

JULY

- 12th Belgrave (H)
Aylestone Hall (A)
- 14th **L&D Triples League - Trophy Semi-Finals**
L&D Triples League - Wolds (A)
Management Group Meeting
- 16th Loughborough (H)
- 17th Nuneaton A
- 19th Narborough (H)
St Margarets (A)
- 21st **L&D Triples League - Queens (H)**
Benevolent (H)
- 23rd **Melton Triples League - Market Overton (H/A)**
LLCBA - Derbyshire
- 24th St Margarets (H)
- 25th Warner Trophy (Mixed) (H)
- 26th Humberstone Park (H)
Narborough (A)
Loughborough Cup - Hartopp Cup
- 28th **L&D Triples League - East Leake (A)**
- 29th Birstall (A)
- 30th Soar Valley (A)
- 31st St Margarets (A)

AUGUST

- 1st Men's President's Day (H)
- 2nd Humberstone Park (A)
Kirby Muxloe (A)
- 4th **L&D Triples League - Lighthouse (A)**
Holwell (A)
- 5th **Loughborough Cup**
Armstrong Cup
- 6th **Melton Triples League - Oakham (H/A)**
- 7th Westcotes (A)
Keyworth (H)
- 8th **L&D Triples League**
Trophy Final
- 9th **Coffee Morning**
Batram (Mixed) (H)
Wymeswold (Mixed) (A)

Colour key: Men: Ladies: Mixed: SBC

REMINDER

For cheap holidays on Madeira at any time of the year, contact **Colin Grimes (2608412)**

Towards the Special Olympics?

FRIDAY 4th JULY marked the first in a planned weekly series of coaching sessions for local people with learning disabilities. Six members of the **Syston Project** had their first lessons from Club and County Coaches, **Des Eggitt** and **Ralph Yates**, ably assisted by Men's Club President, **Ian Oxman** and Vice-President, **Colin Grimes**.

Based in the Community Centre, The **Syston Project** is part of a community outreach service, managed from the Mountsorrel Day Centre, and provides a drop-in centre service for people living in the Syston area.

Sue Smith, Community Co-ordinator explains: "Our primary aim is to give local people with learning disabilities the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities within their local community. Bowling seems to be an appropriate sport to get involved in and we greatly appreciate the co-operation of Syston Bowling Club in giving us the opportunity to try it out. Our fond hope would be to discover some talent within our group which might then be nurtured with a view to our entering the Special Olympics which are scheduled for next year."



Syston Project members, **Diane, Sandy and Michael**, try their hand.

"My Doctor gave me two weeks to live. I do hope they're in August!"

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THE SYSTON GREEN



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No 29 - July 2008

Best start for years!

Men's mid-Season statistics make encouraging reading

MID-SEASON results in the Men's Section - for both Saturday and Mid-Week matches - give a clear indication that the Club is enjoying one of the strongest starts to the Season in recent years.

Club Captain, Des Eggitt, has said that the Club is clearly beginning to benefit from the extensive programme of coaching that has taken place over recent years. **Mid-Week Captain, Pete Murray**, shares that view and adds that, while enjoyment of the game remains the primary objective, he is pleased to note that the Club is far more competitive than it has been for some time and that higher standards of play are being achieved.

Results

At the halfway stage of the Season, the Saturday results show that the Club has won **12** out of the **25** matches played and has generated a modest deficit of only **213** shots - less than **10** shots per game - out of a total of **3750** scored in all games.

Mid-week results are even stronger with only **3** losses out of the **10** matches played and a positive balance of **+89** shots.

President, **Ian Oxman**, says: "There can be no doubting the high morale and strong social spirit in our Club at the present time. I know that all Members share my pride in belonging to and in representing our Club - and the town of Syston - to other Clubs on the fixture circuit. We are now recognised as an important part of the social structure of our local community and have earned the respect of all of the other Clubs that we play. Long may this continue!

The green is in a better condition now than it has been for a long time. Thanks for this are due to those who continue to help at our twice-weekly sessions with the true-level roller and to David, our Groundsman, who is following the advice

and guidance given to us by the County Greens Administrator. Further corrective measures are scheduled for the winter months which should lead to an even better situation next year.

Thanks are also due to my fellow Officers and Committee members, all of whom are working so well together on all aspects of Club management. The improvement in our overall performance continues to be a real team effort and I am proud to be leading our Club at such an exciting time in our development."



Myles Clare and **Roger Bentley** help to give the green some TLC during the regular Friday morning sessions. (Thanks to Myles, also, for repairing the roof!)

Your views, opinions, news and any other material of interest to Members would be welcomed for publication in future editions. Please send to **George Dodge**, as Editor, by the first Monday in every month

President'

Ladies' President, Anita Lowder, recalls a trip to Windsor and a very wet Garden Party!

SINCE the last Newsletter, we have had mixed results from our matches. We beat **Oakham** at home and lost to **Wymeswold** and **Brookfield**. But we are still enjoying ourselves.

I would like to thank all who came to my President's Day and made it such a memorable occasion. I really enjoyed myself and I hope you did too. Congratulations to **Betty** and **Rob** on winning the Ascot Hat competition. Thank you also for the Spider we had at the beginning of the match. This helped my Charity to the tune of £33.

We are well into both our Home and County competitions. Some of you are getting on well but others *Ooops!* Well, better luck next year! We still have **Margaret Abbott** and **Marilyn Wood** in the Over 55 Competition.

We held the Executive Match on Sunday 22nd June to help to celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Although we did not win, we gave them a "good run for their money"!

We started with a Spider in aid of my Charity which raised another £48. The game was followed by a wonderful tea made by my merry band of caterers. Thank you to **Verna**, **Norma** and **Ray** for all the hard work put in to make this such a special day.

We had another celebration on 3rd July when 20 Syston Ladies went to play bowls at Windsor Park.

We met at the Clubhouse for 8.00 a.m. and then travelled down the motorway, stopping at Teddington for coffee.

Once in Windsor, we had a good walk around the town. The band and guards came out of the Castle just as we arrived which was quite a spectacle!

Some of us then had a wonderful meal in a Greek Cafe before returning to the coach to be on our way to the Royal Household Bowling Club.

The Windsor green is in a most idyllic situation in the Park not far from the Castle. The weather was great. We could hear thunder all around and the sky was very dark and threatening but, apart from a few spots of rain, we were not affected.

We had a great game of bowls - which we lost - before enjoying a lovely tea and a raffle.

We were made most welcome.

For more details of the hilarious journey home, you need to ask **Margaret Porter!** All in all, we had a wonderful time.

County President's Garden Party

What a day! We arrived at about 1.00 p.m. In the sunshine in order to set up the cake and the tombola stalls. There was a buffet, with every kind of savoury and sweet you could wish for, and an excellent raffle organised by **Margaret Porter** and **Barbara Brown**. There was a bar provided and a very good singing group who quickly had the Syston Ladies dancing on the grass.

Then the rains came!

It was awful, lasting, on and off, for at least a couple of hours! Sadly only a fraction of those who had bought tickets turned up. We all felt so disappointed for **Diana** and the ladies of Syston who had worked so hard to make it a great day.

The garden looked fabulous with the tents up and the chairs set round. Diana put on a very brave face but it was clear that she was bitterly disappointed by the turnout and the weather.

I think most people went home certainly "merrier" - and surely poorer - in spite of the weather.

At the time of writing, we are still waiting for confirmation of how much money the event raised for

Charity.

In the meantime, thanks once again to the ladies of Syston Bowling Club for putting in such effort to make a great show. You did us proud!



Ladies' Club President, **Anita Lowder** (front centre) and County Ladies' President **Diana Lewis** (front left) at the Royal Household Bowling Club, Windsor

Coaching corner

Club & County Coach, Des Eggitt, urges all players to avoid negativity in their play



A GOOD example of being negative in bowling is when, after the Lead doesn't get his woods into the head and, after the No 2 has played, the rink is 4 down, putting pressure on No 3. No 3 fails to alter the situation and all three players say: "**Leave it to the Skip! Come on, Skip, you know you can do it!**"

Under these circumstances, all 3 players have demonstrated the negative thought that the situation can always be left to someone else and the Skip can - and should - be able to "save the day".

Negativity also creeps in when the Lead, who has played 2 excellent woods into the count, sees his/her woods dislodged in favour of a later player. It's all too easy to get despondent in such a situation and think any early efforts to be a waste of time.

Such negativity is both wrong and counter-productive both for you as an individual and for the team.

Regardless of the final result, concentrate on your own contribution to the game. If you have outplayed your opposite number in the rink, you have succeeded fully in your objectives and have given your rink 100% support. Also, whatever the result, enjoy your game and avoid negative feelings which will prevent you from getting that enjoyment from your participation.

Editor's note:

*Members will be interested to learn that Des has been awarded a special Certificate in recognition of over 20 years service as a Coach by the **English Bowling Coaching Scheme**. Congratulations, Des! We appreciate having you around.*

Remember

The Club's own web site
www.systonbowlingclub.org
is now fully operational

Uniform shirts for evening matches?

THE MEN'S Executive Committee is anxious to receive reaction to the proposal that the Dress Code should be amended to require players involved in evening matches - including Melton & Loughborough Triples Leagues - to wear a coloured polo shirt carrying the Club logo and player's name. It is understood that these shirts would cost £10 - £12 each. If you have a strongly negative view on this proposal, please talk to President, **Ian Oxman**, **Roy Hill** or **Dave Hudson** to make your views known. Should there be little or no opposition expressed, please expect the Dress Code to be amended with effect from the 2009 Season.

Return of trophies

Competitions Secretary, Andy Blake, requests co-operation

ALL CURRENT Club competition trophy holders are requested to ensure that trophies are returned to the clubhouse - cleaned and polished - in readiness for the **Finals Day** which is scheduled for Sunday 14th September.

The operation of a **Finals Day** will not alter the normal arrangements for the presentation of trophies to the winners on Men's Club Presentation Night on 8th November.



Marjorie Clowes caught at the back of the greenhouse with Windsor groundsman!