

Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club



**February 2025
Newsletter**

Editor's Notes

As most of you will know the Ontario Curling Championships were held in Cobourg recently and many of our lawn bowlers who are also curlers were involved as volunteers over the seven day event. I attended as a spectator on a few days and was impressed by the welcome and friendliness of the volunteers and their efficiency undertaking a multitude of tasks. They came together as a great team – 186 of them!

So why am I telling you this? It's because they demonstrated the importance of volunteers in our community and the benefits volunteers can get personally from being involved in such a successful event. Whatever the event, big or small, clubs like ours cannot survive without volunteers and our volunteer pool is very small at the moment given the size of our club. We need your help and in this issue we highlight the benefits of volunteering and opportunities for you to help your club.

President's Message - Winter Words on Winter Works

This winter newsletter that Bill Arthur has put together for you gives me a chance to share with you that, in many ways, your Executive Committee puts in more work and hours on your behalf over the winter months than when the summer outdoor season is actually up and running. Let me give you an idea of the scope of activities that dozens and dozens of hours of work have been put into over the past few months by your Executive Committee and by other club members on various committees and project teams associated with the EC.

Open and In-Club tournaments for 2025 have had to be planned and scheduled. Sponsors contacted. Negotiations with the town undertaken concerning parking passes and property tax paid. Communications with our lighting contractor have been ongoing, making arrangements for the remediation of our LED lighting system before first bowls are rolled. Equipment maintained; blades sharpened. Recruiting initiatives have been planned, including one undertaken at the recent Provincial Curling Championships in Cobourg. A grant for new club bowls has been applied for. Another project team is working extremely hard at the moment preparing another grant application for funding to replace our old storage shed. A committee is putting in a lot of work at the moment preparing activities and events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our clubhouse this summer. Not to mention the ongoing work always required on maintaining financials, effective communications with all of you and long-range planning involving club organization, club needs and how to enhance the

experience of being a member of CLBC. As you know we offer two successful programs to our members – summer bowling and winter bowling. I would be remiss if I didn't mention all the hours the short mat executive have put in, and are currently putting in, to provide our short mat players with such enjoyment over the late autumn, winter and early spring months.

I know I'm leaving things out! Suffice to say, our hard-working volunteers deserve a vote of thanks all the year round.

Peter

Club Coaches and Umpires

Are you interested in coaching? If you are the first step is to train as a club coach. Having an adequate supply of qualified Club Coaches is a critical component of member satisfaction and retention.

Information for prospective or existing Club Coaches can be found by [clicking here](#)

The Club Coach program has two components; a general approach to becoming an effective, trusted bowls mentor, and a practical component covering how to teach standard grip, stance and delivery. The first component may be taken online, usually through Bowls Canada. The second will be in person.



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- EVERYDAY SENIOR'S DISCOUNT*
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MINOR AILMENTS

- Did you know that Pharmacist can now prescribe?
- Our Pharmacists can now assess patients and can write a prescription* for some minor ailments including Urinary Tract Infections (uncomplicated), allergic rhinitis, dermatitis, pink eye, cold sores and many more.
- Schedule a same day appointment with pharmacist today.

Pharmacist can now prescribe

Cobourg Care Pharmacy focuses on providing prescription services and pharmaceutical care at their best.

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Mon - Fri : 9am - 6pm
Saturday : 10am - 1pm
Sunday : **C L O S E D**

*Does not apply to prescription items, insulin and products with Schedule. Other exceptions may apply; please contact pharmacy team for more details.

Registrations for the online component on March 18th and 20th are available now. [Click here](#) Date and locations for the in person session are to be decided. The cost is \$100 for the Bowls Canada part of the course and \$60 for the in person part. **The club has decided to pay for a member who wishes to take the course.**

If you are interested and would like more details please email coach@olba.ca If you decide to take the course please let Bill Arthur know.

Umpires - OLBA is looking to recruit more umpires. If you are interested click here for more details. The cost is \$50 and the club will pay for a member who wishes to undertake umpire training. [Click here for more details](#)

The club will pay club coach and umpire fees for a maximum of five people each season.

The Benefits of Being A Volunteer at a Sports Club

Volunteering offers more than just giving back; it's personally fulfilling and socially enriching. Whether you love sports or want to engage with your community, here are key benefits of volunteering at a sports club.

Building Community - Sports clubs unite people from all walks of life.

Volunteering connects you with like-minded individuals, fostering friendships and a sense of belonging.

Learning New Skills -From event planning to coaching, volunteering helps you develop valuable skills. These experiences enhance your personal growth and resume.



Boosting Well-Being - Being part of a sports environment promotes an active lifestyle and improves mental health by reducing stress and offering purpose.

Giving Back -Your contributions help athletes of all ages, support events, and improve facilities. Making a tangible difference is incredibly rewarding.

Expanding Your Network - Meet players, coaches, parents, and other volunteers. These connections can lead to friendships, mentorships, or career opportunities.

Developing Leadership - Volunteering often involves leading teams or managing projects, enhancing communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.

Teamwork Rewards - Volunteering highlights the power of collaboration. Shared efforts lead to achievements, fostering camaraderie and pride.

Unique Experiences - Be part of exciting events like tournaments and competitions. These moments create unforgettable memories.

Creating Memories - From seeing an athlete's first goal to organizing successful events, volunteering brings countless cherished moments.

Conclusion - Volunteering at a sports club is fulfilling and impactful. It's a chance to grow, connect, and contribute to your community. Whether you seek new skills, friendships, or purpose, volunteering offers it all. Take the leap—your efforts will make a difference.

Where do we need volunteers?

Greens – we have a dedicated team who look after the greens but can always use more to spread the load. The main activities are mowing the greens, verticutting, cleaning the ditches and general maintenance (leaf blowing for example). A couple of hours a week would be the minimum commitment.

The surrounds – mowing the surrounds and weed whacking are the main activities. We have a tractor and self propelled mower for mowing the surrounds.



After training you might even be allowed to use the roller

Cleaning the club house – we have volunteers to do this but more volunteers would ease the load. An hour or two every couple of weeks is all that is required.

Kitchen – the kitchen needs to be manned for most of the day when we have a tournament. We also need a volunteer to arrange the rota for staffing the kitchen (see separate note from Louisa Arthur).

Jitneys and tournaments – we always need volunteers to act as drawmasters. Jitneys require about 45 to 60 minutes work but tournaments would require you to be available throughout the tournament (8.30am until about 4.00pm). Some preparatory work is needed for in club tournaments a day or two before. Training is given.

Social committee – volunteers are required to organize social events. This is very much an open book and requires enthusiastic volunteer(s) to increase social activities at the club.

These are the main areas but there are other areas where it would be good to train people as assistants and provide back-up and eventual replacement for the current job holders. Examples are:

Treasurer

Webmaster

Open tournaments

Grants

Property

Finally, I know that there is lots of expertise in many different areas among our members. You have all had careers involving many different skills. Even if you don't want to volunteer for any particular post at the moment it would help if we knew what your skillset is so that we could call on you if needs be.

Please contact me (billcarthur@gmail.com) if you wish to volunteer for a particular job or to give me details of your skills which we might call upon.

Bill Arthur

Kitchen Volunteers

Following on from the last article, no one has volunteered to look after the kitchen this season. If there is anyone willing to take this on, please let me know.

One change we are going to make is to go back to how kitchen duties were allocated in the past. We will put together a list of tournaments and who will be in the kitchen on those days. This list will be shown on the website and a notice will also be put in the Club House every month. If you are allocated kitchen duties and cannot attend on the day shown, it will be your responsibility to find a substitute.

Also, I know several members supply cookies and cakes for the tournaments and I am very grateful for this. I would just like to ask other members to do the same so that the work does not fall always to the same people.

Louisa Arthur

(louisabarthur@gmail.com)

Clubhouse Anniversary

This coming bowling season we will be celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the clubhouse. A committee has been formed and had an initial meeting. More information will be sent out as plans are formulated.



Any club members interested in working on the committee contact President Peter or myself.

Carol Dewey, Committee Chairperson

District 14 Playdowns and Ontario Open Championships

Entry for all playdowns and open Ontario Championships will be online this season, using the Sports Association Manager (SAM) database. It will be essential that you renew your membership for 2025 promptly if you are entering any of these events. Details on how to enter will be provided about April/May time.

Ontario will not be holding a five a side championship in 2025. Provincial entries to the Canadian Championships will be teams of five but Provinces have options as to how they select their teams. Ontario has decided to hold separate open Championships for singles, pairs, triples and fours. The winners of each event will qualify for the Ontario team. At the National Championships Fours and Singles will be played at the same time so one player cannot compete in both events. Pairs and Triples will also be played at the same time so players cannot compete in both events.

Here is the full schedule for 2025.

2025

Championship Dates	Discipline	Venue
June 7-8	Indoors - Open	Monora, Orangeville
June 14-15	Triples Men & Women Open	M - Dresden W - Ridgetown
June 21-22	Fours - Open	Hanover
June 28-29	Youth- Open (U-18 & U-25)	Cobourg
July 5 -6	Pairs: Men & Women - Open	M-Cosburn W-Midland
July 12-13	Singles: Men & Women - Open	M-Agincourt W-West Toronto
July 15-16	District Senior Pairs	See your District
July 26-27	District Mixed Pairs	See your District
August 9-10	Provincial Mixed Pairs	Burlington
August 16-17	District Novice Aussie Pairs	See your District
August 26-27	Provincial Senior Pairs	Windsor
August 30-31	District Novice Singles	See your District
September 6-7	Provincial Novice Aussie Pairs	Woodstock
September 20-21	Provincial Novice Singles	Oshawa

Short Mat Bowling

A new innovation at short mat this season has been leagues for Singles and Pairs and the league stage is coming to an end and play offs will start in March.

The current qualifications for the play-offs are as follows:

Division One Singles

Bill McCollam

Tammy Browes- Bugden

Dave Jones

Terry Bradshaw

Division Two Singles

Bill Arthur

Helen Beaton

Brent Bayley

Division 3 Singles

Pat Bylok

Gary Miller

Dale McMillan

The Pairs are still to be completed but current qualifiers are:

Division 1

Lori Wills and Sheri Perkins

Dale McMillan and Helen Beaton

Laura Mounce and Nan Hendren

Division 2

Monica Miller and Nancy Kirby

Terry Shannon and John Ledgerwood

Ken Bevan and Dave Jones

Division 3

Pat Bylok and Dana Williams

Fran Marsh and Ralph Hewitt

Brent Bayley and Jenn Wetherall

Debbie Gourd and Donna Longman

Bob Coleman and Michelle Bignell

John Ashley and Brian Miller

Play off games will be knock out games.

Terry Bradshaw



*I'm January bringing you
A year of days—all brand, brand new;
I step upon the frosty ground.
When chimes and sleighbells ring around;
You welcome me and children sing,
And joy comes into everything.
I bring you love and lots of cheer,
And work and friends for all the year.*
by Annette Wynne

JANUARY RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND PERFORMANCE

POINTS ALLOCATION – MAX 3 per session – **January perfect score: 18**

1 point for each win

1 point for a tie

1 point for participating – a successful first, second, or as a supportive spectator.

The bowlers playing in league games also get a point.

Point of interest – All bowlers listed on the score cards get a point, **win or not**.

If a card is not turned in, it is possible that ‘no names = no games’.

Please submit your score cards – list on the back all who played on your team in both first and second games.

Join the “KEEN AS MUSTARD CLUB” All you need to do is ‘not miss a session’.

This month there were 11 members who came every time.



January sprouted a new top player:

14 POINTS: JOHN LEDGERWOOD

13 POINTS: Dana Williams, Vince Tamburello

12 POINTS: Bob Coleman, Bill McCallum, Ralph Hewitt

11 POINTS: Bill Arthur, Brent Bayley, John Saunders, Michelle Bignell, Ron Kinsey

10 POINTS: Debbie Gourd, Gladys DeLong, Jenn Wetherall, John MacKenzie, Pat McCann

9 POINTS: Carol Adams, Diane Manol, Mary Salter, Anne Leahy

CHEERS to our newest members who are on this list: John Saunders, Ron Kinsey, Diane Manol

Note : FOUR months have passed and so far no one has achieved a perfect score.

Donna Longman

Open Tournaments in Cobourg

At our club this year we are running 9 'Open' tournaments. The list with dates can be seen on the club website. [Click here](#)

Open refers to the fact that we accept entries from other clubs as well as our own Cobourg members. This is different than an 'In-Club' one where you have to be a member of Cobourg LBC to play. You enter these Open events 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.

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

- 1) Phone or email your entry to the convenor at any time.

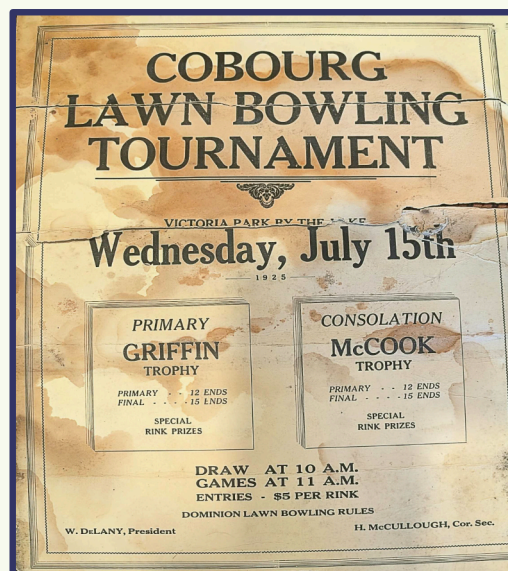
Bob Bates

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. Entries are taken on a first come first served basis so enter early to avoid going on the waiting list.

(Editor: I promise you that Bob's posters will be an improvement on this one from 100 years ago. Unless of course Bob spills his coffee on it to replicate this one)



We plan to take a maximum of 20 entries for each tournament. In each Open event during the season we are holding a minimum of 8 entries open for Cobourg teams. If we don't have 8 Cobourg entries 2 weeks before an event we will fill in with outside teams off the waiting list . . if there are any.

Too early to think about this summer's tournaments? Well. . we started taking entries on January first. It is still just early February but our 3 Mixed Pairs tournaments, which are the most popular ones, are already filled up with 20 or 21 entries in each. Last year 4 or 5 teams on the waiting lists got in to the tournaments as teams cancelled out before the event so get on the list if you would like to play.

Our Open Pairs (Men, Mixed or Ladies teams) tournament on Thurs Sept 5 has 2 spots left. In all tournaments you can put in an entry even if you don't have a team

made up yet. There are plenty of entries left in all our other tournaments. Note that we allow 1 extra player per team in our 2025 tournaments. i.e. In a triples event you can have a 4 person team . . but the players can not be changed in the middle of a game. This is to allow members who only want to play 1 or 2 of the 3 games to play.

Our first Open Tournament is the Lauria Open Fours on Victoria Day Monday May 19. (Team can be women, men or mixed) This is just a week & a half after opening day. There is lots of room for more teams as we have only 11 at the moment.

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 (No Ralph . . you don't wear a dress!)
 - o 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. (Donations accepted) 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)

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.

Entering at other clubs:

Just about all clubs in Ontario run several tournaments during the season. You can see a listing of them all on the OLBA Website (www.olba.ca). In the middle of their home page click on "Current Event Listing". Then you are on a page where you can search for tournaments by date, by club, by district, etc. To get used to this page start by searching in the 'All clubs' box. Go in and choose 'Cobourg' and you will get a list of all tournament in our club. Hit the green '+' sign on the left side of a tournament to get all the details about it and who to contact to enter it.

Almost all clubs are looking for more entries and are happy to have you come to play.

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

Open Tournament Convenor

Bob Bates

bbates103@rogers.com

289 252 2042

Communications

Given the reliance on SAM for communications (and championship entries) it is essential that your address, telephone number and email address are up to date and accurate on SAM. Please advise Helen Beaton of any changes as and when they occur.

Following the recent trial of an email blast from office@cobourglawnbowlingclub.ca this is the address from which future communications will come. I know that when we carried out the trial of emails from that address some mail went into spam folders. Please check your spam folder periodically to ensure that you are not missing communications and mark messages as “not spam” so that in future they will go direct to your inbox. This new account gives us improved ways of dealing with incoming mail as well as providing shared document folders for the Executive Committee and virtual meeting facilities through Google Meet.

Bill Arthur

2025 Season Opening Dates

Spring General Meeting	Wednesday April 30th
Club Clean up	Saturday May 3 rd
Opening Day	Saturday May 10th

Editor's End Notes

I haven't really got anything meaningful to finish with so I'm just going to leave you with this photograph and see who can tell me what is wrong with it. Until next time....Bill Arthur

