



# WICKS

**MAY 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

**SUMMER HOURS**

Tuesday, Thursday

Saturday and Sunday

9:30 am (from June 13)

**CONTACT**

474 Embarcadero Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

650-323-2575

contact@palbc.org

www.palbc.org



*Work is progressing on the clubhouse and the green. Here is the clubhouse festively wrapped while we were bowling at the Friendship Tournament in Santa Clara. The green has been plugged, sanded and sodded in preparation for leveling. We'll have to learn the quirks of the various rinks all over again.*

## **A Successful Open House**

Many thanks to all of you for your help with the Open House on Saturday. There was a good turnout and at least 34 people (including the four that came Sunday instead of Saturday) were introduced to the sport. Some were very keen on bowling and we will be following up with all those who attended.

With your help, I believe we are now well on our way towards 200 members by 2010 to the improvement of the club finances, camaraderie and bowling skills.

## **Etiquette on the Green — Foot Faults**

Our rule book, Laws of the Sport of Lawn Bowls (LOTSOB), makes it very clear that “the player should be standing on the mat with one foot FULLY on the mat before delivery.” At the time of delivery of the jack or bowl, “the player

should have all or part of one foot on or above the mat.” (Rule 20.1) If you are right-handed, it should be the right foot. Vice versa, if you are left-handed. (Right-handed persons step off with their left foot, leaving the right foot on the mat, etc.)

All too often, players are concentrating on the green and not their feet. Just as it is important to check your bias, take that extra second to check your feet.

Umpires only have to warn a player once. On each occasion after this, the umpire should have the player’s bowl stopped and declared dead. (Rule 21.2) If that is not possible and the head is disturbed, the opponent can choose to:

- replace the head.
- leave the head as altered.
- declare the end dead. (Rule 21.3)

This can be crucial during a tournament and it only takes a second to check your feet.

— E.B. Parkell

## Cinco de Mayo Wrap

Many tacos and variations of burritos were served to over 60 members and guests for our Mexican dinner on May 9th. The homemade tamales were a big hit and everyone enjoyed tasting the different flans for dessert.

A big thank you to Ginger Harris, Ann Walker, Betsy Young, Jean Wren, Jane Stender, Sarah Babin, Grace Griffiths, Roberta Durham and Brit Turner for their help with food, flowers and clean up. We are lucky to have such willing hands to help with these events, especially with the post event clean up. Thank you all.



### In Memoriam. Jeff Carlick 1958-2009.

If you didn't have a chance to bowl with Jeff, you may have seen him around the green taking photographs. Jeff was new to the club, having joined after taking the class offered through Palo Alto in August. He enjoyed the game and the wonderful people he met bowling.

Jeff was a sports fan. Beginning in high school, continuing through college, and then professionally, he was a sports journalist and photographer.

His ceramics were shown in many galleries. Working from studios in Palo Alto and Los Altos, he created amazing Raku vessels, and sculptures of cars and guitars.

Jeff's talent and enthusiasm for life was contagious and he will be missed. Cheers, Jeff!

## PALBC CALENDAR

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

### May

- 12 GREEN CLOSED UNTIL JUNE 13
- 27 Friendship Game at Carmel/Del Mesa, 9:30 am

### June

- 2 Work Day (painting benches/cleaning kitchen)—volunteers needed, 9:30 am
- 3 Friendship Game at San Jose, 9:30 am
- 9 Board Meeting, 1:00 pm
- 10 Friendship Game at Santa Cruz, 9:30 am
- 13 Reopening Day—time for whites. Coffee/Rolls, 8:45 am. Draw games at 9:30 am
- 17 Pizza bowls returns, 5:00 pm
- 20 Kiwanis Rental, 2:00-8:00 pm
- 27 Luau. Draw games at 3:30 pm. Dinner follows

Have your name on the board 10 minutes before draw times.

## Master of the Jack

**April's Top Ten**

#1	Bud Birkenseer	6ft. 4ins.
#2	David Hale	7ft. 9ins.
#3	John Hickson	8ft. 5ins.
#4	Frank Matyskiela	9ft. 8ins.
#5	George Stewart	10ft. 0ins.
#6	Brit Turner	11ft. 5ins.
#7	Ginger Harris	12ft. 10ins.
#8	Bonny Turner	13ft. 2ins.
#9	Jon Yee	13ft. 2ins.
#10	Alan Bushell	13ft. 11ins.

**Top 5 of the Year**

Bud Birkenseer	6ft. 4ins.
Sam Hebert	6ft. 6ins.
David Hale	7ft. 9ins.
John Hickson	8ft. 5ins.
Frank Matyskiela	9ft. 8ins.

## Knighthood of the Green

There is a precedent for our "Master of the Jack" contest. Once a year, the Old Southampton Bowling Club, Hampshire, England, held a contest to determine which bowlers would win the honor of being called "Sir" for a year. The club was established in 1299 A.D. and is the oldest known active club in the world.

When this contest was first held is not reported. The contest was conducted by placing a half crown (a coin about the size of a quarter) on the green approximately 50 feet from the mat. A jack was placed on the coin. The object of the contest was to deliver a bowl with such delicacy that it would just replace the jack and remain on the half crown.

Each bowler was allowed four bowls and the entire membership, meticulously attired in top hat and tails, would compete. It was reported that at least one of the members, and sometimes several, would accomplish this feat each year. Those that did were entitled to be called "Sir" for the ensuing year.

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

## Welcome to our New Member

### Charlie Black

4651 Dam Rd  
El Sobrante CA, 94808  
510-223-4344

**Tisa Abshire Walker** has changed her membership from an Associate to a Regular membership.

## What's Happening at PALBC

### Locker room renovations update

We have heard from the City that the planned renovations to our restrooms and locker rooms has been delayed until after the Senior Games. Construction will likely take 60 days and begin mid August. Lawn bowls will continue, but we will have the inconvenience of construction going on and will no doubt be using portable toilet facilities.

### Invitation from other clubs during our closure

Sunnyvale, San Francisco and Santa Cruz have invited Palo Alto members to bowl at their club during our green closure. Just call to let them know you are coming and arrive 15-20 minutes early.

*Sunnyvale.* 408-736-7383. Bowling Monday through Friday. Draw games at 12:45 pm through May and 9:30 am beginning June 1.

*San Francisco.* 415-753-9298. Bowling on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Draw games at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm.

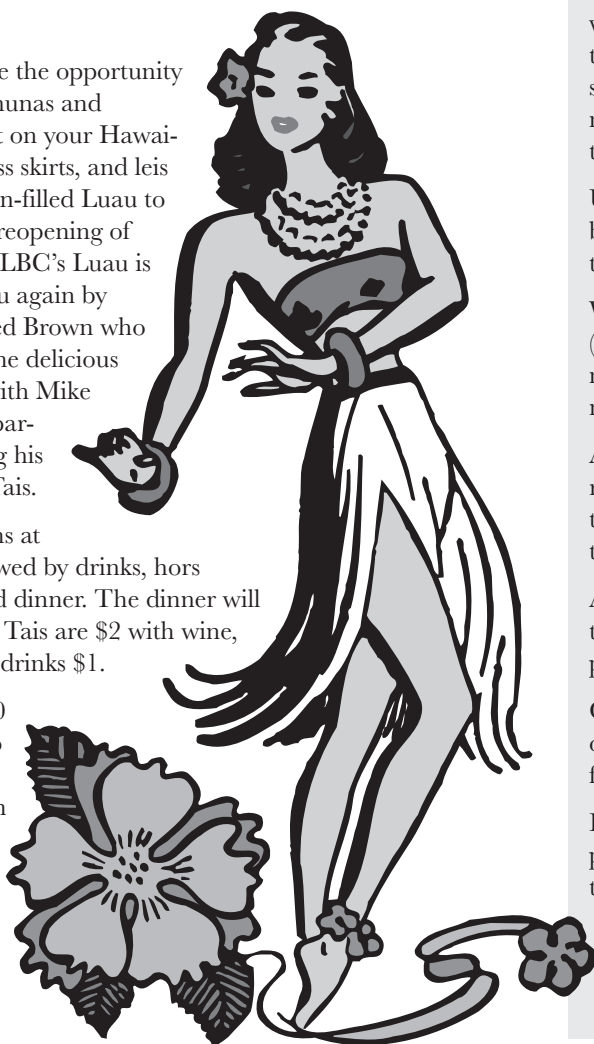
*Santa Cruz.* 831-469-4807. Members bowl Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

## Aloha

June 27 will be the opportunity for all you kahunas and wahinis to put on your Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, and leis for another fun-filled Luau to celebrate the reopening of our green. PALBC's Luau is brought to you again by Lynda and Ted Brown who will prepare the delicious island feast, with Mike Ashworth as bartender making his famous Mai Tais.

Bowling begins at 2:30 pm followed by drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner. The dinner will cost \$15, Mai Tais are \$2 with wine, beer, and soft drinks \$1.

RSVP by 5:00 pm June 20 to your contact person or Ann Knopf at [petenann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petenann@sbcglobal.net). Mahalo.



## New Club Treasurer Wanted

Ed Walker, our treasurer for the past seven years, will be retiring from that position at the end of this term (Nov. 30, 2009). The Board is looking for a volunteer to fill the office of Club Treasurer. If you would be interested in becoming the Club Treasurer starting on Dec. 1, 2009, please see Ed to find out the requirements and duties of office.



## Coach's Corner

Do you want to be a vice or skip?

Now that we have a large number of novice bowlers I thought it would be useful to explain when and how the club moves a bowler "up" from lead to vice or vice to skip.

First of all, the best way to improve your play is to practice on a regular basis and then to be aware that when you bowl as a lead you are a very important, if not the most important, bowler on the team. Ask any skip and he/she will tell you that they love to have a lead who can give them an advantage by drawing their bowls around the jack so that the skip has a good "head" to work with. A vice must learn to play position shots as well as the draw shot so that the skip has more options when he/she comes to bowl.

Use your time as a lead to learn to be a good draw bowler, before you take on other responsibilities and a vice needs to master additional skills before moving on to be a skip.

We have a small committee made up of Terry Hogan (coach), Bonny Turner (President), Frank Matyskiela (board member and current novice) and myself, who meet as necessary to consider bowlers for advancement.

Anyone selected will then be asked to come and discuss the responsibilities of a vice or skip in more detail as well as their knowledge of strategy, rules etc., before the committee will recommend their move to vice.

Anyone who is keen to step up to the next level is welcome to speak with one of the committee so that we can make a point of watching your progress closely.

On a normal draw day, whenever you get asked to play out of position take advantage of the opportunity and learn from the experience.

Finally, please remember that you are never guaranteed a position at draw games. The Draw Master must evaluate the players for that day and place them as necessary.

He/she cannot accommodate every wish every time.

If you have any questions please contact me.

— John Hickson