

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE FROM CLUB HOUSE

# ST. CHADS BOWLING CLUB

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Founded 1956



## BOWLIN' IN THE RAIN

A rainy day didn't stop play at St. Chads

The wettest April for 100 years did not deter St Chads stalwarts from turning up at the club on Saturday 28th April to play in the Opening Drive in the first match of the season. Wearing their wets and with the occasional umbrella opened, they braved the relentless rain and squelched on to the end of the match.

Overheard in the clubhouse later, one member, when asked who won, replied "I'm not sure" as he made for the bar to get a warming drink.

However, owing to the waterlogged green, a decision was made to postpone the following day's match with Dagenham Central. The date for this will be July 1st.. Weather permitting.

## Making progress

Alan and Brenda Moss would like to sincerely thank all members of the Club for the good wishes, cards and support they have received following Alan's quadruple bypass operation at the London Chest Hospital in March.

Alan continues to make good progress in his recovery and looks forward to seeing you at the Club in the coming weeks.

## Recent Events

**March 1st:** A great night out at Casa Mia. 55 members and guests enjoyed good food and wine and great company.

**March 3rd and April 21st:** These monthly quiz nights were well attended and Monies raised from both was £453. A super effort.

**March 23rd:** A Pamper Night was well attended at the Clubhouse. There were quite a few men who seemed interested in the products and services.

**April 4th** Members and guests enjoyed Indian cuisine at Essence of the East.

## Future Events

**Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Alan Wood Memorial Bowls Match. There will be a morning start. Check notice board for times. There will be a Cold buffet at lunchtime.

**Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Jubilee Party. Let's celebrate. Please put your name down on the notice board if you want to come along. Further details will be on notice board. Bar will be open but bring your own food.

**Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>:** Lynn Sears Bowls match and barbecue. The main feature will be a **Summer Prize Draw worth £1000.** Please check the notice board for start times. Also please ensure that money for tickets sold needs to be given to Bob Mead Treasurer as soon as possible.



## ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE...



One of our members is very keen for us to include a information of a more serious nature, one that he recently had personal experience of and has successfully overcome through being aware and taking prompt action.

Brian Benson was aware that as men became older they were more prone to develop prostate problems. He was aware that although some of these problems were a nuisance but not life threatening, there was also the real possibility of developing prostate cancer. He knew that only men can develop prostate cancer and that while some men had symptoms, others had no symptoms at all. Brian knew that there is a simple blood test called the PSA test which measures the level of Prostate Specific Antigen in your blood. A high level of PSA is an indicator of whether a man may need a further check but does not automatically mean there is cancer present, There can be another reason. Additionally a PSA test may occasionally miss a cancer. However it is a good test to have because if prostate cancer is found early it can very often be cured.

Brian began to have annual PSA blood tests which were normal. However in 2007 Brian's reading was much higher than the previous reading. Further tests were carried out and Brian found that he did indeed have early stage prostate cancer. He then underwent a course of treatment which while not being pleasant, was not unmanageable. Brian today is clear of prostate cancer and doing well.

Brian would like to urge his fellow male members to become prostate cancer aware and consider asking your GP for a PSA test. Blood tests are absolutely simple quick and painless and are usually carried out in a walk in clinic (There is one at Medical Centre Ashton Gardens for example) but you will need the Doctors referral letter

Brian is thankful that he kept checking and adds that he would be happy to talk about this to any member who may have concerns

There is a leaflet on notice board.  
[askapple@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:askapple@hotmail.co.uk)

## YOU'RE A WINNER!

BY RICHARD KIDD

Rarely does it happen but dreams can become a reality. The outcome of a competition certainly proved this to me.

In my twenties we took The Sun newspaper and at that time the paper was publishing a series of articles on Readers adventurous pastimes. Included were such things as rock climbing, pot holing, sailing and gliding.

After the weeklong series they held a competition in which entrants had to write and send in the proverbial post card onto which they had written the reason why they wanted to try one of the pursuits.

My entry described the many times I had, as a youth, watched seagulls soaring in the air currents along cliffs bordering my family's holiday campsites. This appeared to me to be the ultimate in 'freedom'.

One morning, soon after, my wife received a telephone call from the newspaper whilst I was at work. I had won! But which prize? They could not decide from my entry whether gliding or hang gliding was my dream.

Not being brave and having a young family, I chose the former. The result was that I was awarded a 5 day gliding course at the Booker Field just off the M40 near High Wycombe. The course started with a n assessment and a trial flight which required me to wear a parachute. Certainly not for the faint hearted!

A total of 13 flights were accomplished, all requiring a tug launch by a powered aircraft. From a release at 2000ft the highest altitude as 10,000 ft. This was over a burning cornfield and was like stepping into a high speed lift. Later came a loop the loop and a trip over and along the M40 towards Oxford concluded this memorable experience.

All of which proves to me that dreams CAN come true.

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Can you donate any unwanted gifts or items in good condition as prizes for our quiz night raffles?

If so please contact Brenda Morton for more details.





*Wally Abell at the club recently*

## RECOGNITION AT LAST



**The USHAVOK Medal**

Following a long awaited review of the Honours System- one of our Members, Wally Abell, may at last receive recognition for his heroic war service.

Wally is an Arctic Convoy hero of WW11, one of more than 66000 British sailors who braved sub zero temperatures to keep supply lines to Russia open during the WW11 conflict. This was done by providing escort and cover to merchant ships bringing food and commodities to people starving in Russia.

Wally frequently made the gruelling and hazardous 1600 mile journey from Scotland, sailing past the enemy held shores of Norway to reach Murmansk. During this time more that 3000 persons lost their lives and 18 Royal Navy warships were sunk.

The Russian Federation intends to make the State Award, the USHAVOK Medal to British Veterans of the Arctic Convoy, recognising Allied Cooperation and bravery in WW11.

Wally, who is a member of the Russian Convoy Club, stated " It has been a long battle to achieve recognition of the medal for all of us who are left."

## S.O.S – Start of Season!

SENT IN BY SUE SPELLING

At the start of the season

Bowling's the reason

I'm beginning to feel so much pain.

It is my intention

To release this year's tension

And not let it build up again!

I'm going to speak out

(But not with a shout!)

I'll pour it all out to my friend.

For better or worse

I'll share it in verse,

On this help I can depend.

I'm going to let go,

Let my feelings show,

I'm NOT going to get in a state!

I'll be all-write when

I pick up my pen

And tell all to my paper mate!

## HELP!

Lord, this coming week

It's your strength I seek –

He's bowling four nights out of five.

Please help me stay calm,

Not do any harm,

And not want to boil him alive!





# Obituary - Mike Rees

(1940-2012)

The unexpected death of Mike Rees in April took everyone by surprise, including members of St Chads, Barley and Barking Indoors.

Mike joined St Chads in 1990 and was a respected player whenever he stepped onto the bowling green. His huge No.7 woods trundled along at a stately pace, inflicting untold damage on many an unsuspecting opponent, whilst Mike, at his own stately pace, followed serenely behind.

Mike's phlegmatic approach to life in general and bowls in particular was known throughout the bowling fraternity. He was a true gentleman and never showed his emotions on the green no matter how upset he may have felt.

His academic background was clear for all to see especially during quiz nights at St Chads. He was Club Captain from 2001 to 2003 and Club Secretary from 2008 to 2009. He won the F.E. Ironmonger Trophy in 2001, then the Men's Handicap in 2003 and more recently the Moultrie Shield in 2010.

His passing will leave a huge gap in the St Chads competitive armoury and he will be sadly missed both as a player and as a colleague and friend.

Details of his funeral will be published in due course.



## TIMES PAST

Do you remember who was in this photo, what was the year and what was happening? (no prizes though!)

Submitted by  
TERRY WOOLSTON

If you have any interesting pictures of the St Chads of past, please send them in!

### Members please note:

If you are booking internal games enter them into the diary to prevent double bookings. Please keep a check on the fixtures list for all future events this season, and put your name down if you are available and if appropriate.



# Ongoing discussions with LBBD

By ROY BLANE

Since the last newsletter the club has been in further meetings with both the Council and also local MP Jon Cruddas in an attempt to arrive at a more financially amicable arrangement for both the Club and the Council when it comes to Full Cost recovery.

The latest letter from the Council on this issue (which can be found on the Notice Board) is dated 1<sup>st</sup> May and provides the same two options that were in the original report on Full Cost recovery dated March 2012. The five Bowls Clubs in Barking & Dagenham have agreed to counter propose a third option to the Council and this was submitted to them on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

The proposal is as follows:

## Option 3

1. The issue of Green Maintenance and associated Rental costs are decoupled from Pavillions.
2. The Cabinet should reconsider its earlier decision not to pursue Outsourcing the Green Maintenance and allow the Clubs concerned to investigate the costs of going down this route.
3. All VAT costs involved in pursuing this route for Green Maintenance should be paid by the Council.
4. Given the money already spent by the clubs over the past 14 years on Pavillion rentals and leases (£56,000:00 in the case of St Chads), there needs to be a more open dialogue on bringing these buildings up to a satisfactory level of condition before the issue of ongoing

maintenance and care is investigated.

5. Therefore a Joint Task Force comprising Council representatives and members of the Bowls Action Group should be formed as soon as possible, the Terms of Reference of that Group to be determined by the Task Force, to address the issue of Bowls Club Pavillions as a matter of urgency.

This proposal will now await the next Informal Cabinet Meeting of the Council, which is likely to be after the end of May.

Let's hope we have some better news to report on this topic in June!

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## WHICH ST CHAD'S?

If you are emailing copy to this Newsletter please ensure that you use the correct email address which is: [stchadsnewsletter9@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stchadsnewsletter9@hotmail.co.uk). The local Church St Chad's has an email address which is similar to our one. The Minister and his congregation might be amused or confused to get some of our items for input in THEIR newsletter!. It is easy to confuse the Church and Park as even Google maps until recently put our club in the wrong location.

Dave Jarrold tells of a time when his Mother started playing bowls in the 1970s and about 1976, she and several of her pals from May and Baker BC, The Parsloes, were due to play in the Essex Ladies 2-wood day at St Chads.

Dave states that in those days this was a massive event played at many greens around the area. There were always around a hundred ladies in their bowls attire, white skirts, blouses, hats, coloured blazers etc., converging on the club.

Anyway, the ladies arranged for a taxi to pick them up and asked to go to St Chad's. He duly drove them to Chadwell Heath and pulled up outside St Chad's Church. "We're here" he said, "Oh no we're not" they replied. "Oh yes you are, you asked for St Chad's. This IS St Chads" Dave states that they eventually arrived at the correct St Chad's.



*Definitely NOT the bowls club!*



## COMICS

Roll UP



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## BRAIN BOX

How many colours are in this quiz?

( answers at bottom of the page)

1. Chairman Mao's little book
2. A shy flower
3. By any other name
4. In good health
5. Cowardly
6. Unhappy and feeling this
7. Gordon or golden
8. Her surname is a surprise, surprise
9. Heroine in famous film of 'the south'
10. A Young dear *deer*

**HERE IT IS**, the second 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:

Email: [stchadsnewsletter9@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stchadsnewsletter9@hotmail.co.uk)

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Answers: 1. red, 2. violet, 3. rose, 4. pink, 5. yellow, 6. blue, 7. brown, 8. black, 9. scarlet, 10. fawn.