

WICKS

MAY 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

SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday,

Saturday, 10:00 am.

Sunday, 1:30 pm.

Wednesday Evening

Bowls, 5:30 pm.

CONTACT

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Friendship Games Open in San Jose

It was encouraging to see over 40 bowlers as we kicked off the 2024 Friendship Games at the San Jose LBC. The word has spread about how much fun these games can be. Several bowlers from San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland joined the south bay clubs for a day of friendly competition. We even had two visitors from Vancouver!

Tournament Director, Mike Coiner, organized mostly triples teams and tried to arrange a mix of clubs on each team. A mix of bowlers is a great way to get to know players from other PIMD clubs. Carrie Chiang, Ed Gong, Ginger Harris, Ian Harris, Albert Tam, and Hugo Traeger represented from our Palo Alto club.

The games, welcoming all bowlers from novice to veteran, continue on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in April, May and June. The signup sheets are on the bulletin board inside the clubhouse.

And please put June 26 on your calendars as that is our date to host. This will be the last event of the year so let's make this a fun and welcoming event for our neighboring clubs.



Some of the lucky bowlers, including our own Ginger Harris, went home with a fist full of prize money.

Spring Dinner Bowls Begin

When we change to Daylight Savings Time, it must be spring. The weather wasn't very spring-like but a group of hungry (for both bowls and food) members gathered to kick off our popular



After some rather chilly bowling, everyone was looking forward to the delicious hot soup at our first Dinner Bowls.

Wednesday evening dinner bowls for 2024. The menu was perfect for the weather and those attending enjoyed a sampling of hot (and delicious) soups, crunchy bread and a salad prepared by Lynne McCord and Ginger Harris. In a nod to spring, the dessert was a do-it-yourself ice cream sundae. Yum!

It is always great to see folks who haven't been out on the green for a while. Joining us were new dual member Bob Vu, returned travelers Corinna and Rob Mori and Wicks editor David Hale who now lives in Petaluma but gets here occasionally to roll a few bowls with us.

You may have heard that our Club now has a sister club in Australia. Some of our members are touring Australia for a few weeks and will be presenting the Bondi Bowling Club with a certificate to celebrate the union. This certificate has a photo of those members attending Dinner Bowls before bowling. It was the typical "herding happy cats" routine to get people situated for a group photo. We will have our own copy of the certificate hanging in our clubhouse when our travelers return.

Thanks to photographer Bill Zaumen for his expertise and resulting capture of some of our members' smiles and our new club flag. Stay tuned for highlights of the trip and some photos of our sister club in Australia.



The weather was perfect for the 18 bowlers contesting our first tournament of the year. Missing from the photo John Hickson, Carrie Chiang and Ginger Harris.

PALBC Mixed Draw Triples

We had a beautiful day weatherwise as the sun was shining and the temperature was warmer than predicted by the weatherman. Eighteen enthusiastic members signed on for the first club tournament of the season, including four new-to-tournament-play bowlers, Corinna Mori, Rob Mori, Fred Pepper, and Hugo Traeger.

The teams were made up by a random mixed draw, just as we do for our weekly social games, but the five intrepid women were spread out among the six triples teams. Our Tournament Director, Bud Birkenseer, organized the day with three, 10-end games — two in the morning and one after lunch.

After the first two games, every team was tied for first place at 1-1! Scores were close, and support was there for our newer bowlers. The winners of the day were going to be determined by the final games in the afternoon.

At the end of the competition, three teams were tied on points for first place! The winners had to be decided by point differential. Len Martin, Albert Tam & Carrie Chiang claimed 2nd place, just edging the team of Frank Matyskiela, Ed Gong & Fred Pepper.

Congratulations to our Mixed Draw Triples Champions for 2024, Bud Birkenseer, Ginger Harris & Hugo Traeger, in part due to scoring a perfect 9 on one end — a Super Shot!

Thank you to everyone who helped setup and take down the rink markers and rakes. And thanks also to Carrie, Ginger and others who helped set up the breakfast and lunch snacks and the all important coffee brewing in the morning, and to all who came out for the day to support our club's event.

PALBC Gallery Exhibition

It has been many years since our members displayed their creative abilities in a Club sponsored gallery show. This year, on March 16 & 17, we had our third Club show as we opened the

clubhouse to members, neighbors, and those visiting Gamble Gardens to view the work of nine of our members.

The works included photography, knitting and felting, prints, sculptures, paintings, stained glass, and memorabilia from our exhibitors: Sarah Babin, Martha Castillo, David Hale, Jeanne Ichnowski, Frank Matyskiela, Nadine O'leary, Linda Simpson, Jon Yee, and Peter Danner presented a display of our Club historical memorabilia.

Thank you to all our artists and we hope other members will be encouraged to show their work in future shows. We are planning another gallery event in the fall.



For a weekend in March, the PALBC clubhouse was open to members and our neighbors as a gallery displaying the creative works of nine of our members.

What's Happening at PALBC

PALBC Mixed Draw Pairs

Bud Birkenseer will soon be sending information about signing up for our club Mixed Draw Pairs tournament which will be held on May 18. We had a good turnout for our Mixed Draw Triples tournament and we would be delighted to see even more bowlers at this tournament.

We welcome all bowlers, each person signs as an individual — list your position, either lead or skip — and teams are created by a blind draw, much like the weekly social games we play. Get ready to enjoy some friendly competition. We will play three 10-end games, two in the morning and one after lunch, using only three bowls per player.

Watch your email for information and there will probably be a signup sheet at the clubhouse. We hope to see you there.

Dinner Bowls Hosting

We had a well attended opening Dinner Bowls recently. We are hoping there will be many more over the spring into the summer. and offer a big thank you to the members who have stepped up to host the next couple of dinners.

There are many available dates for future hosting that are posted on a clipboard on the outside bulletin board. Choose your date and create your unique menu, whatever you would

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What's Happening *(continued from page 2)*

like, from exotic or as simple as take away pizza. We do own a barbecue grill which is available should you want to go that route.

This year, Cathy Murphy will be our coordinator, so look for emails from her with dates, RSVP instructions and menus. Dinners will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday through June, then weekly after that.

Remember that expenses are reimbursed, and there are plenty of previous hosts who will happily offer help, answer questions, and do what is needed to make your hosting experience a success.

Wednesday Enjoy! Classes Have Begun

Our first week of the learn-to-bowl classes offered in the Palo Alto Recreation *Enjoy!* catalog, and organized by Jon Yee, was a success! Coaches Sam Hebert, Jon Yee, John Hickson, Albert Tam, Rob Mori, and Ian & Ginger Harris worked with small groups to introduce the 17 potential new members to the basics of safety and how to deliver a bowl.

There were lots of questions, and enthusiasm was evident as participants practiced forehand and backhand deliveries in preparation for the coming weeks of more focused instruction and opportunities to play in games with each other.

The bowlers will be invited to stay for our Wednesday after bowling dinners so please make them feel welcome.

Joe Shepard Invitational

For those interested, the Sunnyvale LBC is hosting the Joe Shepard Invitational celebrating a long-time member who is in the Bowls USA Hall of Fame. This will be a mixed triples tournament on May 11. There will be two, 14-end games with a start time of 9:00 am. You should bring your own lunch. Joe is quite a character and there are some promised "surprises" for the tournament.

The cost is \$15 per person, and you will want to register by May 1 as a team for a total of \$45. Registration or questions should be made to Joy Guy at joymguy@gmail.com. The Sunnyvale LBC is in Muthphy park in Sunnyvale.

Save the Dates

June 1, PALBC Mixed Team Pairs – Unlike the Mixed Draw Pairs, this event is a mix or match team event. That is, entries are made as teams; find a partner and enter together, same gender teams or mixed gender teams. Three, 10-end games will give you your exercise for the day! Bud Birkenseer will send out the detailed information soon, but get this on your calendar as a "Save the Date!"

June 26, Friendship Games – Please put this on your calendars as that is *our* date to host. This will be the last Friendship Games event of the year and we want make this a fun and welcoming celebration for our neighboring clubs.

June 29, Cable Car Classic – And, very importantly, get ready for our annual Cable Car Classic. This is a traditional match with the San Francisco LBC that has been going on for many years. This event is played at each club in alternating years. We hosted last year, and this year we will travel to the greens in



Coach's Corner

The Importance of Our Club Draw Games

While I have been at the Club, either bowling or working with new bowlers, I've realized how important the Club draw games are to the well-being of the club.

Those of us who like to be competitive have plenty of opportunities to participate in more serious PIMD events, National Playdowns/Opens, and even some of our more competitive club tournaments

Our club draw games are different. We have added many new members over the past few months, most of whom are new to lawn bowling. Our draw games offer the opportunity for these new and less advanced bowlers, as well as those who just enjoy the game, to participate and gain experience without the stress of competition.

Draw games are for practice and to create a social atmosphere that all bowlers can enjoy. Experienced bowlers are an important part of the equation, as they can help and advise the newer bowlers. Everyone likes to do well but enjoying the game itself is a top priority at draw games.

To all our skips and experienced bowlers, we want to see you supporting the draw games but when you have a bowler on your team who still needs help, please don't overwhelm them with directions. One or two suggestions are more than enough for them to work on. Just give him/her an indication of the area where you would like their bowl to finish. Pointing to a specific spot is intimidating. Where possible, give directions with hand signals.

Give praise and encouragement when a good shot is played but don't show frustration at a poor delivery. Remember how challenging it was when you were learning the game. I know it can be frustrating when, as skip, you go to the mat and find yourself 2 or 3 shots down. Instead, think of it as a challenge to improve the position.

Draw games are the backbone of the club and we would not be as strong as we are today without the support of bowlers at all levels. Let's do our part to make the draw games fun and productive for everyone.

— *John Hickson*

beautiful Golden Gate Park to try to reclaim the Cable Car trophy. Many of you will remember the cable car hanging on the wall of the clubhouse and we want it back!

The Cable car Classic is a wonderful tradition and is a (mostly) friendly competition. We want to create 5-6 triples teams to compete with their club's players. More to come, but, again, start practicing and please do save the date.

Training Future Bowlers?

On a Friday afternoon, Betsy Young and Liz Hogan were

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bowling at the Club. At around 2:00 pm, they were at the Cowper end of the rink, and an adult and about a dozen boys went running by on the other side of the fence.

Next thing they noticed was that the boys came in through the Churchill gate. The boys stayed by the wicker furniture on the patio, and the adult, who may have been a teacher or coach, went over to Betsy and Liz and asked if they would let the boys roll a bowl. They said yes and Liz helped those who wanted to try their hand at lawn bowling. Those who tried seemed to enjoy the experience, and the teacher was extremely grateful.

The teacher and the boys were from St. Elizabeth Seton School on Channing Avenue in Palo Alto which goes from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. The boys were in the upper end of the class range. Perhaps we will see them back!

“The Delivery Doctor”

For those who would like to study lawn bowling technique at home, new member Fred Pepper has found a series of videos on line that may be of interest. Study at home and practice at the club! You can ask our club coaches to help with what you learn.

You can find The Delivery Doctor at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyn23Yya0x0UIYln9wQfyawlxCsvFk8Cu>

It's All in the Cloud

The PALBC Treasury and involved list keepers and number crunchers will soon be entering the 21st century of financial and organizational record keeping technology. Rob Mori, our newest Treasurer, has plans to put as much club data as feasible onto the cloud (Google) for individual member access on their smartphones or laptops.

Rob's new chores will be to streamline access to all of the club's financial, membership, calendar, and other official club

postings. You will be able to access information on Board meeting minutes, coaching, finance, hospitality & catering, membership, rentals, tournaments, and *Wicks* archives.

Member access will be authorized by their Google account, or gmail address. Rob and other member tech gurus will be offering assistance to members who are accessing Google/ PALBC for the first time, to learn the ropes (e-strings?).

PALBC CALENDAR

April

24 Friendship Games, Sunnyvale LBC.

May

- 4 Southwest Division Open, various clubs in Southern California. Six days, Saturday through Thursday.
- 8 Friendship Games, Del Mesa Carmel LBC.
- 11 Joe Shepard Invitational Mixed Triples, Sunnyvale LBC.
- 18 U.S. Singles Play-downs, Men's and Women's, San Francisco LBC.
- 18 PALBC Mixed Draw Pairs, Palo Alto LBC.
- 22 Friendship Games, Santa Clara LBC.
- 31 Wine Country Senior Games, Oakmont Lawn Bowling Green, Santa Rosa. Saturday and Sunday.

June

- 1 PALBC Mixed Team Pairs, Palo Alto LBC.
- 12 Friendship Games, Santa Cruz LBC.
- 15 PIMD Mixed 5's, San Francisco LBC.
- 22 U.S. Pairs Play-downs, Men's and Women's, Rossmore LBC. Three days of play.
- 26 Friendship Games, Palo Alto LBC.
- 29 Cable Car Classic, San Francisco LBC.