

# Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club

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**President**-John Cossom, **1st Vice-President**-Linda Carswell-Bland, **2nd Vice-President**-Pat Thomas, **Secretary**-David Roberts, **Treasurer**-Marion Andrews, **Assistant Treasurer**-Joan Firkins, **Games**-Helen Kempster, **Greens**-John Nadin, **House**-Kay Alexander, **Member without portfolio**-Louise Mason, **Player Development** -Harnam Grewal, **Publicity**- Shelley Sidel, **Member Services**-Margaret Machan, **Past President**-Gary Suter.

**Club website:** [www.bowlsoakbay.ca](http://www.bowlsoakbay.ca)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Finally the new season is upon us. We begin with the Semi-Annual General Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday April 10. The next day, Sunday April 11, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. is our annual Open House. Please invite your friends, neighbours and acquaintances to attend. Also we hope you will attend both and do your bit to support the club's activities at the season's commencement.

The official kick(bowl) - off to the season will be on Opening Day on Saturday April 24 at 1:30 p.m. Please have your tags in by 1:15 p.m. Of course our coaches and their assistants will have begun before this training new novice members.

The greens keeping teams have already started their weekly rotation of maintenance in preparation for the new season. Both Anderson and Carnarvon House will be given a thorough spring-cleaning this year including carpet shampooing, after Open House.

The Executive approved and our buildings manager Jon Magwood has arranged for all the electric baseboard heaters in the main section of Anderson House to be hooked up to a new wall-mounted thermostat. This thermostat will be programmed so that the temperature can be both automatically and manually controlled, avoiding the necessity to manually turn up and down each baseboard heater before and after use of this building. We hope this will save us hydro charges in the long run, and help those of us who forget to turn them down before leaving!

Welcome to the 2010 lawn bowling season. As usual there will be lots of varied activities from which you can choose, according to your interests. Best wishes for good bowling, and great companionship and socializing on and off the greens.

John Cossom.

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was there, waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his bike. The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?"

The surgeon a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take valves out, fix 'em, put 'em back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get such a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic..."Try doing it with the engine running."

## Sign Up on the Draw Calendar!

Jon Magwood has once again posted the season's calendar for daily afternoon draws in Anderson House. Please sign up for at least a week's service handling the draw. If you have no experience with this, why not find someone experienced and learn with them for a week before tackling it on your own? There is a very detailed and complete manual on the draw desk that tells you how to run the draw, step by step. (It's not rocket science!)

Remember that the weekly Thursday Special Draws are handled by assigned coordinators for this event, as are the Tuesday and Friday evening draws.

It is important that the calendar is filled in, especially for the first few weeks of the season, so that we can get off to a smooth start. Thank you for volunteering.

## Appreciation to some of our volunteers (in reverse alphabetical order just for a change!):

**Ray Troyer** – who continues to edit and publish the Newsletter and manage our web site.

**Shelley and Jaymee Sidel** for decorating a section of Carnarvon House to make viewing of the Winter Olympics more enjoyable. Also a special note of gratitude to Shelley for creatively organizing two 50-50 Olympics competitions, and for serving refreshments and hosting members who wanted to watch additional events during the games.

**Mary Lou Richards** – for assuming the role of coordinator for the Thrifty's Smile card programme; and for agreeing to become the Short Mat coordinator for 2010-11, taking over from Keith Walker who has served us so well this year.

**Keith Morris** – for using his creative computer skills in short mat scheduling and setting up results sheets for our three leagues.

**Michael Lum** – for taking over the responsibilities of getting our garbage totes and blue box out every two weeks now that Rod Richmond has been forced to "retire" from this role.

**Harnam Grewal** – for using his skills to write interesting mini biographies of some of our members for our Newsletter, so that we can all learn a little bit more about some of our colleagues and their accomplishments.

**Gary Anderson** - for doing such a fine job of preparing and arranging printing of the 2010 Members' Information Booklet. (Pick yours up at the Semi-annual GM)

**Kay Alexander, Anne Beatty, Joyce Chalmers, Linda Cowie, Shelley Sidel, Margaret Taylor and Pat Thomas** all of whom contributed to make the Olympics Closing Ceremonies informal dinner such a pleasant event.

**Bob Akins** – our Games Equipment Manager, who over the winter built some new boxes for club bowls used by novices, visitors and school classes.

## Member Services

The club ended the 2009-2010 season with 215 members. Our new membership year begins April 1st, 2010. Please get your membership in as soon as possible. Gary Anderson has the Members Information Booklet ready for the Semi Annual General Meeting. Jeff Machan will produce the new Telephone Book, which will be ready by the end of April. Jennifer Letkeman will again look after the Tags, Lockers and Keys and Gayle Wallach will look after Stores.

Thanks to Convener Shelley Sidel and the individual Winter Activity co-ordinators for a job well done! Remember to tell all your friends about the Open House April 11th and bring your friends and family to the Friday Night Draw.

Margaret Machan

## GAMES 2010

Welcome to another year of bowling at Oak Bay. First I would like to introduce your Games Committee for 2010: Louise Mason, Women's Chair and Art Antrobus, Men's Chair as well as myself as Games Chair. In other words, the buck stops with me. Check the notice boards in Anderson House for information on club tournaments and those sponsored through Bowls South Island (BSI). Sign-up sheets for tournaments are normally posted 4/5 weeks before the event so keep an eye. We feel you will find a good mix of social, competitive-social, and competitive bowling that will keep bowlers busy regardless of level of play and interest. Your comments are important to us and we are always open to suggestions as to how we can improve Games at the club. So get in touch if you have any ideas to bring forward.

And I know this sounds like a very familiar refrain but we always need volunteers to keep the games going during our busy season. As a start, how about signing up for daily draw duties. The calendar has lots of empty spaces waiting for your name. If you haven't done it before there are instructions in the clubhouse on how to set up a draw and there is ALWAYS someone who knows the ropes and will help you out. If you can't do a whole week then simply sign up for the days that you are available. Thanks to those who have volunteered as managers for our tournaments this year but we still need more help so contact a member of the committee to discuss your role in this important task. Come forward and learn more about running tournaments. You will find it a rewarding and interesting way to contribute to the club and to your own enjoyment of the game.

See you on the greens and good bowling in 2010.

Helen Kempster, Games Chair.

## MAH JONG

Mah Jong continues to be enjoyed by up to a dozen players every Tuesday afternoon.

This season, we welcomed Shelley Sidel to the fold and hope to encourage others to join us for a fun afternoon, next winter.

Marion Woiblet, Coordinator.

An professor of the English language wrote the words: "**A woman without her man is nothing**" on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All the males in the class wrote: "**A woman, without her man, is nothing**"

All the females in the class wrote: "**A woman: without her, man is nothing**"

Punctuation is powerful

A man was walking on the beach one day and he found a bottle half buried in the sand. He decided to open it. Inside was a genie. The genie said, "I will grant you three wishes and three wishes only."

The man thought about his first wish and decided, "I think I want 1 million dollars transferred to a Swiss bank account. POOF!

Next he wished for a Ferrari red in color. POOF! There was the car sitting in front of him.

He asked for his final wish, "I wish I was irresistible to women."

POOF! He turned into a box of chocolates.

## SHORT MAT REPORT

### 1. Sidney Triples

Congratulations to our players who won this competition in the fall 2009 Session.

### 2. Winter 2010 Session – January 18th - March 28th

- i) Mary Lou Richards organized a very successful non-competitive Triples programme.
- ii) Competitive Divisions were held in Singles, A Pairs and B Pairs, as in the fall session. Lower enrolment necessitated a double round robin in the B Pairs in order to provide a reasonable number of games for most players, and to make fuller use of our mat.
- iii) Keith Morris' Master Schedule saves us an enormous amount of time and frustration. Unfortunately, it cannot (yet) prevent busy players having a string of matches on consecutive days.
- iv) Keith's improvements in the visual appearance of the Master Schedule, and Mary Lou's clever use of self-stick labels to cover up changes have been very well received.
- v) Jim Brown kindly made a smaller version of his bowls rake, which many players found easier to use than the original model.

### 3. Scoring in Singles Matches

- i) This was in accordance with the WBB rules on a trial basis.
- ii) A vote will shortly be taken as to its popularity via a questionnaire on April 10th, 2010, which will be binding on the next Fall Session.

### 4. Results of Divisional Play

Division C – Singles

Winner Harnam Grewal 28 points

Runner-up Linda Cowie 26 points

Division B – Pairs

Winners Joan & Alan Hall 28 points

Runners-up Donald Robinson & Betty Emery 16 points

Division A – Pairs

Winners Lawrie Matheson & John Cossom 16 points

Runners Up Michael Lum & Linda Cowie 14 Points

### 5. Miscellaneous

- i) Keith Morris worked his usual wonders in producing the Master Schedule. At present it is unable to prevent players having matches on several successive days. He will consider if it is possible to add this feature for next year.
- ii) Lower signups necessitated a double round robin in the B-Pairs to reach a reasonable frequency of matches for those in that Division, and to increase the use of the mat.
- iii) Health casualties, and other personal events, meant many matches could not be rescheduled conveniently and the points had to be forfeited by the pair in difficulty. I am grateful for the cooperative way in which the local rule was observed.

### 6. Thanks

I wish to acknowledge the tremendous help I have received from members of the Club.

Keith Walker

### CONTRACT BRIDGE

Monday Afternoon Bridge:

A social gathering that saw an average of five tables – (that is twenty members for those who don't know our wonderful game).

We had two occasions – Christmas and Easter when we enjoyed a tea break with donated refreshments.

Thanks to the players for their support and friendship. Bridge will continue each Monday ending for the season on April 26/10.

Prim Wood, Co-ordinator

## HOUSE

64 members attended the Winter Olympics Closing Ceremonies informal dinner. Our appreciation goes to Anne Beatty, Joyce Chalmers, Linda Cowie, Shelley Sidel, Margaret Taylor and Pat Thomas for their contributions. For those who enjoyed Anne's bean dish, and asked for the recipe, it is listed below.

Our next club dinner will be on Monday, May 24th, Victoria Day. No tickets will be issued, but booking and payments should be made with Joan Roberts (220-3845) or Kay Alexander (598-4040). The menu will be pasta, sauce, garlic toast, salad, dessert, tea and coffee, for \$12.00.

Faith Magwood and Joan Roberts start as our kitchen convenors in April. Glenna Drummond, Susan Lum and Maureen Whetstone follow them in May. Please sign up to volunteer in housekeeping or the kitchen. It is lots of fun! See you in the kitchen!

Thanks go to Lois Badenhorst who continues in the role of housekeeping coordinator. You will notice that both buildings have had a major spring-cleaning and carpet cleaning. Shelley Sidel did the planning and coordination for this work. Well done Shelley. This will lessen the amount of heavy cleaning required of volunteers during the year, and keeps our buildings up to acceptable health standards.

### *Hot Bean Casserole.*

Must be made ahead. A very easy recipe, which can be doubled or tripled, and frozen.

1 large onion chopped      1 clove garlic    1/2 lb. bacon

Saute bacon, remove from pan. Saute onion and garlic in bacon drippings

Chop bacon for topping casserole.

Mix together in a large bowl:

2 packages lima beans cooked

1 can baked beans in tomato sauce

1 can kidney beans drained

1 can black beans drained

1 chopped green pepper

Stir in:

Onion and garlic

1/2 cup catsup

1/4 cup water

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar

1 tablespoon brown sugar

1 teaspoon dry mustard or a squirt of golden mustard

Salt and pepper

Pour into 2-quart casserole and top with bacon pieces.

Bake at 300 degrees F for 30 minutes.

Kay Alexander

Some of you may have noticed that an Oak Bay municipal plumber has been busy around our club lately. It all started when a leak sprung in one of the supply lines to the west green sprinkler system. Murray and Howard found that the break was under the concrete walk by Carnarvon House. Allan, the municipal plumber, was consulted and agreed to give us advice and assistance. A municipal crew removed the concrete walk section with a jackhammer. Allan replaced the broken section of plastic pipe and a damaged section next to it

Allan then began modifications required to bring our domestic plumbing and sprinkler systems up to code. The water supply to the workshop was disconnected from the irrigation system and now draws its water from the domestic line in Anderson House. A back-flow preventer system had to be installed in underneath Anderson House, and back-flow preventers have been installed on all outside taps.

Also completed is the separation of the water supply to the east gardens from the Anderson House water line. This new garden irrigation water now comes from a new line that has been laid in the east green's south ditch, connected to the main irrigation water system. The municipality installed a back flow preventer on our irrigation System several years ago. So now, thanks to Oak Bay and their plumber Allan, our plumbing system is much more efficient and up to code.

Howard Turpin.

## Claude Campbell: Modern-day Marco Polo?



Bitten by the adventure and travel bug and harbouring not a little curiosity, Claude Campbell has been something of a wanderer since his childhood. He has traveled extensively within Canada, the United States and Mexico. And if not quite following in the footsteps of Marco Polo, Claude has explored and stayed in different parts of China and Mongolia, returning home eventually via the Gobi Desert on the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Claude was born on a small farm in 1927 on Prince Edward Island, the youngest of eight siblings. His early education to Grade 10, was conducted in a one-room school. He completed his high schooling in Charlottetown, and went on to do his Bachelor's at Mount Allison University in the "picture-perfect" town of Sackville, New Brunswick. He majored in History and English there, and then obtained a Master's degree in School Administration at the University of British Columbia.

Seeking adventure, Claude made his way to Dawson City in the Yukon in 1952 to take up a high school teaching post. On arrival, he was informed that he would be the Principal, apparently because he was going to be the only male on the teaching staff! Not only did he get an instant promotion in his very first job, but he also struck 'gold' when he met his wife-to-be there. They are the proud parents of three children and have five grandchildren.

After spending two years in Dawson City, Claude and his wife moved south to Whitehorse where he served as Principal of a Grades 1 - 12 school with 1,000 students. In 1957 the couple moved still further south to Vancouver. Claude taught school there and also in Victoria, but eventually he gravitated to the administration side, ending his career as Superintendent in Saanich District. He retired in 1987.

The travel bug was, however, still gnawing at him. Claude went to the UK to qualify himself as a teacher of English as a Second Language, the course taking three years to complete.

The next stop on his journey thereafter was China. Claude had secured a job to teach English at a place called Nanchang. Just before he completed his assignment, the Chinese Government brought tanks into Tianamen Square to put down the student uprising. It's still not known exactly how many were killed. Although not directly affected by the turmoil that was prevalent in the more heavily populated parts of the country at the time, Claude was advised to leave. He managed to contact the Canadian Embassy, and was able to make his way back home via Hong Kong with his family. He had only managed to whet his appetite on that first visit, and so decided to return to China the following year. This time he served as a United Nations volunteer on a three-month assignment at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing, a prestigious and highly sought-after post-graduate establishment where the students were all graduates from other universities in the country and from abroad. Claude and his family lived on the campus in accommodation set aside for foreign staff and students.

On their departure from Beijing, Claude and his family traveled by train through north-western China, through Inner Mongolia into Russia. They embarked on the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow, but stopped off in Mongolia to spend some time there, living in yurts and indulging in horseback riding in the Gobi Desert, an experience that Claude remembers with relish. They had a week in Moscow before returning home to Victoria.

Claude and his wife now travel south to Mexico in the winter to do volunteer work. They have been doing this for seven years. Claude took Spanish lessons in the morning and taught English in the evening. He and his wife have also arranged home exchanges with families in South Africa, Portugal and London.

Claude joined OBLBC in 1999, and was coached by Barry Browning. He has enjoyed his bowling here, and intends to continue for as long as he is able to. This winter, he spent a month in Santa Barbara playing lawn bowls, and met up with Ruth and Gary Suter who are regular visitors there.

Harnam Grewal

Any Submissions or corrections <mailto:ray.troyer@telus.net>