

A bowling pavilion has been dedicated to the man who helped build it in recognition of his unstinting loyalty.

Keith Smith helped build the Blenheim Bowling Club on Weld St and is one of the club's longest-serving members.

Now his 50-year contribution to the association has been formally recognised and his name emblazoned on the wall for all to see.

At a ceremony earlier this month Keith joined family, friends and colleagues as the Keith Smith Pavilion was officially named.

Affectionately known as 'the Smith' the pavilion plays an important part in all aspects of life at the club.

Keith says he was "honoured" to have had the building named after him.

The 129-member club is a far cry from the association's early days when it was formed in 1892.

The club began with a small half-prepared green on ground borrowed from the Wairau Tennis Club.

After a year, bosses managed to secure the lease of some ground on the corner of Scott and Kinross Streets. The lease was for 14 years at £12 per annum.

During 1992 an extension to double the size of the original building was completed, bringing the facility up to the standard enjoyed by members today.

Keith was heavily involved in the project.

Club president Lloyd Gallop says the dedication had been in the pipeline for a while.

"There's no one else more deserving than Keith. He's never been one for being the centre of attention and tends to stay in the background.

"This isn't just a special moment for Keith but for the club too. He's not been in the best of health recently but is thankfully on the mend."

Other long-serving members had also contributed to the growth and survival of the club," Lloyd says.

"But the modest and quietly-achieving Keith Smith could be seen as the doyen of these."

For further information about the club email info@BlenheimBowls.org.nz or call 03 578 1824.