

WICKS

FEBRUARY 2010

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

PRESIDENT

John Hickson

VICE PRESIDENT

Ginger Harris

TREASURER

Frank Matyskiela

SECRETARY

Marianne Maloney

DIRECTORS

Penny Bayless
Bud Birkenseer
David Hale
Bob Leonard
Ed Walker
Jean Wren

WICKS EDITOR

David Hale

WINTER HOURS

Wednesday, 10:00 am
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



After bowling and a great meal, 28 of us stayed to enjoy a variety of card and board games. The evening was great fun and there was a lot of laughter in the room!

Bye, Bye, Blues!

Thank you to all who helped make “Banish the Winter Blues” a success. For one day the grey sky and rain were forgotten. With 40 bowlers, the green was full and almost half of the 60 who shared a warming meal stayed for a variety of games.

During the bowling we enjoyed drinks and hors d’oeuvres—cheese, hummus, artichoke dips. Ila Keiper helped by checking everyone in and collecting money. This was followed by excellent soups made by Jane Stender, John Hickson, Ginger Harris, and Jean Wren; focaccia made by David Hale, many different types of bread

brought by George Marotta, Alan and Candice and Jean. Stuffed from this, we waddled to the dessert table where delicious brownies from Lynn Booth, cake from Ann Knopf and a treat from Roberta Durham plus coffee and tea. Finally, thanks to Alice Smith and her sister and Rhoda and Irvin Keyson for cleaning up. Many others helped along the way; thank you to all who contributed. Without your help, we could not do this.

Our next party won’t be held until the green reopens in June, so the Hospitality Committee has not been formed. If you would like to participate, please email Jean Wren, wrenjp@gmail.com, and indicate your area of interest or special expertise.



What's Happening at PALBC

Spring "News" at the Club!

We and the City have made a number of new purchases recently which will further enhance our facility. All of them are now in place apart from the new Men's Lockers so our spring cleaning is almost done.

New Storage Shed — If you haven't already seen it, take a look at the end of the clubhouse near the Embarcadero entrance. Once the bathroom renovations have been completed we will be able to move the chair rack and chairs into the new shed, giving us more space in the clubhouse.

New Mailbox — By the time you receive this copy of Wicks you should see a new mailbox installed by the Embarcadero gate. Being a locked box, anyone can now send mail to the club and know that it is secure.

New Mats — We now have brand new green mats to replace the heavier rubber mats which were beginning to wear and slip on the green. Ann Walker ordered the material which actually came in one long roll, so she had to cut it up into individual mats. Thank you Ann for a very professional job.

New Hot Water Heater — The City has recently installed a new hot water heater which will provide both men's and women's bathrooms with hot water once the renovations are complete.

New Clubhouse Heater — The old heater in the main clubhouse was old and outdated and we appreciate the City replacing it along with a new thermostat.

New Mens Lockers — Thanks to Bud Birkenseer, Sam Hebert, John Yee, and Bob Leonard for tearing out the old men's lockers prior to the start of the remodel. Bud and Sam have salvaged some of the wood and are busy rebuilding the lockers which will be ready to install once the bathroom renovations have been completed. You will be impressed with what they have been able to do with the recycled wood!

New Tournament Scorecard Holders — Another thank you to our woodshop elf, Bud Birkenseer, for the set of scorecard holders he has built for the club. He was inspired to make them as he was making the wonderful trophies he presented last year. With no place to put the holders, he then made a box to keep them in. These should help the Tournament Director (Bud) in his administration of our club tournaments.

Weed Eaters

We battle invasive grass periodically that needs to be carefully removed from the green. We will convene a group of volunteers to work with John Hickson and Alan Bushell to tackle this task. Dates will be announced from time to time.

PALBC Film Premier

On Thursday March 18th at 7.30 pm in the Stanford University Memorial Auditorium there will be a first showing of the

In the Umpire's View

"Lead"er of the Pack

We've covered the duties of the "skip" (*Wicks*, November, 2009) and the "vice" or second (*Wicks*, January, 2010), so that leaves the duties of the "lead".

Law 37.4 on page 41 of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls covers the lead's duties in four lines. But you know I am more verbose than that. And I don't want to disappoint. Verbatim the law states:

The lead of the team to play first in an end should:

- place the mat as described in law 19.1.1; and
- deliver the jack and make sure that it is centered before delivering the first bowl of the end.

But Wait, There's More

That's all that the rule covers. What is not covered in Law 37.4 is:

- the lead of the team that does not play first in an end should rake the bowls and make sure that they are placed in front of the ditch, to the right and back of the mat, as you are standing on it. I often see players placing the bowls immediately to the right of the mat. This can be a

dangerous place to put the bowls, as anyone stepping off the mat after their bowl comes to a stop could trip and fall.

- it is the duty of *both* leads to make sure the mat is at least two meters (approximately 6'6") from the back ditch.
- once a lead (or vice) gets on the mat, they should follow any direction their skip is giving them without argument. (The skip is in the head and can see what shot is needed to improve the head and help the team.)
- after delivering his/her bowl, the lead (or vice) should stay on the mat *until the bowl stops*, then step off the mat clock-wise. You stay on the mat because if it's a good bowl, you need to see where it went so you can deliver the next bowl in the same way. If it is a bad bowl, it can help you correct your next shot. (Hopefully, when you step off the mat there won't be any bowls there to fall over, see above)
- *in a pairs game*, the lead also has the duties of the vice. Those duties include: measuring, signaling to the skip, correctly and timely "chalking" touchers, and generally staying out of the head until asked a question by the skip or in the event of a change in the head.

I'm sure there are several other duties that I haven't mentioned here. But this will give you an idea that the above mentioned "four lines" just doesn't cover everything.

— E.B. Parkell

new 10 minute documentary on the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club. All members are welcome to attend.

Preacher's Corner

Our Draw Masters, with the support of the President, want to remind members again that to be included in the draw, you need to be at the club and have your name on the board 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. Failing that, you must call the club and advise them that you will be there in time to play and ask for your name to be put on the board.

Anyone arriving late, without notice, will have to practice on their own, unless there is a rink with a "floater", in which case they can make up the numbers for a triples.

PALBC CALENDAR

February

20 First weeding party, 11:30 am. Draw games, 1:30 pm.

March

- 2 Board meeting, 3:30 pm.
- 6 PIMD quarterly meeting in Berkeley, 9:30 am.
- 6 Regular draw games, plus advanced draw games for skips only, 1:30 pm.
- 13 PALBC Men's Draw pairs. Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am.
- 14 Daylight Savings Time begins.
- 20 PIMD opening day, Rossmoor, 8:45 am.

Welcome to our New Members

Richard Hackman

Glen Johnson

Norm Tiernan

On the Bench

Sometime last year I told you of my theory: namely, that lawn bowling would keep me from getting old, and that time would tell.

The theory, it turns out, was somewhat optimistic. Time has indeed told. My impaired hip has forced me to give up bowling, but just for now. A famous World War II general said "I will return", and so shall I. Just as soon as I get my new mechanical hip and complete the recovery period, I will be out there playing.

My new cautiously revised theory says that with suitable repairs, lawn bowling will keep oldness at a safe distance. Time will tell.

— Fred Hawley



Coach's Corner

A New Perspective

In an effort to give vices more opportunities to improve their strategy skills and shot selection, we are going to introduce an experiment to our draw games on the second Saturday of the month for a trial period. Here is how it will work.

After the draw is completed the skip and vice of the A teams will switch positions for seven ends. This allows the vice of team A the opportunity of skipping alongside the experienced skip of team B who can offer advice and discuss strategy and shot selection. Meanwhile, team B's vice will play alongside team A's skip, playing as a vice, who can give similar advice about playing the vice position.

After seven ends the team A bowlers revert to their normal positions and team B will switch their skip and vice.

At the same time, leads do not need to stand back from the head but should be close enough to listen to the discussions about strategy and shot selection between the skip and the vice. This way, both vices and leads can gain from the thinking of a more experienced player.

If this explanation is not clear to you (it does sound complicated), just come to the club on the second Saturday of the month and we will help you put it into practice.

Terry, Alan and I will be interested in your thoughts once you have tried it out.

— John Hickson

Someone's in the Kitchen with Dorothy



Continuing a long-standing tradition of honoring special former members deemed important to the club's history, the Board has voted to assign a name to our food preparation area. Henceforth, it shall be known as "Dorothy's Kitchen," in honor of Dorothy Beckett, who left us last year at age 104, after 36 years of continuous membership and service. Dorothy is remembered for having been a commanding presence in "her" kitchen. She was a more-than-able bowler and a loyal friend to the Club. She served as club president in 1984. Bon Appetite!

The Lucie Stern Legacy

Lucie Stern (1871-1946) is generally regarded as Palo Alto's great benefactor. Her wealth came from her husband, Louis Stern, one of four nephews to inherit the large Levi Strauss clothing fortune. She came to Palo Alto after his death in 1924 with her invalid daughter Ruth, built twin houses for the two of them on Cowper Street, and proceeded to help improve the quality of life in the town.

In February 1933, at the request of Mrs. John Arnott, the Palo Alto Planning Commission gave its blessing to the building of a local lawn bowling green. There was every intention on having it built in Rinconada Park near the corner of Middlefield Road and Melville Ave. The idea was abandoned, however, after Lucie Stern and Birge Clark expressed interest in using this location for the new community center planned for the city.

It was Mrs. Stern's desire to move the community theater (then housed in the Hostess House — today's MacArthur Park) away from the noise of disruptive trains to more tranquil surroundings. Only then was attention shifted to the Embarcadero Road site for the green.

After her death in 1946, Lucie Stern's name became linked to the PALBC in more tangible ways. Her will left a foundation to

continue her work. In 1953 the PALBC was attempting to raise money to build a real clubhouse. It approached the Lucie Stern Foundation, and was able to obtain a matching grant for the project. The Club raised \$4,020, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Foundation.

Negotiations were carried on between Dr. Arthur W. Bailey, a retired Congregational minister, on behalf of the Club, and Walter A. Haas, head of Levi Strauss and trustee for the Stern Estate. Haas and Lucie were related, he being the son-in-law of Louis Stern's brother, Sigmund, the Stern for whom San Francisco's Stern Grove is named.

Haas was approached twice again in 1957 and 1958 to enlarge the two locker rooms with similar results. The Foundation paid half the bill. Walter A. Haas was made an honorary life member at this time, but achieved greater name recognition when the University of California at Berkeley named their business school after him. (Baseball fans will remember his son, Walter, Jr., as owner of the Oakland A's.)

Finally, with the funds of the Lucie Stern Foundation running out, it agreed to pay a third of the cost for the final stage of the current building, the kitchen added in 1974. Our benefactor had come through once again.

—PALBC Historian, Peter Danner

Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club
474 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94301