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When workmen tore up the boards of the verandah at the Thanet Bowls Club, Montefiore Avenue, Ramsgate, the other day they uncovered history.

It is just 68 years ago, almost to the day, that the handsome clubhouse was built to grace the private bowls club of the philanthropist Mr R. W. Sebag-Montefiore, first president of the club, where he and his friends could enjoy the game amidst the beauty of what is now King George V park.

The old wood was in fair shape too, when it was ripped up, which speaks well of the choice and care of the workmen of those days.

I peeped through the foundations and saw the site of the former wine cellar, alas, now Gone. A few years earlier I would have found on the bar counter (which is still there) the old opener used to dislodge the 'glass marbles' which sealed soda water bottles.

A lifetime of such memories is unveiled by a visit to the Thanet Club.

Workmen at Thanet club uncover a piece of history.

The opening function on that sunny June day was a bright affair. A graceful Mrs Sebag-Montefiore performed the ceremony in an old fashioned welter of speeches.

The mayor of Ramsgate and the Chairman of Broadstairs Council, Mr W. Dunning Hayward, the club captain, and R.W. Sebag-Montefiore were among those who declared their love of bowls.

In fact, of course, the club was actually formed in 1907 By Messrs. Hayward, Pope, Digby and Eastes. At the end of the year the membership stood at 40, but by the beginning of the 1909 season it topped 130. Now there are 43 male members and 14 ladies.

The Green caters for 6 full size rinks. When it was laid out it needed 400 loads of clinker to be buried and the laying on top of 16,000 sea washed turfs.

In addition the Members decided to lay the foundation of a second similarly sized green and this today exists as a putting green. The whole area extends to 1 ½ acres.

How does the Council come into this? For years the late Mr. Sebag-Montefiore's club remained a private affair until the Second World War when the premises and grounds were used for A.R.P. training.