



A word from our new President

I consider it a great honour to be invited to be President of the Club for the coming year and I would like to thank everyone for supporting me. I thoroughly enjoy all aspects of life at the Club and it will be a privilege to be your representative at future events.

I hope that everyone has a great 2023 and that Covid will remain a minor problem so we can all enjoy life to the full once more. I'm looking forward to having fun this year and I hope you will join me at the many Club events held throughout the year.

My chosen charity for this year is the Enfield Carers Centre which provides a great deal of support and respite for many people who have to care for their loved ones. This is something David, Sandra and I have taken advantage of and I would like to be able to give something back.

Once again Happy New Year.

Ron Wright



Note from the Chairman

A Happy New Year to all our members and I hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas

As I write this we are half way through our excellent Winter Social Programme and have just finished the Christmas Show. I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed taking part and must thank my fellow synchronised swimmers for finally getting it right, for the first time, on the night.

It has been a busy time with a great variety of activities and social events. It has been good to see that these have been well-supported particularly by new members.

I wrote about the men's changing room in the October Newsletter and, as promised, the building sub-group produced a detailed paper for the recent AGM, when it was unanimously agreed to go forward with the brick-built option. We will now apply for planning permission and obtain quotes.

Your committee was re-elected at the AGM, with the addition of Jacqui Thompson, the new Ladies Captain, and Sheila Cude. We will be holding our first committee meeting for 2023 at the end of January.

My thanks go to both Alan Jarvis and Sally Woolley who have stood down after giving many years of service to our Club.

Finally, I would like to thank Dave Turner for the generous donation he has made to the Club in memory of his wife Pat.

I look forward to the new bowling season, starting on 15 April, and meanwhile hope to see you at the social events.

Mick Hlne

A message from our Past President

Just a brief item from me, mainly to welcome Ron as our new President and wish him an enjoyable and successful year. Having worked with Ron for a number of years on the Green Team, I know that he will be an excellent President and we can all look forward to his year.

My last main event was the President's Dinner (and dance) held at the newly refurbished Enfield Golf Club, which was well supported and enjoyed by all. The delicious food was followed by a superb variety of music played and sung by Alan Becks, which members enjoyed, with most rocking and rolling on the dance floor until midnight.

My thanks go to Garry our Vice President for his enthusiasm and support during my year, also to the Committee and all our members, old and new, for their varied contributions towards the success of the Club.

I am very pleased to report that my chosen charity for the year, Noah's Ark Children's Charity, will shortly be receiving cheques for the fantastic sum of £1,700 which the Club has raised. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed so generously during the last twelve months.

Mike Laurie

Who owns our Club?

This is a very interesting question and one that deserves a careful answer.

As an entity the Club has many assets including plant and machinery, the property itself, fixtures and fittings, cash-in-the-bank and so forth. The simple answer to the question is that all Members own the Club and its assets, which means that the identity of the owners changes every time we gain or lose a Member. This is unworkable for practical purposes, however, as outside bodies need to focus on a name or group of Members to deal with. For this reason, and because the Club is not a limited company, we are known for fiscal, legal and other purposes as an unincorporated association with the title Winchmore Hill Bowling Club. Therefore, Enfield Council, for example, sends rate demands addressed to WHBC, and not to individual Members. This informality works well enough for most situations.

One exception is the bank which has become increasingly concerned with ensuring that everyone abides by all its rules for maintaining bank accounts. It focuses particularly on our Constitution and who actually runs the Club, rather than who owns it. Consequently, it is necessary for us to reassure the Bank periodically that our principal officers and bank account signatories are properly elected and operate in accordance with all our rules.

Ownership of our land and buildings is by far the most significant asset, and different rules apply. Our title is registered at the Land Registry and under property law, only four names can ever be registered as the title owners of any land. Fortunately, this is a task we can happily delegate to our Trustees under our Constitution and, when there is an occasional change in their identity, it is relatively simple to update the Land Registry.

The inevitable question that flows from this is what happens if the Club ceases to exist. In such a case, all debts and liabilities must be paid before arriving at a net surplus which belongs to the Members. A method of distributing this surplus between Members was adopted by the Club many years ago with the intention of allocating differing 'shares' depending on the length and type of membership. The formula for doing this is part of the Constitution and was last updated in 2018.

The basic scheme is that to qualify for an individual share, any Member must have been a Member for at least five full years. After satisfying that condition every year of membership, dating from when the Member joined the Club, means a credit of three points for bowling membership, and one point for social membership. The total of all Members' points would serve to calculate how much any individual Member would receive. Thus a bowling Member of four years' standing would still need one year to qualify, but a bowling Member of six years' standing would be entitled to 18 points. The five year restriction is there to prevent Members joining just before a potential dissolution of the Club, and even agitating for it to be dissolved for their own benefit. There are also rules preventing members of other bowling clubs from benefitting.

Realistically, there is little prospect that our Club would cease to exist in circumstances where it was dissolved by the Members, but the rules governing this are there to regulate what would happen in these circumstances.

If any Member would like more information on anything in this note, please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Haywood



Our Winter Social Season 2022/23 started with the Bootleg Bee Gees; a group that unfortunately we had to cancel twice last year because of Covid.

It was a rip-roaring night with plenty of singing and dancing. The group not only did songs the Bee Gees had recorded, but also songs written for others like 'Chain Reaction' and 'Islands in the Stream'.

The sausage and onions followed by Cornettos went down a treat during the break. The second session saw the group in their glittery jackets, just the ticket for the Saturday night disco movers.

Alan Jarvis



NovemberFest

Not so much a Bavarian Oktoberfest, but rather a Winchmorian NovemberFest, our Bavarian evening was a great night out spent clinking glasses and singing coupled with plenty of swaying in our seats.

By the end of the evening it felt as though we had been through a full

workout directed by Baron Von Schmidt Haus, alias Martin Smith, playing his accordion and fully dressed in his lederhosen.

There were plenty of laughs along the way. My favourite snip was Martin telling us he visited the Liverpool football manager Mr Klopp, who was accompanied

by his wife Clipperty. Corny but funny!

Our evening was punctuated by a snack of a large sausage with potato salad and bread. Very appropriate for November.

Alan Jarvis



Celebrating Christmas at the Albert Hall



A very festive Albert Hall was the venue for our evening coach trip for an early Christmas celebration

The magnificent Salvation Army Choir and Band were, of course, the centre of the performance with plenty of carol singing from the audience as well. There were also a number of celebrity readers, including Sheila Hancock, and a festive performance by a group of bell ringers from Broxbourne.

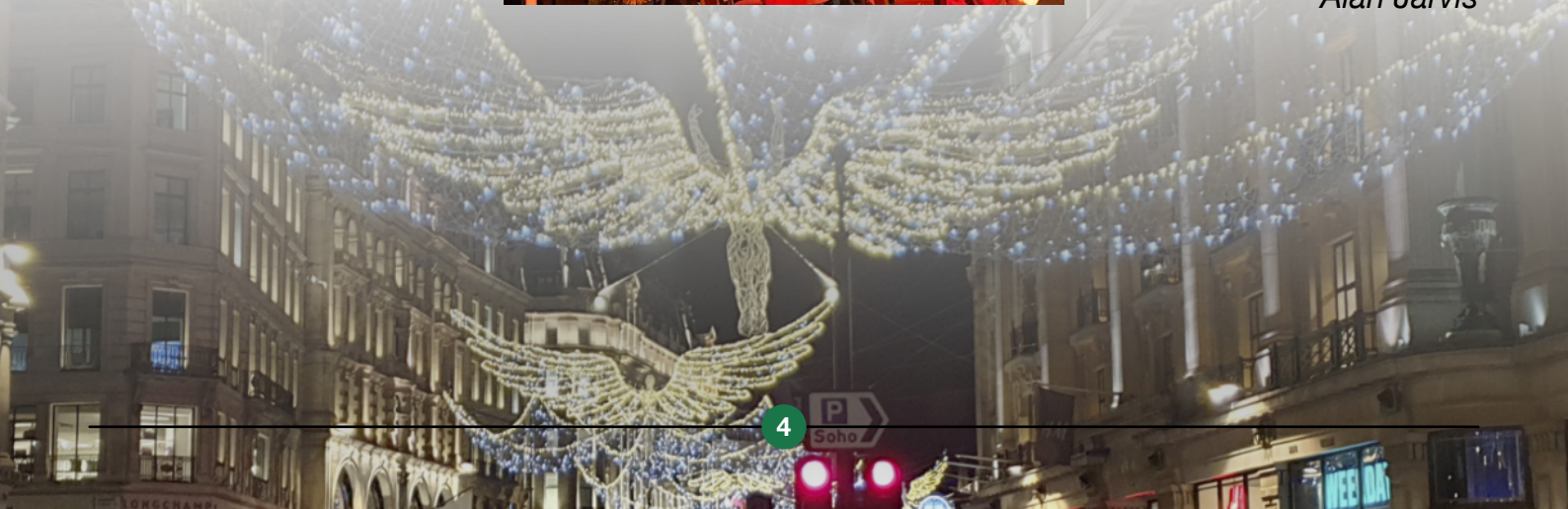
The most moving part of the night was a young Ukrainian woman telling the story of her escape and family goodbyes. She is in a much better place now working with the Salvation Army supporting similarly placed Ukrainians.

Their community also provided a group of musicians and a singer who gave a really moving performance which received the most applause of the evening.

Their one big wish, of course, like us all is, for the war to end so that they can return home to their families

On the trip back our driver, Chris, did an extensive tour of London so we could see the festive lights. It was surprising to see so much traffic around at that time of night and odd that we always seemed to hit a red light.

Alan Jarvis



The Green Team

The annual ritual of the top-dressing

I have been asked to explain why a large team of volunteers descended on the green to spread top dressing last October. Well, for the Green Team, preparing the green for the next year begins at the end of the previous year's bowling season.

Mowing the green three times a week during the season as well as walking on it, chucking bowls at it and (last year at least) drought, places the grass under a lot of stress. So we have to give it the best growing conditions we can.

Throughout the year a layer of 'thatch' builds up in the surface layer of the green. This consists of grass clippings, dead grass and roots that have not completely rotted away. A thin layer is beneficial, since it returns nutrients to the soil, but if it is allowed to build up it can create an impervious layer preventing air from reaching down into the grass root system and also water penetration. As a result you end up with shallow rooted grass that is less likely to survive the pounding we give it.

Our first task is to scarify the grass deeply, cutting into the surface and ripping out some of the thatch. Unfortunately this also rips out some healthy grass and roots at the same time. We then 'tine', or spike holes in the surface, which opens up the soil structure and allows air and water to penetrate further.

The next step is to re-seed with a fine grass mixture to replace the missing grass and to prevent coarse grasses from taking hold on the green. The final stage is where we need the volunteers to spread and rake in six to seven tons of top dressing. Hopefully some of this refills the spiked holes taking some grass seed

with it to provide a deep channel in which the new grass roots grow. By dragging a heavy 'lute' or beam across the green we also hope to level out any imperfections in the surface to provide a really flat green for the following year.



Although the weather may still be fine enough in mid-October to continue bowling, we need to carry out this renovation while it remains warm to give the fresh seed a chance to grow before the cold weather sets in. Once nighttime temperatures fall below 7°C then the seed will not germinate and will rot away over the winter.

We then rest our backs and keep our fingers crossed until next spring when we find out if it has been worthwhile.

Ron Wright



A short history of bowling Part 2

Bowling reaches England

The Romans spread central government, central heating and bowling throughout most of Europe. After the fall of the Roman empire, however, we are told that Europe was overrun with barbarians.

It's possible that these unspecified barbarians also enjoyed a game of bowls. Legend has it that after a successful battle they would set up a target, and use the severed heads of their unfortunate opponents to roll them towards the target. This might, or on the other hand might not, be the origin of the term 'head'.

Another interesting sideline is the game played in Germany between about 300–500AD. This was devised by monks and was not so much a recreational game, as a ceremonial ritual. Pins, called 'kegels', which represented human temptations or evil spirits, were set up and players would throw stones at them in the hopes of cleansing themselves of sin. Anyone who succeeded in hitting a kegel was

considered to be free of sin. Those who missed were not so lucky.

It seems that a form of bowling was introduced to England in the 13th century and the world's oldest surviving bowling green is the Southampton Old Bowling Green which was first used in 1299. Most games of bowls, however, probably took place on any reasonably flat piece of ground, preferably with at least some grass or, in towns, in alleyways which quickly became centres for drinking and gambling.

Bowling quickly grew in popularity, so much so that in 1361 Edward III felt it necessary to introduce a ban on playing bowls as it distracted men from their archery practice. This was followed by further bans by Richard II in 1388 and Henry IV in 1409 for the same reason.

But bowling continued, as will this short history in the next issue.

Sheila Cude

Is your white fleece looking old and grey?

Well here is an opportunity to brighten up your bowling outfit by purchasing one of our new royal blue fleeces or gilets.

The colour will complement the colours of your Club shirts and they will be available to purchase in time for the new season. I will bring samples to the pre-season meeting on 5 January, in different sizes, for you to try them on.

If anyone would like buy one before then please contact me and I can show you the two samples I already have and request a few sizes for you to try on (maybe not in the correct colour) before you place your order.

This is not a change to our current uniform but an alternative, if you wish to purchase them. Personally I think they look very nice and the colour contrasts well with grey or white trousers. They enhance the Club uniform and look very smart; but the choice is yours.

Pam Waller



Sizes

Unisex from XS to 4XL.

Costs

Fleece - £25

Gilet - £20

Including the Club badge and your name (if required)

Master of the Playing Cards

So who was the Master of the Playing Cards? (Sorry Bobbi and Nigel not yourselves.) In fact he was a German (or possibly Swiss) engraver working somewhere in southwestern Germany from the 1430s to the 1450s.

Not much is known about him. It seems probable that he trained as a painter but attempts to identify him with other artists known to have been working at the time have all proved inconclusive. He remains known, therefore, as the Master of the Playing Cards.

Playing cards were probably introduced into Europe by the Arabs, through Spain, some time during the 14th century, reaching England in the early 15th century. The suits used were not the same as today and indeed it seems that at least some playing card makers were free to be as creative as they wished.

The Master of the Playing Cards (Meister der Spielkarten) is best known for five suits of cards

depicting flowers, birds, deer, beasts of prey and wildmen, There are also some remnants of suits depicting frogs, dogs, rabbits, leopards, dragons and other mythical creatures. The cards were printed from engravings on copper plates; many of the figures were engraved on individual plates which were assembled for different cards in the same suit. The 'number' cards appear to run from one to nine in each suit, with three or four court cards depicting the king, queen and knave, or sometimes an upper and a lower knave.

It is not clear what games might have been played with these cards but at least one game might have been the originator of whist. Bridge was probably developed some time in the 16th century while canasta was invented in Montivideo, Uruguay in 1939.

Figures from the Master's cards also appear in a number of illuminated manuscripts of the period. Possibly they were taken



One of the best known of the Master's playing cards depicting beasts of prey – lions and bears.

from model books, which were compiled and frequently used by illuminators.

Sheila Cude

Cards update

Playing card games has become a very popular social activity at our Club, with weekly canasta afternoons and twice monthly bridge nights.

The Winter Canasta League is going well with 13 couples vying for first place and hoping to wrest the title of 'Champions' from Nigel and Bobbie Motley who won the Summer 2022 League.



We also ran our first Bridge Drive, which took place on 9 January. We invited guests from other clubs, with a fantastic response of 20 tables. I say our first event but members who joined more than five years ago will remember Wendy Goodman's Annual Bridge Drives when the Club provided a cooked lunch and tasty desserts.

Based on this success we hope to run regular Bridge Drives during the winter and we now have two further dates booked: Mondays 6 February and 13 March. Start time and cost remain the same and refreshments (tea and cake) will be served. To book a table of four please email Sue at rigbycrane@gmail.com

We hope that these events will raise funds for the Club and also raise awareness of the fabulous social activities and friendly atmosphere of our Club.

I'm sure that, once our guests from local golf clubs, churches and indeed other bowls clubs see what Winchmore Hill has to offer, we might well be able to attract new members.

And...just in case you need reminding...there's another Military Whist evening on Saturday 4 February. There's no real card experience needed; it's easy to pick up on the night and great fun for all.

Sue Crane

Green Team Signature Cakes

One stage fruit cake

This cake is a favourite of the Tuesday Green Team, as are all our homemade cakes, and is very easy to make.

Ingredients

225g self-raising flour
10ml mixed spice
5ml baking powder
100g soft margarine
100g soft brown sugar
225g mixed dried fruit
2 eggs, beaten
30ml milk

Method

Grease an 18cm (7 inch) round cake tin. Sift the flour, spice and baking powder into a large bowl, add the remaining ingredients and beat until thoroughly combined.

Turn the mixture into the tin and bake in oven at 170degC for about 1 hour 45 minutes (slightly less for fan oven) until a fine warmed skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Turn out and cool on a wire rack.



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



The future of bowling in the UK

A look at some of the challenges facing bowling clubs

Bowling was once one of the UK's most popular pastimes and the bowling green has been part of the fabric of our towns and villages since the 1940s. Back in the late 1950s and early 1960s most large public parks, working social and sports clubs and even pubs had a bowling green.

In recent years, however, lots of bowling clubs have closed, leaving the future of the sport in some doubt. In some cases it's because clubs have struggled to maintain membership numbers. In others the closures are down to members voting to sell off grounds to developers in exchange for huge cash sums. Many greens have been sold to house builders clamouring for what is often prime building land.

Many bowling clubs do not actually own their facilities; instead they may well be rented from the local council. Such clubs have to pay an annual rent (which will be a major cost of running the club) and must rely on the council to maintain the green and facilities. This maintenance will often not be carried out to a high standard, as councils are very cash-strapped these days and will not treat this as a high priority. So, apart from the cost, this will likely result in a poor quality green for bowling and so a less enjoyable experience for the membership.

Even if the club owns the facilities (as does WHBC) one of the biggest problems is the ongoing cost of maintenance of the green. The green is a club's most valuable asset. If it ever had to be replaced, a new green would cost in excess of £150,000. Therefore, the £8,000–£10,000 that it might cost to maintain a green annually is really a very good investment.

A typical end of season renovation is likely to cost £2,000–£3,000 alone. At the end of the day, as with all our sporting facilities, there will always be a cost to bear, to maintain a natural grass playing surface.

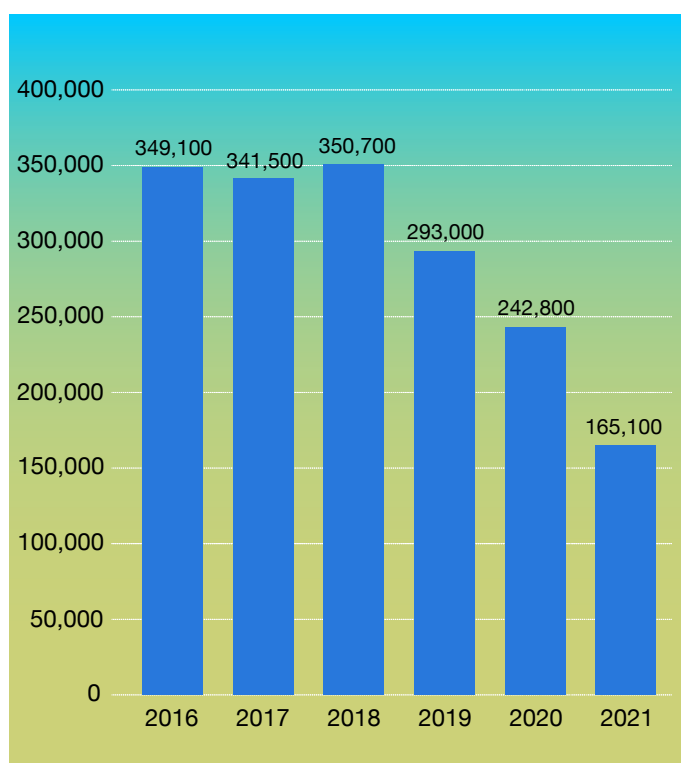
Whether clubs hire in contractors, or do the work themselves, there will always be a price for time and the resources required to undertake the work. The key point is that clubs need to have a good look at themselves and see how they can raise the amount of money required to complete the maintenance of their facilities.

Clubs also need look at ways of increasing funding both by membership fees and other fundraising initiatives, while at the same time finding ways to bring in new members.

Bowls England, the sport's governing body, promotes opportunities for clubs to seek a number of funding initiatives. Every year, millions of pounds worth of grants and awards are available, which can help clubs to buy new equipment and improve their facilities.

Turning now to participation in bowls, the chart shown below highlights the decline in registered bowling club members since the COVID pandemic started.

As can be seen, the total for 2021 has more than halved since 2018



(Source : Statistica 2022)

We can expect that this has recovered somewhat during 2022, since the pandemic restrictions lifted and members started to return to their clubs. New members will have been recruited, but the decline in numbers is still stark.

In addition the current (and expected to prevail for a few years) 'cost of living' crisis may also impact on bowling club membership. Some existing club members may struggle to afford renewal fees in the coming years and potential new members may decide the fees are not affordable, especially those who have incomes reliant on relatively modest pensions rather than wages and salaries.

Bowling clubs (in London and the South of England in particular) tend to have a membership drawn substantially from the older age groups (this is not the case so much in other parts of the country, nor in Wales and Scotland).

This reinforces the image that the game has among the general population of being attractive only to retirees and so detracts from clubs' ability to attract new members from younger age groups. That being said, the recent extensive television coverage of bowls in the 2022 Commonwealth Games has hopefully given a positive flavour of the game to a wider demographic.

Winchmore Hill Bowls Club is undoubtedly in a fortunate position compared to most clubs, in that it has a healthy level of funding reserves and a stable membership. It has excellent facilities, not least a green of a quality that is the envy of most other clubs in the area, plus an active social programme of events throughout the year.

It also benefits enormously from owning its club land and buildings and so not having to pay rent to a council or other organisation.

In addition the maintenance of the green and surrounding infrastructure, plus the running of the clubhouse and bar, is almost entirely carried out by volunteer members and so saves the Club the very significant expenditure which would otherwise be incurred.

So, without wishing to be too complacent, as long as the Club continues to recruit a healthy number of new members each year from its open days and referrals from existing Club members, together with attracting and retaining enough members willing to 'get their hands dirty' with the running and maintenance of the club facilities, its future appears to be more secure than that of most of its peers.

Long may this continue!

Graham Stokes

Bowls? It's not very rock 'n' roll is it

Kevin, a very old friend of mine, recently emailed me and expressed a degree of 'concern' that I had taken up bowls. By 'concern' I think he probably meant 'disbelief'.

Our friendship dates back to the early '70s when we were students. He had just graduated from teacher-training college and I from art college. Post-hippy, hairier days when we realised that there was no serious possibility we were going to be rock stars and were faced with the prospect of finding real work.

Noting, what I pictured in my mind's eye, as his sceptical, quizzical look – somewhere between horror and amusement, I could see it was going to be a hard sell to convince him of the appeal of bowls.

I forget his exact words but his response was something along the lines of..."What happened to the good old rock 'n' roll days..."

Clearly his meaning was that taking up bowls is, at the very least, confirmation that you are now officially 'O-L-D'.

No point then in trying to persuade him that bowls is a rewarding, challenging, competitive and fun game. Never mind struggling to convey the subtle nuances of the game or the serenity of a sunny afternoon on the green followed by tea on the patio under the awning.

Inexplicably, neither did it carry much weight when I described in detail the gloriously sunny and sweaty day we man-handled about a hundred 25kg bags of

top-dressing over the green – dismissing it with a casual, "I'm assuming it is a fad and will pass once the novelty has worn off".

What I needed was some hard evidence to repudiate the implication that I was going senile. As always, resorting to the internet, I was nevertheless disappointed to find no reference whatsoever to any rock stars who play lawn bowls.

But, while I would have been surprised to discover that Meatloaf was a covert stamp collector, as a matter of interest, there are some famous names who have unexpected pastimes. Eric Clapton is apparently a keen fisherman, Rod Stewart has a huge and impressive model railway layout and Alice Cooper is a serious golfer. There are others – though I admit I have never heard of them – so I guess that's a minus point in the 'coffin dodger' column. But sadly no bowlers.

My friend Kevin, incidentally once a very fine blues harmonica player, lost his desire to 'blow' during the time of Covid when he was not able to gig. But he is also a skilled potter and has built a wood-fired kiln in his back garden in which he plans to fire his own pots.

Perhaps it's not too late to convince him of the beauty of the game of bowls. Should he grow tired of throwing fine vases maybe I can persuade him to try his hand at a few fine bowls.

Paul Young

Brands, weights, bias and colours, it can be difficult to choose a set of bowls as Jerry Sanders from Bush Hill Bowls explains

Are you a Fittipaldi, Goldilocks or a Michelangelo of the bowling green?

“I get from A to B by following a mixture of straight lines and curves at varying speeds. I have registration numbers that can reveal my age. I come in a confusing array of colours and models. What am I? I am a lawn bowl.”

Compared with 60+ brands of cars, there are only four or five brands of bowls from which to choose. All of them are certified to perform correctly by the World Bowls governing body, so you can safely ignore the brand name as a guide to product quality – they are all quality products!

So which brand?

So why are there considerable price differences between brands? Nothing to do with product quality, everything to do with where they come from. Aero, Henselite and Almark (the latter is owned by Henselite) are imports so have hefty container ship transport costs into the UK.

Drakes Pride and Taylor are made in Liverpool and Glasgow respectively, so it's a comparatively short motorway ride to get them from the factory to our shop in Enfield!

What kind of bowler are you?

I often ask bowlers who come into our shop to buy bowls whether they enjoy playing the game as a Fittipaldi, a Goldilocks or a Michelangelo? As they look at me blankly, I explain that a Fittipaldi bowler enjoys bowling in as straight a line as possible.

A Michelangelo prefers their bowl to trace a statuesque curve on its way to the jack. Goldilocks is, as you might have guessed, neither too narrow nor too wide.

So is it the bowler or the bowl that controls how straight or curvy the bowl's track is towards the jack? Although the bowler can influence the path, in the main the amount of curve a particular model

takes is designed-in on the lathe by keeping more material on one side of the bowl than the other – the so-called 'pregnant' or 'bias' side.

This shifts the centre of gravity of what would otherwise be a perfect sphere to the bias side. As the bowl slows down on its way to the jack, it begins to fall over towards the bias side, creating a curved path – the Michelangelo effect!

Lead, Second, Third or Skip?

You may well be aware that in a team of four (also known as a 'rink'), each bowler uses two bowls to do a specific job. The Lead, or first bowler, aims to get both bowls to within a cigarette-paper's width of the jack. The Second in the team must do the same, but the jack may be obstructed by one or more of the four bowls already delivered by the Leads.

The Third will probably have to navigate round a few bowls, while the Fourth, or Skip certainly will.

Hence Leads and Seconds are more likely to be Fittipaldis and use a model of bowl that takes a relatively straight path to the jack such as a Taylor Vector VS or a Henselite Tiger TX.

Thirds and Skips are the Michelangelos, curving around obstacles on their way to the target. These bowlers might be using a Drakes Pride XP or a Henselite Classic TRL.

Bias

In all there are some 25 different models of bowls, all with a slightly different bias, but most can be regarded as variations on the three bias types: Fittipaldi (narrow), Goldilocks (mid) and Michelangelo (wide).

The Formula 1 racing driver wants a small aerodynamic monocoque, blistering acceleration, lightning straight-line speed and tarmac-hugging cornering. The parent

on the school run might need a roomy, reliable, easy-to-park model. The learner or new driver is advised to begin with a utility vehicle while getting experience behind the wheel.

New bowlers

As with cars, so with bowls. In between Fittipaldis and Michelangelos are the new bowlers, whose emotions are still enjoying the first flush of love of the game without really feeling ready to become a committed Lead or Skip.

Very occasionally a new bowler gets an immediate sensory thrill from a more curved or more straight delivery. In such cases, buying a model with a wide bias (in the former case) or the minimum bias allowable by World Bowls (in the latter case) as their first set can be an option.

More often, a new bowler is advised to start out with a mid-bias set – the so-called Goldilocks option, neither too wide

nor too narrow. Such a set can be used from any position from Lead to Skip. Good examples are the Drakes Pride Professional and the Taylor Ace.

Over a period of two or three years after starting out as a new bowler, the opportunity is there for the newbie to discover whether he/she enjoys the utility of the Goldilocks option, playing at Lead, Two, Three or even Skip as the club has need of players in those positions.

Equally though they may discover they have the technique, temperament and determination to be a committed Lead or a natural Skip, and only want to play in that position.

If that happens, it will be time to swap out for a set of bowls with the bias for the kind of game you'll be playing, be it as a Fittipaldi or a Michelangelo of the bowling green.

Jerry Sanders

Jerry Sanders and **Denise Rolland** run the Bush Hill Bowls shop in Enfield. They will be happy to help if you need advice on your choice of bowls or any other questions you may have. Give them a call or pop into the shop.



BUSH HILL BOWLS

- Bowls – Almark, Henselite
Drakes Pride, Taylor
- Clothing, shoes
- Waterproofs
- Hats, caps and sun visors
- Bags and carriers
- Measures, wedges
chalk sprays
- Gloves, cloths, Grippo
- Bowling aids

Everything you need to play outdoor and indoor bowls

Phone
020 8362 1780

Mobile
07973 890368

Email
sales@bushhillbowls.co.uk

Address
11 Genotin Terrace, Enfield, EN1 2AF

Opening hours
Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm

www.bushhillbowls.co.uk

WHBC members
10% discount*
*Excl. bowls

Trophy Night

With MC Mike Dady and presentations by Mike Laurie, Club President 2022

Ladies Championship The Evelyn Oakenfull Rose Bowl

Ted and Evelyn Oakenfull were popular members of Winchmore Hill Bowling Club. Evelyn played bowls at the Edmonton Bowling Club and passed away before the Ladies Section was formed at Winchmore Hill in 1987.

Ted, who was President in 1979, presented the lovely silver rose bowl in memory of Evelyn for the Ladies Championship winner.

He requested that it was always filled with roses for the presentation.



Pam Waller winner of the Ladies Championship with the Evelyn Oakenfull Rose Bowl

The Oakeys

Ted Oakenfull was President of the Club in 1979 and, to improve the use of the green in the evening, he paid for the cost of the trophy and medals for several years. The Oakey Triples, affectionately named after Ted, is the only men's club competition played on a league basis.

The rules have been amended over the years to ensure that well-balanced teams are selected, each with an equal chance to win. The competition is usually played on Monday evenings between June and August. Results are recorded electronically and sent to all members. In 1994 the teams were given names, mainly to reflect local interest (by David Pam, Enfield's local historian). From 2004 play was restricted to 15 ends. Due to lack of male entrants women played in the 2006 competition. In 2017 there was a record of 10 teams.



The winning Oakeys team – left to right: Andrew Chase, Tony Redondo, Colin Crane, Neil Chapman and Stav Partou (with Roger Biss)

Platinum Triples

The Platinum Triples was the brainchild of Doreen White, who was Ladies Captain in 2006 and 2007, and former Competition Secretary Michael Dady.

Doreen wanted the ladies to become more competitive and move away from evening roll-ups. Appropriately, the name 'Platinum' was used to celebrate the Club's 75th birthday.

Based on similar lines to the Men's Oakey Triples' league format, each team was given a name based on precious stones, Amethyst, Amber, Emerald, Ruby, Sapphire and Topaz.

Matches are played on Monday evenings alongside those of the men and players are affectionately known as the 'Gem Players'. There were 30 lady players in 2007 which was the first year of the competition.



The winning Platinum Triples team – left to right: Julie Daly, Sheila Snelling, Pam Waller, Carol Valentine and Christine Sibthorpe (with Doreen White)

Scrapbook

Trophy night was a most enjoyable evening, presented by Mike Dady as Master of Ceremonies. There were many more pictures of course, this is just a small selection with apologies to the many other winners who are not shown.

We had considerable success in external competitions this year. Jacqui Thompson, Ladies Captain 2023, receives the first place award for the Ladies Tripartite competition



Each year there is a closely fought match between the Green Team and the Committee. Colin Crane collects the trophy on behalf of this year's winners, the Green Team



Winchmore Hill were runners up in the Mens Vets League, narrowly missing first place by one point. Lionel Reisman, Men's Captain, receives the runners up award



Stav Partou with his trophies
Winner of the Club's Handicap competition
Winner, with Mike Sibthorpe, of the the Men's Pairs competition
In the Ted Skeffington and Oakey Triples winning teams
Winner of the inaugural New Bowlers Trophy
Runner up in Webb's Mixed Triples and Ted Wright Salver (with Paul Young)
In addition to all of these he also picked up the trophy for the 'Most Improved Player'

Christmas Revue Old & New



It nearly didn't happen because as we arrived to set up there was a power cut. It was touch and go but it was fully restored at about 6.55pm. So, on with the show, after a sip of mulled wine.

We began with a select choir of members leading the way with a number of carols and Christmas songs which was a rip-roaring start to the evening.

We then broke for some seasonal

refreshments, sausage rolls and mince pies, and of course our annual Christmas raffle.

A number of sketches were presented by enthusiastic members introduced by the evening's suave master of ceremonies, Cliff Woolley (left).

A selection of pictures on the Revue pages shows some of the performers in action.

Sheila Snelling starred in a cooking sketch with debutante Sheila Cude which was really funny.

A dancing centred performance was joined on stage by impromptu performers Margaret Reynolds and Doreen White, you can't stop some people getting carried away with enthusiasm.

An Elvis competition, judged by David Wright, was won by the cockney Elvis, played by his mother Sandra, no favouritism there then.

A short Cinderella sketch, reprised from an old WHBC show was well received and it was "All right". You had to see it to get the joke.

I might be biased but the highlight for me was the synchronised swimmers including debutants Terry Sykes and an unnamed blow-up doll. Safe to say no one was drowned.

Another successful night, well done all those involved – especially Garry Matheson for steering and coming up with the ideas.

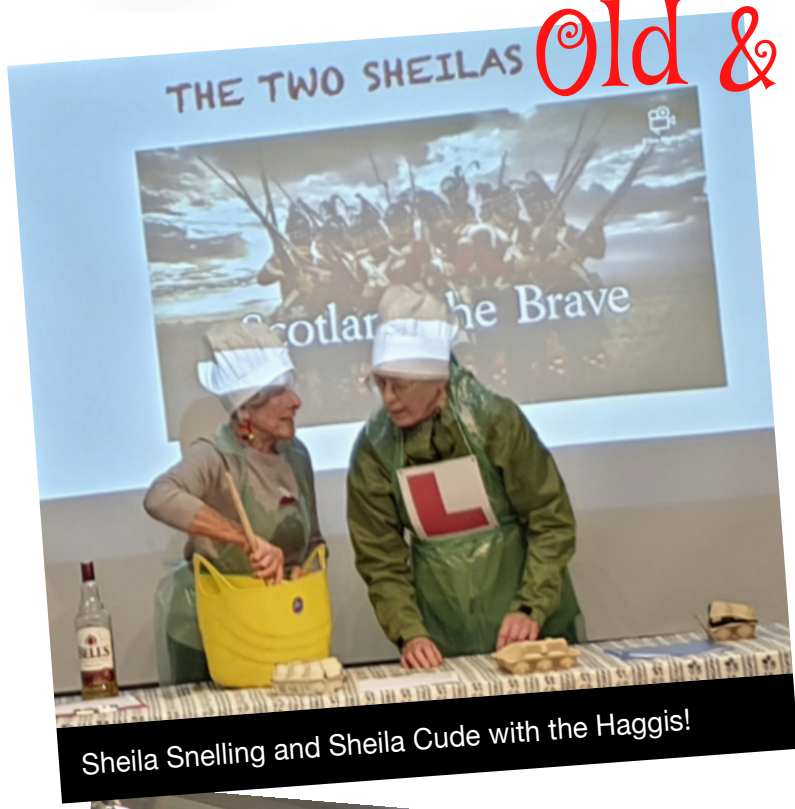
Alan Jarvis



The choir break into a dance routine joined by impromptu participants Doreen White and Margaret Reynolds



Christmas Revue Old & New



Sheila Snelling and Sheila Cude with the Haggis!



A unique interpretation of Cinderella...with Cliff Woolley, Alan Jarvis, Carol Valentine, Garry Matheson and Ron Wright as the Good Fairy



Sandra Wright in fine voice proving she is the best Elvis impersonator from the East End! As confirmed by David Wright



Synchronised swimmers take a bow from left to right: Mick Hine, Chris Daly, Terry Sykes, Mike Sibthorpe, Bob Gowlett with Garry Matheson (and friend) behind the curtain

2022 and all that

On 29 October we enjoyed one of Garry Matheson's quiz nights. The room was crowded, as an extra table had been squeezed in.

As always the final question was a musical one, based on one of Garry's poems. Following several requests we are reproducing the poem here. The song titles in capitals were the answers.

Many thanks to Garry for another entertaining quiz night.

With the easing of lock-down and controlled virus spread
We hoped HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN.
But how could we guess just what lay ahead
Worldwide problems and the end of a reign.

That madman Putin with an iron glove
Sent the world a warning
Hardly saying, FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE
More like 'prepare for mourning'.

Then as most of us had our fourth booster shot
The summer arrived at last
But many complained It was TOO DARNED HOT
With the sun's relentless blast.

After Partygate and scandals
'I'm innocent' was the cry
But Boris learned the hard way
IT'S A SIN TO TELL A LIE.

As our lovely Queen was arranging
Swapping Boris for Liz Truss
We discovered THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING
Which affected all of us.

Our country was filled with flowers
And THE STREETS OF LONDON packed
To commemorate a life and death
All the world looked on and held its breath.

After 73 years of waiting
Charles the third was King
But we could see him concentrating
Thinking WHERE DO I BEGIN.

Parliament returned with a few new faces
Arguing and debating the ups and downs
But whatever side your politics embraces
They still managed to SEND IN THE CLOWNS.

I'll sort out the mess whatever it be
I'll sort out inflation and the economy
I'll sort out the unions, just you see
My name? Rishi Sunak, TAKE A CHANCE ON ME.

So what about us at WHBC
While we watch the world's trouble and strife
Let's enjoy our life and do what we can
To always LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE.

Diary dates

Saturday 14 January

Membership and competition entry deadline

Membership renewal and competition entry deadline

Saturday 14 January

Tricks of the Trade

Guitar/bass duo – Frank Sinatra and Buddy Holly to Queen and Bruce Springsteen...

Monday 23 January

Warners Bembridge Isle of Wight

Four day holiday

Saturday 4 February

Military Whist evening

Booking required – tables of four – no experience needed

Saturday 11 February

Jimmy Jemain

The UK's number one Cliff Richard tribute look and sound alike

Saturday 25 February

60s and 70s Disco

With DJ Grant Roomes

Saturday 11 March

Quiz Night

Tables of eight – book in advance £8.00

Saturday 15 April

New Bowling Season

Time for the first roll-up of the year

Saturday 22 April

Ted Skeffington Trophy

First competition of the year

New Year's Eve 2022

Not held since 2019 because of you know what, the seeing-out of 2022 and welcoming in 2023 was an extra special event at the Club



Music was supplied by the duo Midlife-Crisis, Chris and Mick, who were in their usual enjoyable party mood. An 8.30pm start ensured we didn't run out of steam before 12.00 midnight.

An externally provided buffet was enjoyed, with plenty available throughout the evening. Sue, we did miss your jacket potatoes.

The dancing all night was ever energetic and was always accompanied by copious singing from all corners. The early 80s song 'Oops Upside your Head' found the more energetic sitting on the floor in the old rowing formation that we all did in the day.

No night at the Club would be complete without what has become a sort of Club anthem – 'Sweet Caroline' which was so good, so good, so good. We have been singing this for many years and it now seems everybody wants to sing it.

Midnight obviously saw the rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne' saying goodbye to the old and welcoming in the new.

Let's hope 2023 brings us all we would wish.

Alan Jarvis



Chris Sibthorpe and friends merrily rowing

