

NEWSLETTER



Issue #1, November 2014

Welcome to the first newsletter of the GHLBC year! I am very pleased to have been asked to take on the task of producing this newsletter, which is intended to keep Club members better informed on all aspects of the Club from social activities to tournament results, renovations, future plans and so on. There will be some regular features, some reports, notifications, a little levity and, most important, feedback from you, the members. I welcome any suggestions you may have for what you would like to see included in the newsletter, and any submissions you may have. I would like to thank all those people who have contributed to this first issue which, without their help, would be very short!

Annie

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In my role as President of GHLBC I am honoured to be part of this unique Club which has for decades successfully promoted sportsmanship, friendship and competitiveness through the game of lawn bowling. Among my immediate priorities I will focus on programs to deliver our Club news to members and the public, invite outside speakers on topics beneficial and informative to seniors, fundraise to meet extra needs and ensure that members have fun while participating in any activity. I take this opportunity to encourage members to participate and get involved in all social and sports events. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the executive. *Stephen Mah*

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Carpet Bowls: On almost any day of the week the clubhouse reverberates as an enthusiastic group of people join in the carpet bowling to keep their skills honed for the next season on the greens. The atmosphere is one of fun and fellowship and, of course, there is tea! Unlike lawn bowling, carpet bowls is not required to be a quiet sport so full advantage is taken of the relaxed rules!

Contract Bridge: Peggy Knapik organizes bridge on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. and there are up to seven tables engaged every week. Like lawn bowling, bridge is a quiet game, and, just as on the bowling green, the noise gradually rises to a high decibel level every week from the (mostly male) members, creating a strange dichotomy where the women need ear-plugs and the men (some anyway) refuse to wear hearing aids!!

Beginner Bridge: Bill Ward holds a class for beginners at bridge on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. and one assumes that a true air of decorum prevails as his participants bend their minds to Bill's formidable formulae for bidding and play! *Annie*

Mah Jong: The Mah Jong Club started on November 17 with 4 beginners taking lessons through December. Another group of beginners will take lessons in January. The Club meets on Mondays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the clubhouse.

Although there are many variations of Mah Jong, this club will play modern Western Style Mah Jong, based on the book *Mah Jong Anyone? A Manual of Western Play* by Kitty Strauser and Lucille Evans.

There is space for one more person in the January classes (Jan 5,12,19,26). The registration fee is \$20 to cover the cost of the 4 training sessions. If you would like to register for this space please contact Rosemary Ward (250-477-2241);rosemaryward@telus.net).

Anyone who interested but was unable to take the classes, contact Sandra McConnell, skmcc@telus.net. We will integrate newcomers starting in February.

Sandra McConnell

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Short Mat bowls is played in a few Clubs in the region and several of our members take part at Oak Bay and Sidney. In this game one uses one's own lawn bowls to play on mats that are 40 - 45 feet long and six feet wide.

Oak Bay has one mat which is in almost constant use every day. Ten members from GHLBC play there in the singles and pairs leagues - some winning prizes and some not - and also play in the social triples games. All games are 14 ends long. There are two sessions, in autumn and winter, and one must be a social member of the Oak Bay Club to play. The short mat game is a lot of fun and is very good for developing some subtle skills which come in useful in the lawn bowling season. The atmosphere is very friendly whether playing league games or triples. Sadly, there is no tea! *Annie*

Short Mat bowls in Sidney is played in two sessions, autumn and winter, on Saturdays and Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. Sidney has three short mats, one fast and two slower and all games are triples. Four clubs are participating this year: Juan de Fuca, Gordon Head, Central Saanich and Sidney. Games are 8 ends long and tea is served between the games. Short mat develops better understanding of strategy, as one is closer to the head on the shorter playing surface. Short mat gives you a chance to adjust your delivery speed at Sidney as the mats play at different speeds. *Svend Klausen*



FEATURE ARTICLE

Steve Foster very kindly agreed to contribute regularly . Thank you, Steve!

UMPIRE CORNER

This section of the newsletter is intended to provide you with updates and tips on items relating to umpiring, marking and the Laws of the Sport. If you have specific related questions you would like to see answered here, please send them to me at <sfvict@telus.net>

- GHLBC now has two Level 2 (Provincial/National) umpires. Svend Klausen and Steve Foster both completed the Level 2 umpire test this fall. There are now 8 Level 2 umpires and 1 Level 1 (Regional) umpires in Bowls South Island.
- Are you interested in being an umpire and have at least 3 years of lawn bowling experience? A Level 1 course is planned for April 2015. If you are interested please let me know and I will pass on the information to the BSI Head Umpire (Harnam Grewal). The training will be conducted by Harnam Grewal, Dave Mathie, Steve Foster and Ellen van Dusen.
- Every 4 years World Bowls reviews and updates the Laws of the Sport. This happened during the summer of 2014 and a few rule changes will be made for the 2015 season. The most significant change for most bowlers is:
 - Law.20.1 Position on the Mat. Before delivery a player must be standing on the mat with **all or part of** at least one foot on the mat. At the moment they deliver the jack or a bowl , the player must have **all or part of one foot on or above** the mat.

The current laws require all of at least one foot to be on the mat before delivery. Hopefully a new Laws of the Sport booklet will be available for purchase in 2015 for those who would like one.

Plans are being made to conduct 2 Marker training sessions in 2015. One is planned for Juan de Fuca LBC in May (conducted by Ann Mathie and Ross Bulley) and the other at GHLBC in July (conducted by Steve Foster and Harnam Grewal). GHLBC has 25 trained Markers, many of whom require

re-certification in 2015. If you need re-certification in 2015 or wish to take the Marker training (and have 3 years of bowling experience) let me know and I will make sure you get information on the training once details are confirmed in the Spring. (250-477-0801; sfvict@telus.net)

Steve Foster

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas dinner, complete with entertainment and Christmas carol singing, is on December 12, 2014. Happy hour at 5:30, dinner at 6:30. Tickets are \$35 each and can be obtained from Lin Smith, Mary Howarth or Gale Ruttan.

CLUBHOUSE BOOKINGS AND CLOSURE

November 22, Sat	Out of Africa	1 - 4 p.m.
December 1, Mon	Sears Retirees	4 - 10 p.m.
December 18, Thu	Victoria Handweavers	4 - 10 p.m.
December 19, Fri	Marsha McCor??	4 - 10 p.m.
January 10, Sat	S.V.I.M.	4 - 9 p.m.

Janet Gardner

The clubhouse will be closed from Sunday, November 23 to Monday December 1 inclusive for repainting of the washrooms and office.

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO EVERYONE!**

