

1920 - 1929

Following a meeting on Tuesday 2nd March 1920 of the Comrades of the Great War of which Colonel Chichester, the Chief Constable for the area, was the Captain of the Post, it was decided to form a club in Godmanchester for the comrades. The Club was to be called "Comrades of the Great War Club, Godmanchester", with subscription being 4/- per year and visitors being allowed in on payment of 1d.

An offer was made by Commander Locker Sampson for use of the back premises of the Constitutional Hall. The original Constitutional Hall is what is now the snooker room with the stage being where the bar is as you come through the double doors into the club. The lounge was used as the club premises with a platform down the side of the room adjacent to what is now the dance hall.

There were also two small ante rooms in the club premises of which one was used as a quiet room and at times for a bottle store. Some members used to take advantage of this by taking a bottle of beer without paying for it. The bar was situated in the region of the present small committee room and heating for the club was supplied by a tortoise shell stove. Opening hours were set to be from 5 - 10pm, with the first steward, Mr A. Boot, being appointed on a weekly wage of 30/-. It is interesting to note that in the first "Rule Book" there was a by-law which read :- "No liquor to be taken off the premises unless inside the member carrying same".

The club was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant on Friday 19th May 1920. The President was Colonel Chichester, Vice-President a Mr Markham, with 5 committeemen, 2 auditors and 17 members. The club wished to extend so it negotiated the purchase of a wooden hut from the soldiers of the 1st World War, for the sum of £50, to be funded by the issue of debenture shares at a cost of £1 with 5% interest. However this proved a fruitless venture because in 1922 the hut was sold because of lack of use.

1924 saw the first suspension when Mr L. Seaman was suspended following a disturbance in the club. The club was a meeting place for the men of Godmanchester where they were able to play, billiards, draughts, darts and cards. There was also 2 "Quoit Beds" situated outside along the wall of the club premises. There used to be regular matches on a Saturday afternoon with beer being supplied in buckets and people just filled their glass from them. Another favourite past-time was "cork billiards".

This was also played on Saturdays and involved putting a cork on the blue spot (as in snooker). Each player put a penny on the cork and the idea was to come off the cushion and hit the cork. If the player was successful he claimed the money but if he went off the cushion into the pocket he had to double the amount of pennies on the cork. Cards was also a favourite game to be played, with a local farmer, Ralph Pratt, losing his herd of cattle over about a period of three years. In 1925 Godmanchester Football Club were allowed to use the club as their Headquarters and in the same year the club decided to provide a musical evening every fortnight.

1926 saw the resignation of Colonel Chichester who had presided over the club for nearly 7 years. He retired through ill-health and on Friday 14th January 1927 Reverend Kitchener was elected the new President.