

ST. CHADS BOWLING CLUB

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

Founded 1956



Which birdie were they looking at? Random group photo taken on October 2nd 2012

Welcome to St. Chads!

Club History

St Chad's Bowling Club was formed in 1956. The original club house was known as the Pavilion and was a simple construction of timber. There was no bar at that time. The Pavilion was used by both the Bowlers and the Cricket teams. In the mid 1990s the club house unfortunately was burnt down. The present club was rebuilt through very generous funding from the members and a tremendous amount of hard work, and opened a couple of years later. The club was granted a licence to sell alcohol and the bar has proved to be an attractive and popular venue. Membership of the club was buoyant and at one time reached well over one hundred members; men and ladies. There were many notable sporting achievements during these busy times.

The Club Today

Membership today is rather reduced in line with the experience of other UK bowls clubs however the club achievements continue to be made. Indeed our Ladies Team did well this last season with only a small team of active lady members. See Brenda's article page 4. Well done ladies!

St Chad's is a mixed club with very attractive Greens and outside seating. St Chad's participates in Local, County, National and London Parks events as well as many 'friendlies.' We also play some short mat in the clubhouse during the winter. We have a friendly social side with popular quiz nights and meals out and music events. We warmly welcome new members from all communities and abilities.

Recent Events

January 26th

an extremely enjoyable evening was had at the Cosmo pan Asian eating experience at The Brewery in Romford. 26 members and friends attended. The taste buds were tingled so much that ordinary food seemed rather boring for the rest of the week

February 7th

This monthly quiz night was also well attended and Monies raised from quiz nights in Dec 2011 and Jan and Feb 2012 have reached £707.00. A super effort.

Future Events

March 3rd

Our next popular monthly Quiz night. Entrance £3.00 per person. Raffles with excellent prizes. Bring your own nibbles, Drinks from the bar only at popular prices. Good fun!

March 1st Casa Mia Restaurant
3 course meal. £15.00

Good Value Good Food

March 23rd Pamper Night (Boys welcome too) See, Learn, Try & Buy a variety of beauty products demonstrated by Beauty Therapists at the club

Ongoing dispute with LBBD

Austerity, Bowls and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

As many of you will recall the Club received a letter from the Council on 25th October, 2011 explaining that they had to find savings of ten million pounds for their 2012/13 budget due to a significant reduction in the grant received from central government. Two meetings were arranged involving all five Bowls clubs in the borough and the Council representatives who were Robin Payne and David Theakston

All five clubs attended the first meeting which was held at our clubhouse on 18th Nov 2011. The Council stated that there were two key issues to be discussed, the first being the cost of maintaining each bowls green and the second was the cost of upkeep of the Bowls Clubs pavilions. The Council stated that the true cost of green maintenance was £19,119.22 per green, assuming full cost recovery. This figure was astounding as it represented a staggering 353% increase. The council representatives were asked exactly how much manpower had been factored into this figure and what the other costs might be for maintenance plant and treatment of the greens. No clear answers were forthcoming from the Council representatives and the five clubs felt that this figure was not credible.

The Council representatives agreed to consider obtaining quotations from outside commercial green keeping companies and get back to the clubs with their findings. They also announced that they would be holding separate meetings with each club to discuss the Pavilion situation. The five clubs have continued to liaise through meetings and via email to discuss the manner in which they should move forward with the Council on the issue of full cost recovery. It is the agreement of all Clubs that all ongoing discussions should be on a combined basis.

The second set of meetings took place during January 2012 and our club representatives (David Jarrold and Roy Blane) attended a meeting on the

24th January Little discussion took place in respect of our pavilion because we stated that until a proper structural survey was undertaken to determine the extent of the subsidence (especially in the ladies changing room), there was no way the club would consider taking on the responsibility for its upkeep in return for a peppercorn rent.

The meeting did produce some revised costs for green maintenance together with a statement that the Councillors have indicated that they are not in favour of outsourcing this work. So our original agreement with the Council for them to explore the costs with outside organisations was scuppered. The revised costs presented at the meeting were £11,594 per green and if the green had automatic watering facilities this could be reduced to £9588 per green. Once again we pointed out to the Council that our own discussions with Elm Horticultural had resulted in a cost of £6,000 + VAT (£7200) per green, which was a 25% discount on the Council's lowest estimate. However the figure of £7,200 does represent an increase of 71% over the current cost. Yet again the basis for the Council's figures was queried without any credible substantiation forthcoming.

The Council were not very clear on whether the cost for 2012 would be purely the current cost plus RPI which would result in a cost of approximately £4,430 or whether the council might also factor in an additional increase to herald the move towards full cost recovery. The Clubs were all informed that the meeting of the March Council Cabinet would discuss a report being drafted by David Theakston that would outline the way forward using full cost recovery. The Clubs were also told that they could provide their own thoughts as an Annex to the report.

The five clubs stated that they could not comment upon it until they receive a copy of this draft report. They agreed that to submit one Annex on behalf of all five clubs, rather than five separate annexes.

Based on these discussions and also ongoing exchanges of correspondence regarding the competitive state of the "West Green" (Old Green)

your Executive Committee have withheld payment for the 2010 season and have now informed the Council that the Club will only require the East Green for the coming 2012 season. The decision to drop down to one bowling green was taken following the Council's statement on 6th January 2012, that they had no plans to bring the West Green up to competitive standard in terms of the ditches and surrounds.

As always discussions are ongoing with the Council and the five bowls clubs and we hope to bring you more news at the General Meeting on Sunday 25th March, 2012.

Funding and Sponsorship

We are all seeking ways to improve the Club's finances. Bob Mead and Barbara Titmuss had some excellent success in gaining sponsorship from businesses in our High Road. The logos of these companies will be displayed on our club programmes. To show our thanks to these sponsors we should patronise their businesses where we can to show our appreciation and let them know that we are St Chad's members. Bob also approached Sainsbury and Tesco among other potential local sponsors with limited success as obviously these companies are frequently applied to. The names of these businesses are as follows:

Ashton Estate Agents
Nicholas James Pawnbrokers & Jewellers
Casa-Mia Restaurant
Britannia Fish Bar
Rendezvous Bar & Grill
Runners World
Essence Indian Cuisine
J.I Partridge Opticians

We also have interest in using club premises from other small organisations which could provide regular income. Charges are very reasonable and there is the opportunity to use the bar at popular prices. The Club premises is very suitable for family events, parties christenings etc and prices to members are very favourable.

Travelogue

SENT IN BY RICHARD KIDD
(OUR FIRST CONTRIBUTOR)

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots . Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito . I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I live close so it's a short drive.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

And, sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me I am not.

People keep telling me I'm in Denial but I'm positive I've never been there before!

I have been in Deeps**t many times; the older I get, the easier it is to get there. I actually kind of enjoy it there.

So far, I haven't been in Continent; but my travel agent says I'll be going soon.

Wishing you all safe travels.

Well Done Girls!

I would like all members to know how proud I am with the ladies of St Chads. As most of you know we are rather thin on the ground for lady members, but it did not stop our ladies from coming 2nd in the Rainham Triples, which is a feat in itself, as there are very strong teams in this league and our ladies played their hearts out.

We did not do so well in the other league, but we did not come last!

So pat yourselves on the back ladies you deserve all the praise. Perhaps this coming season we will be the winners!

I would also like to say how brilliant our captain A Fox and Vice Captain Brenda Pink carried out their duties through the season. Well done girls!! I wish all members happy bowling for the coming season.

Brenda Morton
Ladies Hon Sec

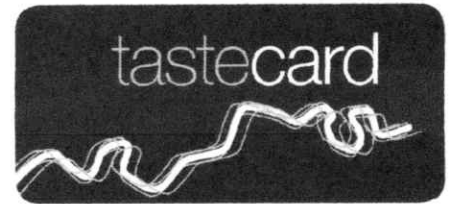
COMICS



Brain Box

Whose catchphrase was it?
(answers at bottom of the page)

1. Hello my darlings
2. You are awful but I like you
3. Oooh no missus
4. Nice to see you to see you nice
5. I'm free
6. Shut that door
7. It's the way I tell 'em
8. Rock on Tommy



previously *tastelondon*

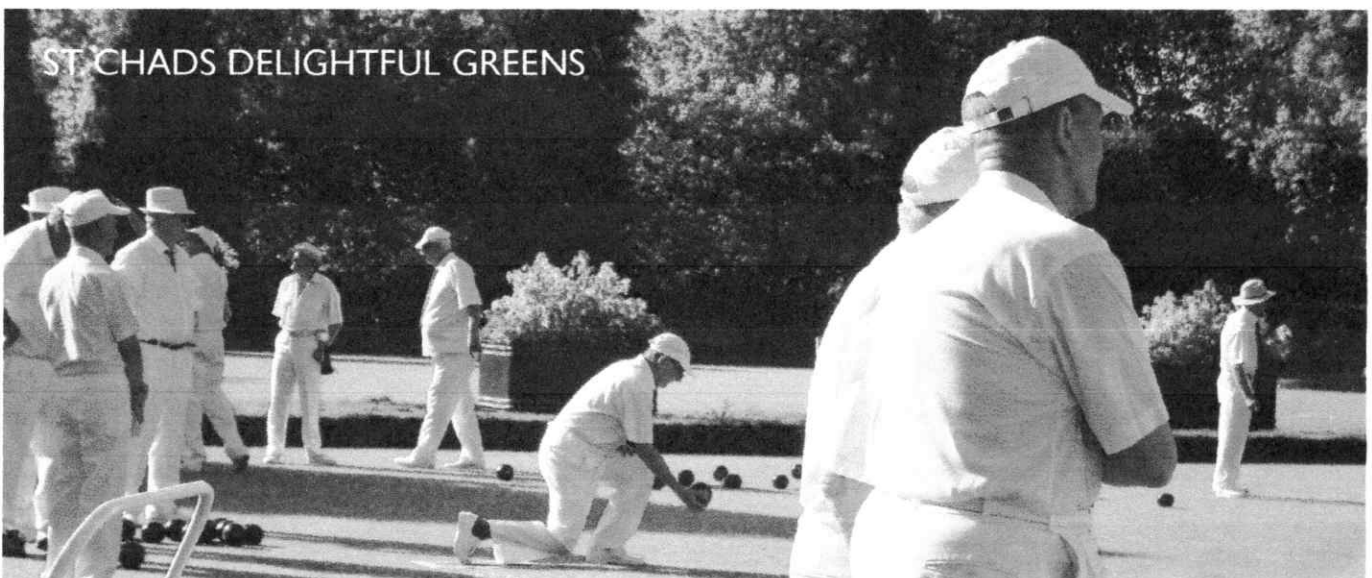
Like eating out? As recommended by members, the tastecard gives you 2-for-1 or 50% off your bill at hundreds of restaurants. For more information visit: www.tastecard.co.uk

2012 SUBSCRIPTION AND MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

At the meeting of the sub-committee on pricing held on 21st January 2012 it was discussed and proposed that as from 1st April 2012 the following definitions and subscriptions would be adopted:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| • Full Member | £105.00 p.a |
| • Over 80s | £65.00 p.a |
| • Junior Member | £15.00 p.a |
| • Special Consideration | £15.00 p.a |
| • Honorary Member | NO FEE |
| • Social Member | £20.00 p.a |

There was discussion and general agreement that there was no call for the categories Life Member or Associate member as these two definitions could fit the Honorary or Special Consideration membership.



Brain Box answers: 1. Charlie Drake 2. Dick Emery 3. Frankie Howard 4. Bruce Forsyth 5. John Inman 6. Larry Grayson 7. Frank Carson 8. Bobby Ball 9. Basil Brush 10. Arthur Askey

This Coming Season...a reminder

DAY	DATE	TIME	VENUE	RINKS	COMP	DRESS
Saturday	28/4	2:30PM	H	TBA	C/C	W
Sunday	29/4	2:30PM	H	4 mix	F/Trip	W

See full Fixture List

Now an important one for the summer

To help support our Club we are preparing for an event on the 8th July 2012 at St. Chad's Bowling Club. This will be the Lyn Sears Triples followed by a barbecue with many prizes to be won, The main feature will be a **Summer Prize Draw worth £1000.**

To achieve this successfully we will need the support of ALL members to help sell tickets to family friends, neighbours and everybody else so that we can achieve our aim of raising a considerable profit for our club.

Bob Meade
Treasurer

HERE IT IS, the first issue of the newsletter. We need your feedback. Also, if there's anything you would like to see included in the newsletter such as some good stories and/or photos, past and present, contact Keith and Gloria at:

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@hotmail.co.uk
Tel no: 0208 597 0526

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