



A Frequently Published Newsletter of the  
**ONTARIO LAWN BOWLS ASSOCIATION**  
**ISSUE #0809—03**

# E-BANTER



**Only FOUR more months!!!**



Re: The Ontario Pesticide Program

The following information was received recently from our OLBA/BCB Greens Advisor, Lloyd Woods. This is presented for your information and further action will be forthcoming from your OLBA Board of Directors and in particular Board Member, Mike Landry.

*Our lobbying effort began in May 2nd when I sent a letter to the Minister of the Environment pointing out the need to exclude bowling greens from the pesticide ban. Subsequently, quite a number of bowling clubs wrote supporting our position and on August 22 I, as OLBA greens advisor, Past President Bob Machan and others participated in a telephone conference call with the members of the Government committee responsible for drafting the regulations. In October the draft regulations were published and bowling clubs were indeed excluded from the ban under section 27 entitled Specialty Turf. You have probably seen that portion of the draft in E-Banter Issue 0809-01 Page 3. So far so good!*

*On December 18th, I participated in another confer-*



**OLBA E-BANTER EDITOR: Bob Machan [machan@olba.ca]**

ence call with the committee at which they discussed the relationship of pesticide use to the broader IPM (Integration Pest Management) program that has been in favour for a few years, particularly in the golf industry. Although we have not often used the term, it is the basis of bowling green management that is recommended in my book "Bowling Green Maintenance & Management" distributed by Lawn Bowls Canada and used to a greater or lesser extent by a large percentage of the clubs in Canada. It also serves as the basis of the spring greens maintenance seminars that I have held.

**Now Some Problems:**

During our conference call of the 18<sup>th</sup>, the subject of training and accreditation required for those who apply pesticides on bowling greens was discussed briefly, including the training and accreditation of greens keepers. James Scott, the head of the committee, suggested that I get a copy of the golf IPM program with the thought that we might be able to use the same training and accreditation test.

As suggested by James I got in touch with Colin Nisbit, whom I believe coordinates the training and accreditation of Golf Course Superintendents in Ontario, asking for information on their program. He sent me a short PowerPoint presentation that outlined the way the Golf IPM program works. It is quite comprehensive but I think too complex, and expensive for bowling greens clubs. After all our clubs are relatively minor users of chemical pesticides compared to golf courses and we do not have the superintends or manpower that golf clubs have. However, no doubt training and some form of accreditation is needed. (I can send you a copy of the PP presentation if you wish.)

Following the December meeting, I received a e-mail from James Scott, head of the committee that is drafting the regulations. In it he outlined the steps we will have to follow to manage the accreditation of greens keepers. Following is the message as received:

" In the current regulation, in order to use banned pesticides for specialty turf, a person must be IPM certified by **an approved accreditation body**. In order for the Director to approve an accreditation body, he/she will need to see a written guideline that demonstrates the integrity of the body. The guideline would have to set out, at a minimum:

1. Definitions of terms – the draft regulation uses "certified" (however, our understanding is that the golf industry uses the term "IPM Agent" - we

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*need to know the proper terms to include in the regulation).*

- 2. Required criteria that a potential IPM Agent must meet (e.g. age, experience, education, license, course, exam, continuing education etc.)*
- 3. Description of Integrity of the Exam Process (e.g. invigilated, secure, questions changed annually etc.)*
- 4. Circumstances where a person could lose IPM Agent status.*
- 5. Requirements that must be met to re-attain IPM Agent status.*

*Seeing as people who need to use pesticides for specialty turf will want to take an exam right away, it would be advisable to align with the existing programs (e.g. Landscape, Golf etc.) already running under the Integrated Pest Management/Plant Health Care Council. Please contact Collin Nisbet (cnisbet@westviewgolf.ca or 905-727-0446) and investigate the possibility of modifying their existing exams to better reflect exterminations on specialty turf. MOE also needs to know timelines as to when the exam could be finalized and offered by Ridgeway. We also need to see and approve the guidance document that will set out how the IPM program for your sector under the IPM/PHC Council will work."*

*I replied that I thought it would be very difficult to fulfill these requirements, at least in a short time frame. I offered the suggestion that it might be better to have clubs contract out the control of diseases, such as a number already do. The contracting out possibilities include, landscaping companies and golf clubs. (Any clubs with greens maintained by municipalities would not be our problem.) However, I would think that this idea may not be well received by the committee and in the worst case, they could remove our inclusion in the "Special turf" section and therefore leave us unable to treat diseases. (Of course the whole question does not apply to clubs with synthetic greens.)*

*Perhaps I am exaggerating , but I think that would be a tall order for the OLBA*

The OLBA Board of Directors is most appreciative of the work Lloyd Woods has done on behalf of the Board with this pesticide issue.

This is certainly FOOD FOR THOUGHT. More information (or action) will follow.



Submitted by: Philip Long – Newmarket LBC.

“Sadly, **DAVID GURR** of the Newmarket LBC passed away Nov 17, 2008 after a long health problem. David was a competitive and rather successful bowler at local, district and provincial levels. A successful Novice, skipping and winning the Silver Medal in the Ontario Novice Triples Championship in 2001 and the District 13 Singles Championship in 2002. His Coaching skills led him to introduce hundreds of High School Youth to the Sport, culminating in an Inter school tournament in 2008. The 2008 District Champions & Provincial Ladies Novice Gold Medalists were proud to have received their coaching from David. Many Newmarket Members realized how their game was influenced by David’s Coaching program of commitment to practice, having fun and doing their best. David will be missed by the Club Members, team-mates and competitors from around the Province. He will cause a stir amongst the other ‘Skips in Heaven’, because we know he did not complete his ambitious program with us.”

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Have you checked out the OLBA CLUB FINDER on the website? Webmaster Weston has added a neat feature whereby you can locate any club in Ontario just by clicking on the map of Ontario that comes into view when you click on the CLUB FINDER link, located on the right-hand side of the website home page.



We are indebted to our webmaster for all the time and initiative that has been dedicated to the OLBA website.

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### Excerpts from the [new] President’s Remarks at the Fall Meeting

*“Finances is a big part of our mandate... as it has always been. Looking at ways to acquire more sponsorships and funding, while at the same time trying to reduce costs is important... It always has been.”*

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*“We still need to attract new bowlers and work hard to keep the ones we have. We need to encourage some of the bowlers in our clubs to be a little more patient with the new bowlers and especially with the Junior bowlers. After all, the goal is to keep them coming and wanting to bowl.”*

From the Championship Committee  
Submitted by Ian Jones: Chair



**Changes in the Championship Rules for 2009**  
[wording changes are in red print]

All games will be played under the World Bowls Laws of the Sport, 2007 Crystal Mark Edition, **including provisions in Appendix A.**

If, on completion of any level and for reasons other than those outlined in 7(a), a winning team is unable to compete in that event at the next level, then the winner will be replaced by the runner-up, or failing that, by the third place finisher. A winning player that has been substituted for and subsequently found to be in contravention of these rules will jeopardize his/her team from continuing, **will not be allowed to compete in any remaining Ontario Championship Events in that OLBA fiscal year, and may be suspended from entry into all Ontario Championship Events for up to twelve (12) complete months during the following OLBA fiscal year.**

Four or five entries: **Play round robin format** (at the district level)

Six or more entries: **Play modified round robin format** (at the district level)

The duration of each game will be as follows: Singles: 21 shots / **Seniors and Novice: 16 ends** / **Fours, Pairs and Mixed Pairs: 18 ends** (for both district and provincial levels)

Tiebreaker games will be **11 ends**, Singles **11 points**. (for both district and provincial levels)

Any game may be conceded after **a team has mathematically lost.**

**No trial ends will be allowed at the beginning of any game.** (at both the district and provincial level)

**No team or Singles player shall be required to play more than three (3) games in a single day, excluding byes and tiebreakers, unless mutually agreed to by all parties in advance of the competition.**

All games on both days of the Ontario Championships will start no later than **9:00 a.m.**

Gold and Silver medallists at the Ontario Finals leading to a Canadian Championship Event in Fours, Pairs, Singles, Seniors and Mixed Pairs will represent O.L.B.A. at the Canadian Championships held in the same year under the auspices of Bowls Canada Boulingrin, **who will be collecting a \$50 per person international hosting fee.**