

Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club

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2190 Harlow Drive, Victoria, B.C., V8R 3J1

February 1, 2004

President - Barry Browning: 1st Vice President - Mickey Sendall: 2nd Vice President - Harnam Grewal: Past President - Linda Cowie: Secretary - Myrna Henley: Treasurer - David Jantzi: Games - John Cossom: Greens/Gardens - John Nadin: Buildings/Grounds - Stan Turner: House - Prim Wood: Publicity (Member at Large) - Gwynne Russell: Member at Large - Joan Firkins: Cleaning/Logistics(Member at Large) - Claude Campbell

Club website: www.bowlsoakbay.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, everyone.

This period feels very much like a lull before a storm as your new executive prepares to really dig in after January 1st. to make our 50th season a truly memorable one. We want to keep our anniversary before us throughout the coming season so keep alert to all announcements as they are made, and expect to be asked to help out on occasion. More activities mean more work but it will be worth it. We are receiving great cooperation so far from a lot of people as we always do, but "more hands make light work" remains true. Joan Firkins is still receiving orders for the new style club shirts and vests. They will be acceptable wear at all club draws and tournaments in lieu of whites so that we are distinguishable from members of other clubs, and will, perhaps, help modernize our image.

Marion Woiblet is doing a great job of coordinating winter activities as well as short mat; Vern McBeth, again, is showing the way in darts organization; Joan Gowan has the bridge club up and running once more; Pam Potter is coordinating cribbage, and Mickey Sendall and a few like minded friends are starting a Mah Jong club. Phone any of them for details.

I should also note with gratitude, that Ray Troyer has agreed to take over from Fred McLeod as editor of the newsletter and from James Strickland as our Webmaster. This is Ray's first newsletter and I must pay tribute to Fred for all the ones that he edited over the past seven or eight years. Fred has done so much for the club that his tributes are becoming harder and harder to make fresh. James started the website and put it on firm foundations. To both of them I extend our very sincere thanks.

As you socialize through the next few months remember to "plug" the club and our game among your non-bowler friends. Open House is now not that far off and we will be anxious, as we always are, to bring new converts to join us. 2004 will be a very sociable season and it will be a wonderful opportunity for them.

On a personal note, Mary and I had a wonderful holiday in October and November with our eldest son and his family in Belgium and then visited my brother in Manchester on the occasion of a niece's wedding. We are, however, glad to be home and are looking forward to Christmas in our new house - once we find where we put everything as we unpacked! Then we look forward to April, coaching and the new season, determined this year to bowl as often as possible free of knee replacements and other distractions.

For now, have a happy holiday.

See you at the club!

Barry Browning

“MadHatter” Spring Fling Dinner at the CLUB on Thursday, Mar 11/04. Happy Hour at 4:30 and Dinner at 5:00PM.

Volunteers are needed for setup and cleanup. Tickets \$10.00 on sale Feb. 14/04

Prim Wood

Bowls Canada Boulingren (BCB) and Bowls British Columbia (BBC)

Your past executive tried, in 2003, to keep members abreast of concerns with respect to Bowls Canada and its relationship to its constituents, the bowlers of Canada. The concerns were focused by the then executive of Bowls BC, and, particularly, by Gordon Cowie and Bob Gardner (who was then president of BBC). They were:-

(a) Funds lost by bad investments for which no explanation was obtainable. Gordon's specific request for an explanation as to how some \$40,000 plus, of an investment portfolio of approximately \$65,000, was lost was refused. (b) Allegations of favoritism in selection of national team members that were never fully explored and were swept under the rug. (c) A disproportionate stress on services to "elite" bowlers while superficial attention is paid to the needs of the "ordinary" bowler. And (d) The fact that, while Ontario and BC have 83% of all registered bowlers in Canada, the voting structure at BCB meetings is such that any motion proposed by those two provinces can, and often is, defeated by the provinces representing the other 17%.

It is expected that BCB will announce a fee increase in January that will be effective in 2004. That increase was opposed by BC and Ontario at the BCB meeting in August but it nonetheless passed. At the same time we anticipate that BBC will seek a fee increase shortly.

In November Bowls BC held its annual meeting at which the present executive was, insofar as that was possible, replaced with a slate of people who are solidly behind the BCB stress on elite, competitive bowlers. I understand that they have stated a willingness to host the 2004 Nationals in BC whereas the previous executive had stated its unwillingness to do this without significant funding help from BCB, which was refused. It is estimated that hosting this event will cost BBC at least \$45,000.

Many of us wonder what the average bowler gets from our affiliation with these organizations. The Green magazine seems not to enjoy 'hot off the press' status among our members as few copies are taken when they are available. Few, if any of us will ever aspire to national team status nor even to be competitors in the Provincials. Coaching certification is one benefit but even that could be dispensed with in favor of local programs run more frequently and more cheaply. From discussions with local presidents through 2003 it appears that Bowls South Island would still survive and our regional tournaments remain available. I do not advocate withdrawal from these organizations at this time but it must remain a possibility unless they become receptive to other voices than those of those very few people who seek national recognition.

Watch this space.

BGB

Lawn bowls team may have new world record

An Australian lawn bowls team may have beaten the record for the longest game with a 57-hour marathon.

Six members of the Ballina bowling team from New South Wales played through the night, exchanging their usual crisp bowling whites for pajamas.

They have raised thousands of pounds in the process for a local cancer care unit.

The record hasn't yet been officially ratified yet, but [ABC News Online](#) says the effort appears to have broken the current world record of 52 hours held by the Drayton Bowls Club in south-east Queensland.

Story filed: 11:15 Monday 1st December 2003

OBLBC member Joan Firkins recently returned from a humanitarian mission to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where she participated in a Rotary-sponsored project to immunize children under the age of 5 with the polio vaccine. In conjunction with the World Health Organization, the U.S. Center for Disease Control, and UNICEF, Rotary International in 1985 made a promise to the children of the world that the polio virus would be eradicated from the world by Rotary's centenary year, 2005. Rotary is currently dealing with the last 2% of the world that has not been certified polio-free and the mission to Ethiopia was one of the many NID's (national immunization days) organized to tackle the remaining 2%.

'I left Victoria on October 5th, a week earlier than the group of 40, and spent two days in London and 4 days in Rome, along with two fellow Rotarians. Having never been to Europe before I was thoroughly taken by everything about London and Rome (except the smoking in restaurants and pubs!) and we had enough time to sightsee and do some big-time shopping, especially at Harrod's. The architecture in Rome was incredible, as was the history, and I enjoyed visiting the Coliseum and the Vatican, in particular. We joined up with our group of Rotarians from Vancouver Island and Western Washington on the plane in Rome and were then off on our journey to Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia had just ended the rainy season on September 30th so the land was lush and verdant, much different than what I had imagined. Traveling in from the airport it was clear we were going to see much poverty plus it was absolutely fascinating that we actually made it to the hotel – there are no lanes and all cars, taxis, cows and goats just forge ahead wherever there is space on the road. For the first three days we were wined and dined by Ethiopian Rotarians in their homes and in their two major hotels, the Hilton and the Sheraton. We were housed in the Hilton and we might as well have been in New York – a situation that made most of us feel somewhat hypocritical given what we were going to see and experience during our immunization days. Nevertheless, we were treated as guests in their country and it was their way of thanking us for what we were doing and for carrying on the Rotary mission.

I was sent out to the hinterland to a little village called Yirgalem and spent the next 3 days, along with two other Ethiopian members of my 'team', looking for every child under the age of 5 to be vaccinated. The vaccine is given to the children in the form of two drops, on the tongue, of the polio vaccine mixed with Vitamin A – I put stickers on the forehead of the children I immunized and also managed to give out 425 balloons on my rounds! To see the smile on the faces of the children when they received a balloon was beyond belief and needless to say they won my heart, over and over. The people of Ethiopia are incredibly beautiful, both inside and out, and I made a vow to myself that I would return to Ethiopia to carry out whatever humanitarian effort I can to ensure that at least some of them have a better chance at a good life. The AIDS orphanage that I visited needs so much help in the form of clothing that it becomes a mission in itself.'

I am in the process of putting together a power point presentation of my pictures from both Ethiopia and Kenya and would be happy to show the presentation to the club if people are interested.

Joan Firkins

AT LAST ! - a male blonde joke for all the blonde blokes out there...

There were two blonde guys working for the city council. One would dig a hole, the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked furiously all day without rest, one guy digging a hole, the other guy filling it in again. An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I appreciate the effort you are putting into your work, but what's the story? You dig a hole and your partner follows behind and fills it up again." The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, normally we are a three-man team, but the guy who plants the trees is sick today."

Games Team Report

It always seems odd to meet in October, November and December to plan the next year's lawn bowling season. But that's what has to be done on our part to be ready for play in the spring.

Planning is pretty much completed for the coming year. We are pleased to report that Shel Rowell and Fred Meleod have agreed to continue running the draws next year. This means that the very successful Thursday Special Draw and the Tuesday and Friday evening draws will take place, along with the daily afternoon draws. Because it is our Golden Anniversary, during the summer we will invite each club in the Bowls South Island region to bowl with us on a tea day, to enjoy a game and a little socializing over tea and goodies.

The holiday events of Victoria Day, Canada Day and Labor Day are scheduled. This year Victoria Day will be specially highlighted to recognize our fiftieth year. Stay tuned for that, plan to attend and have fun!

We have one less tournament to host in the coming year, since we have passed the BSI Heart Fours to the Sidney Club. Apart from this, the usual array of Club and four BSI tournaments will be held. We do not have the responsibility of Men's Holiday Week activities this year. Hopefully there will be less stress on our greens in the coming year, and they will have the opportunity to fully recuperate.

We have met with Fran McAdoo to discuss umpiring at our club tournaments for 2004. After consulting with our own club's five umpires (Congratulations Harnam Grewal on becoming accredited) Fran recommended that we continue to use umpires for our own club tournaments with the exception of the McEwen Pairs, Maddalon Scotch Pairs, the June Quaddie Mixed Tournament, and the Champ of Champs tournaments. Rules have been drawn up for players' responsibilities in a tournament where there is no umpire present.

Many thanks to all those members who have agreed to serve so willingly to manage tournaments, holiday and special events. It's always good to receive a positive request when one calls to ask for volunteer help. The Games Team and Draw Sub-Committee will be on the phone again just before the season opens looking for volunteers to staff the afternoon draws for a week throughout the season. We plan to complete a roster for the season. Please be prepared to assist with this important activity that helps your fellow members enjoy their lawn bowling to the fullest.

Season's Greetings to all of you from the Games Team.

John Cossom, Chair
Pat Metcalfe
Marion Woiblet.

Word Play

New Yorker magazine sponsors a contest each year in which contestants take a well-known expression in a foreign language, change a single letter, and provide a definition for the new expression. Here are some winners:

HARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?

Can you drive a French motorcycle?

VENI, VIPI, VICI

I came, I'm a very important person, I conquered

COGITO EGGO SUM

I think; therefore I waffle

RIGOR MORRIS

The cat is dead

FELIX NAVIDAD

Our cat has a boat

HASTE CUISINE

Fast French food