

Beach Bowls

January 2010

Upcoming Events

January Events

- 1/5 – (Tue) Board Meeting, LBLBC (8:15 AM)
- 1/9 – (Sat) SWD Winter League; LB1 Trophy vs. Newport, Development @ Laguna Woods
- 1/12 – (Tue) January Bowl and Lunch, LBLBC (10:00 AM)
- 1/16 – (Sat) SWD Winter League; LB1 Trophy vs. LB2 Trophy, Development vs. Hermosa
- 1/17 – (Sun) LBLBC Triples, LBLBC (9:00 AM)
- 1/23 – (Sat) SWD Winter League; LB1 & LB2 Trophy & Development @ Long Beach
- 1/23 – (Sat) Casino Night Fundraiser, Newport Harbor LBC (5:00PM)
- 1/28 – (Th) Birthday Bowl, LBLBC (12:30 PM)
- 1/30 – (Sat) SWD AGM, Santa Anita LBC

February Events

- 2/2 – (Tue) Board Meeting, LBLBC (8:15 AM)
- 2/6 – (Sat) SWD Winter League, LB2 Trophy & Development vs. Long Beach
- 2/13 – (Sat) SWD Winter League, LB1 Trophy vs. Long Beach, LB2 Trophy & Development vs. Newport
- 2/14 – (Sun) Valentine's Day Bowl and Brunch, LBLBC
- 2/20 – (Sat) Mumma Mixed Pairs, Riverside LBC
- 2/25 – (Th) Birthday Bowl, LBLBC (12:30 PM)
- 2/27 – (Sat) SWD Winter League Playoffs
- 2/27 – (Sat) Chef Works Mixed Triples, San Diego LBC
- 2/28 – (Sun) LBLBC Mixed Singles, LBLBC

Draw Bowling

Mondays @ 12:30

Tuesdays @ 10:00

Wednesdays @ 12:30

Thursdays & Fridays @ 10:00

Saturdays & Sundays @ 9:00

Challenge Days

Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays

President's Message by Curt Bartsch

Can you believe our recent weather! Every day reminds me why I never want go back to my Minnesota roots (right, Dottie?). We have a full schedule of lawn bowling activities to look forward to as we indulge our California lifestyle. Be sure to check out the "Upcoming Events" calendar in this newsletter and join the fun.

There are so many members that make significant contributions to the success of our Club on a regular basis that there is a risk in singling out one person. However, at this time of year, there is one busy lady doing support work for LBLBC...Heather Stewart, our Membership Chair and Calendar of Events coordinator with the many tournament organizations. Heather has done another fantastic job of pulling together our **January 2010 Membership Directory** and it went to press this week for distribution in a few weeks along with the updated By-Laws coordinated by Albert Schmid.

With the 4 new members approved this month, in addition to the 133 renewals, our paid member count is now up to 137. This number compares to the 116 members at the same time a year ago in the January 2009 Membership Roster. An impressive 18% increase over the previous year! We are very fortunate to be able to retain such an enthusiastic membership that enjoys lawn bowling adjacent to our beautiful ocean setting. Your Board of Directors is committed to enhance your experience at LBLBC in a friendly environment. Wear your name badge and don't hesitate to introduce yourself to other members on site.

We covered many topics at our January Board Meeting and one of them concerns our Clubhouse Maintenance and the need to conduct a major house cleaning in February. If you have a stray cap/hat or jacket outside your locker, you will want to take them home or put them in your locker. The unclaimed pile of clothes will be taken to Goodwill after the next 30 days have gone by so we want to get the word out now. Other clubhouse improvements are necessary due to the wear and tear over time; while being budget sensitive. More details will be announced as we go forward in preparing for the busy summer months and a comprehensive tournament schedule; including the U.S. Open in September.

Welcome New Members

Debbie McMullen Ellie Hojati
Maggi & Richard Henrikson

Beach Bowls

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Ed Perry (1915-2009)

Former Past President and recently named Honorary Member of Laguna Beach Lawn Bowling Club passed away on Dec. 9th at his home in Laguna Beach at the age of 94. A Celebration of Life will be held on January 16th at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 428 Park Ave., in Laguna Beach @ 2PM. A contingent from the club plans to wear dress whites and show up 15 minutes before the service. Kay Whitaker sent a nice letter to the club which you can view on the club's bulletin board and a \$25 donation for the club in Ed's memory.

Secretary Scribbling by Scott Roberts

With the new year upon us, it is customary to think of resolutions to try to follow in the upcoming year. Perhaps it is to be nicer to our family members, including the in-laws, or to lose those extra pounds put on over the holidays. If you happen to be looking for one, I have a suggestion for you – become an advocate for lawn bowling. Not a day on the green goes by that I don't see some people heading to the beach who stop to look in and watch our wonderful game located in one of the most beautiful spots on the planet. Just by saying "hi" or explaining a quick question or two shows our club to be welcoming. Personally, I plan on trying to keep some of the club's business cards in my pocket to hand out to curious bystanders who show some interest. Today's curious on-looker could be tomorrow's member and friend. Who knows?

Thinking of you

Susan Beck

Treasurer's Report by Dennis Lockwood

Income for the month of December was \$2309.20, while expenses were \$1851.94 for a net profit of \$457.26. Clubhouse supplies for December had an income of \$194.87, while expenses were \$106.96 for a net profit of \$87.91. Our total assets are currently at \$148,495.30.

Hospitality Corner by Dottie Parnell

We had a wonderful Christmas Bowl with Pork Tenderloin and BBQ beef roasts and all the trimmings, thanks to Heather, Linda, Terry, Shirley and Christy. We ended 2009 with a celebration lunch with several pots of chili cooked by Linda and Heather, corn bread and refreshments. For those of us who were fortunate to be part of one of the December Wild Wednesdays, the sausage and peppers that Reinie cooked were outstanding. We appreciate the generosity of our members in the preparation and sharing of the delectable cuisine but also in donating their time. I have unofficially appointed Christy Diller to "Kleaner of the Kitchen". Thanks, Christy.

Greens-keeping by Frank Andersen

On Monday morning January 18, both greens will be sprayed with a special herbicide. There will be no bowling on that day. Bowling may resume Tuesday January 19.

During the first week of March one of the greens will be aerated and sanded by our own greenskeeper, Rick Perry and his crew. There will be no bowling on that green for at least four weeks. During the first week of April the other green will be aerated and sanded. What this means is that we will only have one green available for bowling between first week of March and the middle of May.

Sometime this month, Bob Schmalholz and I will begin the process of replacing the shed doors and repainting the sheds.

Birthday Bowling by Bob Schmalholz

Hello Everyone,

Our December Circle Bowl & Birthday Party was good. We had 15 bowlers and partiers. We had good bowling and fun at the party.

The January Circle Bowl & Birthday party will be on January 28, 2010.

Check-in time is 12:30 pm; bowling will start at 1 pm. Birthday Party after bowling.

In January, we honor: Terry Baade, Jerry Stewart, Loyde Stewart, and Laurel Vering.

See you then on the green – remember EVERYONE is welcome.

Quote of the Month

"A goal without a plan is just a wish." – Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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But what do they do for us social bowlers? by Conrad Melton

**Too many answer that question with “I don’t know...”
which gives them “no reason” to support the USLBA**

Unfortunately, it has become *one of the mysteries of our time*: What do Bowls’ parent organizations provide for bowlers who don’t compete beyond the club level? Most of the mystery can be blamed on World Bowls and the United States Lawn Bowls Association, who have neglected to let their members know (1) *what they’ve done* and (2) *what they’re doing* to keep the sport alive and well. So here’s a list of their heftier functions. Most bowlers actually know about these duties, but some slip away from memory and some are taken for granted.

1. Defining the rules defines the sport.

USLBA and WB currently provide 70 pages of definitive stipulations for the sport. If it were not for these controls, there would be NO standard, hence, hundreds of versions, resulting in no true version of the sport of Bowls. The laws define the playing area, the equipment, the kinds of competition that are available, the positions and responsibilities of each member of a team, the length of matches, what is a toucher, what to do about unexpected disturbances during a match, how to score, who and how someone can make challenges, how to appeal a ruling, what are appropriate penalties for various infractions, what are the responsibilities of tournament officials before, during and after a competition, behavior on and around the green, and guidelines in dozens of other areas. Some of these rules, procedures and principles have been passed down for hundreds of years. The rest are continually debated and fine-tuned to ensure our sport is safe from diluting influences, including technological advances, popular fads, transgressors or ‘whatever.’ In every country of the world, the rules keep the game the same.

2. Controls bowl manufacturing and artificial surfaces.

The USLBA is directly connected to, and continually communicates with, World Bowls, which, like its name implies, oversees every lawn bowling nation, community and club in the world. WB does the big ticket jobs that its 58 member nations cannot do. They certify the manufacture of bowls and the building and maintenance of greens, assuring bowlers everywhere that there are clear and absolute standards for bowls’ diameter, weight, and bias. Can you imagine what would happen if there was no regulatory authority and black market bowls started becoming available? From that day onward, no competition in the world could be guaranteed of being a fair contest. Soon, the outcome of bowling tournaments would have no more credibility than TV wrestling.

3. Standards, Tests and Approvals

Have you ever heard a lawn bowler say “well, let’s just go over to the park and we can bowl in the outfield on the baseball diamond?” It’s ridiculous, of course. Without greens, there would be no bowls. Few people understand the complex and unique requirements for our “single use” bowling greens. But World Bowls safeguards green expertise and makes it available for each of its 58 “Member National Authorities.” Have you ever wondered who has the responsibility for setting the standards for new technology in the manufacture and testing of artificial greens? If you guessed World Bowls, you’re right.

4. Umpires

Umps are a benefit most bowlers simply take for granted. But no one plays this game for very long without needing a knowledgeable and objective authority to step in and *on-the-spot* resolve some strange occurrence. Umps are *living libraries*, our sport's pillars of accuracy and fairness, and they are sanctioned, organized, certified, and periodically re-certified, for the convenience of the players. Clubs also are expected to provide umpes for their in-house tournaments. If your Club membership contains a certified umpire, you're lucky. There are less than a hundred active umpes in the entire U.S. Can you imagine trying to play this game seriously without them? And they provide those services for free!

5. Providing opportunities for higher levels of competition.

Bowls is competitive. Even in the daily draw, where "it doesn't matter much which side wins," it's way more fun to finish first than second. And how satisfying is it when you draw your bowl within a foot of the jack? Bowlers know the longer you play, the better you get. That explains why most of us eventually choose to step up, attend an outside tournament, and see what it's like with tougher competition. Credit for sanctioning and supporting those options belongs to the parent organizations.

6. Who's good? Better? Best?

"Who's best?" is a question people never stop asking. USLBA's "playdowns" in each of its seven geographic regions, attracts and involves scores of serious bowlers with an opportunity to try and qualify for the National Championships. If the Championships and the playdowns didn't exist, bowlers would demand that they be invented. Even among the few who never have and never will leave their home Club to compete, just the announcement that "the new National Champions" are from *your* Division is worth a healthy smile and some pride, right? The actual National Championships typically require about seventy people and a full year of work to produce. Unfortunately, too many bowlers take them for granted.

7. USA vs. the world.

Would Americans be appalled if bowlers couldn't put together a team to represent the USA in international competition? Of course we would. Because of the parent organizations, we can, and we do. The development and maintenance of those competitions, year after year, is organized, coordinated and protected by World Bowls and the 58 National Authorities, including the USLBA.

8. Ignorance sometimes rules.

Unfortunately, the existence of a national team is used by a lot of uninformed bowlers as an excuse to NOT support USLBA. Their "logic" goes like this: "Well, I'll never be good enough to be on a national team, and I don't want my dues money going to pay the expenses of those who are!" The truth is that the USLBA stopped providing financial assistance to our International bowlers years ago. Yes, it's a great honor to be chosen as a member of Team USA, but did you know each applicant must be able and willing to pay all their own expenses? That's times two for anyone who wants to take their spouse. Attending those competitions are a great honor, but the honoree pays the tab. And three thousand bucks is well beyond *chump change* for most of us, especially our champions who have jobs and children.

9. Who do we talk to?

No matter who “we” are or what the agenda, it’s World Bowls (or one of the 58 Member National Authorities) that provide the contact points between every person and agency that has an interest in Bowls. Should bowls be in the Olympics? Keeping the channels open for discussion and maintaining cordial relations with the *International Olympic Committee* and the *USOC* are two more functions provided by our parent organizations.

In conclusion...

There’s a substantial list of reasons to keep the parent organizations alive and healthy: 70 pages of rules that keeps the game the same; standards for the manufacture of bowls and the construction of greens; keeping the black market out of the game; libraries of information about natural greens; control over the development of artificial surfaces; umpires; maintaining intra- and international competition; coordinating communications between 58 bowls-playing nations; and the continual administrative guardianship to prevent even unintentional transgressors from taking the game into unwise or irresponsible directions.

10. A dollar and sixty-six cents?

Without WB and the USLBA, the game will surely continue to wither. Until then, every Lawn Bowling Club in the world will welcome you to play with them *as their honored and special guest*. What other sport offers such treatment? In America, being a member of USLBA costs \$1.66 per month. What’s that? A cup of coffee? One-tenth of a lunch for you and a friend? One-fiftieth of a day on the golf course?

No one can guarantee a vibrant resurrection of the sport, but fully supported, robust parent organizations surely provide the game with its best chance to survive.

Bowlers know our sport is superior in its advantages: playable by both genders and all ages, it provides safe and healthful exercise, strengthens mind-body coordination, rewards physical finesse, requires continual strategic analysis and flexibility, is inexpensive, and more. Unfortunately, the game’s inherent greatness isn’t enough to save it. But for less than two piddling bucks a month, each of us can do our share to both strengthen the game today and ensure that tomorrow our great-great-grandkids will have the chance to roll a bowl.