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ST. CHADS BOWLING CLUB

AUTUMN 2012 NEWSLETTER

Founded 1956

TWO SPECIAL EVENTS DESPITE THE WEATHER

St Chads defied the rain and 'reigned'

Two special events have taken place since the last Newsletter, they being the Alan Wood Memorial (Sunday May 27th), and the Lynn Sears Tournament (Sunday July 8th). Both were hugely successful thanks largely to all the members who took part, and in particular to the Treasurer, Bob Meade, whose immense amount of work towards the Lynn Sears Tournament made it all possible.

The Alan Wood Memorial fixture was an all day affair lasting from 11am – 6pm. It was a Triples tournament with teams playing a total of 28 ends. Lots of things could have gone wrong, but the fact that the tournament went off smoothly was a credit to the organisers for their efficiency. The tournament was a fitting tribute to Alan Wood, who contributed so much to the club. He was certainly very much in everyone's thoughts. A sum of £735 was raised for St Francis Hospice through the support for the Tombola and Craft table run by Viv Blane and Joan Tooke and Barbara Benson.



Great catering thanks to Ray Biscoe and his family

The Lynn Sears tournament (see page 5) was played on Sunday July 8th. It is no exaggeration to say that the first half of the fixture was played under monsoon conditions. Again, it is a tribute to all the members concerned that they got on with it and "weathered the storm" until midday, when the sun finally came out. The start was delayed by 20 minutes, and several times the teams had to retreat to the clubhouse for Health & Safety reasons, but there were no grumbles or moans, just dogged determination to see things through and make the day a success for the club.

The club made a profit of £1,500, which given the appalling weather conditions, was an excellent return, and a much needed financial "shot in the arm" for the club's finances.

The tournament was won by the team led by David Jarrold, ably supported by his team of John Schaffer and Brenda Pink. The losing finalists were: Stuart McKenzie, Pat Little and Jim Newton. The final itself was very close, with Dave Jarrold desperately putting blockers down, and with his team eventually winning by three points.

Well done everyone!

Chads come good

DAVE JARROLD

Historically, St Chads have always done well in the Valence/Alfa/Cribbs Wednesday Triples League but this season we had a very shaky start, only gleaning 7 points from a possible 28 in the first four games. This slow start can be attributed to the rebuilding of the squad this season, with many new names appearing on the team sheets. After a slight rally we found ourselves with 16 points from a possible 42 at the half-way point and in fifth position in a league of seven.

Our first match in the second half of the season, found us away at Romford who had thrashed us 7-0 in the home fixture in early May. The St Chads

bowlers found the Romford green to their liking and came away 4-3 winners, inflicting upon them their only defeat of the season as they amassed 70 points from a possible 84 and powered to the divisional title once again.

That victory was the kick start we needed and we managed to score 30 points from a possible 42 in the second half, finishing with two 7-0 wins. The result was that we finished a very creditable second in our division, but missed the play-offs by 13 points.

This 42 points equates to £84 revenue for the club (against an outlay of £70), which means we

made a profit of £14 whilst having a good time. A very big 'Well Done' to all those players who took part.

Next season we will have much more experience through the squad and I expect us to do better, with the objective being a place in the playoffs and an extra cash reward for reaching that stage

Stop Press: Last night, Romford defeated Wansted Central in the semi-final and will now play Poplar (who put Barking to the sword) in the final on 22nd August at Romford

Overall win for St Chads in Mixed Triples at Griffin

ROY BLANE

Saturday 11th August provided a beautiful day for the annual mixed triples fixture against Griffin Bowls Club this year taking place in Harlow.

St Chads fielded 4 mixed triples teams and provided a tough test for the home side.

John Lizzimore captained a team consisting of Dorena Reader and Joy Wright to a 16 – 12 victory and Brian Mackenzie took his team of Ann Fox and

Derek Goodwin to a tremendous 27 – 7 win on Rink 3.

Meanwhile Joan Tooke led her team of John Tooke and David Wharf to a hard fought 19 – 14 defeat. Roy Blane's team of Julie Goodwin and Brenda Pink were unable to prevent Betty Popert's side running out 23-13 winners on rink 2.

This provided an overall win of 70 – 61 for St Chads on the day.



When it rained outside, We 'reigned' inside.

The Jubilee Party and Open Day took place at the Club on 3rd of June. As usual the weather outside was awful but inside we had good food good music and a lively bar so the Jubilee was celebrated in diamond style.

A Member's Story

On April 4th 1954 the young Alan Rieger was due to be called up to start his 2 year National Service. As many of you may remember, National Service was obligatory for young British men once they reached the age of 18 years.

However Alan decided that he would actually sign up to the regular Royal Air Force for 5 years initially with the option for a further 4 years which he also then served. This enabled him to be trained in the trade of Aircraft Engineer Mechanic. After completing his basic training and 'square bashing' at RAF Hednesford and passing out from St Arthan Wales Trade Training centre, Alan tried very hard to get a home posting at either Hornchurch, North Weald or Hendon. However the Royal Air Force decided that where he was needed was in Malta, the important island in the middle of the Mediterranean.

In Malta, Alan was stationed at RAF Luqa Airfield, now the national airport of Malta, but then it was a still military airfield with some concessions to the emerging post war commercial air service.

the Malta Commercial and Target Towing Squadron. This squadron was based to service Transport aircraft. Also the Beaufighters which were aircraft converted from the wartime fighters. Alan was enjoying his service in Malta's sunny climate.

In the spring of 1956, one of the smaller twin engined aircraft – a Percival Pembroke- developed a fault and was forced to land at a small former wartime airstrip across the Mediterranean on the coast of Tunisia at a place called Gabes. The 3 man crew, including Alan was sent out

with all the necessary equipment to change the engine and make all repairs to fly it back to Malta. During the first 2 days while the crew were repairing the plane, Tunisia had a military coup and a Junta took command.

The mood of the country changed dramatically. Alan and his colleagues were surrounded by an angry group of men demanding to see their documents permitting them to be in Tunisia. The men were not satisfied with the documents that Alan and his colleagues presented and the Crew were manhandled and imprisoned in a small stone hut on the edge of the airstrip. The hut had a corrugated tin roof and the temperature daily reached 100 degrees. They had no sanitation and no lavatory. The floor was sand and there were no mattresses to sleep on. Alan and his colleagues were allowed outside for about an hour a day, heavily guarded and were also given 2 inedible plates of food a day but they had no change of clothes. There was no communication with persons apart from the guards and no information on what their eventual fate would be.

However after 16 days and intervention by the British Government, Alan and his colleagues were released. As the hut door opened there was a plane waiting for them. They all were suffering from severe dysentery by this time and were immediately repatriated to hospital in Malta where they recovered and were then given a fortnights rest and recovery at RAF Leave Unit at Marsaxlokk.

Not long after that event the Suez crisis evolved in Egypt. This did not affect Alan or his team directly but they were



Alan in uniform

always on alert. After 3 years service in Malta Alan was sent to Middle Wallop England, a very distinct change of scenery, where he was on loan to the Army Air Corps flying helicopters. After 2 years with the AAC, Alan returned to the RAF to finish his service with RAF Henlow.

Following his demobilisation as a Corporal Technician, it was then 30 years before Alan returned to visit Malta. He absolutely fell in love with the place.

We all know the rest of this story. However, I don't think he has ever been back to Tunisia!!

Alan is a regular active member of the British Legion at the Becontree and Chadwell Heath Branch and attends many relevant events with others and he still looks good in that RAF uniform.

An Update on Discussions with London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

ROY BLANE

Since the last newsletter the Club has been involved in further meetings with LBBD on the topic of Full Cost recovery.

On the 23rd July all 5 clubs in the borough were summoned to a meeting with the Leader of the Council (Liam Smith) and Councillor Bert Collins as well as Robin Payne and David Theakston.

During the meeting Liam Smith went to great pains to extol the virtues of peppercorn rent agreements for clubhouses and pledged the Council's help to try and find finance to bring the buildings up to a decent state of repair. The clubs responded by stating that they were not prepared to accept the buildings in their current condition due to years of neglect by the Council. This response was obviously not the one the Council was looking for. The Council also wanted to know whether the Clubs would be using their services for Green Maintenance in 2013 (remember they wanted £9,500 per green) or whether the clubs would be using outside contractors.

As a result of this session the 5 Bowls Clubs (Barking, Dagenham Central, Parsloes, Old Dagenham and St Chads met) with Darren Tubby of Elm Horticulture Limited at St Chads on Monday 30th July, to discuss the costs that he would charge for the upkeep of the greens concerned. The charges would be £6,000 + VAT (£7,200) per

green. At the meeting it became clear that Parsloes would not be able to continue in 2013 at these prices although the remaining 4 clubs could.

The Clubs therefore sent the following response to LBBD:

In order to clarify the position for 2013 in respect of Green Rental payments, the Bowls Action Group has had detailed discussions with a potential outside contractor to undertake this work on behalf of five of the clubs involved. Although there is still a requirement to clarify with the Council the issues surrounding control of automatic watering systems, and ongoing responsibility for the maintenance of these systems, there does appear to be scope for reaching an agreement for 2013 Green maintenance that would be affordable for 4 of the 5 clubs. In order to bring a number of the Greens back to a decent standard the Bowls Action Group would like to award contracts that would enable the outside contractor to undertake the work from October 2012.

However before the Bowls Action Group can provide confirmation on this aspect to the Council, they and their membership also need to understand the costs that will be charged for the pavilions in 2013. In that regard the meeting with the Council on 23rd July, 2012, failed to provide an answer to that question.

The Bowls Action Group have already made their position clear that a peppercorn rent agreement based upon the buildings being accepted in their present state is totally unacceptable to the clubs concerned. The costs involved in making up for years of neglect by the Council in respect of these buildings is not going to be met by the additional hard work of Bowls Action Group Club members through obtaining project based financial assistance from various sporting bodies.

Therefore in order to provide an answer to the Council in respect of Green Maintenance the Bowls Action Group needs to know what the Council's proposed Pavilion rental costs will be for 2013? That answer needs to be provided by 21st August, 2012, so that the individual clubs can obtain the backing from their respective members during September, for any proposal that should ensue.

We therefore await your reply.

At the time of going to press with this edition of the Newsletter we are still awaiting the Council's response.

However please keep Saturday afternoon on 8th September free as we may have to call an Emergency General Meeting to discuss and agree the possibility of going forward into 2013 using outside contractors for the Green maintenance.