

Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club

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

Jan 20, 2007

President- Joan Firkins 1st Vice-President- Marilyn Turpin 2nd Vice-President- Gary Suter Secretary-David Roberts
Treasurer-Marion Andrews Games- Vic Badenhorst Greens-John Nadin Buildings- Gary Suter
Publicity-Barbara Floyd Member Services-Dolores Troyer Past President- Harnam Grewal
Club website: www.bowlsoakbay.ca

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Happy and Healthy New Year to each and every one of our 208 members!

One of the nicest features of our lawn bowling club is the fact that all year round our club is a hub of activity! Day in, day out there are members both working and playing at the club and this definitely is a factor in creating a sense of family ~ the Oak Bay Lawn Bowling club family. Even with our expansion project fully underway and all of us having to deal with the unseasonably cold/wet winter weather, on any given day there are members playing short mat, bridge, mah jong, crib and darts! This is great to see and after these winter months are over, and the Carnarvon House Expansion Project is complete at the end of April, our reward will be an enlarged Carnarvon House and a maintenance shed that most men would die for! All thanks to a combined effort of our Government and Municipal grants and the generosity of our own club members. Thank you all. If you have not had a chance to contribute to the Expansion Project please don't hesitate to contact the Fundraising Chair Barry Browning or myself ~ we are both quite skilled in accepting donations!

In this age of improved communication using email, I would like to ensure that we have as many members on the email list as possible. If your email address is **not** listed in the club's current 2006-2007 Telephone Book it would be appreciated if you would forward your information to executive member Dolores Troyer at dolores.troyer@telus.net . Email allows us to keep our membership both well informed and well informed in a timely manner!

Thanks to the organizational skills of Eric Ballinger our SMILE card program is underway and we have received our first cheque for the month of November, with December to come shortly. You are using the cards! Please be sure to check out the thermometer on our website (www.bowlsoakbay.ca) to see how we are inching towards our maximum of \$2500! Well done everyone!

I am looking forward to our Chinese dinner social event on February 15th and hope you will all be there to renew friendships and acquaintances. Be sure and read Barry Browning's article in this Newsletter for information on obtaining tickets. It will be a fun evening with good food and will get us all in the frame of mind to start thinking about our upcoming bowling season!

Finally, I would like to thank all the members who continue to volunteer tirelessly to ensure the operation of the club continues for all to enjoy. This has been a different winter for sure in the sense of the Expansion Project and the CHEP committee is working hard on your behalf to attend to all details. The Executive Committee also meets regularly throughout the winter to attend to club administration. My personal thanks to all ~ you know who you are.

Until next time...best regards,

Joan

It's Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final, and a man makes his way to his seat right at center ice. He sits down, Noticing that the seat next to him is empty, he leans over and asks his neighbor if someone will be sitting there.

" No," says the neighbor. "The seat is empty."

"This is incredible", said the man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the final game of the Stanley Cup playoffs and not use it?" The neighbor says, "Well, actually, the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first Stanley Cup we haven't been to together since we got married in 1967." "Oh ... I'm sorry to hear that. That's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else, a friend or relative, or even a neighbor to take the seat?"

The man shakes his head, "No. They're all at the funeral."

A new feature about our members entitled DID YOU KNOW?

Match the name with the person being described i.e. 3B etc. – answers on last page of Newsletter!

1. This member once lived in Kuala Lumpur and while there fostered a black bear cub that had been found crying near its dead mother in the jungle.
2. This member's first date with her future husband was at the infamous Okalla Provincial Prison.
3. This member joined the British Army Royal Engineers in 1938, was at Dunkirk and then spent 5 years in Burma.
4. A member of the first Victoria Ladies Basketball team to bring the Canadian National Championship to Victoria.
5. This member is a passionate "yogini" and is soon to become a Hatha yoga instructor.
6. This member has appeared in 3 musicals with the Victoria Operatic Society – Showboat, Zorba and Sweet Charity!
7. This member went to elementary school in Victoria with our current Club President.
8. A quote attributed to this member: "I wish we had done it earlier, as the maintenance was taking up too much time".
9. This member has flown round-trip from Victoria to London, England on a weekend to watch a soccer game. Not once.....but twice!
10. This member hails from Welsh Wales and ran her own travel agency in downtown Vancouver for 20 years.

- A. Ted Todd
- B. Pat Thomas
- C. Sheila Cahill
- D. Jeanne Scarrow
- E. Linda Carswell-Bland
- F. Shel Rowell
- G. Marion Andrews
- H. John Cossom
- I. Marilyn Turpin
- J. Sheridan Elston

Annual Winter Dinner

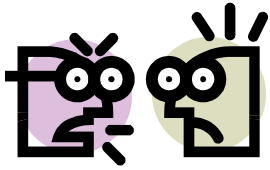
It is time for our Annual Winter Dinner. It will take place Thursday February 15th at the Golden City Chinese Restaurant, 721 Fisgard Street. There will be pay parking at "The Bay" Parkade. Gather at 6:00 PM for "No Host" Refreshments. Dinner will be at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 and will be available at Anderson House between 1 – 3 February 5th and 7th. The restaurant will need numbers by February 10th.

Phone: Barry @ 592-3338

Prim @ 477-1974

It will be good to see you all again!

Prim Wood



What do you mean I should become a volunteer?

What is a volunteer? A volunteer is “a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service”. The new outdoor bowling season will be here before we know it. If we’re to continue to prosper and remain a great place to enjoy lawn bowling, our other winter activities and our great and famous “dinners” then we need YOU to VOLUNTEER – to step forward and to do your share. You know the famous line – many hands make light work!

As you were advised at the AGM this past October this club will be hosting the Provincial Mixed Pairs Championship this coming July. Past President Harnam indicated that in accepting this request to hold the Championship it would require a good deal of work by many members to successfully run the event. I am told that when asked for a show of hands to indicate a willingness to take on the task, a sea of arms immediately went up everywhere. This is the kind of “can do” attitude that is what is required either for a special event or for the normal operation of your club. Whatever task you volunteer for, large or small, you help to nurture the engaging spirit of the Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club!

Do you care enough about your club to assist where and when you can? Of course you do! You need only to look around to see the results of the collective effort of the many people who have given unselfishly of their time, talent and energy. We need this spirit to continue.....when you receive your application for membership renewal in the mail later this spring, please give careful consideration to what volunteer activities you will check off. All we are asking is for everyone to participate where and when they can which will then spread the workload around. Better yet.....step up to the plate *before* you are asked!

Best regards, Joan, President of “the friendly club”

Carnarvon House Expansion Project

Slow but steady – that about sums up the progress that’s been made on the Carnarvon House Expansion Project since it started on November 14, 2006. A ground-breaking ceremony, officiated by the Honourable Ida Chong and Mayor Christopher Causton, was held ten days later in cold but sunny weather, on November 24, and was attended by over fifty members. Work on the project has been slowed by the snow and wind storms we have had (the first snow storm in fact hitting Victoria the day following the ground-breaking), and by the Christmas and New Year breaks. The new equipment shed, first part of the project to be tackled, is however now nearing completion, and when it is finished towards the end of January, the Greens machinery and other pieces of equipment will be transferred to it from their existing storage sheds so that these may be demolished to make way for the expansion of Carnarvon House.

Carnarvon itself has now been partitioned off internally to allow for winter activities (darts, bridge, cribbage and mah jongg) to continue while the extension work on the western half of the building is in progress. Two of the dart boards were affected by the partitioning but these have been relocated by Jon Magwood to the partition wall itself. As usual, Jon has done an impeccable job, and those members who enjoy playing darts and who attend regularly are indebted to him for doing this.

Although construction work has experienced some slippage, the contractor is expected to pick up the pace over the coming weeks, assuming always that the weather is going to be kinder than it has been for the last month or so. But it remains to be seen whether the project will be completed by the end of March as scheduled.

Harnam Grewal
Chair, P & D Committee

Linda Cowie Wins Big in USLBA Open

Did you know that OBLBC's own Linda Cowie helped put Victoria on the map in November with some impressive wins at the United States Lawn Bowls Association's National Open in Sarasota, Florida? In women's Pairs, our Linda Cowie and Beverly Johnson of Vic West Lawn Bowling Club took first place in the Championship Flight.

Linda and Bev teamed up with two other Victorians, Ann Mathie and Jeanette Earl, from the Juan de Fuca Club, to win the Women's Fours Second Flight. In Women's Singles, Bev Johnson came in third in the Championship Flight and Linda Cowie was first in Third Flight.

Beverly Johnson was named Women's Bowler of the Tournament for her first in pairs, third in singles and first in second flight fours. Victoria also had competitors in the men's events in this tournament, which drew over 40 percent of the 273 entrants from outside the United States, including 70 from Canada.

Linda, we're proud of you. Thanks for representing the OBLBC as well down south as you do here at home!

Barbara Floyd
Publicity Chair

WINTER ACTIVITIES

"The second session of all the Winter activities is proceeding as usual in spite of the work being done on the Carnarvon House expansion. An excellent partition has been erected across the room, which should keep out much of the cold and noise. It is, therefore, anticipated that all activities will continue as scheduled"

All events except Short Mat start at 1.00 p.m., on the following days:

Darts	Sundays and Wednesdays
Bridge	Mondays
Mah Jong	Tuesdays
Cribbage	Saturdays

Short Mat will continue in Anderson House. A very successful meeting was held and schedules were drawn up for the second session which is now well underway. There are Fifteen Pairs teams and Eight Singles Players participating. At that meeting monetary prizes were awarded to the First Session winners in both the Pairs and Singles events. These went to:

Pairs: First: Joan Firkins and Harnam Grewal;
Second: Henriette and Eric Ballinger;
Third: Vic and Lois Badenhorst.

Singles: First: Harnam Grewal,
Second: Joe Rossi;
Third: Marilyn Turpin.

Congratulations to you all.

Marion Woiblet
Winter Activities Co-Ordinator

bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right

off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?)

The Fund

I write this on January 9th and yesterday I banked our first income from Thrifty's Smile Card scheme - \$408.43. This represented all our purchases made on our members' Smile cards through the month of November. Since we did not receive the cards until the first few days of November and it took us a while to become used to them, I confidently expect that our December payment will be between \$500 and \$600 but will not be surprised if it should be more. If you haven't used the card sent to you and you shop at Thrifty's you are missing a chance to benefit the club at no charge to you. In fact, I have found that I also benefit personally as I fill the Smile card with my anticipated monthly food budget via my Visa card. As my Visa is a dividend card I get a rebate of 1% on that amount, but were I collecting Aeroplan points then those would be my benefit. I realise that I could use my Visa directly but, in the past, have only used it for substantial expenses. Now I pay even small grocery bills with the Smile card as the cashiers like the speed of it. It is a hugely efficient and convenient system at Thrifty's end and Eric Ballinger deserves lots of credit for his interest in and handling of it on behalf of the club. Thanks Eric, and thanks to each of you who have used your card.

With yesterday's deposit our collected fund from all sources reached \$28,944.46 and we have pledges for an additional \$1000. On that basis we have exceeded our target but, as everyone knows, that target was set before the reality of our costs became clear. So, the fund remains open and every little bit of help will still be appreciated.

My highlights of the fund raising activities to date:-

- a) The fantastic response of members to the appeal for contributions.
- b) The organisational help of members so willingly given.
- c) The very successful garage sale.
- d) Lawrie Matheson's sale of art cards for the benefit of the fund.
- e) Keith Floyd's gift of several copies of his book which were sold to benefit the fund.
- f) The incredible contribution of the Magwoods and their catering staff.
- g) And, of course, the dinner and silent auction. When Joan said we had made \$5,000 I was mind boggled, but the final figure was even higher, at \$5,254.

What a wonderful result!

Barry Browning

CLUB VESTS AND GOLF SHIRTS FOR SALE

We currently have an inventory of club vests and shirts for purchase ~ why not get yours before the season starts?

Vests (unisex) - \$45

3 Small

3 Medium

Shirts - \$35

Ladies: 3 Medium; 1 Small

Men: 2 Medium; 2 Large

Vests and shirts include the club logo designed by Arlene Davey.

The vests are North End Fleece zippered vests and are very comfortable both for playing and for casual wear.

Golf shirts are made by Ash City, are good quality and they look great on everyone!

Please call Joan Firkins at 477-7554 if you would like to purchase one!

Bio of the President

A native British Columbian born in Vancouver B.C., Joan has been a resident of Victoria since 1978 when transferred by her employer, Bank of Montreal, to become Manager of the branch at Shelbourne and Pear Streets. Joan joined the Bank of Montreal in 1961 and worked her entire 40-year career with the Bank, retiring in August 2001.

A graduate of St. Margaret's School in Victoria, Joan returned to the school in the early 80's as a member of the Board of Governor's ~ she subsequently went on to become the Finance Chair and the Vice-President of the Board of Governors before leaving the Board in 1991. Joan was invited to join the Rotary Club of Oak Bay in March of 1992; four years after women were accepted into Rotary. She went on to become it's President in 1996-97, an Assistant District Governor from 1999-2002 and in 2005-06 became the first woman District Governor in District 5020 ~ the fifth largest Rotary District in the Rotary world, spanning the tip of Vancouver island to the Washington-Oregon border, and serving 87 clubs and 5200 members.

Rotary has become an integral part of Joan's life and has offered opportunities to serve others that have been endless. She has held many positions in Rotary to date and has been instrumental in securing the visit of two Rotary International Presidents to Victoria for significant events. Joan has twice received the Rotary Foundation District Service Award and has also received the Four Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians. She has attended 6 Rotary International Conventions, most recently to Malmo, Sweden, and has made 3 visits to Africa on behalf of Rotary, two which were to Ethiopia to assist in administering the polio vaccine to children under the age of 5 and once to scope out a school project in South Africa. She came home with a project for her District and the District raised \$47,000 to put water and electricity into an elementary school in Lillydale B, South Africa ~ a school of 667 children who had no water, no electricity and virtually no teaching aids.

Joan was previously a Board member of Crimestoppers for 2 years and is currently a Rotary Immediate Past Governor, a Director of the African Pre-Schools Society and President of the Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club. In 2006, Joan was one of 41 women nominated in Victoria for a Women of Distinction Award.

Joan was introduced to lawn bowling in 2002 and she has been addicted to the sport ever since. Many years of competitive curling made lawn bowling somewhat a natural transition as well as bringing a keen eye from her years of competitive softball. Joan played and represented Canada from 1972-1978 on the Canadian Women's Softball Team and participated in the 1974 World Championships in Stratford, Connecticut. She was the member of a team that traveled extensively playing softball in Canada, the United States, Japan, the Philippines and Australia. She is a member of the Vancouver Softball Sports Hall of Fame and you will find her name in Canada's Softball Hall of Fame in Hull, Que.

Joan and her partner of 29 years, Donna Blackstock, are both committed to service work and to hands-on work in the community. Donna is a high school teacher and Athletic Director at Victoria High School, is active in physical fitness and is an outstanding role model for her students. As a final matter of interest, you will find **both** Joan and Donna's name in Canada's Softball Hall of Fame.

Here are the answers:

1C; 2I; 3A; 4G; 5D; 6E; 7J; 8F; 9H; 10B

Any Submissions or Corrections [mailto: ray.troyer@telus.net](mailto:ray.troyer@telus.net)