



PARKSVILLE LAWN BOWLING CLUB
CLUB CHATTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT
Ben Thomas

Welcome back to all the *old* (seasoned) bowlers and a big welcome to our new members. We look forward every year to the new crop of bowlers. It is always fun and interesting to go to the Open House and then to the coaching to see who new comes to play with us this year.

The winter this year was very hard on the green. Lots of snow mould and the edges where new seed was sown didn't sprout as expected. But our intrepid and amazing greens crew headed by Jack Lawrence has kept babying the green along and it is beginning to look good. Some parts of the green were even covered up with a blanket.

As mentioned before, the Special Olympics people will be going ahead and constructing two bocce courts on our upper bank, which we will be able to use when not being used by the Special Olympics.

Stanford Place, where at some point several of us could be living, residents have expressed an interest in the bocce courts and possibly lawn bowling. We hear that it is sometimes hard to get the residents away from the windows as they enjoy watching us.

You will notice that we have new landscaping around the green. The rocks were carried by hand by Dave Robinson and each one of them has been placed with loving care and attention to design. The plants mingling amongst the rocks are all in keeping with Xeriscape philosophy. The grounds crew has also been very busy and working very hard at cleaning up the bank beds. They have cut and pruned and removed plants that were well past their due date. Everyone involved deserves a huge **thank you**.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to keep our winter activities going. These activities are becoming very popular with the community and with those who come west to enjoy our mild winters.

And finally I would like to remind you that as I am very proud of our club, I welcome any comments or concerns that you may have that might help to maintain and/or improve it.

I wish you all GOOD BOWLING AND A GREAT SEASON!





MONDAY MORNING WOMEN

Monday morning, the last bastion of male domination, has been blessed by the addition of women to the ranks. These goddesses have taken up the shears, the shovel and lawn mower all to help keep our club's surroundings in 'Communities in Bloom' condition.

Come out on Monday mornings and join in the fun. The Tom Pellow/Ellen Hunter Coffee and Muffin Company is still providing the crew with hot coffee and delicious muffins.

MAINTAINING ART FERGUSON

Over the past eighteen months or so being a member of the PLBC board has been a fun and challenging experience. When I first took the position responsible for Building Maintenance the "to do" list was quite extensive both inside and out. But through hard work and dedication with assistance from various people, the list has been more or less eliminated in a timely manner, within budget. The improvements undertaken and completed over the duration is solely for the benefit of all members to enjoy.

In conclusion, hopefully the individual nominated for the position in 2009 will be as devoted and caring in the maintenance and preventive aspect of the position.

LIBRARY GONE SOFT

Our hard sorting librarian, Ruby Bishop-Ryan, has requested that due to space issues, no more hard cover books, please. They take up too much space and they read just the same as a paper-back.



ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN!

If you did not attend the AGM in November then you missed a battle! The slogans were flying, the promises, the slander, the billboards; all in order to bring forward a slate of candidates worthy of this club. After the ballots were counted and recounted under the strict guidelines of Elections Canada your board and executive until the next AGM will be:

President	Ben Thomas
Vice President	Sandi Mitchell
Treasurer	Dorothy Curry
Secretary	Dianne Proctor
Past President	Gloria Wilcox
Fundraising	John Schofield
Games	Kenda Taylor
Grounds	Pat Kelly
Maintenance	Art Ferguson
Membership	Sandra Taylor
Social	Clare Atchison

Everyone on the Board is dedicated to keeping this club running smoothly for the enjoyment of **all its members**.

COACH'S CORNER
Debbie Lawrence, Head Coach



We are all looking forward to another great group of novices. The club has purchased a number of new sets of club bowls to replace the ones that have worn out and to give us a few more of different sizes. Now our novices will not have to race to get the only set of 2's.

We are hosting a new coach's course this year and Olav, Clive, Dave, Lynn and Olga will be joining our team after completion of this course. We are very fortunate to have so many qualified instructors in our club.

Eldon and Shirley Roe have now retired from their coaching duties. A lot of us owe our love of bowls to them both. Thank you for your many years of hard work.

Wednesdays will be clinic days. Come and practice; let our coaches help improve your game. Get a head start on our special and fun days. Everyone welcome from novice to best bowler in the club. We will also be holding some special clinics during the summer and I will let you know through the Monday messages, what and when.

We need helpers for the open houses, the coaching weeks and the Wednesday clinics. Please let me know if you can help – the coaches can't do their jobs without you.

To all our coaches and many helpers, thank you. You are what help to make our club the best on the island. Have a great year.

ROLL OUT THE JACKS AND LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The games committee has been working hard all winter and spring to bring you lots to keep you amused this season. There are pairs and triples leagues, fun days, skills days and club tournaments. Sign up for as much as you can do. ***Just don't forget what you signed up for.***

In house tournaments: Sign up sheets are posted on the games board. Anyone can sign up and teams will be randomly drawn. Check the games board regularly as some of these tournaments can fill up quickly. Any member of the club can enter. ***All skill levels welcome.***

Club draws: Check your club calendars for days and times of draws during the week. These draws are open to every one of all skills. Novices are encouraged to come – the other bowlers don't bite – well, most of them don't. Only the Sunday draw requires the wearing of the whites.

League play: The first 8 weeks of league play you need to enter as a team. Next comes the fun leagues and the teams are drawn.

Open tournaments: Every club in our zone hosts at least one Open Tournament; open to players from other clubs. To enter these games you must have a team and your team's skip contacts the games chair for that club. These tournaments require either whites or team colours.

Also, on the Bowls BC website is a list of open tournaments in clubs throughout B.C. so if you would like to bowl somewhere else, check this list out.

Provincial tournaments: These are also listed on the Bowls BC website and require an entry form and \$50 per player. Anyone with a valid BC Bowls membership is eligible.

BC Senior Summer games: This is not associated with Bowls BC. The event this year is being held in Richmond and is open to those aged 55+. This venue has something for everyone but if you wish to compete in lawn bowling (either men's and ladies' pairs or mixed fours) you will need to qualify from your club and then in a zone competition as Zone 2 (us) only allows 1 team per event. Information for this will be posted on the games board.

A true story?

The story goes that Player A (the third) collapses on the green just as Player B (the skip) is about to let go of his bowl. The others call out to B to stop. B has a look and responds with "It's OK, I can draw around him!" The claim is that A heard this and this is the thing which gave him the will to survive his heart attack.



WHO OWNS THE RINK???

Heard on the green:

You've got to get it up, You're too short, Who did I knock up? Try putting one in back.

Possession of the rink transfers to the opposing team as soon as the

bowl comes to rest. This means, when changing ends, the team in possession of the rink can stop and chat in the middle of the rink and stand in the head to discuss strategy. If you do not have possession you should head quickly and directly to your position behind the head without stopping. Tempting as it is to stop and chat and view the head, it could be considered interference if you do not own the rink. When you regain possession, then you can discuss things with your team. *Law 35, Page 65*

FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY TEAM **RETURNS**

the adventures of innocents abroad

As mentioned on our website, eight of us left for an adventure in France. Four of us were seasoned travelers; four went with wide-eyed wonder and our heads filled with all sorts of expectations and warnings of pickpockets, etc. On our stopover in Amsterdam we were taken on a tour by a very enthusiastic retired school teacher. Our bus took us to various places of interest and then our guide *ran* us from building to building. We saw what must normally be a six hour tour in two hours. The tour of course included the red light district. No one looked in the windows. (We have a pact that what happens in France, stays in France. This included Amsterdam.) We later flew

onto Nice and then bussed into Cannes where we were greeted by the sleepy staff. Thankfully, someone in the larger group spoke French so we didn't have to stumble with the language some 28 hours or so after we had left the Island.

The next morning we awoke expecting to see the sun glinting off the azure Mediterranean Sea only to discover that when it is raining it looks remarkably like the Gulf of Georgia. However, we carried on and the only thing dampened was our feet and the next day the sun came out.

Everything was fascinating. The scenery, the food, the colours, the rooflines, the people, the dogs. Even the fact that the deposits on the sidewalks made by the dogs were not picked up.

We were able play a game similar to bocce and bowling called petanque. In the afternoon a lot of men play this game. No idea where the women were but they look far too chic to have been at home cooking. After four weeks it was time to go home and take our memories of the things we saw and the fun we had. As noted previously, what happens in France, stays in France but if you are speaking to one of our fellow adventurers and he happens to mention that he bought *briquettes* in France, know that he means a loaf of bread and not a piece of coal.



FROM THE GROUNDS

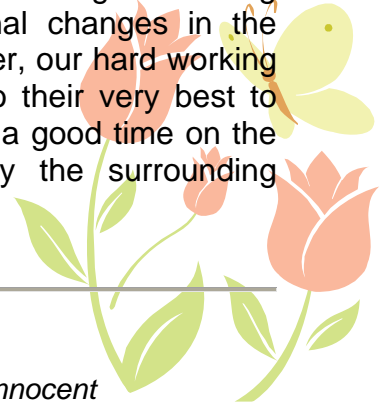
Pat Kelly

The past year presented a number of interesting challenges for the hardworking Greens and Grounds crews. Starting with the replacement of the Backboards and Plinth and the removal of the Cedars, the long cold spring which lasted until late June made it difficult to get the Green into its normal excellent playing condition. However, we were not disappointed. The Green was outstanding and the Gardens were picturesque thanks to the dedication of all of our Volunteers. We entered and finished second in the annual Gardens in Bloom competition and were highly commended by the International Judges who visited our club. Towards the end of the bowling season Jack had noticed that you were having increasing difficulty in keeping bowls on the Green. The speed of the Green was good but there was something more going on. He found that due to the Plinth

replacement the outer edges of the Green had sunk, almost an inch in places. In early October many yards of sand were hauled and spread and the Green leveled. The repaired area was reseeded and should be in reasonable shape by the time our season gets underway

After much discussion and with your approval our Memorial Gardens on the North and East side of the Green were completed in the Xeriscape style you approved and the East Parking lot was resurfaced. The cement block border around the East Gate Garden was replaced and the garden is in the process of being remodeled.

The long cold winter has presented some additional challenges resulting in some additional changes in the Gardens. However, our hard working volunteers will do their very best to ensure you have a good time on the Green and enjoy the surrounding gardens.



More from 'Heard on the Green'

the names have been changed to protect the not so innocent

Stan: "Oh Harry, I do believe I've thrown out of turn! What do we do now?"

Harry: "Stan, that's too bad, could happen to anyone, old sod. I'll ask Umpire Clare."

Umpire Clare: "Well, me Buckos, since you're disturbed and the head wasn't, you can either leave the head as it is and Harry can throw two bowls to get back to the proper order or you can return the bowl and have Stan throw it again, in the proper order. "

An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.

MEMBERSHIP PHONE BOOKS

After all membership renewals have been completed, there will be a phone book printed with the names and numbers of all members and various board and committee members. Until that time the following is a brief list of people you might need to contact:

President:	Ben Thomas	951-0098
Vice-Pres:	Sandi Mitchell	248-9243
Secretary	Dianne Proctor	951-2041
Social	Clare Atchison	248-5627
Grounds	Pat Kelly	951-0670
Coach	Debbie Lawrence	954-2941
Greens	Jack Lawrence	954-2941
Games	Kenda Taylor	248-7051

And don't forget our website: www.parksvillelawnbowlingclub.com
Our web master, John Schofield has been very busy all winter posting lots of fun things to look at and to do. For those suffering from bowling withdrawal, there is even a game to play.

OLD MEETS NEW

A good way of meeting the other members of our club is to join in on our social events. Our social committee has always done a wonderful job of providing great teas, dinners, luncheons, etc. And the good thing about this is that we need

volunteers to help put up, take down, decorate, cook, bake, clean up and **have fun**. Volunteerism has always been a huge part of this club.

Sign up sheets to help with the various social activities planned throughout the year will be posted on the Volunteer Board and everyone is encouraged to help at least once.

PARKSVILLE LAWN BOWLING CLUB SIMPLIFIED

Once again it is the beginning of a new season of fun and competition on the green. Your club calendar will provide you with the dates for various scheduled special events, tournaments, leagues and coaching times. For those wishing to participate in "Open Tournaments" (tournaments open to bowlers from all clubs and held at the other clubs in our zone), a booklet called 'Tournaments Schedule' is also available. These open tournaments are also listed on the Bowls BC website and on the district page for North Island District.

We are very proud of our club and the people who are members here. There is diversity of skill levels and everyone is encouraged to participate in as much bowling as they are capable of doing. We have a sight-impaired group and a 75+

group that bowls on Tuesday mornings. The 75+ is a less tiring morning of bowling as only 6 ends are played before a break is taken and then the remaining 6 ends are completed after tea. Sundays are for traditional 'whites only' bowling. This applies to clothing colour and not hair colour.

WOMEN MISSING

Wednesday morning is ladies morning at the club. But there are no ladies. Where are they? Is housework that all inspiring? Are you chained to your vacuum cleaner? Tied to the ironing board?

If anyone knows the whereabouts of our missing women bowlers could you please let someone know. If you can think of some way to entice them to the green, let someone know. If its something we did, let someone know.

have it under control. Some bare patches will occur but we will be reseeding if and when we get some warm weather. The geese have done their best to help fertilize the green; however, we have asked them to stop for the summer.

Last fall we raised the plinth and leveled the low spots which should prevent the bowls from rolling into the ditch, especially on the west side. This should also help with the bowls stopping dead against the plinth. The grass will grow back along the edges, again, when we get some warm weather.

GREENSKEEPER'S DIARY

Jack Lawrence

Thank you to everyone who helped with the winter maintenance of the green.

Despite the winter we have had, the green is in fairly good condition. Pink and grey snow mold has invaded the green but we seem to

Over the winter the lane markers were repainted. You will notice a new, red stripe at the corners of the green. These are at the two meter mark indicating the minimum distance for placement of the mats. Hopefully a useful innovation.

Regular Monday morning work parties have started. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jack Lawrence.

Q: Where should 60+ year olds look for eye glasses?

A: On their foreheads.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN

We would love to know when everyone joined our club. If you remember what year you joined would you let Sandra Taylor or Sandi



Mitchell know. We have records back a couple of years but can't find anything further back.

Support bacteria - they're the only culture some people have.

2010 IS COMING

It would seem that 2010 has significance for our club as well as whatever that other thing is that is going on in Vancouver. Whatever it is, there is no lawn bowling. In the year 2010 the Parksville Lawn Bowling Club will be 15 years old. Still young, vibrant, virile, full of vim and vigor. Should be big things happening.

BOWLYMPICS

PLBC's answer to the preceding article

Our annual Bowlympics will be held again this year in May and we are expecting to see the same enthusiastic mass of people participating. This is what the Olympic spirit is all about. People competing on the field for the prized gold medal of achievement. Throwing fellow competitors off the foot mat, hurling their bowls down the green with little regard for form, or anything else for that matter, all to be the fastest team to deliver their bowls.

This great venue was conceived by Louise and Herry Allix and has been a tradition for a number of years. You who were there last year will recall the passing of the torch, the protestors, the noise, the confusion, the fun. What on earth could top that this year? Come and see.



This could be you.

OPEN HOUSE ATTENDANCE

The Open Houses were well attended and quite a few people enjoyed the coffee, tea and those delicious homemade goodies our club is famous for. Thirty-three people signed up for lessons. Let's hope they all join. And if you did, welcome!

HARRY AND STAN

At it again!

Stan: "Uh, Harry, I do believe I've thrown out of turn again and this time my bowl has pushed your last shot out and now I am counting. What do we do?"

Harry: "I'm not sure, Stan, let's ask Umpire Clare."

Watch for more adventures of Stan and Harry and their team mates.

Umpire Clare: "Well, me buckos, this is what your choices are: Harry's skip can choose whether to leave the head as it is and have his team throw two bowls to get back to the proper order of play; or, replace the head in its former position, return the bowl and get back to the proper order, or declare the end dead. And Stan, naughty, naughty."



This guy [unclear] into my computer [unclear] I told him to show up on Wednesday mornings.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Always drink upstream from the herd

PARKSVILLE SHINES INDOORS

The Qualicum Indoor Bowling club hosted an interclub league competition during the winter. Teams from Nanaimo, Parksville, Courtenay and Qualicum participated. The teams of Pat / Gwen Kelly and Mick / Vicky Banks played with 10 or 12 of our members. At the end of the league play the Banks had won the league and the Kellys came in second. In the play offs it was Pat, Gwen and Margaret Soothill playing for first and Mick, Vicky and Ken Soothill playing for third. And the outcome was ... they were runners up. Congratulations to all who played and showed that Parksville shines in and out.

PLAYING FOR GOLD

Once again Gary Robinson, winner of Provincial and National medals, will be conducting his "Go for the Gold" program. This popular program is designed to assist bowlers at all levels of play; encouraging bowlers to realize their own 'gold medal' achievement. The 1 – 2 hour session is filled with loads of informative performance standards, practice techniques, personal tips and tactical advice. Sign up for this on the Coach's Board in the sunroom/walkway.

WHEN MAY I ASK QUESTIONS!!!

How far from the jack am I, the third asks? Ten inches the skip replies. Are they following the rules? It depends when they are asking and answering. The skip should not indicate anything to the players until their team has *possession of the*

rink. The player should look for information from the skip just before they bowl, not after the bowl comes to a stop. The skip should give information to team members only when in possession of the rink and possession goes to your opponent as soon as the delivered bowl stops. You may be helping your opposition by letting them know what has happened - keep your opponents in the dark - let their skip tell them.

BRIDGE LUNCHEON SUCCESS

Once again the annual bridge luncheon was a success with ravings from the crowd about the food. The bridge this winter brought \$2385.00 to the club. All that by playing dummy. Go figure. **Thank you** to everyone who helped with bridge throughout the year and with the luncheon. You made it a success as always.

CRIB HISTORY

The origin of cribbage is credited to an Englishman in the 17th century, Sir John Suckling, who was well-

known for his gaming skills. Did you know that there are 12,994,800 possible hands in Cribbage and that 1,009,008 (approximately 7.8%) of these score zero points?

The Wednesday afternoon Cribbage extravaganza this year played host to people from all over Canada (well, okay, some of them played bridge as well) who paid homage to Sir John Suckling and money to our club while partaking of delicious fresh brewed coffee and delectable home baked goodies while enjoying the scintillating repartee of their fellow players.

Thanks to everyone who helped with crib this year. It was very much appreciated.

IN CONCLUSION

Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming season and we hope that it is as successful as you want it to be. Whether you are able to deliver the jack one whole game without throwing it out of bounds or you make that perfect take out shot and go up 5 in one end. Or you are the one on the sidelines who shouts encouragement to the competitors. Whatever and however, just do it. See you on the green.

