

On The Bank

June 2020

Newsletter of Malden Manor Bowling Club

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Available electronically for members using email

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An Update from the Executive

The Executive Committee hope that, those who feel they are able, are taking advantage of the lockdown rules being relaxed and booking your slots on the green.

Obviously 2020 is not going to be the bowling season we expected, but we will endeavour to maximise the bowling possible; dependent on when, and by how much, the Government guidelines are relaxed over the next few months.

Once again we thank all of you for having paid your subscriptions and thus maintaining your membership of the Club, despite the current situation. As I am sure you will appreciate, there are still a number of ongoing costs in relation to the clubhouse & buildings and in keeping our green in tip top condition. However, we plan, to provide a discount on the 2021 subscriptions. The size of this discount will be dependent upon the amount of usage permitted between now and the next renewal date, and the Club's financial position. A reconciliation of money paid for competitions and the pre-season social will also be made before the start of next season.

Mark Smith (on behalf of the Executive Committee)

Green Matters

The green has finally seen some 'action' this season. I had been steadily working at the club during the lockdown period, but to be perfectly honest, when the announcement came that lawn bowls could start up, there was still some work to be done to get the green ready for play. I must say a big thank you to Les Smith, who has really helped me by putting in some hard graft over the past three weeks.

Preparation has not been plain sailing. I was concerned that a lot of brown areas were emerging but could not understand why. We finally discovered that one of the sprinkler heads was not functioning correctly – right in the middle of the driest May on record! A lot of water has been applied to prevent the surface from disappearing altogether.

So, when the green feels a bit heavy when you first play on it, there's a reason!

I hope that all who choose to play over the next few weeks will enjoy themselves'.

Clap for Carers

After ten weeks, Clap for Carers came to an end on Thursday, 28 May. Some roads have decided to continue with the Thursday evening social contact. The general consensus is that many of us have got to know our neighbours better.

Some roads made the final Clap a special occasion. A family up the road to **Beryl Jessett** in **West Barnes Lane, Motspur Park**, played, 'We'll Meet Again', with family members playing the clarinet, trumpet and guitar. The big drum was brought out in Avon Close (**Maureen Grimwood**). Residents of **Inverness Road, WP**, surely appreciated the talented **Phil Thomas** when he sang the Rolling Stones', 'The Last Time'. Phil adds that his neighbours were all too young to remember The Rolling Stones at their best!

On 21 May, although **Gill Peck** caused havoc when blowing her acme thunderer whistle whilst banging her Fulham clappers, the police car sirens were actually in Stoneleigh Broadway not **Alsom Avenue, WP**. On 14 May, **Carole Hitchcock's** neighbour's uncle appeared and stood in the middle of **Parbury Road, Chessington**, playing his bagpipes. Carole says she found it difficult to clap as her fingers were in her ears! **President Dave** reported that the trombone player was still going strong in **Coombe Gardens, NM**, that night.

On 30 April, **Mark Smith** went upstairs and leaned out of the window to get a much better appreciation of the numbers on doorsteps and the amount of noise in **Stoneleigh Avenue, WP**. He says he could almost hear **Maureen Longhurst** (aka the mad woman of **Lynwood Drive**). Many roads, including **Alsom Avenue and Avon Close** sang 'Happy Birthday' to Captain Tom, after the clapping

Local Walks

Re-reading the latest edition of OTB and your suggestion for a longer walk I wondered if members were aware of an interesting signed nature trail down part of the Hogsmill River.

Access is easiest from Malden Manor Station area. Coming from Manor Park turn left out of the gates and then cross at the traffic lights and continue along Sheephouse Way. Cross over the large roundabout (Malden Manor Station is on the left above the roundabout). The road becomes a tarmac footpath and a few yards down there are signs for the Nature Trail. Either go left past a beautiful mosaic under the rail bridge and follow the signs or go right and follow the signs because the trail is a figure of 8 and you are standing in the centre. There are several information boards at various points giving details of things to see. It is an easy dry walk now but was incredibly muddy in February after the winter rains!

In fact, it is possible to follow the Hogsmill River all the way from Kingston to Ewell and the nature trail covers a small part of that much longer walk.

David Stevens

Yet another co-incidence

Anna Camps made contact to say their house in Highdown is the one that Margaret McGibbon lived in from the age of 11. The house was built in 1936 and the Camps are only the third set of owners. They moved from Kingsley Avenue where Ann and Roy Gunn were nearby neighbours.

A Tribute to the NHS

I made this 3D box frame in tribute to the NHS. I punched out all the little hearts in the colours of the rainbow I then glued them all on with



tweezers. I then added the clouds with a little glitter around the edges.

Christine Conduit



A Postcard from Cornwall, dated 5 May

I'm in Cornwall because I took my new lady, Jill, back home when she returned from almost being permanently stuck in Thailand. I drove her to St Austell 5 weeks ago on eerily empty roads. We are able to get out to nice areas to walk (legally-ish) and I have walked about 30 miles in the last 2 weeks. I know that because I was recommended an app, Strava, for my phone. It's free and tells you how far you have walked and shows you a map. I am fitter than for a long time and in the last 18 months have lost 10 kg, 1 stone 8 pounds.

I take lots of photos and some are attached: a type of dragon fly; the beach at Pentewan; a thrush; a buzzard.

I have been developing a new version of the Club Website. I inherited the job from Tony Josolyne. The new site is up and running and will, I think, serve the Club well. At present it is not as sophisticated as Tony's but, in time, it will improve. Because of the current situation it lacks some content and contains dummy results of matches.

I hope to be back in a few weeks to face a mountain of work in the garden. At least my neighbour is cutting the grass and forwarding my post!

Gerald Newman



Further Hints

One for the kitchen: if one wraps lettuce, cucumber, celery, rocket etc in a damp cloth and then puts this in a plastic bag before placing in the fridge, the salad ingredients will keep fresh beyond your expectations.

Social distancing?

The Announcements section of the Telegraph, 2 June, reported the death of Lionel --- "... beloved husband to Wendy and loving **farther** to Paul, Simon and Joanne..."

Some Good News

Announcements of births of members' grandchildren are not usually included in OTB (An exception was made when Mark (Co-Editor) and Helena's first grandchild, Diego, was born). But in these troubled times, good news is very welcome.

Maggie and Gordon are delighted to announce the birth of their sixth grandchild, Rio, born on 14th May, weight 7lbs 6ozs. Rio is a brother to Oakley.

Community Spirit

I decided to volunteer my services to Age Concern. They were looking for people, willing to help out with whatever was needed – shopping, collecting and delivering prescriptions, being a friendly voice on the end of a phone. I had looked into the NHS volunteer scheme, but at the time that was not up and running, and Age Concern appealed as it was helping people locally. Very quickly, I was up and running, doing the shopping for a couple of ladies. Shopping was a good option for me, as I also shop for my 89-year-old uncle.

In Stoneleigh Avenue, like many I'm sure, we have a WhatsApp group and in those first weeks, when things were scarcer, neighbours were often on the lookout for something specific. As I was already going out, I would take up the search for those elusive items. Some were obvious, like flour, eggs or yeast, but there were also the more unusual requests, like the couple who wanted tinned sardines in water, for their sick dog!

Queuing at the shops wasn't so bad, particularly once the supermarkets got the organisation in place. Sometimes you had to be lucky with the time that you chose to go, but I was (and still am) helped by an app that I discovered, which gives the current waiting times at all the local stores (the app's called 'Supermarket Check In' by the way).

I haven't had any calls from Age Concern in the recent weeks, but I have stayed connected with one lady in Mortimer Crescent, for whom I shop once a week. She is 94 years old and her daughter and husband are both over 70, so they don't get out either. It's nice because I am able to help someone who really needs it and because it's on a regular basis, I've got to know the things that she likes, so if I see something when I'm out and about, I get it before being asked.

Helena Smith

A Special '0' Birthday Celebration on 15 April

I had a surprisingly good day. We had planned a couple of birthday celebrations which couldn't happen due to lockdown. My daughter Lisa arranged for all the family members (including two nieces and one nephew in Australia) to send video greetings to her. Matthew, my grandson, then put all the messages together as a video, wishing me a 'happy birthday' and with loving captions. It ended with my favourite, Cliff Richard, singing 'Congratulations'. It was wonderful and made me blub.

Lisa and her children made birthday cards with a series of personal photos printed on the cards. I also had a photograph, in a silver frame, of the four grandchildren. My son Paul and Lisa gave me a joint present of a garden swing seat. This has had a lot of use in recent days.

I was shut in the kitchen with curtains drawn so couldn't see Lisa, her husband Andy and the children deliver the garden swing seat. It was a complete surprise. They also brought a picnic lunch with a homemade birthday cake. I provided the Cava. They stayed at the bottom of my garden whilst I sat on the new seat.

A Facetime call had been organised with Paul and Anja and children Emily and Jack, face-timing during their lunch breaks, whilst working from home, and in Emily's lunchbreak from the hospital, where she is doing admin work.

I received four arrangements of flowers, so indoors looked like a florist's shop, and 25 cards.

Turning 80 was very pleasant indeed! I am even more aware now of the love of my family and friends. The murder weekend I booked for close family has been postponed to a later date. We will then be able to celebrate my birthday again and be able to spend time with one another in person.

Jean Vincent

Quite Interesting?:

Shoes with five eyelets on each side can be laced up 51,840 different ways.

With thanks to QI

VE75 Day Celebrations

Phil Thomas (Inverness Road, WP): We just had a Zoom session with a few friends, and we are ready for a VE75 4pm street party. We were going to open a bottle of bubbly, but a neighbour came round with a couple of ¼ (Piccolo) bottles for us. The road is being painted by the young; we may sadly be forced to open a 75cl bottle as well if it goes on too long. We may use our Spotify account to play a few Vera Lynn tracks but the speakers are not very powerful for a street party.

Maureen Grimwood (corner of Avon Close and Kinross Avenue, WP):

Before the two-minute silence, two guys from Avon Close mowed the grass verges (a great improvement to the Council grass cutting service!).

I invited neighbours from six houses in Kinross to join in the Avon Close celebrations. Bill from 3 Kinross brought out his sound system and played Glenn Miller music, then conducted a sing-along. Sitting on my front lawn, at a safe-distance, were The Walls (Brian Forster's family) from Kinross Avenue and Martin from 1 Kinross. We drank Prosecco and ate home-made cakes. People came from Avon, Kinross and even Woodlands Avenue to join in the singalong. It was great.



Mark Smith (Stoneleigh Avenue, WP): Hayley, Rodrigo, Diego, Lucy and Adam came for afternoon tea on the drive. We all sat two metres apart and had scones, Victoria sponge and fairy cakes that I'd made. There was Pimm's and beer too. It was really nice to speak 'face to face'.

Aine Wania (Breamwater Gardens, Ham): I made a lemon swiss roll and fried Marzi's samosas for five neighbours, and we had tea. Marzi was outdoors for the first time since lockdown.

Lynda Padgham (Kingsmead Avenue, WP): Our street was well-decorated with bunting. Everyone came out for the 2-minute silence at 11am. At lunchtime, we all ate picnics lunches in our front gardens. Later, neighbour Steve Wicks gave a ukulele concert, playing a range of songs spanning 80 years, including, 'We'll Meet Again'.

Annette Brown (Burleigh Road, Sutton): We had a lovely morning and were with our neighbours, observing the two minutes silence followed by opening and sharing bottles of fizz. I was so pleased our young Asian neighbours joined in the silence and the celebrations.

Maureen Cohen (Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh): I had a lovely afternoon with about 30 neighbours. Wine, tea, cakes, chats and all fairly well distanced.



Beryl Jessett (West Barnes Lane, Motspur Park): I went to have a distanced tea with a friend in Phyllis Avenue. On my way home, I was given a glass of wine and had a lovely distanced-chat with two families (who I didn't know). They wanted to hear about my experiences of wartime. They gave me nibbles and sent me home with a lovely prawn curry. What a day!

Pat Hall (Church Road, WP): There was no street party, so I took my two sons' teddy bears outside for our own tea party in the front garden. People walking down the street shouted to me (I was gardening in the back) to ask permission to take a photo, which I readily gave.

More on the next page

VE Day Celebrations Continued

Roy Walton (Forest Side, NM): Caught this German walking up our street just had to nick his hatjoke. Sat on our neighbours drive a broomstick apart. Guinness cake and sunshine what could be better....no answers on a postcard thanks.

Pat Bird (Portland Avenue, NM): The even numbers, 2 to 12, got together outside for a toast and nibbles.

David Stevens (Haddon Close, NM) went for a cycle ride and passed several groups distance-celebrating in their front gardens.



Anna Camps, (Highdown, WP): Michael put our huge Union flag over the sitting room window, so it was pretty dark inside, however the outside was fantastic.

We had tea in our front garden, with sandwiches and cakes. Our neighbours had a BBQ in their front garden and offered us burgers. Both they and we played vintage music. What I found very interesting was that so many of our young neighbours wanted to know of our experiences in the war.

I was alone in the front garden when a young man dressed as a despatch rider passed by on his motor bike, giving me a lovely salute.

NHS Seacole Centre opens

Surrey's former military rehabilitation centre Headley Court reopened in May, as a temporary hospital to help coronavirus patients recover after treatment. The Centre will be hosted by the Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust and run by a partnership including GP practices, hospitals and Surrey County Council.

In just a few short weeks the former defence medical rehabilitation centre (DMRC) in Headley village was transformed into the NHS Seacole Centre, with space for up to 300 beds if needed.

The Centre is named after pioneering nurse Mary Seacole who set up the British Hotel behind the front lines of the Crimean War to help sick and injured soldiers recover. By honouring the British-Jamaican nurse, the hospital's name also serves as a tribute to the NHS's BAME (black and minority ethnic) staff who are working on the frontline of the UK's fight against the virus.

The first patients entered the hospital on 29 May.

Linda gains her Carpet Cleaning Badge

Linda Shellard has worked marvels with cleaning the carpet in the clubhouse. It took her a total of ten hours!



Quiz Corner

Thanks to Ray Eden, who has contributed the questions for the quiz. Ray asks, can you identify the lead singer/leader of the following groups:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ants | 16. Checkmates |
| 2. Blue Flames | 17. Comets |
| 3. The Pirates | 18. Shadows |
| 4. Tornadoes | 19. Teenagers |
| 5. Pacemakers | 20. Four Seasons |
| 6. Animals | 21. Waves |
| 7. Tremeloes | 22. Family Stone |
| 8. ? Dozy,Beaky,Mick & Titch | 23. Vandellas |
| 9. Amen Corner | 24. Lovers |
| 10. Kinks | 25. Rolling Stones |
| 11. Dakotas | 26. Queen |
| 12. Dreamers | 27. Slade |
| 13. Set | 28. Wailers |
| 14. Them | 29. Mindbenders |
| 15. Police | 30. Blue Notes |

100 Club Winners

Thanks to all of you who have supported the 100 Club this year. This is one aspect of Malden Manor life that can continue despite lockdown.. The first two monthly draws of the new 100 Club year were made by Les Smith and the winners were **Gill Beddall** and **Carole Hitchcock**, who each won £45. Congratulations to both ladies.

Update from Sarah Wall (daughter of Brian Forster)

S4K Sewing for Kingston has been up and running for seven weeks (as of 31 May). In this time, the group have made 19,793 items for all front line workers. Lots of people have been very busy in these unusual times.

We are very grateful to everyone who has donated items. Many thanks to Maureen G, who has kept us well stocked with materials, buttons and threads from bowlers and friends.



Quite Interesting?:

The most common starting price of Grand National winners is 25/1

With thanks to QI

Focus Investment Planning

Our friends from Focus Investment Planning have been in touch. You will have seen their advertising banner on display at the green. They would normally attend a couple of our drives, to run a free draw and a number of us have made use of their services.

They would like us to bring to your attention that, Focus Investment Planning is launching a new “remote advice service” for members.

It has been sponsoring bowls for over 15 years. Most of their clients are bowlers so they specialise in areas that we all need advice on, such as **Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Investment advice and Inheritance tax**. It also advises members on how they can **protect their homes and savings from care costs**.

If you would like to talk to Focus about any of these areas, even for updating your will then they would be pleased to hear from you and if you use their services then Focus will donate £50 to the Club.

This “remote advice service” enables members to be able to access this advice and type of service whilst still adhering to the social distancing rules or shielding.

If you would like to take up this offer then please contact Focus on 01293 401663 or email david.roser@focusinvestment.co.uk

Fountain flowers are back at The Royal Oak, NM

Paul Fountain flowers will be outside the Royal Oak, New Malden, daily from 9am to 6pm. He has a variety of garden plants for sale. He operates a fast, free delivery service - phone 07500 896 230 or 07871 502 612 for deliveries.

The 113th edition of On The Bank will be published soon. Please do continue to send us your contributions.

Quiz answers

1. Adam, 2. Georgie Fame, 3. Johnny Kidd, 4. Heinz, 5. Gerry Marsden, 6. Eric Burden, 7. Brian Poole, 8. Dave Dee, 9. Andy Fairweather-Lowe, 10. Ray Davies, 11. Billy J. Kramer, 12. Freddie Garrity, 13. Alan Price, 14. Van Morrison, 15. Sting (Gordon Sumner), 16. Emile Ford, 17. Bill Haley, 18. Cliff Richard, 19. Frankie Lymon, 20. Frankie Valli, 21. Katrina, 22. Sly, 23. Martha Reeves, 24. Lulu, 25. Mick Jagger, 26. Freddie Mercury, 27. Noddy Holder, 28. Bob Marley, 29. Wayne Fontana, 30. Harold Melvin