

# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2020



Hi all,

Hope you're all keeping fit, well and healthy. We're all living in uncertain, challenging and very difficult times, but there's one certainty, and that is, given time, **WE'LL ALL GET THROUGH IT !**. Some of us can remember times, not too dissimilar to today's, when the situation we found ourselves in appeared to be hopeless. I don't know exactly what my old dad, if he were alive today, would have made of it all, but I think I can pretty accurately paraphrase what his northern pragmatic and somewhat misguided view, would have been. I would refer you all back to 1939 on 3 September 1939, when the then Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, made a public declaration stating that Great Britain was now at war with Germany, here's what my 'Old Pot & Pan' would probably have said in his broad northern accent. "Now look here Dolly, (that's my Mum, her name was actually Dorothy Olwen, but everyone called her 'Dolly' for short), whatever that Daft Bugger Chamberlain announces, it's usually a load of \*\*\*\*\*old rubbish, so don't worry, it'll all fizzle out in a few months. His profound statements like this were usually followed by "now, what's for tea". At a much later date, a 500 lb bomb landed in a field about 150 yards from our back garden, a lot of damage was done to people's homes and some of our neighbours lost their lives. The devastation created, what came to be known as, 'The Red Wreck', which, as kids we all played on after the war. Obviously, if my appraisal of what my Dad probably would have said, is reasonably near the mark, then he wasn't very good at forecasting the war's ensuing events! But you know what, come on, altogether now..... **"WE ALL GOT THROUGH IT !"**

1. I'm not going to further bore you all to death about the Club's Green, I think it's already had a good airing, so sufficient to say that it's now in good condition and will remain so until we all finally start to play bowls again.  
However, there is one point which your committee wish to make and that is as follows:  
**PREVENTION OF DISEASE ON THE GREEN.** Bowling shoes to be worn only on green and not in the Club's Car park or other areas of outside grassed land. Also, your committee advise that cleaning of your equipment after a match should always be carried out. This is not an unreasonable request, as last year, the green suffered an unprecedented attack of disease which proved to be time consuming and very costly to overcome. All your help in this direction would be greatly appreciated.
2. Jill Bowen is running a Weobley Bowlers 'Whatsapp' Group, which I think is a brilliant idea. It's an easy way of keeping in contact with your fellow Club Members. If you feel that this lockdown situation is getting a bit too much for you, then why not join Jill's Group and get back in the swim. Go on, you know it makes sense, give it a go. Contact Jill by e-mail, phone or carrier Pidgeon, Jills e-mail address is [jillbowen@gmail.com](mailto:jillbowen@gmail.com)
3. We all know that our Club Membership is absolutely brimming with millionaire's. Why do I assume this glorious statement is true, well actually, I don't, but somebody else does. So, who is this mystery 'somebody else', well his name is **Joe Scott**. It would appear that Joe owns a Bowling Club Resort in Portugal and here is a copy of his letter addressed to Jean Bufton our Club Secretary.

For the attention of Jean Bufton, Club Contact for Weobley & District Bowls Club

Dear Jean,

*This email is addressed to you because you are listed on the Bowls England website as the contact for your Club. If that is incorrect, I would be grateful if you would please forward the email to the appropriate person.*

*I am the owner of Tavira County Lawn Bowling Club, situated in the Eastern Algarve, Portugal. Some of your members may know of the Club and may even have visited us. I am writing to advise you of something that might be of interest to your members and of financial benefit to your Club: - After a number of very successful years as the owner, I have decided to pursue other interests and am reluctantly putting the Club up for sale! If any of your members would like to live in a warm, safe, and beautiful part of the world, and enjoy a life connected to the wonderful sport of Bowls, this could be just their opportunity! And if any of them were to become the new owner(s), I would gladly make a donation of £1,000 to your Club's funds for your help in passing this information on! I have not included any pictures or electronic links, as these can affect the delivery of emails, so I will provide a brief summary of the club and property: The property is situated in a lovely rural setting, yet only 25 minutes from Faro airport. It exceeds 1.1 hectares in area (almost 3 acres) and includes a 4-bedroomed house with a pool, an 8-rink, well-maintained, Grass Bowling Green, and a small clubhouse. The Club is open all year round; it participates in local leagues and competitions, and hosts many visiting teams from the UK in the Spring and Autumn; it has a website and Facebook page, both of which can be found by searching for "Tavira Bowls"; it was featured in the November 2019 issue of "Bowls International", and has appeared in the TV programs "Coach Trip" and "A Place in the Sun". Further details, including photographs, can be found on "Magnolia Properties" website. (Select Properties for sale – Portugal – Algarve).*

*I realise this has turned out to be a particularly bad time to advertise, but I have been planning to do so for a few months and so decided to proceed anyway. With the current travel restrictions, it is unlikely that anyone would be able to visit in the short-term but some of your members may have the time to consider whether this might be of genuine interest to them, once life becomes a little more “normal”.*

*If, after reviewing the details on the Magnolia website, they decide that it might be, they should contact me for additional information, either directly by email to my address above, or via the Magnolia website.*

*So, if you would be prepared to forward this information to your members, I would be very grateful, it would advise them of a wonderful opportunity, and could boost your Club funds by £1,000.*

*With Thanks and Best Regards,  
Joe Scott*

Well I guess, the first question that springs to your minds will be, **how much?**  
Now, what was that well-known phrase by the American Financier, J. P. Morgan?  
You all know it - “If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it”

So, folks, what d’ya think?????

Please send your answers written on the back of a legitimate blank signed cheque and send it to me. Dependant on the number of answers I receive, using this method, will determine where you would subsequently be able to contact me, somewhere on the planet!

4. I’ve always, both in my younger and later life, been an admirer of the great poets. For some reason, which I’ve never quite understood, throughout my labours on this good earth, had a yen to write my own rather inadequate poetry. So just to finish this April Newsletter, I thought I’d let you all share in my vain attempts to attain dizzy heights, which in my case, is a rather pointless pursuit, so here’s a poem ‘wot I wrote’ in 2015. Hope you like it.

#### Awry

We dream our dreams  
Our plans are laid  
Never, O never to fail  
But the Law which dictates  
The earth’s sod, is dry  
And our path starts to go awry.

The human race  
With all its grace  
Is a race which must be won  
Our own rendition  
Of this human condition  
Is impossible to deny  
But still it goes awry.

We search for answers and stumble along  
Until we regain the path  
Life seems sweet again, as we gamble on  
Without any thought of wrath  
Our vision is seen, in a glimpse of time  
By the light of a clear blue sky  
But still it goes awry

We see a cloud with a number nine  
And a cuckoo perched on the edge  
We turn away  
To face the sun  
Per - chance to rest on high  
But still it goes awry

We stand bereft, robbed of our might  
So, what’s the reason for this plight  
We seek our souls, mostly in vain  
Sometimes it’s ecstasy, sometimes it’s pain  
We expel our sorrows to a place on high  
But still it goes awry.

So, where’s the line twixt win or loose  
Life invites us all to choose  
Which side of the line will we travel along  
Which side of the line will we sing our song  
Why, the side that’s right, I hear you cry  
Your answer’s unchallenged, I cannot deny  
But still it goes awry.

So, ponder this, you listening throng  
We know the face of right and wrong  
So, is it fair, we’re treated such  
That fate should loosen our supportive crutch  
Perhaps, I fear  
As I hear you sigh  
Accept the fact  
That life’s awry.

William Brenner.  
2 June 2015