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Well Known Club Steward's Retirement. - Steward of the Ryde Club in Spencer-road since the day it was opened in 1897, **Mr. E.C. AYLWARD**, of 22 Swanmore-road, retires to-day (Saturday). For 61 years Mr. AYLWARD has been associated with the game of billiards and during that time has accumulated an extensive fund of reminiscences of a varied and interesting character.

It was at the Pier Hotel, Southsea, in 1879, that he began a career of marker and player that brought him into great prominence in this sphere of sport. In 1881 he came to Ryde to take charge of the billiard-room, where the present Bodega is. Later he went to the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, returned to the Bodega, and thence to the Crown Hotel before taking up his present position. In his hey-day he was one of the finest cueists in the Island and played matches in practically all its clubs. He was matched with such exponents of the game as W. COOK, senior, and RICHARDS, and later with Tom NEWMAN. He played many a game with the late Mr. Harold G. NUTT, still of revered memory, And at the opening of the Ryde Club he was matched against George COLLINS of the Masons' club, Portsmouth. On numerous occasions he topped a century break, his best runs being 178 and 168. He was a fine imitator of the famous player PEALL, and on one occasion at the Crown Hotel he performed the spot-stroke 60 times in succession. He was also a very clever exponent of hand billiards and was frequently in demand for demonstrations. He was the prime asset that any club could possess, an ideal marker and steward, a man of great tact, unfailing courtesy, and quiet efficiency.

He is succeeded by Mr. W.G. FRENCH.

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