

BUNNYTHORPE MINIATURE RIFLE CLUB

1921-1951

A Meeting was held on the 5th of June 1921 for the purpose of forming a miniature rifle club, there being an attendance of 20.

Mr R Rowling, who was in the chair, reported on the prospect of obtaining a range and it was then decided to form a club. Mr R Rowling was elected Captain, Mr J W Donald Vice-captain and W B Duthie Secretary. Members consisted largely of the then practically extinct Bunnythorpe Defence Rifle Club.

Glaxo Laboratories, as the firm is now known, under the management of John Robinson gave the club free use of the space below the washing-up stage and the first big problem of the club was solved. This area made an ideal range though in later years it was prone to leakage.

The club opened its range on October 18th, 1921 with a friendly shoot against the Linton Club, when the visitors won narrowly. The club members built a social room using discarded bricks from the factory.

Among the early stalwarts the following names figure largely, F Cox, F Rosvall, W Salmon (who later became Secretary/Treasurer of the Manawatu Association 1929-1933), W Webber, H Hughes, L Raikes, H Gore and C Young. Later members were Les Shailer and Laurie Curtis.

Les Shailer presented the Shailer Shield for interclub competition with the Awahuri Club in 1933, although this was extended to cover all clubs in later years

Perhaps one of the most bizarre circumstances occurred in 1928 when the club visited Bulls to challenge for the McKelvie Cup. Bulls were one man short and they called on one of their junior members to help out. He could not rise to the occasion and the Bunnythorpe Club won narrowly by a single point. This was one of the highlights of the club's efforts but it was not to last long, as the Bulls team returned with a strong team the next week and took the cup home, winning comfortably.

The last record of this club took place in 1951 when Mr J Macauley was elected President.

Special mention must be made of the services rendered through the years of Mr Robertson and Mr A H Faulkner, successive factory managers, and the old stalwart Mr F Cox.

Over the years it had been customary to hold an annual dance or ball and these were held in the Public Hall at Bunnythorpe.

