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## HOTELS AND BOWLING GREENS

From "Bowls Encyclopaedia". "A. Tupp" selects the following article, "Hotel Greens", as an item of general interest to bowlers:

In the dawn of the game, bowls was played on open ground "bare." Later on bowling greens and bowling alleys became associated with hotels, taverns and inns; and the game became so popular that these hostelries enticed the youth to such an extent as to interfere considerably with the practice of archery, upon which the defence of England depended. This caused the great warrior king, Edward III, to pass an Act in 1361 forbidding servants, mechanics and labourers from playing bowls. Such prohibitive legislation was re-enacted in one form or another in various reigns; but despite this, many of the bowling greens and bowling alleys at hotels, taverns and inns have survived up to today. This is particularly so in England; but in Scotland there were also a few hotels where bowling greens were located—such as Sandy Patrick's green in Kilmarnock in 1840, afterwards kept by Tom Bicket; "Tamson's Green" (kept by one Thomson, and afterwards by his widow) at the Cowgate, Edinburgh, before 1742, and referred to in Allan Ramsay's "Ode from Horace," and at the "Bowling Green Tavern" in South Glasgow. But while the few hotel greens in Scotland eventually ceased to exist, very many continued in England.

In the Scottish Bowling Association there is only one bowling club which plays on a hotel green; but in the English Bowling Association, 74

clubs play on hotel greens, although in 1937 there were 101. In all there are about 116 hotels, inns or taverns with flat bowling greens; while in the north and the Midlands there are probably as many possessing crown greens, of which some (such as the Talbot and the Waterloo at Blackpool) conduct tournaments with sweepstakes of up to £1000 for professional bowlers. There are many greens at hotels in Manchester.

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Some of the bowling greens at English hostelries date back hundreds of years; but the exact year of the origin of others cannot be ascertained. The Newcastle Bowling Club was founded in 1657; a tavern was also built with a balcony projecting from the front, from which the spectators could watch the bowlers playing on the hotel green. A still older hotel bowling green is that at the "George Inn", of Solihull, in Warwickshire. It was old when Drake played that celebrated match on the Hoe at Plymouth in 1588. The green has a good companion of many centuries in a sturdy yew tree shaped as an arbour, in the shade of which 12 men can sit.

There has been a bowling green at the "Cherry Tree," Old Southgate, Middlesex, for over 220 years. The Selborne Club plays there and it is recorded that the first time ladies were allowed to play on this famous green was in 1935, when the semi-final of the Inter-County Championship between Middlesex and Sussex was contested. Behind the "George Canning Hotel", at Herne Hill, South London, there was an old green of dimensions so short that the only way to get a length was to play from corner to corner.

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ner to corner.

It is interesting to note the names of some of the English hotels equipped with bowling greens. Many of them bear the name of some animal, such as "The Bull", "The Dun Cow", "The Red Cow", "The Flying Horse", "Coach and Horses", "The White Horse", "The Black Horse", "The Horse and Farrier", "The Roaring Donkey", "The Spotted Dog", "The Greyhound", "The Hare and Hounds", "The Dog and Pheasant", "The Lion", "The Fox", "The Beaver", "The Antelope", "The White Hart", "The Buck's Horn", "The Swan", "The Falcon", "The Eagle and Child", "The Magpie", "The Feathers", "The Sparrow's Nest", "The Cock Inn".

Others are: "The Near Boot", "The Three Horse Shoes", "The Six Bells", "The Ship", "The Dumb Bell", "The Bat and Ball", "The Magnet", "The Beehive", "The Green Man", "The Rose and Crown", "The Olive Branch", "The Hearts-ease", "The King's Head."

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In Australia, too, the earliest greens were associated with hotels. In Sydney there was a bowling green at "The Woolpack Inn" in Petersham, in 1845; another, later that year, at "The Boundary Stone", Surry Hills; "The Woolpack Inn," in Parramatta in 1869; and the "Clarendon" at Manly where the Manly Club was formed in 1894. Bowls was played at the "Sir Joseph Banks Hotel" at Botany and at "Grice's Hotel" at Randwick in 1853. In Hobart, there was the one at "The Bowling Green", laid down in 1845, and a green at "The Beach Tavern" in 1844.

In Melbourne, greens were reported as being under construction in 1860 at the "Bush Inn", Toorak; the "Sir Henry Barkly", at Richmond; the

"Royal" at St Kilda; at the "Gardiner", Malvern Hill, in 1862; and at the "Sablouiere" in Queen Street, Melbourne, where the West Melbourne Bowling Club had its origin in 1856. In 1867, a bowling green was laid down at the "Royal Hotel", Timor Street, Warrnambool; and in 1869 a green was constructed at the "Rising Sun Hotel" in the same street.

There was also a green in 1835 at the Clifton Hill Hotel in Queen's Parade, Clifton Hill. All these hotel greens are a thing of the past in Australia.