

# BOWLS

West Kirby Park was opened in September 1901 without sports facilities but demands for tennis and bowling greens followed immediately. Time was allowed for the newly-created ground to settle but the Council delayed provision of a green for other reasons - construction cost, running costs and whether to charge for playing - seemingly ignoring the success of bowling at Birkenhead Park and on the nearby green behind the Ring O' Bells.

A bowling green was built on the location of the current Lower Park green in 1905 but was soon declared to need levelling and enlarging to make it useable.

The pressure for bowling led to the construction of another one on the site of the present one in the Upper Park in time for the new season in 1907. However it seemed the newly formed West Kirby Park Club carried on playing in the Lower Park while the West Kirby Club (now the West Kirby Victoria Club) moved to a green on the front, so poor were the conditions on both.

This was resolved in 1908 when the West Kirby Park Club moved to the Upper Park. Early photos suggest that the Lower Park green did not conform to the shape and size of today's greens and that it was at times used for croquet and quoits. The old green was rebuilt, West Kirby Victoria returned and have played in the Lower Park ever since.



*Lower Park circa 1902*

In 1928 West Kirby Ladies Bowling Club was formed and still use the Upper Park green. All play to Crown Green rules and the greens have raised centres and undulating surfaces which make play more challenging.

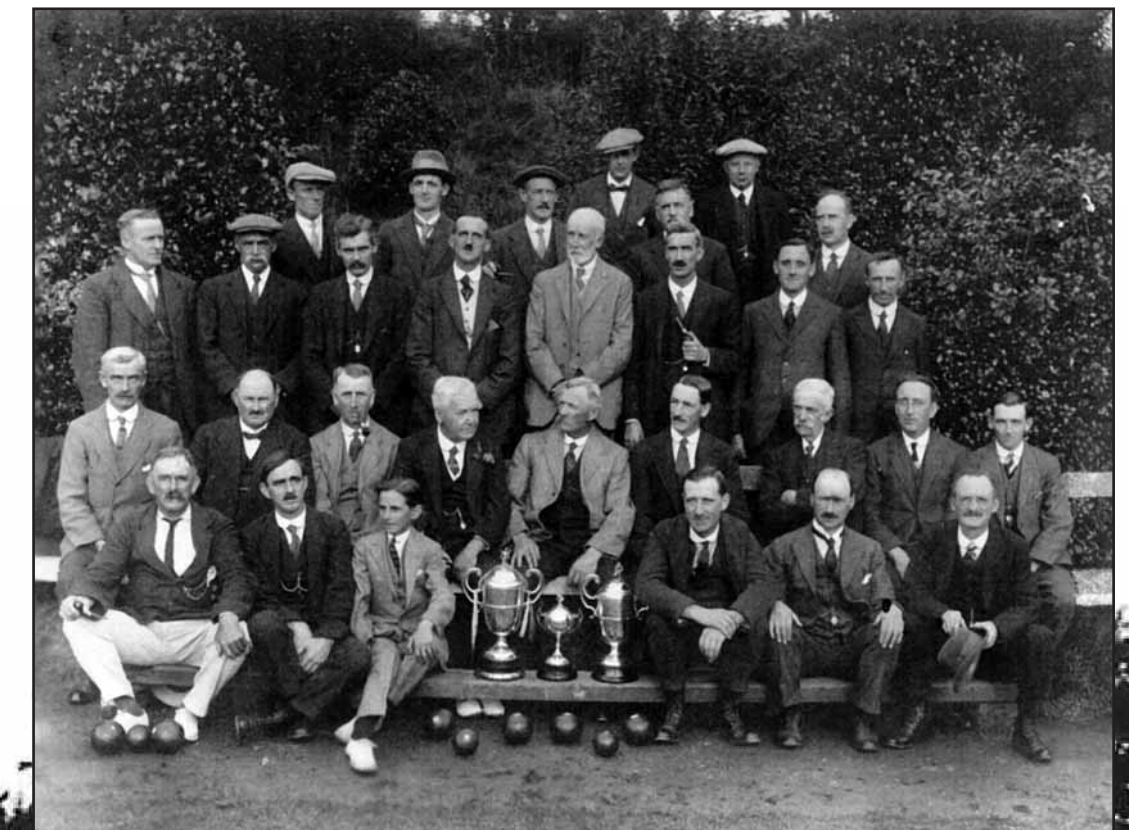
Initially wooden shelters with lockers were provided and it was only around 1960 that today's flat-roofed pavilions were built. Today the park still hosts three clubs - West Kirby Victoria on the Lower Green with West Kirby Ladies and West Kirby Park in the Upper Park.

*Funded by Grant from the Wirral West Community Fund*



*The Improved Lower Park Green after 1921*

*West Kirby Park Bowling Club 1923*



*Upper Park Green circa 1928*

