

Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club

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May 28th, 2009

President-Gary Suter **1st Vice-President**-John Cossom **2nd Vice-President**-Linda Carswell-Bland **Secretary**-David Roberts
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Member Services-Dolores Troyer **Past President**-Marilyn Turpin

Club website: www.bowlsoakbay.ca

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the Semi-AGM on April 4th I reported that the Anderson House re-roofing had been accepted as our Thrifty Smile Card Project. This was before I knew of the possibility that the Oak Bay Municipality might cover part or all of the cost. However, at a Council meeting our request for funds was not approved for the current year and any re-application a year later is also not assured. Our Club Executive will deal with this project again at its next meeting and will make a decision of whether to go ahead on its own with the help, of course, of the Smile Card funding.

The season now is well underway and our two Open Houses attracted fourteen new bowlers as follows:

NOVICE MEMBERS: Ann Bolton, Barry Bolton, Dru Deeks, Alex Gardiner, Margaret Machan, Marcia Mackey, Alan Ormerod, Donald Robinson, Annette Thompson, Alison Talarico. Yvonne Gale.

EXPERIENCED NEW MEMBERS: Dorothy Dixon, Marcel Renaud, Bruce Restall.

On behalf of the Club, I extend a very warm welcome to all new members and wish them a happy first year of bowling with us. It is really important that we all help our newcomers feel at home. We have all been novices at one time and must remember to offer them every assistance and courtesy as they develop as players.

The Club's Organization Chart has added one new position of responsibility for Games Equipment. Bob Akins has kindly agreed to fill the position, which entails looking after such items as the rink markers, scoring flippers and umpires' equipment. Together with Howard Turpin and John Cossom, Bob also helped to clean up and re-organize all the games equipment in the shed attached to Anderson House. Thank you, Bob.

Pins and pens bearing our Club logo will soon be available at \$5 and \$2 respectively. The pin project involved Eric Ballinger as project manager, Arlene and George Davey as artists, and myself. Jim Sidel looked after the pen project. The Executive hopes that members will be happy with both items and will proudly wear the pin.

KUDOS ARE EXTENDED TO

- Arlene and George Davey for the pin design.
- Eric Ballinger for his organizational talents and drive regarding the pin project.
- Jim Sidel for tracking down a source and negotiating a good price for the pens.
- Louise Mason for becoming the newest Club umpire.
- Jon Magwood for getting the broken window in the maintenance building fixed.
- Henriette and Eric Ballinger for producing the telephone book.
- Phil Bissell for refinishing the Club sign at the west entrance to the Park.
- Joan Firkins for being tournament manager for the Miller Cup.
- Lois and Vic Badenhorst for running the Victoria Day event.
- Lorraine Neumair and Marion Woiblet for running the Greenslade Men's Triples.
- Art Antrobus for running the Mixed Quaddie.
- Linda Carswell-Bland and Joan Roberts for handling the April kitchen duties.
- Ronnie Stinson and her helpers for convening the May Tea Days and Tournaments. This was a heavy responsibility and it was very well done.
- John Nadin for fixing the banners' supports.
- Joan Gowan for organizing Wednesday Tea Days.

- Barry Browning for renumbering the rink markers.
- All coaches at the two Open House events and subsequent instruction of novice bowlers.
- All volunteers who contribute to the Club's well being in so many ways associated with cleaning, kitchen duties, garden, greens, games, barbecuing, Open House events, refreshments, and Friday evening's welcoming of the public. Thank you to all.

Gary.

UMPIRE'S CORNER

Measuring

As I am now retired after twenty years as an umpire, I have been asked to comment on any aspects of game which might help a new bowler find their way through the Laws. Due to an incident I saw recently I will begin at the end of the end with measuring. Measuring is the duty of the Vice Skip (37.2) but you should be prepared if you are playing pairs or singles. You may not take any physical measurement during play, or until the last bowl has stopped moving. However the skip may then request an additional 30 seconds to permit a balanced bowl to fall. (40.3) This can seem like a LONG time. With one exception you must always put the box measure against the Jack, because the little stud on the measure touches the Jack at the closest point to the bowl. The point at the other end of the string must touch the bowl at the closest point to the Jack. (40.4) In the incident mentioned, the measure was taken well down the round of the bowl and was too long. The exception is when the bowl is on the green and the jack is in the ditch so that the string has to bend over the plinth. (40.5) Then the box should touch the bowl. Whatever you do don't move the jack or the bowl while measuring. Your opponent can replace it wherever they thought it had been. (28.4, 33.4) Unfortunately, opponents can sometimes be quite imaginative!

If a bowl is in danger of falling, wedge it carefully, (40.6) or if an umpire is present don't hesitate to call him/her. Call loudly and give your rink number, he's probably bored stiff and will be glad of the work. Any player can call an umpire at any time.

Foot-faulting

Before one tries to interpret a rule or Law it is always advisable to know why it was established.

One of the basic principals of Lawn bowls is that everyone shall bowl from the same place. This is why we take such care to position the mat. It is why, even if the mat is placed in the wrong place, it must remain there after the first bowl has been delivered. (19.2) Even when it is displaced from there, it must be returned there. (19.2.1) A short guard, which is a bowl sitting right in the draw on or about the "hog line", can cover the approach to the Jack like a wall. Cunning skips would step off the mat to the side and deliver their bowl around the blocker. Even in 1670 before there were mats and bowlers stood on a small shoe-sized board called a Trig, there was a Law:

'If any bowler do deliver his bowl not touching the trig with his foot, it shall be lawful for the adverse party to stop the bowl while running, and make him deliver it again...'

Five centuries on this developed into the Foot-fault law which we have today.

As Lawn bowls spread around the world, each country developed its own regulations which were generally similar, and each had a foot-fault rule. Most had the requirement that one foot should remain on the mat or over it at the moment of delivering. Enforcing the Law was always difficult, if not impossible. As long as the first principal was observed nobody was very worried and generally there was no more penalty applied than a warning, usually through the skip. No umpire could (can) both watch the point of release and observe with any certainty a foot that was hovering as much as a foot above the mat. Can you imagine the umpire who called David Bryant, eight years world champion, whose stork-like delivery always passed his foot out a long way over the rear of the mat?

This *Laissez-faire* attitude served well enough until the early '90s when someone decided that such behavior deserved real punishment and King Charles II's rule was resurrected, requiring the Umpire to dash up the rink and stop the bowl. (Ha!) Or in the much more likely event that the bowl had reached the head, the three deadly choices could be applied.

As already mentioned, any Umpire knew that it was all unworkable, so the World Bowls Committee, when re-writing the Laws this last time, made it a bit easier by decreeing that instead of "One foot entirely within the confines" it now reads "All or part of one foot" etc. on or above the mat. (20.1) From an Umpire's point of view, the impossible was now only improbable.

The most weird, development however, was the unnecessary applying of the foot-fault rule to the delivering of the Jack. (20.1) Why? A slip of the pen surely?

The rules are from the Bowls Canada booklet "Laws of the Sport of Bowls, Crystal Mark Edition, 2007" which is available at the Club

Bob Akins

- Energizer Bunny Arrested & Charged with Battery.
- A pessimist's blood type is always B-negative.
- A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.
- Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
- Marriage is the mourning after the knot before.
- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Any member who feels that they could benefit from some coaching can make an appointment with a coach for some lessons. Our coaches provide this voluntary service. The list of their names is posted in Anderson House and is designated in the club's Telephone Book with a ' C ' after their name.

THANKS to all members who are participating in the Thrifty Foods Smile Card program to help raise \$3000.00 for our club. You can track our progress on our web page with monthly updates around the second week of each month. If you need a card please contact me.

Marilyn Turpin 250 592 3666 Smile Card Coordinator

HOUSE REPORT

Thank you for supporting our Victoria Day Dinner. Ronnie Stinson has been very busy looking after the Tea Days and Tournaments for the month of May. Jennifer Letkeman will be glad to offer assistance during the month of June when she takes over as convener.

On July 1st CANADA DAY will be our annual "English Bulldog" competition followed by Dinner. Tickets for the dinner go on sale June 1st for \$15.00.

PRIM WOOD

Member Services

The membership count is 190. Playing Members - 172, Social Members – 18

As you can see our club membership decreased this year and we would appreciate you encouraging all your friends to come out to give lawn bowling a try. The Friday night draw (a social night) is a perfect time to bring prospective bowlers.

Dolores Troyer

Caring For Our Greens.

The OBLBC Executive asked me to write a short piece about every member's major responsibility in our club – caring for our greens. We may be tempted to think that care of the greens rests with our volunteer greenskeepers and greens teams. In one sense that's true. We are all extremely grateful for the enormous efforts that our workers have made over many years to keep our greens in good shape. In this club - after our members - our greens are the most precious resource. The greenskeepers and Executive want to stress that EACH ONE OF US, as an OBLBC lawn bowler, has an equal duty to care for the greens in a number of ways.

First, we each must wear proper lawn bowling footwear. Bowling shoes must be without heels. It is not required that the surface of lawn bowling shoes be completely smooth. The soles can be slightly striated, ridged or patterned enough to provide good traction, especially when the grass is wet.

Second, we must handle the rakes carefully to avoid damaging the turf. Lift the rake carefully onto the green and set it down gently and evenly on the grass, so that it does not gouge the turf. Take care when pushing bowls in it, especially when the turf is wet or soft after rain or watering. Do not make sharp, quick turns with the rake so that it digs in to the grass. Pushing the rake slowly and gathering the bowls carefully will also help lessen damage to your bowls. Also, do not push a rake along the concrete pathway. This is hard on the runners. Damage to the runners can mean subsequent damage to the grass, and will shorten the rake's life. Carry the rake to and from the equipment shed.

Third, and most important, we **ALL** have an obligation to ensure that the greens are not damaged in delivering of the bowl. All of us lob the bowl occasionally – a poor delivery can happen to any bowler! Some of us with age or disability can no longer bend low enough to ensure that we deliver the bowl at grass level. (We encourage our members to keep bowling at this club, and admire those who persevere despite age and disability.) Others have simply never learned to deliver the bowl properly. The purpose of this piece is not to point a finger at anyone's delivery. Rather, the goal is to ensure that all of us are doing everything we can to PREVENT damage to our greens.

If you have a tendency to lob the bowl or to make divots, then you have a duty to see that green mats are used on your rink – at any time of the year. There is no shame in using a protective mat. To do so simply acknowledges that you are willing to do your part to care for our greens. Also, in using the green mats you honour the work of the men and women who do the everyday work on the greens, and whose hearts are broken to see divots on the green that mar the grass surface.

Sometimes a lawn bowler will lob the bowl far enough that it travels beyond the length of the green mat before landing on the green. In this instance, it's important to do one or both of two things. A second green mat can be added to the length of the first, which doubles the area of protection. Or, it can help to move the rubber delivery mat back a little, leaving a gap between it and the green mat, so that the bowl no longer lands beyond the far end of the green mat.

What is **MY** responsibility as a lawn bowler if I see someone else divoting the green? Difficult though it may be, we **EACH** have an obligation to take action to protect the surface of the green. This applies at any time of year, whether the green is wet or dry. In this situation, speak to the problem diplomatically (E.g., "I think we should use green mats today to protect the green. I'll go and get them.") and get the green mats right away. If you are unsure about doing this, or unable to take this action yourself, then quickly inform your skip of the problem, and he or she will take care of it. (Skips have a special duty to watch other players on their rink to ensure that divoting is not occurring.)

If each of us is willing to play our role responsibly as a "greens ambassador," then everyone can benefit by having smoother, better greens to play on each season.

Let's all do our part. Cheers, and good bowling.

John Cossom, 1st Vice-president.

COACHES' CORNER

At the President's request I have agreed to co-ordinate this segment in each issue of the Newsletter through the playing season. I would ask all other coaches to consider writing their thoughts too, forwarding them through me to the editor so that we do not duplicate any topics.

It is good to enter as many club draws as possible but that is no substitute for purposeful practice on one's own. If you find that your throwing of the jack is erratic, that can so easily be cured by getting on the green with several jacks and setting targets at differing lengths. All weaknesses, drives, draws, take-out shots should be practised until you see improvement.

We have lots of available time for practice and using some of it can really help one's progress.

Read the advice of professionals in the game. The local library system has 10 listed titles about lawn bowls including books by David Bryant and Tony Alcock, both world champions on many occasions. Flat Green Bowls by John Gwyn is well worth a look, and look at coaching sites on the internet, there are several. You can also obtain the book I'm in Love with Lawn Bowling by On-Kow Au through the author at 604-263-9135.

More next time, but till then don't be afraid to ask a coach for any help that you may think you need – and get in some practice.

Barry Browning

Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club shirts, vests and jackets **FOR SALE!**

It's a new season and what better time to buy yourself some club wear, especially if you are planning to enter into tournaments.

We have the following items for purchase:

Men's and Ladies golf shirts \$35 incl. club logo

Unisex fleece vests \$45 incl. club logo

Rain resistant Jackets \$50 incl. club logo

For more information or to put your order in, please contact

Joan Firkins at 250-477-7554

Games

The Bowls South Island bowling season is off to a great start with Oak Bay bowlers showing their stuff in the opening tournaments. Eight teams from Oak Bay took part in the Galleon Cup at Juan de Fuca LBC and took three of the top four spots. John Cossom and Sheridan Elston came first with Harnam Grewal and Joan Firkins finishing second. Michael Lum and Linda Cowie placed fourth overall. The Ann Webster tournament at Lake Hill was won by the team of Betty Walker, Lawrie Matheson and Betty Emery with Linda Cowie, Henriette Ballinger and Mary Lou Richards close behind as first runners-up. The team of Pat Thomas, Sandy Coupe and Sharon Evans were runners-up in the B category. The Greenslade, played at Oak Bay, saw the trophy go to Lake Hill but the top two game winners were our own Eric Ballinger, Murray Robertson and Allen Evans.

The Miller Cup was the first of Oak Bay's competitive tournaments with Jack Lalonde, Duino Barbon and Jan Cline in the winner's circle. The Victoria Day event saw Dorothy Bissell, Duino Barbon and Rose Bogden take top honours followed by the teams of Fay Nath, David Roberts and Mary Lawrie, Alan Hall, Jennifer Letkeman and Ruth Suter and Linda Cowie, Mitch Fumalle and Margaret Machan sharing the limelight. In the Mixed Quaddie the Al Neumair team of Al, Joan Hall, Mary Lawrie and Don Robinson placed first, Marilyn Turpin, Ray and Dolores Troyer and Kaye Hirose placed second and Howard Turpin, Lawrie Matheson, Jim Sidel and Kay Alexander placed third. Consolation winners were Marion Woiblet, Jack

Coupe, Bob Appleyard and Prim Wood. Congratulations to all and particularly for those just starting out their bowling careers.

Helen Kempster

Shirley Tucker: Member Extraordinary



Shirley Tucker has been with the Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club for 25 years, longer than any other current member. This distinction was recognized at the Semi-AGM held on April 4, 2009. What is more, she can probably lay claim to having the deepest roots in Victoria of all at the Club. Her grandmother was born in what was then Fort Victoria in 1856, while her father, Walter Walker, was born here in 1887. She herself was born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, in May 1917. When she was two years old the family returned to Victoria where she spent the next 32 years. But what makes Shirley even more unique among the membership is that she holds American citizenship.

Shirley received her schooling at Sir James Douglas and Victoria High, and went on to do two years of post-secondary studies at Victoria College which later became the University of Victoria. The College was then housed in Craigdarroch Castle. She went on to study at the

University of Washington from which she graduated in 1939 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Education. On her return to BC, she taught school in Summerland for two years, followed by a three year teaching assignment in Revelstoke. She developed an interest in skiing and skating while she was there and enjoyed those activities greatly. On her return to Victoria, she obtained a teaching post at Esquimalt High. In 1946, she took a year's leave of absence to attend Teachers College in New York where she earned a Masters degree in Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts from Columbia University.

Then in 1949, a teaching opportunity presented itself at Oregon State College. Never one to turn down a challenge, Shirley took the job and taught there for two years before moving to the University of California at Los Angeles as an Instructor in her specialty of textile design. It was while she was there, at a square-dance, that she met her American husband. They were married in February 1954, and she became an American citizen in July 1955, two months before her son, Brian, was born. The family moved shortly after to Ventura where she taught Home Economics, full-time and part-time, at the Community College from 1959 until her retirement in January 1981.

Following her retirement, Shirley came back to Victoria to look after her father who was in his nineties. He passed away in November 1983. Her brother, Bill Walker, is a retired Commander from the Royal Canadian Navy and lives close to her in Uplands, while her son lives in southern California.

At the behest of family friend Lee Jameson, President of the Club, Shirley joined up in 1984. She was soon drawn into various activities, and helped with the preparatory work for the construction of Carnarvon House. She served on the Executive as Treasurer for five years, from 1987 to 1992. She enjoys her bowling and at 92, she acquits herself very well on the greens. She is an avid bridge player, and enjoys traveling.

It is a remarkable career that Shirley has had, and the Club can count itself fortunate in having her as a member. In turn, she is grateful to the Club and the membership for providing her with worthwhile social and recreational opportunities, and above all, so many friendships over the years. She likes the idea of belonging to both the United States and Canada. She says she is at heart a Canadian but feels equally at home in the U.S. where she has family and friends.

Harnam Grewal

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