



Winchmore Hill Bowling Club

Newsletter

April 2024

Your Club *really* needs you

Now is the time to get involved

Winchmore Hill Bowling Club has come a long way in the years since its inception in 1932. Today it is thriving, with one of the highest memberships in north London, and certainly one of the best greens.

The Club is run almost exclusively by volunteers. Between them they maintain our excellent green, arrange catering for many social events and external league matches, organise teams and competitions and even clean the windows.

In addition the Management Committee is responsible for much of the essential work needed to ensure that the Club functions efficiently.

This not only includes legal, administrative and financial responsibilities but tasks such as arranging external matches and managing the bar.

Each year we have a relatively modest intake of new members but at the same time we lose existing members. The Club finds itself in a predicament not dissimilar to that of many bowls clubs around the country.

We face challenging times and the demographics are not in our favour. We are lucky that membership

numbers remain relatively stable from year to year but, from that pool of members, we need to find people willing to come forward and help in any way they can.



If this does not happen ultimately there is only one outcome. Without the stewardship of dedicated individuals the Club will fall into decline and possibly even die. Nobody wants this to happen!

Some ways to help are shown on the following pages but the Club also needs people with business, management and organisational skills who would like to come forward to serve on the Management Committee.

Many long-standing members have served on the Committee for years, and our thanks go to all of them.

But now could well be the time for new faces and new ideas. If you think you can contribute your time, knowledge and experience please contact Mick Hine. See below.

Your Club really does need you!

Please contact Mick Hine

email mick_hine@yahoo.co.uk

020 8360 5549

mobile 07985 983634

Spreading the word

Can you help to promote the Club?

Our Open Weekend (previously known as the Bowls Big Weekend) will take place over the spring bank holiday weekend – Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May.

We are advertising the weekend in the Forum Focus – the Over 50s forum newsletter and in the N21, N14 and Barnet local directories, which cover many areas which have not been previously targeted.

We hope that over the weekend some new people will be inspired to come through the gates to find out about the Club and give bowls a go.

As a result with fine weather, the traditional Winchmore Hill Bowls Club welcome and plenty of cake, hopefully we will have a successful weekend and welcome a new intake of members.

We have also produced a publicity flyer about the Club designed to be used not just for the Open Day and the summer months but all year round.

We would like to distribute the leaflet around the district at libraries, supermarkets with community boards, corner shops, churches and anywhere else people might think of.

The leaflets will be available in the clubhouse and we are asking members to take a few each to help with distribution. It's entirely up to you where you choose to put them.

The important thing is to have as many of the leaflets as possible 'out on the street'.

Many thanks for your help.



Please help to distribute these leaflets to promote the Club

Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are needed to assist with maintenance of the Club premises.

Mike Fase has done an excellent job for many years but has now decided to retire.

Could you spare a small amount of time to tackle some of the routine jobs as they arise such as:

- bleeding radiators
- small repairs
- minor decorating
- unblocking drains and sinks
- cleaning out gutters.

You would be working as part of a team which is always more enjoyable!

If you can help in any way please contact Mick Hine.

mick_hine@yahoo.co.uk

Markers' Course

Make a note of this date in your diary for the Markers' Course under the expert guidance of Michael Dady.

**Monday
29 April
10.30am**

For those who are just starting to bowl and more experienced bowlers who want to improve their knowledge, this course is a must to learn what to do and what not to do.

Whenever you are playing in a game of singles you will need a marker. Similarly if you are asked to mark in return this course will give you a grounding in the role of the marker.

The course will last a couple of hours and at the end of it we hope you will feel confident enough to be able to mark if called upon to do so.

Just turn up on the day. We look forward to seeing you.

What does the Club mean to you?

Is it summer days enjoying a friendly game, the challenge of competitions, the fun of social events or relaxing in the bar talking to friends? The Club means different things to different people.

Make a donation

As you know the Club is currently undertaking a major building project. We have the funds for this but we

need to plan for the future and maintain what we have.

Donations are always welcome. Any amount you can give will be of benefit.

Leave a gift in your will

Or, after providing for your loved ones, could you leave a gift in your will?

Remember to tell your family how much you have enjoyed being a Club member.

- Help to maintain your Club
- Contribute to long-term sustainability
- Preserve the Club for the enjoyment of future generations

Please consider giving either a donation or a gift in your will

Any amount you can give will be greatly appreciated

There is a board in the bar area where many previous donors are acknowledged.

Remember, we are getting the benefit now of all those past members who had the foresight to invest in our Club.

Let's do the same for future members

Please contact our Club Treasurer Jeff Hopwood

jeff.hopwood@blueyonder.co.uk

If you wish to leave a gift in your will we recommend that you discuss the options with a legal advisor

Editor's mat

For the bowlers among us another outdoor season will start in just over a week's time and the question we are all asking is "what will the weather bring this year?"

Well at the moment it is bringing rain, rain and yet more rain. February was the wettest February on record for southern England and April showers, at the moment at least, seem to be turning into April downpours.

On the other hand it seems that 2024 is forecast to be the hottest summer yet, beating the heatwave of 2022.

Last year, as I remember it, was variable. We must have had some sun, but I can also remember playing on at least one extremely wet and windy Saturday afternoon, accompanied by the dismal flapping of somebody's giant plastic sheet attached, somewhat loosely, to a tower of scaffolding.

In this issue we are asking for help in a number of different ways. Please read the various requests we have included and see if there is something you can do. The Club is run almost exclusively by

volunteers and any help you can offer will always be appreciated.

On a lighter note, it is April. We are a little late for April Fools day but, just for fun we have included a spoof article. See if you can spot it, it shouldn't be difficult.

Sheila Cude

Contact

Email

sheilacudebowls@posteo.net

Landline 020 8340 1928

Mobile 07491 672 546

Roll up, roll up...

Please support Wednesday and Friday Club nights

Imagine the scene. A balmy summer's evening; the air is warm as the sun sinks gently behind the trees. The silence is broken by the occasional clunk of bowl on bowl, or even better bowl on jack, and some shouts of encouragement or exultation.

What could be more pleasant than an evening roll-up? Club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the bowling season are an opportunity for players of all levels of experience to play together in friendly games.

So why are the numbers coming to roll-ups declining?

We urge everyone who can make it to join in. The evenings are fun so, even if you are also playing at other times, do come along whenever possible.

For newer members it is an opportunity to learn the game, pick up tips and advice and get to know other Club members.

Don't be shy. You will soon feel right at home.

Then, once the matches are finished, (or they are rained off – OK it can happen), there is always time to relax with a drink in the clubhouse and talk with your fellow team members.

Times

Please note **last names time**. This is to allow time for the organisers to arrange the teams.

Last names **5.45pm** Start time **6.00pm**

Sheila Cude

Friday night*

Bread & cheese buffet



Only £2 *After the roll-up

Recycling reminders

Club waste

The Club has to pay for the collection of waste such as plastic bottles, cardboard and plastic trays

If you can take some of these items home for recycling it would reduce the amount we have to recycle and save the Club money. Many thanks!

Please
SAVE

Milk bottle tops
Empty crisp packets
Used postage stamps

Place in the bags/box outside the ladies changing room

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



Club website

Last year we launched a re-designed version of the website to make it more accessible to visitors to the site and, potentially, new members. The site is divided into a members section and public facing pages which are what you see when you go to the site.

The site has been streamlined so that visitors will easily be able to find relevant information about the Club. There are links to general information about the Club, membership, social events, news and how to get in touch.

Club fixtures, results and team details are in the members' part of the website. There is no access to those pages from the public pages. You must log in to see the members' pages.

To do so you will need a user name and a password.

How to log in?

If you do not know how to do this or do not have a password please contact Stav Partou.



The public pages are managed by
Paul Young paulmyoung.whbc@tutanota.com
Stav Partou stavros.partou@gmail.com

If you wish to post an item on the News page please contact either Stav or Paul.

The website address is <https://whbowls.com/>



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Mobile

07973 890368

Email sales@bushhillbowls.co.uk

Opening hours

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www.bushhillbowls.co.uk

WHBC members
10% discount*
*Excl. bowls

Bridge sessions

Before Christmas we decided to abandon our 'Chicago' bridge evenings and concentrate on Duplicate bridge which takes place on the first and third Tuesday evenings in the month. This will be repeated later in the autumn when bowling finishes.

Duplicate bridge is a bit more competitive but the element of good or bad luck with card distribution is minimised. It tends to reward skill rather than lucky cards. It is a good way for players to improve their skills and general card play so if you are already a player and want to get better, let me know and I will add your name to our list.

As a test of our bridge skills we challenged Selborne Bowling Club to a team match at the clubhouse on Tuesday 26 March. I am glad to say we achieved a very convincing victory and look forward to a return match.

Lastly I recently circulated a note regarding lessons for complete beginners. These will be run by Billie Newland and will probably start in August. (See opposite).

There has been a good response but there is still room for a few more.

David Haywood



BRIDGE



Learn to play bridge

We are planning to hold bridge tuition sessions for beginners later in the year.

The tutor will be Billie Newland who has run very successful classes at Bush Hill Park.

Cost

£50 for a course of **10 sessions**.

The full amount is to be paid in advance and will be donated to the Club.

Dates

Monday afternoons, to start in August or September.

We need a minimum of eight players to make the sessions workable.



Please contact David Haywood if you would like to take part
dhaywood@tiscali.co.uk



It is important that you can commit to the full course. No refunds will be given for any sessions you do not attend.



Some dates for your diary

Saturday 20 April

New season starts

Please note the revised date.

Saturday 20 April

Ted Skeffington Trophy

Start time 2.30pm.

Wednesday 24 April

6.00pm

First Club night

Arrive at 5.45pm to sign in.

Monday 29 April

10.30am

Markers' Course

All bowlers should attend one of these courses before they mark a match.

Monday 6 May

Willborne Trophy

Start time 2.00pm.

Monday 27 May

John Scott Trophy & BBQ

Mixed rinks competition followed by a BBQ.

Cards update

Our sixth and final bridge drive of the winter season was held in March and it was great to see so many guests from neighbouring clubs.

We managed to make a very handsome profit of £1,241 from all six bridge drives as well as making new friends and having a very enjoyable time.

The Winter Canasta League was contested by a record number of 15 couples. Mike Dady and Sandra Wright won the league and were duly presented with the special Canasta Champions mugs and a cash

prize. Doreen White and Pat Burn were runners up.

We would also like to welcome two new social members to the Club, Lesley Gillman and Lynwen Bailey who have joined us to play canasta.

They have also agreed to jump in at the deep end and will be playing together in the Summer Canasta League which will run from 1 April to 30 September 2024.

Sue Crane



The joy of canasta

When I was growing up my parents regularly had friends come to the house to play canasta but, until a few years ago, I could not find anyone to teach me the game, in spite of the fact that I had been playing Bolivian Canasta for some years.

Then, in a casual conversation with my neighbour, Val Ovenden, she told me about the canasta sessions at WHBC and said she would ask a lady called Sue (Sue Crane) if I could sit in one day.

That day changed my 'cards life' and 30 years of bridge was put aside. I had planned to sit and watch but Sue said they were one short and she could teach me as we went along.

From that moment on I was, and still am, totally addicted to canasta. I joined the Club 24 hours later as a Social Member and was made to feel so very welcome. I knew no-one there, but each and every player made me feel at home.

Now the Friday game is etched in stone. Not only do I thoroughly enjoy the game, but I feel as though everyone there is my friend.

I cannot join the evening sessions, so only socialise on Fridays, but I enjoy the wonderful, friendly atmosphere there.

Thank you Sue and Colin, and everyone I play cards with. You have really changed my life.

Sandra Byruck

Extraordinary new find

A recently discovered cave painting in northern England has aroused some debate in the archeological world.

Found by a local caver, the image depicts hands and round objects which could be rocks carved into the shape of a ball.

Although cave art occurs in many locations throughout Europe, images more usually depict animals, hunting, abstract signs and schematic human figures. This painting may be the first known example of its kind.

Prehistoric people in the British Isles were creating images on rock as long ago as the late Ice Age. Although it is not known exactly how old this painting might be, it could date back 15,000 years.

According to recent archaeological evidence hunter-gatherer societies could have developed a simple calendar and a form of writing. This would have been used to record the movement of animals throughout the seasons.

Despite what may have been a daily struggle for survival it is an intriguing possibility that our ancestors

may also have found time for more leisurely pursuits. Indeed some anthropologists have suggested that the image could well represent a simple game.

One expert, Professor 'Loopi' Larfs, has gone so far as to draw a parallel with the modern day game of bowls! This interpretation, however, has not been endorsed by the wider scientific community.

Paul Young



50 Club reminder

You can buy 50 Club units at any time during the year

This is how it works. If you purchase a unit in March, for example, you will be entered in the draw from April to the following March. Those of you who purchased tickets in September, October and November 2023 will be entered in every draw to November 2024.

One number (or unit) costs £20. You can purchase as many units as you wish in multiples of £20.

Prizes are calculated on a monthly allocated receipts basis but the first prize will be no less than £50.

We hope that these modifications will greatly increase the value and number of prizes and also enable members to enter the 50 Club throughout the year which until now has not been possible.



The very best of luck to you all.

Malcolm Gorman
50 Club Administrator

Payment methods

Please note payments must be in multiples of £20

Cash or cheque

Give to either Malcolm Gorman, Sheila Cude or Jeff Hopwood.

Please make cheques payable to;

Winchmore Hill Bowling Club

Bank transfer

Make payable to;

Winchmore Hill Bowling Club

Sort Code 20-29-77

Account 60833622

Mark the transfer details '50 Club'.

Payments at the bar

Payment can now be made by card at the bar. A copy of the receipt will be kept in the till but please email Malcolm Gorman to let him know the number of units bought and the date of purchase.

Bowls stamps. What do they mean?

For players new to the game perhaps the most important consideration when choosing bowls is to find a size and weight that feels comfortable in the hand. Not too heavy and not too big.

Starting out with bowls from the Club store room, which may be relatively old and well-used, it may be difficult to make out the markings. Newer sets will show less wear and tear and the manufacturers' stamps should be legible.

As part of the production process all bowls are tested to ensure that they comply with international standards.

Officially all bowls since 2013 must be certified for World Bowls compliance and re-stamped every ten years or, if the stamp is not legible, before the expiry date.

Certification markings have changed over the years but from 2013 the standard design of the stamp has been the 'oval' introduced in line with World Bowls regulations.

In practice, for players at club level, re-testing dates can be disregarded. It only becomes relevant if you are competing in national or international competitions. In which case 'congratulations' and well done to you!

So what do the markings mean?

In the picture of this Drakes Pride bowl, to the left of the blue decal **T8 2227** is the bowl's serial number used for identification.

On the right side **2H** indicates a size 2 heavy bowl.

The 'oval' stamp

The number **30** is the certification expiry date. This set of bowls, for example, may be used in county and national competitions up to and including 31 December 2030.

The circled **R** is a registered trade mark.

WB indicates that the bowls were tested to World Bowls standards. Prior to 1988 the stamp would have shown the country of origin.

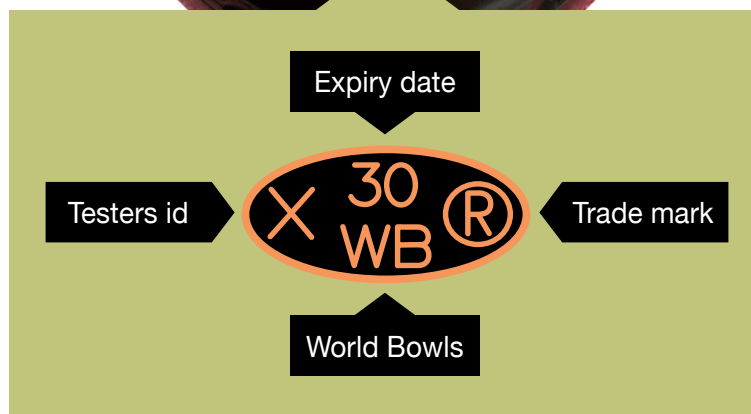
The letter on the left hand side is the manufacturer's identification. The letter **X** is the id for Drake's Pride.

Only companies holding a World Bowls licence can test bowls. Each company has a unique identifying letter.

For example Thomas Taylor Bowls has the letter '**A**' and Henselite Australia has the letter '**N**'.

Should the time arrive that you need to have your bowls re-tested it is not prohibitively expensive though delivery to the tester will add to the costs. But, once done you are good to go for another ten years!

Paul Young



Registered testers in the UK

Thomas Taylor (Glasgow)
George Mackay (Edinburgh)
Persore Bowls Centre (Worcestershire)
Drakes Pride (Liverpool)

Drakes Pride size and weight chart

| Size (mm) | 0000 | 000 | 00 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Diameter | 112 | 114 | 116 | 118 | 121 | 122.5 | 124 | 125.5 | 127 |
| Weight (gm) | | | | | | | | | |
| Med | 1,020 | 1,120 | 1,190 | 1,220 | 1,300 | 1,350 | 1,400 | 1,460 | 1,520 |
| Heavy | 1,075 | 1,175 | 1,215 | 1,280 | 1,350 | 1,400 | 1,460 | 1,520 | 1,580 |

Outdoor vs indoor bowls

Opinion about indoor bowls seems to be sharply divided and it is not to everyone's liking. How does the indoor game compare to outdoors?

In general, there are many more outdoor clubs and more players participating in a game of bowls outdoors than indoors.

After all, it is very enjoyable to play the game under a blue sky, on a sunny day with the green looking lush and the air fresh. This is not always the case, however, with the vagaries of the British weather!

So what are the differences...

Playing surfaces/rinks

Outdoor rinks are usually natural grass, with variations in speed and texture, undulations and imperfections which can affect the trajectory of a bowl. They are not of a standard size and can be wider or longer at individual clubs. They are nearly always longer and wider than an indoor rink.

Indoor rinks are generally of a standard size and usually made of synthetic materials like carpet or artificial turf. The surfaces will be smooth and consistent and the bowl's trajectory will be more precise. Because of these factors a more accurate and controlled delivery is important indoors.

Another notable difference is that indoor rinks are marked with white dots to indicate both the centre line of the rink and distance. There is a 'tee' marker at each end of the rinks 2.5m from the ditch. The dots are also used as an aid when placing the jack. The skip does not need to confer with the player on the mat to align the jack correctly.

Bowls – size, weight and bias

Although many players who play both indoors and outdoors will use the same set of bowls, on an indoor surface they will take a much wider arc on their way to the jack. This means that bowls with a narrower bias are more suitable here.

Indoor bowls tend to be smaller and lighter than the outdoor variety, being designed specifically for the smoother surface and more controlled environment.

Bearing this in mind it does happen that bowls from adjacent rinks can cross the rink marker line on their path to the head. It is prudent, and good etiquette, to check before bowling what is happening on adjacent rinks to avoid possible collisions.

Weather conditions

The outdoor season is normally between April and September, with the indoor season between October and March although there may be variations in the outdoor season depending on how the weather presents in different years.

At some points during the season outdoor bowlers will undoubtedly have to contend with rain, wind, changing light levels and changes in temperature. All these factors can significantly affect the type of delivery needed and the trajectory of the bowl. There will be more emphasis outdoors on adapting to changing conditions and reading the natural contours of the grass

Indoor bowlers have a controlled internal environment which means the bowls will always behave in a very similar fashion. So the indoor option may be far more practical in areas where climate conditions are very variable or harsh.

Year round play

Indoor bowls can be played at all times of the year and so may appeal to bowlers who wish to maintain a consistent bowling experience throughout the year and/or dislike unpleasant weather conditions.

In general though, most indoor bowlers switch to outdoors during the spring and summer months as playing on natural grass surfaces allows for a connection with the 'great outdoors' and the enjoyment of fresh air and sunlight.

Traditional aspect

Many lawn bowls clubs have a strong tradition of playing on outdoor greens and their players appreciate the historical and traditional aspects of the game.

A lot of outdoor players will not play indoor bowls at all and will just take a break from the game during the autumn and winter months.

In summary, it is really a question of 'horses for courses' with there being no overall winner between the outdoor and indoor game.

There are major championships held in both settings at different times of the year.

Ultimately, it is down to personal choice between the controlled conditions and precision of the indoor rinks as opposed to the natural elements and challenging variations of the outdoors.

Whether you prefer one over the other or participate in both at different times of the year, the important thing is that you enjoy your bowls and the options are there for you.

Happy bowling!

Graham Stokes

Isle of Wight trip 2024

A wonderful time was had by all – despite a fair amount of rain. That’s the message I got back from our merry band of 51 plus Chris our coach driver

We had a 9.00am start after all our cars were safely parked under the supervision of Ron Wright. This was more difficult than usual in view of the work on the new men’s changing room.

Then onward to Portsmouth to catch the 1.00pm ferry to Fishbourne. I knew it was going to be safe as first off the incoming ferry was a bomb disposal vehicle. I think Claire Haywood was expecting a hectic time as she did a few exercises on the ferry to get ready.

Having arrived at the Bembridge Coast Warners Hotel we all settled in, while looking forward to our first evening of food, drink and entertainment. We had reserved seats in the main entertainment hall so we could amble in whenever we wanted.

The house band provided music for some dancing, which was followed by a show and then more dancing. You know our group, they don’t need a lot of encouragement to dance. After everything else there was a singer in the bar for those who liked to have a late night. The evening shows included some put on by the in-house staff. I particularly enjoyed the extracts from various musicals including Oliver, shown in the picture below.

Other evenings we were treated to some first-class singers who sprinkled their life experience stories with a few jokes. My favourite was about the two ladies who were lecturing a chap who only ate white bread about the virtues of brown bread. I think they were ‘Hovis witnesses’.

As we were able to use the coach during the day we had a number outings to fit in with the bowling sessions. Our first trip was to Arreton Barns – an arts and crafts centre – where we watched a demonstration of glass blowing which was particularly interesting (see next page). Many visits were made to the old-fashioned sweet shop. Cliff Woolley particularly loved the liquorice wood as can be seen from the picture. We all ended up in the pub attached to the complex to enjoy a beer or coffee.



Other outings included trips to Shanklin, Carisbrooke Castle and a shopping trip to Newport. Unfortunately both the weather and traffic jams took the edge off these trips.

Some of us visited a floating restaurant in Bembridge harbour to partake of the excellent seafood (see below). It was a small restaurant and in fact Margaret King ended up having a share a lap. We were pleased that we were able to go, however, as a boat moored next to the restaurant had sunk that morning.





Dave Valentine, our walks organiser, set up a number of walks for those so inclined. See one merry band in the picture above.

Indoor bowling was enjoyed during three pre-booked sessions although I noticed that the rinks were extremely cold. This did not deter our intrepid bowlers, however.

We were always warmed up by what I would describe as excellent food in our breakfast and evening meals.



So, it came to an end with an uneventful journey home and a few goodbyes at the Club.

Looking forward to next year, it may be that we visit a different Warners next time, although bowling is only currently available at Bembridge. Unfortunately I also

think visits and excursions on the island may be increasingly difficult to identify.

The National Poo Museum near Newport may be an option, however. It does exist – look it up!

Alan Jarvis



An evening with the Valli Boys

The Valli Boys, from the Welsh valleys, brought us an evening based on the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, plus some other songs which kept the dance floor heaving and our tonsils well exercised.

'Oh what a night' – as the song goes and it really was. The boys performed two sessions both of which were well received by the crowd.

It only takes the first few bars of a song before our enthusiastic audience members take to the floor – a phenomenon commented on by many visiting artists as it makes an enjoyable evening for them as well.

Those of you who came to the Neil Sedaka evening last year may recognise the Valli Boy on the left who performed at the Club on that occasion.

As someone said, for three boys from the valleys, it was surprising they did not sing 'Delilah'. Perhaps another day.

Alan Jarvis



It's all done by magic

As each year comes and goes we all enjoy activities at the Club, be it bowling or the social events.

Both bowling and the social events have their own set of problems to organise but it is easier to understand what is involved with bowling. You put your name down for a competition; you are drawn against someone and the rest is down to you to organise.

So what about a social event? You turn up on a chilly Saturday in November and the clubhouse is decorated, bright, warm and inviting. The bar is serving, the tables and chairs are set out and a seating plan is displayed with everyone sitting with a friend. We wait for the entertainment to start, which may be Abba or a quiz or a bridge drive on a Monday afternoon.

How did all that happen? Perhaps some believe it is by magic, but in reality it is a lot of work by a few

people. A list of who, what and when should follow but that would not indicate the difficulties the organisers encounter in planning the events. The objective is to provide events that all members, bowling and social, wish to attend.

In the case of bowling you may not like your opponent and it may be wet but you turn up and play the match anyway. For a social event there are members who do not like quizzes, cards and 'its not my type of music'. All these objections have to be considered and dealt with to provide events that satisfy as many members as possible and at a price members will pay.

Come the event day setting the tables, chairs and any decorations requires volunteers and one must

not forget the bar. Any entertainers also have to be greeted and looked after, dressing rooms organised etc.

To give details of all aspects of organising these events would require more space than is available; they include items such as contacting and negotiating fees with the live acts, publicising bridge drives and curry events as well as collecting ticket payment from members.

I hope this gives an insight into what is involved in giving us, the members, a full social programme throughout the year. So perhaps, even if it's not totally to your taste, come and support the events and the small group of members who work so hard to provide them.

Brian Waters

Could you run a social evening or event? Volunteers to help are always welcome. Please contact Sue Jarvis
sljarvis76@btinternet.com

TAKE A TRIP DOWN Memory Lane

Sweet talking

When I was around 8–10 years old I was allowed to go with my best friend to a little corner shop to buy sweets.

So what was on offer? I can remember buying Fruit Salads – square, chewy sweets with a fruity flavour and their companions, Black Jacks, which were liquorice flavoured. They were individually wrapped so I assume I could buy any number depending on how much money I had at the time.



These were made by Barratts, which also produced Refreshers, tubes of fizzy fruit-flavoured sweets which I loved. The Barratts confectionery business was started in 1848 by George Osborne Barratt in Hoxton. He would travel around London in a pony and trap to promote his products which is perhaps why the enterprise expanded rapidly.



In 1882 Barratts moved to Wood Green and, by the early 20th century, it was the largest confectionery manufacturer in the world with some 2,000 employees producing 350 tonnes of sweets a week.

Another fun sweet was Love Hearts, sugary sweets imprinted with short romantic messages. They were first produced in 1954 by Swizzels Matlow as a novelty filling for their Christmas crackers. Since then they have gone from strength to strength and are now exported world wide. There is a sculpture of a Love Heart somewhere in the Millennium Dome as they are considered to be an icon of the 20th century.

The method of production remains a closely guarded secret but recently Swizzels Matlow conducted a survey to find out what is the most popular message. This turned out to be 'BE HAPPY'; 'I LOVE YOU' came second.

Swizzels Matlow was also responsible for Parma Violets, a strange, small, fragrant sweet, tasting of, well violets I suppose. I can remember having these, so I think I must have had a friend who liked them as I cannot imagine wanting to buy them for myself.



But my favourite has got to be Flying Saucers. These were first produced in the early 1950s by Belgica, based in Antwerp. Originally they made communion wafers for which, apparently, there was a decline in demand. The sweets were rice paper flying saucer shapes, in a variety of colours, with sherbet filling. Out of this world!



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The good news is that all these sweets can still be obtained. Search the internet for any one of them and you will come up with umpteen online retro sweet shops which will be pleased to sell them to you.

Sheila Cude

Any more nostalgia? If there are memories you would like to share with the Club please let me know. Articles and ideas would always be welcome.

Indian COOKERY

The Club's first cookery evening presented by local chef Ela from Cook Eat Joy

On Monday 25 March, the Club held its first ever Indian cookery demonstration at the clubhouse. There were 16 of us present which was about the right number.

Ela first talked about her background and style of cooking and showed us how to prepare a couple of starters. Our job was far less onerous. We could ask questions if we wished and then taste and consume these delicious dishes.

After this 'entrée' we were each given a thali plate full of very different dishes, including a chicken curry, a vegetable dish and a dhal together with rice and chapattis. We then ate these around a central table in the main hall. It really was a very pleasant social evening and the food was excellent.

When I originally circulated details of this event I received responses from about 30 people, some of whom unfortunately had other engagements on the day. I will therefore try to arrange a second evening for those who could not come first time around, plus any other members who might now be interested.

The photo on the left should give you the 'flavour' of the event.

Everyone's reaction was very positive and a number of those who attended immediately expressed a wish to do it again.

I am also looking to arrange something similar with an Italian chef.

David Haywood



A thali plate



Malcolm's CLUB CAPERS

Indian Magic

This Week

Coming Soon



Our Club needs a Member who can FIRE like that!



201/2

The new men's changing room takes shape



The machines move in



The foundations were dug, but the council came along and said they had to be deeper. These are the finished depth, note the man in the hat standing in them for scale.



The walls start to go up



We have a floor



The scaffolding is in place ready for the roof



The roof takes shape

Almost there...

The roof starts to go on – taken on a particularly dismal day of wet and windy weather. The last picture before the newsletter is distributed. Hopefully the build is on course for the new season, now starting on 20 April.

Below before and after...

the old men's changing room just before work started.



It's big...it's very big...and it's green!

Meet our new water storage tank



Alongside the improvement work to upgrade the men's changing room we have also replaced the old metal water tank with a new plastic one.

The tank has a diameter of 2600mm and a height of 1870mm (that's 8ft 6ins diameter and just over 6ft height).

It has a capacity of 7500 litres so, should we be faced with a summer drought, the green can be maintained in tip-top condition.

It's lying on its side in this picture, but once it is installed it will stand vertically. At the time of writing that has not yet happened. Considerable manpower may well be needed for this operation.

Still, the last thing the green needs at present is probably more water.

The trajectory of a bowl in lawn bowls

The trajectory of a NASA probe to the outer planets is more accurately computed than the path of a lawn bowl over the green to the jack!

Lawn bowls is a popular outdoor sport for both men and women, especially more senior citizens, since the game does not require a particularly high level of physical fitness. The game is played at a leisurely pace on an immaculately manicured lawn. Experience replaces the need for any knowledge of the laws of mechanics. Nevertheless, a mathematical analysis might throw up some interesting principles.

To construct a mathematical model the first step is to identify all the forces acting on the bowl; where they act and any positions and angles defining the problem. This is done by observation of a stationary bowl and a rolling one. Next, use these quantities to create the 'equation of motion' using the laws of classical (Newtonian) mechanics and finally mathematically solve the equations. This is basically the approach followed by Rod Cross (Ref 1) in his analysis of the motion of lawn bowls.

Observation shows that the bowl is weighted to one side – it has a bias. This was originally achieved by attaching coins to one side. Nowadays it is achieved by the bowl's manufacturer removing material so that the bowl remains circular in a cross-section perpendicular to the axis of rotation and is slightly asymmetric in a cross-section that includes the axis of rotation. Variation of the asymmetry enables the bowl's manufacturer to provide bowls with particular characteristics.

The motion of the bowl is a combination of a forward-rolling action and the precessional motion of a spinning top resulting in a curved path. A stationary bowl has a tendency to roll on to the heavier side. This is caused by the difference in the gravitational forces on the two halves of the bowl. (Strictly there is a torque acting.) The rolling bowl remains upright so there must be a force (strictly a torque) counterbalancing the gravitational one. This comes from the reaction of the bowl with the grass surface.

It is observed that a rolling bowl eventually comes to rest. Consequently, there must be a 'rolling-friction force' somewhere. One might think that this is simply due to a frictional force acting horizontally on the bowl slowing it down. While such a force would act to decrease the speed it would, however, increase the rotational velocity and the bowl would end up spinning on the spot like the wheel of a car stuck in the mud! Rolling-friction arises from the fact that the bowl and the green surface are slightly rough, and the green surface can deform in such a way that the

reaction force from the ground does not act at a point below the centre of rotation, but it acts forward of the centre. It has a vertical component supporting the bowl and a horizontal component bringing the bowl to rest. It is as if the bowl is rolling uphill.

Since the deformation and hence the reaction force is approximately proportional to the weight of the bowl, the rolling-friction force is usually expressed as a fraction μ (mu) of the weight of the bowl. This fraction is called the 'coefficient of rolling friction'. The coefficient can be easily measured from the fact that the path length from the mat to the jack, S , and the time to come to rest, T , are related by:

$$S = \frac{\mu g T^2}{2}$$

Cross claims that μ is about 0.032 on most bowling greens, independent of the mass or speed of the bowl, but it can be as large as 0.038 on a 'slow' green or as small as 0.025 on a 'fast green'.

With the information about the forces acting on the bowl, the 'equation of motion' can be constructed. This equation can (usually) be solved to provide the position of the bowl with time as it rolls from the mat to the jack. The position can be given in terms of the bowl's distance from the mat along a line parallel to the mat-jack line, and the distance transverse to this line, so enabling the trajectory to be plotted. Examples are shown in Figs 1 and 2. (See over).

There are only two quantities that are under the bowler's control: (1) v , the initial speed of launch of the bowl, (2) θ , the angle the direction of launch makes with the line joining the mat and the jack. Cross' mathematical treatment of the bowls trajectory throws up some interesting features. For example, he shows that a crucial quantity, characterising the path is the numerical value of a quantity he calls ' p ' defined by $p = A\mu$.

Here A is a number solely determined by the physical construction of the bowl, p only changes if the coefficient of rolling friction changes. The angle θ is calculable from:

$$\tan \theta = \frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{A\mu}$$

Any bowl launched at the angle θ will end on the mat-jack line. Hence since this angle does not depend on the initial speed of the bowl, the bowl must be launched at the same angle to the line of sight

Figure 1

The trajectory for two different initial velocities.

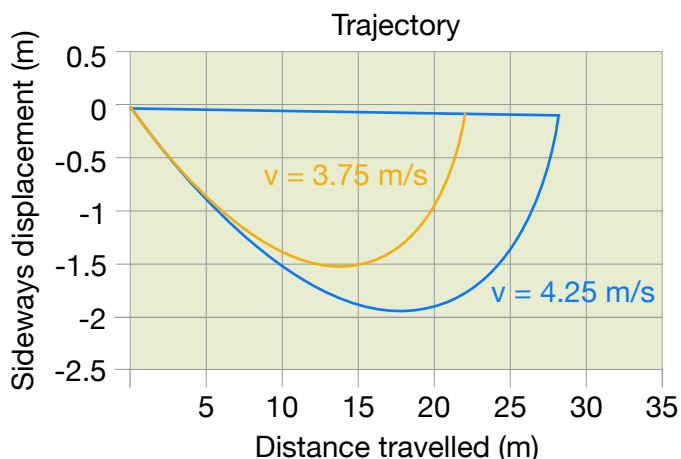
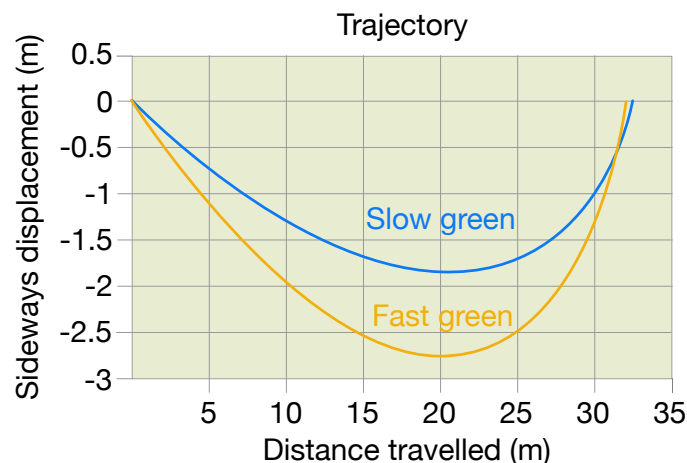


Figure 2

Different coefficient of rolling-friction



The table below shows examples of the velocities and ranges predicted.

| P = 6.4 slow green | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Launch angle θ | Launch velocity (m/s) | Distance to jack D (m) | Time to jack (s) |
| 8.9 deg | 3.0 | 11.9 | 8.0 |
| | 4.0 | 21.2 | 10.7 |
| | 5.0 | 33.2 | 13.4 |

| P = 4.2 fast green | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Launch angle θ | Launch velocity (m/s) | Distance to jack D (m) | Time to jack (s) |
| 13.4 deg | 3.0 | 17.9 | 12.2 |
| | 4.0 | 31.7 | 16.3 |
| | 5.0 | 49.6* | 20.4 |
| | | *Out of bounds! | |

regardless of the desired range, as shown in Fig 1, perhaps contrary to 'gut feeling'.

The initial velocity determines the range. This is where the bowler needs to demonstrate skill. The analysis shows that on a fast green an initial speed of 3.75 m/s gives a jack distance of 27.8m, whereas a speed of 4.25 m/s gives a jack distance of 35.8m, an eight metre difference for only a 12.5% change in initial speed!

Fig 2 shows, for the same range (32.3m), the different launch angle for slow and fast greens, (8.9 degrees, 13.4 degrees) respectively.

It is interesting to note that the analysis shows that the bowl takes longer to arrive at its destination on a fast green than it does on a slow green, since the bowl must be launched at a lower speed.

Cross' analysis takes the coefficient of rolling friction as constant along the trajectory, whereas it will change in value if the bowl depresses the grass surface differently as it slows down, or decrease in value as the bowl traverses the grass area around the

jack that has been flattened by bowlers' feet. A divot can have a disastrous effect! His analysis is more appropriate to indoor bowls where the playing surface is under control.

Consequently, the trajectory of a NASA probe to the outer planets is more accurately computed than the path of a lawn bowl over the green to the jack!

David Tovee

Ref 1. Based on the article by Rod Cross, Physics Department, University of Sydney, Sydney 2006, Australia.

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Scrapbook



Players from a number of clubs enjoy the final bridge drive of the winter season



The array of cakes made for the bridge players by Wendy Goodman. Every slice was eaten!

The annual ladies dinner at La Petite Auberge



One last farewell to the old mens' changing room. Is this the WHBC ghost?

Club members relaxing after a game of bowls in Cyprus

