

JUNE

15th Queens (H)
 16th Oakham (A)
 18th Loughborough Granby (H)
 20th Holwell (H)
 Mowmacre (A)
 22nd Loughborough Trips Trophy Prelims
 24th Melton Town (H+A)
 25th Narborough (H)
 27th Fosseyway (H)
 Scotlands (A)
 29th Merlins (A)
 Brookfield (H)

JULY

1st Management Group Meeting
 Belvoir Vale (H+A)
 Wymeswold (A)
 Oadby (H)
 4th Countesthorpe (H)
 Soar Valley (A)
 6th Loughborough Trips Trophy Round 1
 7th SBC Board Meeting
 Loughborough Trips Hartopp Cup
 8th Market Overton (H+A)
 9th Kirby Muxloe (H)
 Kirby Muxloe (A)
 11th **Coffee Morning**
 Belgrave (H)
 Aylestone Hall (A)
 Gee Bees (H)
 13th Loughborough (A)
 15th Nuneaton (H)
 16th Narborough (H)
 18th St Margarets (A)
 20th Loughborough Trips Trophy Round 2
 Benevolent Match (A)
 Loughborough Trips West Cup
 21st Oakham (H+A)
 22nd St Margaret's (H)
 23rd Club Mixed Trophy
 24th Humberstone Park (H)
 25th Narborough (A)
 26th **Joint Presidents' Charity Gala Day**
 27th Hawks (A)
 28th Birstall (A)
 29th Soar Valley (H)
 30th St Margaret's (A)

AUGUST

1st Humberstone Park (A)
 Kirby Muxloe (A)
 3rd Holwell (H)
 5th Holwell Sport (H+A)

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed: SBC

The Season to date

Summarised results as follows:

Men's Saturday fixtures

P16 W7 L9 Shots Diff: +4

Men's Midweek fixtures

P8 W2 L6 Shots Diff: -192

Loughborough Triples League

P7 Shot Diff: -82 Points: 15(out of 56)

Ladies' fixtures

P8 W3 L5 Shots Diff: -87

The **Men's Midweek** squad have had a very poor start to the Season. This is especially disappointing after such a good Season in 2008. Hopefully, as the Season progresses, we will see the Men register results which are more in tune with their true potential. The **Shots Difference** figure clearly indicates the size of the task ahead with an improvement of nearly 20 shots per game required to seriously address the current deficit.

Also disappointing has been the early performance of the **Loughborough Triples League** squad. However, losses have been by relatively narrow margins. An average improvement of only 5 shots per rink will significantly improve the position and avoid the prospect of relegation to Division 3. We are currently joint bottom. The **Ladies**, too, have lost by some very narrow margins and require just a few more shots per game to achieve a significant change in the picture.

As the figures show, our **Men's** teams on **Saturday** are doing relatively well - at least showing a positive **Shot Difference** figure. They, too, have lost some very close matches and have only a little more effort to make on each rink to register what could be a great Season.

So, come on!

Concentrate just that little bit more. Remember the excellent coaching guidance offered by **Des Eggitt** each time you step on to the mat and let's see a significant all-round improvement!



The Green - What's happening?

Club Chairman, Colin Grimes, talks of challenge and opportunity

AS WE go to press, we are waiting for confirmation from the Town Council of a report that they have now agreed to offer us only a 28 year lease renewal, effective from March 2010, rather than the 40 years which we had sought and which they had originally signalled their acceptance. Potentially more serious, we understand that they are to turn down our offer of a "partnership" arrangement under the terms of which we had offered to meet up to two-thirds of the cost of re-surfacing of the green. They are looking to the Club to meet 100% of the cost.

If these two positions are to be confirmed, the Club will be faced with both a challenge and an opportunity.

The challenge

The Club will have to re-open negotiations with the Council, pointing out that it is a Council green and convincing them that they are thereby responsible for the total cost of any re-surfacing that is necessary. After all, without a playable green, they have nothing to offer us to lease from them.

We could therefore consider refusing to renew the lease after February 2010.

Obviously, such a move would hardly be in the best interests of the Club. *Where would we find another green? What would happen to the Clubhouse? Could the Club survive with a Clubhouse and green in different locations?*

Preferably, therefore, we need to make every effort to demonstrate that our offer of a partnership arrangement is a generous offer to help them rather than a request for them to give us additional resources.

If they wish to sustain a viable bowling green in the town, they need to find the necessary funds to maintain the surface.

However, since the Club has a heavily vested interest in maintaining the green, we should persist in our offer to help to

meet at least some of the cost. Under the terms of the lease, the Club is committed to making up to two rinks permanently available for public/non-member use throughout the Season. It is on this basis that we thought it reasonable to ask the Council to meet one third of the resurfacing costs rather than offer to meet 100% of the cost ourselves.

If the Council are genuinely unable to find the funds involved within the necessary time frame, we could agree to make them a loan to be repaid over a number of years, for example, through a reduction in the annual fees which we pay to the Council for the maintenance of the green.

Continued overleaf

49 Club

Lucky winners since April are:

Chris Biddles, Marjorie Clowes, Marilyn Wood, Gerry Baker & Don Creasey.

www.systonbowlingclub.org
 for Diary, Fixtures, Results, Press Releases,
 Newsletters and other Club details

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB Clubhouse Telephone: 0116 269 2105

All communications to **The Chairman**:

Mr Colin Grimes, 8 Quenby Crescent, SYSTON, Leics LE7 2BW
 Telephone: 0116 2608 412 email: systonbowling@btinternet.com

*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*

The opportunity

If the Council remain stubbornly resistant to the idea of contributing to the re-surfacing costs - for whatever political or economic reason - we could offer the meet the full cost ourselves. In return, however, I believe that it would be reasonable for us to seek a number of concessions from them.

First, we would require a full 40 year lease to be agreed.

Second, we would require the provision for non-member access at all times to be deleted from the agreement.

In addition, we might go further and demand that we should be permitted to accept full responsibility for the future maintenance of the re-surfaced green. After all, if we are to spend a considerable amount of money on the new surface, it would be totally indefensible to give the new surface anything but the best of after care. In the current situation, we can exercise little or no direct control over the range and quality of work provided by the Council's own grounds staff. It is, perhaps, questionable whether the present arrangements would offer sufficient protection for our "investment" in a new surface.

We might, therefore, demand full and independent control over the maintenance and put the associated contract out to open tender. The Council team would be invited to put in their own competitive bid and the Club would exercise full control over the award of the contract and, most important, over the range and quality of the programme of maintenance that is given to the new green by the appointed contractor.

Clearly, your Board have a lot of work to do in the months ahead to sort out the situation and reach an agreement with the Council →

New Members welcomed

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the Men's Section were pleased to approve applications for membership from **Patrick Hart** and **Simon Robinson** - both of whom have been invited to complete admission formalities.

We look forward to giving both of them a warm welcome into the Club and wish them many years of enjoyable membership.

that is in the best interests of all parties.

In the meantime

With the valued help of **Dave Hudson**, who has kindly agreed to apply his professional skills and knowledge to help the Board find the most cost-effective solution, we have put the re-surfacing contract out to tender. Four of the country's top contractors have already been invited to submit bids

In anticipation of a likely request for as much time as possible to allow the new surface to bed down - and give us the best chance of having a playable surface in time for the opening of the 2010 Season - **George Dodge** is already taking soundings from those Clubs with whom we have scheduled fixtures to explore the possibility of closing our green for the whole of September to allow the chosen contractor to begin work. Such a move would hopefully enable us to play scheduled matches either by converting Home fixtures into Away fixtures or, alternatively, by finding neutral grounds that might be available to accommodate us. Depending on what kind of winter we experience, we might have to seek similar sympathetic consideration of any matches fixed for the early part of the 2010 Season.

Why the fuss?

Ironically, our green is not turning out to be as bad as we had originally feared. Indeed, thanks to the work being put into it both by the Council groundstaff and by our team of willing volunteers, who turn out to man the true level roller every Friday afternoon, we have experienced some week-on-week improvements. While it cannot be said to have solved the problem and created a first-rate bowling surface, it has to be conceded that there are other greens on which we have played away matches that are at least equally as "challenging" as our own here in Syston.

Of course, at times like these, it is not surprising to find that nearly every Member is an "expert". Many have strong views on both the problem and the solution. While I would not wish in any way to stifle open debate and prevent Members from expressing an opinion on our green - which is, after all, the "jewel in our crown" - I do hope that by this extended report and update, I can reassure everyone that your

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The Green Concluded

Board have the situation under control and remain confident about a successful outcome to the issues raised by both the lease and the quality of the playing surface. I would be very pleased to hear from any Member who might wish to contribute in any positive way to the ongoing situation.

Gardening Group update



MEMBERS of the Gardening Group recently visited a beautiful house and garden in Market Overton.

The garden was on four different levels and contained, amongst other things, some interesting shrubs and trees and a small orchard.

We were lucky enough to choose a lovely sunny day and the visit ended with tea and cakes on the terrace.

Our regular monthly Group meeting was well attended and welcomed a potential new member.



Ray Dexter gave a demonstration on how to prepare and plant a hanging basket which was raffled off and won by **Norma Grimes**.

George Dodge led a discussion/demonstration on staking and tying back various plants and which knots were the most suitable for these jobs.

The meeting ended with a plant exchange and details of the next garden visit which will be at Gaddesby on Wednesday, 24th June.

The next meeting of the Group will be on Tuesday, 30th June at 7.0pm. In the Clubhouse. **Everyone welcome!**

Joint Presidents' Charity Gala Day
Sunday 26th July
starting at 10.00 a.m.

Birthdays

Pete Hancock celebrated his 65th birthday recently with family and friends from the Club. Everyone enjoyed a great selection of delicious food, the *piece de resistance* being a cake made by Pete's daughter depicting a bowling scene.

Arthur Calver also had a birthday recently and celebrated with a very enjoyable lunch with his wife, **Shirley**, and friends.



CHARITY CABARET NIGHT

Sunday 12th July 2009 7.00 p.m.

Triple Variety Bill starring
**Steve Dean, Karen West
& Paul Ravel**

Snacks, full bar and raffle
Limited tickets still available from
George Dodge and Brian Adams

£8.50

All proceeds to Presidents' Charities



THANK YOU, fellow Members, for your appreciation of the time I was involved in the everyday running of the Club. Special thanks to the Ladies' Section who can always be relied upon to be there with their support.

During my stay in hospital, I was blessed with so many visits from bowlers, sharing jokes to pass the time of day, with so many "Get Well!" cards and phone calls for which I am very grateful. Thank you, everyone.

Roy Hill

For the ladies

(and men with a feminine side!)

When I was in my younger days,
I weighed a few pounds less.
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.
But now that I am older,
I've set my body free.
There's comfort in elastic
Where once my waist would be.
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes
My feet have not forgiven.
I have to wear a size nine now,
But used to wear a seven.
And how about those blasted tights --
They're sized by weight, you see.
So how come when I put them on
The crotch is at my knee?
I need to wear these glasses
As the print's been getting smaller.
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller.
Though my hair has turned to grey
And my skin no longer fits,
On the inside, I'm the same old me,
It's just the outside's changed a bit.

But, on a positive note...

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things - a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as making a 'life.'

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that you shouldn't go through life just being a doormat. You need to be able to throw something back.

I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.



3

Triples - Beryl Cook



Glasgow rinks

or

The case for a Dress Code!

The importance of exercise

- * **WALKING** can add minutes to your life. This enables you, at 85 years old, to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at £4000 per month.
- * My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 80. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.
- * I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
- * The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.
- * I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

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The computer age

How did we manage without them?



"Okay your father managed to get a mouse. Now how do we use it?"



Nurse, get on the internet & go to **SURGERY.COM**. Scroll down and click on the "I'm totally lost" icon

Funny fact

MANY years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden" Thus the word **GOLF** entered into the English language.

Coaching corner

Club & County Coach, Des Eggitt, stresses "Teamwork get points on the score card"



LEAD - Your job is simply to get as close as possible to the jack.

If your opposite number gets very close, **DON'T** go all out to knock him off with a heavy wood of your own. A "second wood" is as good as any in

these circumstances.

Follow your Skip's instructions about jack length and mat placing.

Use the first two ends to identify your best hand and then stick to that hand. Don't chop and change unless directed by your Skip.

It is better to be long than short. "One on the jack and one at the back," is a good motto for a lead.

When you are at the head, don't get wanderlust. Watch carefully on how your No. 3 and Skip go about building the head.

Always help to bring woods back to behind the mat after the score has been agreed and the head broken up.

NUMBER 2 - You are, in reality, a second lead. Your job is also to get as close as possible to the jack using draw and "yard-on" shots.

Follow your Skip's instructions to the letter. Regularly check your score card with your opposite No. 2.

As with the Lead, stick to your "good" hand unless your Skip asks you to change.

Next month Des will advise No3s and Skips

Exercise - Continued from page 3

- * I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.
- * I joined a health club last year. Spent about £2000. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.
- * Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.
- * If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.
- * I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years..... just getting over the hill.
- * We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.