

Papers Past

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NEW PLAYING FIELDS.

POINT CHEVALIER AREA.

MR. H. JOHNSTONE'S GIFT.

OVER FOUR ACRES OF LAND.

BOWLING, CROQUET AND TENNIS.

Auckland's rich endowment of parks and open spaces has again been augmented, this time by the magnificent gift by Mr. Hallyburton Johnstone, a retired farmer, late of Ngatea, Hauraki Plains, of a fine property of four and a-half acres of land at Point Chevalier, together with a house of 14 rooms. The area, to which access is provided from Point Chevalier Road, and also from Dignan Street, is to be set aside for bowling and croquet greens and tennis courts.

A public meeting of Point Chevalier residents is to be held next week, when a sports club will be formed. In this body, which will also include six trustees, will be vested the full control of the property. It is anticipated that by the summer of 1929 the grounds will be properly laid out and that they will be ready for the club to commence its activities.

The property is situated in a commanding position, and an uninterrupted view of the harbour can be obtained from the broad verandah which runs along the front of the fine old home. It was originally known as "The Pines," and derived its name from a belt of tall pine trees which enclosed the fields.

Provision for Children's Areas.

The house was built in 1905 by Mr. T. Dignan, and is in excellent condition. It is surrounded by a well-kept garden planted with flowers and native shrubs, and although the remainder of the property has not been cultivated for some time the grass is growing profusely on the level acres. There is

ample room for many tennis courts and bowling greens, and although the donor will not permit football fields to be laid out to the exclusion of other games, it is anticipated that provision will be made for children's playing areas.

Mr. Johnstone's generous gift was prompted by the need of more playing areas at Point Chevalier. An informal meeting of residents was held last week, when it was decided to endeavour to purchase a suitable piece of land. Mr. Johnstone was approached, but he refused to sell any part of his property, and stated his intention of donating the whole area to the citizens. The club's privileges will not be confined to those living in the vicinity, and as the property is only 25 minutes by bus from the city, a large number of people will be able to share in its benefits.

Control of Sports Club.

Under the terms of a preliminary agreement Mr. Johnstone will vacate the property, but will receive an annuity of £200 until his death. He will also be a life member of the executive appointed to control the club. The other three trustees whom Mr. Johnstone has reserved the right to appoint are Mr. F. G. Rose, Mr. F. C. Jordan, and Mr. M. J. Coyle. Three others will be elected by the club when it has been formed.

It is stipulated in the agreement that the club shall include the words "Hallyburton Johnstone." No part of the land is to be sold or mortgaged, although the club will be permitted to let certain portions. It is intended to let the house for some time until the finances of the club are in a sound position. A small shop on the Point Chevalier Road frontage is already returning rent.

Profits for Improvement.

All profits derived by the club are to be expended upon improvements to the property, and any surplus moneys are to be handed to the Orphan Homes Trust Board. In the event of the Point Chevalier residents refusing or being unable to carry on the club, the property will be handed to the Auckland City Council, and to the Orphan Homes

CROQUET

OFFICIAL OPENINGS HELD

HALLYBURTON JOHNSTONE CLUB

The official opening of the Hallyburton Johnstone Croquet Club was held on Saturday in the presence of a large attendance of members and visitors.

The president, Mrs. Breckon, welcomed Mrs. Hamilton, president of the Auckland Centre, Mrs. Keesing, hon. secretary, and representatives of the Mount Albert, Glen Eden, Rocky Nook, Hillsborough, New Lynn, Epsom, Malvern, Grey Lynn, Avondale, Mount Eden and Mont le Grande Croquet Clubs. Mrs. Hamilton responded for the visitors and thanked Mrs. Breckon for her welcome. They all hoped the club would have a good season and would again enter for the inter-club competitions. The game of croquet, Mrs. Hamilton said, was becoming more popular each season. The Hallyburton Johnstone Club had a splendid lawn and had made wonderful progress in four years. It was now one of the most prosperous clubs in the centre. Mrs. Keesing also thanked the president for her welcome and congratulated the club on its good performance in the banner contests.

Mr. G. Taylor, president of the bowling club, conveyed the good wishes of the bowlers. Both sports, he said, had a natural kinship, and they were ever ready to assist the members of the croquet club. Messrs. W. A. Phillipps, hon. secretary of the bowling club, and Mr. Shade, president of the tennis club, added their congratulations and best wishes for a successful season.

Mrs. Breckon drove a croquet ball down the lawn and declared it open for play.

Six games were carried on at once, visitors having preference. The winners were:—A grade: Mrs. Robertson (Mount Albert), winner, and Mrs. Keesing (Centre) the consolation prize; B grade: Mrs. Dent (Malvern), winner, and Mrs. Buckley (Grey Lynn) the consolation prize. The hidden number prize was won by Mrs. Peckham, Mont le Grande Club.

Trust Board if the council cannot administer it. However, it is not anticipated any such action will be taken. The club will be allowed four clear months before the first quarterly payment of the annuity is due.

Mr. Johnstone stated yesterday he had been greatly interested in all kinds of sport during his life, and it was his desire to make provision for the people in the district where he had lived for the past four years. He felt the formation of such a club as was proposed would fill a much-needed want, not only at Point Chevalier, but also in surrounding districts.

The contents of the large home bear out Mr. Johnstone's love of sport. The hall contains many fine specimens of deer-heads, while many other interesting relics are to be found on the walls. Mr. Johnstone is also an ardent bowler.

1999
1961

Pt. Chevalier Croquet Club

On 28th December 1928, a deputation of ladies, Mesdames Donaldson, Breckon, Ramsay, Rose, Phillips, Holdsworth, Clarke, Milne and Miss Clarke, approached the Trustees of the Hallyburton Johnstone Sports Club at 25 Dignan Street, Pt. Chevalier to form themselves into a croquet club. The Trustees approved enough ground to provide two lawns and advanced a loan of £200 [free of interest]. Various members provided gifts of balls, hoops [15 shillings a set] and a line marker.

Funds were raised in many ways. One of them was a Queen Carnival run as a joint affair with the Hallyburton Johnstone Sports Club i.e. men and women, Bowling and Tennis. The sum of 650 pounds was raised and the Queen [Miss D. Durmingham] was crowned at the Ambassador Theatre, Pt. Chevalier.

As the new club was formed without any of the members knowing about the game of croquet, it was naturally necessary to have a coach. A Mrs H. Dawson who gave up many hours of her time to the game, took this task. Opening Day was Saturday, 16th February 1929 on a portion of the men's bowling green as the new croquet lawns had wide cracks appearing due to very dry weather.

On the real Opening Day of the new lawns, the members arrived to admire their lawns, but found a cow was on them making numerous hoof marks all over the surface! Thanks must go to those ladies and to their men who helped make the club what it is today.

The club has provided excellent facilities for tournaments over the years and has a membership of 31 for the 1998/99 season. The membership includes players at a high level of skill - Premier Grade 2 players; A Grade 13 players; Intermediate Grade 10 players; B Grade 5 players and C Grade 1 player.

In the history of the Club, there are two points of interest.

The Queen of the Carnivals later married the late Mr Karl Rosenfeldt, who as Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1990 made a donation towards the purchase of the third lawn. The third lawn was opened on 2nd February 1991 and named after Karl Rosenfeldt.

It was also discovered during research that a founder member of the club was a Mrs Phillips. Her grandson Rex Phillips is one of our current members and has a Bisquing of -1.5.

Pt Chevalier Club History and Recent News

The Pt. Chevalier Croquet Club as it is now known, was in fact 'born' in December 1928 as the Hallyburton Johnstone Croquet Club. A deputation of 9 ladies approached the Trustees of the Hallyburton Johnstone Sports Club wishing to form a Croquet Club. The Trustees apportioned enough ground adjacent to the Bowling Club for two croquet greens & advanced a loan of two hundred pounds. As no member knew anything about the game of croquet, they called upon the help from a Mrs Dawson of Mt. Albert who it was recorded, "gave untold hours of coaching."

It was decided that play would commence on Sat 16th Feb 1929 on a portion of the men's bowling green. However, on the opening day members arrived to enjoy and admire their new facility, only to find a huge cow had implanted hoof marks over the new greens. Also, as the weather had been rather dry, it was necessary to rake dirt into the cracks between play.

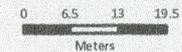
It appears the Club was administered by ladies up until 1984, when the first male President - Bob Justice, was elected. In 1985 it was suggested that a 3rd lawn be developed. However, it appears lack of finance delayed this happening until 1987. Records show that between 1928 & 1988 membership fluctuated between 11 and 42.

ACA
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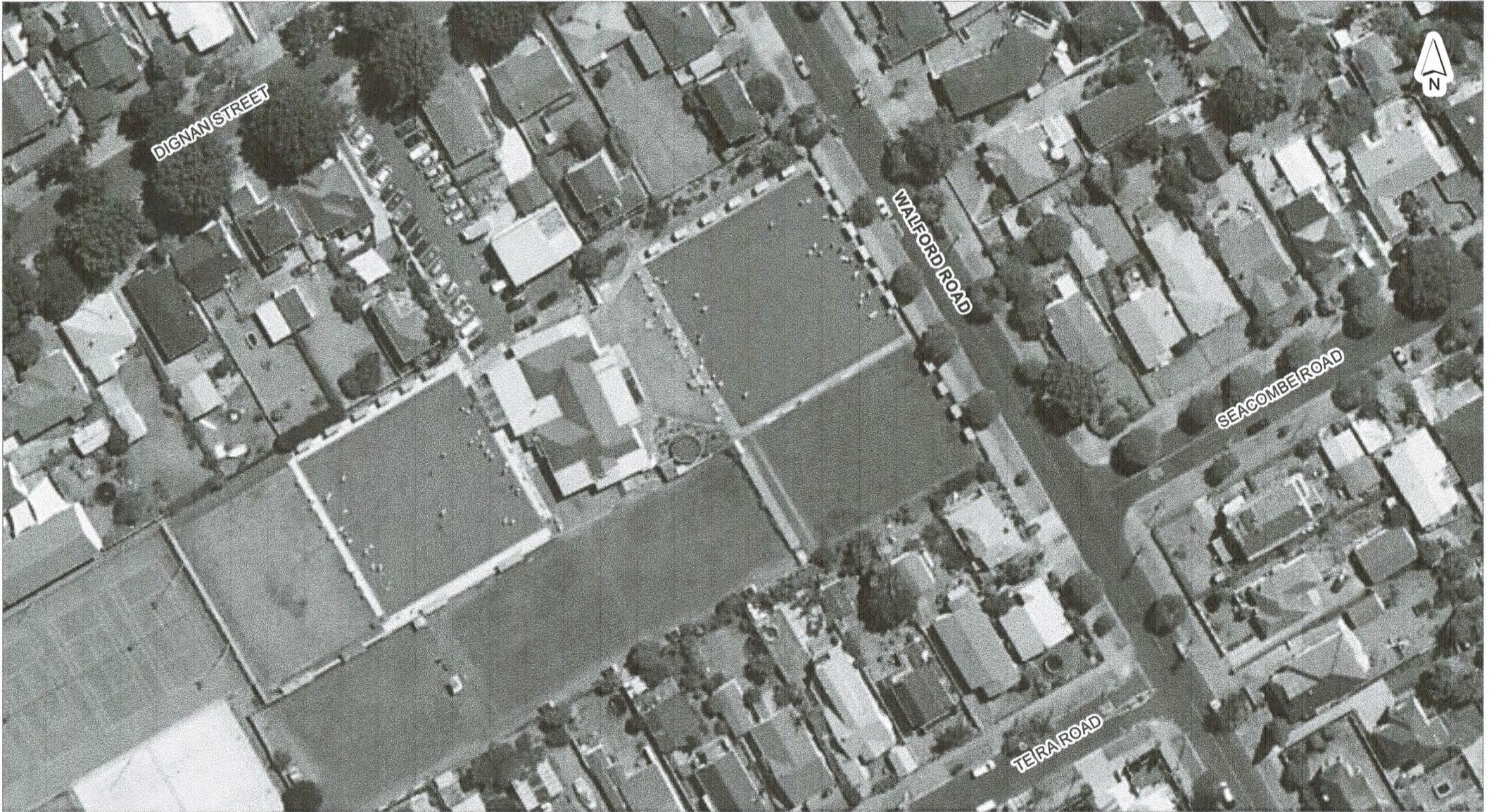
Halliburton-Johnstone B & CC 1940 (now Pt Chev)



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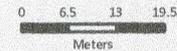
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At Chester

