

the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 120 - July 2016

WHAT IS THIS?

"The Syston Green" Newsletter is an important element in effective membership communications and, through advertising, is an important revenue generator helping to keep membership subscriptions low. This month sees the issue of edition number 120, representing 10 years of continuous publication! Colin Grimes, the Editor, now wishes to be relieved of his editorial duties and to pass on the responsibility to someone else who can guarantee the longer-term future of the service..

Several past requests for someone to take over have fallen largely on deaf ears.

It is possible that potential Editors might be put off or frightened by the format and quality of the current publication, with all its "bells and whistles". By way of reassurance, this edition has been produced using nothing more complicated than Microsoft Word in Windows 7. (Readers might actually prefer this format.) In this way it is hoped that someone within the membership, who is a competent typist, accustomed to using Microsoft Word, will be given the confidence to offer to work with Colin over the coming months with a view to taking over as Editor at a later date.

Full colour printing is not necessary. The various messages, articles - and even photographs - will not lose their impact or meaning if they are simply printed in black and white. The Club will meet all production costs.

If you feel sufficiently motivated to help out **and to take steps to ensure that this valuable membership service can continue**, please contact Colin who will be happy to give whatever further information you might need.

WHITE PLUMS PROGRESS REPORT



Captain Dave Hudson reports: We had another good win against the Green & Royals, 48 to 30, giving us all 8 points. The following league game, scheduled to be against Kegworth, was postponed due to the wet weather. We next played the Hawks where we lost 1 rink and drew the other 2, losing by 44 shots to 51. This gave them 6 points to our 2. A bit of a setback, but we quickly recovered and won all 8 points in the following match against Sibley Finches. After 7 games, we are currently top of League 3 with a 2 points advantage over Hawks.

GARDEN CLUB UPDATE



Christine Dodge reports: All of the summer planting has now been completed and is growing well. The new green containers near the old scoreboard have been paid for by Garden Group funds raised at the social event we held in the winter when we invited a speaker to talk about Myths and Legends of Leicestershire, which was followed by tea and cakes.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th July starting at 7.00pm.

The next outing will be on Friday, 29th July to Lincoln Castle, to see some of the poppies from the display at the Tower of London, followed by sightseeing around other interesting places in

Lincoln. Full details are posted on the notice board.

CCTV UPGRADE NOW CONFIRMED

It can now be confirmed that the order for the CCTV upgrade has now been placed. We are extremely grateful to the Syston Town Council for their supportive co-operation and a £300 grant to help meet the cost of the project.

BIRTHDAY BUMPS

Happy birthday wishes to all of the following with birthdays in July: **Ray Dexter, Noel Evatt, Colin Grimes, Gary Jones, Marilyn Wood and Pauline Wright**

WISDOM OF THE AGED

"Old age at least gives me an excuse for not being very good at things that I was not very good at when I was young"

Thomas Sowell

59 CLUB UPDATE

Most recent winners are: **Alan Ward (3)**; **Ken Renshaw (47)**; **Kate Williams (16)** and **Pauline Wright (13)**

Please note that numbers 28 and 57 remain available. Please contact Val Foreman if you would like to take up either (or both) of these numbers.

CLUB DIARY

JULY

- 12th SBC Board Meeting 10 a.m.
Armstrong Shield H/A
Rothley A
- 13th Brookfield Electric A
- 14th Kirby Muxloe A
- 15th East Leake A
- 16th Belgrave H
Keyworth A
- 18th Men's Management Group 7 p.m.
- 20th Enderby A
Loughborough H
- 21st Nuneaton A
- 23rd Melton Town H
St Margarets A 2 p.m. start
- 25th Wymeswold Steamers H
Sileby Finches A
Benevolent TBA
- 26th West Cup H/A
- 27th Soar Valley A
Soar Valley A
- 28th St Margarets H
- 29th New Lount H
- 30th Humberstone Park A
Whissendine H

AUGUST

- 1st Birstall Sands H
Wymeswold Steamers A
- 2nd Johnson Cup H/A
Birstall A
- 3rd Soar Valley H
- 4th St Margarets A 2 p.m. start
- 5th Granby A
- 6th Humberstone Park A
Kirby Muxloe A 2 p.m. start
- 8th Holwell A
- 10th St Margarets H
- 11th Westcotes A
- 12th Greenfields H
- 13th Coffee Morning
Batram H
Wymeswold A

PLEASE CHECK NOTICE BOARDS FOR STARTING TIMES AND FULL DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS LISTED HERE

DID YOU KNOW?

Trivia of our modern world

- A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
- Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks or it will digest itself.
- The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
- A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
- A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.
- During the chariot scene in "Ben Hur," a small red car can be seen in the distance (and Heston's wearing a watch).
- It is impossible to lick your elbow
- On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily! (That explains a few mysteries....)
- Sherlock Holmes NEVER said, "Elementary, my dear Watson."
- Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
- There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple and silver.
- The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin in World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.
- Bruce Lee was so fast that they actually had to s-l-o-w film down so you could see his moves. That's the opposite of the norm.
- **(At least 75% of people who read this article will try to lick their elbow)**

PRESIDENT PETE SAYS



I think everyone who attended the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to Pauline Wright for all her hard work in preparing and presenting the Pointless quiz. The clubhouse was brilliantly decorated in red, white and blue by Kate Toon and Dave Hudson. I don't know what we would do without their Blue Peter skills. The fun bowls match was won by Vice President Gary Kilbourne's team - sweet revenge for the President's day match. With everyone dressed in red, white and blue there was a festive atmosphere which everyone enjoyed despite the weather. Thanks also to Hazel and Gayle for the barbecue. Overall, we had a very successful day.

Regarding our fixtures - both the friendlies and the league games - the various team Captains are struggling to field their strongest teams due to players not putting their names down for selection. We have 53 male bowlers so there should not be a problem regarding selection. I don't understand why anyone joins a bowls club and doesn't want to play. I would ask all members to help the Captains by making themselves available for as many games as possible.

COACHING CORNER

(a) *How to work on feeling the weight*

by Bill Boettger, a National Team Coach

As with any skill, meaningful practice is essential. First off, you should establish your “Natural Length” on the green you are on. Natural length is the distance the bowl finished when delivered with your best smooth relaxed draw weight delivery. This weight should be the easiest to duplicate.

Practice Drill:

Roll your first bowl to your natural length. Have the coach remove the bowl and replace its position with a coin. The bowl is removed so you don't have a visual aid for distance.

Now roll the next three bowls in turn, trying to end with the same weight as the first. For starters, a three foot tolerance in front or behind the coin would be acceptable to count a point in the drill. This tolerance can be narrowed to one foot as skill increases. There is no penalty for being off-line.

Repeat for 10 ends. 25 out of 30 is a good score. Once you have developed a ‘feel’ at your natural length, you can repeat the drill for longer and shorter ends.

Adjusting Weight

Assuming you have that smooth, consistent delivery referred to earlier, the job of changing weight is quite easy.

To increase weight, you stand more erect on the mat, take a longer back-swing and take a larger first step.

To decrease the weight you lower your centre of gravity by crouching lower. This forces a shorter back-swing and a shorter first step.

Practice Drill:

Increasing Length: Roll a bowl to any length. With your second, third and fourth bowl try to pass the previous bowl delivered. You get one point for each successful bowl. Don't reach the ditch. Do ten ends. A score over 25 is good.

Decreasing Length: Roll a bowl to any length. With the other three try to come up short of the previously delivered bowl. Score it the same as the increasing drill.

In game situations use the early ends to develop a feel for the different lengths being played, and then, when it comes to the crunch, use the length that feels the best.

(b) *The caterpillar*

Have you ever wondered what makes a bowler a great bowler? Do you ever wonder what it takes to win the big game or maybe just make it to the next level of competition? It's all about the fundamentals and more importantly, a consistent draw. Being able to draw well (and consistently) will win you more ends and more games than having any other shot in your arsenal. A good draw can help you turn 1 point into 2 points or could turn an opponent's score from a 3 to a 1 and in a tight game that's a huge advantage.

Practice Drill:

This is a very simple drill where you set up a green, but you will not use a jack. Start by rolling your first bowl along any given line with any weight you choose. The key to this drill is to get the rest of your bowls down the same line with the same weight so you land all four bowls within a 2 foot radius of each other. The reason this is called “The Caterpillar” is that a perfect end should end up looking like a caterpillar with all four bowls resting on each other in a line. This helps work on your line and weight and most importantly, your consistency. Being able to throw the same bowl over and over is the ultimate goal in bowls.

To add a factor of discipline to the drill you may also want to try going up the green to retrieve any bowls you throw more than two feet short of the initial bowl and re-play them. This can help train your mind to never throw a short bowl, always be up to the head. Give this a try and see if it helps your game. Any time you can improve your draw you are taking a huge step in the right direction.

CLUB COACHING

For coaching advice and assistance, ring **Ken** on 0116 2606 743 or **Gary** on 0116 2607 922

GREEN RANGER



Can I please remind everyone that there are always little maintenance jobs to be carried out on a weekly (sometimes daily) basis to keep the green and its surrounds in good condition. I would very much appreciate more support from Members to help with these tasks.

Please don't wait for a general appeal to be made on the noticeboard. If you have a spare hour or two to help out, at any time, please give me a ring when I will be very happy to give you details of what needs doing. Let's all take pride in our wonderful green.

MID-SEASON PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Shots For	Shots Against	Shot Diff	
Men – Saturday	21	11	0	10	1399	1398	+1	
Men – Weekday	7	1	0	6	467	522	-55	
Ladies - Friendlies		9	3	1	5	368	417	-49

	Played	Shot Wins	Rink Wins	Shot Diff	Points	Position
Loughborough Triples Leagues						
Men White Plums	7	5	15	+58	40	1/8
Men Green & Royals	7	1	6	-130	14	8/8
Ladies	4		3	-8	12	?

	Played	Shots For	Shots Against	Shot Diff	Points	Position
Men - Leicester & District League	7	390	417	-49	30	3/5

SYSTON CARNIVAL 2016

As part of our fundraising and membership promotional activities, the Club will once again have a stall at the Syston Carnival this year on Saturday 3rd September. 3 new gazebos are to be purchased for this and other outdoor events. All Members are urged to provide cakes for sale. Marlene Murray will provide her usual crafts and jigsaws. All men are requested to assist with the setting up of the stall from 9.30 a.m. onwards and, particularly, with the dismantling of the stalls and return of tables and chairs to the clubhouse from about 4 p.m. onwards. Please watch the main noticeboard for further details.

NEW CLUBHOUSE SHUTTERS

Quotations are being sought and a grant application is being prepared to enable the clubhouse shutters to be replaced by modern, electronically controlled versions. The closing date for the current round of grant applications is in August with results notified by November. No work can begin before confirmation of a grant award is received.

2.00 P.M. MATCH START TIME TO BE DISCUSSED

In response to a number of approaches on the subject, the Men's Management Group have decided that the question of a general 2.00 p.m. start for Club fixtures should be put before the Men's AGM in December. Why not take soundings from fellow Members and other Clubs that you visit so that an informed decision can be made at that time?

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The monthly advisory feature supplied by Club Patron, Pardeep Narwal (Edited from a slightly longer piece supplied)

The referendum result was the prologue and now a new chapter awaits.

In short, while the referendum has supplied the answer to the question of whether the UK remains in the EU, it has raised a whole new series of questions in its stead. Some of these will take months – perhaps even years – to answer. Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England, said that “some market and economic volatility can be expected as the [negotiation] process unfolds”.

Once the initial shock has been absorbed by markets, there are reasons to believe markets may become more settled, not least because the main uncertainty will have been removed.

“Caught by the unexpected, the initial reaction of the UK market was to suffer a fall and since then the market has been thinking on its feet and grasping for some thread of likely, longer term outcomes – naturally this is nigh on impossible,” said Adrian Frost of Artemis. “International investors have been more worried about Brexit than domestic investors. They are holding plenty of cash and are underweight in the UK. This is worth recognising if there are more positive developments. Finally, this is not a ‘Lehman moment’ in that there is no imminent financial crisis or lack of credit; and very unlike the credit crisis, this time central banks are ready and waiting with fire extinguishers in hand.”

In an environment of uncertainty, it is crucial that investors keep short-term volatility in context and avoid the temptation to allow such fluctuations to influence long-term plans.

“We now face a period of uncertainty as the exact terms of Britain’s exit from Europe are negotiated,” said Neil Woodford of Woodford Investment Management. “Financial markets loathe the uncertainty as amply demonstrated by the reaction across all asset classes on Friday 24th.”

Moreover, that sense of uncertainty has been heightened by the fact that markets had not expected a vote to leave. “Financial markets had been under-pricing the risk of a Brexit for some time, even more so in the last week, which has served to make moves in the broader market indices even more severe,” said Gary Kirk of TwentyFour Asset Management. “Brexit will harm [UK economic] growth and result in a policy response from the Bank of England, with a rate cut to 0.25% at the next MPC meeting on July 14th. We had contemplated very seriously the not unlikely prospect of a vote to exit and consequently we placed a number of hedges in the portfolios that we manage for St. James’s Place.”

“It is too early to say what the ultimate outcome of the referendum result will be, but even prior to this we were concerned about a weakening UK economy combined with high valuations of domestic cyclicals,” said Nick Purves of RWC Partners. “We have therefore had very low exposure to UK financials and cyclicals and were carrying a high cash balance which we should be able to put to use if share prices fall significantly. Finally, the weakness in the British pound will lead to earnings upgrades for many of our companies with significant overseas earnings and thus if their share prices are weak, that may represent a buying opportunity.”

Investors need to remember that negotiations to leave the EU have not yet begun and are expected to last for years. Even the leaders of the Leave camp forecast that, in the event of a vote to leave, the UK would not end up quitting the EU until 2019 or 2020. This means that the UK’s departure from the EU, and precise details of its new trade arrangements, will emerge only gradually. The initial turmoil experienced on markets will not persist ad infinitum. Trade negotiations are a good deal less exciting for markets than referendum votes. The UK will remain a member of the EU for several years, and the rhetoric of policymakers is now likely to shift towards reassuring markets, rather than scaremongering.

“We [commissioned] an independent report...on the economic implications of Brexit,” said Neil Woodford of Woodford Investment Management. “It concluded that Britain’s long-term economic future would be largely unaffected by a decision to leave the European Union. We stand by these conclusions. In the near term it is likely UK GDP will be lower over the next 18 months or so than if we had voted to remain but...in the longer term the trajectory of the UK economy, and more importantly the world economy, will not be influenced significantly by today’s outcome. Consequently, the portfolio strategy will not change. I remain confident the portfolio will deliver the returns we have targeted.”

“It’s very difficult to know the implications at this point, but in the short-term, assets will be under a lot of pressure,” said Stuart Mitchell of S. W. Mitchell Capital. “The UK accounts for only around 6% of European exports and so, while there is likely to be some contagion, the impact on European growth is not obvious. The impact of the fall in sterling will be cushioned for investors with European holdings – as a European fund, you will lose less money. We are much more focused on core Europe than on the UK.”

Looking through the short-term “noise” in markets isn’t always easy, but it remains the right course for investors who know that they need to remember the long-term record of real assets in providing capital growth and income.

Investors should remind themselves of the following:

- Indiscriminate market falls ignore the qualities of individual companies and provide opportunities for long-term investors to benefit by taking advantage of cheaper prices.
- Inevitably, some companies will struggle in the difficult economic environment that may result, or will be unable to adapt to the new world. In contrast, strong management teams will take the necessary and potentially difficult steps to make the changes that will benefit their company – and its shareholders – over the longer term. It is the job of expert and active fund managers to identify those companies and buying opportunities.
- Sharp market falls are always unsettling, but it is important to remember how stockmarkets have behaved in the past after such shocks. In October 2008, on the worst day of the financial crisis, the FTSE All-Share index lost 8.3%, yet one year later it had returned 26%. Looking longer term, after a one-day fall of 5% in February 2009, the FTSE All-Share returned 126% over the following five years. (Source: Schroders/Financial Express, June 2016. Please be aware, however, that past performance is not indicative of future performance.)
- Although there may be a temptation to seek the perceived safety of cash, the dilemma for investors is then the difficulty of timing a move back into the markets. Furthermore, it has already been suggested by the Bank of England that a vote to leave may even prompt a further cut in interest rates. Whether or not that happens, it does seem likely that returns on cash will remain at very low levels for some years to come.

- These events underline once again the value and importance of creating and maintaining a balanced and well-diversified portfolio, which should help cushion investors against the worst effect of short term market fluctuations. The value of investing in global assets has already been demonstrated, as the drop in sterling will help cushion the impact of falls in the value of international holdings.

The referendum result may yet alter a great deal about the United Kingdom, but it does not alter the principles of investing or the need for individuals to take action to ensure their long-term financial security.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me, Pardeep Singh Narwal Tel: 0116 319 0084.

INHERITANCE FRAUD

Article prepared by Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau) submitted by Club Patrons Salusbury, Harding and Barlow, Solicitors

Inheritance fraud usually occurs when you are told that someone very rich has died and you are in line to receive a huge inheritance. A fraudster who claims to be a Business Relations Manager from an overseas bank or legal official contacts you through email or a letter stating that a person sharing your family name has died and left behind a vast amount of money. The fraudster suggests that as you share the same family name as the deceased, you can be the beneficiary of the estate and rather than handing any 'Inheritance Tax' over to the government you can split the inheritance with the fraudster.

The fraudster will emphasise the need for secrecy and warn you not to tell anyone else about the deal. To hurry you into making a hasty decision, they will also stress the need to act quickly.

If you respond to the fraudster, they will ask you to pay various fees. For example: taxes, legal fees, banking fees etc. so they can release your non-existent inheritance. Each time you make a payment, the fraudsters will come up with a reason why the inheritance cannot be paid out unless you make another payment. If you ask, they will also give you reasons why the fees cannot be taken from your inheritance and have to be paid up front.

If you become reluctant to pay a fee or suggest you cannot afford it, the fraudsters will put pressure on you by reminding you how close you are to receiving a sum of money much greater than the fees you've already handed over, and of how much you've already paid out. The fraudsters may also ask for your bank details so they can pay the inheritance directly into your bank account. If you hand over your bank details, the fraudsters can use them to empty your account.

YOU could be a victim of inheritance fraud if:

- You've received an email or letter informing you that someone you may be related to has died without leaving a will and you may be in line to inherit.
- You've paid fees to 'research specialists' who offer to sell you an estate report that includes information on the inheritance and how you can claim it.

What should you do if you're a victim of inheritance fraud?

- End all further contact with the fraudsters. Don't send them any more money. Don't give them your bank details.
- If you have already given the fraudsters your bank account details, alert your bank immediately.
- If you receive any threats from the fraudsters once you have stopped co-operating with them, alert the police immediately.
- Be aware that you're now likely to be a target for other frauds. Fraudsters often share details about people they have successfully targeted or approached, using different identities to commit further frauds. People who have already fallen victim to fraudsters are particularly vulnerable to the fraud recovery fraud. This is when fraudsters contact people who've already lost money through fraud and claim to be law enforcement officers or lawyers. They'll advise the victim that they can help them recover their lost money but request a fee.

Protect yourself against inheritance fraud

- Although there are legitimate companies who make a living by tracking down heirs, they do not do it in this way. If you are asked for a fee for a report, it is very likely to be bogus.
- Letters/documents provided by the fraudsters are generally badly written. Look out for spelling mistakes and poor grammar.
- Beware if you are asked to contact a webmail address such as @Yahoo or @Hotmail. As a rule, legitimate law firms do not use them.
- As in most cases of fraud, if the promise seems too good to be true, it most probably is.
- If you have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

PATRONS' SOCIAL EVENING



On Tuesday 5th July the Club played host to 16 members of staff from Club Patrons Salusbury Harding & Barlow, Solicitors.

Club Coach Gary Kilbourne got the evening off to a start with a brief introduction to the aims of the game before demonstrating bias, grip and delivery. This was immediately followed by the visitors spending an hour on the green trying out their bowling skills – to the accompaniment of much giggles and laughter. What Chairman George Dodge calls “a proper

bowlers’ tea” prepared by Rod and Eileen Heggs and Val Foreman, was then served. Judging by the empty plates, our visitors clearly shared George’s enthusiasm for a ham, cheese and pork pie salad, with all the trimmings, followed by fresh fruit salad with cream and cakes. Bar service was provided by Myles Clare and George Dodge.

The meal was followed by a Pub Quiz administered, as usual, by Colin Grimes. The winning foursome - with 48 out of a possible 62 points - were rewarded with a bottle of wine each from the Bar.

Special thanks are due to everyone involved in making the evening a success, including John Clarke, who supervised one of the rinks during the game, and Norma Grimes, who assisted in the preparation, serving and clearing up after the meal.

Bringing the evening to a close, George Dodge urged the visitors not to let the experience go to waste but, rather, take the opportunity to try the game of bowls on a more regular basis. He expressed the hope that we could look forward to welcoming some of them back to the Club in due course.

AN APPEAL TO THE LADIES

To the outside observer who has only this Newsletter to go by, Syston Bowling Club would appear to be almost exclusively for men! Very little appears on a regular basis bringing us news and updates on what is happening in our Ladies’ Section!

For this edition, the Editor was hopeful that a report on our ladies’ successes at County Level could be featured. The performance of our ladies at County level – not for the first time – far outstrips the performance of our men. This should be publicly celebrated with regular reports in the Newsletter.

As can be judged from the mid-season summaries shown on Page 4, our Ladies are enjoying a more successful season than most of our Men’s teams. Why can’t we have regular progress reports to keep the wider membership fully informed?

What’s going on in the Ladies’ Management Committee? We receive regular reports from both the Board and the Men’s Management Group, but nothing from our ladies! What are the views and opinions of our ladies on the way in which our Club is developing? Surely it is a responsibility of elected representatives to keep the wider Club fully informed so, “Come on ladies!” Start blowing your own trumpets and show the world that this is a **Club for All**.

MODERN BRITAIN

(With acknowledgements to “Private Eye”)



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We are grateful for the active support of all of our growing list of Patrons, especially those regularly featured in this Newsletter.

For full details of Patron benefits and costs, please contact Colin Grimes on 0116 2608412.

In return for their generous financial support for our Club, Members are urged to consider these companies first when contemplating the purchase of goods and services.

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YOUR PERFECT ESCAPE

Members may like to know that a recent holiday in Guernsey, arranged through Your Perfect Escape, one of the sponsoring companies that made a short presentation at the May Coffee Morning, went very smoothly. Chris Wright and his staff not only handled arrangements very efficiently but responded in an exemplary fashion when the flight from East Midlands was delayed by 24 hours, due to fog in Guernsey.

With the benefit of a special SBC Member discount, the overall package, including flights, hotel and car hire, proved very cost-effective.

Contact Chris at 01455 233944

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EDITORIAL COPY DEADLINES

All copy for the August Newsletter should be sent to Colin Grimes (systonbowling@btinternet.com) by no later than Monday 1st August EVENING

ENDPIECE

This edition is twice as long as a "standard" copy primarily to demonstrate that all likely needs of the publication can be handled using nothing more "complicated and challenging" than Microsoft Word. As a result, some of the articles are longer than usual, in order to fill an even number of pages to make maximum use of paper.

When material is submitted to the Editor by email, the Newsletter can be put together using simple "cut and paste" methods. Photographs and pictures can either be placed directly on the page or be imported using your scanner. It really is a relatively simple process. The biggest problem remains a lack of input from members which can involve a lot of "chasing" and/or writing of copy by the Editor! **Reader comment on the alternative format would be welcomed.**

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

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