

SANTA BARBARA LAWN BOWLS CLUB

ON THE JACK

JANUARY, 2016

FROM THE PEN OF THE PREZ



While El Nino splashed around outside on the bowling greens, your Board of Directors was hard at work on January 5th. We have 30 great committees—all volunteers-- who have an exciting year lined up for us. Eileen and Bud from the Tournament Committee presented a list of dates which insure that our activities will accommodate all of our members including those who are working. This year, to add a little spice to our three Championship Tournaments, participants will pay \$5 to enter and compete to win a cash prize.

Ken, our Portfolio Manager since 2010, gave us a clear analysis of our club finances and our investment portfolio. This portfolio started from funds that were set aside for a new carpet and has increased nicely in value due to Ken's expertise.

Our Visitations Chair, Diana, has tentative dates set for good times with Holmby Park, Oxnard, MacKenzie Park and Cambria Lawn Bowls Clubs. We also are exploring a visitation with Santa Maria with their new carpet green.

Max, our Exterior Premises Chair, brought up the weed of the week: Pearlwort which insists each year to disturb our smooth, grassy surface with its moss-like presence. Scott, our

Grounds Guy, will arrange appropriate treatment.

More people than ever are coming to our club and finding that lawn bowling is a healthy, fun and easy-to-learn game. Thanks to the hard work of Bud, Private and Corporate Events Chair, around 450 adults learned in 2015 about lawn bowling. In addition, 18 or so people have been introduced to the game during our monthly, advertised Open Days which began in October. We give huge thanks to all of you who have volunteered to make these events outstanding.

Again this year, we are fortunate that our organization is co-sponsored by the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation and that Jason Bryan, Senior Recreation Specialist, is our chief cheerleader. Jason's department will actively distribute our brochures and help us with additional publicity. So, El Nino, bring it on! Green up that grass! We're ready to play!

TOURNAMENT NEWS:

December and January were tournament-less and just as well since we seem to actually be getting some rain. Hopefully the rain will continue through January and stop in time for our first scheduled tournament, the Veteran-Novice Pairs which will be on Saturday, February 27. Our new Tournament Committee, headed by Bud Viard, will be posting a sign-up sheet with details of the format of the tournament. But it's not too early to find a partner and we hope that ALL our novices will join in the

fun. A bowler qualifies as a novice for two years.

The following letter was written by our new Tournament Director, Bud Viard and expresses very well our attitude toward tournaments.

What's the Deal about Tournaments?

Somehow, this year I find myself in the "envious" position of Chairperson of the Tournament Committee. Over the years, the concept of Club Tournaments seems to have changed into some type of scary event best left to the "better" bowlers and not something we club bowlers would want to participate in. It shouldn't be this way and in the past it wasn't. It's not that the bowlers of 10, 15, or 20 years ago were somehow better than the bowlers of today. I bowled against all of them, they beat me, I beat them. A tournament game isn't any different than the games we play at 10:00 or 12:30, the only difference is the method of choosing teams. We are all good at what we do out on the greens, we are all capable of beating any other member on any given day. We are also capable of being beat. Any of us. All of us.

This is why it is so puzzling to your Tournament Committee as to why we don't seem to get many teams to sign up and play in a club tournament. Is it the word "tournament" that scares us away? Do we really feel so inferior that we won't play in a couple of games as a team? We're all friends out here, we all wish the very best game for each other. We've tried many things over the years, shortening the number of games in a tournament, shortening the number of ends in a game, even trying a couple of tournaments where we were required to sign up in our official positions. None of

these seem to have any effect on tournament participation.

This year we are offering about a dozen tournaments, 3 of these are being designated as "Club Championship" tournaments. These are the Championship Triples, Pairs, and the Club Championship Singles, the most prestigious tournament we have. These will all have a \$5.00 entry fee so there will be a bit of prize money for the winners (perhaps the top 3 places if participation allows for more). The other 9 tournaments are being offered to the membership for the simple reason that bowling at the tournament level helps us improve our game. We put together the best team we can, we get out there and play a few games against other teams, we have a great afternoon or two, and with luck we will find our names on a trophy or plaque in the clubhouse. A few of the tournaments will also include a barbeque or catered celebration at their conclusion. Doesn't sound too scary to me.

So why not? Find a friend or two, make up a team and give it a try. If you don't do so well one game, change up your positions and try harder the next game. Or join in the Club Championship by yourself, see how you do. We can do this, we can all play this game. Take a look at how many different names are on the trophies, some are repeated but not often. Every name there is a person just like you. They were all nervous about their game, they were all intimidated by the competition, and they all won on that day. Just like you can. Give it a try, have fun.

Bud

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Our Christmas party was a grand event, enjoyed by many. Our little clubhouse was overflowing with happy eaters and drinkers.



Just a few of our party-goers. More pictures at the end of the newsletter.

We started with a game at 10 a.m. and just as we were putting away the equipment, it started to rain. Good timing!

This year we want to recognize and thank the wonderful Van Wingerden family for our feast. Case and Connie Van Wingerden, long time bowlers, started the generous "flower fund" many years ago by donating flowers from their Carpinteria nursery for sale at low prices at the club. The funds from this were designated to be used for parties which were always enjoyed so much by the Van Wingerden family. Case, and his brother Hank, who along with wife Agatha bowled for years, always made the parties fun with sing-alongs. Another bowler, and a very good one, was sister Anna Van Koppen. Those of us who have been bowling a long time really miss them all. Connie tells me she is now 91 years old but still misses the bowling!

Next on our agenda, only a week later, another feast - this time the famous "spaghetti feed" started by

Dorothy Thielges some years ago. Everyone donated ingredients, our great kitchen folk put them all together, and we wound up with a really good dinner. So thanks are due here to Dorothy and also to the others who worked so hard, especially Stephanie Viard. Forgive me if I missed someone. Many pitched in to make it a success.



KUDOS TO.....

Max Mickey for taking it upon himself to clean the freezer in the equipment shed, and

Dorothy Thielges for cleaning the oven in the kitchen.

When the weather clears up we will be scheduling a club clean-up day. These are always fun and rewarding and incidentally, usually include pizza for lunch. So plan to come help out.

BOWLING TIPS:

Leads should play up and down on the same side of the green as much as possible as very few greens have the same pace or bias on both sides. By playing backhand one way and forehand the other, the lead is able to keep a more consistent length than, say, playing backhand both ways and thus using two sides of the green.

If your opposing lead puts a bowl on the jack, it is not the duty of the lead to try to knock it off. Just try to place your bowls as close as possible so the opponent has one point only. Also, this gives your vice and skip some alternatives for shots to try. It's important to have bowls in the head and a try at knocking it off will result in a heavy shot which is too far away to count.

Vices, when standing in the head, should be about 6 feet behind the jack and one pace to the side. Please do not stand way over by the boundary line as this will obscure the markers from your skip who may use them as aiming points.

There is no rule stating who should have the responsibility of measuring. However, it is suggested that the team conceding shots should measure and remove shots when the count is clearly more than one. Always place the bowls removed from the head onto a towel so there is no confusion. Never kick or toss them aside without putting them onto a towel.

Remember, that whichever team measures, the other team can ask to measure again if they think it is very close. Before signaling to the skips, the measurer and opponent should agree on the number of shots scored. However, if one has second thoughts, it is allowable to measure again and change your signaled number. (This has been verified by the National Umpire in Chief).

Most of the above was lifted from the Palo Alto website and written by their club coach, John Hickson. However, I did add a few tips of my own. Editor

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Pres. Sharron has mentioned most of the highlights of the board meeting,

however, one or two things need to be added.

Dan and Jeff will be working on sorting out and reducing the number of sets of bowls in the cupboard. When all is done, there will be some bowls for sale.

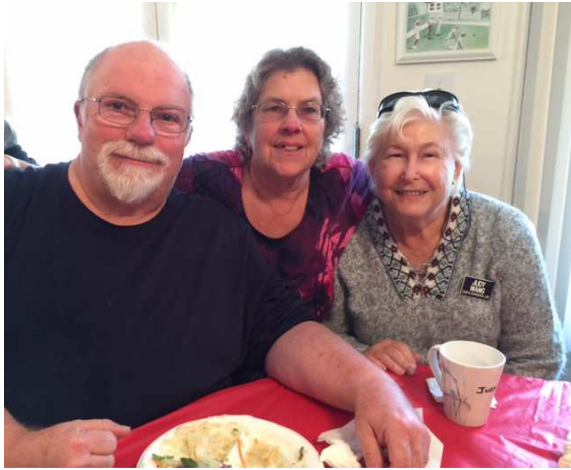
Tony gave his estimate for cost of putting up the sun shades around the greens. When the weather clears, Tony will be erecting a prototype for everyone to see but will use a shade cloth, not the intended canvas, as it is rather expensive. Tony estimates the cost at around \$1,900 or \$1,500, depending on color.

Bud has a sign-up sheet for a special event to take place on Friday and a number of bowlers have volunteered to help out. This morning, Bud sent an email to say that the event has been cancelled due to the weather. The group was very disappointed and plan to re-schedule in the spring.

REMINDER:

The directory of membership will be produced by the end of the month. If you have any changes, address, phone, email, please let me know ASAP. Dues were due by the end of November so we hope that everyone who intends to join for 2016 has already done so.

And one more thing: The Asia Pacific Championships were played at the end of November in Christchurch, NZ. The US sent five women and five men to bowl for the USA. They played fours, pairs, triples and singles. All of the players did quite well and the USA has qualified for World Bowls which takes place every four years and will be held in Christchurch this year. Also, our women's fours team played in the finals against Australia and won a Silver Medal! So yay team – Go USA!



Christmas Party

**Top: Dan, Denise, Judy
Lower: Scott and Grace Kipp**

**Sherry and Ron Creager
Betty and Tony Cunningham**



Spaghetti Feed – New Year's Day

Jim and Carolyn Stahl

Conner and Janice Napier

On the Jack

Newsletter of Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club

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