

# SANTA BARBARA LAWN BOWLS CLUB

## ON THE JACK

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JANUARY, 2015



Well, another year has passed and soon we will be producing our 2015 directory. Please let Eileen know if there

should be any changes to your information – new address, phone or email? And along those lines, Russ gave me a list of people who have not paid dues yet. They were due by the end of November so are now seriously late and need to be paid if you want to appear in the club directory

December brought us a much needed rain which was good for our green. However we need to be careful how we treat it as the grass will not be growing again until the weather gets much warmer.

If you are interested in filling any of the positions that need to be done to keep our club running in good order, please speak to me about it. I will be looking for people to help out with tournaments.

In the meantime – HAPPY NEW YEAR and as always – May your way be smooth and your bowls find the jack.

*Tony*

### TOURNAMENT NEWS:



Our final tournament of the year was the **Mixed Singles** which was begun with fourteen participants. By the end of the first day seven had been eliminated and rain intervened. So we had to wait until after the (rainy) general meeting and after the greens had dried out to finish the tournament. On Tuesday, December 9 we were able to continue with the four remaining players. Diana Wilk played Roger Sullivan and a close game saw Diana triumphant. Eileen and Tony had a long and pretty exciting game as well with Eileen leading during the first half of the game and Tony catching up and tying the score at 17/17. With only one point to game, a nail-biter of an end saw Eileen manage to gain the winning point. That left the ladies to play the finals and it was a good game with Diana claiming the crown for this year as Mixed Singles Champion 2014. Congratulations Diana for a job well done!

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY:**



Our annual club Christmas celebration was a success, very relaxed and fun, with everyone enjoying a game of bowls first (no fun without our favorite game), and then all of us lining up for a feast of ham and all kinds of wonderful side dishes provided by the party-goers. Our good kitchen ladies worked hard to make it all a success so thanks to Denise and her helpers. Also many people pitched in to help clear up and wash dishes afterwards – so a club effort which finished the afternoon with a happy atmosphere. Thanks to everyone who helped out.

And just a week later, we followed that with a New Year's Day spaghetti dinner prepared by Dorothy Thielges and helper Betty Cunningham, also made from ingredients provided by the participants. This is an annual SBLBC tradition started by Dorothy several years ago and features besides the spaghetti, salads, garlic bread and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Each year there seems to be a larger group of eaters, so I think it's a great success!

At our New Year's Day party, Betty Cunningham brought an especially good dessert (as well as her great shortbread). So many people asked for her recipe that I got it from her and here it is:

### **CRUNCH BARS**

- 1 column saltines (from 4 pk. Package)
- 2 sticks butter or margarine
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 12 ounces chocolate morsels

Preheat oven to 400. Layer saltines on foil lined cookie sheet. Boil butter and sugar together for 3 minutes. Pour butter-sugar mixture over saltines. Bake at 400 for 7 minutes (watch carefully). Remove from oven and spread the morsels over the top of the cooked saltines using back of a spoon. (Don't let it cool at all before spreading chocolate).

### **BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Russ reported that we are beginning the year 2015 with just 70 paid-up members. For some reason, this year people have been slow to rejoin.

Ken Gould reported a healthy interest income on our investments for the past year.

Dale Jackson has been working with Scott Coons who is learning the job of greenskeeper. The board has yet to receive a proposal from Valens Landscaping regarding the additional jobs the club needs them to undertake. Valens will be contacted and a written agreement finalized with them. Also, because of knee problems, Jess has resigned as caretaker of our landscaping and we will be pursuing other options.

Bud reported that he has two events coming up; on January 20, 4 to 7 pm, there will be a corporate team-building day at our greens involving 15 to 20 people. Bud has put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for helpers. After that, on January 30, there will be another such event and when the arrangements are finalized, Bud will also need helpers for that date as well. This is a really worthwhile effort and the club needs to give Bud support helping people to learn a little about lawn bowling. They introduce our great game to a lot of people and also bring in a little money for the club. The board discussed rigging up some way of lighting the lanai for groups that stay late.

Tony also noted that the part of the lanai that is roofed with wood would be safer if it had a corrugated metal roof instead because of the dangerous pods and sharp leaves that fall from the bunya-bunya tree. Tony will undertake this job.

It was decided that the birthday cake event every month would be dropped. It seems that often most of the birthday people are not present and also we usually have too much cake left over. Anyone wanting to bring a cake is welcome to do so.

**BETTER BOWLS:**  
***The following is copied from "Better Bowls" which was a publication put out by Conrad Melton in years past.***

Drawing for second shot is often considerably more likely to be successful than trying to bust open a head with a shot that's two or more yards on. Bowlers who play the "high percentage" shots don't have quite the high theater and excitement in their

games, but they almost always have better win-loss records.

Most top bowlers are percentage players. We all like to be the "hero", but consistent winners didn't get there by attempting low percentage shots when better shots were available. "Risk versus reward" is one of your MUST CONSIDERATIONS when choosing the intention of the shot you'll play next.

***Another helpful suggestion from "Better Bowls", this regarding drive shots.***

Most bowlers who are developing overweight shots try to put too much force into the shot. That gets them off balance, and thus, they miss their aiming line. Overweight shots seldom require as much weight as "the big guys" put into them. Try to develop a shot that is only about 20% more weight than a draw shot. You'll probably find that with that additional weight, you can reduce your aiming distance by half. In other words, if your aiming point for a long draw shot is about ten feet to the right (or left) of where you want to come to rest, add 20% more weight to the shot and aim only five feet from the target line. Like most aspects of the game, it helps to practice.

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*The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.*

*Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.*

*Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.*

*Acupuncture is a jab well done.*

# ***On the Jack***

**Newsletter of the Santa Barbara  
Lawn Bowls Club**

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