

# WICKS

**FEBRUARY 2019**

## **PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB**

**PRESIDENT**

John MacMorris

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Frank Matyskiela

**TREASURER**

Ed Hickey

**SECRETARY**

Kent Mather

**DIRECTORS**

Bud Birkenseer  
Carrie Chiang  
Joy Guy  
Rose Selby  
Chuck Sieloff  
Christine Stafford

**PIMD REPRESENTATIVE**

Frank Matyskiela

**WICKS EDITOR**

David Hale

**WINTER HOURS**

Tuesday, Thursday,  
Saturday, 12:30 pm.  
Sunday, 1:30 pm.

**CONTACT**

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Palo Alto, CA 94301  
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[www.palbc.org](http://www.palbc.org)



*The Hospitality Committee organized a fine event from wine and hors d'oeuvres, luncheon, and ending with dessert!*

## **Business Meets Pleasure at PALBC Annual Meeting**

Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club gathered on a crisp, but sunny December 8, to socialize, conduct a little club business, and to celebrate another year of lawn bowling in Palo Alto. Sixty plus members and guests enjoyed warm hospitality.

The business side of the meeting consisted of the election of new Board members and Officers and reports from the Committee Chairpersons. Our President, Nadine O'Leary, conducted the election of Rose Selby, Carrie Chiang, and Chuck Sieloff as new Directors, John MacMorris as new President, Frank Matyskiela as new Vice President, and Ed Hickey as new Treasurer. Joy Guy, Christine Stafford and Bud Birkenseer will continue as Directors and Kent Mather will continue as Secretary. Here is a recap of the committee reports.

After we all enjoyed the wine and cheese, Nadine opened the meeting with a brief history of the sport of lawn bowls and introduced some of our guests including past presidents, Peter Knopf, David Hale, Terry Hogan, John Hickson and Ian Harris, and president of the Sunnyvale Lawn Bowls Club, Larry Collaço. Additionally, Nadine offered congratulations to Bud Birkenseer, who was inducted into the PIMD Hall of Fame, and Scottie Marzonie, who

finished second in the singles competition at the Bowls USA National Tournament.

Frank Matyskiela used the TV screen to deliver his Treasurer's and membership reports. He presented numerical and graphic representations of the club's finances for the last ten years. Ed Walker, a past club Treasurer, delivered the auditor's report thanking Frank for his diligent efforts and confirmed that the finances are in good shape.

The house and grounds committee report was given by John MacMorris, who described the work done by the landscapers during the green closure in May, and some of the issues attendant to it. He thanked Kevin O'Leary and Dave Simpson for the extensive work they did in preparing and painting the backboards surrounding the green. They were helped by Frank Matyskiela, Carrie Chiang, Ed Gong, P. A. Moore, and Bud Birkenseer. John pointed out the attractive new signs on our gates thanks to the instigation of Nadine O'Leary and the talent of David Hale, who designed them. John also thanked John Peet for the help he provided on multiple occasions to keep the club roller functioning.

Because the club operates on city property and the city contracts for our landscaping service, close cooperation with the City of Palo Alto is imperative. John Hickson has been handling



*Our outgoing president, Nadine O'Leary, presented the state of the club while reviewing the past year and introducing our new club officers and directors.*

this effort for several years and he described recent developments: notably, that the city has hired new landscapers, Bright View, who are doing a good job; and that the city plans to close the green for maintenance in June 2019.

John Hickson's other job is as the leader of the club's excellent group of coaches. We congratulated him for becoming a BUSA certified coach this year. Our other certified coaches are Sam Hebert, Frank Matyskiela, and Ginger Harris.

Our Tournament Director, Bud Birkenseer, reviewed our club tournaments and announced the year's winners. Bud was a very busy Tournament Director this last year, even with the help of Ginger Harris for the club's women's tournaments, since he is also the PIMD Tournament Director. Between directing the PIMD tournaments and coordinating our club tournaments, he seemed to forget that he won our Senior Singles tournament. Congratulations to Bud and all our other winners.

The club had mixed results in head-to-head competition with other clubs, winning the Cable Car Classic against the San Francisco Lawn Bowls Club, and narrowly losing the Meat Axe Challenge to the Berkeley Lawn Bowls Club.

Christine Stafford, who has been directing our club rental program with the help of Margot Goodman, reported the results for 2018. The club had 22 rentals which produced income of \$12,466. In 2019, Lynne McCord and Cathy Murphy will take over management of this program. Christine will advise them and serve as their board liaison.

Ian Harris, the new chair of the hospitality committee briefly outlined his plans for club social events next year. He also talked about the impending BUSA National Championship Tournament to be held in San Francisco in September and indicated that our club would be assisting to some extent.

Nadine thanked David Hale for his outstanding work producing *Wicks*. She also discussed her largely successful efforts to

move the club to electronic distribution of the publication. Peter Danner, the club historian explained why he had *Wicks* included on the club's website. Nadine also thanked John and Carmen Quackenbush, who mail out hard copies of *Wicks*.

Nadine capped the meeting by awarding Sam Hebert the club's Good Guy Award. Sam continues to contribute time, effort and talent to the success of individual bowlers and our club. Sam is always looking for an opportunity to coach. At the meeting, he led a spirited discussion of how to properly use hand signals on the green.

Following a sumptuous lunch organized by our Hospitality Committee, we brought the day to a fitting close by bowling. Thirty bowlers used five rinks on a beautiful afternoon and had a wonderful time.

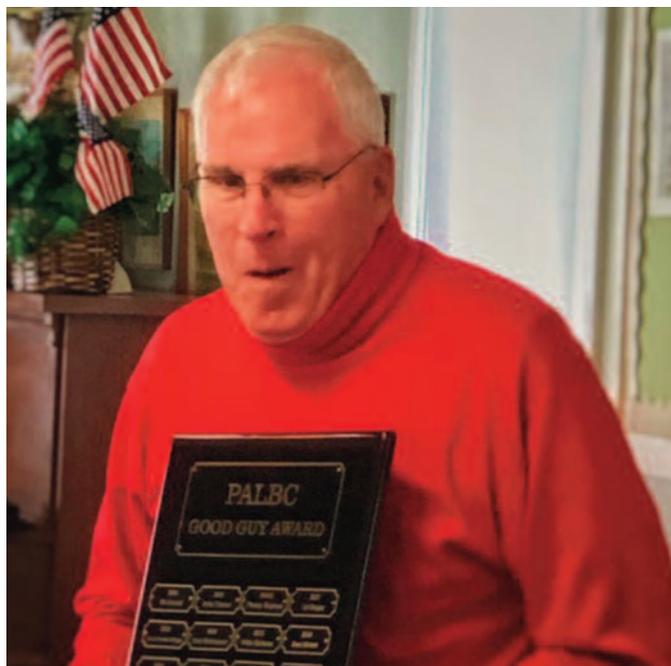
## Support Your Club

Would you like to make a monetary donation to the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club and get an income tax deduction? You can do so through Friends of the Palo Alto Parks, a 501(c)(3) corporation. In existence since 2003, Friends is a non-profit dedicated to enriching, enhancing, and beautifying Palo Alto's parks and open spaces. For more information on Friends, visit their website [www.friendsofpaparks.org](http://www.friendsofpaparks.org).

Donations can be made by going online to the Friends' website ([www.friendsofpaparks.org](http://www.friendsofpaparks.org)) or by mailing a check with "Lawn Bowls Fund" written in the memo line to Friends of the Palo Alto Parks, 425 Grant Avenue, Suite 27, Palo Alto, Ca 94306. The donation will go into the Lawn Bowls Fund and be held there until the club decides when and how to use the money.

The club has used previous donations to purchase carpeting, shelving for paint storage, ceiling fans, double ovens, and a dishwasher.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Hogan.



*Sam seems overwhelmed and delighted as he accepts the Good Guy Award.*

## The President's Good Guy Award

Every year at our Annual Meeting, our club president has the opportunity to recognize a member of the club who has provided exceptional service, often behind the scenes. The recipient this year, in spite of his cultivating an image as club curmudgeon, is a kind and generous man who shares endless hours working with both new and experienced bowlers to improve their game. This year our outgoing president, Nadine O'leary, presented the Good Guy Award to Sam Hebert.

Sam joined PALBC in 2007 along with his friend, Bud Birkenseer. They both got involved with the club right away because they loved the game so much. Sam quickly became a very good bowler and eventually a top-notch coach. It seems he knows everything about the game from the reason bowlers must wear flat shoes to figuring out how the green is rolling depending on the weather and the condition of the grass.

An opposing skip will hear a running commentary on how smoothly — or not — a bowl is delivered, if it is too short, too heavy, or just right and what it will do upon entering the head. He does this because he cares about the game. When he sees where someone can improve their game, whether the bowler is a teammate or an opponent, he will work with that person to help him or her be a better bowler.

Sam was one of our first coaches certified by Bowls USA. Most Sundays at 1:30 you will find Sam at the Palo Alto green where he freely gives his time to teach new people how to bowl or to help members improve their game.

And Sam does some of the hard work around the club like painting and helping care for the green. Our newer members might be interested to know that he and Bud built all the men's

lockers and the newer women's lockers. Several years ago they built the rolling cabinets that hold all the club bowls.

Sam is the club's official draw master. At the end of our regular draw games, Sam "holds court" in the small club room with whomever wants to join him. First and foremost in these sessions is the topic of lawn bowling. He has some really good ideas about how things should be done and freely offers his opinions on a number of subjects. However, don't get him started about straight bowls versus traditional biased bowls.

Congratulations to Sam Hebert for his well deserved award!

## What's Happening at PALBC

### Message From the President

*Looking Back* — Our club has been fortunate indeed to have the steady, guiding hand of Nadine O'Leary at the helm for the last two years. On behalf of our club, as your new president I would like to offer her our thanks for her years of service.

Among her notable accomplishments are the attractive new gate signs, the refurbished backboards, a grant from BUSA for the night-lighting projects, the members photo gallery and a streamlined delivery process for *Wicks*. More significant than these, however, were her obvious dedication and her diplomatic handling of a multitude of club issues and problems.

I would like to recognize Frank Matyskiela, our retiring long-time treasurer, Angie Peet, who leaves the board after doing a fine job as chair of the Hospitality Committee, and Christine Stafford who, with the help of Margot Goodman, has managed our rentals and kept our rent paid for the last few years. Thank you all for your exceptional contributions.

Thank you to retiring directors Ian Harris, Linda Jensen, and Angie Peet for their contributions and I look forward to working with our new directors, Carrie Chiang, Rose Selby, and Chuck Sieloff for the next two years.

*Looking forward* — As we begin this new year, the club can anticipate another round of club, inter-club and PIMD tournaments with opportunities for bowlers of all skill levels.

There will be another short green closure. The closure will be June 3–13, a little later than usual, so the seeds have warmer weather to germinate. The closing won't affect either of our two Bowling Blasts. We look forward to a number of new members from those events.

We can also expect a full calendar of social events including the Wednesday night dinners.

The highlight of the bowling year will be the Bowls USA National Championships to be held at the San Francisco LBC in Golden Gate Park in late September. This promises to be an opportunity to see some of the best lawn bowlers in the country, including some from our club, compete in a beautiful setting.

Moving forward, the PALBC needs many things, but two are foremost: ideas and suggestions for improvements; and more

volunteers to help us continue to provide a great experience for our members.

I look forward to working with all our members to make this the best club in the PIMD.

—John MacMorris

### Dues Are Due

Thanks to all members who have paid their yearly dues. They became past due after January 31. For those who have not gotten around to it, the club dues are as follows: \$135 returning regular members; \$80 for dual members and student members; \$30 for associate members. The club dues have remained the same for several years, and remain a real bargain.

One can pay by bringing a check to the club, by using the website, or by sending a check payable to Palo Alto LBC to: PALBC, 474 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301

### Ginger Harris honored by Bowls USA

Ginger Harris, a PIMD councilor, a past president of our club, and a recipient of our Good Guy Award, was honored by Richard Broad, president of Bowls USA with the BUSA President's Award at the recent National Championships.

In Mr. Broad's words, "As a councilor Ginger is constantly in touch and contributing to the issues under discussion and has a complete understanding of her role as liaison between Bowls USA and her division.

"She has taken on many additional roles which include president of her club and the PIMD division. Ginger is also the representative for the division and serves on the committee for the Memorial Fund and the highly successful Grant Fund program. She is now also a co-chair for the 2019 National Championships which will be held in Golden Gate Park.

"Ginger's service is truly above and beyond that which most councilors feel their role to be, and if all of them put as much into our sport as she does, truly mountains could be moved."

Congratulations to Ginger. When they award a Nobel Prize for lawn bowls we can all say that we knew her when.

### Hold Your Water

The club has available for members, bright, shiny new aluminum water bottles. We are providing these because we are no longer using bottled water for environmental reasons. The new bottles were distributed to all members who wanted them at the Annual Meeting. There are still some available for members who could not make the meeting. Please contact John MacMorris if you would like one.

### Free PIMD Strategy Workshop

The San Francisco LBC will host the first in a series of workshops sponsored by the PIMD. *Introduction to Tournament Play—How to be a Lead*. If you are a novice or a newer bowler, you will find this workshop an opportunity to learn and practice skills, including the strategy of the lead, so that you can more fully participate in your club's activities.

The workshop will be held from 9:00–10:00 am on January 26.



## Coach's Corner

### Chase Away Those "Winter Blues."

It is easy to forget the Bowls Club, as we sit in the comfort of our home during the winter months, reluctant to venture out into the outside world!

I know that feeling. However, you can chase away the winter blues by joining us on the green, when we have those lovely brisk sunny days. Our winter hours are Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday afternoons at 12:30 pm. We are also bowling on Sundays at 1:30 pm, when there is always a coach present if you need help.

Bundle up and enjoy the green when it is rolling at it's winter best (on days when it's a little drier)! The exercise and fresh air will invigorate you and help to liven up your day.

Come and join us—the more the merrier. We look forward to seeing you.

—John Hickson

## New Member

### James Hendrickson

### PALBC CALENDAR

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#### January

- 12 John Ogden Memorial Winter League (week 1), San Jose LBC.
- 19 John Ogden Memorial Winter League (week 2), San Jose LBC.
- 26 John Ogden Memorial Winter League (week 3), San Jose LBC.
- 26 PIMD Workshop, How to be a Lead, San Francisco LBC.

#### February

- 2 PIMD meeting, Berkeley LBC.
- 9 South Central Division Open, Sun City AZ. Saturday through Thursday.
- 23 PIMD Certified Coach Refresher Course, TBD.

#### March

- 16 PIMD Presidents Recognition and Opening Day, San Francisco LBC.
- 23 BUSA Men's Pairs Play-Downs, San Francisco LBC.
- 23 BUSA Women's Pairs Play-Downs, San Francisco LBC.
- 23 PIMD Workshop, How to be a Lead, TBD.