

AUGUST

- 11th Coffee Morning
Battram H
Wymeswold A
- 13th Conways L&D TL A 2 p.m. start
Shepshed B L&D TL H 2 p.m. Start
Humberstone H
- 14th Keyworth H
- 15th Knighton Victoria H
- 16th Belgrave H
- 17th President's Day 2 p.m. Start
- 18th Knighton Victoria H
Thringstone A
- 19th Melton & Dist Trips League KO Cup
1 p.m.start A
- 20th GeeBees L&D TL H 2 p.m. start
Quorn L&D TL A 2 p.m. Start
- 21st Men's Triples Semi-finals 6 p.m.
- 22nd Leicester Banks A
- 23rd Enderby H
- 25th Wymeswold H
Birstall A
- 27th Hawks L&D TL A 2 p.m. start
Riversiders L&D TL H 2 p.m. Start
- 29th Belvoir Vale A
- 30th Nuneaton H

SEPTEMBER

- 1st Greenwood Cup
Syston Carnival
- 2nd "Syston Town News" 2-wood Mixed
Triples Competition
Melton & Dist Trips League Tom
Brown Trophy - at Market Overton
1 p.m.start A
- 4th Keyworth H
- 6th Melton Town A
Sileby A
- 8th Coffee Morning
Kirby Muxloe H
Leicester Banks A
- 10th Leicester Ladies H
- 11th Keyworth A
Birstall H

Colour key: Men: Ladies: SBC:
White Plums: Green & Royals

Gardening Group

NO report submitted this month. An opportunity, therefore, to thank the Group for all their work establishing a colourful flower bed under the old scoreboard, for providing the beautiful hanging baskets at the front of the clubhouse and providing the potted plants at the gates to the green.

Members may not be aware that the Group have paid for all of the materials and plants involved from funds raised by making a modest charge for refreshments at each of their meetings. A great example of Club spirit.

If any other Members would like to share their enthusiasm for any particular pastime or hobby by inviting others to meet in the clubhouse to share interest and experience and perhaps start another Group, please talk to either **George Dodge** or **Colin Grimes**.

Green Ranger

THE BOARD has been saddened to receive the news that Green Ranger, **Roger Bentley**, wishes to stand down at the next AGM, before the start of the 2013 Season. As all Members will know, **Roger** has given many years of selfless service to the Club, working tirelessly to ensure that the green has been maintained and developed and setting out the green in readiness for matches.

In recognition of his outstanding service over many years, **Roger** has already been awarded the Club's top honour of Life Membership. His will be a very hard act to follow.

Any Member would like to volunteer to take on the role of Green Ranger, or who would like to know more about the duties and responsibilities involved, should contact **Roger** in the first instance.

Editor: Judging from the regular comments made by Members about the quality of the green and the range of advice regularly offered on ways to improve it, the Board does not expect a shortage of volunteers with appropriate and relevant expertise!



Men

SYSTON



GREEN



Ladies

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No. 76 August 2012

"Thanks" but "No thanks!"

Men's President, Stan Page, reviews the Jubilee Weekend and urges greater levels of sportsmanship



CLUB Jubilee weekend celebrations were launched by Men's President's Day on Friday 1st June. The weather held good so we managed to complete the President's v Vice-President's game and a preceding "Spider". Judging by the noise levels and banter around the green and later in the clubhouse, I think that everyone had a good time. The occasion also celebrated the birthdays of **Janice Wilbourn** and **John Lester**. I offer special thanks to **Anita Lowder** and her helpers in the kitchen, for providing a top-quality meal, and to **Pete Murray** and his band of helpers behind the Bar.

As fully reported in last month's Newsletter, the following day, as well as hosting a match against Countesthorpe, we opened the clubhouse to the public as part of the Chamber of Trade Jubilee celebrations on Central Park and were honoured to host a party of civic dignitaries, including the Mayor of Charnwood Borough Council.

Also as reported last month, on the Sunday, the weather prevented us enjoying a specially devised Charity game - but the opportunity to let our hair down and celebrate was not wasted. What a fantastic party that was! All-in-all it proved to be a very memorable weekend. Thanks to everyone who gave their support in any way across all the weekend's programme.

Sportsmanship

I draw your attention to Page 2 and this month's article from Club Coach, **Des Eggitt**. Over the past few weeks, I have been aware of a disquieting tendency for losers in Club competitions to grumble either about the quality of the rink on which the match was played or about their own form, forgetting to congratulate their opponent on a worthy win. This is not the right "Syston spirit"!

Please remember, nobody has a given right to win. If you have lost, please be gracious enough to acknowledge that your opponent has played better than you on the day. Do not take the "glory" away from the winner with comments such as "I played badly" making it sound as though your weakness rather than their strength produced the result. The fact is that, on the day, they played better than you did.

Always be a good sportsman and acknowledge this simple fact.

Good Luck!

At the time of writing, **Marilyn Wood** is awaiting news of the date for her Semi-final match in the County "Unbadged" Singles Competition. We all wish her the best of luck

"Rhinceros"

*An animal with a very thick skin
and no interest in politics.*

What a waste!

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*

The Club coach column

This month, Des advises on competitiveness and etiquette for the player who comes off second best



Des Eggitt

POSSIBLY one of the best known motivations for participation in sport is the will to win and competitiveness is a necessary quality for any player in any game.

When bowlers engage in any form of competitive match, they will first wish to demonstrate their bowling skills in the hope that whatever they have to offer may prove good enough to beat their opponent. However, they should also demonstrate a good standard of etiquette, sportsmanship and a respect for the laws of the game. They should endeavour to play the game in such a way that they gain the respect of their opponents.

So what characteristics does a good competitor demonstrate?

The key words are probably "**ability**" and "**performance**". He will have prepared himself as thoroughly as possible by analysing any faults in his playing performance and working to eliminate them.

You may not expect to get very far in club comps. Nevertheless, you should relish the opportunity to play at a competitive level. The experience should help you to become a complete player and progress even as far as County competitions.

Competitiveness is not about winning in club matches, but getting the best out of your bowls and enjoying a relaxed and friendly game with opponents and, after the game, a drink with them and enjoying each others company.

That is what bowls is about.

Etiquette for losers

Always take losing with good grace. Etiquette requires you simply to acknowledge that, on the day, your opponent played better than you did. It is bad manners not to compliment your opponent on his/her victory and, even worse, to take the shine off their success by churlishly implying that they only won because you were having an "off" day!

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.

Tel: 2696548

SYSTON CARNIVAL

Saturday 1st September
(Greenwood Cup day)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

to help to set up the Club stalls
at 10.00 a.m.
to man the stalls
from 12 noon to 4.30 p.m.
and help in breakdown at the close of the event.

IF YOU ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE CUP MATCHES, PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO ASSIST IN THIS IMPORTANT FUNDRAISING EVENT



George Dodge reports: "Members will be pleased to learn that the most recent delivery of used ink cartridges raised more than £30 for local charity, InterCare

Please keep up the good work. Every penny raised is greatly appreciated."

49 Club update

LATEST WINNERS are:

Aideen Talbot,⁽⁶⁾ **Colin Grimes** (28), **Sheila Aindhow** (8), **Marlene Murray** (26) and **Margaret Porter** (43)

Club Patronage

DISCUSSIONS with other potential Patrons continue, to persuade them to join the scheme in 2013. In the meantime, if you know of any local company which might be interested, please let us know.



Sale continues

Reductions

on

*Fashions, swimwear and
lingerie*

15 High Street, Syston

Tel: 0116 260 6747

Birthday boys!

"**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**" wishes to the following who celebrate birthdays in August: **Alan Hodgkinson**, **Gerry Kennell** and **John Lamble**.

RIP

Dennis Iliffe

1929 - 2012

Passed away on 14th July
Condolences to his family

Statistics

There are two kinds of statistics:
Those you look up and those
you make up

Statistics are like a lampost to a drunken man. More for support than illumination!

need a helping hand?

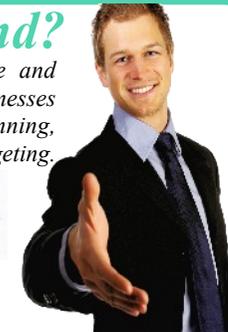
A local firm offering top-quality advice and support services to individuals and to businesses including personal taxation, tax planning, bookkeeping, payroll management and budgeting.

adam longley
accountants limited

For a free consultation:

Tel: 0116 260 4364

Email: info@adamlongley.co.uk



"The world is full of willing people.

Those willing to work and those willing to let them!

Philosophy of the Third Age

1. I've reached the age when I need my false teeth and hearing aid before I can ask where I've left my glasses!
2. The real challenge of retirement is how to spend time without spending money.
3. Your 65th birthday is the first day of your life savings!
4. The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off!
5. Youth would be an ideal state if only it came a little later in life!



On a lighter note

"Ode to my SatNav"

I have a little satnav. It sits there in my car.
 A satnav is a driver's friend. It tells you where you are.
 I have a little satnav. I've had it all my life.
 It does more than the normal one. My satnav is my wife!
 It gives me full instructions on exactly how to drive.
 "It's thirty miles an hour," it says. "You're going thirty five."
 It tells me when to stop and start and when to use the break
 And tells me that it's never ever safe to overtake.
 It tells me when the light is red and when it turns to green.
 It seems to know instinctively just when to intervene.
 It lists the vehicles just in front: it lists them to the rear
 And taking this into account it specifies my gear.
 I'm sure no other driver has so helpful a device
 For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives me advice.
 It fills me up with counselling. Each journey's pretty fraught.
 So why don't I just change it and get a quieter sort?
 Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed.
 It washes all my shirts and clothes - and keeps me warm in bed!

The problems of international communication



Olympic security guard to individual in track suit attempting to enter the Olympic Village:

"Are you a pole vaulter?"

Individual:

"No I'm a German. But how do you know my name?"

Syston Volunteer Centre Concluded

Advice and advocacy - Expert advice on a wide range of problems and standing-in for you, representing and speaking up on your behalf to local authorities, utility providers and other service providers where problems have been identified

"Listening ear" support - Solace, comfort, support and advice to all who call
 All of these services - especially the community transport service - are designed to enable adults in the areas served to be as independent as possible and to continue to play a full and active part in the life of their communities.

Apart from a modest annual grant from Leicestershire County Council, in respect of the delivery of the contracted Service Level Agreement, the Centre is self-funding and reliant entirely on public contributions. (*The Centre received over £650 last year from the Club when it was the nominated charity of Lady President, Chris Biddles.*)

In order to meet the high levels of demand, the Centre is always looking for more volunteers - especially drivers. Minibus drivers, who require a special licence, are given the necessary training. Social car drivers, who use their own vehicles, are offered reimbursement of expenses incurred currently set at 45p per mile.

If **YOU** would like to take advantage of any of the services offered, to have more information or to offer help as a volunteer to help in the delivery of any of the services, simply contact the Centre at the number given above.

www.systonbowlingclub.org

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

The Season to date in summary

Improved performance levels sustained

2012 Season in summary (at 4th August)

	P	W	D	L	Diff
Men - Saturday					
2012	31	21	1(1)	9	+272
Men - Weekday					
2012	15	13	0	2	+182
Ladies - Friendlies					
2012	14	5	0	9	- 66
Ladies - Trips League					
2012	8	2	0	6	-102

Loughborough & District Triples League

White Plums:	Played: 14	Points: 54/112	Pos: 4/10 (Provisional)
Green & Royals:	Played: 14	Points: 65/112	Pos: 3/10 (Provisional)
Melton & District Triples League			
Syston	Played: 4	Rinks Won: 8	Rinks Lost: 8 Pts: 16 Pos: 3/6

(1 match result still to be declared)

With only 8 weeks to go in the Season, the signs are that 2012 is set to be among the best registered by the Club in many years. **Go to it, everyone!**

Syston Volunteer Centre

A valuable but little-known local source of vital support services

MEMBERS may not be aware of the wide range of support services available to all residents of Syston and surrounding villages in the Wreake and Soar valleys through the Syston Volunteer Centre. The Centre operates as a Registered Charity under the terms of a Service Level Agreement supervised by the Leicestershire County Council. The office, on Church Street, is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday to Friday). Telephone: 2607888
 Anyone who is over 60, disabled, or living in a rural or isolated community, can benefit from access to a wide range of services which include:

Social car - Providing personal door-to-door transport by private car to doctors, hospitals, hairdressers, shopping, visits to relatives etc. Close to 6000 journeys per annum are arranged.

Minibus transport - Transporting groups, door-to-door, to Day Centres, social outings, community lunches and other group activities organised by the Centre. Local groups such as Arthritis Care, SENSE (*the deaf-blind charity*), the Friendship Club, Young at Heart, the Games' Club, Gateway (*for the physically disabled or those with learning difficulties*), Parkinson's Group, Syston Carers' Group, Syston VISTA (*for the visually impaired - another Club-supported charity*) and St Peter's Group - all make regular use of this service. During August, the Centre itself is organising trips to Leicester Botanical Gardens, Melbourne Hall Gardens and Church, Barnsdale Gardens and Rutland Water, Great Central Railway with afternoon tea, "Scenic Leicestershire" with lunch in Eastwell, Bradgate Park and Swithland and Charnwood Forest.

Bereavement support - Offering specialist and experienced support at times of great personal loss

Shopping - Individual and group transport to help to sustain independence

Mobility aids - Supplementing the services of the Red Cross, wheelchairs, bath boards, commodes, crutches, walking sticks and shopping trolleys are all available for hire.

Gardening and handyman - A service to address all those jobs in the home or garden that need regular or occasional attention

Community lunches - Monthly events held currently in the Syston Community Centre providing much-needed opportunities for social contact and interaction *Concluded on p6*

Where are we now?

Club Chairman, Colin Grimes, presents a mid-year review

Membership

While a slight fall in membership this year is disappointing - and inevitably puts pressure on limited Club resources - we do appear to be holding up numbers better than many other local Clubs. We will redouble our promotional efforts between now and next April and hope, as a result, to return to overall growth in 2013.

Finance

With membership numbers holding up and strong support for the Bar, budgetary performance to date is most encouraging. We can still only plan to break even, however, and funds remain very "tight". There should be no let-up in the debate on future funding for the Club and the Board looks forward to receiving a range of ideas and suggestions to be considered at the AGM.

Green

It is very heartening to record the many favourable comments about the improvement to our playing surface. It was also a matter of pride to be able to sustain our programme of Home fixtures during the awful June weather when other Clubs were struggling with waterlogged and rain affected greens. It makes all of our efforts - and associated expense - worthwhile. Our trust and faith in the skills of **Chris Mews** and his staff at Green Machine have been fully vindicated. The initial three year contract comes up for formal review in October. The Club also owes a deep debt of gratitude to Green Ranger, **Roger Bentley**, for his work behind the scenes, complementing the contracted professional services and carrying out a daily programme of general maintenance around the green. Sadly, as reported on page 8, Roger has signalled his wish to be relieved of his responsibilities but has assured us that he will continue to make himself available to assist his successor.



Performance

As the statistics on Page 3 reveal, we are enjoying one of the best Seasons for many years in terms of results both Home and Away. Would it be too much to hope that Members are taking very seriously the excellent series of tips and advice published every month in this Newsletter by our Club and County Coach, **Des Eggitt**? (See this month's piece on page 2) Whatever the reason for the success, congratulations all round would appear to be justified. Let's keep it up over the remaining few weeks of the Season.

Changing Rooms

We were disappointed by the Council's decision to offer Syston Town Band a long-term lease on the former Youth Project premises next to the clubhouse. Apparently, planning permission for the property stipulates that it is to be used for the benefit of young people. Since the Band have a Youth Section, they were made "partners of choice" and are now actively engaged in finalising the legalities and serious fundraising to bring the premises up to standard. In the meantime, I have made a formal approach to the Band to invite them to consider making part of the property available to us as changing room facilities during the playing Season. In return, we would offer to undertake the repair and refurbishment of the area allocated to us and, in addition, might consider making our bar and clubhouse facilities available to them whenever they are rehearsing. Such a co-operative arrangement could have significant mutual benefits. We now await their (hopefully positive) response to our initial approach following which detailed discussions on the scale and scope of our co-operation can begin. →

Are YOU doing all you can for your Club?

Ramp

I'm currently at a loss for words over the decision of the Town Council, in June, to refuse permission for the installation of a ramp between the clubhouse and the green. I'm totally puzzled about how they can judge as a "hazard" something that is specifically designed to facilitate access to the clubhouse from all directions - something that we are required to do in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Act! Naturally, we are preparing what we hope will be an effective appeal.

Club spirit

There have been many occasions when I have had cause to compliment Members on the excellent communal and team spirit that runs throughout our great Club. Nowhere was this more clearly demonstrated than at the Jubilee Party held in the clubhouse in June. What a happy occasion! We are truly fortunate in our membership. The way in which we regularly all come together to enjoy ourselves in a true spirit of friendship and camaraderie in all aspects of our Club programme must be the envy of many Clubs.

Club Patronage scheme

While I have full cause to be thankful, the unexpected speed of my knee operation has naturally caused me to be less active than I had planned in managing Club affairs. While Board colleagues have provided excellent cover for me, the one aspect of planned progress to suffer badly has been the Patronage scheme. We had planned to recruit up to 8 Patrons. Regrettably, I have not been able to find the time to convert a number of companies who have expressed an interest in time for them to benefit fully from the promotional opportunities in the current Season. We are very grateful to those who have joined the scheme (See Page 7) and renewed efforts will be made to recruit others in time for the opening of the 2013 Season.

Close Season programme

A lot of hard work has already gone into the planning of the 2012/2013 social programme. This programme is vitally important not only for Club finances but especially as a means of keeping Members in touch with each other and sustaining the special communal spirit referred to above.

As in previous years, **John Lamble** will be booking rinks at the Melton Indoor Club on Monday mornings starting, this year, on 1st October. 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. Please give as much support as you can to the whole winter programme. As always, if any of your family or friends wish to join us for any of the events, they will be made very welcome. Hopefully, this will encourage them to join our Club in seasons to come.

In summary

In spite of a number of set-backs in the delivery of our planned development strategy - hopefully only temporary - we have much to be proud of as a Club. Members are fortunate to have the support of hard-working and committed Committees, including the Board of Directors, whose dedication and hard work are to be applauded. We have a green of which we can be justifiably proud, a stable membership and team spirit second to none. While the future does present a number of challenges, I feel confident that we can meet and overcome them and continue to hold our place as a jewel in the crown of our local community. Thanks to everyone who has played a part - no matter how small. Let's now all commit ourselves to renewed efforts to sustain and improve upon the current situation. **CG**

Further 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. Support for these off-green activities not only enhances your experience as a Member but also safeguards the future of **YOUR** Club.