

Diary Dates

OCTOBER

- 10th Coffee Morning - 1030 hrs
 13th Men's Section Management Group
 1000 hrs
 14th Gardening Group monthly meeting in
 Clubhouse 1400 hrs

NOVEMBER

- 1st Club Cabaret Night - Johnny Casson
 & musical duo "Timeless" Snacks, full
 bar & raffle. Tickets £8.50
 4th Ladies' Section AGM - 1400 hrs
 7th Men's Presentation Night
 Hot Supper £5 1900 hrs
 14th Coffee Morning - 1030 hrs
 21st "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"
 Faith Supper + £1 1900 hrs

DECEMBER

- 5th Games Night
 Faith Supper + £1 1900 hrs
 7th Men's Section AGM 1900 hrs
 11th Gardening Group Xmas Supper
 Queen Victoria, Syston 1915 hrs
 12th Coffee Morning - 1030 hrs

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed: SBC

Winter indoor roll-ups

FOR MEMBERS who wish to continue bowling in the winter months, as in previous years, rinks have been booked for the 1150 hrs session on Monday mornings throughout the Close Season.

If you wish to participate, please arrive before 1130 hrs to allow good time to make the draw for teams and for the rink fees to be paid.

If any of your friends wish to join us, they will be made very welcome. Hopefully, this will encourage them to join our Club in seasons to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact **John Lambie** on 0116 2921619 should you require help or any further information.

Quality costs Concluded from p 2

Members are forewarned, however, that such an ambitious programme of growth and development is unlikely to be achieved while maintaining membership subscriptions at their current levels and/or without threat to our cash reserves.

Discussions will therefore take place throughout the Winter about future plans and

Web site development

THE CLUB web site has been further extended by the addition of two more pages. Under the new **HONOURS BOARDS** button, visitors can choose **Men's** or **Ladies'** sections where full details of Presidents, County Honours and Competition winners in the related Section can now be found.

This update makes the web site a valuable archive of Club history.

Thank you!

Says Catering Organiser,
Gerry Kennell

SPECIAL thanks are due to the volunteer team of ladies who have helped to serve the teas throughout the Season. On behalf of Club Members and our visitors, I offer my personal thanks for all your support and hard work which has been greatly appreciated and done so much to enhance the reputation of our Club.



49 Club update

LATEST lucky winners are:

Ken Renshaw, George Dodge, Mick Hall and Hazel Rayns

All **49 Club** members are asked to ensure that their subscriptions are kept fully up to date by paying their entry fees on a regular basis.

www.systonbowlingclub.org

for Diary, Fixtures, Results, Honours Boards, Press Releases, Newsletters, photos and other Club details

developments, associated finances and future membership subscription levels. If you have any strong views and opinions on the subject, please make them known to any Member of the Board, as they prepare to formulate resolutions on the issues involved, for consideration by the membership at the Club **AGM** in March 2010.



THE SYSTON GREEN



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 44 - October 2009

The Season in summary

Captains review overall performance



Ladies Section

THANK YOU all for supporting me as Captain. This being my last year in this position, I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed the "Oooh's" and "Aaah's" on the green and all of the fun we have had on the coach to away matches - especially when **Sandy**, our driver, presented us with a Magnum of Champagne at the end of our last Away game of the Season. This was shared and enjoyed by everyone who attended our Closing Day.

I would like to thank **Janice** and **Anita** for standing in for me on occasions. Finally, a special word of thanks to **Colin & George** for all their work in producing this Newsletter and looking after the web site.

Winter well, dear friends!

Ladies' results in summary 2009

P:21 W: 10 L: 11 F:1196 A: 1321 Diff:-125

Average shots scored per game: 64

Average shot deficit per game: -7

2008

P:25 W: 8 L: 17 F: 1224 A: 1394 Dif: -170

Average shots scored per game: 55

Average shot deficit per game 2008: -7

These figures show, for the second year in a row, just how close we are to registering a much better set of results. They also show improved performances in reducing the deficit from 170 shots to 125 and improving our average score per game from 55 to 64. Let's commit ourselves to making just that little extra effort next year to record more wins than losses.

Men's Saturday fixtures

2009

P:44 W: 15 D: 1 L: 28 F:3242 A: 3618 Diff: -376

Average shots scored per game: 64

Average shot deficit per game: -7

2008

P:43 W: 14 D: 0 L: 29 F: 3090 A: 3704 Dif: -614

Average shots scored per game: 55

Average shot deficit per game 2008: -7

I am pleased to able to report some improvement over last year in the overall shot difference but, with an average deficit of only 7 shots, we remain so very close to achieving

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



a major breakthrough in overall results performance.

Weekend games are friendlies, so winning is not as important as taking part, having fun, making new friends and meeting old ones. However, friendly matches do give our more competitive players a chance to practice and improve and for the Captain to observe how some players work together as a team.

We have shown, once again, that we are a happy Club - inviting to new Members - in which men and ladies mix very harmoniously and where all visitors can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome. We are not a club of "pot hunters". I must say how much I have enjoyed the banter in changing rooms and on the green. Such an approach to the game does help us to relax and play better.

Finally, I want to thank all Members for their active support throughout the Season and express special appreciation to the team of wonderful ladies who have worked to supply teas and refreshments as well as helping us out by playing in weekend matches.

Men's Midweek fixtures

2009

P:25 W: 9 L: 16 F:2039 A: 2259 Shots Diff:-220

Average shots scored per game: 82

Average shot deficit per game: -9 shots

2008

P:21 W: 9 L: 10 F: 1756 A: 1881 Shots Diff: -125

Average shots scored per game: 84

Average shot deficit per game: -6 shots

AS IT'S the end of the season I would like to make a few comments and offer a few special thanks.

From a playing point of view it's been a disappointing season overall, winning only 9 out of 21 matches with a shot difference worse than last Season. It was, however, pleasing to record our biggest win on the last day of the season beating **Market Overton** by 77 shots (127-50).

The biggest disappointment from my own point of view, as Captain, is that I think we have the players to do much better, but, as our Club Coach, **Des Eggitt** highlights again in this month's Newsletter, there seems, sometimes, to be a lack of concentration and competitiveness. I think if we all took notice of what's happening on the other rinks in the overall score, we would be more competitive.

I would like to thank all the players, men and ladies, who have played for the midweek teams this season. It is a pity that I have had to leave players out for some matches, but half of our fixtures required only 4 rinks. I would also like to thank **George Stone** who has been a great help throughout the Season as Vice-Captain.

Special thanks to **Roger Bentley**, who sets the rinks out on nearly every match day, although he doesn't play that often. This shows true dedication to the Club.

My biggest thanks must go to to **Verna** and **Gerry Kennell** and the volunteer team of ladies in the kitchen for the wonderful teas they provide. I'm sure we all appreciate the hard work that goes into this job - not only providing these teas, but laying out the tables and obtaining and preparing the food. It is people like these that make our club the envy of others.

Here's to a more successful season next year. It can't come too soon!

Quality costs!

THIS IS A CLUB with ambition! We all want a wonderful green, more room for changing facilities and a quality clubhouse and bar with comfortable furniture and fittings. We would strongly prefer to have control over the regular maintenance of the green by use of experienced specialist professionals rather than having to rely on the service provided by the Town Council.

The Board is striving to meet these reasonable membership expectations by careful planning and provident use of existing resources in terms of both annual revenue and modest existing cash reserves.

Concluded on back page



Competitions 2009

	Men	Ladies
4-Wood Singles		
Winner	Roy Hill	Kate Toon
Runner-up	Rob Wilbourn	Janice Wilbourn
2-Wood Singles		
Winner	Eric Hall	Josie Hubbard
Runner-up	Gordon Pell	Kate Toon
4-Wood Pairs		
Winners	Dave Hudson John Lester	Josie Hubbard Kate Toon
Runners-up	Pete Hancock Arthur Calver	Janet Lowe Margaret Abbott
Maidens' Singles		
Winner	Gerry Kennell	Bev Wright
Runner-up	Ray Dexter	Ruth Wheeler
Triples		
Winners	Gerry Kennell, Stan Page Ray Wood	Hazel Rayns Josie Hubbard Marjorie Clowes
Runners-up	Des Eggitt, Don Creasey James Evatt	Ruth Wheeler Marilyn Wood Janice Wilbourn
2-Wood Pairs		
Winners	Gerry Kennell Gordon Pell	Bev Wright Marilyn Wood
Runners-up	John Lambie Dave Hudson	Josie Hubbard Margaret Abbott
Mixed Pairs		
Winners	George Dodge Kate Toon	
Runners-up	Pete Hancock Kate Williams	
"Syston Town News" Mixed Pairs		
Winners	Janice Wilbourn Dave Hudson	
Runners-up	Eric Hall Bev Wright Roy Hill	
Losing Semi-finalists	Marilyn Wood Pete Hancock Chris Biddles	

CONGRATULATIONS! to all winners and commiserations to all others.

Competition Secretaries, **Margaret Abbott** and **Noel Evatt**, thank all competitors for keeping (broadly) to the published timetable allowing all competitions to be completed on schedule.

For future reference, however, as published in the September edition of this Newsletter, all Members are reminded that under no circumstances should competitors make their own private arrangements to complete a Club Competition Final without prior consultation with, and the subsequent approval of, the Section Competitions Secretary.

Finals Day - which is traditionally scheduled for the second Sunday in September - should be fully respected as an important feature of the Club's annual programme.

**Make yourself happy or miserable.
The amount of work is the same!**

Communication

"I have noticed that nothing I never said ever did me any harm"

Calvin Coolidge

"No man would ever listen to you talk if he didn't know that it was his turn next"

Ed Howe

Lady President's piece

AS IT is now fast approaching the end of my year as your President, I would like to thank everyone in both Ladies' and Men's Sections for the help given to me over the past year. Without your support, it



would have been really hard going at times. I am sure that the coming season (with the aid of a new green!) will be just as great for Ruth and that she will enjoy your continued support. Can I just remind the Ladies that we will be continuing our monthly luncheons programme during the closed season. Dates are as follows:

Tuesday 10th November – 12.30 for 1.00 pm **Presentation Lunch** at Beedles Lake

Wednesday 18th November - 12.30/1.00 pm **Lunch** when I will be presenting the cheque to **Rosemary Foster** for my chosen charity "**Arthritis Care – Syston**".

Wednesday 16th December - 12.30/1.00 pm – **Christmas Party** (Faith lunch).

Please remember to put your names down on the list.

Finally, may I remind you that our **AGM** will be on **Wednesday 4th November** at 2.00 p.m. when we look for a very strong turnout of all Members to enable us to take the first steps towards a very successful year in 2010.

Gardening Group update

THE MEETING held on 15th September opened with a discussion on jobs to be done in the Autumn, with particular emphasis on planting bulbs. **George Dodge** demonstrated how to produce a container with a variety of bulbs planted in layers to add more interest and prolong the flowering period. This was later raffled off and won by **Joan Hewitt**.

The members were informed that **Ruth Wheeler** had asked for some design ideas for her new garden and photographs were shown to illustrate existing features, obstacles, drains, etc. This will be an on-going project we can work on during future meetings.

It was decided that our last garden visit of the season would be arranged on Friday, **9th October** when the Group will visit **Barnsdale** with lunch beforehand in **Oakham**.

The green 3 What's happening?

FOLLOWING a slight delay due to holiday commitments, the contractor who provided the raw data for the survey of levels (retained via **Dave Upton**) is now talking directly to a specialist firm about the task of transforming that data into a contour map of the green. Results of these discussions and associated estimated costings for the mapping exercise are expected in the near future. The necessary levelling is scheduled for early Spring next year.

Sad to report that Council staff signally failed to arrange, as requested, a regular programme of watering of the green throughout September. This omission - again largely due to holiday commitments - has potentially slowed the anticipated rate of germination of the new seed. Following the return of groundsman, **David Smith**, from holiday, it is now expected that a regular programme of watering will be implemented.

Chris Mews, the retained specialist contractor responsible for the intensive treatment programme, has indicated that the verticutting, scarifying and re-seeding exercise, completed in week 1 after closure of the green, has revealed that the subsoil to the green is very seriously over-compacted and is in need of serious remedial attention. Following enquiries with relevant specialists, the Board has now approved a programme of air blast aeration at a total of £1550 plus VAT. This is in addition to the amount already identified for the intensive treatment programme taking already known costs well over the £5000 mark. Subject to weather conditions, this work will be carried out in late November/early December.

During the winter months we hope to make some indoor visits - with a garden theme where possible. It was agreed that members would meet for a Christmas meal to be held at the **Queen Victoria** in Syston on Friday, **11th December** at 7.15pm.

As we will soon be in winter time, with nights drawing in, it was decided that from now until the Spring, the Group will meet on Wednesday afternoons, starting on **14th October** at 2.00 p.m.

4 Des sez ... Men's Captain & Club Coach, Des Eggitt, urges greater concentration

ALL-TOO-OFTEN I see Leads picking up both the jack and their first wood as they prepare to set the jack to start the head. Setting the jack and delivering your first wood should be regarded as totally distinct actions each one of which separately requires 100% concentration.

Top quality players keep the two processes quite separate. They give total concentration to setting the jack before stepping back to pick up their first wood. Whatever position a top quality player is occupying, if he/she is distracted while preparing a delivery, you will note that he/she steps off the mat to start the process of concentration afresh. This often means dropping the originally selected wood and replacing it with another to assist in this process.

The process of concentration starts when you pick up your wood. Check bias and grip; look for a line from behind the mat; step on to the mat with feet in the correct position to enable you to achieve your selected line; bring back the arm and swing it through the desired line, as you step forward, following through to finish with palm upwards, fingers pointing along the selected line.

Then stay on the mat to see how your shot finishes up!

In the course of a game - whether a friendly or in a competition - you often fall into conversation with fellow players between bowls or get distracted by other events around the green or on other rinks. Always use the picking up of your next wood as the signal to start the process of concentration (*bias, grip, determination of line, occupy mat, smooth delivery along the chosen line, watch results*). Repeat the procedure every time you pick up a wood and remain fully concentrated until your delivery comes to rest. You will be surprised just how much your performance will improve if you follow this simple advice.

Finally, this month, remember that you should **NEVER** lose the belief in your ability to change a head from shot down to at least one shot up with your last wood.

Section AGMs 2009 Club Chairman, Colin Grimes, appeals for "new blood"

IT'S THAT time of year again!

The Ladies' Section AGM will be held on **Wednesday 4th November**. The Men's Section will follow on **Monday 7th December**. Please refer to the noticeboards for more detailed information on each event.



At the **AGM**, the Officers and Committees of the Club have to present their reports to the membership and invite comment on the way in which membership interests have been handled in the course of the year. Members are entitled to inspect the accounts for the year as part of the evaluation process. Then each meeting will conduct the most important piece of business in the Club calendar by electing the Officers and Committees for the year ahead.

At this point, the majority of Members usually try to appear small and inconspicuous to avoid attracting attention in the hope that "the usual suspects" will once again loyally volunteer to undertake the work and responsibility involved. All Members are urged to give serious consideration to getting involved in the increasingly wide range of duties and responsibilities involved in the running of a successful Club and to enable the workload to be spread fairly and equitably. It is grossly unfair - and not in the best interests of the future of the Club - for the "many" to sit back and let the "few" continue to carry the burden.

Of course, a measure of continuity is a good thing but it is not as important as the injection of new blood and new thinking into the system. "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always had" reminds us that without new thinking there can be little hope of progress. Without progress, the organisation will wither away and die. In Syston, we have a thriving and growing Club because we're not afraid to embrace new thinking. Let's keep up that spirit and let's see some new faces around the Committee tables and let's benefit from new ideas on the way forward. **Who knows? You might enjoy the experience!**