



Discover Your Sport... Lawn Bowls



Newsletter

JANUARY 2018

TEAM USA REPS TO THE WORLD CUP NAMED

Bowls USA has announced that Alice Birkinshaw (SCD) and Charlie Herbert (SWD) will be the Team USA representatives for 2018 World Cup Indoor Singles at Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club in New South Wales, Australia (March 6-14). Congrats!



Charlie Herbert



Alice Birkinshaw

BRINGING BACK THE UMP STUMPER

(Always a favorite in the days of the *Bowls Magazine*, National Umpire-in-Chief, Melanie Vizenor, is bringing back the Ump Stumper. Here's the first in what will be an ongoing feature of the *BOWLS USA NEWSLETTER*.)

Before a tournament, chalk lines were placed on the center line between the front ditch and the hogline and between the rear ditch and the hogline on each rink of play.

Okay or not okay? Defend your answer using the 2015 Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

(Look for the answer in February's Umpires Corner.)

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Check out BowlsUSA on facebook



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Georgie Deno

It happened again the other day. I got another of those comments about the significance of lawn bowling in someone's life:

"Hard to believe it was two years ago that I first met Richard and Gregg in a different context (fishing outside of Cabo San Lucas) and heard them talking about this game they enjoyed – what I heard was lawn *mowing*, and I thought "how can that be any fun?!" Fast forward two years and I can't imagine my life without the friends, benefits, and enjoyment of lawn *bowling*!!"

I've often told the story of how I stumbled across lawn bowling during a period in my life when I needed to "reinvent" myself. I was looking for an activity that would expand my circle of friends, get me out of doors, and provide some sort of exercise. Lawn bowling has provided that and more. I can now count hundreds of people as friends and acquaintances who I would never have known but for our great sport. And I get to bowl, too! What a privilege. What's your lawn bowling story?

GOT AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Send it in to your Division editor as listed below:

Central: Glorianne Mather, gloriannemather@yahoo.com

PIMD: James Corr, timbhoy71@sbcglobal.net

Northeast: Alex Last, alex.last@yahoo.com

Northwest: Bob Wells, rfwells1@yahoo.com

South Central: Ron Rollick, dbsgrnkeg-ler63@outlook.com

Southeast: Gary Higgins, garryhiggins@rogers.com

Southwest: Cynthia Murray, cnthmurray@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief: Georgie Deno, postdeno@gmail.com

Every failure I have considered my own, but every success has been shared.

- Michael J. Fox



HOGLINE



HERE'S AN IDEA — TABLE FOR TWO

Reprinted from ALBA Bowls Magazine, Spring 1998

Folks looking for a new wrinkle to promote the game of bowls might like the novel idea from Ted Kahn, of Long Beach, CA.

When he and the missus (Gayle) go to a busy restaurant, Ted leaves the name "Lawn Bowlers" with the receptionist. When their table is ready, the receptionist calls out: "Lawn Bowlers! Lawn Bowlers! Table for two!"

Ted says that heads turn and worthwhile comments are generated from other waiting customers.



SARASOTA LBC IS FIGHTING FOR ITS GREENS

Information provided by Alin Lozada

City officials are in the process of developing new initiatives for the Sarasota, Florida, Bay front area and have asked people to let them know what they want in their community. Their goal is "to create a long-term master plan . . . that will establish a cultural and economic legacy for the region while ensuring open, public access to the Bayfront."



The Sarasota LBC has been in Sarasota for 90 years and in the Bayfront location since 1937 and hosts 2000+ player-visitors a year. They have an after-school program for the Sarasota Arts and Science School and even had a 12-year-old play in the recent US Open. In the program, kids learn sportsmanship and teamwork; and there's an awards banquet at the end of the school year to honor the best teams and most improved players. The club has a 96-year-old coach-player who has been playing bowls for 70 years.

Club President, Alin Lozada, says that some city office holders have told him that eliminating the club would be a political embarrassment. But the club isn't relying on that view to ensure that lawn bowling will remain on the Bayfront. You can help make the case for retaining lawn bowling on the Bayfront by taking the poll and casting a [vote](#) now.



THE ROSE LAWN BOWL

By Lee Patrick Sullivan

On December 31, Pasadena Lawn Bowling Club hosted its first annual "Rose Lawn Bowl".

Alumni and fans of the two Rose Bowl schools (University of Georgia and Oklahoma University) faced off in 3 games of triples. The rookie bowlers also brought their families, and some fans walking by the greens stopped to cheer on their teams. With so many rookie bowlers on the green, two club members were at either end of the rinks, keeping score, offering advice, and making sure no one bowled out of order. Pasadena LBC friends from the Alhambra Lawn Bowling Club came to lend a hand.

Both Georgia and Oklahoma won a game apiece, and it all came down to a tie in the final end of the 3rd game. As Oklahoma rolled a heavy bowl, Georgia raised the *Rose Lawn Bowl* trophy in victory. Ribbons were handed out to the victors and an MVP medal was awarded to Georgia's top bowler, Steve Shaw from Rome, GA. To see some of the action, click [here](#).

The Los Angeles NBC affiliate KNBC was there to cover the event, and by all accounts both the Sooners and the Bulldogs had a great time.

This was a great first run, and next year the Club hopes to have sponsors and donate the proceeds to charity. Just a note of interest, The Bulldogs won the Rose Lawn Bowl, then their football team won the Rose Bowl the following day. Coincidence? Or have we started a new superstition?



The Bulldogs take the trophy





GOLDEN BIAS CLUB CEASES OPERATIONS

For some years the Golden Bias Club has managed donations made to support Team USA players. Recently, however, contributions to the Club have declined and, as a result, the Club has decided to cease operations. The account balance of \$1,895.92 has been donated to the USLBA Memorial Fund with a request to earmark the funds to be used for Team USA Selection Camp.

For information on making tax-deductible contributions to USLBA Memorial Fund to support the sport of bowls in the USA, please visit the BowlsUSA [website](#).

LAWN BOWLING - IT'S IN THE GENES

By Alex Last

Among the BowlsUSA Divisions, Northeast Division (NED) has one of the largest number of multi-generational families bowling. Currently, at least six families have been consistently represented in at least two generations at NED tournaments. I, the author of this article, am such a specimen. Among the six families, three current bowlers grew up from childhood in the sport. They are from two families and the other four took up the sport as adults.

Instant devotion towards, or even interest in the game does not appear to be a common experience among those who took up the sport as adults. My father, Ed Last, took up the sport at least ten years ago after a lifetime of various ball games. He nagged me for many years to learn to bowl. As a youngster, attraction to sweat and mud was not among my traits. I resisted mightily for many years, watching dad from outside the fence of the Central Park green in New York City, taking in the curious goings-on as an anthropologist might bear witness to a ritual of some far-away, alien culture.

He remembers his grandfather, Cecil Last (c.1880-c.1967), being a devoted member of his club's rinks team. Jacket and ties were required when playing, and attendance at family dinners took second place to the needs of his rinks team.

Once I took up the sport, I was addicted, and we are now members of two lawn bowling clubs, Central Park and Essex. After a few years, we played in the Arculli Pairs, and have since climbed up the ladder, from 5th place to 3rd, and last year finishing 2nd. Watch for us at the Open in 2018. We are instantly recognizable while competing by our understated shirts, shown in a photo here.



Ed & Alex Last; Veronica Sum & Frances Shen

Veronica Sum, current NED President, and the daughter of Frances Shen, had no great passion for the game at first. "What's lawn bowling?" was the not-overly-enthusiastic question Veronica remembers asking her mother. Tennis was her first choice, and then, after Frances spent a winter in Arizona learning to bowl, she got Veronica to take up the sport. They compete regularly together. There is a rumor that in the early years when Frances and Veronica competed, a third member of the family (name withheld) who was energetically and enthusiastically watching from the bench at Essex, had to be told to "keep it down, please".

(Editor-in-Chief's note: This is the first of an ongoing series of articles on multi-generational families in all of the BowlsUSA divisions. The February issue of the BowlsUSA Newsletter will continue the NED story.)



Submitted by Berie Grobe, Coronado LBC

MEET A SPECIAL BOWLER

Jerry Manley is one of the newest members of the Coronado Lawn Bowling Club in Coronado, California. This is Jerry's special story. Jerry lives in the mountain country of Jamul, about 25 miles east of San Diego; and for the last four years, he has worked for the City of Coronado as a school crossing guard on the same block as the entrance to the lawn bowling green.

Last year, between his shifts as a crossing guard, Jerry began coming to stand at the fence to watch the bowling at the club. Members would often speak with him about the game, and give him our Pocket Guide which offers free lessons, but Jerry never asked for a lesson.

Finally, one of our members, Barry Thurman, approached Jerry. Barry is known for walking all over Coronado with his dog, recruiting anyone who stands still long enough to hear about lawn bowling. He refused to let Jerry get away without at least trying to roll some bowls. As time went on, Barry would often invite Jerry to play after the regular draw games ended for the day.

After a while, Jerry was hooked; his bowling was improving, and he was enjoying the game. Finally, in August, he decided to join the Club. Having the advantage of many free hours a week to practice between his shifts, folks would regularly see "the guy in the uniform" out practicing on the green.



The guy in the uniform, Jerry Manley.

Finally, one of the City landscapers whom Jerry had come to know asked him if he was serious about lawn bowling. Jerry said that he was not only serious, but had even joined the Club. The next day, when Jerry returned to his car, he found a shiny, polished set of used lawn bowls. It seems that the landscaper's father had been a lawn bowler, and he had his father's bowls stored away, so he gave them to Jerry as a gift. Although they are older bowls and have rather a wide bias, Jerry has not only made them his own, but in just four months' time has become a very good bowler with "his own set of bowls". He now makes the drive from Jamul to Coronado most Saturdays to play social bowls or participate in Club tournaments. And, as a crowning achievement, he came in first of the leads in a recent Club triples mixer.

Jerry is a great contributor to the club, helping with all of the chores around the green. Oh, and did I mention? Everyone finds Jerry to be just the nicest person!

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ALMOST RIGHT WORD AND THE RIGHT WORD IS A LARGE MATTER — IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LIGHTNING BUG AND THE LIGHTNING.

— Mark Twain



TIDBITS FROM THE BOWLS USA AGM

Compiled from BowlsUSA AGM minutes, 11/10/17

The BowlsUSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Sarasota, FL, just ahead of the U.S. Open on November 10, 2017. At the AGM, the Executive Committee and Standing Committee leaders report on a variety of actions and progress on projects. Also, Councilors (two from each Division) represent all of us in making proposals and decisions that shape the future of operations.

Here's a sampling of what took place.

- ♦ President Richard Broad presented President's Award plaques to: Robb Pawlak for his generous contribution to provide artwork for BowlsUSA logos, pins, patches, certificates, program covers, and more; Janice Bell for her long-standing term as National Secretary; Conrad Melton for his long-standing term as National Umpire-in-Chief; and Heather Stewart for being instrumental in launching BowlsUSA and for serving a four-year term as President. Heather was also awarded a lifetime membership in BowlsUSA.
- ♦ Coaching Program (Heather Stewart, Chair): With completion of a recent Club Coach Certification course we now have a total of 103 BowlsUSA certified club coaches. Tentative plans for 2018 are to provide a course in Northwest Division. Development of an Assessor/Presenter course is in progress.
- ♦ Governance (Janice Bell, Chair): In 2017, Division presidents embarked on periodic online meetings to share ideas to promote and market bowls. Efforts will be made to make our members aware of committee volunteer opportunities (probably via the Newsletter).
- ♦ Grant Program (Glorianne Mather, Chair): Eighteen 100% BowlsUSA lawn bowling clubs received grants for specific projects in 2017. Recipient clubs are encouraged to provide appreciation reports for publication in the Newsletter. The program will be continued in 2018.
- ♦ Newsletter (Georgie Deno, Editor-in-Chief): A reminder that articles are welcome from Councilors, club members, division editors, or anyone who has an item of interest.
- ♦ Umpire-in-Chief (Melanie Vizenor, National Umpire-in-Chief): As of the date of the AGM, we have 96 certified umpires. Plans are being developed to provide specialized training to markers.
- ♦ Hall of Fame (Robb Pawlak, Chair): Selectees for entry into the Hall of Fame was voted on. (Watch for results in the February Newsletter.)
- ♦ Website (Dick Sayer, Webmaster): Expect to see increased emphasis/linkage to social media. Facebook activity has increased; Twitter and Instagram accounts have been established.





JOHN GRIMES ON WHAT DREW HIM TO BOWLS

Following his winning the PIMD 2017 Novice Tournament, Cheryl Minvielle, from John's home club of San Francisco, interviewed him about his bowling experience thus far.

What got you interested in the sport of lawn bowling?

One can never have too much fun! I've enjoyed many sports and games, often involving throwing things at other things. More gangly than gifted, I discovered bowls while driving through Golden Gate Park, attracted by flocks of people in white playing a mellow game on a large, lush green. After retiring, I joined the SF LBC in late 2015, immediately catching the bowls bug. (Wish I had learned about bowls decades ago.) I've made wonderful new friends from a variety of backgrounds, with temperaments generally suited for the serenity and gorgeous geometry of the sport. I consider bowls to be the best-kept recreational secret in San Francisco.

What did you find to be the hardest part of playing the game?

Developing and refining proper technique, maintaining intense focus on the mat, and of course, executing consistently — all while enjoying the friendly banter and competitive company of others. Playing well is very satisfying, and even when losing or having an off-day there are cool shots to appreciate.

What is your background in your former life before retirement?

I'm a Washington, DC native and have a Masters of urban & regional planning from George Washington University. I was a planner in the DC suburbs until moving to SF in 1977. As a consultant, I drafted coastal plan for the City of Eureka, CA. I co-founded a greeting card company (die-cuts of city skylines) with two architects and was the marketing manager for several firms as I evolved into full-time freelance cartooning/illustration (magazines, newspapers, books, websites).

What advice could you give to other new players entering the sport?

Some say it takes two years to become proficient, so I guess I'm just about there, trying to claw my way from lead to vice-skip. Novices are encouraged to concentrate on proper mechanics (like a smooth robot), then practice as much as possible, alone and in games. Enter tournaments. Know the rules and be sensitive to others. Seek mentors for advice on technique, strategy, etiquette, etc. With practice comes muscle memory and focus — a bowler's best friends. Mostly, show gratitude for your club and the joys of the game, and demonstrate that appreciation by spreading the word and pitching in.



John Grimes

Go on to the next page for the rest of John's interview.



John Grimes interview, cont'd.

Knowing that lawn bowling membership is shrinking, how can we excite young people and grow our membership?

I didn't realize membership nationally is shrinking, although our club has shrunk over the last five years.

- ♦ First and foremost, orient lessons and new programs towards full-time (Monday - Friday) workers who lead busy lives. We started informal Saturday noon introductions and ambitious outreach this year and have attracted over 20 new members; perhaps half are weekend bowlers.
- ♦ Promote regular weekend and day-lit evening play (a goal for 2018).
- ♦ Develop a formal, annual Membership Drive, as we implemented this year. Publicize broadly and emphasize the blissful, healthy, low-cost, casual fun and social aspects of the game, including reciprocal privileges at clubs worldwide. Use banners, flyers and free/online media.
- ♦ Match energetic, compatible mentors with newbies. Don't be too stuffy, or require library-like silence on the green.
- ♦ Host "Under 40 (or 50?)" tournaments, barefoot bowling, special events for younger try-outs (from YMCA, etc.), pizza/beer nights, etc. Encourage younger members to bring/recruit friends.
- ♦ Consider reduced rate, trial memberships.
- ♦ Welcome younger members with enthusiasm and embrace diversity of age (perhaps with a special non-retiree position on your board?).
- ♦ Invite newbies to join your membership with website/graphics, hospitality and tournament committees. Seek their ideas. Listen carefully. Follow through. Grow.

What single factor is responsible for your success?

I credit many factors, primarily sage, gentle advice from our coaches and veteran members. Plus consistent practice and social play, perhaps eight hours a week, and regular exercise at the gym (working on leg and core muscles). I've tried to be open to change to get to the next level. As a left-hander (writing, drawing, throwing, etc.), I somehow started bowling-alley bowling right-handed at age 10 and continue to this day (though I seldom play). So I lawn-bowled right-handed my first year, using size fours with a giant bias. Trial by fire! One day, alone on the green, I tried bowling left-handed and it felt more natural on my fingertips and in the swing of my arm, so I've continued as a lefty for the last year. And I traded my used bowls in for some fours with a medium bias and dimples for a better grip. And I got better glasses (wow, I can see!).

Now I'm happy with my game and am especially thankful for the amazing work of the SFLBC, PIMD, and Bowls USA to foster the sport and keep bowls alive. Drop us a note via our [website](#) and come play with us when you're in San Francisco.



BOWLS USA 2018 Developmental Camp

Presented by Jackie Tucker

Sun City West LBC, Arizona

February 16th & 17th, 2018 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

This Year's Theme: Playing your position: Singles – Lead – Vice – Skip

Drills for each position/role will be presented

Melanie Vizenor, Bowls USA Umpire-in-Chief, will discuss rules

What is the coach's role and how does this aid you?

SMART goals - how to make and evaluate your progress

Dora Stewart on International play

Cost \$50.00

Cash or check payable to Bowls USA on the 1st day of camp.

Please bring your own lunch.

To attend this exciting and informative camp, sign up with:

Heather Stewart at heatherastewart78@gmail.com

Following Friday drills, a social get-together is at Hurricane Grill & Wings, 11340 W Bell Rd.,
Ste. 104, Surprise, AZ 85378



UPCOMING MAJOR TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

Watch this section in future issues for the latest updates on major tournaments. As available, we'll list the tournament dates, locations, entry deadlines, and a link/website where you can find more information.

South Central Division Open, 2/10 to 2/15/18. Sun City, AZ (entry deadline 2/2/18). More Info [here](#).

Arizona Senior Open Triples, 2/27 to 3/1/18. Sun City West, AZ (entry deadline 2/22/18). More info [here](#).

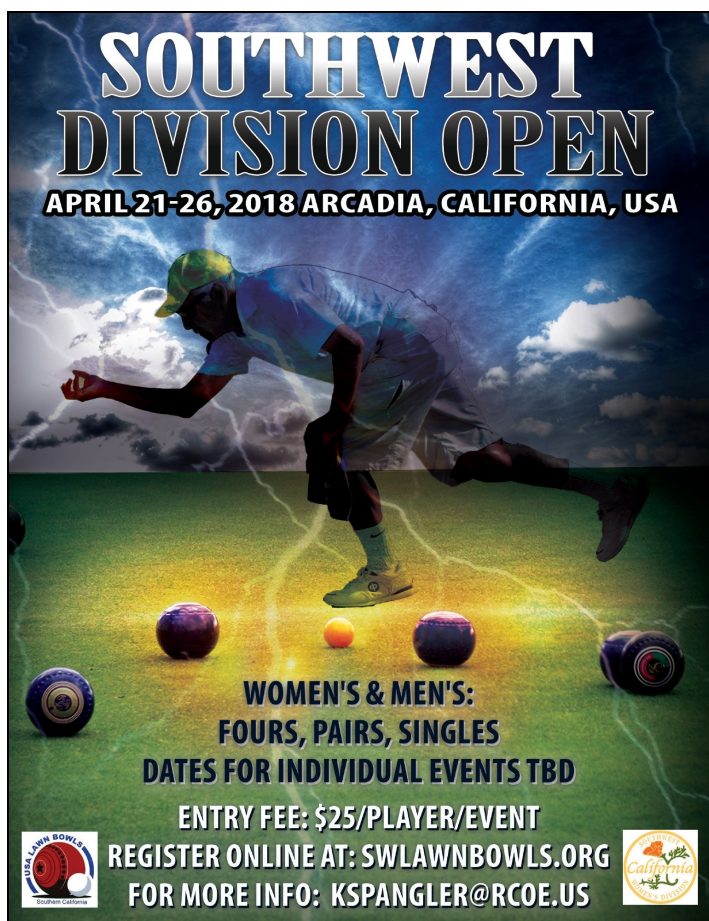
Arizona Senior Open Pairs, 3/6 to 3/8/18. Sun City West, AZ (entry deadline 2/28/18). More info [here](#).

Southeast Division Open, 3/3 to 3/10/18. Men at Sarasota, FL; Women at Sun City Center, FL. (Entry forms available in January 2018.) More info at <http://www.sedlawnbowls.org>

Southwest Division Open, 4/21 to 4/26/18. Arcadia, CA. See the flyer on the following page. Watch for more info [here](#).



U. S. Open of Lawn Bowls, 11/2 to 11/10/18. Hosted by South Central Division. Watch for more info [here](#).





**SOUTHWEST
DIVISION OPEN**
APRIL 21-26, 2018 ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA, USA

**WOMEN'S & MEN'S:
FOURS, PAIRS, SINGLES**
DATES FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TBD
ENTRY FEE: \$25/PLAYER/EVENT
REGISTER ONLINE AT: SWLAWNBOWLS.ORG
FOR MORE INFO: KSPANGLER@RCOE.US



WERE YOU AWARE . . .

That BowlsUSA Executive Committee members aren't the only ones who can get the word out using eblasts? Division officers, club presidents, and tournament chairs can also use that avenue to publicize information and events to their bowlers.

Here's what you need to do.

1. Write up your message.
2. Determine what the distribution should be.
3. Send a request to:
 - bowlsusanews@gmail.com, or
 - contact your Division Councilor.

Simple, right?

TYING UP LOOSE ENDS

By Melanie Vizenor, National Umpire –in-Chief

The “unanswered” Ump Stumper from August at the Bowls USA website was:

All bowls have been delivered and the seconds start to measure. The shot bowl is agreed upon but a bowl that might be second shot is leaning precariously on the shot bowl. One player decides to use a chalk holder to secure the bowl in place. When the shot bowl is removed, the holder fails to secure the bowl and it then falls over. The players call an umpire to resolve the issue. What is your call and what is the law that you would cite?

Here's my ruling on the above situation:

The player who took the risk of using a chalk holder to secure a bowl and then removed the bowl that was supporting the leaning bowl -- that combination of actions displaced the bowl. Thus, the opponent may put the bowl back into position and the measuring continues. The leaning bowl did not fall of its own accord; its support was removed. It was, in a sense, forced to move. It would not have fallen but for the action of the player.

Law 37.4, Bowl displacement when being marked as a toucher or during measuring, and then 37.4.1, “If a bowl is displaced by a player ... during measuring, an opponent must put it back to its former position.”



DATE CHANGE AND UPDATE

In an effort to better serve our working bowlers, a slight change has been made to the dates of the US Open in Arizona to enable them to have their travel and stay at the tournament contained in a single work week.

"Practice and registration all day on Saturday and Sunday morning. Opening ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Actual competition would start on Monday and be completed on Saturday. Those wishing or needing to could leave Saturday night (hope they wouldn't) or go home on Sunday and be back to work on Monday. For those able to, Friday 11/2 would still be available for both registration and practice." said tournament co-chair Ron Rollick.

We hope this accommodates everyone's schedule a little better. We originally announced the tournament would run the first through the ninth.

Visit the [website](#) for updates when they become available.



BOWLS USA GRANT USED TO PURCHASE GREENS EQUIPMENT

By Zarka Popovic

In August of 2017 the Oakland LBC (OLBC) treasurer, Zarka Popovic, flew to Los Angeles, rented a truck and drove to the Alhambra LBC (ALBC) where she purchased used greens maintenance equipment for \$1000. She and Sean McMorris of ALBC loaded the equipment into the truck and she headed north, back to the OLBC where her club members were joining her to unload later in the day.

A BowlsUSA grant of \$500 paid for half of the equipment purchase benefitting both the ALBC and the OLBC. OLBC purchased three mowers, a verticutter, and a ride-on roller along with sundry parts and handmade ramps. The equipment requires maintenance and/or repair before it is adequately serviceable but one mower has been used since August to supplement city mowing.

OLBC hired the Berkeley LBC greens keeper to demonstrate proper use of the equipment. Members attended a training session which was also posted on [YouTube](#) for members to refer to as needed.

The OLBC is grateful that the BowlsUSA grant program supplemented the total cost of this project.



Sean McMorris with greens equipment



PIMD RETIRING PRESIDENT A POET, TOO

By Jim Corr

Ginger Harris, PIMD's beloved retiring President, went out with a bang at the PIMD's last quarterly meeting for 2017. While her bowling skills are well known, she surprised her fellow board members by getting to her feet and reciting the following poem, which she stressed was an audience-participation activity. As she ended each of the lines highlighted below, she paused, and the room had to "fill in the blank," which they managed to do with gusto. Ginger also prefaced her reading, saying "With sincere apologies to Clement Moore* and legitimate poets everywhere..."



Another year's ending in P I M D

So, some thank you's and thoughts from little old me...

Our board was committed, a hard-working crew,

Each one lent a hand when there was something to do.

Miguel was our V P – the man with my back

His job- not so easy- keeping me right on track.

To Gary – our thanks for your bookkeeping skills,

For membership tracking and paying the bills.

Linda – you stepped up to give me a hand,

As a friend and a helper, you're the best in the land

Taking minutes, transcribing - you were so efficient -

My simple "Thank you" hardly seems quite sufficient.

Robb, my cohort, "SENIOR COUNCILOR," I'm told—

Is it years of service or because you are old?????

Your voice and your vision are paving the way

for change and for growth in this sport we all play.

EB – our head umpire – she knows all the rules.

She coaches and mentors to give us the tools

To be better bowlers, to behave, to play fair,

With sometimes a reminder of what NOT to wear!

Jim Corr - as a writer and editor,

You'll not find one better.

He submitted our news to the BUSA newsletter.

Mike managed our website. He's mastered the net.

When I need to log in and have no clue at all

Lawnbowling? A number?

Bud – our TD - the magical man

who can instantly come up with a workable plan.

AAH!! I know who to call!

I've tried and I've tried but not conquered it, yet.

No shows or dropouts? Give him a while -

He just makes it work, and with always a smile.

Our clubs are the backbone of PIMD

Without all of our efforts – where would we be?

There's Oakland, Palo Alto,

Leisure Town, Rossmoor, too.

Fresno, San Francisco – to name just a few.

Sunnyvale, Berkeley, Carmel, San Jose,

THANK YOU to all the club reps here today.

Our coaches and umpires are trained and prepared.

They are eager to help, no energy spared.

PIMD bowlers are known far and wide

for the friendship and fun that our members provide.

We've had 50 plus years of bowling together—

In sunshine, in fog and in inclement weather.

We have vets, we have novices, and we'll continue to grow

By sharing the fact that we've all come to know -

Lawn bowls is competitive, healthy and fun.

And friendships abound when the games are all done.

*So to Zarka**, her board and reps old and new--*

I wish you success in all that you do.

Our division is strong, there are good times ahead,

If we all work together there is nothing to dread.

MY thanks to each person who has helped us to thrive,

It's through all YOUR efforts that our sport will survive.

Now as we move forward to 2018,

Good health! Good bowling, and See you ALL on the green!

*Clement Moore is the author of "The Night Before Christmas."

**Zarka Popovic (Oakland LBC) is the incoming PIMD President for 2018.



Umpires Corner

By Melanie Vizenor
BowlsUSA National Umpire-in- Chief

Wow! Another year has gone by, it's 2018, and a new season of lawn bowling begins.

A big change, and a big loss, for the Southwest Division is the "retirement" of Kottia Spangler as our Head Division Umpire, aka HDU.

Kottia has been the Southwest HDU for many years and will be sorely missed. On the other hand, she is taking over leadership of the Southwest Women's Division as President. That responsibility begins this January when she is installed at the Annual General Meeting. So while we lose a valued HDU, we gain all of her knowledge and experience in another important position.

To Kottia -- **thank you** so much for the many umpire clinics you've conducted over the years and all of the time and energy you've expended on behalf of all umpires. We'll miss you as our Head Division Umpire in the Southwest Division.

Changing gears, in the last newsletter the following scenario was presented:

Team A's bowl in its original course goes through the head, displacing two bowls, and then it hits Lead B's foot, which deflects the bowl back into the head where it moves a bowl at rest, putting that bowl into motion. The bowl put into motion makes contact with the jack, causing the jack to go out of the rink of play. Yikes!!

It may be a surprise, but there is no option for a dead end. As impossible as it seems, the laws say that if a bowl in its original course (a delivered bowl) is displaced by a player and it then disturbs the head, the opposing skip must replace any part of the head disturbed after the displacement and then choose whether to (a) place the bowl where it would have come to rest, or (b) leave the bowl where it came to rest. See Law 37.1.2, and then Law 37.1.2.3.

As to that jack going out of the rink of play -- it does not create a dead end. In fact, if none of the above had happened, and, let's say, Lead B had simply knocked the jack out of bounds, then Law 38, 38.1.3, Displacement of a jack at rest, would apply, which says that the jack must be put back to its former position. That's it.

Replacing the head, putting the whole thing back as it was before Lead B's foot got in the way -- not an easy thing to do. But it's what the Laws of the Sport of Bowls say to do and it is the correct call for an umpire to make if asked to rule on the situation.

Your feedback is always encouraged. Is there a situation that you've come across that left you wondering what the right ruling would be or should have been? If so, send it to me at mavizenor@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you on the greens in 2018!