

CLUB DIARY

FEBRUARY

Monday 15th Melton Indoors Roll-up session 11.20 start
Tuesday 16th Men's Management Group 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 17th Art Group meeting 10.30 a.m. start
 Pub Quiz/Social 2.00 p.m. start
 £1 for tea and biscuits

Saturday 20th Indoor Bowling Warren Triples League
Monday 22nd Melton Indoors Roll-up session 11.20 start
Wednesday 24th Pub Quiz/Social 2.00 p.m. start
 £1 for tea and biscuits

Friday 26th "Call My Bluff" or "Whose telling porkies?"
 7.15 p.m. Cottage Pie £4.50 at the door
Saturday 27th Indoor Bowling Warren Triples League
Monday 29th Melton Indoors Roll-up session 11.20 start

MARCH 2016

Wednesday 2nd Art Group meeting 10.30 a.m. start
 Pub Quiz/Social 2.00 p.m. start
 £1 for tea and biscuits
Monday 7th Melton Indoors Roll-up session 11.20 start
 AGM of Syston Bowling Club 7.00 p.m. start
 Board Meeting 10.00 a.m.

Tuesday 8th Pub Quiz/Social 2.00 p.m. start
Wednesday 9th £1 for tea and biscuits

Friday 11th "Pictionary"/"Win, Lose or Draw" Details TBA
Saturday 12th Coffee Morning
 Indoor Bowling Warren Triples League

*PLEASE CHECK NOTICE BOARDS FOR STARTING TIMES
 AND FULL DETAILS OF ALL EVENTS LISTED.*

*Wherever possible and when requested, please signal your
 intention to attend social events to avoid catering wastage.*

Birthday Bump
FEBRUARY

*Happy Birthday wishes to:
 Dave Anderton, Sue Disney, Dave Fox,
 Hazel Rayns and Kate Toon*

CALL MY BLUFF

Who's telling porkies?

Friday 26th February 7.15 p.m.
Cottage Pie supper £4.50 at the door
 Great fun for the evening. Prizes to be won

Rink rotation

*Roy Hill
 seeks understanding*

The "Direction of Play" Board in the clubhouse is designed to create even wear and tear over the green. The colours for rinks should be reset each week according to authorisation of the Board of Directors and set by the Green Ranger.

Why am I raising this issue now?

Based on my observations last Season, all-too-often the first team to arrive to play a game have been setting the colour and direction how they want it, and any team who arrive after them, have had no choice but to follow the same direction and colour.

Surely, this is wrong and fair to no-one.

No one seems to recognise the potential damage to the green when the colours are changed at will rather than on the basis of a controlled system.

If you look at the board, which has not been changed all year, you will find that one colour has only been used once a week.

As we prepare for the coming Season, we have the opportunity to discuss the issue at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. I plan to raise the matter for discussion and hope to persuade everyone involved of the importance of rink rotation in accordance with a systematic pattern operated by the Green Ranger.

the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 115 February 2016

Incoming Presidents' pre-Season statements



I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that while there are still a couple of months before the start of the bowling season, the club is providing entertainment for the members on regular occasions.

A lot of hard work is being carried out by some Members of the club for your benefit and those who attend the many social functions will tell you how enjoyable they are. I would urge everyone to make every effort to attend the ones that are left. The men's management team has been elected and are ready to serve the club in their various roles, so don't be afraid to approach any one of us with any queries, problems or suggestions you may have. I am delighted to be able to confirm the appointment of Gary Kilbourne as my Vice-President for the year.

The men's Sunday lunch is scheduled for Sunday 20th March, so please make a date in your diary.

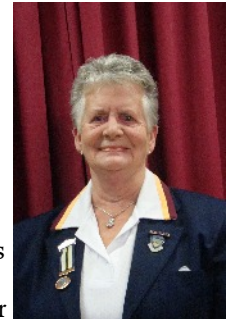
Although it's already February, may I begin by sending my best wishes to everyone. It was lovely to see a tribute to Alan Collins in the Thurmaston Times, which he and Wyn founded 21 years ago. Christmas will not have been easy for his family.

I wasn't looking forward to my first Christmas without my daughter Kare, either, but with two great grandchildren 4 yrs and 5 days old, it turned out to be both busy and a lot of fun.

New Year was spent with friends at a jazz weekend in Kings Lyn, but a phone call sent me off to Kent to look after my sister who had badly broken her arm. Although she was in a deal of pain, many laughs were had trying to dress her with a large plaster cast getting in the way.

Home for one day, with enough time to unpack one case and pack a larger one ready for a sunny week in Lanzarote.

over →



Syston Bowling Club

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2016 Annual General Meeting

Monday 7th March

7.00 p.m.

The most important meeting in the Club's calendar giving all Members the opportunity to question and advise on the management of the Club.

Every Member should make every effort to attend this important meeting



SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

Clubhouse Telephone: 0116 269 2105

All communications to The Chairman, George Dodge, 46 Brookfield Street, SYSTON, Leics. LE7 2AD
 Telephone: 0116 2698 923 email: systonbowling@btinternet.com

Captain Ken's Corner

Hi, everyone! I do hope that you are all wintering well (*not that we've had much of a Winter, weatherwise*). As our nights are slowly stretching out, it's time to start thinking outdoor and preparing for what I hope will be an exciting Season ahead of us. As your Club and Wednesday League Captain, I wish everyone a good bowling year.

On Saturdays I will try, as far as possible, to satisfy requests to select according to expressed preferences to play Home or Away. On the question of positional play, however, I give fair notice that I plan to try out different things, moving positions around to give more players more experience in positions in which they have not traditionally been selected. Please bear with me. I will continue to pick teams primarily to produce a reasonable result while giving everyone involved the opportunity to enjoy what they are doing. At the end of the day, enjoying bowls is the reason we play and, of course, playing well enough to get a positive result is an added bonus.

If, at any time during the Season, you have any thoughts or points to make about our performance, you know that, as both Captain and Coach, I will listen and help whenever possible.

President Sheila concluded

My compliments to Jenny and her ladies for a great lunch. I am only sorry that I missed it. I will certainly be top of the list for her next fish pie.

Not long now to the opening of another Season so, in between my trips around, I will make time to polish up my woods in readiness.

I am really looking forward to seeing you all then. *Good luck to everyone*

Trivia 1

Chewing gum while peeling onions will stop you crying!

Club Development

Club closely involved in County plans for Club development programme

Former Member of Syston, Steve Bacon, the recently appointed County Development Officer, is making a determined effort to persuade Clubs to become more active in presenting and promoting the sport to potential Members.

At the first meeting of Clubs throughout the County, held in Loughborough on 15th December, SBC was represented by Colin Grimes and Ken Renshaw.

A review of the range of ways in which a Club might seek to grow, through a formal and continuous development strategy, revealed that SBC was already at the forefront in setting a strong example. There was little that we could actually learn from other Clubs but a great deal that they might benefit from by following our example.

One very positive outcome was to learn that, in keeping with our declared objective this year of seeking to establish a Youth Section, Steve Bacon was already in close touch with Wreake Valley Academy who have expressed a strong wish to involve their students. We are now considering their offer for us to organise a 6-week course for interested students under the supervision of the Academy staff. We will probably start off by organising, in March or April, a few sessions of indoor short mat "lessons" before moving outdoors on to our green. (County will provide the equipment.) A series of afternoon sessions (3-4 p.m. or 4-5p.m.) is currently under consideration.

Of course, this development will not be feasible unless we have the active support of 5 or 6 volunteers to support Ken Renshaw as a formally registered Coach. It is likely that boys and girls will be involved, so we need volunteers from both Sections.

Issues surrounding the Club's policy for Child Protection and the possible need for CBS checks have been raised. We have been

Concluded p 3

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FINANCE MATTERS

Confronting the issue of long-term care could be your greatest legacy

The number of British people aged 75 or over is expected to double by 2030 yet few of us are adequately prepared for an extended old age, whether in terms of saving or preparing for accommodation or care needs. Most of us will see a financial adviser about our pension, but in general we don't want to think about getting old and we certainly don't like to imagine ourselves being unable to live independently,

But if you don't save, or don't think about the costs of care, the reality is you might not get what you need or would want.

Currently, if you need end-of-life care, your local authority will carry out a means test to work out who pays.

If you live in England, for example, and your capital and savings are above £23,250, you will have to fund the cost of personal care and accommodation yourself. (*In Scotland, the personal care you receive in a care home is free if you're over 65, but you'll have to pay accommodation costs if your capital and savings are more than £26,000.*) Clearly you don't need to be rich, or even moderately wealthy, to have to pay towards your care costs, The Care Act means a cap will be introduced in 2020 on what people should have to pay for care themselves. The reforms are intended to help people make informed choices about the best care options for them, and to enable them to pay in a way that suits them.

One of the most underused solutions, is an immediate needs annuity (INA). With an initial lump sum payment, you can take an INA out when care is required and thus ensure a guaranteed income for as long as care is needed.

Although it's got the term 'annuity' in it, is not like a traditional annuity. It's not based on interest rates, which are currently at historic lows. It probably won't cover all of your care costs, but it pays very high levels of return – anything from 20% to 25% – and it is tax-free if the money is paid directly to the care home.

Of course, you could just use investments such as ISAs and unit trusts to pay for care. But that doesn't give you the reassurance of an immediate needs annuity. But INAs are not without disadvantages – in the case of death, for example, they don't get passed on to beneficiaries.

A quarter of people should need to spend very little on care, but one in ten will have more serious needs and could face care costs in excess of £100,000. While selling your home could be an option to free up the money needed, many view this as a last resort, so it's important to anticipate future care needs and buy the right kind of financial protection.

Even if you do have to pay for care, you may still be entitled to some benefits like the attendance allowance and the personal independence payments.

If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact Pardeep Singh Narwal on 0116 319 0084 for a free no obligation meeting.

All copy for the March Newsletter should be sent to Colin Grimes (systonbowling@btinternet.com) by no later than

Friday 28th February

email: systonbowling@btinternet.com

CLUB PATRONS

We are grateful for the active support of all of our growing list of companies now featured in this Newsletter (See opposite)

For details of Patron benefits, please contact 0116 2608412

Award for Club Patrons



Local independent Funeral Directors, and Club Patrons, Chris Meynell & Family, have recently been awarded a prestigious, national award for Customer Service, after being praised by people in the area who bought a prepaid funeral plan from them during 2014/15.

Picture shows Chris Meynell receiving the Certificate at a Gala Award Dinner at The Belfry.

As a Club, we offer them our congratulations for a well-deserved award.

Trivia 2

By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you cannot sink into quicksand.

59 CLUB UPDATE

Most recent winners are:

Derek Renshaw (52) Stan Page (48)

Josie Hubbard(38)

Maureen Page (24)

Barbara Brown (42)

Hazel Renshaw (50)

Congratulations to them all.

THERE ARE STILL SOME UNALLOCATED NUMBERS AVAILABLE.

PLEASE CONTACT VAL FOREMAN IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CLUB

Christine Dodge

GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Garden Group met for the first meeting of the New Year in February. Several of the regular members were absent owing to illness but we were pleased to welcome two visitors to join us for the afternoon.

We discussed what jobs to carry out to ensure everything in the garden would survive whatever weather conditions occurred during the winter months so we could once more enjoy our gardens when Spring arrives.

As very few suitable venues are open at this time of year, we have arranged for a speaker to visit for our next meeting.

Club development ... concluded

assured that because teachers will be in attendance, all that we will need to do is complete a simple Self Disclaimer Form (*we hold copies*) Please watch out for further details and lend a hand wherever possible for this important initiative to help secure the future of our Club.

The December meeting also discussed expanding the number of Coaches in the County. Steve Bacon is to try to arrange courses for later in the year. We have promised him the full support of SBC and have nominated a couple of Members as likely participants.

Trivia 3

111,111,111 x 111,111,111 =
12,345,678,987,654,321

CLUB LIBRARY

Please keep your donations of books to the Club library coming during the close Season. Reading tends to increase during winter months and a good selection of books on our shelves provides a valued and valuable service.

Car Parking

County Solicitor responds to our request for help

As previously reported, in a letter sent in November, the County Solicitor was once again invited to assist in our long-running conflict with the Syston Town Council over car parking facilities for our visitors, by providing a clear interpretation of the current laws affecting Central Park as a registered Village Green. On this occasion, and in no small measure due to the support given to our request by County Councillor Dave Houseman, we appear to have succeeded in generating a response.

On Tuesday 9th February, Anthony Cross, Team Leader Environment and Property in the LCC Chief Executive's Department held a meeting with STC Chairman Ken Pacey and Councillor H Screaton to listen to the Council perspective on the parking issue. This was followed by a meeting with Club representatives George Dodge, Colin Grimes, Sheila Aindow and Pete Murray. County Councillor Dave Houseman was present at both meetings.

Mr Cross has promised to supply a common written response to both Council and Club. It is pleasing to report that in the course of the meetings he expressed the firm view that there was nothing in the current, relevant UK law which should prevent the Council and the Club sitting down together to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the parking issue. There can be no doubt that the Council, as registered owners of the land, have the power to approve

parking within the confines of the village green. It is now up to the Club to present a sufficiently persuasive case to the Council to achieve majority support from them to agree temporary, (Monday to Friday; April to October) visitor parking facilities adjacent to the clubhouse. Such a case will be put together and presented as soon as possible after receipt of the promised report from Mr Cross.

Message from Men's Catering Manager



I have taken up the office of Catering Manager - a job which, I am told, can be quite "challenging". I am looking forward, with your support, to meeting those challenges. I will try to vary the meat served to give a change from ham. On occasions,

depending on the Members on duty, a hot tea will be served. As another change from previous practice, I plan to give details of the nature and timing of the following week's match on the Availability Sheet to help Members to decide whether they would like to play at home or Away. Here's to another great outdoor Season!

From the archives

Syston Boys Football Team 1951-52



While surfing the net to find images of Syston, I came across this fascinating photo of the Syston Boys Football Team 1951-1952 and wondered whether any of our Members could throw any light on the squad featured in the picture.

Can you identify any of the individuals? Are any of them Members of SBC at the moment?

Copies of the photo can be obtained from the Editor.

U3A concerns

Club PRO offers explanation and assurances

The Chairman of the Board has had cause to bring to my attention a number of complaints and concerns expressed by Members arising out of the Board's decision to allow the newly-formed Syston and District U3A access to our clubhouse for some of their meetings. Speaking as the Club's Public Relations Officer, I would like to respond to those issues. These are the FACTS:

The Board of Directors has been fully consulted on this development and the question of availability is a matter for the Finance Director, Rolf Meyer, to decide, in consultation with the Chairman, in case of doubt.

The U3A is fully aware that the clubhouse will not be available to them for any meeting from 1st April.

Already, we have made a deeply favourable impression on those who have visited our club. Many of them did not even know that we existed! Everyone has been impressed by our hospitality. We have done our public image a great deal of good and I would not be surprised if we do not receive enquiries about membership once the Season starts - especially from some of the ladies.

Should a U3A Bowling Group be formed, they will be looking for a place to play. *And they have options!* The Board of Directors and the Men's Management Group have agreed that I should take steps to persuade them to make use of our facilities - not as a separate club within a club, but as an integral part of our regular roll-up/coaching sessions. In such a case those involved would operate within our existing "pay and play" arrangements with no change to current membership policy. They will NOT be allowed independent access to the green unaccompanied by at least one of our Members acting as coach.

In due course, we would hope to persuade those involved in such a Group to become Members - joining Syston rather than neighbouring clubs who would be only too pleased to grab the opportunity to enrol new

Members! I cannot believe that our membership would prefer me to stand back and allow other Clubs to "get in first" should the need arise.

Yes, there have inevitably been teething problems with this new initiative.

In the light of experience, the Board has revised the charges we make for use of the clubhouse three times. We now believe we have the right balance.

The question of having a Club Member on site to supervise U3A meetings has, on occasions, proved problematical - especially over the festive season. Thanks to the commitment of a few stalwart volunteers, this problem has now been successfully addressed and I am confident that cover can be provided for all meetings up to 1st April.

On two occasions, meetings of the U3A co-incided with Members gathering, briefly, in the clubhouse in readiness for outside visits. On those occasions, it should surely have not been necessary to ask Members, as a matter of courtesy, to respect the needs of our visitors by keeping noise to a minimum to avoid interference with their business? Here, again, we believe that we have taken appropriate steps to avoid such clashes in the future.

In short, as your PRO, it is my sincere belief that our response to the expressed needs of the U3A has been exemplary. Without cost, we have significantly enhanced our image within the community and, should the need arise, are likely to be the port of first call should U3A identify enough support to consider forming a Bowling Group (to join the existing 35 Groups that have already been formed).

I trust that I have succeeded in allaying any fears about the effects of this initiative on our longer term future. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Colin Grimes