

“Well I never knew that”

Up next is Bernie Allen. My thanks to him

How long have you been playing bowls?

50 years. I joined Bembridge Bowling Club in 1980.

Your favourite piece of music?

I like singer songwriters and I particularly enjoy Thoughts from Abroad by Clifford T. Ward.

What did you do in your working life?

When I left school, I did a Craft Course in cooking at Portsmouth for two years. My first job as a cook was at the Montague Arms in Beaulieu for 5 years. I then worked at various hotels and restaurants all over the country including a hotel in Wales where I cooked a meal for Prince Charles who was studying at the time at Aberystwyth University. I eventually worked as a chef at the Island Sailing Club in the mid 70s. When I met Gay she ‘suggested’ to me that I should find a job which involved less unsocial hours and I found one as catering manager at Bembridge School where I worked from 1979 to 2000.

Which living person do you most admire?

The Queen.

Favourite meal?

King prawns in their shell.

Favourite holiday destination?

Sailing in the Greek Islands. As a family we enjoyed 12 wonderful holidays there.

Favourite book?

I love books with an element of seafaring history. The Hornblower series of books by C.S. Forester are particular favourites and Wilbur Smith has a number of books which feature the sea.

Proudest moment?

Walking out behind the Great Britain team manager when I played in the Pétanque World Championships in Algeria.

Favourite place to play bowls other than Bembridge?

Bannister Park just outside Southampton where with Gay and our daughter, we took part in the Radio Solent Bowls competition.

Favourite film?

Any one of the series of TV films starring Sean Bean as Richard Sharpe, a British soldier in the Napoleonic Wars.