

## LET'S HAVE A LAUGH!

### SENIORS TEXTING CODE

ATD	At the doctors
BFF	Best friend fell
BTW	Bring the wheelchair
BYOT	Bring your own teeth
FWIW	Forgot where I was
GGPBL	Gotta go pacemaker battery low
GHA	Got heartburn again
IMHO	Is my hearing aid on
LMDO	Laughing my dentures out
OMMR	On my massage recliner
OMSG	Oh my! Sorry, gas
ROFLACGU	Rolling on the floor laughing and can't get up
TTYL	Talk to you louder



## 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](mailto:alancollins338@gmail.com) or telephone: 0116 260 9835.

## Birthday Bumps June

Happy Birthday wishes to:  
Margaret Baker, Jenny Dewick, Aideen Talbot, Janice Wilbourn, John Lester, Alf Newman, Mark Newman, Rob Wilbourn, Gerry Baker, Margaret Dexter, Congratulations to you all

## 49 CLUB UPDATE

Most recent winners are:  
Doreen Payne (46); Ray Dexter (25);  
Doreen Payne (46); Anita Lowden (4);  
Margaret Dexter (37).  
Congratulations to them all!

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

Last copy date for the next Newsletter is:  
Monday 7th July 2014  
email: [alancollins338@gmail.com](mailto:alancollins338@gmail.com)

# the SYSTON GREEN

Official Newsletter of the Syston Bowling Club

No.97 June 2014



## THE END IS IN SIGHT?

The following is the text of an email message sent by Board Chairman, Colin Grimes, in reply to

a letter from the Government Planning Inspectorate based in Bristol (representing "the Secretary of State") following a close examination of the "Common Land Guidance Sheet 2b supplied by the Inspectorate:

Dear Caroline

Many thanks for your letter and enclosure dated 6th June in response to my enquiry dated 9th May.

Having studied the copy of the Common Land Guidance Sheet 2b which you have kindly provided, I am now of the firm view that the (retrospective) consent of the Secretary of State is not required for the installation of the disabled ramp running between our clubhouse and the bowling green which are sited within the boundaries of a registered Village Green.

I base this view on the fact that the works are not in contravention of Section 12 of the Act, since the installation does not "injure the green or interrupt its use as a place of exercise or recreation."

On the contrary, it improves and extends access to those facilities. Nor is it in contravention of Section 29, since the works are exclusively designed with

a view to the "better enjoyment" of the recreational facilities provided on the green. Further, as permitted by the Act (Page 2 of the Guidance), the installation of the ramp "protects and improves the common" especially for the more vulnerable users of the recreational facility provided by the Bowling Club. In addition, by its very nature, the ramp is designed to "prevent accidents" and undoubtedly "improves the common as a place for exercise and recreation".

Under the circumstances, therefore, and unless we receive contrary instruction from your Department, I see no requirement for further action on our part, thereby allowing ourselves and the Town Council, as registered proprietors of the green, to regard the matter as closed. Confirmation of your acceptance of that position would be greatly appreciated.

Of course, if my reading and interpretation of the Guidance Sheet should be wrong, we would be very pleased to receive from you further and specific guidance on how to proceed further to resolve the matter. Should you require more detail about the installation than that already provided in my letter of 9th May, please do not hesitate to contact me."

Subject only to our receiving confirmation of the accuracy of our reading of the Guidance, therefore, it would appear that the final hurdle has been overcome and that both parties

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SYSTON BOWLING CLUB Clubhouse Telephone: 0116 269 2105

All communications to The Chairman: Colin Grimes, 8 Quenby Crescent, SYSTON, Leics. LE7 2BW  
Telephone: 0116 260 8412 email: [systonbowling@btinternet.com](mailto:systonbowling@btinternet.com)

## YE ANCIENT AND ROYALL GAME OF BOULLES

An article sent in by Roger Bentley

No one knows quite when the game was started, but the oldest bowling green in the world is at Southampton and is known as the Southampton (old) Bowling Green.

The green itself cared for since 1187 when the lawns were laid as a close for the Warden of Gods House Hospital, founded in that year by Gervaise le Riche, a wealthy Anglo Norman Merchant.

It is thought that by the year 1220 a game using large wooden balls was occasionally played on the close by the hospital officials and their guests.

Documentary evidence confirms that the close was used as a bowling green in 1229 when a master of the green was elected.

In medieval days "inferior people" were not allowed by law to play bowls. An act was passed in 1541 which stated, "No manner of Artificer or Craftsmen of any Handicraft or such like were allowed to play bowls under pain of a 20 shillings fine".

It also decreed, "That no person shall play bowls in places out of his garden or orchard in pain of a fine".

However, Noblemen and others having manors, lands, tenements or other yearly profits to a value of £100 may play bowls within the privacy of his own grounds.

In fact bowling was declared an unlawful game and subject to an appearance before the local magistrates.

The first biased woods appeared about 1522.

### Footnote:

One of history's greatest Elizabethan sailors was Sir Francis Drake, who was born at Tavistock, Devon about 1567.

It is widely believed that he was playing bowls at Westwood Ho! when the Spanish Armada was sighted to invade England and he calmly finished his game before engaging the Spanish and defeating them.



### JUST FOR FUN!

Can you write a funny caption to the above drawing of Sir Francis Drake playing bowls?

What is the player behind him saying?

The most witty captions will be published in our next issue.

Make sure your entries arrive no later than Monday 7th July 2014.

email me at:

alancollins338@gmail.com  
or place them in the post box in the club house.



*Jennings*

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For details of how to join our growing list of Patrons please ring 0116 260 8412

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(Council and Club) can accept that the prolonged issue between us has finally been laid to rest. Common sense has prevailed. (Pardon the pun!)

### Extension

The final touches are now being applied to the changing room extension. Carpet tiles have been ordered and will be fitted very shortly and agreement has been reached between the Sections on the usage of the new facilities.

The Board would once again like to emphasise our determination to take whatever steps we deem necessary, through Section Presidents, to ensure that every Member takes special care to keep the extension in a neat and tidy state. The storage of clothing and equipment in the new area will - under no circumstances - be tolerated. Please play YOUR full part in helping us to achieve this goal.

Ample storage space will be available in the current changing areas and, following a massive clear-out, in the main store at the rear of the clubhouse. Members are asked to make themselves familiar with and to conform to the expressed wishes of the respective Presidents about how to store equipment and clothing while maintaining the areas concerned in a neat and tidy condition.

Thanks are due to the team of volunteers led by Men's President, Rod Heggs, for their work in clearing the main store.

The Club Chairman will be on extended holiday until 8th July.

It is planned to organise an "official opening" of the extension as soon as possible after his return.



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We would also like to offer all Club Members a Loyalty Card that will entitle you to low cost batteries, wax traps and hearing aids. Simply ring us on 01455 233983 to arrange this.

We look forward to an extended period of mutually beneficial co-operation.

I was looking through some of the Newsletters of yesteryear, and I came across an article from June 2011, which was about a holiday by eight SBC ladies.

This was, apart from seeing the sights, was to celebrate the 90th birthday of Betty Wheatley.

It seems ironic that Betty has now passed away, but I am sure that everyone on the holiday with her will remember that wonderful occasion. ED.



## CLUB COACH

Des Eggitt  
Club & County Coach

### Negative thoughts for the players of a rink

#### THE LEAD

One comment you hear from a lead, "It is a waste of time drawing to a jack to see your bowl rested out".

'That is a negative' because each time he draws to the jack he puts the opponents under pressure, his job is to draw the shot, or second bowl. A good led can win a match.

Another negative is to worry about bad bowls, foet them, have a clear mind to concentrate on the next end.

It is only a game of bowls, enjoy the game and look for those perfect draws.

#### No.2

One negative is "If I can't do it, the No.3 will do it".

He is the second leader if the lead has failed to draw, or consolidate the position by covering the shot bowl or shots, also the dame negative thoughts as the lead.

#### No.3

There are still some No.3's that when the skip is about to bowl he shouts "change you hand". One comment from a No.3 was "I can ask you to change you hand", but that is only when the head has changed.

If the skip has the first bowl, he has already decided on what shot to play, so to tell him to change his hand when

he is about to bowl stops his concentration.

#### SKIPS

It is negative for a skip to think because he makes the final decision on what shot to play, not to take the positive shot his No.3 has asked him to play to win the head or match, and decides to play the other hand not knowing what the result will be after the shot.

Remember you can't read the head from the bowler's end.

Also a skip must be positive with his instructions of how to play the shot, so that the bowler can be positive when playing the shot. It is also negative if you can't bowl hands, a roll-up is ideal to practice both hands.

Being a Bowls Coach I have to get the pupil to have confidence in me to coach him to play bowls.

The same is for a skip to get his players to have confidence to play for each other in the rink.

The skip and his NO.3 must have confidence in their decisions of what shot to lay and how to play it (ie line, where to come into the head and weight of the shot).

Most important is never think you can't play the shot, be positive and play the shot. A skip must be able to relax a player who is not playing well, never make him worse by your comments.

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



## THE GARDEN CLUB

*Christine Dodge*

The latest visit of the Garden Group was to the Toby Inn at Loughborough for lunch and then on to Woodhouse Eaves to visit the gardens at Long Close.

The weather was gorgeous and a number of friends joined us, making 32 in all. The largest number ever, so far.

The gardens were looking their best as the Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Magnolias and many other beautiful shrubs were in full bloom.

The hanging baskets have now been completed and will be displayed along the front of the clubhouse at the beginning of June when the summer bedding under the scoreboard will also be planted out.

The next visit will be to Eastern Walled Gardens near Grantham on Friday, 20th June.

Meet at the clubhouse at 10.30am. If you are interested in joining us, please put your name on the list below the poster on the notice board.

The next meeting will be held on 8th July at 7.0pm.



*Taking a rest at Long Close gardens*

## BETTY WHEATLEY

Last month we reported that Margaret Porter had passed away and this month it was with sadness we learned that Betty Wheatley died three weeks ago.

Betty (or Bette as she preferred to be known) was a Life Member and had been club president three times.

She was a very active member and supporter of the ladies section. She was a talented aristo and very creative not least in her garden.

Whilst living in Roman Way she held an Open Garden to raise money for the ladies club and when she moved to Taylor Close (during Chris Biddles Presidential year) she held a Pimms Tea and raised several hundred pounds to help Chris Biddles charity.

Bette was very active even visiting her daughter and her grandchildren in America and gluing with her daughter on world cruises, and two years ago at the age of 92 she decided to move to Forge Court, but sadly by that time her health was failing, but she took the move in her stride and she settled there and it was only in the last few months she was not able to come to club social events.

We have recently lost two special ladies – we will always remember them with love and affection.

*Doreen Payne*

## SYSTON BOWLING CLUB

*A short History of the Club from 1932 until 2001*

In 2001 John Meadows compiled and produced a book called:

### SYSTON BOWLING CLUB HISTORY 1932-2001

I have taken extracts from this book to make members aware of the humble beginnings of Syston Bowling Club.

In the early 1930s the land now known as Central Park was purchased by William Bastard, a worsted spinner who lived in Syston.

On October 1st 1931 a meeting was held at the Adult School, Melton Road, Syston when it was decided to form a bowling club and at a general meeting at the same venue on October 18th, the first set of rules were drawn up. The annual subscription of 10s 6d (about 51p in today's money) was approved and the venue was changed to the Dog & Gun.

The club had guidance about setting up the rules etc from Melton Park Bowling Club and in May 1932 they were the first club to play Syston and the fixture continued until Melton Park was disbanded.

He had the bowling green laid out and also two tennis courts (where the



The Old Pavilion

Peace Gardens is now situated).

Eventually a wooden hut (called a Pavilion) was erected in May 1935 on the site of the present pavilion. This was officially opened on 19th June 1935.

Before the pavilion was erected, the Dog & Gun on Brookside was used for changing and match teas.

### THE NEW PAVILION

This was the dream of Jon Wheeler, who drew up the plans and saw the project through.

From 13th August 1979, after many meetings with various council bodies, the new pavilion got the go-ahead after four years of hard work.

£40,000 had been raised by members by collecting and selling paper and cardboard to Syston Paper Mill and coffee mornings, also ploughman lunches and buffet dances, rummages sales and prize draws.

The men's hut was dismantled and sold to a football club.

When the site was excavated for the foundations it was discovered that the site had previously been a rubbish tip, which meant digging down two metres instead of one metre with a corresponding increase in the amount of concrete needed for the foundations which increased the costs by £300.

The building of the pavilion took place in March and April 1984.

Mick Hughes took three weeks off work to lay all the bricks and was ably assisted by a large number of volunteers.

Ray Bradley made the bar counter from one piece of elm.

The pavilion was officially opened on 30th May 1985 by John Meadows.