

WICKS

MARCH 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

PALBC Will Host Another Senior Games

Arrangements continue for the 2010 Bay Area Senior Games of which we are a big part. Being involved in this event is an important publicity opportunity for Lawn Bowls clubs all over the Bay Area.

A mixed triples event will be held the weekend of April 10 and 11 and the open pairs event will be held on Wednesday, April 14. The events will follow a different format than the National Senior Games and it should feature some exciting final matches with

the medals on the line. Unlike the National Senior Games held last summer, we will be handing out full size medals instead of the demonstration sport versions.



**BAY AREA
SENIOR GAMES**

While the pairs event is full, we can take two more teams for the triples. If you are interested, let Terry Hogan or Bud Birkenseer know and they will make the arrangements.

Along with Terry and Bud on the organizing committee are Alan Bushell, Michael Ashworth and Ed Walker. John Hickson and

Terry are the liaisons to Anne Cribbs at Senior Games Headquarters.

Locker Room Renovation is on Schedule



The construction is progressing on schedule with new framing, electrical, and plumbing nearing completion. We are looking forward to the improvements the renovation will provide.

PALBC Film Premier

In early February Rory Fraser and Jenni Nelson appeared at the club one Sunday afternoon and explained that they were graduate students at Stanford University on a two year course in the MFA Program in Documentary Filming. Having seen our great web site they decided they would like to produce a short film on lawn bowling and our club, as one of their projects.

We were, of course, delighted. By the following Thursday everything was organized and over the next four days they completed their filming, in the clubhouse, on the green and with personal interviews. We are eager to see the end product. Maybe it will be entered into the film competition just announced by the USLBA.

Their film and three other films by graduate students will be shown at the Annenberg Auditorium, Stanford University, on Thursday March 18th at 7.30pm. The Auditorium is in the Cummings Art Building directly to the right of Hoover Tower as you come up Sierra Street.

This will be the premier of the film and all members are welcome to attend. We are grateful to Rory and Jenni for their interest in our club and it would be nice to have a good turnout in support of them.

In the Umpire's View



In the Past Year...

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I was asked to write a column for *Wicks*. I've enjoyed researching items to cover and am very appreciative of the suggestions I have received.

I started off last March with an article on "Terminology." Unfortunately, I still hear "pairs" referred to as doubles, "bowls" as balls, and the "green" as a court.

The April *Wicks* covered "The Mat." Recently, while waiting my turn to bowl, I had to dodge the opposing skip who kept backing up instead of stepping off the mat to the right.

The May issue covered "Foot Faults." While not the most grievous of faults it is nonetheless an easy thing to correct. Before delivering your bowl, look down, make sure that one foot is WHOLLY on the mat. At delivery, all or part of one foot on or above the mat. It takes only a second to do that.

June and August *Wicks* covered "Hand Signals." Whether you want to know if you are holding shot, where the jack is, which way to deliver your bowl, or shots up or down after an end, any of these (and more) can be done by hand signals. It's can be very distracting if you are on the mat, concentrating on your next shot and players on an adjoining rink yell questions or instructions to their teammates.

Reflections on Curling

I, as well as many other of you lawn bowlers, was quite fascinated with curling at the recent Olympics.

That wondrous interval when the curler launches himself and the rock, which weighs about 40 pounds, down the ice covered rink, releasing it with a slight turn just before the hog line to slide down the rink, somewhat guided by a furious sweeping toward its final resting place, seems forever even if only about thirty seconds.

The stone, sliding so slowly, so powerfully so accurately, just keeps going until it finally comes to rest in the "house," the circle within which the rock must be in order to score.

The games were "fours," just as in lawn bowls, firsts, seconds, thirds, and fourths, with two stones each. Most of the game depends on hitting other shots out of the house, and having the final shot; the hammer. The concentration and accuracy of the players, I think, should be an inspiration for us lawn bowlers.

Our game is different than curling, though similar. But we can and should play with the same concentration and intention, and be in flight with our bowls as they travel down the green, ideally into the best possible position in the head.

— Fred Hawley

In September *Wicks* we covered "Proper Tournament Attire." Among the rules are color of clothing, types of shoes and length of shorts. Shirts must also have sleeves (long or short) and collars. I've seen people wearing tank tops or shirts with no collars. The rule also states "Non-conformance with this code may result in disqualification."

The October *Wicks* article was about not thanking an opponent who accidentally gave away a shot, by either moving the jack or promoting their opponent's bowl. They feel bad enough already. Let's not rub salt in the wound. (I still hear people saying it, though).

The November, January and February *Wicks* featured the duties of the skips, vices (or seconds), and leads, respectively. The articles covered several of the duties of those positions. Any leads and vices who will someday be moving up to the next position should familiar themselves with those duties. Skips should be familiarize with all the duties of the three positions. And most importantly, the skips should be willing and able to help promote the sport by being supportive of our novices. Today's novices, tomorrow's competition.

That's my recap of the year. Thanks to all of you who have read my articles and the very nice comments you have given me.

If anyone has anything they would like me to cover in future columns, please email me at EBParkell@aol.com.

— E.B. Parkell

What's Happening at PALBC

The England Bowls President's Tour

We are looking forward to the visit of the England Bowls President, Chris Smith, and his party to the PALBC on Sunday April 25th. This is a return visit for Chris, who was a member of the President's tour here in 2000, so it will be fun to see him and his wife Glenis again. Their bowlers will provide formidable opposition, especially as we will be playing "fours" (rinks) which is played regularly in England.

Our selection committee has a hard job on its hands. There are only 24 bowlers needed. Our team members will be posted on the bulletin board inside. We hope everyone will come along, enjoy watching some good bowling and mingle with our visitors.

They will arrive after lunch at about 12.45 pm. We will be playing 18 or 21 end games during the afternoon, concluding with socializing, along with drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

New Palo Alto Director of Community Services

Congratulations to Greg Betts who has just been appointed the new Director of Community Services, which includes the Parks and Recreation Department. Greg has been the Interim Director for some time now and has always worked closely with us. We wish him well and hope we may see him on the green one day.

Renovation Progress

After a slow start the new bathrooms are beginning to take shape. Nick Cortese of Castlewood Construction, the contractor, is expecting to have the work completed by the end of this month. We hope he is right and that there are no delays. We do know he is doing everything he can to get the job completed on time. Thank you, Nick.

Weeds Be Gone

Thanks to all the volunteers (too many to mention) who have labored on hands and knees at various times over the last three weeks, to clear large quantities of Poana and Rye grass from our green. What a difference it has made! The most important thing is that we have got the Poana out before it drops its seeds so we should see less next year. The City will have verticut the green, on the diagonal, by the time you receive this *Wicks*, which should further improve the playing surface.

Who's Who

A club membership roster is included in this *Wicks* mailing. Please take a moment to look closely at the entry with your name. If any changes are required, let Bud know at budbirk@gmail.com and corrections will be made. It is important that we keep an accurate membership database.

Welcome to our New Members

Robb Pawlak
Arnie Barros



Coach's Corner

Practice What I Preach

You may have noticed that I repeat some of my advice at least once a year. The best way to stop this happening is to act on the advice!

Every coach will tell you that you should stay on the mat until your delivered bowl has come to rest. At this point you must leave the mat, stepping off to the right, so that the next bowler can move onto the mat, entering from the left.

Too often, I still see bowlers stepping off the mat and turning their back on the bowl (and their skip) well before it comes to rest. The reason you stay on the mat until your bowl stops is because you can learn something from every delivery, good or bad! No green is perfect, so you should be gathering information after every delivery about line, weight, draw/bias, slow or fast patches (where the grass is very green or bare) and where there are humps or hollows which can affect a delivery.

Don't forget you can also learn by watching your opponents bowls, but be sure they are right handed, if you are right handed, as the delivery position for a left hander is different.

So please practice what I preach. Then you will always have a happy skip and a happy Coach!

— John Hickson

PALBC CALENDAR

Pizza Bowls every Wednesday, 5:00 pm. Starts March 31.

March

- 20 PIMD opening day, Rossmoor, 8:45 am
- 27 Women's Singles (markers needed). Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am.
- 31 Pizza Bowls every Wednesday, 5:00 pm.
- 31 First of five City of Palo Alto Recreation sponsored Wednesday coaching classes, 6:00 pm.

April

- 3 Men's Team Pairs. Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am.
- 4 Private Party. 4:00 pm.
- 10 Bay Area Senior Games (Mixed Triples). Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am. Games continue on April 11.
- 14 Bay Area Senior Games (open pairs). Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am.
- 17 PIMD Women's Fives, San Francisco. Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am.
- 17 Nor-Cal Men's Singles, Rossmoor. Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am. Games continue on April 18.
- 24 Berkeley Jamboree, Berkeley. Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am.

Parties, parties, parties!

We would not be the PALBC without an active party schedule. Mark your calendars for these upcoming celebrations. Parties for 2010 are listed below:

May 22

Casual Social with a light supper, 6:00 pm. The green will still be closed so we'll have a pleasant evening of conversation and games.

June 12 ☆

Green Reopening Celebration. Come on out and try the reconditioned green. Draw games begin at 2:30 with beverages and dinner to follow.

August 21

Celebrate our PALBC's Seniors Tournament Winner. Draw games will start at 3:00 pm to accommodate the finals of the Seniors Tournament. The celebration with food and drinks will follow.

September 4 ☆

Labor Day BBQ. Draw games at 2:30 pm. We'll fire up the BBQ and start the festivities by 5:00 pm.

October 30 ☆

Halloween Costume Party. We hope the costumes are scarier than the bowling. Draw games at 2:30 pm. Food and drinks to follow.

December 11

Annual General Meeting and Holiday Tea. The meeting will begin at 11:00 am with the Holiday Tea following. Draw games for those interested will start at 1:30 pm.

☆ If you have dreams of being an Emeril or Rachel Ray, perhaps you would like to develop a food theme and organize one of these parties. In the past we have had a Paris Bistro night, Aussie BBQ, and Hawaiian Luau among others. There will be many people to help you accomplish your dream.

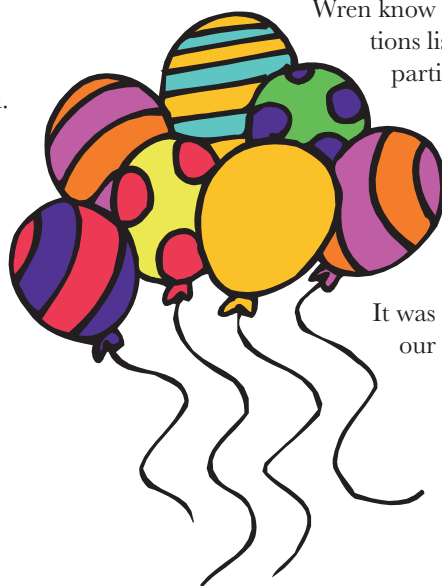
It's Amore!

In addition to the occasions listed above, our popular Wednesday Pizza Bowls will start March 31. Draw games are at 5:00 pm followed by drinks and pizza. Lynda Brown will host the first one. Rain will cancel both the bowling and the pizza.

Are You a Party Person?

The Hospitality committee for 2010 is forming now. Let Jean Wren know if you would like to host one of the celebrations listed or participate in another way in our parties. People are needed to help decorate the clubhouse, set-up the tables and chairs, cook, and help with the cleanup. Please let Jean know how you would like to help. Email to wrenjp@gmail.com is preferred, but if you can't send an email you can call and leave a message with Jean at 650-493-0946.

It was the many who helped out last year who made our parties such a success.



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