

From the end of the war the club and green have remained in Council possession. In 1948 the Council who have been friendly squatters - although there are some Members who still doubt their right of inheritance. - opened it as a public green, leased it to the Members, on favourable terms and installed a green keeper.

The public has the right to use certain rinks and the clubhouse, but most of the fittings are the property of the Members.

Now the honeymoon may be over. A member of the club who has been in touch with Officials of the Thanet Council, is not happy about the new terms they have put forward. The Council agreed that they have only squatters rights to the ownership of the property and the representative of the club has told them that they might fight this, if they cannot agree reasonable terms.

It is no secret that the members would like to take back the club in its original form as a private one. They talk of creating a new green for which the pre Council owners had already laid the foundations.

The clubhouse was erected by the owners and the only Council property on the club premises is a hut replacing another one, built before they took over, for the issue of tickets to the public.

Among the new generation of members who reopened the club after the war were Cllr Dan Mynheer, president in 1948; the Gisbys, Jack Payne, Eddie Young, Harry Livesey, and later Arthur Graham and George Smith, the present mayor of Ramsgate.

Arthur Graham joined Thanet 30 years ago. Originally a crown green player in the north of England; Arthur has many memories of Thanet in the fifties. He says: 'There were times when, we were so short of players that I had literally to go out into the streets to find bowlers to make a team for matches.

The club had lost half its playing membership. We used to borrow players from other clubs for games. I organised a drive to increase membership.

We circularised Ramsgate and district appealing for new members. Sometimes I would go out in my car and grab hold of passers by and ask them. Do you play bowls? In this way we got members. Jack Smith, a local trader, read all the books he could find on the game and became our coach.

Out of the 'conscripts' with new members from other clubs in the county and elsewhere in the country, they got together a band of players who began to win trophies. Such men as Jack Port and George King.

Arthur Graham is a Kent County badge player still in the top rank. He was skipping in the Kent team a few weeks ago which defeated Suffolk at Ipswich by eight shots. He