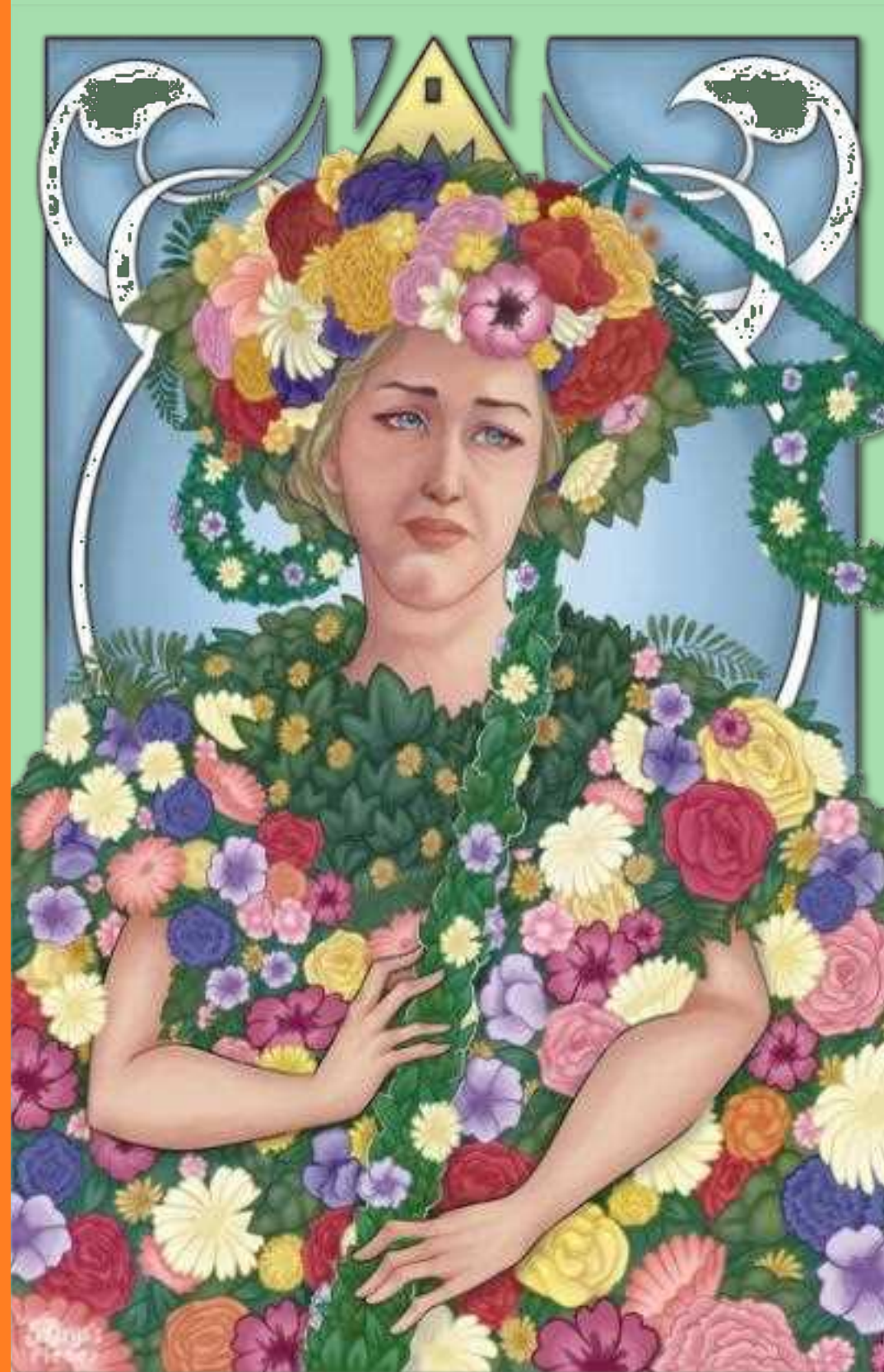




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May Day



Like many other festivals, **May Day** was a topsy-turvy affair when a 'lord and lady' would be chosen from among the ordinary people of the community to preside over the day. Eventually the focus shifted completely onto the woman and she became known as the May Queen.

This figure reached the height of her importance in the late Victorian and Edwardian periods, by which time she was embodied by a young girl decorously dressed in white and crowned with flowers. Accompanied by a 'court' of other girls, the May Queen had become a symbol of purity and the promise of spring.

The quintessential image of May Day is of dancers weaving the long ribbons of a maypole into intricate patterns. This practice was first recorded in mid-14th-century Wales but eventually spread far and wide.

As time went by, it evolved from an opportunity to flirt into a picturesque pastime for children, often tinged with nostalgia for a simpler and more innocent way of life.

The most comprehensive campaign against May Day was waged during Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth. Upon the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, maypoles were raised across the land as a gleeful marker of the end of Puritan prohibitions.

The May Day Bank Holiday was instituted by Michael Foot, then the Labour Employment Secretary, in 1978. A latter-day controversy flared up when it became a bone of contention for those who objected to the socialist connotations of the date.

Back in 1891, the first day of May had been designated International Workers' Day and set aside for organised industrial agitation: the energies of the spring festival turned to political ends.

The suppression of May Day traditions during Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth was soon overturned after the restoration of the monarchy.

Elsewhere, the long weekend has become a chance for families to explore many layers of history. In 2019 at Stourhead in Wiltshire, the May festival came full circle. Among the classically inspired temples and statues, the Festival of Flora was celebrated once more with a day of activities. Garlands of daisies were constructed to the ancient cry: 'lo Floralia!'

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*John
Bament*

RICHARD BEER President TDBC 2008 – 2024.

I had been asked by the Board to present Richard with the Club Award of Honorary Membership at the AGM, which would naturally have included a tribute to all he has done for TDBC. Members at that meeting will be aware that due to his on-going health problems Richard was struggling to cope with that meeting which had gone on for longer than anticipated and so I did not feel a long tribute from me was appropriate. However I do feel that, as seventy-five per cent of the membership did not attend the AGM, the main points of my planned tribute to Richard should be published in the Club Newsletter.

Richard joined the Board of Directors in 2005 which was right in the middle of a major financial crisis for TDBC. A sort of revolution had taken place in that in 2004 the Board had decided that if TDBC was to survive it could not continue to employ staff, staff costs in that year totalled just over £60,000. In future the Club would be run by volunteers. This decision split the Club and some members left, even more alarming was the departure of some Directors. Richard's role on joining the Board was to negotiate redundancy deals which led him into the heart of the Club's financial problems. Richard loves a challenge and with the help of Ralph Garland (donator of the Indoor Scoreboard) they took a firm control of the Club's finances and the members responded showing the doubters that there were members prepared to take on all the work needed for a club of this nature to survive.

It was a measure of the work he did and the way in which he did it that, in 2008, Richard was persuaded to take on the role of Chairman. He firmly established the policy that the priority had to be that the Club has sufficient reserves to cover any major repairs, such as replacement of the bowling carpet or the heating system. He had also identified the profligate manner in which the Club had spent money as a cause of its previous financial woes. Under his Chairmanship no money could be spent without the approval of the Board. It was under such guidance that the Club's finances quickly returned to equilibrium and better, when it was able to replace its bowling carpet and the furniture in the Club bar/lounge and dining areas.

As you are all aware Covid has caused serious financial problems for all manner of Sports clubs. TDBC, being a Limited Company, qualified for funds from the Government designed to compensate for loss of income during the pandemic. Richard, assisted by Sylvia Canterbury has ensured TDBC received money from that source. Anyone who has ever claimed money from a Government body will know the red tape and endless form filling that involves, but as I said earlier Richard loves a challenge.

And so tonight, on your behalf, I say thank you Richard for all the hours you have given to this club. I must also say thank you to Barbara for allowing you to do so and for being such an able assistant as your health problems increased. I know you will say "It is not just me, I was part of a team", but a team you recruited, many have been part of the Board for over ten years, I think that says everything about your leadership.

John Bament



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*Presidents
Address*



Hello to all members,

It is with great honour that I have accepted to become your President for the next two years. I know I am following some great people who have done, and are still doing, a lot of work for this great club and I hope to follow them.

My charity for my years is The League of Friends of Musgrove Park Hospital. I was looking for a local charity and they pass on any money needed by wards to help with equipment and other necessary items.

With my photograph on the wall, you will recognise me, I might not know your names but please talk to me if you have any thoughts on helping your club to move forward, which then can be forwarded to our committees.

Visiting County teams and individuals think we have a great club facility, let's keep it that way.

As you are aware, this is a member's club, run by volunteers, there are lots of areas, quite diverse, from weeding, washing up, collecting glasses, and helping run leagues, that would help the club keep up the high standards which are complemented by visiting clubs, counties, and teams.

Please enjoy your club and facilities, I will see you as much as possible.

Keith James - President



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Safeguarding

The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) put on various training courses via webinar throughout the year. I joined ‘Bystander and Enabler Behaviour’ aimed at Safeguarding Officers. The training looked at various scenarios which had been reported as safeguarding concerns and which encouraged discussion as to potential abuse issues arising and how everyone’s behaviour can either enable abuse to develop or to actively discourage further abusive actions. The main message of the training was to promote the fact that everyone is individually responsible to ensure everyone is safeguarded and if anyone feels something does ‘not sit well’ they should call it out or at the very least report it to someone else.

The following are the scenarios discussed.
Scenario 1 A female player makes a good shot, a male player slaps her bottom to congratulate her. She looks uncomfortable and upset. He notices and says ‘don’t be like that, you know you liked it’.
Scenario 2 Club members regularly bring their grandchild to the club, one grandparent is very controlling, strict and physically rough in interactions with the grandchild. The other grandparent says the grandchild ‘knows how to push their buttons’.
Scenario 3 A coach is heard shouting at and making derogatory comments towards a new bowler. The head coach is approached and states ‘it’s just their style’.
Scenario 4 One member always seems to pay for another members drinks after a game. This member drinks several alcoholic drinks each time.
Have a think about each of the scenarios and consider your response to the situation.

Would you be a passive enabler who would do nothing, avoiding conflict but potentially facilitating the perpetrator to continue or to escalate their behaviour until it is reported as a disciplinary matter. An enabler will downplay the situation, make excuses for the perpetrator or may even defend their actions or turn the blame onto the victim.
OR
Would you be an active bystander who recognises the behaviours are inappropriate and who challenges it if they feel able to do so and are not putting themselves in danger, or who at the very least will discuss their concerns with someone else or report it. An active bystander will communicate the behaviour is inappropriate, this may be simply by giving a disapproving look, not laughing at derogatory comments or actually





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Safeguarding

challenging what has been seen or heard. They may choose to distract the perpetrator, or enable the victim to have some space, for example by turning the conversation to general topics, or by ensuring the victim is not on their own with the perpetrator.

Discussions around the scenarios were as follows, all with the understanding there needed to be more investigation and information available to make final judgments.

Scenario 1 It is abuse as it is unwanted attention of a sexual nature, it is likely to be considered 'low level' but if not stopped low level abuse tends to easily escalate into more serious incidents.

Scenario 2 The grandparents themselves may not be coping with their caregiver responsibilities and are finding it too much. They may require support and assistance from statutory services, however the potential for child abuse means that it should be reported immediately for further investigation and if you were to have serious concerns you should not hesitate to call 999.

Scenario 3 This is verbal and psychological abuse and probably should be a disciplinary issue as a coach is in a position of power within the club. The head coach should also be spoken to as they should not be willing to tolerate the type of behaviour in another coach. All clubs need new members and this is one sure way of allowing the club to develop a bad reputation.

Scenario 4 This opened various discussions as to who was the perpetrator and who was the victim. Was the drinker financially abusing the buyer, or was the buyer using their position of power to feed the drinkers substance abuse. Was the buyer attempting to create a friendship or ensuring the drinkers dependency on them.

Some clubs have revisited their codes of conduct to try to ensure an active, positive culture develops within the club and to make sure Safeguarding is everyone's business and is an agenda item at every meeting in order to continue to raise awareness within the club.

Liz Dicks - Safeguarding Officer

**TASTE YOUR WORDS
BEFORE YOU SPIT THEM
OUT**





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*County
League*



County League Winners - Taunton Deane bt St. Andrews



23/24 WINTER CLUB FINALS – SATURDAY 13th APRIL

RINK	10.30 – 12.30	12.45 – 14.00	14.00 – 16.00
1		LUNCH	
2	OVER 60s OPEN DRAWN PAIRS 18 S. Smart Vs M. Reeve 7 R. Ellis C. Takle		OPEN 2 WOOD SINGLES 22 T. Parsons Vs K. Cottrell 19
3	MENS 3 WOOD CLYND 29 K. Cottrell Vs T. Hemburrow 55		JUNIOR SINGLES - SETS 1 C. Jones Vs N. Greenhoff 6
4	OPEN DRAWN AUSSIE PAIRS 13 D. Routley Vs J. Bament 14 E. Phippen T. Parsons		FIXED DRAWN PAIRS H. Acreman Vs C. Willocks 22 R. Ellis M. Beale 12
5	MENS NON-WINNERS SINGLES 4 R. Marriott Vs J. Troke 22		
6			



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23/24 WINTER CLUB FINALS – SATURDAY 13th APRIL

RINK	10.30 – 12.30	12.45 – 14.00	14.00 – 16.00
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3	MENS 3 WOOD CLYND 29 K. Cottrell Vs T. Hemburrow 55		JUNIOR SINGLES - SETS 1 C. Jones Vs N. Greenhoff 6
4	OPEN DRAWN AUSSIE PAIRS 13 D. Routley Vs J. Bament 14 E. Phippen T. Parsons		FIXED DRAWN PAIRS H. Acreman Vs C. Wilcocks 22 R. Ellis M. Beale 12
5	MENS NON-WINNERS SINGLES 4 R. Marriott Vs J. Troke 22		
6			



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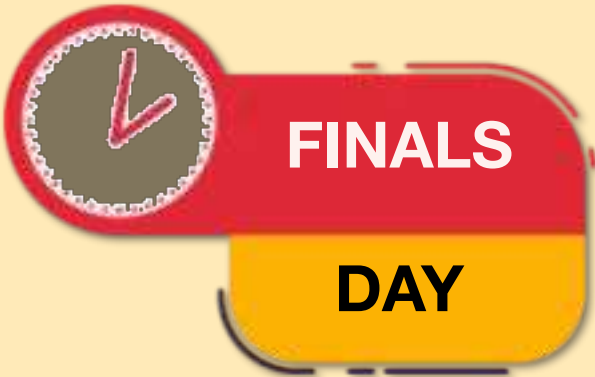


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3	MENS 3 WOOD CLYND 29 K. Cottrell Vs T. Hemburrow 55		JUNIOR SINGLES - SETS 1 C. Jones Vs N. Greenhoff 6 SET 3 DRAWN
4	OPEN DRAWN AUSSIE PAIRS 13 D. Routley Vs J. Bament 14 E. Phippen T. Parsons		FIXED DRAWN PAIRS H. Acreman Vs C. Wilcocks 22 R. Ellis M. Beale 12
5	MENS NON-WINERS SINGLES 4 R. Marriott Vs J. Troke 22		
6			



Saturday 13 April



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Finals Day

23/24 WINTER CLUB FINALS – SUNDAY 14 th APRIL			
RINK	10.30 – 12.30	12.45 – 14.00	14.00 – 16.00
1	GENERATION PAIRS – SETS 2 S. McBride Vs H. Acreman 9 N. Greenhoff L. Beale	LUNCH	
2	MENS DRAWN PAIRS 7 B. Watkins Vs R. Ellis 19 D. Roberts T. Hamburrow		LADIES C of C J. Carmichael Vs Dr Routley DATE TO BE REARRANGED
3	LADIES J WOOD CLYNO 43 S. Nailbandian Vs E. Phippen 58		
4	OPEN SINGLES 22 M. Reeve Vs T. Parsons 17		MENS C of C 3 R. Marriott Vs K. Cottrell 22
5	NEW BOWLER OPEN SINGLES 21 E. Simpson Vs A. Dicks 10		
6			





23/24 WINTER CLUB FINALS – SUNDAY 14th APRIL

RINK	10.30 – 12.30	12.45 – 14.00	14.00 – 16.00
	GENERATION PAIRS – SETS		
1	2 S. McBride Vs H. Acreman 9 N. Greenhoff L. Beale	LUNCH	
	MENS DRAWN PAIRS		LADIES C of C
2	7 B. Watkins Vs R. Ellis 19 D. Roberts T. Hamburrow		J. Carmichael Vs Dr Routley DATE TO BE REARRANGED
	LADIES J WOOD CLYNO		
3	43 S. Nailbandian Vs E. Phippen 58		
	OPEN SINGLES		MENS C of C
4	22 M. Reeve Vs T. Parsons 17		3 R. Marriott Vs K. Cottrell 22
	NEW BOWLER OPEN SINGLES		
5	21 E. Simpson Vs A. Dicks 10		
6			



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	LADIES J WOOD CLYNO		
3	43 S. Nailbandian Vs E. Phippen 58		
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4	22 M. Reeve Vs T. Parsons 17		3 R. Marriott Vs K. Cottrell 22
	NEW BOWLER OPEN SINGLES		
5	21 E. Simpson Vs A. Dicks 10		
6			



 **FINALS**
DAY

Sunday 14 April



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*Opening of
The Green*



President Keith James casting the first Bowl of The Outdoor Summer Season - Sunday 21 April 2024



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*Opening of
The Green*





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Volunteering

Volunteering

It's a wonderful thing to be able to do something for someone for nothing. It validates you as a person, first of all, and adds to your self confidence. You could be feeling as low as can be but a short volunteering session where you're doing something which you see as low impact (whether you're just carrying heavy goods or simply talking to someone who isn't used to having anyone there to listen to them) can absolutely turn your day around and reverse your mood. It's not necessarily what you're doing which is important, but the fact that you're giving up your free time voluntarily to do it. It's also profoundly helpful on a psychological level to be able to help someone else.

Unfortunately, in addition to the regular voluntary green keeping and gardening team there was less than a handful of volunteers who answered the call for volunteers to assist with the preparation for the opening of the outdoor green for an anticipated 50+ bowlers for Sunday 21 April.

A very poor response, however, enjoy your bowling.





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Volunteering





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Humour



**"Listen, if you want to eat in the office,
BRING SANDWICHES!"**



**"D'you want that slice of pizza you
didn't eat last week?"**



**"We'll have to have dinner out;
the toaster's broken."**



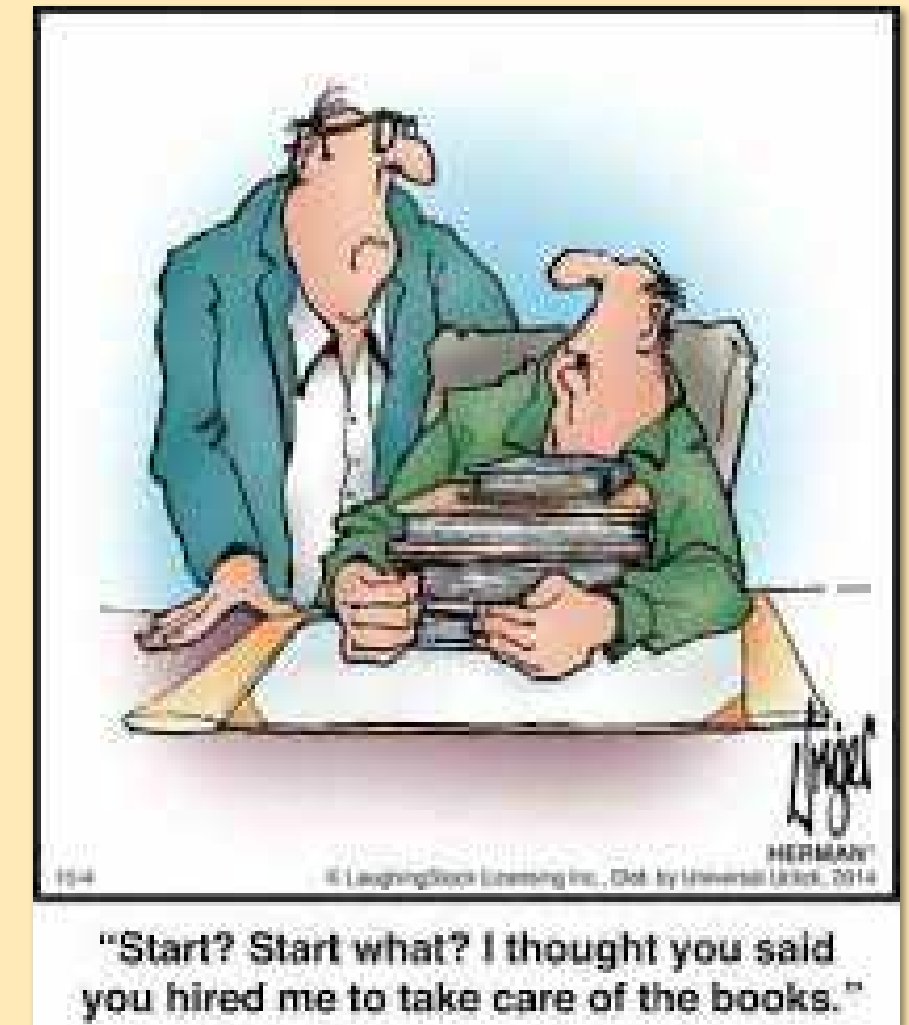
**"I'm not the world's greatest cook, but I
think you'll enjoy my Corn Flakes."**



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Humour





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News Editor



Reg Smythe was the greatest British newspaper strip cartoonist of the 20th Century, and second only to Peanuts' Charles Schulz on a global scale. So why don't we treat him that way?

Smythe invented Andy Capp for the Daily Mirror in 1957, personally writing, drawing, inking and lettering every line of the 15,000 Andy cartoons he produced over the following 40 years. When he died in 1998, the strip was syndicated to 1,700 newspapers, 1,000 in America alone translated into 14 languages and read by a combined audience of 250 million people in 52 countries round the world.

Andy's adventures have inspired a West End musical still revived today, a UK television series starring James Bolam in the title role and a 1973 book using Andy's antics to interpret the Gospels. His face has been used to sell not only the crisps, canned beer and home brew kits you'd expect, but also cookbooks, boxer shorts, Royal Doulton figurines, phone cards, disposable cameras and babies' bibs.

He's known as Tuffa Viktor in Sweden, Charlie Kappl in Austria and and Willi Wacker in Germany, where FC Nuremberg fans have made him their mascot. In every nation, readers greet him as one of their own, as a 1960s editorial in Istanbul's Hareket Gazetesi was quick to recognise. "Andy is as much Turkish as he is English," the editor wrote. "And he is probably Greek, Italian and Polish too."

Smythe's successors at the Mirror have published over 4,000 new Andy Capp strips of their own since 1998, continue to enjoy a global syndication of over 1,500 titles and are currently discussing plans for an animated series on British TV. In March 2012, Andy became an unlikely spokesman for the British Government's Change4Life campaign, which sponsored a month's worth of strips showing his attempts to reform.

Sixty seven years after that 1957 debut, then, Andy is still as unrepentantly alive as ever. That's a remarkable achievement for any newspaper strip, but all the more so for one that's not been able to rely on the cute children and animals of a Peanuts or a Garfield for any part of its success.

Andy in his day has been a wife-beater, an habitual drunk, a 40-a-day smoker, a long-term welfare scrounger, a gambler, a cheat, a bully and a liar. That severely limits his appeal as a subject for heart-warming Christmas TV specials, children's birthday cards or corporate branding campaigns, and yet the strip has still found its way to the very top tier of global success.

Along the way, Smythe proved himself a far more subtle, innovative and





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News Editor



stylish cartoonist than he's generally given credit for. His peers have always recognised this, however, and by 1974, Smythe had won the highest awards his profession could offer on both sides of the Atlantic. Whether you look at the statistics that chart his success or the sheer skill and consistency of the strips he produced, all his British competitors are left in the dust. Even on the global stage, his equals can be counted on one hand.

Some strips today, it is true, syndicate to more newspapers than even Andy at his peak. Hagar The Horrible is close behind though, neither Hagar nor Garfield can boast anything like Andy's longevity, Hagar having so far racked up only 39 years and Garfield just 34. If we restrict the field to strips drawn by their original creator, Hagar drops still further out of contention, as Dik Browne died and was replaced by his son after only 16 years on the strip.

For me, then, the real comparison is between Andy Capp and Charles Schulz's Peanuts. Peanuts ended with Schulz's death in 2000, by which time he'd produced close to 18,000 Peanuts strips over a fifty-year span, but has continued in reruns ever since. Schulz, like Smythe, wrote and drew every line of his strip personally, and continued doing so for over four decades without ever letting the standard drop. Both men struck out in bravely original directions with their chosen strips, but the truly remarkable thing is that Smythe holds his place in that league at all. Even without the cuddly firepower of Snoopy, Woodstock and the rest to exploit in the mass market, he took Andy to the very top of this hugely-competitive tree, and maintained his place there alongside Schulz for over 40 years. And so, I repeat, why don't we treat him that way?

It's the same story wherever you look. Schulz had a brand new biography published in 2007 (his second), while the only substantial source on Smythe's life remains a relatively brief essay in Les Lilley's 1990 collection The World of Andy Capp.

I hope this essay will go some way towards demonstrating what a truly great cartoonist he was, and how unjust it would be to dismiss his strip as a mere relic.

Let's start with Homer Simpson's charge that Andy is no more than a "wife-beating drunk", and consider the single most objectionable cartoon Reg Smythe ever drew.





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