

MARCH

- 13th Coffee Morning
- 17th Club afternoon social 1400 hrs start
- 22nd SBC AGM - 1900 hrs start
- 24th Ladies lunch
- 26th "Meet the President" Night 7.00 p.m.

APRIL

- 5th Official opening of the green
- 10th Ladies v Men 2.30 p.m.
- 14th Opening Day
- 17th Scotlands (H)
- Belgrave (A)
- Glenfield (A)
- 21st Holwell (H)
- 22nd Closing date for Competition entries
- 23rd Western Park (H)
- 24th Little Bowden (A)
- 26th Blaby (H)
- 28th St Margarets (A)
- 29th Oakham (H)

MAY

- 1st Birstall (H)
- Holwell (A)
- 3rd Crusaders (H)
- 4th Keyworth (H)
- 6th Enderby (A)
- Belgrave (A)
- 8th Coffee Morning
- St Margarets (H)
- Knighthon Victoria (A)
- 10th Hawks (H)
- 12th Goodwood (H)

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed: SBC

President Ruth Wheeler - concluded

and acceptable to the Customs authorities in the recipient countries. If any Member would like to make up a box or to contribute small items to help us with this project, I would be very grateful. I have leaflets offering guidance and **Verna Kennell** has offered to supply boxes if required.

President Pete Murray - concluded

can give by promoting entries from families and friends would be greatly appreciated. Finally I urge you all to support your club and its committees in every way that you can and enjoy the facilities and friendship available.

Recruitment

Club Chairman urges action



AS I have said on many occasions, "There is no better recruiting sergeant than a happy soldier" and there is nothing more effective as a recruitment tool than word of mouth, personal invitation and commendation. When

you speak with pride and enthusiasm about what you get from your Club membership, others will be naturally attracted. If you personally invite a potential Member to the clubhouse, you help to avoid and overcome that very difficult and uncomfortable first hurdle of entering an unusual environment in which you feel like an "outsider". Similarly, if you see someone coming into the club who appears uncertain and unsure of him/herself, make a special effort to introduce yourself and be welcoming.

New membership is the lifeblood of our Club. While we have continued to do quite well over recent years and have maintained a steady (if modest) growth in membership, we can - and must - do better if the future of the Club is to be assured.

Our Ladies' Section, in particular, is in urgent need of new Members if they are to be in a position to fulfil their schedule of fixtures with a full complement of players on each occasion. I appeal to each one of you to do everything possible to help in this respect.

We still have supplies of promotional cards to give to anyone expressing an interest giving contact numbers and summarising membership benefits. These can also be posted on notice boards in local shops, Post Offices, churches, community centres and other places where community-based display advertising is featured.

The start of the Season is the perfect time to promote membership with all of the value-added benefits that it brings. Please play your part. **Let's each try to bring in at least one new Member this year.**



THE SYSTON GREEN



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 48 - March 2010

Presidents' pre-season briefings

Ruth Wheeler and Pete Murray express high hopes

AS the outdoor season is near, we watch the progress of our green repairs and look forward to playing on its transformed surface.

Colin's tireless work for our Club is very much appreciated. We continue to support him and the Board as they carry out their responsibilities on our behalf. We look forward with great enthusiasm to a very successful and enjoyable season.

MANY of you will remember that **Dot Roberts**, one of our Life Members, went into hospital following a stroke. She was transferred to Coalville Community Hospital for rehabilitation and is now showing some improvement. When **Chris Biddles** and I visited her recently she seemed to be in fairly good spirits and able to enjoy a joke or two. It will be her 90th birthday in April. Her daughter is looking for a care home in or near Loughborough as **Dot** will be unable to go home. If anyone is able to visit her, I'm sure she would appreciate it. **Chris** will inform us if she is transferred elsewhere.

Our Ladies' luncheons continue to be very well-attended and, of course, we enjoy sumptuous food!

As a practical project, I support the charity "Operation Christmas Child" which sends shoe boxes filled with small gifts for children in Third World countries - most of whom have never received a Christmas present before. At our February luncheon meeting, **Marjorie Underwood** from the charity came to demonstrate the sort of small items which are appropriate - **Concluded on back page**



WE are only 4 weeks away from the opening match of the 2010 season - the traditional **Syston Men v Syston Ladies** - and it can't come soon enough. I'm sure we are all looking forward to bowling outdoors again after what seems a very long winter.

The green is looking better than we dared to hope it would at the end of last season and I'm sure that **Chris Mews (The Green Machine)** will provide a top class playing surface.

I would like to remind everyone that the club's AGM is on **Monday 22nd March** and I urge you all to attend.

It won't be too long before the availability sheets go up for the new season so please help your Captains by making yourselves available for as many games as possible and by putting your names down as soon as the sheets go up. The Captains' jobs are not easy at the best of times, but you can all make life easier for them by informing them of any change of circumstances that might prevent you playing.

I think the standard of bowling in the club has been getting better during the last few years so I am very confident that, providing we concentrate, we will win far more matches than we lose.

As you may know the Men's chosen charity this year is **Wishes4Kids** and I shall be running a picture quiz throughout the year at a cost of £1 per entry with three cash prizes of **£25, £10, and £5** for the winners. Any help that Members **Concluded on back page**



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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

Des Sez ...

Club coach offers some pre-season advice

1. **A WOOD** will more readily do what is required of it if the fundamental principles of grip, stance and delivery, as taught, are closely followed.
2. Knowledge, skill and determination are the railroads to success in bowling. Getting on the jack is an art.
3. Taking green is a split-second determination of the vision prior to judgment of length. Don't look at the jack during this process. Once you have instinctively decided on line and length, avoid the temptation of last-minute change as you prepare to deliver. Remain consistently focussed in accordance with your initial judgement. Or step back completely from the mat and start the whole process over again.
4. Silence begets good length. Talk a lot and you'll soon lose it.
5. Look the part and wear your uniform with pride. Even if you are a beginner and nowhere near the standard of a County bowler, to be correctly dressed not only stamps you as a serious participant, keen to improve and one who takes his game seriously, but it also reflects credit on your fellow players and your Club in general.



49 Club update

LATEST lucky winners are:

Mark Newman, Betty Wheatley, Ken Renshaw and Margaret Porter

49 Club members are reminded that March is the last month in the current Club "year". Under current rules, unless you notify **Anita Lowder** that you do not intend to sustain membership after the end of March, you will automatically be assumed to wish to sustain your involvement for a further year and will be held responsible for paying a whole year's entry fees through to March 2011.

Ladies! Captain Janice Wilbourn

AS the outdoor bowling season is fast approaching, could I remind all ladies to check the notice board for fixtures and add your names if you are available to play. When selection has been made, please tick your name off. May I also remind ladies that when your name is highlighted in green, it signifies that you are required for green duty and you should arrive at the bowling club no later than 1.15 pm to ensure that the greens are set up before the visiting team arrives. Thanking you in anticipation of your cooperation and hoping that you all have a good season.



Gardening Group update

THE Garden Group recently celebrated its first birthday and to mark the occasion a special meeting was held and was attended by about 25 people including several guests. **Kate** and **John Ward** entertained us with information and photographs on 'Gardens to visit throughout the Year' - a most enjoyable presentation which gave everyone plenty of ideas for future garden visits. Tea and cake were served during which **Kate** and **John** answered questions and addressed problems raised by the audience. A letter from **Kate** was received afterwards thanking us for such a pleasant afternoon and congratulating us for having such enthusiastic members.

It was agreed that, as the weather is so unpredictable at the moment, we would not visit a garden this month but would meet next on **Friday, 12th March** at 12 o'clock at the Clubhouse before travelling to have a meal at the **Red Lion** at Rothley and to discuss further plans.

Everyone welcome!

Sunday 11th April - See Noticeboard for details of a special event

Pause for thought

1. Do you see ME?

What do you see nurses? What do you see?
What are you thinking when you're looking at me?
A crabby old dodderer, not very wise, uncertain of habit
with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles and drools and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice 'I do wish you'd try!';
Who seems not to notice the things that you do.
And forever is losing a sock or shoe?
Who, resisting or not, lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding the long day to fill?

Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse you're not looking at ME!

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another.
A young kid of sixteen with wings on my feet.
Dreaming that soon now a lover I'll meet.
To wed soon at twenty my heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five, now I have young of my own
Who need me to guide and a secure happy home.
An adult of thirty my young now grown fast,
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone,
But my spouse is beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty, once more, babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children - my loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me - my spouse is now dead.
I look at the future and shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years and the love that I've known.

I'm now an old pensioner and nature is cruel.
'Tis jest to take old age for a fool.
The body, it crumbles, grace and vigour, depart.
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass a youngster still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys - I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years, all too few, gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.

So open your eyes, people ! Open and see.
Not a crabby old dodderer. **Look closer!** ... See **ME!!**

2. Thoughts of Spring

As long as in the Spring I find
A certain game to fill my mind.
When Winter's wandering steps
do end
Back to the bowling green they
bend.
As long as weather will allow
To bowls, some time I will
endow.

E.R.

Submitted by Chris Biddles

Jess Conrad does it again!

THE evening concert on Sunday 7th March was truly a concert to remember. **Jackie Lee** started the evening rocking with many of our favourite songs and a little banter to help things along. After a short break for refreshments and the raffle - the man him self,

Jess Conrad dominated the room with his personality, his voice, his talent and his charisma. He just wowed us with his well known songs and his enthusiastic charm.

Jackie Lee brilliantly assisted **Jess** with sound track backing and then continued with her own superb performance well into the late evening.

A big thank you to both artistes and we look forward to seeing them again.

Thanks must also go to **Brian Adams** for organising this evening. Thanks too to **Anita Lowder** - for the catering with such a wonderful variety of cobs with all the trimmings - to **Pete Murray, Kate Toon** and **Dave Hudson** - for their excellent bar service - and to all those who in so many ways make an evening such as this go so smoothly including all those who were in attendance.