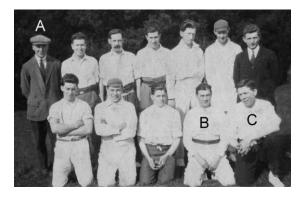
"NEW LOUNT COLLIERIES AND WORKS ATHLETIC CLUB GROUND" AT GELSMOOR -FEATURING BOTH THE FOOTBALL AND CRICKET TEAMS

(plus supplementary information on Newbold & District Hospital Society Fetes & local villages 1953 Coronation Sports Event)







BY SAMUEL T STEWART – MAY 2023

Around 1930, in association with New Lount Colliery, the "New Lount Collieries and Works Athletic Club" ground was established at Gelsmoor in the parish of Worthington, which incorporated both football and cricket pitches. Later, Tennis Courts and a Bowling Green were established, the latter being still in existence today. The sports field was almost opposite Aqueduct Lane.

"New Lount Sports and Social Club", was formed around 1934, with apparently Frank Hodges, the Chairman of the "Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Company" and M.D. of New Lount Colliery which was owned by them, being the driving force behind it.

A new green cricket pavilion was built c.1937 which was an impressive building with a veranda on the front and the cricket team and bowls teams made good use of it. It was a ritual in those days for wives and girlfriends to make teas for the players. The pavilion was also shared by the football team.

Besides all the sporting activities that took place, the ground was used for numerous social activities, such as fetes and galas', examples of which appear later.

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NEW LOUNT COLLIERY FOOTBALL CLUB

The earliest reference found to New Lount Colliery Football Club, is in the following 1929 newspaper report, four years after the first shaft was sunk at New Lount Colliery. Reports of them playing games on the ground in 1947 have been found.

Unfortunately, the football club didn't have any changing rooms till c.1937 and had to use a hayloft.....

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 19 October 1936

Even a Hay Loft that is well heated is hardly an ideal spot in which to change one's attire in readiness for a football match, but this is the only accommodation the New Lount Colliery Football Club can offer visiting teams at the moment on their spacious sports ground at Gelsmoor. This is hardly In keeping with the position of a Leicestershire Senior League club, a fact which New Lount are only too painfully aware, and I understand that **a scheme is now on foot to erect a pavilion** which will be the last word In comfort. To further this idea the first of a series of efforts, this one was a dance, took place at **the Village Hall, at Newbold,** on Saturday night, when quite a useful sum of money was realised. And while on the subject of New Lount, it will be something of a blow to them to learn that their full-back, Frank Smith. will not play again this season. Smith is still having trouble with a leg injury and on medical advice he will have a long lay-off **Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 21 November 1929**

Owing to the resignation of Mr. L. Gough, the secretary of the New Lount Colliery F.C. he has been replaced by Mr. J. H. Underwood. 15, Cambridge Street, Coalville.

1930 / 31 SEASON - COALVILLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS & COALVILLE CUP WINNERS

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 09 May 1931

It was left to the last few matches of the season to decide the championship of both divisions of the Coalville Football League. Ibstock Swifts were threatening **New Lount Colliery** for the top position in the first division, but they were beaten 2-1 by Ibstock United **and this gave Lount the championship**. A championship match was played at Lount, Snibston St. James' providing the opposition, and the Colliery won by four goals to two. After the match, the cup and medals were presented to the champions by Mr. Geo. Swain, a member of the League Management Committee.

A REPORT FROM THE 1931 / 32 SEASON

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 7th December 1931

Hugglescote Prims were no match for New Lount Colliery in a Coalville League match, though playing at home. The colliery scored twice in the first half through Fern and L. Bradford, and then ran riot in the second half. Four of the five goals in the second half

were scored by Matt Rowell. The Prims only scored once and were beaten by seven goals to one.

1933 / 34 SEASON - RUNNERS UP IN COALVILLE LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION & WINNERS OF "SWANNINGTON CHARITY CUP



1st Row seated LH side - Mick Bradford;

2nd Row L to R - 1st person Les Bradford, 3rd person Matt Rowell;

Top Row L to R - Tom Richards 3rd person, 6th person John Wilton.

Leicester Evening Mail – May 12th 1934

NEW LOUNT HAVE A REAL SHARPSHOOTER -MATT ROWELL OF GRIFFYDAM SCORES 106 GOALS THIS SEASON

"BY AN OLD STAGER"

Sportsmen in the Coalville district will join me in congratulating Matt Rowell, New Lount Colliery's 22 year old centre-forward, who lives at Griffydam a few miles from Coalville.

When the colliery completed their season's programme last Saturday, by defeating Snibston United 3 - 1, at Hugglescote, thus being runners-up in the First Division of the Coalville League, Rowell had obtained no fewer than 106 of their goals in all competitions. This is a remarkable scoring feat and it would be interesting to know if any other amateur player in Leicestershire can claim such a record. As far as I gather, such a feat has nothing to equal it in the district.

New Lount Colliery caused an end of the season sensation by defeating Snibston New Inn Sports 10 - 0 in the final of the Swannington Charity Cup on the Station Hill ground, Swannington. Rowell also scored four of the goals in this match and so passed the hundred mark.

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 14th April 1934

SCOUTS ARE WATCHING THIS PLAYER

Birmingham F.C. scouts are interested in **Frank Smith. the New Lount Colliery** (Coalville League) full-back, who is 21 years of age, and lives at the King's Arms, Coleorton. Frank has had a run out with Southend United on one or two occasions this season. A fortnight ago, he played In a London Combination match against Northampton. Features of Frank's play are his excellent kicking and a cool head during an emergency. He is definitely due for a move into higher football at any time. We hear that it is quite on the cards that he will be snapped up by a League club much nearer his home than Birmingham.

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 24 April 1934

SWANNINGTON CUP - NEW LOUNT IN THE FINAL

There were plenty of thrills in the final of the Swanninglon Charity Cup competition last night. when New Lount Colliery beat Whitwick Holy Cross 4-3 at Swannington before a good crowd in a vigorous game. Matt. Rowell (3) and Les Bradford Scored for Lount, while Whitwick's goals were obtained by Laurence Concannon (2) and Underwood.

Smith and Pickering were outstanding in the Lount defence and John Concannon did the brunt of the work for the "Cross"

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE WINNERS 1934 / 35 SEASON

The "Leicestershire Senior League", following a period of decline ceased to operate in 1930 and was not re-instated till the 1934 / 35 season

New Lount Colliery Football Team were the first champions of the "Newly reformed Leicestershire Senior League" in the 1934 / 35 season as shown in the table below.

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Ρ
1. New Lount Colliery	22	15	3	4	84	37	33
2. Overseal Institute	22	12	7	3	76	47	31
Whitwick White Cross	22	13	4	5	62	47	30
4. Holwell Works	22	12	5	5	74	30	29
5. Ibstock Penistone Rovers	22	13	1	8	62	41	27
6. Measham Imperial	22	11	3	8	69	62	25
7. Newhall Swifts	22	9	2	11	45	72	20
8. Loughborough Brush	22	8	3	11	65	76	19
9. Oaks Parish Church	22	8	2	12	61	49	18
10. Ibstock Swifts	22	6	5	11	51	61	17
11. Snibston New Inn Sports	22	4	4	14	59	106	12
12. Whitwick Holy Cross	22	1	1	20	42	122	3

LEICESTERSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE 1935 / 36 END OF SEASON CHART

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Ρ
1. H.M. Mansfields Sports	30	24	2	4	169	57	50
2. Whitwick White Cross	30		4	-	112		46
3. Holwell Works	30	18	8	4	108	44	44
4. Overseal Institute	30	16	4	10	114	74	36
5. Snibston United (-2)	30	18	2	10	91	71	36
6. Donisthorpe	30	13	6	11	84	63	32
Loughborough Brush	30	13	5	12	114	84	31
8. Gresley Rovers	30	12	6	12	70	70	30
9. Whitwick Holy Cross (-2)	30	14	4	12	85	99	30
10. New Lount Colliery	29	11	2	16	83	99	24
11. Oaks Parish Church	30	10	4	16	67	91	24
12. Ibstock Swifts	29	8	8	13	67	104	24
13. Newhall Swifts	30	9	3	18	64	106	21
14. Measham Imperial	30	7	6	17	51	99	20
15. Leicester Nomads Reserves	30	7	2	21	64	102	16
16. Snibston New Inn Sports	30	2	6	22	58	175	10

Information transcribed from the "Leicestershire Senior League Website 1894-1950".

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 19 January 1935

CHARITY CUP

New Lount Colliery and Newhall Swifts met at Lount, a good game ending in a 3-3 draw. Les Bradford, Mat Rowell and Keeling scored for Lount and Eric Rose completed a Hat trick for Newhall.

Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 04 March 1935

In the Leicestershire League, Holywell Works met with an unexpected defeat at Asfordby Hill, at the hands of the New Lount Colliery Football Team. Rowell (2) and Bedford put the visitors 3 goals in front. Later, "Rowell" completed his hat trick, with Holwell failing to reply.

1934 / 35 SEASON LEAGUE CUP FINAL

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 12 September 1935

STORMY SCENES AT LEAGUE CUP FINAL

SECOND REPLAY and STILL NO DECISION

Stormy scenes occurred in the closing stages of the Coalville , knock-out cup final at the Waggon and Horses ground, last night, between **Ibstock Pennistone Rovers and New Lount Colliery.**

Players nearly came to blows and spectators ran on to the pitch. Order was restored, but near the end, Platts playing at full back for New Lount Colliery, was sent off the field.

This was the second replay of the final and for the third time no decision was reached, the result being 2-2. The Coalville League Knock-out cup has never been won In the three seasons of its existence, the finalists having persisted in playing to a draw.

GOOD GAME MARRED

The incidents marred what had promised to be a thoroughly entertaining game with both sides displaying some delightful movements. Lount led by two goals at the interval, each of which were scored by Matt Rowell their centre-forward. The first was scored after about twenty minutes. It followed neat passing between Keeling and " Mick " Bradford.

Jim Holland (outside-right). who last season played with Whitwick White Cross, was chiefly responsible for the next goal, making a fine run down the wing, and from his centre, Rowell headed easily through.

The Colliery deserved their lead, but on resuming, the Penistone Rovers rallied well. French reduced the lead, though the goal was disputed. Shortly before the end, from a corner, Swain headed into the net through a crowd of players. A Feature of the game was the brilliant work in the New Lount goal by "Bill" Stafford.

OUTSTANDING DEFENCE

Rowell led the Colliery line well, while Deacon and Newbold in the Ibstock defence were also outstanding. During the second half Bonnick, a Lount full-back, received slight concussion and had to be carried off the field. A doctor was sent for.

Ibstock Pennistone Rovers- Cotton : Bishop, Newbold : Deacon, Poyser, Swain ; French, Watts, Robinson, Smith, Jesson

New Lount Colliery- Stafford : Keeling (H), Bonnick ; Barkby, Pickering, Mee ; Holland, Bradford, Rowell, Keeling, Platts

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 26 September 1935

COALVILLE TROPHY GOES TO IBSTOCK

Colliery Lose Third Replay

Cup Won For First Time In Three Years

Although the Coalville League knock-out Cup competition was inaugurated in October 1932, a trophy was not won until last night when **Ibstook Penistone Rovers defeated New Lount Colliery** in the final by 3-2, on the Ashby-road Ground, Coalville. They did it with only two minutes to spare. A. Storer, the Rovers' inside-left, scoring when it seemed inevitable that the battle would continue. It was their fourth meeting in this final. The match had developed into a farce this time, it being so dark during the last fifteen minutes of the game, it was almost impossible to distinguish the players.

ONLY A FEW SAW IT

Only a few spectators near the Lount goal area saw the all-important goal scored. Some humorists were shining flashlights over the ground and striking matches. A large crowd saw another thrilling battle, and if the football did not always reach great heights, the spectators got full value for their money. The Rovers took the lead after five play in a rather lucky way, a shot by Joe Gray, their centre-forward, was deflected into the net off an opposing full-back. Five minutes later, during a Lount raid, the ball went across the goal to Bird the Colliery's new young winger, whose shot hit the underside of the crossbar at a terrific pace and went into the net. After 25 Minutes. Swain, the well known amateur, scored one of the best goals seen on the ground. Straight from a throw-in by Jessop his first time shot from long range found the top corner of the net and was a winner all the way.

Shortly after the interval "Bill" Keeling equalised with another great shot. This followed a clever movement by Holland, his partner. Ibstock were awarded a penalty but Robinson failed with the kick, the ball hitting the upright.

STRONG RALLY

The Rovers rallied strongly in the closing stages, but up to this point there was very little to choose between the teams. In fact, many people considered the Lount men unlucky to lose. Ibstock's victory was a personal triumph for Swain, who was on the top of his form at left-half, his heading, footwork and long passes being delightful. Outstanding on the Lount side, were the Keeling brothers, William and Harry. In defence, Bonnick and Pickering were also outstanding. Bird was the best winger on view.

The cup will now be put up for competition again among the Coalville League clubs. Teams:

Ibstock Penistone Rovers; Cotton ; Bishop, Newbold ; Deacon, Poyser, Swain ; French, Robinson, Gray, Storer, Jessop.

New Lount Colliery: Stafford ; Bonnick, Platts ; Barkby, Pickering, Keeling (H) ; Holland, Bradford, Rowell, Keeling (W), Bird

A FIESTY 1934/35 SEASON CUP MATCH

Leicester Evening Mail - Tuesday 11 December 1934

A Cup Match between New Lount Colliery and Overseal Institute was described at a football meeting at Coalville last nlght. Blows were alleged to have been struck, and the game was abandoned 20 minutes from time. The secretary (Mr. C. E. Marston) read a letter from Mr. Whittaker (referee), stating that the match at New Lount on December 1st was not finished. The referee stated that 20 minutes from time, when Lount were leading by three goals to none. he had occasion to order an Overseal player from the field. The spectators crowded on to the field, which he was unable to clear. The New Lount secretary. Mr. W. Major, was struck when affording him (the referee) protection. He admitted that Mr. Wright (Overseal secretary) did assist in trying to clear the ground. The committee awarded the match to New Lount.

1935 / 36 SEASON "LEICESTERSHIRE JUNIOR CUP" DIVISIONAL FINAL

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 04 April 1936

A CLOSE GAME

Both sets of forwards were guilty of poor finishing in the divisional final of the Leicestershire Junior Cup competition at Whitwick, between New Lount Colliery and Donisthorpe, the Colliery winning by 4-2. Rowell claimed three of the Colliery's goals and the other was scored by their clever centre-half, Frank Pickering, who had the support of two splendid halfbacks in Mee and Barkby. Incidentally, Lount were booked for two semi-finals in two days this weekend. Yesterday they were due at Measham for the semi-final of the Measham Charity Cup with Donisthorpe, this being a replay; and at

Coalville this afternoon were opposed to Holwell Works in the Coalville Charity Cup semi-final.

Leicester Evening Mail - Sat 15th February 1936

Matt Rowell, the New Lount Colliery centre forward scored three of the collieries 9 goals against Newhall Swifts, the other goals being netted by Morley (2), Holland, Bradford, Keeling and Pickering.

TOUGH GUYS AT NEW LOUNT

Leicester Evening Mail - Thursday 09 April 1936

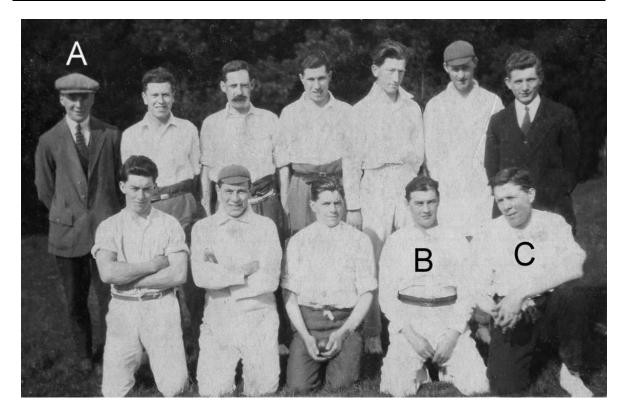
"Tough Guys" At New Lount

They evidently make their Soccer players tough round Coalville way, and nothing short of complete paralysis appears to prevent a footballer from returning to the field after the trainer's magical sponge has eased the fevered brow. In recent cup semi-finals, three of New Lount Colliery's players were in the wars, but having a rest on the touchline was the last thing these "he-men" thought about.

Billy Keeling, playing for New Lount against Donisthorpe at Measham, was struck right between the eyes by the ball, a real k.o. He was carried off, but returned to finish the game. His clubmate, Barkby, received a nasty thigh injury in the same match, and he, too, had to be carried off, but, though a passenger for the remainder of the game, he came back, like Oliver Twist, for more.

Then in the match against Holwell Works, Morley, the New Lount full-back, was injured very badly. Twice was Morley carried off, and on each occasion he returned to the fray after attention. Today Morley undergoes an X-ray examination. Of course, to the hundred-per-cent., dyed-In-the-wool, tough guys, these episodes may not appear to be anything out of the ordinary, but it so happened that each of the injured trio had done a night shift In the local pit less than twelve hours before.

NEW LOUNT CRICKET CLUB



New Lount Cricket Team c.1935.

Top Row

A - John Whyman, Umpire (uncle of the author)

Bottom Row

B - Samuel Stewart (father of the author), **C** - Les Saddington (cousin of the author)

John Whyman acted as umpire for the cricket team, due to the leg injury he received in the First World War, at the age of twenty one.

NEWBOLD AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL SOCIETY FETES HELD ON THE NEW LOUNT COLLIERY SPORTS GROUND

As a result of a decision by Worthington to hold their own celebrations to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Her Majesty Queen Mary, it appears from the following transcribed newspaper report that Newbold, Griffydam, Gelsmoor and Pegg's Green came together to organize their own event on **the New Lount Colliery Athletics Ground.** The author believes that it was out of this successful joint effort that the "Newbold and District Hospital Society" was formed confirmed by the fact that £66 was donated to Loughborough hospital in 1935. The newspaper reports state that Loughborough, Derby, Leicester and Ashby de la Zouch would benefit from the profits. A total of £1,150 was donated over 4 years from 1935 to 1939.

New Lount Colliery employees also donated £187 to Loughborough in that year and the 1940 accounts record that £209 was donated.

Leicester Evening Mail – April 5th 1935

JOINT JUBILEE

NEWBOLD, GRIFFYDAM AND GELSMOOR

Owing to the Worthington village having decided to have their own Jubilee celebrations, Newbold, Griffydam, Pegg's Green and Gelsmoor have had to amalgamate, and in this connection meetings have recently been held.

It has been decided to call in all the people in the three villages to a free meat tea. The children under 14 years of age will be presented with a Jubilee china cup and saucer.

Proceedings will open on Jubilee Day at 1p.m. with a service in **the New Lount Colliery athletic field** and children's sports will commence. There will be a tea for the children in the Newbold Schools and afterwards the children will be entertained to a picture show at the New Hall, Newbold, kindly loaned by Mr. E. Martin.

Tea for the elderly people will follow the children's tea. There will be sports for the adults and a dance.

The committee would welcome offers to help at the tea. Names should be given in at the general committee meeting, held every Tuesday night at seven o'clock in the New Hall, Newbold.

Leicester Evening Mail – July 22nd 1935

VILLAGERS HELP THE HOSPITALS

The hospitals of Derby, Leicester, Loughborough are to benefit by a fete on Saturday on *the New Lount Colliery Sports Ground* at Newbold (Gelsmoor)

It was the first annual effort to be organized by the villages of Newbold, Griffydam, Gelsmoor and Peggs Green. Mr. Frank Hodges, the managing director of the Leicestershire Colliery & Pipe Co., performed the opening ceremony, and Mr. J. G. Pickard said the Leicester Royal Infirmary would receive its 10,000th in-patient this year.

A fancy dress parade was headed by the Ibstock United Silver Prize Band and the Shardlow Jazz Band also took part in the parade of the district. A horticultural show, football match and ox-roasting were included in the programme.



THE ANNUAL OX ROAST ON LOUNT SPORTS GROUND

The Ox was roasted over hot coals, whilst being rotated on a shaft in bearings at either end. To one end, was attached a cart-wheel, which was rotated in turns by the public. It is hoped that older readers will be able to identify the people in the photograph, as this has not been possible to date. The young boy on the right with the cap, is thought to be Herbert Hodges, and the older boy Ron Bancroft. The person with them wearing the cap is possibly Ron Hodges. It was thought that the Ox was supplied by Kidger's Butchers of School Lane who feature in an earlier article. Mrs. Kidger is actually the lady basting the Ox. On her left is Violet Hodges who lived in Providence Chapel house, and the lady right at the back is Bertha Richards, who was the wife of Jim Richards the baker from School Lane.

It seems, that one of the highlights of the "Ox Roast", was the auctioning off of the first slice of beef. This went for £202 in 1939 which was a lot of money at that time, and the person who paid this must have been quite a wealthy benefactor. It is said that everyone received a free slice of beef in their cob also

Leicester Evening Mail - Saturday 17 July 1937

NEWBOLD - OX ROASTING

An attraction for the visitors of the Newbold District near Ashby today, was the Third annual Hospital Carnival. The two previous efforts produced nearly £500 for local hospitals'

One of the outstanding events was the picturesque ceremony of the crowning of the Queen, Miss Eva Springthorpe, by Mrs. Hodges.

The opening was performed by Mr. Frank Hodges on the "New Lount Colliery Athletic Ground".

Various attractions included Ox-Roasting, a Carnival procession and dancing. *Mr. Idwal Taylor is the Hon. Secretary.*

Leicester Evening Mail – June 27th 1938

NEWBOLD'S GOLDEN OX

Newbold and District Hospital's Committee claim a national record for the amount of money raised for the fist slice of a roasted ox. When their fete for Leicester, Derby, Loughborough and Ashby Hospitals was held on Saturday, the first slice realized £161 10s. 6d.

Over 2,500 people attended and the record of last year, £315, is believed to have been broken.

A feature was the crowning of the beauty queen, Miss Gwen Warrington, of Griffydam, by Mrs. Frank Hodges.

The parade prize-winners were Mrs. Kidger, Miss Adcock, Mrs. Bomlroff, Miss Freda Griffin, Kenneth Springthorpe and G. Townsend.

Mrs. Hodges, who opened the fete, started the bidding for the first slice of the ox by offering $\pounds 10$ 10s.

Griffydam (13 for three) beat Newbold (11 all out) for the Griffydam and District Charity Cricket Cup. Newbold Social Club won the tug-of-war. In the evening, dances were held. Mr. Edward Martin is chairman of the committee; Mr. Idwal Taylor, hon. Secretary; and Mr. J. B. Mackie, hon. treasurer

SPORTS CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 1953 CORONATION OF ELIZABETH II

Transcribed from the Leicester Evening Mail - Monday 29th June 1953

A CORONATION SHIELD IS WON

A **CORONATION** Shield was won by **Griffydam School** at the annual field day and sports for children organised by New Lount Collieries and Works Athletic Club. Results of sports and competitions held in connection with the field day were :-

Girls, (First Prizewinners) :

A Walker, S. Garner, P. Clayfield, D. Wesley, J. A. Wright, L. Hickling, E. Townsend, J. Whetton, E. Stanley, S. Wesley, G. Smith, E. Wesley.

Girls Relay Races - Winners Griffydam School

Boys, (First Prizewinners) :

G. Stanyard, J. Griffin, D. Haywood, M. Abbott, K. Osbourne, B. Lowe, R. Stacey, J. McKee, John Sketchley, Graham. Betts, R. Stacey, B. Townsend

Boys Relay : Griffydam School

Boys Tug-Of-War : Ashby Manor House school

Whitwick beat Newbold 5-4 in a six a side football game for schools

Fancy Dress, Girls : 1, Margaret Bird, 2, Pam Wright, 3, J. Griffin Boys : 1, A. Lowe, 2, G. Bonser, 3, M. Court

Sewing and Knitting : 1, Jill Wright, 2, Margaret Bird, 3, J. Hill

Drawing and Painting: 1,2, & 3 - D. Fairbrother

Wild Flower Bouquet: 1, Pam Barkby, 2, David Wilmott, 3, C. Hodges

Men's Bowls: 1, E.Yates and Les Saddington

Women's Bowls : Mrs. Burnett

Tennis Competition : K. Iken and Miss R. Pringle Runners up : Mr. V. Smith and Miss. S. Williamson