

WICKS

JUNE 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

SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday, 9:45 am.
Wednesday
Pizza Bowls, 5:00 pm.
Sunday, 1:30 pm.

CONTACT

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Opening Day Festivities

The weather was hot but there was a refreshing breeze which made it bearable. A total of 50 people bowled during the afternoon and in view of the temperature it was decided to limit the games to 12 ends with a 5-10 minute break after 6 ends. This worked well and enabled everyone to finish on time.

At the Tiki Bar, Mike Ashworth served his now famous Mai Tais and Brit Turner helped with the beer and wine. Gallons of lemonade were also consumed

Prior to the dinner we enjoyed Hawaiian entertainment by a Ukulele group from San Francisco. Ke'alohe me Na Hoa played a variety of songs including a special song they had written about the PALBC. Our thanks go to Elaine Fong and her group.

The clubhouse and outside tables were filled with 86 members and guests for our Hawaiian style dinner. We enjoyed roast pork, different rice dishes, tropical salads, salmon spread, chicken loaf, Spam and pineapple skewers, cheeses, desserts and many other treats, including poi!

The planning committee included Sarah Babin, Ginger Harris, Bonny Turner, and Betsy Young. As always, contributions for the party came from many members: managing the invitations, bring-



Pedro Zalbidea and Ken Torke looking fashionable.

ing and arranging flowers, decorating inside and out, preparing and serving food, checking people in, taking pictures and clearing up afterwards.

A giant mahalo to everyone. It was truly teamwork.



After bowling we all enjoyed the music of Ke'alohe me Na Hoa while sipping Mai Tais on a beautiful evening.

What's Happening at PALBC

A New Look

The new lockers are installed in both the men's and women's locker rooms. The club owes Bud Birkenseer and Sam Hebert a very special thank you for all the hours of work they put in, turning old wood into these beautiful new lockers. All the men's lockers are taken but there are still a few new women's lockers left. Contact Bud if you are interested.

The next step is to find out if any dual members are interested in having a locker so Bud and Sam know our requirements before preparing more wood and continuing their special work. Bud will send out an email in due course.

New Backboards

Five backboards have been replaced by Paul from the City Parks Department. Thank you to Alan Bushell, Terry Hogan, John Hickson, David Hale, Jon Yee, Ron LeBlanc, and our leader Bob Leonard who repainted all the backboards in time for opening day.

In addition, our "worker bees," Bud and Sam, have done another fine job of renumbering all the rinks, which is a great improvement and should be fairly permanent.

Club Supplies

Now that we are back on the green, remember that Jon Yee is your contact for bowls supplies. Grippo, chalk, measures, shoes, bowls (new or used) and now a new supply of club towels are available. He also has other "goodies" which he will be happy to tell you about!

Dorothy Beckett Memorial

When you are next in the clubhouse, direct your eyes above the kitchen door. You will see the beautiful commemorative plaque naming the kitchen "Dorothy's Kitchen" in recognition of her many years serving the club as Hospitality Chair. In addition, she had been a past President and our oldest member.

Oil Painting Donation

Richard Wheeler, who has been a member for 2 years, is a great supporter of the PALBC and has generously donated to us another of his oil paintings for a fund raising raffle. It is on display in the clubhouse, so have a good look at it and then get ready to buy raffle tickets when they are available in about a month.

This will give us more time to sell tickets before we hold the draw at the Annual Meeting in December. Thank you Richard for the lovely painting and for your generosity.

In the Umpire's View



Spectators and Shakespeare

In Henry VI, Act IV, Scene II, William Shakespeare wrote: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." That seems a bit harsh to me. Some of my best friends are lawyers.

After watching and/or playing in some tournaments recently, I think the phrase should be changed to: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the spectators."

Don't call the police. I'm not really advocating violence here. Spectators are an integral part of any tournament.

Actually, I am very pro-spectator. They show an interest in the sport by coming out to cheer the players on. (Imagine a Stanford home game without spectators in the stands.) Spectators applaud good shots as if they were the "winning touchdown" and moan at a poorly executed shot that could have given the bowler the needed point for a win.

The first tournament I was ever in was back in 2002. The husband of my pairs partner came up and asked me what the score was. He was just curious to see how we were doing. My opponent turned to him and snapped, "You can't talk to her now. We are in a tournament." He turned and walked away without another word.

Besides being rather brusque with him, she was also right. Not only should no one talk to the players, the spectators should also not be near the players and making comments.

In recent months, I've heard spectators, at tournaments, talk-

ing loudly right behind the players about:

- The stance of a player on the mat
- Which hand the player should be using
- What is going to happen to the head when the bowl comes in (or doesn't)
- How much green they should be taking
- What a player's partner is doing right (or wrong)
- I've also heard spectators suggest that a team roll longer jacks since the opponent prefers shorter ones

RULE 58 Spectators

1. Spectators and anyone else not directly taking part in the game should stay outside the boundaries of the green and clear of the players.
2. If part of the green is being used for spectators, they should stay outside the boundaries of the rinks of play and clear of the players.
3. They should not disturb or advise the players in any way.

The way the green is set up in Palo Alto, Rule 58, Part 2, would apply to our tournaments. To keep from having spectators too near the players, it would make sense that when a tournament is being played in a northerly direction (out from the clubhouse), to have the spectators on the eastern and western sides of the green. When playing from west to east, the spectators should be on the seats in front of the clubhouse and on the northerly side of the green.

As the Bard once wrote: "To be or not to be," a spectator? Oh, definitely, do be.

— E.B. Parkell

National Singles Championships Playdowns

Although we are scheduled to host the Singles Playdowns Finals for Men and Women on July 17th and 18th, it is probable that the Women's Singles will have been completed the week before.

This means that we should have a couple of rinks available for draw games on both Saturday and Sunday but of course numbers will be limited. However, it is also an opportunity for members to come and support our PIMD bowlers who are vying to become the PIMD Singles representative for the National Championships and to watch some top class bowling.

Pizza Bowls

Now that the green has reopened, we will have Pizza Bowls on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm. We are looking for members to serve as hosts for a night. This involves organizing and preparing the pizza and salads and anything else one might like to provide.

There is a sign-up sheet and some basic guidelines in the kitchen. We look forward to having a variety of hosts.

Friday Night League

The first of eight Friday Night League games will start June 25th. The draw will begin at 5:30 pm. This is an opportunity for all bowlers to enter a low pressure tournament and gain points on a weekly basis towards prizes. Come on out for some snacks and some fun bowling. Details will be available at the club.

Preachers Corner

With the temperatures rising we need to take precautions when out in the sun. It is most important to stay hydrated so make sure there is always cold water available on the green. In addition, read the advice provided by nurse Sarah, which is posted on the outside notice board. Then you will not only care for yourself but will be in a position to help someone else.

PALBC CALENDAR

Pizza Bowls every Wednesday, 5:00 pm.

June

- 19 Kiwanis Fundraiser. 2:30 pm for club volunteers.
- 19 US Playdowns Pairs, Rossmoor. Men's qualifying, Women's finals. (Saturday and Sunday)
- 25 Friday Night League starts (the first of eight weeks). Draw at 5:30 pm.
- 26 US Playdowns Pairs, Rossmoor. Men's Finals (Saturday and Sunday)
- 26 PALBC Women's Draw Pairs. Registration from 8:30 am, draw at 9:00 am.

July

- 7 Five week City Coaching Class Begins
- 10 US Playdowns Singles, SFLBC. Men's and Women's qualifying. (Saturday and Sunday)
- 17 US Playdowns Singles, PALBC. Men's and Women's finals. (Saturday and Sunday)
- 24 Mixed (2x2) Fours, Berkeley.
- 25 Friday Night League starts. Draw at 5:30 pm.



Coach's Corner

A First Step

Many of us are a little rusty after what seems like a long break from bowling, so how do we get back into the "swing" of things?

A good first step would be to do some gentle stretching exercises before the game and work on those leg muscles!

The other important thing to remember is that you should be well balanced as you step forward into your delivery position. This allows you to remain in that position as you complete your follow through, which should in turn help you to deliver consistently on your chosen delivery line.

The Other First Step

Many of us have gotten a little careless about foot faulting. At a recreational level it may not be important but it might cause you problems in a tournament.

The rule states that before delivery, you must stand with at least one foot fully on the mat. Check your foot to see that neither your toes nor the sides or especially the heel of that foot hang off the mat. At the moment of delivery, at least one foot must be partially on or over the mat.

As with the other bowling tips presented here, the goal is to develop good habits.

— John Hickson

Athol Foden, "Good Guy."

Our excellent web site was designed and maintained by our Web Master supreme, Athol Foden, since its launch some six years ago. Now, Athol has decided that it is time to follow his dream — to live in a log cabin near Yosemite National Park. This means we are going to lose him, both as a bowler and our web master, within the next few months.

Opening Day was an ideal opportunity for John Hickson to thank Athol for the great contribution he has made to the club..



"Good Guy," Athol Foden.

As a web marketing expert, his work with the web site has been instrumental in introducing many more people to lawn bowling and to the Palo Alto club in particular. He has played a big part in the continuing growth of our club.

John recognized his contribution to the club by presenting him a "Good Guy" award along with a bottle of wine to celebrate! We wish him all the best in his new adventure.

A Good Friend Retires

After 29 years working for the City of Palo Alto, most recently as the Interim Director of Open Space, Parks and Golf, Robert Ward retired on June 11th.

We are losing a good friend, who for most of those years was involved in the maintenance of our green. He worked very closely with us to provide a first class facility and we appreciate everything he has done to support us and leave us with a green that has never been in better shape.

Robert asked if we would organize a competitive pairs match for him on his last day. So on June 11th Terry Hogan and Frank Matyskiela took on John Hickson and Robert Ward.

Terry and Frank got off to a flying start, as John and Robert began to get the feel of the green. By the twelfth end the deficit was cut to two points but Terry and Frank prevailed over the last two ends and so the President regrets he was not able to



John Hickson and Robert Ward on the bench that Robert and his wife Sandy generously donated to our club.

help Robert leave with a win. Nevertheless it was an excellent game and we hope Robert will come and join us on the green and continue our long association.

We know that the PALBC has a special place for Robert over the years and so he had a farewell at the club on June 10th, when a dozen members were there to wish him well along with many of his City colleagues.

We were thrilled to find that Robert and his wife Sandy have given the club a beautiful new bench which was already in place at the far end of the green, opposite the clubhouse. We really appreciate this generous gift. When you are taking a break during a game and relaxing on the bench, take a look at the commemorative plaque on the back, you will enjoy it!

My Joyful Return

It was wonderful to be bowling again on a beautiful cool Tuesday morning. I am so thankful for the loving support from so many people. I was able to play fourteen ends without tiring. Linda and Jean greeted me afterwards. How fortunate I am to be surrounded by beautiful caring people.

I attended Bob Ward's retirement party Friday afternoon. Bob was responsible for keeping our green in the excellent playing condition which it is. Now this is something special. He and his staff really care. Without that care we would not have the excellent green and our club would not be what it is.

Then the beautiful new locker rooms and restrooms add class to the club, and Buds' and Sam's new lockers really dress up the place.

Somehow our club has a mind and intention that cause good things to happen.

— Fred Hawley

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