

“Well I never knew that”

Taking a break from his Club Secretary duties, David Brown is next up. My thanks to him.

How long have you been playing bowls?

I have been playing for 26 years and find that although experience counts in my favour, it does not guarantee an increase in playing ability.

Your favourite piece of music?

“Never Forget” by Take That. I became particularly fond of this at a time when Pat became an almost fanatical follower of the group.

What did you do in your working life?

I was taken on by the Central Electricity Generating Board on their graduate engineer scheme. I studied for my Higher National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering for five years under this scheme. This involved study at Portsmouth College for half my time and working at Portsmouth power station for the other half. On gaining my Diploma I worked at a number of power stations including Castle Donington in the Midlands for a couple of years before returning south where I got a job in Fareham working for Thorn E.M.I. I worked in Fareham for 23 years and this involved a daily commute from Ryde on the 6.30 am ferry. The factory was a large site employing in excess of 1000 people and my post was as Site Services Manager. When the factory was bought by a French company who closed it down, I was employed by them for 2 years because of my detailed knowledge of the site. When the decommissioning work was completed, I worked for a couple of years on short time contracts including at Plesseys for a while before I retired.

Which living person do you most admire?

The Prime Minister. I need to explain that my admiration is not for any particular individual who has filled that position but for anyone who takes on that role. His or her life is ruled by the daily diary and they are unable to simply walk away from facing up to and dealing with any particular issue.

Favourite meal?

A home made chicken casserole on a winter evening.

Favourite holiday destination?

Although Pat and I have had many happy holidays abroad, it is nearer home that I would choose as my favourite destination. North Yorkshire and Teesdale in particular would be my choice.

Favourite book?

I am not a great reader of novels but I am happy reading a technical magazine or a National Geographical magazine. A book of crosswords also keeps me interested.

Proudest moment?

Being able to bring my family back to live on the Island in 1978 made me very proud as well as very happy. I had wanted to do this for sometime before we were able to move. I had been born in Ryde as my mother had been evacuated there in the war from Portsmouth. We have lived in the same house we moved into in 1978.

Favourite place to play bowls other than Bembridge?

Totland. I might have chosen Ventnor but for the parking!

Favourite Film?

“South Pacific” released in 1958 although I have to admit that cinema going was confined to my youth and I have not been to the cinema since we returned to the Island in 1978.