

**“Well I never knew that .....**”

Next into the limelight is John Tolley. My thanks to him.

*How long have you been playing bowls?*

I started to bowl in 1994, so 26 years.

*Your favourite piece of music?*

I love Traditional Jazz and was particularly fond of the Isle of Wight Stompers.

*What did you do in your working life?*

On leaving school, I served my apprenticeship as an aircraft engineer working on the Island. As that business declined and orders dried up, I had to look at an alternative career and as I had enjoyed mentoring apprentices, I considered going into teaching. I was offered a place at Portsmouth Teachers College but didn't take that up as I needed more financial security. Fate intervened and I was offered a job teaching maths at Bembridge School where I remained for 25 years. My initial salary was £13 a week and a flat provided. I was also involved in coaching football and athletics and obtained the necessary qualifications to enable me to do that. I moved to teach at Ryde School and coach sports before retiring in 1994. I spent my whole working life on the Island.

*Which living person do you most admire?*

The Queen who has shown great fortitude in dealing with so many difficult times. Prince William is showing some of her qualities in his attitudes.

*Favourite meal?*

Roast Lamb and all the trimmings.

*Favourite holiday destination?*

For the last 20 years we have travelled to Canada where our daughter lives. Before that I have fond memories of coach holidays to Holland and Switzerland run by a Bembridge bowler at that time, Bob Poynter.

*Favourite book?*

Autobiographies of sportsmen and sportswomen.

*Proudest moment?*

The birth of our daughter.

*Favourite place to play bowls other than Bembridge?*

Ventnor because of its setting.

*Favourite Film?*

“The Glen Miller Story” made in 1954 and starring James Stewart in the title role.