

Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club



**Christmas 2022
Newsletter**



Editor's Notes

Work never stops in the lawn bowling world even in the off season. In this festive edition we bring you news of what has been happening since the season closed and we take a look forward to 2023. Plus news from the world of short mat bowling and the Canadian Championships which were held at the Cobourg Community Centre in November.

Wherever you are, enjoy a merry and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2023.

Bill Arthur



Ditchboard Replacement Project

Although our Lawn Bowling Club has the most spectacular position in down town Cobourg, with a wonderful view of the lake and Victoria Park, it was beginning to look very tired and worn due to the condition of the ditch boards.



The club got a contractor to quote on replacing both the front and back ditch boards so that we could apply for a grant to have them replaced. We were successful in obtaining a grant of \$25,000 from the New Horizons for Seniors, which will cover the cost of the majority of the work required. It is also worth pointing out that due to

the deterioration of the front boards over the years, the last two to three feet of the greens has been reducing in height leaving a down slope that has been causing the bowls to run off into the ditch prematurely. It was aimed to correct this problem while replacing the boards.

Work started in November when all the club activities had finished and the weather cooperated with warmer than normal conditions. The plan was to dig a trench in front of the front boards, grind off the bolts from the metal brackets holding them in place, and remove the old boards, leaving the brackets in place. The new front boards were then installed with new bolts and leveled to bring them up to the correct height of the greens.

You can see from the following picture, work under way to dig the trench in front of the front boards prior to the removal of the old boards.



After the new front boards had been installed, work then started on the back boards using the same

method as front boards. This involved digging a trench alongside the back boards, grinding off the securing bolts and removing the old boards. New back boards were then installed with new bolts. Both trenches were then filled in and leveled and the grass sod replaced.

During the digging of the trench on the North green we encountered a strange plastic pipe and wiring at both ends of the trench on the West side of the North green. After consultation with



our resident grounds expert 'Mike', it was soon confirmed that this was part of the old sprinkler system that had not been removed. That was indeed a blessing as we were getting concerned with what it was and what to do about it. It was then removed and work continued.

The last picture below shows the work completed with new front and back

boards installed, the trenches filled in and the sod replaced. Early next spring we will still need to complete the



leveling of the greens where they were disturbed. Overall a very satisfying completion and what a difference the new boards make to the overall look of our club facilities.

Terry Dyche

2023 New Horizons Grant Application

In October an application was prepared and submitted to the New Horizons for Seniors Program (Employment and Social Development Canada) for a federal grant to provide funding to purchase a new 2023 Toro Greensmaster Flex 1021 mower for the club next year. The Toro is a state-of-the-art mower designed and engineered specifically for greens maintenance. These specialized items cost over \$20,000 and would be impossible for us to acquire without grant funding. If we are successful this unit would replace an old mower (1989 model) which is no longer usable. Our greens are the most important asset of our club. Mike Hendren and Carl Ferguson hope to add and train some new volunteer greenskeepers from the club next year to help maintain and improve the condition of our two

bowling greens. The “new mower” project team is led by Peter Stuart-Sheppard with Nan and Mike Hendren, Bob Bates, Carol Dewey and, of course, assistance from our Grants Officer Mike Place. We should find out by March if our application has been successful. Fingers crossed everyone!

Peter Stuart-Sheppard

2023 Tournaments

The open tournament schedule for 2023 has been agreed with the District 14 committee and will be published by the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association early in the New Year. The club EC will also agree the club tournament schedule in the coming months and once all dates have been agreed they will be published on the website.

The schedule for Ontario Championships is on the OLBA website at

<https://www.olba.ca/championship-events.html>



Short Mat Bowling

Lots of new lawn bowlers have been enjoying short mat bowling this year and it was wonderful to see so many Cobourg members signing up to play in the Canadian championships which we hosted at the CCC in November.

Expectations were high for Cobourg bowler Martin Foxhall and he did not disappoint winning gold in every event he entered!

This was the 5th national championships, three of which have been held in Cobourg. Entry to the championships is open and there were a record number of 47 players across the four events (singles, pairs, triples and fours). Seventeen of the players were Cobourg members.

Sixteen players competed in singles and after group games and quarter finals the final four were Martin Foxhall, Travis Anderson, Bill Arthur and David Llewellyn. Foxhall played Llewellyn and Arthur played Anderson. Foxhall beat Llewellyn 16-10 and Anderson beat Arthur 12-10 to set up a final with Foxhall, something that would be repeated during the week. As expected, Foxhall won gold beating Anderson 19-11 and Llewellyn won bronze beating Arthur 14-11.

Martin is presented with his award by CSMBA President, Dave Burrows.



Martin went on to win the Pairs with David Llewellyn; the Triples with David Llewellyn and Fred Wallbank; the Fours with David Llewellyn, Fred Wallbank and Steve McKerihen. Following the Championships the team to represent Canada at the world short mat championships in Aberdeen, Scotland was selected. Unfortunately Martin is not available but the following Cobourg short mat members will be on the team.

Terry Bradshaw, Al Bell, Brent Bayley, Dave and Kathleen Shirley, Nan Hendren, John MacKenzie, Louisa and Bill Arthur. The Championships will take place between March 17th and 19th.

There is a video of the Championships on the club's YouTube channel (*what? You didn't know we have a YouTube channel? -Ed*)

Here is the link

<https://youtu.be/xjq9QJEZHaE>

2023

I have three questions for you to think about over the next few months.

1. Are there changes that you would like to see at the club next season? For example, jitney formats; club tournaments (more or fewer); more coaching; more competitive bowling (ie a league of some kind).

2. Should we hold more social occasions and what kind of event? Pre Covid we used to hold a monthly BBQ and we are planning to re-introduce those. But are there more opportunities for social occasions? Maybe a Friday afternoon practice session followed by Happy Hour!

3. What can I do to help the club? Lots is the answer! From helping with the greens and the surrounds to keeping the club house tidy and lots more in between. There are probably lots of you out there with skills that can be utilised to help run the club.

4. We still have two vacancies on the Executive Committee. You don't have to have been a member for a long time to join the EC. Three of the current officers have joined in the last two years and are providing new views, ideas and input to the club.

From The Archives

A few years ago we discovered a lovely trophy that was hidden away in the clubhouse. It was polished up by Donna Ball and has been used for the last couple of years as the trophy for



the
Bowlers in
Bloom

tournament. It was donated to the club by J W Bickle whose name has been mentioned in previous articles from the archives. But not only was a he a prominent member of the club at the time of its inception, I discovered some more information about him when I googled him. Here is what I found.

The History of the Northumberland Children's Aid Society

The idea for the formation of a Children's Aid Society in Cobourg arose following a meeting held on March 4th, 1885 in the Cobourg Council Chambers by concerned citizens interested in the protection of children. J.J. Kelso had been invited to the meeting to speak. Mr. Kelso explained the working of the Children's Aid Society and the powers given to such a Society when organized under the Act, thereby enabling them to deal legally with neglected children. A committee for the purposes of establishing a Society was subsequently formed.

In April of 1885, this committee applied for incorporation under Chapter 172 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario. On April 18th of that year, the Children's Aid Society of Northumberland was founded after His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor approved an Order-in-Council recognizing the Committee as a Society.

In 1908, a number of interested parties met in the Council chambers in the Town of Port Hope to take preliminary steps to organize a Society there as well. **Mr. John W. Bickle**, who had acted as Secretary of the Cobourg branch of the Society gave an account of the work done in the aid of neglected and orphaned children in Cobourg. In the thirteen years that the Society had been working there, some 25 children had been placed in good homes.

The two Societies were officially united to form the Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham in 1915 with the administration being centered in Port Hope. J.W. Bickle became the first President.

The (white) Greens

The worst conditions for the greens in winter are thaw and freeze or freezing rain. Snow acts as a blanket protecting the green so there are some advantages to it.

Some winter pics from days gone by.



And that's about it for this special Christmas edition.

On behalf of the Executive Committee we wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Bill Arthur

Tell me it isn't really 2023 next year.....

Tempus fugit

