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to this



In 2009 Oakley BC and Mr Jeremiah Colman agreed a 25 year lease giving the club security of tenure on the land it occupied at Malshanger and subsequently the Estate agreed that a further piece of land would be made available, on which the Club could look to erect a new pavilion. This gave us the opportunity to apply for Lottery Grant and other grants towards the cost of a new pavilion. First applications were unsuccessful and as time passed it looked likely that we would have to look at just improving the facilities within our existing 70 year old wooden structure. Then in, 2011, Sport England announced a Lottery Funded scheme aimed at improving facilities at sports clubs and in September 2011 an application for funds was submitted. Just before Christmas Sport England announced that our bid had been successful and £50000 had been granted. This was followed in March 2012 with a grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council of £25000, so, together with the funds already raised by Club members, our dream of a new pavilion finally looked likely to be realised.

The following photos and text continue the story:-



16th March 2012

The cheque presentation from Sport England with (L-R) Club President Barry Lee, Joel Brookfield (Sport England), Leader of the House and Local MP Sir George Young and Club Vice-President Coral Wearn

The presentation party, joined by Sir Michael Colman and BH Presidents, Maxeen Fletcher and Ken Graham



President Barry gave our news to BBC South viewers via newscaster Roger Flynn

and our members celebrated



19th April



The site is marked out and finally the digger arrives



and Kay Kerley took delivery of her new company vehicle

President and Site Manager Barry Lee supervised the digging of the first sod and construction of the access road began



Then, on the 22nd April, down came the rain, bringing work to a queching stop!



22nd May



It was not until four weeks later that work recommenced, the access road completed and the footings prepared.





1st June

The first of 3 loads of concrete arrive, swiftly tamped down, leaving a base level enough to bowl on!



12th June

After waiting just over a week for the concrete to set, the sides of the building and the partitioning was delivered on the back of 2 lorries



and were erected in a couple of days, ready for inspection by Site Manager Barry, who, satisfied with progress so far, declared

"All we need now is a roof!"



The roof timbers duly arrived at 10:30am on the 25th June

and by 1:00pm the roof was taking shape



and by 10:30am the following day was completed, ready for the next inspection by Barry who declared, "Well, that's half a roof, all we need now is something on it to keep the rain out!"

He had to wait another 6 days for the roofing contractors to arrive and start adding the vital ingredients necessary to keep the inside dry and that was a very rain affected operation but was finally completed by the 5th July



11th July



With the scaffolding removed things are really taking shape, with work on the inside, plumbing, electrics etc on going. and we now await the removal of the hedge to see it in all its glory from the Green.

18th July

Much to the chagrin of our many hedge lovers, but to the delight of the two gentlemen who had to cut it each year, the digger takes the first chomp into the 28-year-old hedge



With the stumps dug out, it just leaves the branches, which have interwoven into the chain link fencing, to be dragged away leaving us with our first real insight into how the future will look at Oakley Bowling Club.

Work on the electrics, plumbing, flooring and plaster boarding is well under way inside and we look forward now to seeing the paving from the building to the edge of the Green completed.



Paving either side has now been doubled in width and the block paving in front of the pavilion has been skillfully sloped to the front door to allow wheelchair access without the need for a ramp.



Meanwhile, work continues inside with the kitchen fitted out, courtesy of Martin Smith, and the loos, well, nearly completed. Many images have been conjured up of the ladies sat in a line having a chat, but rest assured there will be partitions!



Time is running out now for the old pavilion with the arrival of the new machine shed. Lifted with skill by the lorry driver and lowered carefully onto its base which had been so accurately levelled no packing pieces were necessary. Well done PELA!



17th September

As D (for Demolition) Day, approaches, the old pavilion sits stripped and forlorn waiting for the big hammer to arrive.



Going!

Contractors begin stripping off the asbestos based tiles

Going!!

The machine takes the first bite of the old building, which didn't offer a lot of resistance.



Really going now !!!

The first container moves in to transport everything off for recycling.

Nearly gone ...!!!!



20th September 2012

GONE !!!!

Now work will start on re-instating and landscaping

Meanwhile, work continues on the inside of the pavilion with the flooring down (carpet tiles throughout the changing rooms and the main hall and vinyl flooring in the kitchen and toilets) and furnishings partially completed



Throughout the winter of 2012, changing rooms, storeroom and kitchen were fully fitted out.....



and the crowning glory took its place on the roof!



The very wet, cold weather in early spring 2013 and the resulting claggy clay soil dashed any hopes of seeding the surrounding area and the decision was made late in March to turf as much as we could





and all was looking pretty shipshape for the Opening Spoon Drive on Saturday 20th April.



The story ends with the official opening ceremony on 5th July 2013, and a friendly game against Bowls England.



Present at the ceremonial ribbon cutting party were
(L - R)

Rosemary Ellman-Brown, BE President 2013

Joel Brookfield, Sport England

Sir Michael Colman Bt

Coral Wearn, OBC President 2013, and

Cllr Dan Putty, Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane

The Oakley and Bowls England teams



Job done!!

