

# Histon & Impington Recreation Ground



1927 – Gala Day on the Rec

New Road Recreation Ground is under preparation. The Histon Institute Football Club (Founded on August 4th, 1904) starts using the football pitch. The team had previously used a field next to the windmill.

The Groundsman's house (The Lodge) on corner of the Recreation Ground was purchased by the Chivers family from Gavin Macfarlane-Grieve and a Gala Day was organized on the Recreation Ground, where one of the main attractions was the Institute Gymnastic team, which had been formed on November 3rd 1908.



WWII bouncing baby competition

The music at this year's Sports Day was provided by Chivers own dance band, whilst a rabbit competition, organized by the Histon and District Fur and Feather Society, was run for the first time. All the proceeds from the day were shared between the Red Cross and Chivers Services Gift Fund.

1921

The Chivers family bought from the Macfarlane-Grievess the site of the future Recreation Ground.

1924

New Road Recreation Ground officially opened, providing facilities for bowls, cricket, football, hockey and tennis. The game of bowls in the village had been in existence since 1910 when they used a strip of grass behind the Men's Institute. Cricket had been played since at least the 1850s, but hockey had only recently started with the formation of the Orchard Ladies Hockey Club. The tennis club was founded in 1925 when members paid 1shilling to join & 1shilling an hour to play. While bowls, cricket, football and tennis continue today, it appears the hockey club was disbanded at the start of the Second War World.

1926

1927

1939

Impington Village College opened. As they had no playing fields of their own, they shared the facilities provided at the Recreation Ground.

1944

Chivers hold their first Sports Day.

1945



1940 – Locals challenge the Royal Engineers



An Oak tree is planted on the Recreation Ground by WB Chivers and the Head Groundsman (RD Tolliday) to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

1947

The annual Chivers Sports Day included entertainment by the Luton Band. Cycle racing was on the programme for the first time. All proceeds from the day that year went to Addenbrookes Hospital. Chivers appoint RD Tolliday as the new Head groundsman.

1953



The ornamental gates to the Recreation Ground are knocked down as building work starts on Bridge Road.

1962



1936 Chivers Transport workers football team outside "The Lodge" (The groundsman's house).

1967

New Road Recreation Ground leased to Histon and Impington Parish Councils by CRDC

1969

Parish Councils buy the Lodge formerly owned by Chivers family. The Lodge had been built in the late 1860s for Charles Bamford, the then owner of Impington Hall, and originally had a thatched roof.

A new sports pavilion is opened on the New Road Recreation Ground by Godfrey Tyson, having been built on the site of one of the existing tennis courts.

1985

Additional 8.5 acres of land is leased from Chivers Farms to extend the Recreation ground.

2000



1947 - John Parr, Warden of Impington Village College, at the Chivers Sports Day.

2005

Building work starts on replacing the existing pavilion and building a new hard tennis court, multi use games area, improved groundsman's yard and car parking. Parish Councils buy the top part (8 acres) of the Rec purchased from Premier brands.

2006

Rec development completed

Friends of the Rec. would like to thank The Village Society for their support and sponsorship in producing this historical guide.

