

## TEA ROOM REMINISCENCES

*Contributed by Mrs N. Beaumont*

One would hardly credit the difference which has come about over the years in that very important section of the Club's activities – catering – when the position today is compared with the early days. In this article, Mrs Nora Beaumont has kindly provided us with her recollections of the tea room activities since she was first involved in 1922.

Mrs Beaumont recalls that in 1922, there was a little green hut furnished with one trestle table, two circular tables, several ordinary chairs and one rocky old arm-chair, which was known as Dr Maffin's chair.

Water for tea was boiled in a coal-fired rusty set-pot behind the hut. Both water and coal had to be carried by hand in buckets from the village. At this time, Mrs Arthur Schofield was the only person running the tearoom, and was very pleased to have some help. Teacake sandwiches were provided, together with mugs of tea, and cakes.

At a later stage the coal burning boiler was replaced by oil stoves, the snags then being that the injudicious opening and closing of the door made the stoves go out.

A big advance was made in 1937, when a new wooden pavilion, incorporating tea room, dressing rooms, and score box was acquired followed within the next two years by mains water and electricity. More furniture greatly improved the scope and standard which became necessary especially in the 1950's with the greater success of the teams, and with increases in the number of followers.

As with all things, the wooden pavilion referred to above, eventually came to the end of its useful life in the late sixties, and plans were made to improve the original brick built pavilion, and as an extension thereto, a prefabricated structure was acquired, and erected to house the tea room, dressing rooms and toilets. The present kitchen is equipped with an electric oven, boiler, sink unit and modern cupboard fittings.

The staff has increased, and is now managed very efficiently by a happy band of enthusiastic players wives. The fare today includes sandwiches, beefburgers, toasted teacakes, hot dogs, tea, coffee, soup, jellies and cakes made by the "staff". They not only cater for matches but also for other club functions as well.

Mrs Beaumont rightly says that a vote of thanks is due to the late Mrs Schofield for having started on the right track and feels sure that she would be proud to see the tea room today which has developed from the foundations which she was largely instrumental in laying so many years ago.