

AUGUST

- 15th **Humberstone** A
Greenfields A
Saints H
- 17th **Knighton Victoria** A
- 18th **Belgrave** H
- 19th **President's Day**
KO Trophy Final
- 20th **Knighton Victoria** H
Thringstone A
- 21st **Knock Out Cup** (at Belvoir Vale)
- 22nd **Willows** H
Wolds A
- 24th **Leicester Banks** H
- 25th **Enderby** H
- 27th **Wymeswold** H
Birstall A
- 31st **Belvoir Vale** H

SEPTEMBER

- 1st **Nuneaton** H
- 3rd **Greenwood Cup** H/A
- 4th **Tom Brown Trophy** (at Market Overton)
- 6th **Keyworth** H
- 8th **Melton Town** A
Sileby H
- 10th **Kirby Muxloe** H
Leicester Banks A
- 13th **SBC Board Meeting** 10 a.m.
Keyworth A
Birstall H
- 14th **Barlestone** A
Leicester Ladies A
- 15th **Countesthorpe** A
- 17th **Soar Valley** H
Battram A

Colour key: **Men:** **Ladies:** **Mixed**
Loughborough Triples; Melton Triples

Syston Carnival

Club to repeat efforts to raise
much-needed funds

BOTH SECTIONS of the Club have once again agreed to collaborate in fundraising activities centred around the **Syston Carnival**, scheduled for Saturday 3rd September. The Ladies' Section will organise a cake and preserves stall. The Men's Section plan to organise a plant and crafts stall.

Volunteers are required to help.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the stall at 10.00 a.m on the morning of the event. Any men not involved in the Greenwood Cup scheduled for that 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.

Captains **Janice Wilbourn** and **Dave Beck** announce the rinks. In the Sunday Tourists' match. After a closely-fought match, **Syston** achieved an honourable second place!

Both published pictures of the day's event can be found and downloaded from the Club web site.



Financial concerns

Finance Director's report concluded

In addition to urging everyone to continue to support the Bar, we look towards the membership to give full support to two additional Sunday fundraising games being organised before the end of the Season (including the Clubhouse Trophy now postponed from 19th August), to the Club presence at the Syston Carnival (3rd September) and to the Winter social programme (details to be announced shortly). They will all help to boost Club funds.

There are encouraging signs given by the numbers of people currently undergoing coaching by **Des Eggitt** but we must not relax in our efforts to recruit new members if we are to avoid serious problems and/or drastic subscription increases in the future.

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB Clubhouse Telephone: 0116 269 2105

All communications to **The Chairman:**

Mr Colin Grimes, 8 Quenby Crescent, SYSTON, Leics LE7 2BW
Telephone: 0116 2608 412 email: systonbowling@btinternet.com



Men

SYSTON



GREEN



Ladies

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No. 65 August 2011

Lady President's fundraising successes



I WOULD like to thank everyone who supported **Betty Wheatley's** Pimms Evening on 5th July. It was a very successful event and the few showers didn't spoil the evening.

Everyone was full of admiration for the variety of plants and herbs, including runner beans and tomatoes mixed together in the beds. Containers and pots were filled with plants of vibrant colours. There were some interesting features including a bird bath in the shape of a shell. **Betty** had purchased this with a voucher given to her by the Ladies' Club when she was President.

I extend my thanks to her for all her hard work. The event raised a total of £452 for my nominated charity - **Syston Volunteer Centre**.

Sunday Tourists

Another successful event was held on Sunday 31st July when Syston played a match against the Leicester Sunday Tourists.

Several Syston Members, myself included, belong to the Tourists and, as this is my Presidential year, I thought it would be an ideal opportunity to arrange to get together.

The Ladies of the Committee expressed a wish to play and Members of the Board and guests were also invited to make up the numbers.

It was a lovely day. The weather, company and food were excellent. People were very generous in providing raffle prizes and buying tickets resulting in £235 being raised for my charity.

President's Day

My President's Day will be held on Friday 16th September and is open to Members of both Clubs. Please watch the noticeboards for further details in due course.

Bowling - "a vice"!

"..... In 1618, James 1 published his puritan-appeasing *Book of Sports* which allowed Sunday morris dances, consumption of church ales (beer brewed and sold by church wardens) and "leaping and vaulting" but banned bear- and bull- baiting and the playing "in the meaner sort of people" of "bowling". In the Jacobean period, bowling was regarded as a dangerous vice and a threat to national productivity that tempted labourers away from their work."

Q1 column. "Daily Telegraph" 6th August 2011



Sunday Tourists' President, **Don Hope**, Ladies' Captain, **Janice Wilbourn**, Lady President, **Chris Biddles** and Tourists' Captain, **Dave Beck**

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 **Graham Smith** A tribute by Doreen Payne

WE have recently learned of the death of **Graham Smith**. Whilst some of our more recent recruits will not have known him, some of our older Members will remember Graham with fondness and affection.

Graham played for Syston for a number of years and it was always an advantage to play on his rink. His careful concentration on delivery was a joy to behold and, in some ways, it was quite unique. He took careful and deliberate aim and, being quite tall, the actual delivery of his wood was smooth and even graceful as he followed through as the wood left his hand.

To be on the green with Graham was always a pleasure as he was always the first to encourage another bowler's efforts even if it did not get the same result as his own delivery.

Off the green, Graham was a true gentleman and even when no longer a member, whenever he met you, he was always interested in what was going on within the Club and pleased to receive news of any individuals whom he knew that were still Members.

Graham was always supported by his wife Mavis and while I seem to recall that she did join the Ladies' Club for a short time, her membership was curtailed by the demands of her work.

Our sympathies go to Mavis and her family. Graham will always be remembered with fondness by those of us who were fortunate to know him.

49 Club update

LATEST WINNERS are **Tony Hunt** (x2!) **Arthur Calver**, **Alan Stafford** and **Betty Wheatley**

www.systonbowlingclub.org

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

Sound advice

Never fly faster than your guardian angel can fly.

Drive carefully! Remember, it's not only the motor car that can be recalled by its maker!

Charity Sheild success for mixed Triples dedicated to Brian Adams



THE Loughborough and District Bowling Association run 5 charity cups annually: the **Johnson Cup**, **Mallinson Shield**, **Hartopp Cup**, **West Cup** and **Armstrong Cup**. We have entered these competitions each year

-without success until now. This year I am pleased to say that we have won the **Mallinson Shield** and, as President of the **LDBA**, I would like to congratulate the 4 Triples who took part.

I would also like to thank all those who took part in the other 4 trophies.

Two years ago the **LDBA** voted for a Triples format instead of rinks and also to allow ladies to participate. At that time, **Brian Adams**, who was then Captain, decided to play ladies when they were available, a format I have followed with success. We would like to dedicate winning the **Mallinson Shield** to the memory of **Brian Adams**.

Those who participated in winning the **Mallinson Shield** were:

Margaret Abbott, **George Dodge**, **Bob Dunlop**, **Noel Evatt**, **Dave Fox**, **Colin Grimes**, **Pete Hancock**, **Roy Hill**, **Dave Hudson**, **Ken Renshaw**, **Kate Toon** and **Marylin Wood**.

The presentation night for the **LDBA** is **Friday 2nd September**. More details will be made available in due course.



I would be unstoppable - if I could just get started

The Club Coach Column

5



Des Eggitt

This month, Des highlights the importance of compatibility within the team

IT IS in the interests of all four members of a rink that they should play well together and be supportive of each other. But this does not simply involve getting to know your playing partners as people. Rink harmony goes much deeper than that.

Many would argue that it is the responsibility of the Skip to create a good spirit within the rink. To a degree, there is some truth in this statement but, in the same way that each of the four bowlers will be expected to make a contribution to their play, it is equally true that other forms of contribution are necessary to promote good rink spirit and that all four have important parts to play in achieving this. The players will ooze self-confidence and belief in the team as a formidable four.

Only one player can play the shot at any given stage of the game but the rink should be totally involved during the time that each and every shot is being played - from the moment the bowl leaves the hand of the player. All members of the rink should offer encouragement and, by doing so, will also be reinforcing their complete faith in the the bowler even when the shot fails to match up with expectations. Support from the rest of the rink to each individual player involved should continue throughout the full period of each game.

I will have more to say on this important question of compatibility in next month's edition of the Newsletter.

If you have any particular problems on which you would appreciate the advice of our Club Coach, please do not hesitate to contact him at any time.



Views of the Easton Walled Garden, venue for the Gardening Group's latest visit in July.

These pictures and others are available to view/download on the Club web site

2011 results update

	P	W	D	L	+Pts	-Pts	Diff
Men - Saturday	31	11	1	18	2284	2309	-15
Men - Weekday	14	8	0	6	1273	1120	+153

Loughborough and District Triples League

White Plums (Div2) Played 12: 49/96 Points: 3rd Place

Green & Royals (Div 3) Played 14: 63/112 Points: 3rd Place - 4 Points behind Leaders

WINNERS of the **Mallinson Shield** (See separate article on p 2)

Melton Triples League

Final placing 2011: Played 5: 17/40 Points 5th Place (out of 6) "Very disappointing": **Dave Hudson**

Ladies - Friendlies

	19	4	0	15	879	1287	-408
Ladies - Trips League	10	4	0	6	284	363	-79

Club joins in lobby of Parliament over threatened green closures

3

THE following is the text of a letter sent to all 3 MP's serving North Leicestershire constituencies - **Alan Duncan**, **Stephen Dorrell** and **Andrew Bridgen** - responding to a **Bowls England** appeal to all Clubs to lobby their local representatives on a perceived serious threat to our sport:

"I write on behalf of this Club to express our deep concern about the escalating trend of bowling green closures and to ask that you should now take appropriate remedial action to protect the future of our popular sport.

Bowling greens have long been an important and special feature of English towns, providing opportunities for healthy exercise and social interaction for people of all ages. Sadly, many are under current threat from local authority cuts and from pressures for housing development. We are especially concerned that bowling greens do not benefit from the same protection as playing fields under existing planning law and, as such, in some parts of the country, one in three greens is now reported to be under some kind of threat.

Fortunately, our Club is free from any such pressures. We enjoy an excellent relationship with our local Council and enjoy the benefit of a newly negotiated extended lease on our green. The concerns we now express are on behalf of the many not-so-fortunate Clubs which fulfill a vital social function and are, in our view, an essential part of the local community fabric.

We now write to urge you to take the following action:

1. Sign Early Day Motion 1709 and support the Protection of Bowling Greens (Development Control) Bill sponsored by John Woodcock.
2. Write to Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to ask him to ensure robust protection of sports facilities, including bowling greens, in the new National Planning Framework and Neighbourhood Plans.
3. Contact our national governing body, Bowls England, to find out how you might help further (email: alistair.hollis@bowlsengland.com)

I look forward to receiving your - hopefully positive- response to this cry for help in due course.

All three MP's responded positively to the approach and we also received a direct reply from **Hugh Robertson**, Minister for Sport and the Olympics in which he commends that any Club under the threat of closure should consider bidding to take over their greens from the local authority should a decision to sell be announced. Legislation is apparently in place to oblige local authorities to offer a window of opportunity to allow interested community organisations to prepare to bid for the public asset being disposed of. **Sports England** have prepared detailed guidance for any sports Club that finds itself under threat. Copies of the full correspondence are available, on request, from Club Chairman, **Colin Grimes**.

Past Presidents' service to be honoured



THE Men's Executive Committee has commissioned a special lapel badge (see design above) to be presented, initially, to all

surviving Past Presidents in recognition of their outstanding service to the Club. Present and future Presidents will receive their badges on retirement from office. It is expected that all of them will wear the insignia with fully deserved pride.

4

Grants enable purchase of second wheelchair

Search for funding for other projects continues

THE Board has already been successful in obtaining funding for a number of projects including the purchase of a second wheelchair.

A grant of £1000 was awarded to the Club by the **Red Nose Community Cash Fund**, administered by the **Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Community Foundation**. The **East Midlands Airport Community Fund** has offered a further £502 and we have received a donation of £250 from the **Coventry Building Society** - for which thanks to the daughter of **Marjorie Clowes** for her representations on our behalf. The **Loughborough Building Society** has also signalled that they could make £500 available to us, subject to a suitable and acceptable project being identified. Funds might also be available to us through the **Lafarge** Landfill Communities Fund.

On Monday, 1st August, Chairman, **Colin Grimes**, attended, by invitation, a Workshop organised by **Sport England** which gave details of a new initiative, called **Inspired Facilities**, through which sports Clubs are invited to bid for grants up to £50,000 from a total fund of £50 million made available through the **Lottery Fund**. Work has already started on our Club's application which must be submitted by the closing date of 28th September.

At the same time, with an application deadline of 26th August, a bid is being prepared for submission to the **Active Together** programme which has been established to support and encourage more adults to take part in regular physical activity. The maximum amount available under this scheme is £5000.

The building of a clubhouse extension (or provision of appropriate PortaCabin or similar structure), improvements to current changing room, storage and/or locker facilities and the provision of a tapered tarmac ramp between the clubhouse and gates to the green therefore remain under active consideration.

Of course, there can be no guarantee that we will be successful with any of these bids, but Members can be assured that the Board continues to be very active in seeking ways in which our fine Club can be developed and improved and is not stinting in the efforts made to raise the necessary funding.



Finances giving some cause for concern



Finance Director
Rolf Meyer

IN my latest report to the Board, I had to point out that subscription income is some £1400 lower than we had budgeted for and that the costs of patch re-turfing the green and other once-off unbudgeted treatments, would take us a further £2000 over budget. The unchecked effect of these two changes to the budget would be to wipe out the modest cash surplus with which we had started the year.

On a more positive note, Bar takings are running at near record levels and, thanks to the stewardship of **Pete Murray**, we are showing a very sound level of surplus which will go some way to offsetting the effects of

the reduction in subscription income. Income from social events, under the management of **Anita Lowder**, is also running well ahead of budget.

It is vital that we continue to maximise income from all available sources and continue to hold expenditure to a minimum during the next five months. However, the current situation signals a growing likelihood that the Board will have to approach both Men's and Ladies' Sections for some kind of financial support/cash injection in order to sustain the future viability of the Club.

Continued on back page