

Diary Dates

JULY

- 11th Belgrave (H)
Aylestone Hall (A)
Joint Presidents' Charity Cabaret
- 12th Gee Bees (H)
- 13th Loughborough (A)
- 15th Nuneaton (H)
- 18th Narborough (H)
St Margarets (A)
- 20th Loughborough Trips Trophy Round 2
Benevolent Match (A)
- 21st Loughborough Trips West Cup
- 22nd Oakham (H+A)
- 23rd St Margaret's (H)
- 24th Club Mixed Trophy
- 25th Humberstone Park (H)
Narborough (A)
- 27th Hawks (A)
- 28th Birstall (A)
Armstrong Cup
- 29th Soar Valley (H)
- 30th St Margaret's (A)

AUGUST

- 1st Humberstone Park (A)
Kirby Muxloe (A)
- 3rd Holwell (H)
Trophy Semi-finals
- 4th Johnson Cup
- 5th Holwell Sport (H+A)
- 6th Westcotes (A)
- 7th Trophy Final
- 8th **Coffee Morning**
Batram (H)
Wymeswold (A)
- 10th Wolds (H)
Humberstone (A)
- 11th **Men's Executive Committee** 7 p.m.
- 12th Syston Rotary Club (H)
- 13th Belgrave (H)
- 14th Knighton Victoria (A)
- 15th Knighton Victoria (H)
Thringstone (A)
- 16th Knock Out Cup Day (Oakham)
- 17th Pandas (A)
- 18th **SBC Board Meeting** 10 a.m.
- 19th Leicester Banks (H)
- 20th Enderby (H)
- 21st **Ladies' Patrons Day**
- 22nd Wymeswold
Birstall (A)
- 23rd **Men's President's Day** from 10.00 a.m.
- 24th Sands (A)

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed: SBC

Mid-Season summaries

Summarised results at the half-way mark in the Season are as follows. Full details can be found on the Club web site.

Men's Saturday fixtures

P22 W11 L11 Shots Diff: +61

Men's Midweek fixtures

P10 W3 L7 Shots Diff: -205

Loughborough Triples League

P9 Shot Diff: -72 Points: 23 (out of 72)

Ladies' fixtures

P11 W5 L6 Shots Diff: -97

New Member welcomed

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the Men's Section were pleased to approve an application for membership from **Gary Kilbourn** who has already had a few coaching sessions from **Des Eggitt** and played his first games for the Club.

We wish him many years of enjoyable membership.

Green etiquette concluded

Players are asked to be especially sensitive to the need to avoid distracting anyone who is in the process of delivering a wood either by noise or by movement.

Players should **NEVER** walk either in front or behind a player who is on the mat preparing to deliver a shot and, during the course of play, should be mindful of the potentially distracting nature of any noise they make either while communicating with players on their own rink or in general conversation/banter while play is in progress.

Non-playing visitors to the green during any match should do nothing to distract a player while actively engaged in play.

Any complaints should be reported to the Captain of the day or to the most senior Club officer present at the time.

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB Clubhouse Telephone: 0116 269 2105

All communications to **The Chairman**:

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THE SYSTON GREEN



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 41 - July 2009

Green to go into intensive care

Board decide after extensive consultation

After the most careful and exhaustive examination the options available to us, including full re-surfacing, the Club Board have unanimously decided in favour of the immediate implementation of an intensive programme of repair to and remedial maintenance of the present playing surface.

Board Chairman, **Colin Grimes**, says: *In taking this decision, we are motivated by the desire to see the Syston green once again recognised as among the best that the County has to offer in the shortest possible timeframe. Based on professional advice received from a range of sources, we are confident that intensive remedial attention will achieve the desired effect in the most cost-effective way for the Club and will minimise disruption, both this Season and next, with our fixture commitments.*

The significant part of such a programme - involving major and repeated scarification, chemical treatment, re-seeding etc - will have to be implemented during the 2009-10 close Season starting immediately on 27th September. However, during the period between now and the end of September, a deal of preparatory work might be put in place without undue interference with our programme of fixtures. For example, based on the advice given to us, the Board is to put in hand as quickly as possible the first of two surveys to identify levels on the current surface. A second set of "readings" will be arranged for later in the year (?October).

Four specialist firms have been invited to submit - by no later than Friday 31st July - a fully detailed and costed competitive bid for the contract for this intensive remedial treatment project.

All potential contractors have signalled their willingness to work closely with the current team of Syston Town Council Parks and Estates ground staff in the implementation of the proposed programme of remedial work. In this regard,

*Members should be reassured to learn that, over the course of the extensive consultation project, groundsman, **David Smith** has repeatedly demonstrated that he is as knowledgeable and skilled as many of the external advisors and that our current maintenance programme is totally appropriate to the general needs of our green. Only in terms of the manpower hours available and the range and quality of the specialised machinery and equipment, which the intensive care programme will require, can we identify any significant deficiency.*

At our August meeting, the Board expects to
Continued overleaf

49 Club

Latest lucky winners are:

Rob Wilbourn, Doreen Payne, Marion Hegginson and Myles Clare.

Club subscriptions should now be paid to Club Treasurer, **Anita Lowder.**

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

*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*

2 be in a position to award the contract and to decide how the necessary financing for the project can be arranged.

In the meantime, negotiations with the Council on the terms of the renewal of our lease are continuing. (At the time of writing, I am still awaiting a formal response to our original "partnership" proposal.)

It has been very encouraging to find that our early Season worries about the comparative quality of our green have proved unfounded. Experience has shown that there are far worse greens around the County than ours! Nevertheless, our playing surface does fall far short of acceptable and merits some serious TLC. We must now hope and expect to have a green to be proud of within a couple of Seasons - at most!

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to offer special thanks to **Dave Upton** who put in a great deal of time and effort to the consultative process with contractors. We are extremely grateful for his experienced input into our discussions."

Health & hygiene alert

MEMBERS should already be aware of the dangers of licking their fingers while playing on a surface which has been treated with chemical fertiliser. A damp cloth is always the safer option.

Now, with the arrival of "swine flu" in the East Midlands, the vital importance of regular washing of hands and good hygiene practice in using a tissue or handkerchief if you are prone to coughing and sneezing has to be stressed. Shake hands with all visitors, as always. But do take extra precautions.

Remember the old adage "**Coughs and sneezes spread diseases. Trap them in your handkerchief!**" Then remember to wash your hands to avoid the possibility of contagion. You cannot be too careful with such a virulent virus.

Unique time

AMAZE your friends, be the first to tell them At 12hr 34 minutes and 56 seconds on the 7th of August this year, the time and date will be 12:34:56 7/8/9

This will never happen again in our lifetime

"Well done, Ladies!"

**Ladies' Secretary,
Chris Biddles, reports**

CONGRATULATIONS to **Kate Williams** and **Janice Wilbourn** for reaching the 3rd Round of the County Pairs Championship. They faced strong opposition from Oakham County players and lost by only 4 shots after leading for 18 ends. It was a really thrilling match to watch. Well done!

Des sez

**Men's Captain & Club Coach,
Des Eggitt, continues his series on
rink responsibilities**

Number 3

AS A No 3 you need to have the ability to play all the shots.

You also have an overriding responsibility to your team to ensure that scores are accurately assessed and recorded. You must not allow yourself to be dominated by your opposite number. Whenever there is the smallest doubt in your mind about the number of shots in the head, insist on a measure.

In my experience, even the most senior players can make mistakes. Only the tape can be trusted to arbitrate with 100% accuracy.

If you have any doubt about what advice to give your Skip about what shot to play - and you should only offer advice if the head has altered significantly since the Skip left it to play his shots - invite him to come back to the head to make up his own mind.

Skip

Know your players. Establish as quickly as possible if they have one hand stronger than another and play to that strength.

Be flexible with your No 3 if he/she signals a lack of confidence in playing the shot you have initially requested. If the result that you wish to achieve can be achieved by playing the other hand, let him/her try it.

When asking for a forcing shot, help your
Concluded on p 3

Advice for the over 60's

Q: WHERE can men over the age of 60 find younger, sexy women who are interested in them?

A: Try a bookstore under fiction.

Q: What can a man do while his wife is going through menopause?

A: Keep busy. If you're handy with tools, you can finish the loft conversion. When you are done you will have a place to live.

Q: Someone has told me that menopause is mentioned in the Bible. Is that true? Where can it be found?

A: Yes. Matthew 14:92: 'And Mary rode Joseph's ass all the way to Egypt.'

Q: How can you increase the heart rate of your 60+ year old husband?

A: Tell him you're pregnant.

Q: How can you avoid that terrible curse of the elderly - wrinkles?

A: Take off your glasses.

Q: Seriously! What can I do for these crow's feet and all those wrinkles on my face?

A: Go braless. It will usually pull them out.

Q: Is it common for 60+ year olds to have problems with short term memory storage?

A: Storing memory is not a problem, retrieving it is the problem.

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Q: Where should 60+ year olds look for spectacles

A: On their foreheads.

Q: What is the most common remark made by 60+ year olds when they enter a museum?

A: 'Gosh, I remember these

Competition Secretaries ask all Members to continue to do everything possible to keep to published schedules

Thought for the day

There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra today than on Alzheimer's research.

This means that by 2040, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs and huge erections and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them!

Library/Second Hand book exchange

5

ASSOCIATE Member, **Norma Grimes**, has agreed to take responsibility for the Club Library/Second-hand Book exchange and hopes that you will approve of the self-explanatory improvements made. She now needs your help to ensure that the improvements are maintained.

As before, a donation of 30p is requested for any book removed, which is yours to keep if you so wish.

However, if you return it to the library, please replace it in the correct place on the shelf or, if short of time, on the "**RETURNS**" shelf.

Donations of books in good condition are always welcome. If you donate a book to the library, please place it on the "**NEW STOCK**" shelf so that Club members can identify immediately what is "new" since they last looked.

Any comments about this simple system or any suggestions for further improvements would be most welcome.

Green etiquette

LEVELS of co-operation between Sections and standards of etiquette in our Club are generally of the highest standard. Occasionally, however, lapses do occur and the need to issue gentle reminders does arise. Members are reminded that County games and competitive League fixtures take precedence over Club events. Friendly, pre-arranged fixtures with other Clubs and Club competitions take precedence over roll-ups. Within this broad framework, Ladies and Men enjoy equal access rights to the green.

ALL pre-arranged games are to be recorded in advance in the Club Diary. Where any likely clash of interest between events of equal status is identified, the Member making the later entry in the Diary is responsible for contacting one of the previously registered players to seek agreement of the selection of rinks.

Any question of access that cannot be resolved in this way should be referred to the respective Captain(s). **Continued overleaf**

Gardening Group update

FIFTEEN members of the Gardening Group had lunch at the 'Flying Childers' followed by a visit to a lovely garden at Gaddesby.

The weather was ideal and the garden had many interesting features including some rare shrubs and topiary.

The latest meeting in the clubhouse was well attended and various items were discussed, including jobs to be carried out in July, various shrubs and perennials to consider growing and some of **Ray Dexter's** experiences as a judge at County shows.

The next visit will take place on Wednesday, July 22nd with lunch at the *Kings Arms* at Hathern followed by a tour round Wooton Gardens. Meet at the clubhouse at 11.15 a.m.

The date of the next meeting will be decided later when all the various bowling competitions have been taken into consideration.

New members always welcome.

player to find a line by showing a wood which identifies the line you want and gives him an idea of the weight he needs to play to finish in the desired place in the head.

Encourage your players to play the easier hand on the rink - to play the percentage shot rather than try a more tricky shot with higher risk attached.

Always try to find something positive to say to your players. Limit any negative remarks or criticisms to private exchanges in the clubhouse or changing room. In public always be supportive.

A Skip must always be "up in the head" - never short - in order to keep the game tight.

Think carefully before you decide on your own shot and, once decided, do not waver or be in two minds. If you are unsure - stop and reassess the situation. Only when you have confidence in your decision should you think of releasing your shot.

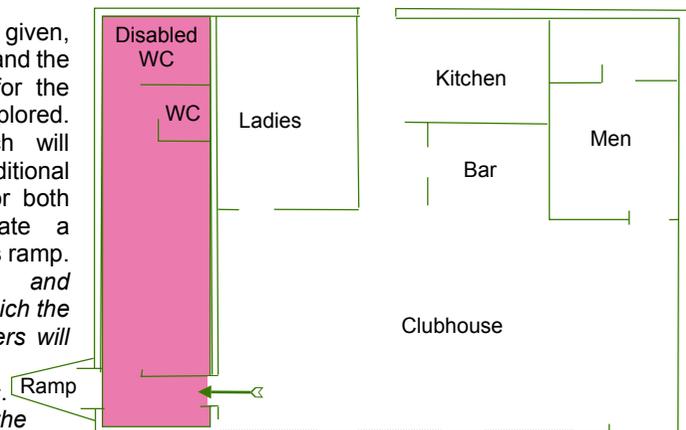
Above all, remember that a game is never over until the last wood has been bowled. Never "let your head drop" and show that you have lost interest in a game no matter how far behind you might be on the scorecard.

Clubhouse extension project launched

OUTLINE plans for a 9ft extension to the eastern side of the clubhouse have now been drawn up and approved by the Board. These will be submitted as soon as possible to the Council for planning permission approval.

Once approval has been given, the project will be costed and the possibility of grant aid for the construction will be explored. The new facility, which will provide much-needed additional changing room space for both Sections, will incorporate a disabled toilet and access ramp. "This is an exciting and challenging project for which the full support of all Members will be required," says Board Chairman, **Colin Grimes**.

"We would hope to have the new facility open within three



SCHEMATIC OF PROPOSED CLUBHOUSE EXTENSION

Keeping the clubhouse clean and tidy

THE BOARD has now approved arrangements for improvements to the cleaning of the clubhouse on a regular basis, including special additional cleaning for the men's toilet area.

It should not be necessary to ask that special care should be taken in the toilets. Health and hygiene risks should be obvious to all. But Men's Section Members are asked to keep the area in the same sort of condition that they would expect at home. In addition they are requested to keep the changing room area tidy, removing bags and other equipment whenever possible.

If it is necessary to leave equipment in the changing room, please make use of the hangers provided for clothing and ensure that all bags, shoes and woods are tidily stored under the benches and not left as a hazard where others might trip over them.

The Board are actively exploring the possibility of installing a limited number of lockers in changing rooms and in the store. Others might be provided as part of the planned extension to changing room facilities (See separate article on page 3) Further details of these plans will be announced in due course. In the meantime, gentlemen, your full co-operation in the matter of clubhouse tidiness and safety is urgently requested.

Funny facts

Q: WHY are many coin banks shaped like pigs?

A: Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called "pygg". When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as "pygg banks." When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

Q: Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called "passing the buck"?

A: In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility, he would "pass the buck" to the next player.

Women on women (Only words!)

- 1. WOMEN** over 50 don't have babies because we would put them down and forget where we left them.
- A friend of mine confused her Valium with her birth control pills.... She has 14 kids but doesn't really care.
- One of life's mysteries is how a 2-pound box of chocolates can make a woman gain 5 lbs.
- My mind not only wanders, it sometimes leaves completely.
- The best way to forget your troubles is to wear tight shoes.
- The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because, by then, your body and your fat are really good friends.
- Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.
- Sometimes I think I understand everything, and then I regain consciousness.
- I gave up jogging for my health when my thighs kept rubbing together and setting fire to my knickers.
- Amazing! You hang something in your wardrobe for a while and it shrinks 2 sizes!
- Skinny people irritate me! Especially when they say things like...'You know sometimes I forget to eat!'Now, I've forgotten my address, my mother's maiden name and my keys, but I have never forgotten to eat. You have to be a special kind of fool to forget to eat!
- The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing and then they marry him.

Cancellation

LACK OF support from invited Clubs has led to the cancellation of the **Joint Presidents' Charity Gala** scheduled for Sunday 22nd July.

The full-day format will now be carried forward to the **Men's President's Day** to be held on **Sunday 23rd August**

Members of both Sections are asked to watch the noticeboards for further details of this important day in the Club calendar and to give as much support as possible.