

Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club

Volume XV Issue 12

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

Sep. 1, 2010

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

Club website: www.bowlsoakbay.ca

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This issue I'd like to update you on a few club developments. Over the summer First Vice-President Linda Carswell-Bland and I had three meetings with Oak Bay municipal officials – all stemming from Council's decision over two successive years not to contribute to the cost of re-roofing Anderson House. We met first with Mayor Causton on May 26. He suggested that we meet with Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, Monty Holding, and Councillor Hazel Braithwaite, who acts as liaison to this Commission. So we attended meetings on June 21 and July 20, chaired by the Mayor.

This gave us a good opportunity to talk about our club, its history, how it is run, what it offers the community and our members, and to have fruitful discussions about our relationship with the Municipality of Oak Bay. After several hours of discussion we all agreed that our license (lease) with Oak Bay, which expires on December 31, 2010, should be extended for a period longer than the five years as has been the custom up to now. The Municipal Administrator is preparing the new license. Interestingly, when the lease duration is changed for municipal property, the municipality must advertise its intentions and give residents an opportunity to comment or raise questions if they wish. I don't expect there will be any objections to this from our neighbours or other residents.

Some councillors have been concerned that we are a "single use facility" and unlike most recreation groups, have "exclusive" use of our grounds and buildings. They believe that there is a shortage of affordable meeting space in Oak Bay for community and recreational groups. We pointed out that our license explicitly prohibits us from leasing our property to any other group, and that both our buildings are in very regular use throughout the year. The new license will allow us to lease our buildings. However, our Executive will have the power to decide to whom we rent, with what frequency and at what cost. Naturally, we are concerned that we have control over access and egress to our buildings, as we do not want to share our building keys or entry codes around the community. This presents a bit of a challenge since we have no staff to let visiting groups in and out of our buildings. I'll report further on these matters at our AGM, and you'll have a chance to raise questions and comment on this and other matters.

The Mayor would like us to re-apply next year for financial support for our re-roofing. We had the roof condition appraised by an expert who has recommended we proceed as soon as possible to have it re-shingled with a new plywood base. The plan was to do this in the past year but we took the chance and put it off. We should not delay any longer. We have had estimates on the work and it will probably cost us about \$10,000. At the AGM we will present a motion to approve the funding for the work to be done in late fall 2010. Our \$2500 Smile card allotment must be spent on the roofing project. (Well done and thank you Smile Carders, we are almost half way to our target already!)

This has been our summer of appliance repair and replacement! First, the small water heater located in the Anderson House that supplies hot water to both bathrooms there, sprang a leak and had to be replaced. Then our "Refreshment Counter" refrigerator came to the end of its effective life (40 years?) and has ceased to properly

cool our drinks. So we have invested in a new one. Next, our dishwasher needed a check-up, and has been serviced. I trust we are now in good shape as far as our in-house equipment is concerned.

Perhaps the biggest immediate challenge facing us is the impending “retirement” of our volunteer head greens keepers and our Greens and Grounds Chairperson on the Executive. Together Howard Turpin, Murray Robertson and John Nadin have served our club for 26 years in these three positions – a truly remarkable record of service and devotion to OBLBC. The challenge is that at the moment we have no potential successor(s) to Howard and Murray. The Nominating Committee (Gary Suter, George Davey, Barbara Floyd) will be finding a replacement for John Nadin on the Executive. Now we begin an intensive search for some person(s) out there willing to consider taking on the critical volunteer head greens keeper(s) role.

It is essential to understand that there are a variety of extensive supports available for anyone moving into this volunteer position. First, Howard, Murray and John are only too happy to take on the role of mentors. In the past all our greens keepers have learned from the “ground up” with the help of their predecessors. There is a Greens Calendar which outlines what is to be done and when, on our greens. Also a “Greens Logbook” has been kept since 2004, which gives further information about care of our greens. Lloyd Woods is Bowls Canada’s official head greens keeper and consultant. For the past two years he has been very generous to us with his time and wisdom by phone and e-mail from Ottawa. We also have access to his book, considered the “Bible” on Canadian lawn bowls greens keeping. We have six excellent teams of experienced cutters. Also Howard and Murray have started to train the Greens Team Leaders who are interested in learning the basics of machine preparation and regular maintenance done after each cut. So the work is by no means one that you will carry alone.

If you have any interest in serving your club in this capacity please call Howard, Murray or John Nadin - “Free estimates given - no obligation.” They will be glad to discuss their roles and planned support with you.

Sorry to be so long-winded this time around. I hope you enjoy the remainder of the season. So often we get a wonderful Indian Summer in September (not right now as I write though!) Cheers and good bowling.

John Cossom

Recognizing Our Volunteers (in alphabetical order):

This issue let’s recognize all the members of our club who are on rotating teams to clean Anderson and Carnarvon Houses each week:

Garry Anderson; Sandy Armitage; Dorothy Bissell; Mary Browning; Sandy Coupe; Wendy Barry; Claude Campbell; Linda Cowie; Barbara Floyd; Jennifer Letkeman; Fay Nath; Joan Roberts (on recovery leave!); Rose Redding; Bev Regan; Joe Rossi; Cheryl Stinson; Ronnie Stinson; Ruth Suter; Pat Thomas; Marilyn Turpin; Maureen Whetstone; Prim Wood; and the alternates – George Davey; Dorothy Dixon; Joan Firkins; Marg Machan; and Georgia Thorneycroft. And of course our cleaning teams coordinator Lois Badenhorst.

Many thanks to you all for your important work in keeping our buildings clean and tidy.

(If you know of a volunteer who should be recognized, please let us know.)

Thank you Vern McBeth for donating Lois’ lovely set of size zero bowls in a nice new, wheeled bag. These will be put to good use either as club bowls for training and novice use, or sold with the proceeds going to necessary club improvements. Your generosity is much appreciated, and I know that Lois would approve.

Coach's Corner.

In a discussion between skips recently each talked about what they expect as information from their thirds when they are on the mat. Each agreed that, in our club, many thirds give too much information, at the worst time. The skip setting up to deliver the last bowl does not appreciate being told that s/he is "five down!" That just adds pressure. The skip is usually very aware of the position (or should be) before stepping on the mat.

If, as third you believe that the skip is not aware of the position, then the best course to take is ask the skip to come to the head to see the set-up.

The best course of action is before the first bowls of any game to ask the skip what input he or she likes - then follow that. When you are asked a specific question (e.g., "Which is shot bowl?") answer quickly and only with the specific answer. Do not, for example, dance around the head saying, "These are ours, these against."

Barry Browning.

A Novice View

We had been intrigued by the idea of lawn bowling since moving to Victoria from Halifax in 2005; however, it was one of those things we had thought to try when we retired. Then in March, while we were in Oak Bay Village, we ran into Margaret Taylor, an acquaintance from church. She mentioned that she had joined the Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club. She told us about the club and the evening, weekend and afternoon draws, and invited us to the Open House and membership drive to take place in April.

We circled the date on our calendar, scrambled to find smooth heel-less shoes, and showed up on the day, not sure what to expect. Upon arrival, the club facilities and the enthusiasm of the coaches and members at the Open House impressed us. You could tell that they loved lawn bowling and were keen to introduce it to others.

The event was extremely well organized and we were immediately assigned to a rink, given bowls to use and shown the basics of the game of lawn bowling – which turned out to be, for us anyway, a lot harder than it looked. Having no natural talent, the ability to sign up for a number of coaching sessions before having to commit to joining was, we felt, a thoughtful and forward thinking approach towards prospective new members.

The player development group, lead by Harnam Grewal and Marilyn Turpin, obviously understand that a structured plan to introduce the game and develop basic skills is important in generating interest and confidence early. All the coaching volunteers work so hard at the new players' development in the club, and we are sure we speak for all the novices in extending our thanks for all their help and encouragement as coaches and mentors, and for the extra coaching sessions prior to the novice tournament. We would like to especially thank Dolores Troyer, who agreed to be our mentor and who made time for the extra coaching sessions and to answer any questions we might have about the club and the game.

We've become hooked on lawn bowling. We look forward each week to the evening and weekend draws, and social times. One of the many things we appreciate about the club is how it accommodates all types of bowlers - social and competitive, retired and working. We are thankful to those who organize and run the two evening sessions on Tuesday and Friday nights, providing an opportunity to those of us who work full time to get out and bowl more often. Although we are not ready to participate in a lot of tournaments yet, we enjoyed the pageantry of our Novice Tournament. Overall it has been a wonderful experience; but it is the support and friendliness of the coaches and the other members that keeps us coming back. **Thank you!** We are looking forward to seeing what the wintertime program brings.

Respectfully submitted by Mark and Darlene Lee

House and Social

How quickly the summer has gone, and the kitchen went full-tilt with it! Thank you Betty Emery and your team for your great work in August. Sheila Cahill and Prim Wood will finish off the season for us in the kitchen. We have provided for tournaments, entertained other clubs, and now we will host 16 British bowlers on Saturday, September 18. The Magwoods are hosting Oktoberfest again after the AGM on Saturday, October 23. Again a big "Thank You" to all our volunteers for your time, efforts and food donations.

Kay Alexander, House and Social Chair.

GAMES 2010

Whether it is being a good host, bowling competitively or just bowling at home, Oak Bay continues to dominate on the greens.

On Friday, July 30 Oak Bay hosted Canadian Pacific club members to an evening of bowling followed by refreshments – 48 bowlers in all participated in a most enjoyable evening. Then on August 20 our guests were from Victoria Lawn Bowling Club. This time 60 members and guests enjoyed a fun evening of bowling and hospitality. Thanks to all who made these events so successful and especially the kitchen volunteers who include Prim Wood, Kay Alexander, Lawrie Matheson, Sharon Evans and Betty Emery. (If I have missed anyone, please forgive.)

A very enjoyable Bob Wilson Cutthroat was held on July 17 and 18 with Jeff Machan emerging as the top winner followed closely by Joan Firkins and Mary Browning. The novice tournament had a good an excellent turnout this year with 10 men and 7/8 women vying for the trophy. The women's champion this year is Susi Merchant while the men's champion is Don Clark. Harnam Grewal and Marilyn Turpin deserve our thanks for the way the novices were prepared and coached during the season. Best of luck to our novice winners in the upcoming Champ of Champs tournament. The Dore Cup winners this year were Harnam Grewal and Joan Firkins.

On the BSI circuit Oak Bay staged a very successful Silver Tray event on June 29 and 30. Many thanks to Victoria for handling the overflow teams on the first day. Jeff Machan, David Roberts and Gayle Wallach won the Lions Mixed Triples at Central Saanich with John Cossom, Mitch Fumale and Lawrie Matheson placing third. Our club did well at the Joan Price Quaddie at Juan de Fuca; Marion Woiblet, Jennifer Letkeman, Linda Carswell-Bland and Lawrie Matheson came first, with Pat Thomas, Fay Nath, Sandy Coupe and Carole Graydon coming second. Harnam Grewal and Joan Firkins won the Dogwood Mixed Pairs trophy with Jeff Machan and Gayle Wallach placing second.

Oak Bay was responsible for the first Monday in Holiday Week with lots of participation in the various events. The big winners were Louise Mason, Donna Blackstock and Betty Walker in the Women's Triples. The team of Lorraine Neumair, Dorothy Bissell and Mary-Lou Richards were runner-up in the Simmons Women's Triples at the Victoria club.

The always-popular Battle of the Sexes tournament turned into an Oak Bay "battle" with four teams vying for top honours. Notwithstanding the heat (from nature, the onlookers and their competitors) Jeff Machan and David Roberts prevailed over Joan Firkins and Donna Blackstock for the trophy. The team of John Cossom and Harnam Grewal finished third and Linda Cowie and Pat Metcalfe placed fourth. At the Bowls BC Island Mixed Triples at Juan de Fuca the trio of John Cossom, Mary-Lou Richards and Lawrie Matheson came second with Linda Cowie, Michael Lum and Chris Slade placing third. Well done, Oak Bay bowlers!

Sincere congratulations to Jaymee Sidel on becoming BC Juniors Champion and winning the Gold Medal. Jaymee went on to compete at the Nationals in London, ON where she acquitted herself very well. Our deep thanks go to George Davey who accompanied Jaymee acting as mentor, support and coach.

And finally a big thanks for the managers and volunteers who put our tournaments together and provide refreshments for all – we would be a poorer club without your help.

Helen Kempster, Games Chair.

Faith and Jon Magwood - The Embodiment of the Volunteer Spirit



From the moment they joined the Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club, Faith and Jon Magwood have demonstrated their readiness to roll up their sleeves and pitch in to help with many of the different jobs that have to be done to keep the club functioning smoothly. They exemplify the true volunteer spirit that lies at the heart of the OBLB club's continuing success.

Faith joined the Club in 2000, two years after Jon. She hadn't bowled at all before, but was a quick learner and soon became adept at the game, so much so that she was the Novice Champion that year. She immersed herself in volunteering for various kitchen duties from the start, and soon took on responsibility for organizing club dinners. As part of the fund-raising campaign led by Barry Browning for the Carnarvon House Expansion Project, Faith with help from Nancy Mawle and Margaret Richmond, laid on lunches at club tournaments for members. Though requiring a good deal of organization and hard work, this effort was well received and proved to be an excellent fund-raiser. It was followed shortly after by the Club recipe book, which Faith took on together with Joan Roberts. Again the venture proved to be both a culinary and financial success.

Faith's flair for planning and organization does not end there. She produces hearty soups and chillies regularly during the winter months for those who participate in darts play, with the proceeds going towards the purchase of new dartboards. Faith and Jon instituted the first Oktoberfest at the club following the 2005 AGM. This proved to be popular with most members who attended that AGM, and the event has now become a regular fixture in the club's social calendar.

Faith has left her imprint on other spheres of activity at the club as well. In particular, she chaired a committee, which mounted an extensive recruitment campaign for new members with planning and preparatory work starting in February 2003. This effort resulted in 43 people signing up at the Open House held that year, with nine more indicating that they wished to have coaching in the evenings. It was one of the most productive recruitment efforts that the club has ever mounted.

Born and raised in Duncan, Faith attended Queen Margaret's School and then went to Cowichan High. In the years she spent growing up in the Cowichan Valley, Faith loved to swim and ride her polo pony. When she was 18, her church sent her to England where she represented the Girls' Auxiliary at various functions of the British National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls' Clubs. While there, she had the honour of being presented to the Queen among other overseas debutantes. Faith entered the University of Victoria to do a BA in Psychology. She really wanted to study Social Work but there was no degree programme available in the subject at the time, so she took special Social Work courses in addition to her major in Psychology. She had met Jon while at UVic, and married him in 1973. Shortly after, she embarked on her career in Social Work, first in Child Protection, mostly with foster parents, single parents, blended families (on which subject she has written a book) and parents of children in foster care. The last 20 years of her working life were spent in hospital social work, dealing mainly with elderly people and their families and with severely handicapped young adults. Her spare time was spent mostly on Boards of Directors of non-profit organizations. Faith was instrumental in helping to set up the Single Parent Resource Centre, the Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre and the Family Caregivers' Network Society, and was a founding board member for each of these bodies. She has also been on the Board of Directors of the Mount St. Mary Hospital.

There is one other activity that Faith enjoys immensely, and that is church bell ringing. She was introduced to bell ringing at Christ Church Cathedral in 1977 by her aunt who was very confident she would be good at it because she could ride! Faith has never understood the connection, but nevertheless she has been a bell ringer

ever since, and has loved every bit of it. Her other hobbies include reading, gardening, cooking, knitting, traveling and of course lawn bowling. She has two children by a previous marriage, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She says it's a good thing she enjoys knitting!

Jon was born in Saskatoon, and lived in Saskatchewan until he was 10 years old when the family moved to Robson in the Kootenays. He came to Victoria when he was 17. He enrolled in Victoria College where he did his Senior Matriculation. In the summer of 1954, at the age of 18, Jon - having been articled to a surveying firm - was involved in building triangulation towers in the north-east corner of the province in an area bounded by the Alaska Highway in the South-west (from Fort Nelson to Fort St John), the BC/Yukon boundary in the north and the BC/Alberta border in the east, an area of roughly 30,000 square miles. This part of the province had not been surveyed before, and the triangulation towers were required to establish survey controls to enable oil and gas companies to do their exploratory work. Jon did this work over the next two summers as well, and then in the summer of the following three years, he was involved in surveying the western part of the BC/Yukon border. This is wild, pristine country with the surveying party having to use packhorses to move around. Jon has countless tales of amusing - and some not so amusing - encounters with Alaska brown bears (grizzlies), moose, skunks, mosquitos and the like, that he will narrate with his dry sense of humour when prevailed upon to do so. Jon learned to fly in his spare time and obtained his pilot's license. He has flown many different types of planes, from flying boats and floatplanes to regular fixed-wing aircraft.

Jon wrote his preliminary examinations in Surveying in 1960. There were no degree programmes in that discipline at the time, but he was able to take all the required technical courses in surveying on his own, which together with his articling and field work enabled him to obtain his professional qualification as a Land Surveyor. He started work in the Legal Survey Division of the Provincial Lands Department in 1965, and retired from there in 1996. He was active in the Corporation of Land Surveyors, of which he became President in his last year of service. It was through his professional work that he met the late Ken Mawle and Hugh Noakes who were also fellow surveyors. It was Ken Mawle who encouraged Jon to take up lawn bowling and join the Club, which he did in 1998.

Like Faith, Jon plunged himself into volunteering for various jobs at the club soon after he joined. Given his membership in the Vancouver Island Woodworkers Guild and his knowledge of electrical work, he played a major role in the renovation of Anderson House, which was carried out between November 1998 and March 1999. The renovations involved stripping down the original building, removal of the men's toilet from the west to the east end, upgrading of the ladies' toilet, construction of an office in-between the two toilets, and a new Draw Master's counter, rewiring and new lighting, putting in of a truss framework in the attic to strengthen the overall structure, and installation of 240 new birch plywood lockers. The bulk of the framing and other construction and electrical work (under Don Walker's supervision) was done by Jon and Ken Mawle, with only the plumbing and installation of the lockers handled commercially. Jon was the main volunteer on the construction of the temporary equipment shed attached to Carnarvon House, as he was when the kitchen was enlarged following the completion of the Carnarvon House Expansion Project. There are many other items of work that Jon has been responsible for - the club signboard outside the East gate, the club logo mounted on the outside of Anderson House, the Open House signs, and the lighting system for the dart boards in the old part of Carnarvon House, and designing and building the club's equipment carts, to name but a few. Jon has been on grass cutting duty for a number of years, and it is only for health reasons that he is not able to do the heavy lifting anymore, but he is there still for his team to do what he can. Jon has been responsible for building maintenance at the club for the last few years, a job that he does with his usual commitment and efficiency. The club is fortunate indeed to have members like Faith and Jon on its roster.

Harnam Grewal

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