



The Cultural Development of the Marsa Garrison Recreational Grounds between 1870-1970 and its Legacy

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Abstract

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<p>“Hiding in plain sight.” Such a phrase can be aptly adopted to what is known to us as the Marsa Sports Grounds, sometimes referred to as the Marsa Recreational Grounds. We might have heard stories and have been told facts about the sporting activities that occur within the Marsa Sports Grounds. However, very few know of the historical value that this area in our island nation holds. This essay will explore and uncover, the rich historical and cultural legacy of this former British military recreational ground and its potential to become a tourist attraction.</p> <p>By making use of the limited primary sources available and these being backed up by secondary ones and events occurring up to this very day, this essay aims to expand the knowledge and importance of the area but also of the British period here in Malta, albeit in a different light, in the hope that these might lead to further appreciation and potential tourism by locals and foreigners alike.</p> <p>This study intends to affirm the potential of the area as a historical area and potential tourist attraction but whose implications can go further into other disciplines and matters, of which each can conduct their own research.</p>	
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Declaration of Authenticity



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Declaration:

I hereby declare that this research study is based on the outcome of my own research. I, as the author, declare that this research study is my own composition which has not been previously produced for any other qualification.

The research study was conducted under the supervision of Mr. Vince Zammit

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Student's Signature

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1. Introduction

1.1 Research Background

In 2022, Marsa was given the title of capital of culture for Malta. The practice of sports, historically being an activity reserved for the elite, is an essential component and benchmark for culture in all societies. All of these factors come together at the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds. In this study, the following terms are used interchangeably when referring to the same location; Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds, Marsa Sports Grounds, Sports Grounds or Recreation Grounds.

As locals, we very rarely hear about the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds. Most of us pass by it on a daily basis and, more often than not, what lies within the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds remains a mystery, it's history obscure. It becomes increasingly difficult to consider this as a site to be visited by tourists when it is overlooked by locals and emphasis is placed on other major tourist attractions, noted for a different historical time period. This research intends to shed light on a subject that is not widely discussed. A reason for this might be that it is taken for granted by the general public. In presenting this in the form of a guided tour, one hopes that more awareness is raised for this place to be recognised, appreciated and taken care of as a heritage site. In fact, more concerted effort should be done to preserve areas such as this for their history and influence onto our society today.

This study explores the location of the Recreation Grounds in Marsa at the time when the British ruled over Malta, with particular focus on sports and culture. Starting with the former subject, the British period in Malta. In the sphere of tourism, this period in Maltese history is recognised and appreciated for Malta's role in the Second World War, as probably it should due to the significance of the events that occurred from 1940 until 1945. After the Second World War, the focus turns to Malta's road to freedom, therefore the importance is given to political matters. All of these instances are discussed where they took place, therefore Valletta and the Three Cities. What we fail to indicate are other areas that the British had exclusive control over, such as the Victoria Lines or the various fortifications around the Three Cities such as Fort Rinella or Fort St. Rocco, of which the latter is in a dilapidated state. In most instances these locations are indeed off-the-beaten track and cater to a specialised tourist who would make the journey to visit these locations in particular.

This off-the-beaten track attitude can also be placed on the angle this study is approaching this research; from the point of view of sports and therefore culture. Sports is very popular and sports tourism is becoming increasingly popular in foreign countries, but in Malta, it is still lacking. This is due to our size as a country and the lack of risk-taking any sporting organisation has to implement some form of sports

tourism. There should be an attempt to remove this attitude as it should not stop us from promoting these areas and experiences as many would be interested in knowing more and have a different experience when visiting our island. With the possibility of income being generated by these new visitors, any organisation involved in sports tourism would benefit and would be able to improve its modus operandi. Sports tourism can also be generated locally as educational institutions can organise activities in these areas, to enhance a learning experience about a particular subject and also promote physical activity.

The concerns that have been previously presented have prompted a discussion that will focus on the historical foundation and cultural formation of this area and its activities, from 1870, when this area was acquired by the British military, up until 1970, nine years before the British left Malta. Lastly, this essay will also attempt to provide recommendations and solutions to make the area more accessible to locals and tourists.

1.2 Research Aim, Objectives and Question

The aim of this research is to bring attention to the Marsa Sports Grounds, its purpose and subsequent historical and cultural significance during the British period in Malta. Furthermore, its secondary aim is to collect and centralise most of the information that one can find about the Marsa Sports Grounds, so that anyone interested in taking up the study even further or in much greater detail, can do so.

The central question that this study aims to answer is “How did the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds develop and what is its legacy?”, which in turn requires a secondary research question inquiring about “who and for what purpose were the Marsa Garrison Recreation grounds used and what is being done to protect the legacy and values of this area?”

To such an end, the essay has been divided into sections. Firstly, the Literature Review is presented, where the relevant documentation about this area is properly reviewed and analysed. It is followed by the Methodology, which took on the form of a historical case study. This will detail how the research was carried out and any difficulties encountered during the attainment of the material. The data gathered will be reviewed and discussed in the Research and Analysis section in response to the initial research questions. Finally, in the Conclusion, the researcher will summarise what has been researched and achieved by this research, as well as recommendations and present any potential ideas regarding the best use of the area under study, the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds.

At the tail end of this essay, one will be able to view the references used in the conducting of this study. These are inputted in the Harvard style for easy access as the list will be in alphabetical order. Following on from the Reference List, one will be able to find the Appendices, where a skeleton of a half-day tour itinerary around the Marsa Garrison Recreational Grounds has been presented. Attached to the Appendices, there will also be present some photos of the primary documents from where information has been gathered to conduct this essay.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Before delving into the literary material that we have available from the period in question, I think it is important to give a little bit of context to what these documents are referring to, when it comes to the historical period and the area in question.

The historical period the study is concerning itself with is around 60 years into British colonial rule on Malta, starting in 1815, just after the end of the Napoleonic Wars. By this point, Malta had become an important entrepot stop for transit and fuel to ships crossing the Mediterranean Sea and, with the Crimean War (1853-1856) followed by the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, a transit also for soldiers making their way to India from Great Britain or vice-versa. On the island there was also a small garrison to keep the local peace. By the 1860s, it was deemed necessary for the British military here in Malta to have a dedicated area where military drills could be conducted. A plain in Marsa was chosen for this purpose. Apart from the holding of military drills, the soldiers were encouraged to undertake sports to keep up their fitness levels and instil a sense of competitiveness, important attributes in war. Hence, the area was given the name of the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds.

2.2 Primary sources:

2.2.1 Documents at the Marsa Sports Club

By nature of the obscurity of the subject at hand, not much evidence is available about the ongoings of the Marsa Sports Ground during the late 19th and 20th centuries. However, a small batch of documents have been obtained from the Marsa Sports Club and which have been instrumental to this research. This small batch of documents are quite unknown. In fact, when I first reached out to the Marsa Sports Club and asked whether they have some sort of information and documents about the Sports Club and Grounds during the late 19th and the 20th centuries, the initial response was an unfortunate no. However, a few days later, the General Secretary of the Club, Mr. Galea informed me that they had two files of old documents that might be relevant to this research.

The majority of these documents, dating between 1870 and 1920 are mostly correspondences between the early members of the Marsa Sports Club and the central government, usually a commissioner or lieutenant commissioner. These mostly relate to issues of rent being paid to the government, starting from the sum of £41.16 shillings (s) 8 pence (d)/year but eventually reduced to the sum of 1 shilling/year.

The reduction in price is due to the fact that the area was being leased to the military but while the military was (and still is) under government jurisdiction, it still had to pay rental expenses and the colonial government could, at any time, ask for parts of the area to be handed back to it. This recall did happen during the two world wars. Also, any changes to the fees incurred such as when refreshments started being offered to club members at the Sports Club had to be approved by the government.

Whilst not giving direct details about the inner workings of the Sports Club or what occurred during the period, these documents provide us with a picture that is very rarely found when it comes to previously used military property. Originally, the Marsa Sports Grounds served as an area for military practice, with soldiers carrying out drills and keeping fit for any eventuality. As Malta never experienced any major trouble prior to the Second World War, the whole area was subsequently turned into grounds where the soldiers who were members of the club, could participate in sport and socialise.

2.2.2 Documents at the National Archives; Rabat

The documents found at the National Archives in Rabat also support the correspondences found at the Marsa Sports Club. These documents, pertaining to the post-war period of the club, include once again the request to return the areas previously requisitioned by the central government during the war. Owing to the fact that the Marsa Sports Grounds are located on fertile land, some of its grounds were used as fields to grow crops. Correspondences between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Director of Agriculture found at the National Archives (May – June 1944) show matters that arose as a result of this dual role that the Marsa Sports Ground had, such as the need to grant club members access to the cricket fields using a particular gate and that this gate was to be opened on stipulated days and times when cricket matches were taking place. Within the same correspondence, the Lieutenant-Governor mentions that the Club also wrote about chickens that were moving into the cricket field and interrupting play and asked the Director of Agriculture to resolve the issue, which was resolved rather swiftly.

However, other nuisances were not so easily dealt with. Goat herders passing with their herds and young adolescents jeered at club members during golf matches and broke into the golf clubhouse. This led to several correspondences between the Club's representatives, the central government and even the Commissioner of Police. Consequently, the Attorney General was brought in to settle the dispute, to see what punishment these goat herders could receive and going so far as to ask whether it was possible to put the goats in a pound. Furthermore, in an another document dated to June 1944, the Attorney General makes use of the words 'aerodrome' and 'aerodrome guards' and presented different scenarios if these guards took any action when goats could have been close to the planes in the area and what would be their punishment should they kill one of the animals.

The last batch of documents, which date to the 1960s discuss the development of a national sports centre, complete with a national football stadium, pools, athletics, horse racing tracks and even a car park. In total there were seven proposals, referred to as 'schemes' for this national centre for sports. There are various correspondences between the government and various heads of companies, such as; *Morgan, Baines and Frost Ltd* and; *Cassar and Cooper*, amongst others, who asked for more information about the requirements for the project. Ultimately, this project did not come to fruition.

These documents are more numerous than their counterparts located at the Marsa Sports Club and therefore portray a livelier area and provide the researcher with insightful, sometimes humorous anecdotes. These documents show issues that the Sports Club had to face following the war period and provide information that few people would be aware of, especially when it comes to the national sports centre project, a project that if it did occur, it would have changed the landscape and role of the whole area up to this day. The main benefit these documents have is the fact that these were written in the last 30 years of the period this research is analysing and this is probably why there is so much more information. In turn, this information can be used to further develop the history of the area and give it more importance.

2.3 Secondary Sources

2.3.1 The Maltese Cat by Rudyard Kipling

This small fictional book set in British occupied India, written by Rudyard Kipling, the author of 'The Jungle Book', tells the story of a group of polo ponies belonging to 'The Skidiars' team, a native infantry regiment, in their struggle during the final match of the Upper India Free-For-All Cup against a team supported by the regular British army called 'The Archangels'. The story is given from the point of view of 'The Maltese Cat', a nickname given to one of the Skidiars' polo ponies who was brought over from Malta, who would be the captain of his team.

The story revolves around the final match of this tournament; the atmosphere there was and the intricacies of a polo match from the point of view of the horses participating in the match proper. Most of the dialogue is between the horses and how they ought to cope with their opponents, who are better than them since, being the British Army, the best polo ponies would have been brought from all over the empire and even overseas. In typical underdog fashion however, the match is ultimately won by the Skidiars, which is quite a shock to all horses present, so therefore one can imagine what it would have felt like for their riders.

Despite being a work of fiction, this book gives us an idea of how a game of polo is played, the tactics used and what it would have been like to be, either a horse or rider, in such a match. Like many underdog stories, it portrays quite well the difference between the underdog and the superior team. The Archangels not only had more horses in reserve, six per player but also some of the best horses available, their starting price 'from one thousand rupees each' (Kipling, 2021). On the other hand, the horses on the Skidiars team were either old or pack horses. Our protagonist himself says when he was in Malta he was 'pulling a vegetable cart' (Kipling, 2021).

This very basic comparison between the background of the polo ponies used, can shed light on the society that attended and practiced polo. The setting of the book gives a colonial and militaristic setting but that is exactly how polo was brought over to Malta, via the various soldiers that were either stationed here or would be relocating to India from Great Britain or vice-versa. These soldiers, usually of higher rank, as being part of a cavalry regiment meant that the rider would have some sort of noble heritage and would then impart their knowledge to the locals. As per the Marsa Equidrome website, after the Second World War, more locals were partaking in the sport, starting with the high society, but eventually, it became more open to all who could afford it.

2.3.2 Newspaper Articles

There are a couple of newspaper articles that detail even more the social and cultural impact certain events had on the area of the Marsa Sports Grounds. One recounts the story of how the Marsa Sports Club came to be in 1902, the area being originally reserved for the British military. The second one recalls events when the British Royal family would visit the area. Given that Malta has quite a connection with the Royal family, it should come as no surprise. There is a photo of Queen Elisabeth II visiting the Sports Grounds along with her children, Prince Charles and Princess Anne in 1954. This was because the Duke of Edinburgh was participating in a polo match between the Army and the Navy at the grounds.

King Charles III (at the time prince) would also visit the island twice, in 1968 and 1969, and on both occasions, the incumbent British monarch would play a few matches of polo. An article in the Times of Malta written in 2022 recounts the events of these two special occasions. What makes these two instances special is the fact that Prince Charles plays alongside and against Maltese players. One of the teams he plays against was called 'The Maltese Kittens'. This shows that the sport was taken up by the locals quite well, so much so that there is an anecdote by Mr. Anthony Zammit Tabona who stated that the Maltese players did "not want him to go away with the impression that we were chickens"

(Peresso, 2022). For such occasions, crowds gathered, which slowly started the process of opening the Marsa to more people and not just the elite.

Despite being modern sources, these articles have used first-hand experiences of individuals who witnessed or participated in these events, of which not many locals, let alone foreigners would know of. Being modern sources, this makes them more accessible for those who would want to know more about the area.

3. Methodology

As the research question and study are focusing on a particular area and the researcher is trying to uncover more of its history, it can be considered as a historical case study. The main method of research gathering for this kind of research is document review and analysis, of both primary and secondary sources. This type of method is most agreeable with how the question should be answered as other methodologies could not have been carried out due to time constraints or could not be applied to this kind of research.

To conduct this study, especially when viewing primary sources, the researcher had to get permission to view these documents from the respective organisations these were housed at. Once granted, the researcher went on-site and viewed these documents and notes were taken down appropriately. As the documents in question are quite old, special care had to be taken and as a result, copies could not be made. Photographs of said documents were allowed and thus taken to assist in further analysis. In the Appendices, one can find some photographs of the documents reviewed.

The majority of the analysed documents were either letters or, some other form of correspondence between the Marsa Sports Club and various members of government throughout the period under study and reports, usually conducted on behalf of either of the parties already mentioned. The documents reviewed were, in most instances, easily legible since most of them were typed. When it came to hand-written documents, the researcher found it slightly more difficult to read and understand the message the document was trying to convey.

There are some limitations to this study and this method. The main limitation is that there is not enough material readily available. There is very little local literature and very few records. This is due to various reasons. The primary reason being that the area in question was a restricted area and very few records would have been made available after the area was opened further to the public. The fact that the area was also used by the military, once the military left, any records would have been taken away. Secondly, the time period and the area in question are not as prominent when compared to other periods of Malta's history. There are very few scholars who have taken an interest in the time period, let alone in this particular area and thus, scholarly research is sparse.

Another limitation, which links with the previous one is the reliance on secondary sources, such as websites of the various organisations that make up the area under study. The organisations in question are of very good repute and their history is based on the events that occurred in the area. The few local

researchers about the area either asked for information from these organisations or they themselves conducted the research and from their own findings. Once ready, these researchers presented the latter to these organisations to help them understand their role and enhance further their own history.

4. Results, Analysis and Discussion

Having seen the literature that was used in the handling of this study and the method it was carried out; it is time to see the results and if the original question placed in the Introduction was answered. The main research question was; “How did the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds develop and what is its legacy?”. Alongside it, other two subsidiary questions were also asked, whose answer will be given in conjunction with the answer to the central question.

Before delving into the answering of the main question, it is important for the reader to keep in mind that the area where the Marsa Garrison Recreational Grounds were and still are located up to this day have an even longer history, going back to medieval times and the time of the Knights of St. John. A testament to this long history of the area is the chapel dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, locally known as the Chapel of Ċeppuna. It is said that in 1537, the funeral corteo of Grandmaster L'Isle Adam, the first grandmaster of the Order here in Malta stopped overnight from the journey between Mdina and Birgu, the old capital city and the city where the Knights had their residences, respectively (Busuttil, n.d.). It is during the time of the Knights that the area would end up in the hands of the government. This is how in 1815, when Malta becomes a British colony, the area ended up under British control.

From when the British took responsibility of the islands and the foundation of the Garrison Recreation Grounds, there is a 60-year gap. There seems to be no written evidence of the area's use but most likely, the area would be a plain where some crops would have been grown, seeing that this was its purpose during the time of the Knights and even during the time of the British when the Grounds were properly setup. In the 1870s, the military on the island made a plea to the government to give them an area where they could practice their military drills. The area of the Marsa was given and this started being used by the military as a parade ground. Along with this, giving the fact that the area was a plain, the cavalry would also be present to practice their own manoeuvres.

Aside from the training, soldiers were also encouraged to take up sports and to this end, the War Department hired portion of the area to serve as the Garrison Recreation Ground in 1870 and sixteen years later, in 1886 the senior commanding officer of the local garrison formed the Garrison Recreation Club. This club would be the one of the various clubs that would come together to form the Marsa Sports Club in 1902. By this point, the area under the jurisdiction of the Sports Club was of 154 acres and included both sides of the storm water channel, which is still present up to this day. The sports practised during this time would be football, rugby, cricket, hockey, tennis, polo and horse racing. These latter two

sports would eventually have a considerable effect on the area as businesses related to horses, such as feed, horseshoe making and stables would make their way in the area.

With this information, the first part of the main question has been answered. The Recreation Grounds were setup by the military to promote a healthy sense of competition and to keep the soldiers in fighting shape. It is important to note that the Club and therefore, the use of the Recreation Grounds would be exclusively used by members. It was also a place of social gathering between the soldiers themselves.

As mentioned in the Methodology, the lack of sources during the period in question makes it very difficult to know what events occurred at the Recreation Grounds. What we do know of is when things change; notably during the events of both World Wars and the inter-war period. During both conflicts, areas of the Grounds would be claimed back by the government to be used for agricultural land to alleviate the poor conditions the islands suffered from. To add insult to injury, at some point during the inter-war period, the Racing Club went its own way and claimed most of the land north of the stormwater channel to give it the area occupied today by the Equidrome. By this point, the Marsa Club had changed its name to the 'United Services Sports Club', a name it would hold until 1971, when it reverted back to the Marsa Sports Club, the name it brandishes up to this day (Galea, n.d.).

The reversion back to the name of 'Marsa Sports Club' was brought about by the political decisions taken at the time that meant that the British would start withdrawing their presence from the islands. The name was changed back by the new chairman of the club, Dr. John Cremona, the first Maltese chairman of the Marsa Sports Club (Galea, n.d.). It is during this period that the Club suffered its last loss, this time with the takeover of the football, rugby and archery grounds by the Maltese government in the 1970s (Galea, n.d.). The Maltese government at the time issued tenders for those interested in participating in the development of a Marsa Sports Centre. The tender was issued in 1969 and many headed its call. One Mr. Baldacchino proposed "an ultra-modern sports centre" that included a 50,000-capacity national stadium. However, this idea remained an idea and the National Stadium project was completed at Ta' Qali in 1980.

5. Final Arguments

5.1 Conclusions

Throughout this study, we have seen a very general history of the area where the Marsa Sports Grounds are located and how these developed from a flat, barren plain to a parade ground where soldiers would practice their drills. Thanks to the encouragement of the British military and the need to both socialise and keep oneself prepared for war, led to further development of the area and the foundation of the Marsa Sports Club into the organisation that it is today. The researcher feels that, despite all the limitations this research faced and still does, the research achieved its original aim in being the first step, academically speaking, to gather the gist of the history of the area during the British stay here in Malta. It answered how the area came about, who made use of it and what purpose did it lend itself to.

The research did also set out to try and establish the legacy of the area. This aspect cannot really be quantified in written terms as the organisations mentioned in this research are still very much active and are still writing their own history whilst the research concerned itself mostly with a portion of the British period. This is probably what makes this area even more special; there is a historical element to it like other cultural sites, however it is very much a living and vibrant area that is still being used as it was intended to, albeit in different circumstances, more than 100 years ago.

5.2 Recommendations

For one to experience the liveliness of this area, this research does recommend a few ideas. Firstly, with the assistance of the organisations located in the area; mainly the Marsa Sports Club, Royal Golf Club, the Equidrome and the Malta Polo Club but not exclusively as there are other organisations that make use of the facilities available, the research encourages the development of a tour around the Sports Grounds. A skeleton of the tour that can be developed even further has been provided with this research and can be found in the Appendices. A tour such as this would be of great importance as it will enhance the sports tourism niche to the island, which will further improve Malta's touristic product and benefit the organisations that are situated in the area. To create the best possible product, ideally, all parties involved give their approval as conducting a tour in this location and the frequency it is held at might mean a potential disturbance to the day-to-day activities of these organisations.

To avoid such disturbances, it is suggested that the area either becomes pedestrianised or some sort of path be created to allow both paying tourists but also passers-by and locals to have better access to

the area. Once again, it is suggested that all parties involved in the area give their input to create the best possible. The current state of affairs is quite a hazard to anyone trying to get from one side of the Sports Grounds to the other. Coupled with this, better signage and general upkeep is required, something that can either be provided by the organisations present or by the government.

The final suggestion this research makes is concerning any future studies on the chosen subject matter. For the purpose of this study, the medieval period and the period of the Order of St. John were mentioned but not described in greater detail. Therefore, one study can take the researcher further back in Malta's history and explore both periods simultaneously or separately. With the way historical research is being conducted today, one can also conduct studies of a different nature, from a more cultural or social perspective to even a comparison study between the past and modern day. One such study can analyse how the soldiers who would have treaded over the Grounds would have spent their time, what was their physical and training regimen like and the research can even compare with the regimen that modern soldiers go through for their profession here in Malta. Another study can discuss the evolution of the different sports practiced at the Sports Ground and how different or similar these are to how we play our sports today. This can be taken even further by creating an interactive area where visitors can take part in how sports would have been played in the past.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: HND TG Long Essay Tour Itinerary

Tour title: **An Introduction to Sports: The Marsa Sports Grounds**

1. Guests are to be collected from their respective hotels. Drop-off point will be at the Marsa Equidrome entrance (opposite of the Marsa Park and Ride).
2. The tour begins at the entrance of the Marsa Equidrome;
 - Introduction: a different kind of tour, history of Marsa, history of the area (the Marsa Sports Grounds) and the Equidrome, explanation on equestrian sports; mostly horse-racing.
 - View of the Marsa Equidrome from the inside.
3. Next stop – view of the Golf Course;
 - Only golf course on the island, History of golf in Malta, rules of the sport
4. Next stop – in front of the Marsa Polo Club;
 - Overview of the history of polo, Malta,
 - ‘The Maltese Cat’ by Rudyard Kipling
 - any royal connection?
5. Next stop – entrance to the Marsa Sports Club;
 - History of the sports club, its role today and its facilities
 - Façade and tennis courts on either side leading to the club house
 - Padel courts; new sport, how it is played
6. Next stop – left-hand side of the Marsa Sports Club;
 - Local game of boċċi, how it is played and its rules – tourists can engage in an attempt for better understanding.
 - Cricket grounds – history of cricket and its rules
 - Beyond the cricket grounds, there are located the indoor tennis courts that also form part of the club.
7. Next stop – Better view of the golf course and Ċeppuna Chapel;
 - Better view of the golf course
 - Entry into Ċeppuna Chapel; its history and role in the area during the time of the Knights of St. John
 - The role of religion in Malta in the past and today.
8. Next stop – right-hand side of the Marsa Sports Club;

- Lido area – recreation area for club members
 - Tennis courts – how tennis is played, rules, history, events (tournaments, both local and international), players (local and foreign)
 - Squash courts – recently refurbished
9. Next stop – in front of the Royal Malta Golf Clubhouse;
- History of the clubhouse and the facilities it offers today.
10. Break for refreshments at the Marsa Sports Club.
11. Next stop – deep water channel;
- Marsa as a water catchment area so protection from flooding
 - Protection from flooding but not only – trespassing by animals and others; need for security
 - The area used as an aerodrome
12. Next stop – Marsa FC Stadium (not yet built);
- Brief history of football on the island
 - 1975 visit by Brazilian legend Pele – training at Empire Stadium in Ġżira and the Marsa Sports Grounds
13. Final stop – Matthew Micallef St. John Athletics fields;
- Sports practiced in the area: athletics, rugby, archery; regulations, Malta at the Olympics, Paralympics, Small Nation Games, Commonwealth Games
 - Role of SportsMalta and the Olympic Committee
14. Conclusion of the tour;
- Thank the guests for their attention and invite them to visit other sports related locations and activities such as the National Stadium in Ta' Qali, a scuba adventure to explore Malta's seabed or experience Malta's landscape from a zip-line.
15. Meet-up with transport at Aldo Moro Street. Guests to be taken back to their respective hotels.*

*Following the tour, the guests can participate in various timed activities such as archery, horse-riding, a game of tennis or padel. Depending on the activity, transport can pick up the guests from one central location or various ones to accommodate the guests.

Appendix 2: Photos and Documents

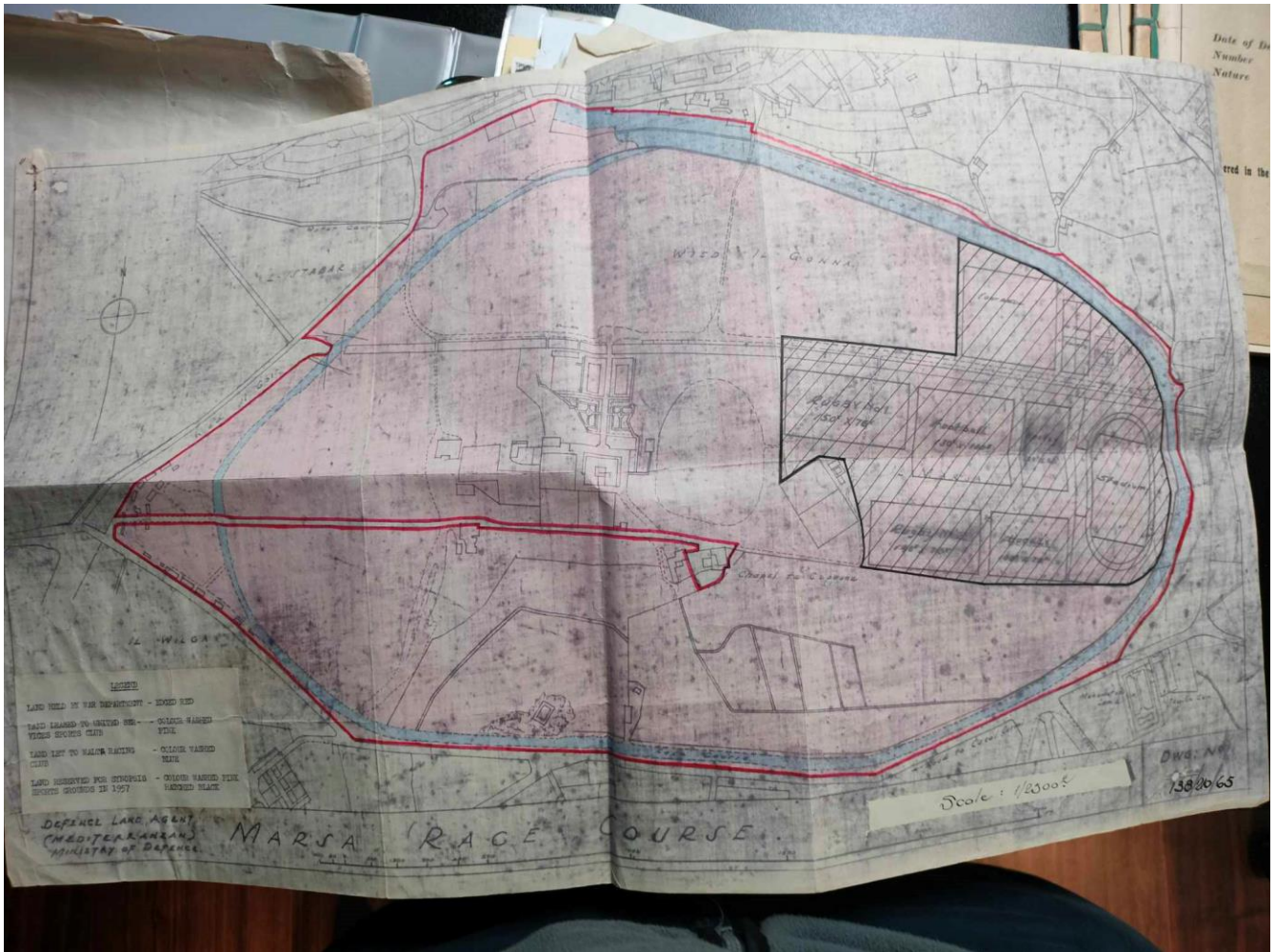


Fig 1: Blueprint of showing Marsa Sports Grounds.

M.A.S.S.A

A. A short history of the development of Malta Sports Club and Racing Club in connection with W.D. leases of the Marsa.

1870. Letting 72. Malta Jockey Club paid to War Dept. £7.10. 0. per annum for the portion of Race Course North of storm water channel.

1881. Increased rent payable by Jockey Club to £21.12. 0. for the use of the whole of W.D. land north of channel. The Jockey Club at that time catered for cricket, etc.

1881. W.O. approved of reduction of rent to £10. per annum in accordance with recommendation in a Station letter.

1887. Malta Jockey Club represented to H.E. the Commander-in-Chief that the amount of rent paid by the Club to the War Office for the use of the Marsa may be reduced from £10 per annum to a nominal one of 5/-.

In support of this application - members are with 2 or 3 exceptions all officers of H.M.'s Naval and Military Forces - and further the Club maintains and keeps in good repair the cricket grounds on the Marsa for the benefit of the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Garrison, expending annually a large sum of money for this purpose.

1897. W.O. approved of reduction to 5/- per annum.

1901. W.D. took over remaining portion of Marsa i.e. south of channel and apparently negotiations commenced for a comprehensive lease of the whole Marsa from the Civil Govt. who were the owners and whose property at the Marsa was parcelled out in small leases.

15.8.1901. Letting 607. W.D. let to Racing Club remainder of Race Course, i.e. south of channel, for £20. 3. 8. per annum.

15.6.1902. Racing Club in a letter to C.E. asked for rent to be reduced to 5/- per annum as was done in the case of letting 73. North of drain.

27.6.1902. Station letter recommended reduction and that the whole Racing Course be included in one letting at 10s/- per annum.

15.8.1902. Receiver General, Malta Civil Govt. leased the Marsa to W.D. for 99 years - rent £431.19.11. excluding chapel and road thereto and one right of way W.O. paid £1000 compensation.

19.8.1902. W.O. approved of a rental of 10s/- to the Racing Club, and this was the annual rent paid for the letting up to 14.8.1908. The lease then expired.

21.10.1902. W.D. leased part of Marsa to Sports Club. 90 years @ 1s terminable at 6 months. Parts of Marsa were added as private leases fell in, in 1905, 1907 and 1908 by which date the Sports Club rented the whole Marsa (less M.R.C. holding).

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Fig. 2: Brief history of the Marsa Garrison Recreation Grounds during the British Period.

LETTER No. 608.

SPORTS CLUB.

Memorandum of Agreement entered into between Colonel James Cameron, Colonel on the Staff, Commanding Royal Engineer in Malta, on behalf of the Secretary of State for War and Major Blackett, Royal Garrison Regiment, as Honorary Secretary of the Malta Sports Club.

The said Secretary of State for War hereby grants to the Malta Sports Club the lease of the lands and buildings on the Marsa, shown in "Yellow" on the accompanying plan, and mentioned in the schedule to this agreement from the twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and two, for ninety years at a rental of one shilling per annum payable to the Chief Paymaster, Malta, yearly in advance on or before the twenty-fifth day of July in each year.

The said lease is granted on the following conditions:-

First. That the lease can be terminated by the War Department for Military reasons at any time on giving six months notice, and that the lease can be terminated by the Sports Club after the same notice.

Second. The tenant shall hold the lands and buildings for the purpose of Recreation and Sports, and shall have the power to construct Officers' and Mens' Pavilions, a Fives Court, Tennis Court, and Dressing and Seating shelters for games. The above mentioned and any other buildings constructed on the lands hereby leased, together with the lands themselves, shall not, within the period of this agreement, be sublet without the consent of the War Department.

Fig.3: Agreement of Lease between the War Department and the Marsa Sports Club.

The price of Tickets will be:-

Members Season Tickets (Adults)	30s. 0d.
(Child over 2 years of age)	10s. 0d.
Temporary Members Weekly Ticket.	10s. 0d.
Members' Guests - Weekly Tickets (specified dates)	10s. 0d.
Members' Guests - Daily Tickets.	2s. 6d.

NOTE (a) Daily Guests Tickets are issued in books of 4 and 8 at 10s. 0d. and £1. 0. 0d. respectively and may be used at any time throughout the season.

(b) ALL the above Tickets must be obtained from the offices of the Malta Union Club or the United Services Sports Club. Should the offices be closed (e.g. at week-ends) Members may obtain Guests Daily Tickets @ 2s. 6d. from the Hall Porter at the Malta Union Club on production of their Club Membership Cards.

5. The Chairman reported on his meeting with Col. M. Hutton (Royal Engineers) in connection with the proposed repairs to the base of the 4 ft. swimming pool.

Fig. 4: Ticket Prices.



Fig. 5: A photo of a photograph taken in 1935 by Richard Ellis showing a military parade taking place at the Marsa Garrison Recreational Grounds.

Fig. 6: The Old Grandstand at the Marsa Horse Racecourse.

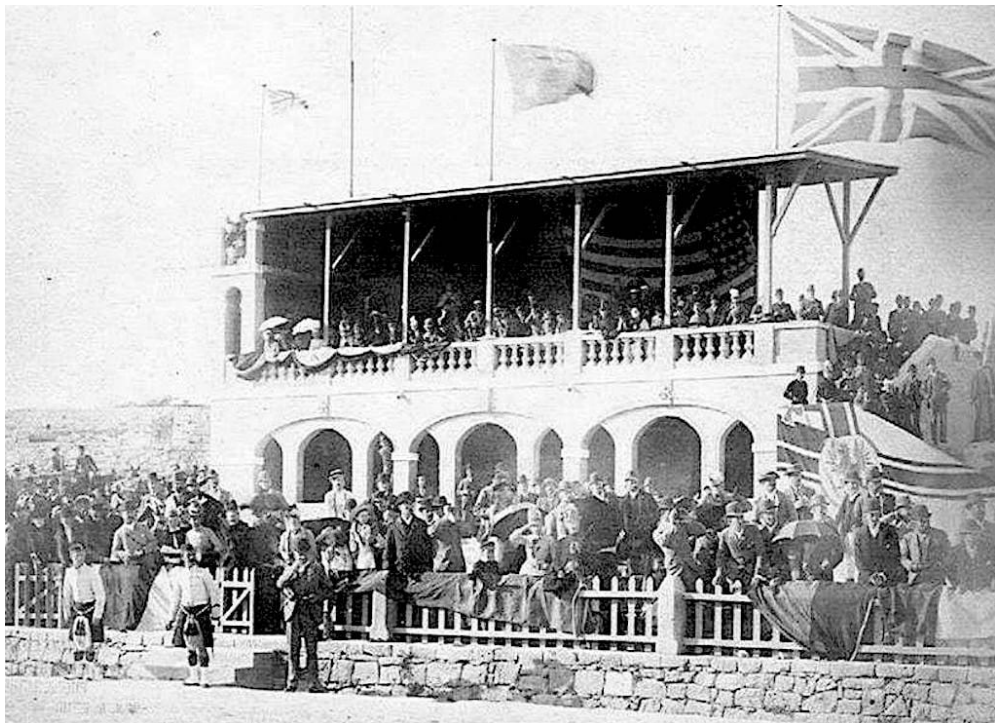




Fig. 7: A horse race held at the racecourse within Marsa Garrison Recreational Grounds.

Fig. 8: Spectators watching a game of cricket.



COPY

c/o Embassy Street
Valletta
Emanuel Baldacchino
General Merchant,
VALLETTA.

16th October, 1969.

Commissioner of Land,
Land Department,
29, South Street,
VALLETTA.

Dear Sir,

We have in mind a project which is of immense importance to Malta. This project will not only benefit the Maltese public, but it will also prove a main source of attraction to foreigners.

Our intention is to build an ultra modern Sports Centre which will also include a National Stadium of about 50,000 capacity. To realise this project we are asking you to release to us the Marsa Grounds, including the race-course. We realise only too well how the Maltese sports lovers lack all this space, and this venture will help not only Maltese athletes, but it will also attract foreign sports bodies to organise games in Malta, which will definitely put Malta in a better picture in the Sports World.

Hoping you will favour us with your utmost attention and send for us that we may discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

E. Baldacchino

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Fig. 9: Proposal by Mr. Edward Baldacchino for the building of a 50,000-capcity stadium at the Marsa Sports Grounds.

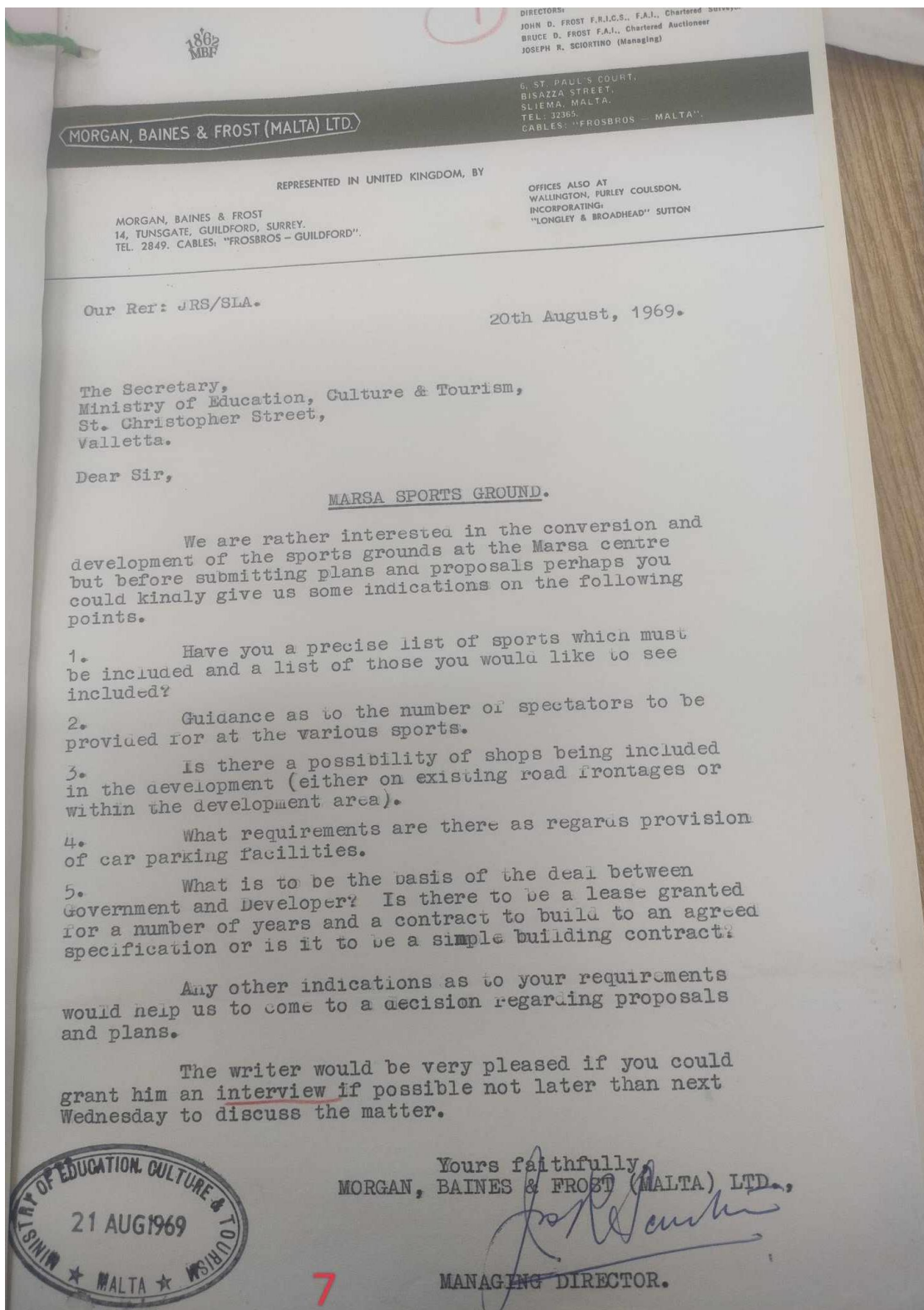


Fig. 10: A correspondence by Morgan, Baines and Frost, asking about requirements needed for the developments of the Marsa Sports Grounds.

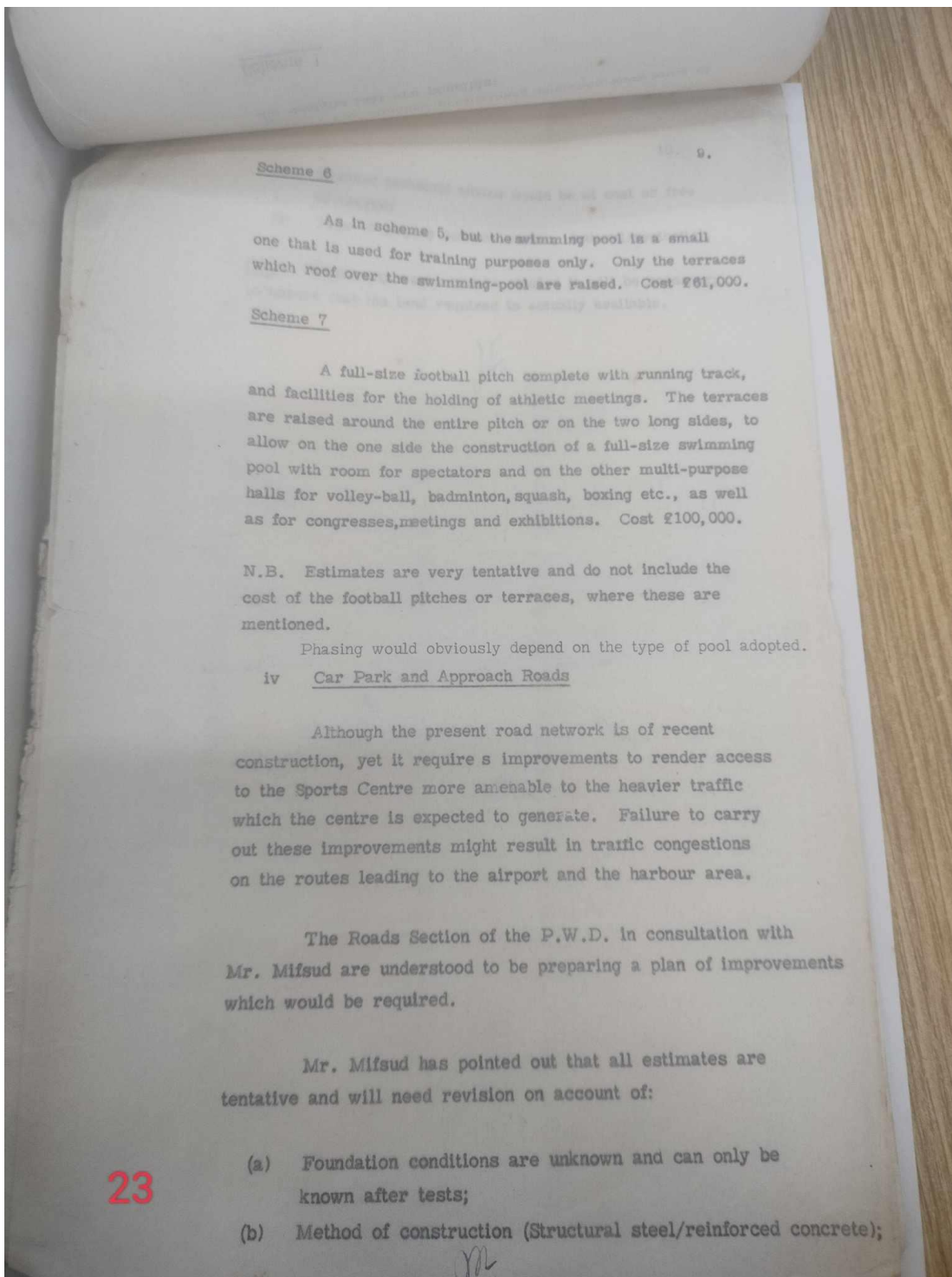


Fig. 11: A proposal called 'Scheme 7'; one of seven schemes the government thought of for the building of a new sports centre in the Marsa Sports Grounds.



Fig. 12: Brazilian football legend Pele (centre right) together with children from the Marsa Sports Club taken at the Marsa Stadium in 1975.



