

# Rollin' Along

Oxnard-Joslyn Lawn Bowls Club, 350 North C Street, Oxnard, CA 93030 Winter 2012



## President's Message

by Gloria Brown

Another new year is upon us, and as we all wonder what 2012 will bring into our lives, I want to wish you all good health, and happiness to you and your families. I thank you for the opportunity to lead our club, and with your help, will strive to do a good job.

I thank, my husband, Joe, for his dedication and leadership for the past two years. He left me and those who follow, a beautiful binder, which outlines the duties and responsibilities of the job of president.

Every president needs a goal, and mine will be to keep our club membership growing. As you know, every year some members drop out for various reasons, so we need to replace them. I've found lawn bowling a difficult sport for recruiting. So, instead of talking competition and tournaments, I've stressed great exercise, beautiful sunshine, and great friendships. If we all do this, maybe our own enthusiasm will bring us new members. Don't forget to talk our sport up to everyone who is an able candidate!

To keep our club running, we also need the participation of everyone. New members and old members, jump in, you can all do something that will be appreciated.

Since we joined, four years ago, Joe and I have visited ten different clubs. We always come away saying how appreciative we are of our fantastic green, our club members friendliness and enthusiasm, our plentiful food presentation for visitations, and our competitive spirit and sportsmanlike behavior.

So, in closing, be mindful of all that our club has to offer. It should not be taken for granted. With all our different personalities, skill levels, and ages, we are a unique group!

Let's keep the best club growing.

**Ask not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for the club.**

## Membership

The club would like to welcome our new member Julie Basler and returning members Tony and Dina Bongiovanni. Wishing you good bowls and happy days on the green. We lost a number of our members this year for various reasons so we need to keep our eyes open for recruiting opportunities.



## Class is in Session

by Armand Escalante

(Reprint from Rollin Along, Fall 2003)

### THE VARIOUS VARIABLES OF LAWN BOWLING

People who have never seen or tried lawn bowling have no idea how challenging a sport it can be. It is a sport that is easy to learn but difficult to master. What makes it so is due to the several variables that players must contend with. There are at least five of these. Lets enumerate the five that come to mind:

1. The width you must allow for the bias of your bowl. Not all bowls have the same width of bias.
2. The length of the jack from the front of the mat which will dictate the weight you try to achieve.
3. The position of the jack when it has been moved and forces you to adjust your width and weight.
4. The fact that other bowls may be blocking your path towards the jack.
5. The condition of the green and the rink on which you are playing. This means whether the green is wet, dry, fast, slow, or is undergoing subtle changes caused by the wind or the weather. It also means whether your rink is "true" or has bumps, grooves, heavier grass or dry spots that affect the trajectories of the bowls. Experienced bowlers know that every green and every rink has its own peculiarities. If lawn bowling has all these variables (and it does!), there are certain tips that help overcome their challenges. Here are some of them:

1. Learn from your first bowls. Watch the trajectory and final stopping point of your bowl and try to make adjustments with your next bowl or bowls.
2. When you start bowling on one side, stay on that side unless there is a specific reason (such as an opponent's bowl in your path) for changing.
3. When your team does not have the point or points, try not to be short, especially if other members of your team have yet to bowl.
4. Learn how to "read the green" and decide if one side on the way to the jack is more predictable and use it if at all possible.
5. Remember that lawn bowling is supposed to be enjoyable whether you win or lose, but if you want to improve, find your weaknesses, correct them and then, practice, practice, practice.

## The Origin of Some Lawn Bowling Terms

This article is dedicated to Edith Dowsing who requested some time ago that I put some of these things in writing.

This being a new year and perhaps even the last if you believe the story about the Mayan calendar and the prediction that the world will end next December, I thought it would be appropriate to explain the origin of some of the bowling terms with which we are all familiar. I should tell you that all the information contained in this article has been authenticated by the A. A. P. P. (The American Association of Pathological Prevaricators)

### WHY A COLLECTION OF BOWLS IS CALLED A HEAD

The early Egyptians who are credited with inventing a game similar to lawn bowling, when they played their game would get some person, (probably some unfortunate who was not very popular), and bury that person up to his or her neck in the desert sand, and then they would roll somewhat rounded stones at the head to see who could come the closest. This part of the game elicited some of the expressions that we still hear in lawn bowling today. Expressions like, "What an unusual head" or "What an ugly head!"

### WHY A JACK IS CALLED A JACK

This is because a Frenchman named Jacques Dan-slaboite was the first to suggest using a small white ball as the target of the game instead of the heads which were becoming scarcer since the French guillotine was making most of them unusable. It was the English who anglicized the name "Jacques" to "Jack" and it was the Americans who translated the Frenchman's full name to "Jack in the Box" for commercial reasons.

### WHY A GREEN IS CALLED A GREEN

This is due to the fact that in early American history the game of lawn bowls was played mostly in a sort of park which was known as the "village Green". The lawn bowls games on the village greens were only played during daylight hours because the greens had no lights and besides, at night the village greens were reserved for games of "hanky panky".

### WHY ALL BOWLS HAVE A BIAS

It is a known fact that king Henry the eighth of England was a lawn bowling enthusiast and when he was not involved in matters of state or of the heart and in between his many weddings, he could be found on the bowling field. One day while he was bowling, his wooden ball broke when it collided with another one. The king then ordered that another ball be brought to him immediately so that he could continue the game. His servants then cut a decorative wooden ball from one of the pillars of one of the nearby porches for the king to use. Unfortunately the ball the king was using was not perfectly round so when it was delivered it did not go straight, but rather it had an arc to its trajectory because of its bias. When the king

noticed this phenomenon, he declared, "Henceforth all bowling balls must have a bias and they shall be called bowls in stead of balls. (It should be noted that royalty of that time liked to use the word "henceforth" since they thought it sounded classy or at least Shakespearean.) Because of this incident even today all bowls must have a bias. In a way, this was a fortunate incident or else today we would be describing our favorite sport as "balling" instead of "bowling".

### WHY A WICK IS CALLED A WICK

This is an easy explanation. The word "wick" is an example of onomatopoeia. If you don't recall from your Freshman English class, this means a word that represents a sound. When the wooden balls collided, players would hear a sound that sounded to them like "wick". Fortunately the hard of hearing bowlers had no influence in calling it a wick or today we might be talking about wonks, whacks, or wunks.

### WHY AN END IS CALLED AN END

This came about because bowlers who were losing the game badly would say, "Thank God this is the end", when the game was about to conclude. Besides, the term "inning" had already been claimed by the game of baseball. I am glad that we have "ends" in lawn bowling because it allows me to borrow the term and say that this is the end of these explanations.

by **Armand Escalante**

## A Lawn Bowling Trip From The Past

Thirteen American All Stars go to Australia for Koala Cup  
(Circa 1994)

Thirteen American All Stars from three southern California clubs had a fantastic time in Sydney, Australia this August attempting to bring the "KOALA CUP" home to the U.S. The team consisted of Captain **Earl Kersey, Edith Dowsing**, Don and Pat Greening, Ray and Ruth Johnston, **Ed Otoupalik, Hobart and Fylis Robertson, William and Marilyn Taschek**, Theodore Visser and Maria Manzano.

Their attempt was not successful but all agreed that the hospitality and the friendliness of the Australian Bowlers made the effort more than worthwhile.

The group stayed in beautiful seaside apartments in Manly, one of Sydney's most beautiful suburbs, and bowled at four different clubs, all on the fabulous northern beaches area.

The first event was held at the Seaforth Bowls Club. This club is certainly one of the most beautiful clubs in Sydney.

Roily Young was their host at the Harbord Diggers Lawn Bowls Club for the next day of bowling. This was an opportunity to get used to the faster Australian greens.

The actual "KOALA CUP TOURNAMENT" was held at

the absolutely fabulous, Balgowlah Heights Club. The weather was perfect and the hosts were as warm and welcoming as they could possibly be. Norm Green, the host of the group gave a welcoming address. John and Catherine Schulthess, owners of United World Club, sponsors of the Koala Cup, presented the trophies.

The final day of bowling was held at the Manly Lawn Bowls Club, hosted by Derek Ronald.

The group also enjoyed many other activities, such as a sightseeing of the city of Sydney, a trip to the beautiful "Blue Mountains", and a very special day of wine tasting in the Hunter Valley. Peter and Julie Hegarty, United World Club representatives in Sydney escorted the tour and prepared an unbelievable Aussie BBQ at one of the wineries. Free tickets were made available to the group to enjoy an evening at the Sydney Opera House.

## Sunny Glessner



As they said in the '70's, "I've come a long way, baby." I was born in a small Iowa town but never lived there, and that may have set the pattern for my life. At six months old, my first train ride (to California) allowed me to meet my dad for the first time. He was in the Navy for 20 years so we followed him around the US during the rare times he was on land. The longest I went to one school was two years in a row, and I used to feel sorry for myself. Now I see the benefits of learning to fit in and being able to talk to almost anyone, even when we don't speak the same language.

When I married after college, I wanted stability for my two children and settled down for many years. Once they attended school, I began a 40-year teaching career with a variety of higher education institutions.

The Navy brat background eventually kicked in though, and I set up my first trip abroad. Twenty of my Catholic college students joined in an adventure to Europe. I was hooked and took them on two more trips, even though they didn't always act religious.

After my move to Madison, Wisconsin, the wanderlust

grew. An ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education led to teaching for the University of Maryland-Asian Division. My year in Korea and year in Japan was thrilling as I learned about totally different cultures. It also allowed me to explore much of Asia.

Yet I discovered that however much I loved these opportunities, I missed my family, friends and home country more. I moved to California but continued traveling. I've now been to all seven continents and over 100 countries, giving me tales to tell my great-grandchildren, if they would sit still long enough.

While in Asia, I began writing newsletters home so family and friends would know what was happening. When I returned, they were so complimentary that I was compelled to write one for every trip after that.

When a friend started a memoir group, I focused on my past. Some 250 pages later, I'm almost done and have started other types of writing. I was fortunate enough to have a story chosen for one of the Cup of Comfort series and even got paid for it—but don't expect a round on the house. I have a blog where I post stories if you're interested.

I love trying new recipes and entertaining friends along with my dad. I'm relatively new at lawn bowling but love the challenge of the game and the friendliness of our club. I'm happy to have found you—let's bowl.

## This Quarter's Club Events

Oct 27, **Club Clean-Up Day**, Organized by Ron Creager: Ron, Dick and Sharon Gibson, Bob and Carol Smith, Jordan Austin and Dave Jones all got together and worked cleaning and maintaining equipment until the club was standing tall once again.

Oct 28, **Men's Triples Tournament**, Six teams competed. Players were: Team #1 Amador Martinez-Warren Stanhope/Conrad Bilodeau-Floyd Richards, #2 Armand Escalante-Sal Mollo-JW Wilkes, #3 Jordan Austin-Denny Ryan-Mike Brown, #4 Dick Gibson-Ron Creager-Dave Jones, #5 Doug Dow-Bob Smith-Mike Basler, #6 Joe Brown-David Rankin-Tory Smith.

1st: Doug Dow, Bob Smith, Mike Basler

2nd: Amador Martinez, Conrad Bilodeau, Floyd Richards

3rd: Joe Brown, David Rankin, Tory Smith



Mike Basler, Doug Dow & Bob Smith

Oct 28, **Recognition for service**, Jordan Austin was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Lawn Bowling Club for all the service he has given to the Club.

Oct 31, **Halloween Fun Day**, 26 Ghosts and Goblins showed up for our annual Halloween Bash. The day started off with our famous "Spider" which was won by Joe Brown. Next came a wonderful game where a tin can and yard stick is used to measure for points. This makes it easy for both teams to score points in each end. Prizes were given to the team scoring the most points. This was won by the team of Amador Martinez, Pauline Escalante and Edith Dowsing for a triples game while Bob Smith and Mike Basler won for the pairs game. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes for scariest-Jordan Austin, funniest-Mike Basler, and cutest-Marie Moore.



Mike Basler, Bob Smith, Pauline Escalante, Edith Dowsing and Amador Martinez

Dec 15, **Annual Christmas Party**,



Joe Brown and Raul Perez

Good to see Raul out after knee replacement surgery.

The club held its annual Christmas Party on December 15 at the Wedgewood Banquet Center in Ventura. Approximately 46 members, family and guests attended. Our thanks go to Joe and Gloria Brown for making the arrangements with the Banquet Center. They also arranged for Tom Weaver (one of our past members) to provide music and entertainment for the party. Dancing was also available and quite a few got up and strutted their stuff.

There was also a drawing for four cash door prizes. The winners were Barbara Parkhurst, Dina Bongiovanni, Bob Smith and Sharon Anderson.



Joe and Gloria Brown, Sunny Glessner and Floyd Richards

### Boys and their Toys



J.W Wilkes with his new toy.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles and a .....  
CAN-AM Spyder Trike Motorcycle ?

## 2012 Club Calendar

(Other events will be published as they become available. Not all Visitation dates are available at this time. Check the club website for last minute updates and changes.)

### Club Events (Members Only)

#### February

#### March

- Mar 3 Sat Mixed Novice Tournament
- Mar 19 Mon Hawaiian/Spring Fling Fun Day

#### April

- Apr 14 Sat Vet – Novice Tournament

#### May

- May 5 Sat Men's Novice Tournament
- May 14 Mon Women's Pairs Tournament
- May 28 Mon Memorial/Military Day Fun Event

#### June

- Jun 4 Mon Men's Pairs Tournament
- Jun 29 Fri Mixed Triples Tournament

#### July

- Jul 4 Wed Independence Day Fun Event
- Jul 16 Mon Men's Singles Tournament

#### August

- Aug 22 Wed Women's Singles Tournament

#### September

- Sep 28 Fri Mixed Pairs Tournament

#### October

- Oct 22 Mon Men's Triples Tournament
- Oct 31 Wed Halloween Fun Day

#### November

- Nov 16 Fri Cutthroat Tournament

#### December

- Annual Christmas Party (No date yet)

## Club Invitational's (Interclub Events)

#### February

- Feb 18 Sat Visitation, Oxnard at Holmby Park

#### March

- Mar 23 Fri Visitation, Santa Barbara & Friendly Valley at Oxnard

#### April

- Apr 1 Sun SWD Amador Martinez Triples Tournament
- Apr 4 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ Oxnard
- Apr 18 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ MacKenzie Park
- Apr 19 Thurs Visitation, Oxnard at Santa Barbara

#### May

- May 9 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ Oxnard
- May 23 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ MacKenzie Park

#### June

- June 6 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ Oxnard
- June 20 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ MacKenzie Park

#### July

- July 7 Sat SWD Ralph and Marie Ecton Memorial Triples Tournament
- July 11 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ Oxnard
- July 14 Sat Visitation, Holmby Park at Oxnard
- July 25 Wed Gold Coast League, Ox vs MP @ MacKenzie Park

#### August

#### September

#### October

#### November

#### December



## Super Shots Club

Club members on a super shot team in the past three months were: Emiko Jackson, Sunny Glessner, Armand Escalante, Barb Parkhurst, Dave Jones, Patty Berry, Sal Mollo, Janet Kessler, Rich Purcell, Vince Sepich, Warren Stanhope, J.W. Wilkes, Mike Newton, Jess Sportelli, Denny Ryan, Carol Smith, Doug Dow and Sherry Creager.

Members submitting a form to "USLBA Super Shots" should also add the team names on the bulletin board list.

## Caring Report

**Warren Stanhope** is getting better, hoping to go home soon. **Henry Richter** and **Raul Perez** are recovering well. **Anne Bates** now has back and arm pain. **Pat Mann** and **Bert Kessler** are stable.

by **Sharon Anderson**



## From the Editor

by **Bob Smith**

The newsletter will be published four times a year. I welcome articles and pictures from members. They can be sent to me at [Buenadia@roadrunner.com](mailto:Buenadia@roadrunner.com) or given to me at the club. The deadline to submit articles for winter is January 25, spring is April 23, summer is July 25 and fall is October 25. I welcome articles sooner if they are ready. If you have an article you would like to have published or a particular subject addressed just let me know. I am also interested in your input regarding items for the website. I can use any special pictures you have that you would like to see posted.

I would like to thank all those that contributed material for this newsletter. I can use all the help I can get.

## Oxnard-Joslyn Lawn Bowls Club

350 North " C " Street

Oxnard, California 93030

## YOUR CLUB NEWSLETTER

Website: <http://oxnardlbc.com>

