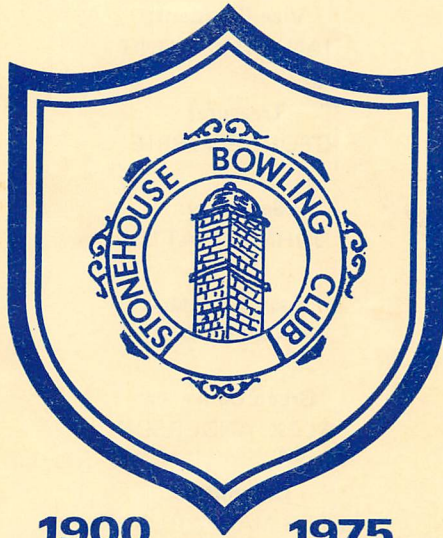


Brown
JD

Stonehouse Bowling Club



1900

1975

75th Anniversary Brochure

OFFICE BEARERS — 1975

President:

WILLIAM HAMILTON

Vice-President:

IAN ARMSTRONG

Treasurer:

GEORGE SORBIE

Secretary:

JOHN M. WATTS

Asst. Secretary:

JAMES MAIR

Green Convener:

ALEX. ANDERSON

Committee:

PETER MACFARLANE

THOMAS A. BARR

THOMAS FORSYTH

JOSEPH BICKERTON

DAVID BAXTER

JOHN MURRAY

PETER McMILLAN

President's Message



WILLIAM HAMILTON, President

Dear Members,

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of our Bowling Club, it is appropriate to recognise that the occasion should reflect our gratitude to the foresight of the Founder Members and also the dedication of past and present members whose initiative and endeavour has steered the club to its present eminent position.

In these changing times, it is important to note that the Club has successfully met the challenge of progression and, in doing so, has retained its fine tradition and the fellowship which is recognised throughout the bowling fraternity.

As this milestone is reached, I am confident that, with the enthusiasm of its present members, our Club will go forward with the determination to uphold the pride which has accumulated throughout the years, and, in addition, strive for further success.

Throughout the coming season, I know that all our members will show the true meaning of that fellowship, which is really the basis of any club or body of people with common interests, and that being so, it will be "a year to remember".

WILLIAM HAMILTON, President

Club History 1900-1975

By R.Campbell

AWAY BACK in 1900, members of Stonehouse Bowling Club decided that the time for change had come. While the club, formed in 1857, had compared well in competition with neighbouring clubs, the green, situated in Green Street was not really up to a reasonable standard, and the clubhouse was only slightly larger than a garden hut.

A meeting of members was called on May 3rd to discuss the formation of a new club and green, and before the business closed, William Jackson, the baker, was appointed secretary of the new Stonehouse Bowling Club, and he had a lot of work on his hands.

A week later, the office-bearers were elected: President — A Borland; Vice-President — Walter Millar; Secretary — William Jackson; Assistant Secretary — Thomas Wilson; Treasurer — John Miles; and a committee comprising Thomas Wilson (The Cross), John Plenderleith, James Plenderleith, R. Murray, H. Cuthbertson and William Small.

The annual subscription was fixed at 10/-, and plans were made to meet the cost of the new green.

Later, it was decided to ask members to take £1 shares in the club, and soon £104 was raised by this means. Meanwhile, no stone was left unturned in efforts to raise cash, and some members were selling toffee and tablet in the village.

Early in January 1901, the plunge was taken, and the club agreed to accept an offer by Daniel Leslie, of Glasgow, to construct a clubhouse and green on a site at Vicars Road. The work was completed by mid-summer, but by then it was too late in the season, and arrangements were made for the green to be formally opened the next year.

The great day arrived in May 1902, when a very proud company of members assembled at Vicars Road to hear Lady Lockhart, wife of Sir Graeme Alexander Lockhart, declare the green open.

The total cost of the green, clubhouse and equipment was £732, and, by dint of much hard work, yes, and a lot of sacrifice too, there was enough cash by this time to meet the bill and have £11 left over. The new club was born!

It soon proved to be a lusty infant. With a membership of around 35, the Hozier Cup was won in 1903 against strong opposition, and again in 1904. The Glasgow v. Lanarkshire Trophy was won in 1908, the Middle Ward in 1909. Then came the really big day, when a rink comprising John Jackson (Hill Road), Robert Jackson, Tom Cochrane and Archie Thomson (skip) returned in triumph to Stonehouse, having won the Scottish Rink Championship.

Soon, however, war clouds were gathering, and on the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, the decision was taken that, to keep up morale, the green would remain open. Although play was on a restricted basis, the members were again gathering cash for a good cause, and £212 was raised for the Red Cross, and for the entertainment of wounded soldiers and sailors.

When the war ended, the club gradually returned to normal, and in 1924, looking to the future, purchased the ground, which was on lease, for £100. This outlay was met almost entirely by voluntary donations from members.



Stonehouse Bowling Club—1908

The club broke new ground in 1927, when the ladies' section was formed, and Mrs. R. Craig and Mrs. R. Thomson became the first secretary and treasurer respectively. The section was soon playing its part in club affairs, and the standard of bowling was of a high order.

For some time, the club members had been aware that the original clubhouse was too small for their needs and in 1928 it was decided to demolish it and build one which would accommodate the increasing membership.

Club member, Mr. Gavin H. Thomson played a major part in the project. Graciously, he drew up plans for the construction of the clubhouse, and in 1929 the new building was officially opened by Mrs. John Naismith of Spittal.

The cost for those days was high, £608, but the club made special efforts to meet the cost, and was largely indebted to the ladies' section for the fact that, by 1934, the expenditure had been met. The new premises were greatly admired and Udston Bowling Club paid a high compliment by having their clubhouse built to the same plan.

By this time, the ladies' section was making its presence felt, and one day in 1935 a rink comprising Miss Jeanie Thomson, Mrs. Robert Craig, Mrs. W. Stirling and Mrs. W. Jackson (skip) set off for Giffnock, Glasgow, to contest the final of the Scottish Women's Bowling Association Championship.

Later, when word reached Stonehouse that the rink had won the cup, a large party of members, headed by the local pipe band, assembled at the station, and the heroines stepped off the train to loud cheers.

They were put on a brake provided by the Black Bull Hotel, and, with a sturdy group of members between the shafts, the victors were paraded through the streets and up to the clubhouse to receive another rousing reception.

The ladies' section was in business with a vengeance, and to prove it was no isolated feat, they won the S.W.B.A. final in 1938, this time carrying off the R. G. Lawrie Trophy.

The club remained open during the Second World War and those who stayed at home raised £218 for war charities.

When hostilities ceased and members returned from the forces, the club resumed full activities and, before long, it was taking part successfully in county competitions. Over the years it has won every Lanarkshire trophy, some of them several times.

Special preparations were made for Jubilee Year, 1950, and the unanimous choice of the members for presidency that year was Tom Wilson, J.P. A founder member of the club, he had been its first assistant secretary and had given sterling service to the club since its formation.

Other members who had given outstanding service during the years were: Alex Borland — president of the club in its first three years, and who played a large part in guiding its affairs;

William Jackson, first secretary of the club, and whose hard work was largely responsible for getting the club off the ground so quickly. He emigrated to Canada in 1905.

John Miles, former president and treasurer for the first 15 years. Robert Leggate joined the club in 1906 and was assistant secretary for 11 years. An outstanding player, he won the Lanarkshire Singles Championship and was club champion twice.

Gavin H. Thomson joined the club in 1908 and was treasurer and green convener for many years. He was always an authority in the club, and prepared the plans for the clubhouse which opened in 1929.

Alex. McCrimmon was one of the most outstanding players in the club's history and won the championship nine times. A Scottish international, he played against American and South African teams.

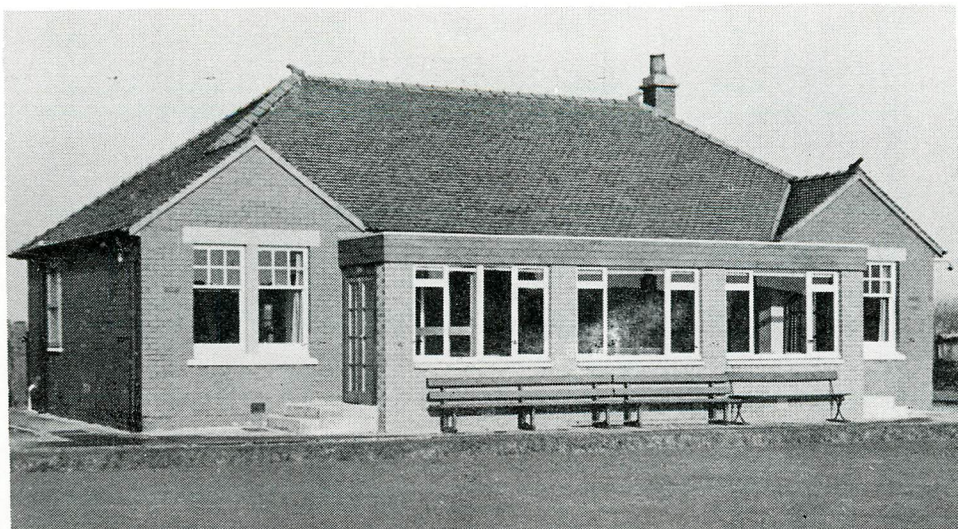
John Jackson (Hill Road) was appointed greenkeeper in 1912, and held the post until 1946. Due to his skill, the green was recognised as one of the best in Lanarkshire.

His imperturbable nature was demonstrated when a member, noted for his carping nature, shouted, "Hey Johnnie, this is a right twisted rink I'm playing on." He replied quietly, "I ken, Wull, it's aboot as twisted as yoursel'."

John Jackson (Lawrie Street), a nephew of the above, at various times occupied every official post in the club. His work in the management was notable and he was also a director of the L.B.A. for many years.

Tommy Walker acted as secretary for many years until his retirement, when he went to live in Hamilton.

On the playing side, the club record speaks for itself, but notable performers in those days, whose play was held in awe by the younger members, included Alex McCrimmon, Tom Brownlie, Robert Leggate, Jock and Robbie Small, John Whitelaw, Mitchell Sorbie, Logie Armstrong, John H. Thomson, Tom Hamilton and Bob Burns.



The Clubhouse—1975

Inevitably, perhaps, during the many discussions which take place in the clubhouse, the remark is made by one of the 'old brigade', "They're no' as guid as they used to be."

The question will always remain, of course, but many of the players today have a very impressive record in club and county competitions.

Mention must be made of the three Hamilton brothers: Jimmy — club champion three times in five years and a successful Scottish team skip (now a member of the Strathmore Club in Hamilton). Jack — twice Lanarkshire Singles Champion, and three times club champion. Mac — the youngest brother, and club champion six times, including a "hat-trick".

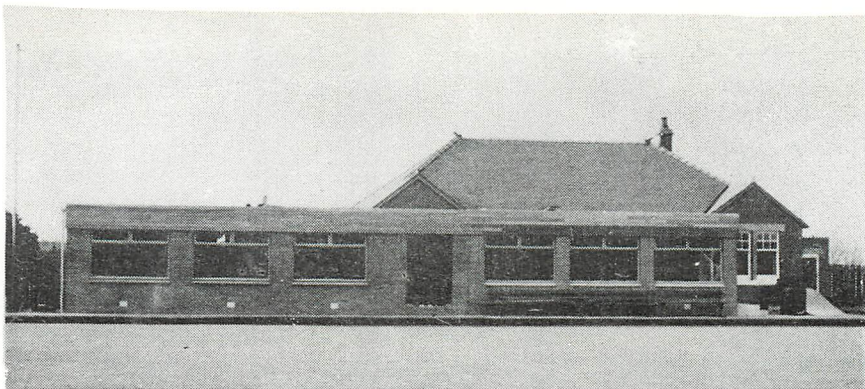
There are many other members, of course, who are first class players and who do well in County and National competitions, but we must not forget, however, those staunch members who, each season, are usually eliminated in the earlier rounds of club competitions, and who, when they are beaten, walk up; smiling, to congratulate their opponents. They are, probably, the real back-bone of the club and we would all be much poorer without them.

The club has had many faithful servants in the past, but none more so than the late Jimmie Black. He was appointed secretary in 1970, and he worked many long hours behind the scenes; much of the credit for the smooth running of the club during that period must go to him.

We still have our faithful servants, of course, who give their time freely to the club — Peter Brooks, who steers the club smoothly and safely through its increasingly complicated financial affairs, and John Watts, secretary for the past 5 years, who deals successfully with an ever increasing amount of correspondence.

The club is also greatly indebted to the ladies' section for the generous donations of cash each season, and for the help they give in many other ways.

On the practical side, match days would be extremely poor affairs without the



The Clubhouse—1975—showing latest extension

help of the ladies who set beautiful tables and who serve hot meals to members and visitors.

And without the ladies, it would be almost impossible to run the very successful annual Invitation Pairs Tournament, which calls for a non-stop supply of hot meals from 9 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night.

The heart of the bowling club is, of course, the green, which is still one of the finest in the county, and much of the credit for this must go to the late Willie McLellan, and to our present greenkeeper, Alex Cook.

The borders surrounding the green are evidence of the care which has been given them, and on summer evenings, when the club ties are in full swing, older residents in the village are free to enjoy a quiet seat in attractive surroundings, and to follow with interest the cut and thrust of the play.

Working quietly behind the scenes are the Committee of Management, the Green Committee, the Games Committee and the Bar Committee, and their hard work ensures the smooth running of both the playing and the social sides of the club's activities.

Sunday bowling is now very popular with the members, particularly the "young marrieds", and many of them bring their children with them. In sunny weather, with the children at play in the vicinity, the green and the surrounds have almost a gala atmosphere, and potato crisps and lemonade are the order of the day.

This is greatly welcomed by the club directors, and, in recent years, while ensuring that bowling is adequately catered for, they have been paying increasing attention to the social aspect of club activities.

During the winter, the clubhouse is open each night for those who enjoy a refreshment in pleasant surroundings, and in pleasant company. In addition, regular domino and whist drives are held during the week, and, on the last Saturday of the month, there is a popular Social Evening and Dance.

With a rapidly increasing membership, it became obvious in 1972 that the clubhouse was again too small, and, to cater for the social requirements of the club, the main section of the clubhouse was enlarged, an entrance hall was built, as also were a new kitchen and ladies' and gentlemen's retiring rooms. The bar

was also greatly enlarged, and all this at a cost of £4,000.

And now, in 1975, plans have already been passed for a further extension to the clubhouse! When this is completed, at a cost of approximately £7,000, each member will have a private locker and there will be adequate space for a Games Room. In addition, three large windows with a fine outlook to the green will enable members to follow bowling ties in the comfort of the pavilion.

It might be thought, on reading the foregoing paragraphs, that the club is wholly concerned with its own activities, but this is very far from the truth. Throughout its existence, the club has always been concerned with the plight



Presentation of Prizes during the '50s

of the less fortunate and, over the years, has contributed many hundreds of pounds to various charities and deserving causes.

And now, as we remember that small, but intrepid band of men who founded our club in 1900 with very limited financial resources, we are deeply conscious of the great pleasure they ensured for the succeeding generations of bowlers, and, what is probably more important, we are all deeply indebted to them for enabling us to share in that very rewarding experience — the Fellowship of the Club.

In our Jubilee Year, 1975, we salute their memory.

"Our Grand Old Man"



John H. Thomson

MOST CLUBS or organisations have, as it were, their "Grand Old Man", and Stonehouse Bowling Club is no different in that respect.

Mr. John H. Thomson, 93 years old, is our Grand Old Man. He was a founder member when the club came into being in 1900, and since that time, there has seldom been a day when he wasn't either playing on the green or watching play from the clubhouse.

He was appointed President of the club in 1922, and was club champion four times.

His enthusiasm for the game was such that, when a few years ago, shortened tendons caused three fingers to be drawn up tightly to the palm of his right hand, he continued to play until two years ago, using only his thumb and forefinger to grip the bowl! In spite of this seemingly insurmountable handicap, he played with extreme accuracy, and many a rueful opponent will testify to that.

His prowess, however, was not solely confined to bowling. He is an expert fisher, and won his first medal in a competition in 1901. John is also a founder member of the Avon Angling Club and, three years ago, he donated a trophy to the club to foster competition among young anglers. This has been so popular that the competition is one of the highlights of the Angling Club year.

Nowadays, he is content to watch bowling from the shelter of the clubhouse, and it is his opinion that the standard of bowling of our newer members is as promising, and the club is in as good heart as ever it was in the old days.

It is with something akin to awe that we realise that "Old John" has been bowling for 73 years, and luring trout from the River Avon for 80 years!

This is surely a record which will never be equalled in Stonehouse.

Gentlemen of the Bar



Bar Committee

AFTER MANY long and searching deliberations over a number of years, the members of the club decided in 1967 to go ahead with an application for a Bar Licence and install a Bar in the clubhouse, the aim being to promote the social side of the club, with the profit being used for improvements to the green and clubhouse and help to maintain members' annual subscriptions at an acceptable level.

The Bar itself has come a long way from its small and draughty "Hole of Calcutta" in a corner of the clubhouse to the present pleasing and spacious accommodation built in 1973 as part of an overall extension to the clubhouse in that year.

The first official barman was our good friend, Jimmy Wardrope, who combined these duties with those of Secretary, but who has since departed to foreign shores, although still retaining membership of the club. In 1970 the club members decided to create a new appointment of Bar Convener and the first holder of this office was the late Jimmy Black, whose pawky humour made it a delight to go and ask for a refreshment. Mr. Black's sincerity made it easy for him to recruit willing bar helpers from members of the club who gave up their time and leisure voluntarily to satisfy our liquid requirements.

Mr. Keith Lawson followed Mr. Black in this capacity last year for a short spell of duty and upheld the tradition set by his predecessors, giving way to Mr. Peter Brooks, our present Bar Convener, in August 1974. Peter is ably assisted by Messrs. J. T. R. Brown, J. Mair, J. Johnston, J. Murray, and J. Kirkland as young, handsome and willing volunteers who do their utmost to ensure our evenings go with a splash. Is there any truth in the rumour that the present Bar Stevards were handpicked because they are T.T.?

It is said the motto of the bar staff is "Haw Peter", but this has not yet been verified. Never mind, lads, keep up the good work, and more power to your elbows.

The Lassies. . . . God Bless 'em



Ladies' Committee—1975

THE SUCCESS of any Bowling Club, and that goes for Stonehouse, is very much dependant upon the able and willing help given by our lady associate members during both the summer and winter sessions each year. No task is too difficult for them — be it looking after our comfort, providing and serving meals at games and functions, or supporting the club with financial aid — all the club needs to do is ask!

An influx of new young members recently ensures a lively Ladies' Section and many of the so called "Old Hands" are not now getting it all their own way in Club Competitions.

Over the years the ladies have represented the club in both Lanarkshire and Scottish Competitions and have enjoyed a good measure of success. As recently as Season 1973 their "Pairs" and "Fours" representatives were narrowly defeated in the Semi-Final of the S.W.B.A. Competitions and, with a little bit of good fortune, could have brought these coveted trophies to Stonehouse.

The ladies continue to foster the spirit of friendship with neighbouring clubs, and each year participate in enjoyable friendly games with them, thus cementing the good relationships built up over a considerable number of years.

On Saturdays and Sundays the ladies join with the men in friendly but keen promiscuous games and some of the arguments and choice expressions would do Billy Connolly proud.

During the winter months the ladies run Whist sessions on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons and usually manage a day out to Ayr for Indoor Bowling and visit to Theatre.

All the best, ladies!!

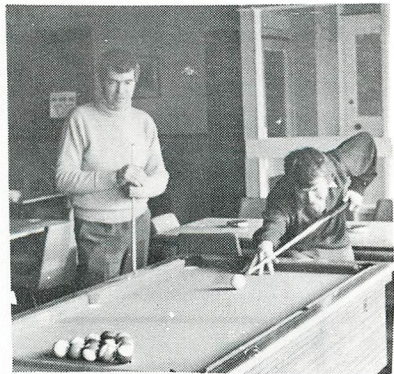
The Social Whirl



Last of the Summer Wine!!



Come Dancing!!



Pot Black!!

WHILST it is accepted that the playing of bowls is the principal function of a Bowling Club, it is nevertheless true that a responsible social life is necessary for its wellbeing, especially during the long winter months.

It is said that the sentiments experienced by a Social Convener can be disappointment, frustration, failure, satisfaction and success, but these become secondary so long as the social life of the club continues to improve at all times.

This can be said of Stonehouse Bowling Club and we are indeed fortunate in having Peter Macfarlane looking after the social side of our club. Peter spares no effort in organising our social functions, such as the monthly social evenings in the clubhouse, presentation of prizes, Annual Dinner Dance, Burns Supper— to name but a few. There is a rumour going round that Peter Macfarlane has been approached by the Rank Organisation to join them as a full-time Bingo Caller!

The club is also appreciative of the efforts of Mr. Alex. Cook in running our weekly domino tournaments enjoyed by all taking part.

The efforts of these two gentlemen are very much appreciated, and we must always bear in mind that the social club is for the whole club to enjoy and it is up to us to give them our fullest support.

The Bowlers' Bible

THE S.B.A. handbook that lies around the clubhouse somewhere is without doubt the bowlers' bible. It contains all the "commandments" — the rules, the regulations that govern the game — it will settle all arguments if properly used. The rules are there in black and white, and they cannot be disputed. There is no need to wrangle over some point of procedure, all that is required is to consult the S.B.A. handbook to clarify the position or, if in doubt, there is always a member of the Committee available to act as a consultant.



Men's Committee—1975

The Art of Prize-winning - and Losing

WHEN A bowler, Stonehouse or otherwise, approaches the new season, his target is several of the club's handsome trophies. The most coveted, of course, is the Championship Cup, followed by the President's, although possibly, to the majority of our members, any trophy won at all would be an acceptable bonus.

What dreams of glory these trophies conjure up in the mind of the average club bowler! The average bowler comprises of about 75 per cent of the members of any club, but there is usually another 75 per cent of the members who think they are above average in their own minds. The average bowler enters the club competitions every year with the same thought in mind THIS IS MY YEAR.

It is worth remembering that, irrespective of how the season goes, or how many times we are knocked out of competitions, we must retain the urge to do better next time. This is what makes a good club member.

1900 Alexander Borland
 1901 Alexander Borland
 1902 Alexander Borland
 1903 Archibald F. Thomson
 1904 Thomas Wilson
 1905 Robert Burns
 1906 Alexander McIntosh
 1907 James S. Wilson
 1908 Robert Murray
 1909 James C. Plenderleith
 1910 John Borland
 1911 Gavin Brownlie, Snr.
 1912 Thomas T. Cochrane
 1913 Daniel Sym
 1914 John Plenderleith
 1915 Rev. James Wallace
 1916 George Hamilton
 1917 Alexander Anderson
 1918 Thomas Hamilton
 1919 John Miles
 1920 Peter Gavin
 1921 David Smith
 1922 John H. Thomson
 1923 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1924 Robert Leggate
 1925 John Weir
 1926 Gavin H. Thomson
 1927 Thomas Brownlie
 1928 Gavin Millar (Cnehan Street)
 1929 Rev. George R. Robertson
 1930 John Jackson (Lawrie Street)
 1931 Samuel Oldfield
 1932 William Gracie
 1933 George F. Wilson
 1934 James Rattray
 1935 Robert Thomson
 1936 William Lewis
 1937 John Thomson (King Street)

1900
 1901
 1902 William Walker
 1903 Archibald F. Thomson
 1904 Archibald F. Thomson
 1905 Gavin Brownlie, Snr.
 1906 Robert Burns
 1907 Thomas Brownlie
 1908 John Jackson (Hill Road)
 1909 Thomas Wilson
 1910 Gavin Millar
 1911 Robert Small, Snr.
 1912 Thomas Wilson
 1913 John H. Thomson
 1914 Robert Plenderleith
 1915 John Whitelaw
 1916 John Whitelaw
 1917 Thomas T. Cochrane
 1918 John Jackson (Lawrie Street)
 1919 Robert Small, Jnr.
 1920 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1921 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1922 Robert Small, Jnr.
 1923 John Whitelaw
 1924 John H. Thomson
 1925 John Small
 1926 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1927 Thomas Wardrope
 1928 John Leggate
 1929 Mitchell Sorbie
 1930 John Small
 1931 John H. Thomson
 1932 Robert Small, Jnr.
 1933 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1934 David Jackson
 1935 James Hamilton
 1936 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1937 James Hamilton

List of Presidents



List of Champions

1938 Logie Armstrong
 1939 William Weir
 1940 Thomas Wardrope
 1941 James Hamilton
 1942 John B. Hamilton
 1943 James B. Mackenzie
 1944 Robert Small
 1945 J. W. Patterson
 1946 Robert L. Brodie
 1947 John G. Miller
 1948 James T. McLellan
 1949 James Wardrope
 1950 Thomas Wilson
 1951 John J. Hamilton
 1952 Thomas Walker
 1953 George M. Hamilton
 1954 James Thomson
 1955 Robert Burke
 1956 Alexander Cook
 1957 Jack MacC. Hamilton
 1958 Alexander Brodie
 1959 William Millar
 1960 James B. Brown
 1961 Robert S. Todd
 1962 John Scott
 1963 Henry MacFarlane
 1964 Andrew Ellis
 1965 Thomas M. Hamilton
 1966 Peter McMillan
 1967 Peter McMillan
 1968 Thomas Mitchell
 1969 John L. McLuggage
 1970 Robert Campbell
 1971 William M. Duncan
 1972 James Mair
 1973 Alex. Anderson
 1974 Peter Macfarlane
 1975 William Hamilton
 1938 John Small
 1939 James Hamilton
 1940 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1941 John Small
 1942 Robert Leggate
 1943 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1944 Robert Leggate
 1945 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1946 John H. Thomson
 1947 James T. McLellan
 1948 Alex. T. McCrimmon
 1949 William McLellan
 1950 Logie Armstrong
 1951 Robert M. Summers
 1952 James Thomson
 1953 James T. McLellan
 1954 Thomas M. Hamilton
 1955 Thomas M. Hamilton
 1956 James T. McLellan
 1957 Robert M. Summers
 1958 Gilbert McGill
 1959 Robert M. Summers
 1960 John Scott
 1961 Thomas M. Hamilton
 1962 Thomas M. Hamilton
 1963 Thomas M. Hamilton
 1964 John Scott
 1965 James B. Brown
 1966 Henry MacFarlane
 1967 Jack MacC. Hamilton
 1968 Thomas M. Hamilton
 1969 Jack MacC. Hamilton
 1970 Jack MacC. Hamilton
 1971 Gilbert McGill
 1972 James B. Brown
 1973 Jack MacC. Hamilton
 1974 Robert Campbell

