

Clubhouse Development 1908 - 1912

In 1908 the question of future expense concerning lavatory conveniences within the old clubhouse was discussed and Mr Dickie (who?) pointed out that there was no chance at being able to carry out the work without increasing the overdraft or increasing the annual subscription. This was endorsed by the majority present.

However a sub-committee was formed to ascertain improving the old portion of the clubhouse and in late 1908 it was agreed to accept a quotation for £21.5s to paint exterior of the clubhouse and outhouse and a sum of £19.6/6s to paint the lavatory and the corrugated iron roof.

It was not until January 1911 that the captain Thomas Stevenson and his vice-Captain were given leave to mention to the committee proposals to erect a new clubhouse on the current site on the top of the hill. This coincided with the club securing a lease for 21 years.

It was proposed that Architects who were members of the club and were "in business of their own account" be approached to prepare plans together with 4 or 5 other Architects who were not members.

Nine Architect members of the club were approached of which 7 agreed to submit plans and 5 non-member Firms of Architects were approached.

One of these non-member firms was Honeyman, Keppie and McIntosh. The world famous Glasgow son Charles Rennie McIntosh.

The conditions agreed at this meeting were that (1) the successful competitors to get the work on the usual terms or on terms to be arranged and (2) the next three to receive an honorarium of 5 guineas each.

A measurer (Quantity Surveyor), Mr Dinsmore who was a member, was appointed for the works and an outline of the style of the clubhouse was suggested as follows.

The clubhouse portion to be on one feat.

Smokeroom to be size of present one

Cloakroom to be size of present Committee Room.

Lockers for 450.

Lavatory with 6 whb's, 4 urinals, 3 wc's, 1 footbath.

House Keeper's House:

Kitchen double size of present area

Parlour with 2 bedrooms and presses.

The specification and Conditions of Content for the new building and the removal of the wooden building were sent to The Architects.

A few letters were received by the Committee from the Architects requesting clarification of points. One of the most notable (as far as the reply from the committee is concerned) being from Whyte & Galloway who asked if the the entrance to the bar is to be from the hall or from the smoking room and may the basement be used for as a washing house, coal shed etc.

The reply was "The committee can't answer positively as they feel that by doing so they would be taking away from the liberty of your design"

A splendid example of not making a decision.

In March 1911 the committee examined the plans and the 6 most suitable were selected.

It is interesting to note that of the estimated costs submitted by the Architects for their Plans that Honeyman, Keppie and McIntosh were the lowest at £2159 pounds.

An Assessor (Mr Clifford) was appointed to report on the plans and make a short list of four Architects giving a description of their merits.

At this time the plans were shown to Sir John Stirling Maxwell who had been taking a keen interest.

To raise money for the new clubhouse a debenture of £5.00 was discussed which would be put forward at the next meeting. It was agreed that the plans be exhibited in Langside Hall 1 hour prior to the Special General Meeting where the recommendations of the Committee will be submitted.

The four plans selected by the Committee were passed to the Assessor who reported on the merits of each and the Committee reduced the list of Architects to two.

The four in order of merit were;

Gillespie

Whitie

Honeyman

Carruthers

The two were reduced to Mr B. Whitie and Mr J. Gaff Gillespie and after further discussion the committee were unanimous in favour of Mr Gillespie's plan. Mr Gillespie is a member of the well-known firm of architects, Messrs Salmon & Son & Gillespie whose work has been greatly admired. Mr Gillespie is also a member of Pollok Golf Club so it is particularly fitting that his firm was appointed.

Sir John who had been taking a keen interest in the developments asked if the elevation to Cowglen Road be reduced in height. It was agreed to discuss this with the Architect.

It was then agreed that all the plans be exhibited in the club 4 days before the especial General meeting and that the selected plans exhibited in Langside Halls.

At this time each member of committee was asked to approach friends in the club and ask for their contribution to the debenture fund.

At the following committee meeting in April promises of £1800 from about 80 members were received and it was agreed to ask at the general meeting for further contributions.

On the 8th May 1911 the Architect submitted his completed plans and over the following months the costs for the new clubhouse were established. The debenture fund in July had risen to £2080.00.

In April 1912 the new clubhouse was opened. For twenty years the members have had the great pleasure of playing in the policies of Pollok House, a pleasure due entirely to the public-spiritedness of Sir John Stirling Maxwell Bart.

The club's tenure of the ground was restricted till last autumn, but on securing a lease for 21 years, a clubhouse in keeping with the excellence of the course was erected. All the internal fittings are of the most up-to-date description.

In the unavoidable absence of Sir John and Lady Stirling Maxwell, the clubhouse was formally declared open by Mrs J Campbell Murray, Haggs Castle, who was

introduced by Captain R H Clark in a racy speech, in the course of which he gave an interesting sketch of the rise and progress of the club. Mrs Murray admitted she firmly believed the game was good for old and young. She understood that the Pollok course was one of the finest in the country and she was sure that the clubhouse had few superiors anywhere. An interesting four-ball foursome followed, the competitors being Messrs Irons and Kennedy of the local club, and Messrs R Scott jun. And W S Colville of the Glasgow Club, and throughout the afternoon many mixed foursomes left the first tee. The Pollok is now in the front rank of clubs progressing park courses. Its greens have few, if any, superiors, and the course is bunkered on scientific lines.

Next report to cover extensions and alterations from 1926 onward.

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