

WICKS

APRIL 2024

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

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Ian Harris

VICE PRESIDENT

Jon Yee

TREASURER

Rob Mori

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Ginger Harris

DIRECTORS

Peter Danner

Sam Hebert

Marybeth Fox

Dave Simpson

PIMD REPRESENTATIVES

Frank Matyskiela

Marion Darton

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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www.palbc.org



Carrie Chiang and Ed Gong provided a bountiful Chinese banquet for our celebration of Chinese New Year.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

The Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club celebrated Chinese New Year, the year of the Dragon with an appropriate Chinese feast. It is year 4722 on the traditional Chinese calendar and the Dragon symbolizes supernatural power, wisdom, strength, and hidden knowledge.

The rainy weather kept us from bowling but it didn't keep 33 members from celebrating the event with a delicious ten-course dinner, from appetisers to dessert, hosted by Carrie Chiang and Ed Gong.

Jon Yee helped decorate inside the clubhouse with Dragons, Lions, fresh blossoms, red envelopes, oranges and tangerines. Jon also provided the guests with a little information on the Lion dance. Thank you also to Nadine O'Leary for posting the flier and checking in the guests, Kevin O'leary for his kitchen help, and all those who pitched in to help with the cleanup.

An Early Spring Cleaning

The weather did not keep our loyal club members inside by a warm fire. Twenty energetic workers showed up at our annual Club Cleanup Day to sort, dust, organize, scrub, and take care of a list of tasks created by our House and Grounds guru, Dave Simpson, who also spent a few hours washing the carpet a couple of weeks prior to this effort.

The kitchen got its yearly heavy cleaning, the bowls are all now in their correct boxes, the fan blades have been cleaned, Bob Belot's power



The bowls were all returned to their proper boxes...

washer was in full glory taking care of grime on the outside windows, spider webs are gone, the puzzle collection has been slimmed down, sand has been drilled out of scoreboard and rake holder holes, the garden has had its spring



...the kitchen was scoured...

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...and one brave soul even took on the task of sorting out the game cabinet.

pruning, tables and chairs are clean and ready for another busy season, and...well, the next time you are at the club take a look at how fresh and welcoming the place looks. *Phew!*

A huge thank you to everyone who showed up to help for a while, especially two of our newest members, Micheal Fabozzi and Fred Pepper. Welcome to the club, guys!

A Very English Valentine's Tea

Despite cloudy grey skies and a chilly drizzle, twenty Palo Alto LBC rental hosts and their guests basked in the warmth of a Valentine's Day Tea Party in their honor. The clubhouse was rearranged to feature our long buffet table in the center of the room surrounded by flower laden tables ready for those who were taking tea.

Finger sandwiches, including Ian Harris' favorite cucumber sandwiches, freshly baked scones, Meyer Lemon Poundcake and heart shaped macarons were laid out along with Earl Grey



A fine English Tea was prepared for our honored volunteer rental hosts on Valentines Day. It is appropriate that this day was chosen because these volunteers exhibit the heart of our members who make this Club great.

and herbal teas and coffee. Martha Castillo and Lynne McCord prepared the comestibles while Albert Tam contributed the true hit of this party, homemade lemon curd, which was enjoyed by all! (Recipe provided on following page.)

There was more than enough food and guests were encouraged to "help themselves to more." A couple of bags of goodies, along with jam, whipped cream, and lemon curd also made their way home to Joe and Christine Stafford who were on the invalid list and were greatly missed. Many thanks to David Usher, Tom Stewart, Sarah Babin and John Hickson for their wonderful assistance after the party!

Rental Host honorees who generously volunteered their time, energy and good humor for 28 events over the 2023 summer are:

Martha Castillo	John Hickson	Dave Simpson
Carrie Chiang	Liz Hogan	Christine Stafford
Marion Darton	Dawn Hood	Joe Stafford
Rick Dodd	Peter Knopf	Albert Tam
Ed Gong	Frank Matyskiela	David Usher
Ginger Harris	Lynne McCord	John Yee
Ian Harris	Rob Mori	
Sam Hebert	Jerry Patrigniani	

Every year we honor our hosts with an event. We would love to have you at our 2024 party. All it takes to receive an invitation is helping out at our rental events. Being a host/coach is *easy, fun*, and it is the primary source of our Club's stability. If everybody volunteered once or twice, we would be well on our way to another successful year.

2nd Annual Rental Host Clinic

Saturday, April 13, 12:30 pm, we will be holding our 2nd Annual Rental Host Clinic. Our Club depends upon rentals *and* our member volunteers to bring in this needed income. Last year, these funds comprised over 50% of our total income. While we cannot guarantee a repeat performance in terms of finances, we do know that we will have rentals and we need *you* to help us out.

Join us to learn all about hosting. Dave Simpson, our Rental Lead, will make you feel comfortable in your role as a volunteer ambassador for lawn bowling during our summer rental season. Rentals are somewhat different than if we ourselves are playing. Our clinic will prepare you to set up the green, efficiently distribute large number of bowls, and give you specific knowledge necessary for working with larger groups. You do not have to be a skilled bowler with years of experience. Some of our most successful hosts are new to the sport!

Why You Should Become a Rental Host

1. First and foremost, you will help the Club earn needed funds. Our dues do not cover expenses.
2. Earn Coach Cash for every event you volunteer to host. This defrays your cost for Wednesday night summer dinners and can be used throughout the year at PALBC events.
3. Hosting is a fun, helpful way to spend a couple of hours

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Host Clinic *(continued from page 2)*

outdoors working with others who want to learn the game we all love.

4. Members can rent the club at a low rental rate, but if you plan to include lawn bowling as part of your event, you must have prior hosting experience. Join our workshop and learn the ropes.

5. As a host, you will be invited to our select once-a-year celebration in honor of our generous volunteers. We have held dinners, luncheons, and a gala tea party. Who knows what 2024 will bring.

Did we mention a free lunch? Yes, attendees will be well fed during our clinic.

Previous hosts and newbies are encouraged to attend. Whether you have helped us in the past or are just now thinking about how you can help the Club, please join us for this workshop. We really need *everybody* to consider hosting at least once this year.

RSVP: Lynne McCord (mccordlb@gmail.com)

Albert Tam's Lemon Curd

These are the ingredients for the basic recipe:

- 1/2 cup fresh strained lemon juice (about 3 lemons)
- 1 Tablespoon finely grated fresh lemon zest, mildly packed into the measuring spoon
- 1/2 cup minus 1 1/2 Tablespoons sugar
- 3 large eggs, well beaten
- 3/4 stick (6 tablespoons) unsalted cold butter

For the tea party, I quadrupled the recipe:

- 2 cups lemon juice (I used lemons from Sam Hebert's garden.)
- 4 Tablespoons. lemon zest
- 1 1/2 cups plus 2 Tablespoons sugar (I used Trader Joe's organic cane sugar. Those sugar grains seem bigger than grains of white sugar such as C&H so I believe the lemon curd is less sweet.)
- 12 large eggs (I used Trader Joe's.)
- 3 sticks unsalted cold butter

Step 1 Whisk together strained lemon juice, zest, sugar, and beaten eggs in a 2-quart heavy saucepan or top of a double boiler. Cook on low flame, stirring constantly with the whisk. Slowly raising the temperature keeps the eggs from curdling (scrambled eggs). This takes a while. Slow cooking is best and do not overcook. In other words, do not let the lemon curd boil. The Lemon curd is done cooking when it thickens to a light sauce.

Step 2 Turn off the heat. Stir in butter with the whisk, a few tablespoons at a time.

Step 3 Transfer lemon curd to a glass or plastic container or bowl, its surface covered with plastic wrap. Chill until cold, at least 1 hour, but better overnight. The oils from the zest infuse the lemon curd the longer it is in the refrigerator making it taste more lemony.

Curd can be made ahead and chilled for up to 1 week.



Coach's Corner

Good Weather Makes Good Bowling

We are well into March and can look forward to some better weather, which makes bowling more enjoyable. So forget the winter "blues" and get back on the green. Maintenance work will have started on the green on Monday, March 11, so the green will be closed for a short period of time.

However the City have said they will be removing excess sand from the green so, hopefully, it should be possible to bowl again within a few days. Watch for an announcement to say when bowling can start again.

I hope many of you attended our skills day to sharpen up your game as a new season begins. The more you bowl the more consistent your game will become so give bowling priority and get out more frequently. Wishing you all a great bowling year.

— John Hickson

The Dream of a 2nd Green

When Elizabeth F. Gamble died in 1981, she deeded her 2.31 acre property to the City of Palo Alto. According to her will, it was given "without restriction or condition of any kind or character," although she "suggested" that if the property was sold, the proceeds "be used for the benefit of the older citizens of Palo Alto."

Thus, the City Council found itself legally free to choose any use (or uses) it deemed appropriate. At least nine different proposals were considered. These ranged from subdividing the entire property into nine separate building lots and selling them off, to keeping the garden as it is and turning the property into a Garden Center.

A number of hybrid alternatives were also considered, such as reducing the size of the garden and building senior housing on the rest, or turning the Carriage House into an Arts Center. Might the Gamble House become a B&B, or youth hostel?

Our lawn bowls club, Gamble's next-door neighbor, approached the City with a proposal of its own.

On September 3, 1981, President Herb Deckert wrote the City Council a letter requesting the city to donate "less than one quarter of the land area of the Gamble property for a second green." He envisioned it being located on the Churchill Ave. side, replacing the Carriage House, a parking lot, and part of what is now the enclosed rose garden. The green would measure roughly 140 by 100 feet.

He argued that the club had added 60 members in 1980 and now had 132 members, only 48 of whom could play at any one time. Furthermore, one green could be used while the other was closed for maintenance. He pointed out that Berkeley had two greens, while Santa Barbara had four. He suggests that a second green would be "compatible to the wishes of Miss Gamble," and goes on to say that "when Miss Gamble was in good health, she en-

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2nd Green *(continued from page 3)*

joyed coming to the green to watch the bowling.”

For their part, the Planning Commission remained unconvinced. Their staff report notes that “the addition of a second lawn bowls [green] would require demolition or relocation of the Carriage House.” It would also reduce space for parking and concludes, “the adverse effects on the Garden Center appear great, given the limited public benefit to be derived.



Needless to say, a second green was never built or even seriously considered. In early 1985, then club president Harvey Hill along with his wife Marion (a former president of the Garden Club and life member of the same) made one final pitch for a second green. Hill notes that bowling is a sport ideally suited to older people. “We want to emphasize, too, that a bowling green is a perfect adjunct to a garden — indeed a part of a garden, as people who drive along Embarcadero often comment.”

— Peter Danner PALBC Historian

First 2024 Club Tournament

April 6 will be the first Palo Alto tournament of 2024. Don't let the word “tournament” scare you away! The very supportive Mixed Draw Triples format is a perfect opportunity for all skill levels to participate.

Teams are created in a draw game fashion. Depending on the number of you who sign on for a day of friendly competition, Tournament Director Bud Birkenseer will do his usual magic to set up what are likely to be three 10-end games. Bud has requested that people sign up as soon as possible so we know what the field is and how much friendly “recruiting” needs to be done to get to an even number of players for teams. We need you!

The entry fee is \$10 per bowler, payable on tournament day. First and second place finishers go home with prize money and the rest of us go home with the satisfaction of having made some others happy. What more could you ask for?

Morning snacks will be provided with ice cream treats to end the day but you should bring your lunch. Sign up at the club or let Bud know as soon as possible.

Diner Bowls Premier

Our Wednesday evening dinner bowls will have a kick off dinner on Wednesday, April 3. Ian and Ginger Harris, along with Lynne McCord, will host the first dinner. The good news is this first dinner will only cost \$5!

We will have a selection of delicious soups, salad, crusty bread and you'll be making your own ice cream sundaes for dessert. Arrive by 5:15 to get your name up on the draw board for a 5:30 game.

Before the sun sets, we will have a second attempt at a club photo for the certificate which we will be presenting to the Bondi Bowling Club in Australia. Mother Nature was uncooperative for our first attempt, and we are hoping for some sunshine to feature our clubhouse, the flagpole and as many of our smiling members as possible. If you have a Palo Alto club shirt, please wear it. If you don't have one, come along anyway!

Come help us kick off our popular Wednesday evening gatherings. They will be held on the 1st and 3rd (and 5th if there is one) Wednesdays through the end of the Friendship Games in June. Our 2024 coordinator will be sending regular announcements with menus. Please RSVP to Ginger Harris (peacecorps.ginger@gmail.com) for the April 3 dinner so we can plan. See you there!

What Are the Friendship Games?

You may have seen the sign-up sheets for the Friendship Games which begin on April 10 at the San Jose LBC. A new member asked the other day, “What are the Friendship Games?”

So here's a brief history. The games were organized about 20 years ago in order to provide a *social* tournament for all members, from new to been-around-for-a-while, of the six South Bay clubs — Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, San Jose, Santa Clara, Carmel Del Mesa, and Santa Cruz — to get to know each other. It also gave bowlers a chance to visit other clubs and try their hands at adjusting to the intricacies of different greens.

The games are played on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of April, May, and June. We play two games each day, one before lunch (bring your own) and one after. We play 12-end games as either triples or pairs, depending on the number of entries. Teams are formed by a random draw, trying to be sure that the teams are mixed with members of different clubs. The cost is a only \$5 for the whole day!

All entry fees are paid out in prize money for both morning and afternoon games. Players can opt to play morning only, afternoon only or, hopefully, both games. So, check your calendars, sign up at the club and indicate the position you would like to play (skip, second, or lead).

If you'd like to carpool with some Palo Alto bowling buddies, that will be arranged. It would be wonderful to have a Palo Alto presence at each of the games. We will be hosting on June 26. If you still have questions, please ask any of our long time bowlers.

What's Happening at PALBC

Membership Presentation Photo

We would like all of our members to be present for a club photo at 5:00 pm on April 3. This will be for a certificate

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What's Happening (continued from page 4)

which we will be presenting during the upcoming tour, to our sister club, the Bondi Bowling Club in Australia.

We are hoping for some sunshine to feature our clubhouse, the flagpole and as many of our smiling members as possible. If you have a Palo Alto club shirt, please wear it. If you don't have one, come along anyway!

Bowl More in '24!

Are you ready to get lawn bowling back on to your schedule? Many of us find lots of other ways to stay busy during the winter months, but spring is in the air, and *now* is the time to get back in to the habit of heading to the green for a game.

It would be wonderful to have a few draw games going on each of our regularly scheduled bowling days. Bring a lunch and socialize for a while either before or after. We have a lovely patio and clubhouse waiting for you.

Watch the bulletin board for opportunities to bowl in the Friendship Games, our Wednesday night Dinner Bowls, help with our upcoming new bowler classes, or take part in some of our Club bowling tournaments. The schedule is posted inside the clubhouse. There is fun for everyone.

Bowling Classes Offered Through the City of Palo Alto

The Palo Alto LBC, through the City of Palo Alto's *Enjoy Catalog Activity Guide*, will be offering local residents a six-week beginner lawn bowl class starting in May on Wednesday evenings. Each class will be one hour long beginning at 6:00 pm. By offering these classes, we hope to recruit new members. Some of our current members were introduced to the game at these classes.

After class, we will offer the class members an opportunity to join our evening bowlers for our low cost dinners. So, let's all give them a warm welcome.

The Art of Lawn Bowls?

If you have a bit of an artistic interest, google "lawn bowl painting" to find some very creative efforts for using old bowls. We have quite a collection of vintage bowls in our shed, and perhaps these might be turned in to interesting creations for the avid bowler in your life — you?

If anyone wants to try this project, check with a board member to get access to our collection. Better that these once loved bowls be repurposed into objects of art rather than sitting in the shed collecting dust.

Save the Dates

Here are a number of events you'll want to put on your calendar.

March 23, PIMD Opening Day— The official opening of the 2024 bowling season here in our Pacific InterMountain Division. Whether you are an experienced or newer bowler, watch for the official announcement and signup sheet coming out soon.

Dinner Bowls Premier— We would like to see all our members out for the first of our Wednesday evening dinner events. Bowl first if you like and be part of our Club members photo.

April 6, Mixed Draw Triples— The first 2024 tournament here at Palo Alto. The Mixed Draw Triples format is for all of our members from novice to those who have been around a while.

April 10, Friendship Games— The popular South Bay Friendship Games, your opportunity to experience other greens in the area, will begin. The first game is hosted by the San Jose LBC. Watch for further details and signup sheets on the bulletin board.

April 13, PIMD Mixed Pairs— For those of you who like a higher level of competition, find a teammate, sign up and head to the smooth green of the San Jose LBC.

April 24, Friendship Games— If you missed the opener at San Jose, these games are closer to home at the Sunnyvale LBC.

PALBC CALENDAR

March

23 PIMD President's Recognition and Opening Day, Rossmoor LBC.

April

6 PALBC Mixed Draw Triples, Palo Alto LBC.

10 Friendship Games, San Jose LBC.

13 PIMD Mixed Pairs, San Jose LBC.

24 Friendship Games, Sunnyvale LBC.