

# **COBOURG LAWN BOWLING CLUB**



**October 2021**



## Editor's Notes

Another season is over and I think we can say that we are in a better position than we were this time in 2020. We had regular club play four times a week, held three club tournaments and an open tournament. And, most importantly, we were able to recruit new members, something that was not possible in 2020. My hope for 2022 is that we start to build back to pre-pandemic membership level and that we can enjoy a full schedule of bowling. That is what we will plan for over the winter months.

Congratulations to Sharyl Ann Milligan, Steve Haslam and Terry Dyche who all correctly identified the photo in last month's edition as being on the fence on the boardwalk just west of the Legion Village. Sharyl Ann also informed me that this artwork was done by the mother of one of our former youth bowlers, Will Richardson.

## Club Singles Tournament

Saturday September 4th we held the club singles tournament. We had a good turn out with 12 ladies and 11 men.

We played a round robin within groups to determine the play off places and in the ladies semi final Pat Bylok beat Carol Dewey and Baylee van Steijn beat Bozana Brick so the final was between Pat and Baylee. Pat had beaten Baylee in their round robin game but this time Baylee prevailed winning a 3 end tie breaker after the players had won one set each.



In the men's tournament the play off places were contested by Carl Ferguson, Ken Bevan, Tom Bevan and Bill Arthur. Carl beat Tom and Bill beat Ken so the final was a repeat of previous years. In a close game Bill won both sets to retain his title and complete a hat



trick of wins.

The turn out for the club singles was the best we have seen in a long time and what was especially pleasing was the number of new bowlers who participated.

Traditionally the scoring in singles is first player to 21 points but that can result in very long games. Believe me, games can take 41 ends to get a result! (Ed: *The opposite is also true - I've played in District playdown singles where it was over in about 6 ends and I lost 21-0!*). We abandoned that format in 2019 and played sets, as we did this year and it seems to work well and leads to shorter games.

Playing singles is a great way to develop your bowling skills. Even if you didn't win a game in the club singles you will have learned something and you will be a better player for it. It

was good to see new bowlers winning or sharing a set and to see that a number of those games went to tie breakers.

## Jitney Results

To re-cap, every member has received the number of points that their team has scored in each jitney in which they have played. Obviously the more jitneys in which you play you will score more points but that's not to decry the achievements of the top five players who were:

Carol Dewey	220 points
Mary Salter	218
Tom Bevan	207
Vince Tamburello	182
Ken Bevan	173

Congratulations to them. They each received a Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club pen. Mary was not available for this photo call.



## The Little Black Book

The club's top bowler, a guy who had won every club championship numerous times was known for carrying a little black book which he regularly consulted during games. Whenever he stood on the mat, with a particularly difficult situation, he would take out his little book and then make a brilliant shot. Eventually he died and there was great interest in this book. Many of the club members approached the man's widow asking what she was planning to do with this legendary book. As a shrewd woman who was also in need of funds she decided to auction it to the highest bidder. The auction was held at the club and after some very spirited bidding a member, who had often finished second to the now deceased champion, took possession of the much sought after and now expensive book. He could scarcely wait to take the book home and pursue its pages at leisure. He sat himself down in his study and began to leaf through the pages - and he found that the pages were blank! He finally came to a page that had one sentence on it. It said:

"Small circle on the inside"



If you have ever wondered what is going on each Wednesday in August on the north green, **Nan Hendren** explains.

### **Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club Partnership with Community Living**

Community Living – West Northumberland provides a range of supports to individuals aged 6 and up who have an intellectual disability in accordance with each person's needs, wishes, abilities and aspirations.

Each year for the past 5 years the CLBC has had the pleasure of hosting a group of adults from Community Living on Wednesday afternoons in August, as part of the club's commitment to community partnerships.

Clients from Community Living register to participate in the 4 week program. With the assistance of volunteers from the club, the visitors are given instruction on how to deliver a bowl and how to score. By week two they are ready for a little 4321 competition with volunteers assisting with delivery and bias at one end and another volunteer acting as skip. Support workers also attend to assist with the group and learn how to bowl along side their clients.

Due to COVID restrictions for visitors and rentals, we were not able to host the group last year, but we were happy to be able to have them back this year with some minor restrictions in place to meet our COVID safety plan. The group is enthusiastic, and we always admire their effort and determination to learn the sport.

*(Ed: Thanks to Nan Hendren who arranges this every year and to her regular assistants Donna Ball, Carol Dewey and Mary Thibault)*

### **Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club Visit**

What a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon! The Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club hosted a Family & Friends Tournament on Sunday, September 12th and four bowlers from the Cobourg Club participated: Sarah and Baylee VanSteijn, Ann Tough and Carol Dewey.

For ten dollars we had two eight end games, a lovely dinner and prizes! One of the objectives of the event was to introduce tournament play to some of their newer players. The four of us had been assigned to different teams so we had the opportunity to meet and play with bowlers from the other club.

After a delicious dinner, prizes were awarded including a draw prize donated by the sponsor. One of the Cobourg players came home five dollars richer and toting a new coffee maker! All in all, a great way to support another club.

**Carol Dewey**

### **Canadian Bowler**

"Darryl Fitzgerald is the Canadian Bowler. Passionate about bowls and coaching, Darryl tries to spread that passion to all bowlers by sharing his experiences and knowledge in the sport."



I copied this introduction from Darryl's website but I don't think he will mind because I suggest you check out his website <https://canadianbowler.com/> and his YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/CanadianBowler/videos>

On his YouTube channel you will find a series called "Technical Difficulties" and at the time of writing there are videos on "The Grip" and "The Stance" with further videos to come in the series. I find his explanations straightforward and easy to follow so check it out, give him a "thumbs up" and subscribe.

**Bill Arthur**



### **Those were the days - free publicity every week**

When Cobourg still had a daily paper (Nortumberland Today) we had an article on the club activities every week during the summer. This was the front page on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2017.



## The Greens

The lawn bowling season runs from May to September but the season for greens maintenance is more like April to October so, if you are passing the club, you will see work still going on. Have you seen the sand on the greens and wondered what is going on?

The sand is top dressing which we do every Fall. After aerating the greens the sand is applied over the whole green.



Top dressing Improves the soil structure and water holding capacity and helps to build up beneficial soil microbes.

It also helps to smooth out uneven terrain from worm castings, freeze/thaw cycle, or water runoff so some of those invisible (to the eye) low spots gradually get filled in.

Other tasks which have to be undertaken include rolling, machinery maintenance and of course leaf removal. We owe a big thanks to our principal greenskeepers, Mike Hendren and Carl Ferguson. They are supported by a small team who assist in cutting the greens. Additionally there is a team of volunteers, led by Bob Bates, who mow the surrounds, clean the ditches and generally keep the grounds neat and tidy. Thanks to all of them.

## The Yard Sale

Between September 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> the clubhouse became jam packed with all your donations for the Yard Sale - there was hardly room to move! On the 24<sup>th</sup> everything was sorted and priced ready for the day of the sale. Thankfully the weather was kind to us because we would not have managed if we had to hold the sale on the veranda.

At 6.00am we started to put out the tables and the items for sale. The tables stretched the whole way along the west fence



and the benches were also used. Books, DVDs etc were on the veranda.

The advertised start time was 7.30 but shortly after 7.00 people started to come in whilst we were still bringing items out of the clubhouse.

And the end result? \$2,058.05 was raised for club funds.

It was a lot of work during the whole week and on the day of the sale and it is thanks to all those who volunteered in some

way that it was such a success. There are too many people to mention but as Carol Dewey said, it was a real team effort.

## Nan Hendren - Civic Award

At the Town of Cobourg Civic Awards ceremony (held virtually) on September 24<sup>th</sup> it was announced that Nan Hendren had received a Distinguished Civic Award for Athletics. The award reflects the volunteer hours that Nan puts into lawn bowling and at the West Northumberland Curling club. Congratulations Nan.



## Our New Bowlers

We were joined this year by a number of new bowlers and it has been a pleasure to teach them and play with them. It's great to see people learning about the sport and enjoying it. But what was their view of bowling and our club? I reached out to them for their views. Here are some of their comments:

*"I enjoyed socializing and the relaxed playing time. I really like learning as I play"*

*"Fun, exciting, and challenging for all."*

*"It's really relaxing even though it's harder to do well than it looks. The people are really welcoming and friendly and very generous with tips for better play"*

*"The second I stepped onto the green, I made 50 new friends. Great social environment and the game is a ton of fun"*

*"The club offers great value for money, a great game to learn and enjoy along with all the benefits of healthy exercise and fresh air and finding new friends."*

*"Club is a friendly inviting place to learn a new game and meet new people."*

I also asked for comment on anything that we didn't do which they would have liked us to do. I'm pleased to say that there were no negative comments although there was one (which I half expected) about wanting more coaching and lessons on the rules of the game. That is something that we can address next season, if not before.

**Bill Arthur**

## **Editor's Final Thoughts**

Two years ago we finished the season with about 100 members and were congratulating ourselves on a successful 2019 season. Little did we know what was ahead of us.

The fact that we have survived is a credit to the good financial management of the club by the Executive Committee and their efforts to allow us to continue to play in one form or another throughout the pandemic. The club has been a safe haven in which to pursue our sport and you have all played your part by observing the Covid protocols. We are also extremely grateful to those members who, although unable to play, renewed their membership and/or made donations to the club.

It was encouraging to recruit a number of new members this season and hopefully we will be able to do so again in 2022. Hopefully we will also welcome back those of you who, for whatever reasons, have not played in the last two years.

With membership declining from 100 pre-pandemic to 66 this year it not only places a strain on our finances but also places a strain on volunteers. We have a smaller pool from which to draw and we cannot continue to rely on the same people all the time.

I hope you have found these Newsletters useful and informative. In the past I have posted news on the website but realise that not everybody regularly checks the website and that news delivered to your inbox is more likely to get your attention. If you have missed any they are all available to download from the website.

If you have any suggestions, comments or information that you want to share, please let me know.

There is unlikely to be enough material for a monthly Newsletter through the winter months but there will be periodic ones keeping you up to date on plans for 2022 and probably some short mat bowling news.

***Bill Arthur***

I can't finish with another blank column so here is a double photo quiz for you.

