

The Founding of Braeside Bowling Club

- 1960** The Parish Council of St. Leonards and St. Ives, then in the county of Hampshire, considered the provision of a new Village Hall and Sports facilities on the Braeside Recreation ground.
- 1973 - 1975** **F.J. (John) Clarke** became Chairman of the new Village Hall Management Committee and, during 1973-1975, discussed with **A.T. (Arthur) Gore** the formation of Bowls and Tennis facilities.
- July - 1976** Quotations were received from 'En-tous-Cas' for a 6 rink grass bowling green and 3 grass tennis courts, the price being £18,000. Maintenance for grass greens and courts was considered and found to be very high. In September of that year **Arthur Gore** saw an article in 'World Bowls' magazine on the first outdoor green with an artificial surface.
- Oct. 1976** **Arthur Gore**, with **J.H. Slater** - a Parish Councillor, the Parish Clerk, **John Wilding** and bowler **Lionel Rowley**, visited Erdington Bowling Club, Birmingham to see the new type of green in action. Following their report the Parish Council 'agreed in principle' to the provision of a bowling green and three tennis courts on the Braeside Recreation ground.
- Dec. 1976** A public meeting was held attended by approximately 167 bowling and 37 tennis supporters. The Parish Council promised a lease on the site and a grant of £16,000 for bowls and tennis. A Steering Committee was formed to report back to the 1977 Parish Assembly. The Council Chairman nominated **John Clarke** as chairman with 11 bowling, and 5 tennis, supporters, to serve on the Committee, plus Councillor **Arthur Gore** and the Parish Clerk, **John Wilding**.
- March 1977** Because of grant requirements the operation had to adopt the title of a sports association, and in March 1977 the St. Leonards and St. Ives Association of Sports Clubs was formed to oversee the formation of Bowls and Tennis Clubs. That Association oversaw the Clubs until 1999 when it was wound up and the clubs continued on their own.
- Oct. 1978** Finally, with all negotiations completed including a 28 year lease with the Parish Council - in the name of the Trustees of the Sports Association - the construction of the site started in 1978; the bowling green was completed on the 18th October 1978 and BRAESIDE BOWLING CLUB was born.