

WICKS

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PALO ALTO LAWN BOWLS CLUB

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Saturday and Sunday

1:30 pm

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2009 PALBC Women's Team Pairs Tournament



Jackets and sweatshirts were appropriate on a cool morning for the 2009 PALBC Women's Pairs Tournament.

The morning of April 4th was shiny and bright for the PALBC Women's Team Pairs Tournament. The Ladies had their "Whites" on and several had their "Layers" on as well. The sunny but cool morning did not stop the play from heating up, once the full field of eight teams, began their matches.

The tournament had a blind draw for rink selection, which also determined the first opponent of the day. The Green was full because every team was guaranteed two matches. If a team won their first match it headed to the championship flight and with a loss a team would head to the "B" flight. This is similar to the format used by the PIMD in some of their events.

The spectators had their ideas of which were the strong teams but, as in any sport, a team on a given Saturday can surprise a supposed stronger team.

As luck of the draw would have it Linda Jensen and Chris Stafford, both fairly new to the tournament scene, got paired against Ann Walker and Bea McConachie, one of the most tournament experienced teams in the field. Good sports that they were, Linda and Chris kept smiling and encouraging each other, but to no avail. Ann and Bea moved on to the championship flight.

Ginger Harris and Grace Griffiths drew E.B. Parkell and Linda Flores in their first match.

Linda is pretty new to the game, but E.B. is the Division Head Umpire for the PIMD and a tournament player at a high level. Ginger and Grace seemed to have the first match under control as they lead after six ends 8-1. In the seventh end the game changed. E.B. and Linda scored 4 and never looked back, not allowing Grace and Ginger another point. E.B.'s team moved into the championship flight with a score of 14-8.

Betsy Young and Jean Wren drew the same rink as Helene Pier and Sarah Babin. This contest put the defending champions, Helene and Sarah, up against some tough competition. Sarah, up from a sick bed (flu), would not use that as an excuse but, Betsy and Jean made their



"B" flight finalists, winners Grace Griffiths and Ginger Harris, and Helene Pier and Sarah Babin.



Championship finalists, Penny Bayless and Bonny Turner, and winners Linda Flores and E.B. Parkell.

way to the championship flight and sent Helene and Sarah to the “B” flight competition.

Club president Bonny Turner and novice Penny Bayless drew Marianne Maloney and Liz Hogan, both ranked as skips. Bonny and Penny started very slowly, not scoring in the first three ends. Marianne and Liz had a 4 point lead, but in the fourth end Bonny’s team scored 3 closing the gap. Marianne

and Liz let four scoreless ends put them behind 6-4. In the seventh end Marianne’s team scored 3, but was answered with 3 in the eighth end by Bonny and Penny. After ten ends it was a 1 point game. The president and her novice partner scored 1 in each of the last two ends and advanced to the championship flight.

The flight “B” final, played by last years overall champs Helene Pier and Sarah Babin against Ginger Harris and Grace Griffiths was a back and forth match until Skipper Ginger kept her opponents scoreless in six of the last eight ends. Congratulations to Grace and Ginger for their victory in the “B” flight championship game.

Bonny Turner’s team met E.B. Parkell’s team in the championship final. Bonny and Penny, as in their first match, did not score in the first three ends. Linda and E.B. finally allowed a single point to their foes, and after fourth end the score was 4-1. Then, in the sixth end, Penny and Bonny managed to score 3 bringing the match to a 1 point game. This was the closest the game got. Linda and E.B. pulled away scoring 5 in the ninth end on the way to victory. Congratulations to Linda Flores and E.B. Parkell, the 2009 PALBC Women’s Team Pairs Champions.

2009 PALBC Men’s Team Pairs Tournament

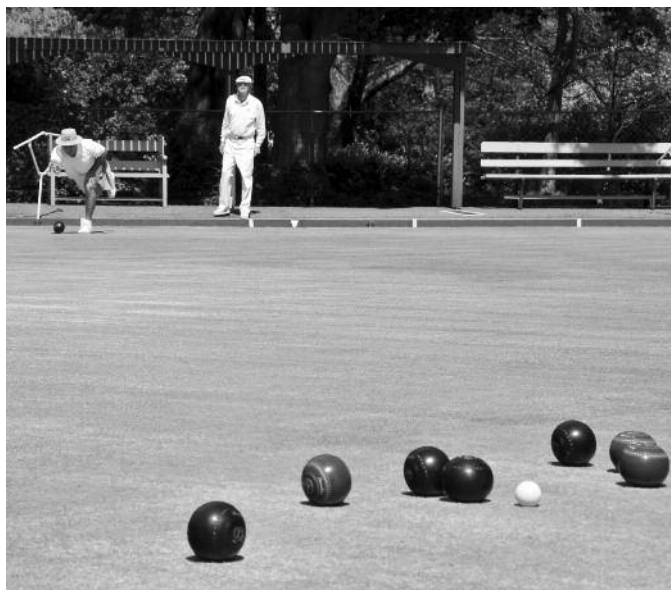
Saturday, April 11th, the men of the PALBC gathered for a day of bowls. A full day of bowls it was, as all four rounds of the Men’s Team Pairs Tournament were completed in just one day. The field of 14 teams played two full rounds of tournament play before the field was trimmed to the four teams making the semi-finals. Teams qualified for the semis on their won lost record. Three of the four semi-finalists won both of their games. The fourth team advanced based on their scoring differential. David Hale and Frank Matyskiela had a score differential of +10 and edged out past champions Ed Walker and John Hickson by a mere 2 points to move on.

Frank and David, both being novices, had to be one of the dark horses in the field. If you watched them play you would be hard pressed to pick them out as the novice pair. The other teams in the semi-finals were more experienced players with many years of bowling tucked under their belts. Leading the way with two wins and +17 differential were Ian Harris and Kevin Latham, followed closely by Athol Foden and Greg Fyvie, and Bob Schwartz and Jerry Knott both new members at PALBC, but not new to bowling.

The Semi-Finals pitted the first against fourth and the second against the third. The novice team with the one and one record had to play high scoring undefeated, Ian and Kevin. Athol and Greg, and Bob and Jerry played at the same time.

Athol and Greg got off to a slow start scoring only one point in the first five ends which led to a loss to Bob and Jerry. So Bob and Jerry wait to see who they are matched against in the final. Will it be Ian and Kevin or novices Frank and David?

Ian and Kevin scored 2 in the first end, but Frank and David answered with 4 in the second end. The novices failed to score in the next three ends, but only allowed Ian and Kevin 1 in each end. After five ends the difference is only 1 point. Ian’s team scores 2 and Frank’s team answers with a 2 point end of their own. After 10 ends of a 12 end game, the score is now tied at 8-8. The novices, Frank and David, score 1 then 2 to take the match 11-8 and advance to the finals against Bob and Jerry.



Frank Matyskiela has the last bowl as he tries to pick up points in the semifinal while Ian Harris looks on.



Championship finalists, winners Bob Schwartz and Jerry Knott, and Frank Matyskiela and David Hale.

After a brief break, it was decided to continue and play the Championship game—the fourth game of a long day. A nice sized crowd stayed to watch this men’s event to its finish. The bowls are gathered at #3 rink, neither team having played on it. Hands were shaken, the coin was tossed, and play began.

Bob Schwartz and Jerry Knott, the experienced players they are, showed the novices, Frank Matyskiela and David Hale, how the game should be played and scored 6 in the first end and 3 in the second. Bang—down 9-0 in just two ends. Nobody watching the match could believe their eyes, but not many left, knowing how this game of bowls plays out at times. The novices, now on their heels, don’t back off and score a 2 then a 3 closing the gap to just 4 points after the fourth end.

The match had the crowd’s attention again. Bob and Jerry scored 1 point in the fifth end. In the sixth end, Frank and David scored 5 and the match is all square through six ends. Those who stayed are now watching a new game. From the seventh through the twelfth ends, the teams exchange 1 point ends.

The Men’s Team Pairs Tournament final, that after two ends looked like a laugher, was now a sudden death contest requiring an extra end to be played. As the leads and skips exchanged ends of the rink, David’s brand new green bowls had the jack sandwiched and at very close quarters. Frank, unable to set a blocker in front of the small target, allowed Bob to be the hero and with a brilliant shot he wicked David’s two bowls and sent the jack to an open area deep in the rink. Bob and Jerry hold 1. Frank was able to get inside and held the point. Bob had the last shot, and with the title on the line made the championship point.

Bob Schwartz and Jerry Knott are the 2009 Men’s Team Pairs Champions. Congratulations to them and to the entire field for their fine play during the tournament.

Statewide Open House

Instead of many open house events this year, we are putting all our effort into one big day. California clubs are all having their open houses on Saturday, May 9th, 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared that day Lawn Bowls Day in California. Apart from the club efforts, both our region (PIMD) and SW Division will be trying to drum up news and coverage as well.

Now it is your turn. We know most of you have done a good job of talking up the sport from time to time, but now you have a great excuse to go back to all those lazy laggard friends and get them to come and briefly try it in a friendly, communal party-like day. Get some flyers from Bud and hand them around or post them wherever you can. And dig into your personal email lists and mail an electronic invitation to all your friends.

Tell them how much satisfaction you get from this active, social and mentally challenging sport. Give them a link to the website and some bowling videos on YouTube... and accept no excuses. The more members we have, the healthier and more competitive our club becomes.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Grab your sombreros and China poblanas and join us for an evening of fun and good food at PALBC’s Cinco de Mayo celebration on



Sabado, May 9. The bowling will start an hour later at 2:30 with the fiesta following at about 5:30.

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of

Mexican heritage and culture with music, food, and dancing. In Mexico, it is a regional holiday celebrated mainly in the City of Puebla. This commemorates the defeat of the French invading army at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, not Mexican Independence Day, which is September 16, 1810.

This will be una fiesta grande with all the fixings for you to make your own vegetarian, chicken, or beef taco or burrito plus homemade tamales, Mexican cole slaw, flan and chocolate shortbread, with sangria, wine, beer, and soft drinks.

Dinner will be \$10 per person with drinks \$1 each. For more information as the date nears or to volunteer to help, please contact Bonny at bonnyturner@comcast.net.



Coach's Corner with John Hickson

I was reminded last weekend, at the club's men's pairs tournament, about the rule for drawn games in a knock-out (elimination) competition.

If the scores are equal when all the ends have been played, an extra end is played to decide the result. When this happens, the skips or opponents in singles should toss a coin and the winner will decide who should bowl first. It can be an advantage to have the last bowl in a tight match, so the winner of the toss will often ask the opposition to take the mat.

It was good to see people staying to watch what turned out to be an exciting final and that reminded me of another rule.

In a competition, once a game has commenced, spectators or anyone else not directly taking part in the game should stay outside the boundaries of the green, clear of the players and cannot coach a player during the game.

However, a manager or coach of a team or player can give advice to a player during the course of play as long as:

- the umpire is given the name of the manager or coach before the game starts.
- only one person gives advice at any one time.
- the advice is given from outside the boundaries of the green.

Etiquette on the Green — The Mat

Whether right-handed or left-handed, you should step onto the mat from the left side of the mat. After you deliver your bowl, whether it's going where you want or not, stay on the mat and watch it until it stops. (No matter how painful that can be sometimes. Trust me, I know!)

If it is a good bowl, you need to see where it went and deliver the next bowl in the same way. If it is a bad bowl, it can help you correct your next shot.

After your bowl has come to rest, step off the mat clock-wise, by going right. This lets your opponent step onto the mat without running into you.

Once your opponent steps onto the mat, talking should cease. It can break a player's concentration when someone loudly laughs or talks when the bowl is about to leave their hand. Be considerate of others and they will be considerate of you.

— E.B. Parkell

[Editor's note: E.B. Parkell has recently been named Division Head Umpire for PIMD — Congratulations E.B.!]

What's Happening at PALBC

Statewide Lawn Bowling Day

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has issued a proclamation that May 9 will be celebrated as California Lawn Bowling Day. Clubs throughout the State will hold open houses to invite everyone to share in the celebration with free lessons and food. Palo Alto's event is being organized by Athol Foden who has presented ideas on ways to invite our friends and neighbors to join us elsewhere in this issue

Our New Rakes are Here

The sturdy new rakes that have been ordered for some time have arrived. As nice as they are, they don't fit in the stands at the rink edge that the old rakes did and people have been tripping over them during play. It might work best to put them as far back from the edge of the rink as you can after raking.

Locker Room Renovations

The City of Palo Alto has approved renovations to our Clubhouse locker rooms in order to bring them up to handicap standards. A final date has not been set, but it is currently planned for late June. This date could be pushed to later in the Summer. Updates to follow.

What are Friendship Games?

Each year the Friendship Games are held at six different clubs to honor John Brown, a member of the Sunnyvale Club who served as their President as well as PIMD. This year's schedule:

Palo Alto	May 6	Carmel Del Mesa	May 27
Sunnyvale	May 13	San Jose	June 3
Santa Clara	May 20	Santa Cruz	June 10

Watch for sign up sheets in the clubhouse. We will carpool, and the cost for the day is \$3 for prize money. Two games are played, one in the morning and one after lunch (bring your own lunch). This is a fun way to get to know other clubs and any level bowler is welcome. The games occur while our green is closed, so why not try out one of the many greens in our area. Join the fun!

PALBC CALENDAR

Pizza Bowls every Wednesday, 5:00 pm (weather permitting)

April

- 25 PIMD Women's Fives at San Francisco
- 25 PIMD NorCal Open Men's Singles at Oakland

May

- 2 Advanced Games and Regular Draw games, 1:30 pm
- 5 Board Meeting 3:30 pm
- 6 Friendship Game at Palo Alto, 9:00 am
- 9 Statewide Lawn Bowls Day Open House at PALBC, 10:00 am–2:30 pm
- 9 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Dinner. Draw games, 2:30 pm. Dinner follows.
- 12 GREEN CLOSES UNTIL JUNE 13
- 13 Friendship Game at Sunnyvale

The Football Field and the Lawn Bowling Green.

How many times have you heard a large surface compared to football field? “A super carrier deck is as long as three football fields” is one that comes to mind. Or, “The tower is as tall as four football fields”. There are many other such comparisons; floating around. Just listen for them.

Since the football field has become such a common unit for comparison, I propose that the National Bureau of Standards adopt a new unit of measure; the Standard Football Field, abbreviated SFF. The SFF shall be defined as 120 yards long including end zones, 50 feet wide, and an area of 6,000 square feet. Users of the SFF must know that the end zones are included in the standard definition and cite comparison accordingly.

With the SFF properly defined, we can now compare our Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Green (abbreviated LB), to a football field.

LB = $1/3$ SFF in length, $4/5$ the width, or $4/15$ the area. You could, I suppose, call it $1/4$ the area for gross comparison although I don't recommend it.

There now, I have given you an absolute paragon of scrupulous exacitude for comparing the green to the football field, as opposed, for example, to the rather loose, inexact, even sloppy, comparison of a football field to an aircraft carrier, or other large object.

Whenever anyone compares anything to a football field you may quickly respond thusly; “Yes, and our lawn bowls green here in Palo Alto is exactly $1/3$ the length, $4/5$ the width, and $4/15$ the area of a football field.” Everyone will be impressed and amazed by your brilliant recital of such exact comparative information, and you will become the life of the party!

— *Fred Hawley*

Welcome to our New Members

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