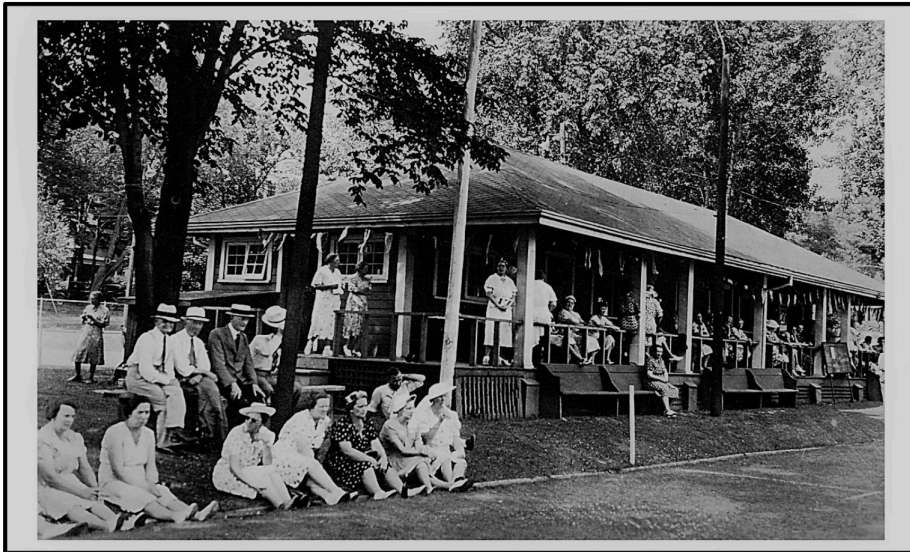


Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club

Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club



In Victoria Park since 1907

**March 2024
Newsletter**

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2024. Wherever you are or have been I hope the winter has not been too bad for you. Cobourg has been relatively mild and we have reached that stage of winter when hopefully the worst is behind and we can start to look forward to days and evenings on the bowling green. In this edition we will update you on what has been happening over the winter and give you information to help you plan your summer bowling.

Bill Arthur

Grant Us A Bright Future Ahead! - President's Message

No, the title above is not taken from a fortune cookie in honour of the recent Lunar New Year! Rather, it refers to the wonderful news that our project submitted through the New Horizons for Seniors Program has been approved for funding in the amount of \$9,000.00 for new LED lighting to illuminate our greens. What a great start to the year, yet another grant success for the CLBC. Our current lights are sodium fixtures installed over twenty years ago. They provide spot-lighting not flood-lighting so shadows have long been a problem for evening games. Plus, as you witnessed last year, some of these lights are starting to fail. They also use a lot of energy and require twenty minutes warm-up time. Thanks to this grant, these existing sodium lights will be replaced by twelve 150W LED lights mounted on the existing poles. They will be installed by Mariposa Electric, a contractor with experience in this type of project. We will be able to provide a well-lit playing area for our bowlers and a safer one as well!

I would like to extend a big thank you to Terry Dyche and Mike Place who took the lead on this application. Terry Dyche is in charge of the project and did the research on what we required, located bidders and chose the best option for our needs. State-of-the-art lighting, energy saving and no shadows, ensuring the club's needs in terms of lighting will be met for years moving forward. Mike Place put in hours of time and effort on the application to produce a document the granting body obviously could not refuse. Contributing in smaller, though no less important ways to this application were Carol Dewey, Bob Bates and myself. The fact that Mike Place is so good and successful as our Grants Officer should not distract us from the amount of work he puts in helping to gain for us all these monies for much needed projects.

Next up, an application is currently being prepared for an Ontario Trillium Fund Capital Grant to fund us to replace our oldest equipment shed (next to the clubhouse). Our present shed is nearly 40 years old, has no solid foundation and is quite dilapidated. We need a new shed that is structurally safe, weatherproof and adequate to protect our expensive equipment stored within. Terry Dyche as Director in charge of Property is once again the Team Leader on this project and has already been working for months on the development of this project. The rest of the team consists of Brent Bayley, Bob Bates and Bill Arthur. And of course our Grants Officer, Mike Place will be completing the grant application and has been steering the grant application process and liaising extensively with OTF officials. Special mention must be made at this point of Brent Bayley who has been working for months on this project, bringing his professional expertise to our service by working on plans and costing, meeting with town officials about the build, lining up contractors and getting quotes for our application. Everyone on the team is working hard, since the submission deadline is early March.

All of which brings me to a closing comment about our volunteers as a new season appears on the not-too-distant horizon. Everyone who contributes their time and energy volunteering for the club no matter how minor their contribution may seem, ensures the survival, legacy and robustness of the CLBC moving into the future, and for current club members ensures the value and quality of the physical, emotional, mental and social benefits that come from being a member. Thank you to everyone who sees a need and steps in to help.

Peter

Opening Day

The EC discussed the plans for the opening of the season and agreed to the following schedule:

Spring General Meeting – Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30 pm for registration and meeting at 7 pm at Trinity Church Hall.

Clubhouse clean up and opening – Saturday, May 4th at 9:30 am.

Opening Potluck and Jitney – Saturday, May 11, noon.

Please mark these dates on your calendars.



It's always interesting to find out in the Spring how the greens have been affected by the winter weather. Personal observation is that they don't look too bad at the moment. Not like this picture from opening day 2014 which was mainly a result of the December 2013 ice storm.



Brighter nights are ahead this summer as Peter has said.

Membership Database

Ontario Lawn Bowls Association (OLBA) is introducing a new membership database this year, known as SAM (**S**ports **A**ssociation **M**anager). This will enable club membership secretaries to update and add new members directly to the database. Member details from 2023 will be pre-populated on the database but will need to be checked by the membership secretary. It is therefore important that any changes to your personal details (address, phone, email) are sent to Helen Beaton hbeaton43@gmail.com Helen will be assisted this year by Julie Perry so please also copy any emails to Julie. perryjulie01@gmail.com Julie will also be responsible for booking free lessons for new bowlers. Thank you Julie for volunteering to help.

Club Tournaments

I rang up my local bowling club, I said "Is that the local bowling club?"

He said "It depends where you're calling from."



There is a schedule of 2024 club tournaments on the website. This year we will have a new tournament for over seventies on September 19th. This is being sponsored by Ralph Hewitt. Thank you Ralph.

The club tournaments are being organised this year by Tammy Browes-Bugden and Andrew Perry. Just to

remind you, a sign-up sheet will be posted at the club a couple of weeks before the tournament and you sign up as an individual. The drawmasters for the tournament will make up the teams. We will keep you informed about upcoming tournaments throughout the season.

Cobourg Open Tournaments

At the club this year we are running nine 'Open' tournaments. **The list with dates can be found on the club website.**

Open refers to the fact that we accept entries from other clubs as well as our own Cobourg members. You enter these 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 in 2 ways:

- 1) Phone or email your entry to the convenor 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 6 weeks before the tournament. **Entries are taken on a first come first served basis so enter early to avoid going on the waiting list.**

We plan to take a maximum of 20 entries for each tournament. In each Open event during the season we are holding at least 8 entries open for Cobourg teams up until 2

weeks before the event. After that date if we have less than 8 Cobourg entries spots can be filled from outside teams off the waiting list as well.

Our Pairs tournaments (Men's, Mixed, Open) are the most popular. Here it is 3 months until our first Mixed Pairs tournament and I already have 12 or more entries from Outside Teams for the June 1 & Sept 12 events. Subsequently we have had to start a Waiting List for outside entries for these ones.

We also already have 4 or 5 entries in from Cobourg members for some events (as



Will this couple be as successful in open tournaments this year as they were in 2023?

Is their success anything to do with Bob running tournaments?

noted in previous Newsletters & reports you can start entering on Jan 1 each year). Spots available may be limited (or filled) by the time the entry Sign Up Sheets physically go up at the club . . . so enter early. Note: You can put in an entry even if you don't know your team make up yet.

At the District 14 Fall Meeting it was decided that we would allow 1 extra player per team in our 2024 tournaments. i.e. In a pairs event you can have a 3 man 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 of the 3 games to play.

Our first Open Tournament is the Lauria Open Fours on Victoria Day Monday May 20. (Team can be women, men or mixed) This is just a week & a half after opening day. There are 12 (6 inside, 6 outside) entries so far so lots of room for more teams.

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. (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)

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.

We also have 2 events scheduled for Youth bowlers on June 9 & Aug 24. Players wanting to enter these events should contact myself or Sharyl Ann Milligan: milligan@eagle.ca

Again . . don't hesitate to email me with any questions.

Open Tournament Convenor

Bob Bates

bbates103@rogers.com

289 252 2042

Other Open Tournaments

Bob's article above tells you all about open tournaments in Cobourg but what if you want to enter an open at another club? Firstly a reminder about something Bob said. If you want to play in an open tournament you enter as a team.

Only one member of the team should enter. There have been occasions when two members of the same team have made an entry and to the club organiser that looks like two teams!!

A team can enter any open tournament in Ontario. Usually the OLBA website publishes a complete list of all Ontario tournaments but at the time of writing that does not appear to have happened. However, you will find details of club tournaments in our District (District 14) on our website. Here is the link

<https://www.cobourglawnbowlingclub.ca/2024-district-14-opens.html>

To find a club tournament contact go to <https://www.olba.ca/> and click on "Tournament Contacts by Club"

Bill Arthur

Provincial Championships

The events and dates are shown below.

2024 Championship Dates

Prov/Dist	Event	Venue	Dates
Provincial	Indoors Singles	James Gardens	June 15/16
Provincial	5 Aside	Pickering	June 22/23
Provincial	5 Aside	Dresden	July 6/7
Provincial	Youth U 21 Singles	Kingston	July 13/14
District	Mixed Pairs		July 27/28
Provincial	Mixed Pairs	Woodstock	August 10/11
District	Seniors Pairs		July 17/18
Provincial	Seniors Pairs	Hanover	August 14/15
District	Novice Aussie Pairs		August 17/18
Provincial	Novice Aussie Pairs	Midland (M) Guelph (W)	Aug.31-September 1
District	Novice Singles		September 7/8
Provincial	Novice Singles	Lindsay (M) Cobourg (w)	September 21/22

Note: 5 Aside is over two weekends

The five a side championships are open entry. What does it mean - “five a side”? It means that four of the five person team play fours and the other one plays singles.

After that two of the team play pairs and three play triples. Each game will consist of two sets (five ends in each set). Win both sets (or win one and tie one) and you win the match. If the two teams each win one set they play a one end tie breaker.

Teams have to register by June 1st [click here for entry form](#)

All other events will have District playdowns with the winners qualifying for the provincial championships. Entry for District playdowns is usually up to three days before the event and there is no limit on the number of entries. I will provide more details about playdowns once the season starts

You can find the full conditions of play at www.olba.ca

Definition of a Novice Bowler

A novice bowler is one who has bowled for five years or less. Since there was no play in 2020 and 2021 (because of Covid), those years do not count for novice eligibility. Here is a table from the OLBA website that makes it clear.



Novice Eligibility for Provincial Competitions

YEAR JOINED	YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY LEFT	
2016	none	
2017	none	
2018	One (1)	Last year 2024
2019	Two (2)	Last year 2025
2020	Non-counting due to Covid	
2021	Non-counting due to Covid	
2022	Three (3)	Last year 2026
2023	Four (4)	Last year 2027
2024	Five (5)	Last year 2028



Short Mat Bowling

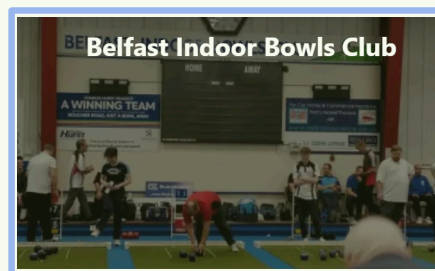
It has been a very successful short mat season with higher membership numbers than ever. On a recent Thursday afternoon we had 46 members playing and had to have four teams of four rather than the usual triples. Thanks to Donna Longman and Brent Bayley who have done most of the organising and acted as drawmaster for jitneys.

On Saturday February 24th we held a triples tournament (optimistically billed as "The Spring Classic"). 14 teams competed in a very successful tournament which saw lots of great shot making. Playing with his usual team (Fred Wallbank and David Llewellyn) Martin Foxhall was the winner with 3 wins and 43 points but only one point behind with 3 wins and 42 points were Donna Longman, Bob Coleman and Michelle Bignall. Third was another Cobourg team, Lori Wills, Nan Hendren and Helen Beaton. You will find a report and photos on the news page of our website.

<https://www.cobourglawnbowlingclub.ca/news>

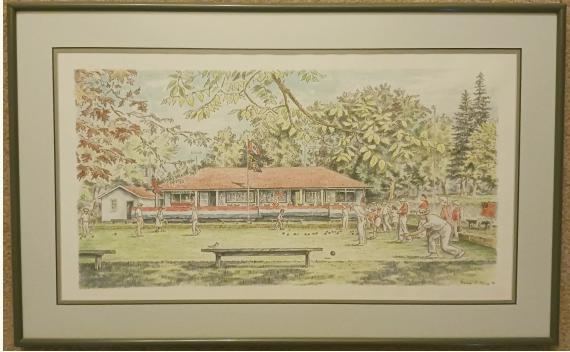
Six Cobourg bowlers will represent Canada at the world short mat bowls championships in Belfast between March 15th and 17th. We wish them luck. They are:

Martin Foxhall, Bill McCollam, Peter Stuart-Sheppard, John MacKenzie, Louisa and Bill Arthur.



From the Archives

There have been a number of paintings of the club and bowling scenes over the years. Shown below is one from 1992 by Barry King together with the photo on which the painting is based.



Bob Bryson (left) receiving the painting from artist, Barry King.

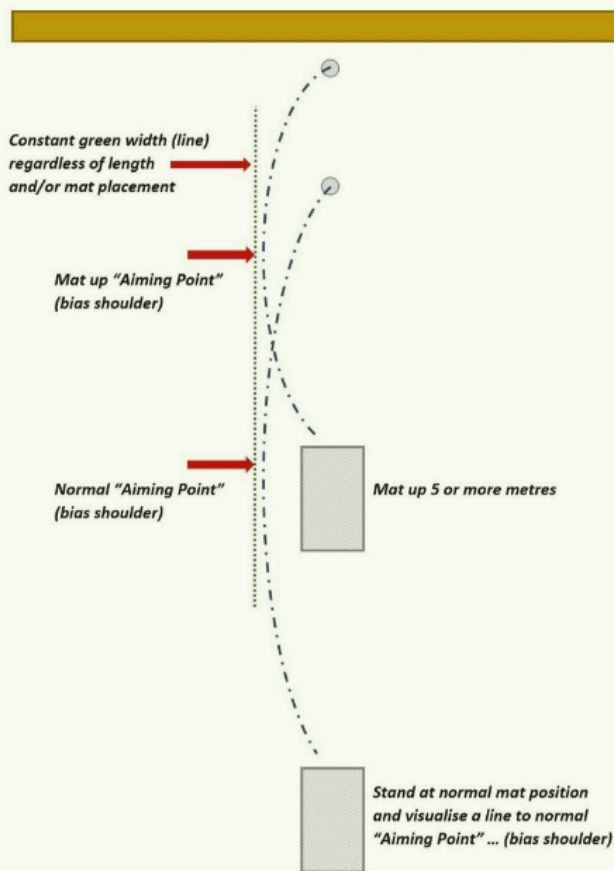
Thank you Donna Longman for this.

Where do you aim?

AIMING POINT: Do you “visualise” the path your bowl will take and aim at the shoulder (breaking point) ... or do you aim at a point on the bank ? Overwhelmingly, most top representative bowlers use the “visualise” method ... supported by the results of a recent Facebook Poll

AIMING POINT – bias shoulder

The VISUALISER is able to remember the required angle for each end and each hand and concentrates on getting this right throughout the day. Most initially visualise the shot and the line the bowl will take from hand to head ... then aim toward the “bias shoulder” (breaking point) whilst endeavouring to gauge the appropriate weight through the same process.



Maintain "AIMING POINT" (bias shoulder) when mat moved up the green

Another Message from the President (!)

While I'm on the subject of volunteers, I must express on behalf of all CLBC members a big thank you to Bill Arthur for this newsletter and all the newsletters we receive regularly throughout the year. Aside from his duties as vice-president of CLBC, president of the Short Mat Group, club coach, club webmaster, ratings committee member and others, Bill is also essentially the founder, publisher, managing editor, designer and a writer/contributor of our electronic club newsletter. As well as keeping us all informed about club news and events, the newsletter is an essential contributor to the sense of community we feel as members of the CLBC, helping each recipient to feel part of a welcoming, positive and vibrant organization. Thanks Bill, much appreciated.

Peter

And Finally

The Caveman's Lament

me think about her when sun rises
me think about her when sun sets
me say to her how much me love her
she tell me love invent not yet

me make cave all warm and cosy
me lie bearskin on cave floor
me play song of love on bone flute
she choose cave of Tim next door

me no more go out hunt mammoth
me throw spear too short or long
me sit in cave me paint her picture
she say me got perspective wrong

me cook meal to show me love her —
diplodocus with fried beans —
she say food anachronistic
me not know what this means

stone age mighty hard for lovers
yet rub two flints look what you get
small sparks lead to big inferno
but she say love invent not yet

homo unrequitus

Valentines day has come
and gone but I will finish
with a poem by Brian
Bilston about the very first
Valentine.

Until next time,
Bill Arthur