

On The Bank

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Newsletter of Malden Manor Bowling Club

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Joan Godly sadly passed away on 23 May. Limitations imposed by the current pandemic have prevented Joan's friends in the Club from attending her funeral. For this reason and because we have received so many tributes from our members, OTB has temporarily waived Joan's original policy of keeping Club obituaries at a low key.

We have decided that this issue of On The Bank will be published in two parts. This is part one. Part two will follow shortly.

Joan Godly 1930-2020

Joan joined Manor Park Ladies in 1980. She had been introduced to bowling by her parents, along with Ted, her sister Pat and her husband, after her parents retired to Worthing.

Joan served as Captain, President, and Secretary of Manor Park Ladies'. She was a very capable bowler: winning the MPL championship on two occasions; the Drawn Pairs championship with Rita Harvey; the Two-Wood cup. She achieved her Surrey badge in 1985. Joan served as Assistant Secretary of Surrey County Women's Bowling Association from 1988-93. During her period of office, she organised the County Diamond Jubilee service, held in Guildford Cathedral in 1991.



As a qualified coach, Joan established our Coaching capability. She held many varied coaching sessions at Manor Park and also arranged for the County Coaching team to visit several times, to provide further instruction. She was always readily available to coach novices; to mark; to support and encourage members in their play. She was presented with the SCWBA Loyal Service award in 2003 and became a Life Member of Manor Park Ladies.

Joan was a member of the Manor Park Bowls Management Association, formed when the ladies of Manor Park Ladies and the men of Malden and Coombe were in negotiation with Kingston Council about taking responsibility for the maintenance of the facilities. She and Gill Platt (now a Life Member) were the initiators of a regular Club newsletter to ensure that members were kept up-to-date on the progress of the negotiations. Thus **On the Bank** was born in July 1994.

Profiles of each member of the Association committee were published, informing Club members of their background. Joan was the profile interviewer and also the general news-gatherer. She retired from OTB in 2013, having been co-editor, firstly with Gill Platt then with Tony Thomas, for a total of 74 issues.

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Joan Godly Continued from Page 1

Joan was the first person granted a licence to serve alcohol in our newly installed bar, in The Tony Smith Clubhouse. At the time of the application, she, as the applicant, had to appear in front of magistrates, to show she was a fit and proper person to hold the licence..

In 2009, after the amalgamation of M&C and MPL, Joan was appointed as the first President of Malden Manor Bowling Club. Her period of office lasted for two years. Her common-sense approach and depth of knowledge of both procedures and the game proved invaluable. She gave us our structure.

She was also very supportive in many ways including driving members to a hospital appointment or to attend regular treatment sessions. Until recently, Joan and Ted were ever-present at all the Club social functions. Joan was also a playing member of King George Indoor Bowling Club for many years and served as a director.

Joan and Ted moved to New Malden on marriage in 1953. They had met whilst working at the Laboratory of the Government Chemist. They both studied for degrees at evening classes at the same time and attended Chemistry practical together on Saturday mornings. Joan took Botany, Zoology with Chemistry as an ancillary subject; Ted studied Chemistry, graduating with Honours. Their graduation ceremony was held in the Royal Albert Hall. They lined up then marched across and bowed to the Queen Mother, Chancellor of London University. Edward Godly was followed by Joan Godly.

Joan then decided to go into teaching. Her first post was at the 2000-pupil Mayfield Girls' Comprehensive, Putney, where she became Head of Biology. She also taught in the independent sector at St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith and Sir William Perkins, Chertsey. She was an examiner in 'A' level Biology for 21 years and also wrote occasional reviews of visual aids material for the Times Educational Supplement. She retired from teaching in 1985.

Our thoughts are with Ted and sons Chris and Steve and their families. The memory and influence of Joan Godly, who did so much for bowling at Manor Park, will live on for a very long time.

Tributes to Joan:

President David McGrady:

The Quiet Revolutionary

Joan had been the elder stateswoman at Malden Manor for as long as I can remember. Perhaps newer members associate Joan with the more traditional wing of the Club but about 30 years ago, Joan was among a small group of members with the vision and bravery to take the then radical step of taking the Club out of Council control and placing it into the hands of the members. A group that went on to steer the then two clubs into a new era with the creation of the management company and the pursuit and eventual achieving of the original extension to the clubhouse. Joan's quiet demeanour clearly hid revolutionary traits.

Always pristine in either Club colours or Surrey blazer and hat, Joan was an ever-present figure in the life of the Club. If correction was required, Joan never hesitated to correct but it was always measured and positive with the aim of improving an individual's performance on the Green or their conduct off it. Joan would always search for a positive and never dwell on the negative. This stemmed from her training and experience as a teacher and her own nurturing outlook. This led to Joan being respected as one of our premier coaches by generations of bowlers including myself and my son. To many, Joan was a mentor, inspiring others to equal and exceed her own achievements at Club and County level.

Joan generated loyalty in those who knew her well and she happily repaid this in her unselfish service to members and the Club and for what it stood. Joan was a force for good for many years and was rightly made our first President when the clubs merged in 2009. It is an honour to succeed Joan in that role and the first question I always ask of myself is what would Joan do.

Joan's death is a loss to us all, but the greater share of the burden is borne by Ted, her sons and wider family. To them go our deepest sympathies. Farewell Joan Godly, the quiet revolutionary. Long live the revolution.

Mark Smith:

An Example to be Followed

Before I joined the Club, I knew of Joan only by reputation, yet I knew that she had played an important role along with my father and others in the process of the two clubs taking over the management of the green and facilities.

The first time that I began to fully appreciate Joan's influence and guiding hand was when I was part of the team working on the amalgamation of the two clubs. The concern was always that the long-standing members would not be in favour of the men and ladies coming together as one club. Yet I can vividly remember chairing several general meetings to discuss the issue and being so relieved that one of those long-standing members – Joan – wholeheartedly spoke out, advocating the change. You sort of knew that once Joan had spoken, many others would follow, and of course they did. Joan had a clear understanding of the way that the bowling world was moving.

Joan was elected the President of the newly formed club and she contributed fully to the management of the Club. Always there to guide the committee on its responsibilities or to be the conscience, reminding us of why or how things were done. Her memory will remind us all that progress is inevitable, but it always must be with respect to the past.

Joan was also keen on Club history. Her 'corporate memory' enabled her to put together two documents, one being the history of Manor Park Ladies and the other covering the role of the Management Association. A couple of years ago I promised her that I would use the archive material that we have to try and extend that work to encompass the full history of Malden & Coombe. If I ever manage it, I am very sad that Joan will not be able to read it.

Gill Platt:

My Hero, My Mentor, My Friend.

When I joined Manor Park Ladies in 1984, it was Joan who welcomed me, and when she realised that I was "quite good" encouraged me to enter the club competitions and the County Competitions.

Joan was a stickler for the etiquette of bowls, with rules and dress codes, but it gave me a good grounding of the rules and regulations of the bowling world. It's much more relaxed now of course. If you needed to know anything about bowls rules etc., Joan was the Oracle.

When we were allowed to wear trousers, I bought white crops and wore them to the club for a match - Joan commented, "actually, they are quite nice". When I started getting through in County Competitions, it was Joan who always came with me, particularly going to clubs in Streatham and Kew, which was another world to me.

Joan was there when I received my County Badge in 1995, cheering the loudest. I had to borrow her white gloves to shake the Surrey Presidents hand. How times have changed!

I was approached and asked to stand for the position of Junior Vice President of Surrey County Women's Bowling Association, after speaking to my husband Mike first, it was Joan I rang. She said, "Go for it, we shall be right behind you". And Manor Park were. Joan organised my Presidents Day in 2004 and it ran like clockwork. What a wonderful day it was.

When the club was asked if we would take over the running of the green, Joan and I were on the management association and we produced the first issue of 'On The Bank', which has grown so much from the first edition of one single sheet.

I left Manor Park in 2007, as we moved to Ewhurst, and I joined Milford Bowling Club, Joan kept in touch. When I was part of the winning National Women's Fours at Leamington, Joan was on the phone the very next day congratulating us.

Joan will be greatly missed by members of Malden Manor. She will always be part of my bowling career and will be with me when I am on the bowling green.

Gill Platt served on the Manor Park Management Association and was Association Secretary. Gill achieved her Surrey badge in 1996; served as President of SCWA in 2004 and as County Yearbook Secretary from 2005-12. She also served as Chair of Kingston Association of Disabled People. Both she and husband Mike are Life members of Malden Manor. Gill and Mike joined Milford Bowling Club on moving to Ewhurst and still bowl there

Maureen Cohen:

I first met Joan in 1987. Ivor and I were house hunting at the time due to the moving of the laboratory where Ivor and Ted worked together'. They invited us round for a cup of tea and a chat about the area. As we chatted we found that she was a teacher at Mayfield School at the same time that I had been a pupil.

Fortunately for me she taught the lower school and I was in the upper half of the school. You all know why I say 'fortunately', because Joan was a stickler for rules, and I always thought they were there to be broken. I don't think that we would have got along, then.

But we change or at least I did, and I owe much to Joan. For most of what I know about bowls came from her.

When we finally moved to Stoneleigh, Ivor and I joined Auriol bowling Club and after a couple of years bowling Joan asked me to join her Friday indoor bowling team at King George's. I felt very honoured as I hadn't been bowling very long and wondered if I was good enough. But Joan took me under her wing, encouraged me, gave me lots of advice, which hopefully I took on board and I hope I turned into a half decent bowler.

She also became a friend and I know I shall miss her around the green as will most of us in the bowls world.

Pat Wye:

My Mentor

I joined the club in 1991 when it was two separate clubs - Manor Park Ladies and Malden and Coombe Men. I joined with Jean Johnson and Marie Holwill (some members may remember Marie). Joan coached us and set us on the road to bowling.

She encouraged me to go in for all the competitions and to try for the Surrey Badge. She took me on as a partner in the Surrey pairs and accompanied me to the initial rounds of the singles. After a couple of years she encouraged me to find another partner and that's when I joined up with dear Ann Gunn.

Joan was still there in the background though, and now and again I'd get a little tap on the shoulder and she would say "Pat dear" I would think Oh dear what have I done - she always made sure I was doing right. She offered her advice and help in a very unassuming way.

As you all know she was a stickler for correct dress and behaviour on the green. She would say, "We must not let our standards drop - it reflects on the club"

For a few years I stopped trying for the Surrey Badge. Ann and I were so fed up with the cold and wet of early May when the first rounds started and not getting anywhere. However, in 2008 I decided to give it another go and again Joan was there to encourage me and in fact she and Ted were there at Purley Bury when Liz and I got to the quarter finals in the Surrey Pairs which gave me the final points I needed to qualify. It was a lovely feeling and a double bonus as it gave Liz another couple of points towards her badge. Joan and Ted were so excited for us.

Joan never missed any of the special club occasions, but there was one Captain's Day when she told me that she wouldn't be there. I asked if she was doing anything special and she said that her grandson had just joined a Rock band and that she and Ted went to his gigs to support him. My mind boggled - Wow, Joan and Ted "rock band groupies". A picture came into my mind and I very cheekily asked her if Ted wore his collar and tie to the gigs. She replied with a big grin, "No Pat dear, he has a special polo shirt that he wears". She had a lovely sense of humour.

Joan was a very special person who gave so much of herself to others. Her time, knowledge, encouragement and friendship and I give thanks that she gave so much to me.

I shall miss her greatly.

Tony and Serena, Joanna Josolyne:

We have both valued the friendship of Joan and Ted throughout our time with the Club

Tony:

I joined Malden and Coombe in 1990. Before joining, I didn't realise that it was **not** a mixed Club! Even at that time it seemed to be one happy club with the men and ladies following their own activities, but joining together in mixed matches, tours and social events. I soon came to realise it was Joan's guiding influence in the Ladies' Club that we had to thank for this.

On and off the green, Joan was friendly with everyone, strict on etiquette, but always moving with the times and encouraging others to do the same. When the 'Manor Park Bowls Management Association' was formed in 1993; it was Joan Godly together with Gill Platt and Val Stevens that represented the Ladies in steering the two parent-clubs towards the happy mixed status that we enjoy now.

Joanna:

I will always remember Joan as a good listener. and I was one of many who benefitted from her fine teaching and encouragement on the green. Although I haven't played bowls for several years now, we always remained good friends.

In 2000, when I became a Church of England Reader at St James Malden, Joan and Ted very kindly attended my licensing service at Southwark Cathedral.

Joan had asked for me to take her Funeral Service. I felt very privileged to have been asked. Unfortunately, after starting the arrangements with the family and the undertaker, I was advised to withdraw, on medical grounds (because of the current pandemic). The service will now be taken by Rev Katie Thomas of St James instead.

Tony Thomas:

Many years ago when our children were young, I had the opportunity to work casual Saturday shifts with the editorial production team of sub-editors on The Sunday Times, editing, correcting news stories and cutting them to fit the space on the page to which they had been allocated.

Our chief sub-editor, a woman, was there to ensure there were no glaring errors (and the less obvious ones) on the pages being produced under time pressure by her team. Her role was known as PPP – passing pages for press.

I always told Joan she would have made a great chief sub-editor on a quality national newspaper as she was someone with a supreme eye for accuracy, sense and balance.

Joan co-edited *On The Bank* with me for several years, reading through the pages I had set up on my Publisher system to ensure accuracy. She never missed a comma or an apostrophe in the wrong place or an incorrect spelling of people or places. She often recommended - and I readily accepted - changes that might make something clearer to the reader.

Joan will have passed away knowing that *On The Bank*, the club publication she launched in 2009 along with former members Gill and Mike Platt, is still playing a significant role in the life of Malden Manor Bowling Club. There can be no better tribute to her memory.

Tony Thomas joined M&C in 1997, from Malden Bowling Club. He served as Chairman of the Manor Park Management Association from 2000-2006, Secretary of the Malden Manor Executive in 2009 and Chairman of the Executive in 2010 and 2011. He is now a member of Cuddington Bowling Club.

Maureen Grimwood:

Connie Biddle and I joined Manor Park Ladies in 2002 from Worcester Park, one year after our respective husbands, Doug and Eric, had joined M&C. We'd all been impressed by both clubs when we represented WP at the opening of the Tony Smith Club House.

In my first year, I agreed to Joan's suggestion to be MPL's delegate to Kingston and District. I served as secretary of the Association for five years, from 2006. She then asked if I could take over from her as Ladies' Secretary, which I did in 2005. I assume that my admin skills impressed her more than my bowling ability!

The value of having Joan in our Club was unbelievable. Joan had an amazing knowledge of both the game, county procedures and etiquette. For example, I learnt that we had to hand over the green to the County when hosting a County event and that it was courtesy to provide the umpire with a meal. Joan was our 'manager' when we provided meals for special events

Joan believed in moving with the times. It was Joan who sourced the MPL lilac shirts and purple fleeces. She was computer-literate earlier than most. Her organisational skills were second to none. She was always: encouraging; accessible to talk things over; could see a way forward. If one wanted a marker, bowling advice or someone to make tea at the Ladies' AGM, Joan was always available.

After Mark and I became editors of *OTB*, Joan would always send us a complimentary email following the publication of an issue.

To me, Joan is one of those rare people who are irreplaceable.

Liz Pope:

To me Joan "was the Club". She was the fount of all knowledge on its history, who was who and why things were done the way they were.

She may have had strong views on etiquette and dress code, but it was because she had the best interests of the club at heart and wanted it to retain a reputation for always doing things the "right way".

On a personal note, she was very supportive when it came to competitions such as the Surreys. She came to watch players in the later rounds of competitions and was present at county games when Pat, myself and then Pauline got our badges.

Joan will be sadly missed but will be remembered for a long time to come.

Pat Hall

In 2010, when I was organising Geoff's funeral, I initially planned for the wake to be held in the clubhouse. Once I realised how many people would be attending, I concluded that Manor Park Pavilion would be a more suitable venue. The problem was how could glasses, china, cutlery, alcohol, tea, coffee etc. be transported from our club house to the pavilion.

Just as I was standing in the pavilion, unsure what I should do, Joan and Ted walked in. They had seen the open door and decided it was about time they made a first visit to see inside the building. I explained my dilemma. Joan's response was that there was nothing to worry about and "we can easily do that". And she did!

Joan was so lovely, and they were such a devoted couple. She always called him, "My Ted".

Stuart Corner:

I was sad to learn of Joan Godly's passing. I shall always remember her fondly as my coach when I joined the club four years ago. I remember turning up at the car park ready for some coaching on the day of the Referendum.

The car park was flooded. and the polling station had been closed and I was trying to work out how to get to the club without getting my feet too wet. Joan turned up and said to me, "I'm alright, I've got my wellies".

When I got to the club the green was actually playable, so we managed to get some coaching in

Pat Bird:

When I joined the club from North Sheen, Joan gave me her all-wool tailored blazer.

Jose Blainey:

I loved chatting to her at the club.

Beryl Jessett:

Ted and Joan were such a lovely couple. Thoughts and prayers with the Godly family”.

Gill Peck:

A lovely, friendly and helpful lady.

Kathy Lock (Raynes Park BC and a former member of MPL):

Joan taught me how to bowl.

Joan’s funeral will take place on 11th June. It will be subject to Lockdown restrictions and President Dave McGrady will attend as a representative of the Club.

Rev. Katie Thomas has very kindly offered to take a Memorial Service for Joan after lockdown has finished.

If any member wishes to make a donation in lieu of flowers in memory of Joan, the family would like donations to go directly to the Princess Alice Hospice, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8NA.

Part two of this edition of On The Bank will be published in the next few days.