

# **MOVEMENT AT THE BOWLS CLUB**

BY HARRY DUNN

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THERE WAS MOVEMENT AT THE BOWLS CLUB  
FOR THE WORD HAD GOT AROUND  
THAT OUR GRASS, WITH SOME REGRETS, HAS HAD ITS DAY,  
SO A MEETING WAS REQUIRED,  
AND OF COURSE IT SOON TRANSPIRED,  
TO PROPOSE THE NEED FOR MORE SYNTHETIC, AND THE WAY -  
- THE WAY IN WHICH THE DOLLARS MIGHT BE FOUND.

MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR THIS PROPOSAL'S WHAT THEY NEEDED,  
SO THE MEMBERS, THEY ATTENDED  
AT THE CLUB ROOMS - VISION SPLENDID,  
IT WAS A MOST AUSPICIOUS DAY,  
AND THE TURN-UP FAR EXCEEDED  
THEIR EXPECTATIONS - MORE THAN NEEDED,  
AND THE SPECIAL MEETING GOT RIGHT UNDERWAY.

SEATED AT THE TABLE OF THIS NOISY TOWER OF BABEL  
WERE RONALD, JOHN AND CAROL  
A COALITION OF THE WILLING -  
- IT WAS THEIR TURN IN THE BARREL -  
AND THE CASE THEY PUT WAS MOST CONVINCING;  
IT SEEMS, THESE DAYS, THAT CARPET'S ALL THE GO  
AND THE SYNTHETIC INSTALLED DOWN THERE ON NUMBER TWO  
HAS BEEN A MONEY-MAKER, UNTROUBLED AND AND UNFLINCHING  
SO THE COFFERS ARE RE-FILLING  
WITH THE HELP OF BAREFOOT BOWLERS HAVING FUN,  
TO THE POINT WHERE WE MIGHT SOON BE ABLE  
TO REPLACE THE HALLOWED TURF ON NUMBER ONE.

THEY TOLD US THAT THIS OPTION MUST QUICKLY BE EXPLORED  
BECAUSE IT MIGHT NOT BE AROUND FOREVER  
AN OPPORTUNITY RIGHT NOW, WHICH SHOULDN'T BE IGNORED,  
AND THIS WAS THEIR PRIMARY ENDEAVOUR.  
IT SEEMS THAT TIGER TURF'S IN FAVOUR.  
RIGHT NOW IT'S SYNTHETIC MONTHLY FLAVOUR,  
INSTALLED AND WORKING WELL, AT THE BURRA AND AT COWES,  
NICE TO BOWL ON, SO THEY SAY,  
MAYBE EVEN PREFERABLE TO OURS.

BUT HOW TO FIND THE DOUGH TO BUILD  
THIS EXPENSIVE GREEN REPLACEMENT;  
AND WHILE OUR RENOVATIONS STILL GO ON AND ON  
OUR BANK BALANCE ISN'T FAR ABOVE THE BANKER'S BASEMENT:

"WELL, I WILL TELL YOU HOW," SAID FINANCE - GURU JOHN,  
A MAN OF CAUTIOUS COURAGE, BUT BIG ON INNOVATION  
"WE'LL HAVE A BIT LEFT IN THE BANK,  
WHEN WE COMPLETE THE RENOVATION,  
AND WE'VE RECEIVED A VERY GEN'ROUS OFFER  
BY A WELL-HEELED BENEFACTOR,  
A BOWLING MAN OF SUBSTANCE, A MAN OF CUFF AND COLLAR,  
WHO'S OFFERED TO LEND US QUITE A BIT,  
MATCHING WHAT WE RAISE OURSELVES,  
DOLLAR FOR PRECIOUS DOLLAR,  
AT AN EVEN FOUR PER-CENT, SO WE'RE CHAMPING AT THE BIT.

BUT BEFORE WE CAN EMBARK ON THIS,  
OUR LATEST BIG ADVENTURE,  
I MUST INTRODUCE A WORD WHICH YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO HEAR,  
AND HE WHISPERED IT OUT LOUD - THE D-WORD,  
THAT'S RIGHT - *DEBENTURE*  
SOME MEMBERS CRINGED IN ABJECT FEAR,  
AND SOME PRETENDED THAT THEY SIMPLY HADN'T HEARD.

THE MOTION, IT WAS PUT, AND THE MEMBERS DULY VOTED  
THOSE IN FAVOUR - YES  
THOSE AGAINST - A SIMPLE NO;  
THE VOTES WERE COUNTED WHEN COLLECTED,  
AND THE RESULT WAS AS EXPECTED,  
THE YES VOTE WAS MORE OR LESS UNANIMOUS,  
WITH A LONE DISSENTING VOICE -  
AND THAT ONE COULD HAVE COME FROM SOMEONE  
WITH A TOUCH OF BOWLER'S ANIMUS  
OR PERHAPS A WISH FOR WIDER CHOICE.

THE CONVENERS ALL LOOKED HAPPY AND FULFILLED,  
AND WILL APPLY FOR PERMITS AND APPROVALS  
WHICH IS ALL THEY NEED FOR NOW,  
TOO EARLY YET TO TALK OF WHEN TO BUILD:  
THE MAIN PROBLEM NOW REMAINING,  
AND IT HARDLY NEEDS EXPLAINING,  
IS HOW TO GET THAT MOST IMPORTANT BUT ELUSIVE  
- *TWO HUNDRED, TWENTY THOU.*

## **AN AFTERTHOUGHT**

**THEY SAY YOU CAN'T MAKE OMELETTES  
UNLESS YOU BREAK SOME EGGS,  
AND REPLACING GRASS WITH CARPET'S NO EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE  
- ASK THE MEN WHO KEEP THE GREENS,  
DRAW THE LINES AND AND MOVE THE PEGS,  
THOSE HARDY EARLY RISERS,  
IN ALL AGES, SHAPES AND SIZES  
WITH THEIR MOWERS AND THEIR SWEEPERS,  
THOSE MEN WHO WORK OUTDOORS, IN EVERY KIND OF WEATHER,  
THAT NOBLE SHRINKING BAND OF BOWLING GRASS GREENKEEPERS.**

**SO, SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THOSE GREEN-KEEPERS  
WITH THEIR WEEDERS AND THEIR ROLLERS,  
ON GRASS THAT SOMETIMES DOESN'T WANT TO GROW,  
THEY'VE SERVED GENERATIONS OF LAWN BOWLERS,  
OUT THERE WORKING ON THEIR GREENS, MOSTLY ALL ALONE,  
THESE LATTER-DAY OUTDOORS-MEN THAT BANJO WOULD RELATE TO,  
JUST LIKE HIS OLD MATE CLANCY,  
UP THERE DROVING, ALONG THE OVERFLOW.**