

Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club



**April 2023
Newsletter**

Editor's Notes

“Wouldn't you like to have fun, fun, fun?
How's about a few laughs, laughs, laughs?
I can show you a good time.....”

No, I'm not referring to the same thing the song was! I'm talking about the fact that the lawn bowling season is fast approaching. Lots to talk about in this issue of the Newsletter so let's kick off with a message from President Carol Dewey.

Although it's April and I'm still in Florida, I find myself thinking about spring back home - tulips and daffodils, budding trees and greening grass. But most of all to a return to the greens and lawn bowling, renewing friendships from last fall. Over the winter the Executive Committee has continued to meet virtually and plans are underway for some new and interesting events and social activities.

We will be jump starting the season with our General Membership meeting on Wednesday May 3rd at 6.30pm at Trinity United Church in the CE Centre. Before the actual meeting starts you will have an opportunity to pay your membership fee and sign up and pay for your locker.

Volunteerism is an essential component of membership in the lawn bowling club. I am very grateful for our hard working EC members and for the members who have committed to the various Convenor jobs. At our Fall general meeting members will have the opportunity to indicate jobs they would be interested in volunteering for and those names have been added to our data base. Again at the spring meeting we will be asking for people to sign up to help with things like the kitchen, greens keeping, a social event, etc. This will help the Convenors



in drawing up schedules.

You will find more information about the coming season in this newsletter and don't forget to keep checking our website for the latest. I'm excited, aren't you?

Carol Dewey

Important Dates in May

Save the Dates (May):

May 3: Spring General Meeting. Trinity United Church.

6:30 pm: Fee payment, tournament sign up, Monday Night League sign up, volunteer sign up etc.

7:00 pm: Meeting. We'll be announcing new and exciting events and activities. Find out what we've got planned for the upcoming season. It's your club! Please attend.

May 6: Clean-Up Day at the Club

May 13: Opening Day! Potluck and a Jitney.

May 17, 24, 31: Wednesday evenings in May - practice, coaching, lessons available (7-9 pm).

Please see the website for other important dates, jitney times, open tournaments, in-club tournaments.

New Horizons for Seniors

Our project submitted through the New Horizons for Seniors Program has been approved for funding in the amount of \$22,260.00. This funding will allow us to purchase a new Toro greens mower to maintain and improve the condition of our two

natural grass bowling greens, replacing an old mower from 1989 that is no longer usable.

Our senior greenskeepers Mike Hendren and Carl Ferguson hope to train up to four club members in the use of the new mower and our other greenskeeping equipment in order to create a greenskeeping team to more evenly distribute the time and effort required to maintain our most important physical asset – our greens.



You will have a chance to volunteer to help with the greens at our Spring General Meeting on May 3rd.

Peter – “New Mower Project” Team Leader

Parking Passes

Every year the club asks the Town of Cobourg for 40 parking passes for use on Church and Queen Streets during the season. For the last few years the request has been made through the Town’s Community Grants system. However, you may have read that during the town budget deliberations some members of Council questioned this and there was even a suggestion that we be given only 10 passes. Thankfully the issue was resolved and in the end we were granted 40 passes as usual. The application for a Community grant involves a lot of work and detail and Bob Bates is to be congratulated on this successful application. Hopefully the process will become easier in the future as the Town is looking to introduce a Memorandum of Understanding which would obviate the need for annual applications.

Recruitment

We're growing! We doubled our membership last year after a wonderfully successful membership drive. Members, you know why: the game is fun and challenging and the club is welcoming. On the greens by the lake, the breeze, the warmth, the chat and camaraderie, those summer evenings! Excitement is building. We hope you'll encourage your friends to join too. To our new bowlers especially, bring a friend or family member out to one of our Wednesdays in May for free lessons and a chance to try out your new favourite summer activity!

Welcome back Wednesdays coming in May

Feeling a little rusty after the winter? Feel like some early season practice sessions or coaching might be helpful?

New bowlers, do you feel like a 'refresher' session or two with one of our coaches might just remind you of some of those tips and techniques you learned last year? Do you want to bring a friend to try the game and maybe join you



for a summer of bowling? Well then, we have an evening (or three!) set aside for you!

Mark down Wednesdays May 17th, 24th, and 31st on your calendar. From 7 pm until 9 pm the club will be open for all of the above: practice, coaching, 'refresher' lessons, and free lessons for those wanting to 'give it a try'. Come out, see your friends, work on your game, have fun! Wednesday evenings will be wonderful this May!

Sharyl Ann Milligan

Last season was Sharyl Ann's 50th year of bowling, a fact we acknowledged with a presentation at our Anniversary tournament. It was great to hear that Sharyl Ann will this year be inducted into the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association Hall of Fame for her contribution to lawn bowls. The club congratulates her on this well deserved award and the work she has done with junior bowlers for many years.



Social Events

Since the pandemic started we have been unable to hold the various social events we



usually do but this year we are planning to bring them back again.

A Pot Luck Lunch will be held before the opening jitney of the year on May 13th. Even if you do not want to play in the jitney you are still welcome to come to the lunch.

The monthly barbecues will be held as usual on the last Tuesday of the month. A sign up sheet will be put up beforehand. Bill and Sarah have kindly agreed to organise these.

We are also hoping to serve strawberries and ice cream during the second break in one of the in club July tournaments. We are looking for volunteers to organise this.

Club Dinner: for the last few years these have been held on the evening of the Anniversary Tournament but we understand in the past they have been held as an end of Season event. At the Spring Meeting there will be a form to complete to say which of

these you prefer.

On Saturdays there will be a tea and coffee break as previously held. What we need to decide with this is should we go back to two 8 end games with a break between games or keep the one 10 end game and have a break after 5 ends. Again this will be on the form given out at the Spring Meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back on the greens!

From the Social Committee: Louisa Arthur, Mary Salter and Sherri Perkins

Property News

It was during the winter storm, just before Christmas, when a large tree in the park fell on to our south green causing a fair amount of damage. Fortunately, the new backboards were spared and should be ready for the new season. Carl and Mike are getting ready to start the cleanup of the south green as soon as the snow and freezing conditions leave us for this winter. They will need a lot of help for the cleanup of clearing the remnants of the fallen tree and spreading topsoil over damaged areas including leveling the green to the new backboards that were installed. We will let people know when they can help as soon as possible.

Last week while Bob Bates was out for his morning walk, he checked on the club facility and found that a window had been removed from the old shed and a bench had been removed from the deck and put outside the shed. Mike and I were able to reinstall the window and a quick check found that nothing appears to be missing from the shed.

We believe that someone was looking for a place to sleep as there have been a lot of reports of homeless people in this area recently. On his way back home Bob called in the police station and made a report of the damage. I called the town and asked that they repair the damaged fence as soon as possible to prevent people from easily accessing our

property. They replied that they would prioritize the fence repair.

Below are a few photos one showing a large crane lifting the main tree limb off the green, one showing the large amount of branches etc. lying on the green and one showing the damaged fence.

Terry Dyche



Monday Night League

Again this year, the club is offering a Monday Night League for members but with a change in format. Teams will compete over the summer playing regular bowling. Teams are formed in one of two ways: put a team of three together and submit to the organizers or submit your name to be put on a team of three (by the organizers). Members may also sign up to be spares. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board at the clubhouse. The deadline for signing up will be June 1st and the first evening of play will be June 12th at 7 pm. More details to come at a later date.

Carol Dewey

Short Mat Bowling

It has been quite a season for short mat bowling. The number of members increased as many new lawn bowlers decided to try short mat. We hosted a successful CSMBA championship in November 2022 and to cap it all off nine Cobourg bowlers travelled to Aberdeen, Scotland in March as part of a twenty strong Team Canada participating in



the world short mat championships.

The championships were held over three days and after two days with no wins

the Canadian team saved the



best for last. In the final round of round robin play. Travis Anderson (Burlington) recorded a one point win against Norway and the Cobourg triples team of Bill Arthur, John MacKenzie and Louisa Arthur recorded a win of 13-10 against Sweden. That was despite giving up a five ender early in the game.

It was a great three days playing against some very accomplished bowlers with most games being played in a wonderful spirit. We learned a lot and enjoyed ourselves whatever the result.

We have a long way to go to match the depth of talent in Europe . The strongest teams were from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and from my own perspective there were three countries we played against which we would have beaten if we had played to

our potential. The England triples team won silver and one of our best performances was to hold them to a score of 8-11.

Bill Arthur

Is it just me?

I think the answer to this question is “No” because I know of at least one other person who does this. What am I talking about? It’s being on holiday, looking up local bowling clubs and visiting them. You just have to do it don’t you? My latest viist was to the



Newport Harbour and Laguna Beach clubs in California in January.

At Newport Harbour they were in the middle of a game when we visited but they gave me some bowls, found a spare rink and let me roll some bowls. At Laguna Beach they were about to start a jitney and



needed another player so invited me to join a game. What a delight to be able to bowl outside in January. Bowlers are always so happy to see and talk to bowlers from other clubs.

Bill Arthur

Open Tournaments at Cobourg

At the club this year we are running 9 'Open' tournaments as well as 8 In-Club tournaments. Cobourg members are welcome to enter all of these events.

There are a few differences between the In-Club events & the Open events.

The Open events accept entries from other clubs as well as our own Cobourg members (hence the term 'Open'). When entering you have to do so as a team, not as an individual. Players on a team do not have to all be from the same club . . . so if you have a friend at another club you can play with them on your team.

Historically for every Cobourg team entered there are 2 or 3 outside teams. (Oshawa, Campbellford, Pickering, Belleville, Cosburn Park (Toronto), etc).

You can put in an entry for an Open Tournament in 2 ways:

- 1) Phone or email your entry to the convenor at any time after Jan 1.
Bob Bates
Phone: 289 252 2042 (cell 289 356 4083)
eMail: bbates103@rogers.com or clbctournaments@gmail.com

- 2) Sign up on the entry sheet which is posted on the bulletin board 5 weeks before the tournament. Sign up (or email) early **as entries are taken on a first come first served basis.**

We plan to take up to 20 entries for each tournament. Before Covid we had several tournaments with 20 entries and a waiting list. No tournaments were run in 2020 or 2021. The entry numbers dwindled a bit early last year (1st year back after Covid) but were picking up a bit near the end of the season when people felt a little more

comfortable being outside with a group. We had 14 to 16 entries each in our last 3

tournaments.

This year entries are getting a little more back to normal. Here it is 2 months until our first Mixed Pairs tournament on June 3 and we already have 14 entries in for it (11 outside teams & 3 Cobourg teams).

On Victoria Day Monday May 22 we have an Open Fours event (Team can be women, men or mixed) This is just a week & a half after opening day. There are 8 entries so far so lots of room for more teams.

In each event during the season we are holding 6 entries open for Cobourg teams up until 2 weeks before the event. After that any spots still available are open to outside teams as well.

For bowlers new to tournaments here are a few more details.

- This year Entry Fee is \$20 per bowler for each tournament.
- All of our tournaments (except the Ladies triples) are 3-12 end games
- Bowling starts at 9:30 and is usually finished between 4 & 4:30
- All team members are asked to wear the same colour of dress
i.e. White top/Black bottoms, Red top/white bottoms, Pink top/Plaid bottoms, etc
- Players bring their own lunch. Coffee, tea and lemonade are available for free. Pop, Gatorade, bottled water, etc is available for purchase. Players are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.
- The first game is a random draw to see who you play. After that the teams are matched up based on their number of wins and points scored.
- Cobourg teams will not play each other in the first game
- Prizes go to all teams who win their 3 games, the 2 win teams with the highest scores and the highest last game (so there is still a chance if you lose the first 2 games)

Those are the basics . . I am happy to answer any questions you may have about tournaments.

Open Tournaments are a bit more competitive than club games. Some players from

other clubs are new bowlers but most are seasoned veterans who enjoy a higher level of competition than their club games provide. Don't be hesitant about asking experienced

bowlers to play with you in a tournament. You can jump right in and try your luck.

Every other club in Ontario runs Open Tournaments as well. If you want to try your hand at playing at other clubs the process is simple:

- Go on the Ontario Lawn Bowling Assoc. (OLBA) website www.olba.ca
- If you know what club you want to play at just go straight to 'Club Websites', find their site. Their tournament & contact information will be there.

Alternatively, on the OLBA home page click on: "2023 Tournament Listings"

- The next page will let you select "Tournament Schedule by District"
- The summary there shows every tournament in Ontario sorted by which District the club is in. It starts with D-1 (Windsor area). Cobourg is in District 14 along with our neighbouring clubs.
- After seeing an event which you may be interested in go back to the Home Page and select "Club Websites". Almost all club websites list the contact information regarding who to eMail or phone to enter.

We also have 2 events scheduled for Youth bowlers on June 11 & Aug 26. Players wanting to enter these events should contact Sharyl Ann Milligan:

milligan@eagle.ca

Again . . don't hesitate to email me with any questions. I am more than happy to discuss tournament bowling with anyone.

***Open Tournament Convenor
Bob Bates***

And Finally

If you are looking for Bowls supplies, Sarah van Steijn is now acting as an agent for Taylor Bowls (on behalf of MVP Sports). Contact Sarah if you need supplies and continue to go direct to Dan Milligan for bowls.

Editor's end notes

I think this is the longest Newsletter we have published but as the new season approaches there is so much to tell you about.

No room this month to include regular articles such as “from the archives” and cartoons etc but no doubt those articles will be back in future editions.

A reminder that this is your Newsletter and if there is something you would like to see featured here please let me know. Send me articles, ideas and pictures.

For all of you new members from last year I would encourage you to come to the “Welcome back Wednesdays” to refresh yourselves on what you learned last year and build on that in your second year. It does not matter how long you have been bowling you never stop learning.

Good Bowling

Bill Arthur