

HORSHAM BOWLING CLUB – HORSHAM CITY BOWLING CLUB

(First 100 years 1907 – 2007)

Part 1: Beginning – Formation of Horsham City Bowling Club

The Horsham City Bowling Club, originally the Horsham Bowling Club is one of the oldest sporting clubs in Horsham. It was an “all mens” club until the start of the 1965-66 season when ladies were admitted.

The Club was founded after a letter written to the Editor of the Horsham Times by a Mr Ernest Barber. In his letter, Mr Barber extolled the virtues and many advantages of having a bowling green and playing this “fascinating game”. He suggested “that perhaps it is time to follow Stawell, Ararat and Hamilton” although he realised the main reason why Horsham was behind its neighbours, was because of the “crab holey” nature of the soil which renders it unsuitable, but that should not present a serious difficulty.

Following this letter “some prominent gentlemen of the town” met and gave their unqualified support to the idea. They approached the Mayor Cr. Nuske, and asked him to call a public meeting for all those interested in playing the Royal Game of Bowls. On May 2nd 1907 a preliminary meeting was held to consider the proposal of forming a bowling club. It was stated that 10 gentlemen had promised five pounds, (\$10.00) each to purchase a site in McLachlan Street West, offered by a Mr J. Harper which was suitable. In all, they had inspected 10 other sites but didn’t think they were suitable. They had a Mr Horsfall, an expert on greens from the Victorian Bowling Association who inspected the block and gave a favourable report, together with the approximate cost of making a green.

A follow up meeting was held on 24th May 1907 and 30 townsmen attended to hear the proposal for the bowling club. In the absence of the Mayor, Cr James chaired the meeting and briefly outlined the position arrived at. A site had been chosen at 50 pounds (\$100) cost. The cost of constructing the green was 225 pounds (\$450). 14 Gentlemen had promised 5pound each – either as a gift or donation. A discussion was held as to how to raise the rest of the finance needed. The meeting decided it was better to buy a “piece of land” than spending money on property not belonging to the Club.

Mr G.W. Ward moved “That it is desirable to form a club, to be called the Horsham Bowling Club, and that officers be elected at a meeting to be called for that purpose”. It was further suggested that the subscription be £2.2.0 (\$4.40) for town residents. £1.1.0 (\$2.10) for those living 5 miles or further out of town.

On May 31st a meeting was held to elect office bearers for 1907 – 1908.

President: Mr Perc Learmonth

Vice -Presidents: Mr John Davey, Mr F. Hagelthorn

Secretary – Treasurer: Cr. James

Committee: Messrs Barber, Kint, N. Learmonth, Driffers and Rose.

Trustees: S. Jones, G. Davey and G. Ward..

and that was the “Birth” of our present Club.

By mid July 1908 the levelling of the green had been completed and was ready for the sowing of the Kentucky Blue Grass. It was expected that the green would be ready to be played on by the beginning of summer. The President was empowered to make arrangements for the erection of a pavilion.

A report in the Horsham Times re a working bee reads “the bowling club was a scene of grand activity and passers-by might have seen “well known townsmen, who do not roll their sleeves up every day” applying their weight to the business end of a spade. They were planting shrubs, creepers and roses to beautify the surrounds to give pleasure to the opening of the green.

The site of the greens wasn't without its 'detractions'. One gentleman writing under the 'non de plume' of A.L.T. wrote to the Editor of the Horsham Times condemning the site as “most inadequate, and didn't allow for expansion, and must stand forever as a mistake”. He suggested a site at the people's recreation ground, where there was already tennis courts and croquet lawns. He thought the short walk to and from the ground would not deter players. There was a quick reply in the next edition of the paper from a 'Bowler' saying that the letter from A.L.T. was “utterly inadequate and grossly misleading etc”. He went on to refute all his suggestions and suggested that he should apologise to Mr Horsfall who as director of the greens for Victoria Bowls Association gave the site his approval.

How right A.L.T. proved to be!

In October 1908 visitors from Ballarat were invited to play on the new green and agreed it was in fine condition. It was interesting when players were met at the Railway Station and bought by buggy to the hotel for lunch and then walked to the greens and played. After a “delightful” afternoon tea they were entertained until time to return to the station to catch the train home.

The first annual meeting was held on 27th October 1908. The Secretary submitted the first balance sheet as follows:

Receipts		Expenditure	
Debentures	£157	Purchase of Land	£50.18.3
Donations	£5.12.0	Mr Horsfall (expert)	£5.13.10
Sale of Fencing and Gate	£6.5.0.	Pipes	£1.10.0
Donations	£1.1.0	Day labourer	£111.4.2
Overdraft	£29.0.11	Cheque book	2/6
Total	£178.18.11	Bank Charges	5/-
		Roller	£3.0.0.
		Broadbent Bros.	£2.1.8
		Water Metre	£4.3.6
		Total	£178.18.11

This report was duly received and adopted and received great praise from the President, Mr. P. Learmonth.

A draft rule of play was considered and adopted. Fees set at £2.2.0 town members, £1.1.0 for those who lived outside 4-mile radius.

The official opening of the Club was arranged for Wednesday November 4 1908. Invitations were sent to the Mayor, other leading gentlemen and their wives and friends, and to the President of the Stawell and Ararat Bowling Clubs. The band had been engaged to play, and all was set for a grand opening. Unfortunately, fate stepped in and the opening was postponed due to the untimely demise of Mr Norman Learmonth, a committeeman and brother of President Mr Percy Learmonth. The green remained open for those who wanted to play a game. There was no mention in later editions of the paper of an official opening.

A heading in the Horsham Times January 1909 reads: First Contest on Local Greens – Match with Stawell – Locals make a good showing. It goes on to report “It was a history making day for the Horsham Bowling Club as it was the first match on the local greens played under the auspices of the Club. A team of 14 players and supporters travelled up on the midday train and were brought to the greens by buggies where they “engaged” in a social game of bowls against an equal number of local players. It was an evenly played game with the scores tied at 51 all but the experience of the visitors won out 69-63. The day was “hailed” as a great day and a return match was organised.

The return match, played at Stawell was won by the locals by 21 shots. The visitors found the greens a lot faster than what they were used to playing on. After the match they were “entertained” until the arrival of the train for the return trip home.

The bowls attracted 30 or more players each Wednesday and they played for the Laidlaw trophy, Rennison trophy, the Mayors trophy and the Presidents trophy. The trophies were eagerly played for and the entries were all “excellent” in these events.

The 1909 annual report of the President stated that the Club was in a satisfactory financial position, with a membership of 60 players. He reported that with the appointment of an experienced caretaker who understood the care of the grass, the greens would be much better and he hoped would attract more players. The Stawell Club had written and asked if the club was interested in playing pennant against Stawell and Ararat. It was agreed to play on the condition that they play on each other’s greens and not all at Stawell as suggested.

There was also a suggestion that lighting of the green would enable players to play at night, and the committee to look at the prices for same. But one person said it wasn’t necessary as there was a proposal to “put the clocks on an hour” and that would give the players extra time to play without putting the club into further debt. As usual it was left to the Committee look into.

The opening of the bowls each season was always an important day and in 1910 the Horsham Times reports “there was a large muster of ladies and visitors and a good assemblage of bowlers”. He said he was particularly grateful to the ladies for gracing the greens with their presence. The Mayoress was invited to throw the jack and wife of the vice president to send the first bowl down.

After bowls the President, S. James and his wife invited all to share afternoon tea and other refreshments while they listened to music provided by a string band.

A visit from Ararat saw Horsham win their first pennant game by 12 shots and was the cause for celebrations. The match against Stawell was not as successful but the hospitality from the Stawell Club helped "soften" the defeat. Stawell won the pennant between Horsham, Ararat and Stawell for the second year. It was suggested to play the same format the next season. It was interesting to note that on one occasion the Secretary of Horsham "wired" the Secretary of Stawell that they would not be able to field a team to play because it was the opening of the quail season.

In 1913 a move by members to have lights installed urged the committee to look into the matter. It was felt it would attract more "players" to the game if they could play in the evenings. It was left to the Committee "to make the fullest enquiries as to the success of the scheme elsewhere". Electric lights were duly installed for a cost of about £20 (\$40) and found to be very popular and very profitable. Mr. C. Ballinger donated a case of pipes to be played for "under the lights".

The Match Committee suggested that in view of their losses to Stawell, Ararat and Warracknabeal, the team should practice together as a "team" for at least a week before playing other clubs. They also discussed "how to win games" and where to place players but it was left to the Match Committee to do what they thought best.

It was rather amusing, one of the reasons suggested why Horsham was soundly beaten at Warracknabeal "could have been caused by a distraction of the Lady Croquet players in their best(?) costumes, playing on the greens next door and distracting them from their own game". Two players were thanked for driving their cars to take the players to Warracknabeal. It was a "very pleasant and enjoyable drive" - the first mention of cars taking players to bowls.

A report on the opening of the 1914 season reads "the bowlers have made a beauty spot of their green – at present is an oasis in a desert – and deserves more support by the prominent townspeople to further the efforts to create a place that friends and visitors could show with pride". It was reported that ladies were there in force and some attired in the latest fashions from Paris. These ladies are to be entertained to a gramophone concert and if there were any ladies wearing tennis shoes they may be invited to send down a few bowls".

By now the Club had grown to be able to supply two sides for pennant. The Selection Committee to divide the Club into two even sides which will be known as Reds and Blues and from each of these sides 16 players will be selected to play in the pennant series. The scores will be recorded of each match and the sides winning the most points will win a pennant provided by the losing side. It was hoped that this would provide keen competition between the two sides.

It was a very successful year for the pennant with wins over both Stawell and Warracknabeal.

The highlight of the year was a visit by an interstate team from South Australia – the first interstate visit. The Club played two rinks against a team representing the South Australian Bowling Association who were returning home after playing interstate games in Melbourne. The locals were delighted to win the match and the South Australian players promised to call again and try to retrieve their laurels.

The installation of electric lights was a profitable venture and night play was indulged in on 45 occasions during the season at a profit of £2.14.0 was made. The replacement of globes was expensive and excessive and should be looked into.

The decision to divide the Club into two sides, Red and Blue, created great interest and increased the number of players at practice and probably was the reason they won the majority of inter-club games and the pennant. The sides were evenly matched and at the end of a five-match series the Reds aggregate score was just 6 more than the Blues.

The 1916 annual meeting reported during 1915 the Club had a fair financial season considering the adverse conditions of the war prevailing. Several members, Messrs. J. Langlands, J. Newton, J. Bodworth, and G. Perring had enlisted and were serving at the Front or were in England. These gentlemen all served the Club and were great players and were each presented with a “smokers outfit”

Because of the war, local competitions were limited but of those that were played the proceeds were handed over to the local Red Cross £2.4.0 and the Ballarat Tent Y.M.C.A. £2.2.0.

The Club applied to join the Victorian Bowling Association in 1916.

With the advent years Warracknabeal has joined the bowling circuit. Horsham won all three inter-club matches. On congratulating the Club on their wins the Mayor called them “Champions of the Wimmera” and it would only be time and they would be “Champions of the State” – *Such was his faith.*

By 1917 Warracknabeal was hosting a round-robin series between Horsham, Donald, Warracknabeal and Birchip which was to be

Part 2: Relocation – Shift from McLachlan Street to Park Drive

The Horsham Bowling Club was originally located on freehold land in McLachlan Street providing two bowling greens and a small and totally inadequate club house.

With the rapidly developing interest in bowling, the facilities had become completely unable to cope with the numbers wishing to participate in the sport.

As time progressed, some 40 years on, the Sunnyside Bowling Club was established in the early 1950's. It was only natural that quite a number of our members would transfer to the new Club with its greatly improved facilities and its ability to meet all the playing requirements of the day.

The Horsham Bowling Club continued on with a reduced membership, but it was unable to make any real advancement. It was now impossible to acquire any suitable adjoining property to develop any additional greens or to improve the Clubhouse.

It was not until 1971 that the Committee of the day decided that it was time to make a move to a new site. The Horsham City Council was approached with a request for assistance in locating to a suitable alternative site for the re-development of the Club.

The Council, acting as 'The Committee of Management', offered the Club the occupancy of the Crown Land, where the present Club facilities are now located, subject to existing site commitments. The offer was accepted and at a later date the Club applied to the Department of Crown Lands for a formal lease of the site which was granted at a nominal rate per annum. This amount cannot be ascertained from any available documents.

The lease agreement was required for the future application for a liquor licence.

It may be of interest in passing, that some three or four years previously, the Council had granted the Horsham C.W.A., an area of this land at the corner of Gleed Street and Park Drive, for the construction of a hall. This brought forth a formal complaint from a local business man, no names mentioned here, to this allocation on the grounds that the C.W.A., was competing against his catering business, and should not be assisted by the provision of free land. On learning about this objection, the C.W.A. voluntarily abandoned the proposal to build there and instead purchased a block of land in Smith Street and built on that site.

This outcome was fortuitous, as far as the bowling club was concerned, for if the building had proceeded it would have greatly restricted the size of the site available for development. The Council had also allocated a site facing Gleed Street, for the Apex Club, and a building was constructed there. Several years earlier a site at the north-east corner was allocated at the Church of England for the construction on two tennis courts.

With the new location finalised the Bowling Club proceeded to sell the McLachlan Street land. An interstate grocery chain was in the market for the purchase of a site for a new store and had expressed interest in the Club land. However the newly introduced, City of Horsham Planning Scheme, showed a 'Right of Carriage' way across the land, in a north – south alignment toward the east end of the site, to provide access from McLachlan Street to the Clubs land, where it was proposed to build a car park on the northern portion of the land. It was therefore imperative that the planning requirement be moved further toward the eastern end of the boundary to provide an extended area to build on, to meet the Clubs requirement.

Fortunately, the requirement was 'arranged' and allowed the sale of the property to take place and the full proceeds of the sale became available for the Clubs re-development programme. The 're-located' Right of Way required to be re-sited some 3 metres or 10 feet to the east.

The sale of the site realised the amount of \$76,595. This amount gave the Club a good start in re-location. Working bees removed and stored all Club equipment which was considered suitable for re-use.

With funds now in hand it was full steam ahead with the re-development works.

The Park Drive site was not a pretty looking parcel of land before the Club started work. A line of sugar gums extended along the eastern boundary. Part of the site was used as a dump to dispose of old building waste, broken concrete slabs, old asphalt dumps and soil and was almost a public rubbish disposal area.

The Apex Club had a shed on the property and the property allocated to the Church of England for tennis courts was now in a dilapidated condition, run down and an embarrassment to that Club as they did not have sufficient numbers to carry on, and were happy to relinquish their right of occupancy to the site.

The Apex Club were very happy to have the assistance of the Bowling Club members in re-locating their building to a site provided by the Council at the south end of Darlot Street, adjacent to the old saleyards site. During the course of shifting this unit there was no flat top tray type vehicle available to support the length of the load, so club members were required to travel with the load to support the overhanging section, and the operation was successfully carried out.

Also, on the site was an area occupied by the R.S.L. to store cut firewood for their members and the community.

The site was very low lying and consequently very wet during normal winters and for very long periods in wet years. After extensive clean up by voluntary labour, the site was filled with large quantities of crushed rock and gravel up to a required level for setting up the greens.

Prior to any layout of the greens area, the service of an 'expert' or very knowledgeable greens keeper was sought. This resulted in the Club obtaining the services of a Mr Jim Kelly from Ararat. During preliminary layouts, it was found insufficient space was available between 'A' and 'B' greens on a north-south alignment to allow players and equipment for players on both greens. The only way out was to seek an extension of some 8-10 feet into the adjoining road reserve of Park Drive. The City Council, on behalf of the Bowling Club, made a successful application to the Lands Department for the transfer of the additional land. The area required was surveyed and consolidated with the land allocated to the Club. This new alignment was carried through to Baillie Street.

During the course of these negotiations, a period of delay was experienced, when the Lands Department file went missing. An extensive search of the Lands Departments head office and regional offices eventually located the file in the St Arnaud office. This then allowed the application to go forward to a successful conclusion.

Greens construction could now proceed. To dress up the rock and gravel filled areas, large quantities of sand were obtained 'free of charge' from the McGennisken Family on the Laharum Road and carted by the good graces of those Club Members who had suitable vehicles. These were mostly provided by the farming fraternity members. Fuel was supplied on the out of town site for the use of those vehicles, by the Club.

Suitable underground drainage was provided to the A, B and C greens and work proceeded on the greens, in conjunction with the Clubhouse construction.

During the 73-74 period, a deputation consisting of the President and a few members of the Committee was made to the then Premier, Dick Hamer, for provision of funds to assist in the venture. Unfortunately, this request did not bear any fruit.

During greens construction, light weight machinery was not available to make light work of placing the enormous amount of soil and sand fill for final levelling. All work was manually carried out from dumps of soil and loam from the greens perimeter and wheeled in barrows, after the initial fill by trucks. Levelling was my means of a device called a 'Cowley Level', which was an instrument which had a levelling bubble and the ability to swivel it on a tripod to get the same level to register on a staff at any point on the greens as required. Final levels were struck and wires were stretched parallel across the greens and tensioned, at spacing of approximately 8' and a timber screed was used to level the sand bed between the wires. Later levelling of the greens was done by surface screeds. One very inventive member, Ray Ellis, provided the Club with an automatic remote controlled screed, made of metal angles etc. and hauled by a motor pegged at one end and connected to the screed by a cable and pulley system the full length of the green and one rink wide at a time. This was easily managed by a 6 – 7 men, who wheeled the sand to the screed and 'fed' the sand in front when required.

Construction of the Clubhouse

A local architectural firm named 'Proud and Henderson' were selected to design a new Clubhouse to make provision available for all uses and services as required. Some areas were to be built to completion for later fitting out when funds were available. Namely, the cool room and bar facilities were left for later inclusion.

Structural engineers for the project were L.G. McKenzie, Engineers of Rainbow.

The design details, as submitted to the council for approval were dated September 1973 and approval was granted during April 1974, allowing construction to commence. Auxiliary sheds and workshop areas were subject to separate arrangements and followed later after a period of some years before total requirements were met.

The firm of P. & A. Coutts, being the only tenderer, submitted a quotation for the amount of \$85,736. This tender was submitted in 2 parts, as requested. The major part 'A' being for the clubhouse as designed and part 'B' being submitted as another figure, deleting the supply and fixing of a full width folding door to the main floor area of the clubhouse, deletion of bar construction and cool room and part deletion of some kitchen fittings.

Following the formation of a Co-Operative, sufficient funds were available and approval given to carry out most of the items. Part 'B' tender was for the reduced amount of \$79,796.

Formation of the Horsham City Bowling Club Co-Operative Limited

The proceeds from the sale of McLachlan Street land were insufficient to fund the re-establishment of the Horsham Bowling Club on the Park Drive site.

The Club did not have any other assets to offer as security for a loan. Therefore, the only alternative was the formation of a Co-operative Society.

A publicly advertised meeting to consider the formation of a Society was held in the C.W.A. Hall on 27th May, 1974.

The meeting resolved to form a Co-operative, and appointed the first Directors who were: -

K.F. Reinheimer – President
N.P. King – Treasurer
P.A. Kerrins
W.C. Borella
A.R. Conn – Secretary.

The Horsham City Bowling Club Co-operative Limited was registered on 1st June 1974.

34,000 "One Dollar Shares", with paid up capital of 10 cents per share, were sold to 125 shareholders. This provided \$39,600 in uncalled capital, to be used as collateral security for a loan.

In the event of the project not succeeding, funds of up to this amount could have been called upon from the shareholders. Fortunately, this did not happen.

When the Club ceased operating at McLachlan Street, it had approximately 60 men and 20 lady members, so it can be seen that shares were sold to a much wider community.

In the statement setting out the objects of the Society, it was stated that stage one of the project was estimated to cost \$108,000 and it would be met as follows: -

Paid up share capital	\$3,400
Loan to be raised	\$25,000
Club Funds	\$79,600
	\$108,000

The Horsham City Bowling Club agreed to provide the Society with sufficient moneys to meet its commitments from annual revenues.

A loan of \$25,000 was negotiated with the State Savings Bank of Victoria, for a period of fifteen years at an interest rate of 11.5%, with interest and redemption charges of approximately \$3,400 per annum.

A Government guarantee for the loan was obtained through the Registry of Co-Operative Societies.

Later further loan funds were required to finance the establishment of the Bar, including cool room fittings etc. To enable this to be done it was necessary to sell more shares in the Co-operative.

A further 23,250 were sold to 80 shareholders. In some cases, this involved adding to original holdings.

An additional loan for \$13,000 was obtained from the State Savings Bank of Victoria, also at 11.5% interest.

Mr. W.A. Bolwell was appointed a director to replace Mr. Kerrins, and following the death of Mr. Reinheimer he was appointed Chairman, a position he held until the Society was wound up.

Mr J.M. Taylor was appointed a Director after the death of Mr. Borella.

Mr. G.S. Cramer was appointed a Director after the death of Mr. Reinheimer.

Green Taylor and Greenall acted as Auditors for the Society.

During the life of the Society, paid up capital of 12,900 shares was refunded to deceased estates

Paid up capital on 5,540 shares was also refunded to 11 shareholders who wished to withdraw their shares.

The required number of shares to be held gradually reduced as the loan liability was reduced by redemptions.

The Society was voluntarily wound up in 1988, and paid up capital amounting to \$3,640 was repaid to all remaining shareholders.

The Society had achieved its purpose in providing the security necessary for the raising of loans for \$38,000, required to complete the re-development of the Bowling Club on this new site.

It was necessary to form a Co-operative under the laws of the period, to allow the Club to borrow money on behalf of the Members, and it can be seen from this history of the Co-operative that it was carried out to be a successful conclusion.

Obtaining the Liquor Licence

The licensing of the Club presented a few hurdles early in the application period.

When applications were first advertised there were five objections from the local hotels.

The first hearing from the licensing court was held in Horsham and chaired by the then Judge Frayer, who considered himself the “Lord High Chancellor” of all matters relating to licenses within the state and appeared to take great joy in making it difficult for Clubs to obtain or hold a necessary license.

A local firm of solicitors was appointed by the Club to pursue the matter and they appointed a Barrister from Melbourne who was conversant with the Liquor Laws of the days.

Early in the proceedings, the Judge asked the Clubs Barrister to submit details of the site survey and lease for his approval.

The Clubs ‘legal eagle’ apologised to the bench for not having it available and promised the worthy Judge he would present it to him on his return to Melbourne.

The “Lord High Chancellor” saw his chance to exert his authority and pounced, throwing out the application, and calling on the licence opponents, who attended the hearing, to inform him of any costs incurred in attending the hearing. It didn’t take long and they requested damages for a total of 700 pound. This was duly awarded to them by the “Worthy Judge”. Not only did this cost the Club the initial 700-pound loss but also the subsequent loss of the profit from 6 months of trading, till it was granted a future hearing in Melbourne.

The first nominee was Ray Huff who held the position for a number of years.

This initial licence came with restrictions on the area that could be used and the time the bar was allowed to operate.

During 2001 an extended licence was sought and granted to cover the whole of the area on the title, with minor and variable restrictions covering bar area times.

As time progressed and following the construction and completion of greens A. B. and C. It was decided that due to lack of funds again, D green could be dispensed with for a while. The ditches were removed and sold to an out-of-town club and the area was used as a car park for a number of years.

During the early 70’s the matter of installation of lights on the greens was mooted. The Committee contacted a past member Neil Cunningham who was a green keeper in the Metro area at the time. Three Club Members travelled to Melbourne and visited various Clubs with lights on greens and returned with a submission that the best greens lights were as we now have. The first erected were four tower lights on ‘C’ green.

Once again funds were low and members were asked to 'dub in' and raise sufficient funds for these lights. Members obliged and sufficient funds were raised and later repaid to members.

Similarly, funds were raised for the purchase of a replacement mower from the Committee of the day and repaid later.

During 1993 year a site valuation was set at \$100,000 and the then current rating was set at \$978.00 per annum subject to adjustments up or down along with town rates.

During the 1995 season, the Club received a letter from the Horsham City Council permitting 'retailer selling' on the premises. Council made note of the fact that this was not permitted under the Council By-laws.

Sometime in the early 80's 'D' green was constructed and bought on line with the other greens.

Footpath and kerbing construction were carried out on the Park Drive frontage during 1993. Council requested that the Club contribute half the cost of the pavers for the footpath. It was not recorded if this occurred or not.

Perimeter fencing was carried out over a period of time. The first fence on 'D' green was of 'Hardie Plank' covering, but it was removed for reasons of appearance, viewing obstruction and wind deflection.

[Purchasing the Property](#)

The first mention of purchasing the property was during a monthly meeting on 21/3/1988, where it was moved that the Horsham City Bowling Club purchase the crown land leased to the Horsham City Council.

At a meeting on 17/10/1988 it was moved a Sub Committee be formed and three members met with Rob Marshall and the current Town Clerk.

On 4/11/1988 a special general meeting moved that the Sub-Committee proceed with negotiations with the Horsham City Council.

A further monthly meeting on 16/10/1990 discussed buying the land for \$120,000 plus costs.

On 1/11/1990 the Commonwealth Bank Manager Rob Buchanan addressed a meeting re borrowing funds of up to \$130,000 to cover all aspects of purchasing the property.

On 17/12/1990 the Committee sent a letter of thanks to the Ladies Committee for their donation of \$13,000 and the Social Club for ditto for the amount of \$3,000.

During the 80's and 90's the club had built up sufficient funds to arrange for the purchase of the property from the Government for around the \$80,000 mark.

Arrangements were made through a local bank for finance and the deal was completed in the 1990 period. The bank was duly paid back after a short period of time.

Information from the rates office indicates that in 1993, the Council Valuation for rates purposes of the site was valued at approximately \$100,000. In 2007, for insurance purposes the property was valued at \$893,300 with annual charges of \$4,000.

The Centenary of the Horsham City Bowling Club was celebrated on the 7th of October 2007 at the Clubrooms.

Information on the History of the Horsham Bowls Club and the Horsham City Bowling Club in this article was supplied by Gary Knight, the Club President in 2007, primarily from information researched by Doris McDonald.

Derek Ballinger, the Club Secretary, read this Club's History at the Centenary Dinner.