

# WICKS

SEPTEMBER 2009

## PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

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Bonny Turner

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John Hickson

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Frank Matyskiela  
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David Hale

### SUMMER HOURS (THROUGH 10/31)

Tuesday, Thursday,  
Saturday 10:00 am  
Sunday 1:30 pm

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contact@palbc.org

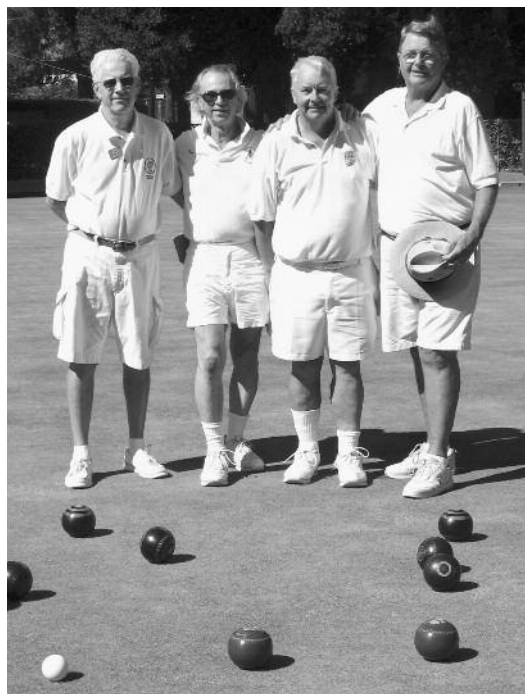
www.palbc.org

## Finally, the 2009 Men's Draw Pairs Final

After two and a half months of delays for the Senior Games, travel and other conflicts, the Men's Draw Pairs tournament has a winner. Terry Hogan & Ron LeBlanc, and Bud Birkenseer & Kevin Latham met on Sunday, August 30, for an exciting final with multiple lead changes that was worth waiting for.

After scoring first, losing the lead and regaining the advantage, Bud and Kevin were up by 3 after eleven ends. Terry and Ron scored 3 in the 12th to tie the score at 11 each. Bud and Kevin went ahead by 1 in the 13th.

In the 14th end, with a deep jack and a nice head built, Terry delivered a great shot to cut Bud and Kevin's holding to 1 and a measure. Bud's attempt at a blocker was too narrow, but "Mr. Wick" gave him a perfect block. Terry's last effort was good, but not good enough. Bud and Kevin won 14-11.



Finalists Terry Hogan, Ron LeBlanc, and the winners Kevin Latham and Bud Birkenseer.



An unexpected championship for David Hale, Penny Bayless, and Frank Matyskiela.

## PALBC Novices Win the Centennial Cup

Sunday, August 30, was cold and windy in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. A very refreshing change from the 90 and 100 degree temperatures of the previous week. 22 teams of triples met to play for the ninth edition of the Centennial Cup, which commemorates 100 years of the The San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club. About half the teams were from the San Francisco club with the other half representing the other seven clubs from Berkeley to Santa Cruz. Our Palo Alto club was represented by a team of novices, Penny Bayless, David Hale, and Frank Matyskiela.

Teams played three games with points awarded for game wins plus margin of victory points. At the end of the three games, four teams had won all three of their games. The top two teams, Alex & Maureen Xavier and Tirisa Biukoto of the SFLBC, and the surprised and delighted Palo Alto team of Penny, David, and Frank, were tied with 3 wins, 20 points. The tiebreaker formula, adjusted points scored to points scored against, gave Palo Alto the win, 2.75 to 2.176.

For Penny, David, and Frank, the day couldn't have been brighter.

## Who are We?

Since its organization in 1933, the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club has seen generations of members come and go. The Club owns several scrapbooks containing photos of members going back to the 1950s. Since they are often identified by name, it is possible to say who they were, but this doesn't mean much because we know little about their lives, their talents and interests off the green, or what attracted them to the game of bowls.

From club records it is often possible to identify who the best bowlers were at any given time, but little beyond this. The most interesting people may not have been the best bowlers.

As your club historian, I have been trying to think of the best way to insure that our story is passed down to future generations. In this age of electronic communication, I feel we may have passed beyond the stage of scrapbooks filled with photos of forgotten players. I feel I have been able to piece together a pretty good picture of the major events in the Club's history (the report can still be read on the PALBC website), however, the most interesting thing about the Club is the membership itself. There we have been unable to tell the story.

I would like to know if the membership would be interested in contributing a brief (completely voluntary) questionnaire towards insuring that future generations will better know who we were — everyone has at least one interesting story. Or perhaps you have a better idea to make sure we remain more than a faded photo in an album. Contact Peter Danner personally, or at [pkdanner@aol.com](mailto:pkdanner@aol.com)

## Let the Punishment Fit the Crime

Recently, I was explaining to Carl, how the game of lawn bowls is played. He, a choral singer among many talents, recalled a part of a Gilbert and Sullivan libretto that goes something like:

“with a twisted cue,  
on a surface untrue,  
with an elliptical billiard ball”

When I asked Peter Danner what it was from, his face lit up, said it was from the Mikado and the Lord High Executioner, and proceeded to recite the entire libretto on the spot. You may be familiar with the following excerpt:

“My object, oh sublime, which I shall achieve in time,  
is to let the punishment fit the crime”

The punishment, in this case, is meted out on a pool sharp. He is made to play pool in a damp cell, with heavily gloved hands, a twisted cue, on a warped surface, and an elliptical billiard ball.

Well, I am serving a self imposed life sentence. I must play Lawn Bowls in all kinds of weather,  
with an arm that goes askew,  
on a surface sometimes untrue,  
and bowls quite unspherical.

There are worse punishments.

— Fred Hawley

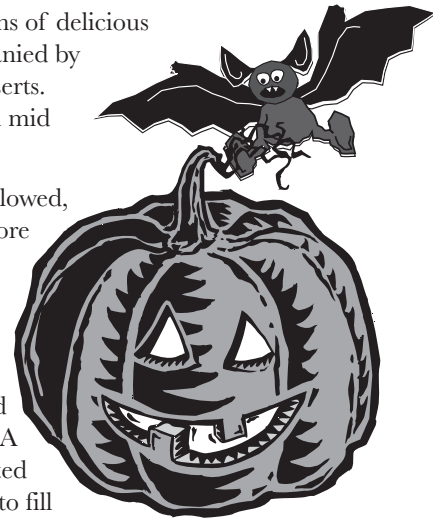
## Halloween Lawn “Boo-ling”

It's time for some *really* scary bowling. Break out your favorite costumes and get ready to do some Halloween Lawn “Boo-ling” followed by cauldrons of delicious soups, stews, and chili accompanied by assorted breads, salad, and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in mid October for the pot luck.

The draw will be at 3:00 pm followed, appropriately, by a “spider” before the bowling begins.

### All Treats and No Tricks

Please consider contributing to the “Trick or Treat for the Food Bank” project during October. A list of items needed will be posted on the bulletin board. Let's try to fill the collection can!



## Proper Tournament Attire

One of the first things people say when I tell them I'm a lawn bowler is, “Everyone looks so nice out there wearing their whites.” I have to agree. It's one of the things that drew me to lawn bowling.

Lately, however, I've noticed that some people are straying from dressing properly when playing in a tournament. *The rules have not changed.* They are there for all of us to read and adhere to.

The USLBA's Laws of the Sport clearly state:

- White, cream or matching colored shirts with sleeves and collars.
- White or cream trousers or shorts, length in good taste (no shorter than three inches above the knee).
- Flat soled shoes without heels.
- Single color jackets and sweaters (white preferred) are allowed for cold or wet weather.
- Non-conformance with this code may result in disqualification.

USLBA also states: Advertising on shirts is not permitted unless it is lawn bowling related or approved by the USLBA council or the Chairperson of the Rules Committee.

At a recent PIMD tournament, played under the same USLBA rules, two players wore khaki shorts, another wore shorts about eight inches above the knee, and another wore a sleeveless shirt, all in violation of USLBA and PIMD tournament rules.

The emails that addressed those problems blamed the tournament director and Umpires. While I do not agree with that, perhaps if every club posted a copy of the rules on their tournament bulletin boards and enforced them, this would not be a problem in the future.

— E.B. Parkell

## What's Happening at PALBC

### Locker Room Renovations Delayed Again

Construction has been delayed once again due to Reengineering of the plans by the City. The new date to begin construction is October 5th, but they'll notify us if that is feasible. All equipment will need to be removed from the lockers and locker rooms. PLEASE WATCH FOR POSTED NOTICE AT THE CLUBHOUSE AS TO START DATE.

### Other Changes and Improvements at the Club

We have replaced the BBQ grill that was stolen earlier this summer and will soon have a new storage shed in which to store it, our folding chairs and tables, and other supplies.

Bob Leonard has come up with an excellent solution to replace the rotted boards on our shade pergolas and will be calling for volunteers to help install the new, composite roofing material.

### Chicken Bowls

Join us on Wednesday night, September 30, for our traditional PALBC Chicken Bowls (chicken from Stanford Sports Café, potato salad plus lots of extras). Bowling as usual at 5:00 pm with dinner following. The cost is \$10, including drinks. We need to know how much chicken to order, so please make a reservation for the dinner by Friday, September 25. There is a sign-up sheet at the clubhouse or contact Betsy by email, bgyoung@earthlink.net, or phone, 650-494-0748 before September 25.

### Final Club Tournament Sign-up Sheets

The bulletin board has sign-up sheets for the last club tournaments of the year: 9/26, Men's Singles; 10/3, Mixed Draw Pairs; 10/24, Mixed Draw Triples; 10/31, Women's Draw Pairs (rescheduled from 9/29). Come on out and have some fun.

### Winter Hours

Effective Sunday, November 1st, we will bowl at 1:30 on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. We do not require whites in the winter except for tournaments.

### PALBC CALENDAR

Pizza Bowls every Wednesday, 5:00 pm (through September 23)

#### September

- 26 Men's Singles Tournament
- 30 Chicken Bowls, 5:00 pm

#### October

- 3 Mixed Draw Pairs Tournament
- 3 PIMD Women's singles and Novice singles, San Francisco
- 3-4 PIMB Men's Novice singles, Sunnyvale
- 6 Board Meeting 12:15
- 10 Advanced Draw and Regular Draw, 10:00 am
- 14 Berkeley Meat Axe challenge, Palo Alto
- 17 PIMD Closing Day, Rossmoor
- 24 Mixed Draw Triples Tournament
- 31 Women's Draw Pairs (rescheduled date)
- 31 Halloween "Boo-ling," 3:00 pm. Pot luck follows



## Coach's Corner

### Teamwork

It is good to report that we continue to grow our membership. Of course, this means we have an increasing number of new and inexperienced Leads who will need guidance and support over the next few months. Let's start by reviewing what is expected of Leads as they develop their skills.

The Lead is the player who bowls first. The Leads from each team bowl alternately until they have bowled all their bowls (4 in pairs, 3 in triples and 2 in fours). The Lead of the team that bowls first (decided by the toss of a coin) is responsible for setting the mat and rolling the jack to start the game. After the first end, the Lead of the team that wins the end sets the mat, rolls the jack and bowls first. The losing Lead rakes in the bowls, places them at least 3 feet behind and to the right of the mat, and enters the score if playing pairs.

Let's now consider the Skip, the most experienced bowler and captain of the team. Too often, Skips give no advice or information to their Lead which implies that their contribution doesn't matter! Remember, every Lead wants to feel they are contributing to their team. The Skip has a responsibility to give their Lead some direction. An inexperienced Lead needs to know roughly how long or short their bowls are and then to be given some general guidance as to where to deliver their next bowl. However, do not ask them to place it in a specific spot (that is expecting too much and can intimidate a new bowler!) Just indicate a general area with your arm or towel.

Challenge your more experienced Lead by telling him/her who is holding shot, how long or short their bowls are and more specifically what you want them to do with their next delivery. They will appreciate it and bowl better as a result.

— John Hickson

## Welcome to our New Members

### N. Schrager

647 Beacon St #4  
Oakland, CA 94610  
510-444-2553

### T. Biukoto

60 Justin Dr  
San Francisco, CA 9 4112  
415-584-4262

### G. Muchmore

2140 Santa Cruz Ave Apt B301  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
650-561-0062

### P. Hughes

3442 Middlefield Rd  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650-561-4768

### L. and L. Booth

3665 South Court  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650-493-3883



*Kevin serve sausages right off the grill.*

from Australia so they could treat us to a delightful Aussie BBQ. Ken Torke and the Mighty Crows added the Bluegrass music for an evening that delighted our bellies and lifted our spirits.

Thank you to the many members who helped to plan the day, contact the members and keep track of who was attending, set up tables on the day of



*Our own Ken Torke (in white) and The Mighty Crows kicked off the festivities.*

## Aussie BBQ and Bluegrass... M-m-good

A special thank you to Kevin and Annet Latham who brought lots of goodies back



*Annet and Kevin put together a fabulous meal with the help of Candace and Alan Bushell.*

the event, arrange flowers, and particularly to Alan and Candice Bushell who were first class helpers all the way. And, as always, those who stayed and helped clean up all the dishes and the clubhouse are much appreciated.'

## Bowling with the Bard

*“To die, to sleep—To sleep—perchance to dream: ay, there’s the rub...”*

We say “there’s the rub” and think we communicate perfectly well—but do we? I may mean “there’s the catch” while you might think “there’s the essence”—the meanings can be close, yet they’re not identical.

Shakespeare implies both senses, but calls up a concrete picture which would have been familiar to his audience. “Rub” is the sportsman’s name for an obstacle which, in the game of bowls, diverts a bowl from its true course.

The Bard was obviously fond of the sport (he played on lawns, not lanes) and uses bowling analogies frequently and expertly. Although “rub” is used figuratively here, the image that leaps to Hamlet’s mind is vivid and homely.

This is Shakespeare’s most famous of such analogies, though not as elaborate as “Like to a bowl upon a subtle ground, I have tumbled past the throw” from *The Tragedy of Coriolanus*, Act 5, Scene 2.

— *From Michael Macrone, “To be, or not to be.” Brush Up Your Shakespeare. Cader Company, 1990. (submitted by Fred Hannemann.)*

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