

AVALON BEACH BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB.

The A.B.B. & R. Club was formed from the nucleus of Palm Beach Bowling Club, which had ceased in 1957. Meetings were held to form a new Club and land from Barrenjoey Rd. through to Binburra Rd, present site of B.P. Service Station was negotiated. This venture lapsed due to insufficient funds.

Warringah Shire was approached in April 1957 and various sites suggested were rejected. A decision was finally made, public meetings held and options suggested which resulted in the Inaugural Meeting on 11th September, 1957. The Chairman present was H.G. Cooper, Acting Secretary N.H. Cook, H.S. Rice Acting Treasurer. At this Meeting Mr. Rice was appointed President, Messrs. Rawson, Cook and Froggatt Vice Presidents, C. Hornsby Hon. Secretary, L. Giles Hon. Treasurer and a Committee of 7 others. The Patron Mr. F.G. Spurway. The Meeting adopted a Memorandum and Articles of Association legally drawn up. It was decided to call for debentures.

In September it was resolved to build a green on land offered by Warringah Council in Dunbar Park. The lease for lots A & B re Sub Lot 66, D.P. 9151 Avalon Pde., was granted for construction of bowling greens, Club House & parking area on 8th April, 1957. Variations to this original lease were made later but finalised with Council October 1958. The lease being for 20 years with option for extension.

Work was commenced on No.1 green in November 1957 and water and power laid on. Plans for a Club House were drawn up by Mr. J. Wardell and after modifications the project by day labour, and sub-contracts under supervision of Wardell & Whitting, the estimated cost exclusive of fitting was £6,000.

On occupation of the land a great problem was encountered particularly with the drainage on the site during wet weather. This entailed a lot of filling with sand and clay after bulldozing. The grass for the green was obtained locally and after processing was planted. The first greenkeeper was appointed 5th December, 1957. The first game of bowls was played on No.1 green on 25th April, 1958 and named the "Herb Rice" Green by the District President Mr. Tom Shakespeare who was present at the opening ceremony.

On 1st May 1958 it was resolved to give permission to the Ladies to use the green on a Wednesday. The agreement was drawn up and submitted to Committee. This was duly signed by Presidents Mr. Rice & Mrs. Wickham and Hon. Secretaries Mr. Welch and Mrs. Tallis. Affiliation with the Women's Bowling Association was made in June 1958.

In 1958 Warringah Council notified the Club that their request for name of "Bowling Green Lane" had been granted. On 9th July 1958 application for a liquor licence was made and after amendments to some of the Articles, this was granted. Male membership being the required 100 Members. On 6th February 1959 a Motion was adopted that women be admitted as Restricted Members, under certain conditions of the rules of the R.N.S.W.B.A. This was submitted to the Women's Bowling Club and acknowledged April 1959.

The Official Opening of the Club house ~~and green~~ by Mr. Tom Shakespeare was on Saturday 7th March 1959.

Approval was given by the Shire for proposed second green on 5th Jan 1959, this was officially opened and called the "Norman Cook" Green by Mr Tom Shakespeare on 26th June 1960.

The third green the "Keith Davidson" Green was officially dedicated by the President R.N.S.W.B.A. Mr. E. Downie, on Sunday July 21st, 1968. This green is freehold land owned by the Club and not leased from the Council.