



President's Day

The weather forecast said no rain but the day started overcast and grey, which left us guessing would the sun stay in or come out and the organisers thinking should we stay in or go out. In the end we chose to go out and the day only got better.

In the morning we had plenty of fun playing some traditional fun fair games with hoop-la, roll-a-penny, guess the number of sweets and name the teddy. Alan was selling the finest haut couture and bling in the clubhouse, while Cliff and Sally were doing their best to impersonate Bruce Forsyth with Play Your Cards Right. Good game. Didn't they do well?

Finally, there was the great train robbery. So called because for everyone it was a wind-up and they left saying "we wuz robbed"

In the afternoon, in place of a traditional bowls match, Pam and Dave devised a silly bowls competition. There were ends such as bowl wrong-handed, bowl through the gap or bowl over the ramp and, like the sound of leather against willow in cricket, there was

the clunk of bowl against wooden barrier followed by loud cheers. It must have been good because most people were muttering this is ridiculous. Chris Daly found his game was much improved by bowling left-handed but he has promised to return to bowling right-handed to give the rest of us a chance.

The day was rounded off with a cream tea which thankfully didn't turn in to a bun fight, although my sources tell me that some more competitive players were interested in turning it into a cake-eating competition.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone, especially those who generously donated prizes, those who helped set up and run stalls, organise bowls, make tea, wash up and clear away.

Thanks also to everyone who came along and spent some money; we raised over £700 for the Enfield Carers Centre. I hope you all enjoyed the day.

Ron Wright



President's Day fun and games...



Winners (and only contestants!) for the best crown competition – Chris and Julie Daly



Sarah Hooper on a roll



'Play your cards right'. Guess if the next card will be higher or lower than the previous one



Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in the fun bowling contest. Freddie Williams (right) also won the prize for the loudest shirt

Pam and Sandra through to the Middlesex Ladies Pairs Final

Congratulations to Pam Waller and Sandra Wright for reaching the final of the Middlesex Ladies Pairs. After a very close semi final against Ladygate they will be playing Ashford in the final on 16 July at Cambridge Park.

Both the winners and the runners up will be representing Middlesex in the National Ladies Pairs Championship at Victoria Park, Leamington Spa, which is a knock-out competition.

Pam and Sandra's first game will be on Tuesday 15 August, with the final on Friday 18 August.

Best of luck from everyone.



John Scott Bowling and BBQ

John Scott and his wife Ray were members of the Club from 1988. John held the position of Captain and President and was responsible for setting up the very first newsletter, while Ray was our first Lady President. Following John's death in 2002, Ray donated a glass fruit bowl trophy to be contested annually on Spring Bank Holiday.

What a Spring Bank Holiday we had this year. A perfect day at the Club needs a bowls match, some food, a bit of a entertainment as well as good weather.

We had it all. A sunny afternoon of bowling during which 12 teams of four played each other in two separate leagues, the winners of each league being the two finalists. A final contested by Philip Broodney, Carol Valentine, Roger Goodman and Sue Laurie against Alan Jarvis, Stuart Oram, Julie Daly and David Haywood saw the latter team win by one shot on a very close measure.

The matches were played in lovely sunshine and, during the later stages, a cloud of smoke from the barbecue .

The three barbecuers, Chris Daly, Mick Hine and Bob Gowlett, can be seen in relaxed pose (see Scrapbook page) before the cooking and also in the heat of battle with the sausages, burgers, chicken and lamb chops.

These three were front of house helpers but many others helped out pre-cooking the chicken, acting as food runners to and from the kitchen, laying out tables, doing the shopping as well as serving and clearing up. What a great job you all did and many thanks from the 87 people who attended.

The entertainment during our munching was provided by a guitar playing duo called The Beatniks. Their performance of music from our era was tremendous. In their second session the tables were moved to provide a dance floor which was much used.

We had a great day and once again thanks to all those involved in organising not only the food but the bowling as well.

Alan Jarvis



Winners Stuart Oram, Alan Jarvis, David Haywood and Julie Daly



The Beatniks – Jamie Cook and Den Pugsley



Bob, Mick and Chris... 'The Three Barbecuers'

Cyprus Diary 2023

Monday 27 March

Sue and Alan waved us off from the Club sad that, once again, they would not be coming with us.

There were no problems at the airport or getting to the hotel. A new hotel for us this year, adults only!

We all settled in well and enjoyed our first dinner in our new surroundings.

Tuesday 28 March

We met on the green for our first roll-up. The weather seemed set fair but little did we know what was coming the next day.

Julie and Chris arrived this evening to join us for dinner; a day late as they didn't want to leave their cat for too long.

Wednesday 29 March

Well, what a difference a day can make. Strong winds and high waves gave us a great display of 'white horses' in the sea. We have never experienced winds as strong or waves so high during the past eight years we have visited Cyprus.

Those who attempted to bowl outside soon gave up and welcomed the warmth and shelter of the indoor bowling rink. A few of us braved the weather in the afternoon, really just to go and see the huge waves.

A few of us who walked, or should I say, were blown back from Paphos, got back in a record time of 10 minutes, as we were wind assisted!

Ron and Sandra were quite alarmed when their bus suddenly stopped in the middle of the road and the driver got out. He was only having a suspected heart attack, however, so nothing to worry about. Their scout training of 'Be Prepared' came in useful as they calmed him down and made him comfortable until an ambulance arrived; followed by another driver to move the bus.

Thursday 30 March

This was the day for our match against Wessex Wanderers. As it was still quite windy we agreed to play indoors. Now I am not sure if this benefited us or not as we didn't have many indoor bowlers among us. We battled on, however, and managed to win on two rinks out of five, losing by only 12 shots overall which was not a disaster.

Friday 31 March

Many of us met up in the afternoon to play our mini-golf challenge. A good time was had by all, especially those who experienced the fun of getting their ball out of the water with a fishing net.

Wendy was the overall winner, I knew we should have given the golfers a handicap. The winning combined team was Sandra, Ron, Vicki and Bob. We all finished off with an ice cream and had a saunter back to the hotel.

Saturday 1 April

Eight of us decided to enter the hotel bowling competition. One of our teams consisted of Di and Mick Hine and Pam and Dave Waller while the other was made up of Sandra and Ron Wright and Lionel Reisman and Philip Broodney. There were 14 teams in all.

Pam, Dave, Di and Mick achieved third place and received a certificate and the handsome sum of 24 euros in prize money. In fourth place were Sandra, Ron, Lionel and Philip who received the not-so-handsome sum of eight euros, as they had to share fourth place with another team.

At the end there was a spider competition which somehow Ron managed to win. A bowl, not his, came charging in, and sent the jack flying over to his bowl. He gratefully received a bottle of wine with eight straws!

That evening we were missing someone at dinner. Had anyone seen Mike Williams? As he was usually one of the first to arrive, we began to worry after a while. On ringing his room, I was greeted with a sheepish "hello". "Are you OK", I asked, "as we were worried about you, and have you eaten?"

"Oh yes", he replied, "but in the wrong restaurant. I wondered where everyone else was but realised too late, so I just carried on".

A few of us trotted over to watch Arsenal v Leeds on the TV at the pub. I am pleased to say Arsenal won 4-1. Philip was coming but his cat was unwell at home and he was giving his daughter instructions on how to look after it.

Sunday 2 April

Today was Fred's birthday and he celebrated by going out to lunch with a few of the group.

At dinner Vicki was subjected to a shower of white wine as the waiter tipped a glass all over her, the table and anything else in sight. We won't go into what he said, no it wasn't sorry, but it started with an S and has 4 letters! It seems he knew at least one word of English!

Monday 3 April

We played our Cyprus cup challenge today. Congratulations to the winners, Lionel, Jacqui and Julie and to the runners up Pam, Di, Liz and Roger.

Thanks to Gary (Jacqui's husband) who stepped up to play, not entirely voluntary, to make the teams even. Maybe we can get him into bowling yet although I don't think there's much hope.

While we were having a great time on the green, unfortunately, Fred and Pete were not having so much fun as they found themselves stuck in the lift for 20 minutes. Not an ordeal they relished but everything was OK in the end.

Dave and I had a meeting with the hotel manager as he wanted to know what we thought of the new hotel. Apart from the rooms being a bit smaller we all seemed happy with it. I had been given a few questions to put to him from the group, including the thickness of the toilet paper and the lack of spoons at the breakfast table, but we thought we would keep these observations to ourselves.

Tuesday 4 April

This was our last full day of sun and relaxation. In the evening we all got together for our farewell drink and prize giving.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Cyprus challenge winners to Lionel, Jacqui and Julie and runners up to Pam, Di, Liz and Roger – trophies;

Missing your cat prize to Julie – fridge magnet;

Hoping your cat isn't dead yet prize to Philip – fridge magnet;

Golf prize to Wendy – golf tees and marker;

Hotel bowls competition to Pam, Dave, Di and Mick – third place certificates;

When you get lost prize to Mike Williams – a map of Paphos with our hotel marked on it;

Laundry prize to Vicki – a bar of soap;



Cyprus Cup Challenge winners – Julie Daly, Jacqui Thompson and Lionel Reisman

Thank you prize to Gary – wine and a WHBC pen;

The WC prize to Philip – two toilet rolls that can be used together for double thickness;

The spoon prize to Bob – a hotel spoon (given back) and a personal spoon rest (neither of which he used the next day after complaining).

Thanks were given to Chris for organising the holiday 'What's App' group which, especially for me, was great for communicating with everyone and to Wendy for organising the cards each evening.

And lastly Sandra thanked me, on behalf of the group, for keeping everyone in order!

Wednesday 5 April

Time to go home.

Everything was going well until we got to the airport and those menacing words came over the tannoy just as we were boarding the plane.

"Will everyone on this list" (17 of us) – "report to security to check your suitcases".

Suddenly last year's fiasco came into mind. All 17 cases were unpacked, bowls searched, bags repacked and paperwork signed.

As a result, the plane took off late and we could feel the eyes of the passengers boring into us as we walked down the aisle. Unfortunately we were seated right at the back of the plane.

The pilot made up some time, however, and we touched down only a few minutes late.

Despite the hiccup at the end a great time was had by all and we are looking forward to next year already.

Thanks to Sue and Alan for organising the trip and roll on Eastbourne in September.

Pam Waller



Cyprus Cup Challenge runners up – Roger Goodman, Pam Waller, Di Hine and Liz Goumal.

The garden team

Wendy Goodman, Doreen King, Sheila Snelling, David Tovee and new member Alan Jacobs

It is always pleasant, after a hard-fought game of bowls, to relax on the patio and admire the well-kept gardens and planters which enhance the green. These are maintained by the Garden Team who work very hard to keep everything in excellent condition.

Routine jobs include watering, weeding and generally sweeping up and keeping everything tidy. The borders around the green contain shrubs and perennials: the glazed planters and the beds in front of the men's changing room are planted up each year with begonias and geraniums..

Up to three years ago Doreen King and her husband Ron managed the garden by themselves. Doreen had originally started working in the garden with John Spalding and, as a talented gardener, she has won a number of awards (see next page).

Up to two years ago Di Hine looked after the pots by the green but now we all help with these, together with the beds in front of the men's changing room.

We work in the garden on Tuesday mornings which is also Green Team day. So, if we need any extra manpower, emptying the wheel barrows, cutting something down or even removing the occasional concrete post, there is always a willing Green Team member to lend a hand. Many thanks should go to Terry Sykes for his frequent help.

The Gardening and Green Teams work well together and, of course, there is always a nice cup of tea or coffee (and cake) to look forward to made by the official Green Team Tea Boy Roger Goodman.

Wendy Goodman



Begonia tubs on the patio



An attractive Gaillardia



Garden Team members enjoying a well-earned break with refreshments provided by Green Team Tea Boy Roger Goodman.

(Standing) Honorary member Terry Sykes, Sheila Snelling and Alan Jacobs.

(Sitting) Doreen King, David Tovee and Roger Goodman. (Regretfully Wendy was not present.)

Doreen King

The award-winning gardener adds a touch of gold



Doreen pictured in the alleyway in 2009

Those members who come to the Club via the alleyway connecting Ringwood Way to Radcliffe Road will appreciate what a pleasure it is to come across this hidden treasure.

For those who may not be aware of it, this once derelict alleyway has been transformed by Doreen King, with help from her husband, Ron.

Back in 2004 it was an overgrown stretch of wasteland about 50m long, with 1m wide borders on either side of the path. Doreen and Ron cleared the borders of rubbish and weeds and, over the next few years, planted them up with perennials such as Lavender, Lily of the Valley, Geraniums, Hollyhocks, Poppies, Iris and Alliums as well as shrubs including Buddleia, Hibiscus and Hydrangea.

Doreen's efforts have not only been much remarked upon and appreciated by the local community but she has also received a number of awards for her work. These include a Gold Medal in 2009 from Enfield in Bloom, the annual competition run by Enfield Council, for 'Exceptional Horticultural Contribution for the Local Community'. She was also a Silver Medallist in both 2012 and 2013 and Bronze Medallist in 2006.

She is also extremely proud of the award received from The Conservation Foundation 'Gardening Against the Odds' project, a national competition, in which she was a runner up in 2010. Her prize was presented by botanist Sir David Bellamy.

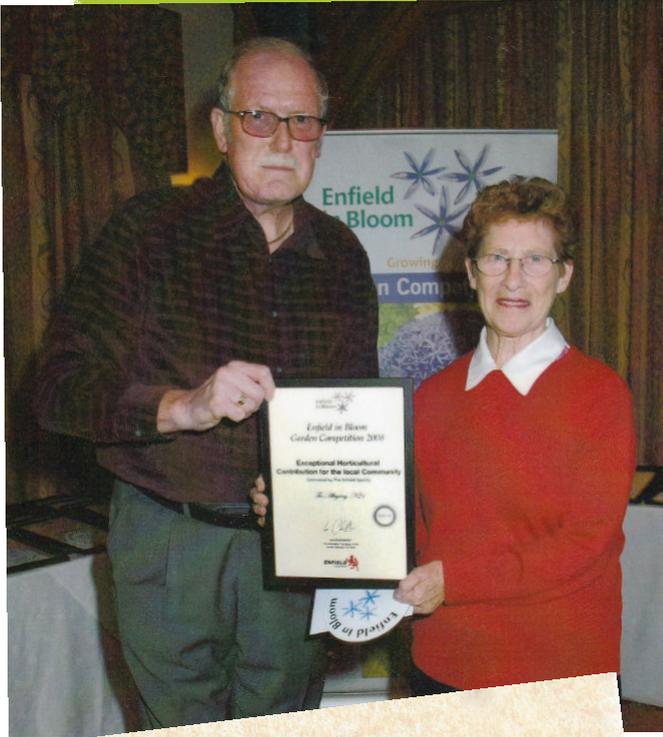
Sheila Cude



See over for some of Doreen's awards and presentations

*"I am always so happy gardening.
I find it therapeutic and I love seeing things grow."*

Doreen King



Ladies Captain's report

Top Club

The competition consists of four matches, singles, pairs, triples and fours. We were drawn against North London and won on one rink (well done Wendy and Carol) but lost on the other three.

Middlesex Double Rink

The following week we played the first round of the Middlesex Double Rink (where one team of four plays at home and another team of four plays away).

We did very well and won against Bury Lodge. The next round the following week was against North London and unfortunately we lost.

Friendlies

The first friendly of the season was against Whit Hern. We were expecting a very heavy green as it had been previously, but no, it ran almost as well as ours.

We won 2-1 there and we also won the next two friendlies against Grovelands 2-0 and Potters Bar 2-0.

Brigg League

We had a good start, winning our first two games

against Bury Lodge and Cockfosters, and so getting maximum points.

Sunday League (mixed)

We lost the first game against Grovelands. Our next game was against Holtwhites where we won on two rinks (gaining two points) but lost overall on shots.

Middlesex Fours QF's and Semi Finals

We hosted a very successful day. Well done to the ladies who prepared over 42 rolls. Everyone commented on the Club's hospitality and our amazing green. In fact some of the players did not want to leave, thank you Cliff for being there to make sure they did!

Now we are looking forward to the rest of the season. A few of us are still in external competitions either Middlesex or F & NLBA and I wish you good luck in these.

Finally a reminder, please keep an eye on the notice boards in the clubhouse and put your name down to play outside games, especially the friendlies.

Jacqui Thompson
Ladies Captain

Men's Captain's Report

As always the British weather has been somewhat unpredictable but nevertheless the men's internal competitions are well under way and nearly all games have been played within the scheduled deadlines.

The green is in excellent condition and the Club has bought new black and white bowls mats to replace the red mats which were getting worn.

The Monday morning coaching sessions introduced for new (and existing) bowlers have been well-attended. I would like to thank Jacqui, Pam, Ron and Philip for their help and support. We look forward to signing off all our new bowlers to join our Wednesday and Friday evening Club nights.

It is good to see that last year's new bowlers have formed a group to hold regular roll-ups. I hope this will continue and others will join them. This has helped to enhance team spirit as well as improving the standard of bowling skills within the Club.

Thanks to newer bowlers who attended the marker's course in April and have volunteered to mark.

Best of luck to all for the second-half of the season.

Lionel Reisman
Men's Captain

Diary dates

Saturday 15 July – Time tba

Webbs Trophy

See notice board for details

Sunday 30 July – Time tba

Asian Friendship Day

See notice board for details

Saturday 12 August – 14.30

Trustees Day

See notice board for details

Monday 28 August – 10.00

Ted Wright Pairs

See notice board for details

Friday 1 – Sunday 3 September

Finals

See notice board for details

Saturday 16 September – 14.30

President vs Vice-President

See notice board for details

Bowls Big Weekend



Official Partner



On Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May we held our annual membership open days as part of the Bowls England initiative

There was a decent amount of publicity generated by the Bowls England campaign this year. The Times ran an article on the Friday preceding the event highlighting how bowls clubs in general are suffering a decline in membership and BBC Breakfast ran a ten-minute feature from The Connaught Club in Chingford on the Saturday morning which was very upbeat.

Last year we paid a commercial company to leaflet 15,000 households in the vicinity of Winchmore Hill. The Committee felt this had been too expensive, so we opted for an advertising campaign on social media platforms and through the Enfield Over 50s Forum Newsletter.

The weekend was a magnificent team effort all round with so many members volunteering to help out. My thanks go to the tea makers, the bar staff, the coaches and green helpers, the people who 'interviewed' our prospective members, the meeters and greeters and we must never forget the cake makers!

I am reasonably pleased with the results so far. We had 22 visitors in total over the two days. As a direct result of the weekend we have signed up six new members. Three male and two female bowlers, plus a lady social member. I think that there are possibly three more candidates who may join us.

These added to the one male bowler, three lady and two male social members who have already joined our ranks this year puts our numbers up by 12.

In addition, Jane and Don Rayson and Brian Waters have finally given in to the constant badgering by fellow members and have switched from social to bowling membership. All three are keen golfers so

they will undoubtedly be successful bowlers.

We are now up to 192 members which is very healthy in comparison to the other local bowling clubs. We are still down on numbers compared to last year, however, and we must never allow ourselves to become complacent. Every organisation needs to replenish its membership to succeed.

I am extremely pleased to welcome the following Members to our lovely friendly Club. I know you will make them welcome as you always do.

Grant Andrea - Bowling Member;

Helen and Bob Bridge – Bowling Members introduced to the Club by Sue and Alan;

Jean Castle – Social Member introduced by Kathy and Mike;

Alan Jacobs – Social Member. He is a keen gardener who will be assisting Wendy's gardening team on Tuesday mornings;

Billie and Trevor Newland – Social Members introduced by Wendy and Roger;

Joyce and David Skipp – both Bowling Members introduced by Sandra and Ron;

Jackie and Colin Taylor – Jackie is a Social Member and Colin a Bowling Member;

Clara Valentine – Social Member, introduced by her granny and grandad Carol and David.

Welcome to you all.

Chris Daly

Etiquette, rules and marking skills

A short introduction for new bowlers held in April

Led by Lionel Reisman with the assistance of Pam Waller, Jacqui Thompson, Sandra Wright, Mike Dady and others, there was a good turn out for the course with 20 or more members attending.

On a sunny but chilly day back in April, two days before the start of the season, the Green Team had been out early to cut the grass and the green looked in excellent condition.

Green Ranger Ron Wright gave a short introduction to explain the need for care on the green and the reason for the use of protective mats when bowling.

The course was split into two parts. To start off two teams competed in a mock trips match comprising one end only. Pam, Jacqui and Sandra competed against Lionel, Ron and me, with the instruction that we were to transgress as many rules of play and etiquette we could think of.

The standard of bowling in this, our first outing on the green, was underwhelming. To be fair, the green was very heavy with not much turn. All of us struggled to reach the jack. When all the bowls had been delivered there was a melee around the head as we argued over which bowl was shot – again a deliberate flouting of the laws of the game. After much noisy debate (another rule broken) it was decided to award the ladies two shots. A fair result in the end.

The score didn't matter of course. Participants watching from the patio were asked to pick out the errors we had made. This proved more difficult than expected. There were too many to remember!

Deliberate errors included incorrect placement of the mat, bowling off the mat, talking while bowlers are on the mat, blocking the bowler's view, interfering with bowls in the head and incorrect measurement. Some of these errors were demonstrated with ham amateur theatrics – a bit of a giveaway for even the most novice of players to spot!

For the second half of the course, more seriously, Mike Dady introduced his talk by listing the tools of

marking. A coin, score-card and folder, pens (and possibly a pencil), tape measure, chalk spray and wedges. Drawing on his wide experience as a marker he gave a thorough explanation of the essential marking duties illustrating possible scenarios with demonstrations. For example, how to measure shot, advice on how to respond to players' requests for information about the head and the correct way to measure the distance between a bowl and the jack in the ditch.

In conclusion all new bowlers should learn how to mark. As you become more experienced as a bowler and enter some of the internal club competitions, you will find yourself in a singles match that requires a marker. At some point in the future you will also be asked to mark for others.

Bear in mind that you are not going to be asked to mark for a County Final! As Mike pointed out in his summing up – if two players are desperate for a marker and you are asked to help out – remember that all you need to do is centre the jack and keep score and you are on your way.

There are three additional but simple rules that could also help you; don't say anything unless asked to, don't do anything unless asked to and don't touch the bowls!

To sum up – if you have a solid understanding of the basic rules of the game, acquiring the essentials of marking is not as daunting as it appears to be. Start by marking for your friends and other new bowlers and you will quickly get the hang of it.

Thanks to all the organisers of the course as well as the attendees for coming along to give support.

For those interested in a more comprehensive understanding of marking please contact Mike Dady who will be happy to organise a short course for up to six people.

Paul Young

Friday night*

Bread & cheese buffet

Still only £2

*After the roll-up



Equality at the club

I told this story at the recent men's get together, so apologies to those who have already heard it, but I thought it worth sharing with the whole Club. It clearly demonstrates how much things have changed and, in this case, certainly for the better.

You may not be altogether surprised to learn that when our Club was founded in 1932 only men were allowed to bowl. What is disappointing is that this situation prevailed for more than 50 years.

Initially there was a 'Ladies Committee', consisting of the wives of Committee members, whose role was to oversee all the catering arrangements for the men. Even if the green was completely empty, women were prohibited from using it.

Things eventually began to change in the 1980s and three men took the initiative to form a 'Ladies Section'. This resulted in resolutions being tabled at the 1985 AGM. Apparently this was not plain sailing, and the record I have seen refers to 'a long and at times heated discussion'.

Eventually, the proposal to set up the 'Ladies Section' was passed but only on the condition that *'it did not disrupt their catering responsibilities'*. Even then, it was only for a trial period of one year. I am sure that such a pompous statement would not be tolerated today.

Quite clearly, the ladies did conduct themselves 'correctly' on the green and, finally, at the 1987 AGM it was agreed that the Club would set up a Ladies Bowling Section. This was not the end of the story,

however, which still had a long way to run. Even this hard-fought victory was tempered by a membership limit for the Ladies Section of 25 who had to be either wives of current male bowlers or widows of past Club members.

Despite these obstacles the Ladies Section thrived and the issue was eventually raised again at the 2006 AGM when a proposal to grant lady bowlers equality was discussed.

This took place not so long ago, and certainly several of our current membership were members then. Nevertheless, it seems there was still an element of male resistance, because the account I have seen refers to 'much discussion, accompanied by counter-proposals'.

The principle of moving to an Open Club was eventually accepted, however, and finally, at the 2007 AGM full equality at WHBC was enshrined in the Constitution.

This means that during the 91 years this Club has existed, it is only during the last 16 that there has been full equality. Having said that, I do not think our Club was very different from many other bowling clubs.

When I first saw this, I was amazed that this process had been so tortuous and lengthy, but now we can perhaps all look back, smile and see it for what it is, a relic of an antiquated attitude.

David Haywood
Secretary

Editor's mat

Welcome to the July newsletter.

I am particularly pleased that more and more people are volunteering suggestions, pictures and other items for the newsletter. Thank you to everyone.

We have some new features as well, including the first in a series of cartoons by Malcolm Gorman. More of these will appear in following issues.

Also of interest is Andy Place's piece on ChatGBT an amazing use of Artificial Intelligence to produce written material of all kinds. See page 17 for its attempt at a poem on bowling.

Hmm...of course perhaps it would write these editorials for me. In fact can you be sure this is really me? You'll never know!

Sheila Cude

Bridge Drives

Following the success of our afternoon bridge drives we will be running further events from October onwards.

Dates so far are:

Monday 23 October
Monday 20 November
Monday 18 December

Further dates are being planned for January, February and March 2024 and more details of the events will be available as soon as possible.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of bridge and meet friends from other bowls and social clubs.

Contact

Email sheilacudebowls@posteo.net

Landline 020 8340 1928 **Mobile** 07491 672 546

Scafell Pike challenge

David Valentine and Stuart Oram scope out Scafell Pike. Will it be a climb too far for the walking group?

Recently I was contacted by Stuart Oram who suggested a rather challenging walk for the Group up Scafell Pike, the tallest mountain (978m) in England.

Stuart and I set off on 21 May and travelled to the Lake District, basing ourselves in Ambleside to look at this for a future walk.

The next day we had to prepare for the Scafell Pike challenge. To do so we walked to Grasmere and back, around ten miles.

The next day was the biggie – Scafell Pike. We set off early reaching Seathwaite to start our climb. I knew it was going to be tough but not as bad as it turned out for me. Stuart was like a mountain goat and with his enthusiasm spurred me on.

It was tough and took us around ten hours up and down. And believe it or not the coming down was harder than the going up.

Fortunately I can say that this walk did not fit the criteria for the group's walks! First there was not a Wetherspoons Public House nearby at the end and furthermore the ice cream van at the top of the Pike had run out of chocolate flakes by the time we got up there!

The next day with jelly legs I only managed to walk around six miles locally with Stuart. In the afternoon we visited the topiary gardens at Levens Hall. They were truly spectacular. Well worth the visit.

An absolutely stonking break and one which neither Stuart and I will ever forget.

David Valentine



If you are interested in joining the Walking Group (on one of our less challenging walks) please see over for details

The Walking Group

Many at WHBC know Tony Redondo and I organise a monthly walk and any WHBC member is more than welcome to join us. This is a very brief outline of how these walks work.

Presently we have just over 80 potential walkers to whom I send out details of the walk by email. The system is quite simple. If you turn up at the appropriate time and place we set off on our walk. There is no need to commit before the day. Just turn up and off we go. Some walks start near home, some a train/bus ride away. Thank you London Borough of Enfield for the Freedom Pass.

The walks are generally around five miles and take about three hours with a tea/coffee break. Many of the walks will finish at a Wetherspoon's public house where we have lunch and a drink for under £10. Generally with a 09.30 start you should be back home around 16.00. On occasions if you are time constrained and do not fancy five miles there are locations during the walk where you can opt out, making your own way home

Numbers vary. In the winter we can have as many as 30 walkers – however during the summer months this goes down to around 12 to 15.

If anybody is interested please let me know by email at davidvalentine1@yahoo.com and I will add you to the list. Roll Up – Roll Up!

Quite often members of the group volunteer to lead a walk and I will then send out the details. It is normal in these circumstances for me to scope out the walk to make sure that it will be suitable and fit the necessary criteria.

Some on my list of potential walkers we have not seen for some time. Should you want to come off my mailing list let me know. I know some of you like to continue to hear about our exploits and see the debrief photographs which I circulate after each walk. Absolutely no problem if you remain on the list.

Best foot forward.

David Valentine

Malcolm's **CLUB CAPERS**



David Valentine and Stuart Oram take on the Scafell Pike challenge. Cartoon by Malcolm Gorman

A view from the bank

The ramblings of a casual observer

I must first tell you that I have never had any interest in sport, as a participant or a spectator. This has been so all my life.

There was a brief period at school where this view was not accepted and participation in sport was compulsory along with RE. Even then I always tried to avoid physical pain, and also getting dirty, so my school sport was swimming, at which I was reasonably successful. On leaving school I returned to a full-time disinterest in sport.

Time moved on until I made one of my better decisions and joined WHBC as a social member. This fitted well as I had no need to show any interest in bowls as all the social events took place outside of 'The Season'.

All was going well until in a moment of weakness, in high summer, I was tempted to go to the Club for a barbecue and live entertainment when a bowls match was happening. This was my first observation of the activity that takes place when Cliff Richard and Abba are not available.

My initial reaction was one of shock at the sight I beheld. As a social member my only interaction with the big square of grass is to walk carefully around the edge. This square is guarded by an electric fence and I have been told that Ron Wright only allows a very select few to walk there. Failure to comply will result in a severe punishment administered by Ron Wright, some members have even been known to disappear.

Hence my shock to see dozens of people in white tramping over the grass while lobbing large balls all over the place.

I quickly realised that what they were doing was playing bowls, the object of the game being to project a big ball towards a small ball and those who got their big balls nearest the small ball won. Easy I thought, on with the barbecue and entertainment. As I left my seat to retire to the Club House and bar, having worked out all there is to know about bowls, a man in white walked from where the little ball was towards the people who projected the big balls holding high what looked like two coloured lollypops.

Now came my big mistake, I asked a gentlemen seated near me what was this chap doing. He then proceeded to explain the game of bowls and, yes, my observations of the game were correct, however...

Why in sport, as in life, are simple things made complicated by a 'however'?

I did try to follow him but could not connect the game of bowls with the residents of the American state of Oklahoma – the Oakies!

The barbecue was excellent as was the entertainment and I left the Club House looking forward to the start of the social season, the Everly Brothers and Garry Matheson's quiz.

And so, dear reader, good health.

BW

Recycling reminder

Please
SAVE



Milk bottle tops (any colour)
Empty crisp packets
Blister packs
(from medication of all kinds)
Used postage stamps



Place in the
cardboard box in the
club kitchen
(at the end of the work top
near the dustbin)

Cliff and **Sally** will take them to Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church where they can be recycled for charity and the benefit of the planet



Simple tape-measure fix if the string does not rewind



My measure is a Clubhawk brand. There is a printed warning in capital letters on the top saying 'AVOID RECOILING AT SPEED'. I imagine this advice applies equally to other brands.

During a roll-up earlier this year I lost my grip on the plastic pointer at the end of the string and it whizzed back into the body of the measure. As the warning says this should be avoided.

Inside the measure there is a coiled spring. If the string snaps back into the body of the measure it might loosen the spring. The next time you measure you may find that it will not rewind when you press the recoil button.

The measure is one of the essential tools of bowlers and they are quite an expensive item.

If you find that the string won't rewind, before you throw the measure in the bin, you might try a simple fix first. This description applies to the Clubhawk measure but the principle may well be the same for other brands.

The spring inside is a coiled metal ribbon that wraps around a central plastic spindle. The spring needs to be rewound and fixed back into the spindle.

To remove the cover of the measure take out the screw in the corner. Prise off the cover with care. There are plastic 'pegs' in each corner of the cover which slot into retaining plugs in the base. Try not to bend the top too much when removing it as the pegs might break off.

One end of the spring has a 'tab', which is the end of the spring folded back. Take the tab out of the slot. Hold the rest of the spring so it doesn't unwind and tighten the spring counter-clockwise.



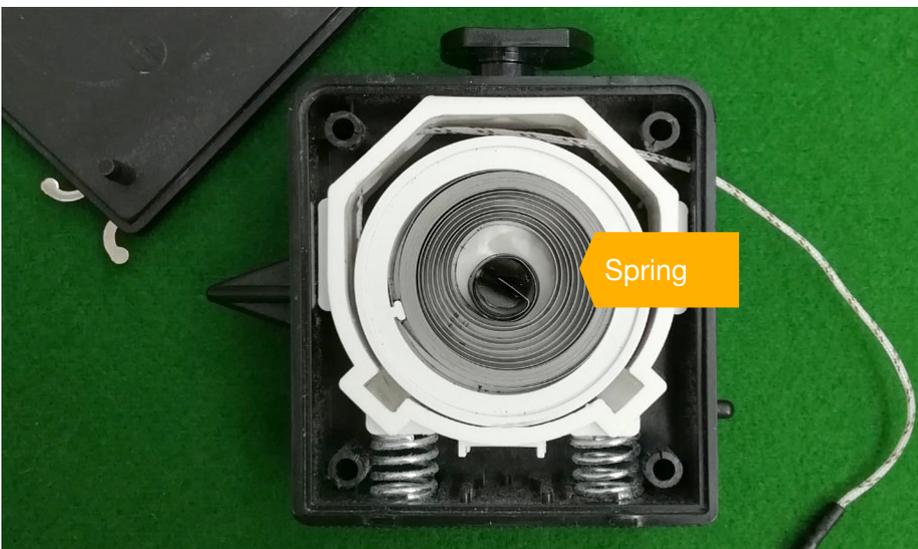
It is possible to do this with your fingers but it might help to use a small pair of snipe-nose pliers.

Tuck the tab end of the spring back in the slot of the spindle. It may need a bit of trial and error to find the right tension.

Replace the cover. Ensure that the holes in the end of the callipers align with the screw hole in the plastic base.

This should do the trick. Good as new.

Paul Young



ChatGBT...how creative can it be?

Andy Place challenges ChatGBT to write a poem about bowls

We hear a lot about artificial intelligence (AI) these days and many people, perhaps most prominently Elon Musk, think it poses a real threat to human kind. There have been various movies on this theme, for example the Terminator series, which made Arnold Schwarzenegger a household name.

The first serious artificial intelligence program called ChatGPT is now available to everyone on the internet. It is capable, among other things, of writing credible essays which is already causing problems for teachers. Students simply utilise ChatGPT to write their essays for them. The results are such that it is not easy for teachers to distinguish these from the work of actual students.

Additionally ChatGPT poses quite a threat to people's jobs. It is predicted that mathematicians, authors and journalists, tax advisors, climate change analysts, and many others will be put out of work.

At one time it was thought that AI would never be able to produce creative works and I decided to try and test this by asking ChatGPT to write a short poem about bowls.

The challenge was to 'write a four verse rhyming poem about a new bowler who is not very good at the game of lawn bowls'.

The result is not great poetry of course but perhaps not bad for an emerging technology. I will leave you to make a judgement.

Below is the (totally unedited) poem it produced.

Andy Place

Upon the green stands one so meek,
A novice at the game they seek,
The ball they roll just goes astray,
No points are won, no hope today.

They try again, with greater force,
But still the ball just goes off course,
Aiming for the jack, so far away,
Yet every attempt goes straight astray.

The seasoned players watch with woe,
As every shot just fails to show,
The novice tries with all their might,
But the ball just never takes flight.

Though now they fail, they still can learn,
To aim with care and slow their turn,
And with each try they'll surely see,
The game of bowls come easily.



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A short History of Bowling – Part 4

The invention of bias?

Bowls, it seems, did indeed become the sport of kings.

James 1 was a keen player and commended 'a moderate practice of bowls'...but not by 'the meaner sort of people'. The 'meaner' classes were not to get a look-in for some considerable time in fact.

Charles I is reputed to have played for high stakes, losing as much as £1,000 on one occasion. (This was an immense sum of money at the time.)

Charles II installed a green at Windsor Castle for the sum of

£20.7s.11d which remained well used by subsequent royals.

I'm going back in time now for a story which may or may not be true. Charles Brandon, 1st Duke of Suffolk was a courtier, friend and later brother-in-law to Henry VIII.

While playing bowls one day one of his woods (which was, of course, actually made of wood) was hit by another bowl, cracked and split in half.

Someone who could remain on good terms with Henry VIII for around 40 years years was not

going to be defeated by a little thing like this.

Hastening into the house he found a newel post with a large turned ball top. This was quickly sawn off, not by the Duke himself of course, who hurried back to the green with his improvised bowl.

The game continued and it seems his new bowl wobbled its way successfully towards the jack, following a nicely curved path.

Bias had been invented.

Sheila Cude

English Blind Bowling Association



around 5,000 blind or partially sighted members making lawn bowls the largest outdoor activity for the blind in the world.

To aid players a thin strip of string runs down the rink from ditch to ditch. Once the jack has been thrown it is moved across to this string and a sighted helper will tell the player the distance from the jack to the mat.

When a bowl is played the helper will tell the player the distance from the jack to the bowl (yards, feet and inches), and also its position in relation to the jack by means of a clock face. eg 12 o'clock means the bowl is behind the jack etc.

Using only this information, and no other mechanical aids, experienced visually impaired players are extremely accomplished and could well be a match for many fully-sighted players.

Sheila Cude

Alan Jarvis came across this badge and passed it on to us as an item of interest for the newsletter.

Neither Paul nor I could find any mention of the English Blind Bowling Association on the internet. We assume it has either been superseded or perhaps undergone a change of name possibly because the image of the bat on the badge could now be interpreted as inappropriate.

The body to co-ordinate bowling for blind and visually impaired players in England is Visually Impaired Bowls England (VIBE). Founded in 1975 this has around 50 clubs throughout the country and some 600 members.

VIBE organises competitions at national level, as well as selecting players for international competitions organised by the International Blind Bowls Association. This in turn has

Scrapbook



Hazel's hat with decorations for a hat-making competition, but minus one 'bowl' – actually a tennis ball sprayed black



Hazel Kinsler, Carol Valentine and Doreen King with the Asian Cup, awarded for the annual competition between the men and ladies. Not certain of the year, but the stylish skirts they are modelling ceased to be de rigueur in 2010.



Maitres de BBQ, Chris, Mick and Bob chillin' before the grillin' – John Scott Trophy day



Bowls Big Weekend – Sheila and Garry on crowd control duty. "Sorry Ron you can't come in at the moment – it's a bit busy!"



Ron Wright presents the trophy to the Ladies Invitation Competition winners Jacqui Thompson and Mike Laurie