

“Well I never knew that”

Next in the spotlight, a customary position for him, is Norman Cooper. My thanks to him.

How long have you been playing bowls?

About 8 years.

Your favourite piece of music?

The Irish singer Christy Moore always leaves me in a thoughtful but good place with lots of positive memories.

What did you do in your working life?

I graduated as an industrial chemist but had realised that it might be too solitary a life for me and had found a calling and fulfilment working with children and so trained as a teacher. I worked in several schools on the Isle of Wight (including Bembridge) eventually becoming the deputy head in Cowes. I excelled at work in the classroom and the government appointed me as an advanced skills teacher working to train teachers and troubleshoot children's learning across the Isle of Wight and in the Caribbean.

Which living person do you most admire?

Barack Obama.

Favourite meal?

Pressed pork finished on the Barbecue.

Favourite holiday destination?

Camping in Dorset at Burnbake.

Favourite book?

All sorts of books get read. The book I've just finished is the latest “Rebus” detective story by Ian Rankin, a series of books I am happy to look out for and follow.

Proudest moment?

A few weeks ago we were clearing a hedge and my wood chipper stopped working. Faced with the prospect of replacing it and none available in the shops or online, I

stripped it down to expose the motor and cutters and found a knotted branch jamming the blades. I eventually managed to chisel it out and put the machine back together (only one screw left over) and it works.

Favourite place to play bowls other than Bembridge?

Southampton Old Green.

Favourite film?

I have a long history with the Lord of the Rings trilogy by Tolkien in book form and the films, although deviating at times, are a series that I happily return to on a regular basis.