

the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 126 – April 2017

HERE WE GO AGAIN!



Now that it has actually started, I'd like to wish everyone a successful Season and "Good Luck!" to everyone who has entered competitions. Can I remind everyone to please put your name down on the Availability Sheets to help your Club Captains?

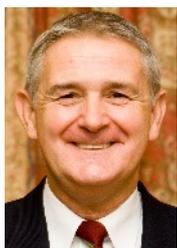
Congratulations to the Syston Saturday indoor team for finishing second in their league.

Many thanks, too, to Rod Heggs who has continued his hard work throughout the close season to ensure the green is in great shape from the off.

The Club has also been running a cribbage team on a Wednesday night and they also came second in their league. This has been so successful that I'd like to see if we can raise two teams on a regular basis. If anybody is interested, please let me know as soon as possible.

On behalf of all Members, I'd like to send my thanks to Ken and Hazel for organising the regular programme of social functions during the winter and Hazel, also, for doing the Men's Sunday lunch which went very well. Finally, on this occasion, can I remind everyone that coaching sessions will be held on Mondays starting at about 5.30 p.m. (*Some of us are still gainfully employed!*) Everyone should consider taking part as it will undoubtedly improve your game.

Gary Kilbourne - Men's President



Hi fellow bowlers! I hope you are all raring to go and prepared to give your best in the Season that lies ahead. If you are reading this at our April Coffee Morning, it is this afternoon that sees us start out on what I hope will be an exciting, enjoyable and successful

Season - both as a Club and for each one of our Members individually.

As your Captain, can I make a plea for full support for the current tea rota system. Our Club rules make it clear that it is a condition of membership that you play your part in the provision of matchday teas in accordance with the published rota. If you are unable or unwilling to play your part as requested, it is YOUR responsibility to find a substitute.

As for team selection, I will try to adhere to requests for playing home or away but it might not always be possible. If there are extenuating circumstances, after teams are selected, then feel free to contact me and I will do my utmost to try to accommodate you.



Well April, which sees the start to our new season, is already upon us. My, how time flies!

I hope you are all looking forward to it as much as I am. We are going to have a very busy time ahead of us.

We have started off on my chosen charity for the year. You will see on the table in the clubhouse some home made jams and marmalade for sale. These are made by Jenny to whom I am very grateful. We are also organising a hamper raffle, similar to that organised by Marlene Murray for Christmas. All donations will greatly appreciated. As the Season progresses, I hope to tell you about other fundraising events that I hope will take place. My Presidents' Day will be held on Wednesday 27th September, the Ladies' Closing Day. Everyone will be invited, so please keep this date free.

Thank you all in anticipation of your support.

Margaret Abbott, Ladies' President



Thank you Rod

Rod Heggs, who has been our Green Ranger for some time - and who has given exemplary service to the Club over the past years - has now decided to resign from this position and as a member of the Board.

Rod identifies the general lack of support from Club Members in keeping the green up to standard.

Following his appeal at the AGM for help to get the green up and running for the start of the season, a small number did turn out (*the usual faithful few*).

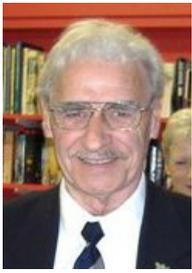
Sadly, over the three dates he had identified, there was a lot less help than ought to be reasonably expected, for such an important task in the annual Club calendar. (*Rod did not expect the ladies to turn out, as they do the spring cleaning of the clubhouse.*)

So, on behalf of the Board and all Members, I join with Men's President Gary (*previous column*) in paying tribute to Rod and thanking him for his sustained dedication to the Club's best interests. Enjoy the season ahead!



As Board Chairman, I am pleased to be able to report that Myles Clare has stepped in to take the job of Green Ranger for the year ahead. Thank you Myles! Welcome to your new position - and good luck.

George Dodge, Club Chairman



At last April is here, the outdoor season begins and we can play proper bowls. As the newly elected Midweek Captain, I am really looking forward to the challenge. I would like to thank Noel Evatt for his hard work over the past few years and I know it hasn't been easy for him due to the lack of players available for selection. I would urge everyone to make themselves available for all matches. I know we have the talent to do well, and the bigger the pool of players I can select from, the more likely we are to succeed. On the premise that "Two heads are better than one" I have asked Dave Hudson to be my Vice-captain. I know his experience will be an advantage.

Finally I wish everyone the best of luck for the season and again urge everyone, male and female, to make themselves available for selection whenever possible.

Pete Murray - Midweek Captain

Gardening Group



The Gardening Group and friends enjoyed another visit from Felicity Austin when we heard the history behind so many of the everyday products we use today. There was an interesting collection of old advertisements and stories about the way people coped during and after the war when there was rationing and products were in short supply.

Once again, we had support from quite a few people who are not members of the Group and they are always welcome to join us on our visits to gardens and places of interest. Details of all Group activities are always displayed on the notice board.

Thanks are also due to all the Group members who brought cakes and helped to move the tables and chairs back into position and to take care of washing the crockery and cutlery afterwards. Details of the date of the next meeting and future visits will, as usual, appear on the notice board.

COACHING CORNER

(With acknowledgements to : www.getagameofbowls.com/coaching)

Solo practice routines

These routines all are for about 100 bowls and should take about one hour. You may decide to concentrate on one skill for a longer part of your practice

LEAD

Take out three jacks and some markers

First end: bowl full length to no jack, and then take off two metres with each of the next three bowls. Do this in each direction (8 bowls).

AIM: Four equally spaced bowls on the centre line, finding green and establishing control of weight

Roll a jack then a bowl using the same weight as you used for the jack (You should use the same delivery for the jack as you do for the bowl). Do this three times, long medium short. Compare the finishing positions of the bowls and jacks and so work out how to alter your delivery between bowl and jack. Draw with your other bowl to the longest jack. Do this in each direction (8 bowls).

AIM : Jack roll practice

The jack roll may also help you get the correct weight for your first bowl

Place a jack at one end and a marker about 2 metres shorter and a jack at the other end. Place the mat and bowl twice at the long jack and then twice at the shorter jack staying on same side of green. Change ends, place the mat in front of the shorter jack and bowl twice at the single jack on same side. Then move the mat back to the longer jack and bowl twice, staying on the same side of the rink. Repeat (16 bowls). Vary the placement of the mat each time. Change to the other side of the rink and repeat (16 bowls) Continue but keep swapping sides. For example two forehands to long jack , two backhands to short jack two backhands with mat up two forehands with mat back (32 bowls)

AIM: Two bowl draw practice, second bowl should beat first bowl!

NUMBER TWO

Take out two jacks and four markers

First End: bowl full length to no jack, and then take off two metres with each of the next three bowls. Do this in each direction (8 bowls).

AIM: Four equally spaced bowls on the centre line, finding green and establishing control of weight.

Place a jack near the "full length" spot and a marker at one end at least three metres apart and one jack at the other end. Place the mat and bowl twice at the long jack and then twice at the short marker. Change ends, place the mat in front of the shorter marker and bowl twice at the single jack. Then move the mat back to the longer jack and bowl twice. Repeat three times, varying the mat position (32 bowls). Initially bowl both bowls on the same side, later bowl one bowl on each hand.

Concluded on p4



Towards Unification – Part 4

Colin Grimes - Chairman, Unification Working Party

FIXTURES

At our March meeting, it became clear that even more work needed to be done to reach a stage where a consolidated fixture list could be formulated for consideration by the Working Party and, subsequently the Board of Directors. It was therefore agreed that **Tom** and **Kate** should be given a further four weeks to address the remaining issues in the hope that they could come to the next (*April*) meeting with a set of detailed proposals.

In the meantime the following principles affecting fixture commitments from 2018 onwards were unanimously agreed:

- Any Club refusing to accept mixed teams should be dropped from the fixture list.
- A limit should be set on the number of fixtures in each Season played against each other Club.
- Some Men's fixtures will inevitably be "sacrificed" in favour of some Ladies' fixtures (*i.e. not all fixtures to be dropped will be from the Ladies' current list.*)

CATERING

A prolonged discussion took place on our previous proposals for catering management and operation.

It became clear that there was general concern over the whole issue of match catering - both at the present time, especially in the Men's Section, and in the practicality of implementing the proposals we have previously made. It was therefore agreed that the Board should be advised that, in spite of our previous proposals, there was a need for further discussion by the Panel before final recommendations could be submitted.

There was full agreement that:

- the generation of operational surpluses was to be regarded as subordinate to the need to make kitchen duties more attractive and manageable for Members and that membership satisfaction should be regarded as being of paramount importance.
- The Club enjoyed and should be reluctant to lose its high reputation for the standard of its catering.
- Ladies could not be reasonably expected to shoulder the larger share of catering responsibilities.
- A natural reluctance/inability of male Members to undertake shopping for catering supplies had to be recognised.
- Clearing up after the meal was clearly identified as the major labour-intensive aspect of the service and principal disincentive to Member participation.
- The current practice, in both Sections, of every Member being included in a catering rota system, which seemed to be the fairest option, should be sustained, leaving the individual responsible for finding a replacement should he/she prove unable or unwilling to fulfil the duties.
- Nevertheless, it had to be recognised that there was an increasing number of Members in both Sections, who found themselves unable or unwilling to undertake catering duties.
- The full catering function, including central purchasing of major supplies, was too much to expect a single Member (*proposed Catering Director*) to undertake.
- While catering arrangements for Monday, Wednesday and Friday League fixtures should be left for the respective Captains to organise, unification was likely to see a net increase in the number of friendly fixtures to be played and therefore an increase in catering activity.
- Ordering and collection of supplies for catering arrangements for friendlies on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday would require a small team of at least two assistants working under the supervision of the Catering Director.
- There was merit in considering varying the nature of teas provision to mirror the standard of hospitality offered by each other Club. (*To be monitored through 2017*)
- The provision of filled cobs did not offer a satisfactory solution in terms of cost-saving, labour-saving efforts or the reputation of the Club.
- Further debate should be left until the likely scale of the problem, caused by a unified fixture list, could be accurately assessed.

As a result of these conditions, it was apparent that current catering arrangements could/should not be sustained.

Options to be considered include:

- Applying increased pressure on Members to recognise and accept individual responsibility, as a pre-condition of membership, to lend full support to all aspects of the catering process.
- Considering an increase in the number of Members involved on each occasion (*e.g. from 3 to 5*) recognising that this would reduce the number of available players.
- Contracting out the whole catering function with consequent risk of running the service at a loss or involving an increase in tea cost to £4.00 or £4.50.

Towards Unification - Concluded

If anyone has any contribution to make to the debate on future catering arrangements for matchday teas, or on any other aspect of unification, please contact any member of the Working Party. All contributions will be carefully considered as we seek to set up a sustainable - and affordable - system for the future. The next meeting of the Working Party will be held in the clubhouse on Monday 24th April starting at 7.00 p.m.

Birthday Bumps!

Happy birthday wishes to **Sheila Aindow, Brian Arnold, Des Eggitt, Keiran Jordan, Pete Murray, Brenda Oxman, Margaret Trigg** and **Colin Wilkinson** with birthdays in April.

Happy Anniversaries

Michael & Zena Hall 56 years married on 25th March

Colin & Norma Grimes married 60 years (*Diamond wedding*) on 8th April

Many congratulations (and long service medals) to both couples!

59 Club update

Most recent winners are: **Jane Anderton (Twice!) (28), Hilary Newman (04), Marlene Murray (26), Carole Allott (21) Doreen Payne (46), Jean Ward (43)** and **Gary Jones (14)** - *Congratulations to them all!*

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Useful contact?

Early in March the following email message was received:

Dear Sirs

I noticed that you linked to some other info sites on lawn bowls and wondered if you'd consider adding a link to our in-depth beginner's guide?

<https://www.bowls.org.uk/flat-green>

We're also putting together a directory of bowling clubs in the UK here: <https://www.bowls.org.uk/clubs> (it's taking a while), but just shoot me a reply and I'll get any clubs you'd like to see added on there a.s.a.p. Hopefully you think our site is worth a mention on your page!

Either way, keep up the good work.

Cheers,

Alan Smith

Editor's note: By way of response, we have added a link to our Club web site and asked that Syston be added to his directory.

The Beginners' Guide is worth a look

Coaching Corner - Concluded

AIM: Two bowl draw practice to develop control of green. The second bowl should be better than the first. Using four "rebound bowls" (or flat plastic markers with a spare bowl sitting on top) place the markers or bowls about 1 metre and 2 metres short of the jack at each end so that they are comfortably inside (20 to 30 cm) the line which you would expect your bowl to take when drawing on that hand. Draw to a target area behind the jack within 1 metre. Bowl all four on the same hand. Do this three times each way (24 bowls)

AIM: Getting around a bowl without adding weight. (When most bowlers are faced faced with this position, 60% of bowls are narrow and 30% heavy even when the short bowl is well clear of the needed path.)

At each end of the rink place one marker or rebound bowl 30cm from the jack in a jack high position, and another marker 1 metre back and 50 cm narrow. With your first bowl on each end try to draw within 30cm. If you are not satisfied with your first bowl try again. With subsequent bowls try to achieve a **yard-on bowl** through the gap or turning out your first bowl by slightly increasing the weight and reducing the green. This is best done by making the back marker your jack (depending on the width of your bowls): repeat three times. (24 bowls).

Matters of Law

This month's advisory feature has been supplied by Club Patrons, Salusbury Harding & Barlow, Solicitors

Did You Know? Inheritance Tax Update

Good news! The 6th April 2017 will see the introduction of the new residence nil-rate band, or the family home allowance, when "a residence is closely inherited".

The nil-rate band is the amount of money that you can leave when you die without paying Inheritance Tax. Currently this is £325,000 for a single person and £650,000 for a married couple or civil partners if they leave everything to each other when the first one passes away. The additional nil-rate band will be £100,000 per person and will rise to £175,000 by April 2020. However the extra allowance is limited to the value of the property and cannot be used against "cash".

Effectively this will give a married couple or civil partnership £1million worth of nil-rate band before they have to start paying Inheritance Tax (IHT) at 40%. It is also worth noting that the extra exemption starts to decrease if an estate is worth more than £2million and all of the extra exemption is lost if the estate is over £2.7 million (after 2020).

However, if your will is out of date you may not benefit from the new tax break. Says Lisa Bacon, Partner at SHB Solicitors, "Experts are warning that the new rules around how the new tax break will work are complicated and many individuals could be caught out.

"The conditions to qualify for the residence nil-rate band are such that careful will drafting will be required to ensure individuals and their spouses qualify."

Changing Wills: Using the Family Home Allowance

The following example was first published in *The Telegraph* in March 2017

Situation: Husband and wife jointly own a property worth £2.5million and have no other assets. Husband dies in 2020 / 2021 (once full £175,000 family home allowance is in place), wife dies three years later when property is worth £3million.

Option 1: Husband leaves his half of property to wife – no IHT on his death as all assets pass to wife under spouse exemption. Wife "inherits" his unused nil rate band and family home allowance.

On her death her estate is worth £3million and passes to children. However, she does not qualify for the family home allowance as her estate is over £2.7million and cannot use her late husband's transferred allowance either. So, on her death, the IHT payable is £940,000 (£3million estate, less the £650,000 for two nil rate bands, taxed at 40pc).

Option 2: On husband's death he leaves his half of property (£1.25million) to children. He qualifies for family home allowance as the value of his estate is under £2million.

IHT payable on his death = £300,000 (£1.25million estate, less his £500,000 of nil rate band and family home allowance, taxed at 40pc)

When the wife dies she leaves her half of property to children. Her half is now worth £1.5million so she qualifies for family home allowance. IHT due = £400,000 (£1.5million estate, less her £500,000 nil rate bands and family home allowance, taxed at 40pc.)

Total IHT payable

Option 1: £940,000

Option 2: £700,000

For further information please contact Lisa Bacon at SHB Solicitors on 0116 262 6052 or via email lbacon@shbsolicitors.co.uk

"BOWLS - My Way" by Peter Carter £5 (p&p free) Endorsed by Tony Allcock. Order from: bowlsmymyway@gmail.com

Editorial copy deadlines

All copy for the May 2017 edition should be sent to Colin Grimes (systonbowling@btinternet.com) by no later than Friday 5th May 2017

HELP!

We are still looking for help in the production of this Newsletter

Publication in the months ahead assumes an even greater importance than usual because it will be the channel of communication to the full membership for all changes being considered by the Board as we move towards the eventual goal of full unification. Without the Newsletter, you will remain very much "in the dark".

Syston Bowling Club

All communications should be addressed to The Chairman, Board of Directors
George Dodge, 46 Brookfield Street, SYSTON, Leics. LE7 2AD
Telephone: 0116 2698 923 email: systonbowling@btinternet.com

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See also Cloudscape Connect on page 4

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 2608 412.

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

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