



From the Chairman – Dave Anderton



By the time you read this you will have had a letter/email from the Board asking for you to renew your membership. The Board has agreed that during these unprecedented times - and after some debate - to raise the annual fees by only 2.5%.

At the last Board meeting the Directors were told that the clubhouse needs some urgent, essential maintenance & repairs to keep the clubhouse complying with Health & Safety standards. Although the club finances are in a good position for the everyday running of the club, the Board has made the difficult decision to appeal to you, the members, to help raise the funds required to make the necessary repairs. We have sent out separate letters explaining the situation. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to support this appeal.

Meet the President Night, on Friday, 15th of March starting at 7pm, is for membership renewal & competition entry. We will be handing out the Club handbook with all the 2024 fixtures in.

The 29th of March will be the closing date for entry to the internal competitions. The competitions draw will take place on Thursday, 11th of April.

The green will open (weather & green keeper permitting) on Monday, 8th of April. Our first Friendly fixtures start on Saturday, 13th of April. It is the Board's intention to hold an Open Day on Saturday 20th of April.

The Club has been selected to host a Bowls Leicestershire Executive Match on our green on the 13th of June. Quite an accomplishment for our Club.

Clear out

At the end of this month it is our intention to clear the rear store of all unwanted bowls. Would you please ensure that there are no bowls in there belonging to you as any bowls remaining will be disposed of during that clear out.

Painting

The urinals in the men's toilets are becoming a health hazard and an order has been placed to replace them later this month. It would be nice if they could be installed in a clean room. If any member would be willing to put together a few people to give the toilets a coat of paint during the next couple of weeks it would be most appreciated.

Captain's log



So as the new season approaches, I thought I'd take this opportunity to have a quick word with my clubmates. First, I'd like to explain about the WhatsApp group I am hoping to form.

This is not a replacement for the old way of making yourself available to play. It's an add-on. The selection and team sheets will still be done as they always have regarding selection. The group is just an additional means of communicating *en-masse*. For example, if someone needs to drop out at short notice, they can

use the group (as one) way of trying to find a replacement. Likewise, if a game needs to be cancelled, it means I can let people know in a group rather than individually.

The club is actively trying to improve its communication with members, so don't be shy, join up and give it a try.

Last season we were lucky enough to acquire some cracking new members. Hopefully we can do the same this year. Unfortunately, we also lost one or two members, which is something we cannot afford to do, so please make yourselves available as much as possible. I work on a minimum of 24 players for a two game weekend. Therefore your availability is much appreciated.

This will be our first season wearing our new shirts. I know there has been some controversy about the style but personally I see the new design as a bold progression which says that Syston is a Club with an eye to the future. So wear your new shirts with pride and confidence and enjoy your season.

Regards

Roger

Captain's request

Availability Sheets



Availability sheets are there to let the Captains know who is available on the date shown on the sheet. This information enables the Captain to make the team selection in good time to confirm to the opposition Captain how many players can be fielded.

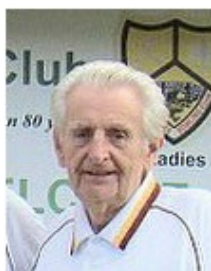
Your name on the list should signal a clear intention to make yourself available. Please do not pull out at the last minute without excellent reason. (*Sudden illness or family crisis can hit anybody at the last minute.*)

Please do not withhold your name from the list in the expectation that you could make yourself available if the Captain is short of numbers, relying on a late telephone call for help.

Last-minute changes cause Captain's great inconvenience and a lot of valuable time in ringing around to drum up support.

There is more to the Captain's job that you may think. So please do everything possible to make his/her job easier.

Club matters



At their February meeting, finance was the principal concern of the Board and Management Committee.

Agreement was reached on a draft operational budget for the coming year which anticipates a modest trading deficit. Cash reserves remain healthy and, in spite of significant increases in running costs, especially in heating and lighting, the Board was able to restrict the annual rise in 2024/25 membership subscriptions to 2.5%.

However, urgently required and essential clubhouse repairs and maintenance will stretch finances to levels which give rise to some concern. As a precautionary measure, therefore, it was decided to invite Members to offer special assistance to meet the challenges involved.

Letters from the Chairman have been sent out, explaining the situation further and giving full details of the proposed scheme.

Further details can be obtained from Finance Director, Derek Burdon.

Ambitious plans for further, longer-term clubhouse renovations are to be the subject of applications for grants.

Following the demolition of the former Syston Town Band hut, the Club is to consider entering into discussions with the Syston Town Council about replacement facilities for the potential benefit of both parties.

Car Parking

Members are reminded that, during the playing Season, parking is strictly reserved **at all times** for **visiting players only** and for those servicing the clubhouse or green. By “*servicing*” we mean delivering supplies or carrying out work in the clubhouse or on the green. Once the delivery or work has been completed, Members’ cars must be removed from the area.

From the beginning of April, the situation will be closely monitored and Captains are urged to ensure that Marshals are appointed on each occasion that we entertain visiting teams and that parking permits are issued and displayed. At no time should the maximum number of 7 vehicles be parked on site using the marked bays.

Parking by Members is not available for roll-up or coaching sessions or for attendees at social functions held at any time in the clubhouse.

On Saturdays and for evening fixtures, Members are free to make use of the extensive parking facility kindly offered by Scotia Press on St Peter’s Street.

Newer Members are perhaps not aware of the great length of time taken over years in negotiations with the Council to finally secure this facility and the continuing sensitivities surrounding the issue.

The Council has made it clear that continued flagrant breach of the agreement reached between us could lead to the privilege being withdrawn. Your full co-operation in this matter is therefore now required.

Clubhouse annual spring clean

An appeal for help with the range of duties involved in the annual spring cleaning of the clubhouse, in readiness for the opening of the new Season, has now been posted. Please give whatever help you can in this vital project and add your name to the rota to assist the supervision of the process.

This month from the web site archives

Club Competitions

Extract from “The Green” in May 2008 – still relevant to-day.

“**WHILE** it remains true that enjoyment of the game should be a Member’s primary concern, competitions do play an important part in the life of any Club. In the first instance, competitions bring Members into contact with other Members whom they might not meet in the course of a Season, thereby strengthening social links within the Club. Secondly, involvement in competitions inevitably causes participants to improve their standard of play in a way that friendly “roll-ups” are unlikely to achieve. Any improvement in the individual Member’s skill benefits the Club as those skills are demonstrated in the weekly fixtures played with other Clubs. Success in fixtures with other Clubs gives pleasure and increases pride in belonging to a

successful Club. Successful Clubs find it easier to attract and keep Members. Competitions take a lot of time to organise and supervise and our Club is fortunate, this Season, to have in Margaret Abbott for the Ladies and Andy Blake for the Men's Section, two enthusiastic and dedicated Members who are committed to the success of the Season's programme of competitions. Please give them your full support throughout the Season. (*This year, John Jeffrey has kindly stepped up to the plate – Ed*)

What can you do?

Read and take serious note of the Rules and conditions for each competition. Do everything possible to ensure that deadlines for the playing of each Round are kept. Don't wait to be contacted by your opponent(s). Take the initiative in arranging for the ties to be played on time. As far as possible, talk directly to your opponent(s) about fixture dates rather than rely on messages on the noticeboard. Update the Competitions Draw sheet on the noticeboard immediately after the end of each tie played."

Club Library update



I am pleased to contribute something, in a small way, to Syston Bowling Club, by looking after the Library. I am sure that you, like me, are pleased to have it and make full use of it. However, it is clear that it is "a victim of its own success" and we have now almost run out of space on the shelves.

Although your books are welcome, either newly donated or returned to the library by you, it is suggested that, from now on, you limit your contributions to **soft-backed fiction**. Please take hard-backed books directly to a charity shop as well as gardening/cookery/travel books, which do not seem popular. Also, please do not bring DVD or CDs into the library.

Many thanks

NORMA

59 Club winners



Ivan Jordan
Julie Harris
Jane Anderton
Roger Stone

This month's birthdays



Jane Anderton
Jan Holmes
Ivan Jordan
Maureen Page
Lesley Richardson
Steve Rudkin
Ray Wood
Edna Loder Pat Wright
Myles Clare Andrew Smith
Doreen Payne John Lockwood

Dates for your diary

- 15th March** – Club lunch 12 noon for 12.30 p.m.
- 15th March** – "Meet your President" Night. 7.00 p.m.
- 29th March** – Closing date for Competition entries
- 23rd March** – TUGS Ukulele Band concert with hot supper 7.00 p.m.
- 8th April** – Green open for roll-ups and coaching
- 11th April** – Competitions Draw Evening 7.00 p.m.
- 13th April** – Coffee Morning – 10.00 a.m.
First fixtures – Rothley (H)
Belgrave (A)

Quiz Night and Supper – 24 February

A fun evening was had by all – with a TV quiz hosted by Geoff Ellis to test our brain cells from as far back as the 1970s up until the Millennium.

We all placed our bets on an hilarious snail race which was a real contrast to a day at the horse races. Several snails went off course and those selecting the winning snail were subjected to a tie-breaker question and Roger Stone won the day. Picture shows him parading his bottle of Gin, where his daughter looks on, suitably proud !

An excellent hot supper was provided by Jane and Geoff Ellis and the clean plates showed that it was very much appreciated.

Overall all £307 was raised for Club funds.



Next Social is on Saturday, 23 March from 7 pm

The next social event on 23rd March will have us entertained by the TUGS Ukulele Band with a hot supper and, you never know, you might feel like singing along with the band.

Please see the notice board in the club house to secure your place.



Saturday, 23 March 7 pm for 7.30 pm

Join us for a night filled with music, food, fun and friendship

TUGS will be playing all your favourite tunes, song sheets provided, you can sing a long if you like or just tap your toes to the beat.

Chicken Curry or Vegetarian Lasagne
Rice
£7 per person



MEET YOUR PRESIDENT NIGHT

FRIDAY 15th MARCH 2004

Starting at 7.00 p.m.

Membership subscription renewal; Competition entries

Relax over a drink at the Bar and renew contact with fellow Members

Talk to your new President, Dave Fox

Prepare for a new and exciting Season on the green

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

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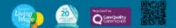
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