

2010

## JANUARY

- 9th Coffee Morning  
**Sunday Tourists' New Year get together**
- 16th Wednesday afternoon Social & Pub Quiz - 1400 hrs start
- 23rd Cheese & Wine Evening with special guest £3.50 1900 hrs

## FEBRUARY

- 13th Coffee Morning  
**"Call My Bluff" and Quiz**  
 Faith Supper + £1 1900 hrs start

## MARCH

- 13th Coffee Morning
- 15th SBC AGM - 1900 hrs start

## Winter indoor roll-ups

**AS** in previous years, rinks have been booked for the 1150 hrs session at the Melton Indoor Club on Monday mornings throughout the Close Season.

If you wish to participate, please arrive before 1130 hrs to allow good time to make the draw for teams and for the rink fees to be paid. If any of your friends wish to join us, they will be made very welcome. Hopefully, this will encourage them to join our Club in seasons to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact **John Lambie** on 0116 2921619 should you require help or any further information.

## 49 Club update

**LATEST** lucky winners are:

**Josie Hubbard, Ruth Wheeler, Sheila Aindhow and Chris Biddles**

**49 Club** members are asked to ensure that their subscriptions are kept fully up to date by paying their entry fees to **Anita Lowder** on a regular basis.

[www.systonbowlingclub.org](http://www.systonbowlingclub.org)

for Diary, Fixtures, Results, Honours Boards, Press Releases, Newsletters, photos and other Club details

**SYSTON BOWLING CLUB** Clubhouse Telephone: 0116 269 2105

All communications to **The Chairman:**

Mr Colin Grimes, 8 Quenby Crescent, SYSTON, Leics LE7 2BW  
 Telephone: 0116 2608 412 email: [systonbowling@btinternet.com](mailto:systonbowling@btinternet.com)

## Letters of thanks from charities



Dear Editor  
 (I was delighted to be invited to your Ladies' Lunch held on 18th November.) "It was an enjoyable occasion, members made me feel most welcome and the meal was excellent. I was overwhelmed to receive "a substantial" cheque for £655 to go towards social events and outings for our members.

I do thank Janice and the members of the Ladies' Bowling Club for all their hard work in raising this amount and Janice for choosing Arthritis Care Syston as her nominated Charity. I can assure them that the money will be spent for the benefit of our members beginning with the Christmas Party."

**Rosemary Foster**

Secretary  
 Arthritis Care Syston



Dear Colin  
 On behalf of all of the members of the LCWBC please accept our most sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous (cumulative) donation of £475 towards club funds.

Since the club has no salaried officers or staff, every penny of your donations will go towards providing sporting equipment and opportunities, both recreational and competitive, for people with disabilities. The club is currently recruiting new young members both male and female, who will need a specialised basketball wheelchair costing approximately £2500 each. Your valued donation will go some way towards helping to fulfil this requirement.

As discussed, we will add the Syston Bowling Club logo to our marketing and promotional materials to acknowledge your valued sponsorship of our club.

**Mike Foster**



# THE SYSTON GREEN



Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club No 46 - December 2009/January 2010

## Membership subscriptions set to rise

*Credit crunch hits Bar receipts putting pressure on budget plans*

**AT THE CLOSE** of the current financial year, Bar takings will be down by nearly 30%. Members and visitors have clearly been spending less. At the same time, price increases from our suppliers, not passed on to Members, have significantly reduced our profit margins.

In an organisation which, in reality, has only membership subscriptions and Bar profits to rely upon to generate funds to run the Club, the Board of Directors are facing some difficult choices.

Further price increases, on all our supplies, are inevitable. If nothing else, the return of VAT to 17.5% in January makes that a certainty. On top of these pressures, as a result of the decision to assume responsibility for the upkeep of the green, the Club is facing a significant increase in basic operational costs. The Board has calculated that unless we can generate additional funds - or make significant cost savings - the Club is facing a likely deficit of £4000 to £5000 in 2010!

### Options

We could have taken the optimistic view that the drop in **Bar revenue** is likely to be a "one-off" and anticipate a return to previous levels. If this were the case, we could reduce the anticipated deficit to around £1000. However, we have decided to **increase Bar prices from 1st January 2010**. In so doing, we have tried to recognise the need to remain competitive with other local Clubs and continue to offer attractive prices to our Members. We would be foolish to "kill the

goose" by imposing too much of an increase. **Membership subscriptions** have not risen for at least five years - perhaps longer. We remain one of the cheapest Clubs in the County. It has been calculated that, if we had raised subscriptions annually in line with inflation, we would be already charging close to £75. It therefore appears perfectly justifiable to see this figure as a **minimum** for any increase effective from April, 2010. If we lost no Members as a result of the increase - or if, for any other reason, the

*The Chairman and Directors  
 of the Club  
 join with*

*Presidents of the Men's and Ladies' Sections and all their Committee  
 Members*

*to wish all Members and their families*

*"Merry Christmas!"  
 combined with hopes for a  
 healthy, happy and prosperous  
 New Year*



**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**

Membership remained static, a rise to £75 would raise a *maximim* of £1200.

A combination of these options (*Bar revenues to return to previous levels plus price increases plus increase in subscriptions*) would generate about £4750 more than in the current year.

However, would it be prudent to assume a full return of Bar revenues to previous levels, bearing in mind the current economic climate? Probably not!

**Unless both Sections of the Club are prepared formally to agree to underwrite, from their "reserves", any deficit which might be generated as a consequence of such a "wait and see" policy, the Board has an overriding duty to produce and operate within a balanced budget.**

It does not take a financial (or "political") genius to recognise that such an undertaking will not be easily obtained. In which case, the Board will be faced with an inevitable - if unpalatable - decision to raise subscriptions to an even higher level than the £75 mentioned above.

#### Debate

Clearly, Members have a great deal to consider as we approach the Club's AGM in March. At that meeting, the Board will expect a full and frank debate on the issues involved. In the meantime, please initiate discussions within the membership to reach an understanding of the current situation and to try to find a mutually acceptable solution that will safeguard the future of our fine Club.

**By public demand!**

**Sunday 7th March 2010**

*Pop legend*

**Jess Conrad**

*supported by*

**Jackie Lee**

*Great local talent*

**Tickets: £9.50**

Available NOW from *George Dodge*

**MAKE AN EARLY ENTRY IN NEXT YEAR'S DIARY AND BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

## Gardening Group update

**MEMBERS** of the Garden Group welcomed another prospective member to our recent meeting on 13th November when we discussed plans and ideas for the New Year. We also talked about choosing shrubs particularly for winter interest and bulbs for late spring and early summer.



The following week the group had lunch at the Queen Victoria followed by a visit to Wyevale Garden Centre where Helen Bell and Hillary Alexander, two of their specialist staff, gave us a talk on the sourcing, delivery and on-site care of plants, stocked by the Centre, for both outdoor containers and indoors to add colour and interest to home and garden during the winter months. They gave a demonstration on how plants can best be displayed and gave useful tips on after-care.

Members will meet again on 11th December at 7.15 for the Christmas meal at the Queen Victoria and then again on Thursday, 21st January 2010 at 11.45am at the Clubhouse when we will travel to Loughborough for a visit and tour of the Bell Museum. If anyone else is interested in joining us for this, please get in touch with **George Dodge**.

## November Social Night

**MORE** than 20 members braved dreadful weather to attend a "**Who Wants to be a Millionaire?**" night at the clubhouse on Saturday November 21st.

The competition was won by "**The Wets**" (*Myles Clare and Crew*) and everyone enjoyed an excellent faith supper.

Special thanks are due to **Dave Hudson** who was in charge of the competition and supplied all the prizes. "**Thank you! and "Well done! Dave"**.

## Weekly afternoon social launched

**THE** Social Committee has been asked on a number of occasions to arrange some kind of social event to take place in the afternoon during the Winter period when coming out of the house at night is not, perhaps, an attractive proposition. To meet this demand we are therefore proposing to open the Clubhouse every Wednesday afternoon at 2-00 p.m. starting on **16th January 2010**.

On that occasion, we intend to launch what we hope can become a regular weekly Pub Quiz, using questions (*and answers!*) provided free of charge by the "**Daily Telegraph**" which runs a special scheme for Clubs and pubs. (*Don't worry! It's far from University Challenge standard!*)

Depending on your suggestions, we then plan, on each occasion, to offer an additional activity - such as a whist drive, Bingo session or something equally enjoyable and popular.

Given adequate support from the membership, such a development will offer Members an additional opportunity for social contact, will increase use of the clubhouse and, in consequence, raise additional revenue for the Club's stretched finances. It will also help you to keep your "*little grey cells*" active!

The Pub Quiz concept might also serve to identify a representative team or two who might enter the various Pub Quiz challenges arranged by other organisations in the area as a means of advertising and promoting the Club and, possibly, gaining new Members - as well as showing others that we haven't yet lost all of our marbles!

We might even consider inviting or challenging other Bowling Clubs to join us in a lighthearted competitive spirit.

Tea and coffee will be available and perhaps even a biscuit or two. So come along and enjoy the company of others, if only for a chat.

**Please note that because of holiday commitments, there will be no Newsletter published in January.**

## New grade of Social member formally approved

**FOLLOWING** their consideration of a recommendation from the Men's Section, the Board have formally approved the establishment of **Social member** as a new grade of membership. This grade will be open to any individual who has no intention of becoming involved in bowling but who wishes to enjoy, as a member, access to the clubhouse at times when it is open either for matches, informal roll-ups or social events. The Board unanimously agreed that the grade of **Social member** shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Each applicant must be sponsored by at least 2 full Members of either Section
- (ii) All applications for the grade should be considered by the Board
- (iii) The number of Social members shall at no time exceed 10% of the current total membership
- (iv) The annual membership fee for the grade should be initially set at **£10**.
- (v) Anyone admitted as a Social member will be formally reminded by the Board about the normal code of conduct and etiquette operating in the Club especially with regard to respecting the rights of the Ladies' Section to expect the clubhouse to be vacated by men for the duration of events organised by them - and *vice versa*, of course.
- (vi) Social members shall have no voting rights at general meetings.

An application form is available, on request, from any member of the Board.

## Thanks, fellas!

This year's very tasteful Christmas decorations in the clubhouse are the work of that stalwart band of regular volunteers - **Pete Murray, George Dodge** and **Brian Adams** who deserve the grateful thanks of all Members.

**Pete Murray** says: "*We enjoyed the experience so much, we're thinking of taking it up professionally!*"

**Any Offers?**

# Your Committees for 2010

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(to April 2010)

**Chairman/Company Secretary:** Colin Grimes

**Telephone:** 2608412

**Directors:**

Margaret Abbott, Chris Biddles, Roger Bentley, Marjorie Clowes, George Dodge, Anita Lowder, Rolf Meyer, Pete Murray

## LADIES' SECTION

**President:** Ruth Wheeler

**Telephone:** 2608555

**Senior Vice-President:** Chris Biddles

**Telephone:** 2609061

**Junior Vice-President:** Sheila Parker

**Telephone:** 01664 424491

**Honorary Secretary:** Val Foreman

**Telephone:** 2609635

**Honorary Treasurer:** Marion Hegginson

**Telephone:** 2606888

**Competitions Secretary:** Margaret Abbott

**Telephone:** 2412125

**LLCBA Delegate:** Doreen Payne

**Telephone:** 2607360

**Tea Hostess:** Betty Wheatley

**Telephone:** 2601993

**Committee Members:** Barbara Brown, Anita Lowder, Margaret Porter, Hazel Rayns

**Captain:** Janice Wilbourn

**Telephone:** 01664 424813

**Vice-Captain:** Kate Williams

**Telephone:** 2604477

**Match Secretary:** Doreen Payne

**Telephone:** 2607360

## MEN'S SECTION

**President:** Pete Murray

**Telephone:** 2608679

**Senior Vice-President/Match Fixtures Secretary:** George Dodge

**Telephone:** 2698923

**Honorary Secretary:** Rob Wilbourn

**Telephone:** 01664 424813

**Honorary Treasurer:** Rolf Meyer

**Telephone:** 2697213

**Captain:** Myles Clare

**Telephone:** 2600113

**Vice-Captains:** Ken Renshaw

**Telephone:** 2606743

Don Creasey

**Telephone:** 2603523

**Mid-week Captain:** George Stone

**Telephone:** 2608679

**Welfare Officer:** Bob Dunlop

**Telephone:** 2600639

**Competitions Secretary:** Noel Evatt

**Telephone:** 2607960

**Loughboro' League Captain:** Brian Adams

**Telephone:** 2608177

**Melton League Captain:** Dave Hudson

**Telephone:** 2600582

**Catering Manager:** Gerry Kennell

**Telephone:** 2609105

**Asst Secretary/PRO:** Colin Grimes

**Telephone:** 2608412

**Leics Bowling Association Delegates:** Rob Wilbourn & George Dodge

**CLUBHOUSE TELEPHONE**  
2692105

**The Club owes a deep debt of gratitude to all of the above volunteers without whose efforts the Club could not survive. PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR FULL SUPPORT**

## Clubhouse for hire

A great venue for your "special" occasions

**MEMBERS** may not be generally aware that, in return for a very modest hire fee (currently £25), the Clubhouse can be hired out to Members for special occasions provided, only, that the application is submitted through a Member who agrees to accept responsibility, as Organiser. Full Bar facilities can be made available.

Each year, sadly, we tend to get requests for the Club to be used for wakes following the funerals of Members or former Members. But the Board is also happy to consider applications for happier occasions such as birthdays, wedding receptions, christenings etc. The small hire fee covers day membership of the Club for all participants, thereby enabling us to comply with licensing regulations and avoiding the need for guests to be individually signed in to the Visitors Book.

For some occasions, a special occasional licence might be required. In such cases, the Board will charge an additional fee to cover the cost involved.

Application forms, giving full details and conditions of hire, can be obtained, on request, from any member of the Board.

## Deep blast aeration completed



**AERATION** of the green was completed, on schedule, on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th November. Hollow probes, 1½" diameter and up to 1 metre in length were punched into the ground at 1 metre intervals. Compressed air was then forced into the subsoil to churn it and a dressing of seaweed was injected.

In bitterly cold conditions, a volunteer team, involving **Pete Murray, Gerry Kennell, Don Creasey** (pictured above), **George Dodge, Myles Clare, Roger Bentley** and **Brian Adams**, followed the machine, filling in the holes with a granular feed, topped off with a plug of topsoil. The grateful thanks of all Members are due to these grafters. The hope and expectation now is that drainage will be further improved, seed germination of new grass will be greatly helped and the serious problem of worm casts will be significantly reduced.

## Another well-attended social evening success

**LAST** Saturday, 5th December, we had a Games evening, again with a faith supper. Over 30 members, friends and family turned out, in spite of the poor weather - to support the club and have fun in the process.

We had 6 different games all with time limitations to add to the fun and atmosphere and a good and enjoyable time was had by all. Thanks again to **George Dodge, Dave Hudson** and **Pete Murray**. (Those same names again!)

Our next social event, on Saturday 23rd January 2010, will be a cheese and wine event with a special guest.

So get your names down for that as quickly as possible.

See also the special panel on page 2 for details of the return of **Jess Conrad** in March.

## Des Eggitt honoured

**AT** the Men's Section AGM, the award of a **Commendation Certificate** to **Des Eggitt**, in recognition of his outstanding services to the Club as Captain and Member of the Executive Committee over an extended period, was unanimously approved.

Although no longer a member of the Executive Committee, **Des** will continue to act as Club Coach and expresses the hope that, in the Season ahead, more Members will take advantage of the free services he offers to help to improve their game.

## Pete Murray elected as Men's President



**THE FOLLOWING** is the text of **Pete Murray's** address to Members following his inauguration as President of the Men's Section at the AGM held on 7th December:

Members of Syston Bowling Club,

*I would like to say what an honour it is to be elected as President of the Men's Section for the coming year. I think to be recognised by your peers is the highest honour one can receive and I'm very proud to be representing the Club for the next year. I consider the President to be the figurehead of the club and to represent the club at all functions and events, as did my predecessor **Colin Grimes**.*

*I would like to thank **Colin** for the work he has done during his Presidency. He has led from the front and presented the perfect*

*image in all aspects of the role. He has been instrumental in enabling the Club to have control of the green as well as implementing a tighter control system for the accounts and worked tirelessly behind the scenes on many other projects. **Colin** has great leadership skills and will be a hard act to follow.*

*I hope to continue the good work done by **Colin**. He has a gift for saying the right thing at the right time and I'm delighted that he will remain on the management team. It seems that normally when a President finishes his term of office he gets put out to grass, but this is not the case with **Colin**. He has agreed he will take the dual role of Assistant Secretary and Public Relations Officer.*

*I would also like to offer a special vote of thanks to **Arthur Calver** who has done a great job as Welfare Officer, but has decided not to continue in office. I'm sure **Bob Dunlop**, who has taken over as Welfare Officer, will do as good a job as **Arthur**.*

*As we now have control of the green, it will mean a lot more work for the Club and we need members to come forward with help. I don't know how many of the newer members know, but we used to host County matches here and maybe, with **Chris Mews** overseeing the maintenance of the green, we may be able to do so again. I take nothing away from the work that Council groundsman, **David Smith**, has done over the years, but I'm sure he will agree that he is not a specialist green keeper - albeit a very good gardener. I would like to thank him for all his past efforts.*

*I think the (management) team that you have elected for the coming year will do a professional job and I urge you all to back us with whatever decisions we have to make to keep this club progressing. We are here to help you in any way we can. Don't be afraid to approach any of us with any complaints, criticisms, comments or suggestions. We have a great spirit within the Club and I would like to see this continue. Our social nights and concerts keep us in touch with each other throughout the winter and those who do not attend are really missing out.*

*I think it will be a hard year financially and we must look for ways to attract funds. We have one of the best clubhouses in the County, but we don't use it enough. Our revenue comes mainly from subscriptions and Bar takings. If we could make use of this venue on a regular weekly basis during the winter, as well as the summer, it would really help. I welcome any ideas anyone has to make this happen.*

*My chosen charity for the coming year is **Wishes 4 Kids**. It's a charity that helps terminally ill, traumatised and abused children from Leicestershire to realise their wishes wherever possible and I hope you will support this very worthwhile cause. I hope to get the founder of this charity, **Russell Brickett**, to visit the Club and talk to us about it in due course.*

*Finally I would like to reinstate some of the fines we have imposed in the past, as a way of having a laugh and enabling everyone to enjoy the year while having fun - and it's all for charity.*

## Interesting trivia

- TYPEWRITER** is the longest word that can be typed using letters only on one row of a standard keyboard
- No word in the English language rhymes with **MONTH, ORANGE, SILVER** or **PURPLE**.
- DREAMT** is the only word in English to end in the letters "mt".
- The sentence "*The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog*" uses every letter in the alphabet.
- RACECAR, KAYAK** and **LEVEL** are examples of **palindromes** - words that read the same in both directions.
- There are only four words in the English language that end in "dous" - *tremendous, horrendous, stupendous* and ?? (See foot of column for answer)
- There are two words in the English language that contain all five vowels in order: *abstemious* and *facetious*.
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- Almonds are members of the peach family.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- All babies are born without kneecaps.
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- If the population of China paraded past you, 8 abreast, the parade would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
- Leonardo da Vinci** invented the scissors.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
- The microwave oven was invented after a researcher walked past a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- There are more chickens than people alive in the world.

Fourth word: hazardous

## Christmas competition 5

**FORM** a well-known phrase or saying for each of the following "**Dingbats**".

Place your entry, **including your name**, in an envelope in the postbox on the right hand side of the Men's Changing Rooms. The entry with the most correct answers drawn from the hat on **Saturday 9th January 2010** will receive a special prize.

1. **WARDBUILTROBE**

2. **LOST WORD WORD WORD WORD**

3. **CAR JACK TON**

4. **BEND  
DRAW  
DRAW**

5. **TIMING TIM ING**

6. **TM  
AU  
HS  
WT**

7. **EKORTS**

8. **BIT**

9. **BLONDE** ■

10. **i BAG i BAG**

11. **Arsenal 4 - 1 Stoke City  
Brighton 4 - 1 Luton  
Norwich 4 - 1 Ipswich  
Leicester 4 - 1 Liverpool  
West Ham 4 - 4 Chelsea**

## Men's AGM Minutes & audited accounts

**COPIES** of the Minutes of the Men's AGM held on 7th December are now available.

If you would like a copy of the Minutes together with a copy of the audited accounts, please ask either President, **Pete Murray** or Secretary, **Rob Wilbourn** who will be happy to supply. Members are reminded that the contents of the Minutes and other documentation remain confidential within the membership of the Club. A serious view will be taken of any proven breach of this regulation.