

Sports/ Leisure

WH Bach (President) and his wife at *Ashfield Cricket Club*, 1904.¹



Early Members of the *Moseley Golf Club*.²

¹ The Moseley Society History Group, 'The Collection'

SOME EARLY MEMBERS OF MOSELEY GOLF CLUB



*H.H. Greenway, James Whitfield, P.H. Elderton, R.Lunt
H.R. Padmore, S.R. Lowcock, P.H. Willmot, H.Bewlay*

Edwin G Bullin the former was a 43 year old physician and surgeon in 1901, living at 432 Stratford Road with his 34 year old wife Elizabeth, his 74 year old mother, Mary, their 4 year old son, George, and three servants, a cook, a housemaid and a nurse.¹ In 1901;

Herbert H Greenway was a Jeweller and Brass Founder, aged 40 years, living with his wife, Emily, aged 36 years, his son, Douglas and daughter Winifred, aged 9 and 7 years, a cook and a visitor at *Benvaren* in Greenhill Road;¹

James Whitfield, a Brass Founder, aged 52 years, was living with his wife, Clara, aged 46 years, his daughter, Clara, aged 20 years and 2 servants at *Melton Grange* in Oakland Road;

Harry R Padmore, a Refiner, aged 59 years and a widower, was living with his daughter, Minnie, aged 24 years, and his sons Harry, Sidney and John, aged 27, 26 and 21 years along with three servants, a cook, a housemaid and a housekeeper, at 20 Wake Green Road;

Philip H Willmot, a solicitor, aged 29 years was living with his wife, Jane, aged 32 years and one servant at 12 Wake Green Road. In the 1911 census, **Hubert Bewlay**, a Constructional Engineer and Director, aged 67 years, was living with his sister-in-law, Mary-Anne Ryland, aged 74 years, and two servants, a cook and a housemaid, at 76 Alcester Road in a ten-roomed-house;

PH Elderton, **R Lunt** and **SW Lowcock** also appeared in the photograph.

Newton Tennis Club and Members (1899).³



³ The Moseley Society History Group, 'The Collection'.



Left to right:

Top Row: WL Williams, KE School, Camp Hill, Mr Going, Moseley, Dr. Bull (President), Sparkhill, Weatheroak Road corner, S Rains, 180 Stratford Road, **Miss L Raine**, Bernard Moore, 194 Stratford Road, D. George Haddow, 188 Stratford Road, WS Holmes, Moseley, Dr. Taylor Haddow, Lower Hurst Street.

Middle Row: a baby, **Mrs Groves**, Sarkhill, **Miss J Granger**, Anderton Park Road, **Mrs Bryce** (Champion), Farm Road, Sparkhill, **Mrs George Haddow**, **Mrs Raine**, **Mrs WL Williams**, **Mrs Taylor Haddow**.

Bottom Row: Dr. Addenbrooke (Champion), Showell Green Lane, PB Rider, Moseley Road, **Miss CE Raine**, Charles E Raine, **Miss LL Raine**, Alan Granger (Weights & measure Department, Birmingham Corporation)

John Avins Cup – *Moseley United Quoit and Bowls Club* 1958.⁴



Clubs and Societies

There was an array of clubs and societies in Moseley in the second half of the nineteenth century, catering largely for the middle class, who had the necessary leisure time and funds. Thus, membership demonstrated financial success and status whilst reinforcing middle-class identity.

Clubs and Societies: Social and Cultural

The *Moseley and Kings Heath Gentleman's Club*, founded in 1893/4, met at what became 'The Village' pub and was a licensed establishment with billiard tables, cards, bowls, smoking, concerts, reading room and restaurant at an entry fee of 2g., and further annual subscription of 2g, costs that excluded the working class.⁵ The Club offered gentlemen 'escape' from the home, 'male pursuits' not appropriate in many homes, and convivial male company free from the restraints of 'female polite society'. On the other hand, most cultural clubs were open to men and women allowing both to meet and mix in socially acceptable situations and women to have interests outside the home. In these clubs Moseley's middle-class could enhance skills, display talent and erudition, take part in performances, share like-minded interests and enjoyment and occupy spare time pleasurably, as well as gain status and enhance self-image. Such clubs in Moseley included *Moseley and Balsall Heath Literary Association*, in existence by 1877, the *Moseley Amateur Dramatic Society* founded in 1882 and run by Rev WH Colmore, the *Moseley Shakespearian Society*, the *Moseley Musical Club* and the *Moseley Choral Society* founded in the 1880s and a *Photographic Society* which functioned for a while.⁶ Women helped run the *Girls' Friendly Society* from 1883 and Mrs Colmore, wife of Rev. Colmore of St Mary's Church, Moseley, ran the local *Needlework Guild*, which produced 104 garments for charity in 1900.⁷ At *Moseley, Kings Heath and Balsall Heath Horticultural Society*, keen gardeners demonstrated their horticultural achievements at Horticultural Shows, honed their skills and mixed with the upper-middle class, Joseph Chamberlain being a keen member. This Society had 102 subscribers, including eighty four Moseley people

⁵ Price, F., & Mullaney, M., (Moseley Society, 1998, revised by Cockel, R, 2006, p.6.

⁶ Hewston, N., *A History of Moseley Village, Volume I*, (Stroud; Amberley Publishing Ltd., 2009), pp.37-38; Gilbert, C., *The Moseley Trail, Birmingham; Birmingham Urban Studies Centre, 1986*, pp.9-10; Fairn, A., *A History of Moseley*, (Halesowen; Sunderland Print Ltd., 1973), pp.56-57.

⁷ Fairn, A., *A History of Moseley*, (Halesowen; Sunderland Print Ltd., 1973), p.64; BLA, *Moseley Parish Magazine* (odd numbers), 1890-1907, L14.51.

(82%) and many familiar names. Moseley women were 9% of these and 8% of total subscribers. Twenty one of the Moseley members were from Wake Green Road (21%), highlighting the social status of this group.⁸

Clubs and Societies: Sporting

Sports Clubs flourished in Moseley. *Moseley and Balsall Heath Cricket Club* was founded in 1855, *Moseley Cricket Club* in 1864, *Moseley Football (Rugby Union) Club* in 1873 ‘born out of *Havelock Cricket Club* whose members wanted a winter sport’ and John Avins leased land from 1867 in Church Road, Moseley, to *Moseley Quoit and Bowling Club* at a peppercorn rent to Francis Corder Clayton and passed it on to him in his will.⁹ *Moseley Harriers Athletic Club* was founded in 1881, *Moseley Park Lawn Tennis Club* held its first Annual Tournament at *The Reddings* in 1886 and there was *Newton Tennis Club* in Belle Walk and *Chantry Road Tennis Club* in Moseley Park, whilst *Ashfield Cricket Club* began in 1900.¹⁰ *Moseley Golf Club* opened in 1892 at *Billesley Hall Farm*, at a time when there were great outbursts of new golf clubs stimulated by improved travel and professionals giving exhibitions.¹¹ Players enjoyed healthy exercise and clubs operated in delightful rural environments. *The Reddings*, for example, was described as situated in a ‘picturesque spot’ and ‘one of the prettiest little spots it is possible to imagine’, whilst tennis was played in *Moseley Park*. The clubs attracted large numbers. *Moseley Football Club* in 1880/1 had eighty playing members, ‘all keen to play their part in a brave new world’ and *Moseley Quoit and Bowling Club* ninety six.¹² In 1895 the *Moseley Golf Club* had

⁸ Fairn, A., *A History of Moseley*, (Halesowen; Sunderland Print Ltd., 1973), p.58; Hewston, N., *A History of Moseley Village, Volume I*, (Stroud; Amberley Publishing Ltd., 2009), p.370.

⁹ Fairn, A., *A History of Moseley*, (Halesowen; Sunderland Print Ltd., 1973), p.58; BCLA, John Avins’ will, MS1672 (Acc 1991/137). Francis Corder Clayton was a Birmingham City Councillor from 1882 until his death and Mayor of Birmingham between 1889 and 1890. The Avins Cup can be seen in a 1958 photograph held by the Moseley Society History Group, ‘The Collection’, *The All services Club*, Church Road, Moseley.

¹⁰ Fairn, A., *A History of Moseley*, (Halesowen; Sunderland Print Ltd., 1973), p.58; www.moseleyrugby.co.uk/history; Hewston, N., *A History of Moseley Village, Volume I*, (Stroud; Amberley Publishing Ltd., 2009), p.37; *Life at the Graveyard: Moseley Ashfield Cricket Club 1900-2000*, ed., Ross Reyburn, (Birmingham; Jones & Palmer), pp.7-8; Kings Heath and Moseley Journal Vol 1 Series No.7 1906.

¹¹ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.2.

¹² *The Reddings: The Home of Moseley Football Club (Rugby), A History 1880-2000* (Souvenir of 120 Years at a Rugby ground)(A Souvenir History a limited edition print by Brian Flinders (Birmingham; Francis Lomas Ltd), p.7.

thirty members, in 1896, forty seven members including ten ladies, in 1896 forty five male members, five lady members and sixteen nominated ladies and at the end of 1897 forty four male members and twenty four lady members.¹³

Images of *Newton Tennis Club* (1889) and early members of the *Moseley Golf Club* show a very refined middle class group of doctors, a jeweller, Brassfinders, Refiners, a Solicitor and a Constructional Engineer and Director, who lived with their families in large Moseley houses with one to three servants.¹⁴ All candidates for membership of *Moseley Golf Club* had to be proposed and seconded and then elected unanimously by all members, ensuring exclusivity. Visitors residing within twenty miles could play three times yearly and those outside this radius six days each year. Any member appearing to endanger the 'character or good order of the Club' could be expelled. *Moseley Quoit and Bowling Club* held monthly ballots for membership and candidates' names, occupations and addresses, together with proposer and seconder, had to be with the Hon. Sec., not later than fourteen days prior to ballot days. Subscription and entrance rates also precluded any other than the middle class. The annual subscription rates and entrance fees *Moseley Golf Club* and *Moseley Quoit and Bowling Club* were both 1 g., but were doubled in 1898, whilst other expenses were to be met equally by members. On the other hand, admission to *Moseley Football Club* was 3d., for gentlemen, but free for ladies and honorary members in 1879.¹⁵

Establishing Clubs and taking on important roles and responsibilities brought status. Walter Bach inspired the formation of the *Ashfield Cricket Club*, enlisting support from 'gentlemen of influence'. Sixteen met to form the club at his home, *Beverley* in Ashfield Avenue, which gave the name to the club. He was the first president and a key figure for thirty years. The first President of *Moseley Football Club* was Amos Roe.¹⁶ Edward Holmes, a vice-president in 1894, appeared on *The Reddings* in 'his characteristic white hat'. He became a leading referee in International Games, a writer on rugby union football and was very instrumental in the success of the club.¹⁷ NC Reading was ultimately President, and William Adams of *Sorrento*, a leading member. In 1889, Mr S Clarke was President of the *Moseley Quoit and Bowling Club*, NC

¹³ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.6.

¹⁴ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.3.

¹⁵ *Moseley Football Club* committee meeting at the *Bull's Head* on 2 January, 1879.???

¹⁶ www.moseleyrugby.co.uk/history

¹⁷ *The Reddings: The Home of Moseley Football Club (Rugby), A History 1880-2000* (Souvenir of 120 Years at a Rugby ground)(A Souvenir History a limited edition print by Brian Flinders (Birmingham; Francis Lomas Ltd), p.7.

Reading of *Inglewood*, Wake Green Road, Hon Sec., Mr J Milligan of Coppice Road, Treasurer, all supported by a Committee.¹⁸ Mr GF Lyndon of *Henburys* was President of the *Moseley Park Lawn Tennis Club*.¹⁹ There were twelve original members of *Moseley Golf Club*. Mr Pryse was elected Captain *pro tem* and Mr Lowcock Hon Sec and Treasurer. New committees were formed on 30 August and at the first *Annual General Meeting* in 1894.²⁰ In 1895 a new set of rules was agreed.²¹ In 1896 Mr James Smith (later Sir) Lord Mayor was elected President.

There was status to be gained in managing clubs too. NC Reading informed *Moseley Quoit and Bowling Club*, members by letter of Quoit play beginning on Saturday 6 April, 1889 and Bowling on 4 May, a Quoits Match for the Annual Club Prize (a Handicap) on Saturday 25 May, a Bowls Champion Match (for the Silver Trophy) on Saturday 22 June with play commencing at 3.30 pm and that that subscriptions to the *Moseley Quoit and* were due by Jan 1.²² NC Reading also sent out **cards** *Moseley Golf Club* meetings were held at people's houses, at Mr Bewlay's on 19 June, 30 August, at Mr Pryse's on Friday 26 May, and in 1893 at FH Elderton's, Blenheim Road, when new rules were drawn up.²³ Further new rules were instituted at the *Moseley Golf Club* AGM in 1895.²⁴ The gates at *Moseley Football Club's* first match took £2.1.10. The accounts presented at *Moseley Golf Club's* first *Annual General Meeting* on 23 May, 1894, showed income and expenditure at £30. 4s. 5d., with Entrance Fees 8g., and Subscriptions £21. At the AGM in 1895 the balance was £20.18.6.²⁵

Being involved in developing clubs brought prestige. When *Moseley Football Club* moved to *The Reddings* in 1880-81 a 'grand' stand which held about fifty people was built and in 1888 the grounds upgraded with a new covered stand free to all members, but 'ladies not members will be required to pay half a crown a season'.²⁶ In 1896 the *Moseley Golf Club* took a piece of land for a Clubhouse. By December this was being built and members donated a bell, coathooks and a hanging lamp. In January 1897 the pavilion was near completion at a cost of £28 14 3

¹⁸ MSHG, *Personalities Booklet*, Vol 11, pp.37 and Letter: *Moseley United Quoit and Bowling Club Season 1889*.

¹⁹ *Henburys* was a large established house and estate in Moor Green, which Richard Cadbury bought and where he built his new house, *Uffculme*.

²⁰ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), pp.4-5.

²¹ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.5.

²² MSHG, Letter: *Moseley United Quoit and Bowling Club Season 1889*.

²³ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), pp.3-4.

²⁴ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.6.

²⁵ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.6.

²⁶ *The Reddings: The Home of Moseley Football Club (Rugby), A History 1880-2000* (Souvenir of 120 Years at a Rugby ground)(A Souvenir History a limited edition print by Brian Flinders (Birmingham; Francis Lomas Ltd), pp.5-7; *The Dart*, October 30, 1891 –'Tittle Tattle by Mollie'.

and an overdraft was taken out.²⁷ In 1896, the President of *Moseley Golf Club* presented a silver cup for competition, Mr Willmot gave a lawn roller and ladies provided curtains for the pavilion.²⁸ John Avins left £250 to the *Moseley Bowling and Quoit Club* along with £10 for prizes and £10 for the *Turners Institution Annual Prize*.²⁹ A 1958 photo shows the John Avins Cups still in use.

Important local people and Institutions were associated with clubs, raising their image and memorialising them. *The Moseley Football Club* moved to Alcester Road in 1878/9 on Taylor land at £25 per annum in front of *Moseley Hall* and adopted the Taylor Arms.³⁰ *Moseley Golf Club* was established on Taylor land too. The connection of the *Moseley Harriers* to Moseley was simply that some of their hunt races started from *St Mary's Church* going to the Lickeys via Kings Norton.³¹

Sporting Clubs offered opportunities for competition and socialising. Between 1879 and 1880 *Moseley Football Club* was undefeated, winning forty eight matches and drawing six and during 1881 -1882 they won the inaugural Midland Counties Challenge Cup. *Moseley Harriers* was considered the leading athletic club of Birmingham winning the prestigious team championship for four successive years (1881-1884). The Australians paid their first visit to *Moseley Cricket Club* in 1878 and *Moseley Football Club* defeated the Maoris in 1888, the first team ever to defeat the first-ever tourists.³² *Moseley Football Club* played a range of other clubs including Leicester, Cardiff, Halifax, Dewsbury and London Athletics.³³ After a seven hour match between *Moseley and Balsall Heath Cricket Club* and *Moseley Cricket Club* played on July 18, 1855, which Moseley won, an excellent dinner was enjoyed by all at the *Fighting Cocks*, Moseley Village.³⁴ In 1895 *Moseley Golf Club* played eighteen

²⁷ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.8.

²⁸ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), p.9.

²⁹ BLA, the John Avins Trust Minute Book 1, Meeting 1, pp. 1, 5 and 10-12, 1891, MS 1672 (Add I)(Acc 1991/137).

³⁰ *The Reddings: The Home of Moseley Football Club (Rugby), A History 1880-2000* (Souvenir of 120 Years at a Rugby ground)(A Souvenir History a limited edition print by Brian Flinders (Birmingham; Francis Lomas Ltd), pp.5-7.

³¹ Harry Mander Oliver was held to be largely responsible for Moseley Harriers successes. He moved from London supposedly to Moseley at the age of 21 years and joined the club, though other research claims he ran proceedings from his house in Villa Road, Handsworth.³¹ He was also part owner and editor of 'Midland Athlete' magazine, which sadly incurred debts and in 1887 he was convicted of embezzling from his employer and imprisoned. The Harriers disbanded shortly afterwards.

³² Fairn, A., *A History of Moseley*, (Halesowen; Sunderland Print Ltd., 1973), p.58.

³³ *The Reddings: The Home of Moseley Football Club (Rugby), A History 1880-2000* (Souvenir of 120 Years at a Rugby ground)(A Souvenir History a limited edition print by Brian Flinders (Birmingham; Francis Lomas Ltd), p.8.

³⁴ BLA, MS 579/4 Acc 71aE, *The Fighting Cocks*.

matches, in 1896 thirteen matches and in 1898 nine matches against such as Yardley, Kings Norton, Handsworth, Olton and Kidderminster.³⁵ *Moseley Football* team had 'many spectators', including ladies who apparently enjoyed the experience greatly. 'Quite a large number of the fair sex graced the game with their presence, and judging by their unstinted applause when a fine bit of play came off, I should fancy they entered thoroughly into the spirit of the game.'³⁶ Hunt races like those run by the *Moseley Harriers* were very popular in the 1880's and events were attended by hundreds of people.

There were limited opportunities for women to play sport. Tennis clubs were open to both men and women providing acceptable opportunities to mix with the opposite sex. In the early days each male member of the *Moseley Golf Club* could nominate lady members of his family to play on any day except Saturday and Bank Holidays for an annual 5/- subscription. At the 1896 *Moseley Golf Club* AGM there were ten lady members only and rules were amended so that 'ladies who are not nominated to play by a member' could be proposed and elected members of the Club in the same way as gentlemen, subject to an entrance fee of 10/6 and a subscription of 10/-. This was the beginning of the 'Ladies Section' and a breakthrough for Moseley women golfers. Miss Isabel Broughton and Mrs EW Badger were the first ladies to be proposed. In 1896 new rules denied ladies play on Saturday afternoons, but the number of females had risen to five lady members and sixteen nominated ladies. There were no ladies present at the post AGM dinner at the *Grand Hotel* in Birmingham in 1896, but a toast to them was given by Hubert and Ernest Bewlay. Ladies formed a 'Ladies Committee' to take charge of the Ladies' Competitions and fix their own handicaps. At the end of 1897 there were twenty four lady members. Only one lady served on a committee, Mrs W Thomas in 1889 on the *Moseley Quoits and Bowls Club*.

³⁵ Mirams, R.V., *Moseley Milestones 1892-1992* (John Goodman & Sons (Printers Ltd, 1993), pp.6 & 10.

³⁶ *The Reddings: The Home of Moseley Football Club (Rugby), A History 1880-2000* (Souvenir of 120 Years at a Rugby ground)(A Souvenir History a limited edition print by Brian Flinders (Birmingham; Francis Lomas Ltd), p.9.