

THONGS BRIDGE CRICKET & BOWLING CLUB

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SECRETARY'S REPORT 1975

WELCOME everyone to the eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Club! This is the first to be held in our new extension which, I am sure you will all agree, is a credit to the Club. Last year I expressed my disappointment at the progress of this, but thanks to people like Peter Marsh and Keith Hollingworth, the job has finally been completed. The results prove that although it has taken a long time, the end product has been well worth waiting for.

A Social Committee has been formed and they have already held a few organised events, the most successful of these being the "Harvest Home" which was the most profitable the Club has ever had. This, and other events, prove that we can make our new extension into a viable proposition. I am sure the Social Committee will have other ideas for future events, which I hope will be as well attended. We still have to arrange an "Official Opening" Ceremony which should be quite an event.

During the past year there have been various other events, one of these being the Annual Buffet Supper & Disco Dance. Those who attended this enjoyed themselves very much. Unfortunately, for some unknown reason, this was not as well supported as it should have been. I think that a lot more thought and drive will have to be put into next year's dance. Another event which proved quite a success was the District Sports Council Exhibition for the Holme Valley Clubs. My thanks to all who helped on our Stand which, in my opinion, was one of the best in the show.

The following are my comments on the Sporting Side, and I hope they do not duplicate anything already being reported by each Representative:-

BOWLS:

The Sub-Committee have been extremely active and ably led by Chairman, Mr. Hubert Bye and Section Secretary, Mrs. Irene Marsh. The teams had a reasonably good season without winning any trophies. Both the Dearne & Don teams came very close, although "pipped at the post" in play off. Once again we held a Merit Final which proved a very successful venture. The green has been kept in good condition by Mr. Peter Beaumont and I hope that next year this section will go from strength to strength and that the interest shown over the past couple of years especially, will continue to prosper.

DARTS:

Unfortunately, the team seems to have had a bad start but, if they keep on trying, I am sure the tide will turn. At least those who support this section have some very enjoyable evenings, and I am told there have been some very good attendances up to now.

CRICKET:

The 1st XI have had a very disappointing season all round, and at no time did they reach anywhere near the form which would have given them a reasonable league position. The only batsman to come out with any success were Mr. Alan Greaves and Mr. David Walls and, with the ball, only Mr. Ian Roebuck took more than 30 wickets. Unfortunately we have now lost the services of Mr. Alan Greaves, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done during his stay at the Club, and to wish him success with his new club. We have, however, secured the services of three new players for next season who we hope, with the support of our established regulars and one or two younger players, will help us to the success we need.

This being, of course, promotion to Section 'A'. The new players in question are Mr. John Allen (who had a spell with Holmfirth), Mr. Doug. Swann (ex Holmfirth opening batsman) and Mr. David Horsey (a newcomer to our league from Alwoodley, near Leeds).

The 2nd XI had a good season in the League but, unfortunately, faded in the last few matches. One or two of the younger members began to make their mark and under the very able captaincy of Mr. Terry Brierley and the help of good clubmen like Mr. Trevor Berry, Mr. Ian Johnson and Mr. John Moorhouse, the team won the Paddock Shield. I think that with this blend of youth and experience they will do well next year.

The Junior XI - how does one put their success into words? For the fifth successive year they won the League, and not being satisfied with this, also carried off the Walker Cup. With Richard Mallinson, Neil Kaye and Michael Kenworthy as the leaders and the rest of the team giving such wonderful support, how could they fail. Their keenness and enthusiasm is to be admired. I am sure you will agree that we are not short of good, young local talent on this performance.

Although there have been certain criticisms about the middle, I think that basically the Groundsmen have again done a very good job. In fact, the surrounds have looked in excellent condition all season.

The Cricket Committee has again been reasonably small in number and, as I said last year, an injection of new blood is needed. In this respect I would like to see more players taking an active part in the running of the Club and helping to do various voluntary jobs which occur. Some players have from time to time come onto the Committee but have not stuck to the task. I would, therefore, appeal to the players to take a more active part and in this way, will put into the game as much as they take out.

Whilst on the subject of new blood we have had a volunteer to do the secretarial side of the Cricket Section. The Gentleman in question is Mr. Frank Smith, whom possibly some of you will not know. Frank has been helping out on a temporary basis for some time now, with a view of doing this permanently next season. I personally have known him for many years and I can appreciate what an asset he will be to our Club. Thank you Frank for the assistance you have given up to now.

Once again, the Cricket Section owes a very great debt to the sterling work of Raymond Smith. Not only has he chaired the meetings, but has put in a lot of hard work on numerable tasks.

I would also like to thank Mr. Geoff Howard David Robinson and Mr. Peter Wilson for the help they have given to the Section.

My resume on the Cricket Section would not be complete without a vote of thanks to Mr. Jim Dawson. As most of you know, Jim has been our Representative on the League Council for many years and has recently been elected Chairman in succession to Mr. Joe Robinson. I would like to congratulate him on this and am certain he will do a great job. We are also indebted to Jim for the other work he has done for the Club.

#### LADIES

All I have said over the past few years can once again be repeated. Without this small band of workers we would be in trouble. The work they do is greatly appreciated and I especially would like to give them a special vote of thanks. Keep up the good work.

Having now covered the sporting side I would like to comment on the balance sheets. As you will see, there has been a large increase in finances. The year has been a very heavy one and, of course, everything has increased in price. The Sheet has taken a more sophisticated form this year and I would like to thank Mr. Williams for the work he has put into preparing it. I will leave him to explain this and to answer any queries you may have.

However, I would again like to point out the success of the Forecast Pool which is the "life-saver" of our Club. To the collectors, my sincere thanks for your wonderful efforts. As most of you will know, we have had the Gaming Machines taken out (hence the small amount shown) due to the damage caused by numerous break-ins.

Lastly, the bar has had a very successful year - my thanks to the excellent work of Rita and her helpers, and also to the Bar Committee. Now that the extension is finished I know that there are various other matters requiring attention, so we are hoping for another good financial year in 1976.

The Management Committee have been very busy during the past year and the meetings have been very wellattended. For the first half of the year, Mr. Sam Mercer presided but he, unfortunately, became ill and had to resign. It was, in fact, Sam who talked Clifford and myself into accepting re-election of office for a further year, and I was very sorry when he had to resign. No disrespect to anyone else, but since I have been associated with the Club I have found Sam to be the best Chairman. I would, therefore, like to offer a big thankyou to Sam and hope that his future health will be much improved.

I hope there will be as much interest shown during the coming year by the newly elected Committee. The Management Committee have a difficult job dealing with the running of the Club and, although at times their decisions may be criticised, everything they do is for the benefit of the Club and it's Members.

Our President, Mr. Harold Wimpenny, has again given a shining example of his great loyalty to the Club. He becomes involved in everything to do with the smooth running, whether it be a cricket match or bowling merit. I have a great admiration for him and all I can think of to show our thanks is to use the old phrase "For he's a jolly good fellow - and so say all of us".

Our Treasurer, Mr. Clifford Taylor, has once more done a marvellous job. At the final Management Meeting of the year, Clifford intimated he would definitely like to have a rest, due to his ever increasing commitments. If he has not changed his mind, I know we are going to have a hard job finding a successor, unless there is anyone here tonight who would like to take on this task. In any event I would like to thank Clifford for his wonderful work over the past years, and hope he will stay on the Committee even if he relinquishes his Treasurer's position. We have always worked very well together and I am sure Mr. Williams will endorse all I have said.

During the past year, one of our Life Members, Mr. Albert Bray passed away. He was an excellent servant to the Club, both as player and worker for many years. It is always sad to lose such Members. Another great worker for the Club in the past years - Mr. Herbert Fisher - has not been well for quite some time and we are sorry that he has not been able to come amongst his friends for some considerable time, but we hope to see him in the very near future.

I hope I have not forgotten to thank anyone here tonight but, in case I have, my apologies.