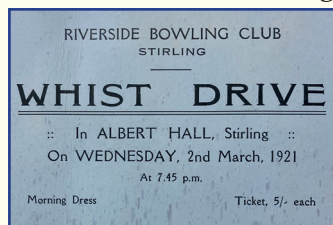


# Riverside Bowling Club 1922 -2022



## How it Started

The venue – John Clark's House in Argyll Avenue, in the Summer of 1920. William Gourlay was visiting one evening and in discussing the housing schemes which were to be erected in Riverside, the remark was made that soon there would not be any available place for such an amenity as a bowling green and a discussion was then made on a possible site. At meetings held in September and November 1920, a committee was formed. The recommended site would be Queenshaugh. In January 1921 the name of Riverside Bowling Club was approved. On 1st February 1921, Riverside Bowling Club held their first General Meeting, with Robert McIntyre being appointed as the first President. In March 1921, the Bowling Club held their first whist drive at Stirling Albert Hall, 300 attended and the profit was £25.



## Opening Year of Bowling Green 1922

At a meeting held at 21 Argyll Ave on 21st February 1921, the President Robert McIntyre submitted structural plans on a Clubhouse and on 6th March 1922, architects Bell & Harvey were appointed as architects for the new Clubhouse. Peter Cumisky of Keirfield House, Bridge of Allan was appointed as the first greenkeeper of the club. The meeting on 25th March 1922, finalised all contractors for the work which included, masonry work, joinery work, slater work and plumbing work. The first Riverside Bowling Club committee meeting was held at the club on 2nd May 1922. At that meeting discussions were made on the completion of the pathways, garden ground and the planting of hedges. Opening Day was held on 3rd June 1922 and Mrs McIntyre declared the green Open with Provost McCulloch Opening the new



Clubhouse. The first weekly Rink Game was held on 13th June 1922. Presidents and Championship

Panels were presents by D. Barker and J. Skinner and erected in the Clubhouse. The Closing Day was on 30th September at 3pm. The first gents champion was Mr A. Lawson.

### 1923 – 1930

In 1923, Riverside Bowling Club joined the S.B.A., Stirling County Bowling Association and Stirlingshire Central Bowling Association. The first appointed skips were made and the first Scottish gents singles representative was Mr A. Lawson. Mr Robert McIntyre was the President, third year in succession. Mr Baillie Weir presented a cup for a competition with neighbouring bowling club Spittalmyre, six gents rinks played and in the first year of the competition Riverside Bowling Club won by two shots. This competition, Weir Cup is still played yet. During the rest of the 1920's various things developed including an extension in 1928 to the clubhouse, the foundations gifted by Mr Baillie Gourlay (President of the year). A tool shed was erected in 1929.



### 1930's

The ladies section membership was 45 in 1931, at that stage the maximum. Mr Robert McIntyre became a life member in the same year. With the outbreak of the war in 1939, rink game charges changed from 3d to 6d, with the extra 3d being allocated to war charities. Committee meetings were held on a Sunday afternoon on account of lighting restrictions.

### 1940's

In 1940 the lease from the Town Council was renewed for another 20 years. It was announced in 1946 that Riverside Bowling Club had raised £143 for war charities, and those members returning from H. M forces were given 3 years free membership. In this same year, the Bowling Club celebrated their 25th anniversary. Pre-cast paving slabs were laid around the pathways and a very substantial railing was erected in front of the Clubhouse. The County Finals were played at Riverside Bowling Green in 1946, in view of the President of the County Association, Mr J.S. Morton.

## 1950's

The new decade brought about 16 new members in 1950 for the gents section. Mr R. Carlin was the Gents President and Mrs Donnachie was the Ladies President. The gents section joined in with Spittalmyre for their 50th anniversary. The highlight of season in 1952 was being the chosen green for the match of the Canadian Touring side against a team from the counties of Stirling/Clackmannan and Fife. The celebration of the Coronation of H.M Queen Elizabeth in 1953 brought about the ladies section playing special games against local clubs. By the end of season 1953, gents playing members were 69, ladies members 45, honorary members 7 and life members 5. The first representation of Riverside Bowling Club at the Scottish Finals at Queens Park was in 1958. Mr J.S Morton and James Stalker represented the club and were defeated in the semi-finals.



## 1960's

Mr David Preston became the Gents President of the Scottish Bowling Association in 1961 and the club were honoured to have one of their members attaining to this position. In 1965, two lamp posts, one at each gate were obtained when the street lighting in Riverside was modernised. Mr J.S. Morton retired as club secretary after 20 years in office. During the season of 1967, a sub-committee were selected to look at the state of the clubhouse, under the chairmanship of Mr W.Hill. Mr G. Rillie snr became the greenkeeper in 1969 with the assistance of Mr I. Hutcheon as green ranger. This started Ian Hutcheon's many years of service at Riverside Bowling Club particularly with treating the bowling green.

## 1970's

The 50th anniversary of Riverside Bowling Club took place in 1971 with gents President, Mr G. Muir and ladies President, Mrs W. Bridgeman in office. A fortnight of friendly matches between 29th May – 12th June celebrated the occasion. A special general meeting was held on 24th August 1972, to discuss the proposal of a bar/lounge extension to the clubhouse. After discussion and a vote, it was

decided to propose this work at an estimated cost of £900, providing the labour was supplied by the members of the bowling club. At that same meeting Mr I. Henderson (secretary) stated that the club had now been granted a 50 year lease at the cost of £10 per annum.



The first year of the floodlight triples were held between 1st – 5th October 1973 and in the following year it started to be sponsored by the local Ford garage, this tournament became the Mogil Floodlight Triples. In 1975 the barrier in front of the clubhouse was dismantled and a new flag was

donated by Mrs D. Hain's parents. At the committee meeting in November 1979 representatives from the club were asked to attend a meeting at the Cowane Centre on 8th December to discuss a possibility of a new Indoor Bowling Stadium in Stirling.

### 1980's

The beginning of the season in 1980 Mr G. Turpie (Gents President) welcomed all on Opening Day. A new pay phone had been installed and a new gents tie had been designed. At the March meeting in 1981, nine applications of membership were received and at the same meeting it was proposed that the ladies section membership be increased from a limit of 75 to 85 members, this was accepted. At the AGM in 1982, Mr J. Brown proposed an introduction of a 100 club fund, which we still keep running yet! In 1984 the completion was made of new floodlights and stands under the supervision of Mr R. McFadyen. The Opening Day of 1988 saw the celebration of the 100th birthday year of Mr J.S. Morton, one of the original members of R.B.C.

### 1990's

During the year of 1990, Mr H. Hill died and at the October meeting in the same year, it was decided with the committee's consent that artificial bankings be erected for the following season from a kind legacy from Mr H. Hill's estate. At the meeting of October 1991 discussion was made of alterations and an extension at the rear of



the lounge, and after many discussions with prospective builders the AGM in February 1993 finalised work to take place for an extension of the gents toilets, a new shed and a new committee/ changing room. The meeting of November 1994 discussed the attempt by the council of increasing the rent lease of the ground, conversation extended into the next year and at the April 1995 meeting it was discussed to buy the ground, however it was finally decided that the club would accept the council lease increase of £250.00 per annum. The same meeting in April 1995, Mr W. Lawrie asked the secretary to look at equal rights for the club. The clubs 75th anniversary took place in 1996 and took the format of a bowling and social evening on the 23rd June. The AGM meeting in February 1997 brought about the equal opportunities for both ladies and gents.

## **The New Decade**

Riverside Bowling Club continued quietly into the new decade, and within the last ten years more things have developed, our greenkeeper Peter Paterson retired in 2011 and John White was appointed in 2011 as greenkeeper and became President in season 2013 and 2014. We received new sponsorship from the Robertson Group in 2015, which continued for 3 years. Our club tops were introduced in 2016, and in the same year Tom Findlay snr was appointed as a honorary member. At our AGM in 2017 we changed our constitution to enable us to apply for Lottery Funding. At the AGM in 2018 Ian Henderson and John Donaldson were appointed as honorary members, and in the same year brought the introduction of Riverside Primary School visiting our green through the help of Sports Active. Our membership inflated greatly in 2019, due to the unfortunate closure of Livilands Bowling Club. The same year brought about renewal of our clubhouse roof, which was funded by a Suez grant. Covid pandemic limited the club to meet in 2020, but in the July the club opened and we managed to organise rink games for the rest of the season. The Opening of season 2021 was delayed until 8th May, however we managed a more structural season with a few friendlies having been played and all club competitions for the gents fulfilled. Agnus Guthrie was appointed as a honorary member. With the help of the covid grant scheme, our own savings and a grant from Stirling and Clackmannan



Enterprise Fund we were able to complete in September 2021 the internal renovations of our clubhouse and with the support of

members this has now been completed.

## Summary

We thank all those members over the years who have played and supported Riverside Bowling Club. Our club wouldn't be here without our members voluntarily giving up their time to support the club. We have been fortunate to have many winners over the years in Ladies and Gents competitions in Scottish, County and Central competitions, and we hope to display some of these memories during our centenary year in the clubhouse.

## Centenary Year 2022

Our committee are in the process of organising events for the centenary year, all will be advertised in the Stirling Observer, our webpage ([www.riversidebowling.club](http://www.riversidebowling.club)) and our facebook page, aswell as our communication with Riverside Community Council. We thank Stirling Council pride grant to be able to publish this booklet.

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