



THE MERRY MACK

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY BRUCE PHILLIPS

2011 was a mixed bag in terms of achieving the goals I set out for last year. The top priority that I addressed at the annual meeting last January was to grow our membership. In many respects, 2011 was a good year for recruiting newcomers to our club.

Unfortunately, we experienced a much higher number of resignations than in the past. At the end of 2011, we had 134 certified bowlers; this year we start with 94. To put these numbers in perspective, we usually begin each year with about 102 bowlers. In the past five years or so, we more or less gained a new member for every member we lost. So this year has proven to be a disappointing exception. It is no solace whatsoever that the same thing has



happened to the Santa Barbara LBC; they are down by ~14% compared to last January's membership

While this situation was unforeseen, the challenges to growing our club were not. In fact, it was my number one objective at the start of 2011 to explore more proactive and aggressive measures to increase the number of bowlers. So in August, 2011, I proposed, and the board approved, the making of a video, lasting about 4 minutes, that would help grow our membership. The objectives of this video is to: (i) depict the rudiments of lawn bowling, and (ii) sell the idea that Mackenzie Park LBC is the place to do it. After some significant delays

(continued on page 2, message)

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Shirts	1
Security	2
Singles Ladder	3
Committees	4
Conundrum	4
New Members	4
Asia Pacific Highlights	5
Blood Pressure Monitor	6
February Birthdays	7
General Meeting	8

Deadline of March 1 Approaches for Ordering Club Shirts. The short sleeved shirts are available in dark green or all white, are made of a breathable polyester and come in sizes small to 2X large. The cost is \$25 (COD); with your name embroidered is an extra \$3.25. About 25 shirts have been ordered and another 25 would reduce the cost by about \$3 per shirt. Order forms are available in the club house; call Diana Wilk if you have any questions.

(continued from page 1, message)

Victor Eley has assumed control of this project. Albeit slowly, progress is being made in the production of the video. The primary mechanism whereby this video can help us recruit new members is to show it to various organizations in the Santa Barbara area. This means wrangling invitations to show it to any group, including social organizations, church groups, etc. as well as providing it for members to show in their living rooms or wherever. For example, I belong to two social groups who will view the video if asked. After all, it's only 4 minutes long. If all of us make a similar effort, we might generate additional interest in lawn bowls and get new members.

Another action that, in the longer term, may help recruit new people to our sport is the improvement of our website. Joe Odgers will head this task. The advantages are varied and real. For example, we will keep a master calendar of all club events (social, tournament, parties, rental reservations, etc.) at the website in a manner that allows it to be updated, and accessible, 24/7. The site will also provide easy access to the minutes of board meetings and issues of our newsletter (as it does now) going back several years if desired. Social events and tournament information, both schedules and standings, will be easily viewable at any time. All of these actions are aimed at maximizing the board's ability to share information with the membership and to publicize our sport and

promote the benefits and advantages of belonging to this club. Outsiders will be able to obtain information about renting our facilities, including our application form, directly from the website.

By the end of this month, many if not all, of these changes will be implemented by Joe. But none of this makes any sense unless all of you choose to visit the website, hopefully on a regular basis, to learn about what is happening. At the appropriate time, I will urge all of you to visit our website and let me or Joe know what you find helpful or not so helpful. In addition, we plan on sending two or more emails out to every member each month alerting you to important happenings at the club; in some cases, the email will actually link you directly and immediately to our website or a particular page where the information will be in plain view. All of this is an experiment and you are the proverbial guinea pigs. Give it a chance and let's see if we can make it work to everyone's advantage.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the club is in a very strong financial position. It is noteworthy that MPLBC received a bequest of \$5000 from Julienne Hackley Unger 1999 Living Trust. Mike Newton generously made a donation to our club as well. I know how important the club is to virtually all of us so please consider making a donation or bequest if you feel it is appropriate. I think there is a good chance we will run a deficit at the close of 2012 but that depends on many variables, including recruiting new member and the possible purchase of a new verticutter/planer/groomer; so any donations would be very helpful indeed.

Good luck and good bowling.

SECURITY

BY Murray Welkowsky

As most of you know, our problem of missing trays of snacks from the kitchen has continued. The list of possible perpetrators is large, almost exceeding the number of candidates for President in the GOP primary ! But my real purpose here is to solicit your patience and your suggestions of how to put an end to this petty

theft. It is interfering with our routine for providing snacks for club members! Seriously, who knows into what and how it will grow if not checked at an early stage. The latest change is to lock the refrigerator door, a move approved by the Board at their most recent meeting.

Your suggestions should be given to any Board member or to the editor of the Merry Mack, who will forward it to the Board



MACKENZIE PARK LAWN BOWLS CLUB STARTS A SINGLES LADDER

by Pat Cronshaw

The aim of the ladder is to give bowlers who would like to play singles games an opportunity for play. Because of the way the ladder works, advancing players to the top as they win games, players will find themselves playing bowlers of similar ability once the ladder has been established for a little while. Thus, it is ideal for bowlers of all levels, and **everyone is welcome.**

The ladder is an ongoing bowling activity. Bowlers challenge one another and set up times for their games which are agreeable for both bowlers. Thus the needs of working bowlers, for example, are accommodated. There is no entry fee. There is no dress code. It is a chance to test one's skills and improve them by challenging those higher up on the ladder and working towards the top with every win.

The Singles Ladder Board has been hung in a corner of the Games Room. On it is a series of hooks and blank tags. Rules for play also are posted on the Ladder Board; please read them before you sign up.

To join, simply write your name clearly on one of the tags with your phone number or email (whichever you prefer) on the back. On February 29, 2012 the ladder Chairs will remove all tags and a blind draw will establish initial placings on the ladder. Challenges will begin on March 1, 2012. Bowlers who wish to join the ladder after that date should complete tags and place themselves at the bottom of the ladder ready to challenge and move up.

Please address questions to the 2012 Chairs, James and Patricia Cronshaw 805 682 7046.

RULES FOR PLAY.

1. Sportsmanship will be the basis of the ladder. Each bowler should have a copy of the Rule Book (available from Bruce for \$5.00) and a good understanding of the rules so that games can run smoothly even when no experienced bowler is present to help.
2. A player may challenge the bowler next above in the ladder or two places above. Challenge games must be completed before another game is scheduled by either player. After a game has been played, the loser may not challenge the winner until a week has passed.
3. The challenger must call or email the bowler being challenged to establish a mutually convenient time. All games are to be completed within two weeks of the challenge. However, if the bowler being challenged already has a game scheduled, s/he cannot be challenged until that game is completed and the board is updated. All players are expected to be flexible about setting dates and accommodating special needs, for example, for working bowlers.
4. After a challenge is completed, the winning player is responsible for placing his/her tag in the place the loser held before the game. If the challenge was to a player two positions above, the loser is moved to the position immediately below the winner and the person in that place is moved down one place. For example, 5 challenges 3 and wins, then 5 moves to 3, the former 3 moves to 4 and the former 4 moves to 5.
5. The first bowler to 15 wins the game.
6. When a player is going to be on vacation for more than two weeks their tag should be moved down one place for each week after the first two weeks, For example three weeks one place down, four weeks two places down. Then the name tag is to be covered with one of the tags with a red rim and the date of return written on it.

Any problems or difficulties are to be brought to the attention of the ladder Chairs who will attempt to solve them amicably. Their decision will be final. These rules will be reviewed with players after six months. Please provide your input to the Chairs.

Committee Chairs & Responsibilities for 2012

Badges	Liz Gregory
Bowls and accessories	Pat Cronshaw
Building maintenance	Dale Goodmanson
Club tournaments	Eileen Morton
Database	Joe Odgers
Evaluation	Bruce Phillips
Game board	Bill Hart
Gold Coast league	
Coordinator	Stan Bloom
Green Jack	Murray Welkowsky
Greens maintenance	Diana Wilk
Henselite representative	Joe Odgers
Historian	Lucy Jackson
Instruction	TBD
Kitchen	TBD
Current Assistants	Bill Blair
	Del Cardillo
	Barbara Clayton
	Lucy Coke
Librarian	Gordon Stoppel
Locker rentals	Don Bennett
Major tournaments	Stan Bloom
Marketing	TBD
Membership	Scott Sheldon
Merry Mack	
(Editor/Publisher)	Murray Welkowsky
Parliamentarian	Joe Odgers
Photojournalist	Lucy Jackson
Policies & Procedures	Patricia Cronshaw
Rental management	Karen Bisol
Retention	Liz Gregory
Social events	Barbara Clayton
Sunshine and courtesy	Liz Gregory
Sunday and Evening bowling	Barbara Clayton
USLBA delegates	Stan Bloom
	Sam De Lisle
	Dale Goodmanson
Visitations	Scott Sheldon
Website management &	
Club communications	Joe Odgers
Winter league	Diana Wilk

Lawn Bowls Conundrum

By Bruce Phillips and Patricia Cronshaw

There are two shots remaining in a tied game. Team A's skip drives at the head hoping to burn the end. Instead, her bowl strikes the jack taking it into the ditch where her bowl rests inches from the jack. The toucher is in contact with the inside face of the plinth board. Team A now holds the point. Team B's skip executes a draw shot that stops against Team A's toucher in the ditch (while remaining on the green) and moves it slightly to one side, enough so that Team B's bowl now holds the point. Team A's skip declares that her toucher in the ditch was moved and that it must be returned to its original position in the sand. She argues that only a toucher can move an existing toucher in the ditch. "Oh no," replies Team B's skip, "my bowl is still on the green and in play and its movement of your toucher is valid. We win the point." What is the ruling for this situation?

Solution on page 6

Welcome to New Members

Andy Berwick

Merri Berwick

Dorothy Craig

ASIA PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011, ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

By Loren Dion

The team arrived on November 21st in Australia for the 2011 Asia Pacific Championships held in Adelaide, South Australia. This tournament is played between 19 countries all based around the Pacific Ocean. Tournament play didn't start until the November 30th, giving Team USA a great chance to get acclimated to the time change along with green and weather conditions. During practice days the team played various test matches at local bowls clubs against a varying skill level of players. This sharpened our team chemistry and skills on the Australian greens, which were running an average of 17 seconds.

Tournament play began with men playing fours and singles, and women playing pairs and triples. The men's fours team of Michael Siddall, Loren Dion, Joe Regan, and Ian Ho went through their section with a record of 4-3 ending up in 3rd. In sectional play there was a rollercoaster of highlights to keep this team on their toes: They had an early 23-10 victory over the Canadian fours team skippered by former world champion Ryan Bester. Two of their losses came on "jack in the ditch" shots with the last bowl of the game. Finally, a must win final game where Team USA found themselves down 1 shot with 1 end to play, needing a count of 2 to win the game and secure 3rd place and a spot in the quarter finals. With his 1st bowl, MacKenzie Park's Loren Dion drew the shot with a front toucher. The opposing vice then killed the end with his next bowl. In the replay, Ian Ho drew a brilliant shot with his 2nd bowl 4 inches in front of the jack. Again MacKenzie Park's Loren Dion drew a front toucher and what could end up the game winner. The opposing skip drove with his last bowl and missed by about an inch, and Team USA was through to the quarter finals to meet New Zealand.

In the men's singles, Steve Nelson of Milwaukee finished in 4th place in his section and didn't make the quarter finals. He was competitive in all of

his games and even took Australia's Brett Wilkie, world number 2, to 21-17.

The women's pairs team of Anne Nunes and Carrie Fossati, as well as the triples team of Kottia Spangler, Dee McSparran, and Michelle Arculli also didn't make the quarter finals. However the triples team finished 4th in their section and oh so close to the 3rd spot needed for the quarter finals.

In the quarter final of the men's fours vs. New Zealand, the team had a great, competitive game. After being down 9-2 early, they found themselves down 3 with 4 ends to play. With a great shot by Richard Girvan, the NZ skip, the kiwi's scored a 2 to extend it to 5 with 3 ends to play. With a very unlucky result for the USA team on a shot by skip Michael Siddall, the NZ team scored another 2, putting the medal 7 shots away and out of reach for the USA team with only one end to play.

In the next section of the tournament, the men changed to pairs and triples while the women were now playing singles and fours. Dee McSparran of Newport Beach played singles for the USA women's team, and made the quarter finals with a record of 2-3 finishing 3rd in her group. She lost to the eventual champion, Siti Zalina Ahmad of Malaysia in the quarter final. The women's fours team finished in 4th in their section, and just missed the quarter finals.

The men's pairs team of Michael Siddall and Joe Regan were one win away from making the quarter finals, but finished 6th in their section after losing their last couple games. A highlight for them was demolishing eventual champions Richard Girvan and Dan Delany from New Zealand by over 10 points!

The men's triples team of Loren Dion, Ian Ho, and Steve Nelson, who had never played together prior to arriving in Australia, finished with a record of 3-2-1 and 3rd in their section qualifying them for the quarter finals. Highlights of their sectional run include a come from behind tie with Canada after being behind 10-2, along with large wins over Japan, Norfolk Island, and Singapore. These large wins helped the team qualify for the quarter finals, as it was these plus points that put the USA above Canada who finished 4th by a 6 shot margin.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

In the quarter finals Loren, Ian and Steve faced a young and talented Malaysian team who they played earlier within sectional play and lost to, 21-8. After the impeccable performance put on by the Malaysian skip in sectional play, Team USA knew their work would be cut out for them to beat him. With great play from all three players on the American team, the upset was carried out with a 18-8 win, and the triple was now guaranteed a medal to take home.

In the afternoon's semi final, Team USA found themselves playing against Australia's most in form player, Aron Sherriff, along with his talented supporting cast of Mark Berghofer and Nathan Rice. On the first end, American skip Loren Dion drew to within inches of the ditch with his last bowl to score a 1 for the USA. On the next end, he drove the jack into the ditch to score a 2 and put his team up 3-0 and in an apparent good position to start. With a lucky drive that ditched the jack in the 3rd end, the Aussies picked up a 1 and pulled the mat out to the hog line. The Australians found this length much better than the Americans and went on a 15-0 run. This lead proved too much for Team USA to overcome and the dream run ended with a 16-6 loss. They earned equal 3rd place, sharing the bronze medal with the New Zealand triples team who lost in the other semi final. This is the first medal for Team USA since 2005 at the Asia Pacific Championships

Next year MacKenzie Park's Loren Dion will return to Adelaide, Australia to play in World Bowls, which is played only once every four years. He will be joined by Ian Ho and Steve Nelson in the triples again, and Neil Furman and Michael Siddall will be playing pairs. Loren will again play fours, this time with Michael Siddall, Ian Ho, and Steve Nelson; and Neil Furman will be playing singles. The dates are November 24 – Dec. 9 and the team would love as many supporters to come on a vacation and cheer them on as possible, so come down under and cheer on the team for a world title!

CONUNDRUM SOLUTION

The ruling here is Law 26.1.3 which reads "the position of a toucher in the ditch will be validly altered if the toucher is moved by ...a non-toucher while it is partly on the rink and partly overhanging the ditch, as long as part of the non-toucher is still on the rink when it comes to rest after it has moved the toucher. Therefore, Team B has the point and wins the game.

Free Blood Pressure Monitoring

AsteraCare is offering free blood pressure monitoring to all members. Their first visit is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15 and then every second Wednesday thereafter.

Bob Clayton turns 80 and a big party is going to be given by the Clayton family:

SATURDAY , FEBRUARY 25

9:30 - 1PM

BOWLING AT 9:30 AND 1 WITH FOOD

& DRINK IN BETWEEN AT 11:30

QUESTIONS, CALL BARBARA CLAYTON

b.clayton@cox.net or 967-4948



Dale Goodmanson and **Patricia Cronshaw** reveal the "Ladder Board" to be used for singles tournament that starts in March.

MPLBC GENERAL MEETING



January 16, 2012



Diana Wilk promotes new club shirts and requests members sign the sheet so the club will know how many to order.



2012 Board of Governors

Barbara Clayton, Charles Schneider, Scott Sheldon, Bruce Phillips, Stanley Bloom, Joe Odgers, Chris Kennedy
Trustee Trustee Vice President President Treasurer Secretary Trustee



President Phillips presents "Energy Bunny Awards" to **Dale Goodmanson & Scott Sheldon**



Diana Wilk receives "Energy Bunny Award" for her work as greenskeeper. Diana announced the greens would be cored and sanded in March or April and asked members to help. **Victor Elsey** and **President Bruce Phillips** asked members to bring their friends to try lawn bowling at MPLBC. **Eileen Morton** needs helpers for tournaments.



Stanley Bloom reports MPLBC has fewer members this year. Investments gained 10%.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



4 BUD McLEAN



8 BOB WOLFF



9 BARRY PICKUP



12 PATIENCE FOGLESONG



19 BYRON HAWN



25 BOB CLAYTON



27 BILL JOSEPH



27 BILL BLAIR