

the **SYSTON GREEN**

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 146 – March 2019



President Jenny Dewick

A large poster for a craft fair. The text is arranged vertically. At the top, 'System Bowling Club' is written in a large, green, stylized font. Below that, 'CRAFT FAIR' is written in a large, bold, red font. The date 'SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2019' is in a large, bold, black font. The time '10am - 3pm' is in a blue font. 'Free admission' is also in a blue font. Below the text are three small images: a plate of various cookies, a bouquet of red and yellow flowers, and a row of colorful pens or pencils. At the bottom, 'Refreshments/Bar' is written in a blue font, and 'Clubhouse located within Central Park, Syston.' is written in a black font.

System Bowling Club
CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2019
10am - 3pm
Free admission

Refreshments/Bar
Clubhouse located within Central Park, Syston.



Welfare Report

Sadly Jean Ward's condition worsened recently, but following a short spell in hospital, I am told by husband Alan that she is now looking better and expected to return home shortly. Des Eggitt, according to his son is "battling on" but is unable to walk any distance and relies on getting around by wheelchair.

Margaret Abbott is now in Scraftoft Court residential home following a short spell in hospital.

On a happier note it was good to see Janet Lowe enjoying herself at Hazel Rayns' recent 93rd birthday celebration. At the time of writing, Janet has embarked on a holiday break in the Lake District, so life is much improved and brighter.

ROB (Wilbourn)

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



Gardening with Chris Dodge

Things to do in March

Most of us can see that spring is definitely on its way, despite frequent cold days, with some sun, many of our spring bulbs are in flower and many early bedding plants are starting to show colour.

Be cautious about sowing seed out door just yet, but complete as much planting of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants as possible, so long as the soil is not frozen.

If you like you could, where you are going to plant a new shrub, just cover the area with polythene or a plastic cloche just for a few days, to warm that area before you plant the shrub. Remember to water the plant before you plant it, also water the hole before planting and water the plant in after planting, and keep an eye on it after planting so that it does not dry out, but don't over water it. It's not a bad idea to mist the plants now and again to help the leaves, as these drying winds can cause plants to wilt if they can't take up water quickly enough from the roots that have been disturbed by transplanting.

Remember when you take the plant out of its pot, to tease the roots from around the edges of the root ball, don't just tap it out of its pot and put it straight in to the ground.

What to consider before buying a new plant, particularly a tree or shrub. It's a good idea to know what type of soil you have, whether it is acid or alkaline. Invest in a copy of the expert tree and shrub book and if possible a copy of Notcutt's book, which lists plants suitable for different situations and types of soils.

Silver and grey plants usually originate from the Mediterranean type of climate, so to grow these here successfully they need a sunny, well drained position. Bog plants growing near ponds would not thrive in this position - but need the opposite sort of conditions.

Rhododendrons, Magnolias, Caluna heathers etc must have acid soil, other plants require alkaline soil.

The structure of the soil is also important - roses like a fairly heavy soil, whereas rockery type of plants like a gritty, well drained soil.

Always read the label before buying, although some can be very vague about suitable conditions. Also check dimensions - what will the ultimate height and spread be? You don't want to be cutting and chopping your new shrub about.

You can start to remove protection from slightly tender shrubs and from tubs and pots that have been insulated to prevent damage from frost, but keep an eye on the weather forecasts. These plants should have plenty of light and food now.

If you feel you want some extra colour in your garden, or your containers, there are plenty of Primroses and Polyanthus in the shops and garden centres now.

Tall perennials, and compact ones with weak stems, are often spoiled by strong winds, especially if accompanied by heavy rain. Staking them after they have blown over is seldom satisfactory. It's better to provide the support early, so that the plants can grow through them. Most garden centres have these in stock now.

Your greenhouses and window sills are now crowded with healthy young seedlings that will provide masses of colour in the garden and in containers during the summer. If you have not already done your sowing there is time to do it. Make sure all your seedlings have plenty of space and light.

Prick out summer bedding plants before the seedlings become over crowded. There are a number of ways to do this. You can prick out into trays, spacing the plants to give them plenty of growing room, or into modular trays, planting one seedling into each compartment, or into individual pots. Plug plants are available now in some garden centres, so if you want to try a number of plants that you may not have had before these are a good and inexpensive way to try them. When potting on use good quality compost. You can get compost specifically for the job or you could get multipurpose compost. It's a good idea to sieve the multipurpose compost, this takes out any large pieces and makes sure that the roots are in good contact with the compost. You can get a good sieve from any garden centre or even Aldi.

Top quality lawns are fed regularly throughout the growing season, this is not necessary for most domestic lawns, but all grass benefits from at least one annual feed and this is a good time to apply it. For best results, choose a lawn fertilizer formulated for spring and summer use. Only apply the fertilizer as recommended, do not put more on than it says on the bag, not only will you waste it you may even damage the grass. There are numerous ways to apply your fertilizer; there are applicators on the market, for large areas and small. If you feel you need one why not share the cost with a number of friends, or borrow one.

Lawns are not the only plants that benefit from a feed at this time of year, all of your shrubs and herbaceous plants benefit from an annual feed.

If you make an effort to feed your beds and borders with a balanced fertilizer the benefits will be reaped in the months that follow. Apply your balanced fertilizer now if you want to reap the benefits later in the year. Few border plants and shrubs will die if you do not bother to feed them, but they will be more vigorous and healthy if you do, and if we are to be in a drought situation, these plants will put on good root growth. When scattering the fertilizer make sure it gets directly to the soil (bend the knees) don't scatter at high level as the fertilizer will burn the foliage on your plants.



HERE WE GO AGAIN!

Looking forward to the coming Season

It's that time of year when the clock starts ticking in the countdown to the Annual General Meeting. Final notices have been issued to each Member advising that the AGM will be held on Monday 11th March starting at 7 p.m. Everyone should make every effort to attend.

This year, following unification, the AGM will be followed by the opportunity to meet the newly elected President, to renew your annual membership subscriptions and record your competition entries. Forms for both of these processes were enclosed with the Notice. If you have not received your copies, please contact Administrative Director, Val Foreman, who will happily provide you with them. Copies of the membership handbook and fixture lists will also be handed out, giving you full details of the exciting and challenging Season that lies ahead.

As you will have noticed, once again, the Club is fortunate to have been able to identify volunteers to fill most of the places on the Board and Management Committee for which elections are being held. Only

the posts of Catering Manager and Welfare Director have failed to attract nominations. All other nominees, whose nominations had been received by the closing date announced, have been declared elected unopposed. Efforts will be made to find volunteers to fill the vacancies at the AGM. If no-one can be found at that time, the Board will take steps to co-opt suitable candidates after the close of the meeting. Sincere thanks to all those who, by their example, are undertaking the wide range of duties and responsibilities associated with the running of a successful Club.

As the fixture lists clearly demonstrate, although we have reduced the number of midweek matches, which caused so many problems last year, we have a packed Season ahead. Each of the Captains will be heavily reliant on the co-operation of each and every one of us to give regular support and to be especially reliable in signalling our availability to play when the appropriate sheets are posted. Please play your full part and relieve the Captains of the soul-destroying task of phoning around at the last minute trying to put together a viable team. Save us the embarrassment of cancelling games or seeking reductions from 4 rinks to Triples. This is not the image we would wish to develop.

An appeal also, to give more support to Club competitions. Please read and take special note of the message on this subject from returning President, Jenny Dewick, in her introduction to this year's handbook. Like all other aspects of Club activity, competitions are meant to be fun! There's a format to suit everyone and this year's Warner Trophy format – Aussie Pairs – should prove especially enjoyable for those who have little or no previous competition experience.

We have two Open Days scheduled for Sunday 11th June and Sunday 9th August when we would hope to attract new members and showcase our fine Club offering "Fitness, Friendship and Fun" to people of all ages. Please do what you can to encourage friends and neighbours to come along and join in the festivities. They can be sure of a warm welcome.

Finally, whatever the level of your involvement in the Summer months ahead, enjoy yourself, playing your full part – on and off the green – in the successful development of our Club.

Go for it!

Colin Grimes



Green Keepers Report

The Green is almost finished apart from refitting of the carpet and marking out of the rinks with the new coloured markers.

This should hopefully be completed in the next 2 weeks and be ready for when the green opens on Monday 1st April.

Weather permitting this Saturday we will be laying the paving slabs for the bench seats to be set up on.

The clubs sponsors advertising boards will be put back up shortly and the new flag pole will be erected, proudly displaying the Union Jack. One or two more little cosmetic jobs are still to be finished off, but these can be pulled in at anytime before the season gets under way or as soon as possible thereafter.

All in all I hope everyone likes the new look and be proud to say and promote our improved facilities. Moving on to the new season I would appreciate if members could offer their services and assist in the gardening and maintenance jobs of keeping the green and surrounds in tip top condition. Dave Hudson, Rod Heggs, Kate Toon and myself currently share these duties normally for a couple of hours on one morning per week, but additional help would really be appreciated and is needed (no heavy lifting involved).

If any member is interested in volunteering their time please speak to me and let me know your availability. Finally the cost of the green refurbishment has been substantial to the club and I would like to thank the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity and trust in managing the project and ask all members to promote and make the club one of the best in Leicestershire.

Thanks Martin Warner

Melton Indoor Bowling

DIDN'T THEY DO WELL

Congratulations to:

Gary Kilbourne reaching the Semi Final of the Men's Novice Singles

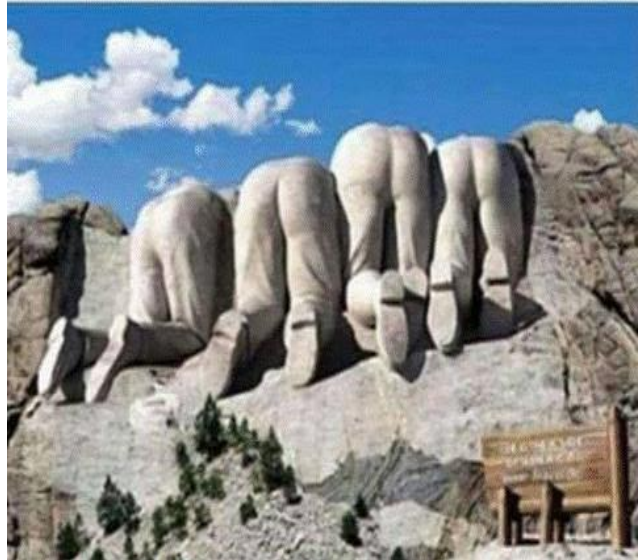
Kate Toon reaching the Semi Final of the Ladies Singles and being in the Winning Rink in the Ladies 4s and runners up in the Ladies Triples

Dave Hudson, Martin Warner and Rod Heggs Winners of the Men's Open Novice Triples

Rod and Martin Winners of the Men's Novice Pairs.



You know, there are some things that you just never think of like Mt. Rushmore from the Canadian side.



BONUS BALL



Lucky Winners for Feb/Mar are: Chris Biddles (12) X2 Linda Brown – (57)
Pete Murray – (54)

Congratulations to the winners!!!

Birthday Bumps

- David Howe
- Myles Clare
- Jan Holmes
- Edna Loder
- Rolf Meyer
- Maureen Page
- Ray Wood
- Ellie Denton
- Anne Gale
- Ron Lilley
- Geoffrey Meason

Britain has apparently released their 2019 coins, with a new image on the reverse.

And you think we have problems !! 🤔🤔🤔



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The next Coffee Morning is Saturday 13th April 2019

Message from the Editor

Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this edition.

Please continue to provide me with regular updates of club activities, by email, as a Word document.

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Please let me have items for the April edition by Friday 29th March 2019

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

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