



The Moonrakers

The Crossways Club, Upper Stratton

Once Wiltshire's largest pub, it was built by Spackman's for Arkell's in 1931 as a club, as they were not allowed to build anymore pubs at the time by the council and The Opening Ceremony was performed by Mr J Graham Arkell on Thursday last, 28th April. This was followed by a musical programme. *North Wilts Herald* 06-05-1932.

1932- The new club hosted the 'Advertiser's Poor Kiddies Outing Fund Concert', on Sunday night. Miss Vera Grant, Swindon's Carnival Queen was guest of honour. There was then a full evenings entertainment. *North Wilts Herald* 29-07-1932. Saturday & Sunday sees the first Club Horticultural Show, Judges, H E Painter of Frome & Mr Ward of Overton. Local Market gardeners also showed, Messrs. Crockford, Penfold and Jones. *North Wilts Herald* 09-09-1932. Reported as already having nearly 2,000 members. *North Wilts Herald* 30-09-1932. After its first six games in the Independent Skittle League, Crossways is the only undefeated team. *North Wilts Herald* 30-09-1932.

1933- 1st Anniversary celebrations were held on Friday night, Mr F W Dowdeswell, president, welcomed the visitors. Mr. Graham Arkell presided, he had opened the club 12 months before. Mr. Jack Wilk's Concert Party provided the music, Duck & Drake were the comedians. *North Wilts Herald* 05-05-1933. With entries totalling about 300, the 2nd Annual Flower & Vegetable Show was held on Saturday. Judges were Head Gardeners, H E Painter of Hemsford Gardens, Frome, and J Ward of Overton House, Wroughton. Silver Cup went to Mr. W Davis. *North Wilts Herald* 18-08-1933. Swindon Town footballers were guests on Thursday evening. The visitors won at Billiards but lost the skittles, darts & shooting. *North Wilts Herald* 03-11-1933.

1934- Pinehurst Tenants play Crossways in a friendly, Crossways win 5-2. Pinehurst team included Swindon Town and former Scottish International Jock Walker. *North Wilts Herald* 06-04-1934. Cycling Club was revived and looking for new members especially ladies, with 15 attending first run. *North Wilts Herald* 01-06-1934.

1935- There was a large crowd on Saturday evening for the presentation of Miniature Air Rifle League trophies. Milton Team were league winners. Entertainment was by Mervyn Harper's Concert Party, supported by a conjuror. *North Wilts Herald* 18-04-1935. Concert held Sunday last to raise fund for Victoria Hospital. They were entertained by several soloists and a comedian. £2 16s 4d raised. *North Wilts Advertiser* 03-05-1935.

1936- At Bath County Court, Walter Townsend a GWR employee of Branksome, Cricklade Road was awarded £10 damages and Club was told to re-instate him as a member for wrongful dismissal. *North Wilts Herald* 31-01-1936. The League Skittles Team Trophies were presented at Crossways Club last Saturday. Haydon Street had won The League Cup, The Knockout Cup, Six-a-side Cup and Nomination Cup, New Century won Owen Cup. Concert after was provided by Wilks Brothers and Arthur Love. *North Wilts Herald* 22-05-1936. The Annual Independent Darts League Trophy Evening was held last Saturday. Wootton Bassett won the League Cup, Haydon Street the Arkell's Knock Out Cup, Mr J Will of Crossways got the Morse Highest Score Cup. The Crossways Entertainers provided the entertainment. *North Wilts Herald* 29-05-1936. Between 3 and 400 attend the guest night with the Crossways Light Orchestra, led by Billy Jones.

Carnival Queen, Joyce Gooding was guest of honour. *North Wilts Gazette 23-10-1936*. Christmas Concert, last Sunday, attended by Carnival Queen, Miss Joyce Gooding. Music provided by Crossway's Light Orchestra, supported by Mary Silvester, Teddy White & Stan Martin. *North Wilts Herald 24-12-1936*. Annual share out to retired members, 60 members each received 10s 6d each. The death of Mr. T Haberfield, doorman was also announced. *North Wilts Herald 24-12-1936*

1937- Collected 11s 7d for Evening Advertiser Poor Kiddies Outing Fund. *North Wilts Herald 03-09-1937*. Annual Horticultural Show was held on Saturday last. Mr. W. Carter won the challenge cup having won 40 individual prizes. *North Wilts Herald 10-09-1937*.

1938- June and Swindon Town Council turn down application to convert 100 Whitworth Road to a Working Men's Club. *North Wilts Herald 10-06-1938*. Swindon's Carnival Queen, Betty Clough, attended Evening Advertiser Poor Kiddies Outing Fund concert on Sunday night with the Accordion Serenader's, making £2 5s. *North Wilts Herald 08-07-1938*.

1939- First concert held on 30th July raising 14s 8d, *North Wilts Herald 05-08-1938* and Carnival Queen Olive was welcomed to the 2nd Evening Advertiser Poor Kiddies Outing Fund concert. 9th August saw the annual retired members outing, this year they went to Cheltenham, on return there was a river trip at Evesham, and a stop at the New Inn at Whitney. *North Wilts Herald 11-08-1939*.

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1940- A concert to raise money for the Victoria Hospital was held on Saturday 28th June last. Music supplied by Mr. G. White & his Orchestra. Queen Eileen & her ladies in waiting attended. *North Wilts Herald 05-07-1940*. And the club collects £1 1s towards the Mayor's Christmas Appeal. *North Wilts Herald 06-12-1940*.

1941 – Swindon's first George Cross Medal hero, Sergeant W J Watkins, R.A., of 17 The Circle, was given a reception on Tuesday, and presented with an inscribed cigarette case. *North Wilts Herald 14-02-1941*

1950- Final of County Skittles cup – Swindon Independent Clubs 439, Westbury Town League 399. *Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser 28-10-1950*.

1953- became **The Moonrakers** in Feb 1953.

Well known for its dances with high quality bands. Jo Loss, Gordon Talbot etc.

1970 – Rag Dance, 'Graphite' featuring 'Blue Blood' 8.0 to 11:30 pm, entrance 3/6. *Evening Advertiser 16-03-1970*.

Landlords

License Held	Surname	Given Names	Title
1953	Davis	Ken	
	Coningham	John	
1961	Plyer	Kenneth G F	
1963-1965	John	William G	
1970	Conway	John P	
1970's	Dettmar	Paul & Shelia	
1980s	Chard		
1985-1988	Tidey	Bob & Tina	
c. 1990	Ward	Ron	
	Neal	Peter	

Darts

Alliance beat Crossways 4-1. *North Wilts Herald 22-09-1933*.

High Street Club beat Crossways 3-2. *North Wilts Herald 18-12-1936*

League, Crossways beat Gas Company 5-nil. *North Wilts Herald 20-12-1940*.

Morse Darts Cup, Ivy Leaf beat Milton in final. *North Wilts Herald 28-03-1941*

Skittles

CROSSWAYS v. ALBION
At Crossways Club.
CROSSWAYS.— R. Tombs 18, D. Young 22, E. Walton 15, W. Painter 9, S. Bryan 17, F. Shute 16, A. Ford 14, H. Dunn 15, W. Hobbs 11, W. Bendle 22, P. March 18, A. Kinnett 18, total 197.
ALBION.— J. Jackson 13, F. Peace 16, T. Smith 17, S. Reeves 20, M. Leonard 16, N. Logan 16, J. Eagle 14, F. Newman 15, A. Draper 22, A. E. Edmunds 13, S. Adams 9, W. Davies 14, total 185.

North Wilts Herald 06-12-1940