

Mercury, Monday 8th February 1892

HOBART BOWLING CLUB

OPENING OF THE NEW GREEN

On Saturday afternoon the very pleasant ceremonial of opening the green of the newly formed Hobart Bowling Club was performed. There was present a very large attendance, made up of member of the club and their friends, visitors from the other colonies, and a fair sprinkling of ladies. Mr. Gaylor I represented the Launceston Bowling Club, and representatives of clubs from Melbourne, Ballarat, Sydney, and New Zealand were also in attendance. A few minutes after 3 o'clock the President of the club, Mr. H. R. NICHOLLS, formally opened the green. In doing so he stated that it was with pleasure he placed the official stamp on the work of the committee of the club. The work had taken a great many years before it could be fairly started, but since its commencement in earnest it had been carried out with a swiftness and success that had hardly, if ever, been equalled in the history of the formation of bowling green. It had been the wish of the club that the opening ceremony should be performed by the Hon. A. T. Pillinger, Minister of Lands and Works, as it was he who had granted the ground and given material assistance in some severe skirmishing which the club had had to encounter with the clergy and military. The clergy had done anything but bless them, and the military had executed brilliant charge upon them, and told them to go, but in the face of both the clergy and military they had succeeded. Hon. A. T. Pillinger had forwarded a letter of apology, stating that he was going into the country and consequently regretted that he would be unable to be present, but he Sincerely hoped that, being a member of the club, he would later on be able to visit the green, and have many a game of bowls thereon. He (the President) would recall to their minds the epitaph of Sir Christopher Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, which was, "if you ask for his monument, look around." The committee of the club could say the same thing, and ask those present to look around and judge for themselves what they had accomplished in the space of only four or five months. More had, however, been done than appeared on the surface, as rock had had to be contended with which had cost a great deal of trouble and expense to get out. He had no hesitation in saying, and the whole of the members recognised the fact, that the work would not have been finished in any reasonable time had it not been for the devotion and energy of their lion, treasurer, Mr, James Gregory. He had stuck to his post in fine weather and foul, and even when in ill health. He believed that next year the green would be equal to most of those in the other colonies, whilst their view was unsurpassed any-where, and it was plainly evident that the club would become a very popular and strong one. Some years ago he had unsuccessfully endeavoured to form a club, but Mr.G.S.Seabrook, who had set the ball rolling this time, had met with more encouragement. The ball had not rolled against the bias, and they now stood near the jack from which nobody would be able to drive then. He trusted that the green would be the scene of many friendly

contests and honourable rivalry in the course of which they would become better acquainted with the players in this colony, and visitors from the others, and he felt sure that as they know each other better they would like each other more. They would always be happy to welcome friends from this colony or visitor from the other colonies. He declared the green open for members and their friends, duly introduced in accordance with the rules of the club. The splendid flag of the club kindly presented by Mr. J McLaren, of Melbourne, and bearing the club's motto, "We stoop to Conquer," was then hoisted amid cheers, after which about thirty of the gentlemen engaged in a game of bowls, and several happy hours were spent. A great many improvements have been effected during the past fortnight, including the erection of a house for the convenience of players, seating accommodation, etc. A general meeting of members was held during the afternoon, at which a large number of new members were elected, and Mr. G. S. Seabrook was made a vice-president.