies' Cup	Ruth Spatschek	Betty Wood
Briar Cup	Fred Spatschek	Dennis Arrowsmith

It was at this time that a mysterious event occurred which has continued annually. In club folklore it has become known as the "Scrumpy Swiping Mystery." Each year in early autumn red apples disappear from a tree at the far end of the green. Due to the height of the tree the culprit must be very tall or wear platform soles. This person must also have telescopic limbs. The long arm of the law is looking into this. Just like the Loch Ness Monster there are reported sightings of this villain and club legend reports that one year the person was seen falling off a white plastic chair with some injury occurring. Some see this as comeuppance, others see it as come downance. The police report that that they have some in cider information and sniffer dogs have several leads. Someday the mystery may be solved as we all wish to see a halt to the core of this issue.

Another fruity tale is the story of the damson pilferer from the trees adjacent to the car park. One tall individual, who is reported to be a Mixed B Team captain, but we are not sure who, has been sighted climbing on his automobile to filch damsons. He is reported as saying , "They are not for me, they are for my damn son!" Some are reported as finding their way to the residence of a long serving treasurer, who will remain nameless, and then transmuted into the magic substance, gin!

On the theme of fruit, an eagerly anticipated annual event is the autumnal distribution of apples by Brian Slater, who kindly brings the pick of his ample crop for club members.

In 2008 the A Team had finished in a respectable 6th place in the Macclesfield Division 2. Vera Hammond topped the averages on +5.29 (15/21). Phyllis Kennerley also did well on +4.45 (16/22).

The B Team lost its annual battle against relegation in Division 2 whilst the C Team finished 6th in Division 3. The star of the show in the C Team was Marion Oates on +6.0 (15/19). Marion was also the top lady in the league averages. Graham Holt was on +4.22 (13/18).

The D Team proudly finished runners up in Division 4. Margaret Oakes was Mottram's top bowler on +5.79 (13/19). The final League positions meant that the B,C and D teams would play in Division 3 in 2009.

The Mixed Team in The Alderley League managed to retain their place in Division 1. Top of the averages was Rose Simpson on +4.2 followed by Phyllis Kennerley on +3.1 and Malcolm Eley on +0.8. (Malcolm played more than seven matches that year!!)

2009 was described as an "average year as far as performances went. In the Macclesfield League the A Team finished 8th in Division 2. The B, C and D teams finished 5th, 6th and 9th respectively in Division 3. This meant that they would each be playing in Division 3 again in 2010.

The A Team's top bowler was Syd Kennerley on +4.25 (13/20), followed by Vera Hammond on +4.00 (14/22). In the B Team the top bowler was Norman Palmer on +5.38 (18/21) followed by Betty Wood on +4.95 (16/21).

Derek Rathbone was top of the C Team averages on +5.10 (14/21) followed by Graham Holt on +2.17 and Janet Wickens on +2.09.

Sandra Read had the D Team's best average on +6.32 (14/19) which made her the leading lady in the League. Next was Brian Slater on +3.80 (8/10) and Mike Read on +3.19 (10/16).

The Mixed Team in the Alderley League finished 10th. Top of the averages was Malcolm Eley on +2.50 (1/2) The minutes state, "It is not sure if these count." Next was Marion Oates on +2.0(2/3) ! Others were Don White on +1.65 from 20 matches played and Alan Beale on +1.50 from 10 matches played.

The Vets' Team finished next to bottom in Division 1 of the Macclesfield Vets' League and were relegated. Top performer was Duncan Ward on +2.55 (7/11) followed by Malcolm Eley on +2.0 (1/1)!!

#### Tournament Winners 2009

### Winners

### Runners Up

Reg Gardom Cup

Albert Oakes

Derek Rathbone

Briar Cup

Lawrence Oates

Malcolm Eley

Ladies' Cup

Gloria Friend

Ruth Potts

Scott Cup

Lawrence Oates

Graham Holt

Pairs Comp.

Betty Wood/ Janet Wickens

Graham Holt/ Phyllis Kennerley

Ted's Two's

Duncan Ward/ Rose Simpson

Syd Kennerley/ Betty Wood

Cav. Cup

Brian Slater

Lawrence Oates

At the AGM access to the disabled toilets was raised by Ted Bullock and Malcolm Eley said he would raise the issue at the Village Hall Management Meeting.

2010 was a relatively successful year for the Mottram Club. Of our four teams in the Macclesfield League three had finished in the top four of their divisions. In the Alderley Mixed League and the Macclesfield Vets'. League our teams had both finished second.

The D Team struggled in the Macclesfield League due to experiencing problems with fielding a team at times. The A Team finished fourth in Division 2. Top of the averages was Syd Kennerley followed by Vera Hammond. The B Team topped Division 3. Leading the averages was Dave Whitehead who was also fourth best bowler in Division 3. He was followed by Stan Stennett, sixth in the League and Beryl Bayley, tenth in the League.

The C Team finished 3rd in the same Division. Top of the averages was Sandra Read who was the top lady in the League for the second successive year and also topped the League averages. Next was Mike Read who also finished 7th in the League averages.

The D Team finished next to bottom but still won 8 out of 18. The best bowler was Tony Wells followed by Malcolm Eley and Brian Slater.

In the Macclesfield Vets' League the team finished second. The best bowler was Rose Simpson who was also second in the league averages. She was followed by Duncan Ward, seventh in the league averages.

In the Alderley Mixed League Mottram finished second in Division 2 and the best bowler was Don White who was also 5th in the League averages.

#### Competition Winners

	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Runners Up</b>
<b>Reg Gardom Handicap</b>	Syd Kennerley	Margaret Clough
<b>Briar Cup</b>	Lawrence Oates	Albert Oakes
<b>Ladies' Cup</b>	Phyllis Kennerley	Marion Oates
<b>Ted's Two's</b>	Alice Eley/ Duncan Ward	Gloria Friend/ Ruth Spatschek
<b>Cav. Cup</b>	Betty Wood	Alan Beale
<b>Pairs'. Comp.</b>	Don White/ Phyllis Kennerley	Tony Wells/ Rose Simpson
<b>Scott Cup</b>	Ruth Spatschek	Albert Oakes

In the AGM a discussion revolved around promotion or demotion of players to higher or lower teams. It was decided to leave it to the discretion of the Management Committee.

## 2011



In 2011 the A team finished champions of Division 2 of the Macclesfield League, the B team finished 10th and the C team 14th in the same division. This meant that the C team were relegated. It was remarkable for a club to have three teams in one of the higher divisions. The D team were relegated from Division 3.

Syd Kennerley was top of the club's averages (+5.35) and fifth in the League while Vera Hammond was second in the club averages, 7th in the league and was the leading lady in the league (+4.96). In the B team Eric Wallwork league averages (+2.19), followed by Norman Palmer (+0.43). Gloria Friend led the C team averages. Brian Slater led the D team averages on (+3.71), followed by Graham Holt (+2.52) and Ruth Potts (+1.65)

In the Alderley Edge Mixed League the A team finished tenth in Division 1 and were relegated. The B team finished fifth in Division 3. Don White was top of the A team averages with (+4.76) followed by Phyllis Kennerley with (+1.47). In the B team Graham Holt topped the averages (+7.40), followed by Ruth Potts (+3.6), Brian Slater (+4.00) and Janet Arrowsmith (+2.08)

In the Macclesfield Vets League The team finished 9th and were relegated. Betty Wood was top of the averages followed by Gloria Friend.

## 2012



This year saw the A team finishing 14th in Division 1 of the Macclesfield League and so were relegated. The B team finished 9th in Division 2, the C team came 4th in Division 3 and the D team were champions of Division 4. In the A team Syd Kennerley was top of the averages, (+2.09), followed by Peter Hammond (+0.86) and Vera Hammond (+0.65). In the B team Stan Stennett was top (+3.20) followed by Norman Palmer (+1.28). The C team averages were topped by Alan Beale (+3.57) followed by Betty Wood (+2.92) and Marion Oates (+2.76). The all conquering D team had a number of players with good averages. Graham Holt on (+8.19) and 3rd in the league, Brian Slater (+7.21), Tony Wells (+6.94), Margaret Oakes (+6.75 and leading lady in the league), Marion Fowler (+5.24), John Parsons (+5.06), Glynis Holt (+4.19), Ruth Potts (+4.08) and Barbara Mackrell (+3.76).

In the Alderley Edge League the A team finished 8th in the Mixed League division 1 and the B team Champions of Division 3. Syd was top of the team's averages (+4.44) followed by Phyllis (+2.00), Lawrie Oates (+1.23) and Don White (+1.1). The B team had some outstanding averages : Leading the charge was Norman Palmer (+8.00), followed by Ruth Potts (+7.89). Brian Slater (+6.40), Tony wells (+5.88), and Jill Margetson (+5.40).



In the Macclesfield League the team came second in Division 2, thus fulfilling the prophecy that they were the "Yoyo Team"! As befitting a team of 'all talents' there were some very good individual averages. Top was Syd Kennerley who won all his 13 games for an average of (+11.85). This was the top average in the league but Syd did not win the prize as he needed to have played one more game. He was followed by Duncan Ward who was second in the league averages (+9.27), Betty Wood (+6.00) second best lady in the league, Janet Wickens (+5.15), Rose Simpson (+4.31), Margaret Oakes (+4.22), and Gloria Friend (+4.07).

## 2013



The 2013 season saw the A team finish 2nd in the 2nd Division of the Macclesfield League. In the same division the B team came 13th and were relegated. The C team finished 9th in division 3 and the D team 11th in the same division. For the A team Sandra Read was top of the averages (+6.80). Sandra was also 3rd in the league averages and was the league's leading lady bowler. Following her were Syd Kennerley on (+6.28), 6th in the league and Vera Hammond (+6.00) 3rd best lady in the league. Other good averages were Lawrie Oates (+3.81), Mike Read (+3.77), Phyllis Kennerley (+1.83) and Don White (+1.52).

For the B team the best averages were Stan Stennett (+1.75) and Eric Wallwork (+1.22).. Leading lights in the C team were Albert Oakes (+2.91), Betty Wood (+1.46) Janet Wickens (+1.39), and Marion Oates (+0.95). For the D team it was Tony Wells (+3.23) and Graham Holt (+1.19).

In the Alderley Edge Mixed League the A team finished a respectable 6th in Division 1 whilst the B team finished a respectable 7th in Division 2. In the A team averages Syd Kennerley led the way with (+7.80) to finish a very proud 2nd in the league averages. He was followed in 3rd place in the league averages by Lawrie Oates (+7.24). From seven games Phyllis Kennerley had (+6.71) and others were Duncan Ward (+2.29) and Margaret Oakes (+1.81). Notable performances in the B team were from Graham Holt (+4.78), John Parsons (+4.63), Ruth Potts (+2.44), Barbara Mackrell (+3.77) and John Acton (+2.06) .

In the Macclesfield Vets' League the team was relegated from Division 1. Syd Kennerley led the averages with (+5.80) and Don White (+2.41)

## 2014



This was an important year as Syd obtained new floodlights for the club, as the old ones were "getting old", (like the rest of us!!). These new ones were telescopic and could be highered or lowered to suit. These would surely please the neighbours because of the improved view of the landscape. More importantly there was a safety issue. With the previous lights Syd had to climb up and down ladders to operate them, with Phyllis below, with heart in mouth. These new lights curtailed that precarious situation.

In the Macclesfield League in 2014 the A team were relegated from Division 1, the B team were champions of Division 3, whilst in the same division the C team finished 7th and the D team were 9th. For the A team Phyllis Kennerley was top of the averages with (+0.20). The B team had a number of good averages. Stan Stennett had (+6.13) 4th best in league, Eric Wallwork (+6.00) 6th best in league, Dave Whitehead (+4.25 10th best in league), Peter Hammond (+2.76) and Derek Rathbone (+1.14). Good averages for the C team were Betty Wood (+4.13), Marion Oates (+2.95), Glynis Holt (+2.50) Beryl Bayley (+2.33), Graham Holt (+0.67), Jillian Hillary (+0.41). For the D team the following excelled, Alan Beale unbeaten on (+9.43), Brian Slater (+6.75), Robert Oakes (+5.24)

In the Alderley Edge Mixed League the A team were 8th in Division 1 whilst the B team were relegated from Division 2. Prominent in the A team averages were Syd Kennerley on (+4.04), Lawrie Oates on (+1.47) and Don White (+1.10). For the B team Brian Slater was outstanding with (+7.00) the fourth best in the league. Other averages were Graham Holt (+1.64), Norman Palmer (+1.33) and Janet Arrowsmith (+1.19)

The Mottram team were the proud champions of Division 2 only losing one match all season. Understandably there were some very good individual averages. Don White had a very pleasing season only losing once from 15 played, his average being (+ 9.87), the second best in the league. Duncan Ward recorded (+5.40), the ninth best in the league. Other averages include Rose Simpson (+6.64), Ruth Potts (+4.80), Janet Wickens (+3.54), Betty Wood (+3.33), Gloria Friend (+1.18) and Janet Arrowsmith (+0.18). Both Syd and Phyllis Kennerley had wonderful averages. From 10 games played Syd's average was (+7.33). Phyllis had an outstanding average. She won all six games played for an average of (+13.00). A memorable season all round!



Mixed B Team Winners

Ruth Potts, Margarat O, Glynis, Janet Arrowsmith, Tony Wells, Malc, Janet Lewis, Graham Holt

## 2015

The AGM of 2015 was also momentous because Phyllis, Alice and Eric stepped down from their positions as Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Phyllis had been in post since 1989, Alice since 1985 and Eric since 2000. That is a total of 71 years, which must be unique among local bowling clubs. All three discharged their duties with efficiency, care and distinction, for which we should all be grateful. Thank you each!

Their elected officers to replace them were, Vera Hammond (Chair), Jillian Hillary (Secretary) and Brian Slater (Treasurer) who are sure to bring the same qualities to their respective roles as their predecessors.

Of the teams the A team in the Macclesfield League was the most successful finishing second in Division 2 and thereby promoted to Division 1. The B and C teams finished in the middle of Division 2 and Division 3 respectively. The D team finished next to bottom in Division 3.

The Mottram team in Division 1 Of the Alderley League finished bottom and were relegated .The Vets' team in division 1 of the Macclesfield Vets'. League also struggled and finished bottom.

It was thus a mixed season with one team promoted and two relegated.

There had been difficulties in raising a full team for the D team and it was resolved to disband the team and continue with only three teams in the Macclesfield League in 2016. However a wish was expressed to investigate the feasibility of entering a B team in the Macclesfield Vets'. League.

Players doing well in the averages were as follows.

### Macclesfield League

A Team: Phyllis Kennerley (+5.74), Sandra Read (+5.26), Lawrie Oates (+4.40), Vera Hammond (+4.36), Mike Read (+3.88), Syd Kennerley (+3.23), Don White (+1.19)

B Team: Stan Stennett (+1.13)

C Team : Graham Holt (+3.63), Marion Oates (+3.20), Rose Simpson (+1.80) Derek Rathbone (+1.68), Duncan Ward (+1.47)

D Team : Alan Beale (+7.80) from 6 games, Malcolm Eley (+10.25) from 4 games all won, Tony wells (+1.23), Barbara Mackrell (+0.45)

### Alderley Mixed League

This was a disappointing season for the A team and no regular player finished with a positive average. Similarly the B team were also relegated and the best averages were ; Tony Bird (+5.13), Ruth Potts(+2.60) and Graham Holt (+0.86).

### Macclesfield Vets'. League

This too was a disappointing season and the team were relegated from Division 1. The best averages were, Sandra Read (+3.00), Don White (+2.50) and Janet Wickens (+1.56)



The three amigos rushed off their feet

Left to right - Albert Oakes, George Norbury, Graham Holt

## 2016



Jillian's AGM minutes attest to some discussion being held about some problems with the green. Syd indicated that from year to year it is never known what problems will occur. In 2016 it had been toad rush in the damper parts of the green necessitating him to spike the green to ensure eradication. Syd also thanked Dave, Don, Brian, Graham and Norman who helped with the mowing. He also reported on repairing the mower after it caught fire. Syd was thanked for all his work as was Tony Bird for looking after the plants around the green.

Vera expressed a wish for all reserves to turn up to matches to help with scoring and measuring, the only exception being matches at Congleton. All captains agreed to carry on for another year. Malcolm stepped down from the captaincy of the Mixed B team and was replaced by Denis Price. The new Vets' B team was to be captained by rookie Paul Jackson. Syd was going to investigate the feasibility of erecting another small shelter backing onto the village hall field and a sign was going to be erected on the gates to the bowling green inviting new members. Phyllis had acquired a second hand carpet from a neighbour and this was going to be fitted in the pavilion. Tony Bird suggested a bowling club day out and Dave Whitehead was going to look into possibilities.

In the Macclesfield League the A team finished third from bottom, the B team second from bottom and the C team second from bottom. This meant that all three teams were relegated. The A team were relegated in the Alderley Mixed League and the B team stayed where they were. On a more positive note the Vets' Team finished runners up and were promoted. This meant that the club received a cheque for fifty pounds from the league.



There was an interesting occurrence in a Mixed B team game. Norman Palmer had won and came off beaming. This was noted by Denis Price who said, "You look pleased with yourself." Norman replied, " And so I should. The lady I just played has told me that I have a nice bum!"

He continued to beam and went off to look for a reflective surface. He found one, it was a rear view mirror. Meanwhile the lady in question left early and she was heard to say, "I've got to go, I have an appointment in Cheadle Hulme at the opticians!! "

There were some good averages in the Vets' team. Leading the way was Gloria Friend with (+7.79),. This was followed by Sandra Read on (+7.26), Syd Kennerley (+7.00), Don White (+4.67) Betty Wood (+3.64), Ruth Potts (+2.94), Janet Wickens (+2.69), and Albert Oakes (+1.72).

In the Macclesfield league averages were not as positive. None of the A or B teams had a positive average. In the C team Graham Holt had an average of (+1.95) and Malcolm Eley (+0.88).

In the Alderley Mixed League the best averages were, A team, Phyllis Kennerley (+7.25), Syd Kennerley (+2.56) and Janet Wickens (+2.08)

A notable success was that of the Mottram W.I. Team who, once again , won the Cheshire W.I. Competition. Well done ladies!

## 2017



The recent season was generally a good one for the club. The new Vets'. B team did well in their first season. They finished fifth in the Macclesfield Vets'. League Division 2 and also reached the semi-finals of the knockout competition. The A team finished 9th in Division 1. The B team had a number of good averages. Leading the way after an excellent season was Graham Holt (+8.60). This was followed by Brian Slater (+6.10, Margaret Clough (+5.33), Tony Bird (+4.81), Peter Hammond (+4.25), Margaret Oakes(+4.0) and Beryl Bayley (+2.33).

This B Team is a happy team, enjoying each others' company each week. The very first match was memorable. It was a tricky one away against Pack Horse. The team responded wonderfully to the challenge, winning all eight games for a 168 maximum. The captain was elated and in the post match euphoria declared, " That's it. You're on your own from now on. I'm going. I'm retiring whilst I am still at the top!"

If that was a memorable match, a memorable game was played later in the season by Graham Holt. We were playing the outstanding Wilmslow side who went on to comfortably win the league. Graham's opponent had won every game up to then and also won every game in another league. She was a formidable opponent. This did not deter Graham who played some wonderful bowls to win 21 - 10. Well played sir!

If that was a wonderful individual performance the best end witnessed was bowled by Norman Palmer in the Mixed B team match against Prestbury. Norman was playing with his wrong woods and was struggling. However he stuck at it and the game was delicately poised at 19 across. His opponent sent the first wood and it was good, finishing 18 inches away from the jack. Norman surpassed it and finished a foot away. His opponent surpassed that, nudging Norman's wood to finish 6 inches from the jack. Norman followed his own advice and really concentrated. His wood nudged his opponent's and finished up touching the jack. Pure genius, confidence and courage! Game won!. Well played sir!

To be fair to Norman, there was one subsequent occasion where he never even mentioned this finishing end!!!

For the A team Syd had the best average (+3.55), followed By Sandra Read (+2.83)

In the Macclesfield League the A team finished 7th in Division 2, the B team were third in Division 3 and the C team, astutely captained by Graham Holt, were runners up in Division 4 and thus, promoted. Well done Graham and team!

The A team's better averages were; Mike Read (+5.71). Syd Kennerley (+4.24), Vera Hammond (+3.27), Lawrie Oates (+3.10), Marjorie Mellor (+1.82), Phyllis Kennerley (+1.24).

The B team's better averages were Stan Stennett (+5.21), Eric Wallwork (+3.86), Jillian Hillary (+3.61), Dave Whitehead (+2.40), Norman Palmer (+1.90), Janet Wickens (+1.47).

The better averages of the C team in their fine season were, Denis Price (+7.79), Beryl Bayley (+7.41) Rose Simpson (+5.31), Ruth Potts (+4.83), Margaret Oakes (+4.53), Malcolm Eley (+4.00), Glynis Holt (+2.06).

In the Alderley Mixed League both the A and B teams were champions of their respective divisions. A wonderful achievement for the club. The better averages for the A team were: Janet Wickens (+6.55), Beryl Bayley (+6.18), Syd Kennerley (+6.18), Lawrie Oates (+5.85), Brian Slater (+5.56), Don White(+5.00), Albert Oakes (+3.00), Joyce Thomas(+1.78), Margaret Oakes(+).80),

Well done everybody, a great season!

It was the first season for Denis Price, as captain of the B team and he did a wonderful job in leading the team to the league championship. Not even Pep has done that! Denis was a very fair captain, ensuring that everybody got regular games and his quiet, authoritative manner encouraged all. Well done Denis! The better B team averages were: Graham Holt (+8.80), Rose Simpson(+7.64), Denis Price (+6.94), Tony Bird (+6.64), Ruth Potts (+5.40), Jillian Hilary (+5.10) Malcolm Eley (+3.56), Glynis Holt (+0.77), Marion Fowler (+0.71).

Well done everybody a wonderful season!

## THE GREEN



In addition to the pleasure of each other's company, central to the pleasure we have at Mottram is the bowling green. This was the vision of Reg Gardom to create and build it. The early history of the club documented in the previous section testifies to its formation and realisation by all those early founding fathers

All the AGM minutes and those of other meetings give testimony to those who improved and so lovingly tended the Mottram bowling green. Most notable among these is Syd Kennerley and all his helpers down the years. Without them, Mottram would not enjoy its reputation for having a wonderful, if tricky green. One opposition captain recently said, "If you come to Mottram you know you have to really concentrate. If you don't, not only your opponent, but the green will beat you."

This following quote from an opposition player is also included, as it is a complimentary backhanded way and also because its inclusion will delight Syd.

"I never, ever, ever, ever want to play on this green again. It's a nightmare!"

She had lost!

The issues relating to the upkeep of the green have been recorded in every set of minutes since 1982. In every AGM proposals of gratitude have always been expressed and unanimously passed. Syd Kennerley has steadfastly refused any kind of reimbursement whenever the issue has been raised. He has stated, "It is a job I enjoy doing and that is payment enough."

What is perhaps not always apparent to members is that the green has not only been watered, drained, fertilised and cut, but that each year Syd has maintained and overhauled all the machines as well as putting them to bed for the winter.

For all this, Syd and the team, we all sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude and say, "Thank you."



The Green in all its summer glory

## ODE TO SYD KENNERLEY (EL SYD OF MOTTRAM)

OR

### YOU'LL NEVER BOWL STRAIGHT AGAIN



On Mottram green Colossus strode  
His fame echoed far, even to the Congleton Road  
His swerving woods could be heard a mile away  
Hardened men paled, the squeamish bowled astray.  
On coming round, one opposition bowler testified  
To El Syd's value to the Mottram side.  
"I was hit by an overwhelming power  
And crawled away to lie down and cower."  
He then whimpered as they carried him away,  
"They say maybe I'll bowl again, some day."  
Some few escaped, the lefty and sometimes, the weeper,  
From El Syd, Mottram's Grim Reaper.  
As succeeding generations felt his bite,  
Syd's substance was discussed into the night,  
Denis Price said, "Iron", Norman Palmer, "Steel",  
Malcolm Eley favoured, "Rock".  
Don White quietly said, "None of you mock,  
That mettle of Syd's, it has to be bronze!"  
When asked how he bowled, Syd replied,  
"Never straight, always curve the outside.  
To bowl on Mottram is a feat  
And to outsiders wood and jack should never meet.

By C.U.Anon



## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CLUB MEMBERS



### MOTTRAM BOWLING CLUB

One late September evening in 2003, my friend Edith and I were invited to try bowling with two male members at Mottram Bowling Club.

Over the winter months in 2004 we decided to give it a try, even though we did not think we were good enough. The welcome we received was wonderful and so friendly that we joined and started to play in the D team under the captaincy of Malcolm. Whether we were up to standard or not did not matter, as we so much appreciated the social atmosphere.

Climbing from D to C to B teams followed. The Macclesfield Veterans' and Alderley Edge Mixed Leagues became afternoon matches and thus the week was filled! Duncan, who captained the Veterans' team so well, had health problems, so I took over his role in 2015.

Every few weeks in the summer our Sunday social tournaments take place. They are a great way of getting together with no pressure as far as matches are concerned. We all play for fun And if we are lucky we are rewarded! Thanks go Malcolm and Alice for organising these.

We have lost many friends through the years through illness and age and therefore numbers have declined. However in my time I have no knowledge of anybody wanting to leave because they were unhappy. Mottram Bowling Club offers friendship and warmth and a home to us all and I personally am very proud to belong to such a great club!

By Gloria Friend



### MOTTRAM

I was invited to join the bowling club at Mottram by a friend. As I wanted to broaden my social life I came along. I was made most welcome and I have made many lasting friendships among the members. I know that when I come along, either to a match or a social I can find fun, welcome and great sociability, all of which can fill a void in people's lives, particularly if they live by themselves. I have enjoyed playing bowls and over the years I have improved. One of the nice things about Mottram is that it doesn't matter if you win or lose, people still treat you with respect and friendliness and you can pick up on that matter you having before your game. Sometimes I do not even mind being a reserve as I can then enjoy the social side, but do not tell any of the captains that!

By Janet Lewis

## SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

I have thoroughly enjoyed playing bowls at Mottram. I have played at other clubs but none of them have the friendliness of Mottram. In particular, I enjoy the Sunday afternoon social tournaments organised by Alice and Malcolm. They are relaxed and enjoyable with lots of friendliness and fun. The spreads are also very welcome and enjoyable.

By Tony Bird

## AN INTRODUCTION TO MOTTRAM

In 2015 there was an advert in the local "Streetlife" website. It was inviting people to join Mottram Bowling Club, I thought about it and then promptly forgot it. The next year a family member reminded me about it and so I phoned the contact number and spoke to Eric Wallwork. He invited me to the club and I went the following week. I was immediately struck by the setting of the club and my conversation with Eric confirmed my interest as there was a definite welcoming feel. Eric advised that I came along a couple of days later and ask for "a man named Syd."

I arrived for this and there was a match taking place. I walked through the gate and asked a rather dour looking man if he knew of "a man named Syd."

He replied gruffly, "Dunno 'im. We're frum Lyme Green."

I carried on walking to another group who were smiling and chatting." This must be the Mottram team," I thought. I asked if they knew of "a man named Syd."

"That's him over there," they said pleasantly. I looked over and saw a man intently watching the games. He called out "Another yard Malc." and to a player who had played a bad wood,"I didn't know you had turned over!"

I approached and asked,"Are you the man named Syd?"

"That's me. Who are you?"

I told him and asked him about the possibility of playing bowls at Mottram.

The man named Syd asked,"Have you played before?"

"No", I replied "I'm a total novice and utterly useless."

"Good", said the man named Syd, "You'll fit in well here!"

I was sold. This was the club for me. It was welcoming, the people were pleasant and it had humour. In addition the setting was wonderful. I joined and have never regretted it. My description of my bowling prowess, to the man named Syd, is now only half correct, I am no longer a total novice.

Shortly after joining, Malcolm encouraged me to join and play for the Mixed B team. His perseverance in selecting me was encouraging and told me a lot about the club ethos.

Another factor which has told me so much about the club ethos, was the invitation to captain the new Vets' B team after only four months playing experience. At home, the family queried this, asking "Why you?" My response was, "It's simple, they are very perceptive people at Mottram and they clearly see me as a natural leader of men." The truth, as I see it, was the club encouraging me to be a part of the club. Thank you everybody. I love the Mottram club and all it stands for.

By Paul Jackson

## VERSES BY MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Rose is a Vice - President, a real VIP,  
She rushes through the meeting to get her cup of tea.  
She's a bright and breezy person of real northern stock,  
Could have been a calendar girl, oh what a shock!  
And when she's bowling, she's cheery as can be,  
She never gives a point away - oh no seree.

Janet is only a little one, not very tall  
But can turn her hand to anything, and never will stall,  
She bowls with the best, cooks, knits and sews,  
Graces the dancefloor, keeps Dennis on his toes.  
Out in the garden, at the crack of dawn,  
Tending flowers and veggies and mowing the lawn.

We come to Betty, our Queen of Gateaux,  
She makes buns and cream cakes, for us to dispose.  
With electric knife she cuts them with no fuss,  
Our bowls afternoon teas have become quite famous  
She's now driving again after years of repose,  
Hang onto your teeth, at 90 she goes.



## THE WHITE FAMILY TRADITIONS WITH MOTTRAM

My dad, Frank White, joined the M.S.A. Bowling Club almost at the beginning of its formation. Soon afterwards I decided to have a go at bowling and I was made very welcome at the club. I had a good teacher to coach me in the techniques of bowling, my dad, but I was never as good as him!

Later, my dad's brother, Uncle George, joined the bowling club. He was quite a character and you always knew when Uncle George was around! He would give you lots of advice from the side of the green, but did not always follow his own advice when playing! However, you could always have a laugh with him, whereas my dad was the more reserved one. With the help, support and advice I received from my dad, I improved a little and started to play in league matches. I am still playing and still enjoy playing and all that the club offers, including good friendships.

As so many of the extended White family developed connections with Mottram Bowling Club, in the period from 1990 to 1994, there were a series of challenge matches between the White family and the Mottram Bowling Club. These became lovely occasions on those special Sunday afternoons. Food was provided by everybody and what lovely spreads we had!

I have to admit Mottram won four of the five challenge matches, but the one we won is now referred to as "The Whitewash". The White family were mainly non-bowlers, and that is my excuse and I am sticking to it! My husband, Peter, made a lovely trophy for these Sunday games and this trophy is still in the club pavilion after all this time.

By Beryl Bayley

## IN YOUR DREAMS

On a warm early September afternoon in 2016 Mottram Mixed B team were at home to the redoubtable Bramhall Queensgate C who had just won promotion from the Fourth Division of the Alderley Edge Bowling League.

There had been a great deal of speculation regarding the selection of the Mottram team, as absences had been brought about by holidays and altitude sickness from the previous fixture at Lyme Green. The selection committee spent nail-biting hours debating the problem and eventually they were left with only one position to fill. They required a player who could be calm in adversity, turn over with distinction and bowl a curver from the top end. The choice fell to a tall, good looking young lad from Handforth, whom bowling had transformed into a born again athlete.

His name was Paul Jackson.

(I am reliably informed that some poetic licence is permitted in this publication.)

The choice was a calculated risk. If Jackson did not perform, their jobs were on the line, never again would they select a side to represent Mottram. There was big money riding on this match, as Mottram were in with a chance of league prize money. Fifty pounds was at stake! This could mean a new set of tea mugs for the club! Motivation indeed!



It was left to the chairman of the selection committee, an apprehensive Malcolm Eley, to inform the Boy Jackson.

When Jackson was informed of his selection, his heart leapt with joy. He had waited a long time for the call and now he would be playing along such stalwarts and club icons as Stormin' Norman Palmer, Denis 'at any' Price, the legendary Holt Duo, Beryl 'at your peril' Bayley, Tony 'play the corners' Bird and other notable club dignitaries. The long months of intensive Monday morning coaching from Albert, Brian and Norman could now be paid off.

The team took to the green to a rapturous welcome from the capacity crowd. Extra police had been drafted in to keep order among the excitable spectators. The record gate receipts would ensure that new set of tea mugs! What a day for Mottram!

The Boy Jackson looked magnificent in his freshly laundered kit of blue shorts and white top (the club colours). He felt twelve feet tall as he took his position at the 'start' place. This was significantly taller than his normal and deceptive six feet four. Slowly the seconds ticked away, all waiting for the signal to commence.

Suddenly the momentous game was underway. Jackson's opponent was a canny experienced bowler with a positive average and attitude. She soon went into an eleven point lead. The other Mottram players were demonstrating the game for which the club had become famous. Ruth Potts and the two Janets (Arrowsmith and Lewis), were stroking pinpoint woods towards the jack, seducing it to come towards them. The immaculate Mottram green encouraged such play.

Jackson took some heart and encouragement from this and gradually his confidence increased. His opponent had a leaning towards shorter lengths and at last he was confident enough to challenge her customary twelve metre length. He had the jack and he used it. The Monday morning coaching kicked in and utilising Brian's diagonals, Albert's up and downers and Norman's wily benders, he accumulated points, to the joy of the rapturous crowd. Malc was beside himself with excitement and two long standing club members fainted!

Soon it was nineteen across and Jackson was aware that all eyes were on him. He opted for the Brian diagonal, cunningly turning over with his second wood. It was too good a shot for any mortal to beat and Jackson had won the game. He lay spread eagled at the top end. His opponent stood transfixed, fear showing in her eyes. Then, with a thunderous roar the spectators gave vent to their pent up emotions. This is what they had come to see.

Jackson had won, Mottram had won! Jackson was hauled to his feet by his delighted team mates, Denis Price rubbing a piece of Syd's hallowed turf into his face.

The winning wood was the talk of the village for days. Malcolm, the veteran ace bowler said it was the finest winning end ever seen at Mottram! Praise indeed!

In the months that followed people would often say, "Did you see that winning end by Paul Jackson at Mottram?" and without fail they would receive the reply "Paul Who?....."

By C.U. Anon

## MR. RISING PRICE



This item is included for interest only. It compares the prices of some items in 1982 and then again in 2017. It must be cautioned that these are indicative prices and although they have been obtained from reliable sources, 1982 from Lloyds TSB and the 2017 from the Office For National Statistics, these prices are not absolute and it is hoped that nobody says, "Where does he do his shopping?." The item is just a bit of fun and hopefully, interest.

Item	1982 price	2018 price
Draught Lager Pint	73p	£3.60
White Loaf Of Bread	37p	£1.24
Lb. of Dessert Apples	68p	£1.75
Pint of Pasteurised Milk	20p	46p
Pork sausages Kg.	£1.59	£4.40
Carrots per kg.	50p	64p
Sugar per kg.	44p	98p
Instant coffee per 100g	97p	£2.68
Eggs per dozen	73p	£1.75
Ultra Diesel Vehicle Fuel per litre	36p	£1.30
Average detached house price	£45,211	£359,000

*The prices quoted are on national averages*



## MOTTRAM BOWLING CLUB ROLL OF HONOUR



This section highlights the officers of the club during its existence and then main honours won by teams and individuals in League averages. As all league records are only available from 2001 there may be mistakes before then. If there are any during this period I do apologise.

### Club Chairpersons

Norman Bentley 1982 - 1988  
Phyllis Kennerley 1989 - 2015  
Vera Hammond 2015 -

### Secretaries

Brian Burgess 1982 - 1985  
Ken Grange 1985 - 1988  
Norman Bentley 1988- 1992  
Ken Simpson 1992 - 1999  
Eric Wallwork 2000 - 2015  
Jillian Hillary 2015 -

### Treasurers

Jack Ford 1982 - 1986  
Alice Eley 1986 - 2015  
Brian Slater 2015 -



## BOWLING AWARDS



These relate to teams finishing first or second in a league division, finishing in the first three in a league's divisional averages and winning or finishing second in a league competition or knockout. In this latter records indicate Mottram players as doing well but playing for another club. Although these awards are applauded the data below only refers to those playing for Mottram at the time. the records of all leagues are only available online from 2001, so it is probable that some achievements before this may be absent. For this apologies are given.

### Macclesfield League

- 1991 - A team runners up in Division 3  
Phyllis Kennerley, Jean Potts and Pat Casey all won league awards for finishing high in the league averages.
- 1992 and 1993 - Jean potts top of the ladies' averages in the league
- 1993 Semi finalists in Floodlit Cup

- 1994 - B team runners up in Division 4  
Syd Kennerley top of league averages for A team in Division 3
- 1996 - A team runners up in Division 3  
C team runners up in Division 5
- 1999 - Syd Kennerley top of averages Division 3
- 2001 - B team Runners up in Division3
- 2004 - Marjorie Mellor top of ladies averages
- 2005 - C team runners up in Division 3
- 2007 - Phyllis Kennerley 2nd in ladies'averages division 2  
Gloria Friend - 2nd in ladies averages Division 4
- 2008 - D team runners up in Division 4  
Vera Hammond 2nd in ladies' averages Division 2  
Marion Oates top of ladies' averages Division 3  
Margaret Oakes 2nd in ladies' averages Division 4
- 2009 - Vera Hammond top of ladies' averages Division 2  
Sandra Read top of ladies' averages Division 3
- 2010 - B team champions of Division 3  
Vera Hammond top of ladies averages Division 2  
Sandra Read top of ladies' averages Division 3  
Dave Whitehead, Mike Read, Stan Stennett,Beryl Bayley, Eric Wallwork, Derek Rathbone all finish in the top twelve of the league averages Division 3
- 2011 - A team champions of Division2  
Vera Hammond top of ladies averages Division 2
- 2012 - D team champions of Division 4  
Margaret Oakes top of ladies' averages Division 4
- 2013 - A team runners up Division 2  
Sandra Read top of ladies averages Division 2
- 2014 - B team champions of Division 3
- 2015 - A team runners up Division 2  
Phyllis Kennerley top of ladies' averages Division2  
Sandra Read 2nd in averages Division 2
- 2016 - W.I. Team, Cheshire champions
- 2017 - C team runners up Division 4  
Beryl Bayley 2nd in ladies' averages Division 4



## Alderley Edge And District Bowling League

- 2002 - Champions Division 2  
Doreen Ward 2nd in ladies' averages
- 2007 - Champions Division 2  
Colin Philpott Top of Division averages  
Don White 2nd in Division 2 averages  
Gloria Friend Top of ladies' averages Division 2
- 2010 - Runners up Division 2
- 2012 - B team Champions Division 3  
Ruth Potts top of ladies' averages Division 3
- 2013 - Syd Kennerley 2nd in league averages Division 1
- 2017 - A team champions Division 3  
B team champions Division 4  
Graham Holt Top of averages Division 4  
Ruth Potts top of ladies' averages Division 4

## Macclesfield Veterans' Bowling League

- 2005 - Champions Division 2  
Duncan Ward 2nd in averages Division 2  
Janet Wickens top of ladies' averages Division 2
- 2007 - Champions Division 2  
Gloria Friend top of ladies' averages Division 2
- 2010 - Runners up Division 2  
Rose Simpson top of ladies' averages and 2nd in overall averages
- 2012 - Runners up Division 2  
Duncan Ward 2nd in averages Division 2
- 2014 - Champions Division 2  
Don White 2nd in averages Division 2
- 2016 - Runners up Division 2  
Gloria Friend Top of ladies' averages Division 2  
Sandra Read 2nd in Ladies' averages Division 2
2017. B team semi - finalists in the knockout competition

## Other Notable Achievements

1994 and 2016 Mottram W.I. Cheshire W.I. Champions

1998 - Mottram Indoor Bowling Team - Winners of the Cheshire Villages Indoor Competition

2002 - B team finalists in Alderley League Knockout Competition

2005 - Phyllis and Syd Kennerley Winners of Alderley League Mixed Senior Pairs Competition

2007 Phyllis and Syd Kennerley Runners up in Alderley League Mixed Senior Pairs Competition

2011 Syd Kennerley Winner of Alderley League Vets., Rose Bowl Competition

