

AUGUST

14th	Coffee Morning Batram (Mixed) H Wymeswold (Mixed) A
16th	Merlins (Soar Valley) A 2 p.m. start Humberstone H
18th	Rotary Club (Mixed) 6.30 p.m. start
19th	Belgrave A Knighton Victoria H
20th	Men's Triples Competition Q/Final
21st	Knighton Victoria H Thringstone A
22nd	Melton Trips K O Cup H 1 p.m. start
23rd	Willows (East Leake) H 2 p.m. start
25th	Leicester Banks A
26th	Enderby H
28th	Wymeswold (Mixed) H Birstall A

SEPTEMBER

1st	Belvoir Vale A
2nd	Nuneaton H
3rd	Men's Triples Competition S/Final
4th	Greenwood Cup
5th	Market Overton TB Trophy A 1 p.m.
7th	Keyworth (Mixed) A
9th	Melton Town A Sibley A
10th	Men's Triples Competition - Final
11th	Coffee Morning Kirby Muxloe H Leicester Banks (Mixed Trips) A
12th	Men's Competitions Finals Day
14th	Birstall H Keyworth A
15th	Leicester Ladies H
16th	Countesthorpe A
18th	Soar Valley H Batram A
20th	Western Park H
22nd	Closing Day H
23rd	Holwell A
25th	Oakham H Rothley (Mixed) A
29th	Market Overton H
30th	Barlestone (Triples) H

OCTOBER

2nd Mowmacre (Mixed) H
PLEASE note that the Men's Handbook wrongly signals an "extra" Home match against Enderby on 19th August.
Apologies for any confusion!

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed: SBC

Letter to the Editor

AS Ladies' Captain, I feel that I must respond to the Editor's comments in the July issue regarding the Ladies' performances in matches to date.

I can assure you that all the ladies have played to the best of their ability at all times and the results are not a true reflection of their efforts. As you are aware, we do not have a surplus of active members and we frequently have to rely on a main core of "regulars" for many matches. Neither do the results show how much enjoyment is gained from taking part in these matches, many of which have only been lost by a few shots. Enjoying the game is of paramount importance; winning is a bonus. JW

Editor's response: No criticism of the commitment of the Ladies was intended. Having presented the statistics for both Sections, the article sought to clarify and explain their meaning and significance. Indeed, your letter simply repeats some of the analysis of the figures which was offered - especially the current shortage of Lady players and the overriding importance of enjoyment - no matter what the result. It is taken as a given that we all do our best on the green. Most important, any suggestion or suspicion that, in presenting the analysis, one Section of the Club might be trying to "do down" the other is simply not worthy of consideration. This is not the spirit which permeates our fine Club where integration, harmony and mutual respect between the Sections is exemplary. CG

Rockingham Castle excursion

On-site licensed waitress service tea rooms are open from 12 noon serving hot and cold lunches and afternoon teas. There is also a gift shop.

At 9.15 a.m. the coach is scheduled to pick up at Aylestone Leisure Centre, where there is ample free parking, and subsequently at Humberstone Gate (outside of Sainsbury's) at about 9.30 a.m. Return times will be decided on the day but the bus is usually back in Leicester by about 5.30 p.m.

"Left to themselves, things will always go from bad to worse!"

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THE SYSTON GREEN



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 53 - August 2010

Men's President salutes Members

Results in the current Season to date are "best for many years."

On Friday, 9th July, Members joined in a special game followed by a meal in the Clubhouse to celebrate the 2010 presidency of **Pete Murray**.

In the game, the President's team recorded a valiant second place, conceding victory to the Vice-President's team led by **George Dodge**. The charity "spider" which preceded the game was won by **Ray Wood**.

At the end of an excellent meal, prepared by Members of the Ladies' Section, led by **Janice Wilbourn** and **Anita Lowder**, President **Pete** celebrated what he described as *"the best Club performance for many years."* He said, *"None of us can remember the last time we recorded such a fine set of figures. Let's hope that we can sustain the improvement on both an individual and team basis - without becoming too competitive and while maintaining enjoyment of the game as our prime motivation."* (At the time of the celebration, the Men's Club had lost only 9 games out of 33 played and had generated a shot difference of +277.) He went on: *"Perhaps the improved playing surface of our own green has played its part in lifting confidence. Perhaps we're now seeing the benefits of the great spirit of camaraderie and friendship which has developed within our great little Club over the past few years. Whatever the reason, I thank and congratulate everyone involved."*

The President also took the opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the wider membership, to those individual Members who have worked so hard to make his presidency a success.

He made special presentations to Club Captain, **Myles Clare**, Club Secretary, **Rob Wilbourn**, Vice-President, **George Dodge**, Club Coach, **Des Eggitt**, Catering Manager, **Gerry Kennell** and his wife **Verna**, Green Ranger, **Roger Bentley**, Melton Triples League Captain, **Dave Hudson** and Chairman of the Club Board of Directors, **Colin Grimes**.

He pointed to the debt of gratitude owed by the Men to the Ladies' Section for their help and support both on and off the green. Presentations were then made to the Ladies' President, **Ruth Wheeler** and Ladies'



President Pete Murray and wife Marlene

Captain, **Janice Wilbourn** together with **Josie Hubbard**, **Anita Lowder**, **Kate Toon** and **Kate Williams**.

Bouquets were also presented to **Marlene Murray**, **Christine Dodge** and **Norma Grimes**, without whose active support and patience, as wives, the Officers would not have been able to carry out their duties to the Club.

Finally, President **Pete** thanked everyone for their tremendous support for his nominated charity, **Wishes4Kids**, announcing that a further £160 had been raised through the evening's raffle.

49 Club update

LATEST lucky winners are: **John Lester**, **Marilyn Wood**, **Len Smith**, **Kate Williams** and **Rob Wilbourn**

*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*

Proposed Clubhouse extension

Fundraising ideas sought

THE BOARD of Directors have now started the process of applying for grants from a range of agencies to help to meet the cost of the proposed extension to clubhouse changing facilities. There is no way in which we can assess our chances of success but, in the current economic climate, we should obviously not be too optimistic.

Planning permission has already been granted and initial quotes indicate that we will need to find close to £40,000 to complete the work involved.

While we await the outcome of our bids for grant aid, we make an appeal to all Members to think of ways in which we might raise funds from other sources in order to be in a position to initiate the work with the minimum of further delay.

Your ideas and suggestions should be submitted to **Anita Lowder**, in her capacity as Social Director. She and her sub-committee will then be in a position to evaluate the merits of each suggestion to make recommendations to the Board and, where appropriate, integrate suggestions for fundraising events into the Club's social calendar.

Anyone who might be in a position to make a direct cash donation should contact Finance Director, **Rolf Meyer** for a special form. Under the terms of our **CASC** registration, we are able to take advantage of Gift Aid arrangements allowing us to increase the value of any donations by 28%.

Gardening Group news

AT a recent meeting of the Gardening Group we started by discussing jobs to be carried out in July and August and then moved outside to talk about ideas for enhancing the appearance around the green by providing some type of containers and seasonal planting. Everyone gave their opinion and it was decided to concentrate on the area beneath the old scoreboard as the first part of the project. It was emphasized that if we undertake this commitment as a group, members must be prepared to see the project through and when necessary get involved in round the year maintenance. Everyone agreed that this would be an interesting project for us to undertake. However, before any work can begin, this proposal will need to be approved by the Board.

The July visit was to **The Park House Gardens**, Glaston, and once again we were very lucky with the weather. The group had lunch at the **Queen Victoria** in Syston before visiting the gardens.

These proved to be spectacular and the lady of the house, **Jan Makings**, conducted the tour and explained the history and future plans for the garden. This proved to be one of the best visits so far and it was agreed we would return next year, probably in the Springtime.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 17th August** starting at 7.0 pm. The next visit, which will be held on 3rd September, will be to **Coton Manor**, Northamptonshire. Full details will be posted on the noticeboards in both cloakrooms in due course.

Excursion to Rockingham Castle

BRITISH GAS Retired Employees' Association once again extends an invitation to SBC Members to join in their next excursion. On **Tuesday 7th September**, the destination will be **Rockingham Castle** and gardens with a coffee stop *en route*. The cost to SBC Members will be **£15**.

The Castle has been the residence of the Watson family for 450 years. As well as being an ancient castle, it is also a contemporary home for the present young family. It was built on the instructions of William the Conqueror and has, of course, been modified over the years. 18 acres of gardens, parts of which are 400 years old, contain a remarkable collection of plants and trees.

Concluded on back page

The Season so far in summary

Ladies' Section

PLEASE note that the Ladies' mid-season statistics published last month should have read as follows:

P: 12 (10) W: 4 (3) L: 8 (7) Shot Diff: -67 (-97)
(2009 Season figures in brackets)

The loss to **Evington** has been included in the matches played figures but, in the absence of the match score, the deficit is not included in the Shot Difference total. (See also **Letter on back page**)

Current situation (at 9th August)

As the updated statistics show, over the past month in inter-Club friendlies, the Men have sustained early performance levels and are also doing well in the **Loughborough** and **Melton & District Triples Leagues**.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Shot Diff
Men's Saturday	33	22	0	11	+138
Men's Weekday	16	8	0	8	+69
Ladies	20	7	0	13	-80

The Loughborough Monday Triples League Division 2 at 2nd August

	P	Shot Wins	Shot Diff	Rink Wins	Points	Position
White Plums	12	7	-41	17	48	4/9

The Melton & District Triples League Final Placing

	P	Rink Wins	Rinks Lost	Drawn	Points	Position
Syston	5	10	6	0	23	3/6

Syston were top of the League going into the final match of the Season

Syston Carnival

Club to repeat efforts

BOTH SECTIONS of the Club have agreed to collaborate in fundraising activities centred around the Syston Carnival, scheduled for Saturday 4th September.

The Ladies' Section will organise a cake and preserves stall. The Men's Section plan to organise a craft & *bric à brac* stall featuring the needlework of **Marlene Murray**. Donations of *bric à brac* would also be appreciated.

Volunteers are required to help. Any men not involved in the fixtures arranged on the day are asked to help to supervise the Men's section of the stall, on a rota basis, from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. The help of wives and partners would also be greatly appreciated to help spread the workload involved on a day when the men are tied up with matches.

Syston Ladies Bowls Club

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX FILLING DAY



Date: 23rd August
Time: 10am Onwards
Venue: Bowls Club

COME AND JOIN US
ALL WELCOME

FAITH LUNCH

Small items for ages 2 - 4yrs, 5 - 9yrs, 10 - 14yrs for Boys and Girls will be gratefully received

Ladies' Holwell Mystery Tour

On a lovely sunny afternoon on 9th August, the ladies travelled to **Holwell** for their pre-arranged fixture. **Syston** won by four shots overall, we had a lovely tea, and to everyone it was an enjoyable afternoon. Nothing out of the ordinary you may think! It was the journey there that made it unforgettable!

We did not have our usual driver but set off in the coach, on time, along the A607. We were a little surprised when we passed the turning at **Kirby Bellars** and further non-plussed when we arrived in **Melton Mowbray** but did not feel disposed to question the driver's knowledge.

However, after travelling along the Nottingham Road for several miles the driver said, "Does anyone know where we go now?"

Panic, now, as no-one knew from which direction we should approach the bowling club!

Several miles further along winding roads we spotted a police car and again sought guidance. We thought that it had been

agreed that we should follow and that all our troubles were over. However, he obviously wanted rid of us as, at speed, he was soon out of sight.

We saw a right turn which 'someone' thought looked familiar. This brought us out at the **Asfordby Coal Mine** car park. We turned around to retrace our route. By this time, **Chris Biddles** was on the 'phone to **Holwell**, but not being able to tell them exactly where we were, they were not able to give much help. At the road T-junction we were met by another police car, this time driven by a lady. She signalled us to follow her.

Several miles along the road we saw a helicopter hovering very low over the road. The police car signalled left and there was the reception committee at **Holwell** awaiting us.

We will never know if the helicopter had also been scrambled to guide us to our bowling venue or was it just Leicestershire Police Force!

DP

Gossip

"If all men knew what others say of them, there would not be four friends in the whole world."

Coaching Corner concluded

- * If a Number 3 has any suggestions to make to his Skip, these should be made while both players are at the head - unless there has been a significant change as a result of the first deliveries of the Skips. A Skip does not want or need any instructions when he's on the mat preparing to deliver his first wood.
 - * If you have to give instructions, be very clear about which shot you want.
 - * Always get the measure out if there is the slightest doubt about the situation.
- Skip**
- * Study the green and prevailing playing conditions.
 - * Watch every move on the green.
 - * Assess the opponents' strengths and weaknesses.
 - * Identify strengths and weaknesses of your own players.
 - * Encourage and inspire your own players to bring out the best in them,

- giving full encouragement to each one no matter how they are playing on the day.
- * Try to "lift" any individual who is having an off-day by stressing any positives.
- * Always give clear instructions.
- * Involve all players into any discussions on tactics, working especially closely with your Number 3.
- * Be prepared to lead by example and to try every shot in the book.

Club finances "looking good"

THE BOARD were very pleased to receive a report that Club finances this year are looking good. Bar revenues appear to be "recovering" from last year's fall and, in spite of a £600 shortfall in anticipated membership subscription revenue, figures presented by Finance Director, **Rolf Meyer**, indicate that the Club is on course, overall, to break even rather than operate at a modest deficit as originally forecast.

Loughborough Monday Triples League



I would like to thank all Members involved for acquitting themselves so well in the various Cup fixtures - which involve 4 rinks playing on separate greens on the same evening. Although we didn't win anything, there were some notable games, including a 4-rink win and several near-misses. These Cups were in danger of vanishing altogether as Clubs that couldn't find 4 x 4 rinks were not entering. Now, with a new Triples format and the inclusion of ladies, their future looks assured.

According to reports submitted to me by Skips, our ladies have performed very well, which leads me to believe that next year we'll try to keep the same format using 4 daytime bowlers, 4 "workers" and 4 ladies.

In praising all of the bowlers involved, I would just like to spotlight one of our young bowlers who has been the subject of favourable reports from various sources. Congratulations to **Kieran Jordan**. Keep up the good work!

Enough support from players has now been signalled to enable us to register a second team for next year's Loughborough Triples League playing on Monday afternoons. This should mean that everyone who has expressed an interest is likely to get a regular place in one of the sides.

Anybody who has not yet registered their interest should contact **Bob Dunlop** who has agreed to co-ordinate the formation of this second team for the time being.

With a few games still to play, we appear to be holding our own in Division 2 of the League this year and, at this stage, appear not to be under threat of relegation. No room for complacency, however!

Until the final positions have been worked out, I would like to thank everyone involved for their support this Season.

Brian Adams - Loughborough Triples League Captain



Coaching corner

Club coach, Des Eggitt, offers advice on "effective fours"

Lead

- * Always bowl your "strongest" hand - even if a wood looks to be on your line and close to the jack. If you take the right line and length there is always the chance that you could get the shot.
- * Always remember that, for a Lead, a good second is as good as shot wood.
- * Take care when delivering the jack. Lock on to the jack with finger and thumb on top for more control.
- * On slow greens, if you are one yard short, look for a yard behind the jack and bowl to that spot giving you the chance of stopping "jack high".

Number 2

- * Keep checking the score card with your opposing Number 2.
- * Look for a line on **both** hands during the trial ends in order to be ready to bowl on whatever hand your Skip asks.
- * As Number 2, you must have the skill to draw shot or to provide a "yard on" shot to secure a position in the head.
- * Always be positive. Never think that you can't play the shot you're asked to deliver. Throw caution to the wind and try it!

Number 3

- * All-too-often, a Number 3, finding the rink 2 or 3 up, will simply try to draw another shot into the head while ignoring the fact that the opposition have woods at the back. This is dangerous and irresponsible.
- * Always be positive and "aggressive" with your shots. There is nothing worse than a Number 3 who is consistently 2 or 3 yards short.

Concluded overleaf