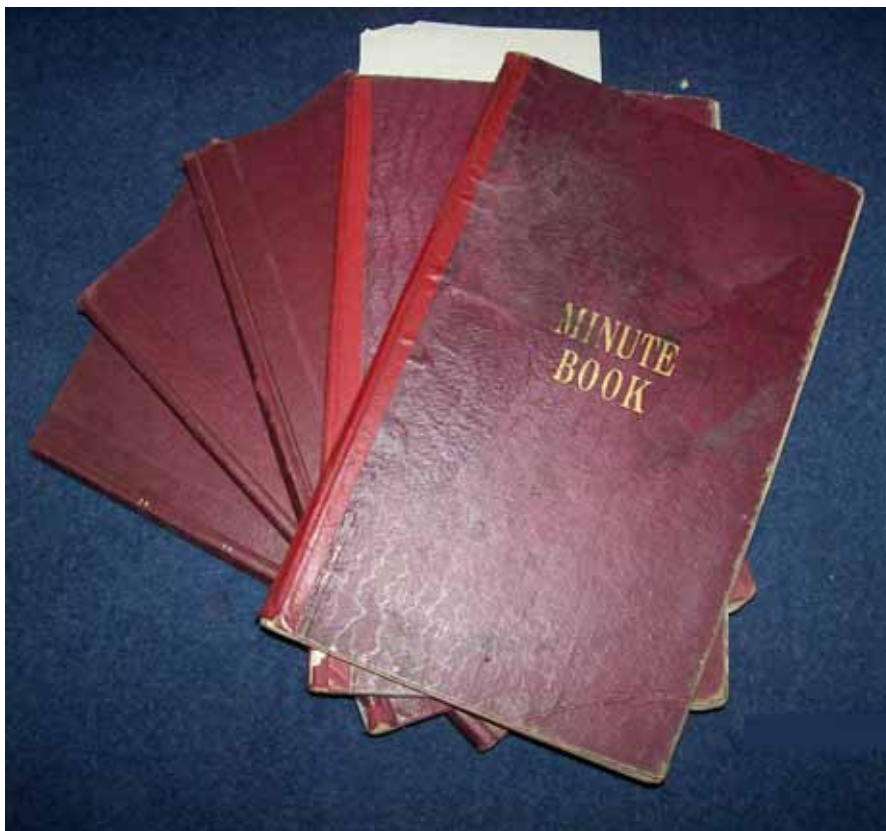


TESTIMONIALS AND TOBACCO

Meltham CC Minutes Part 2: 1949-68

By Rob Hardie

Unlike the older editions, the five minute books that document the period 1949-68 are in fairly good condition. There is the expected wear and tear that would be expected to accumulate over the years on books over 55 years old but like the previous books they are in a very well kept state. The writing style begins to be less cursive than before, with secretaries using print text rather than the more attractive or decorative styles of writing.



The first volume in this set begins in 1949 and carries on up to the final meeting of the year, on the 18th of September 1953. It carries a more formal feel to it than some of the earlier pre-war books as the meetings are presented in the same format for most of the book. The layout remains the same throughout with issues, payments and minutes of previous meetings clearly labelled and whether issues were resolved or not is clearly indicated in the margins on the left of the page. What is striking about this book is that it appears to be becoming more like a finance and accounts book for the club as a substantial amount of the text is devoted to issues concerning money, bills and payments.

However, there are a few notable events that again show differences between now and then. During a meeting on the 10th October a new groundsman is taken on, but is given a salary cap on his wages. An hourly rate of 2/9 is agreed for a Mr Hubert Sanderson, but his wage must not exceed £15. This is surely in an attempt to maximise the groundsman's efforts and ensure the club would not be short-changed by the tradesman as the club's finances were under strict control at this post-war juncture.

As would be expected at this time, the male members of the club were in sole charge of club matters. So it would be no surprise that at an annual dinner the ladies committee were charged with the task of catering for the all-male guests! Nowadays there would most certainly be an outcry if this were to happen.

Most of the book deals with normal weekly committee meetings but on February 29th 1952 we encounter minutes from a Meltham CC Annual General Meeting. Fully explained are the club elections, where the committee positions of: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, league representatives and groundsman are all proposed, seconded and confirmed as the club prepares itself for the 1952 season.

GENERAL MEETING
FEBY 29th 1952.

Chairman Mr. R. L. Gardner.

Resolved. That the minutes of last General meeting be passed as read.

Resolved. That the Secretary's report be accepted.

Resolved. That the Balance Sheet be accepted.

Elections

PRESIDENT
Proposed S. V. Grundy
Seconded S. Moorhouse. That Mr. John Hellingworth be elected President of the C.C. & C. for 1952 (Carried)

V. PRESIDENTS
Proposed E. Garne
Seconded J. R. Wood. That the present V.P.'s be re-elected en bloc. (Carried)

Prop. Geo. Hughes.
Sec. W. Belch. That Mr. John O'Connor be added to list of V.P.'s (Carried)

SECRETARY
Prop. W. Belch.
Sec. ~~W. Belch~~ J. C. Prabiner. That S. Moorhouse be re-elected Secretary for 1952. (Carried)

TREASURER
Prop. A. Gore.
Sec. M. B. Sheridan. That H. Poggo be re-elected Treasurer for 1952 (Carried)

COMMITTEE
The following were proposed, seconded & duly accepted as the Committee for 1952.
Messrs J. Schofield, J. Kempoy, J. Doolson, A. Foster, J. R. Wood, J. C. Prabiner, S. V. Grundy, Geo. A. Dawson, A. Hughes, H. Sheridan, B. Dickinson, Alan Pickles, B. Quarmanby, W. Belch. (With Power to add) OVER

In general business the club set out the building fund plans to upgrade Mean Lane and the youth team's budgets are also set out for the year along with other monetary matters for the season. The meeting ends with a proposed round of applause for the elected chairman, a motion which is subsequently accepted and carried out.

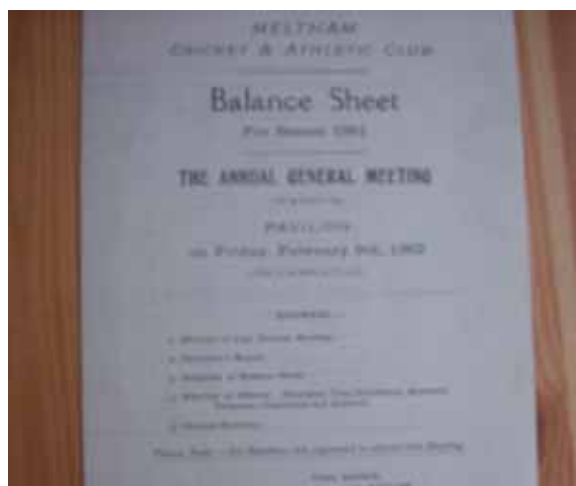
The second book covers the period 1954-7, the third 1958-63, while the fourth carries on from there until 1966, and the fifth from then until 1968. There are plenty more notable events and proceedings recorded in these volumes.

The AGM meetings are noted in detail from 1952 onwards. During the 1954 meeting, special mention is given to a Mr H. Pogson after stepping down as treasurer after "16 years of faithful service." It is later revealed that a testimonial fund of £5-6-6 is awarded to Mr Pogson for his service to Meltham Cricket Club. 1954 also sees the club rent out the Mean Lane ground to the local Silica Brick company cricket team for their evening league fixtures, thus earning the club an extra 4/6 a game, and if an opposition switches grounds to Mean Lane an extra £1-1-0 would be charged, to go directly into club funds.

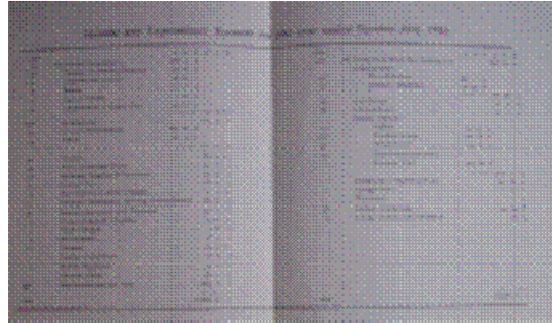
Mentioned for the first time on April 22nd is a women's team. A Mrs Moxon is to be written to and will be promised the ground for fixtures on alternate Wednesdays, to alternate with the junior team. The fee per match for Mrs Moxon is set at £1 although she has been denied the right to practice at the ground. It could be assumed that the meetings are still men-only as the ladies team captain was not in attendance, hence the proposed sending on of a letter to the lady in question.

Interestingly, a meeting in May 1954 reveals that a touring team of South Australians are to attend a special dance in their honour. It appears that all Huddersfield League teams are to attend and for this special occasion it is proposed that the members of the Meltham ladies committee be invited to accept an invitation to the event. The occasion, however, did not sell out as 6 tickets from Meltham were returned to the league secretary. Disappointingly, though, the event is not documented again in the minutes.

The pages of the third book conjure up a surprise in that they contain minutes of an AGM in February 1962 complete with two actual balance sheets from the meeting.



These are the first separate sheets, and document the finances of the club from the 1961 season – see images above and below. They contain information such as: wages, utilities, prize money, gate receipts and even an allowance for the club to buy its newspapers.



On the reverse of the sheet are the bar account details for the year. It shows that the club were never short of alcohol with over £3,000 being spent on beer, sprits and tobacco, a quite sizeable amount of money back in the 1960s.

Throughout the remainder of the books, the week-to-week dealings of the club continue to be documented. During 1966, however, the club details work to be carried out at the club: concreting and adding drainage around the tennis courts and adding tarmac to the approach to the club. Additionally, the club announced that work was to be done to add additional drainage to the pitch as the surface water that was building up after heavy rain in 1966 was running off onto the road leading to the club, affecting access to the ground. Other work to update and improve the club is noted and it seems apparent that the committee are intent on improving club facilities now they have more financial security.

The books can be located at the Meltham CC clubhouse.