

Melton, Martlesham, Bredfield and Playford, and they were encouraged by the offer of a gold medal to the player making the highest overall score in the season.

An all-day annual tournament was arranged and attended by spectators, paying two pence at the gate, and numbers attending varied between 50 and 100. In 1910 the player making the highest aggregate in the season won a pair of quoits offered by Messrs. Wynne, Timmins and Company of Birmingham, and there are several pairs in use today that were made by this company. They marked their quoits with a letter of the alphabet to signify an exact pair. The winning team received medals with gold centres, costing no more than five shillings each, and the runners-up medals had silver centres and cost three shillings. The presentations were at a “smoking concert” in October at which those attending paid 1s 6d each.

The Woodbridge League recommenced in 1920, when the ‘home’ team called itself, appropriately, Woodbridge Comrades. It, like most, if not all teams, must have lost players who had died in the trenches. The weather played its part in matches and it was reported that Chittock the Suffolk champion won the title in 1923 in a rainstorm and subsequently developed rheumatic fever and was ‘totally incapacitated’. Rules were changed at intervals and in 1927 games were played man to man up to 21 points. This probably resulted in recourse to the lamp at times, and there was a protest by Hasketon at the May meeting. The Cross Inn did not have a player ready at 9.15 and therefore forfeited the game. By the end of the decade there were eight teams divided into two leagues.

Nearly every village in Suffolk had a team by this time, and most played at public houses where there was room. Ten teams comprised the Butley and District League playing in two divisions with a final play-off between the top teams. This may have been the reason the Woodbridge League declined to only three teams, albeit ‘A’ and ‘B’ teams, in the 1930s, although they did not help recruitment by refusing to extend the six-mile rule. Village teams, not in leagues, played friendly matches. Then came another world war.

The league was revived in 1950 and interest in the game increased considerably. Two years later the ‘catchment area’ was increased to the whole Woodbridge postal district and a golden decade began. However open tournaments interested some players more than the league, and new competitions were introduced. The Ipswich MP, Sir John Ganzoni had presented a cup in 1924, and to it were added trophies given by Sir Arthur Churchman, Sir Peter Greenwell and the breweries, Tollemache and Cobbold. The Co-operative Society hosted a major tournament at its annual fete with over 100 entries, and with many more watching. In the 1955 season Woodbridge League players made a clean sweep of all open trophies. The cartoonist Giles presented the cup to the singles winner. Players mostly from the Ipswich and Woodbridge Leagues represented the county against Essex during this period. The existence of the All-England Quoiting Association is revealed by the fact that the president, Mr. L.W. Brookfield, presented a cup to the victorious Suffolk captain.

Early in the 1970s interest in the game dwindled and most of the leagues folded, but county tournaments were kept alive. The playing field at Butley provided space for several pairs of beds to be set up, and it became the centre where the larger tournaments, like the Lord Rendlesham Cup, were played, sometimes on the Flower Show and Fete Day. In 1960