

WICKS

NOVEMBER 2011

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

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Saturday, and Sunday

1:15 pm

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Ed Arnold Tournament

Cloudy skies and the occasional drips of liquid sunshine didn't dampen the spirits of the hardy bowlers who turned up for the Ed Arnold tournament on November 5th. The 16 teams, representing most of other Bay Area clubs, enjoyed a day of friendly, and at times very close, competition during the day's three games.



Congratulations to Ed Arnold Champions Arnie Barros, Mo Shooer, and Tirisa Biukoto.

While there are prizes, the tournament is played for fun with each team member playing lead, second, and skip for four ends. Teams arrived in matching colors, or non-traditional plaids, and one even came as Skittles® with their red, orange and yellow shirts, shoes and bowls! Tournament Director, Bud Birkenseer, unveiled his newest leader board design, rockets blasting off into space.

In the end, the top seven teams received a cash prize, with Arnie Barros, Mo Shooer, and Tirisa

Biukoto taking top honors for 2011. Congratulations to all who entered and braved the elements!

Super Senior Singles

The Palo Alto LBC has so many active senior bowlers, a tournament was held for bowlers over 80. Eight bowlers, John and Carmen Quackenbush, self proclaimed Golden Geezer Fred Hawley, Al Mendoza, Arnie Barros, George Marrota, Roberta Durham, and Brit Turner met on October 26 for the first Super Senior Singles Tournament. Al Mendoza was a late addition, replacing Don Hughes who was injured.

At the end of the preliminary games, Roberta Durham led with the best differential. Fred Hawley and Al Mendoza played a 4-end semifinal, the winner advancing to play Roberta in the final. Both Fred and Al had a great match, each making fine shot after fine shot. Al just played too well and advanced to the final.

In the final, Al continued to bowl beautifully and was too good for Roberta to overcome. Congratulations to Al Mendoza, PALBC Super Senior Champion.

The day was made more special by the celebration of Brit Turner's 90th birthday. Everyone had smiles on their faces as the lunch put together by Bonny Turner was enjoyed by this exceptional group of people. Congratulations to them all!



Super Seniors John and Carmen Quackenbush, Fred Hawley, Al Mendoza, Arnie Barros, George Marrota, Roberta Durham, and Brit Turner.

What's Happening at PALBC

Annual Meeting

The 2011 Annual meeting and Holiday Tea will be held at 11:00 am on December 10. This is always a chance to catch up with friends who may not bowl frequently but are still strong supporters of our club.

A review of the year will be shared, and new officers elected. The evite has been sent, so please let us know you will be there! The charge of \$10 per person is waived if you let Jane Stender know (jane_e_stender@yahoo.com or 650-325-1664) which of your favorite sweet or savory finger foods you will bring to share. After the Tea, we will have a "Jingle Bells" draw game. Come see what holiday cheer is in store!

In the Umpire's View



The Year in Review

I started this column in March, 2009, so I did a year's recap last March. However, with tournaments over and the holidays near, I thought this would be a good month for a review.

January, 2011 The new *Laws of the Sport of Bowls* was coming out. I discussed the four *major* changes that would effect play. First, the skip is to keep score in all games (it used to be the vice in pairs.) Second, no more "one minute rule." (Old rule, you had to take your shot within a minute of the last bowl stopping.) Third, no more "hammer rule." You win the end, you set the mat and roll the jack. Lastly, the hog lines were moved to 23 meters from the rear ditch, from 25 meters.

February 2011 I wrote in more detail about the new hog lines and also about the distance the mat should be placed from the rear ditch. The front of the mat should be no less than 2 meters from the rear ditch.

March 2011 As mentioned above, this was a review of my first year's articles.

April/May 2011 I usually try to cover the *laws* of bowls. In April and May, we covered *ethics*. I listed the 29 items in the *Code of Bowling Etiquette*. For the most part, the Code is just common good manners. It refers to being punctual, dressing correctly for a tournament, keeping quiet when a player is on the mat, not applauding lucky shots, not saying "thanks" for a bad shot that goes your way, etc.

June 2011 Can the score be changed after it is signalled to the skip? Years ago, if the lead in a pairs game or vice in a triples game, signaled the number of shots for or against their team to the skip, that was it. In fact, if after signaling to the skip they decide to measure, it is okay to do so. There are still some players who argue this but Conrad Melton, our National Umpire in Chief, weighed in on it and said "As the cards speak for themselves in poker, so the pattern of the bowls in the head speak for the score in bowls."

On the mend

Don Hughes and Tisa Walker are recuperating after injuries from falls. We'll be happy to see both of them back at the club when they are fully up and around!

Master of the Jack is Back!

Bud Birkenseer has revived this "draw to the jack" practice exercise. Anyone interested can ask Bud about trying their luck either before or after any draw game.

Simply roll and center a jack, then do your best to get your four bowls as close to it as possible. The distances from each bowl to the jack are totaled, and that's your personal best. You can try this as many times as you like. Bud will post the names of those bowlers who have the smallest total. The bowler with

July/August 2011 I covered the duties of markers and encouraged bowlers to mark. Conrad Melton took the *World Bowls' Guidelines for Markers* and condensed it down to thirty-three points. Among other things, it covers marking touchers, having chalk, not talking to the players unless they initiate it, where to stand, using hand signals, not volunteering information, and measuring for point if asked by *both* players.

September 2011 When is the beginning the beginning? I wrote about a game I played where after the first end, three bowls were touching the jack, two from one team and one from the other. Since the end was a tie, we scored the cards with zeros. The opposing skip and I then noticed our leads flipping a coin. We asked them why they were doing that. They informed us that since we were starting over, they wanted to flip the coin to see who went first. *Law 18.3, Start of Play* covers this. "In any game, the start of play is the delivery of the jack by the first player to play in the first end." We had already started the game. There was no need to flip a coin.

October 2011 *Law 42, Delivering the Final Bowl of an End*. I have seen games where skips, who were holding shot, took their last shot and gave away a point or points. Simply stated, it is not compulsory for a player to play the final bowl of an end. However, it is necessary to tell the opposing skip, or opponent in a singles game, that you are not rolling your last bowl *before* any process of scoring starts. Once you decide to "declare," that decision is final. Not knowing this law may cost you an end, a game, or a tournament.

After last month's article, I was reminded that it is always a good idea to go to the head to make sure that you are indeed holding the shot before declaring. (Thanks, A.W.) She's right. If your partner or even a very good marker signals that you are holding shot, you have every right to go to the head and confirm it before declaring. Let's face it; some people are just not very good at "eye-balling" the shot bowl.

Happy Thanksgiving, enjoy whichever December Holiday you celebrate, and *Happy New Year*.

— E.B. Parkell

the shortest total remains the Master of the Jack until she/he is wicked out by someone new.

This is good practice in a fun format. Give it a try!

Senior Games

The Bay Area Senior Games are back again. The ever popular lawn bowling competitions are scheduled for March 20-21 (triples) and March 22-23 (pairs). More information will be coming, but you can organize a team and get the dates on the calendar now. Space is limited, so as soon as registration opens, get your names on the list. Who will take home the bronze, silver or gold this year?

The Lawn Bowls Project

Judith Selby's "lawn bowls made from single use plastic bags" project is on a roll. Members of the community have collected many thousands of plastic bags, and workshops are now being held to begin the create the oversized bowls.

At a recent workshop, Betsy Young, Ann Knopf, Ken Torke and Ginger Harris helped turn bags into thin strips which were tied end to end then wrapped around a HUGE plastic bag full of more than 400 plastic bags. Voila! The most colorful (and interestingly biased) bowl you've ever seen

The display will be created in late January, with a community reception at our clubhouse to follow soon after. There is another hands-on opportunity in January for anyone who would like to participate in this exciting art endeavor. Information on the next workshop can be found at artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org.

Annual Food Drive

We are again collecting non-perishable food items to donate to local food banks during this holiday season. Each time you come to bowl, please bring something to add to the box inside the clubhouse.

Most need items are low-sugar cereals, canned meats/fish, peanut butter, soups, fruit cups, 100% juice boxes, granola bars, graham/animal crackers, rice and pasta. We will deliver these items to the food banks with our club's good wishes. Thank you in advance for your help!

It's That Time Again

Membership fees are due beginning December 1. Please remit directly by mail or in person to club treasurer, Frank Matyskiela.

Looking forward to 2012

The first "event" for 2012 is on the calendar. Save the date for January 21. We will have a regular draw game afternoon followed by a warm dinner and games. Watch for further details on the bulletin board and in the next *Wicks* in January.

PALBC CALENDAR

December

10 PALBC Annual Meeting and Holiday Tea. 11:00 am.

January

21 Draw Games, 2:30 pm. Bowling will be followed by a warm dinner and games night. Details TBA.



Coach's Corner

Speeding up the Measure

In most cases, measuring should be an easy and straightforward job if you follow the correct procedure. Who should do the measuring? The seconds (vices) in triples and leads in pairs.

There is no rule as to which team does the measuring because the other team can always ask to check the measure again if it is very close. If there is still no agreement, call in the skips, or in a tournament, an umpire.

Make sure you observe the head at all times so you know which bowls are your team's and which are your opponent's. Then, when an end is complete, decide as quickly as possible with your opponent, if a measure is needed. If a point is not obvious, get on and measure rather than waste time studying the bowls. But remember, either team can insist on a measure even if the other team doesn't think it is necessary.

Whenever there is more than one shot to be counted, always place the shot bowl(s) on a towel so they do not get recounted by mistake. If you don't have a towel with you, ask to use your opponents. *The seconds or leads from both teams must agree on the points scored before either of them signal the result to their respective skips.* Once they have signalled to their skips, the score can't normally be challenged. Be sure you get it right.

Let's see if we can speed up the scoring process.

— John Hickson

PALBC Art Show Returns

In addition to being good bowlers, some of our members are accomplished artists and crafters. For one night last February, our club house was turned into an art gallery.

Who would have guessed that the PALBC has so many talented artists? Whether it was painting, photography, print, quilting, sculpture, or poetry, 16 of our members shared their talents with us.

This is a very early announcement but we will have our next art show in May, during our annual green closure. With a show in May instead of February we should be able to accommodate some displays outside allowing for more artists to participate.

In addition to the arts mentioned above, if you would like to share your creative interests in arts such as flower arrangement, music, jewelry making, woodworking, knitting or crocheting, sewing or needlework, doll making, origami, video production, or other arts, contact David Hale (david@haybales.biz) for more information.

Something Strange in the 'Hood...

Sherlock Holmes, Monet, a wayward golfer, a snowflake, a scarecrow as well as other various (and U-G-L-Y) characters arrived on the green for some bowling fun followed by a delicious pot luck dinner organized by Jane Stender.

Nikki Schrager won a bag of candy for ending up closest to the jack in the pre-game spider. The draw games were again made more interesting with the addition of the traveling prize balloon. The Helene Pier, Alan and Candice Bushell team had the balloon at the end of the game and won the Treat (first in line for dinner) and Trick (head of the clean-up committee) prizes!

The phantom judge, Janell Coleman, awarded prizes in several novel categories such as "Is that a costume?," "Try again next year," "Most recognizable," and "You're a what?" Thanks to all who attended and got into the Halloween spirit!



Janell Coleman with prize winners Betsy Young, Ginger Harris, Carmen Quackenbush, John Hickson (really!), Nikki Schrager, and Peter Danner.

2011 PALBC Novice Tournament

The most highly subscribed Novice tournament in recent years had six enthusiastic entrants who showcased their ever-improving bowling skills with well-deserved pride. Darlene and Ralph Cowden, Jeff Phillips, Bill Coleman, Paul Barsley and Dean Bunderson played a round robin of 14 point games. Many games lasted 14 or more ends with touchers, lead changes, tie scores, and lots of measuring being the order of the day.

Bill Coleman, enjoying his first singles tournament, remarked that, "this game is just what I've been looking for!" It was evident from the good sportsmanship and camaraderie that our newest members will be valued members of the PALBC.



Bud pins a medal on the PALBC 2011 Novice Champion Jeff Phillips.

The close games made it a very long day, with more bowling than any of our novices had ever done. While five games had been scheduled, Jeff Phillips emerged from another close game with his fourth win of the day. His undefeated run saved the tournament from playing into darkness.

Thank you to our novice bowlers, the markers, who enjoyed some very good bowling, and congratulations to Jeff Phillips, 2011 PALBC Novice Champion.

PIMD Closing Day

SFLBC hosted this year's Closing Day tournament. Eighty four bowlers filled two greens with seven matches per green in the morning and afternoon. A great time was had by everyone on a beautiful day in San Francisco. Sandy Souza guided both her morning and afternoon teams to victory on Green 2 to take top prize money. On Green 1, Al Minvielle took his all SFLBC team to victory in the morning, and Terry Thomas from SJLBC captained his mix and match team (Ann Walker of PALBC, and Mary Kung of Rossmoor LBC) to the afternoon victory.

See all the winners on the PIMD web site: pimdawnbowls.org

PALBC Men's Team Pairs

Twelve teams competed for the 2011 Men's Team Pairs championship. Each team played three preliminary games. The top scoring four teams in those games, advanced to the semifinals.

The team of Peter Knopf and Bob Schwartz were undefeated after three games. Five teams won two of the preliminary games and, based on differential points, the teams of Larry Collaço and Alan Bushell, John Hickson and Ed Walker, and Terry Hogan and Jon Yee would join Peter and Bob in the semifinals.



Peter Knopf and Bob Schwartz, 2011 Men's Team Pairs Champions.

Peter and Bob continued their excellent bowling and defeated Terry and Jon. The other semifinal saw John and Ed out bowl Larry and Alan. With the shadows getting long it was decided the final would be played on another day.

A week later, Peter Knopf and Bob Schwartz met John Hickson and Ed Walker in the final. The time off didn't slow Peter and Bob as they swept the field on their way to the Men's Team Pairs championship. Congratulations to Peter and Bob!



The Mixed Triples bowlers did their best to stay warm on a chilly day.

Mixed Draw Triples Tournament

Twelve teams tried to keep warm on a cold day as they played for the 2011 Mixed Draw Triples championship. The results from three twelve end preliminary games determined the teams in the final.

Three teams, Ian Harris with Bonny Turner and George Stewart, Terry Hogan with Liz Hogan and Pedro Zalbidea, and Bud Birkenseer with Penny Bayless and Bob Leonard were unaffected by the cold weather and won all three of their first games.

With three undefeated teams, a mini-playoff was held to see who would advance to play Ian's team in the final. His team had bowled strongly and finished highest of the three teams with a big advantage in differential points. The teams

led by Bud and Terry played a four-end game for the right to play Ian. Four ends is a very short game and Terry's team jumped to a big early advantage. Bud's team started to come back but there just weren't enough ends to overcome Terry's lead.

November days are short so, being the fifth game of the day, the final was also a four-end game. Although Ian's team had been dominant in their three games, Terry's team again scored early, putting Ian at an immediate disadvantage. As in the first playoff, Terry's early lead would be enough. Congratulations to our 2011 Mixed Draw Triples Champions, Terry Hogan with Liz Hogan and Pedro Zalbidea.



Champions Pedro Zalbidea, Liz Hogan, and Terry Hogan.

IN MEMORIAM

Irwin Keyson

Irwin Keyson was a man of many talents. He was a writer, a prolific reader, loved music and played string bass in an orchestra. He was a talented linguist and spoke several languages. Irwin was a noted teacher of math, physics, and electronics.



He served in the US Air Force in World War II and was an ardent ham radio operator for many years. When he and Rhoda, his wife of 56 years, traveled the world, they often stayed with people Irwin had met on the radio.

Irwin worked at Bell Telephone Laboratory with Shockley, inventor of the transistor, and later became an engineering manager at Lockheed. He held four degrees, including a Doctorate in Instructional Technology.

He enjoyed lawn bowling and the people he met at the PALBC. Irwin is survived by his wife, Rhoda, three children and twelve grandchildren.

Steve Nagy

Steve Nagy, a long time Parks and Recreation Department worker who tended our (then) failing green with care for

many years through poor drainage, poor irrigation, and Oak Leaf Fungus, passed away on November 1.

For his tireless service to the club, Steve was made an honorary club member. Fred Hawley shares that "Steve would be out there dragging the beam and doing the hardest work. He was soft spoken and ever helpful. He was one of the good guys."

Bill Wolfinbarger

Bill Wolfinbarger, a past president of our club who loved the game of bowls and attended social events until very recently, died earlier this month. He was outgoing and gregarious and put a lot of energy into making new members feel welcome.

Bill was not able to bowl in the past few years due to a bad shoulder, and his daughter relates that "he spoke so often of wishing he could still participate. He enjoyed his time at the club very much. I am sure he is bowling somewhere with a much better shoulder." Liz Hogan remembers that "after parties he would always run the vacuum cleaner!"

At a recent annual meeting Bill stood and made a very touching short speech about how much it meant to him to be an associate member as he could still stay connected to the club even though he could not physically bowl. Our thoughts are with his wife, Geri, and the rest of his family.

Mixed Draw Pairs Tournament

There was a very wide range in experience of those entering the Mixed Pairs Draw tournament this year. It was encouraging to see the large number of entrants, but there was the possibility that there would be a couple of very strong teams that would make the tournament a less than competitive event. Thank you very much to tournament director, Bud Birkenseer, who devised a draw system that created a very balanced tournament.

The contest would have all teams playing three preliminary games, the top four teams from those games moving on to the semifinals. Since recent tournaments had run into trouble fitting all the games into one day, all games were played to eight ends. Three teams, Jon Yee and Jeanne Brown, Bud Birkenseer and Benita Holm, Ian Harris and Christine Stafford, emerged from the preliminary games undefeated. The fourth team in the semifinals, Fred Hawley and Bonny Turner, was one of three teams that won two of the three first games. They advanced based on a small advantage in differential points.



The final games so exciting that even the cold didn't drive the spectators away. These three weren't the only fans huddling under blankets while enjoying the close bowling



In an exciting final, Ian Harris and Christine Stafford defeated Fred Hawley and Bonny Turner to become the PALBC 2011 Mixed Draw Pairs Champions.

In the semifinals, Bud's team played Ian's team, and Jon's team played Fred's team. Ian defeated Bud and had to wait for a winner of the game between Jon and Fred. This may have been the game of the day. The bowling was so close that the holding shot went from one team to the other, between both Bonny and Jeanne and Fred and Jon, in many ends. Jon was leading in the sixth end and Fred came back to tie the game with one end left.

Again, the lead went back and forth as Jeanne was on the jack only to have the shot taken away by Bonny. Although Fred tried to protect the point, Jon found the jack with his last bowl and burned the end.

The end was replayed, and while close, it wasn't as dramatic as the previous end. Fred and Bonny emerged as winners and advanced to the final against Ian and Christine.

Under a darkening sky, the final match between Fred's team and Ian's team was as close as the previous match and almost as dramatic. It was a low scoring game, tied 5-5 after the seventh end. With Fred and Bonny holding 2 in the last end, Ian delivered a perfect last bowl to win the end and the championship.

Thank you to the bowlers for a very exciting finish to our tournament season and Congratulations to Ian Harris and Christine Stafford, 2011 Mixed Draw Pairs Champions.