



RYDE SOCIAL HERITAGE GROUP

Beyond the Graves

Volume 16: Number 3: July 2021

AT YOUR LEISURE

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

The Mead Lawn Tennis Club was formed in 1907 by Messrs. Senior, Purnell, Randall, Fowler and Langdon. The grass court season began on the first Saturday in May and finished about the middle of September when the grass became too wet to continue. It was only after the death of Mr Brigstocke in 1956 that a 15-year lease was granted in 1959 so hard courts were invested in. The loans were paid for by various fund raising events. The official opening took place on Sunday 3rd April 1960 when Bea Walter [British Wightman Cup Captain] and Deidre Catt [Wimbledon & International player] played exhibition singles, followed by a doubles match with club members Derek Warman and Chris Weeks.

Thank you to Derek Warman for this information taken from his article and for the photographs.



Ladies match at the Mead 1907. Mead ladies sitting (from left to right) Mrs Souter, Mrs Weeks, Miss Dawson, Miss Weatherall, Miss Vera Purnell, E Purnell (child)



Sunday September 9th 1962. The Veterans (over 45) versus The Rest (youth). "Youth" won 6 matches to 4. Veterans (from left to right) Ted Lewis, Beryl Aitchison, George Squibb, Edna Warman, Stan Wright, Joan Case, James Warman, Midge Hackshaw, Bill Ross, Mollie Ross. Youth (from left to right) Robin Burnett, Roger Neill, Gwen Wright, Rosalie Neill, Ruth Berry, Helen Janes, Julie Nottingham, John Leach, Robin Mayor, Derek Warman.

IW Times 6 June 1914

For Visitors - The Mead Lawn Tennis, Croquet and Garden Club. Visitors may play lawn tennis, croquet or bowls in the grounds in St Thomas' Street. Courts: weekly tickets 7/6; two weeks 10/6; four weeks 15s. Admission to grounds non players 3d.



Mead "A" team v Newport Victoria Sports Club Saturday May 14th 1960. (from left to right) Stan Wright, Chris Weeks, Derek Warman, Joan Thorpe, Joan Case, Stanley Dunmore, (front) Helen Jones, Helen Marshall.

Advert of 1938 RSHG

TWENTIETH ANNUAL
ISLE OF WIGHT
Open Junior Lawn Tennis Tournament
— AT —
RYDE
(Under the sanction of The Lawn Tennis Association)
Patron: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF RYDE
(Alfred A. F. WRIGHT, J.P.)
Will be held at
THE MEAD CLUB GROUNDS
(Entrance in Church Lane)
Monday, August 15th to Saturday, August 20th, 1938.

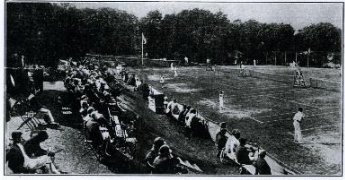


Photo by: [illegible] [illegible] and several other people.

Tournament Committee:
President: H. C. FOWLER. Chairman: C. D. MUCKLOW.
A. J. ATKINS. W. BRICE. H. J. HUGHES.
Miss H. CURTIS. W. G. MASON. A. S. C. PHILPOT.
R. F. CURTIS. A. W. MICHE. Mrs. C. ABRAHAM.
Mrs. PHILPOT.
Hon. Sec. & Referee: G. R. TADMAN.

All Competitors must be under 18 years of age on August 15th, 1938. Matchmaking according to age.
Events open to all comers. Play will commence at 10.30 a.m. each day.
Admission to the Ground: Day Tickets, 1/-; Weekly, 4/6 (incl. Tax). Competitors Free.
Entries must be made not later than FRIDAY, AUGUST 13th, at 1 p.m. on forms to be obtained from the Hon. Sec. and Referee.
G. R. TADMAN, St. James' Lodge, Lion Street, Ryde, I. of W. Tel. 3325.
"The Wightman, Pictorial, 1938"

Advertising the Mead Junior Tournament 1938.

IW Times 13 April 1961

Milestone in their History - After a year of heavy expenditure, Ryde Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club agreed at their annual meeting to increase members' subscription fees by almost one third. It was a milestone in the club's history, marking the completion of their arrangements to buy the property. Two new hard courts had been laid. The total cost was £1,965 but this sum had been met by grants and loans.

ON THE GREEN ...

NEW GOLF LINKS.

We hear that the ladies of Ryde will not have to travel far in the future if they wish to practice golf, as some golf links are going to be provided. Several gentleman belonging to the town have obtained some very suitable land near Westridge, and are now busily engaged in laying it out.



The first Golf Club at Westridge was founded in 1895. Even ladies were catered for, IW Observer 12 October 1895.

The letter that the Hon. Secretary, E. Dowson wrote to the same newspaper about the Club's progress was published 21 December 1895.

[Photo Roy Brinton Collection]

IW Observer 16 March 1912

Golf School for Ryde - For many years the piece of land at the end of the Strand has been anything but a beauty spot and has long offended the eye. We now learn that the ground is to be laid out by Mr C W Jacobs, the well-known professional of the IW Golf Club at St Helens, for a golf school, under the control of the Ryde Corporation.

IW Observer 18 January 1913

The Ryde Golf School, near the Canoe Lake, has not been a conspicuous success. If some of the leading residents would only take steps to provide a course at Ryde it would be the making of the town.



Postcard of the putting green at Warner's [RSHG Archive]

IW Observer 22 May 1909

From the appearance of the Bowling Green at the Esplanade on Thursday afternoon, it would seem that the ancient game is making headway in the estimation of the fairer sex. The play on one of the greens monopolized by the ladies shows all the prowess at bowls is not confined to the sterner sex.

IW Observer 21 September 1912

Mr R F Coulston, a visitor to Ryde, has presented the club with a handsome aneroid barometer for the bowling pavilion, "in recognition of the many kindnesses he has received from members."

BOROUGH OF RYDE

Fifteenth Annual Open Amateur
Single-handed and Pairs

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Under the auspices, and by Licence of the International Bowling Board.

To be played on the Borough Greens, situated
in the Esplanade Gardens on the Sea Front.

Open to bona-fide Amateurs only.

**PRIZES AND TROPHIES TO
THE VALUE OF £125.**

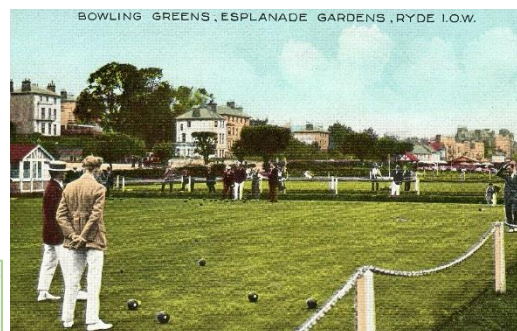
**MONDAY, 12th AUGUST, 1935,
AND FOLLOWING DAYS**

SPECIAL LADIES' SECTION
WEDNESDAY, 14th AUGUST, 1935

Entry Fees—Men ...	5/-	Each Player, Singles	
" " " " " " " "	5/-	" " " " " " " "	Pairs
" " " " " " " "	3/-	" " " " " " " "	Singles
" " " " " " " "	3/-	" " " " " " " "	Pairs

Entries Close Friday, July 26th.

Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, A. J. WILLIAMS, T.C.,
Bowling Tournament, Town Hall, Ryde, I.W. Telephone Ryde 62.



Postcard Ann Barrett
Bowling Tournament Advert 1935
[RSHG Archive]

IW County Press 6 August 1960

The 35th Ryde Open Bowling tournament ended on a dramatic note when the large crowd at the Esplanade greens saw the concluding event, the pairs final, decided by the last wood sent down. The result was a triumph for A Legg, of Ryde, and T Lea, of the Railway Institute, who both played consistently throughout the event.

ON YOUR BIKE ...

IW Times 23 August 1888

The members of the Vectis Cycling Club have arranged for a race meeting to take place round the Canoe Lake on Thursday the 30th inst. There will be three races, a one mile and a three-mile bicycle handicap, and a three-mile tricycle handicap.

Photo of a Penny Farthing Race around the Canoe Lake [RSHG Archive]



Advert for Swift Cycles IW County Press 19 May 1894

SWIFT CYCLES.

HIGH GRADE MACHINES WITH PNEUMATIC TYRES FROM £19 EACH,
List Price. Latest designs and popular weight.

COVENTRY MACHINISTS CO., Ltd.: Works Coventry.

SOLE AGENT FOR THE ISLE OF WIGHT—

D. MARVIN, 9, UNION STREET, RYDE,
Where Machines may be viewed and Catalogues and all particulars obtained.

A Cycle Race at Partlands, 10 September 1908
[Paul Kingswell Collection]



In the summer of 1885 Mr V. Webber, champion cyclist of the Vectis CC won a 5-mile championship race at Newcastle 'in grand style'.

His splendid trophy was exhibited in Mr Marvin's window. 'It stands 2ft. 6in. high, and it is in the form of a decorated vase with silver and gold plates. Upon projections on either side are bicyclists standing by their machines, and a similar bicyclist standing at the top. It is a very handsome ornament and we heartily add our congratulations to Mr Webber on having won such a handsome prize. We understand a dinner will be given to Mr Webber on the 9th October at the Town Hall.'

IW Observer 3 October 1885

PARKES
for the largest range of Cycles on the Island

B.S.A.
DAWES
COVENTRY EAGLE
FALCON
HOPPER
PHILLIPS
HERCULES

ALL WITH FREE AFTER SALES SERVICE
from
The Cycle Specialist

PARKES
Castle Garage
John St., Ryde
Tel. 2752
Open till 7 p.m.

Advert for Parkes IW Times
18 May 1961



IW Times 21 April 1960

Crack cyclists from all over Britain converged on the Island at the weekend for the Island Road Race on Saturday, the East Wight Road Race on Sunday, and the Vectis Cycling Club's open 25-mile event on Monday.

Photo of a similar event in Union Street [RSHG Archive]

IW Times 19 April 1962

Vectis Cycling Club is holding their first three-day stage race at Easter - the first event of this nature in the Ryde area. Also, to be held at the same time is the usual East Wight Road Race. Both events are being sponsored by the "Portsmouth Evening News."

IW Times 18 April 1963

Some of the country's top riders, including six area champions took part in the Vectis Cycling Club's three-day, 268-mile Easter race. Riders competed in three stages on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, starting on each occasion near the Esplanade Pavilion.

FOUR LEGS OR TWO?

RYDE PIER PAVILION.

ROLLER SKATING

EVERY WEEK DAY during the Winter Season.

Hours for Skating: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2.30 to 5 p.m.,
7 to 9.30 p.m.

Admission Tickets: Pavilion, for Rinking only, 3d.
Gallery, for non-Skaters, 2d.

Books of 12 Tickets (to include Pier toll) can be
obtained at the Pier Gates, price 4s.

A competent instructor will be in attendance, from
whom good skates can be hired at a charge of
4d. per pair.

Roller Skating Advert

IW County Press 14 February 1914.

Advert right from the IW
Times 24 August 1933
Advert below from the Ryde &
Seaview Official Guide, 1947
[Ann Barrett Collection]

**MEADOW DALE
RIDING SCHOOL**
BETTESWORTH ROAD, RYDE.
Principal: A. J. WARREN.
Terms Moderate.
SPECIAL RATES FOR SCHOOLS.
Great Care taken with Young Children.
GOOD HACKS FOR HIRE.

MEADOWDALE RIDING SCHOOL (Prop. A.J. WARREN)

Instruction in
Riding, Jumping, etc.
Special care, taken
with children
Tel. Ryde 2536

Good Riding
Horses for Hire
Private Address:
RONAVINA
12 YELFS ROAD,
RYDE

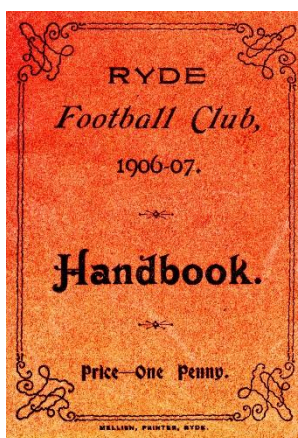
Stables: BUCKINGHAM ROAD, RYDE



ATHLETICS

SOUTHAMPTON A.C. DEFEAT RYDE HARRIERS

Ryde Harriers entertained South-
ampton Athletic Club on Saturday in
a 5½-mile cross country race and were
well beaten by a strong team which
included two internationals, R. G.
Gosney and E. R. Downer. The points
were: Southampton 39, Ryde Harriers
107. Southampton took the lead
from the start with a pack of six
men and at Havenstreet Gosney
headed the field, with Downer not far
behind, and A. G. Biggs, the first
Ryde man, was seventh. This order
was more or less maintained to the
finish, although Downer gained the
lead from Gosney and finished 13sec.
ahead of him. V. Dyer (Ryde), who
was ninth, ran extremely well in his
first senior race on the country. The
officials were Messrs. R. L. Rayner, J.
Tait, R. Smith, A. P. Biggs, C. G.
Smith, E. Leal, C. Ingleton, and J.
Rayner.



One of many reports
about Ryde Harriers in the
local newspapers, this
one from the IW County
Press 27 October 1951

Some 'rules' to remember if
merely a spectator, Ryde
Football Club Handbook, 1906-7

Advice, Wise and Otherwise.

(To be taken as before.)

Don't think you own the Ground when you've
paid your "tanner."

The goal posts probably belong to the Club.

Don't forget that your team generally plays as
well as the other side lets them.

Don't book that trip to the Crystal Palace as a
certainty, we may be defeated in the Semi-Final.

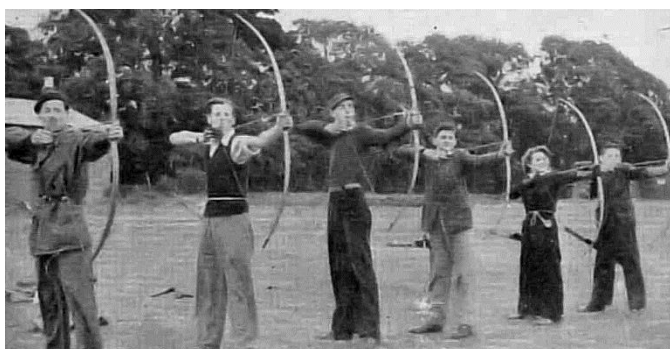
Don't call the Ref a "rotter."

The other side says he is a champion.

Leave the players alone. As a rule they cannot
hear your splendid advice. And if they could,
they wouldn't.

The visiting goalie is only one of the team.
Don't put it on to him if you get whacked.

Last of all, the game's the thing, hang the
result.



Archery photo
This Island Magazine
[RSHG]

Competitors in the
Archery Event held at
Appley, during the
Island Games 1993

DARTS

BLIND PLAYERS AT RYDE

A team of blind players from St.
Dunstan's Hostel will be at a darts
social evening at the Eagle Tavern,
Ryde, this evening, when they will
play the winners of a match between
the home team and the Prince
Regent, Newport. One of the St.
Dunstan's players has the additional
handicap of having artificial hands.
The proceeds will be given to St.
Dunstan's Hostel.

A pastime with a different type of arrows
reported in the IW County Press
27 October 1951

INDOOR PURSUITS

Overgrown with weeds and in a very dilapidated state, the Paxton Hall had been recently sold and was in line to be demolished. Plans were submitted (May 2009) for 2 x 2 storey blocks of flats to be erected in its place. It faced the Church of St. Michael of All Angels, Swanmore, on the opposite side of the road.

Photo of the exterior of Paxton Hall May 2009 [Ann Barrett]

Photo of the interior Roy Brinton Collection



IW Observer 27 April 1889

The splendid new Gymnasium which has just been erected in Bennet Street, was formally opened on Tuesday evening. It is really a most valuable building, fitted up with every appliance for the training in all sorts of gymnastic exercises. There is a splendid gallery, from which a capital view can be obtained of all that goes on below. We can only express the hope that Alderman Barrow will reap his reward in the warm appreciation of the younger members of the community, for whose benefit the building was designed.

On Tuesday afternoon there were gymnastic exercises, when a silver cup was competed for. In a racquet competition Captain Mocklar, of the Oxfordshire Regiment, won.

On Wednesday evening there was an assault-at-arms by the instructors from neighbouring military gymnasia, and tonight (Friday) Ald Barrow will speak on the formation of athletics clubs.



IW County Press 14 May 1970

Guest speaker at the annual Ryde and District Snooker and Cribbage League dinner and dance at the Ponda-Rosa on Friday was Mr. Alf Bushell, former secretary. Mr. Bushell recalled the keen matches played at the Paxton Club, the only "dry" house in the league but now, sadly, almost in ruins. The longest match he could recall lasted five-and-a-half hours.

ELECTRICITY SPORTS CLUB - The John Peace Darts Shield, Summer 1984.

The annual darts tournament for the John Peace Shield between the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Electricity Districts took place at the Ryde Electricity Sports and Social Club, Monkton Street, Ryde.

The match, played over nine sets, turned into a close-run battle with the teams evenly matched. The final score was 5-4 to Portsmouth and for the second year running the shield remains across the Solent.

The Isle of Wight had their revenge in the skittles matches with the ladies' team winning their friendly by 13 pins. Pool and snooker games were also played and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

PING-PONG By December 1901 the first club had been formed in Ryde, their headquarters being the Town Hall. They held dances at the same time, so that no-one was waiting around for a table and the ladies could enjoy the evening also. Another Club formed at Yelf's Hotel in 1902 and within a fortnight had 40 members. There was no doubt that ping-pong was becoming a very tricky, clever game and it was anticipated it would become as permanent as billiards.

IW Observer 28 December 1901 Advertisement - Ping-Pong, the new table game, consisting of two parchment bats, brass uprights with net and balls, complete in box, 4s 11d.

Ting-Tong, a new Table Croquet, consisting of balls and mallets, in box, complete, 1s 6³/₄d



IW County Press 24 April 1981

Carl Confirms his Ranking - Carl Prian of Ryde School and the Columbia Club struck again last weekend when he won the Derby Junior Open, winning both the under-14 and under-17 age groups without dropping a game. Now firmly ranked No. 1 by the English Table Tennis Association, Carl confirmed his ranking by demolishing the current No. 2 Philip Bradbury (Bucks) 21-11, 21-6 in the final and playing in devastating form.

IW County Press 10 June 1988

A Ryde born table tennis star, Carl Prian, was selected for the British Olympic team, of which his father John was leader. They travelled to Seoul, South Korea, with teammates Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke and Skyler Andrew.

1948 OLYMPIC GAMES

At the Empire Stadium, Wembley, on 2 August, Ernest John "Jack" Brewer (Old Rutlishians), only son of Capt and Mrs Brewer of Ryde, represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games discus event. Selected as the country's first string, Brewer had already broken the English record with a throw of 150 feet in June.

The honour of carrying the Olympic torch in the Wembley to Torquay relay on 1 August, through part of the route in Northern Hampshire fell to A P Biggs, one of the veteran members of Ryde Harriers. J M Henderson was the reserve. Each runner was allowed to keep the torch he carried, making an interesting souvenir of the games.



ON [or over] THE WATER

The first Schneider Trophy Race took place in Monaco in 1913. It was won by Britain in 1929 and 1931, when Ryde Pier was the finishing point.

On Sunday 21 June 1984 a 4th in the revived series took place from Bembridge Airport, with 3 laps of the Solent course, finishing again at Ryde Pier.



The IW Times, 20 August 1931, advertised Puckpool Park as the '*absolutely finest point*' to view the '*Schneider Seaplane Race*' on Saturday 12th September. Admission to the Grounds was 6d; Enclosure (standing) 8d; Enclosure (with use of deckchair) 1/4; Stands (top seats) 1/4; Stands (bottom seats) 2/6.

Free car park. Loud speakers. Refreshments.
Programme RSHG



IW Times 7 August 1969



We are talking of a day in August 1984 and it was possibly the first Ryde Dragon Boat race. Some of the more hare-brained colleagues from work (Southern Electricity) had, in some secrecy, built a 'vessel' for the event and this was to be the maiden, and like the "Titanic", the only voyage. The race was to take place from somewhere around the start of the Canoe Lake, and along the shoreline to the end of Puckpool Park. In simple terms the raft consisted of six large blue plastic barrels on top of which was fixed a beer garden table with attached bench seat. There was an additional white park style bench at the other end with the obligatory parasol sticking up from the centre of the table. Finally, there were three upturned beer crates down each side for the crew to sit on and paddle.

[To read more find George Davie's article in the RSHG Archive]

Thanks to Dave Bushell for the photo of the water slide in Union Street in July 2016
[The RSHG are still looking for a photo of him taking the plunge]