

BEYOND THE GRAVES

Volume 6, Number 2, April 2011

A SPORTING RYDE

GREAT RYDE SPORTSMAN

Clyde Honeysett Purnell was born on the 14 May 1877 and developed into one of the greatest all round sportsmen ever produced by the Isle of Wight. He was the son of John and Emily Purnell, his father being an auctioneer and upholsterer in Ryde High Street. The family had sporting inclinations with his brother Jas. B, who was later an Alderman and Mayor of Ryde, playing for and later being on the committee of Ryde Football Club. Clyde's sporting prowess extended to Water Polo, Athletics, Cricket, Lawn Tennis, Football, Cycling, Tobogganing, Ping-Pong and Billiards for all of which he gained awards.

As a youth Clyde played football for Ryde Rovers along with his brother before moving to work in London where he joined the Olympic Sporting Club. He was elected club captain when only 18. He was a keen cricketer and headed the batting averages of the Olympic Club for several seasons. If it had not been for business ties he would almost certainly have played county cricket. He was the winner of the club's Pre-eminence Cup on every occasion it was competed for during his seven year membership. He was in the winning team in the City of London Lawn Tennis Shield competition for five successive years up to 1902 and was in the team which won the London Water Polo Shield, being vice-captain of the team. He was the club 100 yards champion for seven years.

His football career began with Ryde and reached a pinnacle when he played for the gold medal winning England national amateur squad in the 1908 Olympic Games at inside left. He played representative football for Hampshire, Middlesex and London once scoring eight times for Middlesex against Berks and Bucks. In 1907 he won the Amateur Cup with Clapton Orient and gained his first international cap against Ireland. The triumphant England team began their Olympic campaign with a 12 - 1 thrashing of Sweden, Clyde scoring four times, Holland were beaten 4 - 0 in the Semi - Final and Denmark 2 - 0 in the Final.



The United Kingdom Eleven, winners of the Association's Challenge Trophy

Fittingly for a sportsman Clyde Purnell, who worked as a traveller for a firm of sports outfitters, collapsed and died at Folkestone Racecourse on 14 August 1934 aged 57 leaving a widow and a son. The funeral was held at Golders Green Crematorium.

Sources: Isle of Wight Observer 10 October 1908, Isle of Wight Times 16 August 1934, Isle of Wight County Press 18 August 1934, Photo from the Final Olympic Report 1908



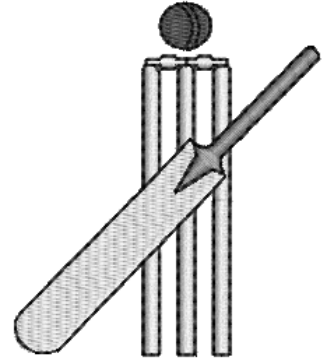
WHAT IS TEMA? That is a question which has been frequently asked during the past few days in Ryde, since it has become known that two teams composed of ladies and gentlemen well-known in the neighbourhood have consented to play an exhibition game of tema, in the Terrace Gardens, under the auspices of the Ryde Lawn Tennis Club. The game, which is very amusing and requires much skill and agility, will be played a week or two hence. Further particulars will shortly be announced in the advertisement columns.

Extract from **CRICKETING IN WIGHT**

by Stephen Green, Wight Life June/July 1972

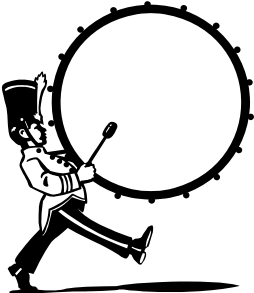
...An old scrap of manuscript has been preserved in the Library at Lord's entitled 'Rules and regulations of the Harlequin Cricket Club, founded 1837, Melville Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, also a list of members.' Morris Ballard, George Sivell, William Gardener and George Matthews were president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary respectively, and the committee was composed of the following names – Thomas Street, John Steward, Charles Hopwood, James Taylor, Henry Player and George Watson.

Enclosed in this piece of paper can be seen the printed rules of this very well organised club. From them one learns, for example, 'General play to commence on Easter Monday and continue till the 29th of September. Practice night, Mondays and Thursdays. It is good to know that all disputes in the games shall be decided by the umpires according to the rules of the Marleybone Club.' One hopes, however, that this was not the reason why a new rule (number XIX) had to be hastily inserted in ink: 'Any person making use of any oath during club hours to be fined sixpence'!



Isle of Wight County Press Saturday 4 August 1928

A CARNIVAL AT PARTLANDS



The committee of the Sports Club held a carnival at Partlands on Thursday. The attractions included splendid displays of drill by the cadets of HMS Vernon. These included marching past and saluting the colours, a field-gun run, and a maze march. The cadets were under the command of Commissioned-Gunner Murray, Chief Petty Officer King, and Petty Officers Mason, Pettifor, Alfred, and Adams. A number of children from the Gassiot School, trained and directed by Miss Howell, gave pretty country dances and played singing games in a very accomplished manner. After these events the green was illuminated by overhead electric lights fixed by the IW Electric Light Co., and dancing took place to music by the Brading Town Band.

The arrangements were made by Mr B L Wallis and Mr R Long. Side-shows etc. were organised by Mr Biggs and Mr Gibson, and the cadets were served with tea by Mrs Mellanby and Mrs Wallis. There was a very good attendance.

AN ENLIGHTENED EDWARDIAN AGONY AUNT

Dear Editiress,

My sweetheart will play football and I hate it. I'm so afraid he'll get hurt one of these days, and I ask him to give it up for my sake. He only laughs. If he loved me, wouldn't he do what I asked, especially as it's such a very little thing? Do tell me for I'm miserably unhappy.
Enid.

I hope you will never have anything to make you unhappy with a better reason. Why should you want to stop what he's fond of, and what is a very healthy, manly game? Don't make a molly-coddle out of him!

Confidential Chat, *Forget-Me-Not*, 18 June 1910


ASHEY RACES

I.W. (ASHEY) RACES
UNDER N.H. RULES.
WED. & THURS., MAY 2nd & 3rd, 1923.

ALF. MACK,
Established 30 Years. **Hammersmith**
ATTENDS THE ABOVE MEETING
Usual Place, on the Rails, Tattersalls Ring.

THE MAN YOU
ALL KNOW.

**SAFE
and
CIVIL.**



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National
Sporting League
and Bookmakers'
and Backers'
Protection
Association).

FIVE PRESS—RELIABLE.
Label— Your Investments are safe with Alf. Mack.

Represented Outside, near Refreshment Booth by ALBERT CARR.
Don't forget to ask for one of my Neat Little Books
 1923 RACE FIXTURES. 5,000 to be given away FREE.



Isle of Wight Times 26 April 1923



Photos by kind permission of Beken of Cowes

ISLE OF WIGHT STEEPLE CHASES AT ASHEY, WED. & THURS., OCT. 13 & 14, 1920 First Race 1.45 p.m.

Daily Admission Charges :

GRAND STAND (including Paddock)—
 Gentlemen, 15/- ; Ladies and Children, 10/-

FIVE-SHILLING RING—5/-.

CARRIAGES—MOTOR CARS		£	s.	d.
holding not more than 6 persons		1	5	0
" " 20 "		3	0	0
" " 40 "		4	0	0
HORSE CARRIAGES				
holding not more than 6 persons		1	5	0
" " 20 "		3	0	0

Above charges include Admission of Passengers in Vehicles and Entertainment Tax.

ADMISSION TO COURSE (in addition to Stand Charges), 2/-

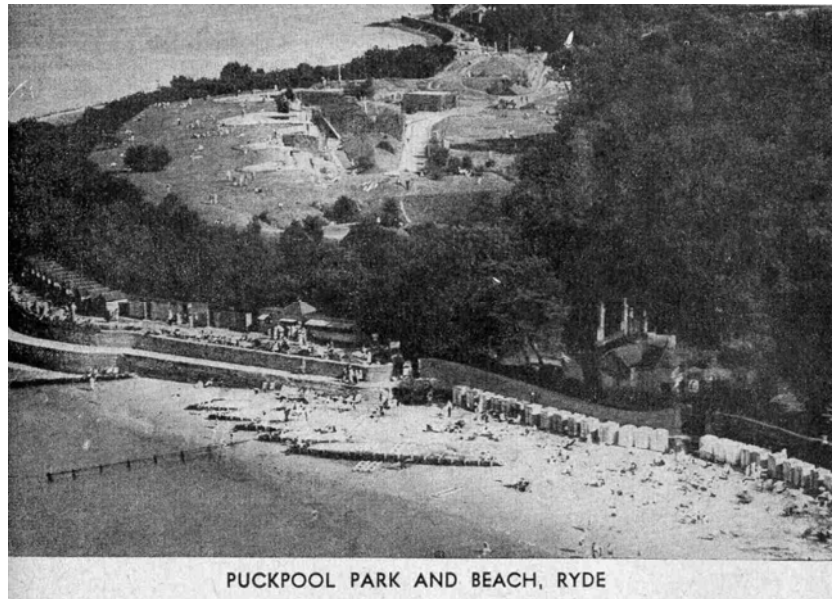
Daily Admission to County Stand for Officers in Navy and Army and Friends of Members introduced by Voucher—Gentlemen, £1 5s. ;

Isle of Wight Times 30 September 1920

PUCKPOOL SPORTS

In July 1931 the Isle of Wight Times reported on a dual sport event which had been affected by the weather conditions.

Last Saturday afternoon, commencing at 2.30 p.m. the second annual swimming sports were held off the huts at Puckpool Park. Unfortunately they were each won by Gosport teams. The weather was not kind, a strong westerly wind was blowing and a rather heavy sea with a strong current was the result. The absence of sun was also felt, and probably the threatening rain kept some would-be spectators away, but the large crowd which assembled had the satisfaction of seeing a splendid exhibition of swimming and diving. Mr J Stainer, who was the originator of the sports, and again organised them this year, received the full help of the St Helens Urban District Council. This year the events were under Amateur Swimming Association Rules, and the standard of swimming was much higher.



A splendid diving stage was erected, and Messrs Crossland and Williams of the Gosport Swimming Club, and Mr Baker, of the Northsea (Portsmouth) Swimming Club gave a very fine display – probably one of the finest witnessed by the Island for many years. C Williams and Crossland are two of Mr Stainer's "Old Boys" and the former is the holder of the Men's Diving Championship of Hampshire.

The winner of the Men's 100 yards Swimming Race was Stoker Patchett, RN, one of the best known swimmers in Hampshire and a member of the Hants Polo Team which recently played against Sussex at Gosport. Other notable swimmers were Miss Choat and Miss Barrett, members of the Hammersmith Swimming Club. These two ladies did the Australian Crawl Stroke to perfection. The chief events – the boys' and girls' relay races were each won by Gosport teams. Clarence Square, the holders, repeated their success of last year, and the new Watson Cup was won by Brockhurst Senior Girls' School. In each case it was obvious that the children had received instruction in the use of the best racing stroke – the crawl.

At the end of the swimming events there was an interval for tea, and the "Shore" sports should have commenced at 5.30 p.m. Unfortunately rain was then falling heavily and these had to be postponed to a date to be announced later.

Photo source: Lightbowns Visitors Guide to Ryde 28 August 1955

FOOTBALL AT PARTLANDS C 1901



Photo by kind permission of Tony Gale

BOXING CONTESTS AT THE THEATRE

The Isle of Wight County Press of 28 January 1893 carried a description of a boxing evening in Ryde which shows a marked contrast to our modern over-hyped events.

A novel and, judging from the attendance a popular, entertainment, among the male portion of the community, was given at the Theatre on Monday evening in the shape of a series of boxing competitions. There was an amateur competition, the first bouts in which were between two brothers, Messrs C and A Turner, of High Street, Ryde, the former beating. The contestants in the second bouts were Arthur S Allingham, a bandsman in the King's Royal Rifles, a tall man, and E S Fowler, of Union Street, Ryde. It was evident that the latter, who is short of stature, had no chance, and he retired after the first round amidst great cheering for his pluck. In the final bouts between Allingham and C Turner the latter stood up pluckily but was much over-weighted. He was knocked down, and his opponent received the silver cup at the hands of Mr George Lees, the donor, amidst some hissing and cries of "Keep time better." Turner was complimented on the manner in which he had gone through the contest. There were also several professional contests. The first between Bob Smith, of Croydon, and Tom Power, of St Luke's, was won by the latter. Next, Carey, of Brighton, beat Bert Smith, of Croydon, the latter retiring in the ninth round. The last contest was between Ginger Stewart and Arthur Callan, the former being the winner. The seconds were Sam Fritty and Harry Day; the M.C. Mr Arthur Bingham; the judges Capt. Beckett and Col. Haste; and the referee Mr Watson of the Sporting Life. There was singing between the contests. Mr Fred Nicholls, who also acted as accompanist, gave several songs, and Mr H Eastwood contributed Chevalier's "Little Nipper" and "The Future Mrs 'Awkins." Chevalier's coster songs were also rendered by Captain Haggard ("My Old Dutch") and Mr Wilfred Forster, the latter in response to an encore for "Across the bridge." There was a special late train on the Isle of Wight Railway after the performance.

GRAND BOXING TOURNAMENT THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE, Thursday, October 23rd.

Special 10-round Contest,
Young Digger, 7st. Champion of Hampshire
v. George Bessant, Portsmouth.

Great 6-round Contest,
Jack Smith's Nipper, 7st. 10lb. Champion of
Portsmouth, v. Harry Webb's Nipper, 8st.
Champion of Portsmouth.

Great Special 8-round Contest,
Drummer Wynne, Royal Fusiliers, Park-
hurst, v. Seaman Walker, H.M.S. Victory.

Special 6-round Contest,
Harold Dugan, Southampton, 8st. Champion
of Hampshire, v. Harry Webb, ex-bantam
weight Champion of Hants.

Great 8-round Special Contest,
Rifleman Early, I.W. Territorial Light-
weight Champion, 1912-13 v. Jack Butcher,
Ryde.

Special 6-round Contest,
W. Blake, Cowes, v. E. Fry, Ryde.

Promoter—Tom Butcher, Ryde.
Referee—Mr O. (Powder) Simmonds.
Timekeeper—G. Harris, R N.

Prices—Boxes, £1 1s.; Stalls, 3s.; Dress
Circle, 3s. and 2s. 6d.; Upper Circle, 1s. 6d.
(2s. early door); Pit, 1s. (1s. 6d. early door);
Gallery, 6d. (9d. early door).

Doors open 7.30. Commence at 8 p.m.
Early Doors, 7.15 p.m.

LATE BOAT TO PORTSMOUTH.
LATE TRAINS.

GIFT TO MISS BRIGSTOCKE

The Working Men's Rowing Club - who are to be cordially congratulated on their achievements in this their first season, have decided to present Miss Brigstocke with the premier prize they won, with the boat she so generously gave them, at the Police Regatta, at Southsea. The gift takes the form of a silver inkstand in the shape of a boat, and will bear a suitable inscription. The crew of the new boat have this week succeeded in winning

three first prizes on three successive days - at Southsea on Tuesday, Ryde on Wednesday, and at Ventnor on Thursday.

By competing at five regattas they have now four first prizes and one second.

Source: *Isle of Wight County Press* 21 August 1886



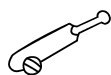
Photo of a typical Victorian boat inkstand

Isle of Wight Observer 11 October 1913

1913 SPORTS REPORT

The Isle of Wight Observer of 4 January 1914 carried the following brief reports, written with a certain lack of enthusiasm, on some of the sporting activities which were available to inhabitants of Ryde during the previous year. Clip art has been added to try to liven it up a bit!

The IW Gun Club opened its pleasant grounds at Ashey for shooting in May, and a successful season was held, though the attendance was not so good as in some previous years.



The Ryde Cricket Club held their annual meeting in January, when a very satisfactory state of affairs was disclosed. The cricket season was again extraordinary successful, the Ryde club maintaining its position very easily.

The Ryde Bowling Club held their annual meeting in March, when a debit balance of £5 odd was cleared by one of the members. A successful season was gone through and the greens proved to be as popular as ever.



Ryde Harriers Athletic Club had a number of interesting runs during the year.



Ryde Badminton Club met regularly during the winter months at the Town Hall. In March the IW Badminton Tournament was held at Ryde. There was a fine entry and a number of good games were played.

The Isle of Wight Steeplechases at Ashey were held on April 23rd and 24th and were some of the most successful ever held. There were good entries each day and satisfactory attendance. On the evening of the first day the Hunt Ball was held at the Town Halls, there was a large and fashionable gathering. For the first time a second meeting was held in October. The meeting was not sufficiently advertised and as a result was not so well attended as expected.



The Ryde Rowing Club had as usual a successful season. At the annual meeting in May it was reported that there had been a slight falling off in subscriptions. At the invitation of Mr and Mrs W P Brigstocke the members of the Club and their lady friends were entertained at a garden party at Ryde House Park in June. The annual regatta was held in September and proved a great attraction as usual, an innovation being the veterans' race.

The annual smoker and presentation of the prizes in connection with **the Ryde Whist League** was held in May, and was very successful. Colonel Hamilton's cup was presented to Liberal Team A, and the second prize to Swanmore A team. (Note: The OED defines a "smoker" as a men's informal entertainment)



CORONATION CELEBRATIONS



The Coronation of George V in June 1911 was celebrated by many sporting events including, as reported in the Isle of Wight County Press, roller skating.

SKATING SPORTS An excellent series of sports were carried out at the roller-skating rink on Coronation day and on Thursday. On Monday about 300 people were present, the chief attraction being a hidden treasure competition. Discs were hidden in the interior of the rink and every skater discovering one received a book of admission tickets. The lucky finders were the Misses N Wheeler, H and D Stone, and K King, and Messrs Abraham and J Wavell. The winners of the other events were: Skipping race (ladies) - Miss Kerley (Volume of Tennyson's poems); skipping race (gentlemen) - Mr C Rayner (travelling clock); tug-of-war - Trades beat United Services (box of cigars).

There was also an interesting football match between teams representing Trades and the United Services, resulting in a win for the latter by 5 goals to 2. On Thursday there was again a large attendance, the result of the sports being: Two-step competition - Miss Amy Wood and Mr W Tomlinson (preserve jar and shaving set); ladies' race - Mrs Godwin (sugar sifter); gentlemen's backward race - Mr W Wray (plated match box); bottle skating - Mr A E Wilton (pocket knife); musical chairs - Miss Flossie Wray (vase); skate boys race - Master H Christopher (silver medal). On Monday the prizes were presented by Mrs W J Whittington and on Thursday by Mrs S J Hinds. This was the concluding sports night of the season and the Rink will close after the evening session today (Saturday) until September 5th.

Photo source: Wikipedia