

WICKS

OCTOBER 2009

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

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Bonny Turner

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John Hickson

TREASURER

Ed Walker

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Betsy Young

DIRECTORS

Terry Hogan
Don Hughes
Ann Knopf
Bob Leonard
Frank Matyskiela
Jean Wren

WICKS EDITOR

David Hale

WINTER HOURS (AS OF 11/1)

Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday, and Sunday
1:30 pm

CONTACT

474 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-323-2575

contact@palbc.org

www.palbc.org

PALBC Men's Singles Tournament

A record number of bowlers (24) participated in this year's tournament. The tournament format was double elimination, 12 point games played over two days. Thirty three matches were played on Saturday and another fifteen matches on Sunday.

In a field with a full range of players, leads, vices and skips, there were some surprises. Sam Hebert was the only novice to make it to Sunday. Frank Matyskiela, the current Novice Champion defeated our club coach, John Hickson, in match one but Frank was eliminated in game three. Three skips did not advance to play on Sunday.

After five rounds of play, Peter Knopf and Jerry Knott were undefeated. It was decided that they would play the two remaining players with one loss. In the semifinals, Peter Knopf played Larry Collaco and Jerry Knott played John Hickson.

Larry and John advanced to play the 18 point championship match on a new rink. Larry seemed to find his line and weight before John. With John on defense, and struggling with his grass, he was unable to overcome Larry Collaco, the 2009 PALBC Men's Singles Champion.



Champion, Larry Collaco and runner-up, John Hickson.

PALBC Mixed Team Pairs Tournament

This year's tournament had 12 teams participating, with each team playing four games of eight ends each. Play during the day was hard and



Champions Terri and Ken Torke on another happy day.

fast. The hope was to have the championship match start by 3:00 and at 2:50pm (ahead of time and under budget) the final match was under way!

The finalists were the two teams with the most points after four games. This year, the top two were both husband and wife teams. Ken and Terri Torke, undefeated with 8 points, and Ian and Ginger Harris with three wins and a tie for 7 points. Ian had to score 2 points in the last end of their fourth game against the surprisingly strong showing of Rhoda Keyson and George Stewart (both leads) for the tie and point. Without that point, there would have been a three-way tie for the second position, as the teams of Bonny Turner and Jon Yee, and Ann Walker and Larry Collaco also had three wins.

The championship match was quite a game. Terri and Ken started out as they had all day building a big lead early in the match. To those watching it looked like the game was going to be one sided. Then Ian and Ginger scored an amazing 7 points in a single end putting them up by two with three ends to go. Ken and Ian traded points on the next two ends. It came down to the last end and the last bowl...four points to Ken and Terri, the 2009 PALBC Mixed Team Pairs Champions.

Of the amazing shots and wicks he had in the game, Ken said, "If I wasn't there myself, I wouldn't have believed it."

What's Happening at PALBC

Update on the Updated Remodel Update

Members of the board met with the City to more fully understand the delays in construction. The existing building must be brought up to code prior to the needed redesign of the locker rooms. For example, the existing building does not have proper footings, therefore, walls must be torn out and new footings installed.

Construction is now scheduled to begin on February 3, 2010 and will continue through April 1st. This is the minimum amount of time needed. Due to possible rains and unforeseen delays, the club has decided to hold no outside events until June 1. Lawn bowling will continue as usual, except during May when the green will be closed for annual maintenance, but we will have the inconvenience of portable toilets during most of this time. Everything will need to be cleared from the locker rooms; all lockers emptied, and all storage items removed.

We believe the wait will be worth the end product, with new floor and wall tile, and new paint, as well as handicap accessible facilities. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE NEXT UPDATE.

Storage Shed for the New Year

The board has approved the purchase of a wooden storage shed which will be constructed at the end of the existing building on the Embarcadero side. The City has given us verbal approval and we expect to receive the "go-ahead" in early January. The shed will house our BBQ, folding chairs and tables, etc., when not in use.

Volunteers are Needed

A complete list of our Club Committees is listed inside the front cover of our Membership Roster. We are always looking for members who would like to help on one of the Committees. You may offer to help on one project a year, or volunteer to chair a committee. We have many members with talents we are unaware of and would love for you to come forward and share new ideas with us. Just talk to any board member or existing committee member to find out how to volunteer.

Annual Meeting and Holiday Tea

Mark your calendar now for December 12th when we will hold our annual meeting at the clubhouse. This year we will follow the meeting with a lovely Holiday Tea. Our plan is to offer many sweet and savory treats along with tea, coffee and wine allowing our members to visit after the meeting. For many years we have had a Holiday luncheon, but our membership has grown to the point that we will not have room to seat everyone for a formal luncheon. You won't go away hungry, we promise, and we will be starting a new tradition at PALBC.

The tea will be followed by bowling, weather permitting. Details will follow next month.

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

October

- 24 Mixed Draw Triples Tournament
- 31 Women's Draw Pairs (rescheduled date)
- 31 Halloween "Boo-ling," 3:00 pm. Potluck follows

November

- 3 Board Meeting, Noon
- 7 Palo Alto Ed Arnold Invitational Tournament
- 14 Senior Singles (Men/Women)

In the Umpire's View

No "Thanks"

A few years ago, in a Women's Singles Tournament, my opponent was holding shot. Her next bowl moved the jack over to one of my bowls. I turned to her and said, "Thanks." I can't remember her exact words but it was to the effect that I shouldn't thank her for making a mistake.

She was right. She certainly didn't mean to give me the shot. It wasn't to her benefit to move the jack. I'm sure she would have loved to have had that shot back.

It was a lesson well learned. Since then, I haven't thanked anyone when they have accidentally given me the shot. I have, however, tried to pass on the same message to other bowlers when they have thanked me for the same thing.

Let's keep in mind, whether it's just a fun game or the seriousness of a big tournament, when an opponent inadvertently gives us the shot, they did not do it on purpose or as a favor to us. They feel bad enough already. Let's not rub salt in the wound.

— E.B. Parkell

New Life for Our Arbors

The deteriorating, unsightly slats that covered our arbors have now been replaced with red, no-maintenance, composite slats. Thanks to Bob Leonard for finding them at Home Depot, and to Frank Matyskiela and Bob for their transportation to the club. The old slats were removed, nails pulled, and beams cleaned up by John Yee, Ken Torke, Sam Hebert and Brit Turner.

Then, over a two day period, the volunteer group of Alan Bushell, Hank Heubach, Sam Hebert, Bob Leonard, Frank Matyskiela, Ed Walker and John Yee installed the new slats. Not an easy job due to the condition of the beams which have endured some dry rot and warpage.

Some arbor paint touch up is needed to cover our liberal use of white caulking, and some stabilization of the arbors is required. This will be done by mid-month.

This is a huge improvement to our club's appearance. Thanks guys, professional carpenters all.

How Does the Club Promote a Member to Vice or Skip?

A board committee consisting of John Hickson, Terry Hogan, Frank Matyskiela and Bonny Turner, meet periodically to review members for promotion. A member may ask one of the committee to be considered for promotion, a member may suggest another member for promotion, and the committee may take it upon themselves to suggest members for promotion.

In addition to progress in playing the game, knowledge of etiquette and rules is taken into consideration by the committee. Once selected, those newly promoted must attend a class for all new vices or skips.

Members may also request they be moved down a position at any time. Some have requested a "demotion" due to illnesses or age related challenges.

"Up Ship"

Perhaps you have seen a white airship overhead. That would be the Eureka, Zeppelin NP 14, operated by Airship Ventures, flying out of Moffett Field. The captain is a young English woman and the only female airship licensed pilot in America.

Moffett Field, back in the 1930s, was the home base for the Macon, a Navy airship 785 feet long. It actually carried and operated three small biplanes. It was housed in the famous Hanger 1, now closed because of toxic environmental issues.

Zeppelin NP 14, christened Eureka, only 246 feet long, is the largest rigid airship in the world. It carries a maximum of 12 passengers plus captain and steward at a sedate speed of about 40 miles per hour, usually at about 1000 feet of elevation.

A flight begins at Moffett Field Building 23, an example of grand institutional architecture, with check-in, then a van ride to the other side of the airfield. The passengers stand together in the open field awaiting the arrival of the Eureka. We see it coming in from the west then heading into the wind, hovering, and then slowly descending until reaching the ground. The loading process is interesting in that they always want the ship to be heavy, so two new passengers get aboard, two leave until all new passengers are aboard. We fasten seat belts and the airship lifts vertically. After takeoff we release seatbelts and move around. The windows are large and the viewing excellent. After awhile the Stanford campus slips below us and soon our lawn bowls green comes into view

Landing is the boarding process in reverse and we wait in a group on the ground and get to see the airship lift off on its next flight. She waves goodbye to us. We all admire her.

We return to Airship Ventures where we are hosted to Champagne. We toast "Up Ship", the traditional command for taking an airship aloft. I had always wanted to fly in an airship.

— Fred Hawley



Coach's Corner

Improving Delivery Weight

The comment I hear most, especially from new bowlers is "I find it hard to get the right weight on a consistent basis."

Weight, or distance control, will only come with practice. Before we look at some simple ways to practice, you need to be sure you have developed a good "pendulum swing." The arm should be relaxed as it swings back and then forward like a pendulum at an even speed. Too often I see bowlers giving the bowl an extra push at the end of the forward swing. This invariably results in a heavy delivery that goes too far beyond the "head." Once you develop an even swing, weight is controlled by increasing or decreasing the speed of the swing, but always at an even pace.

Now, a simple exercise to get you started. Set a jack at the hog line, another at 6' 6" from the ditch and a third in between. Begin by rolling all the bowls to the short jack, using both forehand and backhand. Do this a few times before moving to the middle jack and then to the long jack. When practicing, it is a good idea to use two sets of the same size bowls as this reduces the time you spend raking in the bowls. Developing a consistent weight may take a few practice sessions, depending on how much time you put in.

When you feel you are getting better control of the weight you put on a bowl, take the next step; deliver the first bowl to the short jack, the next bowl to the long jack, the next to the middle jack etc., until you have used all your bowls.

These practice sessions will prepare you for bowling in a real game when you often have to adjust your weight from one bowl to the next. Remember, "Practice makes perfect." Good luck.

— John Hickson

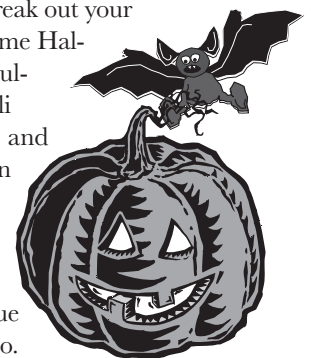
Halloween Lawn "Boo-ling"

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. If there is no bowling due to rain, the pot-luck will be cancelled also.

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!





In Memoriam.
Dorothy Beckett,
1905-2009.

A familiar face at club functions until only last year, the memorable Dorothy Beckett passed away on September 6 at the age of 104 years, 8 months. She was born

Dorothy Crichton in Leigh-on Sea, Essex, on Jan. 4, 1905. Dorothy worked as a bookkeeper and drove an ambulance during World War II. She followed her brother to the United States at the age of 50, settling in Palo Alto where she worked for Clifford's Pharmacy in Menlo Park.

Dorothy attributed her longevity to good genes and a lifelong interest in sports. Raised in England, she qualified for Wimbledon tennis several times in the 1930s, and played field hockey and badminton. Upon coming to America in 1955, Dorothy became an avid hiker and swimmer. She met Richard Beckett, an outdoorsman and postal worker, during a Sierra Club outing and married him at the age of 63. Dorothy joined the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club in 1973, serving as as Club President in 1984, and is remembered for having ruled with a firm hand. Her husband Dick, whom she outlived by 21 years, was president in 1987.

Dorothy was a strong independent woman and, even recently, it is reported she retained a hardy appetite and enjoyed a nice glass of wine.



Jon Yee and Helen Brady, PALBC 2009 Mixed Pairs Champions.

Mixed Draw Pairs Tournament

There was a relatively small field for the PALBC Mixed Draw Pairs Tournament held on Saturday, October 3. Since only eight women signed up for the tournament, a number of men who were hoping to play were unable to find a partner. The first eight men who signed up for the tournament were able to play. Those who were late to sign up were out of luck.

While the field wasn't large, the bowling was spirited. After a day of good shots and near misses, lucky wicks and disappointments, two teams advanced to the finals: Con Glafkides and Ginger Harris, and Jon Yee and Helen Brady. (A hint to the men for next year's tournament—the women were skips). Jon and Helen prevailed and are the 2009 PALBC Mixed Draw Pairs Champions.

We would like to thank Sam Hebert for being the Tournament Chairman while Bud Birkenseer was on vacation.

In Other Tournament News...

PALBC members won two PIMD tournaments held on October 3-4. Bea McConachie won the Betty Service Women's Singles Championship held in San Francisco. David Hale won the Men's Novice Singles Championship held in Sunnyvale.

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Palo Alto, CA 94301