

Account of Purley on Thames

Trenthams Bowling Green

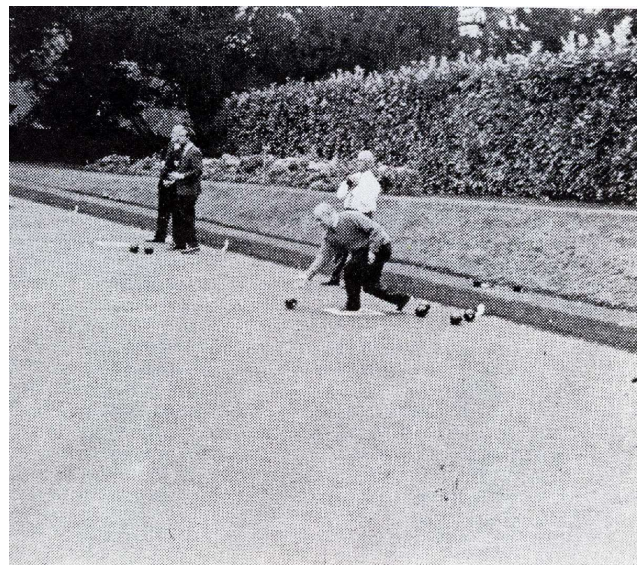
R200026 19/7/2020

Trenthams had been in existence for many years since 1879 when George Trentham founded the business after having worked for many other contractors over the years. In 1950 the firm moved to Purley to take over a fifteen acre site in Purley from the South Berks Hunt.

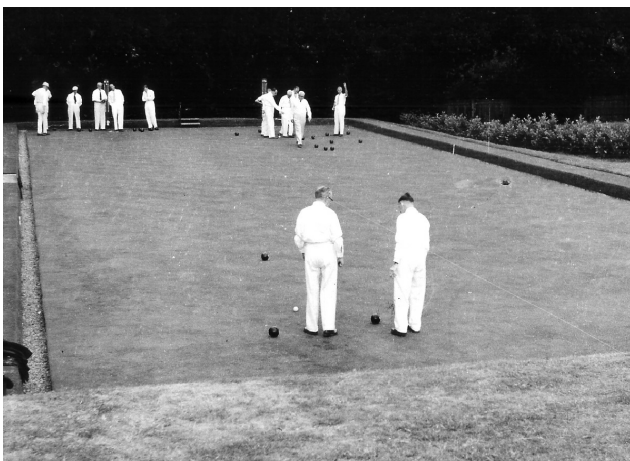
The company had always been very supportive of its staff and Donald Trentham who was keen on bowls himself laid out a bowling green to the east of their offices. A bowls club was founded and the green was so well kept that it was deemed suitable for County bowls matches.

When the Trentham era came to an end in the 1990s the land came into the hands of developers who wanted to build houses all over the site. This created a severe threat to the bowling green. One of the requirements of a new development under planning law was that as well as housing there must be areas of public open space.

In a deal worked out by many parties it was agreed that the Parish Council would take ownership of the land and lease it to the Trenthams Bowling Club for 40 years so long as membership of the club was open to all.



Donald Trentham playing in the club championship

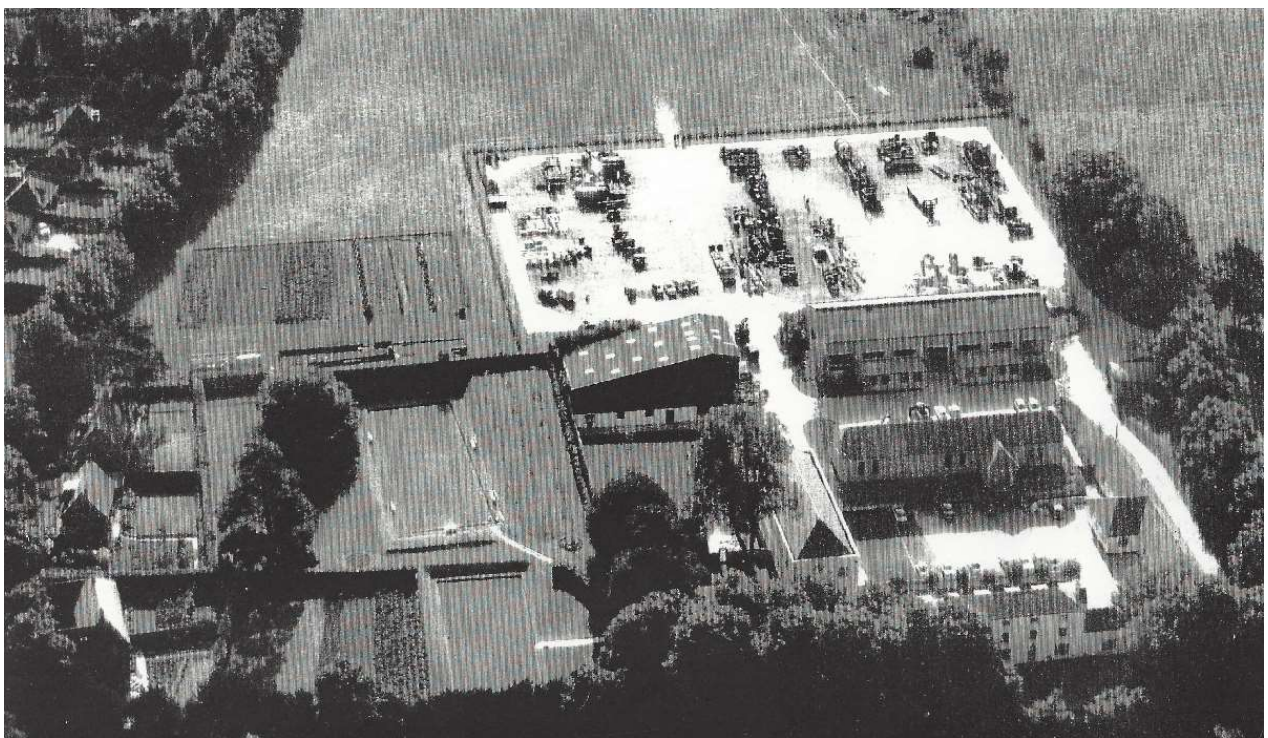


Players on the two rink green

This arrangement has worked well and the club has become a valued member of Purley's sporting fraternity with the Parish Council maintaining the ground and making sure neighbouring trees did not intrude and the club maintaining the surface of the green.



The bowling green shortly before Trenthams finished. It is now an eight rink main green and a two rink practice green



An aerial view showing the relationship between the original two rink green and the offices of Trenthams.

