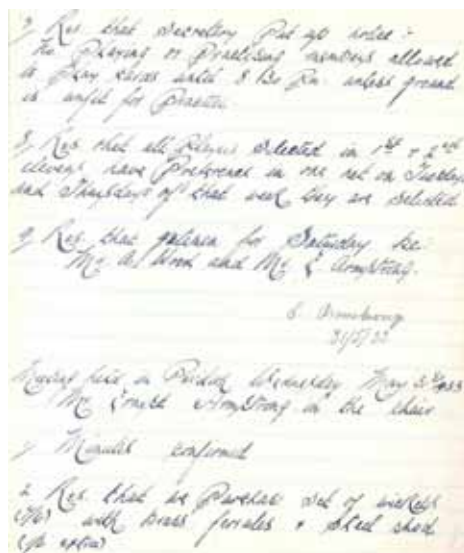


where MCC paid to board up a wall separating the cricket pitch from the rest of the ground at a cost of £10.1.0.. This is not the only work on the ground to be talked about. A Mr Brook spent £30 on repairing part of the ground; not only this but £5 was spent on acquiring a horse for the club. At the same meeting the minutes show that the club raised £4.6. after a match played against Linthwaite; this was following the 1892 gala event at which the Holme Brass Band was “engaged to play for the dancing”. Also recorded are details of a special concert that raised £9; the concert was performed by locals in the Oddfellows Hall.

The re-election of club officials are documented in the minute books. At the club’s Annual General Meeting in October 1896 the committee members proposed others for election and re-election. The list of officers for 1896 is confirmed and listed also. The club appears to make the AGM into a party-like event as the appearance of a shopping list with the minutes indicates. At the 1896 AGM there was cheese, tea and coffee, and also bottles of scotch and rum, 15 boxes of cigars and ½ lb of tobacco as well as 6 barrels of local beer. Even all those years ago, they still knew how to throw a party, despite the meeting being held in the local infants school!

The minute book takes the club up to October 1898 and lists over 150 more meetings that discussed elections, finances and club events. These meetings were held at the school and the Railway Hotel up until 1896; thereafter the clubhouse was used. At the end of the book the club plots which members have paid their membership fees on a ‘grid’ - not too dissimilar to the ones used today.



1933

The next volume begins in January 1929 and is titled the ‘Meltham Cricket and Athletic Club Minutes Book’ and is signed by secretary Tom Hirst. Club finances are still high on the agenda during the meetings. At the first meeting of the season many financial topics are discussed with club bills needing to be paid. MCC owed £5.10.0. in income tax, £4.6.9. in special duty, £12.6. for

attendance at a league dinner, and they also seem to owe a gentleman named Allan Dyson £10.0..

In a small typed note left between the pages, an indication is given as to the financial trouble the club found itself in in 1933. Although the amount is unclear, it appears a Mr R.F. Woodhead decided to waive the debt owed to him, for which the treasurer expresses his thanks.

As probably expected in historical documents, a few strange rules and regulations are sure to be found. Meltham CC is no exception either. In a proposal that was accepted by the members, it was decided in July 1929 that under no circumstances should tennis be allowed to be played on a Sunday.

As was seen in the first book, the club clearly knew how to enjoy themselves as the listings for the Christmas meetings shows. The club paid out for a large selection of beers, wines and spirits to be enjoyed by the members over the festive period. This included barrels of Bass and Guinness among other ales, one and a half bottles of whisky, rum and brandy, and several bottles of red and fortified wine.

This minute book goes up to December 1934 and lists numerous events through the years regarding equally important and mundane events. Near the back comes a good insight into the internal relationship between the tennis and cricket sections of the club. In another type-written note glued to the pages, the breakdown of a meeting of the two sections is documented. The sheet refers to money owed to banks and clubs regarding usage of the sports facilities. It shows that the club owes the bank an outstanding debt of £176.6.0. It also brings into question again the delicate finances of the club as a whole during this time.

The third book begins during wartime in February 1943. Again it lists the comings and goings of the club - this one taking the club up to June 1948. The writing style in this book is much more legible than the previous ones.

There are more light-hearted details in this edition. The first comes in February 1946 when the club sought to purchase a pack of brand new dominoes – at this point Mr G. Bailey announces he will apply for a set. Unfortunately he was unable to acquire one! In May 1946 there is a request to find the owner of a heavy blue overcoat left in the pavilion.

A 'major dilemma' is noted on 12th June 1946. The club resolved that the bar should only be open for half an hour during cricket matches to stop there being a beer shortage! The committee took the decision following a problem period in which after cricket matches on Saturdays there was no beer left on Sunday mornings for club members!

Throughout the books there are snippets of information that are both entertaining and educational. The factual accounts of the club are extremely interesting and show the way things used to be. The books can be located at the Meltham CC clubhouse.