



Brush Bowls and Sports Club  
Watermead Lane  
Loughborough  
LE11 3T



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## BRUSH MATTERS

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October 2020

Trick or Treat .....



First, a Treat, a message from our own  
Count McAuliffe

Hi Everyone

As the season draws to a close, we should reflect on the many positives that have come out of the last few months. It has been a difficult year for all of us but that has not stopped us from taking advantage of the unexpected down-time.

I hope that those of you who have been able to bowl this year have enjoyed your playing time at the club. Since we took the decision to open the green in May, the Wednesday and Friday roll-ups have proved to be increasingly popular. Thanks to everyone for abiding by the rules, maintaining your distance and keeping everyone safe. In August and September, we even managed to play a couple of friendlies against Sutton Bonnington resulting in two big wins for the Brush.

Work has been going on behind the scenes to keep the green and the clubhouse in good order. Dougie, our long-time green keeper has decided to retire but his understudy Chris is proving to be a very worthy replacement. Thanks go to Dougie for all his hard work over many years. The Council have already started work on improvements to the green in readiness for next season.

Our work with the Bowls Development Alliance continues. A questionnaire was sent out to all members recently and, taking account of your feedback, a comprehensive Business Plan for the club has been put together. The committee will be working on several key areas of this plan during the coming months. Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete your questionnaires, the level of responses received was very good.

I am delighted to report that we have been successful in obtaining two grants over the last few months. Sport England have conditionally awarded us £5,000 which we plan to use towards much-needed improvements to our toilet and changing room facilities. Part of that plan is to move the ladies changing room into the main clubhouse. We also plan to install disabled facilities as part of a brand-new toilet block. The other grant was an £800 award from the British Associations Charity Trust. This money has paid for a new set of aluminium steps that will provide safer access to the green. The steps have been ordered and will be with us soon, ready for use next year.

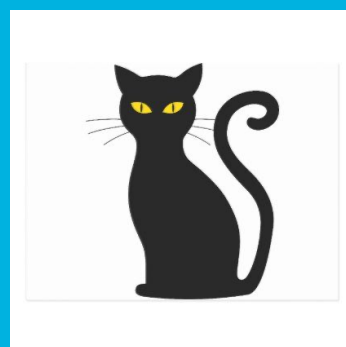
A big thank-you needs to go out once more to our many volunteers who, even through tough times, have worked hard again this season to help the club whenever they can. I was very heartened to hear that in the recent questionnaire several other members offered their help with future projects. We will be in touch with each of you to see how we can best use your skills to help the club.

On a negative note, some of you may have heard that the council have passed a planning application which will allow the basketball court, currently situated in the carpark, to be relocated directly in front of our clubhouse. Needless to say, the committee are opposed to this decision, particularly as we were not consulted beforehand. A strongly worded letter was sent to the council voicing our concerns and, as a result, a meeting with the club, the council and near neighbours including the children's day nursery is due to take place on Wednesday 30th September. We will keep you all aware of any developments.

Thanks for your support this year. I hope that 2021 is a better year for all of us.

Mick McAuliffe

President





## Intra-Club Competitions .....And the Winners are.....

### 2 Wood Singles



**Mick McAuliffe**



**Mick Spencer**

### 4 Wood Handicap Singles



**Mick Spencer**



**Alex Kirk**

### 4 Wood Pairs



**Mick Burrow &  
Mick Spencer**



**Lesley McAuliffe &  
Dave Saunders**



September 'Clever Clogs' are .....



**Congratulations** to Jenny & Alex Kirk with an impressive 71 words made out of the word September.

## This months Quiz .....

From our very own Quiz-Master, Pete Chambers:

### Questions

1. How many "Lords -a-Leaping" are there in the song Twelve Days of Christmas.
2. How many columns are there in a game of Connect 4?
3. Which Zodiac sign would you be if you were born on Christmas Day?
4. Ben Hur was nominated for 12 awards at the 1960 Oscars, how many did it win.
5. What is the name of the Christian festival that happens 12 days after Christmas?
6. What product did Linda Bellingham advertise on TV for 12 years?
7. Who played James Bond in the film "Golden Eye"
8. Which country did Celine Dion represent in the Eurovision Song Contest in 1988?
9. What is the name of an angle bigger than 180 degrees?
10. How is Stevland Hardaway Morris better known?

**No prize, just that satisfying grin.....Winner announced next month.**

And now another **Who do you think you are .....**

**Debra Hardwick**, Honorary Secretary

Having joined the Club at the end of the 2018 season, last year was my first full season, having never played bowls before. An interesting season with some ups and downs, but a sport I now love and will continue to play.

My best achievement was getting to the semi-final of the Ladies Singles in the Intra-Club Competitions in 2019. Not bad for a novice.

I was lucky enough to be able to retire from working life at 54 yrs old. I've worked for family owned, corporate and global businesses, primarily as a Buyer and have developed and bought products for high street retailers, mail order and consultancies. I have bought shoes & slippers (I knew Mick McAuliffe when he had dark hair), beach wear, cookware and in my last position, industrial sized cranes and explosives!!



I was lucky enough to travel overseas in my various roles and it is probably that which has given me the passion for travelling, to experience different places and cultures. There aren't many countries I haven't been to over the years, except I've never been to South America. Some countries I've visiting several times and there are a handful I wouldn't go back to.



I am a great puzzler, loving crosswords, sudoku etc. and jigsaw puzzles. I joined the U3A Jigsaw Exchange group, but only managed 2 meetings before lockdown. I am an avid reader, mainly detective novels and thrillers. I enjoy swimming, walking and eating out. All of which are more difficult, if not impossible to do currently, but let's think positive and hope the situation improves soon.

Well, that's more than enough about me, a bit of an insight into some of the things that make me tick.

**Another profile next month**

## **October sees the end to a non-Season**



Whilst the fun and games are over on the green, those that chose to play have enjoyed the opportunity to practice, play friendly matches and socialise.

We managed to socialise, albeit distanced, but safety was always the first concern. A group of members got together as a 'task force' to prepare

the ground for winter. Weeding and planting, cutting back hedges, preserving woodwork - fences, benches and Ladies changing room. The scoreboard was beautifully renovated. The kitchen has been deep-cleaned and a new glass washer fitted for the bar. The function room curtains given an overhaul. Overall a fantastic effort by all involved.

We are still living with the pandemic and some restrictions will, I think, be with us for some time yet. We will continue to keep you updated on any changes/revisions to the Covid-19 pandemic advice and guidelines.



A calendar of Social Events was planned and organised by Pete Chambers and June Baker. However, with the pandemic still having a grip on the country and the latest restrictions now in place, there is little chance of the Program of events happening as planned. Pete and June, along with others, are looking to see if there are alternative routes to us being able to socialise and we will keep you informed. With this in mind, the Committee have taken the decision that the Clubhouse will remain closed until January 1st 2021 when the situation with Covid-19 can be re-assessed. It is disappointing but we all need to keep safety at the forefront of our actions.

Development work will continue in the background during the 'closed season' and the Committee will continue to keep you up to date on progress as we look forward to a 2021 season.

