

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARILYN AND PAULINE

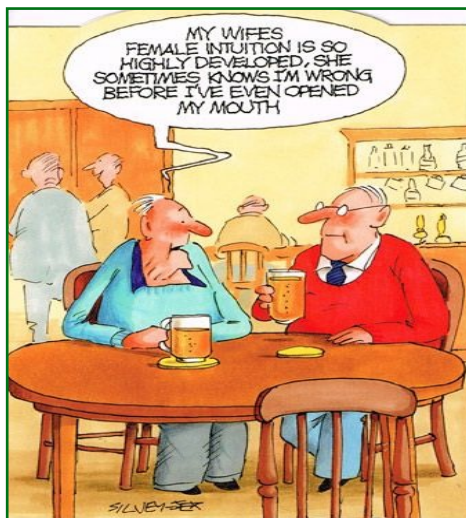
Marilyn Wood was selected and played in the Middle England League match at Oxford on Friday 2nd May.

The rink Marilyn played in won by 23 shots to 16 and the side won by 15 shots overall.

She has also been selected to play in an Inter County game on Wednesday 21st May at Narborough against Buckinghamshire.

Pauline Wright has been selected to play in an Inter County game, as a reserve, in the match against Hereford at Loughborough Granby on the 28th May.

Well done both and for keeping Syston well and truly on the map!



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Your views, opinions, news and any other material of interest to Members would be welcomed for publication in future issues.

Please send your copy to Alan Collins by the first Monday in every month.

email: alancollins338@gmail.com or telephone: 0116 260 9835.

Birthday Bumps May

Happy Birthday wishes to:
Margaret Abbott, Arthur Calver,
Allan Disney, Pete Hancock,
Betty Wheatley, Marjorie Clowes,
Wyn Collins, Julie Warrington.
Congratulations to you all

49 CLUB UPDATE

Most recent winners are:

Don Creasey (32); Edna Loder (11);
Chris Biddles (12); Colin Grimes (28).
Congratulations to them all!

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Last copy date for the next
Newsletter is:

Monday 9th June 2014

email: alancollins338@gmail.com

the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No.96 May 2014



CLUB REACHES ACCORD WITH COUNCIL

A delegation from the Club (Colin Grimes, Rod Heggs, Janice and Rob Wilbourn, George Dodge and Pete Murray) recently met with Chairman of the Syston Town Council, Councillor Steve Hampson and Chairman of the Amenities Committee, Councillor Nick Gee, to discuss matters of mutual concern. High on the agenda was the widely reported row between the Club and the Town Council over the installation of a disabled ramp between the clubhouse and the gates of the green.

A frank exchange of views was followed by mutual agreement that since the Club had provided adequate assurances about public liability insurance cover for the ramp, Council would be recommended to withdraw all reservations about the installation and arrange, through the County Council, for the retrospective approval of the Secretary of State to be obtained, with the minimum of further delay.

It was further agreed that a programme of quarterly meetings between Club and the Council would

be re-instated as a means of minimising a repetition of the misunderstandings and lack of communication which had led to the recent unfortunate row.

Club Chairman, Colin Grimes, in warmly welcoming the accord, says: "We are relieved to have re-established regular lines of communication. Pre-discussion of any issue of mutual concern before a meeting of Council can only bring about a more informed debate and reasonable outcome.

Our sole aim within the Club has always been - and remains - the desire to work in partnership with the Council to make a visit to Syston as pleasurable as possible for visiting players and those accompanying them. In the course of a Season, we attract between 1500 and 2000 visitors to the Town. The quality of our green, the warmth and comfort of our hospitality and ease of access to the clubhouse are the principal measures by which we are judged.

Over the past four years, we have made great progress. Happily, we have always had a strong reputation for the warmth of our hospitality and quality of our catering. Since assuming responsibility for green maintenance, we have significantly improved the playing surface making it now as good as most in the

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SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

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BOWLING IN LEICESTERSHIRE

An article sent in by Roger Bentley

One of the oldest bowling greens in Leicestershire is the Abbey Park Green, it was laid down in 1882, when the Abbey Park was opened by the then Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra.

There was no enclosure around the ground and no ditches or banks. Unfortunately the green had been constructed with soil from the nearby River Soar, and as the character of the under-soil changed the playing surface gradually lost its level and by 1886 a temporary green was laid whilst the original green was reconstructed.

It was 1900 before the green was again used. Bowlers then were industrialists, lawyers, doctors and well to do citizens who could afford the time to play, the ordinary man was working seven days a week with no time off for such things as bowls.

The year 1895 saw the formation of the Midland Counties Association, followed in 1896 by the London and Southern Counties Bowling Association.

In 1899 The Imperial Bowling Association was formed in London. In 1903 the English Bowling Association came into being. Its first President was W. G. Grace the famous cricketer, having now retired from first class cricket, he was a very keen bowler. The IBA then ceased to exist and its assets were transferred to the newly formed EBA.

It was not until March 2nd 1921 that the Leicestershire County Bowling Association was formed and later at a meeting at the Grand Hotel the word County was dropped from the title.

Interesting notes about Abbey Park Club are that Syston's Past President, David Porter joined Abbey Park in 1977 after giving up cricket. In 1978 he became their Treasurer and Catering Secretary. David won the following competitions in 1978. The Club Singles Championship, The Handicap Championship, The Kemp Cup (Novices Championship) and the Two Wood Competition, a record which still stands. Also in that year Fred Ellard was their President.



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CLUB COACH

Des Eggitt
Club & County Coach

What makes an Ideal Skip?

We know the Skip has the final decision on the right shot, not forgetting the value of the final shot.

With the Skip at the head, he can make the final decision because he can see the position of the bowls for and against and possible result of the shot. When it is his turn to bowl from the mat end, he leaves his No.3 in charge of the head.

If the Skip has the first bowl, he will have decided on what shot to play, so his other players must be silent and not shout telling him to play the other hand.

If the opposing Skip changes the head to his advantage then the skip must wait for his No.3 to tell him what shot to play, telling him where to come into the head and what weight to play.

The Skip must decide on the shot his No.3 has asked him to play.

To decide to play the other hand not knowing the situation on that hand would not be a good Skip and should not be selected at that position.

One can't read the head from the bowling end, you have to trust your No.3 on what shot to play, or walk to the head to decide what shot to play. The shot you decide to play, must give you the best result.

If one of your players is having a bad game, don't say or do anything to make him worse, he knows he is playing badly, try to make him feel at

ease and relaxed and help him to find that good bowl and to get his confidence. I don't think there are many Skips, like I had when playing No.2 in a rink when I was playing in Surrey. We went by coach to play in an away match, our lead was playing badly at the start of the match and after bowling a few ends our Skip shouted to him at the bowling end, "I don't know why you came, in fact why don't you go home".

He shouldn't have been a Skip, every member of the club plays in friendly matches to enjoy playing bowls, win or lose.

So as a Skip you should do your part in helping everyone in your rink and opponents to enjoy the match, win or lose.

So my final comment is, be a Skip that that members would like to be in your rink.

PS:

The value shot is a shot to be successful and with a result to the team's advantage or if the last bowl wins the match.

The Skip does have the decision on what shot to play, but when the head changes when the Skip is at the bowling end, he must take the advice of the No.3 on what shot to play, not change his hand just because he makes the final decision.

Playing the other hand, he doesn't know what the result will be because you can't read the head from the bowling end.

If you have any particular problems on which you would appreciate the advice of our Club Coach, please do not hesitate to contact him at any time on 0116 269 6548

CLUB REACHES ACCORD WITH COUNCIL

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County. The installation of the disabled ramp has resolved a major access issue. The completion of the extension to our changing room and toilet facilities resolves a long-standing problem of cramped facilities.

The major - and as yet unresolved - issue facing the Club remains that of weekday visitor parking. We fully recognise and defer to the restrictions placed upon the Council and ourselves by the registration of Central Park as a Village Green. However, we remain determined to work together with the Council to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problem which continues to cause us to lose fixtures and which specially affects our Ladies Section whose visiting players find the carrying of heavy bags not inconsiderable distances, before and after a match from difficult-to-find off-street parking, a most uncomfortable experience.

The now agreed planned programme of regular meetings between us can only be beneficial to the partnership process."



THE GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Group held the first

evening meeting of the year when we discussed getting the garden into shape after the winter and planting various types of vegetables either into the ground or using containers.

A good variety of plants were brought for the sales table and these raised more money towards the cost of the plants for summer planting and the hanging baskets. Ideas for future visits were discussed and it was decided to have one or two visits to gardens further afield interspersed with visits to gardens nearer home.

The next visit will be to Long Close gardens in Woodhouse Eaves on Friday, 16th May. Meet at clubhouse at 11.30am for lunch at the Toby Inn at Loughborough and then onto Woodhouse Eaves.

Please put your name on the list if you are interested in visiting this garden. Non members are always welcome to join us.

The next Meeting will be on Tuesday 27th May at 7.00pm.

WORDS OF WISDOM

I may not be always right, but I am never wrong!

MARGARET PORTER

I have known Margaret for over 25 years along with David, as members of this club and later as members of the S.T.

She was one of those people who are described as the backbone of the club. Loyal, not seeking the limelight, content to work in the background, but not afraid to speak her mind.

Her love and support for David in his 1993 Presidential Year and his work for the Joint Board were unsurpassable.

Margaret joined the ladies Club in 1989. One of her stories was about her first Tea Duty, when she made scones, only to be told by one of the matriarchs that scones were not cakes!

Years later she told this same lady that at first she didn't like her because of this and they had a good laugh about it.

Margaret served on the committee, organised the raffle and supported all the functions. She was a lovely bowler, always gave her best and encouraged her team. I can remember her relief when we no longer had to wear tights and hats.

After David passed away, like others who had lost a husband or partner, Margaret had to find a new direction in life.

Along with others, I became closer to her, and after rooming with her on a bowls tour to Portugal, whenever we phoned each other we would say 'It's your room mate here'.

We formed a nice group of friends and had some lovely times, lots of laughs and the odd glass or two!

She was the most thoughtful, kindest, caring and bravest person I knew, even when she was so ill those last weeks, she would always ask about other people.

Margaret would say 'I am so lucky with my family and friends', and I would say 'No Margaret, you are receiving the love and care that you put into life'.

This is a copy of the Tribute paid to Margaret Porter by Chris Biddles after the funeral.

MATCH RESULTS THE SEASON SO FAR

MEN'S SATURDAY FIXTURES

Date	Opponents	H/A	F	A
	Batram	A	67	107
12 April	Scotlands	H	84	65
	Belgrave	A	85	52
19 April	Western Park	H	81	69
	Little Bowden	A	60	89
26 April	Birstall	H	60	89
	Holwell	A	87	68
3 May	St Margarets	H	59	87
	Thurmaston	A	98	51

MEN'S WEEKDAY FIXTURES

17 April	Holwell (M)	H	98	64
24	Oakham	H	83	98

MEN'S LOUGHBOROUGH LEAGUE TRIPLES

WHITE PLUMS	Points
21 April Fosseway A	2
28 Sibley Finches A	8

GREEN & ROYALS	Points
21 April Soar Valley Conways	2
28 Sutton Bonnington Riversiders	7

LADIES' FIXTURES

16 April	Glenfield	A	72	77
23	St Margarets	A	Cancelled	
29	Keyworh	H	58	64
1 May	Belgrave	A	Cancelled	
2	Shepshed	H	67	45

LADIES OPENING DAY



On a beautiful, sunny day, our Ladies' President, Janice Wilbourn, could not have asked for a better day to have her Opening Day.

The morning started with a savoury lunch which was yet again of the highest quality we have come to expect from the excellent catering of the ladies in the kitchen.

After lunch, to get proceedings on the green going we had a Spider, which was won by the President's husband Rob.

At the ladies invitation at 2 o'clock, the men joined in for a game which was most enjoyable, and the Lady President (pictured) put down the first wood of the afternoon,

At the end of the game, Muriel, our 99 years young life member was persuaded to put a wood down the green.

All she could say was "The woods are much heavier than when I played!"

After the game everyone returned to the Clubhouse where a lovely tea of trifles, fruit salad and cakes had been prepared, which was a fitting end to a good afternoon that was had by all.



THE SPIDER