

Winter games alive & kicking!

By Bruce Brackett, President

Ah...you can tell Spring is just around the corner. We keep being teased with sunshine one day & freezing cold the next. But it will come! We have been enjoying our clubhouse all winter every Friday night with a group of die-hards who love playing Wizard, while others enjoy euchre, as well as, newcomers who came to learn how to play both games! Our social nights went over very well also! Jan Luke reported that Court Whist attracted 11 full tables while the Euchre night had 9 full tables. Members & guests enjoyed the groaning board of food thanks to the generosity of our members and organizers.



Photo by Al Fletcher

Bowlers Margaret Donaldson, Corinne Vince & Social Member June Fletcher greeted the card players and volunteered to serve & clean up! Great Job Ladies!

Spring is in the Air (Somewhere)

By Stephen Walsh, Vice-President

Just before we get to the needs of preparing the greens and surrounding grounds, I would like to update you on the changes that have beautified the interior of the Club House that will make the space a pleasant area to conduct functions for years to come.

Firstly we had a professional painter paint the slanted ceiling a flat white to add light to the gathering area. We then added a soothing light blue to the walls with a medium blue coat on the trim, creating a brighter and calming area. New window shutters are being installed, which will enhance the ambiance of the gathering space. The memorabilia will be more visible and displayed in a manner that honours our historical achievements over the past seven decades.

While doing these changes, we uncovered a number of unneeded items that will be available to any member prior to opening day. If any items are unclaimed they will be donated to agencies for those in need.

On or close to the 27th of April we require a number of volunteers for a spring clean up of our grounds. If you are interested and can offer to lend tools and/or expertise please (cont'd on Pg 2)

Spring is in the Air (Somewhere) cont'd.
contact myself, Stephen Walsh (416)421-4931, or any member of the Board of Management prior to the Spring AGM.

I am also enlisting at least three volunteers to form a committee to upkeep

the grounds throughout the entire season. The roster of volunteers and myself will equitably share the duties needed to make all of us proud of the facilities that we are guardians and benefactors of.

I am looking forward to a season of Lawn Bowling that will bring the joy and pride that I have felt every year, being a member of this community of friends.



Membership Renewals & Grant Application

by Michael Vince, Treasurer

Spring will soon be upon us, and with it, the beginning of thoughts of lawn bowling. Membership applications and waiver forms are now on-line at our web-site, www.cosburnparklawnbowlingclub.ca. They will also be emailed or mailed via Canada Post. Fees have remained at last year's level. If you prefer not to return your forms and payment by mail, you can bring it to the Annual Spring Meeting on April 13th and hand it to any member of the Board.

Due to the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association insurance regulations, you must pay your membership fee & sign the waiver form before you can start to play on the greens. Players' name cards will only be put up on the draw board once their fee has been paid.

Our application for the city's annual grant was submitted on time, and to date, I have received no feedback or request for information from Parks, Forestry & Recreation, the department dealing with the grant. It is possible that city budget cuts may impact our grant application but we will have to wait and see how that all works out. You will be kept up-to-date on this issue.

Left: Friday Night Card group celebrated Stephen Walsh's 65th birthday in February. Jackie Brammer in background.

Cosburn Park Novice Open Triples Jitney Tournament

By Mike Mogan, Competition Chair

Although Cosburn Park has had tournaments with novice elements for many years, two years ago we decided to start a novice tournament that would be interesting, fun, and a little quirky.

In many cases, novices might not know enough people to put together a team, or may be uncomfortable asking anyone. As a result, they may miss out on the fun of tournament competition. In 2009, we started up our Novice Open Triples Jitney Tournament. The quirky part is, entrants entered as individuals, **NOT** as part of a team!! Until they arrived on the day of the tournament, they did not know who they would be playing with!

When a bowler enters the tournament, we ask them what position they play in their club games, and would they be willing to move one level up (i.e. lead to vice, vice to skip). The night before the tournament, teams are drawn randomly from the list. On the day of the tournament, a list of teams is posted, and each entrant is given a name tag with their name, team, and position.

Our first year (2009), we had 54 novices enter (27 from Cosburn), and played 3-12 end games. In 2010, Bren Macken came on as a

sponsor, with the main prize being a free draw for a set of bowls. We also changed the format by incorporating a skills competition into the scoring. In addition to three 10-end games, bowlers also competed in two skills competitions (Draw competition and Run competition), with each successful attempt counting a point towards the team's tournament point total. We ended up with 72 entrants (with one-third coming from Cosburn), and of the nine players comprising the top three teams, seven were from Cosburn!

This upcoming season, we are tweaking the tournament in the skills competition; a successful attempt by a Lead will count 3 points, a Vice 2 points, and a Skip one point towards their team's tournament points total. Bren Macken is our sponsor and is offering a set of bowls to be awarded to one participant.

The tournament takes place Saturday, August 27, starting at 9:30 am (\$10.00 per person entry fee). Again, we will have 3-10 end games, plus a skills competition.

If you are interested in taking part in this tournament (and have been bowling for five years or less), a sign-up sheet will be posted on Opening Day. Let's keep the momentum going from last year, and once again show what Cosburn Novices are capable of doing!

Cosburn Connections...

Newsletter of
Cosburn Park
Lawn Bowling
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Volume #1 Issue #2

An interesting journey....

Bowls historians believe that lawn bowling developed with ancient Egyptians. One of their pastimes was to play skittles with round stones. The oldest lawn bowls site still played on is in Southampton, England. Records show that the green has been in operation since 1299 A.D. It is believed that the "bias" was introduced inadvertently in 1522 by the Duke of Suffolk. Apparently, his bowl split in two after striking other bowls and he took a knob off of a stairway banister post for a replacement. The flat side of the knob caused it to roll with a bias and he was able to curve his bowl around others. Word spread and bias bowls gradually came into use.

Certainly the most famous story in lawn bowls is about Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada. On July 19, 1588, Drake was involved in a game at Plymouth when he was notified that the Spanish Armada had been sighted. His response was, "There is plenty of time to win the game and thrash the Spaniards too." He then proceeded to finish his match and the British Navy soundly defeated the Armada. Henry VIII was also a lawn bowler, but he insisted that anybody who wished to keep a green pay a fee of 100 pounds (an enormous sum in those days). However, the green could only be used for private play and he forbade

anyone to "play at any bowle or bowles in open space out of his own garden or orchard."

English and Scottish colonists brought the game to America. Many states have towns named "Bowling Green" due to the early settlers abiding interest in the game. Even George Washington laid out a green at Mount Vernon in 1732.

The International Bowling Board was formed in 1905, the founding members being Scotland, England, Ireland, and Wales. New Zealand was first admitted in 1928, as were Australia, Canada, South Africa, and the United States.

On a lighter note: Have you seen the newest wedding invitations out? Couples are registering at Shell, Esso & Petro Canada.

NOTE: The Club is still looking for someone to take on the position of Premise Chair. If you're interested call Stephen Walsh, Vice-President 416-421-4171

NEXT DEADLINE: April 30, 2011
If you have any submissions for our next newsletter mail or drop off to the Clubhouse Attn: Terry Brackett or email:
cosburn_bowls@cosburnparklawnbowlingclub.ca