



WICKS

JUNE 2009

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

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SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday
Saturday 9:45 am
Sunday 1:30 pm
(from July 1)

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Bud Birkenseer makes a couple of announcements before the draw for the first day of bowling on the reopening of our green.

Welcome Back to Our Green

Our reopening day celebration started off with a lovely breakfast of granola with yogurt and toppings, fresh fruit, juices and sweets provided by Jean Wren and her helpers.

The green looks great and bowled pretty well for the first day. It was still a bit sandy and slower than usual, but we were glad to be back bowling and adjusted quickly. We know from previous years that it takes about a month for it to “settle down” again.

There were approximately 30 bowlers, all in whites, enjoying a beautiful Palo Alto day on the green. We’re sure you all noticed the new paint job on the concrete in front of our door AND the new door paint. Bob Leonard and John Yee worked for days prepping and painting to give us a fresh face for the reopening.

Many thanks to the bench painting crew that turned out Tuesday, June 2, to scrape, sand, prime and paint all of our benches. Special thanks to the indefatigable workhorse Jon Yee for all the preliminary belt sanding.



An enthusiastic turnout enjoyed a fine breakfast. A big thank you to Jean Wren and her helpers for putting this together.

Friday Night on the Green

The PALBC Summer Friday Night Draw League, started on June 19th and ends on August 7th (8 weeks). The bowling is opened to all PALBC members, of all skill levels. The draw will be at 5:15 pm. Arrive or call by 5:00 pm, so the draw can be done in a timely fashion.

The format will be primarily pairs matches, with triples and a possible cutthroat game if the player count can't be balanced, any other way.

The entry fee will be \$3.00 per week (players only pay on the nights they play). The entry money will be divided up as follows: 1/3 goes toward snacks & drink, 1/3 will pay the nightly winners (game point differential will break ties) and the last 1/3 of the money will fund the prize pool for the top finishers in the overall league standings determined by a player's accumulated points over the eight-week period.

The point system for the League:

- 2 points for a player on a winning team
- 1 point for a tie
- 0 points for a loss
- 1 point for showing up (This point is added to your finishing point. All bowlers get at least 1 point.)

This scoring system will be used for pairs and triples. If there are an odd number of bowlers, a cutthroat game will be set up. (1st scores 2 points, 2nd scores 1 point, and the loser gets 0)

Prize money will be issued at the following ratio for the overall and the nightly prizes.

1st = 50% of prize pool
2nd = 30% of prize pool
3rd = 20% of prize pool

As was done last year, an Excel program will automatically add the points and sort the players by their point total so there will be a weekly standings sheet posted in the club house.

Handling the League this year are Bud Birkenseer and Jon Yee. Bud is making some trophies for the league and will create a perpetual trophy starting this year.

A Very Lucky Man

I had a heart attack; the mildest that is possible to have, had emergency room and hospital care, an Angiogram performed, and a Stent installed. I am now as good as new.

A life threatening condition was spotted and corrected.

I can now continue to play the game as best I can. I have this curious belief that as long as I continue to play the game I will not get old and decrepit.

Hey! If it works for me, it might also work for you. Time will tell.

— Fred Hawley

A Luau in Paradise

June 27th will be the opportunity for all you kahunas and wahinis to put on your Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, and leis for another fun-filled Luau to celebrate the reopening of our green. PALBC's Luau is brought to you again by Lynda and Ted Brown who will prepare the delicious island feast, with Mike Ashworth as bartender making his famous Mai Tais.

Bowling begins at 2:30 pm followed by drinks, pupus, and dinner. The dinner will cost \$15, Mai Tais are \$2 with wine, beer, and soft drinks \$1.

RSVP by 5:00 pm June 20 to your contact person or Ann Knopf at petenann@sbcglobal.net. Mahalo.



Hand Signals (Part I)

There can be as many as seven rinks on a green. When you have seven triples games going on at one time, that means that there are 42 people on the green.

When hand signals are not used, it can be very loud and distracting to a player.

If you are on the mat and want to know if your team is holding shot, instead of yelling, just put your right arm out at your side with your hand up (like you are taking an oath) and then turn it downward. Your teammate should respond with their hand up (holding shot) or down (not holding shot.)

If you want to know where the jack is, just hold your hand out in front of you, palm out, toward the head.

The hand signal for the number of shots up after an end is to exaggeratedly tap your left shoulder with your right hand the correct number of times. (It's much easier for your partner to see than if you just hold your fingers up.) The hand signal for number of shots down after an end is to slap your thigh the correct number of times.

When a teammate is on the mat and you want them to know which shots are yours, point to the bowl and bring your hand up to your chest to signal "ours." If a bowl belongs to an opponent, point to the bowl and making a "sweeping away" motion.

I will cover more hand signals in Part 2 next month.

— E.B. Parkell

Welcome to our New Members

Returning Member
Ron Deiss

New Regular Members
Noel and Bill Kruse

Irina Cross

Bob Wenzlau



Important changes!

Effective July 1st, we will wear **WHITES ON SATURDAY AND TOURNAMENTS ONLY**. Whites are no longer required on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Of course, whites may be worn at any time and are preferred on Saturday and are still required for tournaments.

Also, due to traffic issues for many of our members who live outside Palo Alto, it was also decided that beginning July 1, draw games on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday will begin at 10:00 am SHARP. The draw will take place at 9:45. Sunday will remain at 1:30 with Wednesdays at 5:00.

These changes are a result of a vote by the board based on the needs and desires of our members. Thank you for your input and we trust you will make a smooth transition to the new changes.

PALBC CALENDAR

Pizza Bowls every Wednesday, 5:00 pm (weather permitting)

June

- 19 PALBC Summer Friday Night Draw League begins, 5:00 pm (every Friday for eight weeks until August 7)
- 27 Luau. Draw games at 2:30 pm, Dinner follows.

July

- 1 City bowls class begins, 6:00 pm
- 4 Cookout after lawn bowling, noon
- 7 Board meeting, noon
- 11 PALBC Men's Novice Singles Tournament and Women's Novice Singles Tournament, 9:30 am
- 18 PALBC Men's draw pairs, 9:30 am
- 22 Cable Car Classic at San Francisco

Have your name on the board 10 minutes before draw times.



Coach's Corner

What Bowls should I use?

There are three things to consider: size, weight and bias.

Size: Wrap both hands around the widest running surface of a bowl so that your middle fingers touch at the bottom and your thumbs touch at the top — that should be your size. If they don't touch, the bowl is too big but if they overlap a little, that is OK.

If you try this size and the bowl slips or drops out of your hand then try the next smallest size until you find the one that feels comfortable. Also look for bowls with a good dimple grip as they are more secure and better on a grass green.

Weight: Bowls come in medium, heavy and extra heavy weights. They weigh between 3 and 3 1/2 pounds each.

On the slower grass greens of Northern California (10 to 14 seconds) a medium weight is the most popular choice. However with the smaller size bowls (00, 0 and 01's), it is advisable to choose a heavy weight as it will tend to hold it's line on the green better. Again, the final choice is what feels right for you.

Bias: As a new bowler it is wise to use a bowl with a full bias such as the Classic or Classic II, especially on the slower greens. This way you will learn to become a good draw bowler and a popular lead. Being able to draw to the jack is the basis of becoming a good tournament bowler.

The narrow bias bowls were designed for the faster greens of Australia and New Zealand and in particular the indoor carpet greens and later the artificial outdoor greens. However, there is no restriction on where they can be used and unfortunately (in my opinion) more people are choosing to use them on the slower greens. This takes away much of the skill of drawing to the jack because the bowls have very little bias. So I strongly encourage you to use a full bias bowl to begin with. You can always consider having a set of narrow bowls a year or two down the road if you become a tournament bowler, playing on faster greens.

You will need time to find out what bowl is right for you, so use club bowls for the first six months at least. Try different weights, different grips and maybe a different size occasionally to see how it feels.

Rather than buy a new set, which can be expensive, you might consider a second hand set of bowls which may cost from \$50 to \$200 depending on their age and condition. Talk to Terry Hogan who will see if the club has a set to suit you. You would also talk to Terry to order new bowls. He can help you with your choice. Good bowling.

— John Hickson

What's Happening at PALBC

July 4th cook-out

On Saturday, July 4th, we will have a very casual hot dog/hamburger cookout after our morning of lawn bowling. Potato salad and watermelon are sure to be available with a few surprises thrown in. Come enjoy the holiday with us!

PALBC Men's and Women's Novice Singles Tournaments

Calling all players who have bowled for less than 2 years! The women's and men's novice singles will both be played on July 11th at 9:30 am. These tournaments are always fun and are open to all new bowlers, no matter what level of play. You will gain confidence in your game, even if you lose the first round and just have fun. Tournaments are the best way to improve your game. Sign up now.

Cable Car Classic

The San Francisco Lawn Bowls Club has once again challenged our Palo Alto Club to the annual Cable Car Classic. We will play in San Francisco this year. A sign up sheet will be posted this week and John Hickson will be getting more information to us soon as to time and carpooling.

Locker room renovations

The City of Palo Alto will begin locker room renovations on September 6th and continue through October 31. The project has been delayed because the City will need to do more than originally planned to bring the building to code. Bowling will continue, but we will have some inconvenience during the process. More on the construction as we go forward.

A Little Bowling Club History

Peter Danner, our club historian, discovered an old map showing the area now occupied by the bowling green as it appeared in late 1924.

This map (superimposed over a Google Map) shows the block occupied by the Gamble House and the bowling green. Churchill Avenue is at the right, Cowper is at the top, and Waverley is at the bottom. The Gamble House is the building in the lower right.

The right half of the green is the location of the old Peninsula Hospital. The hospital was torn down in 1932 but not before Glenn Stewart, a current member of our club, was born there. The only building that remained was the shed used by the lawn bowling club to store equipment until the clubhouse was built in 1952.



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