

WICKS

MARCH 2009

PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

PRESIDENT

Bonny Turner

VICE PRESIDENT

John Hickson (acting)

TREASURER

Ed Walker

SECRETARY

Betsy Young

DIRECTORS

Terry Hogan
Don Hughes
Ann Knopf
Bob Leonard
Frank Matyskiela
Jean Wren

WICKS EDITOR

David Hale

WINTER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday
Saturday and Sunday
1:30 pm

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PIMD Winter League at San Jose LBC

Twelve teams of two gathered for a league that ran for 6 Sundays. The competition was hosted by the SJLBC. PIMD tournament committee member and member of SJLBC, John Ogden, ran the Winter League. The Pairs teams came from many local lawn bowling clubs.

The teams played a round robin format allowing each team to play all the other teams once. The standings were tallied using 2 points for a win; 0 points for a loss, with victory points decided by score differential, as a tie breaker for teams with the same win lose record.

Each Sunday every team played two matches, some of them in a misty rain and at times a bit more than misty. The competition was fierce and after 5 weeks of play, each team having played 10 games, there were 2 teams still undefeated. The league schedule brought these 2 undefeated teams together on the last day of competition, so 1st place was on the line. The Palo Alto team of Ian Harris and Peter Knopf was one of these undefeated teams. They had the tough chore of playing the well known and widely respected team of young John and Josh Burnoski. When the last bowl of their match was rolled Peter and Ian nearly shut the boys out allowing them to

score in only one end. It would seem Ian and Peter were going to be the Champs. They had only one more match and a win would give them a lock on 1st place.

As it happened, their final match was against John and Josh's father and younger brother. This match would seem a simple task with Peter and Ian's experience and the younger Burnoski brother being only 9 or 10 years old. However, there is another factor that should be mentioned. The dad, Tom Burnoski, is the 2008 PIMD Play-down Men's Singles Champ. The Burnoski pride was on display and after 14 ends of play and a victory decided in the final end of the match, the father and son beat the last remaining undefeated team.

With that last match loss the championship was going to be decided by the victory point differential of the two teams tied at the top. As fate would have it the young gun Burnoski boys won the league with a victory point count 3 more than Ian and Peter.

The top third of the teams in the league won money and PALBC was well represented in that third, taking 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Those four winning teams are: 1st place – John & Josh Burnoski, 2nd place – Peter Knopf & Ian Harris, 3rd place – Larry Collaco & Bob Schwartz, and 4th place – Bud Birkenseer & Sam Hebert.



The young Burnoski brothers, Josh and John (center) finished in first place. Members of the PALBC took 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place. Left to right is Ian Harris and Peter Knopf (2nd), Sam Hebert and Bud Birkenseer (4th), and Bob Schwartz and Larry Collaco (3rd). So much for the value of age and experience.

An Evening in Paris

Bonjour to all the Mesdames and Messieurs who made the Paris Bistro evening a success. After a great turnout (seven full rinks) for a cold day of bowling we were ready to warm ourselves with wine and fine food.

By the number of people wearing berets among the more than eighty attending, one could tell that the attendees got into the spirit of the occasion. Special thanks to Julia Huot and



Ron LeBlanc, Rive Gauche tour guide and master of the French accent.

Jean Wren as these two prepared the majority of the cuisine, which included coq au vin, quiche, salad, genoise and made-lines. Others shared in the food honors to make for a bountiful table: Betsy Young (cassoulet), Ginger Harris (lentil salad), Bonny Turner (chocolate cake) and Grace and Max with their ratatouille. Max was also dressed as a chef. Did you notice the thermometer in his pocket? The evening was enhanced by wine from our local vintner that Mike Ashworth dispensed with panache. Peter Danner provided some maps to add an extra ambience to the occasion. After dinner and desserts, Ron



Betsy Young, John Hickson, Terry Hogan, and Peter Knopf enjoy a glass of wine after a cold day of bowling



Julia Huot, Jean Wren, and Sarah Babin look like they are in Paris.

LeBlanc performed a poem he wrote for the occasion where he pretended to be a tour guide of the Rive Gauche bistros. His phony French accent added to the fun. The success of the event was also shared by those that setup the tables and decorated same. We made good use of the 40 new chairs and six new tables that were purchased back in December. The event may have made a small profit though probably not enough for needed French lessons.

Once again, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the Bistro Night a success. Thanks to those who brought food: Julia, Betsy, Ginger, Grace, Max, Bonny, and Jane. Thanks for help with decorating the room, setting up tables, and flowers: to Bud and those who moved in the tables and chairs; to Peter, Julia, Jane for pictures; to Sarah, Roberta, Helene, Bonny, and anyone else who brought flowers and helped arrange them. Thanks also to Sue Marshall for just stepping up to the piles of plates and dirty dishes to clean up the kitchen, and to the others who helped clean up. Those are our kind of members!

Our next special event is Cinco de Mayo on May 9. Bonny Turner is the coordinator for this event of Mexican specialties. Watch for more information.

Preachers Corner

Membership Roster

Use of the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls membership roster is strictly for use by our members for personal and club related contact and should not to be used for any other purpose, including business mailings or email solicitations.

Liability Waiver Request

At the request of our insurance carrier, all non-member guests participating in bowling (including those taking lessons) must sign the liability waiver posted on the bulletin board to the left of the main entrance of the club house. Visitors who are just watching do not need to sign.



Coach's Corner with John Hickson

Practice, Practice, Practice

Practicing on your own or with a colleague is the best way to improve your game and iron out bad habits.

Weight control is the hardest skill to develop in the early stages and it is the most vital. The more you can practice this skill the better you will become at adjusting the speed of your delivery.

You can add some incentive to your practice by entering the "Master of the Jack" competition. For details of this contest, see the notice board in the Club House or speak to Bud Birkenseer.

As a courtesy, when practicing, you should always bowl in the opposite direction to the way the actual game or competition will be played on that day. The information showing the direction of play for any day is on the calendar on the inside of the equipment room door. If you practice on Monday or Friday, you can bowl in either direction as they are officially non-bowling days.

What is an Anti-Makassar?

I can't think of anything new to write about lawn bowling, so here is a piece of utterly trivial information for your edification and or filing in the circular file.

When I was a boy back in the late twenties and early thirties stylish parlors had lace doilies on the backs of overstuffed furniture. I do not recall hearing a special name for that item back then. I only learned the name sometime later, probably in the early 1960s. The peculiar name for this particular doily was and is an anti-makassar. Anti means to be against. But I had no idea what a makassar was, or why a chair doily should be against it, and just let it go as one of many curious oddities to be considered from time to time.

Well! I just had a revelation. Having just completed the book *Krakatoa* by Simon Winchester I learned in a footnote that an island in the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia, is named Makassar. During the Victorian eras a sweet smelling vegetable oil was imported from there, and used as a men's hair oil. A man's head could be expected to be quite oily, so a lace doily was used to keep hair oil off of furniture; hence the anti-Makassar.

So now I have one less oddity to consider, but there will surely be others.

— Fred Hawley

Origin of the Biased Bowl

[Editor's note: A good story but not very likely.] One of the most popular stories on the origin of the biased bowl has a British background. The story states that up until the time of Henry VIII lawn bowls were made of wood and perfectly round.

This historic game, in which bowling bias was born, was played on the green at Goole, Yorkshire, on March 31, 1522. The Duke of Suffolk skipped one team and John Richards the opponents. Up to the fifteenth end the game stood even.

In the sixteenth end Richard's team was one up with the shot about six inches in front of the jack. The Duke countered with a vigorous drive and hit Richard's bowl so hard that his bowl actually split in half!

Never one to be easily defeated, he ran to the nearest house and with a handsaw cut off the round top from the post at the foot of the stairs. Then, with a few easy touches with his sword, he smoothed off the rough spot and returned to the game.

Played the usual way, his first attempt curved off several feet to one side. At the next end he allowed for the bias and his bowl went out around all the other bowls and came in for the shot.

This he repeated on the last four ends, and the Duke of Suffolk won the game by four points and discovered that a biased bowl can win over a perfectly round bowl.

After this game it was not long before all bowlers had their bowls turned a little smaller on one side.

The story ends on a happy note with the Duke rewarding the widow, whose stair post he had beheaded, with a five pound note and a new stair post.

— *From The American Lawn Bowler's Guide*
by Harvey C. Maxwell, M.D.

Etiquette on the Green — Terminology

As we all know, lawn bowling is a different sport than ten-pin bowling. As such, there are different terms that are used.

1. We play on a GREEN, not a court.
2. We play ENDS, not frames.
3. When two players are on a team, that is a PAIRS game, not doubles.
4. We use BOWLS, not balls.
5. A game with four players per team is now called FOURS, no longer called Rinks.
6. The greens are divided into RINKS, not lanes or alleys.
7. Bowls and jacks are ROLLED, not thrown

Most of us play just for the sheer fun of the game. However, using the correct terminology shows an avid interest in the sport and, when playing and teaching others, helps to pass on this wonderful sport the way it should be.

— E. B. Parkell

What's Happening at PALBC

April is Food Bank Month

We have had an empty donation drum for many weeks. Many area families are in need. It would be a good time to give some help in the way of soups, stews, chili and beans for our less fortunate neighbors. Let's try to fill the drum each month. If you could bring a can each time you bowl or just do what you can to help, every donation will be appreciated.

Pizza Bowls

It's time for PIZZA BOWLS! Beginning March 25th at 5 PM, we will begin bowling every Wednesday evening. Immediately following Bowling, our hospitality crew will be serving pizza and salad for \$5, plus a donation of \$1 for beer or wine. Every once in a while someone will donate a dessert.

Pizza Bowls is a good time to bring a friend and introduce them to the game. Let's keep our membership growing and have fun doing it.

New Member Buddies

Would you like to volunteer for a fun project? We thought it would be nice if we had members volunteer to help new members feel more comfortable with the club. If you volunteer to help, you would be given the name of a new member to follow up with for social events, perhaps practice with them or just call to see if they are coming to play.

Many people take lessons, join the club and don't play or attend social functions. They then drop their membership. That's a lose/lose situation; they are missing out on a great sport and lots of fun and we are losing a member who has an

interest in lawn bowling. An easy way to help the club and make a new friend.

Give Ed Walker (650-493-7908) or Bonny Turner (650-326-1370) a call if you would like to be a new member buddy.

PALBC CALENDAR

March

- 25 First Pizza Bowls, 5:00 pm
- 28 PIMD Opening Day @ Oakland

April

- 1 City Bowls Class begins
- 4 Women's Team Pairs Tournament, 9:00 am
- 7 Board Meeting, 3:30 pm
- 11 Men's Team Pairs, 9:00 am
- 18 Skills Games prior to Draw game, 1:00 pm
- 25 PIMD Women's Fives/SF

Welcome to our New Members

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Dr. Larry Murphy

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