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### 125 Years Club Newsletter

Our club is proudly celebrating 125 years, 1891-2016.



**Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club** was established in October 1891, said to be built by the mill owners of Park Bridge (where the rivets for the Titanic, Eiffel Tower and Sydney Opera House were made) as a private gentleman's club, a place to meet and discuss politics.

Original membership stood at 43, with 17 founding members and 26 members.

Early members included;

- Maurice E. Shaw (Messrs Shaw and Bentley Brewers of Bardsley)
- James Mawdsley (Trade Unionist)
- Joseph Boothby Pownall (Leader of the Ashton Conservative Party)
- William Chadwick (Chief Constable of Stalybridge)

With famous visitors / guests including;

- Sir Abraham Walter de Frece (MP for Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill (MP for Oldham, later British Prime Minister).

Back in the early 1900's, the club with 200 members would open at 9am with the days papers laid out and members would enjoy a stiff brandy. The crown green was added in 1900.

The long entrance down from Oldham Road was the original entrance for the horse and carts.

The club as it now stands was extended in the 1982 and currently has over 400 members.

*'A great club, with great people'*

# THE HERALD

## 11th May 1907 - The Herald

### Conservative Gathering at Waterloo

On Saturday evening, there was a most enthusiastic Conservative gathering in the Christ Church Branch Schools, Waterloo.

The event was the annual tea party and concert promoted by the Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, and it is also afforded an opportunity of celebrating the recent magnificent victory achieved in the local "Parliament".

About 200 hundred persons were present at tea and this number was considerably augmented at the after-proceedings.

Councillor H. Johnson presided, and he was supported by the Rev. F. H. Burrows (vicar of Christ Church), Major J. B. Pownall, Councillors J. W. Holland and A. Newns and Messers S. Taylor (chairman of the club) and A. Lees.

An excellent concert was provided and thoroughly enjoyed. It opened with the duet "Sing Me to Sleep" which was rendered in a charming manner by Mrs. J. A. Turner (soprano) and Miss Ann N. Hague (contralto). They were vociferously applauded.

The humorous element was in the capable hands of Messers, Ned Lloyd and Fred Radcliffe, as they kept the audience in roars of laughter with their willy sayings.

## 11 May 1901 - The Ashton Reporter

### BOWLING HANDICAP

Under the auspices of the Waterloo Conservative Club, a bowling handicap was held on their green on Saturday, when there were 31 entries. The attendance was good and the result as follows: 1st prize, J CARTWRIGHT; 2nd T DITCHFIELD; 3rd J BUCKLEY.

The party were afterwards entertained to tea, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

## History of the De-Frece Bowls Cup

Sir Abraham Walter de Frece, born on 7th October 1870 was a British theatre impresario, and later Conservative Party politician, who served as a member of parliament (MP) from 1920 to 1931.



SEEKING ELECTION.  
Sir Walter de Frece (right), the  
Unionist candidate at Ashton-under-  
Lyme, with Alderman Coope.

He was the elected MP for Ashton-under-Lyme between 1920-1923 and was a regular visitor to Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club. At the 1924 general election he did not stand again in Ashton-under-Lyme, but moved to the more promising Blackpool constituency, where he was returned with a majority of over 7,000

votes, despite residing in Monte Carlo. He held the seat with a similar majority in 1929.

He represented Blackpool between the two wars, though only visited the United Kingdom twice a year, once for the Budget speech and again for Ascot. He had managed to convince his electorate that he was representing their interests by signing a stack of House of Commons notepaper every time he returned. His secretary would then write responses to each letter from his constituents on the signed notepaper, making it appear to voters that they had received a personal response. Although he was once a national MP for Blackpool actually never went near the place, "in fact he couldn't find it on a map"

His wife was the celebrated male impersonator, Vesta Tilley, and in light of the poor health of his wife, he retired from the House of Commons at the 1931 general election, and went to live in the home they had in Monaco.

Sir Abraham Walter de Frece died on 07<sup>th</sup> January 1935. The club still honours his name to this day, holding the 'De Frece' Crown Green Bowls Cup Match, with the latest being held on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014.

AN APPRECIATION	
The De-Frece Bowling Handicap Committee extend a very warm welcome to all the visitors to the Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club.	
We would like to thank the Officials, Committee and Members of the Club for the use of the Green and the facilities they provide.	
To the Bowlers that entered the handicap, the patrons and all the advertisers in the programme, we thank you. And the bowlers who did not qualify remember there is always another year.	
Bill Featherstone	
PREVIOUS WINNERS	
1978 G. LITTLE	NEWTON MOOR CON. CLUB
1979 K. HALLWORTH	STANLEY SQUARE CON. CLUB
1980 J. HIBBERT Jnr.	WATERLOO CON. CLUB
1981 A. HOPKINS	OPENSHAW CON. CLUB
1982 H. G. WILLIAM	GUIDEBRIDGE CON. CLUB
1983 N. MARSDEN	WATERLOO CON. CLUB
1984 S. CLAYDON	HURST NOOK
1985 S. WOOD	WATERLOO CON. CLUB
1986 W. SMYTHE	OPENSHAW CON. CLUB
1987 G. LITTLE	NEWTON MOOR CON. CLUB
1988 H. BEECH	HYDE CONSERVATIVE CLUB
1989 K. ASTLEY	WATERLOO CON. CLUB
1990 A. HOPKINS	OPENSHAW CON. CLUB

## 1918 news report - The Ashton Reporter

Mr and Mrs Thomas Potts, Steward and Stewardess of Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club have received official confirmation that their son Private George Harry Potts has been 'Killed In Action' with the Machine Gun Corps.

A letter from the reverend H.Coulthurste, chaplain, states: 'Your son was Killed In Action in the course of battle that brought glory to the division'.

Private Potts was aged 20. He had joined the army at 16 just after the war started. He had previously worked with his brother, William, in the butchering business. His brother, William, is serving in the Royal Dragoons. His older brother Tom is in Italy with the Manchester Regiment. Private Potts was a member of Christ Church and educated at the school.

## 1934 - Gartside Cup

On the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1934, Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club played host to the Gartside Bowls Cup with member H.Smith taking victory.



The sponsor was Gartside (Brookside) Brewery Ltd, of Ashton-under-Lyme who at the time owned local public houses including the Gardeners Arms, Taunton and the Horse Shoe and the Black Diamond in Bardsley.



Photographs: Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club in 1934 and a 1934 advertisement of Gartside Emerald Stout.

## 1944 - Lady Members?

During World War II, the club opened its doors to member's wives, as the men were away fighting for King and Country. During this time a ladies annual crown green bowling match was played annually. Known as the 'Lady Bowlers Perpetual Challenge Trophy'. The first cup was presented to the Ashton Women's Conservative Association by Ald.T.Rose Hilton JP. Mayor in 1944.

Winners of the Lady Bowlers Trophy were;

- 1944 Mrs M.Wilde
- 1945 Mrs S.A.Lawton
- 1946 Mrs Lomas
- 1947 Mrs H.Schofield
- 1948 Miss E.M.Tobin
- 1949 Mrs W.Gartside

## Famous Faces - Did you know?

Famous Club Members have included;

- **Bill Tarmey** (Actor, singer and author) Bill played Jack Duckworth in the soap opera Coronation Street between 1971-2010.
- **Mike Doyle** (Manchester City and England Footballer) who won 5 caps for England.



## 1891 - Original Membership List

The original club membership stood at 43, with 17 founding members and 26 members.

- Chairman: Lees Slater
- Secretary: H.Hepenstall
- Honorary Secretary: R.Wainwright

Date	Proposed by	Seconded by	Name of New Member
24 <sup>th</sup> October	W.Schofield	P.Haughton	J.L.Thornley
24 <sup>th</sup> October	H.Lowe	H.Johnson	T.Gregory
24 <sup>th</sup> October	H.Lowe	P.Haughton	Anthony Lowe
24 <sup>th</sup> October	H.Johnson	W.Schofield	E.Lowe
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Mr M.Rushton	Herbert Johnson	John Lees
26 <sup>th</sup> October	Herbert Smethurst	H.Johnson	Edward Garside
04 <sup>th</sup> November	Herbert Johnson	L.Slater	Joseph Hepford
04 <sup>th</sup> November	W.Schofield	Lees Slater	W.Heald
09 <sup>th</sup> November	Edward Williamson	Lees Slater	W.Mac
10 <sup>th</sup> November	W.Schofield	Mr Taylor	Richard Brown
10 <sup>th</sup> November	W.Schofield	Mr Taylor	Walter Taylor
10 <sup>th</sup> November	J.Urmson	W.Bailey	Henry Shepley
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Walter Bailey	W.Schofield	Samuel Andrew
07 <sup>th</sup> December	H.Johnson	W.Schofield	James Richard
07 <sup>th</sup> December	Lees Slater	H.Johnson	James Walton
07 <sup>th</sup> December	H.Johnson	W.Schofield	Unknown
07 <sup>th</sup> December	W.Schofield	Herbert Johnson	Arthur Schofield
08 <sup>th</sup> December	Mr M.Rushton	J.Fletcher	John Clegg
08 <sup>th</sup> December	H.Johnson	E.A.Williamson	Robert Leech
08 <sup>th</sup> December	Maurice Shaw	H.Johnson	Unknown
08 <sup>th</sup> December	Lees Slater	Walter Bailey	James Davies
11 <sup>th</sup> December	J.Urmson	S.Riley	William Frith
14 <sup>th</sup> December	M.Rushton	Joseph Devenport	Joseph Jones
14 <sup>th</sup> December	H.Johnson	Maurice E. Shaw	Unknown
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Unknown	Maurice E. Shaw	John Hadfield
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Simpson Odgen	William Rushton	Charles H. Hibbert

Original members were mostly respected businessmen in the local area including;

- Arthur Schofield (Collier).
- Charles Hibbert (Publican Junction and Bath, 84 Portland St / later Waterloo Grocer).
- Edward Garside (Ironmonger at Park Bridge Iron Works).
- H.Johnson (Councillor).
- Henry Lowe (Undermanager, New Limehurst Colliery Company Ltd).
- Jonathan Urmson (Iron founder of 'John Urmson's' Wellington Rd. Ashton).
- Lees Slater (Waterloo Butchers).
- Maurice E.Shaw (Shaw and Bentley brewers of Bardsley).
- R.Wainwright (Ashton Councillor / Mayor).
- Samuel Andrew (Iron Moulder at Fairbottom).
- Walter Bailey (Gas Engine Works)
- William Bailey (Pork Butcher)
- William Firth (Warehouse Manager).

## 1982 - Two awarded top honour

### Article from Ashton Reporter – July 1982

Two members of the Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club, Oldham Road, Ashton have been awarded the highest honour that can be given by the club.

Mr Sam Marsh, of Clive Street, and Mr Frank Hibbert, of Patterdale Road, both Ashton, were awarded the medal of honour at a ceremony at the club on Tuesday (20<sup>th</sup> July 1982).

The award is given for distinguished service to the club, and before the ceremony last Tuesday, the club had only awarded three other members with the medal since 1891.

Mr Hibbert and Mr Marsh have both served on the committee for 15 years and Mr Hibbert was made a trustee three years ago.

The special presentation was made by the chairman of the North West Area Clubs Association, Mr Stanley Windle (M.B.E), during the presentation of trophies for the Winter Games League.



Photograph: Sam Marsh and Frank Hibbert (centre), receive their medals from Stanley Windle (right). Also in the picture is William Tunstall (left) president of the club.

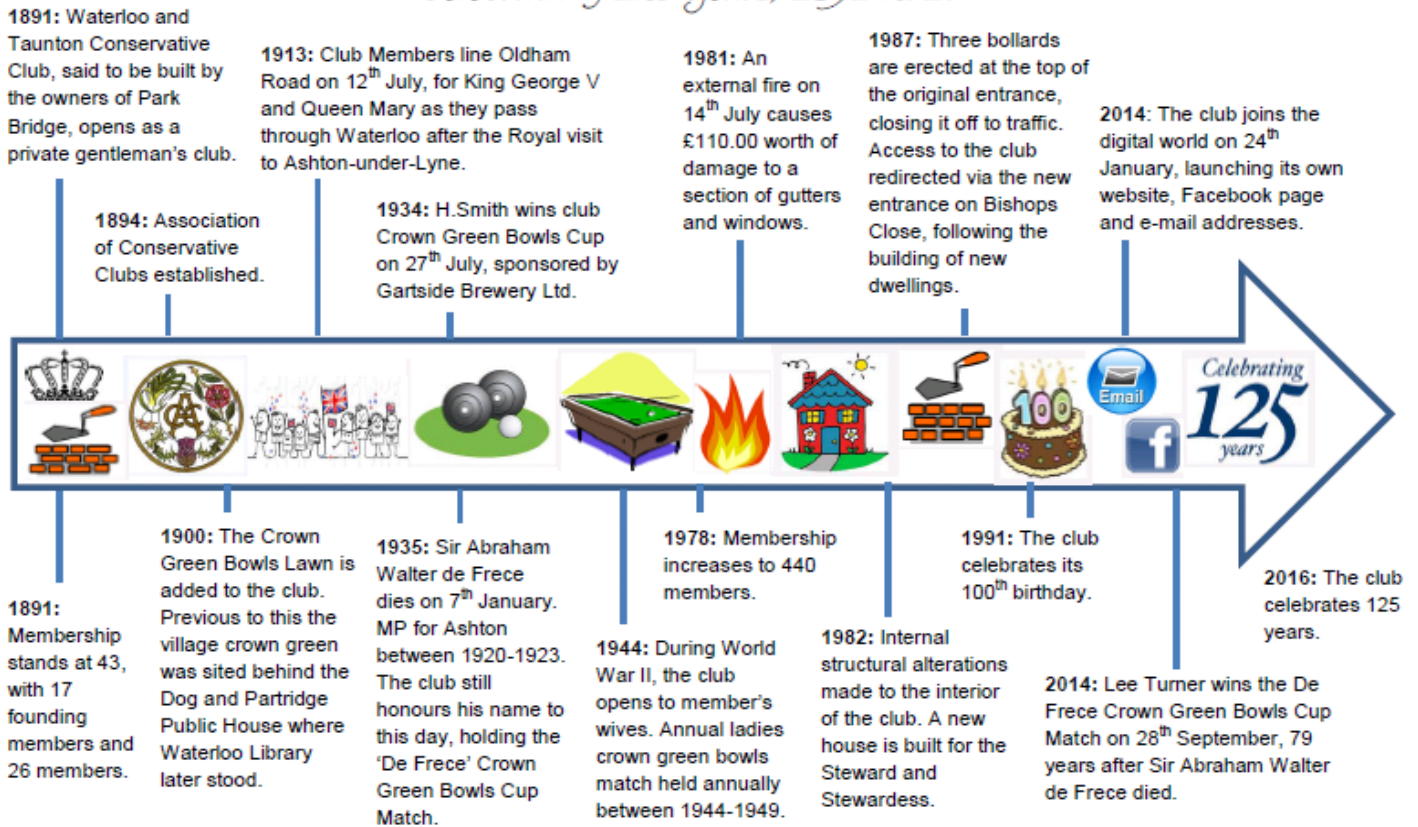
### Background

Mr Sam Marsh, aged 69 at the time of the award, became a member of the club on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1955 and was elected to the committee on 03<sup>rd</sup> February 1964 and had an unbroken record of service. He had been a delegate to the Ashton-under-Lyne Parliamentary Constituency Association since 1955 and in 1968 was instrumental for reviving the De-Frece Cup Bowling Handicap.

Mr Frank Hibbert, aged 59 at the time of the award, became a member of the club on 09<sup>th</sup> March 1959. He was elected to the committee 08<sup>th</sup> February 1965 and had an unbroken record of service since. He was appointed a Trustee of the club on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1975 and had been a delegate to the Ashton-under-Lyne Parliamentary Constituency Association and to the North West Clubs.

## Timeline History – ‘Proud to be celebrating 125 years’

### Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club Celebrating 125 years, 1891-2016



### Prime Minister in the club - Did you know?

**Sir Winston Leonard Spencer-Churchill** visited Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club on several occasions, attending as a signed in guest of his friend, Club Member and Trade Unionist '**James Mawdsley**', who lived at Taunton Bank, Newmarket Road, Taunton.

In 1899 Churchill and Mawdsley both stood for election in Oldham, Lancashire – they lost. After a spell as a roving war correspondent, travelling to South Africa to cover the Boer War for The Morning Post, Churchill returned to Oldham in 1900 and stood in the 1900 General Election. This time, the 26 year old Conservative candidate received enough of the Liberal majority's second votes to be returned as the town's second MP.

Churchill, as an ambitious politician, was rarely seen in Oldham, spending his time in London, however Oldham gave Churchill his first experiences of dealing with poverty which almost certainly steered him towards social reform. Churchill and Mawdsley remained friends right up to Mawdsley death in 1902.

In December 1903, the local party committee passed a motion of no confidence and a month later, Churchill, ceased to be the town's Conservative candidate. It was also around this time, that Churchill had applied to be a member of Waterloo and Taunton Conservative Club – *His membership was refused.*

In 1904, Churchill made the most serious political move of his early career when in he crossed the floor of the House of Commons and joined the Liberal opposition, after falling out with the Conservatives over the issue of free trade. When the Liberal Party collapsed in 1922, Churchill was temporarily out of office, but he was re-elected as an independent in 1924 and then became a Conservative again, when Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin asked him to be Chancellor of the Exchequer. Churchill later became Prime Minister in 1940-1945 and again 1951-1955.

