



JUNE 2024

**PALO ALTO
LAWN BOWLS
CLUB**

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SUMMER HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday, 10:00 am.
Sunday, 1:30 pm.
Wednesday Evening
Bowls, 5:30 pm.

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Bowls From the Past

In an old wooden box with a faded Spalding label, are two sets of antique lawn bowls, also made of wood. Although A.G. Spalding & Bros. was a Chicago-based firm, the label bears three prestigious London addresses. This relic belongs to our club and was a prominent part of the history display at the club's art show this past March.



Eight lawn bowls from the early 1990s are tucked away in the cabinet under the draw board.

These bowls can be traced to Mary Elizabeth Winbigler, the wife of H. Donald Winbigler, for many years Dean of Students at Stanford University. They had belonged to her father. In 1985, Ms. Winbigler gave the bowls to Harvey Hall, the university's Registrar.

Hall (1909-1993) had been Winbigler's successor as the Stanford Registrar, undoubtedly the reason the Winbiglers knew him. He also just happened to have been President of the Palo Alto Lawn Bowls Club in 1985. Hill likely turned the bowls over to the club for their historic value.

Mary Elizabeth Winbigler (1904-1998) claims the bowls were bought in 1912 in London by her father, Edwin J. Gleason. Edwin Gleason (1868-1931) was a salesman from Ohio. He came to California with his wife, Florence, settling near Fremont. Florence was English and made her home with the Winbiglers after her husband's death.



Spalding is more commonly associated with the American sports of baseball, football, and basketball.

It is not known if Edwin Gleason was ever a lawn bowler, but he is known to have taken several trips to England before World War I, likely to visit his in-laws there. He could easily have come back with some lawn bowls as a souvenir.

The bowls are made of lignum vitae, as most bowls at that time were. Lignum vitae is a very hard wood native to a tree from the Caribbean and northern South America. It has been imported to Europe since the early 16th century almost to the point of extinction. Since it was then impossible to guarantee all four bowls of a set were uniform in weight and bias, ivory pegs were inserted in each bowl to distinguish each one. Some of these pegs have fallen out and been lost.

Besides the two sets of bowls, the Spalding box contains a ninth smaller sphere presumably a jack, although it is much larger than the jacks of today.

— Peter Danner, PALBC historian

Veterans Group Returns

Can you bowl if you are visually impaired? John Hickson, coach extraordinaire, makes it happen year after year, when those from the VA Hospital come to visit. Ian Harris has also been instrumental in working with these veterans. On Saturday, April 27, five veterans and VA Recreational Therapists, Teresa and Lindsay,

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Coach John Hickson, with the aid of Lynne McCord, and VA Recreational Therapists Teresa and Lindsay, introduced five visually impaired veterans to the fun of lawn bowling.

arrived at 10:30 am sharp to learn the fine art of lawn bowling. John Hickson made it seem easy as he explained the rules and safety concerns, all while joking in easy camaraderie with the men.

Curious about how this all transpired? Lynne McCord (who was there to help out), was too, as two men arrived with walkers and all were visually impaired. Well, those guys played for two hours and really seemed to have a great time. They set aside the walkers and listened attentively as John gave individual instruction, and sometimes an extra bowl.

One of the staff stood by the jack as a visual aid. The men then took turns trying their hand at a first bowl. Lots of encouragement and on to the next until all had a turn. Then another practice round, more cheering, and finally, a little more serious competition!

The men cheered each other on, and gently joked at some errant bowls but each man made progress over the next hour. The men surprised themselves with their abilities and offered hearty thanks for a fun time in the sun with a break from their usual routine. Teresa wrote: "Coach John made it a very smooth and easy process for us...and the vets just had an awesome time overall."

Our guests are clients of the Veterans from the Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Palo Alto VA. They each have individualized therapy programs and are in-patient for two weeks at the VA. Among their individual goals are learning about different leisure activities, and to navigate different terrains — and PALBC helps make this all happen!

Joe Shepard Honored

The Joe Shepard Invitational Tournament, hosted by the Sunnyvale LBC on May 11, included three teams from our Palo Alto LBC. Frank Matyskiela bowled with Rob Mori and

Corinna Mori, Team ACE Albert Tam, Carrie Chiang, and Ed Gong, and a third team was Sam Herbert, Bob Vu and Mike Cosio (from Sunnyvale). There were a total of six teams, so Palo Alto represented half the participants! Teams from Berkeley, San Francisco and Santa Clara also participated.

The tournament started with a traditional Spider. Joe Shepard got the spider running by counting 1, 2, 3 ... roll! But Carrie Chiang jumped the gun and rolled her bowl when Joe said 1! Joe had to roll her bowl back to her and start the count again. Three lucky winners each got a bottle of wine (a bottle of "Two Buck Chuck" which is now "Three and a Half Buck Chuck") from our favorite store, Trader Joe's.

The tournament consisted of two 14-end triples games, one in the morning and one after lunch. There were winners in the morning and winners in the afternoon, so everyone had a chance to be in the top three. There was some very good competition between all the teams. In the morning, third place went to the team of Allistair Richardson, and Dave and Roseann Zimbauer. Second place was Bob Vu, Sam Herbert, and Mike Cosio. And the big winners were Ed Gong, Carrie Chiang, and Albert Tam.

After a half-hour break for lunch with everyone having a good rest, the afternoon games began. The day started getting hotter in the afternoon with temperatures in the 80's but people endured and played well. The prizes for the afternoon matches went to the teams of Ed Gong, Carrie Chiang and Albert Tam in third, Frank Matykiela, Rob and Corinna Mori finished in second, and the big money went to Bob Vu, Sam Herbert, and Mike Cosio.



Joe Shepard was the star of the Invitational tournament from the opening spider to donating the consolation prizes at the end of the day. Everybody went home with a smile after a fun day!

Joe Shepard followed all the games with great interest. He even donated consolation prizes on each rink for the teams that lost (three prizes in the morning, three prizes in the afternoon). So Angie Peet, who was behind in the score on her team yelled as a joke "I'm bowling for Joe's prize!"

After a long day of bowling, everyone enjoyed a Kirkland ice cream popsicle and took a group shot under the "Joe Shepard Lawn Bowls Clubhouse" sign by the doorway. Many thanks to Joy Guy and Mike Coiner in helping to organize the tournament. Thanks to all the participants and organizers, everyone left being a "winner" in prizes and fun.

Vet/Novice at San Jose LBC

The Veteran-Novice Invitational Tournament was held April 27 on the synthetic green of the San Jose LBC. Our Palo Alto LBC fielded two teams that highlighted some of the best bowlers in the area.

This was a Vet-Novice tournament with an interesting twist. Rather than the usual Pairs format, this was a 2-ball Fours tournament that required at least one novice bowler on each team and gave each team 2 game points for each novice. One Palo Alto team in the competition, veteran Frank Matsykiela with novices Rob Mori, Hersh Davis and Hugo Traeger, used three novices — an interesting strategy. The other Palo Alto team consisted of Carrie Chiang, Ed Gong, Albert Tam and a novice from another club.



The Palo Alto team of Rob Mori, Hersh Davis, Frank Matsykiela, and Hugo Traeger after crushing a San Jose team on their home green 23-3.

The competition started early in order to get all four 10-end games played — two in the morning and two in the afternoon. The games were also played to a time limit of two hours with a bell sounding at an hour and 50 minutes after which no jack could be rolled. The schedule was tight.

San Jose was a wonderful host, serving assorted pastries and coffee as people arrived and a delicious lunch of salad, rolls with a dessert of mango pudding and cookies. Additionally, There was no entry fee, with prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first through third funded by the tournament sponsor.

Unfortunately our Palo Alto teams won no money. The top prizes went to teams with players from the San Jose, Santa Cruz, and Cambria clubs — all clubs with synthetic greens.

Many thanks to the San Jose LBC for hosting this new tournament. The new format was very popular and hopefully will be repeated in the future.

What's Happening at PALBC

Message From the President

I can scarcely believe the stories I have heard in the past few weeks about the clubhouse door being left open on more than



Coach's Corner

April Showers Bring May Flowers

The rain is gone (we hope) and summer is on the way — a perfect time to get out your bowls, if you have not already done so!

If you can't make our 10:00 am games on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, don't forget we play at 1:00 pm on Sundays when there is usually a coach or two to answer questions and help with your delivery. And don't forget we have our evening dinner bowls the first and third Wednesdays starting at 5:00 pm or soon after.

So check to be sure it is happening as we are in the middle of our Friendship games during the day on the second and fourth Wednesdays. There may be an occasion when we will bowl, but there will not be a dinner. Watch for emails from Cathy Murphy about our Wednesday evening dinner bowls.

If you are looking for some help with your delivery or have any other questions, talk to one of our coaches — there will usually be at least four coaches present most Wednesday evenings. If you are new, ask any member and they can direct you to one of the coaches present.

— John Hickson

one occasion, and that the bowls storage locker was left open with the bowls rack half out on the patio.

I need hardly point out that we have been very lucky not to have lost our equipment and supplies and that we need to take a great deal more care to lock up properly. This is the duty of the last person to leave — no exceptions!

The board have not yet been informed about the problem, but I'm sure there will be suggestions about how to deal with this. These will probably include festooning the clubhouse and environs with instructions and warnings and setting up a sign-in sheet for all members. I dread to think what the insurance company will say if we have losses due to this carelessness!

So please make sure you know that if you are the last person to leave you need to check everything.

— President, Ian Harris

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

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

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 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 start practicing and please do save the date.

Spring Has Sprung

The little flower garden inside the College Avenue gate is a cheerful sight as we enter the Club. This garden was started by John Hickson some years ago and has recently been refreshed by Ian Harris.



We hope you will stop to enjoy our little garden by the College Avenue gate.

Ian planted two Matillija poppies (“fried egg plant”), yellow astilbe, Mexican sage, calandrinia, iris, kangaroo paws (which were eaten by something!), Spanish lavender, and agapanthus, among other things. This list simply does not do it justice.

Last fall, Lynne McCord and a new member, Corinna Mori, sprinkled in red nasturtium seeds they had gathered from one of the flower pots around the green and they are now interwoven with all the foliage and flowers.

Thank you to John, Ian, and the other club members who have cared for this garden over the years. We hope you will stop and enjoy this little floral moment the next time you enter through that gate.

PALBC in the Cloud, a Reminder

Rob Mori, our new 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 will 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

May

- 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, Rossmoor LBC. Three days of play.
- 26 Friendship Games, Palo Alto LBC.
- 29 Cable Car Classic, San Francisco LBC.

July

- 13 PIMD Women's Triples, Berkeley LBC.
- 13 PIMD Men's Triples, Santa Cruz LBC.
- 20 Triple-Triples Invitational, Palo Alto LBC.