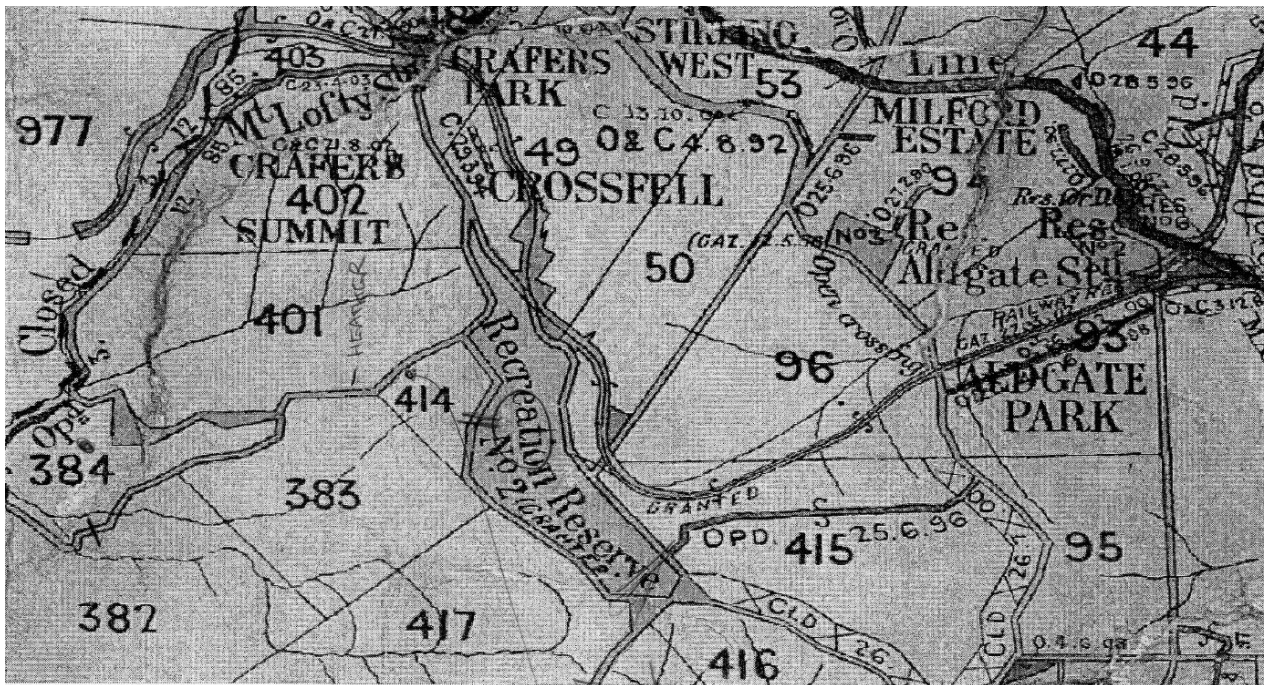


# RECREATION RESERVE No. 2

A history of the “Old Rec” sports ground,  
the original Hender Reserve  
and the community clubs of Heathfield.

By Chris Chardon



An early map showing Recreation Reserve no.2

## FOREWORD

In this informative document Chris Chardon displays the historian's craft - the detailed work and the range of sources which provide some answers to challenging questions. Above all this document demonstrates the talents and qualities which have earned him the award as Regional Historian of the Year and the role of Primary Researcher for the Mt Lofty Districts Historical Society Inc.

Chris has a lifetime's knowledge of the district gathered from birth to the present. He has a unique understanding of the social, economic and sporting systems at play and a determination to '*uncover, publish and preserve*' the stories behind the many places which have served the locals so well over time.

Chris makes the point in his introductory comments that he has pursued questions which fascinate him and hopes that others will be similarly interested. For the benefit of local readers and as a resource for local historians Chris has followed and recorded a documentary trail - the contributors are committees, sporting groups, politicians, local government leaders and a range of local supporters who have pitched in for the long term community benefit.

In following the first question - Hender Reserve? - Chris has uncovered many more. The answers to these supplementary questions will no doubt provide a four volume series as each question is answered with the same determination and commitment.

The Mt Lofty Districts Historical Society Inc. is indebted to and inspired by Chris' example of the historian's craft.

Ann Herraman  
President, Mt Lofty Districts Historical Society Inc.

## AUTHOR'S NOTES

The area bounded by Longwood, Heathfield and Hender Roads has for many years been known as Hender Reserve. Originally the area consisted of an irregularly shaped 62 acres bounded by Longwood and Heathfield Roads at one end up to the intersection of Rossiter and Longwood Roads. In more recent years the area we now know as Hender Reserve has expanded to include land between Hender Road and the railway line.

I have been aware of events held at the reserve. Over several years and many visits (the first in 1996) I met with Stan and Barbara Evans. I was interested in learning about the history of Heathfield and who better to ask. I have learnt quite a lot about Heathfield but my interest in the Hender Reserve emerged - I will document what I learnt about Heathfield at another time.

Stan and Barbara had in their possession the hard covered, very well kept and detailed minute book of the Heathfield Community Club - later the United Sports Club. This resource was invaluable in my research.

I found the history of the reserve and all that has happened on the sixty two acres over approximately 140 years fascinating and felt it needed to be documented. I trust who ever reads this booklet will understand my fascination.

I sincerely thank Stan and Barbara Evans for their time, patience and information. I also acknowledge the resources of the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society Inc. and the on-line newspaper resource of the National Library, Trove.

I am grateful for the advice and encouragement afforded to me by the President of the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society, Ann Herraman and John McGregor for his detailed editing and writing advice.

I thank Ian Deans for his contribution, particularly with regards information about the construction of the change-rooms and social clubrooms we use today.

Chris Chardon  
December 2016

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## Chapter 1 A Community Develops

In the late 1870s the community in the Stirling district began to populate and develop. Perhaps the coming of the railway was the catalyst. A need for facilities and a police presence was identified.

On 30<sup>th</sup> May 1879 a deputation, consisting of Messrs. F. E. H. W. Krichauff, M.P., L. L. Furner, M.P., R. J. Burnett, W. Radford, W. Lewis, W. H. Milford, Geo. Brown, J. Halliday, R. Boase, and F. P. Knight, waited on the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. T. Playford) to ask that a piece of land might be set aside for a cemetery and recreation ground for the district of Stirling East. The deputation suggested that Section 437, Hundred of Noarlunga, containing 75 acres, situated between the Aldgate Pump Hotel and Bridgewater, would be the most suitable for these purposes.<sup>1</sup>

The Commissioner thought there would be no difficulty about granting them the site for a cemetery, but he was not so sure about a recreation ground, as the piece of land applied for was rather large (30 acres).

In June 1879 a cemetery trust committee, consisting of Messrs. R. Bowes, W. H. Milford, G. Brown, W. Measday, W. Radford, R. J. Burnett, F. P. Knight, J. Halliday, and W. Lewis, J.P., was established. At the meeting at which this committee was established, it was also agreed that these gentlemen would also constitute the committee seeking to obtain a suitable piece of land for a recreation ground. Mr W. H. Milford was appointed secretary of that committee.<sup>2</sup>

The May 1879 deputation was successful. Land Grant 323/42 was issued in December 1879 granting both of the requests. The recreation ground was named "Reserve No. 2" but became known as the "Old Rec" ground. It was later known as the original Hender Reserve. The area in 1879 had no name - Heathfield did not exist. The area was Crown land that was made available to the District Council of Echunga to be held in trust for three purposes:-

- A reserve
- To stage agricultural and horticultural shows
- Sport and recreation

The area consisted of an irregularly shaped 62 acres bounded by Longwood and Heathfield Roads at one end and up to the intersection of Rossiter and Longwood Roads at the other.

Until 1883 the area on the southern side of the Mount Barker Road was administered by the District Council of Echunga. The location of the reserve was in this area and thus the reserve was held in trust by that Council. The District Council of Stirling was established in 1883 and took over control of the area administered by the District Council of Echunga and thus the reserve. Now control is vested in the Adelaide Hills Council and the Education Department. Neither Council ever "owned" the reserve. Control only was vested with those organisations as trustees.

For many years the reserve has been known as the Hender Reserve. Hender families lived near the property. They were a prominent family in the area. There is a track opposite the High School that led to one of their properties. Another part of the family lived adjacent to Hender Road. It is unknown when the name Hender was applied to the reserve or whether it was officially named Hender Reserve. The area now known as Hender Reserve consists of a much greater area than what was known as Hender Reserve of years ago.



South

Australia.



# Land Grant

IN DUPLICATE.

FOR Recreation Purposes

Register Book.

Vol. CCCXXII Folio 42

Ext. Paradise  
Surveyor-General.

*John Lewis*

Know all Men by these Presents, that I, Sir William Francis

Yannicki Jones Surveyor-General, in Her Majesty's Majesty's Grant Office, the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, in and over the Province of South Australia and the Dependencies thereof, Do hereby, in the name and on behalf of HER MAJESTY, by virtue of the powers in me vested by "The Crown Lands Consolidation Act," and of all other powers me hereunto enabling, Grant unto Her Majesty's Council

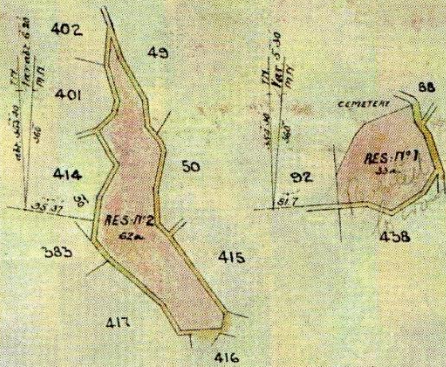
All that piece of land containing precisely five acres

be the same a little more or less viz: No. 1 Section East of and adjoining Section No. 22 and South of a Cemetery Reserve No. 2 Section West of and adjoining to said No. 1 Section No. 49, 50, 51 in the Hundred of Northampton, County of Adelaide

By Command.

*J. Huggins*  
Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration.

and delineated in the Public Maps deposited in the Survey Office, at Adelaide, and in the plan in the margin hereof, colored red, Together with all Timber, Minerals, and appurtenances; which said lands and premises have been heretofore reserved and dedicated for the purpose hereinafter mentioned in pursuance of the said Act, To hold unto the said Her Majesty's Council



In trust to permit and suffer the said piece of land to be used at all times as sites for Recreation Purposes

In Witness whereof, I, the said Governor have hereunto set my hand and the public seal of the said Province, at Adelaide, this 22nd day of December One Thousand Eight Hundred and eighty years.

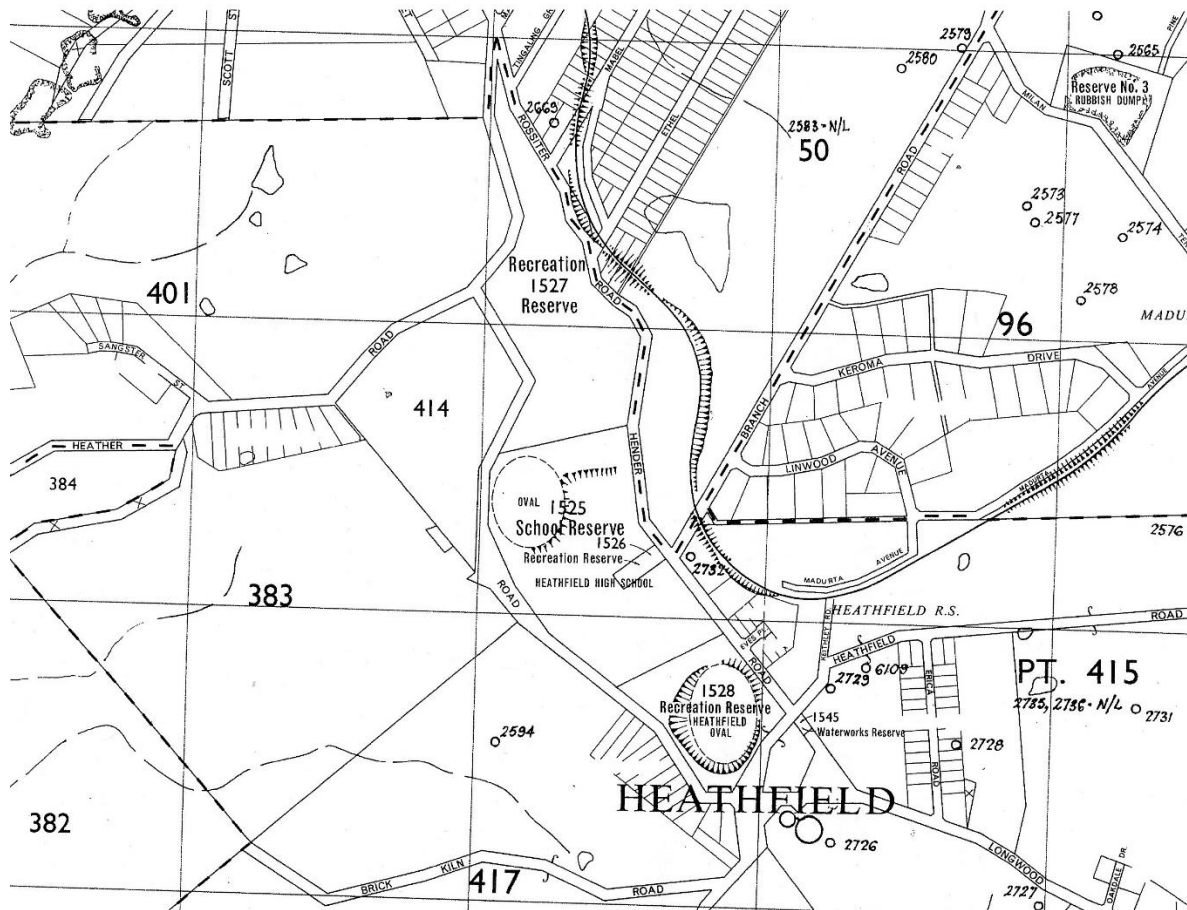
Signed, Sealed, and Delivered, in the presence of Thomas Smith

*W. F. Jones*

The original Land Grant for Recreation Reserve No. 2 and the Cemetery



The reserve, as can be seen, is of a most unusual shape. The reserve runs from the intersection of Rossiter and Longwood Roads through to Heathfield Road. Early maps indicate that Rossiter Road connected with Hender Road making the eastern boundary of the reserve. However an inspection of Rossiter Road shows that it is a no through road approximately two hundred metres in length. Commencing at the end of Rossiter Road there is a walking trail which connects with Hender Road but there is no indication of there having been a road, or if there was then it would have been very rudimentary. Perhaps the through road was planned but was never constructed.



A section of a district map c. 1966, showing Rossiter and Hender Roads connecting. Interestingly the map does not show Hender Road connecting with Longwood Road as it has for many years. The sub-division at top centre is Crossfell, sub-divided in 1879, and shows Mabel and Ethel Streets.

## REFERENCES

1. *South Australian Register*, Saturday 31 May 1879
2. *The South Australian Advertiser*, Wednesday 11 June 1879

## Chapter 2 Development, Management and Usage of the Old Rec

Land for the reserve was granted in 1879 but it is unclear as to when development of the site commenced. Initially the Echunga Council was responsible for managing the reserve.

The Stirling Cricket Club was established in 1874. It was reported that in January 1875

*“...A match between (Mount Barker Juniors v. Stirling East) was played on Saturday, January 23, in the paddock adjoining the Halfway House, Stirling East, kindly placed at the disposal of the club by Mr Beames (hotel publican).”*<sup>1</sup> This ground is now the Stirling Oval.

Clearly some development work had been undertaken at the Old Rec to render the area “*useful*” as a cricket oval. Just a few weeks before the District Council of Stirling was established the Stirling Cricket Club sought approval to use the ground. It seems that Mr Beame’s paddock was not entirely suitable and, being privately owned, meant that there was no guarantee of a permanent home.

In September 1883 a meeting of the Stirling Cricket Club was held in Mr Boase's room, Stirling West. It was decided that the secretary should write to the Echunga District Council, asking for the use of the reserve as a cricket and recreation ground.”<sup>2</sup> *“...also requesting that liberty may be given to make any necessary improvements to make the ground suitable for the required purposes.”*<sup>3</sup> Council acceded to this request. It is understood that soon after a Mintaro slate cricket pitch was installed.<sup>4</sup>

Community interested in developing the site was growing. For example, a letter, in 1885, to the editor of a newspaper read:-

“WORK FOR THE UNEMPLOYED”.

“TO THE EDITOR.

*“...Sir—The other work to which I refer is the utilizing a recreation reserve of some 60 acres, situated a few hundred yards along the line east from the Mount Lofty Station. It is at present forest, with the unfortunate exception that all the best trees have been felled by woodmen years ago, and only stumps and scrubby trees remaining. If this could be cleared and planted with cork elms, oaks, pines, and other forest trees which will not grow elsewhere, a boon would be conferred upon the citizens, who on holidays and Saturdays could thus find a pleasant resort. The District Council have not the funds to do anything of the kind, but would no doubt take charge of and keep the ground in order if once planted. Would it not be a wise thing for the Government to take this work in hand at the present time and deal with a portion of the reserve in the manner indicated? There is no other public land within easy distance of the Mount Lofty Station. I am, Sir, &c, VIATOR. Stirling.”*<sup>5</sup>

Further evidence of the developing community interest in the reserve came in 1890 when Mr W. E. Church wrote on behalf of the Stirling Militia Force, asking permission to clear the ground and erect a target on the “*...recreation ground near Mount Lofty Station.*”<sup>6</sup> In the 1800s the citizens of South Australia held a fear of invasion by the Russians. Fort Largs at Taperoo was constructed to protect the State. Militia Forces were established. It seems that the request of the Stirling Militia Force was declined. However a shooting range was established firing from the quarries near Hill Street across the valley to a target near Heather Road - a distance



of approximately 500 yards. A thirteen year old Harry Slater was one being trained to use rifles. There is little evidence that any significant development resulted. However in May 1895 community involvement manifested. A public meeting was called for the purpose of considering the matter of new recreation grounds for the Mount Lofty district. Concern was expressed that the Stirling Oval was privately owned and could be, at any time, utilised for other purposes.

A newspaper report in May 1895 read:-

*“RECREATION GROUNDS FOR MOUNT LOFTY.*

*“Stirling East, May 17.*

*“...A public meeting was held in the Institute on Thursday night for the purpose of considering the matter of new recreation grounds for the Mount Lofty district. Mr W. H. Milford (Chairman of the Council) presided. The old grounds are private property, and may at any time be utilized for other purposes. About fifteen or twenty years ago the Government set apart 80 acres of land within half a mile of Mount Lofty Station for recreation purposes. As this land is under the control of the Council the meeting appointed a committee to approach the Council with a view of obtaining their consent to allow 10 acres to be cleared. The clearing will cost £50 or £60, and the committee was authorized by the meeting to solicit donations to defray the expense directly consent is given by the Council. It is thought, there will be no difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds.”<sup>7</sup>*

This is the first mention of a community committee being formed to develop and administer the recreation grounds.

In October 1895 a further meeting was held at the Halfway House, Stirling West, *“...to elect a committee for the purpose of carrying out the necessary clearing and fencing of the new recreation grounds, about ten minutes walk from Mount Lofty Station. Dr Steven presided. About five or six acres are to be cleared and fenced, and a good deal of free labour has been promised. The sum of £40 has been raised, and when £50 is in hand the work will be completed. The following were elected the committee : — Dr Steven and Messrs W. H. Milford, W. Scott, C. Constable, E. Menzel, and J. B. Berry.”<sup>8</sup>*

Fundraising events were organised in the Stirling Institute.<sup>9</sup> One such event was for the Stirling Recreation Park - clearly a definite name for the reserve had yet to be decided.

In July 1896 an *“...Arbor Day took place on the new recreation ground. Stirling East, Crafers, and Bridgewater schools were represented, about 300 children with their teachers being present. Altogether about 200 trees were planted by the young people, who were afterwards regaled with tea and lollies. Dr Cockburn sent a telegram to Dr McLachlan congratulating the Board of Advice, and regretting his absence owing to illness. There were present members of the Stirling and Crafers District Councils and of the (Education) Board of Advice, and a large number of parents and scholars.*

*“Amusements were indulged in. After refreshments by the Councillors and friends provided by the Recreation Ground Committee, Mr W. H. Milford gave an address. He said they hoped to open the recreation ground in two or three months' time. Mr Mansel eulogized Dr Cockburn and Mr Hartley for the institution of Arbor Day and called for three cheers for them. Mr Berry said the Recreation Ground would be open to the inhabitants and would be free to all the local people, but outsiders would have to pay for using it. The Recreation Ground is situated about*

*half a mile from Mount Lofty Station. The land was given by the Government, and the committee have fenced and partly cleared it. There is to be an avenue running through the centre of the ground.*”<sup>10</sup>

It appears that at this stage the recreation ground had not been named.

A report in the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1898 edition of the *Courier* gives some clues as to why the need to find facilities as an alternative to the “Old Rec” might have been accelerated. The article read:- “On Saturday 12 February the Mount Barker cricket team visited Stirling, but had a “wretched” time in more respects than one. “...Roughly jolted over the bush track to the out-of-the-way ground (on Longwood Road), blinded by the clouds of dust which blew nearly all afternoon, and batting in semi-darkness - all combined to make up an outing which the blue-and-whites declare they will never experience again. The same thing was said last year, when the jaunt across country was first endured, but on Saturday the expressions were so emphatic that it is hardly likely that the general opinion will change before next season, and an effort will be made to arrange future matches on neutral ground - probably at Bridgewater. The Stirling Club have a good wicket and a fair outfield which will improve as time goes on, but getting there is the trouble. If a decent track were made to the road at the back of the ground there would be little to grumble at. For their pains, the Mounts lost to Stirling”.<sup>11</sup>

## REFERENCES

1. *South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail*, Saturday 30 January 1875
2. *South Australian Weekly Chronicle*, Saturday 15 September 1883
3. *Southern Argus Port Elliot*, Thursday 4 October 1883
4. Stan Evans interview.
5. *South Australian Register* Tuesday, 15 December 1885
6. *South Australian Register* Monday, 15 September 1890
7. *South Australian Register*, Saturday, 18 May 1895
8. *South Australian Register*, Thursday 3 October 1895
9. *The Advertiser Adelaide*, Wednesday 15 July 1896
10. *South Australian Register*, Friday 31 July 1896
11. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Friday 18 February 1898

### Chapter 3 The Opening of the Grounds, Cycling Races and Picnics

A considerable amount of development work, carried out under the auspices of the Recreation Ground Committee, had been undertaken - enough to warrant an official opening.

#### “...THE MOUNT LOFTY RECREATION GROUND

#### “...THE OPENING

“...For many years the residents in and around Mount Lofty had sought to obtain good recreation grounds. The old place of recreation is at Stirling West (and privately owned). The Government was appealed to, and gave a suitable piece of land about half a mile from the Mount Lofty Station. Two acres and a half have been grubbed, fenced, and planted with trees. An asphalted pitch has also been put down, and a shed 24 ft. x 12 ft. x 14 ft., and a room for tools, &c 12 x 6, erected. A well has been sunk, and there is a good supply of water. About £20 worth of free labour has been given, £87 collected. The expenditure has amounted to £88. The grounds were formally opened on New Year's Day, (1<sup>st</sup> January 1897) when the Amalgamated Friendly Societies of the district held their third annual picnic. In the morning the Societies marched in procession to the grounds, headed by the City Volunteer Band. Mr W. H. Duncan, M. P. in a few words declared the grounds open. Mr J. Berry moved a vote of thanks, and called for three cheers for Mr Duncan. There must have been quite 1,000 people present during the day. There were many booths and refreshment-stalls on the grounds.”<sup>1</sup>

“...The Hon. Dr Cockburn and Mr A. H. Landseer, members for the district, had been invited to be present, but both gentlemen through prior engagements had been compelled to reluctantly send apologies for non-attendance. Mr W. H. Duncan, M. P. who had consented to perform the opening ceremony, was introduced to the crowd that had assembled, about 1,000 in number, including children, at 1:30 o'clock by Mr W. H. Milford, who explained the origin and development of the scheme which had eventuated in the locality possessing one of the best recreation grounds to be found in the whole Hills district. The work had been economically performed, some of it given altogether, and the entire outlay had only been about £90, of which amount £50 had already been subscribed. Mr Duncan, after regretting the absence of Dr Cockburn and Mr Landseer, and suitably expatiating on the value of manly sports, declared the recreation grounds open for public use, and congratulated the people of the district on their valuable possession.”<sup>2</sup>

The name “Mount Lofty Recreation Grounds” came into being in early 1897.<sup>3</sup>

Community interest in developing the grounds seemed to be keen. In September 1897 “...The annual meeting of the subscribers of the Mount Lofty Recreation Ground was held in the Stirling West Institute. Mr R. Golding occupied the chair. Mr L. Milford, secretary and treasurer, presented the balance-sheet, which showed that £100 12s.7d. had been spent in fencing, grubbing, and sinking a well. The income had been £69 8s. 8d., thus leaving a deficiency of £31 3s. 11d. Mr W. H. Milford was elected chairman, and Mr L. J. Milford secretary and treasurer. The following were elected as a Committee:—Messrs. W. Scott, R. Golding, G. F. Cleland, H. W. Clark, H. Small, J. Jacobs, H. J. Radford, and Dr McLachlan, J.P. Auditors, W. A. Chance and O. E. Menzel”<sup>4</sup>

Cycle racing held a prominent role in developing the recreation grounds.

In 1898 the District Council of Stirling submitted to the arguments of Councillor H. W. Clark and built a cycle track on the new recreation ground. By October construction was nearing

completion. “...The track could be seen from the train, and was nicely banked. It was proposed to hold an opening meeting on the November holiday. The programme was to include the Mount Lofty Wheel Race of £16, Half-mile Handicap of £5, Mile Stirling Handicap of £7, and Maidens £3 10s., besides a race for local riders. Visions of a cycle Onkaparinga appear before the promoters, and a large number of residents of the district are working hard towards making the fixture a success. Special trains are to be arranged with excursion fares. A none-too-brilliant cyclist cut out a lap in 44 sec. the other day, so the running should be fast when the track is properly set. The laps run exactly four to a mile.”<sup>5</sup>

It seems that there was a committee responsible for developing and maintaining the grounds and that another committee was responsible for arranging sporting events with a focus on cycle racing. Local papers described the events, the difficult weather conditions and the failures and successes:-

“...The second meeting of the Mount Lofty Sports Association passed off successfully on Monday. Despite the heat and dust a strong contingent journeyed from town to this picturesquely situated sports ground. The majority of visitors selected the train as a means of locomotion, although a fairly numerous sprinkling of cyclists put in an appearance.

“...The battle was opened with a Maiden Handicap, which was won by Tom Chalk, who beat two of the Merkel family over a mile in 2 min. 28 2-5th sec. Until Monday's success Chalk stood greatly in danger of becoming a grey-headed maiden.

“...The first heat of the Stirling Handicap served up a splendid dish for a country race meeting. White, off 90 yards, hastened somewhat, pursued by Harris, L. T. Merkel lumbering along in his own style, while Sammy sat down and rode steadily but swiftly after the field. The hill found most of them out. After this Merkel took charge, and eventually won from Sampson and Harris in 2 min. 26 3-5th sec. Baker made a terrific dash in the second heat, and in one round had collared Wally Deane, who had struggled from the 100 yard mark.”<sup>6</sup>

The prize money, for the era, was substantial. What was Councillor Clark's interest in cycling? The Mount Lofty Cycling Club was not formed until 1922.

The lure of the prize money attracted the best riders from around the colony. A report in *The Chronicle* provided additional information about the track and interest.

“...The Mount Lofty people have added a recreation ground to the many charming attractions of their district and it will be opened by a cycling meeting on Monday, November 14. The residents have subscribed an amount sufficient to purchase 30 acres about half a mile from the station, the grounds being surrounded by the most picturesque scenery. At the instance of Mr H. W. Clark a banked four-lap track has been put down, and as excellent entries have been received for the five events to be decided on the holiday some excellent racing is expected. All the best riders of the colony have entered, H. M. Aunger being on the scratch mark. During the afternoon Fred Newman will give an exhibition of fancy riding, and if arrangements can be made for rolling the ground a game of bicycle polo will be played. Excursion fares will be charged on the railway, and there will be a concert and dance in the evening.”<sup>7</sup>

Further accolades appeared in the press in November 1898:-

“...Nearly all the city cyclists will visit Mount Lofty to-day to see the opening meeting on the new track that has recently been laid down. So far as the shape of the track is concerned it is a great improvement on many of the tracks in the country, and during the next year or two it



*will have an asphalted surface. The extensive recreation grounds are situated in one of the many lovely valleys around Mount Lofty, and there is no reason why a meeting at Mount Lofty on the Prince of Wales's Birthday, when the hills are at their best, should not be made an annual fixture. The opening programme gives promise of big things in the future, and though the prizes are not yet large enough to attract inter-colonial riders, all the Adelaide racing men have entered and interesting racing is expected. The first race begins at 2 o'clock, and it is expected the programme of 16 events will be carried out in less than three hours. During an interval Fred Newman will give an exhibition of fancy riding and the Norwood Cycling Club will play a polo match.*"<sup>8</sup>

The Mount Lofty track became pre-eminent in South Australian cycle racing, there being at least one large annual event.

Another newspaper article gave details of the cycling track dimensions and a further report on work undertaken:-

*"...On Monday, for the first time, the cycling fraternity will be prominent on a holiday in providing amusement for people out of town, and in conjunction with the Stirling District Council a programme will be submitted on the new Mount Lofty Oval. This is a reserve of about 70 acres, which was secured fifteen years ago by the Stirling District Council, but it was not until about three and a half years ago that a committee, consisting of Drs. Stevens and McLachlan and Messrs. W. H. Milford, J. Garrod, J. Milford, J. B. Berry, R. Golding, W. Scott, C. Constable, H. J. Radford, H. J. Pink, and E. Menzel, was formed to raise subscriptions to effect certain improvements. Their efforts were successful, a sufficient sum being raised to fence 15 acres and clear a good ground. A cricket pitch was put down, and a pavilion erected. Twelve months ago Mr. H. W. Clark joined the body, and secured consent for the laying of a cycle track, tenders being called when an additional £40 was raised. The work has been carried out under the supervision of Messrs. Whibley and Clark, who worked much on the plans of the Jubilee Oval track. The path is 18 ft. wide, with the exception of the straight, which is increased to 21 ft., whilst the banking runs to 9 ft. About £200 has been expended in improving the oval. To meet this cyclists have been asked to contest a programme which should attract a large attendance, not only from the surrounding districts but from the city. Situated about three-quarters of a mile from the Mount Lofty Railway Station, the oval nestles prettily in a basin, surrounded by hills on three sides and the railway, embankment on the other, and as there are many charming nooks in the vicinity it is an ideal picnic-ground. Our advertisements announce that conveyances will run from the station, but there is a lovely road to the ground. A fine view of the back of the Mount Lofty Ranges is obtained. The Locomotive Band has been engaged, and ample provision has been made for catering. Hot water will be available, and a spring of crystal water is on the ground. Leading cyclists have accepted, and those who have been on the track pronounce it to be in fair order. The programme includes a Maiden Race (one mile), Stirling Handicap (one-mile), Hills Flying Handicap (half-mile), Mount Lofty Wheel race (two miles), and Local Race (two miles), and as further attractions Norwood and South Australian Clubs will try conclusions at cycle polo, and young Newman will repeat his exhibition of fancy riding. Excursion fares will be in vogue. Merkel's accident on Friday will unfortunately put him out of court, and Aunger is a doubtful starter."*<sup>9</sup>

The grounds became very popular for picnic groups, many from the city - access being convenient through the railway line passing nearby. On 1<sup>st</sup> January of each year a committee of the Amalgamated Friendly Societies organised a picnic and sporting events at the ground. Societies taking part in the picnic were the Oddfellows, Druids, and Rechabites.<sup>10</sup>

An article in the press in January 1899 read:-

*“...The fifth annual picnic of the Amalgamated Friendly Societies was held at the Mount Lofty Recreation Grounds on Monday, January 2. These yearly gatherings, in which the different friendly societies of the district take part, have proved to be very popular and attract a large number of local residents, in addition to those immediately concerned. On Monday the weather was especially propitious, being beautifully cool, in contrast with the previous week, and as the committee had made excellent arrangements by way of amusements and sports, the enterprise was thoroughly successful. There was a large attendance, and an evident determination to make the holiday a pleasant time was noticeable. The recreation grounds are convenient, and are picturesquely situated, and during last year a cycle track has been formed, thus giving increased facility for the sports programme. The track, which is nicely banked, in four laps to the mile, and the enjoyment of those present was much enhanced by watching the performances of the wheelmen as they competed for the prizes offered. The sports naturally formed the chief item of interest, although in many instances the occasion is regarded as offering an excellent opportunity for friends living a considerable distance apart to yearly renew their acquaintance at the common meeting spot. The company included a large number of children, and for the entertainment of these abundant provision was made, both in games and in the list of sports.”<sup>11</sup>*

There is evidence that a Stirling Football Club existed in 1894<sup>11</sup>. Presumably the team's home ground, in its early years was what is now the Stirling Oval, adjacent to the Stirling Hotel.

In July 1901 it was reported that the Stirling United Club played Mount Barker on the recreation ground. (It is understood that the Stirling United Club was established in 1901 - the word United in the name is understood to have been included as players for the club came from various parts of the Stirling district. An alternative suggestion is that United was adopted as it is in many English soccer clubs).

*“...The Mount Barker and Stirling teams met for the first time on Saturday, and the game, which was played on the Mount Lofty Recreation-ground, was witnessed by a large number of spectators. Only 16 blue and whites made the journey, but substitutes were available. The Stirling club has only recently been formed, but it possesses some good men and gives promise of becoming fairly strong.”<sup>12</sup>*

In September 1901 the annual meeting of the Mount Lofty Oval Association was held. The report indicated that considerable expenditure had been spent developing the grounds. *“...Mr J. Garrod occupied the chair. The balance sheet and auditors' reports were adopted. The secretary (Mr L. T. Milford stated that the liabilities had been reduced by about £12, and now stood at £26. The following officers were elected:— Patron, Mr W. H. Duncan, M.P.; president, Mr A. E. Ayers; treasurer, Mr W. H. Milford; auditors. Messrs W. Scott and O. E. Menzel; committees, Messrs, J. Garrod, A. E. Lampe, C. Constable, G. Rogers, sen., C. Green, F. H. Constable, G. Rogers, jun., W. H. Milford, J. Farrent, H. J. Radford, G. Ackland, and G. Jack. Since the committee took the ground over it has spent £208 in work and material”.*<sup>13</sup>

In 1908 the Stirling United team was continuing to use the recreation ground as its home ground.<sup>14</sup>

The ground was also being used for horses-in-action events and various social events:-.

*“...The first show of the Mount Lofty Horses-in-Action Society was held on the old recreation grounds, Longwood road, Mount Lofty on Saturday afternoon. It was in aid of the recreation grounds improvement. The show was opened by the chairman of the Stirling District Council (Mr Nicholls), and those in charge of a strong committee were Messrs E. S. Cocker (secretary), G. Noble (chairman), and P. Smith (treasurer). There were about 800 people present. A procession, convened and headed by Mr R. McCulloch, jun., marched from Aldgate in fancy dress, for which prizes were awarded.”<sup>15</sup>*

Reports of the Oval Association’s committee’s activity and recreation events held at the Old Rec from the early 1900s until 1929 are scarce. Either interest waned or events were not reported during that period. Also during this period development of the Aldgate took place - the Aldgate Oval hall was constructed in 1913. Perhaps focus was placed upon this development to the exclusion of the Old Rec ground.

However interest in the Old Rec seemed to revive in 1929. The sports ground was reopened.

#### *“SPORTS AT HEATHFIELD”*

*“...At Heathfield, near Mount Lofty, the local sports grounds were reopened this afternoon by Mr W. Nichols (chairman of Stirling District Council). A programme of sports was conducted, and Mount Lofty Brass Band played selections between events. A fancy dress procession from Aldgate proceeded to the oval by way of Stirling. Stallholders were Mesdames E. Crocker (afternoon tea), J. Peters (sweets), R. Kirby (fruit salad), W. Roberts (jumble), H. Williams (cool drinks), A. Rose (bran pie). Proceeds of stalls are in aid of funds for the recreation ground. Results of sports: —Procession. — R. McCulloch (best-dressed man), Mrs E. Cocker (best-dressed woman), Mrs H. Nell (best-dressed comic woman). F.A. Read (best walking man), A. Read (best decorated vehicle), W. Read (best dressed comic child), Cycle Race (local riders).— L. Curtin, W. McCulloch. Trotting.— W. Wright, S. Williams. Wheelbarrow Race. — Mrs G. Leatch, Miss L. Leatch. Two-mile Cycle Race. — H. Richardson, A. H. Foster.”<sup>16</sup>*

Another newspaper report of the day read:-

#### *“OLD RECREATION GROUND REOPENED.*

*“The efforts of residents to improve the old Mount Lofty recreation ground, which is near the new railway siding at Heathfield, resulted in a successful gymkhana and sports being held on the oval on Saturday to raise funds for the reconditioning of the reserve.*

*“The gymkhana was proceeded by a fancy dress procession from Aldgate to the ground through Stirling West and Mount Lofty. Mr R. McCulloch, jun. was marshal of the procession, which included decorated cars and persons in fancy dress. Mr W. Nicholls (chairman of the Stirling District Council) declared the ground open. The conveners of stalls were Mesdames R. Kirby (fruit salad), J. Peters (sweets), E. S. Crocker (sic) (afternoon tea), T. Roberts (jumble), H. Williams (cool drinks), and J. Rose (bran pie).*

*“A good programme of sports was arranged, including cycling, trotting, and comic events. A queen competition was won by Miss Dorothy Noble (Queen of Wild flowers) with 1,279 votes, and Miss Phyllis Cocker (Queen of Daffodils) was second with 218 votes.”<sup>17</sup>*

## REFERENCES

1. *South Australian Register*, Monday 4 January 1897
2. *The Advertiser*, Saturday 2 January 1897
3. *South Australian Register*, Monday 1 February 1897
4. *South Australian Register*, Thursday 30 September 1897
5. *South Australian Register*, Saturday 22 October 1898
6. *Quiz and the Lantern*, Thursday 16 November 1899
7. *The Chronicle*, Saturday 12 November 1898
8. *The Advertiser*, Monday 14 November 1898
9. *Evening Journal*, Saturday 12 November 1898
10. *The Advertiser*, Tuesday 3 January 1899
11. *South Australian Register*, Friday 7 September 1894
12. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Friday 5 July 1901
13. *The Register*, Wednesday 11 September 1901
14. *The Register*, Monday 20 July 1908
15. *The Register News Pictorial*, Monday 1 April 1929
16. *The Mail*, Saturday 30 March 1929
17. *The Advertiser*, Monday 1 April 1929



## Chapter 4 1929 Committee Re-establishment, Bylaws and Leases

Renewed interest in developing and using the recreation grounds manifested in early 1929 - a committee had been re-established. The grounds were reopened in March 1929

Control of the recreation grounds rested with the District Council of Stirling but development was being undertaken by the committee with no formal arrangement, and thus security of tenure. It seems that the recreation ground committee wanted to have greater control over the development and use of the recreation ground.

In December 1929 the Mount Lofty Recreation Ground committee (note the difference in name from the original management body, the Mount Lofty Oval Association) sought a 21 year lease, from the District Council of Stirling, of a section of the reserve. Some members of the 1929 committee were Halliday (market gardener in Stirling who had children, Edward and Margaret), Alf Weise, George Cocker. Ted Cocker was the secretary of the committee.

In support of its application the Committee proposed the following for consideration of the Council and its ratepayers. The proposal was not published in newspapers but is what was sent to the Council:-

*“PROPOSED LEASE by the District Council of Stirling, to Committee comprising Councillors Nicholls, Moran, and Chaplin, and Messrs. G. J. Ackland, P. Smith, and G. Noble, E. S. Cocker, for and on behalf of an Association of members. Term of lease - 21 years.*

*“ANNUAL RENTAL - One Pound One Shilling.*

*“PURPOSE 1. For the purpose of sports, shows, and public recreations.*

*“AREA OF GROUND TO BE LEASED - 15 acres.*

*“IMPROVEMENTS - As now thereon. Proposed resolution to be moved by meeting of Ratepayers at Institute Building, at 7.45 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1929.*

*“That this meeting of ratepayers of the District Council of Stirling, duly convened by public notice in accordance with the by-laws adopted by the Stirling District Council, approves of the proposed lease of “The Mount Lofty Recreation Ground” (Heathfield) to a committee of local residents and ratepayers, comprising Messrs. W. Nicholls, M. J. Moran, W. Chaplin, G. J. Ackland, P. Smith, and (E.S.) Cocker, for and on behalf of an association of members, for a term of twenty one years at an annual rental of One Guinea, for the purpose of sports, shows, and public recreations. The area to be 15 acres. Subject to the rules and regulations hereunder, and approved by the District Council at its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1929, and the Title of the Ground leased be “The Mount Lofty Recreation Ground”, and that this meeting approves a lease being duly executed in accordance therewith.*

*“RULES AND REGULATIONS: --Title, Mount Lofty Recreation Ground.*

*“At the first meeting of the members of the Association, a Committee of twelve to be formed from the members of the Association, such Committee to be constituted a Controlling Committee, to remain in office for a period of twelve months, when six members are to retire by lot, they being eligible for re-election.*

- *The Controlling Committee to have the management of the Ground.*
- *A Chairman from themselves to be elected by the members of the Controlling Committee, who shall at all its meetings, preside and who shall have a deliberative as well as casting vote, when required.*
- *A Secretary, also a Treasurer to be elected at the first meeting of the members of the Association. An Auditor to be elected at the first meeting of the Association, who shall retire annually, but to be eligible for re-election.*
- *A membership fee of Two Shillings and Sixpence annually to be established for male members, and an annual membership fee of sixpence for ladies.*
- *The Controlling Committee to be constituted of at least two-thirds ratepayers of the District Council of Stirling.*
- *A Vice Chairman from themselves to be elected by the members of the Controlling Committee, who shall in the absence of the Chairman preside at its meetings and shall have the same powers as the Chairman.*
- *No members whose annual subscriptions have not been paid, shall be eligible to vote at any meetings of the Association.*
- *No intoxicating liquor to be sold on the Ground.*
- *Any new rules to be approved or rejected by the Council of the Stirling District Council, before adoption by the Controlling Committee.*
- *The Controlling Committee to at all times, have the power to refuse admission to the grounds to any person, who may be intoxicated, or considered undesirable.*
- *The Council to have the power to cancel this lease if the Controlling Committee fail to actively carry out the purposes for which the ground is leased.*
- *Any resolution of the Controlling Committee shall not be revoked during the financial year unless a special meeting of the Controlling Committee has been convened for that purpose, and at which meeting at least two-thirds of its members are present, such meeting to be convened by notice in writing to members.*
- *Six members of the Controlling Committee shall form a quorum.”<sup>1</sup>*

A meeting of ratepayers was called for by the Council to consider the lease:-

The lease was granted. A newspaper report stated:-

*“...A meeting of ratepayers was held In the Stirling Town Hall. The chairman of the district Council (Mr W. Nicholls) was in the chair. It was resolved that the lease of the Mount Lofty Recreation Grounds, situated at Heathfield, be granted to the recreation grounds committee. The lease is to be for 21 years, and the annual rent £1.”* (Note that the area, in 1929, was known as Heathfield). Granting of this lease meant the lease would expire in 1950.”<sup>2</sup>

By-Laws for use of the Mount Lofty Recreation Grounds were developed. The by-laws were printed on cloth in red on a white background. The cloth measured 26cm x 45cm. Long time resident Stan Evans, has an original print. The by-laws read:-

## BY - LAWS

for

## MOUNT LOFTY

## Recreation Grounds

---

1. That all members shall protect the interests of the Association property.
2. All persons on Association property shall obey instructions of members.
3. No person shall remain on Association property after being requested to leave by order of the Committee.
4. No person shall remove any tree, shrub or plant on Reserve unless authorized in writing from Committee.
5. No person shall misconduct himself or herself in any way nor indulge in any riotous or in- decent conduct or make use of any indecent language on Reserve.
6. No person shall break or cause to be broke any bottle or glass vessel on Reserve.
7. No person shall sell or expose for sale any goods, wares of merchandise on any part of Reserve without the consent of the Committee in writing.
8. No person shall allow any horse, cattle or other beast to depasture on any part of Reserve without consent of Committee.
9. The Association shall not be liable for any accident arising from the use of any appliances on Reserve.
10. Sale of intoxicating liquor absolutely prohibited.
11. In these By-Laws, Association property and Reserve, mean property and Reserve within boundary of stated lease.

Functions and events, not only of a sporting nature, were held to raise funds to further develop the recreation grounds. In May 1930 The Mount Lofty Sports Association held an evening in the Stirling West Town Hall to wind up its annual series of events and to perform the ceremony of crowning the successful queen in the recent competitions.

*“...Miss Jean Read (queen of carnations) with 2561 votes was first. Miss Mavis Read secured 951 votes, and Miss Thelma Heyer 846 votes. Mr E. S. Cocker, who donated the prizes, a set of xylonite mirrors and brushes, congratulated Miss Read on her success. He presented the other two candidates with a bedroom clock each. The funds derived from the ball, sports day, and queens showed a profit of about £78 which will be used by the association for improving the old Mount Lofty recreation grounds.”<sup>3</sup>*

The following advertisement, thought to be c. 1930, was circularised to advertise a sports carnival:-

**H. MALLAN**  
DENTIST,  
7a KING WILLIAM STREET  
(Next to Gresham Hotel)  
Phone: Central 295.  
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

**H. J. WALTERS**  
SHOEING AND GENERAL  
SMITH.  
TYREING DONE.  
Phone: Stirling 197.

**FELIX HOUSE**  
STIRLING WEST  
Comfortable Accommodation  
Reduced Tariff.  
Morning and Afternoon Tea.  
Tennis Court.  
Mrs. REVILLE.  
Phone: Stirling 273.

**C. H. SMITH**  
QUALITY BUTCHER,  
STIRLING WEST  
Phone: Stirling 368.  
Motor Delivery Daily.

If you want a Car or Truck—  
We Have It!

**F. V. WIEDEMAN**  
77 WAYMOUTH STREET,  
ADELAIDE.  
Phone: Central 7395.

**PENDLEBURY'S COIFFEUR  
DE DAMES**

113 KING WILLIAM STREET, ADELAIDE.  
Phone: Central 3434 (2 lines.)  
OUR PERMANENT WAVING ..... £1/10/-.  
Any Guarantee whatsoever. We Defy Competition.  
WINNER OF FIRST PRIZE MOVIE BALL, 1929, 1930, 1931.  
BEST DRESSED HEAD OF HAIR.  
Marcelling, Water Waving, Manicuring,  
Wig Making, etc. Modern Equipment.

**MOUNT LOFTY SPORTS  
ASSOCIATION**

(Affiliated with S.A. Horses in Action Society.)  
FOUNDATION DAY SPORTS  
FEBRUARY 1st  
MOUNT LOFTY RECREATION GROUNDS,  
HEATHFIELD — 10.30 a.m.  
CHILDREN'S SPORTS—£5 IN PRIZES.

Open to all Children at Grounds.

**AMATEUR CYCLE CLUB, PICNIC EVENTS.**

1 Mile Ladies' Race—First, Cup (donated by H. R. Christian, Esq.); Second, Trophy.  
1/4-Mile Lap Dash. Trophies, First and Second.  
1 Mile Junior Race. Trophies, First and Second.  
1 Mile Senior Race. First, Cup (donated by F. V. Wiedeman, Esq.); Second, Trophy.  
Supervised by Colonel Light Amateur Cycle Club.  
Nominations to H. C. Wheeler, Secretary, January 26th.

**LUNCHEON—12.30 to 1.30.**

Hack, any height—First, £1; Second, 10/-. Entries 1/-.  
Pony Hack, 14.2 or under—First, £1; Second 10/-. Entries, 1/-.  
Mallan Trot, 1 Mile Handicap—First, Cup (donated by H. Mallan, Esq., Adelaide), £1; Second 10/-. Entries, 2/-.  
Horses over Hurdles, over 14.2—First, Cup (donated by W. B. Carr, Esq., Mount Lofty), £1; Second, 10/-. Entries, 2/-.  
Pony over Hurdles, 14.2 and under—First, £1; Second, 10/-. Entries, 2/-.  
Throwing Rolling Pin (Ladies)—Trophy, donated by Pendlebury, King William Street, Adelaide. Entries, 6d.  
Flag Race—Horseback—First, 10/-; Second, 5/-. Entries, 1/-.  
Old Buffers' Race—1 Dozen Ale (donated by Criterion Hotel, C. A. Goldfinch, Proprietor). Entries, 6d.  
Market Race, Horseback—First, 10/-; Second, 5/-. Entries, 1/-.  
Handicap Log Chop—First, £1/1/-; Second, 15/-; Third, 10/-.  
Cup by Association. Entries, 2/-.  
Entries for Log Chop to be in Secretary by January 26th.  
Entries for Horse Events to be in Secretary's Hands, 1 p.m., February 1st.

Bowling at Stump—Post Entries, 6d.  
Stepping the Distance—Post Entries, 6d.  
Kicking the Football—Post Entries, 6d.  
Married Ladies' Race—Post Entries, 6d.  
Throwing Cricket Ball—Post Entries, 6d.  
Ladies' Blindfolded Wheel Barrow Race—Post Entries, 6d.

**STALLS, AFTERNOON TEA, UGLY MAN COMPETITION**

ADMISSION—6d. Children Free to Grounds.  
BOOK TO HEATHFIELD— E. S. COCKER,  
RAILWAY EXCURSION Hon. Sec., Heathfield.

Buy **WALTON'S COCOA**

AND

**WILLIAMSON'S BISCUITS**

MADE IN ADELAIDE.

F. H. WESTON, Printer, Everard Av., Keswick. Phone: L. 6159.

The Old Established Firm!  
**NELPHO DAIRY**

**MOUNT LOFTY**  
MILK, BUTTER, EGGS and  
CREAM.  
Phone: Stirling 116.

**DYER BROS.**

**BAKERS and GROCERS.**

**STIRLING WEST.**

Phone: Stirling 305.

AT YOUR SERVICE!

**UNIVERSAL SUPPLY**

**STORE**

Auction Sale Every Alternate  
Saturday.

G. RIDGE, Proprietor.  
STIRLING WEST.

**J. CRAVEN**

**DRAPERY,**

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**

**ALDGATE AND STIRLING.**

**A. SMITH**

**THE QUALITY BUTCHER.**

**ECHUNGA.**

A Trial Solicited.

Phone: Echunga 6.

**H. R. CHRISTIAN**

**JEWELLER AND OPTICIAN.**

27 KING WILLIAM STREET.

Optical, Watches and Jewellery

Repairs a Speciality.

Phone: Central 2800.

Another sports day was held, date uncertain but possibly 1931. The following flyer was produced to advertise it:-



# MT LOFTY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with S. A. Horses in Action Society.

SPORTS DAY, APRIL 4th,

Mount Lofty Recreation Grounds

← HEATHFIELD →

THROWING CRICKET BALL. Post entries.  
 KICKING FOOTBALL. Post entries.  
 COTTON WINDING. Post entries.  
 MARRIED LADIES' RACE. Post entries.

## Events

1.0 p.m.

BOWLING AT STUMP. Post entries.  
 STEPPING DISTANCE. Post entries.  
 OBTACLE RACE. Post entries.  
 CHILDREN'S RACES. Post entries.

## Events

2.0 p.m.

PONY HACK, 14.2 and under. Entry 1/-. First, £1; Second, 10/-.

ONE-MILE TROT (Mallan Trot). Entry 2/-. First £1; Second, 10/-. (Cup donated by H. Mallan, Esq.).

HACK, any weight. Entry 1/-. First, £1; Second 10/-.

FLAG RACE (on Horseback). Entry 1/-. First 10/-; Second 5/-.

STABBING CARD (Motor Cycle). Prize Trophy. Entry 6d.

HANDICAP LOG CHOP. Entry 2/-. First, Cup and £1/1/-; Second 15/-; Third 10/-.

HORSES OVER HURDLES. Entry 2/-. First, Cup and £1; Second 10/-.

LADIES' BLINDFOLDED WHEELBARROW RACE. Entry 6d. Trophy presented by Pendlebury Permanent Wave, King William Street, Adelaide.

MARKET RACE. Entry 1/-. First 10/-; Second 5/-.

Entries for Horse Events to be in Secretarys Hands April 4th at at 1p.m.

Entries for Log Chop - - - - - March 31

**Stall, Afernoon Tea, Side Shows**



"Queen Competition"



**ADMISSION 6d. CHILDREN FREE TO GROUND**

Railway Excursions  
 Book to Heathfield

Phone: Stirling 238

E. S. Cocker Hon. Sec.  
 Heathfield via Aldgate

F. B. WESTON, Printer, Ryecroft Av., Kerwick.

In January 1937 the following appeared in the local press:-

*“...Heathfield v. Port Adelaide Sports Club*

*“...The Heathfield Cricket Club met the Port Adelaide Sports Club on the Heathfield oval on Sunday, in an all-day match, each team playing 12 a side. The visitors batted first.”<sup>4</sup>* (This is one of the earliest references to the Heathfield Cricket Club - many contemporary people understood that the Heathfield Cricket Club was formed in the 1960s).

#### **REFERENCES**

1. Copy is held in Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society Archive
2. *The Advertiser*, Thursday 19 December 1929
3. *The Register News-Pictorial*, Friday 9 May 1930
4. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Thursday 14 January 1937

## **Chapter 5 A Developing Community - The Heathfield Community Club; Development and Loss of the Grounds**

The Heathfield Community Club was formed in March 1951. The forerunner of this club was the Mount Lofty Recreation Grounds Committee. It seems that although this committee held a 21 year lease from the District Council of Stirling over a portion of the Hender Reserve (it is unclear when this name was adopted), it did not reform after World War II. This lease expired in 1950.

The Heathfield Community Club was established at a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1951. A constitution was adopted. This document outlined two specific aims and objects. They were:-

*“...General:- To promote and foster a community life centred on Heathfield.*

*“...Specific:- To acquire the lease of the Heathfield Recreation Reserve and administer the area as the focal point of social activity as a preliminary step to the erection of such buildings as may from time to time appear practicable and desirable for the purpose of achieving the general aim.”*

At the club's committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1951 it was agreed that the honorary secretary would advise the Stirling District Council that Messrs. Coventry, George and H. Williams will attend on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m. to sign an agreement for the lease and control of the Heathfield Recreation Reserve.” At the committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1951 the hon. secretary reported that the agreement between the District Council of Stirling and the representatives of the Community Club had been signed.

The lease was for 21 years. However it was not registered on the relevant land title. It seems that the document was a loose agreement giving limited legal rights.

In 1951 the Community Club had no facilities other than the oval. Previously there was a pavilion/dressing room. There was also a stand constructed of galvanised iron and timber and located up on the hill just above the original oval. The stand was about 25 feet long and there were several rows of seats. One could get underneath the stand and that area was used for storage.

By the late 1940s the Stirling and Aldgate ovals had been developed and during and just after the World War II the Stirling District Council removed a lot of the iron from the Old Rec buildings at the oval because there were no regular matches being played there. The community committee had gone into recess because of the war and materials were scarce. The material was transferred to cover the crushing plants and other plant that the Council established at its quarry at Crafers.

The balance of the material was stolen immediately after the war on a gradual basis because building materials were hard to come by and certain individuals thought that was one way of obtaining materials to put roofs on cottages and create sheds. For this and other reasons, during that time Heathfield was nicknamed “Swindletown”. The cycling racing track around the oval remained.

Soon after the formation of the Community Club the committee became very active in developing the grounds and facilities. The oval area was burnt off, the pitch covered, and loads of sand were carted. Mr Wakefield was asked to quote for grading of the oval. The well on the

playing area was to be filled in and, if practicable, the bricks were to be salvaged. Trees were to be removed and a start made on the erection of conveniences - two privies for use of ladies, and a privy and urinal for men. Foundations for men's convenience were dug. There were plans to let Littlehampton Brickworks take wood from the oval site in return for 1500 bricks. The club wanted to construct tennis courts, but in view of the limited financial position of the club oval improvements took priority over the provision of tennis courts. There was talk of forming a ladies committee.

Mr Wakefield's quote was considered too expensive. It was agreed to arrange for the ploughing of the surface and to approach the Stirling District Council for the use of a grader and tractor and also request financial assistance towards cost of oval improvements.

The first building constructed was a toilet block salvaged from the site of the now Flinders University. The Evans family had a contract to demolish buildings at the site which was a TB hospital and reformatory, the slope of the oval from its original contour was reduced and the old well that had a permanent water supply was preserved. Later canteen facilities were built and in 1955 work commenced on constructing a hall.

In September 1952 Stan Evans was to arrange for the hire of a bulldozer for levelling the oval. It was decided to hold a bonfire and barbeque on the oval on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The lack of money was frustrating the committee's desire to quickly develop the grounds. At the committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1952 "An account for £208, was received from B. J. Wakefield & Co. for bulldozing work carried out on the oval. Mr Coventry, seconded by Mr Cocker, moved that £133, be paid off the account and Mr Evans contact the company about an extension of time for payment of the balance."

The grader and tractor loaned by the Council was used to grade the oval on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1953. Mr Ray Best of Bridgewater kindly drove the tractor and made a donation of his services. A working bee to harrow and pick stones from the oval was arranged.

Although the Community Club had a 21 year agreement with the District Council of Stirling to lease 15 acres of the reserve, it saw a need to have another agreement over the same land. This was in 1954 - the same year that the Skyline Motordrome Ltd was established and wanted to hold car racing, on Sundays, at the Old Rec. Mr W. Evans, representing Skyline, sought a legal agreement with the Community Club. Perhaps the Community Club could not enter such an agreement without it having a more legally enforceable agreement with the District Council of Stirling.

At the committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1954 a letter was received from Mr White of the solicitor's office concerning obligations of the Council with regards to a long term lease.

The President advised the committee that he and the secretary had found it necessary to obtain legal advice to establish the club's position with the Council concerning the lease of the recreation ground. The president also told the meeting that the opportunity was now available for the club to apply for a lease of up to 21 years of a portion of the Recreation Ground No. 2, but suggested that 10 years should be their ambition, all of which met with the approval of those present.

The secretary wrote to the Council seeking a lease. Council, either legally had too or felt it prudent to take a community poll. Although there was some community concern a five year lease was granted.

Although the lease with the Council had not been finalised, the first Skyline Motordrome race meeting was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 1954. It seems that an official opening of the grounds took place. The Community Club minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1954 meeting agreed to write to Councillor Gordon Evans, thanking him for his opening of the oval and his generous donation, also that the secretary reply to all donors who gave their contributions to Mr F. S. Evans, who in turn handed this money on to the treasurer. It was moved R. Williams and seconded B. Fuller that a vote of thanks be conveyed to Mr F. S. Evans for his action in negotiating these donations.

At the same time the committee of the Heathfield Community Club, incorporated in 1951, decided to change its name to the United Sports Club.

Interestingly the following notice appeared in the public notices section of a newspaper:-

*“...NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is my intention after the expiration of one calendar month after the publication of this notice to take such steps as may be necessary to secure the incorporation of HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CLUB situated at HEATHFIELD in the State of South Australia. Dated this 19th day of November, 1954.*

*R. F. GEORGE.*

*One of the Trustees of the said Association.”<sup>1</sup>*

What is interesting is that it was proposed to incorporate a club that seems to have already been incorporated and a month after the notice was issued the club incorporated under the name of



United Sports Club. This club was incorporated on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1954. It is understood that the reason for change was that the club that united the Heathfield tennis club, Basketball Club and the Football Club was being established at the time. Although the name of the club was officially changed, most documents and reports still referred to the club as the Heathfield Community Club. On 9<sup>th</sup> September 1979 the club was incorporated as Mt. Lofty District Sports Club.

Conjecture reigned, but eventually the lease was agreed to. The Community Club’s minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup>

October 1955 reveal “Lease; The secretary read a copy of the proposed lease to be agreed upon with the Council, and also tender a plan of the 15 acres to be leased. R. Coventry moved and E. Cocker seconded that these be accepted and finalised.” - Carried.” Note that it took almost twelve months to finalise the lease.

The five year lease was registered on the Land Title 2422/56 on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1955 and was backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> December 1954.

In 1955 the club commenced construction of a hall of sandstone – approximately 45’ long and 28’ wide. It was intended to be the community hall - like a town hall/institute in a country town. There were no showers - the building was not built to be football change rooms. Electricity was connected to the Old Rec oval building in 1955. Construction of this building was never completely finished. It was proposed to build sporting club change rooms. However before this happened the Government had taken over the site to allow construction of the Heathfield High School.

The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December 1956 show that it was agreed to pay F. S. Evans & Sons £100 for supplying stone for the hall.

The Community Club continued to develop the grounds and facilities. In December 1955 it was agreed to commence construction of new toilet block, stall (canteen) floors and storeroom were to be cemented. In February 1956 it was decided to erect four lights for the Heathfield Football Club's use. In April 1958 a basketball team was authorised to use the oval and lights for a practice meeting.

At the Community Club meeting 4<sup>th</sup> August 1974 it was agreed that R. Gill would write to the District Council of Stirling and advise that Heathfield Community Club is now the United Sports Club Inc. This is interesting considering the change in name was made official in 1952.

At the club committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 1956 discussion about building dressing rooms occupied the greater part of the meeting. It was agreed to board up for the foundations, to be poured by a "working bee" on Saturday next. The chairman (Mr Stan Evans) suggested that members consider a means for extending the oval or the possibility of making a new oval on another site.

In November 1956 the committee received a letter from Council's solicitor threatening termination of the lease. The meeting decided "That a deputation consisting of S. Evans and R. Coventry call on the Council's solicitor to discuss the matters mentioned in his notice to cancel the lease." Also an account from P. Mitchell Cherry Gardens for £854-15-0 for earthmoving was received.

It was agreed that the secretary request Mr P. Mitchell to attend a committee meeting to discuss his account rendered for bulldozing. The meeting was held and Mr Mitchell agreed to revise his account.

The minutes of the committee's 4<sup>th</sup> December 1956 meeting revealed that S. Evans and R. Coventry met with the Council solicitor. Council's only real opposition is with regard to the lighting installation which will be further discussed at the next Council meeting. The committee were advised to obtain prior Council approval before carrying out any works etc. in the future.

Stan Evans had a bore on his property in Longwood Road and a tank near the junction of Heather and Longwood Roads. The committee agreed that approval be obtained to run a 1½" water pipe sleeved with larger pipe under the road from Stan's property to the oval. By January 1957 officers of the Post Master General's Department had drilled under Longwood road from Stan Evans' property and the water pipe was laid under the road to the oval. Supplying of water to the oval meant that the oval surface was dramatically improved, particularly in summer. By having the water coming from the elevation gave it pressure. There was a well and a Douglas Pump (hand pump) on the Old Rec ground. However the well could not provide sufficient water to irrigate the Old Rec oval so the idea of installing an electric pump was dismissed.

Mr Mitchell's account for earthmoving was still causing angst. It was decided to write stating his charges were approximately six times his original quote and far in excess of the work done. Mr Mitchell subsequently accepted this offer and a cheque for £600 in full settlement was paid.

In January 1957 it was agreed to purchase iron for the hall roof. It was also agreed to purchase 400 feet of ¾" plastic hose plus fittings and sprinklers. Water pipes were to be placed under the oval proper so that watering could be carried out from inside the track.



The Government's desire to take over the site to allow construction of a High School gained momentum. The idea of building a school on this site was first mooted in 1945. However that idea, at that time, was not carried through.

The future of the Community Club, the Old Rec grounds and Heathfield were looking rosy.

However in 1958 the Education Department's intention to build a high school on the site became more serious. In early 1958 it was announced that the Council would transfer 19 acres of the reserve to the Minister of Education.<sup>2</sup>

The Community Club decided to seek support to reverse the decision. At the club's 29<sup>th</sup> January 1958 committee meeting a report that appeared in the *Courier*, advising of Council's decision to give the oval to Education Department, was discussed. It was agreed to write to the Premier explaining the history of the development of the grounds and to seek to keep the oval and hall. It was also agreed to petition adult residents of the local area seeking support and explaining the club's desire to have a High School erected in the Heathfield district but without taking over control of the Heathfield Oval and hall.

At the committee meeting of the Community Club held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1958 S. Evans reported on the discussion which took place between the committee's deputation and the Council's solicitor, Mr Fisher, regarding the future of the club's lease and the intention of the Education Department to build a school on the reserve. The secretary reported upon his further interview with Mr Fisher regarding the proposed joint control of the oval between an oval committee and the Education Department.

It seems that the club or Council did not believe there would be a compulsory takeover of the area by the government or was it envisaging a joint use of the oval with the school? The club continued to undertake work on the oval. The October meeting decided to write to the Council seeking permission to top dress the oval and to obtain the required top soil from suitable areas within the reserve. Council approved. In November 1958 it was decided to insure the two shacks (canteens) for £60 each and the hall for £1,000.

At the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1958 committee meeting "The secretary reported that Mr Fisher had informed him that a meeting was desired between him, Council representatives, Education Department and Crown Law Officer and a representative of the Committee - agreed that the chairman and secretary would attend the next meeting at 8 p.m. Sunday to report on the interview."

The Community Club was not taking the decision lying down. The Council was promoting a joint use of the oval - i.e. the club could use the oval when the school was not. The Community Club continued to explore its options:-

*"...Mr G. Evans moved that the club approach the Council for a free title by either gift or purchase of the land (approximately three acres upon which the hall is now built) to be vested in the Community Club Inc."*

At the committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1959 a draft copy of the proposed constitution for the new oval committee was read and discussed. It was decided to await further developments from the Council before formally voting on it.

At the club's 1959 Annual General Meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, a draft copy of the agreement between the Education Department, the Council and the club was read and discussed. It was

agreed that the secretary should again approach Mr Fisher (solicitor) and try to clarify the following points:-

- (a) The amount to be paid by the Education Department to the Council.
- (b) More liberal boundaries around the hall to be retained by this club.
- (c) An indication as to the likely south eastern boundary defining the joint control and the absolute school area.

A special meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1959 where the secretary reported upon his further interview with Mr Fisher - stating that a further small additional area to be retained around the hall had been obtained but that no fixed agreement could be obtained from the Education Department as to the final south eastern boundary pending a full scale examination and survey.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 1959 the chairman reported that a note had been received from the Council's solicitor advising that the matter of the cancellation of the club's lease had been placed in the hands of the court and that, if the club intended to appear, a notice of intention should be filed with the court. F. Evans offered to pay the costs of obtaining an opinion from solicitor Hargraves. It was agreed to put a letter to the editor in the Courier setting out the club's position regarding the oval dispute.

The Government's actions was the impetus for the Sports Club to relocate. It was either move or fold. If the move was not made sporting bodies in the Heathfield district would have had to negotiate with the high school to use facilities.

Curiously in August 1959 the Community Club, knowing that the Government was taking over its site, decided to erect a tank stand adjacent to the hall. It was agreed to approach J. Hampton and obtain details regarding the costs and erection of a ceiling in the hall.

At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1959 Mr S. Evans reported that solicitor Hargraves had given an opinion that the club should not surrender its lease as he felt a reasonable compromise could be reached. He was instructed to enter an appearance re the court proceedings and negotiate with the Council accordingly.

Amidst the developments the club overlooked renewing its lease that had been taken out in 1954. At the club's meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1960 Mr S. Evans reported that Mr Hargraves reported to them that under the terms of our lease we should have arranged for the renewal last September. It was suggested that the 10/- fee be paid followed by a written request for renewal. The Treasurer was requested to attend to this. Mr Hargraves also reported that the survey had been carried out but it appeared that the proposed school buildings would seriously encroach on the oval surrounds.

At the club's meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1960 a letter was received from the Council terminating the club's lease. There was also a notice from the Council's solicitor instructing the club to quit the oval.

In October 1960 "The Final Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on Heathfield High School" was released. Stan Evans, president of the Community Club, appeared before the committee at an on-site meeting. Stan held the view that the high school should be built where the current Heathfield Oval is now and leave the Community Club and its oval where it was. Obviously that view was over ridden.

At the club's committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1960 a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> October 1960 was received from the District Council of Stirling advising that the Director of Lands had resumed the Heathfield Reserve and advising that this club should remove all its property. After general discussion it was agreed that as much material as possible be removed and stored. The Community Club members had the attitude of "We won't let the bastards have anything". The secretary was directed to write to the Council and offer to buy the land on which the hall is erected or alternatively offer the hall to the Council for its cost £166+ less the £150 subsidies received. It was also decided to write to the Education Department offering to sell the new lavatory building.

After the survey the Community Club, once it learnt how close the school buildings would be to the oval, realised that room for spectators would be restricted. This was one reason for it wanting to build a new oval.

Once the inevitability of the Community Club losing its facilities was accepted, justice in the form of compensation was the approach that the community took.

#### *"...HEATHFIELD PEOPLE SEEK JUSTICE*

*"...The question of the acquisition of the Heathfield Oval for the building of the Heathfield High School is neither dead nor lying down. Heathfield people say "we are not against the building of the High School to serve the needs of the whole district, but give us back the equivalent of what has been taken from us."*

*"...It is claimed that over a number of years they have spent a great deal of time, effort and money from their limited resources and the fruits of their labour have been taken from them without any equivalent facilities being offered to them and without a penny of compensation.*

#### *"...STIRLING COUNCIL DISCUSSION*

*"...A letter from the Heathfield Community Club came before last Wednesday's meeting of the District Council of Stirling seeking the Council's aid in obtaining redress. Cr Weatherald said that the first thing was to be sure of the ownership of the land for any new projects. The Council had had a title to the previous land but was forced to surrender it.*

*"...Cr Weatherald said that there was a possible site for a new oval and moved that the Council met club members there (next) Saturday morning. Cr Prout seconded. Cr Gordon Evans thought that the Tourist Bureau might assist financially. There were two possible sites near the old one for an oval.*

*"...Cr Vincent said that he understood that the people could use the high school oval, and it would be advisable to wait and see and ascertain what the Education Department's gifts would be first.*

*"...Cr Evans said he had not heard of joint schemes between schools and public bodies working satisfactorily. The clerk told him that the former chairman (Mr T. J. Biddis) and he had discussed the matter with the Minister. It was understood that the school oval would be available to local people outside of school requirements. Organised Sunday sport was out.*

*"...Cr Weatherald referred to "the meeting to end all meetings on the school question at Aldgate" Mr Shannon had said that the school could well use two ovals and on this account the club might well feel that it 'was out on a limb' if it helped to construct another one.*

*“...Cr Finlayson was told by the clerk that the title to the school oval etc. had been recorded as an estate in fee simple. Cr. Finlayson said that the Council had not asked for any compensation but it might not be too late.*

*“...The clerk said that the Council’s solicitor had advised that an approach to the Minister “could bring results” in respect to the club’s improvements.*

*“...Cr Weatherald moved and Cr. Finlayson seconded that the clerk be instructed to explore every possible avenue of securing compensation. Carried.*

#### *“...ALWAYS CROWN LAND” -- Shannon*

*“...At his meeting on Friday evening at the Stirling Institute, Mr Shannon, M.P. stated that the land had always been Crown Land and was at the time it was taken over by the Education Department.*

*“...He knew that the Department would do much to develop the oval and greatly improve its facilities. These facilities would be available to local people when not required by the school.*

*“..He did not see the need for another oval for local people.*

*“...It was true that the oval would not be available for organised sports on Sundays.*

*“...He suggested that the people would get much more by friendly co-operation with the Department.*

#### *“...COUNCILLORS AT HEATHFIELD*

*“...On Saturday morning Stirling Councillors met members of the Heathfield Community Club and others at Heathfield and inspected a site in which the club was interested.*

*“...Various people said that they were prepared to start again and put more work into developing another oval, as they wanted the use of the oval at all times. They had to be sure that they could charge admission – particularly on Sundays as they had to have revenue. For years they had an oval which had been taken from them. The time to act was now as the district would grow.*

*“...Mr S. Evans said that they were not interested in a joint scheme with the Education Department. He understood that such a scheme had failed at Kingswood.*

*“...He said that materials which the club had paid for were now being used by builders on site. No compensation had been received for this galvanised iron, wire netting, toilets etc.*

*“...Much discussion ensued about older assets and what happened to them, but much interest was evident in the recent assets of the club. The people wanted an oval for the one they had lost.*

*“...Cr Weatherald asked for a clear statement. “Do you want an oval here or not?. He also asked for the suggested period of lease and Mr Evans replied “The maximum 99 years with an Act of Parliament or 21 years from the Council with right of renewal.*

*“...It was stated that, despite all that had been said about careful planning for the new school, the contractors had cut 3,000 yards more than they could fill. A speaker said that this was now known as “Mount Shannon,” but would be well used on a new site if the Council helped.*

*“...Mr N. Weisner, head teacher of the Heathfield school, said that his children used the existing oval but could not use it after the high school is built if the headmaster of the latter objected. “Cr Rogers summed up saying that all the representatives of the Council present were sympathetic towards the desire of the Heathfield Community Club for an oval of its own.*

*“...Mr R. Bowman expressed a sincere vote of thanks to the Councillors and others present.*

*“...Cr Finlayson stated that the Council was moving for compensation.*

#### *“...THE “COURIER” HAS ITS SAY*

*“...Webster defines the term “Fee Simple” as being “Ownership (of land) with unrestricted rights of disposition.”*

*“...Reference to District Council of Stirling records reveal that the Balance of Certificate of Title Vol. 323 Fol. 42 became Title Vol.2422 Fol 56. This refers to what was formerly as Reserve No. 2 of approximately 62 acres and clearly states “The District Council of Stirling West is the proprietor of an estate in fee simple – in trust – to permit and suffer the said piece of land to be used at all times as a site for recreation purposes.”*

*“...It is unreasonable to suggest that the people have a right to the use of the oval at all times until fair compensation has been paid by the Government to provide adequate and equivalent rights everywhere?*

*“...Certainly the people want the school but there is no sense in “robbing Peter to pay Paul.”<sup>3</sup>*

A block of land was surveyed in the recreation ground for construction of the Head Master’s residence. Minutes of the 25th February 1962 Community Club’s Annual General Meeting mentioned the Head Master’s house block on the High School site. The block was on a separate land title. It was just above the school entrance from Hender Road. This was the land on which the Heathfield Community Club had built its stone building clubrooms. The house was never constructed.

In June 1963 Mr Williams (Head Master) of the Heathfield High School had approached the club’s secretary for an estimated valuation of the oval taken over by the Education Department.

The committee agreed to complete a detailed list of the costs involved in the old oval and improvements. The club’s committee agreed to send two delegates to approach the District Council to discuss possible disposal of the hall to the Education Department. Also requested that H. Shannon (M. P.) also be present - chairman and secretary to be the delegates.

The committee suggested that a sum of £2,100 be claimed as suitable compensation for the hall if the Education Department is interested in acquiring it. The Council supported the club and agreed to offer to the Minister for Education that the hall and grounds be purchased in terms of the club’s request.

Meanwhile the District Council of Stirling granted a lease of the southern portion of the reserve to the Community Club.

At its 25<sup>th</sup> June 1962 meeting the Community Club again decided to approach the Council regarding the possibility of the club purchasing the land on which the hall was built.

Some members of the community were concerned at the cost that Council would incur should the joint venture (Education Department, Council and club) was entered into. A newspaper article read:-

*“...COMMENTS BY READERS  
“...WANTS CLARIFICATION ON HEATHFIELD OVAL*

*“...Sir.—Much has been said in relation to the usage of the oval at the new Heathfield High School both by the school and by the district people at times when the school does not require it.*

*“...Nothing however, has emerged as to how this oval will be maintained – a matter when cutting, watering and general maintenance is considered, involving more than 300 hours in a year if done conscientiously.*

*“...It is unlikely that the Education Department will provide a paid groundsman (even part time for a school of this size) and, if not, how then is the oval to be maintained?*

*“...Usually school ovals are maintained on a voluntary basis by an interested member of the school staff who is prepared to give up much of his own time because it is for his school, but would there be such a member who would do so without payment when the oval is used as much by outside organisations with which he has no affiliation and over which he has no jurisdiction as to the way the oval is used? Such a member would be foolish indeed to undertake it under these conditions.*

*“...It would be well if the interested parties – both those connected with the school and those with the district – obtained clarification of this matter as early as possible, for it would avoid much frustration and discontent later.*

*“...P. Priestly*

*“...Mount Barker<sup>4</sup>*

The Community Club had considered the proposed joint use of the Old Rec oval but decided against it and encouraged the Council to also reject the concept.

*“...HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY CLUB REJECTS JOINT SCHEME*

*“..MINISTER TOLD TO “KEEP HIS OVAL”*

*“...The Heathfield Community Club has told the District Council of Stirling it felt that the terms of the draft agreement, with the Education Department, for the joint use of the Heathfield School oval could place a liability on the Council.*

*“...In a letter to the Council the secretary of the club, Mr R. K. Bowman stated “We are not prepared to place the Council in the unhappy position of accepting this liability merely out of doing the right thing by the club.*



*“...It is noted that the comments regarding the use and upkeep of the high school oval as reported to the Minister by the Director of Education, do in no way agree with the terms stated in the proposed draft agreement submitted. The draft agreement appears to - in many vital points -directly contradict the answers to the specific questions asked.*

*“...My committee feels that a far more suitable arrangement would be for the Council to inform the Minister that he “keep his oval,” and assistance it can see its way clear to do, from time to time in helping this club to quickly establish a new oval for the district on the site of the proposed lease.*

*“...Cr Jenkins moved “That this Council have no business whatsoever in any leasing scheme for the old oval with the Education Department.” This was seconded by Cr Prout.*

*“...The Chairman (Cr Rogers) said that his personal opinion was that the Council would be committed for very much for very little as it would have to take over the maintenance of an oval that had been taken away from it.*

*“...It is understood that if the Council had accepted the lease it could have been involved in £1,000 per annum in maintenance costs.*

*“...Cr Jenkins motion was carried unanimously and Cr Prout moved and Cr Weatherald seconded “That the machinery be put into action for the leasing of scrub for the construction of a new oval by the self-reliant Heathfield people.”*

#### *“...PRIVILEGES DESTROYED - NO COMPENSATION*

*“...The Heathfield Community Club enjoyed privileges on the Heathfield Oval before they were destroyed by Government acquisition of the land, without compensation, for the purpose of constructing the new Heathfield High School.*

*“...Nothing daunted, the club applied to the Stirling Council for a lease of some of the residual land with the view of putting much hard work to create a new oval.*

*“...The Council was generally sympathetic but it was pointed out in several places that it might be to the advantage of the people concerned to enter into a scheme with the Education Department which would enable them to use the old oval part time until a new oval was constructed.*

*“...As previously reported, this led to a proposition from Sir Baden Patterson (Minister of Education) wherein it was suggested that the old oval would be made available to the Heathfield people on a very limited periods provided that the Stirling Council paid for the maintenance of the oval.*

#### *“...REFRESHING*

*“...So the Minister of Education has been told what to do with his oval, irrespective of how it was acquired, it was refreshing to know that the Heathfield folk, as part of the Stirling community, are still prepared to stand on their own feet.”<sup>5</sup>*

The committee, with Council’s blessing, wrote to the Minister of Education seeking compensation. At the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1963 meeting a copy of a letter from the Minister of Education, acknowledging receipt of the Council and club’s joint request for compensation and advised that the matter was receiving consideration, was presented.

At the club's meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1963 the president, S. Evans reported he had approached Mr Shannon M.P. who promised to write to the Minister of Education to see if matters re the hall acquisition could be expedited. Cr Weatherald (in attendance) suggested that the club should write to the Council to determine whether it had any further information and, if not, request that they institute a follow up.

The club continued to use the hall. On 24<sup>th</sup> November 1963 it was decided that its next meeting arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> January would be at the Community Hall.

Premier Playford offered the club £1100 compensation for its buildings and all the oval work. Stan Evans walked out of the meeting. The club refused to accept the offer. It was increased to £1500. The club was reminded it had no legal right to compensation because the land was Crown Land, and the club as an incorporated body was considered as only one person, and one person could not lease that type of Crown Land so the club was advised to accept.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1963 a special meeting was held. Those present were Mr H. Shannon M. P., Cr Thompson and Messrs Smith, Murphy, Moller, R. Wastell, B. Fuller, G. Evans, Sillete, Steinwedel, L. Hemer, S. Evans, and R. Bowman.

The meeting was called to consider an offer from the Minister of Education to acquire the hall and all of previous claims for compensation regarding the club's former lease for a sum of £1,600. Mr Shannon stated that it appeared inadequate - he suggested he would see the Premier and discuss the matter with him and if necessary arrange a deputation from the club to present the facts to Sir Thomas Playford personally. It was agreed to accept that offer and that Messrs S. Evans and R. Bowman be authorised to be the deputation.

In May 1959 the District Council of Stirling solicitor advised the club that the matter of the cancellation of the club's lease had been placed in the hands of the court.

The Special Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1963 the secretary was instructed to notify the Council of the proposed action and request that a decision about court action and the lease be delayed pending outcome.

Mr Moller's motion that full amount spent on the improvements viz £4,500 be claimed was carried. Eventually Premier Playford agreed to make an ex gratia payment in total of £2500.

A copy of a letter from Baden Patterson (Minister of Education) to Mr Shannon advising that the Department's offer had been increased to £2,500 for full compensation for the oval hall and back claims.

Although the club would lose thousands of pounds in cost of materials, let alone the labour and use of plant and equipment which had been applied voluntarily, it was agreed to write to the Council requesting that they to accept this offer on the club's behalf.

Mr Thompson moved that the club write to Council requesting them to ask the Department to allow the club to demolish the old hall for the materials if the hall is demolished. Carried.

The Annual General Meeting of the club held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1964 was told "*...A letter was received from the Stirling Council stating they had written to the Minister of Education*

*accepting the terms of the sale and compensation also suggesting that the club be allowed to demolish and remove the hall, if same was required, for the salvage materials.”*

The meeting agreed “...*That now that the tennis courts are nearly completed the oval be given priority immediately that the money from the sale of the hall is received.*”

In June 1964 the Council advised that the club’s offer to demolish hall for the materials has been accepted subject to Department of Works supervision.

The government did not specify a time for the Community Club to remove facilities but it took quite a while. The Community Club completed its move when the new oval was ready for use. The club used the Old Rec until the new oval opened in 1966.

At the club’s meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1964 the secretary advised that copies of agreements between the Minister of Education, the Council and the club had been signed and Mr Paech (District Clerk) had advised that payment should be made shortly. The club was allowed to continue using the Old Rec facilities until the new oval and facilities had been constructed.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. *The Advertiser*, Saturday 20 November 1954
2. *The Mount Barker Courier Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 29 January 1958
3. *The Mount Barker Courier Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 28 February 1962
4. *The Mount Barker Courier Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 4 July 1962
5. *The Mount Barker Courier Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 1 August 1962

## Chapter 6 The Skyline Motordrome

In 1954 the Skyline Motordrome company was formed to conduct speedway racing at Heathfield. It was not an established Adelaide based club seeking somewhere to race. The promoter of Skyline was W. (Bill) Evans – ex-Air Force. He was a top commentator at Rowley Park Speedway and became the course announcer at Skyline. He had clashes with Kym Bonython, the promoter of Rowley Park. Mr Evans was looking for a site to race. The committee of the Community Club did not invite Skyline to race at Heathfield but W. Evans believed that the cycling track at the Old Rec could be modified and widened to lend itself to a speedway track. The Community Club, which was developing the site, saw the offer of Mr Evans as being a heaven sent means of funding the development. The income from hosting Skyline was a significant financial boost to the Community Club and a significant contributor to controversy in the district.

A 21 year lease from the District Council of Stirling had been taken out in 1929 by the Mount Lofty Recreation Ground Committee. The lease, which was for 15 acres of the reserve, would have expired in 1950. At the inaugural meeting of the Heathfield Community Club held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1951 a proposed constitution was considered and adopted. The general aim of the club was “...to promote and foster a community life centred on Heathfield”. The specific aim of the club was “...to acquire the lease of the Heathfield Recreation Reserve and administer the area as the focal point of social activity as a preliminary step to the erection of such buildings as may from time to time appear practicable and desirable for the purpose of achieving the general aim.” Minutes of the committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1951 reveal:-

*“...Moved Mr George, Seconded Mr R Williams that the Honorary secretary advise the Stirling District Council that Messrs Coventry, George and H. Williams will attend on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm. to sign an agreement for the lease and control of the Heathfield Recreation Reserve. Carried.”*

Although details included in the lease have not been sighted by the author of this book, it is understood that the lease was for 21 years, expiring in 1972. For reasons unknown, the lease was never registered on the reserve land title. Did the club and Council deem that a written agreement was all that was required (the 1929 agreement also was not recorded on the relevant land title).

At the Community Club’s committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1954 a letter from Mr White, of the Council’s solicitor’s office was tabled. The letter outlined obligations of the Council with regards to a long term lease of public land.

The President advised the committee that he and the secretary had found it necessary to obtain legal advice to establish the club’s position with the Council concerning the lease of the recreation ground. He also told the meeting that the opportunity was now available for the club to apply for a lease of up to 21 years of the Recreation Ground No. 2, but suggested that 10 years should be their ambition, all of which met with the approval of those present.

A discussion which followed resulted in the secretary being instructed to submit a proposal for an agreement, in the form of a letter, to the Council in time for their meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1954. The application, indicating that the club was a worthy community citizen, should contain

in brief the following:- an application for a lease over a period of 10 years and point out that £289 had been raised and spent in improvements; the obligation of approximately £115 to B.

J. Wakefield; the erection of conveniences and a motor sports track and a request of the Council to construct signs in order to preserve the trees.

Prior to the first meeting Mr W. Evans wanted a written agreement with the Community Club. At the club's committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1954 Mr W. Evans discussed with the committee the regulations concerning safety fences, and what he expected of the committee in this respect. Also a general discussion centred on the agreement between the Skyline Motordrome Limited and the club. It was agreed that the agreement between the Skyline Motordrome Limited and the club be forwarded to Mr White the solicitor, who would complete the agreement with Mr Reed-Smith for Skyline. It is understood that the duration of the lease was five years with a five year right of renewal.

Also at this meeting the chairman read out a letter from Council requesting information on the probability of speed car racing. He also read out also a copy of the secretary's letter applying for a lease of ten years.

The Heathfield Community Club had an agreement with Council to lease 15 acres of the reserve until 1972. This was more like an agreement with limited legal impact. A registered legally enforceable lease was required.

Even though the legal issues with Council had yet to be settled, the first meeting of the Skyline Speedway proceeded on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 1954. Stock cars and midgets were raced.

#### *“...SKYLINE SPEEDWAY OPENING*

*“...At a momentous opening on Sunday, the management of Skyline Speedway entertained a big crowd. The day was climatically ideal and the competitors gave an outstanding display of speed with some crashes.*

*“...The program began with a series of solo lap speeds, followed with sets of trios competing for first and fastest home.*

*“...Very early the spectators were thrilled with a wide slide by Arn Sunstrom, when he grazed the bank and took to the mounds midst a scurry of dust. However, skill predominated as is usual, with Arn and he completed the course.*

*“..Throughout the afternoon, the events were punctuated with thrills and spills amongst the speedcars and Bill Hambly Clark's "Hot Rod" displayed the ability of these 'bombs' to take the bashings as well as turn on the speed.*

*“...A daring interlude dispersed the tenseness when Dean Bone was towed around the course on his "terraplane" which consisted of about ½ inch between him and the hard ground, which passed below him at about 30 m.p.h.*

*“...He was twice thrown, but gymnastic rolls evaded any injury. Bone later rode a motor cycle through a wall of flame, after taking off from a ramp.*

*“...The championship was taken by one of South Australia's greatest exponents of speed, Harry Neale, in his V8 60.*

*“...Among other well known speedway men to participate were airline pilot, Roy Sands, former Rowley Park promoter, Alf Shields, Alan Gelding, Dud Lambert.*

*“...The little "Three Quarters" made their debut in a competition confined to their class, an introduction to Australia of their type.*

*“...For the first meeting it was a tremendous success, but the traffic influx was beyond all expectations and the parking arrangements produced a problem.*

*“...CHARITY TO BENEFIT*

*“...We have been reliably informed that the promoters of this new Show will donate 25 guineas to Stirling District Hospital and the Heathfield Community Club will also add five guineas to this amount from their percentage of the takings. It has been further stated that other local and district charities are likely to benefit financially. Two other bodies in line for assistance in the future are the Mothers' and Babies' Health Assoc. (local branch) and the Kindergarten.*

*“...Another interesting report said that police officers had been sent to the ground with the idea of stopping the new sport, but after witnessing the program decided that everything was quite in order and at least some speedsters were being kept off the highway.”<sup>1</sup>*

Being a public reserve a proposal to lease part or all of a community asset had to be agreed to by the district's ratepayers. The following public notice appeared in *The Advertiser*:-

*“...THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STIRLING*

*“...MEETING OF RATEPAYERS. Notice is hereby given that a meeting of ratepayers will be held in the Lodge Room, Institute Buildings, Stirling West, on Monday. 8th November 1954 at 7.30 p m.*

*“...BUSINESS: To approve the granting of a lease of the Heathfield Oval for five years to the Heathfield Community Club. The land in question comprises approximately 15 acres of Recreation Reserve No. 2 in the District Council district of Stirling.*

*“...D. W. DRISCOLL. District Clerk.”<sup>2</sup>*

The meeting agreed to the lease. However a group of ratepayers was not satisfied and took the appropriate steps to compel the Council to hold a poll of ratepayers on the matter.

*“...IMPORTANT POLL AT STIRLING*

*"...Issue Clouded." says Community Club Chairman*

*“...RATEPAYERS in the District Council of Stirling will vote at a most important Poll next Saturday. They are being asked to decide whether they are in favor or otherwise of the Heathfield Community Club being granted a lease of the Heathfield Oval for five years.*

*“...In an interview with Messrs. R. H. Coventry (President) and Mr H. D. Madigan (Secretary) they pointed out that their club required the oval to help raise money for local charities and to improve the oval itself. When their application to lease the area was first placed before the local Council their proposition was favourably received and the lease was granted at a subsequent meeting of ratepayers. However, after the meeting a petition signed by the requisite number of ratepayers was handed to the Council.*



*“...Now Messrs. Coventry and Madigan say that the fact that their club allowed motor speed way races to be held on its site on Sundays has clouded the issue. They want a lease of the oval for their club for the purposes outlined whether they are permitted to hold motor sports on the oval in the future or not. The matter of future speed sports being held at Heathfield on Sundays will be decided after the result of the Friday's Court case against the promoters becomes known.*

*“...Consequently the issue of Saturdays Poll should be clear cut, because under the circumstances Stirling ratepayers are not being asked if they agree to Sunday motor races being held at Heathfield, but they are being asked if they will permit Heathfield Community Club to raise money for local charities by means of the Oval.*

*“...Although this paper is not in favor of commercialised sport on Sunday, we would like to point out that motor sports are held at quite a number of centres in this State on that particular day of the week. For instance very large number of people watch the speedboat races at Snowden's Beach on Sundays and spectators contribute substantially to club funds. Certainly there is a difference between Snowden's Beach and the Heathfield Oval. The former is governed by the Harbor's Board and the latter is Crown Land vested in the Stirling Council.*

*“...Nevertheless, the fact should remain that what is good for one section of the community should also be good for another.*

*“...If the Court decides against the promoters of the speed sports at Heathfield, it should mean that all organised sport on Sundays should be stopped throughout the State and perhaps Australia. The law on which Friday's Court case was based dates back many years and applies throughout the Commonwealth.*

*“...On Saturday the voting papers will ask ratepayers if they agree or object to the Council granting a five year lease of the Heathfield Oval to the Community Club. Ratepayers' decision at the Poll will be final and, no further move either way on the part of the ratepayers or Council can be carried out during the present financial year at least.”<sup>3</sup>*

The advent of the speedway was clearly polarizing community opinion.

#### *“...STIRLING RATEPAYERS PROTEST AGAINST SPEEDWAY*

*“...The Heathfield Community Club has built a motor track*

#### *“...FLAGRANT BREACH OF THE LAW*

*“...A MEETING of ratepayers of the Stirling District Council area was held in Stirling Institute on Monday night when arrangements were made to hold a poll regarding the new Skyline Speedway at Heathfield.*

*“...The new motordrome, which has been conducted on Sundays, has brought a protest from a number of ratepayers. At the meeting it was resolved that the district be circularised with a statement concerning the use of the Heathfield Oval for commercialised sport on Sundays.*

*“...Asking ratepayers to vote NO at the poll on December 11, the circular points out that the Heathfield Oval is Crown Lands vested in the District Council of Stirling. The last signed lease of the oval portion of the area expired in 1951.*

*"...The Heathfield Community Club has built a motor track on the Oval and has arranged with Skyline Motordrome, a private trading company in which the public are prohibited from taking shares, to conduct motor races and trials. The District Council was given a legal opinion by the Crown Solicitor which said that motor racing on Sundays, with admission charges and prizes for competitors, was a flagrant breach of the law.*

*"...Although warned, the club held another meeting last Sunday. The circular suggests that the Council would not object to the set-up if the racing was conducted on any other day but Sunday."*<sup>4</sup>

The opposition to the lease was defeated and Skyline continued:-

*"...MOTORDROME AT STIRLING TO CONTINUE.*

*"...Stirling ratepayers today voted by a 140 majority for an extension of the Heathfield Oval lease to Heathfield Community Club.*

*"...As a result of the poll, Skyline Motordrome will continue to conduct speedway meetings on the oval, in conjunction with the Community Club. The poll resulted: In favor - 534 Against - 394 - Informal 32. The aggregate vote of 960 is believed to have been the heaviest ever recorded in Stirling District Council area. Many voters were drenched by heavy rain. A Skyline Motordrome spokesman said tonight the next speedway meeting would be held on Boxing Day."*<sup>5</sup>

Certificate of Title 2422/56 shows "Lease No. 1919869 from District Council of Stirling to Heathfield Community Club Inc. of portion of the within land for a term of 5 years commencing on the 1 day of December 1954".

The Community Club chairman enquired about the lease with the Council - 15 acres did not seem a satisfactory area. The club decided to ask Mr D. Driscoll, the District Clerk, for 20 acres.

Five hundred tons of sandstone rubble were carted in from the Evans quarry (now the Council waste transfer depot) to build the track.

Speedway racing at Skyline was very popular. Train loads of people would come from Adelaide. The train would stop near the raceway at the Heathfield Station. On occasions the venue would run out of tickets.

Management decided that from gate takings of the first meeting of Skyline £25 (not guineas as was originally agreed) would be donated to the Stirling Hospital. Subsequently it was agreed that the Community Club would pay 6% of gate takings. Stan Evans' father, Fred, fought strongly for this to happen. The name Skyline Motordrome appears on the sponsor/donor board in the Stirling Hospital.



South Australia.

(CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.)



Register Book,

Vol. 2422 Folio 56

Balance Certificate of Title from Vol. 323 Folio 42

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STIRLING of Stirling West

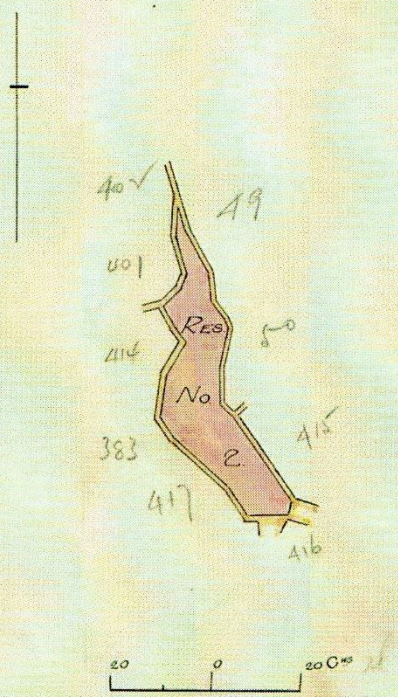
is the proprietor of an estate in fee simple subject nevertheless to such encumbrances liens and interests as are notified by memorial underwritten or endorsed hereon in THAT PIECE of land situated in the HUNDRED OF NOARLUNGA COUNTY OF ADELAIDE being RESERVE No. 2 containing sixty two acres or thereabouts and more particularly delineated and bounded as appears in the plan in the margin hereof and therein colored pink IN TRUST to permit and suffer the said piece of land to be used at all times as a site for Recreation Purposes

Which said Section Reserve is delineated in the public map of the said Hundred deposited in the Land Office at Adelaide.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal this seventh day of November 1955

Signed the 11th day of November 1955, in the presence of P. Rose

Registrar-General seal and signature with handwritten number L-1919-569



LEASE No. 1919869 FROM The District Council of Stirling to Beachfield Community Club Incorporated OF THE WITHIN LAND. TERM 5 years commencing on the 1 day of December 1954 PRODUCED FOR REGISTRATION THE 17 DAY OF November 1955 AT 12.25pm. G.G. Russell DEP. REG. GENL.

Cancelled the within land having reverted to the Crown vide L 70 Letter 3475/1961 Dep. Reg. Genl.

The Land Title to the Reserve showing the recorded lease.

Skyline raced on Sundays and public holidays. It did not race every week. Race days were held from 1954 to 1959.



Only days after the first meeting community consternation surfaced. A newspaper report stated-

*“...SPEEDWAY ON SUNDAY “ILLEGAL*

*“...The Crown Solicitor had given his opinion that the Skyline Motordrome performance on the November 14 had been a flagrant breach of the law Cr M. R. Lamshed told last night's meeting of the Stirling District Council. He said the Heathfield Community Club, which had arranged the speed way meeting in collaboration with the Skyline Motordrome, might be in trouble over what had taken place. A motion by Cr Lamshed that the Heathfield club be advised of the Crown Solicitor's opinion and warned not to repeat the offence, was carried on the casting vote of the chairman (Mr A L Vincent) “ It looks as though I am the one to blame,” Cr G. Evans, a member of the club, told the chairman. He said the club would conduct no more races on Sundays.”<sup>6</sup>*

However the club was quick to react:-

*“...SPEEDWAY LEGAL*

*“...The Heathfield Community Club, which sponsors the Skyline speedway at Loftia Park, had three separate legal firms check the legality of the racing, the club secretary, Mr H. D. Madigan, said today. All three had agreed there was nothing illegal in the proceedings. The racing benefited local business, Mr Madigan said. 'When the idea was first mentioned everybody was behind the club, but a small minority is now protesting,' he said.”<sup>7</sup>*

However the police became involved:-

*“...POLICE QUESTION STIRLING SPEEDWAY OFFICIAL*

*“...Speedway races were conducted as planned by the Skyline Motordrome at Heathfield oval, Stirling, yesterday.*

*“...After the meeting detectives questioned Mr W. W. Evans, a director of the Skyline Motodrome for three quarters of an hour. Mr Evans said no official complaint had been made.*

*“...Last night the Chief Secretary (Sir Lyell McEwin) said the Crown Law Department was examining the question of the races being held on a Sunday.*

*“...Before the start of yesterday's meeting, which was attended by about 4,000 people, Mr Evans, in a statement over the amplification system, said reports that Heathfield Community Club, which was associated with the motordrome, was not financial, were false.*

*“...He was referring to a report of a special meeting of the Stirling District Council in The Advertiser on Wednesday in which it was stated that the club's lease on Heathfield Oval had expired.*

*“...In fact” he said, “the club has receipts for lease of the oval until the middle of next year.*

*“...Mr Evans said the motor drome had the opinions of three leading law firms that the meetings were not an infringement of the Places of Public Entertainments Act.*

*“...He added that up to Friday night Stirling Council had not received written complaints about the speed way.*

*“...Yesterday's racing was attended by about a dozen police officers, including several senior officials.*

*“...The interview between Mr Evans and the two detectives, Detective Sergeant E. Aston and Detective M. Marker, took place in a police car at the track.*

*“...Police took a statement from Mr Evans.*

*“...Later Mr Gordon Evans, a member of Stirling Council, was called to the car and left a few minutes later.*

*“...Notices suggesting a donation of 4/- for an adult to Heathfield Community Club were posted at three of the track's five entrances.*

*“...Attendants were on duty collecting at all entrances.*

*“...A poll of Stirling rate payers will be taken on December 11 on whether the Council should grant a further lease of five years of the oval to the club.*

*“...Cr Evans said last night that it appeared from a press report that he had said at a Stirling Council meeting that he was to blame for the holding of the speedway on Sunday.*

*“...He was referring to the, unauthorised use of a Council grader when he had said, 'It looks as though I am the one to blame.' The Council voted that his action be excused.”<sup>8</sup>*

And then the courts became involved:-

#### *“...NO RULING YET ON MOTORDROME CASE*

*“...Judgment was reserved in a case in which Skyline Motordrome Ltd., a registered company, of Grenfell street, Adelaide, denied having, on November 28, held a public entertainment at Heathfield Oval, which was not a place of public entertainment, in respect of which a licence was in force.*

*“...In his submissions, Mr J. L. Travers, QC, who, with Mr R. Smith, appeared for the defendant company, said that if a place of this kind had to be embraced by Section 18 of the Places of Public Entertainment Act, racing clubs, Rowley Park, the Adelaide Oval, National Park, and even the Redex Trial, could not escape the necessity of having a licence.*

*“...Mr B. R. Cox, of the Crown Law Department, who prosecuted, said that the case arose out of a motor car speed meeting at Heathfield Oval, near Mt. Lofty, last Sunday.*

*“...Evidence by Det-Sgt E. Aston would show that notices on trees around the area suggested that a donation of 4/- be made for admission to the oval, although there was a pretence that admission was free. No licence was held by the promoters, nor did they have consent in writing to hold an entertainment on a Sunday, Mr Cox said. Det-Sgt Aston said he had visited the oval last Sunday. Attendants at the four main entrances appeared to be collecting from people entering the oval, but the witness did not pay for admission. Det-Sgt. Aston said one of the company's directors, William Wilton Evans, had told him that Skyline Motordrome Ltd and the Heathfield Community Club were conducting the meeting. Evans had told him that the oval was not licensed under the Places of Public Entertainment Act as a place of entertainment, Det-Sgt Aston said. Evans had said that 75 p.c. of the gate money was kept by the company and*

25 p.c. went to the Heathfield Community Club. If there was a reasonable balance left over, after expenses had been paid, a donation was made to a charitable institution. Wages were paid to officials.

“...Evans had said that there was no charge for admission and no tickets were issued. There was a notice at every entrance suggesting a donation of 4/- said Det-Sgt Aston. Mr Travers, who did not call evidence for the defence, submitted that the reserve was not a place envisaged within the meaning of the Act. “If Heathfield Oval comes within the reach of the Act, the whole outlook of the public in this respect will be changed,” said Mr Travers. “As a consequence, it would mean that licences would be required for many other well-known places such as the National Park, Adelaide Oval, polo grounds, racecourses, the Redex Trial, Rowley Park, and even football fields.”<sup>9</sup>

Mr Evans, the promoter, seemed buoyed by the developments:-

“...PROMOTER OUTLINES SKYLINE MOTORDROME’S PLANS FOR FUTURE

“...WILL AVOID SUNDAY SPEED MEETINGS AT HEATHFIELD WHERE POSSIBLE

“...In a statement to this paper, Mr Evans, promoter of Skyline Motordrome, which has been holding its fixtures on the Heathfield Oval, and over which there has been much public controversy and a Court case, says that the future intentions of Skyline Morordrome were not quite correctly reported in the Metropolitan “Press”.

“...He pointed out that a statement was printed saying his organisation would race on Boxing Day. Boxing Day falls on a Sunday, but the actual holiday will be observed on the following Monday, and it is on this day that the next speed meeting at Heathfield will be held.

“...Mr Evans, continuing, said that although the recent poll held by the Stirling District Council had resulted in a favourable count for Skyline Motordrome, it was not his or his colleagues’ intention to use the site for speed meetings on Sundays when that day could be avoided. That remark would also apply whether a favourable or unfavourable decision was given to Skyline Motordrome in the recent Court case. In the event of a favourable decision being given in the above mentioned case occasional races might be held on a Sunday to achieve a continuity of meetings which would mainly held on holidays.

“...Adding to the foregoing remarks, Mr Evans asserted that the main object of Skyline Motordrome was to boost the Heathfield district and to assist the oval committee to liquidate debts.

“...Asked if such was the case why did his company allow the Heathfield Oval Committee only 25 per cent of the proceeds and pocket 75 per cent for itself, Mr Evans replied that Skyline Motordrome bore all of the expenses and took all the financial risks connected with the fixtures. Insurance was a very heavy item and cost up to £300. Advertising was another expensive item and then all the competitors had to be given some financial help. The expenses connected with the first meeting had amounted to £488, and if any citizen of standing doubting that figure he could have a look at the Company’s books, said Mr Evans.

“...In reply to the remark that competitors in other sports met their own expenses, Mr Evans said that one particular driver (H. Neale) had won £102 at Heathfield but had spent £112 on maintenance for his car.



“...Mr Evans concluded by stating, that if his organisation won the Court case, there would be little or no racing at the Heathfield Oval on Sundays, providing no financial loss was involved by holding these meetings on other days of the week.”<sup>10</sup>

Racing continued but opposition from the community continued to simmer.



**SKYLINE MOTORDROME**  
**NEXT MONDAY**  
*Vic. v. S.A. Speedcar Test Match*

Featuring Stud Beasley, Alf Beasley, and Jack O'Day, leading the Victorian team against S.A.'s best speedcar drivers.

Skyline Motordrome, S.A.'s drive-in picnic speedway, is only 20 minutes from town. Take the first turning on right after entering Stirling from the city. Buses leave the western side of Victoria Square. Phone F 4701 for bookings.

Full supporting program of speedcar and stock car (hot rod) racing.

Grounds open at 9.30 a.m. and practice from 10.30 a.m. **Racing from 2 p.m.**

Be early—make a picnic day in the pleasant shade of Skyline.

*The News, Adelaide, Friday 24 December 1954*

Catering for race days was handled through three lockable stalls (shacks/canteens) built of galvanised iron/asbestos with an iron roof. Electricity was connected. Alf Weise, a local builder, was involved in building the shacks. They were approximately 4m x 3m. The shacks (canteens) had two opening windows that hung up so customers could buy. There was a door at the rear.

The Community Club had agreements with Bert Dyer, Bob Love (both Stirling shopkeepers) and the Heathfield Shop to each operate a stall.

Alcohol was not allowed to be brought into Skyline on race days nor was it sold on site. Drivers were banned from consuming alcohol.

Administration leading to and on race day, such as deciding on what races to run, how many nominations etc was handled by the Racing Drivers Association in association with Skyline. The Community Club was not involved in programming of races. Skyline, not the Community Club, paid out prize money won at Heathfield.

Amplification on race days was provided by Mr Jeffries, from Bridgewater. He drove a Vanguard motor vehicle and provided amplification for many community events. He had loudspeakers attached to the roof of the vehicle.

The grounds were not fenced. However there were five access entrances to the track. Members of the Community Club collected entrance money and were also car park attendants although there was no established car park - people parked wherever there was a space.

Norm Coventry undertook the majority of maintenance of the Skyline racing track. Norm had a water tank on a truck and would drag a mesh frame over the track to smooth it.



Ted Polgreen heads the pack ahead of Reg Thomlinson, Ron Wood and others at Skyline  
Photo courtesy of Speedway Memories #2

Graham Quayle spoke of the Stirling Emergency Fire Service's involvement with Skyline, "*...Neil Pratt, our then secretary had a roster drawn, so our members had the old Blitz out every night of the week, including weekends, delivering the much needed liquid. Another money spinner was hosing down the old dirt "Skyline" hot rod race track at Heathfield to keep dust down when races were being held.*"

Drivers drove at both Skyline and Rowley Park venues. Interstate drivers would drive at either track depending upon which track sponsored them. Stan Evans drove at Rowley Park and Skyline. Some of the local drivers at Skyline were Ray Evans, Stan Evans and Steve Goldsworthy. There were others. Skyline Motordrome Speedway hosted some of the country's best speedway drivers likes of Harry Neale, Clem Smith, John H Ellers, Murray Hoffmann, Alf Shields, Alf Beasley, Stud Beasley, Dean Hogarth, Jack Odea (Vic.), Harry Wittle ( N.S.W.), Neville Wells (N.S.W.), Tom Cuddon (N.S.W.), Neville Shephard (N.S.W.), K.L. Munro, Ron Woods, Ted Fullgrabe, Bruce Donald, John Allen, Ray Evans and many more who were also competing at Rowley Park Speedway in that era.



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME  
1955-56 SEASON



Front cover of the 1955 - 56 Skyline Motordrome program

The Anzac Day meeting in 1957 attracted a crowd of 10,000 spectators. The venue ran out of tickets. The accountant for Skyline Motordrome Ltd, Mr Newberry, asked how he was to check takings there being no tickets. The response was "Too bad!"

It is also understood that it was for the 1957 Anzac day meeting that Mr Newberry, Bill Evans' accountant, took out 'rain insurance' for the day of the meeting. The insurance was that a certain amount of rain would fall at the Weather Bureau in West Terrace. More rain fell there than the amount stated in the insurance policy and so Skyline Motordrome Ltd collected on the rain insurance. At Heathfield there was just enough rain to water the track.

It seems that this meeting may have been the last sponsored by Skyline Motordrome Ltd. Bill Evans wanted to run the last meeting for the 1956-57 season on January 28. The Racing Drivers Association refused to grant Evans a licence as it had already granted a licence for a meeting at another track. Evans proceeded with the event and was expelled from the Association<sup>11</sup>. It seems that Anzac Day 1957 meeting proceeded without the Racing Drivers Association's assent.

Skyline Motordrome Ltd was wound up. The Community Club minutes of 6th March 1957 revealed - "...Purpose: To discuss notice of meeting of creditors to be held by Skyline Motordrome Ltd. Decided that Mr R. Coventry be authorised as our proxy at the meeting and that he offer of part payment immediately if allowed to carry on under new management be accepted."



The "Hot Rods" preparing to race. Meeting date uncertain. Photo courtesy of Ray Evans.

The club's minutes of 6th May 1957 reveal that Mr F. Evans moved, seconded E. Cocker "...that the Secretary write to the Council for permission to substitute a license to another body in lieu of Skyline in event of the club revoking its license to Skyline. Carried." This proposal was due to Skyline winding up?

The minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> July 1957 revealed that a letter had been received from the Racing Drivers Association requesting information (presumably about the future of racing). The secretary was instructed to reply to the Association and inform them that rumours were not circulated by his committee and thank them for their past services.

However the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> July 1957 revealed that the club's solicitor had sent a letter to Skyline terminating the license.



The Community Club wanted to issue the speedway licence to a Mr Young and rename the speedway as the Stirling Speedway. The Community Club meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> July 1957 reported that a letter had been sent to the RDA requesting them to make arrangements with Mr “Snowy” Young for the Heathfield meetings.

The minutes of its 31<sup>st</sup> October 1957 meeting reported “Letter from District Council re inability to approve license to Stirling Speedway”. It seems that Mr Young was eventually awarded a licence. “...*Only four meetings were held that 1957-8 season ...*”<sup>11</sup>



The aftermath of the race.

The committee minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> April 1958 “The Chairman reported that Mr Young was not going to hold a speedway meeting on Anzac Day but had no objections to a meeting being sponsored by another”.

There was no more racing. It seems that the Playford government was keen to close down Skyline and a few matters combined to work against it continuing. The government wanted to take the site to build Heathfield High School; the Playford Government’s interpretation of the Public Entertainment Act that an incorporated body (as the Heathfield Community Club was) could not lease Crown Land in its own name. The legal interpretation was that the incorporated body in conjunction with “another person” could lease such land; Government land could not be used for fundraising on a Sunday and a licence was not being granted for public entertainment. Also there was adverse pressure from the community. A controversial era and event had come to an end.



A competitor and part of the crowd. Year uncertain..

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1. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 17 November 1954
2. *The Advertiser*, Friday 5 November 1954
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4. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 1 December 1954
5. *The Mail*, Saturday 11 December 1954
6. *The Advertiser*, Wednesday 24 November 1954
7. *The Mail*, Saturday 27 November 1954
8. *The Advertiser*, Monday 29 November 1954
9. *The Advertiser*, Saturday 4 December 1954
10. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 22 December 1954
11. *Speedway Memories #2* September 2009

## Chapter 7 The Government Takes Over

Although Heathfield High School did not open to students until 1963 the idea of building a school on the recreation grounds was first mooted in 1945.

*“...Heathfield School— A proposal for a consolidated school to be built on the Heathfield recreation ground was submitted by a deputation to the Minister of Education (Mr Abbott) at Stirling West last night. The Minister was accompanied by the acting Director of Education (Mr W. T. Martin) and the Superintendent of Rural Education (Mr H. Hosking). Mr Abbott pointed out difficulties in the way of building the school, but promised to give the proposal sympathetic consideration.”<sup>1</sup>*

The proposal was revived in late 1951:-

*“...HIGH SCHOOL SOUGHT IN HILLS*

*“...THE HILLS DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMITTEES ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING AN ADDITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE HILLS!*

*“...At a recent executive meeting held at the Heathfield School members were unanimous that it was becoming urgently necessary to provide more high school accommodation. The fact that present high schools are overcrowded was one of the reasons advanced, another being that too many students are forced to spend unnecessarily long hours in travelling and this was considered to be both tiring and wasteful. It was also felt that more families would settle in the Hills if adequate facilities for secondary education were available.*

*“...With Mr R. W. Knight, of Aldgate as chairman the Association is composed of the following ten schools: Aldgate, Bridgewater, Crafers, Heathfield, Iron Bank, Mylor, Stirling East, Upper Sturt, Uraidla and Verdun.”<sup>2</sup>*

The proposal was again revived in September 1953:-

*“...NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HILLS RECOMMENDED*

*“...AT a recent meeting of the Hills District Public School Committees Association held at Scott's Creek, Mr McDonald (Deputy Director) and Mr Harris (Transport) of the Education Department were welcomed and addressed the meeting on the need for another Secondary School in the Hills District.*

*“...Land is already available and the numbers of children attending the adjacent schools would warrant serious consideration of such a step. Further to this the possibility of Blackwood and Belair districts being interested was also discussed.*

*“...Mr John Thompson of Stirling is the secretary of the Association and at the moment is preparing vital information to submit to the Department. To finalize the information required by the Department the next quarterly meeting of the association has been planned for Aldgate School. Talkie Films and a demonstration of a tape recorder is being arranged.*

*“...All parents, school committees, and welfare members have been invited to attend and give the Executive the necessary support in this progressive move.”<sup>3</sup>*

The minutes of the Heathfield Community Club meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> November 1954 noted in correspondence that a letter had been received from the Hills District Public Schools Committees Association concerning a proposed construction of a secondary school in relation to the oval. It was agreed that the secretary reply to the letter from the H.D.P.S.C.A. stating the advantages of an oval to the proposed school and correcting incorrect statements in their letter.

There was much public concern and consternation about the government proposing to take over the site.

However in early 1958 it was announced:-

*“...HIGH SCHOOL SITE TO BE TRANSFERRED*

*“...COUNCIL AGREES WITH DIRECTOR*

*“...Stirling Council last week decided to transfer to the Minister of Education the 19 acres of the Heathfield Reserve which were sought originally as a site for a high school.*

*“...When the Minister, some weeks ago, asked the Council to transfer the area on which the Heathfield Oval and recreation hall stand, the Council said it would agree to transfer, as a high school site, part of the 62 acres of Crown Land at Heathfield, and suggested two alternatives. One was that if the Minister wanted the oval and hall, compensation should be paid to the Heathfield Community Club which had put them there. The other was that the Community Club would cede two or three acres of its lease, and that the Council would transfer unconditionally an adjoining 16 or 17 acres so that the high school could be built close to the oval, which could be held by the Community Club and used by both school and Club under mutual agreement.”<sup>4</sup>*

Minutes from the Community Club minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> August 1959 noted in correspondence that a letter had been received from the solicitor representing Group Captain Thompson (secretary of the Hills Districts Public Schools Committee) which was a copy of a letter sent to the Stirling District Council strongly pressing for an immediate compromise between the Council and the club in order that the High School project could be continued.

A group met - Mr Hargraves, several committee members, members of the Stirling District Council, Education Department representatives, and Mr Thompson from the H.D.P.S.C.A. It was agreed that a general survey be carried out in a hope of reaching a suitable agreement concerning boundaries. Agreed to keep Hargraves as the club's solicitor.

The Community Club committee meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> November 1960 noted:-

*“...A letter dated 26.10.60 was received from the District Council of Stirling advising that the Director of Lands had resumed the Heathfield Reserve and advising that this club should remove all our property.”* After general discussion it was agreed that as much material as possible be removed and stored. The Secretary was directed to write to the Council and offer to buy the land on which the hall was erected or alternatively offer the hall to the Council for its cost. Also the secretary was to write to the Education Department offering to sell the new lavatory building.”

Initially when the Education Department took over the site it was proposed to subdivide a



piece of land and leave it for the Community Club. However the Department changed its mind and wanted the proposed subdivision for construction of the the Headmaster's residence. This was the site of the hall.

A separate land title for this block was created. It was just above the school entrance from Hender Road. This was the piece of land on which the Heathfield Community Club had built its stone building clubrooms. The house was never constructed.

When the High School was to be established, the club argued that the school would be too close to the oval to allow patrons to come to sporting fixtures, such as football matches, without having some problems policing people's activities around the classrooms. The Education Department was asked to build the school about 100 metres further towards Heathfield but the Department would not budge.

The Community Club then argued that the High School should be built where the current Heathfield Oval is located leaving the Old Rec oval as it was. The Public Works Committee chairman Mr Shannon told an onsite meeting that soil testing had been undertaken. Stan Evans challenged this as he knew it had not been done. Had the school been built on the current oval site the Old Rec ground could have been significantly upgraded.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. *The Advertiser*, Tuesday 7 August 1945
2. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Thursday 13 December 1951
3. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 9 September 1953
4. *The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 29 January 1958

## Chapter 8 Development of the Current Oval, Change Rooms, Tennis Courts and Community Club

The Government took over the Old Rec and surrounds. The idea of the Community Club having a joint agreement with the Education Department to use the high school oval was decided against.

The Community Club was still negotiating for compensation for losing its facilities at the Old Rec but simultaneously applied to the District Council of Stirling to lease the southern portion of Hender Reserve to construct a new oval and facilities.

Prior to settling on the current site, the Community Club committee considered another site. At its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1962 Mr Coventry reported that a suitable site for a new oval might be available in the Stone reserve bordering the Heathfield Primary School grounds. It was agreed that the committee inspect the site before applying to the Council for a lease as it might be a more suitable site. The inspection of the site was held on the following Sunday when it was decided that the site would be suitable for a junior oval for use by the primary school but was too limited for development as a senior sports ground. It was agreed to go ahead with both ovals. It was also suggested that the club should cooperate with the tennis club in an endeavour to obtain tennis courts for the district.” The Heathfield Tennis Club was using courts privately owned by Mr Cocker. These were located on the corner of Heathfield and Keithley Roads.

At the Community Club’s Annual General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1962 the Secretary was “...instructed to write to the District Council stating that the club was desirous of establishing another oval in the area if suitable support could be given by the Council and invite Councillors to meet club representatives this weekend to consider sites etc.”

In June 1962 the District Council of Stirling acceded to this request. A letter was received from the District Council advising that a lease of the new oval site was to be granted:-

“...HEATHFIELD TO GET OVAL?

“...The southern portion of a reserve belonging to the District Council of Stirling will be leased for 21 years to the Heathfield Community Club, provided no objections are raised by ratepayers. The decision was reached on Monday night at a well attended meeting in the Stirling Institute.”<sup>1</sup>

In June 1962 an oval committee was established consisting of the following members - Councillors Weatherald and Jenkins, the present Community Club committee, Messrs. R. Sillette, Mr Fleet, J. Strazdins, R. Coventry, R. Wastell, A. Smith, R. Heaysman, D. Wastell & D. Maxwell.

In July 1962 the committee authorised Mr S. Evans to make enquiries regarding the surveying and sighting of the oval site. The Council’s solicitor suggested that two Councillors should be appointed to the Community Club committee in lieu of the oval committee as was suggested. This suggestion was not agreed to.

At the oval committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1962 Mr Stan Evans reported that the surveyors were working on the survey of the new lease site. It was agreed that the secretary would write

to the Council and request that two Councillors meet the oval committee on the site to assist in selecting areas for actual playing sites for the oval and tennis courts so that a formal application could be made to remove the trees and scrub on these areas.

Once the sites had been chosen a working bee would be called for clearing it.



In early 1963 work has commenced to create the new oval

A special meeting of the Community Club was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1962 at which the lease agreement was read and generally discussed. Rental was to be 10/- per year. It was agreed to accept and sign the agreement and ask the Council whether the full 21 years rental could be paid i.e. £10.10.0 be paid.

In November 1962 Council approved the clearance of the trees. Councillors Jenkins and Weatherald were appointed to the oval committee. An account from the surveyor for £32-10-0 was received. Working bees were being held regularly.

The club then set to work to build its new oval. The land was covered in scrub, similar to what is currently growing on the opposite side of Heathfield Road. There was absolutely no help from local government or any government department in creating the oval, tennis or netball courts until such time as the lower change rooms were built, when the Council acted as guarantor for a loan of \$6,000 in the latter half of the 1960's.

Building dressing rooms for the new oval was discussed at the 9<sup>th</sup> March 1964 meeting. The possibility of buying a temporary house for the use as a dressing room etc. was raised. It was

decided to request Mr Steinwedel and G. Evans to make enquiries about the availability and possible costs incurred.”

At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1964 several matters were agreed to - F.S. Evans & Sons Ltd were paid £64-1-2 for rubble and bulldozing for the tennis courts, a water meter is to be installed at the bottom boundary of the oval and high school fence. F. S. Evans & Sons are to be engaged on hourly basis at rate of £3-15-0 per hour to doze stumps for one day which is to be extended to 2 days if the first day results appear satisfactory,

The secretary reported that he had contacted Mr Paech District Clerk) regarding the expected time of payment of the club’s compensation. Mr Paech said he would write to the Department for information. It was also agreed that the secretary would write to the Council seeking an advance of finance against the anticipated compensation. It was estimated that the tennis courts would be available from January 1965 and the oval from the following summer.

At the oval sub-committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1963 Mr Len Hemer presented a detailed scale map of the reserve area, proposing the oval to be 180 yards long x 130 yards wide. It was agreed “now take out levels and estimated excavations necessary.” Simultaneously the Heathfield Tennis Club requested that an immediate application be made to the District Council for assistance in preparing the tennis courts.

The District Council responded to the tennis club with sympathy but requested specific details and costs. A working bee was organised to clear the area for preparation of tennis courts.

At the oval committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1963 it was reported that a working bee had cut the timber from the site selected for the first tennis courts. It was agreed to approach G. Lemey, F. S. Evans Ltd and L. Evans requesting them to donate one days’ bulldozing to create one of the tennis courts sites.

The 24<sup>th</sup> November 1963 meeting reported that tennis court area required further filling to enable area to include two basketball courts. It was agreed to determine cost of filling. G. Evans had quotes from Cyclone Ltd for surrounds and equipment. It was agreed to approach Council asking them to pay out of the promised grant for the tennis courts.

Construction of the current Heathfield Oval commenced in the early to mid 1960s.

A quote of £3,300 to clear and excavate the site was received (and accepted) from Hills Earthmovers from Hahndorf (Messrs. Peter Thiele and Eric Nitschke). Timber cleared from the site was taken to City Bricks located at the top of Glen Osmond Road to use in their kilns. Three thousand cubic yards of clay was excavated to create the oval. Stumps from the trees that grew on the oval site were pushed to the lower half of the oval and were then covered by clay from the excavated half.

The top soil that was left was spread over the clay but the quality of it was not good. Much more top soil had to be brought in. An account for £2725 was received from Hills Earthmovers. This was made up of £2550 plus 1750 yards of top soil at 2/- per yard. The account was paid on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1965.

At its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1964 the secretary was instructed to write to the Council asking it to provide in the forthcoming estimates assistance in erecting toilet blocks and also ask if Council would have a 2½” water meter installed for the oval.



Work continues in developing Heathfield Oval

Whilst the new oval was being constructed, the Heathfield Football Club continued to use the Old Rec oval.

In June 1965 a sub-committee for trees for oval was established. Messrs. Roberts, Perc Smith, K. Powell, A. Smith and W. Steinwedel were suggested to decide on oval tree plantings.

At the same time H. Moller moved and A. Smith seconded that the club make application to the District Council for their support in assisting us to raise a loan of £3000 for the duration of the club's lease.

At the Community Club's meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1965 construction of the dressing rooms was discussed. G. Brown moved and A. Smith seconded that details be obtained from the district overseer of the floor space required for 150 persons and that the size of the dressing rooms to be based on this estimate. Quotes were to be obtained from three sources.

At the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1965 meeting it was decided that dressing rooms measuring 45' x 27' would be required. A sub-committee, to arrange plans and specifications, was elected. Messrs. S. Evans, L. Hemer, J. Strazdins, N. Coventry and R. Bowman.

In January 1966 F. S. Evans & Sons offered to carry out excavation for the dressing room sheds at £3 per hour, N. Coventry and L. Hender were to supervise. It was agreed to accept tender from F. S. Evans & Sons Ltd for bull dozing the second tennis court and toilet block site.

Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1966 committee meeting reported that excavation for a dressing shed was complete and excavation for the foundations had commenced. The dressing shed was ready for the opening day of the football season.

At the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1966 meeting it was reported that two quotes for the dressing room floor had been received. A \$6,000 loan had been paid into club's bank account.

The building was built mainly by volunteers. Ian Deans recalls that the slab, block work and steel truss portal frame were built by Frank Johansen & Sons Builders This was the first building built on Heathfield oval grounds. The two elder Johansson boys, Alan and John, both played in the first combined Heathfield Aldgate United A grade team. Geoff Hampton and Ian Deans constructed the timber roof structure and fixed the galvanized roof iron and gutters.



There was a second stage to this building, built around June 1972. This again was constructed with the same volunteers. This area was the first licenced bar and social area. In later years the internal walls between the change rooms and the bar area were removed to form an extension to the change rooms as they are today. In April 1966 the Ladies Auxiliary were requested to conduct the canteen at the dressing room.



At the opening of the oval - Stan Evans speaks

Opening day of the oval and facilities was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1966. The foundation stone in the wall of the change rooms facing the oval reads "This oval was opened by Mr A. Kenny Chairman of S.A.N.F.L. April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1966". On opening day a Lightning Carnival was held which is thought to be the first official matches on the oval.

In November 1966 it was agreed to accept J. Kirbert's offer to erect 520 feet of fence at a cost of \$525. Fencing materials were salvaged from the Highways Department. In December 1966 it was reported that construction of the fence around the lower edge of the oval was completed

Responsibility for costs incurred in watering the oval was causing increasing concern to the committee. In December 1966 a water rate account for \$419.05 was received from Council. It was agreed to reply to Council noting that water is used for public toilets, establishing trees etc. and asking Council to consider a rebate.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1967 meeting it was agreed that building of two new tennis courts would proceed as previously planned. Mr S. Evans was to obtain quotes for the job. He was also to confer with Mr B. Smith regarding planting of trees around oval for shade purposes.

In 1967 poles for lights on the tennis courts had been erected. J. Winter had been requested to erect quartz iodine lights, the football league directed the club to charge an entrance fee of 40¢ per person and complete erection of the boundary fence to police entrances.

Permission was granted by the oval committee for the Football Club to erect a "Stobie" poles and overhead lights to flood light a section of the oval for night practice. However Council approval would be required. Permission was granted.

It was agreed that Council be approached for permission to erect 18' x 13' James Abley type garage adjacent to the tennis courts for use as a storeroom for equipment and a selling point for refreshments etc. at functions.

By August 1967 the retaining walling of the tennis courts had been commenced. At the same time concern was raised about an adequate water supply for the oval in the likely event of restrictions. Members were to make enquiries regarding the possible use of nearby bores.

In March 1968 a donation of \$70 was received from the Heathfield Basketball Club (the word basketball was changed to netball in 1970), together with a request that a shelter shed be erected at the courts and that the possibility of building a shelter shed and lock up room be examined. Mr Wastell had inspected the Stirling East courts shelter etc. as a guide. He thinks similar could be erected for \$400 for materials. It was agreed that the Community Club would subsidise \$ for \$.

In May 1969 it was also decided to write to Council stating that the club would endeavour to develop two dual tennis courts this year, 1969, and that the club will ask for Council's assistance.

The canteen operated out of the change-rooms. In March 1968 it was decided to cut the canteen door in halves and an additional hinge be added to facilitate serving.

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 1972 the Sports Club agreed to "allocate" \$600 to the District Council of Stirling towards the cost of the proposed tennis courts.

The committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1972 Cr Beaumont-Smith advised stone for retaining walls was available from the Council. The club informed Cr Beaumont-Smith of its parlous financial state - he agreed to see what could be done.

In February 1975 C. McDonnell asked on behalf of the social sub-committee of the club if the club would be happy for additions to be added to the canteen. The social club realised that moneys were not available from the Sports Club but the social club would be willing to use their money as a loan to the United Sports Club. Additions were to be similar to sketch passed to members of the United Sports Club. S. Evans suggested lowering the roof line and veranda slightly and also putting a wall near the dressing shed door to eliminate views into the club room and this would also give more shelter.

At the Community Club's February 1975 meeting an interesting method of fund raising was agreed to. Moved D. Wastell, T. Flinn seconded that the club purchase a \$1, \$30,000 first prize lottery ticket each week. "If the major prize is won by United Sports Club each person who contributed to go out for dinner one night." Carried.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sports Club, held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1977, there was a request from the Heathfield Aldgate United Football Club for additional floodlighting of the oval. Extra lighting would allow for other parts of the oval to be used for training thus reducing excessive wear of the oval where lights were already. A request for a medical room for treating injured footballers was also sought. F. Clements moved that H. DeRoos investigate the

possibility of acquiring additional floodlighting for the oval. Max Aspley then moved that a limit of \$500.00 be set on the purchase of floodlights and “Stobie” poles.

## **THE LICENSED CLUB**

In the late 1960s the current change rooms at the Heathfield Oval were, after a game, converted into social clubrooms. This facility was operated by the Football Club on match days. The club sold alcohol by acquiring permits from the Licensing Court. The current flat roofed rear section of the change-rooms was added to the original building. This is where the bar was established.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1971 “Mr Evans reported on the Football Club’s proposal of building a licensed club. This proposal was only tentative and had not been put forward at the Annual General Meeting of the Football Club.”

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 1971 the Sports Club committee held lengthy discussions about the Football Club’s proposal to build a licensed building on the oval surround. Moved R. Wastell that a meeting be held with representatives of the Football Club committee. Seconded. N. Coventry.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sports Club held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1971 it was carried that members of the Football Club attend the next committee meeting of the Sports Club to present plans of the proposed licensed club. This suggests that the Sports Club was considering applying for a license to replace the permit system which was being used by the Football Club. It was decided to extend the numbers on the committee if the club decided to build a licensed club.

In September 1971 Council representatives were quizzed on the proposed zoning of the areas regards a licensed club for the oval. Cr Newson suggested that the committee lodge a protest to have the oval area changed from R1 to R2A. It was agreed to apply to have the zone changed for any future buildings of a non-residential club.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 1972 Mr Fletcher submitted plans from the Football Club for proposed extensions to the clubrooms (change-rooms). After general discussion, agreement to the proposal was given by the Sports Club committee. It was moved by L. Trafford-Walker that the executive of the Sports Club attend the next meeting of the Football Club with the view to a proposal of taking over all facilities at the oval and tennis courts if they intended continuing with their licensed club concept. The motion was seconded F. Clements and was passed.

Minutes of the Sports Club committee meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> April 1972 revealed that J. Fletcher moved that a club permit, under Section 67 of Licensing Act, be applied for. Seconded R. Bowman. Carried. The following hours were to be applied for:-Monday to Friday 7:30 p.m. - 11p.m. Saturday 12 noon - 11:30 p.m. Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mr Fletcher’s motion was to gain a licence in lieu of having to renew permits. W. Hunt was to ascertain whether a special permit would be needed on public holidays. H. DeRoos will obtain quotes for Roll-A-Door shutters and concertina doors.

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 1972 the club received a letter from the District Council of Stirling advising of approval of the application for drinking a permit and the hours sought. Also a \$214 account from Hollostone for “Concrete Blocks” was received. The blocks were for the extension of the change-rooms.

At the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1972 an account totalling \$305.75 from Johansen for brick work was approved for payment.



J. Emery emphasized the service given by J. Hampton & I. Deans in construction of the club room additions. R. Bowman moved they be made foundation members. Seconded. R. Wastell. Carried. Letters were to be sent to J. Hampton & I. Deans advising of free membership, when licence is granted, in recognition of their services to the club.

At its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1972 it was agreed that W. Hunt & H. DeRoos would represent the club at the Licensing Court hearing.

At the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1972 S. Evans reported on the inspection carried out by the Licensing Court. H. DeRoos was to enlarge the plan of the clubrooms to suit court requirements.

The Bar-room will be opened at 5:30 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> September by the chairman of the Council.

Persons to be invited by the club-to the opening were:-

Chairman of Council (Holloway), Two Ward Councillors (Holloway & Ambler), D. Beaumont-Smith, Police Sergeant, Aldgate RSL President (H. J. Hunt), Aldgate Tennis Club representative, Aldgate Cricket Club representative, Heathfield Tennis Club representative, Heathfield Cricket Club representative, Heathfield Basketball Club representative, High School Headmaster. Bar committee elected (limited to 5 plus power to co-opt) J. Emery, D. Fuller, R. Symons, R. Wastell, H. DeRoos.

The Sports Club minutes of its committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1972 noted that Section 64 of the club's constitution needed to be amended as directed by the court. A Special General Meeting was to be held at 11:30 a.m. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the amendment.

In October 1972 a letter was received from the Licensing Court requesting whether

- a) Showers had been boxed in;
- b) Were there any flooring covering in the change rooms;
- c) Had the painting been finished and;
- d) Whether the required amendments to the constitution had been made.

Stan Evans was appointed to respond.

The required constitutional amendment was agreed to at a Special General Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> October 1972.

In October 1974 a pool table had been purchased from Brady's for \$765.

## **WATERING THE OVAL**

The responsibility, method of water supply and cost of watering the new oval was of significant concern - a matter that was regularly discussed at committee meetings.

At the committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1967 the question of sinking a bore was again discussed. It was agreed to contact local boring contractors and the Mines Department.

Mr S. Evans was requested to make enquiries regarding possible costs of obtaining a suitable motor and pump.

At its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1967 of the committee Mr Evans reported he had received quotes for having a bore drilled: Seidel \$3 per foot, Nitschke \$3 per foot and Forbes \$2.50 per

foot. Forbes could not start before Christmas. All contractors would be prepared to wait 12 months for payment.

The Mines Department reported that a bore in this area should supply a minimum of 800 gallons per hour at a maximum depth of 300 feet. It was agreed to purchase pumps, jacks etc. Mr Sillett was asked to contact Mr Garnett (a neighbour of the oval) about leasing his bore.

In February 1968 Mr Garnett advised that he was happy to lease his bore if there was no cost to him or encumbrances on his land. However his equipment was inadequate. In August 1968 it was decided to install the club's own electricity meter on Mr. Garnett's bore.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1968 meeting it was suggested that an agreement be drawn up between the Community Club and Mr Garnett in regards to the control of silt and sand which appears to wash from the oval area. S. Evans and N. Coventry will make further enquiries.

13<sup>th</sup> January 1969 S. Evans was instructed to see Mr Garnett and settle the arrangements and finalise the matter over the testing and repair to his bore. Aspinall's bore, located near the E&WS (S.A. Water) water tank on the corner of Longwood and Scott Creek Roads was also considered and the E&WS was looking into it.

It seems that the possibility of using Mr. Garnett's bore did not materialise. At the committee's 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1969 meeting the chairman gave a report on his meeting with Mr Garnett about a settlement. It was decided to leave the matter in the chairman's hands. He will also contact the Minister of Works about leasing Aspinall's bore.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1969 Annual General Meeting N. Coventry was elected president. S. Evans advised he could not devote as much time as he would like as he was now a Member of Parliament. A letter was received from the E&WS Department relating to the lease of Aspinall's bore. It was agreed that the chairman should approach Mr N. Bennett and arrange a meeting on Aspinall's bore site for discussion on the price to renovate and test and that the secretary write to the Engineering and Water Supply (E&WS) Department asking for time to assess the cost and the possibility of using the bore.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 1970 it was agreed to proceed with the lease of the bore site from E&WS. The secretary is to draw up the lease. Agreed to the set up of the bore plant as soon as is possible.

In March 1970 Kaesler Bros. from Hahndorf, were paid \$45.95 for a bore pump and there was correspondence from the E&WS concerning the bore lease. In April 1970 the committee wanted to check with the E&WS Department if, at end of the lease, whether equipment could be removed. S. Evans to contact L. Maidment of E&WS about a new agreement.

In October 1970 the Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA) was asked to install a temporary service to the bore, and in December the bore site electric motor was fitted. In June 1971 ETSA was to be requested to erect a pole on the bore site.

In October 1971 it was agreed to tell the Football Club that there will be no practice on the oval during the 1972 season.

In January 1972 a need to swap the electric motor on the bore was determined - it was oversized for the bore.

It seems that the matter of using the bore as a source of water for the oval did not proceed, as the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1974 meeting was presented with an excess water account of \$520.40. It was agreed that use of the bore would be investigated to avoid excess rates.

In September 1980 it was resolved that a letter be sent to the District Council of Stirling pointing out that the water rates of the oval were a major cost factor, and considering the oval is used by other members of the community, the Council be asked to assist with the cost of the water service.

At its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1980 the oval committee received a letter from the E&WS Department. It was agreed that the lease on the bore for the oval be renewed.

In October 1980 the Council recommended that some other type of watering supply be adopted for the oval.

The committee agreed that the possibility of using water treated at the treatment works, at the end of Brick Kiln Road, be investigated. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1980 the committee agreed that the secretary should write to the Council supporting the joint approach regarding the treatment works and also accepting the offer for the Council to test the bore supply as soon as possible. This never eventuated.

Financial pressure was mounting. In late 1979 the condition of the oval was also of concern. Mr Evans said that the poor state of the oval, and, in particular, if the the drainage around the oval were not improved by next football season, the South Australian Football Association (S.A.F.A.) could rule that the oval is not fit for top grade football competitions. No football would mean limited income needed to pay off the club's loan.

Simultaneously S.A.F.A. was requesting a separate umpires' change room inside the building and some permanent form of trainer's boxes. The Council will have to be approached regarding this. F. Clements requested permission to draw plans up, arrange labour and get an approximate cost before the next meeting.

## REFERENCES

1. *The Mount Barker Courier Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser*, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1962

## **Chapter 9 The Present Sports Club Building**

The Sports Club building that now stands on the western side of the Heathfield Oval was built in two stages - three were proposed but the third stage did not materialise. Stage 3 was intended to have change-rooms incorporated under the social clubrooms.

In early 1971 the committee of Heathfield Aldgate United Football Club tentatively raised the matter of building a licensed club. Alcohol was being sold after home games in the change rooms on a permit basis. It was decided that the Community Club would apply to the Licensing Court for a licence. This was granted after work was undertaken to improve the facility. This bar opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1972.

At the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1974 S. Evans suggested that the club obtain prices for building new rooms above the existing clubrooms. However Mr Nicol, the Council Engineer, advised that Council would not approve extensions to the top of the existing clubrooms as the foundations were not strong enough.

Social facilities at the Heathfield Oval were very limited. The players' change rooms were being used as a bar. The United Sports Club wanted to have a full license to sell alcohol. The club wanted to develop a united Community Club and to have more members/bigger club etc. It also sought a club for use by all types of community groups i.e. church fund raisers, pigeon club, Apex, Lions, Kiwanis, political, choral society, arts, Councils, Emergency Fire Service (Country Fire Services after 1976), football, cricket, tennis, netball, etc.

In June 1975 the Community Club committee was considering extending the current change rooms to better cater for the various organisations that were or might use the facility. At the time the government was sponsoring a scheme to help the unemployed. It was named the Regional Employment Development scheme (R. E. D. scheme).

The Football Club did not want to add to the existing building but to go further in perhaps building new clubrooms up on the hill. R. Symons moved that the club apply through the R.E.D. scheme to obtain money to concrete and to build the clubrooms and seal drains around the oval. M. Apsley moved that the club approach the coordinators of the R.E.D. scheme to see what could be done to have a new building completely, checking with architects etc.

B. Harris was appointed to look into the R.E.D. scheme through Council and Government Departments to ascertain what procedure had to be adopted to obtain money through that scheme – once the information was obtained a special meeting would be called to discuss it as part of the funding for the new building.

A special meeting, held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1975 was advised that the R.E.D. scheme could be finishing shortly. Plans and costing must be given fairly exact and the club had to find an unemployed architect. It was noted that the Commonwealth employment office at Norwood handled unemployment for the Heathfield area. If a grant was made the project has to be completed in twenty six weeks from commencement. It was suggested building the project in two phases.

Herman DeRoos was to be requested to draw a rough sketch of what was required in the new project. A sub-committee consisting of F. Clements, M. Apsley, B. Harris, B. Penny, and R. Symons was formed to handle the project.

It was agreed to proceed with construction of the first stage of the clubrooms that we see and use today. It was suggested the club should build clubrooms similar to those of the Christies Beach Football Club. Frank Clements was instructed to arrange for Richard Symons to acquire the plans from that club. Mr Nicol (Council Engineer) was invited to inspect the site selected for the clubrooms.

At the committee's meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1975 F. Clements reported that the sub-committee had checked a site selected for the project but it was not approved by Council. Council suggested that the club engage an architect. John Chappell agreed to meet the committee on site.

Mr S. Evans advised that the club should stress to the architect the need for verandas to stand under to view the oval. He also suggested that the committee approach the Department of Parks, Recreation and Sport to determine if they have an architect to draw up plans to save the cost for the club. Mr S. Evans is to arrange a meeting of the sub-committee and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Sport.

In August 1975 it was decided not to persist with architect Chappell. The sub-committee decided to go direct to the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport (note the different name of the Department). It met with Mr Tony Crafter of that Department. The R.E.D. scheme had finished, meaning an alternative source of funding had to be found.

Meanwhile, each associated club was to be asked to advise what facilities they would require in a new building. Mr M. Apsley advised that, whilst the Government will provide a grant, it is the responsibility of the community project involved for that body to provide one third of the total cost of the facility. If the committee considered a building for use by all of the sporting bodies that utilise the oval, it would not be able to get that building on the basis that bar facilities are desired. The Government will not provide financial assistance for licensed facilities. It was suggested that plans be drawn up minus bar facilities but built it such a way that they could be added later.

The Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport representatives indicated that they were prepared to meet if plans of what is wanted were drawn up. The sub-committee understood that if Council approved the plans then there was a chance of obtaining a grant from the department.

Further discussion about raising funds to finance construction took place. The following was raised at the Annual General Meeting of the Community Club held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1976:-

W. Foster reported his recommendation regarding the building of new facilities on these grounds. Plans are to be submitted for buildings and an amendment to the constitution be considered to incorporate Life Governors. Life Governors will be 100 people who will pay approximately \$250 over a period of two years and which will entitle them free life membership. The estimated cost of the proposed building is \$60,000.

W. Foster had spoken to the clerk of the District Council of Stirling who had indicated that the Council may be prepared to guarantee a loan of \$1 for \$1 and so the club would have to raise between \$25,000 - \$30,000 to begin construction of the building. The United Sports Club would have to submit to the Licensing Court for their approval to accept these Life Governors- the Committee will have to call a special meeting to change the constitution for that specific purpose.

A meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1976 to discuss the proposal to change the existing constitution to allow for the establishment of a Life Governors category of the Community Club. A new constitution was to be drawn up by a solicitor. All financial members were to be notified and receive proposed constitution, a copy of the current constitution and a notice of the special meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May. To gain Life Governorship a person had to give 100 hours work in their trade or pay \$250. Those without suitable trade skills were able to carry out general labouring work.

At its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1976. "M. Aspley advised that the Department of Recreation and Sport had advised its inability to assist with funds for new clubrooms at present, but that the case was open to further discussion. M. Aspley and W. Foster were to approach the Department's Project Officer once again."

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sports Club held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1977 M. Aspley moved that "*...at the first committee meeting appoint a sub-committee of three members to work at establishing the new clubrooms.*" Carried.

At the Sports Club meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1978 the chairman introduced plans for the new complex as produced by the Stirling District Council's State Unemployment Relief Scheme (SURS) architects. In the discussion that followed, various ideas were discussed as to how the club could best raise the necessary \$10,000 for the new building and how to service the loan. S. Evans suggested debentures. R. Symons suggested that each committee member approach three others in the community to raise money either by debenture, some other form of loan or by straight donation. S. Evans suggested that the club obtain written guarantees to cover the money required from members of the community. Such guarantees would be for a period not exceeding ten years and would be submitted to the Stirling District Council.

Also at that meeting the club was looking towards Stage 2 even though finding funds for Stage 1 had not been secured. R. Symons moved and S. Magor seconded a motion that the chairman approach the District Council of Stirling to establish whether they consider it desirable to have the official backing of S. Evans M. P. in the club's submission to the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport for funds to develop Stage 2 of the new building. If so, then both the committee and the Council should ask Mr Evans, in writing, for his support.

A special general meeting of the club was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1978 to discuss the suggested funding proposals put forward by the District Council of Stirling for the completion of Stage 1.

Grant from SURS Scheme	\$50,000
Low interest loan from the Council	\$20,000
Club to fund in four weeks	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$80,000

It was decided to proceed with Stage 1 of the project.

Stages 2 and 3 will require an additional \$40,000 each and negotiations were in hand with the District Council of Stirling and the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport for funding of these stages. Plans of the proposed building were circulated before the meeting.

S. Evans moved and H. Jentsch seconded a motion that the club proceed with building new clubrooms forthwith and set about raising the necessary \$10,000. The motion was carried. Tenders were to be called by the Council.

The Council required the \$10,000 in cash within four weeks. Discussion about how to raise the \$10,000 ensued. It was agreed that the club would contact the Council to determine if they would accept guarantees rather than cash at this stage. The chairman asked the meeting to “dig into our own pockets” and donate money. He and others promised \$50 each.

At a special committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1978 R. Freer moved and P. Milde seconded a motion that C. McDonnell approach sufficient people in the community to stand guarantor for a \$10,000 bank loan to cover our commitment as a backup measure to our fundraising endeavours. The Council “lent” the \$10,000.

It was decided to approach locals for donations – H. Jentsch commented that community aspects of the new building should be stressed. A total of \$2,024 was promised between the time the meeting closed and the time the bar closed at 2:00 p.m. A list of approximately 100 other prospective donors was compiled.



Construction of Stage 1 is underway.

There was conjecture as to the best site to build the clubrooms. Some wanted it to be constructed on the eastern boundary adjacent to Hender Road. At the Community Club meeting held on 12th March 1978 Stan Evans raised concerns at that site - drainage and sewerage could become an expensive problem; the site would not be the best for viewing as spectators would be looking into the afternoon sun. He supported building the clubrooms above the existing clubrooms i.e. the site of the current social clubrooms “up the hill” from the existing change rooms.

In April 1978 the chairman reported that soil testing of the site proved satisfactory and the excavation contract has been let. Work was to start almost immediately.



The clubrooms were built in two stages. Stage 1 consisted of approximately half of the floor space of the current social clubrooms. The first stage was built from the cut out bank to where the internal brick uprights are now. Entrance to the first stage of construction of the clubrooms was through the door at the rear of the building and through where the “Third World Bar” is now. The kitchen was built in its current site as part of Stage 1. Stage 1 had a balcony which was removed when Stage 2 was commenced.

(The term “Third World Bar” is known by many of the people who have been involved with the club for many years. This is the small bar at the rear of the main bar. It was built as part of Stage 1 and was the original entrance to the club. Once Stage 2 of construction was complete the main entrance to the club was at the northern end of the building (the current entrance). The bar, for a period, was the Members’ Lounge: The term “Third World Bar” came about because some of the clientele were individuals involved in anti-social behaviour.).



Another view of the developing clubrooms.

The committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1978 was informed that the District Council of Stirling had been paid \$3,000 off its loan for the new clubrooms - \$2,000 from the building fund and \$1,000 from club funds. The footings had been poured and bricklaying would start the next day. The Project Manager has reported that 4 or 5 pallets of bricks were missing from the site. Ron Nelson from the nearby Heathfield Garage reported noticing a heavy laden vehicle leaving the oval without lights overnight.

At its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1978 the committee discussed the opening of the new clubrooms: S. Evans suggested that a government minister open the rooms. S. Evans moved and H. Jentsch seconded a motion that the official opening of the new clubrooms be postponed until Stage 2 is complete. The motion was carried. However this did not eventuate. The opening was performed upon completion of Stage 1 which was completed in late 1978. In January 1979 the committee received a letter from the District Council advising that the Hon. Jack Wright M. P.



was available to open the new clubrooms on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 1979 at 3:00 p.m. The Committee agreed to the proposed time and date. The secretary was to obtain a liquor permit from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. for that day.



Checking the levels on the new clubrooms.

A plaque on the building reads:-

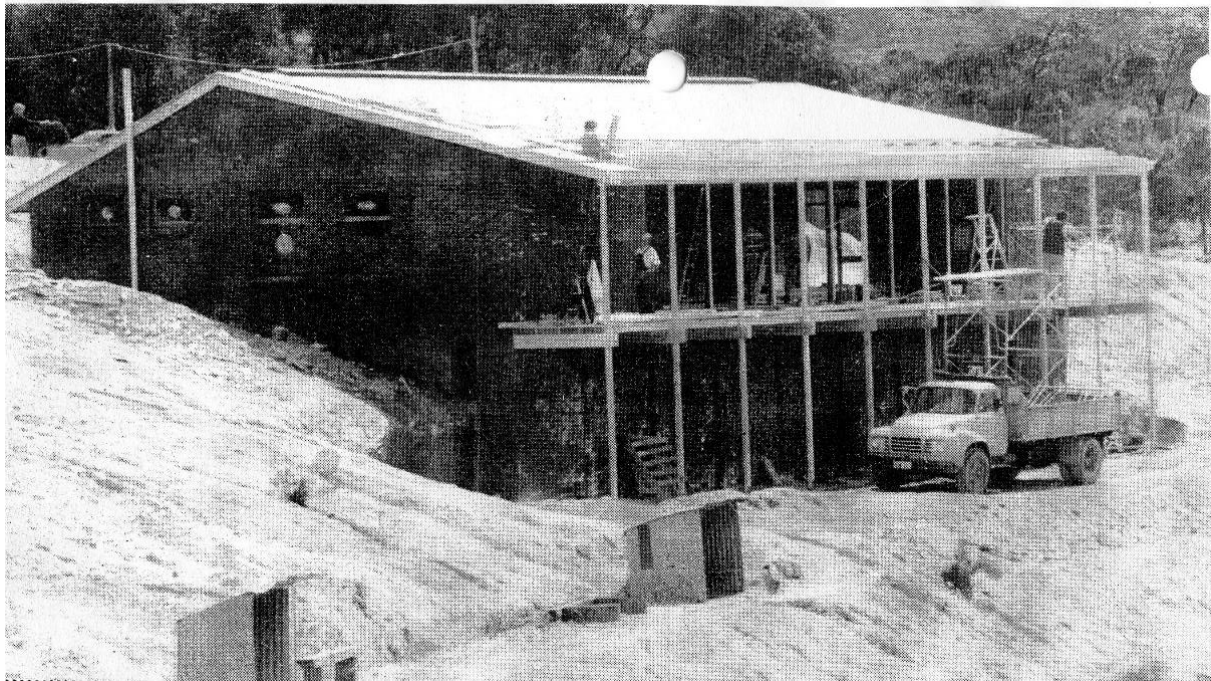
“This building was opened by the Hon Jack Wright MP Minister for Labour & Industry on the 18th February 1979. Building constructions was financed by the State unemployment relief scheme, the Stirling Council and the United Sports Club Inc.”

By early November 1978 the full \$10,000 “loan” has been repaid to the Council.

A letter was received from the Licensing Court officially transferring the club’s liquor permit from the old clubrooms to the new.

At the committee’s meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1979 H. Jentsch was asked to obtain copies of the future plans (Stage 2) of the new clubrooms from the Council for display at the opening ceremony.

At the committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1979 funding of the proposed Stage 2 development was discussed. N. Bramsen moved that members of the committee think about the formation of a fund raising committee.



October 1978 photograph of the first stage. The timber deck on the front of the building was later demolished to make way for the second stage.

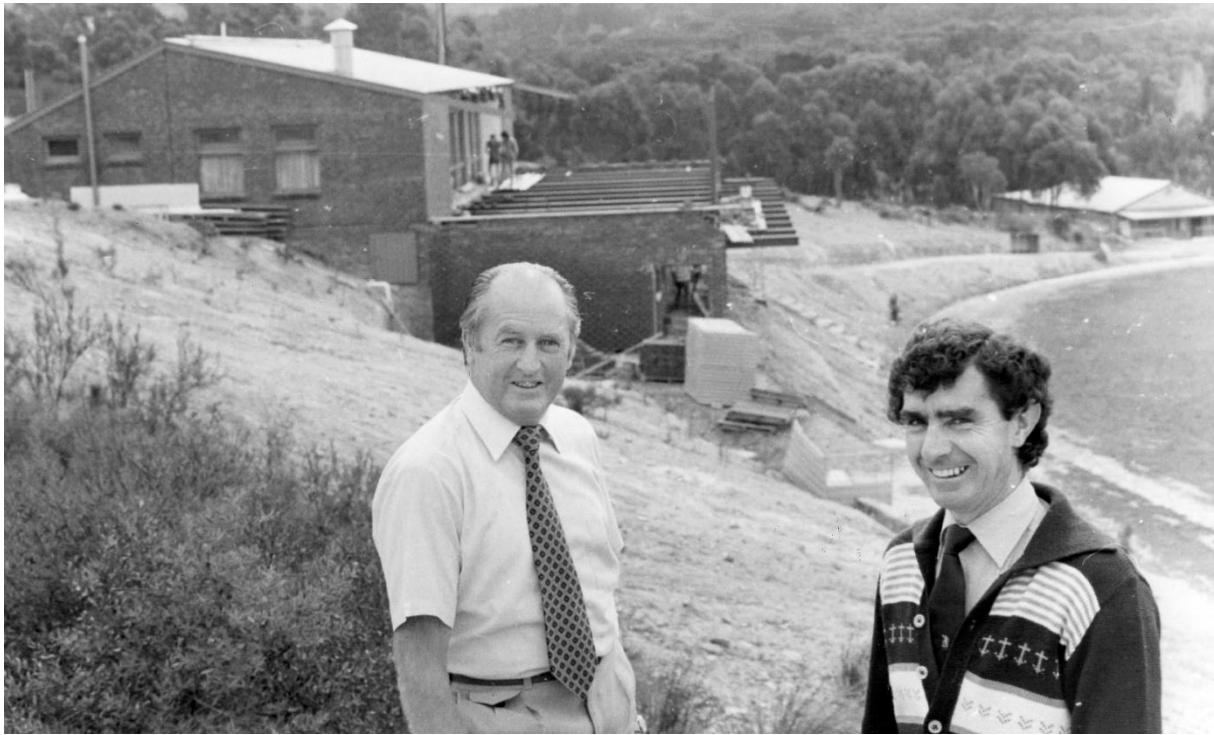
Clearly bar sales in the new facility were growing. In September 1979 the Licensing Court advised that the club should employ a solicitor to arrange for a club licence as sales were in excess of \$25,000. In October 1979 an application for a full permit was being prepared by a solicitor for the Licensing Court. Advice was that the Hotels Association will automatically lodge an objection. It was suggested that the club should engage the services of the Licensed Club Association who "could handle these problems." It was agreed to invite a member of that association to a club meeting or take a delegation to the association.

Heathfield Aldgate United and Stirling Football Clubs amalgamated in late 1978 with the view of entering a team in the South Australian Football association (S.A.F.A.). In the 1979 season the club played in Division 2.

Concern was being expressed at the condition of the Heathfield Oval. In October 1979 Council advised there were no plans to improve oval drainage even though F. Clements understood that, verbally, the previous district clerk said plans were being drawn up. F. Clements said there is no way the Football Club would be accepted into the S.A.F.A. Division 1 competition with the condition of the oval as it was and S.A.F.A. wanted a written guarantee from the Council before their next meeting that the oval would be improved.

In late 1979 the condition of the oval continued to be of concern. There was a fear that S.A.F.A. might rule that the oval was not fit for top grade football competitions. No football would mean limited income which was needed to pay off the Community Club's loan.

At a Special General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1979 it was reported that Mr Nicol from the Council and Frank Clements had inspected the oval on 15<sup>th</sup> November. In addition the Council has inspected the clubroom building and a report was submitted to Council with respect to both conditions. It was agreed that the surface of the oval required filling and reseeded and more extensive top dressing in future.



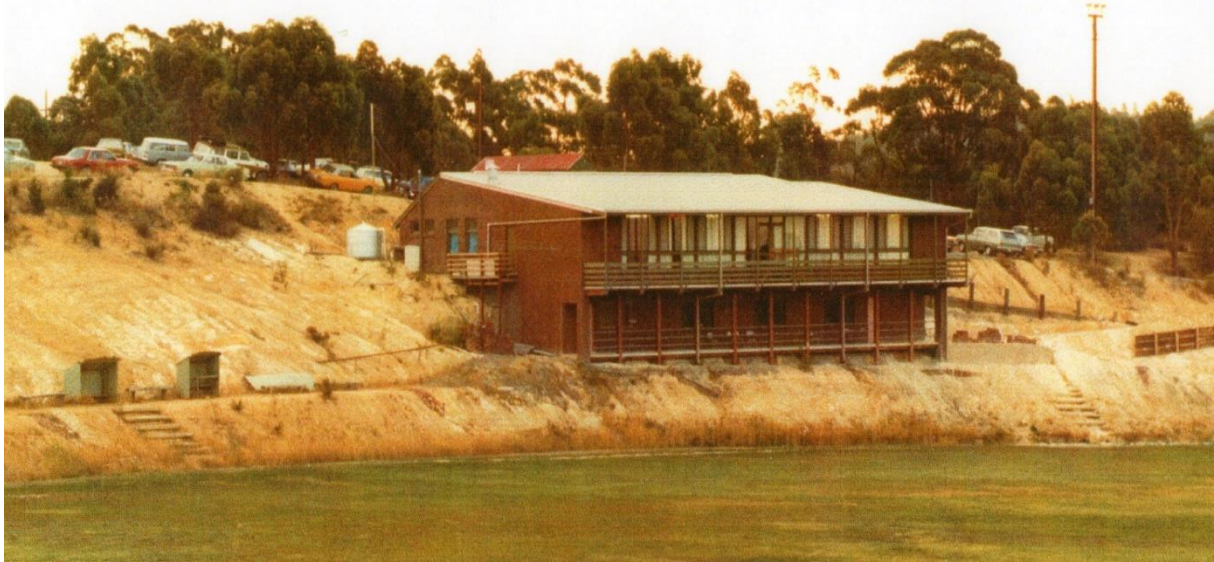
Stan Evans and Tony Crafter representing the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport checking on Stage 2. Tony was a Test cricket umpire.

Council required that several matters need to be completed e.g. painting etc. "Council will not carry out any further work until the clubrooms are finished to their satisfaction and if not done they will have no other alternative but to terminate the lease."

It seems that umbrage was taken. "N. Bramsen pointed out that a tremendous amount of work had been done inside and outside and first of all we should list what has been done." J. Pritchard said that "...*nobody had recorded what state the building was in when it was handed over to us.*" Disappointment was expressed that Council had not recognised the work that the club had performed.

By mid 1979 a proposal to amalgamate the Football Club and Sports Club was being considered. At a meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1979 funding to build Stage 2 of the clubrooms was being considered. F. Clements suggested that, with the possibility of an amalgamation, it may pay to wait and see what happens before going ahead with possible fundraising, but as this may take some time it was decided something needed to be done sooner. R. Freer suggested trying something other than raffles, etc. for fund raising. S. Evans moved that a committee of three be formed, to start with, to look at planning and particularly fund raising for the second stage. Seconded R. Freer. Carried. S. Evans then moved that the motion just passed be rescinded. R. Freer moved that the composition of the committee be left to S. Evans and I. Deans and the committee to be varied according to amalgamation. Seconded F. Clements and carried. O. Bevan moved that the committee comprise of Ian Deans, John Coventry and Stan Evans. Seconded N. Bramsen and the motion was carried.





Stage 2 is completed.

On 5<sup>th</sup> August 1979: S. Evans reported to the Stage 2 development committee that a fund raising function was being organised at the *Arkaba Hotel* Pent House. S. Evans has also written to City Holden asking whether P. Brock would give a talk and show films. *City Holden* will pay for all advertising etc. A new plan had been drawn up for Stage 2. It was also been recommended that a crèche be incorporated for use on Saturday afternoons and nights.

As the Football Club was satisfied with its existing club rooms it was suggested that the Sports Club give away the idea of Stage 3. The Football Club was being given the task of upgrading that facility. It was suggested the underneath section be terraced and the sides be enclosed with glass for spectators. Ian Deans, a builder, could organise to have the roof installed at a \$4,000 saving. It was decided that although the ceiling is expensive it will need to be built with the same material as the existing one. The Licensing Court has said that the club may need more toilets if the club wished to extend its liquor licence and it is possible to fit another pan in each room. The bar will still be extended as originally suggested and perhaps another small bar be incorporated as well, with a view to using the smaller room for members if the club should be hired out. The approximate price would be a maximum of \$40,000, including access ways, steps up from bottom and terracing underneath. The balcony is considered to be risky as adults or children could easily fall over. It was suggested the railing be enclosed with mesh and this would be included in the price. S. Evans suggested that the club approach the Council as soon as possible to find out how it can help financially. The Chairman requested that the appreciation of this committee for the work done by the sub-committee be recorded. The architect has suggested removing the original roof and replacing the whole lot with custom Orb roof. Ian Deans said that tradesmen should definitely be used and suggested contacting local contractors as they would get a certain amount of free advertising for the work they did for the club. The club might get a cheaper rate.

J. Pritchard recommended that the club contact Council to make a representation at its next meeting to discuss what avenues were open to the club, tell it why the design is changed, and explain about the roof.

The estimated cost of Stage 2 was \$90,000 and consisted of the floor area from the internal brick uprights of Stage 1 and included the balcony area. Stage 2 was nearly all a two storey construction. Part of the original brickwork of Stage 1 was removed when the second storey

was built. The current entrance door and foyer were also part of Stage 2 as were the canteen and lower clubrooms.

How was the \$90,000 going to be raised?

Department of Recreation and Sport Grant	\$38,000
Bank loan	\$38,000
Club members' voluntary work in kind/ Life Governorship	<u>\$14,000</u>
	\$90,000

The second stage was constructed as a design and construct building by Ian Deans Constructions, formerly TE Coutts & IR Deans Construction Pty Ltd. The bricklayer was Mr Stellmacher, a German and his sons. Predominately Ian dealt with Thomas Stellmacher, the elder son. They were subcontractor bricklayers to Coutts and Deans. Adelaide Hills Drafting service produced the architectural drawings and John Sandlands Civil Engineering undertook the design. Coutts and Deans were responsible for the shell of the building. The bar and some of the internal fittings work was carried out by volunteers.

A Licensing Court hearing was set down for 8<sup>th</sup> January 1980 and the Sports Club agreed to join the Licensed Club Association. In April 1981 it was agreed to go ahead at this stage with the extensions to the bar. However on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1981 it was decided not to extend the bar any further than its present position due to the loss of area that would occur. A Licensing Court hearing was set for 28<sup>th</sup> September 1981, J. Coventry to attend.

In August 1980 Stan Evans, M.P., on behalf of the Minister of Recreation and Sport, announced that a grant of \$38,000 towards the final stage of extensions to the clubrooms of the Mount Lofty District Sports Club had been made. The balance of the money was to be raised by the club.

Mr Evans said there would be a huge workload placed on club members to raise funds and carry out voluntary work to reduce the loan.

Mr Evans acknowledged the help given by architect Mr Bill Peters, by Mr John Sandland, engineer, and by Coutts and Deans, builders, in the design work of the second stage.

The committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1980 where it was resolved "that we approach the Stirling District Council to guarantee a loan at low interest for \$38,000." It was agreed that a meeting be held to discuss raising finance for the building extensions (Stage2). Members of the Sports Club and Football Club etc. were to be invited. Life Governorship was to be offered to those who pay \$250 or more. Correspondence was received from the Minister of Recreation and Sport confirming that the grant of \$38,000 had been approved. It was agreed that the secretary would write and accept the conditions of the grant.

The 14<sup>th</sup> December 1980 meeting was advised that plans for extensions were with the Council seeking approval. S. Evans advised that he had applied for a bank loan for \$25,000, and he would know by 17<sup>th</sup> December 1980 if it had been approved. It was resolved to call a Special Meeting for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 1981 to create Life Governorships within the club at \$250 per person.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 1981 the committee ratified S. Evans' action he took in increasing the amount of the loan being applied for to \$38,000 - the amount agreed upon last August..

At the Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1981 the chairman advised that the new extensions to the building were valued at \$100,000 which include furnishings.

It was moved S. Evans seconded J. Hunt that Clause 63 of the Constitution be amended changing the heading to Honorary Life Members or Life Governorship and amend the clause to read:

“Members who have rendered satisfactory services to the club may be elected Honorary Life Members or Life Governors at any Special Meeting or Annual General Meeting of the Club on recommendation of its Committee by a resolution carried on a 4/5th’s majority of those present, and Honorary Life Members and Life Governors shall be entitled to speak and vote at any meetings of the club”. Carried. (Life Governorship was first mooted in 1976).

It was moved S. Evans seconded J. Roe that the following additional clause be added to Clause 63 and be Clause 63a:

*“...At the discretion of the Committee a member may be recommended as a Life Governor. Each Life Governor shall contribute to the club an amount prescribed by the Management Committee. Each Life Governor shall not be required to pay the annual subscription fee to the Mount Lofty District Sports Club Inc., and shall be entitled to the use of all the club privileges.*

*“...The Management Committee shall have the power to remove the name of any Life Governor whose presence in the club they consider detrimental to the club’s interest from the list of Life Governors, in accordance with paragraph 62 of this Constitution.”* Carried.

It seems that the motion did not pass as the relevant section in the current constitution (December 2016) reads:-

60. *Life Governor –*

a) *The Management may give Life Governorship to persons paying, which ever is the highest amount, of \$250 or 10 years subscriptions as applying at the time of the acceptance, subject to the applicant being of suitable character according to this Constitution.*

A working bee was scheduled for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 1981 to commence pegging for the building extensions.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1981 S. Evans reported that the club’s new licence had been granted, and that each member was allowed 3 visitors.

Construction of Stage 2 was completed in the latter half of 1981. There was no official opening but the facility became the largest of its type in the Stirling district.

The club had a loan to repay but its facility was such that it could generate income through hire and catering. A group of women, led mainly by Barbara Evans, Jill Dawes and Shirley House worked tirelessly to cater and hire out the facility. There was no formal sub-committee but a group bound together by a common goal to see that the loan was repaid and that the club prospered.

There was a long list of volunteers who were organised according to type of function and availability. Bert and Dora Fuller were fantastic and always helped with kitchen duties.

Several organisations began using the facility. Apex was one of the first. The Stirling Hotel, where Apex met, told Apexians Iain Evans and Wayne Boulton that they were no longer welcome.

Barbara Evans explained that, arguably, the most prestigious function was in November 1993. It was the presentation of the Mayoral Chain for the District Council of Stirling during Anita Aspinall's time as chairman. The superbly crafted chain, valued at more than \$8,000, was a gift to the district from local service clubs and Stirling jeweller, Chris Sheehan, who spent approximately 100 hours of donated time to make it. The function was organised by the Apex, Rotary, Lions and Kiwani Clubs and they donated toward the cost the chain. Dame Roma Mitchell, was at the time the South Australian Governor, attended the function and made the presentation of the chain. A full house of 240 to 250 people attended. Dame Roma congratulated us all on our efforts.

The club was hired by many of the schools for special assemblies and end of year festivities, for the Heathfield High and Primary; Upper Sturt, Scott Creek, Aldgate and Stirling East schools. Also the child care centres had Christmas break up functions; tennis and cricket clubs - Iron Bank, Upper Sturt, Aldgate; Piccadilly, Stirling East; Scott Creek and the Hills Cricket Association held their end of season presentations there. The Church of England held dinners and quiz nights every year. The Church of Christ also held functions and the Country Women's Association had regional conferences. The District Council of Stirling also held regional conferences.

Hiring of the facility and the hundreds of hours of voluntary work ensured that the loan was repaid quickly. Whilst the amount of money that the group raised is unknown nor can be accurately estimated the original goals were more than achieved.

Construction of Stage 2 of the clubrooms was completed in late 1981 but there was no official opening. Stage 3 did not eventuate.



## **Chapter 10 The Club's Name Change and the Relationship Between the Sports Club and Football Club**

The Mount Lofty District Football Club was, and remains, the major source of income for the Sports Club. Understandably it felt that it was entitled to more of the club's profits than other associated clubs. In January 1979, the first year of the newly formed Football Club, proposed to the Sports Club that the football club receive a set percentage of the Sports Club profits. Initially a figure of \$6,000 was suggested.

At the sports club Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1979 a proposal to change the name of the club from the United Sports Club Inc., (incorporated on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1954), to Mt. Lofty Districts Sports Club was defeated. However with the passage of time perceived benefits of a name change were recognised. On 19<sup>th</sup> August 1979, at a special meeting, S. Evans moved that the future name for the club be discussed. Seconded P. Goodrich and carried. S. Evans moved that the club be called the Mt. Lofty Districts Sports Club. R. Freer, addressing O. Bevan, admitted that there was friction in the Sports Club. The club also had a problem in that it could not influence the social committees from Stirling and Heathfield Football Clubs involved with the Sports Club and was it O. Bevan's opinion that a name change would foster this. O. Bevan's personal feeling was that he is quite happy with the name proposed by S. Evans.

At a special general meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1979 P. Goodrich moved the motion that the name be changed to the Mount Lofty District Club Incorporated. Seconded R. Marker. S. Evans was of the view that "sport" was not necessary in the name of the club as the club fosters activities other than sport. S. Evans moved a motion that the word "sport" be omitted and call it the Mount Lofty District Club. The motion was seconded O. Bevan.

F. Clements disagreed with S. Evans on the dropping of the word "sport" as 99% of the activity of the present club was sport and he wished to know what else was associated with the club that had nothing to do with sport. S. Evans said there was a possibility of a regular social event if some group wished to meet for discussion and was hopeful it would be a centre for people to meet other than sporting interests and it shortens the name. Sport is adequately recognised by the activities that go on. The chairman mentioned that in the lease agreement there is mention that the building shall be available for the community on occasions. Votes were called and the motion was lost.

J. Hunt said he was in favour of a change of name if it was going to help the situation and suggested the club be called the Mount Lofty United Sports Club. J. Hunt moved an amendment that the club be called the Mount Lofty United Sports Club. Seconded H. Jentsch. Votes were called and the amendment was lost.

F. Clements moved an amendment that the club be called the Mount Lofty Sports and Football Club. Seconded T. Surman. Amendment was lost.

R. Freer moved that the club be called the Mount Lofty Sports and Social Club. This motion was seconded by R. Williams and was carried.

The proposed name change would have to be ratified at a general meeting. The motion now was that the committee recommends the name of the club shall be the Mount Lofty Sports and

1575

SOUTH



AUSTRALIA

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT, 1956-1965

**Certificate of Incorporation under Section 18 (3)**

It is hereby certified that the association incorporated on the 23rd day of December 1954 under the name of UNITED SPORTS CLUB INCORPORATED

Formerly: Heathfield Community Club INCORPORATED under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1929-1935 has pursuant to a

resolution passed in accordance with its rules on the 9th day of September 1979 and with the approval of the Commission, changed its name to

MT. LOFTY DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB INCORPORATED.

GIVEN under the seal of the Commission at Adelaide, in the State of South Australia, this

31st day of March 19 80

Commissioner for Corporate Affairs

The Incorporation Certificate showing changes in name of the Sports Club

Social Club Incorporated. The resolution is that this Committee recommends to the members that the name of the club be changed to the Mount Lofty Sports and Social Club Incorporated. The resolution was carried but subsequently the approved name was Mt. Lofty District Sports Club Incorporated.

At the October 1979 meeting of the committee "S. Evans moved that we write to the Council and inform them at a Special General Meeting of the United Sports Club it was agreed the name of the club should be changed to Mt. Lofty District Sports Club and that Council's written agreement was being sought so that the necessary legal action be taken to effect the name change. Seconded P. Goodrich and carried.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1980 the club was incorporated as Mt. Lofty District Sports Club Incorporated.

At the Sports Club committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1979 consideration was being given to amalgamating the Sports Club and the Football Club. (As early as 1972 the concept of the Community Club and Football Club combining was intimated. At the Community Club committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1972 C. Newson moved that bank account operators be the same as those of the Football Club).

A clause in the minutes of the June 1979 meeting read:-

*"...9. AMALGAMATION OF FOOTBALL CLUB & SPORTS CLUB: Recommended from the Planning Committee. S. Evans moved that a copy of this (amalgamation) proposal be circulated to each member of this (Sports Club) committee so that everyone can read it before the next meeting."*

At the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1979 the possible amalgamation was discussed:-

*"...AMALGAMATION OF FOOTBALL CLUB & SPORTS CLUB: A proposed possible structure has been drawn up comprising 7 directors and Executive Secretary, each Director to be responsible for a specific function. Either by formal nomination or individual appointment committee to be set up to act on these functions. Official officers of the club to include bar managers, treasurer, etc. to be responsible to a specific director. O. Bevan asked whether this Committee wished to pursue this or not and if we did to contact the football club for a special meeting. J. Pritchard recommended the plan be studied by members of the committee and discussed in detail at the next meeting. O. Bevan said it was necessary to make up our minds one way or the other as soon as possible. H. Jentsch agreed with J. Pritchard to defer this until the next meeting. S. Evans moved that a special meeting of this committee be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August to discuss this issue and that all committee members be given a copy of the proposed possible structure. Seconded H. Jentsch and carried."*

A special committee meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1979 to further discuss the proposed amalgamation. Mr Wirth, the District Clerk, indicated that any discussions regarding amalgamation were illegal and felt the Football Club should be affiliating not amalgamating. S. Evans challenged C. Wirth's statement that it was illegal for a club to meet in this respect. F. Clements has also spoken to C. Wirth early in the year about the clause in the agreement about the finance given towards various sporting bodies. (The Sports Club had given the football club \$6,000). J. Pritchard was of the opinion that funds were to be distributed at the end of the year. J. Pritchard stated there was no use going ahead to make a decision to amalgamate until the Council was consulted. J. Hunt's impression was that the Council did not

say we should not discuss the matter but the proposal would be illegal. H. Jentsch had a discussion with C. Wirth about six weeks ago and C. Wirth had indicated that he was not very happy about certain things happening at the club and any alterations at this stage would have to be dealt with by the Council. H. Jentsch also pointed out that the State Unemployment Relief Scheme (SURS) money applied to construction of Stage 2 of the clubrooms and was granted to the Sports Club not to various sporting bodies.

Debate continued. At a special general meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> September 1979 the chairman called for a discussion on the difference between affiliation and amalgamation. H. Jentsch said affiliation is something many sporting complexes have in common and is covered by the constitution as it stands. Amalgamation is more or less a take over. He wished to know where it left the club with the affiliation we have at the moment if we do amalgamate. The chairman said the Sports Club has operated over the past years as a separate identity and has given funds to various bodies. He pointed out that there had recently been an amalgamation between two football clubs and the Football Club now wished to amalgamate with the Sports Club and if they do it could mean that the little clubs could be excluded.

C. Thompson stated he was very opposed to amalgamation as it would mean the existing club would lose its identity. He said that quite obviously this club is set up to assist all sporting bodies and should be a club in its own right and certainly there are some clubs which sponsor it more but that also is not the point and this would be out of order in the objectives of the club. O. Bevan said he did not think an amalgamation would be a deterrent to the objectives of the club and moved that the Sports and Social Club invite the Mount Lofty Football Club to consider an amalgamation into one single body. Seconded M. Radbone.

S. Evans said he would be extremely disappointed if we amalgamated as this would really be then the Mt. Lofty Football Club, plus the club was for more than just football as was the old club. He said not everybody who worked for the club gave their time because it was for football or any other sport. S. Evans said he could visualise a time when the Football Club could say they would redevelop the oval and the cricket club would have to find somewhere else, membership fees could be raised. He said the club had a moral obligation to honour the money given by the Council. He said the implications are quite horrendous and suggested we see what happens with the structure plan and just have an affiliation. He said the club's loyalties be to all sporting groups instead of putting it under control of one sport, and suggested thinking about the implications if it were put under the football club.

O. Bevan could see S. Evans' point but was not suggesting that all these assets be taken over by the Football Club but the cricket club could also enter into full amalgamation or any other sporting bodies so we have the one central controlling authority. C. Thompson asked O. Bevan what the Football Clubs' reason was for the alteration to an amalgamation. O. Bevan replied the most fundamental reason was to avoid duplication of effort, duplication of time and the waste that goes with that. If there was one group it would reduce any friction and make it a successful operation. J. Hunt could see no reason why it shouldn't be accepted there are two groups involved with this club, knowing full well what its objectives were and said it was important that we recognise we are members of the Sports Club and anything that this committee does at any meeting must be done in accordance with the objects of the association as set out in the constitution. He doesn't think that the constitution in any way suggests the objectives of this club should be biased to any one particular sport, and if the members aren't satisfied with the way the committee is running it let them get up and say so. J. Hunt failed to see at this stage why it was necessary to take these steps. The club is functioning at the moment as it was meant to be functioning and this would change the whole aspect of the club.

F. Clements said the recommendations put forward today are recommendations of the committee that was elected and nobody is trying to show any other reason. He felt that several people were referring to a takeover by the football club but under the proposed structure this would not be possible.

S. Evans pointed out that the motion only related to inviting one club to amalgamate which is why he only referred to the Football Club. O. Bevan said the Football Club was the only one which had expressed interest. The chairman said the Football Club had not expressed interest as it had not been put to the Football Club. F. Clements agreed with this. C. Thompson said he was strongly against amalgamation of any sort, whether it be the Football Club or any other club and could not see any point at all in amalgamation. H. Jensch said members had heard reasons for and against and asked for votes to be called with regards to affiliation or amalgamation. H. Jensch moved that the motion be put to a vote that the sports club invite the Mount Lofty Football Club to amalgamate. Seconded J. Hunt.

S. Evans said he was against amalgamation but moved a motion that instead of inviting the Football Club all sporting clubs in the community should be asked to consider an amalgamation with the United Sports Club. Seconded D. Wastell.

O. Bevan, in light of S. Evans motion, withdrew his original motion,

J. Hunt said he was less concerned about the boundaries as to the terms of amalgamation. As all members of the Football Club are members of the Sports Club, what further is the club gaining by amalgamation and what is the Sports Club gaining. Are we going to be better off or not? N. Bramsen said perhaps it should be explained what is meant by the term amalgamation and affiliation and define these terms before the motion is put. The chairman, in response to N. Bramson's proposal, said this has not been properly discussed but he knew that O. Bevan was most keen that amalgamation go through and would O. Bevan explain how the Sports Club or the Football Club would benefit. O. Bevan said that the intent is that by a combination of interests you reduce a great deal of inefficiency and effort, management control, etc. and the intent of an amalgamation is to bring together the management committees of the amalgamating bodies, as shown on the proposed plan, who are then responsible for the various activities. In short, it is really to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and also so that people can see this is one combined operation instead of the two groups.

Confusion as to membership arrangements reigned. S. Evans asked O. Bevan whether a person, under amalgamation, become a member of the Mt. Lofty Sports Club and also must the person become a member of the Sports Club to play football. If the player is a member of a cricket club, for example, which isn't amalgamated but would like to be affiliated would he have to have dual membership. Affiliation is different in the sense that the club can affiliate but not necessarily have members that need to be members of this club. Under an amalgamation they would be forced to join this club as well, whereas a club could be affiliated but the members of that club's need not necessarily be members of this club. He asked about the people who do not play sport at all? Would they have to pay a fairly high fee to be members? He said this club would then take the responsibility of all clubs.

O. Bevan thought that affiliation was more difficult to deal with than amalgamation, as amalgamation includes an acceptance of responsibilities. As a particular club amalgamates with this one it then accepts all the responsibilities, and similarly we accept responsibilities for other clubs. Affiliation is different: for instance if a cricket club wished to affiliate with this club then what would be its entitlements and responsibilities?

C. Thompson gave an example of how the Sturt Football Club, Sturt Cricket Club and the Sturt Club worked. They are not amalgamated in the terms as described by O. Bevan, as the Sturt Club is a club within its own right and makes grants to the Football Club and cricket club. He thinks it is very important that the club remain the Sports Club and doesn't understand why there is this opposition, as each club has to operate within its own boundaries to raise its own monies to manage itself without the club itself being the benefactor. In other words the football club has to make its own money, the cricket club also, and the Sturt Club, having paid its expenses, is obviously of great assistance to various clubs.

P. Goodrich's belief was that the Sports Club had to succeed in the aim of promoting sport within the district and felt the most successful way to achieve this is to amalgamate with another body, mainly the Football Club and then having achieved this, assist the other clubs. The chairman asked whether P. Goodrich thought any finance would be left for other clubs. The chairman said that such an amalgamation would cause confrontation with the Council and the Mt. Lofty Football Club. Council had already indicated it would not allow a take over by a particular club. F. Clements objected to the reference to the term "take over" by the Football Club. O. Bevan said he had verbal assurance from C. Wirth, the District Clerk, that the Council, as he understood, had no objection to an amalgamation.

R. Chardon said in his opinion this was going to end up with a split in the club and could see arguments for and against amalgamation. He said the members had heard arguments for and against and didn't think enough people there had quite made up their minds. It is a very important issue and, in his opinion, the sensible way of doing this would be to leave that part of the operation open for thought and call another meeting when everyone had the time to consider the difference between affiliation and amalgamation. R. Chardon moved that this meeting be adjourned and that all members of the United Sports Club be circularised with the pros and cons of affiliation and amalgamation. The chairman said the need of approval by the Council of any change should be raised in the circular.

O. Bevan said many months of deliberation had been given to this but let us make the decision today as there would never be 100% unanimous agreement. R. Chardon said he never saw any of the documented proposal that O. Bevan had. F. Clements said the motion was to invite other clubs to consider an amalgamation with the Sports Club as it was up to the sports club to decide who they would accept for an amalgamation and he failed to see what harm could be done by inviting any Sports Club. The chairman said we have not heard from anybody apart from the football club. M. Radbone said that, as president of the Cricket Club he saw no problems and supported the motion. D. Wastell asked whether the Council is going to allow amalgamation and we should find out before this is put to the vote. He said the tennis club could not amalgamate as they cannot change their name to the Mount Lofty Tennis Club.

J. Hunt seconded R. Chardon's motion and said that although suggestions have been put forward, there have been matters brought up today which the Committee didn't consider - two in particular - the matters regarding amalgamation of non incorporated bodies and the matter of whether all members of amalgamating organisations would automatically become members and would we become members of all the amalgamating clubs? He feels we haven't given due regard to the costs and accepting of responsibilities.

R. Chardon's motion was put to the vote and carried. The meeting was adjourned at, 11.40 a.m. The committee met again on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1979. F. Clements suggested that amalgamation be discussed so as to have some recommendation to go out to members. He felt that everybody who uses the facilities should be a member, and if everyone were a member amalgamation would not be necessary, and also that no concrete suggestions had been made regarding other



clubs. N. Bramsen said P. Goodrich's proposal more or less covered this. F. Clements believed if it was one club covering all the other clubs, not only football, that our chances of sponsorship would double. S. Evans said this was the way the Bridgewater Club worked, but he felt that we couldn't really force everybody to be a member. F. Clements suggested the various clubs paid for all their members and that the profit would have to be worked out fairly. J. Pritchard wanted to know what was wrong with affiliation. S. Evans said that the original constitution stated that everybody who played sport on the grounds had to be a member of the club. J. Pritchard said we were more likely to get support from the community if we had an affiliation. P. O'Riley felt the Management Committee Structure would have to be brought in eventually. S. Evans recommend that the constitution be amended so that any clubs wishing to use the club's facilities or to benefit financially, that all players would have to be members of the sports club. "S. Evans moved that this meeting recommends that all sporting teams wishing to participate in the distribution of funds from this club must have all their players financial members of this club and that the name be prefixed by the words "Mt. Lofty Districts" and under the one club management. Seconded P. Goodrich and carried."

A special general meeting of the club was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1979.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and said the meeting has been called to ask for a direction from the members as to whether they support in principle the question of amalgamation with the Mount Lofty Districts Football Club and the United Sports Club.

The chairman put the motion to the members that they decide whether or not to support in principle the question of amalgamation with the Mount Lofty Districts Football Club Inc. and the United Sports Club Inc. The motion was defeated.

S. Evans then submitted another motion that the meeting recommends that all sporting teams wishing to participate in the distribution of funds from this club must have all of their players financial members of this club and that the name be prefixed by the words "Mt. Lofty Districts" and operate under the one club management.

Having to use the Mt. Lofty Districts prefix was not universally accepted. J. Hunt wanted to know why they must use the prefix "Mt. Lofty Districts" as it may be difficult for various cricket clubs. S. Evans said this could be distinguished. For example the Aldgate Cricket Club could be the Mt. Lofty Blues. He said many of the clubs had already lost their local identities.

T. Surman queried the membership aspect as the club had only a limited number of approved member positions. J. Pritchard said provision has probably been made for this as we have applied to the Licensing Court for 500 members.

M. Radbone said that, as president of the Aldgate Cricket Club, the motion was possibly a good one but he felt it would only work out if there was an amalgamation between the clubs.

However the cricket club was happy with its name and tradition and he didn't feel the members would like to change. F. Clements pointed out that it was the intention of the Sports Club committee to send delegates to discuss amalgamation or association with the clubs. J. Pritchard agreed that this was the intention and the delegates of various clubs could go back and ask their clubs whether they wished to be associated. S. Evans said that at the A.G.M. everyone will have a chance to vote for or against.

S. Evans said it was not the intention that all cricket teams need to play as one club fielding many teams but they could retain their present identity and take whatever name they liked providing they were prefixed by the name “Mt. Lofty Districts.”

J. Pritchard pointed out that by doing this the Sports Club would be involving more people and the more people who use this club the more money the club would have to disburse and the more the more people and clubs that get to use the club the better for everybody.

J. Thomas speaking for the Heathfield Tennis Club, said the general feeling was they were in agreeance and would like to call themselves the “Mt. Lofty Districts Heathfield Tennis Club”.

M. Radbone asked whether there was a limit to how many clubs could join and whether the Sports Club would be bound to help them all financially. S. Evans said each group of teams would have to put in a budget and the Board of Management would look at budgets and get some idea of club participation of that club for the amount of money they will receive from the Sports Club. M. Radbone said he would like to see the motion defeated until the clubs can explain this to their members. S. Evans’ motion was agreed to - it was to be put to the Annual General Meeting of the Sports Club.

J. Hunt supported the motion as it is only a recommendation to the A.G.M. and discuss with their members and it gives the opportunity to create a much better club and organisational operation as well. He had some fears that it was imposing some pressure on the individual sporting clubs to join but there was plenty of time to look at it between now and the A.G.M.

It seems that the motion was lost as the only club adopting the Mt. Lofty name was the Heathfield Cricket Club but it was a total name change - not just a prefix.

In October 1979 F. Clements pointed out that the expenses of the Football Club will be far greater if they go to Division 1 of the S.A.F.A. football competition and they would be looking for \$10,000 next year from the Sports Club.

In May 1980 a motion was passed “That a donation of \$1000 per month for six months as the money is available, be given to the Mt. Lofty Football Club Inc.”

In a special address on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1982 F. Clements of the Mt. Lofty District Football Club addressed the meeting with a proposal for the Mt. Lofty District Sports Club to take financial control of the Mt. Lofty District Football Club and to provide a social/fundraising function joint committee. It was decided to follow the proposal outlined by F. Clements for a trial period of one year. It is not clear why the Football Club wanted this or whether the arrangement lasted for more than the year.

In the years from the mid 2000s until early 2016 the Football Club undertook many of the functions and responsibilities of the Sports Club. Although the Sports Club held the liquor licence it was not holding meetings. A solution acceptable to all clubs associated with the Sports Club seems to be a pipedream. The Football Club generates the majority of the Sports Club income through bar sales and would argue that it is entitled to the majority of the profits. Other clubs would hold alternative points of view.

In February 2016 a group met to re-establish the Sports Club, seek funds to develop the grounds and facilities and to address constitutional changes.