



the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of Syston Bowling Club

No: 201 - April 2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



We are getting very close to the first fixtures of the season. Weather & ground conditions permitting our first friendly matches are on Saturday 13th of April. This is followed by our open day on Saturday 20th of April between 2pm & 4.30pm for which we will need some volunteers.

Special thanks must go to Geoff Ellis & Mick Parker with others who have decorated the kitchen. And another big thank you must go to Mick Orton who has decorated the gents' toilets prior to the new urinals being fitted.

The last of the close season Club lunches took place on Friday 15th of March. These events have contributed greatly to the club funds & also to the well-being of our members, bringing them together throughout the winter months. These events do not organise themselves and for the last 5 years Maureen page has been the organiser of the lunches.. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maureen for all her hard work.

A full report on the last winter social event held on Saturday 23rd of March is featured later in this Newsletter.

At the March Board meeting, latest finance figures indicate that the end of year performance will be comfortably within the forecast budget and that current cash reserves (current and deposit) remain very healthy.

Members might also like to note that Investigations hve demonstrated that the installation of solar panels would not be cost-effective and that discussions with the Town Council on water charges are continuing.

CLUB OPEN DAY NEEDS PROMOTING

Members are urged to lend full support to the Club Open Day arranged for Saturday 20th April from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Club Chairman, **Dave Anderton**, Club Coach/Bar Director, **Ken Renshaw**, and **Jenny Dewick** who has kindly volunteered to supervise the kitchen for the event, would appreciate help both on the green and in the clubhouse for the duration.

Please publicise the event among friends stressing that anyone of any age, interested in trying out the game of bowls and having fun, is invited to come and join in the fun.

Flat footwear (without heels) is all that is required. If appropriate, explain that two wheelchairs are available for the less mobile members of the community, who need not feel anxious about trying out this fine game which suits everyone.

Free coaching will be offered through the medium of fun events on the green which will make for attractive spectating for anyone simply requiring an enjoyable afternoon in the Park. The Club Bar and kitchen will be open to all, offering light refreshments and a full Bar service at very competitive prices.

It can be explained that taking part in the event carries no obligation. However, for anyone who might be interested in taking the game further, a 50% discount is offered for the first year of membership.



2024 FIXTURE LISTS



Many Clubs in the County are suffering from reductions in membership and, as a result, are finding it difficult to field two teams on a Saturday. As will be seen in our 2024 fixture lists, this has caused us to “lose” 6 Saturday Home matches (*marked as TBA in the Handbook*). Efforts continue to fill these gaps but, at this point in time, we can hold out little hope of success.

In addition, more Clubs are asking for Triples rather than Rinks to be played. The most serious challenge presented by this situation is the danger that Members will suffer a reduction in the number of Saturday games traditionally played.

Those likely to be affected can rest assured that Captains will do everything possible to “spread the load” of such reductions and to ensure that every Member get his/her fair share of games throughout the Season.

On a brighter note, the availability of the green on a Saturday afternoon opens up the possibility of Club competitions being played on those days, thereby easing the traditional pressure to meet deadlines. Captains will also seek to arrange internal Club “Syston v Syston” matches for those who are not selected to play in the Away fixtures.

In spite of these problems, Members are urged **NOT** to hold back in declaring their availability for Saturday games. Please continue to make yourself available as often as possible in order to minimise the difficulties faced by Captains in making team selections.

Addition to away game Post Code list

All Members should, by now, have received their copy of the 2024 Fixture Lists. Please contact Val Foreman if this is not the case.

All of the fixtures are on our website & in the light blue diary on the telephone table.

Please note that an addition needs to be made to the **Away Games Location Guide** on the inside back cover. **New Lount** needs to be added at **LE67 8JF**. Please also note that “**Shearers**” is the name of the second team fielded by **Shepshed**.

While every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this listing, please inform **Colin Grimes** if any error is identified.

FIXTURE SECRETARY’S REPORT

All of the playing members of the club should now have had their fixtures book for this year. All of the fixtures are on our website and in the light blue diary on the telephone table.

If you have not received your booklet please contact Val Foreman.

Dave Anderton

COMMUNICATIONS



The Board continues to make every effort to keep Members fully informed of “what’s going on” within the Club through the monthly edition of this newsletter, Fixture Lists, the Club web site and **Facebook** page, **email broadcasts** of more urgent news and the posting of Board Minutes in the green file hanging by the clubhouse noticeboard.

Members are also free to attend – and to speak at - meetings of the Board and Management Committee, currently being held in the afternoon of the second Tuesday of each month. Issues of concern, suggestions for improvements, offers of help to make the Club more attractive and successful are always welcomed. Anyone who feels “left in the dark” and/or who is not able to access the current channels of communication should contact either **Val Foreman** or **Colin Grimes** to discuss ways in which their situation might be improved. **CG**

FROM THE WEB SITE THIS MONTH

From the archives: “How things have changed!”

This month you are invited to visit [www.systonbowlingclub.org/Communications/Press Releases](http://www.systonbowlingclub.org/Communications/Press%20Releases) to read Press Release **No 50**, issued exactly 10 years ago, when relations between the Town Council and the Club were at their lowest, as we continued the struggle to negotiate car parking access within the Park and disabled access between the clubhouse and green.

Ten years on and the relationship could not be more cordial and supportive.

Nevertheless, there are residual sensitivities – especially relating to the parking facilities now enjoyed under the agreement made with the Council. For this reason, parking arrangements must continue to be seen as a privilege extended to the Club by the Council which could easily be withdrawn if we are seen to be in serious breach of our obligations. It is therefore vitally important that the policy, clearly described in last month’s edition of this Newsletter, and now on the web site, should be strictly observed.

As for today, the Club would like to publicly acknowledge the warm and fully supportive relationship that exists between the two bodies.

CG

AN EVENING OF MUSICAL NOSTALGIA CLOSES THE WINTER SOCIAL PROGRAMME

On Saturday 23rd March a packed clubhouse warmly welcomed the Thurmaston Ukulele Group (TUGs) for what turned out to be a most enjoyable and stimulating programme of nostalgic music. An extended programme of old classic pop favourites, originally performed by the Beatles, The Carpenters, Petula Clarke, Doris Day, Bob Dylan, George Formby (*Who?*) Peter, Paul and Mary, Lonnie Donegan, The Dubliners, Cliff Richard, Credence Clearwater Revival, Roger Miller - and many more - stimulated a deal of lusty audience singalong participation, accompanied by percussion instruments (*bells, tambourines and rattles*) provided by the band. Medleys of wartime and old Music Hall favourites (e.g. “*Roll Out the Barrel*”, “*Knees Up Mother Brown*”) brought the programme to a rousing close.



After the raffle was drawn, a very tasty meal (*chicken curry or vegetarian lasagne with all the trimmings*), expertly prepared by chef John Collis and Tony Bond, was enjoyed by all at the half-time interval.

Club Chairman, Dave Anderton, thanked **Catherine Voyce**, especially, for organising the event together with all those involved in supporting roles front of house, behind the Bar, in the kitchen and at the raffle table.

The event, which raised a significant amount of money for Club funds, was the last in the series of this year’s Winter social activities.

These events, which are open to all, not only generate valuable revenue but also help to promote the Club, keep Members in touch and also play a part in reducing any sense of loneliness and isolation which, all-too-often can be a feature of the dark Winter months for many singletons.

Sincere thanks must go to all those who have contributed to the programme over the close season for such a vital contribution to both the Club and to the local community.

CG

WEB SITE CHANGE

Archived Newsletters and Press Releases, together with a new “Noticeboard” page, have now been moved into a new **COMMUNICATIONS** section of the web site from **ORGANISATION** where they were not easily located.

WINTER MONTHS’ LUNCHESES



Hi Everyone,

I would like to thank you all for coming to the lunches and, at the same time, supporting the club. This year alone we have raised over £650, which I think is brilliant!

I would like to thank Pauline for designing and printing the menus and Jan for helping to collect the money.

Sadly, the March lunch will have been my last. Stan and I want to have more holidays during the next close season.

If anyone would be willing to take on the organising of the meals, I will give them all the information and help in any way.

Once again thank you all, it’s been fun.

Maureen

PROPERTY AND VEHICLE CRIME

The Beat Team at Charnwood East are asking that people ensure their doors and windows are locked and secured, on both houses and vehicles, when unattended. There has been a slight increase in burglaries and theft from unattended vehicles over the past month.

If you see anything suspicious, please call 101 or report on line.

Your Beat team comprises PC 1651 Stowell, PC 815 Falle, PCSO 6053 King, PCSO 6098 Harrison.

Of course, ring 999 in the case of emergencies.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 17 th April	Kegworth (H)
Saturday 20 th April	Club Open Day - 2.30 p.m. start Evington Park (A)
Monday 22 nd April	Enderby (H)
Wednesday 24 th April	Thurmaston (A)
Monday 29 th April	Narborough (H)
Thursday 25 th April	Oakham (H)
Saturday 27 th April	Birstall (H) Holwell (A)
Monday 29 th April	St Margarets (H) Brush Hawks (A)
Tuesday 30 th April	Sileby (H)
Wednesday 1 st May	Brush (A)
Thursday 2 nd May	Enderby (A)
Saturday 4 th May	St Margarets (H)
Monday 6 th May	South Wigston (A)
Tuesday 7 th May	Shepshed (H)
Wednesday 8 th May	New Lount (H)
Thursday 9 th May	Oakham (A)
Friday 10 th May	Fosseway (H)
Saturday 11 th May	Coffee Morning – 10.00 a.m. start Coalville (H) Sileby (A)



This month's birthday greetings:

Sheila Aindow
Dave Lander
Tiena Ablett
Pat Wright
Pete Murray

“As you get older, you realise more and more that it's not about what you look like or what you own, it's all about the person you've become.”

PLEASE SIGNAL YOUR AVAILABILITY ON THE APPROPRIATE TEAM SHEET(S) AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE AND DO NOT LEAVE IT TO THE CAPTAIN TO “CHASE” IN ORDR TO COMPLETE A TEAM.

Sad News has been received that **Win Collins** a former Life Member of the Club sadly passed away on Monday 18th March 2024.
Win's funeral will take place at Loughborough Crematorium on Wednesday, 17th April at 2pm.
RIP

AND ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Brain Teaser - Communication Breakdown

Can you work out what the typist was trying to say?

- Er reer
- I pooie or itte probem wit my ptop.
- Te mie ine o te eybor i broen.
- Wor ti out n you ve ove te puzze.
- Tooe pip! te

(Solution on page 9)



59 Club Winners!

Julie Harris, Lesley Richardson, Jane Anderton, Corwin Meynell,
Val Foreman

WORDS OF WISDOM FOR WOMEN

“To have attractive lips, speak kind words.

To have a loving look, look for the good side of people.

To look skinny, share your food with the hungry.

To have beautiful hair, let a child cross it with his own fingers once a day.

To have a beautiful poise, walk knowing you're never alone, because those who love and loved you accompany you.

People, even more than objects, need to be fixed, spoiled, awakened, wanted and saved: never give up on anyone.

Remember, if you ever need a hand, you'll find them at the end of both your arms.

When you become old, you will discover that you have two hands, one to help yourself, the second to help others.

The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, in her face or in her way of fixing her hair.

The beauty of a woman is seen in her eyes, because that is the door open to her heart, the source of her love.

The beauty of a woman doesn't lie in her makeup, but the true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul.

It is the tenderness that gives love, the passion that it expresses.

The beauty of a woman grows over the years.”

Audrey Hepburn

Editorial copy deadlines

Your views, opinions, news and any other material of interest to Members would be welcomed for publication in future editions. Please send to systonbowlseditor@gmail.com by the first Monday in every month

Here are some notes that were left for the milkman in days when doorstep deliveries were the norm:

- I've just had a baby, please leave another one...
- Cancel one pint after the day after today.
- Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.
- Milkman, please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops off the milk.
- Milkman, please could I have a loaf but not bread today.
- Please cancel milk. I have nothing coming into the house but two sons on the dole.
- Sorry not to have paid your bill before, but my wife had a baby and I've been carrying it around in my pocket for weeks.
- Sorry about yesterday's note. I didn't mean one egg and a dozen pints, but the other way round.
- When you leave my milk please knock on my bedroom window and wake me because I want you to give me a hand to turn the mattress.

- Please knock. My TV's broken down and I missed last night's Coronation Street. If you saw it, will you tell me what happened over a cup of tea?
- Please send me a form for cheap milk, for I have a baby two months old and did not know about it until a neighbour told me.
- From now on please leave two pints every other day and one pint on the days in between, except Wednesdays and Saturdays when I don't want any milk.
- My back door is open. Please put milk in 'fridge, get money out of cup in drawer and leave change on kitchen table in pence, because we want to play bingo tonight.
- Please leave no milk today. When I say today, I mean tomorrow, for I wrote this note yesterday.
- Milkman, please put the coal on the boiler, let dog out and put newspaper inside the screen door. P.S. Don't leave any milk.
- No milk. Please do not leave milk at No. 14 either as he is dead until further notice



 A poster for the 'System Bowling Club Open Day'. It features a small illustration of a person bowling. The text reads 'System Bowling Club Open Day' in green and red. Below this, it says 'Come and try bowls on the green for free!' and 'Saturday, 20 April, from 2.30pm ...'. The location is 'Central Park, Syston'. It also includes the tagline 'Great for good mental health and physical well-being' and 'A friendly bowls club with an active social side'. Contact information is provided: 'w: <https://www.systonbowlingclub.org/>' and 'e: systonbowling@btinternet.com'.


DECISION DAY AT THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE

It's decision day in the Syston and District Volunteer Centre as the weekly task of matching social car requests for the following week with available drivers begins. This process is never easy and often very stressful.

Current demand on the service regularly exceeds driver availability. Some tough decisions lie ahead.

Many hours later, as more than 100 journeys have already been successfully arranged and the last few pieces remain to be fitted into the schedule, there are three applicants for the remaining single available driver on the Friday.

David* lives in Queniborough and needs to be driven to the LRI. He has been offered a 11.00 a.m. late cancellation appointment for an MRI scan to investigate the possibility of a brain tumour.

Maisie*, lives in Thurmaston, is registered blind and needs transport to her weekly hairdressing appointment in Syston for 1.00 p.m.

Hilda* is a first-time applicant for the service. She lives in Birstall, uses a wheelchair and has an appointment at Melton Hospital scheduled for 12 noon to assess a potential basal cell carcinoma on her leg.

What would your decision be? Who would you choose to disappoint?

In the event, Maisie's request was accepted.

Peter has family living close by, to whom in an emergency, he can turn to for help, and he lives close to a bus route into town. Hilda is informed, with sincere regret, that, because of a shortage of drivers, the Centre currently has had to set up a waiting list for new applicants for the service.

For Maisie, who lives alone and has no family in the area, this is her once-a-week opportunity to leave her lonely house to meet and interact with others. Eagerly anticipated, this excursion represents the highlight of her week. Sadly, she is only one of hundreds of lonely and isolated people cut off from family, friends, local services and social activities. Many rarely receive visitors from one week to the next!

Low-cost, reliable transport provides an answer to their problems, enabling them to stay in touch and to continue to participate in family and community life. Through the Syston and



District Volunteer Centre, Centre, grant-aided, community transport is available to help address the problem. However, we urgently need more volunteer drivers to enable us to deliver this subsidised service to more of those in need.

We need volunteers to use their own cars, in return for generous mileage allowances, or to drive one of our specially adapted vehicles, to enable us to provide a more personal service for those needing to keep hospital and doctors'

appointments, visit family and friends or, simply, to do the weekly shop. Simple activities that the rest of us take for granted.

We need volunteers for training to drive our small fleet of minibuses, which provide a range of social excursions for groups.

All of our volunteers dictate their own patterns of availability and remain in complete control over the number of hours involved. Every single one speaks of how rewarding they find it.

If **YOU** have a spare hour or two in your week and would like to help to improve the quality of life for your lonely community fellows, we would love to hear from you.

For more information, please call into the Centre or telephone on **0116 2607 888**.

Alternatively, you can email: info@syston-vc.org

FLOOD PRECAUTIONS – Sandbags

As part of Syston Town Councils efforts to help residents with flood protection to their homes, we have obtained free of charge, 20 tonnes of sand from a local supplier, Aggregates UK as well as free delivery from Wanlip Sand and Gravel. Suitable storage has been allocated on council land.

Syston Town Council have agreed that any resident whose home is at risk of flooding, may request sand for sandbags to protect their own homes. Residents wishing to avail themselves of this facility are requested to drop off their own empty bags at the council offices where they may collect the bags, filled by our staff and councillors, over the following few days.

Please note, at this time whilst we assess the uptake of this scheme, a maximum of 10 bags per household only will be allowed. This figure will be kept under review with the potential to allow more.

It would be helpful if any residents wishing to obtain sand for sand bags could inform the office of when they would be dropping-off their empty bags; please call 0116 2607 150 or email mailbox@systontowncouncil.gov.uk .

News from Bowls England

Bowls Club goes from brink of closure to national award winners

A bowls club that was on the brink of closure has not only survived the last year but thrived - and now been crowned best in the country.

Ilfracombe Bowling Club has been named Club of the Year by Bowls England.

Club member Stephen Humphreyson said: "We're all delighted. It means a lot to us because we were struggling at one time, now we've got more members, more players for matches, we're having a good time now."

After losing several key players, the club was facing serious financial challenges.

Mr Humphreyson said: "It was hard work. You would struggle to get players for matches, borrowing players from other clubs. Then we recruited two new members who had different ideas and it changed the club completely."

Bowls England says the turnaround is a testament to the remarkable efforts of individuals like Neil Muggleston, the Club Captain, and Barry Gifford, the Club President.

The club is now a vibrant community hub with 83 playing members and a target of 100 in the next few months. They managed to bridge the generational gap, shifting the average age from mid-60s to mid-40s, with an equal mix of genders.

Mr Humphreyson, said: "I think bowls is on the up, the problem is people think it's for older people, but really it's not, you get a lot of young players playing, we've got some younger members who've joined who are under 20."

The club's introduction of various playing sessions, morning to evening, helped retain outdoor members through the winter, doubling membership income.

Giving them the award, Bowls England said: "Their one-club philosophy and community engagement have revitalised the club. Their success story resonates, influencing other clubs."

Solution to Brain teaser on p5: The text omits all letters in the middle row of the QWERTY keyboard

CLUB PATRONS

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