

WICKS

FEBRUARY 2024

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

PRESIDENT

Ian Harris

VICE PRESIDENT

Jon Yee

TREASURER

Rob Mori

SECRETARY

Ginger Harris

DIRECTORS

Peter Danner

Sam Hebert

Marybeth Fox

Dave Simpson

PIMD REPRESENTATIVES

Frank Matyskiela

Marion Darton

WICKS EDITOR

David Hale

WINTER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday,

Saturday, 1:00 pm.

Sunday, 1:30 pm.

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Where Did 2023 Go?

That was a question heard many times at the Annual Meeting held on December 9. A good number of our members gathered for a recap and celebration of the year presented by the 2023 Board members. On the whole it was a good year. We welcomed 20 new members, several of whom were in attendance. Bud Birkenseer presented “Club Champion” pins to winners of the several tournaments held during the last year. Those names will be added to the winner board inside on the clubhouse wall. Next time you are at the green, take a look at those names. It is a history of our club competitors’ accomplishments.

Frank Maty reported that we are in decent shape financially, and that’s always good news! Our Hospitality crew has done an outstanding job of providing refreshments at each of our functions and tournaments. The Wednesday evening dinners were a success yet again, ending with a positive balance to help subsidize our holiday lunch. Lynne gave a glowing report of the success of our rental efforts, both financially and having an enthusiastic group of hosts. Lynne was also recognized as our 2023 Good Gal winner. Look for her much appreciated club achievements in another *Wicks* article. A special thank you to David Hale and Penny Bayless who have been producing our wonderful *Wicks* newsletter for the past 15 years!

Thanks and gratitude were offered to outgoing Board members, Lynne McCord, David Usher and Ed Hickey for their willingness to share their time and energy for the good of our club over the past years. A hearty welcome to new members Marybeth Fox (Board member), Rob Mori (incoming Treasurer) and Jon Yee (incoming Vice-President) who have stepped up to help guide us through 2024. Ian Harris, Ginger Harris, Dave Simpson, Sam Hebert and Peter Danner round out the team. Marion Darton and Frank Matykiela have accepted positions as our club representatives to the PIM Division board. Our leadership team is committed to helping our club grow and thrive. All club members are a

vitaly important part of our club’s success. Participate in club events. Ask questions. Offer to help. Share your ideas. We need everyone’s support.

After the meeting, members enjoyed a holiday lunch and time to socialize. Many thanks to the crew of Martha Castillo, Liz Davis, Jeanne Ichnowski, Lynne McCord and Ginger Harris for the tasty selection of homemade cookies for dessert. MaryBeth Fox provided some morning treats as well. To those who stayed around to help clean up, you know who you are, and we all appreciate you for sure!

If you want to see detailed minutes of any Board meetings (which are open to all club members), they are posted on the inside bulletin board for your perusal.

Lynne McCord, 2023 Terry Hogan Good Guy Award Winner

Lynne McCord was my personal favorite for this year’s award and, apparently, the members’ too. The applause and congratulations she received at our annual meeting were enthusiastic and well-earned.



Lynne McCord exemplifies the member Terry had in mind when he created the “Terry Good Guy” award.

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Lynne McCord *(continued from page 1)*

At the start of 2023 Lynne agreed to stay on the Board an additional year. As a President trying to fill the positions, I was grateful to her and for a subsequent year's worth of thoughtful contributions at Board meetings.

Obviously, her greatest contribution to the club has been her organization of the rentals. Together with her volunteers and sidekick, Albert Tam, they generated \$20,542 in club income. Lynne was the friendly, competent face of the club to so many people trying to set up an event for their group. I feel we gained a lot of good will from these interactions.

I am thankful to Lynne personally because she was a great collaborator on our attempt to establish a garden at our Churchill entrance. Some of the plants came from her garden and she was always the partner who decided whether their colors would go together properly.

Thanks, Lynne, for a year of contributions to our club, including the willingness to bake and pack cookies for our Christmas party or provide several meals on Wednesday evenings or plant and water colorful plants in pots on our patio. She is a great example of the person Terry had in mind when he created the "Good Guy" award.

— *President, Ian Harris*



PALBC Celebrates the Year of the Dragon

The Dragon symbolizes supernatural power, wisdom, strength, and hidden knowledge. If you were born in 2024, 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940, 1928 then your Chinese zodiac sign is Dragon.

The Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club is celebrating Chinese New Years with a Chinese cuisine dinner on Saturday, February 17,

at 5:00 pm. We will be celebrating the Year of the Dragon! Your hosts will be Jon Yee, Carrie Chiang, and Ed Gong.

\$25 per person for members and guests. RSVP "yes" only to palbc.nadine@gmail.com as soon as possible, but no later than February 8, 2024.

PALBC Art and Handicraft Show

It's time for another Art Show at our Clubhouse. We had a members show some years ago and were excited to see the talent exhibited by our members. There were paintings, photographs, wood work, Ceramics, knittings, quilts, sculpture and carvings, and other works of art.

We would all be curious to learn more about you, your talents, and background. Every person who signs up will have a table (approx 3'x7') for your display, or an "A frame" easel. There are four easels available on a first-to-reserve basis and they could divide a table with an artist on each side.

Tables are limited to the supplies on hand and you may share a table with another artisan. Artists are welcome to bring their own display set up/tables.

The show will be held on March 16 & 17, from 1:00–4:00 pm both days in the clubhouse and PALBC will provide light snacks and drinks.

If you are interested, please sign up with Jon Yee and reserve a exhibit space by March 9. He will need to know your contact information, what you will be exhibiting, and the table space you will need. If you have questions contact Jon at palbcjon@yahoo.com

Artists/exhibitors can set up as early as 12 noon on the 16th. Items being displayed are not recommended to be left unattended. You may put prices on your work if you are interested in selling it.

This is a great time to meet and socialize with other members.

What's Happening at PALBC

Message from the President

New Year's greetings from all of us on the Board.

We had a productive board meeting last Tuesday and I was pleased to see new members, Jon Yee and Marybeth Fox join us. Rob Mori is our new Treasurer and will be back from South Africa in April. Meanwhile Frank Matyskiela is our interim Treasurer and is frequently in touch with Rob. They are working on a plan to bring our systems up to date by introducing us all to the "Cloud."

Looking towards our future, we are exploring the idea of converting our green to an artificial surface. Rose Selby gave a short presentation, and nearly all of us agreed it would be good for the club. We welcome members' opinions on this and will form a committee to map out the best way to move for-

ward, get input from our members, and plan how to raise the approximately \$300,000 needed to get the work done.

We look forward to a full year of bowling and socializing. Put that computer aside, forget about the emails, social media etc. that is turning us all into zombies, and come out to meet real people and have some real fun practicing a game that has kept people enthralled for centuries.

See you on the Green!

— *President, Ian Harris*

Be a Part of PALBC History

On Saturday, February 17, 2024 at approximately 4:00 pm we will be taking a group photograph of our members in front of our clubhouse. This photograph will be displayed in our clubhouse as well as our newly designated sister clubhouse, the Bondi Lawn Bowls Club in Australia, also founded in 1933.

Ian and Ginger Harris, along with David Usher, will present our photograph to the Bondi LBC in April during the Australia Lawn Bowling Tour organized by David. As a sister club, we will be able to enjoy bowling free on their green as they are welcome to do the same for us, should our travels lead us there.

We want to have a good showing of our membership, so please reserve this day. The photo will be taken before the Chinese Yew Year's dinner hosted by Jon Yee and Carrie Chiang. Bowling attire is not necessary for the photograph. We hope to see *all* of you there.

Winter Bowling and Games Day

Come say hello to your bowling buddies on Sunday, January 21! Here's the plan...

Draw game bowling as usual at 1:30 pm followed by inside games from 1:30 onward for those who may prefer not to brave whatever weather Mother Nature sends our way. Bring a favorite game from home. The club has Rummy Cubes, Scrabble, and a couple of other choices. Sequence? Dominoes anyone? Cribbage? Learn a new card game called 99? Some may want to start a jigsaw puzzle from our growing collection. Light snacks will be available with wine and other beverages for sale.

This will all be followed by a dinner, hosted by Ginger and Ian Harris, featuring a baked potato bar with all the toppings at 5:30 pm and a salad on the side. And there will be something tasty for dessert.

Please rsvp to Ginger (peacecorps.ginger@gmail.com) for the dinner by noon on Thursday, January 18, so food can be organized. Cost will be \$5 per person. Coffee and tea will be provided. Wine, beer, and sodas will be extra.

Hope to see many of you there!

Palo Alto LBC Social Media

Peter Danner has created a Facebook page for our Club. Check out Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club. It is our goal to post more club events this year and use this to celebrate our Club members' accomplishments.



Coach's Corner

Heads Up!

We all love to go into the head to see what is happening, but this disrupts the flow of the game. So, we need to follow these guidelines.

In a triples game, after the leads and seconds (vices) have delivered all their bowls, it is time to move up to the head while the skips move down to the mat end to deliver their bowls and complete the end.

Walk down the center of the rink, not down the sides. When you walk down the sides of the rink, you are walking along the delivery line and could affect the run of the bowls. When you reach the head *do not stop and admire your work!* The skip will be on the mat waiting to bowl.

The two leads should move straight back 7 or 8 feet behind the head. Remember, *the leads should never be in the head until the score is decided.* The second of team A should be in the head, ready to converse with his/her skip, if necessary. The second of team B should stand a foot or two behind their opponent, ready to switch places when skip A's bowl comes to rest.

Now team B has control of the head. The rotation continues until the skips have delivered all their bowls. Remember, the seconds may only talk to their skips when they are on the mat.

When the skips have delivered all their bowls, both seconds will now go into the head together, so they can determine the score, which may require a measure. Each second should then signal the score to their respective skip by tapping a shoulder, for each point won, or a thigh, for each point lost. The losing lead will then rake while the other three bowlers kick the bowls into a line to make it easy for the raker to gather them in.

There is no rule as to which team does the measuring but generally it is the team that may be conceding the shot(s). If it is a very close measure, the opposing second can ask for a remeasure or remeasure themselves. If it is still in dispute you can call on the skips to resolve it.

In a tournament, you can ask for an umpire to do the measuring and their decision is final. If an umpire is called, *all* bowlers should step away from the head until the umpire has ruled.

In a pairs game, the procedures are the same except it is the leads who are alternating in the head and deciding the score.

So, please remember these guidelines, and all our games will run more smoothly

— *John Hickson*

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

Spring Cleaning

Each spring our club members volunteer to spend a few hours helping to spruce up the clubhouse and outside areas in preparation for our new season. March 2 is the day for 2024.

There will be a list of jobs to do, and you can choose your own fun! Wash some windows, clean the benches, organize the equipment closet, wipe down the baseboards, straighten out the kitchen drawers, purge the shed (hopefully), plant some flowers...and more. Bring your work gloves.

We start at about 9:30 and finish by lunch time. The Club provides sandwiches and drinks for those who lend a helping hand. Hope to see you there.

Save the Date

It's a little way out, but now is the time to put March 23 on your calendar. That's the date for President's Recognition and Opening Day—the official beginning of our PIMD lawn bowling activities.

It's held at Rossmoor LBC on their three lovely greens. Bowlers from all of the 12 clubs in the Bay Area are encouraged to sign on to play 2 games. Teams are randomly created so you'll get to meet bowling buddies from other clubs.

More information will be sent closer to the day, but consider taking part in a social tournament and get motivated to "Bowl More in '24"!

Palo Alto LBC Board Meetings Open to All

Did you know that our monthly board meetings are open to all members? Want to know what plans are in the works? Have an idea to share or a question to ask? Come be a part of your club's off the green organization. Ian Harris will send an agenda each month. If something interests you, come on down!

Here are the highlights from the meeting on January 9:

- We are at about the halfway mark with current membership renewals. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do.
- A committee has been formed to research the feasibility of transitioning to an artificial surface given the difficulty of keeping our grass green in bowlable condition.
- We had a very successful 2023 rental calendar. Lynne and Albert will be reaching out to recruit more host volunteers. It's an easy way to support your club.

The complete minutes will be sent to all members and posted on the inside bulletin board. Keep an eye out for what is going on and how you can participate in the club's events.

Membership Renewal

Our By-Laws state that members have until January 31 to renew their annual membership. If you have done so already, thank you. If not, please send your membership check to Palo Alto LBC, 474 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, 94301. You may also pay on our website at PALBC.org. Click on the Payment Tab.

If you decide not to renew your membership, please let Ian Harris (ian46harris@gmail.com) know why. Thank you.

Three Clubs for the Price of One!

Just so you know...when you become a member of the Palo Alto LBC, you also become a member of the Pacific Inter-Mountain Division, comprised of our 12 Bay Area clubs, and our National organization, BowlsUSA. A small portion of your yearly dues is forwarded to each of those organizations to help fund their efforts to grow and support our wonderful sport both locally and nationally.

Look for information in upcoming *Wicks* issues about events and opportunities sponsored by each of those groups. Tournaments, training sessions, grants, and more are planned for 2024. The all-volunteer BowlsUSA board especially appreciates our club members as they financially support, to a small degree, all Team USA members who represent our country at international events. We have had a couple of PALBC and PIMD members in that mix, and, each year, there are opportunities where bowlers can try out for those honored spots.

PALBC members Scottie Marzonie and Ginger Harris are your hard-working division representatives to the BUSA board. If you have questions, please ask!

PALBC CALENDAR

January

- 21 Games Afternoon followed by a light baked potato bar buffet dinner, Palo Alto LBC.

February

- 17 South Central Division Open, Sun City, AZ.
- 17 Chinese New Year Dinner, Palo Alto LBC.
- 17 PALBC Membership group photo day, Palo Alto LBC. 4:00 pm.

March

- 2 Annual Club Cleanup Day, Palo Alto LBC.
- 16 Art and Handicraft Show, Palo Alto LBC.
- 23 PIMD President's Recognition and Opening Day, Rossmoor LBC.