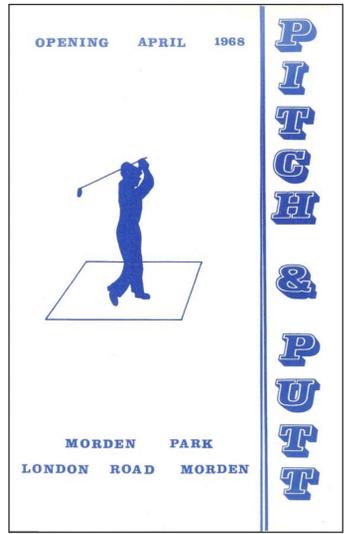


SPORT



THE GOLF CLUB HOUSE, MERTON PARK

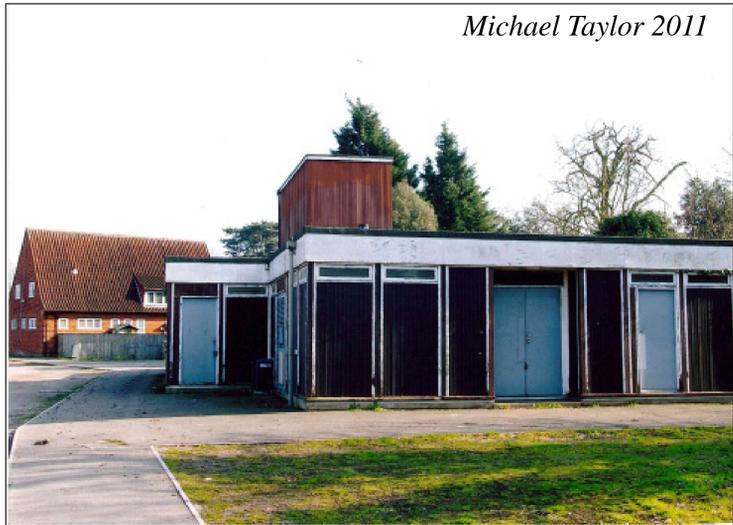
Merton Park Golf Club had this club house in Maycross Avenue (now converted to housing) but, when the area was developed for housing in the 1930s, it moved into Morden Park, changing its name to Morden Park Golf Club – a private golf club. The Park became a council-owned open space in 1946, after the death of Mr Hatfeild. The old mansion (below) continued as the club house for many years. In 1968 a Pitch & Putt course replaced the former course (right).
Judy



THE OLD GOLF CLUB, MORDEN

The fenced-off portion of Morden Park, from the top of Hillcross to Morden, was a London County Council school sports ground, children arriving by coach. They had football, cricket and hockey pitches, cricket nets, tennis & netball pitches and a running track. Our house in Hillcross backed on to this, and residents created hidden gates in their back fences into the park – although we still had to climb over the wire gate! During school holidays I was let out into the park with my friends. If I didn't return home on time my mum would clap from the back garden.
Maurice

I first played football in the park in the 60s for St Martin's Pathfinder team. We played near the house – there were no changing rooms and we had to put up the posts which were stored behind the house (no nets). By the time St Martin's formed their own team in 1970, there were these changing rooms in the triangle between the stream and Lower Morden Lane. Hockey and cricket were also played here, including Morden Parish teams.
Maurice



Michael Taylor 2011

A Juniors' match at Morden Cricket Club: David Roe 2015



Since the 1960s Morden Park hosted an Archery club (in the LCC part), korfball (played by mixed teams which is a cross between netball & basketball) cyclo-speedway (a small track by the mound), as well as football – about 7 pitches.
Maurice

When the swimming pool in Morden Park opened in 1967 it was the largest for miles around, being almost Olympic size with a deep end for high diving – very popular with all. Many clubs honed their skills here. School children were brought to learn, as there is a good sized training pool for the younger ones.
Gladys



1973



1969/70

MORDEN LITTLE LEAGUE FOOTBALL ELM BEETLES 1969-70

Little League football
 A group of football-enthusiastic parents gathered together in 1967 to discuss the formation of a football league suitable for youngsters aged between 7 and 12 years, available to families living in the local Lower Morden area
Brian

Since that meeting 'Little League' football has been active every Saturday morning during the 'football season', in the King George's Playing Fields in Tudor Drive. As a result the League will be celebrating an anniversary of fifty years' activities.
Brian



1971/72



Michael Taylor 2011

Those who want to play bowls need to travel a little further – to the Merton Bowling Club in Joseph Hood Recreation Ground in Martin Way (left) or to the bowls club in John Innes Park, which celebrated its centenary on 31 July 2009.
Lesly

**Please share your memories.
 There are plenty of
 blank speech bubbles!**