

the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 163– September 2020



Keep borders free of leaves and weeds as much as possible, this not only improves the appearance of your garden, it also helps garden hygiene. Weeds allowed to grow and overwinter will not only create a problem for next year but may act as hosts to pests and diseases, as many live on weeds as well as ornamental plants.

Flowerheads left to rot on a plant invite the spores of diseases to germinate, also dead leaves and litter provide ideal hiding places for slugs and other pests.

Tender perennials such as pelargoniums, marguerites, fuchsias and osteospermums are likely to be hit by frost in the near future so watch the weather forecasts. To keep them safe, pot up and place in a greenhouse, conservatory or any other frost-free place. Also take cuttings from the parent plants, dipping them first into a fungicide and hormone solution. This is not necessary for pelargoniums (geraniums). Use a cuttings compost or make your own using equal parts of sieved compost and vermiculite. Arrange the cuttings around the edge of a 4" pot or use the small modules, one for each cutting, don't over water, but don't let them dry out. By the end of February give them a liquid feed and they should be ready for planting out in early June. Dahlias can be left until first frosts, dig them up and shake off the soil and tip the tubers upside down to drain. After a few days pack in a box containing dry compost or sand and keep in a cool dry place indoors.

Perennials and deciduous shrubs can be moved now, and evergreen shrubs in October. Revive soil by working in a general fertiliser or chicken pellets in the area to be planted. Large clumps of perennials can be divided now, use the young growth on the outside of the plant and discard the woody centres.

Spring bedding should be planted as soon as possible now so that they have a chance to become well established before the cold weather arrives. Although beds of a single kind of plant can be very effective, do not be afraid to try mixing different kinds, such as wallflowers and forget-me-nots, to add variety and extend the season of interest. Try interplanting with bulbs for more colour.

Clear the bed of any remaining summer bedding, then lightly fork over the ground. Deep digging is not necessary and you don't need to add compost. Make sure all weeds are removed, then rake the ground level, add a sprinkling of bone meal, but do not use fertilizer containing a lot of nitrogen. Space out the plants on the ground before planting, so that you know you have enough for the area. Allow extra spacing if planting more than one kind. Lay the next kind of plant in position on the soil such as forget-me-nots between wallflowers. Plant them with a trowel and firm them in with the hands, remove any foot marks as you go, unless bulbs still have to be planted.

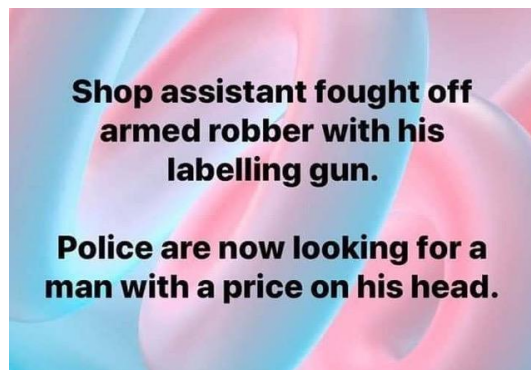
Spring bulbs can now be planted (except tulips - these should be left until early November if possible, to guard against slug damage and fungus disease, tulip fire). Each year there are more varieties to choose from. It is essential to plant them at the right depth, as shown on the packet, as shallow planting can lead them to go blind after the first year. If planting in the border, make sure you mark the area so as not to accidentally dig them up when working, or pot them up and plunge the pots into compost until the tips poke through in the spring. Make sure you plant them deeply so that you bury the white part of the stem that was covered with compost. If you want bulbs to give a very early showing you could plant some bulbs in deep pots, then put them in the green house or conservatory to bring them on, then when the tips start to show, put them outside for a day at a time for, say, 5 days, to harden them off, then bury the pots in the garden, this will give your flowers a good 5 to 6 weeks earlier. Your friends and neighbours will be amazed at your showing

LOCKDOWN LAUGHTER



The COVID19 situation has been especially stressful for the Flat Earth Society.

They fear that the social distancing measures could push people over the edge.



Questions for you during self-isolation!

FOUR GREAT UNRESOLVED CONFUSIONS:

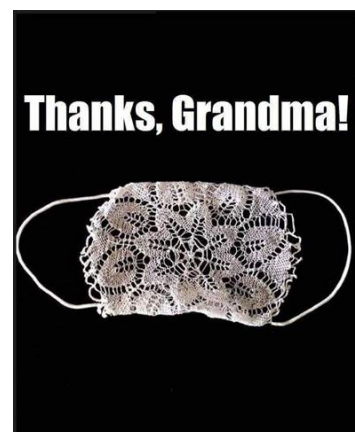
- In a theatre, which armrest is yours?
- If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
- Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
- Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

VAGARIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

- How come lipstick doesn't do what it says?
- Why isn't a fireman calling a waterman?
- If money doesn't grow on trees, how come banks have branches?
- If a vegetarian eats vegetable, what does a humanitarian eat?
- How do you get off a non-stop flight?
- Why are goods sent by ship called CARGO and those sent by truck SHIPMENT?
- Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and the dishes in the
- Why is it called "Rush Hour" when traffic moves at its slowest then?
- How come noses run and feet smell?
- Why do they call it a TV "set" when there is only one?

Who thinks this stuff up?

We have been in isolation toooooooo long!



cupboard?

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Weatherproof jackets

I am still holding weatherproof jackets for David Fox, Pete Hancock, Rod Heggs, David Hill, Brian Madelin and Bev Wright. Completion of purchase would be appreciated to assist Club cash flow at this difficult time. Please contact me (2608 412) to arrange collection/delivery. Cheques for £35 each should be made payable to "**Syston Bowling Club**"

Lockers

A prototype solution to enable "failed" electronic locks to be replaced by personal padlocks is now available. Anyone wishing to change from one to the other, free of charge, should contact Stan Page (2600 446). There are still a few lockers available for rental (£10 per year). Anyone interested should contact Brian Arnold (2606 431)

AGM

1. Voting

Paperwork connected to the forthcoming AGM scheduled for Friday 16th October will be distributed to all Members very shortly. At their meeting on 15th September the Board will decide whether this meeting can be safely held in the clubhouse or whether to invite Members to vote on resolutions by post or email. Please read the documentation carefully and follow the instructions to ensure that your democratic voice is properly heard.

2. Elections

The paperwork will identify any vacancy left on the Board of Directors and the Management Committee after the close of nominations on Friday 18th September. If you are interested in joining either committee in any capacity, please make sure that your Nomination Form is handed in to Val Foreman by 5 p.m. on that date. At the time of writing, it is known that the majority of currently serving Directors and Management Committee members are willing to offer themselves for another year of service. However, a number of important posts are due to fall vacant with current holders having signalled their intention of standing down. Principal among these are the posts of Chairman of the Board of Directors, Finance Director Premises Director, Competitions Secretary and Club Secretary. It is vitally important that nominations should be received from anyone willing to offer to fill any of these posts. At the same time, nominations can be made to fill any of the posts on either committee. A ballot will be held should there be more than one candidate for any post.

3. Membership subscriptions

At the meeting on 15th September the Board will decide on the level of membership subscriptions to be requested for next year. This will not be a straightforward matter as usual as a result of the unique conditions that we have experienced in the current year. Several Members have paid a full fee in 2020 but have been unable/unwilling to take part in roll-ups or competitions. The Board will take this situation into consideration in their discussions. The simplistic approach would be to offer everyone some kind of scaled refund or, even, a free year. We should all remember, however, that significant overheads involved in maintaining the club are incurred whether there are any participating players or not. The Board has the difficult task of balancing the books while being as fair as possible to all Members.

The Board's final decision will be confirmed in the Report of the Chairman sent as part of the AGM documentation. However, if you have any view on the subject which you would like the Board to take into consideration as they seek to decide the matter, please contact Val Foreman (2609 635) before 15th September so that your opinion can be considered during the debate.

Competitions

In spite of the Covid-19 restrictions, and in full accordance with safety measures approved by Bowls England, a limited number of Club Competitions have been successfully organised. Thanks to Competitions Secretary Andy Savage for his efforts to organise these under difficult conditions and thanks to all those Members who have responded positively to the invitation to take part, which has helped to sustain the validity of the events.

Roll-ups

Most Members are by now aware that the green is open seven days a week for informal roll-ups. Latest guidance from Bowls England authorises inter-Club fixtures provided that no more than 30 players are involved in any game. Anyone interested in playing is invited to join in on organised sessions on Wednesday afternoons (simply turn up) or to contact Green Ranger, Roger Stone (07846 649 137), to book a session. Thanks are due to Roger for his work in maintaining the green and for supervising the booking system.

Each time you visit the clubhouse, please follow sanitising guidance and the one way flow system as signalled. And don't forget to sign in the book provided to enable track and trace should such become necessary.

Staying in touch

In spite of the pandemic, a great deal of activity is scheduled to take place over the next two months culminating in the AGM in October. While every effort will be made to keep you fully informed through the Newsletter and by email broadcasts (and regular mail, where necessary) you are strongly advised to visit the clubhouse at least once a week to check the noticeboard for full details or feel free to contact either Val Foreman or myself to stay abreast of developments.

Until we meet again, I wish you all the best of health and trust that you and yours continue to make the best of the strange limitations to our natural freedoms that we are currently obliged to observe.

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MURIEL GIBSON

It was with sadness we learnt that Muriel had passed away on Friday August 28th. Aged 105, she was our oldest Life Member and had been a member of the Ladies' Club for over Forty years. A quiet lady, Muriel never wanted to be President of the club but preferred to help and support it in her own quiet way. She was a member of the committee for many years and at one time was responsible for the Tea Rota. As a bowler she always played either lead or number two and with Muriel in your team you could always rely on her little brown woods, with the star motif on the side, being near if not 'on' the jack. Muriel greeted everyone with her sweet smile and even when she gave up playing bowls she would come to the 'green' on match days to watch the game. As her sight deteriorated Muriel still maintained her interest in the club and the members. In the not too distant past years, she would love to come and feel that she was still a valuable member who had played a big part in helping to make Syston Bowling Club what it is today.

We send to her family our sincere sympathy.

Doreen Payne

Muriel's funeral will be held on Friday September 18th at St Peter's and St Pauls church Syston, at 10am. There is an attendance limit of 30, with family having preference, but please let me know if you wish to attend.



Syston Bowling Club

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PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2020

ALL MEMBERS ARE HEREBY formally advised that the twelfth Annual General Meeting of Syston Bowling Club (*Limited by Guarantee*) is **currently** scheduled to take place in the Clubhouse on **Friday 16th October 2020** starting at 7.00 p.m.

The Agenda for this meeting will include consideration of the Annual Report of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, adoption of the audited annual accounts for the year ended 30th June, 2020, the appointment of auditors for the year 2020/21, election of Directors, Club President and members of the Management Committee (*see below*) and any other business formally notified by Members to the undersigned by not later than **5.00 p.m. on Friday 18th September 2020**.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW INVITED for the posts of Chairman and not more than 11 other Directors (*Administration, Finance, Development/PR, Premises, Facilities, Compliance, Safeguarding, Bar, Public Relations, Green Ranger and Social Programme*) together with *President, Club Secretary, Competitions Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Catering Manager and Club Captain* to serve on the Management Committee. (*Midweek and League Captains will be appointed, in due course, by the Club Captain.*) A copy of the official Nomination Form is attached to this letter. Should more than one nomination be received for any post, election will be conducted by ballot among those Members in attendance at ****** (*See below*) the Annual General Meeting.

Copies of the Chairman's report, audited accounts, resolutions submitted for consideration and details of all other business to be transacted at the AGM will be delivered to every Member by not later than **Friday 25th September 2020** to permit considered judgement of all of the issues involved prior to the Meeting.

Any Member who wishes to submit a resolution to be considered by the membership in General Meeting or who wishes to nominate a candidate for election should note and comply with the deadlines stated above. All nominations and notices of Resolutions must be signed by a Proposer and Seconder, each one of whom must be a fully paid-up Member of the Syston Bowling Club entitled to vote at the meeting.

**** PLEASE NOTE that should Covid-19 pandemic conditions not permit the holding of the meeting, Members, who will have already received all of the necessary documentation, will be invited to cast votes by email or post. A decision on this matter will be taken by the Board and notified to Members by 25th September.**

By order of the Board

V M Foreman

Administrative Director

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

Please let me have any items for the next edition by Monday 28th September 2020

SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

All Communications should be *addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors*

George Dodge 46 Brookfield Street SYSTON Leics. LE7 2AD

Telephone: 0116 2698923 Email: systonbowling@btinternet.com

Tips for preparing the garden for Winter

You may not want to think about it, but winter is only a season away and this means time to start planning for how to best prepare your garden. We've accumulated some best practices for preparing your space and plants for cold temperature months.

1. Chop, clean, and cut – Chop or cut off dead branches and foliage. Clean out weeds.
2. Divide perennials – About six weeks before the first freeze divides perennial bulbs or other crowded planting areas.
3. Add compost and mulch to beds – It's a good idea to add about 3-4 inches of compost and put mulch on top of that.
4. Hydrate evergreens – Evergreens continue to need water during winter months.
5. Protect bark on young trees – Tree wrap tape and spiral tree protectors can help protect young bark from freezing temperatures.
6. Protect water features – The number one rule is not to let pumps or water lines freeze. Blow out the lines and pump well before the first freeze.
7. Clean pavement surfaces – Warm temperatures and summer use can allow mould and algae to build up on paved areas. These can become slippery especially in freezing temperatures. Jet wash patios and walkways to keep them in best condition.

Thanks to Jeff

Jeff Randall

Head of Design

Leicestershire Garden Design

info@leicestershiregardendesign.co.uk

www.leicestershiregardendesign.co.uk

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
To YOU**



Brian Arnold

Terry Denton
Gary Kilbourne
Janet Lowe
Brian Madelin
Stan Page
Lenorah
Bennison

Melton Indoor Bowls

**John Lamble
Has arranged for 5
Rinks at
Melton from Monday
5th October 2020**

Thank you, John

**COMPETITIONS CLUB
COMPETITIONS**

**PLEASE NOTE THE FINALS
BEHELD
THE WEEKEND OF THE
26th & 27th
SEPTEMBER.**

**PLEASE COME ALONG TO SUPPORT
THE PLAYERS**

The missus bought a Paperback,
down Shepton Mallet way,
I had a look inside her bag;...
T'was "Fifty Shades of Grey".
Well I just left her to it,
And at ten I went to bed.
An hour later she appeared;
The sight filled me with dread.

In her left hand she held a rope;
And in her right a whip!
She threw them down upon the floor,
And then began to strip.

Well fifty years or so ago;
I might have had a peek;
But Mabel hasn't weathered well;
She's eighty four next week!!

Watching Mabel bump and grind;
Could not have been much grimmer.
And things then went from bad to worse;
She toppled off her Zimmer!

She struggled back upon her feet;
A couple minutes later;
She put her teeth back in and said
"I am a dominator!!"

Now if you knew our Mabel,
You'd see just why I spluttered,
I'd spent two months in traction
For the last complaint I'd uttered.

She stood there nude and naked
Bent forward just a bit
I went to hold her, sensual like
and stood on her left tit!

Mabel screamed, her teeth shot out;
My God what had I done!
She moaned and groaned then shouted
out:
"Step on the other one!!"

Well readers, I can tell no more;
Of what occurred that day.
Suffice to say my jet black hair,
Turned fifty shades of grey!!
Well readers, I can tell no more;

Pam Ayres

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& FAMILY**
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