



HORSE

DOG RACE NIGHT BOOKIES SUFFER "GI-NORMA-S" LOSS!

A packed clubhouse on Saturday 17th November enjoyed an evening at the races. It had been originally planned to enjoy the thrill of greyhounds racing but, unfortunately, the DVD went missing! Frantic last-minute efforts enabled punters, instead, to pit their wits against bookie organisers "Dodgy" Derek and "Slippery" Sue Renshaw over a series of 8 horse races.

All was going well for the bookies (*What's new?*) until the final race of the night when they had to pay £12,400 to Norma Grimes who had staked her entire holdings on No 4, Merely Merry, which narrowly came home at odds of 7 to 1!

Every punter started the evening with £1000. Unsurprisingly, most had a lot less by the end of the evening's activities.

In a most enjoyable evening, punters were treated to a half-time meal choice of chicken curry or chilli con carne, with accompaniments, expertly prepared by Hazel and Ken Renshaw and their team.

The next event in the social calendar will be the Christmas Party (Faith Supper) to be held on **Saturday 15**th **December**. Please put your name(s) on the list on the notice board to book your place(s) and to give Hazel and her team a clear idea of likely numbers for this festive event.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Change to AGM date

The next Club AGM will be held, as usual, in March. However, it has been recognised, following unification, that this does not allow elected officers adequate time to organise before the opening of the Season in April. The traditional March date has been set to allow time for the Club accounts to be audited before being submitted to the membership following the close of the financial year on 31st December.

The Board has therefore decided that it would be preferable to hold our AGM, including elections, in October each year. To enable this move, we need to bring forward the Club's accounting date from December to the end of June. A draft Resolution will therefore be put to the membership at the March AGM recommending this change.

If accepted, it will mean that there will be two AGMs in 2019 - in March and October. Officers elected in March will serve for only 6 months to October. Those elected in October will then have ample time to plan

for the following year's programme. As an alternative, of course, the membership could agree to those elected in March remaining in post for 18 months, thereby avoiding the need for elections in October.

Membership renewal and Competition Entries

In order to simplify the Club calendar and to encourage greater membership response, the March AGM in 2019 will be the date on which membership renewal subscriptions should be paid and competition entries registered. Similarly, the October AGM will be combined with Competitions Presentation Night.

2019 Calendar

Please make an early note in your 2019 diaries of the following schedule of events:

Saturday 12 th January	Preliminary AGM Notice to all Members	Friday 8 th February	Closing date for receipt of nominations
Friday 15 th February	Final AGM Notice	Tuesday 5 th March	SBC/STC Liaison Panel
Monday 11th March	AGM/Meet the President/	Friday 29 th March	Competitions Closing date
	Enrolment/Competition Entries		
Monday 1st April	Green opens	Friday 12 th April	Competitions Draw Night
Friday 17 th May	Atkins Shield Preliminary Round	Sunday 19th May	County Unbadged Prelims
Friday 31st May	Atkins Shield 1st Round	Sunday 9 th June	County Unbadged 1st Round
Sunday 9th June	Club Open Day	Sunday 30 th June	2019 Accounts close
Monday 22 nd July	Ladies' Benevolent match	Tuesday 30 th July	County Fixture
Tuesday 6th August	County Champion of Champions	Thursday 8th August	County Champion of
Sunday 19th August	Club Open Day	Saturday 17 th August	Preliminary AGM Notice
Sat/Sun 7 ^{th/} 8 th Sept	Competition Finals weekend	Saturday 14th Sept	Closing date for nominations
Saturday 21st Sept	Final AGM Notice	Monday 7 th October	SBC/STC Liaison Panel
Monday 14th October	AGM/Presentation Evening	Sunday 3 rd December	Christmas Fair

NOTE: Dates for President's event, Greenwood Cup and Syston Carnival yet to be confirmed

Green refurbishment

The Board has given approval for further significant refurbishment of the green, to be undertaken during the close Season, at a cost of close to £20,000.

The urgent need for this work was revealed at the time when the new ditch matting was being installed. When the old matting materials on the clubhouse and St Peters Street sides of the green were removed, it became clear that, on two sides of the green, where the "shoulders" of the ditches had originally been constructed using wood, rather than brickwork or concrete, the structure had completely rotted (*They have been untouched for close on 50 years*) which prevented us from making a permanent job of the carpet replacement.

Using brickwork/concrete blocks, this work will provide a "permanent" solution to the problem. We will then be in a position to re-lay the protective carpeting (at additional cost) in time for the opening of the 2019 Season thereby completing the full refurbishment plan which we started two years ago. Fortunately, the Club does hold the necessary reserves. However, having submitted an application to the Town Council for a further grant to help us to meet the costs involved, explaining that, in order to meet this significant and unexpected challenge, we will have to divert funds from other pressing projects for clubhouse development to which, obviously, we must now accord lower priority, they have, for the second year running, agreed to award us a grant of £2000. We are extremely grateful for their continued supportive cooperation.

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

The Syston Town Council has also approved our application for the parking of up to 20 cars within Central Park, adjacent to the park side hedge of the green, for the County fixture scheduled for Tuesday 30th July next year.

Christmas Market – Sunday 2nd December

The Club will once again host the VIP mayoral group visiting the Town's Christmas Market on Sunday 2nd December. After the official opening and tour of the stalls, the party will "retire" to the clubhouse for welcome refreshments. The clubhouse and Bar will be open from 2.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. when all Members and guests are invited to take advantage of the facilities.

CLUB MAKES WISHES COME TRUE



As those who attended the November Coffee Morning are aware, the Club has raised £1300 for *When You Wish Upon A Star*, President Jenny Dewick's nominated charity during the 2018 Season.

Our picture shows (*I to r*) Club Chairman George Dodge, Fundraiser for the charity Alexa Wigfield and Club President Jenny Dewick at the presentation ceremony.

Responding on behalf of the charity, Alexa said that the magnificent sum raised would be put to immediate use to enable a child and family to be part of the charity's annual trip to Lapland at Christmas.

When You Wish Upon A Star's mission is to grant wishes and make dreams come true for children with life-threatening illnesses. Projects vary tremendously from a day out with a favourite football team, a visit to a ballet or theatre or meeting other favourite stars and celebrities, to more ambitious events such as trips to attractions like Disneyland, Center Parcs and Legoland. At a cost of around £900 per head, the annual trip to Lapland to meet Father Christmas, involving a group of over 40 children, together with their families and carers, is now a regular feature of the charity's calendar.

President Jenny paid tribute to the outstanding generosity of the Bowling Club membership whose enthusiastic support had made the presentation possible.

Useful medical advice

With acknowledgements to Dr Sarah Jarvis MBE and "Patient Access"

The nights are drawing in, the weather's taken a turn for the worse and unfortunately many of us are battling a seasonal cold or cough. It also means that your local GP surgery is full to burst with concerned patients asking for antibiotics. But they're likely to be disappointed. Why? It's not because your GP doesn't care about you! Doctors know they need to reduce the number of antibiotics they prescribe in their surgeries. Overuse of this type of medicine has led to regular health scares, from MRSA to cases of blood poisoning (septicaemia) that don't respond to treatment.

Antibiotic resistance?

Bacteria are very clever - they evolve through the generations. If one germ is 'born' better equipped to cope with attacks on it, it's more likely to survive and pass on its genes to its offspring. But bacteria can multiply every few minutes, rather than every few years like humans. They can also produce hundreds of offspring. That means evolution happens with terrifying speed. This is what we mean by 'antibacterial resistance' and we should all be concerned about it. Recent headlines have warned of disaster on the horizon, a world where simple cuts or minor surgery are fatal. We're not there yet, but we can all do our bit to cut antibiotic resistance without risking our health. One way is to not always expect to receive an antibiotic for an illness which is typically caused by a virus - not bacteria. You've guessed it: that's coughs, colds, sore throats and ear infections. The other is for GPs not to feel pressured into prescribing this type of medicine when it's not necessary. They are being urged to prescribe antibiotics only when truly needed. *They're doing their bit - now it's time for all of us to do ours.*

More harm than good

It's important to know that antibiotics usually won't make you recover faster. Even if your bronchitis or ear infection is caused by bacteria, antibiotics are unlikely to get you better any quicker than your body's own

immune system. Antibiotics can also cause side effects such as diarrhoea, sickness and tummy pain that may be as bad as the condition we're trying to treat.

Everyone deserves the best treatment

over the years; doctors have been accused of not prescribing because they're trying to save money. In fact, most antibiotics cost pennies - believe me, they could prescribe hundreds and not make a dent in their area's drug budget. Other patients assume it's because doctors don't think they 'deserve' them. But every patient deserves the best treatment - and the best treatment is one that will work, which antibiotics won't for viral infections.

The exceptions

there are exceptions of course. If you cough up blood or rusty coloured sputum; get short of breath or wheezy; or have sharp, stabbing chest pain when you breathe (rather than just when you cough) you should see your doctor. Likewise, if your cough goes on for more than two weeks, you should get it checked out. And some people are more likely than others to get bacterial infections. This includes a weakened immune system (cancer, cancer treatments and 'immune suppressing' treatments for conditions like rheumatoid arthritis or asthma. If you have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) your GP may give you a course of antibiotics to keep and take as soon as you start coughing more, or bring up more or different coloured sputum. For people with these conditions or experiences, 'normal rules' about antibiotics may not apply - ask your GP if in doubt.

Sore throats

Sore throats, likewise, are usually caused by viruses. However, a sore throat without a cough; fever; tender glands on the front of your neck; and white spots on the back of your throat may spell bacterial infection; if you have three or more of these, or if your throat is too sore to swallow liquids, see your GP.

If in doubt: visit your pharmacist!

If you're not sure whether antibiotics are likely to be needed to treat your symptoms, your pharmacist should always be your first port of call. They're a mine of medical information with no appointment needed, and can advise on whether you need to see a GP. They also have far more 'self-help' remedies on offer than your doctor does!

Colin Grimes



On behalf of myself and my family I would like to offer a final thank you to everyone for their support and sympathy during the past few weeks. The attendance and guard of honour at Marlene's funeral confirms what a wonderful club this is and the fact that Marlene had a guard of honour although she was only a social member shows how well respected she was. To have such support when you have lost a love one goes a very long way towards easing the pain and my family will remember your thoughtful gestures forever. A big thank you to Jenny, Hazel, Kate and Jan for the wonderful food, to Sheila, Kate and Janice for the cakes and to Ken and Dave for the bar.

I would like to offer a final thank you to Chris and Katherine Meynell for their support and help during a very difficult time. I don't think anyone could have been more helpful and understanding than them. They helped me and my family through the most difficult and heartrending time of our lives.

Thank you all

Pete Murray

What a turn out it was, what a fitting Guard of Honour to honour for Marline Murray. Thank you all for showing what a wonderful club we have, what support we have for one another as fellow club members and friends, I am so proud to be your chairman at this sort of occasion, for you to show a fitting tribute to a lovely lady and dedicated club member.

George Dodge.

Gardening with Chris Dodge

Make the most of those days when the soil is still workable and the weather is kind, to dig over beds and borders.

The cheery and cheeky robin is a year-round resident, but it visits gardens more frequently during winter. Robins seem to appear from nowhere once you start digging, and will often keep you company, pecking at grubs exposed as you turn over the soil.

Tackle maintenance jobs, like painting walls, repairing fences and preserving them, which is a lot easier once the branches of trees and shrubs are bare, also check that the tree and shrub ties are in place before the winter winds.

Water

All plants require water, like us they need water to sustain life, and like us they need the right amount of clean, not contaminated water.

For some plants the right amount is just a little, whereas others may need much more.

Some plants like cold water, some even like hot water, most like their water as we do, just the right temperature. Indoor plants don't like cold water straight from the tap or the outside soft water tank. It is a good idea to fill your watering can and let it stand in the room your plant is in for a day, so that the water is at room temperature before you water the plant, the same applies with plants in the greenhouse, especially seedlings.

Mentioning soft water tanks be careful when using this water, as it may be from your house roof which has concrete tiles. The water from this sort of roof may be contaminated and may not be suitable for seedlings, but should be all right for older plants. Other roof constructions should be ok, say the flat roof of a garage or the glass on the greenhouse.

Some plants are happy to stand in water all the time and some do better if allowed to dry out before watering again, but all plants want the amount of water that is right for them.

The main symptom of drought is browning of the foliage and early leaf fall. The flowering may cease and the plant may die. The effects are worst in both very sandy soil and very heavy soil. The main symptoms of water logging are yellowing and wilting of foliage, especially the lower leaves. Attacks by soil pests and rot are increased. Water logging occurs in heavy and poorly drained soils.

Build up the water and air-holding capacity of light or sandy soil by digging in plenty of organic matter, such as compost or manure. If the soil is very heavy also add some sand to open the soil structure. But don't expect miracles, you will have to nurture your soil for more than one or two years to improve it.

Presidents Message

Thank you and well done to everyone who has supported my chosen charity!!





Green Keepers Report

Prior to reading this article you may well have noticed remedial work has begun on replacing the high bank of the bowls green. This began during the first week of December and is expected to take between 4-6 weeks depending on the weather and Xmas/New Year holidays etc.

Once complete we shall have an attractive red brick surround slightly higher than the previous one in order to comply with the latest regulations. The inner face of the bank

will once again be covered with green outdoor carpet topped off with white PVC trim together with coloured rink markers on the vertical face.

The current sides of the green will have the slabs re-laid slightly lower than the top of the bank whilst the two sides closest to the park hedges will have a new 12"/300mm row of slabs laid at the same height as the finished brickwork. This will then allow bowlers to step off of the green on all four sides when required to do so.

As we have previously learnt when carrying out work on the green not everything always go to plan and I'm sure we will encounter a few unplanned problems along the way again. Hopefully once complete it will not only please both our members and visitors alike but also give us, and future bowlers, many years of pleasure and pride in our club and the achievements of improvements made to our facilities.

Martin Warner



Not a lot to report this month but Myles Clare tells me that his wife Mu has now been transferred to Melton hospital for convalescence and all being well should be home for Christmas.

Janet Lowe continues to recover in spite of a common cold and fingers crossed should be able to mix with the public in about three weeks time.

Margaret Abbott remains cheerful just ticking over but news on Past Ladies President Diana Lewis is not so good and she is not a well person.

A Happy Festive Season to all our members.

ROB (Wilbourn)

Contact with news 01664 424813 r.wilbourn213@btinternet.com

Bonus Ball - 59 Club

Please be aware that Number 26 is available if anyone would like to have it let Val Foreman know.

Val Foreman

Financial Matters

Brexit – what investors say?

As the UK's exit draws nearer, we turn to our fund managers and consultants for their views on investing through Brexit.

Despite the long lead time between referendum and formal exit, Brexit remains a great unknown.

Amid such uncertainty, currency and equity markets have, unsurprisingly, reacted strongly both to the initial referendum and to major developments in negotiations ever since. The pound has not recovered the ground it lost in the week after the referendum; UK economic growth has been largely sluggish; and stocks with heavy domestic exposure have under performed.

Of course, markets dislike uncertainty and, as events twist and turn, it is still impossible to forecast what Brexit will look like. Continued volatility is inevitable and the challenge for professional and private investors alike is to look beyond such periods and focus on the longer-term prospects for companies and economies.

Unholy Trinity?

After the events of recent days, there appear to be three outcomes that remain possible:

- 1. **DEAL**: Parliament ratifies Theresa May's proposal, enabling a deal-based exit on 29 March 2019.
- 2. NO-DEAL EXIT: Parliament votes against the proposal and the UK leaves the EU without a deal.
- 3. **DELAY**: Parliament votes against the deal, potentially triggering a change in leadership, a general election or even a second referendum.

Outcome three is less immediate and would open up a new range of possibilities and problems to consider, whereas more meaningful consideration can be given to outcomes one and two. So, what do different investors believe these two outcomes might mean for markets?

DEAL

- Redington, investment consultants: having run Brexit stress tests, Redington believes a deal in which
 the UK stays in the customs union (as would initially be the case) would be a "growth scenario" that
 could spark "rising interest rates, sterling appreciation and tightening credit spreads". UK equities
 would then rise slightly and a negative trade shock would be avoided.
- **Liewellyn** Consulting: John Liewellyn, economist, believes continued access to the European Single Market "would maintain matters largely as they are but would strengthen confidence".
- Magellan: Hamish Douglass, fund manager, believes that a withdrawal deal approved by all the relevant parliaments would at least provide a "logical but difficult" way forward.

NO-DEAL EXIT

• Invesco Perpetual, fund manager: "It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that a hard Brexit will be detrimental to UK growth in the short to medium term [largely due to] an unwillingness to make investment decisions in an uncertain time and disruption as businesses adapt to a new trading environment."

- Magellan: Douglass believes "a hard Brexit is a default and terrible in the short term".
- Redington: while a hard Brexit would be negative (leading to recession and a 10%+ fall in equities), a no-deal Brexit would be worse, as "the UK possibly enters a period of stagflation rising inflation combined with a fall into recession. Rising prices would hit the public finances and increase inflationary pressure. For this scenario, we envisage a 15% fall in UK equities."
- Llewellyn consulting: a no-deal exit would "threaten massive disruption and heighten uncertainty further about the UK's longer-term prospects... A hard Brexit would almost certainly weaken sterling further. This would hurt many domestic stocks but boost those of companies that produce international goods."
- Capital Economics: "Even if Theresa May survives, the key point is that the chances of her deal being passed by parliament are not looking good. There is therefore still a good chance (we'd say 50/50) of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, but the impact of this on the economy would depend on how "orderly" a no deal it was."

Investing for Brexit

But how do fund managers factor different possible Brexit outcomes into their portfolios, investment decision-making and analysis of individual companies' long-term prospects? And how might sterling's fluctuations affect stock valuations?

"We expect sterling to continue to oscillate based on the assessment of Brexit risks," says Johanna Kyrkland of Schroders. "Indeed, we view it as a critical shock absorber in the event of 'no deal', as a weaker pound would help to boost the value of overseas earnings for UK companies. There will be a few nail-biting days as we confront the nature of Brexit but the performance of equities over the next year is more likely to be driven by the direction of interest rates and the outlook for global growth."

Burgundy, which invests in European equities, believes that Brexit will present challenges to companies and investors alike, but that those with a long-term perspective will still find opportunities.

"Brexit may well prove a stern test of the ability of businesses to adapt and thrive, but the best will. [Companies in the portfolio] earn revenues around the world – on average, the UK accounts for well under 10% of the revenues of UK-based companies in the portfolio. In the two decades we've been managing European equities, we've seen the Tech Bubble, Global Financial Crisis, and Euro Crisis and more – every occasion offered the disciplined contrarian investor opportunities because other investors responded with a short-term perspective rather than a long-term one."

Nevertheless, identifying those opportunities this far in advance may be a fool's errand. Hamish Douglass of Magellan believes caution is therefore needed for the moment when it comes to heavily Brexit-sensitive stocks.

"The outcome is too uncertain at this point to factor outcomes into investment decisions," says Douglass. "Furthermore, our portfolio does not hold investments that would be impacted significantly one way or the other."

Indeed, caution may be all the more important, given the potential fallout: John Llewellyn, an economist, believes Brexit has major implications for the UK economic outlook.

"The UK stands to be affected most, as the EU is around four times more important to the UK [than] the UK is to Europe," says Llewellyn. "But the effects on European economies would nevertheless be significant, as

many German and French business people are saying. In the UK, manufacturing would be hit hard, but agriculture, fishing and food would also be seriously affected. Some financial services would be wounded others less so. The UK economy would ultimately adjust, but it would take at least a decade."

Yet that is not the same as saying the UK will not ultimately come out strong. "I can only add that the UK was an economic powerhouse before the advent of the European Union and will continue to be an economic powerhouse long after Brexit," says Aristotle's Jim Henderson. "It could, however, be a messy path."

Aristotle, Burgundy, Invesco Perpetual, Magellan and Schroders are fund managers for St. James's Place.

To receive further information, please contact Pardeep Singh Narwal of Narwal Wealth Management Ltd on 0116 242 6777 or email narwalwealthmanagement@sjpp.co.uk

(The value of an investment with St. James's Place will be directly linked to the performance of the funds you select and the value can therefore go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested).



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Nick Clare, George Dodge, Roy Hill, George Stone, Alan Ward, Barbara Brown, Ruth Wheeler, Carole Allott, Barbara Robinson, Janet Russell, Val Foreman, Bev Wright.



BONUS BALL



Lucky Winners for Nov/Dec - Sue Renshaw (53) – Peter Adams (32) – Mick Russell (24) – Linda Brown (57)

CONGRATULATIONS

CHRISTMAS PARTY 15th December

Let's Celebrate Christmas together with friends

Come and enjoy a fun filled evening

There will be few games. Loads of prizes.

You don't have to join in, just watch and have a laugh



in Territoria

(He entertained us at the presentation evening)

Just £5 FAITH SUPPER

RAFFLE PRIZES PLEASE



















NEXT COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 12th JANUARY 2019

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE EDITOR SUE!!

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

All communications should be addressed to The Chairman, Board of Directors

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

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