

# OAKLEY BOWLERS

1978 - 2018



## CHRONICLE



SEPTEMBER 2018

ISSUE 3

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## FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT - LESLEY ALLARD

### THE CLUB'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Oakley Bowling Club's 40th Anniversary season started well and the sun shone on us for most of the time.

The Garden Party was a great success and enjoyed by all as was the game against Friends of Bowls England.

However, the season has been marred by the loss of several key, hardworking members of the Club. First of all we lost John (Jockey) Wilson, then President Peter resigned through ill health, followed by the loss of Trevor Wearn. It says a great deal about the fellowship of Oakley BC in that we picked ourselves up and went on a very enjoyable tour of the Forest Dean and South Wales.

President Peter's original organisation enabled Spencer to follow up with the final details and, apart from a very wet Sunday, the weekend went superbly. We were denied our driver Joseph's eagerly anticipated entertainment on the final evening as the hotel had arranged for another 'singer' for our delight. Next year, on our tour to Norwich and Norfolk we will prefer to have Joseph again!

Congratulations to our men, who walked away with most of the BDBA trophies and to our Junior contingent, who, although not winning trophies this year, represented Hampshire at Leamington again. Well done everyone.

Thank you to Past President Jim Fitzgerald who was a great help organising the Vice-President versus Past President game, which was followed by an excellent supper provided by Rob and Tracey Voller, and to his continued presence at all the Friendly games, organised by Barry Lee. Barry has done a sterling job this year in encouraging members to play in these Friendly games and deserves a medal for all his hard work!

The Indoor season starts at the beginning of October and the Oakley Indoor Friendly games help keep the Club fellowship going. Please do not forget to return your forms to Barry with your availability dates.

Short mat will be available as last year, at the Malshanger Club on Mondays and Thursdays, although there is work anticipated on the roof so members should check for details.

The Social Committee is arranging several events for your delectation, including a Christmas shopping trip to Bath and Christmas Lunch at Basingstoke Golf Club, so please watch the web site or your In-box.

Finally, I have a few vacancies for my Tour at August Bank Holiday next year. I would be delighted if anyone, who has hesitated for any reason, would come along for a friendly, enjoyable weekend in a very nice hotel and some games of bowls at leading Norfolk clubs, as well as village teams. Non-playing partners are most welcome as there is plenty to see and do in Norwich ( Historical as well as Retail therapy). You have my phone number on your membership card. Please just get in touch.

Winter Well everyone!

Lesley Allard, Vice-President and Almoner

P.S Ruth Stewart, who has been very ill since Christmas, sadly passed away this week and her funeral is on Monday 8 October at 2pm at the Crematorium. Our deepest sympathy goes to Peter and his family.

# Captain's Log

from Barry Lee, Men's Captain



Hi to you all, they say if time goes very quickly you must be having a good time. I hope that is the case for all of the members. After two and a half days of quite hard work, I can safely say the green is closed until April 2019.

Last week we played the last 2 games of Yardstick and now I have to add all the scores up and take the highest 6 scores out of the 10 games played to find out who was the winner of the "Ron Noyce Cup". This will be announced at the AGM in November. Many thanks to all of the people who attended this year, we had some fun for an hour or so then popped over to the club for a quick drink and a natter for a while.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September we had our "End of Season" dance with the live band playing 50's/60's music, I rang up "Olivers" of Old Basing on the Thursday and ordered 93 meals our highest yet. The food arrived just after 8-30pm and we all tucked in to Fish and Chips, Sausage and Chips, Chicken and Chips. With all the sauces etc. (very nice), then the Music started up again and off we went till the raffle was drawn, lots of prizes, then back to the music till way past 11pm. Everyone said it was a good night thanks to the "Freddie Clarke" band again.

Spencer kindly sent out an email for me with the Indoor Friendly list that we play over the winter. Our First game is on 7<sup>th</sup> October at Riverside Winchester IBC. So far I have only had 28 replies and 16 members wishing to play! We need 24 players, PLEASE HELP ME TO FILL THE TEAM. I have to ring Riverside by the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month to confirm the game and any special food requirements.

While I am saying "help me" please I must say a big thank you to the members who put their names down on the sheets to enable us to play the Friendlies, I keep a record of all the games and teams and this year we have had 71 names out of 125 members. Ok some of the members only played 1, 2, or 3 games over the season. I had to cancel 2 games due to lack of support, but another 2 games I had to ring the opposition club and beg for some help with their players to fill a team. We have helped other clubs with players to fill their team and 2 clubs have cancelled because of lack of players.

The game at Lymington 29<sup>th</sup> July was not so good, we left Oakley with only 17 players after having rain in the morning, we had lunch at Wetherspoons, Lymington lent us some players, it came on to rain again and very windy but most of the gang said YES let's give it a go, so we started with only 5 rinks at about 3pm and it rained harder. After about 7 ends we were soaked and called it off! (silly billies). The food was good and the Beer even better, and we had a happy time. Another game that was cancelled was Amesbury. We had a bit of rain here in the morning, but they rang just after 9-15am saying they have been told very heavy rain was expected in the afternoon so they cancelled the day. We had some wind, some sun, but no rain. Our last two friendlies were against The University of Reading. They could only get 14 players so Ian Rickman kindly played for them making 5 Triples so we lent them 3 more players to make the 6 Triples. The day was great and the scores were 94-94. Many thanks to Ian, Mary Turnbull, Terry Varndell, Val Ryan for making a good afternoon.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 12-15pm , came the South Wales and MON.W.B. A. 7 rinks of women WOW!. Oakley had 7 Mixed rinks we did not stand a chance, BUT we had 4 winning rinks, well done the skips Nicole, 1 shot. Barry, 1 shot. Keith, 9 shots. Martin, 12 shots. But we still lost overall 100- 123. They said it was the best day of their 5 day tour good food, good company so they sang to us. Many thanks to the Catering a great day.

Next is the “Yardstick” games, this started on 9<sup>th</sup> August and finished on 13<sup>th</sup> September. 10 games were possible and a total of 26 players took part this year. The winner will be announced at the AGM in November. I will have all the cards and info at the meeting. Thank you all the players who attended.

Now comes the last game of the season, Because of Peter having to stand down due to ill health, we had the Vice President Lesley v the Immediate Past President Jim. Not as many names on the list this year for some reason but 44 names were on the list which made 3 Rinks and 3 Triples. Quite a lot of banter going on in the afternoon nice and warm with a bit of breeze. Now some of us were a little confused as to whom they were playing for and at the speeches after the game , the scores were read out not quite right. That has all been sorted and the winner was The Vice President Lesley with 111 shots and the Past President Jim with 74 shots . The Highest winners for the Vice President were Janie Vickers, Chris Williams, Terri Allison and Shirley Goodwin. For the Past President were Margaret Lee, Frank Tuffs with Ron Baxter, Coral Wearn and Jim Fitzgerald. The Meal after the game was as good as ever thanks to our good friends Tracy and Robbie who arrived spot on time. Thanks you two.

Well that's it from me. Please send in your forms ASAP.

## Spencers Snippets

from Spencer Kerley, General Secretary



As members know we have been operating without a Treasurer since July and whilst I am happy, for the moment, to handle the financial transactions I am not prepared to do so next year. My work as Club and County Secretary takes up more than enough of my time! It is therefore critical that a volunteer for Treasurer comes forward at the AGM. Please think about whether you would be prepared to take on the role and let me or Vice President Lesley know if you are interested. I am happy to advise on what is involved. We also need an auditor to examine the 2017/18 accounts and hopefully to continue for future years. Again, please let me or Lesley

know if interested.

Thanks go to all the people who helped out on the bar this year, either by picking up beer from Andwells, by purchasing stock or by serving the drinks. Sales this year, for the first time, were down on the previous year. This was principally due to cancellation of fixtures and there being fewer hosted games. The Gross Profit % has, however stood up well, despite increased costs, and the Bar has made a big contribution to funds.

Thanks go also to those members who turned up to assist with the many jobs that had to be carried out in order to put the green to bed for the winter. Over 3 days the green was scarified, hollow tined, machine brushed, sorel rolled, seeded, drag brushed, top dressed (3 tonnes) and rolled. In addition, ditch mats were power washed and stored, patio furniture cleaned and stored, benches placed under cover etc etc. Had this work been done by contractors the cost would have been huge.

My final thanks go to those members who, at short notice, volunteered, on a rota, to clean the pavilion each week. The work goes largely unnoticed by members but is essential to our being a successful club.

The Bowls Hampshire Presentation lunch is on 21<sup>st</sup> October at Eastleigh. Twelve members are attending but if anyone else wishes to join us please let me know quickly.

Please note, for the diary, that the Basingstoke and District Presentation Dinner will take place at the Basingstoke Masonic Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

The Bowls Hampshire Area AGM will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> November and our delegates will need to cast votes for the election of Vice Presidents. There are two candidates for each gender:

Paula Corney of St Mary Bourne and Mandy Orchard of Milton Park Ladies  
Neil Fletcher of Lockwood and Martin Reynolds of Southsea Waverley.

If any member wishes to express a preference, please let a Committee Member know so the view can be taken into account when the Committee decides how to mandate the delegates.

The Whitchurch League AGM will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at Old Basing.

# LADIES SECRETARY



From Janie Vickers

There is very little to report at the moment.

Firstly congratulations to Nicole for winning and Heather for being runner-up in the County Junior Singles and for all their other achievements this season.

Lists for the BH and NHWBA luncheons have been circulated and hopefully we will have good representation.

Some of our ladies were again selected for the BH and NH ladies friendlies.

It is hard to believe the season is over and good luck to those who now go indoors.

Finally many thanks to all those involved in making our tour to The Forest of Dean so enjoyable.

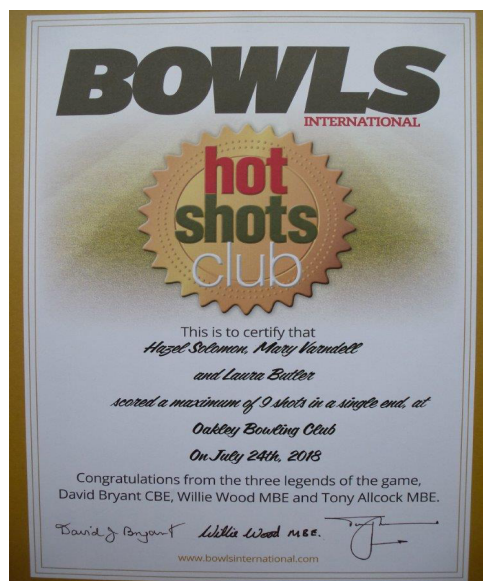
## !Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to Lesley on her 80th Birthday this month from all her friends at the Club.

## ! HOT SHOT !

From Laura Butler

Congratulations to Hazel, Mary and Laura.





# Jack High

From Coral Wearn

The 2019 'Jack High' commences after the AGM in November.

I will be at the AGM and will take any payments that members wish to make for the next season. I will also have a list of the unused numbers that new members, or existing members, may purchase at that time. The more we sell the more prizes there will be and also more profit paid to the Club funds.

Below is a brief summary of what the 'Jack High' is: -

## OAKLEY BOWLING CLUB

### THE 'JACK HIGH' CLUB RULES

The rules of the Club are as follows: -

1. The membership subscription per share will be £2 per month and each share will be allocated a number. For Jack High purposes the year will run to coincide with the Bowling club year i.e. November to October and payment will be collected in advance at the Annual General Meeting. Members who join the Jack High Club during the year will be required to pay subscriptions only for that part of the year remaining.
2. Non-payment will automatically disqualify the share from winning.
3. If at any time it becomes necessary to dissolve the Club the 'Jack High' Club committee guarantees to refund all subscriptions received except those relating to draws that have already taken place.
4. All members will be notified of the numbers allocated to their shares and will participate in draws for the benefits specified in Rule 5.
5. The benefits will consist of prizes each calendar month (*number of prizes and amount of each prize will be dependent on the amount of subscriptions collected to date of draw*), these draws will be made monthly at a Club function i.e. Friendly Match, Club Day, Annual Dinner Dance etc.
6. The numbers of the prize winners will be determined by a draw made on each of the said occasions, with numbers being drawn at random by Club members present.
7. Each prize will be paid to the winning member by the member responsible for running the Jack High draw.
8. Numbers disqualified (see Rule 2) will be classified as being held by the 'Jack High' committee and any money will be paid to the Bowling Club's current account.

# ***Thank you***

From Coral Wearn

Thank you to everyone for the cards and tributes to Trevor that I received.

Also an even bigger '**Thank You**' for the contributions to St. Michael's Hospice, the total collected was **£1,455.00**, which I have now taken to the Hospice and have received a Thank You letter from them.

Once again thank you all.

## **Catering Thanks**

From Sandra Lee

I would like to thank my Team of Chris, Diane and Hazel for all their hard work this last Season and helping to maintain the Club's reputation for great food.

Thank you also to all volunteers who helped on the Friendlies with the preparation of the food etc. mostly supplied by our generous members without whom this would not be possible.

I would also like to thank Virginia, Gavin, Jean, Ted, and Jonathan whose help with the hosted and touring games was very much appreciated.

## Social Events

From Your Social Committee

This has been a busy year starting with the indoor games evening in April which was a big success.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the very successful Garden Party and Fete to celebrate 40 years of Oakley Bowls Club. Thanks must go to Vice President Lesley who was in the lead, also the catering team, and all the people who helped put up marquees, ran the bar and did all the things that made the day run so well.

The Car Boot sale was again a good fund raiser for the club and thanks go to all who donated items and those who sorted the donations and sold on the day. It's hard work but a good earner for the club.

Unfortunately there were few takers for the Race Night in August so this had to be cancelled.

The end of season Music Evening with dancing and supper was again a very successful event attended by 90+ members.

Whilst away on tour Hazel canvassed people for suggestions and we have a fairly comprehensive list, two of which we are looking to organise early next year. Should you have any further ideas or suggestions please contact any member of the social committee.

### **Future events are:**

**6 December** - A visit to the Christmas Market in Bath, this is filling up fast so contact Bob and Barbara on [goodyearb@bopenworld.com](mailto:goodyearb@bopenworld.com) to book your place.

**16 December** – The Christmas lunch at Basingstoke Golf Club is booked and Janie has asked everyone to “save the date”. Look out for further information and menu choices to ensure you don't miss out.

**Feb 2019** – Hazel is looking at a trip to Bombay Sapphire. Can you please let her know if you're interested on [hazelsolomon254@btinternet.com](mailto:hazelsolomon254@btinternet.com) Groups for the guided tour consist of 11-50 people costing £22.50 per person which includes a drink. The tour lasts approximately 2 hours. Payment is required 1 month before the tour date. Assistance is available for disabled persons. Please note no high heels or open toed sandals are allowed. As this is close to home there would not be transport arranged but hopefully members could arrange car sharing.

There is also a self discovery tour costing £14.40 which includes a guided tour of the Still House (no photography is allowed).

**March 2019** – A guided tour of the MINI plant in Oxford is proposed. Tour groups are 15 maximum but groups can follow each other. The cost would be around £35pp to include coach and tour. It would be good to combine this with a visit to Bicester village outlet centre for shopping and lunch. Please note anyone with a pacemaker is not allowed on the factory tour. Cameras and phones are also prohibited.

Can you please email Ric on [richard.newson1@bopenworld.com](mailto:richard.newson1@bopenworld.com) if you are interested in this tour before we make a firm booking.

# Hospice Cup Continues to Thrive

From Keith Turnbull

Now that the Spoon Drive season is complete, I am pleased to announce that the Winner of the Hospice Cup, for the second year running, is Marion Bringes.

Runner up is Keith Bringes.

The scoring system applies a weighting factor to the aggregate shot difference over the season - designed to favour players who attend regularly and submit all their scorecards (even the poorer ones!).

Final Top 4 Scores were as follows:

Name	Final adjusted score	Unadjusted shot difference	Number of scorecards submitted (total possible was 18)
Marion Bringes	92	118	14
Keith Bringes	39	54	13
Dave Ball	35	57	11
Gavin Spearpoint	34	61	10

I can also report that a significant sum was raised by the Spoon Drives for St Michael's Hospice again this year.

Congratulations again to Marion.

## My last 40 Years

From Mary Turnbull

As the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Oakley Bowling Club approaches its end, I got to reflecting on the last (hopefully that should be 'latest' rather than 'last'!) 40 years of my life.

In 1978, the year the club was founded, Keith and I had been married for 7 years and still had no intention of having children – both of our careers being very satisfying and rewarding and our marriage solid as a rock. That was also the year we moved to Basingstoke from Essex.

Keith was working as a Senior Project Manager for Marconi in Chelmsford, designing and installing computerised message switching systems for the MoD at the time and I was a Civil Servant in Braintree. Keith was offered a better paid and more challenging job with Systems Designers Limited in Camberley and I discovered I could get an internal transfer to the Basingstoke offices, so we decided to up sticks and move to the wilds of Hampshire.

We found a house off Roman Road, sold our Braintree house straight away and began the tortuous process of completing the move, while Keith did a weekly commute from Essex to the new job in Camberley (in the days before the M25 – via the North Circular!!). Then Keith was assigned to a project in Germany for 3 weeks leaving me to sort everything out. Our solicitor, here in Basingstoke, was very new to the profession and somehow managed to complete the sale of our Braintree house but delayed completion of the Basingstoke house for a further 3 months.

I started my new job as a Staff Trainer in the Benefits section of the Civil Service offices in Grosvenor House, Basing View and lived in digs in Kempshott. I loved Basingstoke right from the start – being able to explore the huge (compared to Braintree) town centre at lunchtimes or walk along the canal to Old Basing. Keith, meanwhile, was still living with a colleague in Wokingham during the week and joining me in my digs at the weekends.

We moved into our new house a week before Christmas, having retrieved all our belongings from the storage company we had been using for 3 months. Fortunately, the solicitor, being threatened with the Law Society, had paid all our expenses and waived his fees as compensation for his error.

Although we had brought our motor bikes with us from Braintree (yes, we were raving rockers in those days!), we quickly realised that the speed and volume of traffic here compared to the wilds of Essex was too dangerous (especially the roundabouts – there was only one roundabout in Braintree!), so we abandoned them in favour of our brand-new Datsun Sunny. I have still not quite mastered the Basingstoke roundabouts and often end up somewhere other than where I am heading.

In 1981 we were blessed (if somewhat taken by surprise) with the imminent arrival of our first daughter and my adventures took a quite different turn as I gave up work to raise our two lovely daughters. The house was too small by now, so we moved to Kempshott in 1984. I did eventually change career again and qualified as a Special Needs Assistant at Kempshott Infants school. I also took on the setting up and running of the first Rainbow Guides unit in Kempshott as well as volunteering for Kempshott Neighbour Care. Meanwhile Keith, having been made redundant in 1991, embarked on what turned out to be a very successful career as a software quality assurance manager first for British Standards Institution and then for the huge international management consultancy Accenture. He retired in 2007 and we joined Oakley Bowling Club as brand new bowlers in 2010, since when we have hardly had a moment's rest!!

I was reminded of all this whilst playing the recent friendly against Loddon Vale. Brenda (an AWRE outdoor bowler) had also worked at Grosvenor House and her father was there in 1978 when I was. Our reminiscing disrupted our bowling a little but we had a lovely afternoon.

So, we have been in Basingstoke for the same 40 years the club has existed (never had a problem remembering the pavilion door lock code) and thanks to Oakley Bowling Club have discovered a passion for bowling that has been our retirement bonus.

Perhaps other members might like to share their own stories.

## 1998 - Chris Lee

As the club entered its 20's its success was marked at County level with it winning awards most years during that decade and though the club also challenged at National level the win remained elusive. 2004 however brought the Club the honour of Kay Kerley becoming EWBA President.

Elsewhere the Country was still obsessed with Diana who had died the previous year, with commemoration stamps being issued and memorial events being held. This was the year the DVD was launched and 6000 were sold. The millennium bug about the problems changing the year to 2000 would cause to computer systems, was regularly raised, and the millennium dome construction was started. In the wider world the company Google was launched and the EU countries agreed to launch the Euro, so 1998 saw the end of several currencies including the German Mark, the French Franc and the Italian Lira. The UK hosted the Eurovision Song Contest and Israel won - I never knew Israel was in Europe!

David Beckham was given a red card at the football world cup and sent off against Argentina. England lost on penalties – who would have thought it.

Films: Titanic, released the previous year won 11 Oscars and the war film Saving Private Ryan was released. Armageddon, which saw the earth facing extinction, was also released, to much criticism and great success.

Celine Dion's hit, 'My Heart Will Go On' from Titanic was the second highest selling single beaten by Cher with 'Believe'. The Spice Girls had their third consecutive Christmas number one with 'Goodbye', and after one more hit it would be goodbye from them.

The second Harry Potter book 'Chamber of Secrets' was published.

We said goodbye to:

actor and singer Frank Sinatra,

writer and comedian Frank Muir

controversial politician Enoch Powell

writer Francis Durbridge known for his radio and TV series Paul Temple

Joan Hickson the actress known for her portrayal of Miss Marple

Pipe smoking David Bryant had retired from International Bowls, so didn't win any medals at the Commonwealth Games, though England did win the men's fours.

# My non-bowling Tour

From Chris Lee

Another year has passed, and here we were on another bowling tour, or at least should have been. Waiting by North Waltham pond for the first pickup, eventually Mervyn's coach arrived rather late. Following the usual tour of Oakley, and an unexpected tour of Whitchurch, we were soon on our way. Four hours later we arrived at Bell's Hotel, Coleford where we had sandwiches for lunch before finding our room, which was large and had an excellent view of the car park.

Bowling on the Friday was at the hotel and I set off to see the sights of Coleford - that didn't take long. I found the essentials, which were a newspaper shop and the bus stop where the only bus service on Sunday and Monday would run from, which had severely restricted my planning for this tour.

I then visited the top site in Coleford, which was the Great Western Museum and received a personal guided tour by an enthusiastic volunteer. I found out that there were originally 2 railway stations in Coleford, but because they were owned by competing companies, a train need to change direction 5 times to travel from one to the other. I was also given a very interesting demonstration of the working and mechanical interlocking of the signal box – very clever engineering. The remainder of the museum was rather haphazardly arranged, but interesting. £4 well spent I thought.

Then it was back to the hotel, which was up a short but steep hill in time to see the end of the bowling. It was rather cold to sit outside so I opted to watch through the windows of the bar.

Saturday and the bowling was in Gloucester. The coach took everyone to Gloucester and dropped us at the inevitable shopping centre – not my idea of fun. I left the group and a brisk walk took me to the railway station where I was just in time to catch my planned train to Cheltenham Spa; the train pulling in to the station as I was crossing the overbridge. It was a journey of less than 10 minutes and the waiting bus set off for Cheltenham Racecourse Park and Ride, which was large but almost devoid of cars.

A walk along the perimeter road of the racecourse, up and over a hill brought me 20 minutes later to Cheltenham Racecourse Station on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway. I was in plenty of time for my train giving me time to look around and then 15 minutes later we were on our way. The journey time was around an hour as the railway had only this year opened its extension to Broadway, where only one of the 2 platforms had been completed. The whole railway was very well maintained with a lot of attention paid to detail.

After a return journey, a glass of cider from the buffet car and a walk back along side the racecourse I caught the bus back from the park and ride, for which I was charged a pound even though I had a bus pass. A train then took me back to Gloucester where I caught a bus to Barnwood, which dropped me right outside the entrance to the bowling club where I arrived in time to see the last few ends of the bowling.

Sunday, and bowling was in Chepstow, or at least should have been. It rained and rained and rained, all the bowling was cancelled, but we still went to Chepstow. There were sights to see in Chepstow, but it was so wet we never saw them, and nothing much was open in Chepstow on a Sunday. We did find a comfortable hotel

bar to spend an hour or so in before buying some M&S food for lunch and returning to the coach which took us back to Coleford, where it had stopped raining – oh well!

Monday and the weather was dry. Sandra had the Monday off from bowling, and we walked down to Coleford to catch the 10:30 bus to Lydney where a short walk took us to Lydney Town station on the Dean Forest railway. Shortly afterwards a train took us to Lydney Junction adjacent to the mainline. While the engine was running round, I found there was an observation car on this train, which we moved to and for £3 extra sat on a settee in one direction and in armchairs on the return journey, collected by an enthusiastic lady in a guards uniform.

The young lady was asked a question about measurements in chains, but she said that she didn't know how long a chain was. I helped out by reciting something I had been taught at the age of 7, as I am sure many of you were. 22yds=1chain, 10 chains=1 furlong, 8 furlongs=1mile. It is a pity that schools don't cover such subjects (after all the metric system should only take a few days to learn), and importantly as the Imperial system is still used today in so many situations. Cricket pitches are for instance one chain long between wickets, and furlongs are still used on racecourses. Markers along the side of railway tracks use this Imperial system, and the radii of curves on railways are measured in chains.

The train took us via Norchard, which was impressive with both high and low level stations, and is the main station on the line, then on to Parkend, also a very well kept station. On our return to Lydney Town, we left the train and had an excellent lunch in the Swan Hotel before catching the bus back to Coleford, to await the return of the bowlers who had been sent off to Wales.

Tuesday we set off for home with another stop at a shopping centre in Swindon (which has more roundabouts than Basingstoke) before arriving at Shrivenham, where I had spent time at the Royal Military College of Science many years ago, and then on to Faringdon where I set off to view the old market town. An interesting place to visit and I then investigated the Old Crown Coaching Inn before returning to the bowling club to watch the end of the bowling match and have a meal. I sat at a table with a lady who told us a weird story about a group of people who all had to do something. When it was this lady's turn she got up and did it. What we never found out was what it was they had to do. Very strange!

Before long it was time to return home to recover from another bowling tour.



# From Coleford to Norwich

By Chris Lee

It was disappointing that the numbers on tour were significantly lower than usual this year, particularly as Spencer performed such an excellent job picking it up at short notice. I particularly appreciated receiving the itinerary in advance, which made my planning so much easier. I understand that some of the reasons for people not going on the tour were to do with the location, with little to occupy them during time off from bowling, poor public transport, and that hill from the town to the hotel.

None of those problems will exist with next year's tour to Norwich. The hotel is only one minute walk from a bus stop which has a regular service to the town centre even on Sundays and Bank holidays. The town centre can also be easily reached on foot in under 20 minutes, and East Anglia is not renowned for its hills.

There are many things to see and do in Norwich, and if you have a day off you can easily reach many places outside Norwich such as Wroxham on the Broads, and the coast at Great Yarmouth to the East or Cromer to the North.

I worked on and off for several years in this area and on one of my visits I stayed in Norwich in the Castle Hotel, which was subsequently demolished as part of the Castle Mall development, which will appeal to those who enjoy shopping malls. I will of course be visiting some Heritage Railways, but will make sure I spend some time in Norwich with its 11th Century Cathedral, its historic streets, gardens and museums. There is so much to see, that you might not have time for any bowling!

Do ask our Vice-President Lesley if you have any questions and I will also help if I can, but book your places on next year's tour while there are still spaces available. Also don't forget that Norwich is where our landlord Sir Michael Colman came from.

## Tuffs Teasers

**from Frank Tuffs**

Each word is an anagram of the word above plus one extra letter.

1. Public House
2. One less than ten
3. Fabric
4. Finch
5. Not strict
6. Sentry
7. Ernestly

## Editor's Corner (Sandra Lee):

### QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE

"If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich"  
(John F. Kennedy, 35th president of the U.S. (1917-1963).

"Courage is when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and see it through"  
(Harper Lee, U.S. writer, (1926-2016).

### Tuffs Teasers - Possible Answers

1. Inn
2. Nine
3. Linen
4. Linnet
5. Lenient
6. Sentinel
7. Intensely