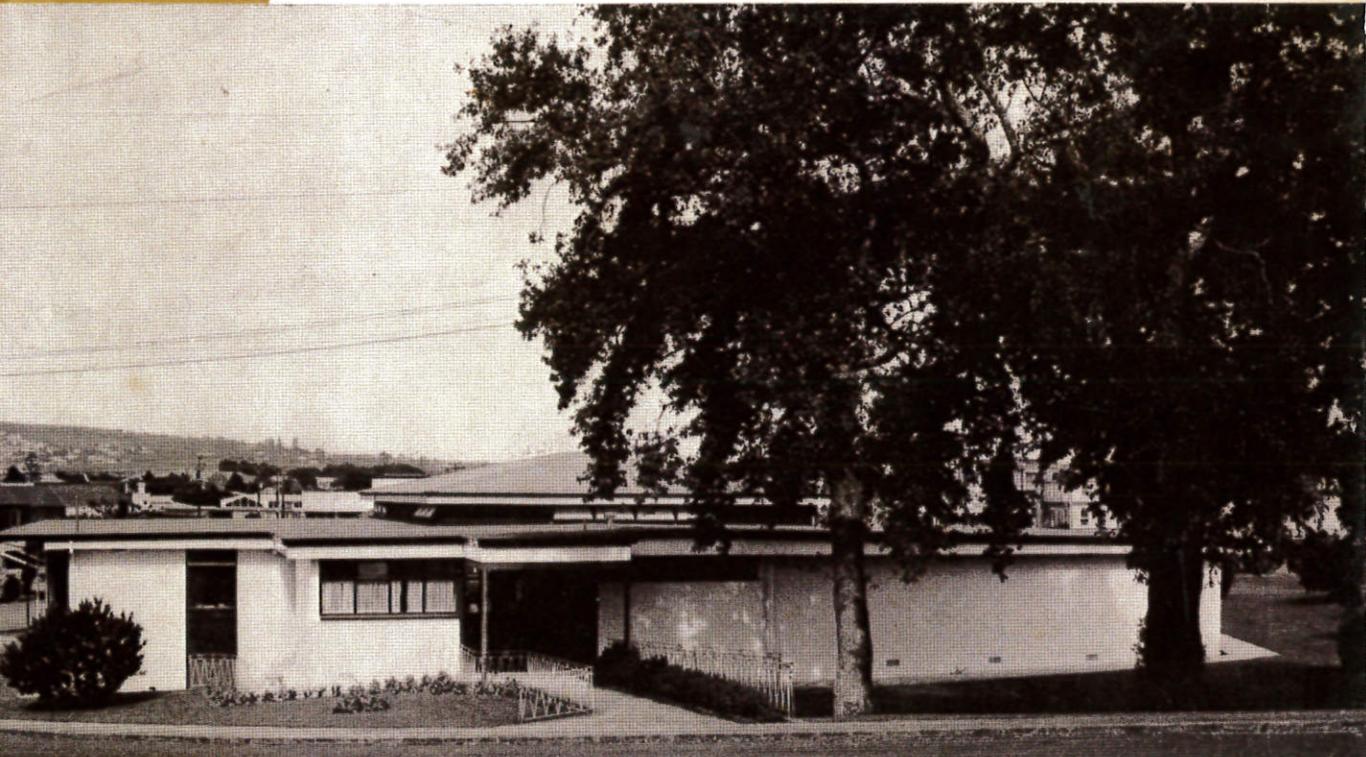




THE FRANKLIN CLUB  
INCORPORATED

GOLDEN JUBILEE



1922 . . . . 1972

## *Foreword*

Any attempt at recording the history of the early days of the Franklin Club must, of necessity, contain a large amount of conjecture. With the loss of the first minute book covering the years 1922-32, no written record now remains of those years and any would-be historian must rely almost entirely on the recollections of early members. In this respect I am indebted to Past Presidents M. R. Grierson, W. J. Short and D. J. Gordon, without whose assistance a factual account of the first ten years of the Club's existence would not have been possible.

—H. B. HOOD.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . .



It is an honour and a privilege for me to be President of the Franklin Club during this Golden Jubilee Year.

We as members of the Club, now are, I feel, deeply indebted to foundation members, past Presidents and their committees for their foresight, determination and hard work in producing for us the facilities we have here today. I am sure that the next 50 years will also see the Club continue to expand and prosper.

Finally, my thanks to Harold Hood for the tremendous effort and hours of work he has put into compiling and preparing the history of the Club, 1922 to 1972.

—W. REIDY.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON . . . .

The functions and uses of a gentlemen's club have no simple definition. In the material sense, such clubs provide for the enjoyment by members of recreational amenities in comfortable surroundings. But this is an over-simplification. The true purposes and benefits are of deeper significance — fraternal exchanges between members — getting to know each other better — pride in the town and district of which the club is a focal point — the setting and maintaining of a dignified behavioural pattern for the menfolk of the community. It is said that such fraternity clubs are the barometers of community standards.

In all these things, the Franklin Club has functioned admirably. From small beginnings, it has grown steadily in stature and reputation, and has fulfilled its true purposes.

Present and future members will jealously guard and nurture this mature tree, which was planted as a sapling fifty years ago. So guarded and so nurtured, it will in turn continue to provide shade and shelter for its Members in the years which lie ahead.

—M. R. GRIERSON,  
Patron.



## A Short History of The Franklin Club (Inc.)

1922 . . . . 1972

### 1922 — 1930

To recall, accurately, times and places of fifty years ago is an almost impossible feat, but what does appear certain is that the first organised meeting with a view to forming the Club, was held in August 1922 in Mr Percy George's tearooms in lower King Street, in premises now used as dental rooms by Mr J. A. R. Scott. The meeting was convened by Charles McCullough and present-day member, Bill Short, who was present at this inaugural meeting, recalls that a large crowd attended and many were unable to get in. Mr James Roulston, Snr., was in the chair, and among those who are known to have been present were C. K. Lawrie, Percy Boyd, Alex Gill, Walter Wright, H. G. R. Mason, Fred Hosking, Bill Grandison, Harry Burrows and many others.

At this meeting the Club was formed with James Roulston, Snr., as the first President and Charles McCullough as the first Secretary. All those present duly became members, legally nominated and seconded, and it was at this meeting that the Franklin Club officially came into existence. The exact date of the meeting is not now known but from various references made in later Club records, it appears almost certainly to have been August 18th, 1922.

Initially some difficulty was experienced locating suitable premises to serve as clubrooms and during this period the activities of the Club consisted almost entirely of monthly



A. C. GILL  
President 1927-28

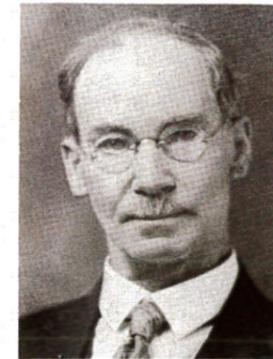


F. A. HOSKING  
President 1929-30

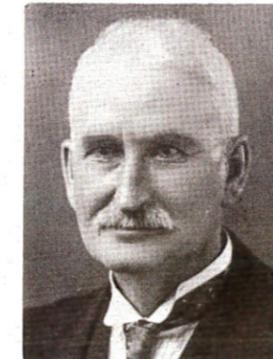
ber Albert Jeffries. The upper floor of the building was taken over by the Club and consisted of a billiards room, a card room, a reading room, and a locker room at one end. Two billiard tables were purchased from Mr Bill Short, payment for these tables being made by the rather novel method of handing over the proceeds from the tables each week until full payment had been made. Liquor supplies were organised on the locker system, hours of service being from 5 p.m. to midnight on Friday nights only in the early stages, and at a later date until 11 p.m. on week nights. Evening control was in the care of a Committeeman, based on a roster system. Initially, the Club engaged the services of a custodian cum cleaner cum casual steward, the first of these being Mr George Adcock who lived on the premises and occupied a small, rather dismal room at the top of the stairs.

Such were the beginnings of the Franklin Club. In the early years it proved to be a great haven for businessmen and particularly bachelors of whom there were a good many in the banks and other offices and in the law practices. Cards were played extensively, billiards was very popular with the members and the standard of play generally was very high. There was a well-stocked reading room with books and magazines to cater for reader enthusiasts among the members.

The Club tried various methods to control the sale and consumption of liquor, all quite illegal but nevertheless having the stamp of respectability which seemed to satisfy most of the members. The locker system was, in the view of many, a particularly iniquitous system. The generous were penalised and there seemed to be something of an unwritten law that corks were intended to be extracted but never to be replaced. The Club graduated, if that is the correct word, to a system of sales which was quite unlawful but because of the undoubtedly high standing of the Club's administrators in the community, other members might have been encouraged to believe that it must have been all legal and in order. It certainly was not and most members were relieved when years later a charter was granted including, as was then the vogue, off sales. It was a great relief to all to be able to enjoy the fraternity of the Club without the guilt complex which had to be swallowed with every ounce of ale or spirits consumed.



JAS. ROULSTON, Snr.  
President 1923-24



C. K. LAWRIE  
President 1925-26

meetings followed by supper, and usually held in Mr George's tearooms. However, a general meeting of Club members was held in May, 1924, the chief spokesman being James Roulston, Snr., and Fred Hosking, and it was at this meeting that the Club really got off the ground. In the period since the inaugural meeting in 1922 the Club had barely functioned as such, but shortly after the 1924 meeting, moved into its first premises, Clarke's Buildings, at the corner of King and Hall Streets. This building was built by Mr Chas. Clarke, publican of the Pukekohe Hotel, and at the time of the Club settling in, was owned by Mr Jeffries, father of present mem-

## 1930 — 1940

During the years leading up to the Depression of the early thirties membership and activities remained almost static. With the coming of the depression the Club just barely functioned. Subscriptions were reduced to £1 and annual turnover was in the low hundreds. The minutes of the meeting of February 1933 speak of a large number of members being in arrears with subscriptions and club life generally was at low ebb. In June 1933 the steward's wages were reduced by 10/- per week and the lessors of the building agreed to a reduction in rental of 7/- per week for a period of six months. These were hard times indeed and the effects were being felt in the Franklin Club as in all walks of life. The total membership of the Club at this time is not known but the Annual General Meeting of 1934 was attended by the President and eighteen members of whom fourteen were elected to the Management Committee. An average Friday night attendance at the Club during this period would be about twenty members. In November 1934, the Club's first steward, Mr George Adcock, died and his place was taken by Mr George Butcher as the first permanent steward of the Club at a wage of £2 per week.

As prosperity returned to the land subscriptions were increased but only to the point of making ends meet, no thought being given to providing for future expansion. A



E. J. MORRISON  
President 1933-34



S. P. DAY  
President 1935

sure sign of the improving times was the considerable increase in nominations coming forward for membership.

During this pre-war period the Annual Ladies' Night was quite an event in the town's social calendar. The committee felt that these functions should be self-supporting and set a price of 3/- per double ticket for the occasion! Unbelievable in this day and age. The hour set for the official conclusion of festivities on Ladies' Night was 3 a.m. and one has only to listen briefly to older members reminiscing to realise that these were indeed truly heroic occasions. The members room was cleared for dancing, a good orchestra was engaged and in addition to almost non-stop dancing the ladies were also entertained at table bowls with prizes for the winning pairs. Usually, very good cocktails were provided to "break the ice" and the President made the speech of welcome, responded to by this lady. It was customary for the President to pay a "fee of honour" of £5 or so for the occasion, quite a considerable sum for those days. All in all, the Ladies Night was truly a night to be remembered.

In 1936, with definite signs of a returning prosperity, it was felt that the Club should set its sights on securing land

and buildings of its own. In March 1937 a building fund was set up, a sum of £100 being transferred from accumulated funds and, together with the addition of the recently instituted



M. S. CAMPBELL  
President 1936



H. BURROWS  
President 1937-38

nomination fee, this formed the nucleus of the fund. Various methods were used to augment this fund, from the hiring of two poker machines to the introduction of the notorious "punch boards". These proved to be real money spinners but were, alas, eventually banned by the Customs.

With the coming of war in 1939, all thoughts of building or purchasing new premises had to be abandoned.

## 1940 — 1950

The Club and its members entered wholeheartedly into the war effort. Funds were invested in war loans, donations were made to patriotic causes and members of the services of many countries stationed in the area were invited to partake of the Club's hospitality. Numerous members of the Club served with distinction in the armed forces both in New Zealand and overseas and altogether the Club was most conscious of its duty and appreciative of the opportunity and pleasure of entertaining and helping servicemen.

In 1944, with the obvious swing of the war in favour of the Allies, members' thoughts again turned to the question of



D. J. GORDON  
President 1940-41



A. F. BROWN  
President 1942-43

establishing a permanent home for the Club. In June of that year, a building section situated in Massey Avenue adjacent to the fire station was purchased at a cost of £475. At last the Club could plan for the future and renewed efforts were made to augment the building fund. A select committee was set up to advise the committee regarding club management and building prospects, and discussions were held as to the desirability or otherwise of applying for a charter for the Club. There were some members, strange to say, who were opposed to a charter and preferred the illegal method of under the counter sales of liquor, something which continually gave a good many club members the jitters.

However, the moderate view prevailed and at a meeting held on 22nd March, 1950, two decisions of far-reaching importance to the Club were taken. Firstly, the Secretary was authorised to apply for a Club Charter and, secondly, it was proposed that a special general meeting of members be held to authorise the Committee to exercise the option to purchase, given by Mr J. M. Stevenson, the property at the corner of East Street and Station Road at a price of £4200. On this section stood a large old house which had, during its lifetime, been occupied by no less than three doctors, Drs Wake,



W. J. SHORT  
President 1944



V. W. MORLEY  
President 1945-46

McWhirter and Lumsden. At this same meeting it was proposed that the Secretary advertise the Club's section in Massey Avenue for sale by tender. The section was eventually purchased and is now occupied by Franklin Tractor Service Ltd.

## 1950 — 1960

Initially, the new premises in East Street were let, but towards the end of the year, steps were taken to alter and renovate the house with a view to moving in early in the New Year. However, due to delays in carrying out the necessary alterations, together with some delay in the granting of the charter, the move to the new site did not take place until July 1952. The first committee meeting in the Club's own building was held on 21st August, 1952 with the President, Mr W. J. Wright, in the chair, and on 13th September, 1952, with the renovations complete, the building was officially opened by Mr M. R. Grierson, Patron and Past President of the Club. Members quickly settled into the new premises and with the newly granted charter operating, the Club went from strength to strength. Membership increased by leaps and bounds, so much so that it was felt by many that a limit should be applied. During the first fifteen months in the new premises three attempts were made to limit the membership,

all being defeated. During this period, membership increased by about one hundred, or roughly one-third.

Then followed a period of consolidation with many improvements being made to the main building and new equip-



G. R. BASHAM  
President 1947-51



W. J. WRIGHT  
President 1952-53

ment purchased. In March 1954 the section adjoining the Club on the south side was purchased at a cost of £1250. Considerable work was done on this section for use as a car-park and this proved to be a tremendous asset to the Club. Membership had by this time grown to almost 450 with a staff of two permanent stewards and one casual. The head steward lived in a flat on the premises but with the increase in membership, it was decided that a house be built on the Club's new section for the head steward, together with a separate storeroom and garage adjacent to the Club premises. This work was carried out in 1956 at a cost of slightly over £4000.

Through the late fifties, the Club continued to make progress with membership and facilities increasing side by side. However, by the end of the decade, it was apparent that the Club was outgrowing its rather dilapidated old building. In 1959 the annual Ladies' Night, due to lack of space, was held in the Town Hall for the first time, and at the same time the building committee were asked to bring forward proposals on a new building project. As a result of these proposals, alterations and additions were made to the billiards room and



J. D. ROULSTON, Jnr.  
President 1954-55



M. J. COOPER  
President 1956-57

kitchen, and at a later date, a substantial bulk store was added to the south-west corner of the building. This store was later incorporated in the new building which replaced the old house in 1965.

## 1960 — 1972

During this period in the life of the Club social activities kept pace with the building additions. Every opportunity was taken to entertain visiting sports teams and celebrities and on at least two occasions, All Black teams were entertained to lunch at the Club. Exchange visits with kindred clubs were conducted on a regular basis and were, for the most part, very well attended. The billiard tables, as they are today, were always very popular with members. Numerous exhibitions were given by visiting celebrities such as Horace Lindrum and Clark McConachy and on more than one occasion, the South Auckland Billiards and Snooker Championships were held in the Club. The annual Ladies' Night, now held in the Town Hall, continued to be the major social event of the year, while Ladies' Nights were held regularly on the Club premises and were well attended by members and their ladies.

In March 1965 the management committee approved a plan for building additions and alterations brought forward by the building committee. This approval was ratified at the Annual General Meeting in May and the Club embarked on an extensive building programme which was to erase completely the old building except for the recently completed bulk storeroom, and replace it with the modern, roomy Clubhouse which we have today. A tender from Cronin & Escott Ltd. for £15,000 was accepted and the work commenced in February 1966. During the tremendous upheaval caused by this work, the Club remained open and was able to maintain a service to members, albeit on a limited basis due largely to the wonderful effort of the management committee of the day under the leadership of Mr L. N. Sheppard.

November 12th, 1966 was to be a red-letter day in the history of the Club as it marked the official opening of the new building and the fulfilment of the dreams of members from as far back as 1922. The official opening ceremony was



T. PATERSON  
President 1958-59



C. MASSEY  
President 1960-61

held at 5 p.m. on that day and was followed by a social function in the evening which was attended by about 200 people. The new building was well and truly opened and a new era in the life of the Franklin Club commenced.

Since that momentous day, a steady expansion of membership and amenities has continued right down to the present day. An event of far-reaching importance to the Club during this period was the introduction of 10 o'clock closing in October 1967. This has had a tremendous effect on the operations, and indeed on the very nature of the Club, and has thrown up a number of contentious issues which, no doubt,



A. G. PERRY  
President 1962-63



L. N. SHEPPARD  
President 1964-65

will be duly resolved to the ultimate benefit of all members. Another milestone was the admission of twenty-year-olds to club membership in May 1970, thus continuing a general trend towards a younger membership.

The Franklin Club can count itself fortunate in the high standard set by those who have been elected to the Presidency down the years. A short sketch of earlier presidents may assist present-day members to understand better those who filled the top executive position from the years 1922-1951.

### JAMES ROULSTON, Snr.:

The first President, was the natural foundation president, being a leader in the town, a farmer, racing man and president of the Golf Club for many years. At the time the Club was founded, he could be regarded as the senior citizen of Pukekohe. After serving his term as president he was later elected Patron of the Club and filled this office until his death in 1948.

### CHARLES KASPAR LAWRIE (1925-26):

A former Mayor of Pukekohe at the time of his presidency and was the father of present Mayor and club member, C. W. J. Lawrie. He was a man of dignified bearing and appearance and served the town and the Club well.

### ALEX C. GILL (1927-28):

Founded a men's outfitting business in King Street. He was an excellent worker in the Club and up to the time of his illness, he being an invalid for several years before his death, he was a constant attender and the Club benefited greatly under his direction.

## FRANKLIN CLUB (INC.)

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS will be held in the Clubrooms on Saturday, 27th May, 1972, at 8 p.m.

#### Business:

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting.
2. Annual Report.
3. Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
4. Election of Officers, Management Committee and Auditor.
5. Fixation of Subscriptions for the ensuing year. It is recommended by the outgoing Committee that the rates be:—

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members .....	\$13.50
Limited Members .....	\$9.50
(Both subject to rebate of \$2 if paid on or before 31st July, 1972).	
Nomination Fee .....	\$20.00

7. Consideration of recommendations to incoming Committee.

J. D. WORTHINGTON, Hon. Secretary.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT \* \* \*

## GENTLEMEN

On behalf of your Committee it is my pleasure to present this, the 50th Annual Report and Balance Sheet of the Franklin Club (Inc.), for the year ended 29th February, 1972.

## OBITUARY:

It is with regret we record the passing of the following members:

J. N. Ingram, A. S. Miller, M. J. Parsons, C. J. Rogers, D. T. Wardrope.

## MEMBERSHIP:

Total membership as at the 29th February, 1972:

Life .....	6
Limited .....	105
Town .....	466
Veteran .....	6
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>583</b>

An overall increase of nine.

## FINANCE:

It is very pleasing to note that the Club finances are in a sound position.

The turnover in the Wholesale Department had again this year shown an improvement, which has been reflected in the increased gross profit. This I feel sure is the result of the Committee's decision to keep the prices competitive with other Wholesalers. But for the Brewery's strike during a portion of last year the Wholesale figures could have shown an even greater increase.

Rising costs, particularly wages, during the latter part of the year have resulted in the increase in prices both over the bars and in the wholesale department.

To facilitate stock control and accounting, would members please ensure that they receive an invoice

from the Stewards and sign for all goods they purchase from the wholesale.

## GROUNDS:

As members will have noted the contractor has almost completed the sealing of the car park.

## HOUSE REPORT:

Social activities which took place during the year were three Housie nights, held in the Clubrooms, and the Annual Ladies' Night in the Town Hall, which once again was an outstanding success.

Interior decorators have been consulted and tenders called for the renovation of the interior of the Club. This work should be commenced in the near future.

## GAMES WINNERS — 1971

### SNOOKER:

Championship: G. Jackson; Runner-up W. J. Wright.  
Handicap: J. Garland; Runner-up G. Jackson.  
Handicap Pairs: K. Litten and P. Curdayne; Runners-up W. Wells and M. Martinovich.

### BILLIARDS:

Championship: F. Holz; Runner-up M. Lawson.  
Handicap: G. Jackson; Runner-up N. Gibbons.

### MONDAY NIGHT TEAMS:

Ins. Law and Medicine, Runners-up Pirates.

### MOST IMPROVED SNOOKER PLAYER:

G. Cutfield.

### INDOOR BOWLS:

Singles: I. Cronin; Runner-up K. King.  
Pairs: F. & K. Batkin; Runners-up P. Hanna and R. Kriletich.  
Fours: D. Ingle, N. Gibbons, K. Litten, P. Curdayne.  
Runners-up M. Williams, L. Barton, G. McGill, T. Wardrope.

## DARTS:

Singles: R. King; Runner-up R. Kriletich.  
Pairs: K. King and R. Talyancich; Runners-up R. Cronin and R. Fleming.  
Fours: P. J. Hanna, P. McCormick, R. Kriletich, R. Talyancich.  
Runners-up R. Cronin, R. Fleming, N. Holmes, G. Guy.

## GOLF:

Prize-winners Annual Golf Day held Onewhero Golf Course on 28th November, 1971.

### Golfers:

Best Gross Winner: R. Talyancich, 80; Runner-up B. Belcher, 86.  
Best Nett Winner: K. Bartz, 67; Runner-up P. Hanna 71.  
1st 9 Stableford: Winner M. Ellett; Runner-up: W. J. Wright.  
2nd 9 Stableford: Winner M. Williams; Runner-up T. Connell.

### Non-Golfers:

Best Golf Winner: F. Fruin; Runner-up R. Massey.  
Best Nett Winner: P. Curdayne; Runner-up R. Hood.  
1st 9 Stableford Winner: W. Massey; Runner-up J. Benseman.  
2nd 9 Stableford Winner: M. Martinovich; Runner-up L. Stephens.  
Most Golf Winner: J. Hawthorne.  
Nearest the Pin: L. Barton 1st; R. King 2nd.  
Teams Prize: J. Queenin, T. Connell, I. Melville, M. Martinovich.

## OUTDOOR BOWLS:

1st: J. Dunne, R. Price, M. Williams, T. Jones.  
2nd: M. Martinovich, V. Polwart, J. Mitchell, L. J. Sheppard.

## SQUASH COURTS:

The Committee negotiated the purchase of a section of land at the rear of the Club's residence for the squash courts but unfortunately were unsuccessful. This has virtually stopped any erection of the courts within the Club surrounds. However another possibility is the purchase of a suitable property elsewhere with the view of future development.

## VALEDICTORY:

My thanks to Mr M. R. Grierson, our Patron, for again accepting office and also his generous donation of \$100.00 for a suitable memento to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Club and his long association as a member, President and Patron.

To Mr R. K. Jackson and Mr B. Q. Webb for their assistance in legal matters throughout the year.

I sincerely thank my Vice-President, Harold Hood, for his support during the year. My thanks to Honorary Secretary John Worthington and the Honorary Treasurer Fred Fry for their assistance and co-operation. To the Sub-committee Chairmen and Committee members my sincere thanks for a job well done.

I also wish to thank Mrs Christie our Clerical Assistant for the time and effort she has put into keeping the financial records of the Club. My thanks to the Stewards for the pleasant manner in which they performed their duties.

With the increased turnover and staff the Committee felt that more direct Management was necessary and accordingly advertised, and later appointed a Manager. I would like to welcome Mr L. A. Mawhinney to this position and hope that his stay with us will be a happy one.

My sincere thanks to our conscientious groundsman Mr Norm Gillon for the well-kept state of our grounds and for his excellent displays of flowers.

During the rugby season we were privileged to entertain the visiting international Lions rugby team to luncheon in the Club. The visitors expressed their appreciation and were impressed with our amenities.

To all Club members my thanks for your patronage and loyalty throughout the year and trust that you will give the same support to my successor. Finally, I have enjoyed my term as President of the Franklin Club and wish the Club continued success in the future.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Jubilee year began with a very successful Smoke Concert which was rather poorly attended. However further celebrations will be held later in the form of a Ladies' Night in the Town Hall, where the Jubilee Committee hope to see a greater attendance.

W. REIDY, President.



