

Pamphlet

- relating to -

AVONDALE BOYS SCHOOL
Clifton Road,
Sutton Coldfield

(With thanks to Jane Harwood who donated the pamphlet. It will be seen that Henry Elliott gave permission for the Annual Sports event to be held in his Field in the Park. Mr Elliott was her second great grandfather. Thanks are also extended to David Yates whose memories help to visualise the school.)

Research carried out by Janet Jordan,
Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group
November 2020

AVONDALE BOYS SCHOOL

CLIFTON ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD

The following PAMPHLET relates to an Annual Sports Event being held by Avondale School , Clifton Road, Sutton Coldfield on July 27th, 1895. This would be when the Brownhill Family were running it as a private school.

During the present Covid-19 pandemic, which precludes access to the town's archives in Sutton Coldfield Library, very little about the running of the school can be discovered, although it is estimated to have been in existence for about 60 years.

However, a current resident of Manor Road, David Yates, remembers the house as being a tall, gloomy mid-Victorian building in the gothic style - three storeys with steep gables. It stood alone but was surrounded by a ring of tall pine trees, which are still there in 2020 surrounding the path from the toucan crossing down to the Leisure Centre.. He thinks the house was probably demolished in the early 1960's when much of Sutton was being "improved".

This extract from an OS Map of the site in 1913 shows the house coloured red and David believes that the additional smaller building in the grounds, with the shared drive, could very well have been the schoolroom.



The Brownhill Family came from Walsall. The 1871 Census records Rowland William Brownhill (aged 37) of Birchills Foundary, Walsall, as an Ironfounder and Brickmaker. His wife was Emily (38) and his daughters were, Linda (9), Gertrude (7), Grace (3) and Mabel (1). There was also his young son, Archibald (8 months).

In 1872, Rowland became Mayor of Walsall¹. He also became famous for inventing the "Brownhill Coin in the Slot Gas Meter."² Sadly, on 11 August 1895 he died and probate was granted to his widow, Emily.³ Why his estate was said to be worth only £40 at that time is a mystery, as newspaper reports from 1st April 1895⁴ mention the sale of his business earlier that year raised £50,000.

The 1901 Census shows that members of the family had set up a private boys' school at Avondale. Archibald (now 30) was a schoolmaster, his mother Emily (68) was said to be housekeeper, although by the 1911 Census she had become proprietor of the school, with Archibald, Grace and another son, Horace, as schoolmasters. By 1939, Emily had died and Horace had become the owner.

Archibald died in 1949, Horace in 1956 and Grace in 1958. It is supposed that the school would have closed shortly afterwards.

1. *www.British Newspaper Archive*: Tamworth Herald, November 16, 1872

2. *www.patents.google.com* US405944A - beownhill

3. *www.ancestry.co.uk*,

4. *www.British Newspaper Archive*: Glasgow Herald, Monday 1st April 1895

→ **AVONDALE SCHOOL,** ←

SUTTON COLDFIELD.

SECOND

ANNUAL SPORTS,

July 27th, 1895.

*(Held by kind permission of HENRY ELLIOTT, Esq., in his
Field in the Park.)*

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMAN W. J. SEAL.

Judges:—J. THICKBROOM, JUNIOR.

MESSRS. THOMAS, MORTIMORE, G. H. ALEXANDER, AND

REV. C. W. H. ROWLAND, A. TRAFFORD, ESQ.

Referee and Time Keeper F. SAMPSON, ESQ.

Starter JAMES WATSON, ESQ.

THE STOURBRIDGE VOLUNTEER BAND

Will play Selections of Music at Intervals.

THE PRIZES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE
SPORTS BY MISS DORA STONE.

PROGRAMMES TWOPENCE EACH.

OFFICIALS ONLY ALLOWED INSIDE THE COURSE.

PROGRAMME.

* *

"How shall we beguile the lazy time, if not with some delight."
Shakespeare.

100 YARDS JUNIOR HANDICAP.

THREE PRIZES.

1st Two in each Heat run in Final.

3-30. FIRST HEAT.

Colin McKenzie	...	Scratch
Howard Martin	...	3 yards
Bertie Sampson	...	10 "
Guy Rippingille	...	10 "
Evan Rowland	...	25 "
Hinton Rowland	...	35 "

1st.....2nd.....Time... ..

3-35 SECOND HEAT.

P. Cartwright	...	3 yards
J. Berry	...	6 "
T. Phillips	...	10 "
Gordon Owen	...	10 "
Sidney Darby	...	10 "
B. Cartwright	...	14 "

1st.....2nd.....Time.....

3-40. THIRD HEAT.

F. Sampson	...	6 yards
Herbert Britton	...	6 "
C. Chamberlain	...	8 "
Norman Bradley	...	8 "
Ralph Bradley	...	16 "
Marcel Martin	...	12 "

1st.....2nd.....Time.....

3-45.—THROWING CRICKET BALL.

Howard Cartwright	Cyril Martin	H. M. Berry
Gordon Owen	Philip Cartwright	Douglas Watson
Reginald Chamberlain	George McKenzie	Colin McKenzie

Winner's Name.....Distance Thrown.....

100 YARDS (OPEN.)

"The wheels of life gang down hill screevin
Wi' rattling glee."—*Burns.*

4-0. FIRST HEAT.

H. Cartwright	..	Scratch
H. Martin	...	8 yards
D. Watson	...	8 "
H. Britton	...	10 "
C. Chamberlain	...	13 "

1st.....2nd.....Time... ..

4-5. SECOND HEAT.

Cyril Martin	...	Scratch
G. McKenzie	...	5 yards
J. Berry	...	10 "
G. Owen	...	14 "
B. Sampson	...	15 "

1st.....2nd.....Time.....

100 YARDS (OPEN).—Continued.

4-10. THIRD HEAT.

R. Chamberlain	...	Scratch
C. McKenzie...	...	6 yards
W. Newman...	...	12 "
G. Rippingille	...	15 "
Thos. Phillips	...	15 "
R. Bradley	...	19 "
Evan Rowland	...	35 "

1st.....2nd.....Time.....

4-15 FOURTH HEAT.

H. M. Berry...	...	5 yards
P. Cartwright	...	8 "
N. Bradley	...	14 "
F. Sampson	...	14 "
S. Darby	...	15 "
M. Martin	...	16 "
H. Rowland	...	40 "

1st2nd.....Time.....

4-20.—FINAL HEAT, 100 YARDS JUNIORS.

1st..... 2nd..... 3rd..... Time.....

HIGH JUMP.

Howard Cartwright	Scratch	G. McKenzie	...	5 inch
Cyril Martin	1 inch	Colin McKenzie	...	5 "
R. Chamberlain	1 "	P. Cartwright	...	6 "
H. M. Berry	5 "			

1st.....Height.....

4-25.—100 YARDS (OPEN), FINAL HEAT.

1st..... 2nd..... 3rd..... 4th..... Time.....

"By sports like these are all their cares beguiled :
The sports of children satisfy the child."—*Goldsmith.*

4-30.—220 YARDS JUNIOR HANDICAP.

Colin McKenzie	...	Scratch	S. Darby	...	24 yards
P. Cartwright	...	6 yards	B. Sampson	...	30 "
H. Martin	...	10 "	G. Preston	...	30 "
J. Berry	...	10 "	G. Rippingille	...	30 "
H. Britton	...	18 "	B. Cartwright	...	35 "
T. Phillips	...	20 "	M. Martin	...	35 "
F. Sampson	...	20 "	E. Rowland	...	60 "
N. Bradley	...	20 "	H. Rowland	...	80 "
G. Owen	...	22 "	R. Bradley	...	40 "
W. Newman	...	23 "			

4-35.—LONG JUMP (OPEN).

I would give a thousand pounds I could run as fast as thou canst.
Henry VIII.

4-45.—440 YARDS (OPEN) HANDICAP.

H. Cartwright	...	Scratch	P. Cartwright	...	20 yards
R. Chamberlain	...	Scratch	G. Owen	...	35 "
C. Martin	...	Scratch	H. Britton	...	35 "
H. M. Berry	...	8 yards	Chamberlain	...	40 "
G. McKenzie	...	12 "	S. Darby	...	40 "
C. McKenzie	...	13 "	F. Sampson	...	40 "
D. Watson	...	14 "	B. Sampson	...	45 "
H. Martin	...	18 "	T. Phillips	...	45 "
J. Berry	...	20 "			

1st..... 2nd..... 3rd..... 4th..... Time.....

With flying foot the heath he spurns,—*Scott's "Lady of the Lake."*

4-50.—100 YARDS, FOR FIREMEN, &C.

To be handicapped on the ground.

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.

I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips, straining upon the start.
Henry V.

5-15.—ONE MILE HANDICAP.

Reginald Chamberland	20 yards	Herbert Britton	195 yards
Cyril Martin	35 "	Douglas Watson	195 "
Howard Cartwright	40 "	C. Chamberlain	200 "
H. M. Berry	40 "	F. Sampson	200 "
Howard Martin	80 "	Thos. Phillips	250 "
John Berry	85 "	B. Sampson	250 "
P. Cartwright	85 "	S. Darby	250 "
Colin McKenzie	85 "	W. Newman	250 "
George McKenzie	85 "	Ralph Bradley	350 "
		Basil Cartwright	350 "

1st..... 2nd..... 3rd..... 4th..... 5th..... Time.....

5-25.—CONSOLATION RACE.

5-30.—DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.



AMONG
THE DONORS OF PRIZES & SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE FUNDS.

— ARE —

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN W. J. SEAL.

REV. C. W. R. BEDFORD

E. CHATRIAN, ESQ.

J. H. CHAVASSE, ESQ.

F. SAMPSON, ESQ.

J. C. MARTIN, ESQ.

J. E. CARTWRIGHT, ESQ.

E. CHAMBERLAIN, ESQ.

MRS. H. THORPE

J. R. MCKENZIE, ESQ.

THOS. PHILLIPS, ESQ.

A. BRITTON, ESQ.

A. NEWMAN, ESQ.

JAMES WATSON, ESQ.

A. TRAFFORD, ESQ.

G. PRESTON, ESQ.

S. H. MARTIN, ESQ.

D. MARTIN, ESQ.

E. MORRIS, ESQ.

CHAS. MOSS, ESQ.

ALFRED HOMER, ESQ.

H. M. G. HAYNES, ESQ.

D. WAKELIN, ESQ.

AND OTHERS.

