

# Oak Bay Lawn Bowling Club

Volume XVI Issue 17

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

Dec. 1, 2011

**President-** Pat Thomas, **1st Vice-President-** Mort Nelson, **2nd Vice-President-** Don Clark, **Secretary-** Louise Mason, **Treasurer-** Shelley Sidel, **Games-** Allan Wood, **Greens-** Jim Cline, Mitch Fumalle, **House-** Elaine Hasler

**Member at Large-** Gail Baxter, **Player Development-** Mary Lou Richards, **Publicity-** Chris Slade,

**Member Services-** Margaret Machan, **Past President-** Linda Carswell-Bland. **Club website:** [www.bowlsoakbay.ca](http://www.bowlsoakbay.ca)

## A big Hello from your President

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for trusting me to take care of Business for this year (with tons of help of course.) Garry and I felt very strongly that we wanted to give back to a unique Club that has enriched our lives since moving to Victoria. I feel that every President brings along his or her own flavours to the year, and they are never the same, which makes our Club much more dynamic. It goes without saying that I will always do my best.

I want to say how much we shall miss our dear friend David Roberts. Not only was he our excellent Secretary for so many years, but also an avid bowler, who with his partner Jeff was well known and successful in the BSI league. He was a true character and his Welsh humour (which I appreciated, naturally) was second to none! He will be sorely missed by all of us. Our love and support go out to Joan and his family. The Welsh Dragons, which appear on many of our Bowls, and sweaters, will live on as one of his legacies to the Club.

I would like to welcome our new members of the Executive, Don Clark as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Gail Baxter as Member Without Portfolio, Elaine Hasler as House and Social Chair, Mary Lou Richards as Player Development, and Louise Mason for taking over as Secretary. Thank you also to the other Members who have agreed to stay on, Linda Carswell-Bland as Past President, Mort Nelson as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Shelley Sidel as Treasurer, Margaret Machan as Member Services, Jim Cline and Mitch Fumalle as Greens and Grounds, Al Woods as Games Chair, and Chris Slade as Publicity Chair. We must not forget Jon Magwood who works so hard in the background as Building Chair.

Our Winter Activities play a big part in the off-season at keeping our Club strong. We would like to thank all the hard working Coordinators, and can proudly say that with the introduction of Table Tennis on a Friday, Carnarvon House is used every afternoon for a different event. Please check our website if you are interested in joining any of the activities. Mary Lou Richards has done a great job at organizing Short Mat in Anderson House, with Keith Morris's help on the computer. She has introduced Triples Games at the Club, and also opened it up to Social Membership from other Clubs, so we have several more competitive Bowlers playing with us.

The Christmas Turkey Dinner will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December catered by those wonderful Goldstream chefs. The bar will be open at 5pm and I advise you not to miss this fun event. Caroling will commence at 5.30pm, and Dinner at 6pm. We still have a few tickets for sale at \$26.00 so please phone or email me if you would like to join us. There will be a Christmas Raffle as well as a fun game with prizes.

The next event after this will be the Chinese New Year Buffet to celebrate the Year of the Dragon, on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Tickets will be on sale in January, at the same price as last year - \$20.00. Please contact Linda Carswell-Bland at that time if you want to attend.

Garry and I are joining the Snowbirds for a month in January, but rest assured, you will be in the capable hands of our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mort Nelson and the Executive.

I would like to end with wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Pat Thomas

## House and Social

In assuming the duties from Kay Alexander, I would like to express thanks for all the effort she put in over the last couple of years and for the help she has given in putting me on track .

Thanks also to John & Faith for another successful Oktoberfest - wow, those sausages were memorable !

Our next social event is the Christmas Dinner to be held at the club December 10<sup>th</sup> - Festivities start at 5 pm with Carol singing at 5.30 and dinner at 6pm. Tickets are still available from President Pat - \$26.00 each. I am sorry I am unable to be there, its going to be fun.

The fuel of our club is our wonderful volunteers and its never too early to put out the call! CONVENORS for 2012 are needed for June and August and I look forward to hearing from all those willing to lend a hand - it's a great way to get involved .

I successfully completed the Foodsafe course last weekend and will try to put all this useful knowledge to good use in helping to keep our kitchen clean and healthy.

Elaine Hasler

## NEW ZEALAND TOUR

Planning is underway for the club's first overseas tour, to the North and South Islands of New Zealand in February 2014. The tour will be for between 21 and 25 days (Victoria to Victoria), and is likely to include six games against local clubs: tentatively, Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Dunedin, Queenstown and Nelson. We will fly to Vancouver and then via Air New Zealand (a very good airline!) non-stop to Auckland. Waiting at the airport will be a 47-seater coach that will be our traveling 'home' for the whole trip. It is equipped with toilet facilities, air conditioning, cold-water dispenser and TV/video. The size of the coach will allow everybody to have extra space when desired. The itinerary is being planned to include a lot of sightseeing, and offer opportunities for excursions such as a cruise on Milford Sound and a tour of wineries in Blenheim (home of the famous Marlborough wines). All our accommodation will be in 3- or 4-star hotels.

Although the trip is still more than 2 years away, it is important (not least for budgetary purposes) to have some preliminary idea of how many members are giving serious thought to participating. If we have 20 or more - not necessarily all bowlers, of course - it should be possible to keep the package cost (air fares, all transport in New Zealand, and hotel accommodation on a double-occupancy basis) very close to \$Can.5,000 per person. For those who might wish to make their own airline booking (for example, to use frequent flier points, incorporate a visit to Australia, or fly Executive Class), that option will be open and will reduce the package cost by around \$2,000.

To give me some provisional idea of numbers, please let me know if at this point you are seriously thinking of joining the trip. Be assured that this does not involve any commitment, but will be very useful in shaping plans. Think positively! It will be an unforgettable experience.

Don Clark

Here is the Rugby Canada article on David Roberts:

## FORMER RC COACH AND DIRECTOR PASSES AWAY

Tuesday, October 25, 2011



A former member of the Canadian Rugby Union technical coaching staff - David Roberts, has passed away this past Saturday evening in Victoria, BC

Roberts, who was in his 70's, passed away following a brief battle with cancer, surrounded by members of his family.

Married to Joan, they had four children - Gareth, Glain, Gwynfor and Elwyn.

Born on August 24th, 1929 in Wales, he lived in England where he coached Nottingham and was an Rugby Football Union Staff Coach before emigrating to Canada in the 1970's.

David was the Technical Director of the Canadian Rugby Union from 1977-1985. In that time he was also a very successful club coach with the Ottawa Irish.

He was instrumental in the early development of Canada's coaching (up to the pilot of the first Level 3 technical course) and refereeing certification programs.

He established the 'Centres of Excellence' program and coached Canada on its tour of Australia in 1985 (Pictured below with that team - third from the left in the front row).

Tom Jones - an Assistant Technical Director to Dave Roberts said, "This is a sad loss of a person who had a

Also the local Nottingham newspaper in England wrote up a very nice piece...Inspirational

Dai put some passion into rugby world

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Wednesday, October 26, 2011

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Former Nottingham Rugby Football Club coach and president Dai Roberts has died at his home in Vancouver Island, in Canada, aged 81. DAI Roberts, born in Bangor in Wales, joined Nottingham RFC as the first official coach appointed by an English club in 1966. He was credited with revolutionizing the club with his passionate style and took Nottingham into the top flight. He carried out the role until 1977, when he found his services were in demand and was appointed technical director of the Canadian RFU.

Roberts, who also coached what was known as the Three Counties of Notts, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire, had to resign from his day job as head of PE at Carlton le Willows Grammar School, in Gedling, to move to

Ontario. He was on a basic salary of £15,000, which made it one of the best-paid posts in world of Rugby at the time. In the same year, he was also elected only the second life member of Nottingham Rugby Club.

Former Nottingham RFC skipper John Elliot, who knew Roberts well, said: "Dai was an inspirational and knowledgeable coach and his work during the late 60s and 70s elevated the club to new heights and also laid the foundations for the success they were to enjoy in future years. "He was a hard taskmaster and many players, at school, club and county level, benefited from his great passion for the game and loyalty to the teams he coached."

Roberts, a former player with Llanelli and London Welsh, also coached the West German national squad and had invitations from South Africa, Africa and Europe. He also had an outstanding record as a schools' coach. His Notts 19 Group lost only once in ten seasons.

Roberts came back to Nottingham in 1987 to manage a branch of Gascoignes, the estate agents, in Angel Row. But he eventually returned to Canada in 2005 to be close to his four children – daughter Glain and sons Gareth, Elwyn and Gwynfor. His wife, Joan, said he was a wonderful family man. "Although many knew Dai from the rough and tumble world of rugby, his grandchildren Nia, Gryffin and Twyla will remember him as their dachu (Welsh for grandad) who showed them how to pick peas in the vegetable garden he loved spending so much time in.

"Since retiring to Canada in December 2005, David enjoyed a full life and took his competitive spirit to the lawn bowling greens, sharing many happy days competing in tournaments and trying to better his own results." He continued to support school rugby by cheering on the University of Victoria's rugby team."

She added that Dai, whose full name was David, was always inspired by a quote from Winston Churchill – "you make a living by what you get; you make a life by what you give".

Roberts kept life-long relationships with many of the boys he coached from his early days at Carlton le Willows Grammar. "He loved the game and he had many fond memories of the people he got to meet and the places he had the opportunity to visit as a result," his wife added.

Roger Peel, who worked with Roberts at Carlton le Willows, said: "David filled the role of director of physical education at Carlton le Willows with huge distinction. "He was a remarkable rugby coach and the school's formidable reputation on the rugby field spread well beyond Notts. "Yet David was not simply a rugby fanatic. "He was a man of conviction and faith based firmly on the strong chapel background of the Welsh valleys and it is no surprise that his second teaching subject was religious education, which he taught at A-level." He added: "He was a big man with a big voice and he didn't always suffer fools gladly, but he gained universal respect from the boys and men to whom he gave total commitment.

"He was a particularly loyal friend to many."

## Winter Activities-*Oh What FUN!*

Wonderful activities to keep your bodies and minds busy this season!

### **MONDAY Bridge**

*We have 4 to 5 tables each week with three new social members. Prizes and purchase of tallies & cards come from a .50 cent donation from each player per week. The Bridge Players Christmas Party will be held on December 12, 2011*

--Prim

### **TUESDAY Mah Jong**

*"Mah Jong continues to be enjoyed by up to a dozen players every Tuesday afternoon starting at 1.00 p.m. Anyone wishing to join in would be welcome. It is an easy game to learn - even I can do it!"*

--Marion"

*Ladies darts also continues Tuesday evenings with Shelly Sidel.*

### **WEDNESDAY/SUNDAY Darts**

*The dart club is **BUSY**, and a great source of fun for those who attend. As Margaret Machan used to say, it is like going to a party twice a week!*

*Attendance varies from 16 to 30 with Sundays usually attracting a larger crowd.*

*The actual dart playing starts at about 1:15 pm. Some of us are pretty awful--scoring only by accident--but some are pretty good--scoring deliberately! Teams are picked more or less at random and one always hopes that a good scorer ends up being your partner. If not, we shrug philosophically and tell each other that it is only a game! And that being a good sport is more important than winning! I am not sure who believes that but it is what we say anyway.*

*Each afternoon starts with tea and coffee and goodies (all donated by the participants). Donna opens the bar around 2pm. The tea, coffee, and goodies are abandoned in favour of a variety of chips, taco crisps, pretzels, beer, and cider. Some of us even drink Five Alive or "near beer". The darters go for another "draw" to arrange different teams. Some people leave at about 3:00 pm because they have to get home to walk the dog. Many stay until about 4:00 pm just because we are having so much fun. Come and join us.*

--Faith and Jon Magwood

### **THURSDAY Duplicate Bridge**

*Duplicate Bridge meets every Thursday at 1pm with an average of 6 tables. This is a non-sanctioned group so it is a good entry for people wishing to try duplicate. We play a few rounds and stop for tea, coffee and goodies. The cost is \$1 with \$16 being given out in prize money. We welcome everyone you only need to come with a partner.*

--Linda C

### **FRIDAY Table Tennis**

*The table tennis group started on October 21<sup>st</sup> with games from 1 to 3 p.m. Since it is a 'drop in' format, A dozen enthusiastic people came to play doubles, singles and a 'round robin' (running around the table while hitting the ball will keep your heart going). We will continue to play after Xmas with a 2012 start on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> till end of March with lots of fun and enjoying the social time along with the exercise.*

*Anyone who knows of anyone who has a table with wheels that can fold up is asked to contact Pat Thomas. Another table and some extra 'bats' would be greatly appreciated*

--Betty and Gerry Emery

## **SATURDAY Cribbage**

*Cribbage continues to be greatly enjoyed and new players always welcome every Saturday starting at 1.00 p.m.*

*--Pamela Potter*

## **SHORTMAT**

*This season we see 10 new social members coming in from Gordon Head and Juan de Fuca as a result last Seasons invitational games*

*An experimental format is currently being tried with the 16 singles players while the 25 pairs battle to show who is best in the two divisions. The triples continue to be popular as the games allow a mix of players from very competitive to social bowlers giving the opportunity for newer bowlers to learn from the best players from our club.*

*Sign-up sheets are now up. **New players** are able to give the game a try by signing in to play for the social triple, get a partner and join the pairs or stand up to the challenge and sign up for singles. 2012 Session meeting is January 6 at 10am with distribution of schedules and some discussion. Games start January 9 and will run till end of March.*

*--Mary Lou*

**Co-ordinator - Mary Lou Richards**

## **DOG FOR SALE:**

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale' He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

'You talk?' he asks.

'Yep,' the Lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says 'So, what's your story?'

The Lab looks up and says, 'Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young.. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA.

In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping.'

'I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running...

But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down.

I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. 'I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired.' The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. 'Ten dollars,' the guy says 'Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?'

'because he's a liar. He's never been out of the yard'

Any submissions or corrections [mail to: ray.troyer@telus.net](mailto:ray.troyer@telus.net)