



UNWIN PAVILION, 1921
(In the centre of the group, Mr. H. Unwin and L., Col. F. J. Ashburner)

Fire.

Just six months after a member of the committee had drawn attention to the danger of cigarette and cigar ends left burning after the pavilion was closed, and only a fortnight after a freakish mid-May blizzard had raged over the Cotswolds in 1955, the pavilion caught fire.

The Secretary, Mr. T. H. Daniels, was called out by the police in the early hours and helped to retrieve what contents he could when the fire brigade got the blaze under control. Damage was severe and some members' woods and billiard cues were destroyed. The roof over the billiard room disappeared leaving the walls standing and the tables ruined. The thatch over the bar was destroyed but a tarpaulin cover enabled business to be carried on for the rest of the season. Meanwhile, it was a period of intense activity for the committee, particularly the treasurer, Mr. Cyril E. J. Vincent, who negotiated the insurance claim. A rebuilding appeal fund was also launched.

Re-building, Tom Stinchcombe's gift.

It was decided that re-building would be more advantageous than reinstatement. A sub-committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. L. C. Flood. With the benefit of experience in the existing building they were able to plan the best use of the space. The gable end to the roof over the main entrance facing the green was suggested by Mr. Irwin (former County Architect) to complement the gables at either end of the facing terrace of houses on the Northern side of Suffolk Square.

Mr. T. Stinchcombe, who had been prevented by the fire from building the timber extension, was now given the job of pulling down the Unwin pavilion and completely rebuilding it with an extension on both East and West sides. In place of timber the fabric is now of brickwork faced with prefabricated Cotswold stone. The major part of

the cost of rebuilding and refurnishing was recovered from the insurers. The new extension was financed from members' donations in excess of £1,000 and from reserves plus a temporary borrowing of £1,000. In 1965 it was reported that the total outlay was in excess of £7,000 of which £4,800 was paid to the builder to cover his original estimate. However Tom Stinchcombe had carried out work far beyond his obligations under the tender, amounting to £1,775, the cost of which he bore himself. The members expressed their sincere thanks and later emphasized their gratitude by the gift of a gold watch, for which they subscribed. He has been a life member since 1956. Such was his regard for the club that it seemed he could never do enough and new entrance gates in 1958 were merely one example of his many and varied donations.

The foundation stone was laid by the Mayor on 8th October 1955 and it conceals a complete set of coinage and a match fixture list for the year.