

## NOVEMBER

17th SBC Board meeting 0900hrs  
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

2010

## JANUARY

9th Coffee Morning  
Sunday Tourists' New Year get together  
23rd Cheese & Wine Evening with special guest £3.50 1900 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.

## 49 Club update

**LATEST** lucky winners are:

**Margaret Morris, Alan Ward (x2!) Ray Wood and Ken Renshaw**

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](http://www.systonbowlingclub.org)

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

## Letter to the Editor

**"IN REPLY** to the October article "**The Green: What's Happening?**" I, too, was sad. Sad to detect some "tabloid sensationalism" (which) had crept into the report which I suspect was ideal to further the Club's plan to take over the responsibility for the green and to portray the STC staff in a bad light." (The letter goes on to explain that before setting off on a well-earned two week holiday on 18th September, in collaboration with our specialist contractor, groundsman **David Smith** had set the automatic watering timer programme to operate for one night per week.)

The letter closes:

*"You will see that the STC groundstaff could not have failed to arrange the watering of the green throughout September" as the programme of (remedial) work did not finish until 18th September."*

**Editor:** We are more than happy to apologise to **David Smith** and his groundstaff colleagues for any perceived attack on their integrity that the October article might have suggested. **Such was never our intention.**

*The article sought to report that during the final week of September, our specialist contractor drew our attention to the very dry state of the green with minimal evidence of germination as a result. The evidence strongly suggested that there had been no watering for an extended period of time since the finish of the remedial programme on 18th September.*

*Senior members of the Executive Committee therefore took appropriate steps to manually operate the sprinkler system on alternate days for a six day period until David returned from his holidays. In so doing, they had cause to alter the settings on the system and thereby made it impossible to tell whether the settings originally made by David, in good faith, on 18th September had remained operative throughout the intervening period.*

*At no time did we seek to point fingers or apportion blame. Our overriding concern was - and remains - the successful outcome to the (expensive) remedial programme that we have commissioned.*

*In our dealings with the Council as we have negotiated the terms of the new Lease, we have repeatedly paid tribute to the standard of service we have enjoyed from STC groundstaff.*



# THE SYSTON GREEN

"We will remember them"



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 45 - November 2009

## Lease renewal negotiations successfully concluded

### Town Council happy to concede full control to the Club

**AT THEIR** meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2009, the Syston Town Council formally approved the terms of a further 28 year lease of the bowling green to the Syston Bowling Club. With effect from 1st November 2009, and in return for an annual "peppercorn" rent, the Club has assumed full and independent responsibility for the maintenance of the green and perimeter hedging with no obligation to keep two rinks available at all times for "public" use. The Club is no longer obliged to make use of the services of the STC groundstaff and is free to negotiate contracts with independent, specialist contractors to provide the necessary maintenance and development work.

Board Chairman, **Colin Grimes**, gave a warm welcome to this news. "This new agreement gives our Club membership everything that we wanted. In the face of some scepticism - and strong opposition from other vested interests - we were able to demonstrate to the Council the sense of these new arrangements and persuade them of the range of savings they can make by freeing up their staff for a wide and growing range of other horticultural duties throughout the Town. Both parties can therefore feel pleased that they have come away from the negotiations with benefit.

### Challenges for Members

At the same time, however, Members have to recognise the challenges that the new situation will bring to the Club. If we are to develop our green once again as one of the best in the County, maintenance costs will inevitably increase.

We have traditionally carried out some of the peripheral maintenance work ourselves - such as the matting in the ditches, care of the surrounding apron, benches etc. It is likely that the range and nature of such self-

help tasks will need to be expanded if we are to get best value for money from retained specialist contractors. I am thinking especially of such things as hedge cutting and maintenance, strimming the edges of the green - and so on - for which it would probably not be cost-effective to leave in the hands of expensive specialists.

In any case, it has to be recognised that the costs of maintenance **will** rise - probably significantly - if we are to get the best service. This **could** lead to the need for an increase in membership subscriptions. Members should be assured, however, that any decision to recommend such an increase will not be made lightly by the Board. Full and reasoned argument will be placed before the membership in General Meeting should such prove necessary.

### Tribute

At this important stage in the development of the Club, it would be wrong if we did not recognise and pay full tribute to the excellent support we have had over many years from the STC groundstaff in general and from **David Smith**, in particular. It would

**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

be entirely wrong to view the Club's desire for independent control over the maintenance of the green as a strong vote of "No confidence" in David. He, in particular, has worked long and hard - often under difficult circumstances - to give us a top-quality service. I know from personal experience how keen and committed he has been to the best interests of our Club and hope to have an opportunity at the forthcoming Men's AGM to express a personal and sincere vote of thanks to him for his work on behalf of the Club.

## Gardening Group update

Early in October, the Garden Group enjoyed at trip to **Barnsdale Gardens** in Rutland. We were lucky enough to have lovely weather for the occasion and enjoyed a very good lunch at a small bistro in Oakham before touring the gardens.



So impressed were we that it was

decided to have another outing there in either late Spring or early Summer next year.

The usual monthly garden group meeting was held the following week and the number of members still seems to be growing. We



discussed the jobs needing to be carried out before the garden is put to bed for winter and more time was given to looking at ideas and designs for **Ruth Wheeler's** garden.

Menus were handed out for the Christmas meal at the **Queen Victoria** on 11th December (*all welcome!*) and there was a good selection of plants and seeds to buy. The Group's next regular monthly meeting will be held in the clubhouse on Friday, 13th November, starting at 2.00 p.m.

**Know your garden**  
If you water it and it dies  
- it's a plant.

If you pull it up and it grows back -  
it's a weed!

## Men's Club AGM

### Election of Executive Committee

**NOMINATIONS** are invited for Members to serve on the Executive Committee of the Men's Section.

At the time of going to press, receipt of the nominations identified below have been confirmed but it must be stressed that **further nominations may be made for any of the posts up to the point at which a ballot is called at the AGM which is scheduled for Monday 7th December, 2009** starting at 7.00 p.m.

The position of **Welfare Officer** was created by the Executive Committee from the post of **Second Vice-President** after **Arthur Calver**, the incumbent, elected at the 2008 AGM, had signalled his unwillingness to continue in that role.

It is the Executive Committee's strong view that the important work that **Arthur** has undertaken in the welfare role should be sustained. The AGM will therefore be commended to accept a proposal from the Executive that the creation of the post of **Welfare Officer** (to replace what was originally **Member without Portfolio**) should be confirmed.

POST	NOMINEE
<b>President:</b>	<i>Pete Murray</i>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<i>George Dodge</i>
<b>Club Secretary:</b>	<i>Rob Wilbourn</i>
<b>Asst. Secretary:</b>	<i>Colin Grimes</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Rolf Meyer</i>
<b>Captain:</b>	<i>Myles Clare</i>
<b>Midweek Captain:</b>	<i>George Stone</i>
<b>Competitions Secretary:</b>	<i>Noel Evatt</i>
<b>Fixture Secretary:</b>	<i>George Dodge</i>
<b>Welfare Officer:</b>	<i>Vacancy</i>
<b>Vice-Captains:</b>	<i>Ken Renshaw</i> <i>Vacancy</i>
<b>Catering Manager:</b>	<i>Gerry Kennell</i>
<b>Loughborough League Capt.:</b>	<i>Brian Adams</i>
<b>Melton League Captain:</b>	<i>Dave Hudson</i>

## Ladies Section AGM

### Chris Biddles reports



**THE LADIES'** Section AGM, held on Wednesday 4th November was very well-supported by Members.

Before the start of formal business, President, **Janice Wilbourn**, asked for a minute's silence to be observed in respectful memory of **Dorothy Draycott** and **Edith Selvidge**.

Secretary, **Chris Biddles**, presented a summary of the year's

events and thanked all Officers for their hard work throughout the year. She paid tribute to the work of **Janice Wilbourn** who had been an excellent President. Nothing had been too much trouble for her.

Reporting, with regret, that **Marjorie Clowes**, had decided to retire from the Captaincy, she described **Marjorie** as having been at the heart of the Club for many years and that the membership owed her a deep debt of gratitude for her exemplary service.

**Chris** then confirmed that she, too, had decided to retire from the post of Secretary. She said that she had really enjoyed her 11 years of service on the Committee during which time she had seen many changes - some sad and some happy. She spoke of the likelihood of many more challenges and changes in the future with Bowls England, unification etc., and she felt that it was time for "new blood" to take over. She offered the new Secretary her full support and guidance.

On a personal note, **Chris** mentioned that 14th August had been a very special day in her life when she received her County Badge after her third County game at Wymondham, Norfolk. She explained that the winners and runners-up in each of the Club 2-wood and 4-wood Singles Competitions were eligible for selection for a County game and urged each of this year's winners to accept the challenge. After three County games, the County Badge is awarded. Although the games involved are only friendlies, one does get a deal of satisfaction and a feeling of honour to be playing for Leicestershire.

Following this address, County Delegate, **Doreen Payne**, presented a brief report at the end of which a proposal was made for **Doreen** to be recommended for Life

Membership of the Club. Members were reminded that **Doreen** has been a Member for 32 years. She held the office of President in 1988, 1993 and 2003. She was County President in 1998 and has also held the post of County Competitions Secretary. She is the current Club delegate to the **LLCBA**.

On being put to the meeting, the proposal was unanimously endorsed.

Election of Officers for 2009/10 was then completed with the following results:



**President:** Ruth Wheeler

**Senior Vice-President:** Chris Biddles

**Junior Vice-President:** Sheila Parker

**Secretary:** Val Foreman

**Treasurer:** Marion Hegginson

**Captain:** Janice Wilbourn

**Vice-Captain:** Kate Williams

**Match Secretary:** Doreen Payne

**Competitions Secretary:** Margaret Abbott

**LLCBA Delegate:** Doreen Payne

**Tea Hostess:** Betty Wheatley

**Committee Members:** Barbara Brown

Anita Lowder

Margaret Porter

Hazel Rayns



*As you get older, your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either!*

## Men's Presentation night in pictures 3

Thanks to Roger Bentley



1. The "A" Team without whose support the event would have foundered.
2. **Jayant Mistry**, receives a cheque for the Leicester Cobras
3. **Roy Hill**, Club Champion 2009
4. **Eric Hall**, 2-Wood Champion
5. **Gerry Kennell**, Maidens Singles Winner
6. **Ken Renshaw & Gordon Pell**, 2-Wood Pairs Winners
7. **George Dodge & Kate Toon** 4-Wood Mixed Pairs Winners



These pictures, and many more, are available to view and download on the Club web site [www.systonbowlingclub.org](http://www.systonbowlingclub.org)

## Cassons comic cabaret success

A **CAPACITY** crowd of members and friends enjoyed a great night of entertainment recently when comedian, **Johnny Casson** and musical duo 'Timeless' featured in the Club Cabaret Night in the Clubhouse.

**Johnny** proved to be a very popular choice calling on an extensive repertoire of gags and stories and the musical duo brought back many happy memories of songs of the 50's and 60's.

Thanks must go to **Brian Adams** for arranging the entertainment, **Kate Toon** and **Pete Murray** for manning the bar and **Margaret Abbot** and **Chris Biddles** for the catering.

## Men's Presentation Night 4



8. **Ray Wood, Gerry Kennell & Stan Page** (sub for **John Lambie**) - Triples Championship
9. **John Lester & Dave Hudson** - 4-Wood Pairs Winners
10. **Dave Hudson & Janice Wilbourn** - "Syston Town News" Mixed Pairs Winners (with **Norma**, wife of President, **Colin Grimes** making the presentation)
11. **Verna Kennell** receives a presentation from Competitions Secretary, **Noel Evatt** as a token of appreciation for her excellent and highly appreciated work in the kitchen throughout the Season.

He congratulated **Noel Evatt** for his work as Competitions Secretary and, in thanking Members for a record entry, commended Competitions as a way of getting to know more Members and of improving the quality of play and enjoyment of the game. Once again, he paid tribute to the Ladies' Section for their continued active support for the Men's Section - especially in the supply of catering for special events - without which the Section would find it difficult to function.

In his opening address, President **Colin Grimes** spoke of his disappointment that it had not proved possible to organise a **Finals Day** in the 2009 Season. He stressed the importance of **Finals Day** in the Club Calendar and made it clear that all competition entrants, in future, would be required to commit to make themselves available for the second Sunday in September, should they reach a Final, in order that the event be fully protected in future years.

### Early Season's Greetings MICK & ZENA HALL

who have travelled to Malaysia to visit family, have asked that their warmest best wishes for Christmas and the New Year be passed on to all Members of the Club.

They are due back in the UK on 16th January.

We wish them "**Bon Voyage!**"