



Brush Bowls and Sports Club  
Watermead Lane  
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### Christmas Greetings Everyone

After the year that's almost gone it's great to be able to look forward to next year with a clear sign of better times just around the corner. At Brush I can promise you that, providing circumstances allow, we will have many exciting things planned for you all during 2021.

In April, we will hold our annual Open Day. Hopefully, the work that we have been doing with the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) will help us to put together a strong event which will attract a few new faces to the club. Our membership numbers definitely need a boost so, with your help, we will be doing all that we can to ensure that it's a great success.

Early in June, we will be saying "Croeso i Loughborough" to a Welsh Touring side, the Ceredigion County Bowling Association. This is not just one club, it is a combination of the best from Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Lampeter, Llandysul, New Quay, Newcastle Emlyn, Queens Road and Tregaron bowling clubs. It will be a tough match for certain, but one that most of you, like me, will be looking forward to.

On Thursday July 1st, we will be welcoming to the Brush teams representing Leicestershire and Warwickshire for a Mens County match. It's not often that we get chosen to host such a high-profile fixture so it should be well worth coming along to give your support. Our big green should present a real challenge for both teams. We will need to cater for a large group on the day so offers for volunteering will be most welcome. Please put the date in your diaries now.

The following day on July 2nd, most of us will hopefully be going on our planned mini-tour to Lincolnshire. Over Friday, Saturday and Sunday we will be playing matches against teams from Sutton-On-Sea, Alford and Horncastle. All three clubs are looking forward to welcoming a team from another county. The weather should be good at that time of the year so it should be a great few days away for everyone, bowlers and spectators alike.

So, much to look forward to. And hopefully, we can all look ahead to having a full season of friendlies, league matches and competitions next year.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas, whatever the rules and restrictions may be. Stay safe and all the very best for a "Covid-Free" 2021.

Mick McAuliffe



## The Legend of St. Nicholas: The Real Santa Claus

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named **St. Nicholas**. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best-known St. Nicholas stories is the time he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery or prostitution by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married. Over the course of many years, Nicholas's popularity spread and he became known as the protector of children and sailors. His feast day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6. This was traditionally considered a lucky day to make large purchases or to get married. By the Renaissance, St. Nicholas was the most popular saint in Europe. Even after the Protestant Reformation, when the veneration of saints began to be discouraged, St. Nicholas maintained a positive reputation, especially in Holland.

Perhaps the most iconic department store Santa is Kris Kringle in the 1947 classic



Santa Claus movie “Miracle on 34 Street.” A young Natalie Wood played a little girl who believes Kris Kringle (played by Edmund Gwenn, who won an Oscar for the role) when he says he is the real Santa Claus. “Miracle on 34 Street” was remade in 1994 and starred Lord Richard Attenborough and Mara Wilson.



The Macy's Santa has appeared at almost every **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** since it began in 1924, and fans of all ages still line up to meet the Macy's Santa in New York City and at stores around the country.

## The Ninth Reindeer, Rudolph

Rudolph, “the most famous reindeer of all,” was born over a hundred years after his eight flying counterparts. The red-nosed wonder was the creation of Robert L. May, a copywriter at the Montgomery Ward department store. In 1939, May wrote a Christmas-themed story-poem to help bring holiday traffic into his store. Using a similar rhyme pattern to Moore's “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” May told the story of Rudolph, a young reindeer who was teased by the other deer because of his large, glowing, red nose. But, When Christmas Eve turned foggy and Santa worried that he wouldn't be able to deliver gifts that night, the former outcast saved Christmas by leading the sleigh by the light of his red Nose. Rudolph's message - that given the opportunity, a liability can be turned into an asset - proved popular. Montgomery Ward sold almost two and a half million copies of the story in 1939. When it was reissued in 1946, the book sold over three and a half million copies. Several years later, one of





May's friends, Johnny Marks, wrote a short song based on Rudolph's story. It was recorded by Gene Autry and sold over two million copies. Since then the story has been translated into 25 languages and been made into a television movie, narrated by Burl Ives, which has charmed audiences every year since 1964.

## Brush Bowls Club – Tour 2021

2021 will see the tour heading to Lincolnshire. Basing ourselves in Skegness there will be three matches over 2nd July to 4th July. There are 26 members representing the Club, with a playing squad of 18, so plenty of opportunity to play.



We have two Birthday Boys in December  
Happy Birthday to:  
Dennis Kent and Lea Toone

Just a quick note from the members so say a big thank you to Mick and Pete for running



the Zoom Quiz. The members are really enjoying themselves, so thank you from everyone, for giving your time and keeping everybody engaged.

# Christmas Cheers .....

## Mulled Wine Recipe .....

Making mulled wine couldn't be easier. Combine a bottle of red with some orange slices, spices, honey, and brandy, and let it simmer for 10 minutes. THAT'S IT. We like using a dry variety of wine like a merlot. But really, any kind that you like should work! If you don't like brandy, or don't want to buy a bottle, skip it

MAKES: 6 SERVINGS    PREP TIME: 5 MINS    TOTAL TIME: 15 MINS

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (750-ml.) bottle red wine
- 1 orange, sliced into rounds, plus more for garnish
- 6 whole cloves
- 3 cinnamon sticks, plus more for garnish
- 3 star anise
- 90 g honey
- 120 ml brandy



### DIRECTIONS

- In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine all ingredients. Bring to a simmer not a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer gently over low heat for 10 minutes.
- Serve warm and garnish with more citrus slices and cinnamon sticks.





And some extra special good cheer .....

An early Christmas present for Pete Chambers. I am pleased to say that after a prostate test, the result was negative. In Pete's own words 'statistically 6 out of 7 drawfs are not Happy' but he certainly is !!!



Who Do You Think You Are ..... Dave Saunders.....



I was born in Brighton and grew up in rural Sussex but in 1969 moved to Loughborough to join the then Brush Electrical Engineering Company as a student apprentice. I signed a 6 year contract during which time the company sponsored me on a sandwich course at Bradford University. One of my motivations to join Brush was their involvement in the rail industry but this had largely ceased by the time I arrived. Luckily, by the time I graduated this side had picked up again and my first appointment was as an electronic design engineer in the Traction Division where I was fortunate to work on the iconic High Speed Train Project.

A life long railway enthusiast it was probably inevitable that I would eventually work for BR and so in 1975 I joined them at the Railway Technical Centre in Derby. Despite being offered relocation expenses to move house I decided that I wanted to remain living in Loughborough. I held various roles in BR, finally as MD of a self standing design consultancy business. This was privatised in 1996, purchased by the WS Atkins consultancy as part of their rapidly developing railway engineering business. With both employers I was able to travel extensively around the world undertaking engineering consultancy work including several years as part of the



tri-national team approving the design of the original Eurostar trains and as a UK representative on a number of EU committees developing the railway design standards that have now been adopted around the world.



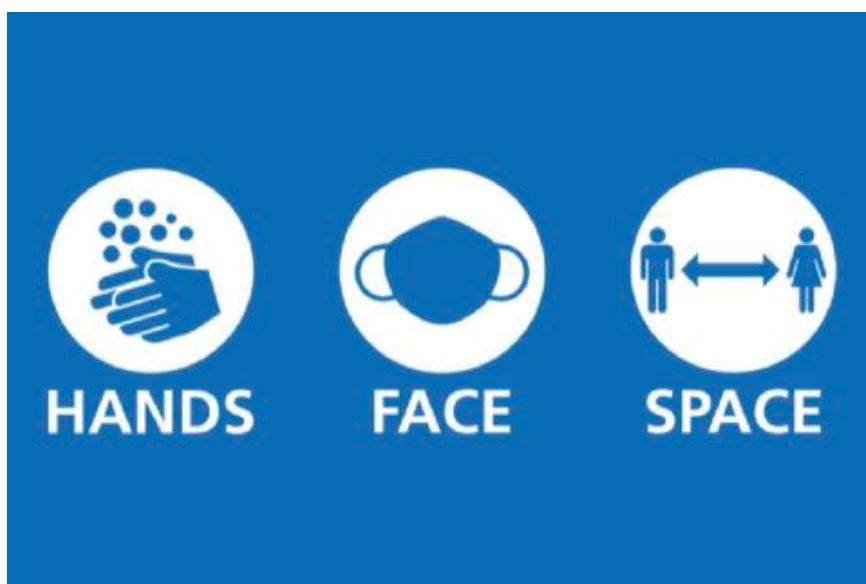
I was fortunate to have the opportunity to retire early in 2008 and the following year, thanks to Phil Beaken, started bowling with the Brush Club. I have been Treasurer since Jan 2010.

Outside bowls, when time permits, I am heavily involved in the running of the Derby Railway Engineering Society and enjoy walking, gardening and travelling the world.

## 2020 comes to a close.....

So finally we get towards the end of 2020. Not the year anyone was expecting. Hopefully families will be able to get together to celebrate the festive season.

The important thing is to follow the guidance and keep safe. As always we will keep you up to date with Club news and any new government or bowls association guidance.





From all the members of your Christmas Management Committee, (in no particular order)

Dick Whittington



Cinderella



The Ugly Sisters



Fairy Godmother



Tinkerbell



Widow Twankey



Aladdin



Mother Goose



So in true Panto fashion ..... We're **Behind you.....**

**Behind the Members, Behind the Club and Behind the Future**

I'll leave you to work out who's who .....

So from Mick, Dave, Pete, Lea, Debra, Ann, Lesley, Brian & Nick

