

# Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club



**September 2023  
Newsletter**

### **Editor's Notes**

*My favourite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' because it actually tells you something. -Groucho Marx.*

*By the time you read this there will be less than thirty days left in September and suddenly we are nearly at the end of the 2023 season. So let's make the most of the events that are still to come during the month before we finally draw the curtain on the 2023 season. There is still lots to enjoy.*

*Bill*

### **President's Message**

The September newsletter! Where has the summer gone! Just a reminder of the General Membership meeting on Wednesday September 27th at Trinity United Church on Division St. This is an important meeting for setting the stage for the 2024 season as we hold elections for the Executive Committee and the Convenors.

I'm happy to report that VP Peter Stuart-Sheppard has agreed to take over the Presidency. Two members have come forward and offered to take on In Club tournaments in one case and Lockers and Gardens in the other.

We have two vacancies on the Executive Committee, one for Vice President and one Director position. Bill Arthur has volunteered to join the EC again (position to be decided) which leaves one vacancy. We are also looking for someone to take over as Membership Convenor.

If I have not heard from you I am assuming you will continue in the role/responsibility you currently have. Thank you all for your contribution to the club.

*Carol Dewey*

*President*

## **Friendly Games**

The club held two friendly games in August, against Wilmot Creek and Lindsay. We seem to have taken our motto of “Friendship by the Lake” too literally as the opposition won both games. However, as we all know “It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game.” (*Ed-Really?*)

**Wilmot Creek** - This game was played under very unusual circumstances. The greens were so heavy and wet that the jack had to be placed on the hog line every end. Even so there were lots of short bowls!



We lost the game. There is a full report on the website but we must mention the team of Ann Tough, Kathleen Shirley and Jen Wetherall, the only Cobourg team to win two games. With the score tied in the last end of the second game Ann bowled a tremendous shot to win the game.

Despite the difficult conditions it was an enjoyable day. Wilmot Creek gave each Cobourg member a ticket for a prize draw and five of us took home a bottle of wine. The real winners here were Al Bell and Laura Mounce. Al won a 50/50 prize and a bottle of wine and Laura also won a bottle of wine.

**Lindsay at Cobourg** - On Sunday Aug 27 six teams of Triples from Lindsay made their way to Cobourg to play in a ‘Friendly’ 2 game match. A Saturday night rain storm left the green very wet. Some areas of the south green close to the club were not playable but luckily, we only needed 6 rinks and went east/west on rinks 1 to 6.

In the first round there were wins by Jan Skillen & John Saunder’s teams. Unfortunately, those were our only 2 wins. 2 games won by just 1 point each helped Lindsay win 4 of the 6 matches. That is probably why our Lindsay guests seemed to be enjoying themselves so much at lunch time.

Our fortunes did not improve as the not so friendly Lindsay teams took 4 of the 6 afternoon games as well. The team skipped by Elaine Antaya (with Pat & Betty) took the top spot winning their 2 games with 35 points and scooped up a bottle of wine each for their efforts.

It was great to see that 11 of our 18 Cobourg players were 1st or 2nd year bowlers. They had a couple reasons for celebration during the day. A rousing (well not too rousing) rendition of Happy Birthday greeted Anne Leahy as she stepped on the green for game 1 . . . and the big winner of the day turned out to be Brodie Johnston winning 2 of the 3 Share the Wealth draws to take home \$50.

Thanks go out to:

- The ladies working in the kitchen (Helen Beaton, Karen Little & Penny Watson)
- Mary Salter for making a dash to the store to buy a fresh supply of coffee.
- Carl Ferguson for setting up the greens
- Ralph Hewitt for organizing the Share the Wealth

*Bob Bates*

### **The Supportive Skip**





## **Ontario Championship Round Up**

**Novice Combo Fours** - Last month we reported on the District 14 Novice Combo Fours Playdowns in which Al Bell, Sheri Perkins, Brent Perkins and Lynn Bryans competed. Although they did not qualify automatically for the Ontario Championships they were invited to play to fill a vacancy and bring the number of teams up to 16.

The team played some wonderful bowls (without always getting the deserved reward), had a lot of fun together, bonded well as a team and had a great experience which bodes well for them in future tournament play. You can read more on the news page of the website.



**Ontario Seniors** - Bill Arthur and Peter Stuart- Sheppard, with John MacKenzie of Oshawa, represented District 14 in the Ontario Seniors Championships in Hanover on August 29th and 30th. The format was double knock out and they got off to a great start with an easy win against District 8B in their first game. In their second they did not do as well against District 13 (who went on to win bronze) and lost the game but in their third game they recovered from 1-8 to beat District 7 and moved on to Day 2.

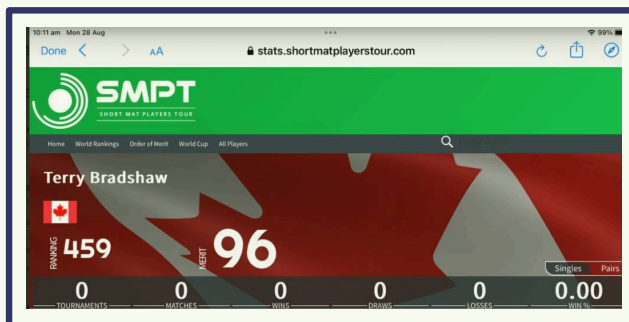
In cold and wet conditions they had a disastrous start against District 11 but recovered from 1-11 and were two down going into the last end. Lying two shots they were denied a tie by a wick right into the head by the District 11 skip. I had one shot left but could not take out the District 11 bowl. District 11 went on to win silver.

## **Short Mat Bowling**

The new season will soon be here. It will start at the CCC on Tuesday October 3rd. Anyone interested in playing short mat should contact [cobourg.shortmat@gmail.com](mailto:cobourg.shortmat@gmail.com) or speak directly to Donna Longman. For the benefit of members who do not

know anything about short mat bowling they meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week at the CCC between 1.00pm and 4.00pm. The game is played on a mat measuring 45 feet x 6 feet using ordinary lawn bowls. You are welcome to try it out before deciding whether or not to join. Contact Donna.

We have a success story to report in short mat. Terry Bradshaw competed in the English Open Championship this month. This is one of the events on the Short Mat Players Tour (SMPT). Terry put up a great performance winning 3 of his 5 round robin games and qualifying for the elimination round. Unfortunately he did not go any further. Having competed in this event he now has a world ranking of 459. Congratulations Terry.



### August Question

Last month Donna Longman posed this question:

“Did you know that lawn bowling in its early days was played keeping men and women apart.

What year did the Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club's 'men's section' and 'ladies section' join together to form one club with one executive?”

Answer - 1988 - 35 years ago: Prior to then there were separate lists in the club's calendars and the Annuals. There were executive committees for each - one men's and one ladies. In 1987 the president for the men was Wally Reid and the ladies' president was Alma McKendrick. The following year (1988) the president was Bob Fulton with Eileen Griffith as VP. It was decided that the position of president would alternate from man to woman every year thereafter and so it is recorded that in 1989 Eileen Griffith had the honour of being the first female president ever.

### August Caption Competition

The winner is Pat Bylok





### Monday Night Competitive League

The league has now finished and it has been a lot of fun, despite being a competitive league. The winners were team Hendren (Carl Ferguson, Nan and Mike Hendren) who finished two points ahead of “The Titans” (Peter Stuart Sheppard, Mike Place and Bill Arthur). In third place were “The Cobourg Rollers”(Al Bell, Laura Mounce and John Clews)

Many thanks to Al Bell for organising the league. Why not think about putting your own team in next year?

#### **Monday Night Standings** **Final Standings**

| Rank | Team            | Points | Played | Wins | Lost | Draw | PD  |
|------|-----------------|--------|--------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1    | Hendren         | 18     | 11     | 8    | 1    | 2    | 35  |
| 2    | The Titans      | 16     | 11     | 7    | 2    | 2    | 15  |
| 3    | Cobourg Rollers | 14     | 11     | 7    | 4    | 0    | 20  |
| 4    | Shirley         | 11     | 11     | 5    | 5    | 1    | 15  |
| 5    | Bayley          | 10     | 11     | 5    | 6    | 0    | 4   |
| 6    | Pink Ladies     | 10     | 11     | 5    | 6    | 0    | -6  |
| 7    | Bobs Bowlers    | 8      | 10     | 3    | 4    | 0    | -18 |
| 8    | Perkins         | 6      | 10     | 2    | 5    | 2    | -26 |
| 9    | Down Lucy       | 3      | 10     | 1    | 8    | 1    | -43 |

### Club Tournaments

Three tournaments were held this month and all were well attended.

The Windmill tournament was rearranged to Saturday August 5th, having been postponed because of rain on the previous Saturday. Tom Bevan won playing with Brent Bayley and Helen Kowalski. They beat Donna Longman, Brodie Johnston and Lyle Skidmore. Tom completed an August double by winning the club novices tournament with Dennis Kirby and Dana Williams.



Between those two tournaments we held the club singles championships. Donna Longman won the ladies championship with Nan Hendren in second place. In the men's we had a new champion for the first time in four years, Al Bell with Bob Bates in second place .



### Cobourg Open Tournaments

August 10th was the day of our first open tournament with an all novice team. Seven Cobourg teams competed and it's great to report that we had Cobourg winners in Peter Stuart-Sheppard, Sheri Perkins and Terry Dyche. The only downside to the day was that the third game could not be played because of a thunderstorm and the result was decided after two games.

On August 19th we held an open mixed pairs tournament which was won by Janice Slobojan and Trevor Cleland (Pickering). The best Cobourg performance was from Peter Stuart-Sheppard who was playing with Lynn Frost from Cosburn Park. They finished fourth.





Thirteen youth players were in Cobourg for the single 4321 tournament. Jacob Hyatt continued his fine season placing third behind Elise Kerr and Isaac Kerr from Belleville. Thanks to Ben van Steijn for running this tournament. He must have been bored with married life after a week!

## End of Season Dinner

The day of our end of season dinner on September 22nd is fast approaching. The deadline for buying tickets is **September 15th** as we have to let the Legion know the final numbers by that date. Please let me know ( [louisabarthur@gmail.com](mailto:louisabarthur@gmail.com) ) if you wish to attend. You can let me have a cheque made out to Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club or e transfer to [clbcmemb@gmail.com](mailto:clbcmemb@gmail.com)

*Louisa Arthur*

## From the Archives

This article appeared in Northumberland Today in September 2016.

### 109th Cobourg lawn bowling season comes to a close

It is hard to believe that it is five months and 21 reports ago since the first Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club report of the season was published but suddenly the shutters have gone up on the clubhouse and bowling has finished for 2016.

All that remains is some work to ensure that the greens are in the best possible condition before winter sets in.

The season finished in good style recently with lunch followed by a two-game jitney. On a glorious fall afternoon Janet Taylor, Ken Wren and Mike Place were the winners and the honour of closing the season with the final bowl went to incoming President Nan Hendren.

In the display of Cobourg sports at the Sifton Cook Heritage Centre there is a quote from Layton Dodge in which he describes lawn bowling as "an obscure sport." That is probably a fair description but through these regular reports hopefully it has become less obscure to readers who are non-bowlers and maybe it will kindle an interest and encourage people to try it out for themselves next year.

And certainly it has become less obscure to all those visitors to Victoria Park who have stopped to

watch and find out about the game and thought "that looks fun."

Lawn bowling in Cobourg has enjoyed somewhat of a resurgence in the last few years and the club has been successful in increasing membership over the last two years. It is not just adult membership that has increased; the number of junior bowlers has also increased and the skill and sportsmanship of those juniors was apparent for all to see during junior tournaments and when the club hosted the Ontario junior championships. The club had not hosted a major championship for many years but thanks to the organizing committee and all the club volunteers it went like clockwork and the club received lots of plaudits for the way that championship was run.

In the last few years the club has attracted an increasing number of visiting bowlers to the various open tournaments that are held. What attracts them to Cobourg are the high quality greens, well run tournaments and the location which a recent tournament winner and well travelled Ontario champion described as the best in Ontario. The club could not run these tournaments and the various

club tournaments without the support of many sponsors and is very fortunate to have many long term sponsors who can be relied upon year after year. The club's success owes much to them.

So, a successful season in terms of membership, events hosted and some much needed improvements to the club house but what about bowling success?

Well, as regular readers will know the stand out achievements this year has come from 15-year-old Baylee van Steijn. She qualified for the Team Canada youth development squad in 2015 and started the season with a training camp with the full national squad in Vancouver. She then went on to win silver in the Ontario junior championships, bronze at the Canadian championships, a fourth place finish in the Ontario ladies pairs and to cap it all was selected for Team Canada for the North American Challenge against the USA. Not bad for a 15 year old and an indicator of what the sport has to offer for young people.

Those were the achievements that grabbed the headlines but what was equally encouraging and a sign of success was to see new bowlers quickly learn and improve

and most importantly, enjoy the sport. Also to see second and third year bowlers moving up a level into more serious tournament play and thereby increase their skill and experience levels.

At the end of the day sport is supposed to be fun. Anybody witnessing the popular Tuesday night club jitneys will hear lots of laughter, noise and good natured banter as well as seeing some good bowling. That's the sign of a successful sports club. In 2017 the club will celebrate its 110th anniversary, surely another sign of a successful sports club. Hopefully it will be an even better year than this has been and we will be reporting on even more success.

A thought to finish the season with; the national anthem is played before many sporting events but never during (except in Cobourg). When the Concert Band concludes its Tuesday night summer concerts with O Canada the bowling stops and everyone turns to face the bandshell - always a nice moment. Only in Canada eh?

For more information about lawn bowling in Cobourg visit the club's website at [www.cobourglawnbowlingclub.weebly.com](http://www.cobourglawnbowlingclub.weebly.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Closing the season with the final bowl was incoming Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club President Nan Hendren.

## **Provincial Championships at Cobourg**

On September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the Ontario Novice Ladies Singles Championships. Bowlers from 16 different districts from Windsor to Ottawa will be coming to try to become this year's Novice Gold Medal winner.

We have hosted the Ontario Mixed Pairs Championships two of the last three times it has been held but this will be our first Novice Singles event.

To run this event successfully we would ask for help from members by volunteering for a few tasks during the weekend. You should have recovered well enough from the Friday night club dinner to come out Saturday or Sunday and be part of this event. A great way to get involved at the end of the season.

The help needed is for the following tasks. Please see the Sign up sheet at the club.

### **Markers:**

This is a Singles event and each game requires a Marker to assist the bowlers. The main responsibilities of the Marker are to set the Jack, chalk touchers, answer questions from the players (i.e. Who is shot). This is quite a simple task which can be done by new & older members. Each game has a 2 hour time limit. You can volunteer for one round or all three rounds on Saturday. Being a Marker gets you right into the game and most bowlers enjoy doing this immensely.

### **Score Board Flippers**

Scorers sit at the end of the rink and keep the score board up to date so spectators & bowlers can see how the game is going.

### **Kitchen Help**

Help in the Kitchen is required as in other tournaments. There are 2 shifts (morning & afternoon) each day with 2 people on each shift.

### **Miscellaneous other tasks**

Look after Parking passes, set up the rinks & put equipment away, assist the tournament convenors.

For this event we are selling lunch tickets for \$15 to all the players & others who would like to buy a lunch. Tentative plan is to have subs, salads, desserts & drinks on Saturday and a BBQ on Sunday.

Note: Anyone who volunteers for 2 shifts or more on a day will get a free lunch that day.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to volunteer but can't get to the club to sign up. Thank you.

*Bob Bates*

[Bbates103@rogers.com](mailto:Bbates103@rogers.com)

### **Away Days**

I am pleased to report a win for Bob Bates and Al Gourd in the 85th Oshawa Gold Cup. Bob was playing with people from his previous club, Cosburn Park and Al was a last minute substitute for an injured member of the team. Bob's team won the Cup (and \$1200) with 3 wins and 51 points. (Ed: we are still waiting for the beers)

There was also a win for Peter Stuart-Sheppard, Louisa Arthur and Bill Arthur in a triples tournament at Kingston on August 13th. The money was good but not as good as the Gold Cup!

### **BREAKING NEWS - District 14 novice singles playdowns**

The District 14 playdowns for novice singles has just finished. We had great representation with three members in the men's section and three in the ladies. The top two in both sections were from Cobourg

Ladies - First Lori Wills. Runner Up Lynn Bryans

Men - First Peter Stuart-Sheppard. Runner Up Al Bell

I have to mention Jacob Hyatt as well who was fourth in the men's section. Well done.

There will be more information on the website in the next few days.

### **Editor's end notes**

*The next Newsletter will be issued in mid October and that edition will wrap up the season. I would love to hear from you about how your season has gone. Highlights, memorable moments, things you loved or things you didn't love. If you joined the club this season let us know what we did well or didn't do well. It is only by getting your feedback that we can improve.*

*Bill*

billcarthur@gmail.com