

WICKS

NOVEMBER 2023

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

PRESIDENT

Ian Harris

VICE PRESIDENT

David Usher

TREASURER

Edward Hickey

SECRETARY

Ginger Harris

DIRECTORS

Peter Danner

Sam Hebert

Lynne McCord

Kevin O'Leary

Dave Simpson

PIMD REPRESENTATIVE

Frank Matyskiela

WICKS EDITOR

David Hale

SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday,

Saturday, 10:00 am.

Sunday, 1:30 pm.

Wednesday Evening

Bowls, 5:30 pm.

CONTACT

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90 Years Old!

It was gratifying to see so many of our members at the flag raising ceremony and stay on for lunch, bowling and an afternoon tea. Having Mayor Lydia Kou participate made the event special and it was a great opportunity to fly our new flag on the silver flagpole. We thank John Hickson, our City Liaison, for arranging the Mayor's visit.

Mayor Kou shared some interesting historical facts about the club which she had excitedly discovered while preparing her remarks. Highlighting the fact that Mrs. Ginny Arnott was elected the first president of the club in 1935, she commended our members for continuing to share our lovely facilities with members and the community, working together with the city to provide "a first class operation that continues to prosper and expand."

The Mayor presented club president Ian Harris with a congratulatory proclamation which will be framed and displayed in our clubhouse.

Both the mayor's office and we at the club greatly benefitted from the research and information about our Club's beginnings by our very knowledgeable club historian, Peter Danner. Without him, we would not have known about our founding, the characters involved and the actual dates when the club was established. He has written some interesting articles for *Wicks*, and it is always our wish to get him to write more.

As part of the official festivities, an always popular, chaos-producing spider was held with six



Club President Ian Harris and Mayor Lydia Kou raise our new Club flag at our 90th Anniversary celebration.

prizes. The winners were Sue Bernstein, Rose Selby, Hugo Traeger and three mystery rollers who didn't announce their wins. (If anyone knows why this event is called a spider, please let someone know — it's an ongoing question no one seems to have an answer for.)

The official festivities were followed by a light lunch of finger sandwiches and salads. Dessert was postponed until after bowling. Members

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Our Club Historian, Peter Danner, presented a display with photos and items from the long history of our Club.

then enjoyed visiting together while sipping a cup of tea and a tasty array of fresh strawberries, cream puffs, napoleons, eclairs and other fancy offerings. The consensus was that our tea party was a hit and needed to be put on the social calendar again!



During the morning ceremonies, Palo Alto Mayor Lydia Kou presented a proclamation of appreciation to John Hickson and Ian Harris.

The green was filled with bowlers from our club and a number of visitors from the Santa Clara club. The games were friendly, and no matter the scores, the positive camaraderie won! Team Len Martin, Dave Zimbauer and Alastair Richardson took home the cash prize for having the "Happy Birthday" balloon when the 10-end games finished!

Thanks are also due to the members who spent time setting up the food, the table decorations and indeed the whole clubhouse. Ginger Harris led a team, which included Lynne McCord, Liz Hogan, Christine Stafford, Linda Jensen, Marion Darton, Martha Castillo, Marybeth Fox, Sarah Babin, John Hickson, and Rob Mori. As usual, Ginger came up with many of the ideas for this event and was the driving force behind the scenes. A big thank you to club members who showed up early to help set up and stayed after to help clean up.

We also must thank David Simpson for dealing with the flag design, procurement and setup in his usual unruffled, efficient



The big winners of the "Happy Birthday" money for scoring 4 or more points in an end went to Dave Zimbauer, Alastair Richardson, and Len Martin.

way, in addition to leading the team who restored the flagpole. As Peter Danner shared during the morning remarks, "This pole has borne silent witness to every game ever played since this green opened on March 10, 1935." We hope you all will participate in many more games before our centenary on March 10, 2035.

The whole day went off rather well, and that was principally due to all you members, old and new, who came to bowl, celebrate, and share the day with fellow lawn bowlers.

Not Quite a Cable Car Classic

I'm sorry to report we hosted San Francisco, for what is usually a spirited inter-club competition, and made their day.

In the the morning, it was apparant that San Francisco had brought their A Team and were clearly intent on returning home with the Cable Car we had held for a few years. They

meant business. And that's the way it turned out. We played five triples games, morning and afternoon. In those ten games, Palo Alto only managed to win one game and tie another.

It was still a good day for bowling and we have to thank Ginger Harris for some good refreshments, Bud Birkenseer for preparing the score cards and Mike Coiner for being our Tournament Director.

A Gaggle of Golden Geezers

Our 9th annual Fred Hawley "Golden Geezer" Invitational for the over 80 crowd was held on September 13. Twelve participants hailing from Berkeley, San Francisco, and Santa Clara as well as a number of our homegrown PALBC geezers showed up with a mission to deliver the best bowls of their lives!

The two ten-end games organized by geezer-in-training, Bud Birkenseer, were lively, friendly and tiring! Volunteer markers, Jon Yee, Bud and Ginger kept the jack centered and pointed out winning shots for the players. The sun was out, and the temperature was climbing, but these diehard bowlers didn't let up!

What a treat to watch such dedicated folks all vying for the honor of having their name engraved on the clubhouse plaque featuring Fred's happy smile.

During the welcome light lunch provided by the club, winners were announced. Peter Knopf (winner in 2022) placed 3rd, Len Martin took 2nd, and Ann Knopf won both of her games to earn first place! Look for her name and past winners on the plaque near the kitchen. Well done, Ann!

Palo Alto LBC Men's Singles

It was a busy month at our Club, but eight of our men bowlers still signed on for the 2023 Men's Singles competition. The field of Albert Tam, Bud Birkenseer, Ian Harris, Sam Hebert, Frank Matyskiela, James English (new dual member), Jon Yee, and John Hickson, wished each other well before starting their games.

The challenge was the best of three 12-end or 12-point (whichever came first) games. Despite the warm temperatures, and several games needing extra ends to break ties, all games were completed and a winner emerged.

Bud Birkenseer and Sam Hebert came very close, but Jon Yee will have his name added to the club winner board (again).

New member Rob Mori, Marion Darton and Ginger Harris volunteered as markers for the day. This is really appreciated because it keeps the games moving along.

Palo Alto Hosts PIMD Women's Pairs Tournament

Our club hosted the division-wide Women's Pairs tournament on September 9. Eight eager teams from clubs in Palo Alto, San Francisco, Sunnyvale, and Berkeley arrived with smiles on



Coach's Corner

Winter Bowling

Are you only a summer bowler? If so, you are missing the opportunity to bowl on the green when the grass goes dormant and turns brown. This results in the green running up to a second faster, which means you use less energy when delivering your bowl. It also allows you to practice bowling on a faster green, so you are prepared if you go to another club with faster greens, or an artificial green (such as the one at the Santa Cruz club) which is always at least two seconds faster.

Unfortunately, the green will be closed for maintenance at the end of October but we hope it starts running well a couple of weeks after they finish the work in November.

You really do need to bowl throughout the year to maintain and, hopefully, improve your bowling. So, on those days when the sun is out and the air is crisp, head to the bowls club by 1:00 pm on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday and at 1:30 pm on a Sunday. You will get some fresh air, exercise and good bowling with many of our wonderful club members.

— John Hickson

their faces and looking forward to a day of competition with fellow women bowlers.

Bud Birkenseer arranged all of the pairings for Mike Coiner and Ian Harris who did the tournament director duties for the day. A shout out to San Francisco LBC member Brian Halton who was our day-long spectator. Thanks, guys!

Rose Selby and teammate Annie Brillhart (Berkeley) won all three of the 12-end games to finish in first place. Both of these women will be representing our division at the National Championships to be played in Florida at the beginning of November. Congratulations, Annie and Rose!

A special thanks to Reggie Banares who arrived with a home-made flan to share at lunchtime. Thank you to all who played, supporting our PIMD women's event!

What's Happening at PALBC

Message from the President

I'd like to suggest a little housekeeping. There are several items of concern which we all need to be aware of.

1. Most important is security. One of our members reported that when he arrived the gates and the men's bathroom were not locked. This happens about twice a month *every* month so please get into the habit of checking before leaving the club.
2. On several occasions, jacks, lane markers etc. have been left out and scoreboards have not been cleaned. This happens all too frequently.

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What's Happening *(continued from page 3)*

3. Please set bowls bags, water bottles etc. etc. off the seats so other bowlers can find somewhere to sit.
4. The green will be closed on October 23rd. The re-opening date is going to be around November 6th. Please do not use the green at all until we get the go-ahead from the gardeners. I'm afraid this will demand patience and may take longer, depending on the weather and the extent of the work undertaken.
5. When tournaments or social events are announced there is often a deadline for signing up. Please try to sign up on time so we can develop plans for hospitality or a tournament agenda. Please let us know if you have signed up, plans have changed for you, and you cannot attend.
6. Plan to have your chip up on the board at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of a draw game. This gives time to get the names organized and bowling started on time.

—President, Ian Harris

Save the Date

Our Annual Meeting, holiday lunch, and bowling is scheduled for December 9. More information will be sent closer to the time, but get this date on to your calendar.

We will honor our club tournament champions, welcome some new board members, get wrap-up reports about 2023 at PALBC, make some decisions about going forward and enjoy lunch and some "Jingle Bowls" games together. Members' input is important and welcome at the meeting. There will be more details coming closer to the date. We hope to see you all in a full house!

Keep the Fun Going

Our Wednesday bowling dinners were the most successful ever this year! With the season change, we need more opportunities for members to get together both on and off the green. In past years we have scheduled Sunday afternoon bowling, games (scrabble, bridge, rummicubes, jigsaw puzzles...you name it) and an evening meal several times during the winter months. Soups, salads, warm comfort foods and the like have been very popular.

We have had pot lucks as well as single chef offerings. Want to have a themed event? That's fun as well. As with our summer shared meals, club members volunteer to host. Please get in touch with Ginger Harris if you'd consider taking the lead on one of these. It's your choice of menu or make it a pot luck. The schedule is wide open right now. Get your name on the list before your favorite date is taken!

Coaches Can Get You into the Game

Our regularly scheduled weekly games are for everyone. All skills levels are welcome. If you are not yet comfortable getting in to a full-on draw game, there are coaches and club members who will gladly set up side games and bowl with you, offering support and advice as you hone your skills and develop confidence. We have all been there!

Don't stay away. Getting out on the green with bowling buddies on a regular basis can help make a big difference. Contact a club coach through John Hickson (j.hickson@sbcglobal.net) or ask for help when you arrive at the green. We are here for you!

PALBC CALENDAR

October

- 21 Centinniel Cup, San Francisco LBC
- 23 PALBC green closed for maintenance.
- 29 National Championships, South East Division. 10/29–11/4.

November

- 4 PIMD Novice Singles (all gender), San Francisco LBC. Saturday and Sunday if necessary.
- 5 PALBC Green reopens.
- 11 PIMD Closing Day, San Francisco LBC.
- 18 Champion of Champions Singles (all gender), Santa Cruz LBC. Saturday and Sunday.

December

- 9 PALBC Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

New Members

Loren Brown

Joel Brown

James English