



NEWSLETTER



February 2019



Caption competition from last newsletter



Rex says "If you've finished that bottle Fay would you like another one?" (Sheilah Lowe)

Could Rex be asking Fay "Your place-or mine, and I'll show you my trophy."
(Pat and Rex Freeman)

Rex says "If you play your cards right you can get your hands on my trophy."
(Roy and Elaine, thinking rather like Rex!)

THE football competition.

Forget Fantasy football. It has nothing on the competition run by another one of our members, Nick Woolford, who is also a member of our green team.

The recent competitions have not involved any financial reward but considerable glory as can be seen below when our captain Roy Wake was caught celebrating in the way his team, Chelsea would do!



I think Roy should be aware of Bowls Club etiquette by now!

The second competition saw about half of us out in the first week – let down particularly by Manchester United and Leicester. Week 4 saw a very interesting situation. With the exception of Fay and Solo (often mistaken for each other!) all the other competitors went with Arsenal. Brighton let Fay down and deep into extra time Arsenal were drawing. Solo was minutes away from winning. If it hadn't been for a stunning overhead kick, Solo would have received his promised reward – a juicy bone. He was so proud of his near win that he decided to play a more active part in the club and was seen playing on our green despite the weather!



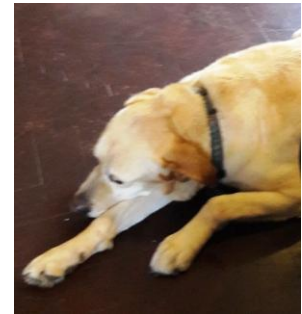
Luckily he is an honest dog and more on the ball than Nick W. He realised in a later competition that he had put Liverpool 2 weeks running and informed Nick. Also was it Solo who told Nick that Peter Lee should be thrown out as he had backed a team which drew? Nick hadn't noticed!!



Nick attempts to persuade me that his brain is better than Solo's!

AGM

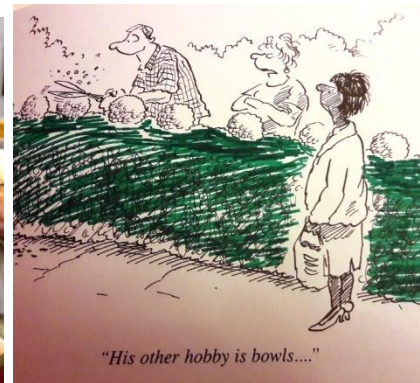
Attending the AGM was another matter for Solo. All that discussion is a little too much for any dog.



Meeting up with fellow social members, such as Dennis Alder, who also like to relax is another matter.



We were all pleased to see each other and to look forward to outdoor bowling. It was especially good to see some members who were absent last season.



Congratulations to Jamie McDonald's daughter for another successful Christmas present of bowls cartoons!

54 members eagerly awaited the arrival of the President, who is looking very proud to have arrived just in time to start the proceedings!



Mark Snell should however be very proud of the exhaustive work which he has done working with the Council in connection with the renewal of the lease. The original 30 year lease ran out in 2016 and Mark has finally obtained a new 30 year lease agreement (to be reviewed every 5 years) which is realistic for our non profit making club. We are all indebted to Mark for the effort put in and his persistence in obtaining a sensible conclusion to the negotiations. Someone was heard to make the inspired suggestion that Mark be put in charge of the Brexit negotiations.



BREXIT

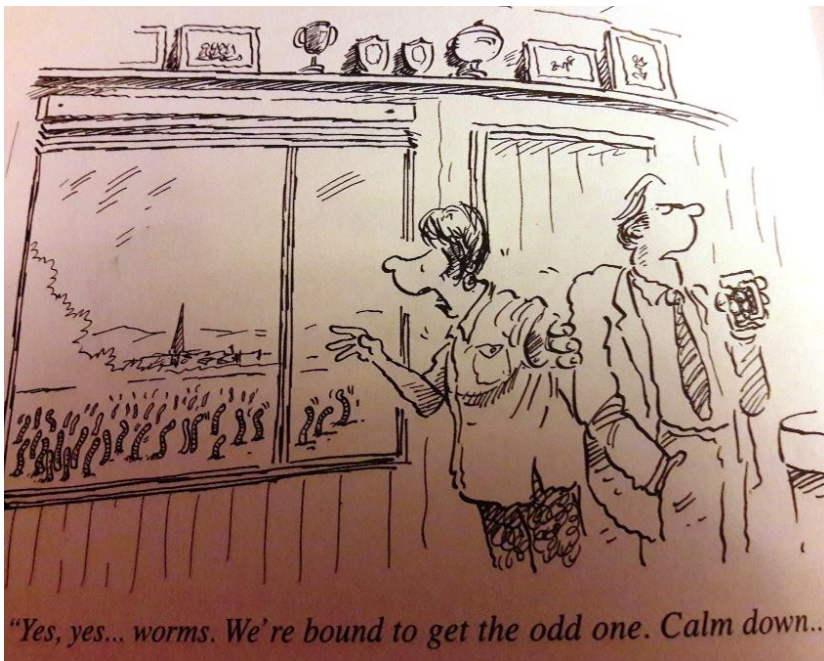


Well Mark seems quite happy with that suggestion and Teresa looks rather relieved!

We will soon be in a position to repair the roof, replace the windows and improve the insulation in the clubhouse. We are waiting to see if we receive a grant from Sport England towards these improvements.

The treasurer, when presenting the accounts, pointed out how important our fundraising activities (for instance the gala day) are in keeping down the subs. He thanked those who contributed to the events (one of which is highlighted later) and said how lucky we are to have fantastic new members coming forward to join our existing hard working teams.

Other clubs in the area have to pay considerable amounts to the Council or outside contractors to maintain their greens. Our green team, who have been hard at work all year, save the club a huge amount of money and do a superior job. Woe betides any toadstool



..... or worm....

which rears its ugly head. Ian is on the job (as well as that suspicious looking group on the left)!



Jamie MacDonald's book of cartoons rings no bells with our members with regard to the green.



Roy Wake was thanked in his absence for his excellent captaincy and willingness to do another year.

Elaine was also thanked for her many years as catering manager as well as her efforts in contributing

heavily to a bumper year for bar takings!



Two proposals had been put forward. It was agreed that no changes be made to the triples competition. The change to the competition rules was however agreed after considerable discussion. The following statement in the rules:

The Challenger has the right to choose a rink.

Has been replaced as follows:

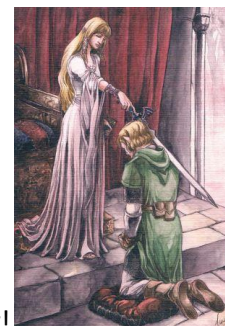
The challenger's name is entered in the book to reserve a rink but no rink is chosen at this point.

To decide on the rink, on the day that the match is to be played all the available rink numbers are placed in a bag and the challenger draws a number out in the presence of the opponent or opposition skip.

Finally the Ladies vice Captain badge was presented to Doreen Bayley.



Doreen waits patiently for the bestowing of the honour!



Spygate

There we were thinking that Jamie M was visiting us for old time's sake and because he enjoyed the banter from Rex and crew. It turns out he has been sent by Dave Higgs, the Wealdstone Captain, to spy on our sophisticated training techniques! It is Leeds United all over again. Who would have thought that a Watford season ticket holder could be so underhand and an Aston Villa supporter so easily led!

Lunchtime social 23rd January

When people arrived for our first social of 2019 (or as Mary Warner says 2017!) they wondered whether the spies had removed the trees to give a clearer view.



Rumours abounded!

Peter Sharples was heard to remark

“It is a mystery wrapped up in an enigma”!

Who came up with this remark originally?



or



Answers on a postcard please!

Anyway it turned out to be much simpler.

Jim Hughes had arranged for the removal of the rather high fir trees. Too big a job for our magnificent green team, Jim organised their removal with the council workforce. Now the copse behind will receive some much needed light.

Watch both this space, and that space, to see what will happen next. Jim is thinking. I was wondering what that noise was! Cogs are turning in Jim's brain!



It has been cold lately so I'm not surprised he is blue.

The rather bare appearance can be transformed with some suitable shrubbery.



Talking about things that are bare, we were confronted by an interesting Bowls International calendar placed there by none other than our President!



To ensure a certain level of decency for this publication, I have placed a hat on his head and a strategically placed heart. Anyone wanting to see the full unexpurgated version will need to visit the clubhouse, where all 12 photos can be viewed in full! I bet there will be a lot more people attending short mat bowls over the next few weeks!

Thanks to Maureen Alder and Ann Sharples for organising this as their last hurrah. Liz Swaffield, who is taking over the role, was there to see how it all went and she supplied a variety of games.



Maureen had available quizzes and games for the punters, so members were able to chat and/or play for a couple of hours and catch up on all the winter happenings.



Some were seen to carry on where they left off at the dinner dance!

Who is that handsome young man?



The food was incredible but I failed to take a “before” picture. The after picture shows how much this was enjoyed by everyone.



And there were still the deserts to come.



A note from Maureen

A huge thank you for all the help we received at our “get together”. It was particularly encouraging to see all our social members getting stuck in. Over to you Liz – you’ll have a good team behind you.

Fundraising.

As mentioned earlier our treasurer, Phil Bayley, commented on the value of fundraising in keeping the subs at a reasonable level. The Gala day is one of the most important of those fundraising events and the new team breathed fresh air into the event (see newsletter September 2018). As part of that the auction of promises raises considerable funds.



So the more people offering items or events to be auctioned and the more people present and bidding the more money will be raised. As can be seen in the picture there were all sorts of events and functions on offer. A number of offers to have food or games at each other’s houses not only raise money for the club but give a great opportunity to get to know each other better.

The games evening at Roy and Elaine's house is one such event. An evening full of laughter, games, conversation and as you can imagine with Elaine, brilliant food was enjoyed by the winners of that bid.



The downside is that considerable thinking is required!



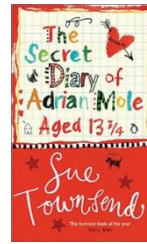
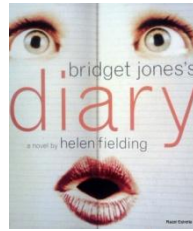
Medals and trophies were awarded. In Marios' case probably because he made Elaine laugh so much!



These were proudly displayed in a prominent position (so that all our guests can see them) alongside more important trophies. Mind you the only person expressing any interest so far is our 7 year old grandson!

So come along to the next Gala Day (**Monday 26th August**) and bid in the auction of promises or offer something for auctioning.

Dates for your diaries.



Signing on day: Wednesday 10th April. All the information you need will be sent by Mary Warner. You will need to enrol for the club and enter competitions on this day. Mary will explain procedure if you can't make the day.

Markers training: Tuesday 30th April 2pm. For anyone unsure about the rules of marking and

measuring there will be an in-house training session.



Oops! Wrong measure!

Captain's versus President's day: Saturday 4th May. So you will have the chance to practise a bit outside beforehand.

Open Day: Sunday 19th May. Do encourage all your friends and neighbours to come and try this



fantastic sport.

Beetle drive: Wednesday 17th July.



or



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No, this



Finals Days: 13th and 14th September (15th reserve day).

Captain's supper and match: Saturday 21st September.

Closing day for outdoor bowling: Saturday 28th September.

AGM: Sunday 19th January 2020.

Winter social: Wednesday 22nd January 2020. **(wow!)**

Other social events such as the **Antique Bowls** day and a **Quiz night** are being arranged. More details later.



Not that one again, let's go for this!



