

'IN THE DITCH'



The Season is just about over but don't give up as this issue is packed full of information and interest.

We welcomed Joyce Abbott to our Club this month and hope she continues to enjoy the game and the friendship of the Members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we're rapidly coming to the end of the 2010 bowling season. My impression is that, for most members, it has been a pretty good year but only you can say how it was for you. Sometime in the near future we'll be asking you to tell us, in detail, the things you liked, the things that could be improved and the things you really disliked. We will need this feedback if the club is to become a more satisfying experience in the future. I wanted to share a few personal feelings as my first year as your president winds down.

Firstly, I must say, that this year has been a little more challenging than I expected. In addition to the normal day to day operation of our club, our new facilities and the many aspects of the decisions we have been involved in have created some pressure on all members of the Executive. While there are still a few issues, I am pleased to say I believe most of the "biggies" are behind us.

Secondly, I am constantly impressed by the way in which so many of our members pitch in and make things go smoothly. From our Executive members who tackle their designated tasks to the long term and often the newest members who pitch in with set-up, clean-up, Saturday teas or BBQs and the multitude of ad hoc tasks at regular jitneys or regional tournaments, emergencies often seem to be an opportunity to help. You guys blow me away!!!

Thirdly, enthusiasm. This is what I mostly hear whenever the future of the club and our new facilities is discussed. There will always, in any group of 60 diverse people, be a few "naysayers", those who look for the problems rather than the solutions but what I hear most is "What an opportunity", "Wait till next year". "Watch us grow" and "Aren't we lucky to have this wonderful new facility right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake".

Yes, it has been a busy year to date but with your continued "pitching in" and enthusiasm, I am convinced 2011 will be special. And now for few words of advertising.

A couple of jobs on next year's executive are still open.

When John comes asking you to stand for election, please remember that this is your club and we need your help.

Mark **SATURDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER**, on your calendar for our Annual General Meeting and Gala Banquet. More details will be given later but for now the date is Nov. 13th and the time is 5 p.m.

Good bowling all - *Ivan*

EXECUTIVE VACANCIES

(Submitted by John G.)

There are still two positions to be filled on next year's executive committee.

- 1) Club Publicity Director.
This Position will require someone with computer skills to compile and publish the "In the Ditch" newsletter as well as handle advertising, posters, press releases and generally keep the public aware of our club activities. The successful candidate should enjoy this kind of activity and could contribute greatly to our next year's membership drive.
- 2) Social Committee Chair
This position needs a person who is good at organising and supervising refreshments for our regular and special functions, eg. Saturdays, holidays, BBQs, jitneys and our annual banquet. This contributes greatly to the overall enjoyment of the bowling experience. There will be lots of assistance available to you from other members and former

incumbents. The facilities at our new community centre will also help to make next year pleasant and successful for this position.

I feel that we all wish to contribute to the running of the club and I know there are members out there with the skills and know-how to make a success of these positions. So please dig deep and "step up to the plate". You'll find it rewarding and satisfying.

John G.

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

We have had some great unintentional publicity in the past couple of weeks from both local newspapers who have toured the facility and taken photos of the area where the greens will be. Take a walk over and see for yourself how things have progressed. Our bricked patio area is amazing, our Memorial Gate is in place and things are really coming together.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Bowling - will continue for the first time ever until Sat. 16th October

Tuesdays - 4-3-2-1 will continue in the evenings at 6.30 pm.

SATURDAY 16TH OCT. THIS WILL BE A BLOCKBUSTER EVENT. MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR THIS ONE!!!

For the 2nd year, Bonnie Dawe and family are sponsoring a Fund Raising In House Tournament in memory of her parents who were members of our Club. This year the event will be held to raise funds for the Wells of Hope and Guy, who has been very active in support of this charity, will be organising the function. Instead of a BBQ, as it is late in the season, there will be a luncheon prior to the tournament which you may like to attend, even if you are unable to bowl.

The tournament will be an equal opportunity event and was won last year by John Penic amidst great cheering and celebrations.

THE EVENT BEGINS AT 11.30 AM AND LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT NOON. TED vanderZam WILL BE MAKING A BRIEF PRESENTATION ABOUT WELLS OF HOPE. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FUN JITNEY WITH A TROPHY PRESENTATION. (You will bowl no more than our usual jitney and maybe less, according to the weather) **WE HAVE ONLY ONE FUNDRAISER A YEAR AND WOULD LIKE IT TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS. THE PRICE OF THE TICKET (INCLUDING LUNCH) IS ONLY \$12.00 pp. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A LARGER DONATION PLEASE FEEL FREE.**

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE UNABLE TO ENJOY THIS FUNCTION MAY STILL FEEL YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION. IF SO, PLEASE PLACE IT IN AN ENVELOPE AND GIVE IT TO BONNIE OR GUY. AND MANY, MANY THANKS.

If you would like to know more about Wells of Hope, their website address is www.wellssofhope.com.

End of Season Close-up - this, too, will be very different from previous years. However, the property needs to be secure for the winter months and Gerry (exterior) and Ray (interior) will welcome all the help they can get - there is a lot of packing to be done inside - please call them to offer your assistance.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, 11th Sept. - your smiley faces were there and we were blessed with beautiful late, summer afternoon. Wayne did a wonderful job of disciplining most! of the gang who were able to be present - you may notice one recalcitrant fellow in the centre who refused to be subjugated. The resulting record of our final year was quite outstanding and I am sure it will take its place on the new wall of our Club Room. We have to give great acknowledgement to Wayne, not only for his skill as a photographer but also for his generosity in donating all the copies presented to the Members who

requested them. We are sorry that some Members were unable to be there, as is always the case, but their names have been included in the list of Members for our final summer at Regent Street.

Friday, 17th Sept. - Annual visit from the Wanderers (kindly submitted by Evelyn)

The Wanderers" had a great day yesterday. We thought it was going to be cold and miserable so we set up the picnic tables inside. But by 11 o'clock the sun had warmed everything up and we moved the tables back onto the patio. Pat and Guy came out and were a tremendous help. Pat set up the kitchen so I could be with our guests and then they both helped with showing the newbies how to play. Rory (who had come to practice and was unaware that the Wanderers would be there) stayed, gave us a lesson then played vice on a game. All in all, the day was a great success even though our numbers were down. We only had 14 Wanderers out as so many, who always enjoyed the day other years, were away on vacation. All were sad that yesterday was the last day at this location and are still having a hard time understanding why we have to leave such a beautiful bit of paradise behind. They left expressing their anxiety about what will become of the space.

Evelyn

Saturday, 25th Sept. - our FINAL (I seem to be using this word a great deal in this issue!!!) BBQ of the year.

And WHAT AN EVENT this turned out to be. Beth and Donna volunteered to organise the function with Ray's assistance. They were a little! surprised (there is an English expression I could use but won't) to learn that after a last minute decision to invite Welland LBC to join us for a jitney, there would be some 50+ guests. As it turned out, there were 17 guests from Welland which was a delightful response and with our own Members and guests, 51 people enjoyed a wonderful meal of pea-meal bacon on a bun with baked onion, salads and celebration cakes. Due to the generosity of Donna, Beth, Bonnie, Pauline, Wayne and Heather, the meal came in well under budget.

The jitney was wonderfully organised by Rory, who seemed to be able to create order out of chaos in a moment. With 42 bowlers having a great time this was no mean feat. The jitney was won by Bradley Lawrence (Welland) a perfectly delightful young man, our Sushil and Chris. Each winner was presented with a bottle of fine wine donated by Keith from Jackson Triggs.

As always, there were many helpers both among the Members and the guests but special thanks go to Guy who assisted Ray with the BBQ and finished up at the sink, and Ruth who helped Heather with the registration.

I am sure Welland enjoyed their visit totally and are looking forward to their promised invitation to the new facility in 2011.

MEMBERS NEEDING TLC

There have been a great many Members having fixits done this month - s-o-o-o - we send get well messages to Leona, Jo, Derek and Barb (Wayne's wife who many of you know) and good luck to Barb Hall for next month. We are a creaky lot and most of us will benefit hugely from the new artificial greens.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kathy played in 16 tournaments during Sept., placing 1st in 3 (including the Masters in Burlington), 3rd in 2, 4th in 2 more and 6th once. Alfie placed 1st in an In House tournament at Glenridge on 11th, and Rory and Kathy won the Kilt and Clover tournament at Port on the 12th. Special congratulations to them for what we hope will be the first of many successes.

In Frontier, at Beamsville on the 30th, Kathy and Heather (with a kind spare Barb Bell from Beamsville) won the tournament.

MEMBER PROFILE

This month our Member Profile is on David Newman who, over the past 3 months has been working diligently with the Township to create a facility that we can enjoy. He does this with great credentials having been involved with the design of retail and commercial centres all his working life.

As an army brat, born in Birmingham, England, (the industrial heart of the country) in 1937, the eldest of two sons, David spent his early childhood in Scotland where his father was posted during the WW2

years. Returning to Birmingham at 11, he attended Art School where he met Nancy (his wife of very many years). From there, they both went to Art College for a 4 year programme, graduating with a National Design Diploma.

Immediately after graduation, they opted to move to Canada where they were married in 1957 in City Hall, Toronto, for the bargain price of \$10.00. Amortised over the length of the marriage - this has to be the best deal ever!!! David found work in Toronto at the Eaton's Department Store for a few years and then with various design companies.

In the 1970's he formed a company with partners which kept him extremely busy designing retail shopping centres all over the world. His work took over his life and at the tender age of 35 he experienced 3 heart attacks, leading to by-pass surgery. In 1975 he moved to Montreal for two years, returning to Toronto and still continuing to overwork. In 1988 David received a highly acclaimed award as Designer of the Year by his peers.

In 1986 he spent 4 years in England working on, what was then, the largest out-of-town retail centre in Europe. He returned to Canada in 1989 and continued with his profession until 2002 when he retired.

He and Nancy visited many areas before selecting NOTL for their retirement years. They had visited the town many times during their working time and were familiar with the area and happy with their choice. The home they purchased is historically designated which creates some problems with restoration and maintenance. They have a large garden which is quiet and secluded and cared for by Nancy.

David's 3 sons were born in 1964, 1966 and 1971. They are scattered in Japan, London (England) and Toronto. They all work in areas of art design and visit NOTL for R and R in their busy lives.

David joined the Club in 2006 and enjoys the social ambiance and the camaraderie of the Members. He is sad that the Club is moving to a more commercial site and hopes that the Regent Street location will remain as green space, perhaps as a parkette. He feels there has been a loss of retail space in the town over the years but that the main street is kept immaculately. He enjoys walking around the historic area and finds the people are friendly, many of them like himself ex-pats.

MONTHLY CHUCKLE

Skinny little white Irishman goes into an elevator, looks up and sees this HUGE black guy standing next to him. The big guy sees the little Irishman staring at him, he looks down and says, "7' tall, 350 lbs, 20" penis, 3 lbs of testicles, Turner Brown". The little white Irishman faints and falls to the floor. The big guy kneels down and brings him too, shaking him. The big guy says, "What's wrong with you?" In a weak voice the little guy says, "What EXACTLY did you say to me?" The bigdude says, "I saw your curious look and figured I'd just give you the answers to the questions everyone always asks me I'm 7' tall, I weigh 300 lbs, I have a 20" penis, my testicles weigh 3 lbs each and my name is Turner Brown." The little white Irishman says, "Turner Brown?...Sweet Jazus, I thought you said, 'Turn around!'"

(Watch who you share an elevator with!)

Good bowling you guys!

Heather

Note: sorry for the type size it was the only way to get all this inf. on 2 pages!!!