

After a pleasant but turning journey the Pentyrch tourists settled into their rooms at the Glen Usk Hotel, Llandrindod Wells. An evening start to their first match attracted a number to acquaint themselves with the hotel bar and it was a merry team that rolled the first jack at **Llanidloes Bowling Club** a few hours later.

Most rinks started slowly and many got slower. Although some of the rinks had respectable scores it was a resounding 26 defeat for the tourists (98-124). With all 6 rinks losing the 'diddler' was rolled over to the next match, but biggest cheer was for the rink led by **Russell Howell** (with Colleen O'Connor, Myra Thomas & Margaret Ellmes) who won the rams for the worst performing rink. The quartet bravely sang "I'm a poor little lamb who's lost his way"...to the delight of the Llanidloes members.

The Pentyrch WAGS (Wives & Grannies) were out in force at the match with **Margaret Williams** making her debut in the company of **Peggy John**, but it was the romantically linked Marje Wibley & Mark K who collected the raffle prizes. Barrie Thomas was pleased to point out that for once he was taller than his opposite number, but it was also noted that his opposition was only 10 years old.

**The Pentyrch choir** (Howard Thomas, Russell Howell, John Berry & John Lewis) made passable attempts at a few songs while the rest scoffed the sausage & chips supper. Marilyn Lewis picked up a tenner for forecasting that Pentyrch would get a good stuffing and it was a very weary crowd that noisily returned to the Llandod hotel at 11.30pm

If the performance at Llanidloes was poor the standard - by some - dropped to abysmal at **Newtown** the next day. Perhaps it was the excellent lunch at the Black Boy pub that was to blame but a number of rinks went down heavily resulting in a 90-137 defeat. Two rinks did actually win – Captain Ian Broxton's not quite being able to match the roll over diddler winning performance of **John Berry, Tim Morgan, Barbara Standen & Ken Sedgebeer**.

The rams this time were won by **Gloria Evans (bowls debut), Brian Pearce (raffle winner), Margaret Ellmes (ram double) & Oscar Evans** who then led his rink with that old favourite "Baa Baa Black Sheep" ! Ken Sedgebeer was the forecaster of the day to win £10. A superb and unexpected buffet was provided by the hosts, which the tourists made a good fist of before returning to their hotel for a 5 course supper !

The hotel disco was jumping that night as the tourists hit the dance floor. At times it turned into karaoke as guest vocalist **Marilyn Lewis**, just returning from appearing on Broadway (Ponty), excelled in singing Green Green Grass of Home in a Ponty accent - and pushed entertainment to a new level.

With Marilyn going solo her musical partner **Oscar Evans** also branched out with a very late night performance on the pianoforte, accompanied by Tim Morgan (amongst others) on vocals, where he could only guess the song. Most of the songs did have a resemblance to "Walking in a Winter Wonderland", which the audience enjoyed joining in with. Despite attempts to trap Oscar's fingers in the piano lid and instructions to "stop" from the bar staff, Hotel Manager (who had got out of bed) in her night wear, and the security guard who couldn't really give a toss, Oscar played on until his complete back catalogue of hits was performed.

Sunday arrived and the expected rain did not. A superb lunch at the Honey Pot Café, Bronllys was followed by the most friendly of matches at **Talgarth B.C.**, which Pentyrch actually managed to win 123-99. Winning rinks were led by **Jan Berry, Oscar Evans** and top rink of the day **Don Wibley (with Norman Poulson, Cyril Ellmes & Howard Thomas)**.

More success followed with **Peggy John & Ken Sedgebeer** winning the raffle, **Cyril Ellmes** guessed the score, and long suffering husband **John Lewis** got some consolation for celebrating his 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary that day by picking up £20 for forecasting the scores most accurately for the whole weekend. For her work and encouragement around the green on each day, **Pat Sedgebeer won the much sought after Tourist of the Year award**. Margaret Ellmes was denied the first ever hat trick of Rams on tour with Russell Howell (again), Marje Wibley, Myra Andrews & John Lewis showing that they can be very bad on their day.

With out a drop of rain falling on them for the entire weekend, the Creigiau Travel coach, expertly driven this year by Dave the Driver, bumped its way into the Pentyrch Rugby Club car park. **With plans already being drawn up for next years tour, it was agreed that this annual tour was once again a great and enjoyable success.**