

# COSBURN CONNECTIONS

The voice of the Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club  
Volume #1 Issue #3 May 2011

## Guess Who Came to Our Opening?

By Terry Brackett

Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club was representative of our fair city on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, politically at least. All the members of the Board who were present were introduced and asked to wave as their name came up – ‘not a royal wave but an ordinary one.’ Missing was our Competition Chair Mike Mogan who, along with his wife Jocelyn, was on a two week vacation in Austria.

President Bruce Brackett declared that, “it has been quite an eye-opener as your newly-elected President to appreciate all the work it takes to run and operate a lawn bowling club.” He congratulated all the volunteers who had contributed over a thousand hours of work to get the club and grounds prepared. He also thanked Mark Hawkins, General Supervisor and his staff for being “very supportive in achieving much of the improvement to our clubhouse and the ground.”



L to R: MPP Michael Prue, Councillor Mary Fragedakis, President Bruce Brackett and Mayor Rob Ford

MPP Peter Tabuns and Councillor Mary Fragedakis greeted the members and were invited to throw the first bowls with a gentle jest that they ‘were not there to bowl, but to flatten the green. Before play started a favourite visitor, MPP Michael Prue also dropped by. Play had just started and out of nowhere a familiar figure came along the path.



Supervisor Mark Hawkins sends greetings

Mayor Rob Ford and his assistant arrived for Opening Day. The Mayor was invited to speak but declined as he did not want to disturb the games, choosing to visit the greens and personally greet the members.

Cake, coffee/tea were served by our Social Chair Eunice Chaffey, along with a number of volunteer helpers. Many members commented on how pleased they were with the newly renovated clubhouse and were thrilled that so much work had been done to the grounds.

All in all, it was a great Opening Day!

## **A Challenging New Competition**

By Mike Mogan

On May 28, 2011 at 10 am, Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club will host a new tournament –The Australia Open Pairs, generously sponsored by Union Hearing Aid.

The concept behind the Australian Open Pairs is simple. Two bowlers get to be both Skip and Lead at each and every end. In the first end, the Lead throws the first two bowls, then the Skip rolls the next four bowls, then the Lead rolls the final two bowls at the end. Next end, the Skip rolls the first two bowls, followed by the Lead.

Instead of bowling a set number of ends, each game is 75 minutes in length. How many ends you play is dependent on how fast you and your opponents play. Scoring is tabulated by ends won, NOT by total score. To make the last game more interesting, ends won will count DOUBLE towards your total score.

We will play a total of four games, each 75 minutes long (trust me the time FLIES by, especially if you're behind).

With our "elite" bowlers participating in the District 4's playdown the same weekend, this gives the rest of us a chance to show outside teams just how great the talent level is here at Cosburn. We have already received entries from Kew Beach, Oshawa and Willowdale, with more to come. Let's show them what Cosburn bowlers can do!

Thanks to our sponsors, the prize pool will be very generous with a LOT of prizes given out! A sign-up sheet for Cosburn teams was posted Opening Day. So sign up and give it a try – you'll have a terrific time!



**Members playing on Opening Day**

## **A Brief Assembly**

By John Tagg

As far as the weather was concerned, it didn't seem like spring as 55+ members attended the club's spring annual general meeting April 13 at 7:00 pm. Despite the chill and damp outside, the newly painted clubhouse was warm and friendly for the members who made the effort to attend. Catching up on winter activities and getting reacquainted with fellow bowlers were on the unofficial agenda.

Upon opening the meeting, after introducing board members, President Bruce Brackett asked for a minute of silence for those members who passed away since last season. The official agenda included reports from members of the Board of Management. Year end wrap up and plans for the new season were reported. The club's positive financial status was reported by our treasurer Mike Vince as he presented the auditors' report. Terry Brackett was officially voted

by the members for the new position of Publicity and Promotion Chair. Her report included the addition of a new sponsor - Remarks Bar and Grill for our next Canada Day event.



Board members at the Spring AGM

New Business on the meeting agenda included the presentation of the club's revised constitution by members Ron and Donna Garson. Ron and Donna are due the club's resounding vote of gratitude for their work on the constitution. Following their presentation and some questions and discussion from the members present, the revised constitution was approved by a wide majority of the members.

One change was the term for Executive officers being extended from a one-year to a two-year term, which will take place at the elections at our November meeting. The approved constitution will take effect May 1, 2011.

Adjournment of the meeting in record time at 9 pm was followed by much talk about the upcoming season and anticipation of the club's opening day on May 7.

## A "Lesson" on Lawn Bowling

By Terry Brackett

In a recent May 9<sup>th</sup> posting on the internet, a blogger stated that City Hall was considering raising user fees but then commented that 'lawn bowling is now free'. The writer added that "somewhat bizarrely, lawn bowling will now be free. For the non-lawn bowlers among us, however, it's going to be more expensive to stay fit in the city."

One of our members rose to the occasion, got out his mighty pen and answered the sarcastic article with this reply:

Re: Lawn Bowling Free??

I'm on vacation with limited access to news from Toronto....but caught this headline & picture on the internet.

Does the article explain where in Toronto Lawn Bowling is free? If so please let me know.

The typical club in Toronto charges a fee of about \$125 to play from May-Oct....and this is not...I reiterate..NOT an activity run by the city in any way. Each club is responsible to run the affairs of the club themselves. This takes:

-100s...no....1000s of volunteer hours from members who have already paid a fee to join..not the city.

-Fund Raising by members to pay for the expense of running the club which is only partially covered by the membership fee.

-If you pay to get..say...swimming lessons..do you then provide the instructor, look after the facility, clean up every night, etc. etc. no, but lawn bowlers do.

Please give me some details about how this 'free' activity is a burden to taxpayers to support the headline insinuating some kind of injustice is taking place.

Bob Bates

**Well said Bob!**

## **Info for Lawn Bowlers**

The stickers for District 10 which have to be applied to your OLBA card are now available from the Treasurer, Mike Vince. These stickers are particularly important, in fact mandatory, for those bowlers who intend to play in District or Provincial Tournaments. Just present your OLBA card to Mike and he will provide you with the sticker.

New members will receive their OLBA cards later in the year once the full membership list has been submitted. In the interim, temporary membership cards can be produced showing that you are a member of Cosburn Park. If any member does not have an OLBA card, speak to Mike, as replacement cards cost \$5.00 and will need to be requested from the OLBA.

There are still some tubes of Grippo available for sale from the Treasurer at a cost of \$4.00. Once the supply has been exhausted, members can arrange to purchase this item from our Coaching Chair Cathy Larking or the retailer of their choice.

Also, there is still a small supply of the old Cosburn Park Lawn Bowling Club pins (showing the coat of arms of the former Borough of East York) available at a cost of \$5.00 each. You can see Mike Vince about purchasing one of these pins. Once the supply has been exhausted, new pins will be made available. The new pins will incorporate the new logo for the club stylized on the East York logo as is shown on the flag and on club shirts worn by some

members. The logo for the Club, as determined by last year's vote, has the club's name circling a blue and white EY and a red maple leaf. In the upcoming weeks, plans will be developed to incorporate the new logo in pins, shirts, caps, etc. You will be kept informed on any developments in club branded merchandise once membership numbers have been confirmed for this year.

## **Professional Lawn Bowls – PBA Canada**

**By Bob Bates**

Yes . . . you read correctly . . . there is indeed a Professional Lawn Bowling organization. They are the PBA (Professional Bowling Association) based in Great Britain and there is a Canadian branch (PBA Canada).

The PBA runs about 5 or 6 events each year in Great Britain. One is a Pairs event and the others are all Singles. All of these events are played indoors on a portable rink. There is good prize money offered in these events (\$15k to winners). In the past, and in 2011, PBA Canada is allowed to send one entry into each event.

How you can win: First you have to join PBA Canada. In the past this membership fee was about \$200. For this fee you got to play one weekend in Ontario (usually August long weekend) when PBA Canada held their eastern qualifying tournaments. These 5 single knockout events were played to select an eastern Canada winner who would then fly to Vancouver to play the western winner. The winner of this one game competition would then go on to the main event in Great Britain (Welsh Open / Scottish Open / etc).

This year PBA Canada is trying to expand and give players more chances to play in good competitive events. Membership Fees have been dropped to \$60 and the qualifying tournaments for each event have been spread out during the summer (July/Sept/Oct) rather than being played all in one weekend. They are also organizing other events to play in that don't lead to a final in Britain, but will provide a chance for members to play against each other in high level competition.

The PBA is trying to establish itself as a place where Canadian bowlers interested in competing at a high level have the opportunity to do so. While not for everyone, it may be of interest to you if you want to go further in competitive bowling.

For more information, visit their website at [www.wix.com/pbacanada/pbahome](http://www.wix.com/pbacanada/pbahome)



When not playing, Bob Bates is always willing to lend a hand at Cosburn

**Availability of items in Lost and Found**  
**Stephen Walsh – 2011 Vice President**

**In the March 2011 Newsletter I mentioned that we have located a number of items of clothing that were forgotten or left for future use by those who no longer Bowl at the club. In addition to these items there are assorted other items such as extra dishes, folding chairs, that may be useful to members (limited numbers). A date will be set in the next couple of weeks and a list of items will be available then.**

**Please help with this clean up effort and help us remove clutter from the gutter (I mean ditch).**

**REMINDER: EVERY FRIDAY EVENING 7pm**

4-3-2-1 Game – Fun and great way to practice or join the card players for a game of euchre or Wizard at 7 pm.  
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**Thanks to the photographers who contributed to this newsletter: Al Fletcher and Murray Fenner and John Tagg for assisting me with editing.**

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If you have any submissions for the next newsletter please mail or drop off at the Clubhouse  
Attn: Terry Brackett, Publisher  
or email:  
[Cosburn\\_bowls@cosburnparklawnbowlingclub.ca](mailto:Cosburn_bowls@cosburnparklawnbowlingclub.ca)

**NEXT DEADLINE: June 30, 2011.**  
**Website:**  
<http://www.cosburnparklawnbowlingclub.ca>

