



NEWSLETTER



October 2017



You take your eye off the green team for one week and look what they get up to!



And they are going to blame the moles this time not the foxes!

Thanks to Andrew Georgiou for the photos.

Portugal holiday

3am Thursday 12th October: A suspicious group of people gather at this ungodly hour



and appear again looking totally “spaced out” at Faro airport



to be met by our rep for the week Joao (Big John). We were delighted to find ourselves in a hotel with lovely views of the nearby marina and of the swimming pool area.





The group entertained themselves in all sorts of diverse ways during the days at leisure. Some hiring cars and exploring the area far and wide, others by bus, taxi or land train or just chilling out on the beach or by the pool.



On the Friday night the advertised karaoke night in the hotel did not materialise due to a faulty mike so the ever resourceful HBC decided to improvise.



The result was loud and tuneful –

but did we hear faithful renditions of the Everly Brothers, Bill Halley, Elvis,



The Beatles or The Stones or even Cliff? NO! Somehow we were rolling out barrels, trying to find our way to Tipperary or claiming there will always be an England when sitting in a Portuguese bar! This was the point I retired to bed- so apparently avoiding the singing of the National Anthem.



Anne and Mark Snell were not so lucky as they returned at this point from “taking the air”!

Our rep Joao was excellent going out of his way to make our stay a big success. Despite being young and Portuguese he is clearly hooked by our wonderful bowls game and he took part in both the matches.

He also organised a bingo game won by Peter Lee and Alan English.....



What will Peter choose? The photographer's been at the booze already!

.....and a quiz night and coped with the rowdy HBC crowd. He made this a lot of fun with some interesting twists and turns so it remained close to the end. The eventual winners were Sheilah Lowe, Delphine Brown, Polly Lee and Shelagh and Marios Zachariades.



The novice captain for the first bowls match was Shelagh Zachariades (in conjunction with Peter Lee who offered to share the task and give moral support). The teams were announced and I am sure everyone was delighted with their team mates! Hopes were high that a team led by a quiz winner would triumph in the heat of the Algarve, and indeed this proved to be the case although the quiz winner/captain did little to contribute to the win! Luckily the joint captain, Peter Lee, and his team of Ann Sharples, Doreen Bayley and "one other" got top rink (24 – 6). This together with another excellent win by Alan English, George Lloyd, Elaine Wake and Anne Snell (22-5)

meant that we won by 99 – 84 shots (4 rinks to 2). Joao (big John) was also delighted to be on a winning rink. The “other one” was the husband of the opposing captain and she was delighted by the boost that this win would give to her husband. Incidentally the opposing captain went to school in Harrow and Anne Snell discovered that they had been at Priestmead Primary separated by only a year. The following photos of Anne at school have since been unearthed:



Concentrated Good Naughty Happy

Their captain was delighted with the framed cartoon drawn by Eric Janssens depicting a lady bowler 1902 and now. We received an attractive memento in return.





Elaine, what did you do to our rep, Joao to cause such retaliation!

We'd better have one with Elaine in or else I'm in trouble!



At Alvor BC

Despite his exertions on the bowls green Joao was still up for controlling the difficult HBC rabble – this time with a music quiz on 60s – 80s music, again with a scoring twist at the end. Eventually despite the superior knowledge of the Eurythmics shown by one team and their slip of the pen to write “baby face” instead of “baby Jane”, joint winners were declared and rewarded with a bottle of wine for each team. The superior team of Sheilah Lowe, Rene Lloyd, George Lloyd (who supplied many inspired answers), Marios and Shelagh Zachariades were awarded joint first place with Alan and Linda English, Mark Snell and Barry Rudolph.



Joao had certainly gone out of his way to make our holiday special but his attempt to recruit a “Chippendale” was not so successful!



The weather forecast for our 2nd match was not promising but we were lucky and had perfect bowling weather in a magnificent setting.



A lovely green



The welcome of the captains

Despite their recruiting holiday makers, including a Norfolk County player who skipped against Phil Bayley, we had a draw on points 86 -86. This was their closest match against visiting opposition this year and they have won all their other matches. So we were delighted to do so well. The top rink was Doreen Bayley, Polly Lee, Sheilah Lowe and Roy Wake who were presented with medals in Olympic fashion.



Queuing in truly British style.



That medal is getting closer Roy!



Is Doreen curtseying to the captain?



“Congratulations and I insist that you wear it with pride for the rest of the holiday!”



Alan English won the spider and the (drunken?) port and Mark presented their captain with another of Eric Janssens' fantastic sketches.



On the penultimate night Roy organised for us to take Sheilah Lowe and Joao out for a meal in a local restaurant to thank them both for their sterling efforts.



Preparing for the restaurant.



At the restaurant.

Roy and Sheilah both still wearing their “top rink” medals as instructed by the opposing captain!

At the farewell do on the last night presentations were made and thanks given all round.



First top rink waiting patiently.



Is Doreen curtsying again
or is the prize too heavy after all these winning matches?



Doreen again!

Roy letting the girls do all the hard work.

I think that heavy top rink medal must be tiring him out!



A special prize for our number one non bowler and supporter

– or should that be barracker!

Don't put the bottles in your hand luggage, Barry.

I have heard rumours that liquids must not go in your hand luggage or else they will be confiscated.

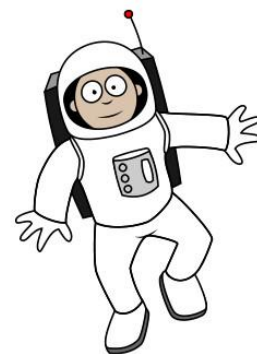
Of course this may be the **false news** that Trump knows all about!



Our latest recruit

On the last night Joao finally got his own karaoke version going and after his excellent rendition of “these boots are made for walking” we were just wondering why “it hurts to be a teenager in love” when we were interrupted by an astronaut and a native Indian. YES! We were wondering too. And I am still none the wiser. Possibly it was meant to be an improvised performance but it was very slow and unimpressive.

A strange ending to a brilliant holiday.



Quote of the holiday

“I’m sorry, I couldn’t see. I was changing my hearing aid!”

Dates for your diaries

AGM Sunday 14th January at Windsock Club (HA2 8AL).

Maureen Alder requests that you mark **Saturday 13th January** midday in your new diary now. A very informal social get-together in the Club House.

A report on these events and on the dinner dance in the next newsletter in January.

More on the Captain's social

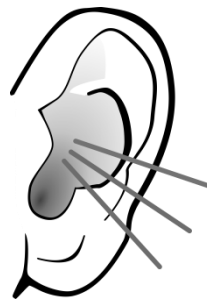
As reported in the last newsletter (but incorrectly attributed to Eric Janssens) a new "write a caption" competition was initiated by Eric EVERATT.



A selection of the answers was read and a sensitive clap-o-meter was used to judge the winner.



Mary's shell like



Roy's is bigger (Elaine behave yourself!)

Some of the suggestions are included below:

Mary: Are you sure you're only 27? (Len Smith)

Mary: I am blinded by your good looks!! (Jai and Barry)

Mary: Roy, you need my glasses to see how far you are from the Jack! (Nick Woolford)

Roy: You lead and I'll follow. Mary: Just as usual then. (Doreen B)



Roy: I don't care if you are the Queen. I'm in charge! (Eric J)

The winning entry was from our President, Mark Snell:

Mary: You look much better when I take my glasses off and close my eyes!

A sentiment with which I am sure none of us would agree!!

And, finally,

**shocking revelations about the super human capacities of
our President!**



How many pints of beer did you have, Mark?



Yes, Mark you were spotted!

Is this your idea of watering the green?

If you suffer from “outdoor bowling” withdrawal symptoms during the winter, have a look at our website to remind you of all the fun we have had. Lots of pictures in the gallery and all the newsletters in one place!

www.harrowbowlsclub.co.uk