

Kings Bromley Snooker Club

----- SNOOKER CLUB CENTENARY – OCTOBER 15TH. 2014

May 1914 – REV W V CHILWELL

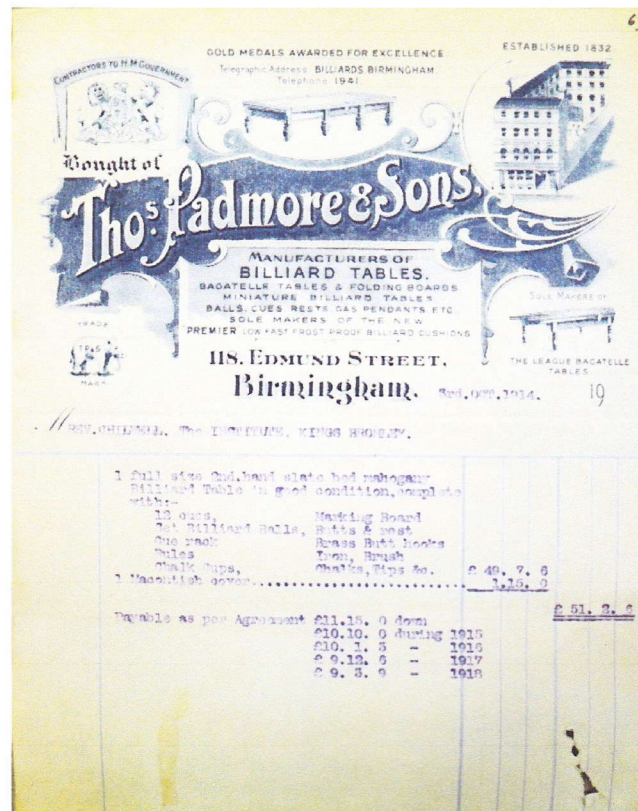
The billiard table has already been bought, and will be fixed early in October. It is a full size table nearly new, and is in excellent order, and I feel sure it will prove a great attraction. A billiard table committee has already been appointed, and a scheme for the purchase of the table has been drawn up which I hope may be a success.

August 1914.

A scheme for the purchase of the billiard table which will cost 50 guineas (including a six-light chandelier, delivering and fixing), has already been placed before a committee which has been elected. This scheme provides for a certain number of shilling shares to be issued in blocks of five and interest at the rate of five per cent will be paid on them till they are redeemed from the profits of the games played on the table.

October 1914

The first table was purchased and an invoice dated the 3rd October 1914 to Rev. Chilwell, The Institute, Kings Bromley from Thos. Padmore & Sons, 118 Edmund Street, Birmingham for one full size second hand slate bed mahogany Billiard Table complete with 12 cues, etc price £51 2s 6p is recorded.



December 1914.

The billiard table proves a great attraction, and already we have many promising players. The members have made such good progress that we propose to have a billiard tournament this month, the prize to be a cue and case.

The revenue from the billiard table has been about 4s per week, and eventually this will be a source of income when we have completed the purchase of the table, as, owing to the War, we were not able to raise the money required for this purpose, and payments are to be spread over four years.

So far we have 48 members of the Institute, and we hope that all will pay their subscriptions as soon as possible.

March 1915.

The members of the Institute are now becoming fairly good billiard players, and we have arranged two handicaps, the prizes on each occasion being a cue and case.

The first one was won by W. Padmore, and the second one by H. Chamberlain. Owing to the generosity of Handsworth friends and others we have been able to buy a small billiard table, with the accessories, for the boys and learners. This is well patronised and is proving a source of great amusement and interest to the

members of the Institute. It also brings in a small revenue. It is managed by a Committee of boys elected by ballot.

April 1915.

On Wednesday, March 17th, the members of the Alrewas Institute paid a visit to Kings Bromley and played in a billiard match. Kings Bromley won by twelve points. The following week the return match was played at Alrewas, when Kings Bromley was beaten by nearly 100 points.

May 1915.

Our members have been invited to play a billiard match at Armitage during the past month and were defeated. On Saturday, April 10th, the Armitage members paid a visit to Kings Bromley, and the honours of the day again rested with the visitors. We hope after a little more experience that our members will not be beaten both away and at home.

July 1915.

The Committee have decided to close the Institute during the summer months, except on Saturday evenings, but if any members desire to play billiards when the weather does not permit of their working outside, they may use the Institute on applying to the Caretaker, provided that a member of the Committee or the Billiard Table Sub-Committee is present.

November 1915.

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Institute was held on Saturday, October 9th. Mr Lane presided. The Secretary (Mr J E Bishop) read his report of the past year's working and presented a very satisfactory statement. The Accounts showed a balance in hand of £5 1s 2d. During the past year we have paid £25 on account of the billiard table leaving a balance of £20 still owing. This, according to the agreement, must be paid off by the end of the year 1918, but the Committee consider that there will be no difficulty about this, and they hope to pay the whole amount from the proceeds of the games before that date.

April 1916.

During the past winter we have had very few members now that nearly all the men of military age have gone, but the few members that are left have appreciated the privileges. It may be of general interest to state that the billiard table which was bought at a cost of nearly £50, to be paid for by October 1918, has so far justified the venture of faith in making such a purchase. Not only have we been able to fulfil our contract, but the proceeds of the table have been enough to pay the instalments earlier than we arranged, with the result that there remains only £16 to pay off the whole amount. When this is done we shall have a good source of revenue for the upkeep of the Institute.

December 1916.

The annual meeting in connection with the Institute was held on Saturday evening, Nov. 17th. Mr Lane presided. The accounts for the year were presented which showed a balance due to the treasurer of 8/1 which was very good in view of the fact that very few members were left. The Institute is certainly in a flourishing condition (financially). The billiard table was purchased in 1914 for £45 under an agreement that £10 should be paid on delivery and the remainder by four equal instalments of £8 15s annually in Oct. 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918, plus interest at five per cent on the remaining balance. So far we have paid £37 plus interest on this account, leaving only a sum of £8 still to be paid. When this debt is cleared off we shall have a source of revenue for the upkeep of the Institute which will enable us to pay our way as the billiard tables bring in at least £10 a year.

It has been decided that the subscription of members shall be reduced from 6/6 to 3/- for adults, and from 5/- to 1/6 yearly for boys under 17, for the duration of the war.

May 1917.

The Vicar's Easter Offering has been given to the Institute funds. It amounted to £3 10s 6d and we have now been able to pay a further instalment for the billiard table, leaving a balance of only £4 which we hope to pay off in October of this year. When this has been done we shall be in a better position financially, as the income from the billiard table will be available for current expenses.

September 1917.

We are glad to announce that the whole of the amount owing for the billiard table has now been paid. This is no mean achievement under the present conditions. The table cost £45 and a friend gave £10 towards its purchase, leaving a balance of £35 to be paid off by four annual instalments of £8 15s, plus interest on balance remaining, but owing to the fact that payments were made earlier than arranged, a considerable sum of money was saved and the total amount paid for interest was only £2 12s 11d, or about 17/8 per annum.

Great credit is due to the members of the Institute for their enthusiasm and keenness in this matter. The working of the Institute will now be easier as the proceeds of the billiard tables can be used as income instead of going to pay off instalments.

December 1917.

On the whole we have had a most satisfactory year, with an increase of membership. The income and expenditure account of the Institute for the past year ending September 29th showed an amount of £5 1s 4d owing to the Treasurer, but this is accounted for by the fact that the members wished to complete the purchase of the billiard table at once rather than wait till October, 1918, according to the agreement with the firm who supplied it. An amount of £16 16s 8d was paid during the year and, as already stated, the purchase has now been completed.

April 1921.

We now have nearly 40 members of the Institute and as a result it is crowded each night of opening. The one billiard table has proved to be a great attraction and is of course a source of revenue, but the members have felt for sometime past that if we could have another table it would add greatly to the efficiency of the Institute. It was therefore decided to purchase another one and we have been able to secure a first class table which will be fixed up before this appears in print. The cost of the table is £70. The money is being found by the members who are taking up £1 and 5s shares bearing interest at 5 per cent per annum and redeemable by annual drawings.

An invoice dated May 1921 from Burroughes & Watts, Navigation Street, Birmingham for one billiard table removed from Burton and set up at Kings Bromley, £70.00. and a later invoice from James Rock, Blacksmith, Kings Bromley for plates and fixing lamps to billiard and six lamp brackets to dance room for £1 16s 0d are recorded. The following shows 2 records from Burroughes & Watts, the invoice from James Rock Blacksmith and an invoice from James Hinks. Also, the invoice from Jos. Harrison for conveying the table from Stappenhill to Kings Bromley.

Telephone: "BURROUGHES" OX. LONDON
 Telephone: REGENT 2002 & 2005.

TO HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V

The Rev. H. V. Chilwell
 At Kings Bromley, Leicestershire

London, Nov. 1921

Dr. to **BURROUGHES & WATTS,**
 (WITH WHICH THE BUSINESS OF COX & YEMAN IS INCORPORATED) LTD.
 Billiard Table Manufacturers.
 Head Offices and Show Rooms, 19, SOHO SQUARE, W. 1.

13 Jan 1922

By Cash (cont)

Balance

20 5 3
 15 . .
 15 5 3

11/11/1921
 Received by
 BURROUGHES & WATTS, Ltd.
 the sum of £ 15 - - - (one %)
 per J. Hinks

RECEIVED FOR
 BURROUGHES & WATTS, LTD.

Telephone: "BURROUGHES" OX. LONDON
 Telephone: REGENT 2002 & 2005.

TO HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V

The Rev. H. V. Chilwell
 At Kings Bromley, Leicestershire

LONDON, W. 1. 11th Nov. 1921

BURROUGHES & WATTS
 (WITH WHICH THE BUSINESS OF COX & YEMAN IS INCORPORATED)
 BILLIARD TABLE MANUFACTURERS.
 EXPORTERS AND MERCHANTS
 CONTRACTORS FOR BILLIARD TABLES TO
 H.M. WAR DEPARTMENT AND ADMIRALTY.
 NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BREAKAGE.

Head Office and Show Rooms:
 19 SOHO SQUARE.

Representatives in
 BRISTOL, LONDON, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, SHEFFIELD, SOUTHAMPTON, TRAFALGAR, WARRINGTON, WHARF.

1 Nov 1921

1 Box assembled Table

Passage

2 Balance of £ 15 - - -

6/11/1922

Received by
 BURROUGHES & WATTS, LTD.
 the sum of £ 15 - - - (one %)
 per J. Hinks

RECEIVED FOR
 BURROUGHES & WATTS, LTD.

KING'S BROMLEY, LICHFIELD.

Oct 31

1921

M^r Rev W. Chilwell

Dr. to **JAMES ROCK,**
BLACKSMITH.

		£	s	d
April 4	1 plate & fixing lamp brackets to billiard table			
Sept 25	at Institute			
Sept 25	altering 6 lamp brackets to dance room	16	0	
" "	2 new plates to lamps to billiard room	6	0	
		14	0	
		1	16	0

Received with thanks
Jas Rock 31st Oct
1921



PHONE 232

FURNITURE REMOVED
JOS. HARRISON
ROAD & RAIL

ALL INFORMATION FREE.
Experienced Men sent to any part
of the Country.

NUMEROUS TESTIMONIALS

113 STATION STREET, BURTON-ON-TRENT

M^r W. Chilwell, King's Bromley.
Dr. to **JOS. HARRISON.**
Contractor for Removals and Warehousing of Furniture.
Packing at office, and China, and General Shipment of goods to and from all parts.
Sling Vans for Sea Transit.
Motors for long distance.

1921
April 4 To conveying Billiard Table from
Stapenhill to Bromley. as arranged. 5 - -
extra help as ordered by your Foreman
10 hours @ 2/6 hr. 1 5 -
7 6 5 -

Paid by Cheque
Jas. Harrison
J. Harrison

ALL REMITTANCES TO BE MADE TO THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE.

MANUFACTORY BIRMINGHAM.
HEAD OFFICE: HINKS BIRMINGHAM
Telephone Central 3469

SOLE OFFICIAL A.R.C.

LONDON SHOW ROOMS
11 CHARING CROSS STREET, E.C.1.
Telegraphic Address: HINKS & SON LONDON
Telephone No. 3559 HOLBORN.

Bought of
JAMES HINKS & SON
LIMITED

MANUFACTURERS
OF
LAMPS
ELECTRIC AND GAS
FITTINGS

DRASHADAS BUILDING
HONOLY ROAD
BOMBAY
TELEGRAMS
"HINKS SMITH BOMBAY"

Head Office:
GREAT HAMPTON STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.
B.5/629.

15A GOVERNMENT PLACE
CALCUTTA
TELEGRAMS
"HINKS SMITH CALCUTTA"

Sept. 15th 1921.

Messrs. W. Canning & Co.,
St. Hampton Street, B'ham.

EMPTY WILL NOT BE CREDITED UNLESS RECEIVED IN GOOD CONDITION, CARRIAGE PAID, WITHIN ONE MONTH FROM DATE OF INVOICE, AND PROPERLY ADRESSED.

1 doz. Clips for billiard shades.	18/-	18	18
Postage	1/-		1
			19

9420

JAMES HINKS & SON, LIMITED.
Birmingham 23rd 1921

Received from Mr. J. Samble Esq.
by Vicarage,
St. Nicholas, Lichfield.

WITH THANKS
J. Hinks

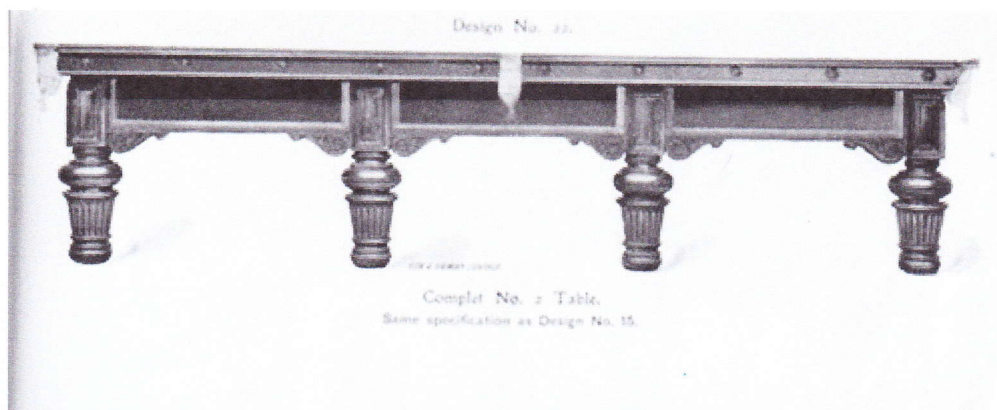
NO ALLOWANCE FROM PRICE OF PACKAGE KEPT.

The dance room was presumably the main room downstairs. The lamps must have been gas, or something else, because electricity was not installed until 1934 at a cost of £17 16s 3 by a firm Birch & Evans.

This second table was originally manufactured by Cox & Yeman; there is a label on the underside, suggesting that it may have been supplied to a "J Samble Esq. Stapenhill, dated 2/12/84. This makes the table 130 years old later this year.

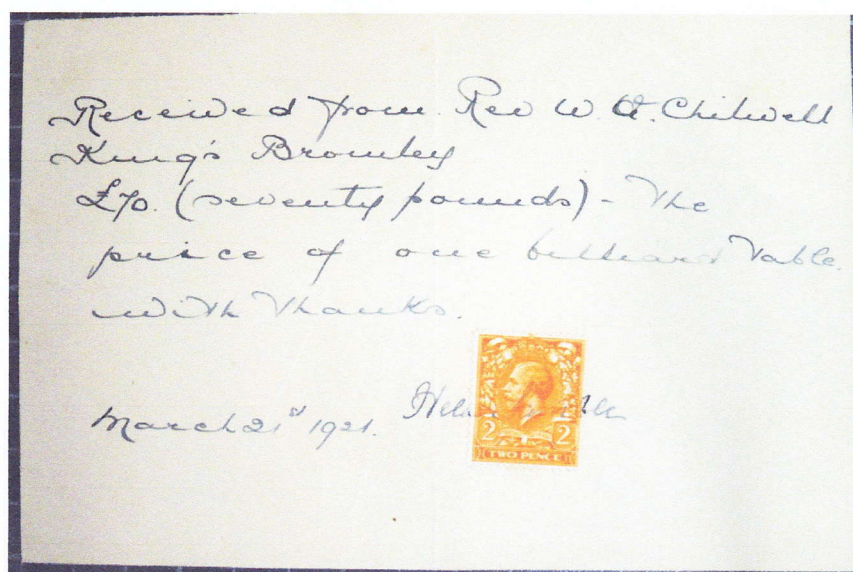


From Cox & Yeman Catalogue, very similar to our table.



James Samble with his wife Helen lived at no. 1 Main Street Stappenhill, Burton on Trent; born 1821 in Truro his profession was a "Timber Merchant". He passed away in 1911 but the family did not sell the table for another 10 years.

The following is a copy of the receipt from Helen Samble for the payment.



November 1921.

The annual general meeting of the Institute was held on Saturday evening, Sept 17th, and was well attended. In the opening statement the Vicar reviewed the past year's working and stated that there had been no difficulties or disagreement of any kind and now that we had our second billiard table it only needed the full support of the members to make the Institute a greater success than ever. The shares for the billiard table had not all been taken up but he hoped that most of the money would be subscribed in shares at an early date.

The Billiard Table Sub-Committee was elected as follows:— Messrs J C Anderson, G Brace and R Copeland.

January 1922.

The billiard tables continue to be well patronized and the purchase by the members of a second table has been fully justified.

March 1922.

Members of the Men's Club at Alrewas visited the Institute on Tuesday evening, Feb 21, to play a billiard match. Unfortunately some of our best players suffered from 'stage-fright', and as a result the visitors beat us by 156 points.

February 1934.

Trent Valley Billiards League.

Many interesting events have been recorded this session of the happenings in the Institute, but probably the most welcome is the fact that our billiard team have succeeded in winning the runner-up medals in the Trent Valley Inter-Village Billiard League. This is the first time that members of the Institute have joined a League, and it speaks well for the members of the team (under the captaincy of A. Cliffe) that these honours have been secured. The team consists of A. Cliffe (Captain), H. Webster, J. Billings, W. T. Osborne, A. Hall and R. Heathcote. In addition one of our members (H. Webster) has been successful in making the highest break (40) in the League this season, thus winning the cue and case given by Messrs Riley Ltd of Accrington.

1940's

This a copy of a photograph from Ivy Butcher's book showing a picture of Albert Clewes, Ron Heathcote, Pat Oldham and Richard Brown



1974

Extract from Parish Magazine, September 1985.

The Snooker Club, in its present form, was established in 1974 when the tables were renovated and re-clothed. Despite these assets and the current popularity of the game, the Club is short of members and the facilities it offers are not used to advantage. A warm welcome will be extended to any new members, regardless of ability; indeed club members are prepared to teach those who have not played before.

The usual club evening is Wednesday and anyone wishing to join should attend on the first opportune Wednesday. The only stipulation made is that prospective members should be at least 16 years old.

With ladies now taking a greater part in activities both nationally and locally the time could well be appropriate for the ladies of the village to give the club their support, they will be made very welcome.

Kings Bromley Snooker Club
1987 – 1991
Dennis O'Dea

In 1987 there were at least five full size snooker tables in Kings Bromley. Three in private ownership, and two in the Village Hall under the management of the Snooker Club.

When I took over the running of the Snooker Club in 1987 the Village Hall was in a sorry state of repair but the dedicated Village Hall committee and volunteers were working hard to turn things around. The building and surrounds were showings their age and without the newly built kitchen/store and toilets would have been unfit for purpose and the growing community.

Prior to the installation of Natural gas, heating of the main hall was accommodated with electric heaters although at the time the snooker club never shared this luxury relying on the more immediate heat of a portable calor gas heater that barely sufficed against the draft from the missing window panes. In winter months members wore gloves and hats to stay warm during play while the 'warmth' from the calor gas heater would cause an immediate layer of condensation on the cold surfaces of the slate bedded snooker tables. During play a bow wave would track the run of the ball across the baize. I suppose the only reason the cloth didn't rot from this was the through draft that ventilated the room.

Just prior to my joining the Snooker club all of the rotten wooden windows of the Village Hall were replaced with double glazed PVCu units, this was funded by the Village Hall Committee. The club membership was down to three playing members (D Baskerville, E Baskerville and B Ryman), while the outgoing treasurer Mr Roffey, and R Salt retired from the club. With so few members it was

becoming increasingly difficult to pay the monthly rent to the Village Hall and the club was in danger of collapsing (in more ways than one).

The room was pretty awful, damp, peeling paintwork, the lath and plaster ceiling was falling down, the plaster walls were crumbling and the timber floors were bare. This was most definitely not a conducive environment to enjoying a relaxed and convivial evening. The club members showed little interest in forming a committee or becoming officers of the club but I was adamant and had no intention of talking about what needed to be done for the next few years. Fortunately under Mr Roffey management as Treasurer the club had some funds and it was agreed that we would use these to upgrade the room. Hence we embarked on a very dusty and time consuming programme that started with our pulling the ceiling down (tables protected with lorry tarpaulins) the debris was thrown out of the windows onto the back of a tractor/trailer and the ceiling boarded ready for skimming, the walls were then battened, boarded and skimmed. The plaster boarding, skimming and coving was done jointly with a friend of mine, John Beamond, Master Plasterer (and snooker Fan).

Peter Crisp installed the electric system for the wall heaters and lighting.

New skirting boards and dado rails were fitted and the room decorated.

Fortunately while we were in the process of doing this make over the Parish Council were approached by M&S, who at the time were refitting their store in Stafford. They had reams of good quality used carpet to dispose of and rather than sending it to land fill they were trying to find a use for it in the local community. We gratefully accepted the offer of 'free' carpet and club member David Baskerville collected it on his tractor and trailer.

Fitting the carpet on new underlay was another dusty job and for months afterward dust was coming out of the carpet.

Undertaken on part-time basis the whole refit and decorating took us approximately 4-6 months during which time play continued.

With the improved facility we were able to attract new members and the club was able to gather momentum. It became a popular venue and attracted local members and others from Lichfield and Yoxall.

The Club fees at the time were
Membership. £10.00 per annum.

Game fees. £1.00 per frame.

Club nights. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

In addition members had keys to access the hall and club and enjoyed the opportunity to play at any time of the day or evening.

Mr Roffey in recognition of his past services was made an honorary member.

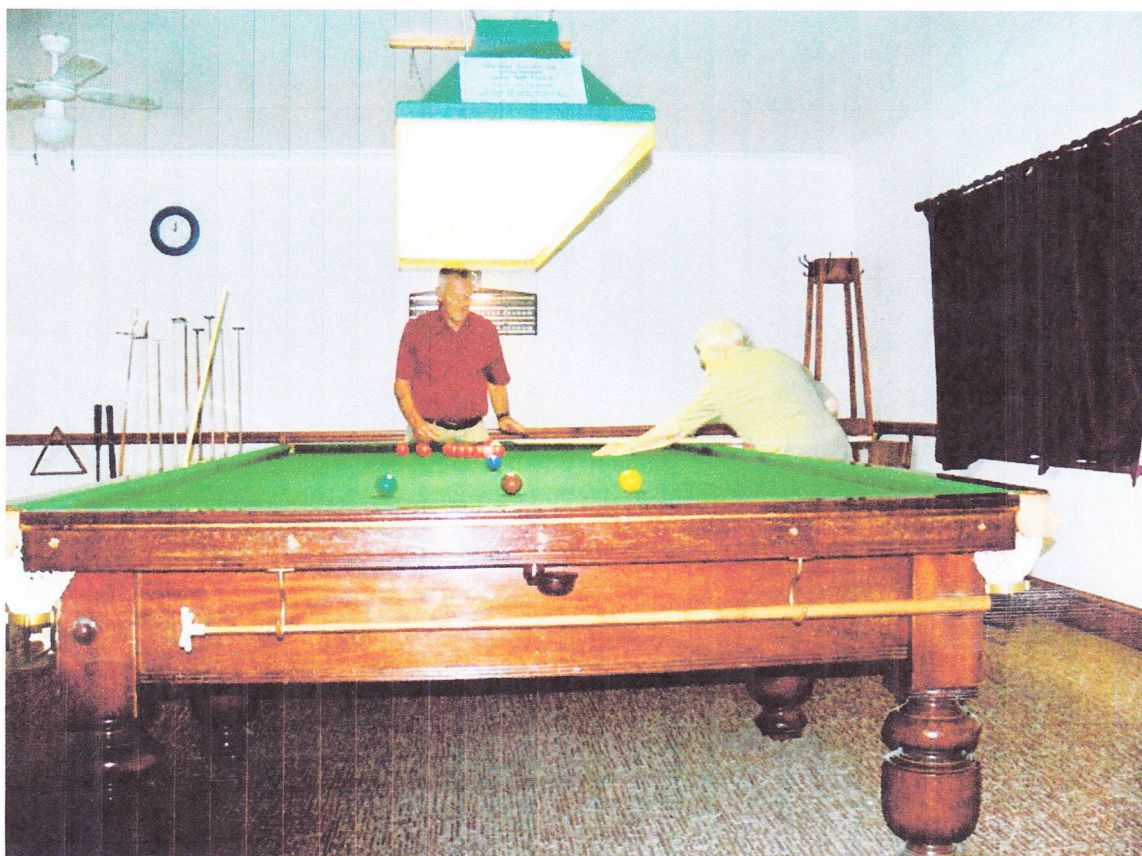
Unfortunately in 1991 with career changes I had to relinquish my role and handed the reins to D Underhill, a villager whose company with that of Vic Withers I enjoyed immensely. Dennis O'Dea.

Year 2006

The following are 2 photographs taken in the club room on the occasion of Ivy Butchers 90th Birthday.

The first shows Ivy demonstrating her "cue" technique. The second is Ivy taking instruction from Mike Ashcroft.





2009

A plaque calling the room "The Baskerville Room" was kindly donated and fixed to the club room door by Brian Rymond. This is in memory of both Gordon and David Baskerville whom had given the club tremendous support over several years.

2014

The Committee have been successful in obtaining a grant from Martyn Tittley on behalf of the Staffordshire Local Community Fund for £1404.00 and a very generous grant from The Kings Bromley Horticultural Society for £200.00. These funds have been raised towards having the cushions renewed and the beds and cushions recovered to both tables. This is to commemorate our 100 years and to take the club into the future.

The current membership stands at 32 and a club night is held every Thursday. We also play regularly on a Tuesday afternoon but members can play at any time.

We are very proud to have the opportunity to celebrate this milestone for the club and wish to thank all the past and present Members for their support.

I would like to thank all those who helped in preparing this display, but in particular, Ken Bowcock for his support, guidance and contribution in compiling this history.

Mike Dunning - Chairman

2014