

WICKS

NOVEMBER 2009

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

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David Hale

WINTER HOURS

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

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PALBC Hosts Ed Arnold Mixed Triples Tournament

Ed Arnold, a past President of PALBC, and all around “Good Guy,” was honored again this year with a Tournament in his name.

There was an enthusiastic turnout with sixteen mixed triples teams representing Clubs from all over the area filling our green to capacity. Each team played three games of twelve ends. Players rotated position every four ends, giving each player a chance to experience lead, vice, and skip. It’s a great experience, and a fun way to develop one’s game.

The Champions, based on wins and differential points after the three games, was the team of Gordon Lockhart, Alan Bushell, and Tee Biukoto. Finishing in second place was the team of Mario Giorgianni, Athol Foden, and Linda Flores. The third place team was Ann Walker, Ken Torke, and Terri Torke. Teams finishing in the top seven places received a cash prize.

The weather was beautiful, and win or lose, the hosted wine and cheese after bowling tasted great!



Congratulations to the Ed Arnold Champions: Gordon Lockhart, Tee Biukoto, and Alan Bushell.

PALBC 2009 Women’s Draw Pairs Tournament

This year’s Women’s Draw Pairs Tournament had six teams participating. August 29th, the original scheduled date, had temperatures in the 90s. The PALBC does not allow Club sponsored events to



PALBC 2009 Women’s Draw Pairs Champions E.B. Parkell and Bonny Turner.

be played when the thermometer rises over 90 degrees. So, it was out of the heat into the Goblin Patch on Halloween for these women bowlers.

The format had the ladies bowling a total of three games. After two games, there were two undefeated teams: Betsy Young and Linda Flores, and E.B. Parkell and Bonny Turner. They played for the championship while the other teams played their third games. On the way to winning their third game and the championship, Bonny and E.B. had a “Super Shots” score of 7 in a single end. In a twelve-end game, that is a tough count to overcome.

The tournament standings were based on a differential point system this year. With all three games completed, the team of Ann Walker and Candice Bushell edged out finalists Betsy and Linda by decimal points to move into second place.

It was all Halloween treats for the PALBC 2009 Women’s Draw Pairs Champions E.B. and Bonny—congratulations!

2009 Mixed Draw Triples Tournament

With thirty bowlers entering a blind draw to select ten triples teams, the stage was set for another PALBC tournament. The teams played three games of ten ends each, with the goal of being one of the top two teams in the standings, after those 3-games were completed.

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One team, Brit Turner, Ann Walker, and Bud Birkenseer, came through undefeated (3-0) and five teams finished with 2 wins and 1 loss. Using a point differential to select the other finalist team, the best of the 2-1 teams was Richard Wheeler, Bonny Turner, and Mike Ashworth, edging out the team of Sarah Babin, Frank Matyskiela, and Alan Bushell, by a mere 2 points.

In the championship game, Mike's team jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead after three ends, and with steady play by Richard, Bonny, and Mike, Bud's crew just could not overcome that strong start. Congratulations to this year's Mixed Draw Triples Champions, Richard, Bonny and Mike.



Champions Richard Wheeler, Bonny Turner, and Mike Ashworth with the second place team of Bud Birkenseer, Ann Walker, and Brit Turner.

2009 PALBC Senior Singles Tournament

Fourteen of our Club's 70+ year old ladies and gentlemen participated in this year's Senior Singles event, the only singles tournament in our Club that has men and women bowling head to head. Each bowler played three 12-point games. Wins and differential points decided the semifinalists.

Along the way there were some surprises. Rhoda Keyson came back from an early 0-8 deficit against Betsy Young to win by shutting Betsy out for 11 straight ends. Betsy gave Rhoda a couple of bowl delivery suggestions during the game, and being a quick study, Rhoda used those suggestions to Betsy's detriment. That's how our Club works. We'll help a player with their game even in a tournament.

Con Glafkides overcame a loss in his first game, winning his last game by a margin big enough to qualify for the semifinals. He was the only player to advance with only two wins. The other three players were undefeated.

In the semifinals, Ken Brady defeated Con in their match and Jerry Knott took advantage of an early lead against Terry Hogan, who made a valiant late charge, to take the victory.

Statistically, the finalists in this tournament are another event surprise, with Ken being the oldest player in the field and Jerry the youngest. Jerry turned 70 just a month ago.

Jerry and Ken will play the final match at a later date.

PALBC CALENDAR

December

- 5 Annual Club house cleaning, 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed. A Club-provided lunch follows.
- 5 Regular draw games, plus advanced draw games for skips only, 1:30 pm.
- 12 Board Meeting, 10:00 am.
- 12 Annual meeting and Holiday Tea, 11:00 am. Draw games follow, 1:30.

In the Umpire's View

An Unwritten Rule for Skips

We know the *written* rules for skips. Skips have "sole charge of the team and all players in the team should follow the skip's instructions." (*Laws of the Sport of Bowls, 37.1.1*)

Skips decide "all disputed shots with the opposing skip, making sure that any decision reached is in line with the Laws of the Sport of Bowls." (*37.1.2*)

"If the skips cannot reach agreement on any disputed point, they should ask an Umpire to make a decision. The Umpire's decision is final." (*37.1.5*)

"The skip in a pairs game should perform the duties of the second." (*37.1.7*)

Skips can "delegate their own powers and any of their own duties (except those described in paragraph 7 above) to any other member of the team as long as they tell the opposing skip." (*37.1.8*)

But, what about the *unwritten rule*? Since it is "unwritten" you can't find it in the rule book. Unfortunately, no one has ever thought to put it in there. Perhaps it should be.

What I am talking about is how we treat new players.

I love seeing novices out on the green in a tournament. I remember being so apprehensive before my first (several) tournaments as a novice. I was so afraid of not bowling well and letting down my team. (Trust me, I did that many times.) It does no good to have a skip constantly berating a novice who is trying their very best. Anyone is going to play better if they have a patient skip who is *gently* nurturing them and advising them on their game. That's how they learn.

A skip that bad-mouths a novice (or any less experienced player) discourages those players and is detrimental to the game itself.

We need to remember that we were all novices at one time. Someone helped us get to where we are. Let's pass that on to others.

— E.B. Parkell

What's Happening at PALBC

Year-End Clean-Up Day Volunteers are Needed

In preparation for our Annual Meeting and Holiday Tea, we are looking for lots of volunteers to help clean and decorate the Club house before bowling on Saturday, December 5. Lunch will be provided for those helping prior to the draw games.

Annual Meeting and Holiday Tea

Don't miss our annual meeting at the Clubhouse on December 12. 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. You won't go away hungry, we promise, and we will be starting a new tradition at PALBC.

The cost is \$10 per person or you can bring an appropriate snack that can be eaten with fingers to serve 8 -10 people. If you plan to bring food, please inform Jean Wren by email (wrenjp@gmail.com) by December 7 at 5:00 pm.

Winter Hours

We are now on Winter hours and bowling starts at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, and 10:00 am on Wednesday mornings. Remember to have your name on the board 15 minutes earlier for the draw.

There will be advanced draw games for skips only as well as regular draw games at 1:30 on the first Saturday of every month.

Arbor Rejuvenators

Thanks to Terry Hogan for adopting the staining of the arbors, and recruiting a few dedicated helpers to help him with the final task of arbor rejuvenation.

The Meat Axe is Ours

On October 21st, bowlers from Berkeley traveled to Palo Alto in an attempt to reclaim the Meat Axe. The challenge was met and the prized trophy remains in Palo Alto for another year.

Year End Message from the President

Thank each and every one of you for another great year at PALBC! So many members have generously donated thousands of hours of their time to make our Club what it is today.

Our finances are on solid ground even after paying our first year of rent. Our membership may be at an all time high and we have improved our facility and upgraded our equipment. We had more skills development and bowled more games and tournaments than ever. Our social events continue to sell out and we are fortunate to have the support of our City government. This is indeed a formula for success.

All of this could not happen without a strong, dedicated Board of Directors. Each officer and director has contributed hours each week to support the Club overall. Thank you John Hickson, Ed Walker, Betsy Young, Terry Hogan, Bob Leonard, Ann Knopf, Don Hughes, Jean Wren, Frank Matyskiela, and Ian Harris. YOU'RE THE BEST!



Coach's Corner

Finding the Delivery Line

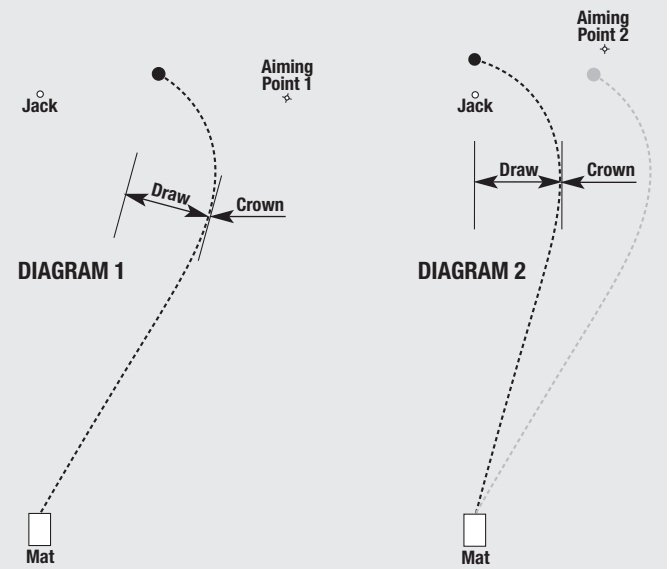
Here is a tip for finding the right delivery line. It will also help you adjust your line as the speed of the green changes.

When you chose an aiming point and make your first delivery, look for the widest point of the arc (the "crown") and note where your bowl finishes. The distance between the point of the crown perpendicular to a point on a direct line from the mat to your bowl is your draw (diagram 1).

In this case, you can see that if you aim your next delivery at your first bowl, you will end up very near the center line (diagram 2). Now you only need to adjust the weight to bowl to the target.

As the condition of the green changes, whether it gets slower or faster, your draw may change. Continue to monitor your draw so that you will be able to make the proper adjustments to your delivery.

— John Hickson



Oh, You Women

I remarked the other day during a women's tournament how beautiful and graceful you are out there all dressed in your whites. Alan Bushell suggested I write about it.

I try and imagine what it feels like to be five feet tall and having men towering over me as it is with you women. I would have to overcome my size and weight by throwing my whole body into my delivery.

And that is just what you do with great competitive spirit, grace, kindness, and beauty of figure and movement.

You gladden my eighty-six-year-old heart.

— Fred Hawley

The PALBC's *First, First Lady*

Writing about Dorothy Beckett last month, the Club's second woman president who died recently at 104, prompted me to take a closer look at the first woman to hold this post some 51 years before her. The results are worth reporting.

This information comes from Mrs. Arnott's obituary in the 8/26/43 Palo Alto Times and a conversation with her grandson, Peter Arnott, Jr. of Sausalito.

Virginia (Ginny) Catlin was born December 27, 1857 in Catlin, Washington (now part of Longview) an area settled by her grandfather. Her family moved to northern California in 1867 and to San Francisco in 1879, when Ginny was 22. While working in a factory on Howard Street, she became involved in the workers' rights movement, an interest she retained for life.

In 1884, she married John Arnott, a Scottish-born bricklayer who eventually came to Stanford to help build the new university. John and Ginny, together with their five children, were living in Mayfield by 1900. Peter Arnott tells how, on hearing of the suffering in San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake, his grandmother immediately loaded their horse-drawn wagon and delivered relief supplies to survivors in Golden Gate Park.

Ginny Arnott's sympathy for the working class drew her to leftist—some would even say radical—politics. The Arnott home on Seneca St. in Palo Alto, where Upton Sinclair was a frequent visitor, became the center for forming a local branch of the Socialist Party. She served as an officer in the women's suffrage movement. Ginny

later attempted to form a "housewives' union" and was an early advocate of both birth control and health food. She became absorbed in the "Soviet Russian Experiment" and followed its development closely.

Her interest in lawn bowling was clearly formed on the greens of San Francisco and Oakland. Her husband had worked for fellow Scot, John McLaren (the creator of Golden Gate Park as we know it today), who installed the first greens in Golden Gate Park in 1901.

Lawn bowling must have proved a pleasant diversion from all her political activities, but the trip to the City was time consuming. Her dream of a local green was fulfilled when the old Palo Alto Hospital was torn down in 1931 and she found a local group (mainly of women) to draw into the game.

Virginia Arnott became the first president of the PALBC in 1933 at the age of 75. According to her obituary, she remained president "for several years," although all Club records from 1934 to 1941 are missing.

In 1936, the Spanish Civil War broke out and Ginny's time was consumed working to support the Lincoln Brigade. Without her guidance the PALBC languished but was later resurrected by others during World War II.

Ginny was an invalid in her final years, although as late as November 1939 she wrote the Palo Alto Times inviting the community to join "the two dozen residents who use our city bowling green." Virginia Catlin Arnott died a widow on August 26, 1943, at the age of 85.

—PALBC Historian, Peter Danner



Virginia Arnott on the Palo Alto green in 1935 with her grandson Peter.

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