

**CONCISE CHRONICLE
OF
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND BOWLS CLUB
(FORMERLY NAT WEST BANK BOWLS CLUB)**

1899 - 10 acres of land purchased jointly by London Joint Stock Bank (LJS), National Provincial Bank of England (NP) and Union Bank of London (UBL) to be used as a sports ground for their employees. Opened on 8th July with 3 cricket squares, 6 lawn tennis courts and a bowling green and was known as Three Banks Athletic Club.

1911 - An adjoining 10 acres bought from New Beckenham Cricket Club.

1914 - 1918 - First World War

1919 - 1924 - Various bank mergers took place. LJS merged with London City & Midland Bank (who had just purchased a nearby sports ground) to form Midland Bank (now HSBC). The LJS 1/3 share was bought out and, fortuitously, NP and UBL banks merged and the whole ground had the one owner. With a further 7 acres acquired at the same time, the ground is as it is today and the National Provincial Bank period was ushered in.

1927 - Affiliated to Kent County and the EBA but it was agreed not to take part in any outside competitions (except Gill Cup - now Cox Trophy).

1930 - Falling membership was a problem and disbandment considered.

1935 - Full support given to Midland Bank in setting up Banks Bowling Association. The green was re-laid and although it was subject to adverse criticism our results improved!

1938 - Membership was now improving and matches were increased from 3 to 4- rink games.

1939 - 1945 - Second World War

1947 - Bowls Section re-formed. Bowlers from Lloyds Bank (no green) are permitted to join us.

1950/51 - Increase in membership saw fixtures increase from 27 to 41 but subsequently was cut back to 33.

1952 - Rave notices for the green resulted in it being selected to stage a match between a Kent and Surrey county team against Canadian tourists, hosting over 100 players and guests to lunch and tea.

1954 - First fixture v Horsham. On the return trip from a short coastal tour, ground was flooded but friendship consolidated at the bar. The fixture remains on our list!

In Kent County Competitions - HE Glibbery and G Belcher reached Pairs Quarter Final and are first players to win their county badges from Lower Sydenham.

1958 - Re-entered Gill Cup (Cox Trophy) for first time since 1927/29.

1960 - Overs/Unders Trophy presented by Geoff Belcher which became a popular end-of-season encounter (particularly noted for arguments about who qualifies for which side).

1964 - Annual General Meeting took 25 minutes!!

1966 - First President's Day - Club President R F Smith, who also happened to be Chief General Manager of the Bank, agreed to raise a side to play the Club and, well subsidised, this became one of the most popular annual events on our calendar.

1969 - Last season as NPBBC before merger with Westminster Bank and from 1st January.....

1970 renamed National Westminster Bank Bowling Club (Kent). The former Westminster Bank BC, based at Norbury, renamed National Westminster Bank Bowling Club (Surrey). Original intention was to become one club, as all other sports sections did. But, with two greens in two separate counties the two clubs developed and grew apart, each with their own traditions and an inbuilt rivalry.

1974 - 75th Anniversary celebrated with matches against EBA, Kent County and Surrey. Founder member of White Horse Whisky League, now PCL

1977 - H Keble Taylor elected Kent County President

1978 - Kent County Triples Finalists & EBA Quarter Finalists - Reg Coeshott, Terry Martin and Denis King

1979 & 1980 - Kent Middleton Cup matches held on our ground.

1983 - Membership numbers boosted with introduction of our internal Tuesday Triples League.

1985 - Ladies' Club established.

1987 - The Great Storm demolished our rather flimsy accommodation around the green and we had to make do until we had some new buildings in 1989.

1989 - Reached the final of the Cox (Gill) Cup with a semi-final win over Folkestone Park but then lost to North Heath Social.

1997 - NatWest sport ceased at Norbury and that bowls club became Norbury BC. Effectively NatWest Kent BC now became National Westminster Bank BC

1998 - New club competition - Denis King Trophy inaugurated for two-wood triples. Roy Manning made a Life Member of KCBA. Some wheeler-dealing saw the Private Banks Sport Club 'summer house' transported to and erected at the green side.

1999 - Centenary Year. Ten years of planning coming to fruition with a number of prestigious matches, trips, period costume events and dinners/lunches (including lunch in France) crowned by a two-week tour to Canada based in Toronto and Vancouver.

Special matches were played against the E.B.A., Kent County President & Council, Kent Past Presidents Ass, Southampton Old Green (celebrating 700th anniversary) and the DennySide.

Centenary Bowls Week (over three days) for NatWest Trophy was won by the Old Colfeian rink.

David King reached the final of the County Two-Woods competition.

A super season on the green concluded with the Club winning the Private Clubs League for the first time and off the green with a Centenary Dinner at Selsdon Park Hotel.

2000 - Joint Committee Meetings with Ladies Club established (in addition to the regular Men's Meetings).

Finished 2nd in Private Clubs League

Our Bowls Club Week was won by Baker Bexford

2001 - Won the Private Clubs League again.

Reached last 16 of EBA Two-Fours.

2002 - Coloured Club Shirts approved.

County Quarter-Finals reached in Fours by Messrs O'Brien, Moore, Bailey and Saunders.

NatWest Bowls Festival - Our sides finished 1st and 3rd.

2004 - County Pairs Semi-Final - Geoff Bailey & Dave Brown

2005 - Special General Meeting of Men's and Ladies' Club - agreed to the change of name to Royal Bank of Scotland Bowls Club to become effective in 2006.

2006 - County Fours Final Runner-Up - Ron Riley, Dennis Cross, Geoff Bailey & David King. County Singles final - David King

2008 - County Singles Quarter-Finals - Geoff Bailey

2009 - David King selected for all Kent Middleton Cup matches. Geoff Bailey reached County Singles Quarter-Finals.

2010 - General enhancements to our Club Room achieved. Successful recruitment campaign undertaken.