



Santa Cruz Lawn Bowls Newsletter

May 2013

I am glad to be back in a warmer location and the land of blue sky. It snowed every day while I was in New York and the sky was always grey. Thank you for the lovely Clematis vine and greeting card that was waiting for me in the club house. It was a lovely surprise and I greatly appreciate the sentiment. Welcome to new members Jake Gandolfo and Erin Buchla. I look forward to meeting you on the green soon. At the last Park and Rec Commission meeting, bike racks for San Lorenzo Park were approved which should continue to improve the park environment for all. There is now a full time First Alarm guard, Kristopher or Alex, assigned to our park. Poker bowls cards will need to be turned in at the April 25, Quarterly Meeting. Last day to earn cards is Tuesday, April 23.

We will be beginning our summer hours on May 1: Tuesday and Saturday will have 9:30 a.m. draw game; Thursday and Sunday draw will remain at 12:30

We had a great turn out for workday-17 people for varying amounts of time which amounted to about 50 hours of work.. We collected 10 bags of green debris from around the green and garden areas. Note that we have a celebrity chef going to do the BBQ on April 28! Chef Jake Gandolfo, owner and executive chef of Custom Culinary Concepts, competitor on TV's Master Chef, and new lawn bowler, has offered to prepare our lunch. I will be inviting some of the city and parks personnel as we have this inaugural event in our garden area.

Calendar: All events at the clubhouse unless noted.

Reminder: April 23, 3:30 Renee Sayer's 100th birthday celebration -details posted on bulletin board.

April 28 Sunday, Meet our Dual Members - BBQ Lunch 11:30 followed by draw game. Be sure to let me know by email or sign up if you are planning to attend to so we may plan adequately

May 1 **Summer hours begin** Wednesday, Friendship Game - Palo Alto

May 15 Wednesday, Friendship Game- San Jose

May 16 Thursday 12:30 Rolling Into Spring Games/Fund raiser \$10 Deluxe snacks, game with prizes

May 22 Wednesday, Friendship Game- Santa Clara

May 29 Wednesday, Friendship Game- Carmel

Special Note: Summer hours begin on Wednesday, May 1. Our Saturday, May 4 draw will be at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday and Saturday draw games will be at 9:30. Thursday and Sunday remain at 12:30 through November 1.

Thanks: Thanks to Gil Morse and Earl Rosebraugh for green maintenance; to all those who bring snacks to Thursday post-draw socials; to Ann Morse for collecting the \$ jar funds; to Graham Evans for donating plants to the garden; to the many who helped on work day; to those who came to play with our guests from San Jose; to the San Jose visitors who braved the heat, traffic and parking to join us; to all who are so patiently helping our new members as they join our draw games.

Goals 2013:

Personnel

1. To have a roster of 65 members. We currently have 56
2. To increase competitive event participation- Note that on the calendar we have 3 special “FunRaisers” scheduled on the third Thursdays of May (Rolling into Spring), June (Solstice Challenge) and July (Power Play Pairs). These will be a variety of new games in an “introduction to competition” style followed by more substantial snacks than our usual Thursday fare. We hope that putting these events on Thursday makes it more convenient and that the variety of formats will truly be fundraising!

Facility

To have area in front of rake shed paved. We are discussing with the city about “ swapping ends” of the bowls shed with Parks Maintenance. We would have the sections currently used by parks; they would have our bowls storage area and equipment storage area. This would save the city money by negating the need to pave and facilitate our brushing machine storage and give us more storage room.

Finances

To increase green fund by \$5000. We are on track to make this happen thanks to your diligence in contributing to the \$1 jar.

Dual Members: We are looking forward to the visit from dual members and guests from Berkeley at our “Meet our Dual member lunch” April 28. We are excited about Chef Jake Gandolfo doing the cooking and we should have a wonderful lunch. You are invited to play in any of our fun raiser (Rolling into spring, May 16; Solstice challenge, June and July Power Pairs) games at no charge. As always we appreciate your support.

Clothing Order: We have many new members who may be interested in obtaining club logo shirts. Some of our previous shirts may be beginning to wear out. Jerry will be placing an order around May 1. You can order one of the sample shirts hanging in the club house (about \$25) or bring in your own shirt to have embroidered (about \$8). If you bring in your own shirt be sure you have your name on it. Contact Jerry for more details.



Membership: We sold 20 memberships through our Groupon promotion and have had several already come forward for training. We were able to earn \$225 through our efforts and look forward to a repeat promotion next spring. Our venture with Google Ad words was less successful. Google was great to work including weekly review sessions but our campaign met with little success. Our advisor, Daniel Henderson, was most helpful and is continuing to research ways to improve our promotion. We will likely revisit this venue in coming months. It was absolutely incredible to see how much information he was able to glean from the hits on our site.

Improving your game: Submitted by Glen Johnson from “A to Zen of Lawn Bowling”:

Weight Control

“Your goal in practising weight control is to end up trusting Rupert totally. Pay attention- without being judgemental- to what you’re “feeling” during the delivery. You want Rupert to gain more experience and knowledge and you can hasten this process by “feeling” your delivery. The best way to “feel” your delivery as it relates to weight is to practice drawing **with your eyes closed**. Put a jack at each end of the rink, place your mat and take your stance. Have a good look at the jack, letting your eyes take in the distance it is away from you. Position your body and head to take the correct green line. Close your eyes, relax and deliver the bowl. Pay attention only to what your body is telling you as you go through the delivery action. Then **before** you open your eyes, say out loud whether you are short or heavy and by how much. Open your eyes and see how good you are. It doesn’t matter if you’re miles out at first - so much the better. It means you have tons of potential for improvement. Do it every time you practice for at least half an hour. You’ll get better and better all the time, learning to trust your instinct and Rupert more and more. If you end up getting

close to the jack a fair number of times with your eyes closed, imagine how much easier it'll be with them open.

Learning to trust Rupert is crucial to improving weight control. If a bowl finishes half a meter short of the jack, you can't correct the placement by consciously trying to add that much more weight. The changes in muscle tension required to produce an extra half-meter in weight are far too complex to work out mentally. But Rupert not only **can** make the adjustment, but he will do so automatically as long as you don't interfere with conscious thinking. Don't think. Don't try to add the extra half-meter. **Just do it.**"

To be continued.....

PBA- If you are interested in bowling in the American Qualifiers for the Professional Lawn Bowls Association to be held on our green Aug 3-7, please see me for more information. It will provide all of us the opportunity to play and observe some top bowlers and be a great public relations opportunity for our club.