

Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club

Volume XIV Issue 4

2190 Harlow Drive, Victoria, B.C., V8R 3J1

Dec 10, 2008

President-Gary Suter **1st Vice-President**-John Cossom **2nd Vice-President**-Linda Carswell-Bland **Secretary**-David Roberts
Treasurer-Marion Andrews **Assistant Treasurer**-Joan Firkins **Games**-Helen Kempster **Greens**-Jim Brown **House**-Prim Wood
Member without portfolio-Louise Mason **Player Development**-Marilyn Turpin **Publicity**-Jim Sidel
Member Services-Dolores Troyer **Past President**-Marilyn Turpin

Club website: www.bowlsoakbay.ca

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of all Club members I want to thank Jim Brown and Jim Sidel for taking on the Executive positions of Greens & Grounds and Publicity. They join other new members Linda Carswell-Bland, Louise Mason, and Helen Kempster.

Under the capable leadership of Shelley Sidel, winter activities involving short mat bowling, darts, bridge, cribbage, and mah jong are now under way and will continue till spring. Even if you are not presently taking part in any activity, you are welcome to start in January. Just call Shelley at 250-598-7810 or visit our web-site www.bowlsoakbay.ca and click on Winter Activities for more information.

After cutting and leveling work during the fall, the greens may appear to be put to rest for the winter. Not so. Just a week ago I spotted Murray Robertson and Howard Turpin hard at work giving the greens and surrounds another needed cut. Also, together with Jim Brown, John Nadin, Vaclav Pokorny, Hugh Porter and Ray Troyer, they installed new backboards at the south end of the east green; similar backboard work is planned for all four ends of the west green over the winter. Murray tells me "the machines are in pretty good shape with some maintenance still to be done." This will obviously also involve Howard. We are sure fortunate to have their in-house expertise.

In closing, I wish each of you much joy during the holiday season and good health in the coming year. Please do come out on Sunday, December 14th, for the Club's Christmas Social from 2 to 4 pm.

Gary.

WHO AM I?

Match the names below to the following "one liners".

1. I was a member of the Home Lumber 1977 Canadian Champion Sr.A Womens Basketball Team.
2. At age 16 I accidentally tripped over my evening dress in front of Yvonne deCarlo.
3. In 1957/58 I was part of a fleet tanker team supplying fresh water to troops who were stationed on Christmas Island as guinea pigs for the testing of H-bombs.
4. I am an agrologist with a passion for Africa.
5. When much younger I once hiked/climbed across a mountain range through the Copeland Pass.
6. I have owned and worked in my own Esthetis Skin Care Clinic for 20 years.
7. I was an active union member and served on both regional and provincial executive committees.
8. From northern climes though southern born, walks fast and has medals to prove it.
9. I was once stalked by a polar bear when in Churchill, Manitoba.
10. I was born and raised in the City of one hundred spires, which also has many more excellent pubs with great beer.

Answers at the end

A-Keith Morris B-Brian Redding C-Wendy Appleyard D-Heather Towers E-Helene Anne Cote
F-Prim Wood G-Helen Kempster H-Jim Sidel I-Donna Blackstock J.-Vaclav Pokorny

HOUSE REPORT Upcoming Social Events

Feb 12/09 (Thursday)

Valentines Dinner (Wear Red)

Golden City (Chinese Food) – 721 Fisgard

Arrive – 5:30 PM - Dinner – 6:00 PM

Buy your tickets from Prim - \$20.00

March 26/09 (Thursday)

“Spring Fling” Dinner

At Carnarvon House - \$15.00

Arrive - 5:00 PM - Dinner – 6:00PM

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THESE GATHERINGS!
PRIM WOOD

Member Services

After paying a drop in fee for three sessions at the winter activities many have become complete social members. Our Club total has now become – 237. Four more are in the process of filling in their social membership forms.

Dolores Troyer

WINTER ACTIVITIES

What do bridge, cribbage, darts, mah jong and short mat bowling have in common? They are all fun things to do at OBLBC during the rainy winter months.

The activities run from October to April and all of them have acquired new participants. The \$5 drop-in fee for a person to “test play” a new activity has received rave reviews. People can use the drop-in option up to 3 times, and then if they wish to continue partaking in activities they have to become a social member of OBLBC. The drop-in amount already paid goes towards the \$40 social member fee.

All activities, except for ladies darts and short mat, start at 1pm utilizing Carnarvon House 6 days of the week and one evening (ladies darts). Short mat is played in Anderson House daily with up to 6 games scheduled in a day.

This flurry of activity creates a need for clean facilities. A new cleaning schedule for 2009 will be posted in Anderson House and Carnarvon House to avoid confusion as to which week each building is to be cleaned. Anderson House will be on a bi-weekly schedule and Carnarvon House on a weekly schedule due to it being used most often. Cleaning is done in pairs and shouldn't take more than an hour of your time. Fridays or mornings is the best time to do Carnarvon House, with Anderson House being scheduled around short mat games. Please sign up to help keep our clubhouses tidy, just write your name beside the date you are able to clean.

The last days for 2008 winter activities and restart dates for 2009 are:

BRIDGE – playing through the holiday season

DUPLICATE BRIDGE – Dec 18th potluck at noon - restart Jan 8th

CRIBBAGE – Dec 20th tea and goodies - restart Jan 3rd

DARTS - playing through the holiday season on both Sundays and Wednesdays

LADIES DARTS – Dec 16th eggnog and goodies - restart Jan 6th

MAH JONG – possibly playing through the holiday season

SHORT MAT - new signup sheets being posted in mid December for 2009 season

Enjoy the holiday season, Shelley Sidel

Winter Activities Coordinator

HOW DID BOWLS GET THAT WAY?

Now that is a good question, and I don't suppose it will improve your bowling one bit, but just for interest... . As long as *H Sapiens* has been able to pick up a rock, we've made a game of casting or trundling a big object at a smaller one in one way or another. Witness Duck-On-The-Rock, Bocce, Petanque, and Five Pins. However, through history, whether carved on a pyramid or painted on a wall in Pompey, all evidence of Those Other Games shows nice, orderly SPHERICAL balls. For our game however, in 1522 all that changed, either by accident or as a gift from a benevolent God!

In that year, the story goes, the Duke of Suffolk was playing a game of Petanque in his garden when a "rub" deflected his walnut ball into a rock and it split. There being a considerable wager at stake, (No Law 63iii in 1522) Suffolk rushed into his castle; had a flunkey saw the knob off a newel-post of the grand stair case; and without trimming off the lumps; "footed the trig"; and cast his knob down the green. To his delight, it curved around the blocking object and lay shot. Suffolk and most of his guests were delighted. At one fell swoop he had won his bet, discovered the biased bowl, invented a new game, and made it a lot safer for the Suffolks to slide down the banisters.

The new game became very popular with "the Nobs". Henry the VIII played it. Daughter Mary hated it and passed laws banning it. Elizabeth I loved it and taught it to Frances Drake among others. William Shakspeare makes reference to it a number of times "To dream. Aye there's the rub," and " Let us, then, to bowls!" Turners, who normally turned out utilitarian wooden kitchen bowls on their shop lathes found new income turning biased "bowls". (Didn't you ever wonder where the name came from?) bowls were turned from the hardest woods available, Oak, walnut, Ash and Hornbeam. Then Frances Drake came back home.

In 1577 Frances Drake returned to England after doing some successful business for his queen, and besides considerable gold and such stuff, he brought *lignum vitae*. This very heavy, very hard and quite stable wood had been known to the Spaniards, who had wasted it on belaying pins, rudder pintles, and ships blocks. Drake had had his ship's carpenter turn out some biased bowls and taught his ships' officers the game. Bess got a set and he became Sir Frances Drake as well as cleaning up on the Plymouth greens. In fact, while finishing up a game before taking on the Armada, he invented the expression "Don't bother me! I'm on a roll!"

As turners learned to handle this hard wood, they became skilled at shaping and copying the best form to make the Bowls curve properly. By 1670 the game had become so popular that King Charles II, the Duke of York and their buddy the Duke of Buckingham had formulated and published the "Settled Laws of the game of Bowls." in a form which still shows in our current Laws. *Lignum* had become so universal as the Bowls material that another century found a number of companies turning them out for sale. Some, such as Thomas Taylor (1796) still exist but without the wood. The industrial Age brought sophisticated copying lathes which could produce such reliable duplicates that by 1850 Laws could be passed governing bias. About this time Bowls arrived in Australia and the scene was set for the next great improvement bringing us to today.

Lignum was the best available but was not wholly satisfactory. as the humidity changed, it tended to become oval and even crack. In damp old England or Scotland this was less of a problem, but Australia's heat was a different matter. The search was on for a stable "composition." Celluloid. the first real plastic was tried, but being a nitro-cellulose did what that sort of thing had done as billiard balls. it exploded when struck hard, giving new meaning to a "dead end."

In 1900 a 16 year old Lad, William Hensell got a job with Allcocks. a Billiard supplier in Melbourne. There he learned to turn ivory Billiard balls. (Naughty!) Later he re-turned *Lignum* bowls which had warped and developed an improved testing table. This lead him to becoming an official tester and made him very interested in finding a substitute for wood.

During WWI he became aware of Vulcanite, a hard form of rubber produced by the Dunlop Rubber Company. In 1918 he convinced the manager of the local Dunlop company to produce a dozen of so four inch lumps of Vulcanite from which he turned perfect duplicate, stable Bowls. Hensell formed his own company and began to produce sets of bowls from Dunlop lumps, under the name of Ebonite. By 1924 Ebonite bowls were replacing *Lignum* in Australia and being exported abroad. In 1930 a grateful Dunlop Company cut off Hensells supply of Vulcanite and went into the bowls business for themselves.

Hensell refused to go away however, and he with his son Ray, began researching the embryonic "plastics" industry. Of particular interest was Bakelite a phenolformaldehyde moulding compound which had been around for a while but which was commonly believed to be limited to thin sheets. With the help of a Dr. Lang, a plastics expert and Hensell's stubborn streak, methods were developed to produce bowl-sized lumps. The bowls turned from these proved to be tough, stable and exactly the right weight.

Under the name Hensellite the bowls were a huge success. Different plastic have followed of course; coloured bowls are made of phenolmelamine, for instance. Rubber and wood bowls are almost curiosities today, although still legal, (Law 9A i and ii,(iii))

The most recent development has come with the Computer. With CAD CAM engineers can design and produce shaped bowl to match the position we play, the greens, or even the weather. Our bowls are matched, predictable, rugged and accurate, Bowlers have never had it so good!

Bob Akins

Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program

Thanks to all who are participating in this program. We have raised \$1723 to date, with another cheque expected soon. In this program, Thriftys gives the club 5% of the money members' load on their cards. It doesn't cost you anything but the club benefits!

See Marilyn for more information or to obtain a card.

Four Glass Blocks are Still Available

Special features of the Carnarvon House Expansion Project completed in 2007 are the three glass block windows. Individual glass blocks are inscribed with names of past and present members who contributed towards the cost of the project by donating a minimum of \$100.00 to the Club. At this time there are still four glass blocks available and any funds raised through block inscriptions will be used for future Club projects. If you wish to be a donor, please contact Barry Browning at 250-592-3338 or Gary Suter at 250-721-9904.

Yard work getting behind ?– my high school planning group (The Yard Monkeys) are doing volunteer yard cleanup as our class project with a donation to Santa's Anonymous if you wish. No job too big or small.

Call Jaymee Sidel 250-598-7810 between 5 & 9 pm any evening to discuss your needs.

Looking for leftover yarn/wool to crochet squares for "Blankets for Canada" that are distributed to Salvation Army, women and children shelters, and hospices in Victoria. Any quantity or colour greatly appreciated and can be left in the box in Carnarvon House or I can pick it up.

Thanks Shelley Sidel 250-598-7810

Enjoy the following from Will Rogers:

1. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
2. There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman...neither works.
3. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
4. Always drink upstream from the herd.
5. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
6. There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
7. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
8. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
9. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

Answers to "Who am I?"

1.I 2.C 3.B 4.E 5.A 6.D 7.F 8.G 9.H 10.J

Any Submissions or Corrections [mailto: ray.troyer@telus.net](mailto:ray.troyer@telus.net)