



EBANTER Issue 08-10

OLBA News

I stopped in at Newmarket on Saturday to open the club for Shirley and Bruno Lennarduzzi who were there to teach a whole new group the fine art of being a Coach. That got me to thinking about all of the people who volunteer their time to operate the clubs, arrange tournaments and do whatever lawn bowling needs to operate in an efficient and cost friendly environment. This is a great time to say thanks to them. So I would appreciate it if when you run into one of your club's volunteers, kitchen helpers, greens, board members, organizers and just plain workers tell them "thanks for being here".

The Ontario Lawn Bowls Association would like to extend a sincere 'Thank You!' to **Cathy Haskins of Bren Macken Sports Distributors** for her generous contributions to our Spring Meeting held in Newmarket on Saturday, April 19, 2008. Four clubs were presented with brand new sets of bowls for having the greatest increases in membership for last year, 2007. These clubs were: Cosburn Park, Kemptville, Newmarket, and Peterborough. We also had a draw from among bowlers who had been nominated as Bowls Buddies for last year. Cathy Haskins provided lovely prizes (measures and 'grippo') for the three recipients. OLBA sincerely appreciates your generosity, Cathy!

THE ONTARIO LAWN BOWLS ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR NEW SITE!!!!!! <http://www.olba.ca/index.html>.

James McLellan is the new webmaster. The web site will be completed ASAP and the contents will be updated daily. Best of luck to you this upcoming season and we hope you find the new site informative and helpful.

Chris Dixon is the Annual coordinator.

**SINCERELY,
OLBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The BRICK.
www.thebrick.com

The BRICK will hold a Private Event at the **Peterborough store** for **one day only Friday May 9, from 9 to 9.**

Please don't forget your Select Rewards Card!

Ron Bartleman,
Account Manager, **Peterborough**

Club News: Oakville Lawn Bowling Centennial Information

information@oakvillebowls.ca

- It is possible that lawn bowling has been part of the Oakville community even before Oakville was designated a town in 1857. The first pictorial evidence of lawn bowling in Oakville is a photo taken in 1890, which shows people bowling on a very primitive “green” on the Holyrood Estate. There was a private lawn bowling rink on First St. and, apparently, E. T. Lightbourne, OLBC’s first president, also had a rink on his property on King St.
- Oakville Lawn Bowling Club came into being through the actions of some of the most prominent townspeople of the time. It could be said that the roots of Oakville Lawn Bowling Club reach back to Nov. 12, 1858. This was the date that the Chisholm family sold one acre of land for 5 shillings to the Town of Oakville. This land was bound by what is now King St., Navy St., William St., and Water St.
- By 1908, there was an interest amongst Oakville citizens for a lawn bowling club to be established. On April 14, 1908, a group met to discuss forming the Oakville Lawn Bowling Club. Subsequently, on May 7th, 1908, the town council granted this vacant land for the use of the bowling club, with a plot for the use of a tennis club. By the end of May the bowling club had leveled the ground and laid sod. Four rinks were developed and a small club house was erected.
- On **July 6, 1908**, the green was officially opened with special matches being played. A team, skipped by the president, Edmund Lightbourne, played against a team skipped by the vice president, Alan Chisholm, with the vice president’s team winning 35-31. It was reported at that time that, “a number of ladies graced the occasion by their presence!”
- In 1912, the town buildings burned down and permission was given for the Lawn Bowling Club’s green to be extended to eight rinks on the now vacant land.
- It is not known exactly when women got involved in lawn bowling, but they were active bowlers in the early years and eventually formed the Oakville Ladies Lawn Bowling Club. (In those days, although using the same facilities, the men and women each ran their own club completely separately.) Many founding members of the women’s club were wives of the first bowlers. So it is apparent that they started playing soon after the men.
- Unfortunately, there is very little available information about the club from this time until the 1950’s.
- In 1953, the men’s club started hosting a “round robin”, twice a year, between Oakville, Milton, Port Credit and Streetsville clubs. In 1962, the ladies’ clubs joined this “round robin” and the four club matches became more frequent. They now included ladies, mens, and mixed; doubles, triples and jitneys. By 1964, the schedule included a Wednesday morning Ladies Triples competition. And by 1979, Georgetown had joined the tournament, creating a “five club league.
- All regularly scheduled “four club” and “five club events recorded through 1964 to 1988 have been discontinued and the Streetsville club has closed its doors. However, the Wednesday District Ladies Triples is still going strong to this day, almost 50 years later.

- In 1987, part of the clubhouse was declared unsafe. The town agreed to rebuild the clubhouse and two storage sheds. In addition they agreed to extend the green to a standard 120 feet. The work was started, but funds were used up before the greens could be extended, as a result of running into quicksand. It wasn't until the year 2000 that the green was completely refurbished and the north end extended. The green now consists of 9 rinks of 33 meters, east/west and 8 rinks of 36 meters north/south, surrounded by flower borders and a very attractive clubhouse.
- Now in its centennial year, the Oakville Lawn Bowling Club keeps on going. We presently have approximately 200 members and 46 associate members. Although many competitive games are played, the emphasis is on enjoying the game, having fun and participating in the social activities of the club.
- Lawn bowling is not an "old folks" game. It is a game of skill and fun to be enjoyed by all age groups. At present we are attempting to get a youth group going. And new members are always welcome.
- We are a volunteer club. All of the board members and greens keepers are volunteers
- We have members who have bowled for over 20 years. One gentleman in particular has bowled for 49 years and is still one of the hardest working volunteers in the club.

ANNUAL Corrections:

0535 Grimsby: Please add Sandra Sleep as a contact for the Grimsby Lawn Bowling Club.
905-309-6493 ssleep@cogeco.ca

0510 Burlington LBC: Changes requested are as follows:

Page 80 - Tournament contacts: Shirley Vidler 905 563 9652 - shirley,vidler063@sympatico.ca
Or: Julia Farrell 905 563 6097 - tjfarrell@sympatico.ca
Delete the sentence, please bring lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

Page 82 - Web site is www.burlingtonlbc.org and not .com
Club mail to: Burlington LBC, 2275 New St, Burlington, ON L7R 1J4

0930 Oakville: Our Ad on page 112 - the **last tournament** should read:
Wednesday, September 10th - not Wednesday, September 12th.

1335 Midland: page 151: Rolf Staude, Tournament contact - new phone # **705-527-5930**

1380 Uxbridge: page 154: Add Sandra Owen, Tournament contact - phone # **905-852-7447**

District 14: Please note that District 14 playdown times listed on **page 155** are incorrect. Our starting times are all **9.00am**

Please feel free to send me comments and polite suggestions on how to improve this newsletter. cdixon@rogers.com

Chris Dixon