

APRIL

- 12th Coffee Morning
Scotlands (H)
Belgrave (A)
- 15th SBC Board Meeting
- 16th *Glenfield* (A)
- 17th *Holwell* (H)
- 19th *Western Park* (H)
Little Bowden (A)
- 21st *L&D Trips League - Swallows* (A)
Blaby (H)
- 22nd *Management Group Meeting*
- 23rd *St Margarets* (A)
- 24th *Oakham* (A)
- 26th *Closing date for Men's Competition entries*
Birstall (H)
Holwell (A)
- 28th *L&D Triples League - Wolds* (H)

MAY

- 1st *Enderby* (A)
Belgrave (A)
LLCBA v Oxfordshire
St Margarets (H)
Knighton Victoria (A)
- 5th *L&D Trips League - Trophy Prelims*
- 6th *LLCBA v Surrey*
- 7th *Goodwood* (H)
- 8th *Leicester Banks (Mixed)* (H)
- 10th *Coffee Morning*
Aylestone Hall (H)
Sileby (A)
- 12th *L&D Triples League - Queens* (H)
Executive Committee Meeting
- 13th SBC Board Meeting
- 14th *Quorn* (A)
LLCBA v Gloucestershire
- 15th *Evington Park* (A)
Evington (H)
- 17th *Sileby* (H)
Loughborough Granby (A)
- 19th *L&D Trips League - E. Leake* (H)
- 21st *LLCBA v Olney Bucks* (H)
- 22nd *Melton Town* (H)
- 24th *Melton Town* (H)
Keyworth (A)
- 26th *L&D Trips League - Trophy Round 1*
- 28th *Melton Town* (A)
- 29th *Loughboro' Granby (Mixed)* (H)
- 31st *Countesthorpe* (H)

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed: SBC

Laughter lines

There once was a religious young woman who went to Confession. She said, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned."

The priest said, "Confess your sins and be forgiven."

The young woman said, "Last night my boyfriend made mad, passionate love to me seven times."

The priest thought long and hard and then said, "Squeeze seven lemons into a glass and then drink the juice."

The young woman asked, "Will this cleanse me of my sins?"

The priest said, "No, but it will wipe that smile off your face."

A man was just waking up from anaesthesia after surgery, and his wife was sitting by his side. His eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're beautiful."

Then he fell asleep again. His wife had never heard him say that before, so she stayed by his side.

A few minutes later his eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're cute."

The wife was disappointed because instead of "beautiful," it was now "cute."

She asked, "What happened to beautiful?"

The man replied, "The drugs are wearing off."

(More puns)

** Two cannibals eating a clown when one says to the other: "Does this taste funny?"

** *Mahatma Gandhi* walked barefoot most of the time, which gave him an impressive array of corns & callouses. He also ate very little, which made him frail and gave him bad breath.

This made him a super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

** Finally, I sent twenty different puns to my friends with the hope that half of them would raise a laugh.

Sadly, no pun in ten did!

BOOM? BOOM?

**THANK YOU!**

SINCERE thanks are offered to all those who turned up to the Joint Club AGM on Monday 17th March to offer unanimous support to the Board's proposals for the re-structuring of the Club to enable us to deal more effectively with the current pressures for an extension to our Clubhouse facilities.

"Thank you!" also to the nine Members whose offer to serve as Directors of the Club for another year was also unanimously supported. Following the vote in favour of the new "Constitution" for the Club, they automatically became the first Directors of the new **Syston Bowling Club**, within which the **Syston Men's Bowling Club** and **Syston Ladies' Bowling Club** will continue to operate as usual.

Club Chairman, **Colin Grimes**, says:

"As explained to Members at the AGM, the ordinary Member will not be aware of any changes in the way in which the Club is organised and managed on a daily basis. Both Sections of the Club will continue as before. The new structure gives the Board the necessary powers to take advantage of the many possibilities for grant aid for our development plans and qualifies us to apply for recognition by the Inland Revenue as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC). This should enable us to achieve a significant increase in annual revenue without the need to increase membership subscriptions.

As those at the AGM learned, the Club will need to increase revenues if we are to maintain current levels of expenditure. We incurred a planned deficit last year and are budgeting for another deficit in the current year. Cash reserves enable us to make these plans without threatening the viability of the Club - in the short-term - but clearly we cannot sustain such losses over a longer period. It was most reassuring to find that we had the unanimous support of the membership for our plans.

The Board will now begin the challenging task of taking full advantage of the opportunities which our new status presents. We would hope to have some detailed proposals for expansion to our changing room facilities before the end of the coming Season and to start applying for grants from various sources, in the hope that any construction work can be undertaken in the Close Season.

We will do everything in our power to justify the confidence which the membership has shown in us."

Ratcliffe offer repeat classes

FOLLOWING the undoubted success of the 6-week course on computers enjoyed by Members, **Ratcliffe College** have invited us to suggest a topic or topics that can form the basis of similar sessions next year. Painting has already been suggested and appears to be a popular choice. If you have a subject that you would like to be considered, please add your suggestion to the list on the main noticeboard in the Clubhouse.

Your views, opinions, news and any other material of interest to Members would be welcomed for publication in future editions. Please send to **George Dodge**, as Editor, by the first Monday in every month

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Keep up the pace of progress!



MEN'S Club President, **Ian Oxman** (pictured left), says: "We are all looking forward to a new Season of outdoor bowling. After a very successful 75th anniversary of bowls in Syston, it is important that we carry on with

the progress that has been made over the past few years.

THIS YEAR WE WILL BE CLUB OF THE YEAR! We have had the County Greens Administrator down here to have a look at the green and he has put recommendations forward to improve the playing surface. It is essential that this work is carried out so that the County games that are due to be played on it go ahead without any problems.

A very warm welcome to all new Members who are joining us this Season.

To all Members, please do come and see me or any other member of the Executive Committee if you have any problems or concerns to give us the chance to sort them out.

It is also important that we make ourselves available for all matches that we can play in so that all fixtures can be completed while causing the respective Captains the least amount of anxiety.

To all our Members who are not currently in the best of health, you will not be forgotten. Please get well soon.

To our Ladies, have a very successful 75th. I'm sure that you will. If you need it, our offer of help and support will be there all Season.

1st August will be the Men's President's Day. To Members in both Sections, please make this a day to remember. Further details in due course.

Ready for action!

THANKS to a volunteer working party consisting of **Myles Clare, Don Creasey, George Dodge, Colin Grimes, Pete Murray, Gerry Kennell** and **Alan Ward**, the furniture and fittings around the green were taken out of winter storage on Wednesday 26th March, cleaned and put in place in readiness for the opening of the Season. (**Andy Blake** and **Tim Wall** also turned up - just as the work was finishing! At least their hearts were in the right place!)

The Ladies say:

Secretary, **Chris Biddles**, reports

THE LADIES Section would like to extend their appreciation to the Members of the Joint Bowling Club Board for their time and hard work to ensure the success of the Club. Special thanks to **Colin Grimes** who has worked tirelessly to implement the change to Syston Bowling Club as a Company Limited by Guarantee. We can see that the proposal to seek registration with the Inland Revenue as a Community Amateur Sports Club (**CASC**) will benefit the Club in the longer term.

Thanks also to **Roy Hill**, as Secretary and **Tim Wall** as Treasurer.

The Ladies would also like to offer special thanks to **Gerry Kennell** who has made an excellent job of boarding the windows and making sliding doors under the sink in the Ladies' Cloakroom - a great improvement!

Leicestershire bowler gets senior Bowls England post

THE BOARD of **Bowls England** have announced the appointment of 34 year old **Alistair Hollis**, who currently plays for **New Lount** Club in Leicestershire, as its first Development Officer. Alistair, a former Junior and Senior International and a regular **Middleton Cup** player, will be responsible for working with County Associations and Clubs to assist in the increase of participation in the sport amongst all ages.

He will also be looking to increase the profile of bowls in the media and to maximise income through sponsorship and merchandising initiatives.

Alistair will take up his duties in May on an initial two-year contract. He will operate out of the Bowls England satellite office in Royal Leamington Spa.

New social venture proves to be a great hit!

WELL! What an evening that was! I refer, of course, to the evening of 9th March when almost 80 Members, guests and friends enjoyed a wonderfully entertaining show starring **Jess Conrad** (pictured above) supported by a great local singer, **Jackie Dee**. Everyone enjoyed the whole event.



Jackie, whose singing voice was terrific, entertained us for the first hour with a fine selection of well-known ballads and entertaining repartee with the audience. She really is commendable in every way. **Jess Conrad's** performance was fantastic. He still has great star quality and professionalism. We expected to hear the familiar songs he is so renowned for and he did not disappoint. What we did not expect was his wit and humour and the hilarious way in which he poked fun at himself. He certainly proved why he is still a star after all these years.

Well done, Jess! And thanks for coming!

This was a new venture for the Club and those involved had fingers crossed that it would prove successful. Luckily, it surpassed all expectations. Many thanks should go to **Brian Adams** for arranging this spectacular show and also to all those who helped behind the scenes with catering, manning the bar, providing prizes, selling raffle tickets, setting out the room etc.

With the Board's full support and approval, **Brian** has now arranged for ventriloquist, **Neville King** with "Old Boy", to appear on 26th October. For March 2009, **Craig Douglas** has already been booked. Like **Jess Conrad**, he will be supported by singer **Jackie Dee**. Full details in due course. Tickets for the October show are available from **George Dodge** or **Brian Adams NOW** on a "first-come" basis

Mixed Pairs Competition entry rules explained

MAINLY as a result of social changes in domestic co-habitation arrangements, the old (*non-PC*) "**Husbands and Wives**" has, in effect, been replaced by the **Mixed Pairs** competition - a development which has caused several Members to ask for clarification of entry procedures.

As with all Competitions, it is the Club's desire to attract as many Members as possible to participate. Entries can therefore be accepted **both** from already identified pairs **and** from individual Members from either Section who would like to take part but who have not managed to identify a partner from the other Section. Partners will be found for these entrants by drawing from a hat at the time that the competition draw is made.

While every effort will be made to accommodate each and every entrant, the Competitions Secretary cannot guarantee to find a partner for every entrant since there might not be an equal number of entrants from each Section.

For this Season, at least, the Committee has decided to sustain the *status quo* and has put aside the alternative suggestion that all partnerships should be drawn for. However, the situation will be reviewed at the end of the Season in the light of experience.

Of course, life would be made much easier if each male entrant had already gained the approval of the lady partner of his choice before the deadline for receipt of Men's competition entries. (26th April)

Come on, chaps! They don't bite!

New Club website launched

www.systonbowlingclub.org

THE CLUB now has an official web site which can be visited at the above address.

Although some developmental work remains to be done, the site in its present form should prove extremely useful to Members and others who are interested in the Club. **More details next month.**

Captain's corner

Men's Captain & Club Coach, Des Eggitt speaks



WELCOME to all Club Members - especially the new Members joining us for the 2008 Season.

As your Club Captain, I will make sure that everyone will get his share of games which will, of course, depend on the support given to the Vice-Captains and myself through proper

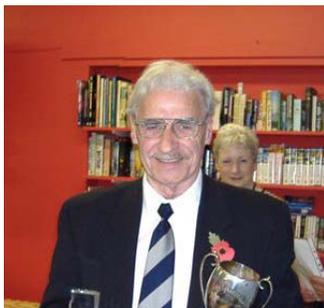
completion of the availability sheets posted in the changing rooms.

Also, as Club Coach - and subject to weather conditions, of course - I plan to start coaching sessions on Tuesday evenings at 6.00 p.m. with effect from **15th April**. These sessions are open not only to beginners but to any Member who would like to try to improve his/her game.

Finally, I wish you all good health and a successful Season in matches and Club and County Competitions. **Good luck to you all!**

Midweek matters

Midweek Captain, Pete Murray, seeks support



Pete Murray, Maidens Champion 2007 & Midweek Captain 2008

AS THE new Midweek Captain, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and successful bowling Season.

I would ask each one of you to make every effort to be available for our programme of midweek matches as this is not only a major part of our Club programme but is also one of our main sources of income. Wherever possible, I will try to ensure that everyone plays in the position best suited to them, provided that I have enough players. I will be posting availability sheets in the Ladies' Dressing room, as well as in the Men's, in an effort to identify sufficient support to meet our fixture commitments in full. In this way, Ian was very successful in fielding full rinks last Season and I plan to use the same tactics. We have already consulted with all other Clubs to gain their approval to field mixed teams where

necessary to ensure that matches go ahead whenever possible.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions for ways in which our performance can be improved over the Season, please feel free to approach me to discuss the matter.

Finally, I ask you to play to win but, above all, to take maximum pleasure and enjoyment from each game.

Funny "filler"

Do YOU have any favourite funnies to share?

A NICE, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "*I would like to buy some cyanide.*"

'The pharmacist asked, '*Why in the world do you need cyanide?*'

The lady replied, '*I need it to poison my husband.*'

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he exclaimed, '*Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband. That's against the law! I'll lose my licence! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!*'

The lady reached into her handbag and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife. The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, '*Well now, that's different. You didn't tell me you had a prescription.*'

Bowling on the Costa del Sol

A special feature report by Rob Wilbourn

ON WEDNESDAY 26th March, a party comprising nine ladies from the club (plus one male) departed from EMA on an A390 Airbus bound for the sunny climes of southern Spain. This was the start of a bowling holiday, organised in conjunction with **Rothley Bowls Club**, which was to include a tour of three local bowls venues over the course of five days. These local clubs had been set up by British expatriates now resident in the area.

Our base was the HM Gran Hotel del Sol at La Cala de Mijas, a resort midway between Torremolinos and Marbella. On Thursday we had free time to settle in and explore the town and immediate surroundings.

The hotel accommodation was quite reasonable but the food quality and presentation decidedly dodgy.

Friday morning, with an early start and a short coach trip down the road, saw us on the first of the all weather greens (*very similar to our indoor carpets*) at Benalmadena. We had a further match on the lower green at Santa Maria on Saturday followed by a visit to the marina where the very rich were posing on their massive motor yachts which appeared to be permanently berthed.

Several of us took the opportunity to sample the very excellent Spanish paella before returning to base.

On Sunday, our courier, **Bob Catling** of Longmere Bowling Holidays, organised a coach trip to Ronda, an ancient town high in the mountains. Arriving early (*mid morning but early for the locals*) there was little activity and we thought we might have a wasted trip. However as the sleepy town awoke there was plenty of interest with the local craft shops and the very imposing El Tajo gorge in the old town. Several of us finished the visit with a splendid lunch (suckling pig) in the square by the cathedral where the ringing of bells preceded a christening and we were pleasantly surprised when a proud grandfather presented his beaming and beautiful granddaughter to us.

An afternoon match at Miraflores on Monday was preceded by a visit to Mijas Pueblo, another mountain village/town but only 400 metres above sea level where there was ample opportunity to shop for leather and other goods.

All members of the Syston group finished the day with a slap up meal at Mijas Playa, a fairly exclusive beachside restaurant, where the management, on learning that it was the Ladies 75th Anniversary, afforded us all with a champers toast "on the house".

Our final match was a revisit to Santa Maria on Tuesday morning when we played on the improved upper green against another touring team from the south of England.

Apart from the first match, when it was extremely windy at the start, we played under blue skies and unbroken sunshine with temperatures in the lower seventies throughout our stay. There were quite a few winning rinks during the tour but overall, the home sides had the upper hand.

During our travels, we met up with an ex member of Syston B.C., **Reg Booley**, who moved out to Spain eleven years ago. Sadly, his wife died last year but Reg wished to be remembered to all his friends at the Club.

Due to the extreme heat, there were several mentions of hot flushes and red cleavages (*phew !!*) from the ladies. Other memories include :

1. Kate visiting the ladies' loo, only to find the cubicle overflowing with stacked plastic garden chairs.
2. Visits to the local cake shop and difficulties getting out of the chair afterwards.
3. "Memoirs of a Postlady" which provided hilarious entertainment throughout the tour.
4. Vibrational massage obtained by one person (who shall remain nameless) achieved by a billowing windbreak !!
5. Moral and physical support for Betty on our return walk from the restaurant, given by means of an imaginary foot pump and bellows !!

Thank you Ladies for a most enjoyable holiday and special thanks to **Kate Williams** who helped in the organisation of the tour.

RW