

SOME HISTORIC MATCHES

(1) Visiting teams.

Numerous overseas touring sides have visited Cheltenham and played on Cheltenham Club's greens. In the first of these games a touring Australian team played the Cheltenham Club team on Friday 14th June, 1901 in a 16-a-side match at the Winter Gardens. At that time it was Cheltenham's practice to play matches with two-a-side on each rink but, out of courtesy to the visitors, the Australian custom of playing four-a-side on each rink was adopted on this special occasion. The Australians won, and a contemporary newspaper report indicates that the home players were somewhat bemused by the presence of 16 woods on the rink instead of the maximum of 8 to which they were accustomed. The score, 130 to 50, seems to confirm the reporter's observations. The same report goes on to record that a "friendly" game played the following day resulted in a win for Cheltenham.

Apparently the modern match game of 4-a-side rinks was not adopted by the County for some considerable time after this date for on 21st June 1905, when the County of Gloucestershire played, at the Winter Gardens, its first County match (which was against a combined Warwickshire and Worcestershire team) the 26-a-side game was played on the basis of 26 single handed games, "all over the green (no rinks)". The combined W and W side (using No. 2 Bias woods) won by 19 games to 7 (496 points to 413). The Gloucestershire team played with No. 3 or larger Bias woods!

(2) Australians.

The Australians were to prove the most frequent overseas visitors to the Ashburne Bowling Green. On 3rd June 1922 on their first tour under the auspices of the newly formed Australian Bowling Association, they played there a six rink match against Gloucestershire. The County won by 121 shots to 105 and a Cheltenham rink (C. Fowler, E. Ricketts, S. G. Simpson and F. L. Fisher) contributed substantially to this result by beating a rink skipped by the then Champion of Australia (T. Williams) by 22 to 13. Australian Touring teams played Gloucestershire at Suffolk Square on four further occasions, in 1930, 1950, 1959 and 1969. On 6th June, 1930, Cheltenham was represented by T. Boulton, W. Beveridge and C. Fowler in the County side, which lost by 117 shots to 95. In 1950 and 1969 Cheltenham members were involved in very closely contested games, a rink skipped by S. Lloyd Kay drew 20 shots to 20 and in 1969 F. Orchard and D. Wainwright played in a rink which won by 15 shots to 14! One can sympathise with the 1950 Australian side since the report on the game (which they lost by 145 shots to 111) indicates that it was played on a very wet green, a condition with which they were completely unfamiliar.

(3) Canadians.

Canadian Touring sides have made two visits to Suffolk Square. On 31st July, 1934, the Canadian Lawn Bowling Association Team played Cheltenham and the 4 rink match resulted in a tie, 84 shots to 84. One rink comprising H, Balchin, Rev. Earee, W. Beveridge and F. L. Fisher (i.e. including two Internationals) clearly saved the day for the club by winning 25 shots to 8.

In 1972, on 26th June, a Canadian Ontario Tourists side played Gloucestershire on Ashburne Bowline Green and lost by 5 shots. Cheltenham members B, Holmes, L. A. W, Weston and H. C. Robinson played in a rink which won by 19 shots to 11.

(4) New Zealanders.

In 1928 (May 9th) a New Zealand touring side lost to Gloucestershire by 27 shots. Three of the County rinks were skipped by Cheltenham players — F. L. Fisher (15-15), E. S. Simpson (23-16), and F. R. Willis (21-18). Incidentally J. Crankshaw played No. 3 to F. R, Willis in this game. A New Zealand side had previously visited Cheltenham, but not to play bowls. On 8th May, 1921, they were entertained to tea by Sir J. Agg-Gardner (President of Cheltenham B.C.) and officers and members of the club. The New Zealanders had the previous day played Gloucestershire on the Gloucester Waggon Works green at Tuffley.

(5) South Africans.

The South Africans have also played at Suffolk Square. On 30th May, 1935, their side touring England, for the King George V Jubilee celebrations, won by 1 shot against Gloucestershire. A Cheltenham rink skipped by F. L, Fisher finished 16-19 down.

(6) Fraternal visit.

Finally in this section relating to overseas visitors it is worthwhile recording a fraternal visit to the club by Mr. F. Felton, a member of the Cheltenham Bowling Club of New South Wales. This was in May 1948 and in the Club Committee Minutes for November 1948 there is a record of members' appreciation of the gift of food parcels from the Australian Club members, a reminder of food rationing and the austerity that followed the 1939/45 War,

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SECRETARY'S NOTE

A more recent visit by the South Africans in 1995 is featured below. This is followed by a pictorial account of a visit to Australia by a group of Suffolk Square bowlers to celebrate the centenary anniversary of our sister club Cheltenham BC Sydney. The fraternal visit mentioned above is relevant in this respect.

[**Tony Allcock playing for England v South Africa at Cheltenham Bowling Club August 1995.**](#)



England v South Africa Test Match at Cheltenham Bowling Club August 1995 (match drawn).



Cheltenham BC Sydney Centenary Visit









One Day Only International
A visit by the Cheltenham, England, Bowls Club
As their contribution to the Centenary Celebrations
The Cheltenham Recreation Club of New South Wales
Thursday 21st. February 2013



Roz Panter
Penny Callaghan
Jill Longley
Margaret McColl
Judy Brown

Malcolm Panter
Mike Longley
Campbell McColl
Bill Brown



Helen Higson
Jan Hain
Barbara Wood
Meg Gilbert

Phil Sharp
Anthony van der Wall-
John Tregoning
Stewart Wicks

*The association between the two Clubs came about during World War II when the NSW ladies got together and forwarded food parcels and other comforts to their English counterparts.
In appreciation NSW was presented with the flag that hangs in the Club House*

