

Diary Dates 2007/8

DECEMBER

15th Xmas Lunch - Melton Indoor Club

JANUARY

10th Coffee Morning
New Year's Party with dancing to music of 60's to 80's. Faith supper

24th "Call My Bluff" Jacket potato with chilli/curry - £3.50

FEBRUARY

7th Games Night Shepherd's pie & crusty bread - £3.50

14th Coffee Morning

21st Roy's Race Night. £1 entry. Cobs available @£1

MARCH

8th **CLUB CABARET NIGHT - Craig Douglas** and Jackie Lee - £8.50

14th Coffee Morning

21st Stand up Bingo and Quiz - Faith Supper

RAFFLE prizes are invited for all of the above social events.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Indoor roll-up at the Melton Club every Monday throughout the Close Season starting at 1140 hours. Those interested, please turn up in god time to allow for rink selection. Everyone welcome. For further details, contact **John Lamble**, Tel: 292 1619



IF YOU spot a particularly funny or apt cartoon in a newspaper or magazine, please cut it out and send it to the Editor for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

35mm slides into photographs Special low-cost service offer to Members

DO YOU have a stock of 35mm colour slides - holding lots of happy memories - that you would like to translate into colour photographs?

If so, contact **Colin Grimes (Tel: 2608412)** who will be happy to do the job for you. At a very reasonable cost of around 25p per slide, he will convert your slides into digital format and provide you with a CD-ROM diskette from which you will be able to have your favourite shots printed. (If you have the right kind of DVD player, you can watch them as a slide show on your TV.)

All slides can be edited before they are transferred so you can improve the quality of your originals!

Colour prints can be supplied at additional cost. Price depending on size.

Making up a successful four

..... Concluded

facilitate the most effective responsive shot - either from other members of the team, or from himself at the appropriate time, when he has the mat. No-one can read the head from the mat. A good Skip must therefore be able to signal clearly to the player on the mat exactly what line and weight are required for the delivery to achieve its desired result.

Finally, the Skip should continue to strive for the effective draw or "yard-on" shot, leaving the firing shot as a weapon of last resort. A firing wood is most probably going to end up in the ditch from where it has **no** chance of being in the count (except, of course, in the unlikely event that it's a "toucher"). With a "yard-on" wood, you never can tell!

*"When I read about the evils of drinking,
I gave up reading."*



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 35 - December 2008



*The Chairman and Directors
of the Club
join with*

*Presidents of the Men's and Ladies' Sections
and all their Committee Members
to wish all Members and their families*

*a
"Merry Christmas!"
combined with hopes for a
healthy, happy and prosperous
New Year
in 2009*



*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*

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB Clubhouse Telephone: **0116 269 2105**

All communications to **The Secretary:**

Mr Roy Hill, 31 George Toon Court, SYSTON, Leics LE7 1ZQ

Telephone: **0116 260 1532** email: **systonbowling@btinternet.com**

The year ahead

Report of the incoming President's address to the Men's AGM

In thanking Members for their support, the newly elected Men's President, **Colin Grimes**, sought to explain his intended approach to the Presidency and to describe the operational framework within which he planned to work as he sought to respond to the challenges of the post.

He saw it the duty of the President to represent and be the public face of the Club; to lead by example in conduct, dress and spirit; to co-ordinate all aspects of Club services and activities; to engender among Members a pride in belonging; to encourage competitiveness and team spirit (*without loss of sportsmanship*); to enforce Club discipline - but only with the support of the Committee and wider membership; to supervise the workings of other elected Officers - offering advice and assistance, where necessary; to be responsive to the needs of Members, and to maintain unity among Members in their pursuit of a common set of goals and objectives.

Above all, the President should "keep it light" and not expect or demand that the office be taken too seriously, never forgetting that the primary function of the Club is to provide a forum for pleasure and enjoyment on both sporting and social levels. The President, as the first among equals, enjoyed an honour bestowed by Members while receiving no special status or privileges as a consequence of office.

He went on to highlight a number of challenges facing the Club in the year ahead:

Already identified to the meeting was the need to **tighten financial reporting and recording processes**. He would do everything possible to assist the Treasurer in this matter and appealed for any Member who had the necessary skills to offer his services to assist. The major challenge was the **condition of the green** and he reported on current consultations with an independent professional contractor to explore a range of corrective measures. Whatever the outcome of these discussions, he warned that the Club would need to anticipate a measure of significant expenditure on the

green in the year ahead. The Executive Committee was likely to call upon Members in General Meeting to agree to the application of a significant proportion of current cash reserves to meet the costs involved.

He reported that it was fully recognised that the green remained the property of the Town Council and, as a result, the Council should be pressed to make a proportionate contribution to any refurbishment costs involved. He gave assurances that the question of the joint financing of improvements to the green would play an important part in the ongoing negotiations with the Council for the **renewal of the Club lease** - which was due to expire early in 2010.

In spite of repeated success in **recruitment**, as a result of marketing and promotional efforts over the past two years, it was vitally important that efforts in this area be sustained if the Club was to flourish. The recently launched **Club web site** was playing an increasingly important part in this strategy and would need to be further developed in the year ahead.

With the full agreement of the Ladies' Section, it had been agreed to introduce a joint set of **wood stickers** combining the maroon, blue and yellow colours currently in use by the Sections. Agreement had not yet been reached on whether the new stickers would be introduced in time for the opening of the 2009 Season.

The possible introduction of **special uniform polo shirts** as part of the Club Dress Code for use in County, League and Cup matches was also under active discussion. It was recognised that such a development could cause problems and difficulties for some Members. A range of options was available to address any

Concluded on page 5



Colin Grimes

Des sez ...

Continuing the series of useful tips on how to improve your game from Club Coach, Des Eggitt.

This month: **Making up a successful four**

Lead

The Lead, taking full advantage of the learning opportunities presented by any trial ends, should speedily adopt and sustain a deliberate routine. That is to say, the Lead should quickly identify and play consistently to the better playing hand on the rink in question. The choice of forehand or backhand should not be a matter of personal preference but should be dictated by which hand offers the best options according to the condition of the particular rink being played. The Lead should not keep chopping and changing hand but, once the rink has been "tested", should persist with the same hand even if the opponent drops short on that hand. Should that happen, the Lead should ignore it and play as though the short wood was not there.

A Lead who has settled into a successful routine on a particular hand should never change hand just to show that he/she can play the other hand just as well.

The lead should not try to dictate the length of the jack. This is the responsibility of the Skip. A Lead should always try to deliver the jack close to where the Skip signals he would like it to be.

Once the end has been completed, the Lead should stand clear of the head to allow the Threes to agree the count.

Number Two

The best contribution that can be made by a Number Two is to act as a second Lead. It is far better for a Number Two to continue to attempt to draw to the jack rather than run it back in situations where the Lead has overshot the jack (*has been "strong"*) leaving the opposition holding shot. It is far better for a Number Two to achieve a "second wood" position, leaving the Number Three and the Skip something to work on. A Number Two who keeps drawing for the "dead draw" can often prove to be the match winner.

Like the Lead, the Number Two should also identify and play consistently to the "better" hand offered by the condition of the rink - unless the Skip instructs otherwise. In all cases, the Number Two should avoid playing short, which only serves to create difficulties for the Third and the Skip.

The Number Two may suggest, but not demand, attention to something related to measuring by the Threes but, normally, should stay clear of the head when the Threes are engaged in agreeing the score.

Three

The primary objective of any Three is to get a saving shot for his/her side. A

Three should maintain a positive and optimistic approach to every head - no matter how serious the situation looks.

A Three will never let the side down by allowing the opposite Three to "pressure" acceptance of a score without a measure of all possible shots.

When the Skip leaves the head to play his/her shots, he/she carries a clear picture of the head. Unless the head is subsequently disturbed, a good Three will not seek to give directions to a Skip on how to play into the head but will leave it to the Skip's own judgement.

Skip

We all know the difference between a good and a bad Skip. A Skip's success or failure will be reflected in the results. A Skip should always be positive and supportive to the other players in the team and should never be overtly critical of any of his team's efforts while on the green. A good Skip will quietly **coax** his players to produce their best.

A Skip must himself be capable of playing all the shots and must be fully aware of the demands of rink etiquette.

The Skip must be able to read a head and, from what is observed, identify and

Concluded on back page



The priest answered: "I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you: I will not lie." "With your honest face, Father, no one will question you."

When they got to Customs, she let the priest go ahead of her. The Customs Officer asked, "Father, do you have anything to declare?"

"From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare," replied the priest. The official thought this answer strange, so asked, "And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?"

"I have a marvellous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused."

Roaring with laughter, the official said, "Go ahead, Father. Next!"

WHEN four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the pre-Christmas pressure. Then Mrs Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed him even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where. Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the liquor. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang and, irritated, Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?'

And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all.

One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea. As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cut glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, in which floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat.

The pastor, unable to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, said: "Miss Beatrice, I wonder if you would tell me about this?" pointing to the bowl.

'Oh, yes,' she replied. 'Isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. And, would you believe it, I haven't had the 'flu all winter.'



Roger Bentley and Tom Morris whose nominations for **Life Membership**, in recognition of their outstanding service to the Club over many years, were unanimously approved by Members at the Men's Annual General Meeting.

"I spent 90 percent of my money on women. The rest I wasted." **George Best**



The horse and cow live thirty years
And nothing know of wines and beers.

The goat and sheep at twenty die
And never taste of scotch or rye.

The sow drinks water by the ton
And at eighteen is nearly done.

The dog at fifteen cashes in
Without the aid of rum or gin.

The cat in milk and water soaks

And then in twelve short years it croaks.

The modest, sober, bone-dry hen
Lays eggs for years and dies at ten.

But sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men
Survive for three score years and ten.

But some of us, the mighty few
Stay pickled till we're ninety-two.

A totally inebriated man is stumbling along a lane, when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in a river. He proceeds to walk into the water and subsequently bumps into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon he asks the drunk, 'Are you ready to find Jesus?'

The drunk shouts, 'Yesh, I am.' So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him up and asks the drunk, 'Brother have you found Jesus?' The drunk replies, 'No, I haven't found Jesus.'

The preacher shocked at the answer, dunks him into the water again for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks again, 'Have you found Jesus my brother?' The drunk again answers, 'No, I haven't found him.'

By this time the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk in the water again --- but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds and when he begins kicking his arms and legs he pulls him up. The preacher again asks the drunk, 'For the love of God have you found Jesus?'

The drunk wipes his eyes and catches his breath and says to the preacher, 'Are you sure dis is where he fell in?'

REMINDER

For cheap holidays on **Madeira** at any time of the year, contact **Colin Grimes (2608412)**

I was walking down the street when I was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless woman who asked me for a couple of pounds for dinner.

I took out my wallet, got out a ten pound note and asked, 'If I give you this money, will you buy wine with it instead of dinner?'

'No, I had to stop drinking years ago', the homeless woman told me.

'Will you use it to go shopping instead of buying food?' I asked.

'No, I don't waste time shopping,' the homeless woman said. 'I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive.'

'Will you spend this on a beauty salon instead of food?' I asked.

'Are you NUTS!' replied the homeless woman. 'I haven't had my hair done in 20 years!'

'Well,' I said, 'I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you out for dinner with my husband and me tonight.'

The homeless woman was shocked. 'Won't your husband be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty, and I probably smell pretty disgusting.'

I said, 'That's okay. It's important for him to see what a woman looks like after she has given up shopping, hair appointments, and wine.'

A distinguished young woman on a flight from Rome asked the priest sitting beside Her, "Father, may I ask a favour?"

"Of course my child. What may I do for you?"

"Well, I bought an expensive woman's electronic hair dryer for my mother's Birthday that is unopened and well over the Customs limits, and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through Customs for me? Under your robes perhaps?"

Your Committees for 2008 - 2009

Board of Directors

(to April 2009)

Chairman/MD: Colin Grimes
Telephone: 2608412
Company Secretary: Roy Hill
Telephone: 2601532
Director & Treasurer: Tim Wall
Telephone: 2201087

Directors:

Margaret Abbott, Chris Biddles, Roger Bentley, Marjorie Clowes, George Dodge, Anita Lowder,

LADIES' SECTION

President: Janice Wilbourn
Telephone: 01664 424813

Senior Vice-President: Ruth Wheeler
Telephone: 2608555

Immediate Past President: Anita Lowder
Telephone: 2606921

Honorary Secretary: Chris Biddles
Telephone: 2609061

Honorary Treasurer: Marion Hegginson
Telephone: 2606888

Captain: Marjorie Clowes
Telephone: 2605845

Vice-Captain: Anita Lowder
Telephone: 2606921

Match Secretary: Barbara Brown
Telephone: 2694330

Competitions Secretary: Margaret Abbott
Telephone: 2412125

Leics Ladies' County BA Delegate: Doreen Payne
Telephone: 2607360

MEN'S SECTION

President: Colin Grimes
Telephone: 2608412

Senior Vice-President/Midweek Captain: Peter Murray
Telephone: 2608679

Junior Vice-President: Arthur Calver
Telephone: 2694682

Honorary Secretary: Rob Wilbourn
Telephone: 01664 424813

Honorary Treasurer: Tim Wall
Telephone: 2201087

Captain: Des Eggitt
Telephone: 2696548

Vice-Captains: Myles Clare
Telephone: 2600113
 Ken Renshaw

Telephone: 2606743

Mid-week Captain: Pete Murray
Telephone: 2608679

Mid-week Vice-Captain: George Stone
Telephone: 2695810

Leics Bowling Association Delegates: Rob Wilbourn & George Dodge

Match Fixture Secretary: George Dodge
Telephone: 2698923

Competitions Secretary: Andy Blake
Telephone: 2602045

Loughborough League Rep: Brian Adams
Telephone: 2608177

Melton League Rep: Dave Hudson
Telephone: 2600582

CLUBHOUSE TELEPHONE
2692105

The Club owes a deep debt of gratitude to all of the above volunteers without whose efforts the Club could not survive. PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR FULL SUPPORT

Lady President's piece

Towards a "greener" Club

IT IS with pleasure that, for the first time, I write for the "System Green" as Ladies' President.

The first event of my year was the Ladies' lunch on 12th November which attracted 28 Members, including 3 Life Members, and was enjoyed by everyone. The next lunch will be on Wednesday 17th December which will be our Christmas Party.

As a token effort towards going "green", our Committee recommends that we should not exchange Christmas cards this year. Instead, it is suggested that donations be made to the President's Charity which this year is *Arthritis Care*. I would dearly like to see the bottle on the bar full to capacity again, so all donations, however small, would be greatly appreciated.

In closing, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year with lots of good bowling when next Season starts.

JANICE



Janice Wilbourn
 Ladies' President
 2008/9

Competitions news

1. New Men's 2-wood Pairs competition

FOLLOWING the decision by the Ladies' Section not to organise the **Warner Cup** in 2009, the Men's Section is to launch an additional **2-wood Pairs** competition within the standard Club schedule.

A sponsor has been identified to provide the trophy.

2. New entry rules for Mixed Pairs

LADIES and Men will be required to register separate entries to the **Men's Mixed Pairs** competition in 2009. "Husband and wife" and other pre-selected pairs will not be accepted. Partnerships will be selected by draw of all registered entrants.

3. STN Mixed Pairs "warning"

DES EGGITT has warned that he needs a minimum of 24 entrants to the "System Town News" Mixed Pairs Competition to make it viable.

Entries from Men and Ladies should be registered in March, at the same time as other competition entries are made.

Entrants are reminded that the £5 entry fee is used to cover prize monies presented to the winners and runners-up in the competition.

The year ahead ... Concluded

concerns that might be raised. Loughborough League Captain, **Brian Adams**, would be consulting with those Members directly involved as players in the League in order to bring agreed proposals to the Executive Committee in due course.

Finally, **Colin** spoke of the perceived need to strengthen the Club's approach to **Member welfare**. All-too-often, he felt, the Club neglected, in any formal way, the needs of Members who were experiencing difficulties - either as a result of the ageing process, as the result of some short-term illness or other problem that was preventing their full participation in Club affairs. It was his intention, he reported, to invite **Arthur Calver**, in his newly elected position as Junior Vice-President, to assume responsibility as Club Welfare Officer and to devise a policy which would address this perceived "weakness".

He closed his address by appealing to all Members to make full use of the Officers that they had just elected and keep them fully informed of any concerns, complaints or other issues which might be interfering with their full enjoyment of Club membership. At the same time, they should not hesitate to suggest improvements or additional services that the Club might provide to enhance the membership experience.

Cut along the dotted line and keep this sheet for ready reference throughout the year