

the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 128 – June/July 2017

Your officers report



Board Chairman, George Dodge - You may have noticed that the parking bays for our guests are now painted in, so thanks to Noel for the supply of paint and his help in this task.

While Noel and I were working on the parking, it was noticed that Kate Toon, Dave Hudson, Rod Heggs and Roger Bentley were busy weeding and cleaning out the gutters around the green. Isn't it nice to know we have such dedicated members willing to give up their time for such necessary jobs.. It's nice to know that they not only want to bowl, but want to contribute to the overall wellbeing of this wonderful club of ours. On behalf of the whole membership, I say "*Thank you for the example you set and for all for your hard work.*"



Ladies' President, Margaret Abbott - Val Foreman and I were very pleased to be invited by the Chairman of Syston Town Council to the Civic Reception in the Community Centre on Friday 12th May where we joined Colin Grimes, representing the Club, and representative from a wide range of other local voluntary organisations. It was a very pleasant evening at which the Council Chairman, Councillor Paul Henry, took the opportunity to thank everyone involved for enriching the lives of Syston residents by serving in a voluntary capacity in a wide range of organisations, clubs and societies.

I would like to thank Jennie for jams & Marmalade for sale on the table in the clubhouse. Please support her by purchasing any of these items. All proceeds are going to my charity, Headway. Once again, can I please make an appeal to all Ladies. Please, please put your names down for all of our fixtures - both midweek & Friday League - and please make a point of regularly checking the noticeboard to see when you are scheduled to play your competitions. Please do not leave it until the latest date to play these. (I would like thank Chris & Val for organising the competitions this year.)

Congratulation are due to Marilyn Wood, who has been accorded the honour of being invited to play for "The Johns", the select, by invitation only, County team. This represents an honour to Marilyn personally and a mark of recognition for our Club.

Pictured is Kate Toon being presented with her County badge by Joyce Dorricott, Ladies County President. Kate now has both indoor and outdoor County badges. Very well done, to both Marilyn and Kate!



Men's President, Gary Kilbourne - I wish to make an urgent request for support from all Members. As an important part of our recruitment efforts this Season, we are organising a Club Open Day on the 25th June (*see page 5 for further details*). We need as many Members as possible to support our efforts and to help to make the event a success. We need help to publicise the event in advance. Special promotional leaflets have been produced for the purpose and advertisements have been placed in the local press. On the day, we need help both in the clubhouse and on the green, as we try to demonstrate to potential Members just what an attractive and friendly Club we are. In any case, the day's programme will be fun and well worth your active support. All Members, including Associate and Social members are asked to lend their support for this important day. We do need to recruit more Members!

As Men's Competitions Secretary, I would like to thank everyone who has managed to play their ties on time. I ask those of you who have been successful to maintain the impetus through to the following Rounds. Keep your eyes on the noticeboards to check deadlines and talk to your opponent(s) as soon as possible to arrange your games.

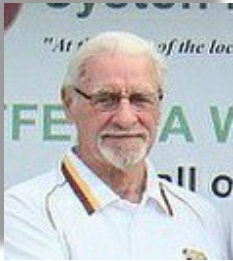
I, too, would like to congratulate Marilyn Wood for her selection to play for the Johns and Kate Toon for achieving her County badge.

Finally, I can now confirm that the winners of the Triples Final, held over from last year due to illness, were Colin Wilkinson, George Dodge and John Lester who beat John Lambie, Roger Bentley and Colin Grimes.



Club Captain, Ken Renshaw - Sadly, I continue to struggle to field 5 rinks in the Wednesday League. It is therefore likely that, unless the League rules change, or unless I can arrange support from another Club, this is likely to be the last Season in which Syston will participate in this League. While I recognise that friendly fixtures are an important source of revenue for the Club, withdrawal from the League would represent a deep personal disappointment, since I had been led to believe that the Club was supportive of playing in more competitive games. However, I will continue

to pressure members to make themselves regularly available.

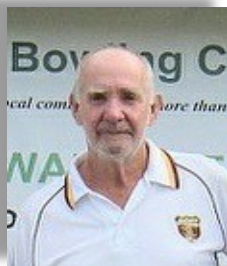


Midweek Captain, Pete Murray - Thanks to everyone who has made themselves available for our midweek fixtures. I've had a better response than expected.

The results continue to be "mixed". We lost to Evington Park 53 to 73 on the poorest green I've bowled on for a long time. I don't blame Evington. It appears that if a local Council maintains the green, the standard is poor.

A much better result against Melton Town winning 76 to 65 at home followed by a "thumping" 106 - 56 victory on their green a week later!

At every home match there are several organisational duties to carry out such as setting out the green, laying tables for the meals and now, car park marshalling. Every Captain nominates various members to perform those duties and identifies them on the Team Selection Sheet. It is up to every Member who has been selected to play to tick off his/her name on the Team Selection Sheet and, at the same time, to check if they have been nominated for a specific task. If they are designated to carry out one of these essential extra duties, they should turn up on time to perform those tasks in accordance with published duty guidelines. If anyone fails to do so, the burden falls unfairly on their team mates. I therefore urge everyone to take greater care in checking their responsibilities and to tell me as far in advance as possible if, for some reason, they are unable to fulfil them.



Loughborough Triples League White Plums Captain, Dave Hudson - Our first game in Division 2 was against the (Brush) Peregrines. Because they could only field two rinks out of three, we were awarded two points and ten shots. Both of our other rinks won, giving us all eight points. In the second game, against the (Quorn) Weavels, we went down 44 to 53 earning us just 2 points from a single rink win. In the Monday Trophy we played against the (St Margaret's) Saints. We lost this tie 50 to 55. The (Thringstone) Woodpeckers were our next League where we recorded a good result, winning 53 - 47, which gave us 6 points out of a possible 8.

We then had to play the Saints again, but this time in the league, where we lost overall by one shot (52 - 53) giving both teams 4 points each.

Out of the four league games we have played, we have taken 20 points out of a possible 32, which has put us second in the league - only two points behind the leaders. I am very pleased with this good start and am happy to be able to report that the team spirit is getting back to how it was last season which is good for all the team.



Loughborough Triples League Green & Royals Captain, George Stone - We've had only a "steady" start to the Season. We have played 4 matches and registered only 12 points out of a possible 32 leaving us in 6th place out of 8. However, we have played the teams that are 1st 2nd and 4th in the League and have taken points in each game (except Wymeswold Steamers, who are currently top.) Team confidence is growing and I am very hopeful of improved results in the weeks ahead. I'd like to thank all Members who make themselves available for selection on a regular basis.

Best wishes



Our thoughts and, I'm sure, prayers are with Mark and Hilary Newman as Mark struggles to recover from his recent serious illness. We all express the hope for a full and speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming them both to the Club again in the near future.

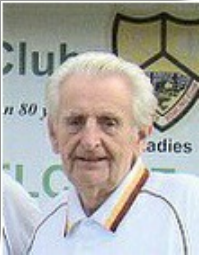
An example to us all



Special thanks to John Woodward. One of our more "senior statesmen", John never fails to respond to a request for help in turning up to play and, what's more, never fails to put in a fine performance, with a smile, no matter how tired he feels. A truly loyal Member, John, you are an example to us all.

Towards Unification – Part 6 - “Over to the Board!”

Colin Grimes - Chairman, Unification Working Party



In our May meeting, on Tuesday 30th May, we concentrated on the unification of competitions and the amalgamation of finances under the proposed control of a single Director of Finance.

As a result of our competitions discussions, it was decided to stick to the principle that we had declared earlier in the process that, except where required in order to qualify for entry to County 2-wood and 4-wood Singles Competitions, all Club competitions should be mixed. In addition, because the views of the Panel were evenly split on the question, the Board has been asked to consider the introduction of a mixed 2-wood

championship, to be organised either as a mirror image of the Champion of Champions 4-wood Trophy, in which the winner of the respective 2-wood championships will play each other, or as a fully-fledged, additional Open competition.

On the subject of finance, no major problems were anticipated. On advice from the current Finance Director and Section Treasurers, it was judged that it would be perfectly feasible for Club accounts to be supervised by a single Finance Director.

The Unification Working Party now feel that we have covered and reviewed all the areas of possible difficulty and have made proposals in every case for a successful unification process. The whole range of our proposals has now been passed into the hands of the Board of Directors who can be expected to review our recommendations in detail, through August and September, to agree a set of proposals to be put to the whole membership in an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held, we recommend, early in December.

Should the Board accept our recommended schedule for holding an Extraordinary General Meeting, current Section Committee members will have to extend their current period of office until the close of the EGM. All Board and Management Committee positions would become vacant at the point in the EGM at which the resolution to approve unification was approved. In anticipation of the resolution being approved, the Preliminary Notice of the EGM would therefore invite nominations for all posts on both committees. Efforts would be made at the EGM to fill any post left vacant by the published closing date for receipt of nominations. The Board would be responsible for identifying and co-opting members to fill any remaining vacancy.

Full details will be published by the Board in due course. In the meantime, I would like to thank all members of the Panel and those Officers who were invited to provide expert advice and guidance, for all their hard work and for the positive spirit in which discussions took place. I truly believe that we have fulfilled our terms of reference and have set a framework that will serve the Club well over many years ahead.

Gardening Group



Members of the Garden Group met at 7.00pm for the first time this year. We began with discussing "companion planting" and how this method can work to get the best results in your garden.

This was followed by a discussion on the proposed coach trip. Everyone thought Cambridge would be a very good venue and full details are now on the notice board. The coach is a 35 seater and non group members are eligible to join us providing sufficient seats are available as obviously Group members will take preference.

Health issues - Your feet

Having healthy feet can help us to balance our body effectively in walking, running, bowling and in many daily activities. Our feet are vulnerable to repetitive mechanical stress and skin irritations due to tremendous daily usage.

How to take care of your feet every day

- Clean both feet thoroughly with warm water and a choice of mild soap, aqueous cream etc. depending on skin type. Dry both feet especially the space between the toes checking for cracks, swelling tenderness, redness or blisters.
- Moisturise dry rough skin, avoiding excess lotion in-between toes. See also emollients for dry cracked skin below.

Concluded p 6

Your finances

This month's advisory is entitled "On the horns of a dilemma"

Has the prime minister killed a sacred cow of Tory policy in the interests of fairness?

Theresa May announced that a Conservative government would end the State Pension 'triple lock' in 2020 if the party wins the election this June. The Conservatives had previously committed to keeping the measure in place until then, but had made no promises beyond that.

The triple lock guarantees annual State Pension increases at whichever is the highest of three rates: 2.5%, average earnings, or the Consumer Price Index (CPI). But under Tory proposals it would be replaced with a 'double lock' from 2020, meaning that the State Pension would rise in line with earnings or CPI – again, whichever is highest – but not by a guaranteed minimum of 2.5% a year. In an era of extremely weak earnings growth, the triple lock has lifted the value of the State Pension relative to both average earnings and prices so significantly that the government felt obliged to act – possibly in the interests of social equality.

This year's Conservative Party manifesto spelt out the change of course: "The triple lock has worked: it is now time to set pensions on an even course. So we will keep our promise to maintain the triple lock until 2020, and when it expires we will introduce a new double lock." Yet Conservative MPs fear that their party risks a backlash from older voters on 8 June. Jan Shortt of the National Pensioners Convention told media that the stance of all parties on the triple lock would be a "litmus test for the grey vote" on Election Day.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition, has already committed to keeping the triple lock in place under a Labour government, while the Liberal Democrats have said that the triple lock would stay in place until the end of the next parliament in 2022.

Changing the lock

The decision to replace the triple lock comes after a year-long review of the State Pension, a review in which John Cridland, former head of the Confederation of British Industry, recommended that the link to inflation should also be scrapped, leaving only a link to earnings in place. While the government has stopped short of removing the link to inflation, the downgrade to a double lock could reduce public spending and help the government stick to its borrowing commitments. Nevertheless, it is rare for both average earnings and CPI inflation to be below 2.5%, so removing the 2.5% component of the triple lock may do little to reduce the cost of the State Pension in real terms.

However, Cridland also called on the government to increase the State Pension age to 68 earlier than planned – a move that would save taxpayers billions of pounds.

The Conservative manifesto confirmed that the State Pension age would increase so that it "reflects increases in life expectancy, while protecting each generation fairly", but it failed to mention any timetable or detail of changes – possibly to avoid more hostility from pensioner groups ahead of the election.

The State Pension is one of the biggest costs to the public purse. If the next government is serious about ensuring its affordability, it is quite possible that the State Pension age will rise faster than the current timetable.

It is another reminder that those who reduce their reliance on the State Pension and build a sufficient pension pot from earnings will have the best chance of choosing when they retire.

Relief map

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats have called for a review of pension tax relief on private pension contributions. In its manifesto, it said it would consider the case for introducing a single rate of tax relief, which would be designed to be "simpler and fairer and would be set more generously than the current 20% basic rate relief".

Similar reforms were considered by George Osborne, the previous chancellor, before Budget 2016. Those proposals were eventually dropped, but they will almost certainly be back on the table, especially as the government is looking to fill the £2 billion funding gap created by the decision to drop increases to National Insurance contribution (NICs) rates for self-employed people. After his climb-down on NICs in March Philip Hammond, the Chancellor, wrote to MPs saying that "The cost of the changes... will be funded by measures to be announced in the Autumn Budget". Whether this means he will press ahead with changes to pension tax relief remains to be seen, but the view is increasingly held that it is a question of 'when' rather than 'if'.

No future government can continue to kick this can down the road. What is certain is that pension tax breaks for high earners are unlikely to become more attractive. Those who can should try to make the most of the very generous allowances while they are still available.

Should you wish to discuss any of the detail contained in this article or any other financial issue, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Pardeep Singh Narwal, Partner - St. James's Place Wealth Management on 0116 242 6 777.

Matters of Law

This month's advisory feature has been supplied by Club Patrons, Salusbury Harding & Barlow, Solicitors

Why Should I Make A Will?

Whilst many people put off the day that sees them making their Will (recent figures suggested that 53% of the UK adult population have not got a Will) there are many compelling reasons why you should make one.

1. Looking after your friends and family. With a Will in place your money and other assets should go to those you intended to have them
2. Making it easier for those left behind. With a current Will in place it will be much easier for your family and friends to sort everything out. At a time of great loss and upset this will provide some comfort and will certainly save them a lot of time as well as reduce the amount of stress they are under
3. Saving your estate money. A Will can help reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax that might be payable potentially leaving your loved ones better off

Whilst we would urge every adult to make a Will, a Will is especially important if you;

- o Are not married
- o Are on a second, third or fourth marriage or relationship
- o Have children from different relationships in your/your partner's lives
- o Are a co-habiting couple

A Will does not need to be a complex document but it does need to follow certain rules in order to be legally valid.

In order for a Will to be legally valid it needs to;

- o Say who gets what
- o Be made when you had the capacity to do it and nobody was pressuring you
- o Be signed and dated by you in the presence of two independent witnesses

You can write your own Will which is obviously the cheapest option... but also the most risky! You can use a Will Writer to write your Will. They are usually cheaper than a lawyer, but may not be legally qualified. Also, Will Writers are not regulated in the same way as lawyers so if something does go wrong, you or your family may have less comeback.

What are you looking at cost-wise did you ask? Well, for a reputable, qualified and insured lawyer to write a Will for you charges are between £160 - £210 + VAT for one Will and between £270 - £320 + VAT for two Wills.

At the end of the day, if you want to protect your family and ensure that your assets go where you intend them to go then a Will is the only way to go.

For further information on the issues raised in this article please contact Lisa Bacon at SHB Solicitors on 0116 262 6052 or via email lbacon@shbsolicitors.co.uk

COACHING CORNER

Club Coach, Gary Kilbourne, writes: *"I have put a special program together for coaching which is designed for players in all four positions. No matter how long we have been playing this game, we all have room for improvement which can be achieved by coaching. Formal coaching sessions are held every Monday starting at 5.30 p.m. Ken Renshaw and I urge every Member to try at least one session during the Season and look forward to seeing each of you in due course."*

Spread the recruitment word!

Promotional leaflets for general recruitment and for the Open Day specifically are available from the clubhouse. (Ask any Committee or Board member) Please take a supply and help to distribute these as widely as possible throughout the local community. We must make a special effort to recruit more Members - especially ladies. Please play YOUR part.



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Sunday 25th June starting at 2.00 p.m.

More information can be obtained from Club Secretaries

Rob Wilbourn - 01664 424 813 (Men) or Valerie Foreman - 0116 260 9635 (Ladies)

Watch or take part
with prizes for beginners
Craft and bric a brac sale
Discounted first year
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Wheelchair friendly
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Club Visitor Parking - Rights and Responsibilities

The news in last month's Newsletter, confirming agreement with the Syston Town Council for the provision of 6 matchday visitor parking spaces close to the clubhouse is, of course, very welcome. However, as with all rights come responsibilities.

The specific conditions attached to the agreement were made very clear in the announcement.

- Permission is for an initial 6 months' trial period
- Spaces are for visitors only
- The Club must supervise the entry and exit of all visitors' vehicles by the provision of marshals
- Marshals must wear hi-viz jackets
- Parked vehicles must display windscreen permits
- Parking bays must be clearly marked
- Vehicles must reverse into marked parking bays
- On leaving the park, vehicles should be supervised and urged by marshals to turn left on to Melton Road

It is vitally important that we adhere to these conditions if there is to be any hope of translating the current probationary period into a permanent arrangement. The Council are, quite naturally, monitoring our performance very closely. We have already had breaches of the agreed conditions pointed out to us!

Captains are therefore urged to identify, on Team Selection Sheets, two marshals who should be supplied with copies of the "Car Park Marshal Duties" sheet (*reproduced below*). A supply of copies will be found with the hi-viz jackets and windscreen permits in the former Men's changing room. During his/her welcome speech, the Captain of the day should inform visitors who are parked of the need to inform marshals when they wish to leave and to return the windscreen permit to the clubhouse. Marshals should read and follow very closely the published list of duties.

CAR PARK MARSHAL DUTIES

Before the game

1. Be in position not **less than** 45 minutes before the scheduled start of the fixture.
2. Wear a hi-viz jacket collected from the shelf in the former Men's changing Room.
3. Unlock the Melton Road gates (if necessary).
4. One marshal to be positioned at the double gate, visible to approaching traffic, to guide vehicles in; one marshal to supervise reverse parking into bays.
5. Issue parking permit to be displayed in the windscreen of each vehicle. (Permits will be kept with hi-viz jackets and can be collected at the same time.)
6. Once all 6 bays are filled, or 10 minutes before the scheduled start of the fixture, close the double gates to prevent further entries. (*No need to lock the gates.*)

After the game

1. Visitors who are parked in the 6 bays will be asked to give notice when they wish to leave. Marshals must then open the gates and supervise the exit of each vehicle ensuring, as far as possible, that all vehicles turn left on to the Melton Road.
2. Should both Marshals wish to leave before the last of the visitors, arrangements must be made with a remaining Club Member to assume responsibility for marshalling duties.
3. After the last visitor has left, the Melton Road gates must be locked and the keys returned to the rack.

Health issues - Your feet (*Concluded from p 3*)

- Cut toe nails straight across keeping them at a comfortable length, using a nail file for sharp corners.
- Keep feet dry, mobile, comfortable and warm (don't heat them in front of a fire).
- Always wear appropriate footwear when walking to avoid slipping or a foot injury. Wear natural fibre socks that aren't too tight and proper fitting and supportive shoes or perhaps fleece-lined boots. Bed socks at night are useful.
- Daily foot exercises promote good blood circulation

Seek medical advice if there is any unusual sensation, tingling, numbness or pain, joint pain or deformity.

Do not apply treatment or medication onto feet without appropriate advice from your pharmacist or GP.

Birthday Bumps!

Happy birthday wishes to **Jenny Dewick, Margaret Dexter, Ray Dexter, Noel Evatt, Colin Grimes, Gary Jones, John Lester, Mark Newman, Aideen Talbot, Rob Wilbourn, Janice Wilbourn, Marilyn Wood** and **Pauline Wright** with birthdays in June and July.

59 Club update

Most recent winners are: **Derek Renshaw (52), Kate Williams (16), Val Foreman (33)** and, **Stan Page (48)** - *Congratulations to them all!*



Syston and District Volunteer Centre

Syston and district Volunteer Centre provides subsidised community transport services for the elderly, infirm, disabled and rurally isolated members of our local community in order to help them to continue to play a full and active part in family and community life. The Centre depends heavily on volunteer drivers and is always seeking to expand its current team. Full training is given to all volunteers who either drive their own cars, in return for a generous mileage rate, or one of the Centre's minibuses. If you have a couple of hours a week to spare - *even if only during the non-playing months of the year* - and would be interested in helping out, at times to suit you, please contact:

Centre Manager, Mark Smith
Tel: 0116 2607 888 or
email: info@syston-vc.org
for further details of this very enjoyable, and fulfilling service.

Editorial copy deadlines

Because of holiday commitments, there will be no July edition of this Newsletter. All copy for the August edition should reach Colin Grimes (systonbowling@btinternet.com) by no later than Monday 31st July 2017

HELP!

We are still looking for help in the production of this Newsletter

Publication in the months ahead assumes an even greater importance than usual because it will be the channel of communication to the full membership for all changes being considered by the Board as we move towards the eventual goal of full unification. Without the Newsletter, you will remain very much "in the dark".



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See also Cloudscape Connect on page 7

We are grateful for the active support of all of our growing list of Patrons, especially those regularly featured in this Newsletter.

For full details of Patron benefits and costs, please contact

Colin Grimes on 0116 2608 412.

In return for their generous financial support for our Club, Members are urged to consider these companies first when considering the purchase of goods and services.

CLUB PATRONS' PAGE

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