

WICKS

DECEMBER 2023

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

PRESIDENT

Ian Harris

VICE PRESIDENT

David Usher

TREASURER

Edward Hickey

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Ginger Harris

DIRECTORS

Peter Danner

Sam Hebert

Lynne McCord

Kevin O'Leary

Dave Simpson

PIMD REPRESENTATIVE

Frank Matyskiela

WICKS EDITOR

David Hale

WINTER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday,

Saturday, 1:00 pm.

Sunday, 1:30 pm.

CONTACT

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We had a good number of members, including two novices, representing our club at the PIMD Closing Day games. They bowled well also, seven of them returning home with a little prize money in their pockets.

Palo Alto LBC Members Bowl at Closing Day

How exciting it was to look out over three greens to see 114 PIMD bowlers playing in the annual "Novice Recognition and Closing Day" tournament hosted by San Francisco. The weather was delightful, the sense of camaraderie palpable, and the evidence that PIMD is thriving clearly evident.

Thirteen club members, including novices Hugo Traeger and Hersch Davis, took advantage of this opportunity to play on the San Francisco greens, greeting fellow enthusiasts from all of our PIMD clubs.

As usual, the division magician, Tournament Director Bud Birkenseer, had teams organized and got everyone out on the greens in good time. Two 12-end games, a social lunch break and a tasty offering of nibbles after the games filled the day.

A few of our Palo Alto bowlers were the official "smile makers" of the day, and seven others brought home prize money. Great bowling from our PALBC members!

A Novice Experiences His First Tournament

I thoroughly enjoyed the PIMD Novice Singles Tournament at the San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club. I appreciated the nice facility and the club's hospitality. Everyone was welcoming and they provided nice treats.

This was my first such adventure. With the club's Golden Gate Park location you get to experience a nice array of weather and green conditions. Cool, wet and overcast early. Followed by intermittent sunshine and varying temperatures. Then a misty, windy late afternoon.

My day started out with a win, though the elation was short lived. Next a loss to one of the

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Palo Alto LBC novice, Hugo Traeger, enjoyed competing in his first lawn bowl tournament. He looks forward to many more.

event finalists and a third match loss to a more accomplished player. I felt pretty good about my bowling even in the losses. It was a wonderful opportunity to represent the Palo Alto LBC. I had a great time and plan on winning the event next year.

—*Novice Bowler, Hugo Traeger*

Senior Singles Close Out Our Club Tournament Schedule

Six brave members, freely admitting to being officially “70+ Seniors,” participated in the 2023 PALBC Senior Singles Tournament. All were hoping to earn a spot on the club’s winner board.

Playing three 12-end, or first to 12-point games, in our final club tournament for this year, the group enjoyed some friendly competition while trying hard to roll their bowls for the shot.

A special shoutout to novice members Hugo Traeger, Liz Davis and Hersh Davis who jumped into the mix to get a feel for competition beyond club draw games. Veteran players Frank Matyskiela, Carrie Chiang and Ian Harris rounded out the field.

At the conclusion of the day, coach Frank Maty placed second behind this year’s winner, Club president Ian Harris.

The games went smoothly thanks to Bud Birkenseer’s usual organized preparation and monitoring of matchups. Bud, along with volunteers Marion Darton and John Hickson served as markers which is so helpful in singles games. It is also a great way to casually observe games, picking up tips and strategies for personal skill development.

Thank you to Carrie for providing the morning treats and getting the coffee going. Players do appreciate this little bit of hospitality to start the day.

The 2024 PALBC tournament calendar will be out in the early part of 2024. Take a look at opportunities to get into some more challenging games with fellow bowling buddies.

2023, a Banner year for Rentals!

The year ends with our most favorable rental season ever! As usual we had a varied and interesting group of renters. Several members hosted private events. The Veterans made a return visit, as did the Kiwanis Club. A harpist was a PALBC first at an early season baby shower. The City of Palo Alto held a meeting on the hottest day of the summer. A number of Stanford groups came to call, as did several local law firms and we were pleased to host a wonderful group from Tesla. Unfortunately, the timing or numbers did not match up for Google and Meta but ...next year?

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to the following members who time and again served as hosts for the 29 events we held this year. Many thanks go out to:

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	Jon Yee
Ian Harris	Rob Mori	
Sam Hebert	Jerry Patrignani	

On a serious note, we have 95 club members but only 22 came out to host our rentals. This is not sustainable. If we are going to make money for our club, which keeps our dues low, we must have greater participation so that we do not exhaust anybody.

Next year we would like to ask each of you to consider hosting at least once during the season. It is a 2–3 hour commitment on a sunny summer day or early evening. The guests are invariably surprised to find out how much fun it is to play and they are always grateful for the enthusiasm and support our members provide.

We will be offering a Host workshop in early spring so you will know what you are getting into and we will *always* pair you up with more experienced hosts. It’s fun. Please sign up when Albert puts out the call!

PALBC Members Compete Nationally and Internationally

In the last couple of months, the bowling calendar has been full of high end tournaments. Two of our members, Rose Selby and Scottie Marzonie have been especially busy — and successful!

Bowls USA Open

Palo Alto members Rose and Scottie recently participated in the Bowls USA sponsored US Open held in southern California. The Open is for all Bowls USA members across the country and members of international bowling clubs. Scottie and Rose both had great success in the week-long series of singles, pairs and fours events. No rest for the weary, that’s for sure!



Rachel Marcuson and Rose Selby, and Frankie Napoli and Scottie Marzonie enjoyed a successful week at the BUSA National Championships.

Rose is to be congratulated for placing second in the Women's Singles Championship Flight. Rose, bowling with Rachel Marcuson (Santa Cruz LBC) finished first place in the 4th Flight of Women's pairs, and was on the team that won the 2nd Flight of Women's Fours.

Scottie placed first in the 6th Flight of men's singles. Bowling with Frankie Napoli (Rossmoor LBC) he was second place in the 4th Flight of men's pairs and on the third place team in the Championship Flight of Men's Fours.

Bowls USA National Championships

Our PIMD Nationals Team recently returned home from Florida after representing all of us in the US National Championships. Once again, Rose and Scottie bowled well.

Rose and her frequent Pairs partner, Rachel, finished third in Women's Pairs. And Scottie, again bowling with Frankie, won in Men's Pair and are the Bowls USA National Champions!

PIMD Players to Play Internationally

Qualifiers for the Professional Bowls Association (PBA) were held in San Jose in mid-September. Three PIMD players qualified for two major international events.

Scottie is competing in the Scottish Indoor Open Singles Tournament, which started the week of November 4th, by playing the world's #1 player in the first round — go Scottie!

What's Happening at PALBC

Message from the President

Are you like me — occasionally confused and not always sure what is going on? Then here is your chance for some clarity and order — at least regarding the PALBC.

Please attend our Annual General Meeting of the Palo Alto LBC. This will be held at our clubhouse on Saturday December 9, 2023. Coffee and small pastries will be available from



The Pendulum Delivery

There is much talk about the position of your feet and the importance of keeping your shoulders square, so that the arm does not stray off the delivery line when preparing to bowl. However, too often I see bowlers pick up their bowl and keep both hands on it, right up to the time of delivery.

The problem is that, in the majority of cases, this results in the bowl being held in front of the body instead of being held to the side of the body, along the delivery line. This means that the delivery arm is not able to make a pendulum swing up and down in a straight path along the delivery line. The arm has to curve back round the hip and then hope to swing forward on the right line.

The remedy is simple. Once you have the bowl settled in your right hand, take the left hand off the bowl so you can rest it on your left knee (for a right handed bowler) as you step forward to make the delivery. Before you take that step, your delivery arm should be to the side of your body aiming along the chosen delivery line so you can then simply swing your arm backwards and forwards in a pendulum motion knowing that you are much more likely to achieve a good, accurate delivery.

Please ask any of our coaches to demonstrate, if that would help you to get it right.

—John Hickson

about 10:30 am and the meeting follows at 11:00 am. You will have an opportunity to hear from your favorite Board members as they share the cheers and challenges of the past year.

Please contact me if you want to add anything to the following agenda under "New Business" and your questions, comments and ideas are always more than welcome.

- President's greeting and recognition of our new members
- Treasurers report
- Committee reports including membership and ideas of how we might recruit additional members, an update on rentals, improvements to the clubhouse and grounds, and opportunities for socials during the winter months
- State of the Green
- Summary of tournament winners
- Election of a slate of Officers and Board members
- Presentation of the "Terry Hogan Good Guy Award"
- President's summary of the 2023 season

This will all be followed by a Holiday Luncheon of oven roasted turkey, creamy whipped potatoes, herb stuffing, gravy, and

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

roasted vegetables, a selection of drinks, and cookies. This menu was a hit last year; you won't want to miss it this year.

And if the weather is nice, after lunch there will be rousing "Jingle Bowls" games, possibly with some fun surprises.

The cost for luncheon will be \$20 per person with the club subsidizing the remainder. Look for an email with the reservation deadline. Timely RSVPs will be very important for this event.

See you there!

—President, Ian Harris

Want to join the 2023 Palo Alto LBC Cookie Crew?

Our end of the year annual member meeting is around the corner. Look for a separate email with details, but we can share now that after the meeting we will have a delicious lunch for all. Our traditional dessert has been a selection of homemade cookies produced by club member volunteers.

If you have a favorite cookie recipe and would be willing to make and donate 2 dozen, *you* will become a much appreciated lifetime honorary member of this prestigious group! A selection of cookies is bagged for each member to nibble on after lunch or take home to enjoy at a later time.

If you are willing to help out, please be in touch with Martha Castillo at marthacastillo10@gmail.com

Are you a Host or Hostess with the Most or Mostess?

Although draw games will continue through the "winter" months, let's try to get together off the green to keep in touch and enjoy some club camaraderie. Doesn't an afternoon of bowling and/or inside games followed by an early evening dinner sound inviting?

The plan is very similar to our Wednesday bowling and dinner evenings. You choose the menu and are reimbursed for expenses. The offerings in the past have been of the "comfort food" variety, something warm and tasty for those cooler afternoons and evenings.

If you would like to host, please get in touch with Ginger Harris (peacecorps.ginger@gmail.com). An announcement and request for rsvp will be sent to all club members when dates and menus are available.

Dickens Christmas Fair tickets

If you are interested in attending the Dickens Christmas Fair in San Francisco, a member of our club, Dave Simpson (dlhsimp@sonic.net), can get tickets for the discounted price of \$30.00 each instead of the \$45.00 regular price.

The Dickens Christmas Fair is held on weekends from November 18 to December 10.

PALBC CALENDAR

November

- 18 Champion of Champions Singles (all gender), Santa Cruz LBC. Saturday and Sunday.
- 23 Happy Thanksgiving!

December

- 9 PALBC Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

New Members

Michael Fabozzi

Corinna Mori

