

Diary Dates 2012

JANUARY

16th Melton Indoor roll-up 11.30 a.m.
17th Executive Committee 7 p.m.
18th Quiz & Social 2.30 p.m.
23rd Melton Indoor roll-up 11.30 a.m.
25th Quiz & Social 2.30 p.m.
30th Melton Indoor roll-up 11.30 a.m.

FEBRUARY

1st Quiz & Social 2.30 p.m.
4th "Odd One Out" Quiz 7 p.m. Raffle
Faith supper £1 at door
6th Melton Indoor roll-up 11.30 a.m.
Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Quiz & Social 2.30 p.m.
8th Coffee Morning
11th Melton Indoor roll-up 11.30 a.m.
13th Quiz & Social 2.30 p.m.
15th Casino Night 7 p.m. Raffle £5 at door
(includes "starter" chips) Hot dogs & onions
20th Melton Indoor roll-up 11.30 a.m.
22nd Quiz & Social 2.30 p.m.
26th Sunday Lunch 12.30 for 1.00 p.m. £5
for two courses. See noticeboard for
menu & reservation details. Numbers
limited.

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed SBC

Indoor roll-ups at Melton

FOR Members who wish to continue bowling in the winter months, as in previous years, I will be booking rinks for the 11.50 Monday morning session.

If you wish to participate, please arrive no later than 11.30 a.m. In order to give me good time to arrange the teams and for the green fees to be paid.

If any of your friends wish to join us - whether or not they have any previous experience - they will be made very welcome. Hopefully, this will encourage them to join our Club for outdoor bowling in seasons to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (0116 292 1619) should you require any help or further information.

John Lamble

Gardening Group news



Christine Dodge

25 members and friends of the Garden Group gathered for an early Christmas lunch at The Soar Bridge at Barrow on Soar.

George produced a Christmas picture quiz which kept everyone busy until lunch was served. A full and varied menu was on offer and everyone's requirements had been pre-booked so service was excellent. We all agreed that this had been a most enjoyable event.

The next meeting of the Garden Group, to be held on Friday, 20th January, 2.00p.m. for 2.30p.m. start, will feature a talk and slide show by Kate and John Ward on "The Cotswolds and its Gardens". There will be a question and answer session and tea and cakes will be served.

We always have a very pleasant afternoon when Kate and John join us and their talks are of interest to everyone, not just keen gardeners. A fee of £2 per head will be charged and this will go towards enhancing further the planted area around the green. Full details will be displayed on the notice board.

You know you're getting old when your Bank sends you their free calendar



.....one MONTH at a time

Club library

New titles are regularly added to our stock. Thanks to all of our donors. Keep checking to see if there's something you'd like - and keep your old books coming in.



Men

SYSTON



GREEN



Ladies

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No.70 January 2012

Men's President resigns.

Vice President Stan Page inducted as replacement

REGRETTABLY, and after only two weeks in office as Men's Club President, **Bob Dunlop** has felt it necessary to resign from the Club, for personal reasons.

The Club wishes to thank **Bob** most sincerely for the tremendous amount of work he has undertaken over the past twelve months as Vice-President, Welfare Officer and Captain of the Green & Royals team, which he entered in the Loughborough & District Triples League. He was planning several new and novel projects to carry out during his presidency and had already achieved a remarkable start with his and the Lady President's charity (*Rainbows*). The calendars which he arranged to be printed, with most of the art work consisting of local scenes painted by himself, demonstrating just how talented he is.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends within the the Club and we offer **Bob** and his wife, **Brenda**, our very best wishes for the future.

At a short ceremony after the Annual Christmas Dinner at Melton Indoors Bowls Club, Secretary **Rob Wilbourn** presented **Stan Page** with the President's badge of office, congratulating and thanking him for stepping into the breach at such short notice. (See picture)

Rob then went on to confirm that, in spite of advancing years - and (*what he felt were*) other shortcomings - he was prepared and happy to take on the duties of Vice-President as well as continuing as Club Secretary for 2012, leaving the Men's Club with vacancies for Catering Manager and Welfare Officer.

By way of response, after minimum pressure, **John Lamble** agreed to take over the responsibilities of Welfare Officer.

In the immediate new year, members are asked to note that President **Stan** will be away for a few weeks but will return in good time to be in charge for the outdoor season.

Correction

APOLOGIES are offered for omissions from the list of Committee members published in the previous edition of the Newsletter.

In the Ladies' Section, **Marion Hegginson** should have been featured once again as Treasurer and **Doreen Payne** as LLCBA Delegate. In addition, **Janet Lowe** has now been co-opted on to the Committee.



Rob Wilbourn passes on the President's Regalia to Stan Page following the resignation of Bob Dunlop

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

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

New Men's President's New Year Message

WELL, here we are in the new year with 2011 well behind us. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a prosperous new year. I would like to thank Members of both the Men's and Ladies' Sections of the Club for their congratulations on my becoming President.

The next year is going to be very challenging, and I have a very high standard to maintain. But with a very good Vice-President to help me, I am sure that **Rob** and I can do a good job.

My thanks go to **George Dodge** for his hard work as President in 2011 and let us not forget **Bob Dunlop**, who, for his own reasons, had to resign the post of President. On behalf of the Committee, I thank him for his work as Vice-President and when he feels ready, the doors of the Club will always be open to welcome him back.

Can I please ask you to try a little harder this year to support the social events that are put on for your enjoyment. The more you support these events (*you can bring family and friends as your guests*), the better the chances are of keeping membership subscriptions at a reasonable level - and the plus side is that you will almost certainly enjoy yourself.

For the coming bowling season, I propose to bring in a new series of fines which will go to our nominated charity and hopefully improve conduct and etiquette on the green.

After playing Number Three and Skip myself, I know there is nothing worse than a player ignoring the Skip's instructions or walking away from the mat immediately he has delivered his bowl instead of watching its progress towards the head.

Offenders will be fined 30p, to be collected by the Skips, who themselves will also be fined for similar offences. I am hoping that everyone will join in so that we can increase the donations to the Rainbows charity.

Let us all look forward to a good season on the green and I wish all the best to everyone out there doing their best.

Stan Page

Finance Director's report on 2011



AT the end of a very challenging financial year for the Club, we have just managed to keep our heads above water. The operational deficit of close to £1300 is lower than we had budgeted but is far too high to be sustained in future years. Maintenance costs for the green, including a number of "one-off" payments for such things as re-turfing, ran higher than we had budgeted but the Board remains committed to doing whatever it takes to get the surface back to standard. At the same time, income from membership subscriptions fell almost £1000 short of target.

On the other hand, it is pleasing to report that Bar takings, Social events, and Coffee mornings have all performed strongly and

have served to keep our finances going. Thank you all for your support - but keep it up! A draft budget for 2012 is currently under consideration by the Board of Directors. An increase in membership subscriptions is inevitable but we will do everything possible to remain competitive with other local Clubs and to sustain a strong recruitment policy.

We are hopeful of creating a new revenue stream from the introduction of the Club Patronage scheme, and look to every Member to lend full support to the vitally important range of revenue generating social activities offered throughout the year. Full opportunity to discuss Club finances will be given at the forthcoming AGM when the audited accounts for 2011 will be presented.

I wish all Members a very happy and rewarding year throughout 2012.

Rolf Meyer

Welcome! to Club Patrons

Each of the businesses to be featured on this page is registered as a Club Patron and is thereby deserving of the support of all Members



Sale now on!

*Genuine reductions on all
fashion and lingerie*

**15 High Street,
Syston, Leics LE7 1GP
Tel: 0116 260 6747**

PRESSURES of Seasonal business did not make it possible to secure the formal agreement of selected local companies to sign up as Club Patrons.

Thanks to **Jennings**, our first Patron, whose display advertisement is featured here.

It can be confidently expected that positive replies will be received from other local companies in time for the February edition.

It is hoped that Members will respond positively to these local companies who have elected to support the Club.

Club excursion to Thursford Winter Show



THE morning of Tuesday 6th December was a tad wintry but bright and sunny with everyone assembling in the clubhouse on time. Likewise our coach was ready to depart almost immediately and we were graced with the comforts of an almost brand new (seven weeks old) bus to be driven by coach operator **Dean** who is known to several members with his services to the Leicester Sunday Tourists bowlers. As always, **Dean** proved to be an excellent driver/courier and gave us a briefing for the day's travelling schedule as we left the outskirts of Leicester. The A47 was unbelievably free of traffic and we arrived at "The Oliver Twist" restaurant at Guyhirn for our lunch break one hour ahead of schedule.

We therefore decided to draw the raffle on the coach before entering the pub for an extended pre-lunch aperitif session. The lunch itself was excellent with prompt service provided by two cheerful ladies, one of whom was the owner.

We left at about 4.45p.m. which should have given us enough time to arrive just after 5.45p.m., but all the traffic seemed to be going against us so we arrived just after 6 p.m. Some of our group went to see "Santa's Magical Journey" which was absolutely wonderful and spectacular (*even for grown ups*), whilst others went to the shops.

We were all in our seats by 6.45p.m. for the show which started at 7 p.m. (*collecting our mulled wine en route!*) Again, I think most of us were overawed with the magnificence of the Show all with a mixture of singing, which included wonderful choral arrangements, dancing, orchestral performances and comedy. It all ended too soon.

Our homeward trip was smooth, unexpectedly quiet and uneventful apart from several heavy rain showers, in spite of which we made good time and arrived back in Syston shortly after 12.30 a.m. Everyone appeared to have had a good day out to the extent that there have been calls for a repeat in 2012. Let **Janice Wilbourn** know in good time if you are interested since it is important to book early for favourable seats.

Rob Wilbourn

49 Club update

LATEST WINNERS are **Chris Biddles, Betty Wheatley, Marion Hegginson** and **Josie Hubbard**.

PLEASE inform **Anita Lowder** if you do not intend to continue in the **49 Club** after February

www.systonbowlingclub.org
for Diary, Fixtures, Results, Honours
Boards, Press Releases, Newsletters,
photos and other Club details

Club AGM Preliminary Notice



Val Foreman

ALL Members will shortly be receiving, from Section Secretaries, a preliminary notice of the Club's AGM which will take place at the Clubhouse on **Monday 12th March 2012**. Please

make a note of this important date in your diaries and make every effort to attend, as this is your chance to have your say on how our Club is managed.

The notice also calls for nominations for Members to serve on the Board of Directors for the year ahead (4 Men, 4 Ladies and a Chairman). If you would like to play an active part in the running of the Club over the next 12 months, please do not hesitate to put your name forward by the specified closing date.

You are also invited to raise any matter of general concern to the membership, about the way in which the Club is managed, to be discussed as part of the formal agenda for the meeting.

Val Foreman

Administrative Director



Gerry & Verna Kennell in party mood

Food for thought

Drinks from the bar, raffles, social functions, Coffee Mornings, library books etc.

EVERY penny you spend on these is a penny saved from next year's membership subscription.

Ladies' Christmas Party 3



Kate Toon

WEDNESDAY 14th December was the Ladies Xmas Party. The tables were adorned with Festive trimmings and Christmas Crackers that the Men's Section had kindly donated.

About 35 Members (Bowling, Life, & Social) attended a Faith Lunch in the clubhouse.

Proceedings were started with a card being read from the Lady President, **Sheila Parker**, who unfortunately was not able to attend but who had gifted the Ladies with chocolates.

Kate Toon Vice President, said Grace then Everyone tucked into a wonderful assortment of food with the "occasional"!!!! glass of wine.

The atmosphere was one of good hearted fun. A "Seasonal Ditty" that **Doreen** supplied was well received.

Kate then presented the Life Members with a gift from the Ladies and, for those eligible, vouchers were given from the County.

A raffle followed which, thanks to everyone's generosity, raised £40.

Val organised a Pre-Decimalization Quiz and a variation on Bingo finished off what was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Kate Toon



Roger & Dot Bentley enjoying the Christmas lunch at Melton Indoor Club. Thanks to **John Lamble** for organising a very successful event

The Club Coach Column

This month, Des stresses the importance of trust between the Skip and Number 3 and of never giving up until the last wood is delivered



Des Eggitt

PLAYING the right shot and the match is never over till the last bowl. In a match of fours at Melton Indoors Bowls Centre, we were 14-3 shots down with 6 ends to play. After the next 2, with 2 to go, we had narrowed the gap to 14-8. In such a situation, it is more important than usual that front end players should get shots into the head. **Margaret Trigg** and **Colin Smith** successfully drew one shot each and I managed to get a third leaving us needing four shots for a win on the last end.

Margaret and **Colin** again set us up with 2 shots. As I took the mat, we needed another shot to achieve a draw and 2 shots to win the

match.

The situation of the head was that we had two good shots hiding the jack which was some 6ins behind. I could not see the jack from the mat.

Clearly, my only option was to draw. On the forehand, the opposition had a bowl a yard short in the draw, but I played through it and got a third shot.

Not being able to read the head from the mat, I sought guidance from my Number 3, **Bob Dunlop**, who asked me to switch to a draw on the back-hand to rest on the opponent's bowl in the hope of gaining the extra shot. The tactic worked and we got the winning shot.

This experience illustrates two important points in the game of bowls:

1. **Skips should take note of guidance offered by Number Threes**
2. **No matter how badly you start a match, with good teamwork, you can still**

Publication under pressure

Editorial team demonstrate commitment under difficult circumstances

SPECIAL thanks are due to the editorial team and regular contributors for enabling the publication of this edition of the "**Syston Green**" so soon after the Christmas and New Year festivities.

In addition to problems of timing, the pictures below clearly demonstrate the difficult office conditions under which the publication was put together to enable the newsletter to be available in time for the January Coffee Morning! How would you like to have to **work** in such conditions?

Happy New Year!



PLEASE NOTE THAT SUNDAY LUNCH HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM 22nd JANUARY to 26th FEBRUARY. See Noticeboard for details.