

“To eat and drink, and pay nowt,
To hear and see, and say nowt,
And when warden drunken roam,
It's sidesman's duty see him home.”

—(laughter). He could not escape by saying “nowt,” so he might add at once that ladies and gentlemen present could eat and drink to their hearts' content, and pay “nowt,” and for this privilege they were indebted to Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Waterworth. He was very glad to be here, and heartily congratulated the members upon having so beautiful a ground upon which to play. Money had been well expended upon it, and in the management of the club generally there was cause for congratulation, and a feeling of gratitude towards Mr. Bottrill, who had worked in season and out of season, and been largely instrumental in bringing the club to its present satisfactory condition. The new ground was intended to provide innocent recreation for residents in the neighbourhood, and he need not enlarge now upon the importance of physical exercise in the promotion of robust health. Suffice it to say, statistics proved life was prolonged by outdoor amusements, and he thought, therefore, they could expect the best results physically from the use of this ground. Before coming here he asked his wife to kindly explain the duty of one who undertook to open a new lawn tennis ground, and her answer was “Give them a good treat once a year”—(laughter and hear, hear). He should be very pleased to assist the club, and if they would tell him what they wished of him he would do his best to gratify their desire—(applause). He had now great pleasure in declaring the new lawn tennis ground open. Mr. Alderman Roper then struck the first ball, and play amongst the members immediately followed.

With regard to past competitions by members during last season, they played seven matches, and won six, and in the ladies' competitions only one was lost. To meet the expense of laying out the new ground the committee have asked members to give as donations amounts equal to their subscriptions, and the request has, so far, been generously responded to.