

Men's Presidents Tour to Portugal

On Sunday 12th April, Men's President, Richard Gardiner, along with forty tourists from the whole of the County, left Wiltshire for their Tour to Portugal. Bowlers, both male and female, came from Amesbury, Blue Circle, Downton, North End, North Wilts, Stratton Churchway, Supermarine, Swindon, Westlecot & Wroughton. We were delighted that two Past Presidents, Tony Watchman (2004) and Mike Hallam (2011), and the current Ladies Secretary, Babs Salter were able to join us. Our base was the Jupiter Hotel in Praia da Rocha on the Algarve, a well situated hotel with good facilities, lovely food and friendly staff.



We celebrated three birthdays while on tour:

13th April - Alison White, 14th April - Iris Gardiner & 15th April - Babs Salter



The Birthday Girls

On Tuesday 14th April our match was at Parque da Floresta, the westerly end of the Algarve. They are the current League Champions and this was our only game played on carpet. In cool blustery conditions bowling was difficult and the home team took every advantage of their local knowledge to win the game by 160 shots to 118, our biggest loss of the tour. The top rink of the day was Ray Rogers, Jenny Tanner, Iris Gardiner & Martin Salter with a score of 28 - 8.



It's Rink One! I'm 31 - 5 down!!



Top Rink

Thursday 16th April saw a slight improvement when we lost by 34 shots to Santo Antonia Bowls Club in Alvor. Playing on grass for the first time we took a little while to adjust; with the shot difference being only six shots on six of the eight rinks it was a good performance. The overall score was 110 - 144, with our top rink being Bob George, Gavin Newman, Joyce Pheby & Martin Salter on 20 shots to 14.



Enjoying the after match buffet



Top Rink

Friday 17th April we were against the Valverde Bowls Club, situated in a beautiful setting with good facilities and a lovely restaurant. Playing more consistently on a good surface, we produced our first win of the tour by 152 - 121. Good wins on three rinks provided us with the overall shot difference against a team which does not lose to many touring teams. Martin Salter's rink of Alan Jayne, Mike Hallam & Janet Prince could do no wrong, only losing three of the eighteen ends, they produced the 'result of the tour' with a great 38 - 4 win.



The whole group



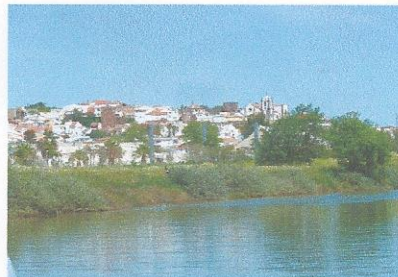
President Richard shares a joke with Captain Mel

Action Shots!!



Top Rink

Saturday 18th April, some of the group took a boat trip to Silves.



Just listen to me, Martin!



I've heard his jokes before!

After a free day, we next played on Sunday 19th April at Tavira Bowls Club, built almost single handed by one man, who sadly passed away last year, it is a lasting credit to him. Another surface that suited our bowlers saw us take four rinks each, but we took the overall shot difference by 128 - 107, in a fairly low scoring game. Top Rink, Ann Roberts-Phare, Gavin Newman, Clive Swift & John Pheby on 25 - 7.



Tavira Bowls Club

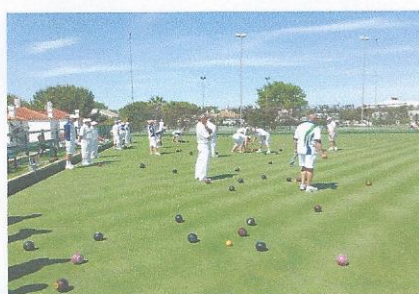


Top Rink

On Monday 20th April we travelled to the most eastern club on the Algarve, Pedras Bowls Club. Built in a complex with other sporting facilities and bungalow style accommodation, this is reckoned to be the best bowling surface in Portugal. Playing in warm sunshine, where the temperature reached 26C, our bowlers produced their best result against a club that had not lost against tourists for two and a half years. Winning on five rinks, one draw and two losses we recorded a forty-five shot win and took the match by 160 - 125. Top Rink today, Ann Roberts-Phare, Bob Tanner, Janet Prince and 'that man again' (Martin Salter).



They've taken the right green!



Wiltshire hold three!



Little & Large!

This evening we went to a local Portuguese restaurant for a meal and Presentation night.



Prizes were given to each member of the Top Rink of every game.

Our Top Lady Bowler of the tour, the only one with four wins, was Jenny Tanner from Downton. The Top Gentleman Bowler title was more closely contested affair with four bowler each having four wins. They were Bob Tanner (+22), Bob George (+23), Jim Ford (+27) and Martin Salter (Wroughton), who took the title with a plus 69 shot score. I am not sure how much excess baggage charge he paid to get all those prizes home!!

Time to let the hair down



We played a total of five matches during our eleven day tour, won three and lost two, total shots for 668 to 657 against, just an eleven shot difference!

Tony Watchman made a presentation to Richard & Iris, on behalf of all of the Tourists amounting to €241.00. This will go to their chosen charity which is Crohn's and Colitis UK.



A day of rest and recovery after the celebrations of the previous night, before we travelled back to Wiltshire on Wednesday 22nd April.

A very successful tour, enjoyed by the whole group, which was arranged through Ron Scott, the owner of Bowling Abroad Holidays.