

# the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 132 – November 2017

## Towards Unification - The last lap!

*Current Board holds final meeting - Your Chairman reports*



Final calling notices are currently being distributed to all Members giving full details of the Agenda for the Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Club at which the future direction and management of the organisation will be decided.

As you will see, nominations have been received for all posts with the exception of that of Fixtures Secretary on the new Management Committee. Two nominations for the post of Welfare Director have been received which means that a secret ballot will be held at the EGM to choose between the two - both eminently suitable candidates.

Nominations for the Fixtures Secretary will be sought from those in attendance at the meeting. If you would like to be considered for the post, please get in touch with Val Foreman in advance of the meeting.

The final meeting of the current Board of Directors was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November. I took great pleasure in being able to congratulate everyone involved for an excellent start to our Winter social programme. The Games Night and the Tramps' Supper, both well attended, got us off to a fine start with everyone having a great time. Special thanks were extended to Pauline Wright and Jenny Dewick for their outstanding contributions.

The Finance Director's monthly report indicated that the current Board are in a position to pass on to the incoming Directors a very healthy balance of cash reserves. It is matter of pride for the Board that, over the past ten years, we have moved from a situation where our cash reserves were running at an extremely low level to the current position where, after the settlement of all liabilities, our reserves represent more than twice the total of current annual subscription income levels. All this has been achieved while maintaining and, indeed, improving clubhouse facilities and the quality of our green. One of our final decisions was to proceed, as a matter of urgency, with the refurbishment of the Ladies' changing room and the former Men's changing room, spending close to £1500 in the process. The Bar makes a considerable contribution to the annual surpluses which we generate. Cost-conscious as we are, we have been concerned to receive reports that, contrary to past experience, the limited shelf-life of our draught beer and lager is causing us regularly to have to dispose of partly-filled barrels. Put simply, we are currently not drinking enough to use up the supply before it "goes off"! Obviously, this situation worsens during the Winter when clubhouse/bar use rates drop significantly. In response to this challenge, we have decided that during the close season we will serve beer and lager in cans, rather than continue to suffer the wastage involved in draught services. We ask for the sympathetic consideration of all those drinkers who will be affected by this decision.

*Continued on p 3*

## Men's President's piece



I hope those Members who have "gone indoors" are enjoying themselves.

The Winter social programme got underway way with a games night which I - along with the others in attendance - thoroughly enjoyed.

Can I remind everyone that, on Wednesdays, we have a quiz afternoon where the men and the ladies engage in a friendly competition, full of banter. I understand that our men are not doing very well and need reinforcements! I would help, but I am one of the few still at work, supporting your pension funds through my taxes! (*I'm not bitter at all!*)

I urge everyone to lend as much support as possible to our regular social programme. A great deal of effort has been put into the planning and the resultant income helps to keep membership subscriptions very competitive and goes towards maintaining the quality of our green and clubhouse facilities.

Finally, can I remind the Men's Section that our AGM is to be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November starting at 7 p.m.. Please ensure that you attend as the future direction and management of our Club will be discussed in advance of the EGM on 1<sup>st</sup> December. I hope to see you all there.

*Gary Kilbourne*

## Relevant Matters of Law

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

### Have you Considered... Commercial Property?

The UK has long been recognised as a nation of property lovers but have you ever considered investing in commercial rather than residential property?

The commercial property market in the UK is made up primarily of shops, industrial buildings such as warehouses, and offices. The latest figures from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors suggest that the commercial property market is reasonably healthy, with industrial space outperforming office and retail. The Q1 2017 RICS UK Commercial Property Market Survey also showed that investor demand has risen for UK commercial property across all sectors. So far, so good, but what do you need to think about when considering investing in commercial property?

Colin Gooch, Partner at SHB Solicitors and head of the Commercial Property team says, "First and foremost you must ensure that you have a team around you well versed in commercial property. It is entirely different from residential property and even those experienced in being residential landlords find it a very different world.

"At SHB Solicitors we work with sellers, purchasers, landlords and tenants on the sale, lease or purchase of commercial premises including industrial units, shops, bars, restaurants and hotels, and offices. Our work ranges from acting for companies and individuals with large investment property portfolios, through to private individuals seeking guidance on taking their first lease of a small shop or industrial unit."

As Colin alluded to earlier the purchase, lease or sale of commercial property is often a complex process with many issues to consider and it is, therefore, essential that clients choose the right specialist solicitor to represent them. Adds Colin, "The team at SHB Solicitors are extremely commercially minded as well as being experts in commercial property law and this gives us a unique viewpoint which aids our clients in their negotiation and decision making.

We are also happy to answer questions on many different areas of property law including rights, obligations and disputes and in most cases we are able to offer an agreed fixed fee for the work that we undertake."

To find out how SHB Solicitors can help you, whether you are investigating commercial property for the very first time or are an experienced commercial property investor, please call us on 0116 262 6052 or email Colin at [cgooch@shbsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:cgooch@shbsolicitors.co.uk)

## Points to ponder

- \* If you attempt to rob a bank you won't have any trouble with rent/food bills for the next 10 years, whether or not you are successful.
- \* Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
- \* What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- \* If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- \* Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C
- \* Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
- \* Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
- \* Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- \* The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
- \* Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.
- \* 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- \* Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
- \* The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.
- \* If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- \* Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.
- \* If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.
- \* If 2/2/22 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day". (It *does* fall on a Tuesday).

## Art Group contribution

The Board of Directors acknowledges with grateful thanks the donation of £100 from the Club Art Group which meets under the direction of Pauline Wright.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY MURIEL!



*Doreen Payne writes:* Times are changing but I hope that does not mean we will forget all those who have made Syston Bowling Club what it is today. Muriel Gibson, a Life Member, former committee member, Competition Secretary and a dedicated member of the Ladies' club for more than fifty years, celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on November 5th. As a playing member, Muriel was one of those who you would rather have on your side than as an opponent. She was a good steady "lead". Her size one brown woods with a star motif were unmistakable when counting up the shots at the end of the game.

Muriel was quietly competitive but always ready to encourage newcomers or when someone had an "off day"!

When the game was over, Muriel was always one of the rink clearers and afterwards ready to socialise with fellow players both of the club and visitors. When any fundraising was planned she was ready with

her contribution and "in the thick of it" and, when it came to clearing up, Muriel and her friend Dot Roberts were regulars at the sink in the kitchen.

Muriel was one of those who gave £10 as a loan or donation to raise funds when the old wooden hut was replaced with the brick building we have today.

Due to her frailty, Muriel is not able to come to the Club now but, whenever I meet her, we inevitably chat about what is happening at the Bowling Club.

I am sure we all wish Muriel a "Happy Birthday" and send her our grateful thanks for all she did for Syston Bowling Club.

## Board report - concluded from front page

Those of you who call in to the clubhouse will notice that repair work on the green - refurbishing the ditches and re-inforcing the edges of the green - is already underway under the direction of Chris Mews and his Green Machine colleagues. We have committed a sum close to £10,000 for this important work as we seek to develop the jewel in our crown as one of the best in the County.

A further matter of pride, following many years of open hostility, is the current close and harmonious working relationship we have established with the Town Council. The granting of visitor parking rights at the start of last Season represents the latest example of that improved relationship. Through the Club/Council Liaison Panel, we are now able to raise any matter of mutual concern and to conduct open and frank discussions on all issues. An item of current and continuing interest is the question of water charges. We had thought that, by the installation of meters, the problem had been solved, but the first set of accounts based on the new system has served to raise a number of issues of the system's effectiveness. Finance Director, Rolf Meyer, is investigating further.

With the exception of "Presidents" - which can't be dealt with until after the EGM - all Honours Boards have now been updated and discussions are taking place on ways in which these will be treated and developed if unification is approved. This question is one of several important matters which will face the incoming Board to be dealt with in due course.

Looking ahead, you will note (*with satisfaction, I trust*) that the incoming Board will comprise many of the current Directors who will be joined by a number of new faces covering the additional responsibilities to be carried by the Board following unification. I would like to close this report by offering, on behalf of the whole membership, grateful thanks to the current Board - and those who have served on it in previous years - for their hard work and dedication to the interests of the wider membership. At the same time, I welcome the new faces and wish the new Board every success in its future endeavours.

*George Dodge, Chairman*

## Correction!

*In the October edition, the winners of the Ladies' 2-Woods Pairs competition should have read: Chris Biddles and Janet Lowe. Apologies for any confusion or embarrassment caused.*

## Library

**Please keep bringing in your unwanted books. This popular service generates welcome income for Club funds. All categories of books are welcome.**



## Gardening Group



### VISIT TO CASEPAK

When George Dodge asked me if I would like to fill a vacant space for the group visit to Casepak Materials Recycling Facility, I said "Yes, please". However, had George told me that I would have to wear huge, heavy boots, a yellow hi-vis-jacket, goggles and a hard hat, I would have said "No, thank you!", but he did not. So, I went along and am so glad that I did! It was fascinating.

The coffee or tea provided on our arrival was warmly welcomed on a miserable, wet day and, after being "kitted-up" we were taken through into the recycling plant. Huge mountains of rubbish, had been collected from local authorities within a 100 mile radius of Leicester. Rubbish was then sent on its way along debris roll-screens, on various levels, sorting glass, plastic, foil, aerosols, paper, cardboard, steel and aluminium, using clever technology in the process, while we followed its progress along high walk-ways, all the time with a commentary provided through microphones and every opportunity given to ask questions.

Some hand-picking needed to be carried out - mainly to pick out things which should not have been placed in a recycling bin anyway, such as clothing, disposable nappies, needles, etc. - but also plastic film, like carrier bags, cause a problem. No a pleasant task we all agreed, but thank goodness some people are willing to do it. We had ceased to notice the smell at this stage! Most sorted rubbish is then pressed into large blocks to be sent to various material destinations - mainly in the UK, but some across Europe, and energy is recovered from any residual waste, with zero landfill normally achieved.

The facility works 7 days a week, 24 hours a day in two shifts, over five days, but with Saturdays used for maintenance and no night shifts at the weekend, except at times of heavy demand, such as after Christmas. So, please spare a thought for these workers when you are throwing out all your Christmas wrapping paper!  
*Norma Grimes*

# FREE!

*(Voluntary contribution to be placed in Presidents' Charity Bottle on the Bar)*

## Canon MP282

Colour printer, scanner, copier.

Mint condition

New colour and black cartridges installed

Installation disk and connector cable supplied

*(Not a wireless model)*

### Interested?

Contact Colin Grimes

who will help with installation, if required

## EGM

### Friday 1st December 2017

### Winter social programme diary

Weekly Wednesday afternoon socials have started again and will run throughout the close Season. Each afternoon starts at about 2.00 p.m. with a Pub Quiz, pitting the Ladies against the Men, in a five round contest on a wide range of subjects (*Nothing too hard or taxing!*) lasting about an hour. Thanks to Colin Grimes once again for preparing the questions.

After the quiz, when the men usually start playing cards, in a fun game of 10 to 1, the ladies devise their own entertainment while tea and biscuits are served. A modest charge of £1 per head covers the costs.

All are welcome - including non-members. So, if you're at a loose end on Wednesday afternoons, why not come and join in the fun? Bring a friend! A full and varied programme of fortnightly social events has again been organised by Pauline Wright (*see below*). Full details will be found on the club noticeboard. As well as offering a chance to enjoy the winter evenings, these events are a great way to keep in touch with fellow Members.

#### NOVEMBER

18<sup>th</sup> Mike Foster entertains

#### DECEMBER

16<sup>th</sup> Musical "Quizalong"

#### JANUARY

6<sup>th</sup> New Year's Party

20<sup>th</sup> Whist Drive

#### FEBRUARY

3<sup>rd</sup> "Outburst!"

24<sup>th</sup> Blockbusters

#### MARCH

10<sup>th</sup> Link to The Edge

## Winter Car Care Tips



**Your car needs a little extra TLC when the weather gets cold - so take care of these essential tasks and there's less chance of it letting you down.**

### **Take care of your battery**

Your car's battery has to work a lot harder in the winter, powering the heated rear windscreen, fans and de-mister, headlights, and if you're lucky, heated seats. So asking your battery to start the engine while it's

keeping all these systems running will put it under serious strain. So before you turn the ignition key or press the start button, make sure all electrical systems are switched off.

Even if your battery appears to be coping well with the strain, if it's over 5 years old then you might want to have it tested - shop around and you should find a local auto centre that offers free battery checks.

### **Check your air conditioning**

Can a poor summer really affect your car in winter? Well if the weather never got warm enough to make you reach for the air con switch, it just might. Because your car's air con actually works better if it's used regularly. And contrary to popular belief, your air con is just as useful in the winter - because when you're trying to clear your windscreen on a chilly morning, it dries the air that's blown out of the vents - so it de-mists your windows faster.

All air con systems lose charge over time, so they need re-gassing every couple of years. If you think yours might need a recharge, shop around and you should find a local garage that offers a free check.

### **Top up anti-freeze & screen wash**

If you've ever topped up your engine coolant with plain old water, the level of anti-freeze in your radiator is likely to be below the recommended level, which means one night of sub-zero temperatures could cause serious damage. If it's a really cold night, the expanding ice could even split your engine block.

So check your anti-freeze now before the really cold weather arrives. You can buy a basic anti-freeze tester for just a couple of pounds. But if you're not sure what you're doing, ask your local garage to do it for you.

Check your screen wash too. In summer, manufacturers typically recommend a concentration of around 1 part screen wash to 8 parts water. But in winter, you'll need 1 part screen wash to just 2 parts water.

### **Tyres**

Under UK and EU law, your car's tyres must have a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm in a continuous band around the central three quarters of the tyre. However, most manufacturers recommend changing your tyres when tread depth reaches 3mm. It's perhaps not too surprising that the people who sell tyres should suggest motorists change them more frequently, but there's good reason for that. Because on wet roads, tests have shown that the braking distance of a car travelling at 50mph increases by 8 metres if its driven on tyres with a tread depth of 1.6mm rather than 3mm.

## **WINTER INDOOR ROLL-UPS**



For Members who wish to continue bowling over the winter months, as in previous years, I will be booking rinks for each Monday session starting at 11.50 a.m. If you wish to participate, please arrive in good time, preferably *before*

*11.15 a.m.*, to enable me to pick the teams and for the green fees to be paid.

If you or any of your friends wish to participate, they will be made very welcome. Hopefully, this

will encourage them to join our Club in the Season to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any help or further information.

John Lamble Tel: 01509 732 688

## **CLUB COACHING**

For coaching advice and assistance, even during the close Season, ring Ken on 0116 2606 743 or Gary on 0116 2607 922

Non-members are welcome to take advantage of this free service. If you know of anyone who might like to try the game before joining, please encourage them to contact our coaches.

## Your garden in winter



**If you think you've finished in the garden for 2017, think again - and check out these essential tasks to keep your garden in good shape through winter.**

### **Leaf collection**

It's important not to let fallen leaves lie too long on your lawn, as they block out sunlight and prevent fresh growth. If you have a garden vacuum or leaf blower, clearing them is a pretty straightforward job, but all you really need is a rotary lawnmower.

Adjust the blades to their highest setting and give your entire lawn a quick once-over. The mower will effortlessly lift and collect the leaves in the grass box. And it will thoroughly shred them so they'll rot down faster in your compost heap. Or if you prefer a more hands-on approach to gardening, simply rake up the leaves manually.

### **Lawn care**

Your grass will continue to grow slowly throughout November and December as long as the temperature remains above 5°C. So if we experience a mild winter, you may want to give your lawn a mow to keep it tidy. But before you do, check the ground isn't waterlogged - because mowing sodden turf won't do your grass or your mower any good.

If the ground is firm, raise the blades to around 4cm and cut as normal. Then once you've finished, take your garden fork and retrace your steps across the lawn, inserting the spikes and leaning back a little to open up small holes which improve drainage and air circulation.

Winter moths emerge from their underground pupae at this time of year, and the wingless females climb fruit trees and other deciduous varieties to lay their eggs. And when those eggs hatch in spring, the greedy grubs munch their way through the new leaves. But you can protect your trees by fitting grease bands around the trunk - this pesticide-free solution is incredibly effective at preventing spring infestations.

### **Protect your fruit trees**

Winter moths emerge from their underground pupae at this time of year, and the wingless females climb fruit trees and other deciduous varieties to lay their eggs. And when those eggs hatch in spring, the greedy grubs munch their way through the new leaves. But you can protect your trees by fitting grease bands around the trunk - this pesticide-free solution is incredibly effective at preventing spring infestations.

Moths continue to emerge from early November through to mid-January, so if you've any unprotected fruit trees in your garden, you'd better get a move on!

### **Garden furniture**

If you normally cover your patio furniture or store it inside over the winter, now is the time to do so. But that shouldn't prevent you from enjoying your garden during the colder months - just buy a couple of cheap, weatherproof plastic chairs. Then you can still enjoy a cup of hot chocolate on the patio on a sunny January afternoon while you scan the borders for the emerging shoots of early snowdrops, or sit quietly and watch winter visitors peck at the birdfeeders. And on a clear night, wrap up warm, lean back and try a spot of star-gazing.



## **Art Group meetings**

The Club Art Group, which is open to Members and non-members meets in the clubhouse on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

If you would like to join or know more about the Group, please telephone Pauline Wright  
0116 2605 787

## **Raffle Prizes**

Raffle prizes are needed for all Social events organised throughout the Winter.



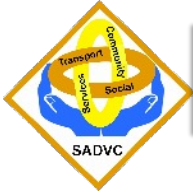
## Birthday Bumps!

Happy birthday wishes to *Dick Crouch, Muriel Gibson (See page 3), Gale Johnson, Tom Jordan, Andy Savage and Angela Sewell* with birthdays in November.

## 59 Club update

Most recent winners are:

*Barbara Brown (42), Peter Adams (32), Sue Renshaw (53) and Linda Brown (57)*  
*Congratulations to them all!*



### System and District Volunteer Centre



### HELP US TO COMBAT LONELINESS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

There are hundreds of lonely and isolated people, like those pictured, cut off from family, friends, local services and social activities. We organise grant-aided community transport enabling them to stay in touch and to continue to participate in family and community life. If you know of anyone in this situation, please tell them about the help that is available from us.

However, we urgently need more volunteer drivers to enable us to deliver this vital service.

We need volunteers

- \* for training to drive our small fleet of minibuses which provide a range of social excursions for groups
- \* to use their own private cars, in return for a generous mileage allowance, to provide a more personal service for hospital and doctors' appointments, visits to family and friends or, simply, to do the weekly shop -and other simple activities that the rest of us take for granted.

All of our volunteers dictate their own patterns of availability and remain in complete control of the number of hours involved.

Every single one speaks of the great satisfaction gained from the experience.

If *YOU* would like to help to improve the quality of life for your lonely community fellows, we would love to hear from you.



Contact:

Centre Manager, **Mark Smith**  
Tel: 0116 2607 888 or  
email: [info@syston-vc.org](mailto:info@syston-vc.org)

## Editorial copy deadlines

All copy for the November edition should reach Colin Grimes ([systonbowling@btinternet.com](mailto:systonbowling@btinternet.com)) by no later than Friday 1st December 2017

## HELP!

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

This edition once again demonstrates that all likely needs of the publication can be handled using nothing more "complicated and challenging" than Microsoft Word. In the first instance, anyone interested will be offered the opportunity to work side by side with Colin Grimes rather than being expected to assume full responsibility from the start.

When material is submitted to the Editor by email, the Newsletter can be put together using simple "cut and paste" methods.

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## Syston Bowling Club

All communications should be addressed to The Chairman, Board of Directors  
George Dodge, 46 Brookfield Street, SYSTON, Leics. LE7 2AD

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We are grateful for the continued 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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See also Cloudscape Connect on page 7

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