



The Yellow Jacket

Newport Harbor Lawn Bowling Club

949-640-1022

1550 Crown Dr. North
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

www.newportharborlbc.com

Chuck Muser
Editor

Jay Coons
Editor Emeritus

February 2010

Marion June Compton

1932-2010

President's Message



Well, the first month of 2010 is over and we had a lot of firsts at our club.

After a request was made from the floor at the AGM to have more interaction between our competitive bowlers and our social bowlers, new formats were rolled out for Saturday bowls.

We developed two different formats that would support that request and be beneficial to all of our members. Although some were a little concerned on how these formats would work, we all enjoyed the fun competition and there was a lot of experience and bowls knowledge shared on the green.

Another first for me was a "Casino Night" fund raising event. This event was held to support our clubs members that will be traveling to foreign soil to represent the USA in China and Australia.

As I said at the AGM, "Thank you for letting me volunteer for this position". Well, there have been a few others that have stepped up to help out. **Gloria Montes** and **Pauline Kozma** have volunteered to take care of the hospitality needs at our club. **Darlyne Hilliard** and **Jim "Alto" Altobelli** have stepped in to organize our great club tournaments.

There are still jobs available to support our club, and I look forward to talking to anyone that is interested in volunteering.

I look forward to working along side all of you to make sure that your club continues to be the premier Lawn Bowling Club in the US.



By John Groothuis

As many of you know, **Marion Compton**, 77, passed away in her sleep at her home during the early morning hours on Saturday, January 16 after an eight month long battle with cancer. She was free of pain and had her family at her side at the time of her death. This caught many of us by surprise, as it was only a month earlier that Marion blessed us with her presence during our Holiday Party at the Newport Beach Yacht Club.

On Sunday, January 24, about 40 NHLBC members dressed in whites attended her memorial service at the Pacific View Memorial Park Chapel and a reception that followed at the Park Newport Club House where she lived.

Marion joined Newport Harbor in 2001 after many years as a member of the Santa Anita Lawn Bowling Club. During her time in Santa Anita, she served C

not only as their Club President, but also as President of the South West Women's Division. Marion was a very competitive and accomplished bowler and held many titles and awards in her name. Marion was also very active at the Oasis Senior Center where she managed their Travel Department and hosted numerous tours for their membership.

She was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 26, 1932 where she grew up, met and married her husband Russell at the age of 20. They were married for over 48 years, had two sons and a daughter and moved to Pomona, California in 1955 where they raised their family. Among other things, her children remember her best as a loving and caring mother and grandmother that enjoyed baking wonderful pies and pastries for her growing family. At the time of her death, Marion also had three grandchildren.

After obtaining B.A. and M.S. degrees in English and Linguistics, Marion taught English in Community College before becoming a Market Analyst for Transamerica Corp. When she and Russell retired, they purchased an RV and toured the United States for several years prior to Russell's death in September of 2000.

Marion will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her over the years. May she rest in peace.

My First International, Indoor, Professional Bowling Experience

By Dee McSparran

Carrie Fossati and I arrived at London Heathrow in the first snow blizzard they've had since 1962. Needless to say, with the frenzy in the airport terminal, we had a heck of a time finding our taxi driver to make the 166-mile journey

to Potters Leisure Resort at Hopton-on-Sea (north of London on the east coast). Thankfully, the roads were clear of snow and traffic, and we arrived safely at the doors of Potters Leisure Resort in about three hours.

Although it hadn't snowed at Potters when we arrived, a beautiful setting of white greeted us the next morning. Without hesitation but with great caution, we donned our winter wear to make the 100-yard trek from our cottage to the resort's dining hall. After that, the pace of events was as speedy as the official bowling rink and my memory is somewhat snowy.



With a hearty breakfast in our bellies, we headed to the players' hospitality room in the international arena where we were greeted by tournament officials and a few world-class bowlers. First task was to find my size shirt; one in red, and one in green. Then came the task of selecting bowls to use; one set in red, and another in green. Because most of the players use Taylor Ace or Drakes Pride Professional, I chose the Ace. Finally, I was assigned a 45-minute practice session on "Big Blue" with three other highly-skilled professional bowlers. Thankfully, I knew one – Willie Wood from Scotland who played in the MAP event a couple years ago. He kindly gave me a few pointers, and I gracefully delivered my first bowl straight to the ditch. With a few more words of guidance from Willie, I attempted to make the adjustment accordingly, only to shamefully watch my next three bowls hit the ditch as well. It took me several ends to get just one bowl in close proximity of the jack. I suspected the pace of the carpet to be running 17-18 seconds, a little faster than the artificial turf at Santa Cruz, and remained confident that I

would be able to find the weight control after a few practice sessions. If someone would have told me it was running 18-20 seconds before I played my final match, my conviction would have been shattered. (For a new bowler's perspective, Newport's greens are probably running 11-12.)

Okay, so now I have one unproductive, short practice session under my belt, and I'm off to ponder the matter over a large and scrumptious lunch. I could hardly wait to get back to the hospitality room to ask the tournament director if I could practice on the other indoor rinks in the facility, only to be crushed when he tells me that I shouldn't waste my time. After a couple more 45-60 minute practice sessions on "Big Blue," I was feeling much better with my weight control. However, not being familiar with the finish of the Taylor Ace bowls, I struggled to deliver them on a consistent path, and my newly-found optimism dropped a level. Before I had time to fret over the situation, I'm on the blue carpet for a 30-minute roll-up prior to the start of my first official match WITH my opponent, Fred Fong from Canada. Although that seemed a little awkward, I managed to roll some of my best bowls yet, and my confidence level soared when I saw that Fred's bowls were more short or long than close to the jack like mine. And, he was rolling Vectors. (I'll note here that narrow-biased bowls weren't popular and only a very few players used Tiger II, Classic II, or Vector

Next thing I know, there's a loud



musical sound clip with a slightly embellished credit in the announcement of My Name and I'm front and center of "Big Blue" with an amply-filled stadium of bodies seated on both sides down the rink. The lights were as bright and hot as the sun in a cloudless sky. Honestly, I was cool-calm-and-collected, but a few deep breaths weren't wasted. I told myself to just settle in and get focused; one bowl at a time. To my dismay, my performance was less than desirable and Fred did wonders with those Vectors to win both 9-end sets.

No sooner had I returned my red shirt for laundering shortly after the match, I grabbed a box of Tiger 4H (what I use at home is 3H) and met Carrie on a two-rink carpet green upstairs in the resort to practice. I was amazed to find it ran much slower than "Big Blue" but was pleased to find it manageable. Realizing I had an opportunity to get four full days of worthwhile practice before my next match, I decided to ignore the advice of the pros and try out the 8-rink carpet green. After I had rolled a few ends on it, my confidence level renewed and I agreed with Carrie that we should enter a social tournament of Fours. Mind you, I wasn't permitted to use the official bowls for this event, so a pair of Drakes Pride Advantage 4-H were provided by Potters resident club. (I use the same in 3H on artificial turf at Santa Cruz LBC). For the next three days, aside from the three daily 45-minute practice sessions on "Big Blue," I spent most of my time on the 8-rink green in the social tournament or practicing with two Advantage-4H and two Advantage-3H to make up a set of four bowls.

I won't bore you with the play-by-play of my next official matches, but I will proudly proclaim victory in my first and second matches of the Ladies Match Play Singles and my first match in the Mixed Pairs Match Play competitions. The matches lost will simply be remembered as productive practice sessions on "Big Blue."

Carrie was a real trooper and managed to find activities to keep her occupied and content while I was practicing. In the Terrace Bar, there were daily contests similar to "Name That Tune" as a Potters celebrity gargled the song clip with a mouth full of water, or there was a question-and-answer session with some of the top-ranked professional bowlers. Most of the players from the U.K. bowl only on indoor greens and provided some noteworthy comments. Who would have thought the performance of red bowls differed from green bowls when they are the same brand, bias and size? Like a cruise ship, three meals were provided daily with a menu of several selections for each, and most dishes were quite good. It's no wonder the country ran out of grit to spread on the roadways during the snow storm – the cooks used a lot of salt in everything but the vegetables and desert. To name only a few, other activities available at Potters included 10-pin bowling, Curling, Snookers, a Climbing Wall, dance and exercise classes, gaming machines, and nightly entertainment in the Atlas Thea-

ter. Anyone interested in more information, preview the resort at www.pottersholidays.com.

Casino Night

By Dr. Robert Vickster

I've been around this special game for 20 years now and have never seen an event like this! **Gary Fischer's** idea and vision was to have a successful fundraiser for three of Newport's own, **Dee McSparran, Michael Siddall** and **Joe Regan**, who are soon off to faraway and exotic lands this spring while representing the USA in Int'l competitions.

I don't think Gary or the three mentioned above had any idea what this special afternoon and night would turn into...One for the ages and hopefully the start of something quite special each year!

The afternoon began with a wonderful game of bowls which included 7-8 rinks of triples with the skips switching teams after every third end...This made for quite a neat twist. On the sidelines was Joe Regan, on the handheld megaphone. He would occasionally announce, in his smooth radio-voice, something quite comical that left the green in stitches. A few classic examples were: "The next person to get a toucher will be awarded \$20 in gambling script!" or "the next person who gets a *super shot* gets" and that was quickly interrupted by **Sharon Grady** who exclaimed: "Right, we just got a 7 last end!"

Another gem was: "There'll be \$20 in script for the next person who drags the jack into the ditch!" But no doubt, my favorite from Joe was: "I have \$20 in script for the next person who runs up to hug me!" Sadly, no one on the green budged, but all of a sudden, Michael Siddall ran down the green towards Joe. The hug looked evident and forthcoming and as we all know, it wouldn't have been pretty. All of a sudden, Michael just kept on running past him to meet his team on the other end! Good times indeed.

As the sun started to set, the kitchen roared into full-action...Like a well-oiled machine, Gary (who's now known as the "Pit Boss") would orchestrate and supervise some very special people as they arranged the sumptuous dishes that included steak, multiple hot pastas with sausage and sauce, hearty salad, wonderful breads and a delicious

broccoli soup – compliments of Joe's friends at Spectrum Catering. Some of the real VIPS that gave their valuable time and care throughout the evening, be it at the bar, the kitchen or the gaming tables, were **Jan Hargraves, Teddy Farfaglia, "Z", Jim Altobelli, Dale and Patty, Phil Luth, Jerry and Sharon, John and Cathy MacDonald** (and her staff of lovely ladies) and Gary's splendid wife Pat. Please forgive me if I've omitted anyone. And yes, all those that made the amazing appetizers are angels!

After dinner, the cozy clubhouse was quickly transformed from an upscale cafeteria to a top-notch casino. The dealers now looked as sharp as ever in their black and white with red-bow ties and green visors. Gary, pit boss himself, was in black and red with a sharp looking vest, which likely held the many thousands in back-up cash, if needed.

Those that dealt the cards were in rare-form! Some of the dealers included Ted (who was my personal favor-



ite – a real player's dealer), Dale & Patty, **Ray Norris** and the infamous John MacDonald who had quite an evening with the cards - he got called to the security office twice by the pit boss for losing too many hands to the masses and then even put on "probation!" But, like the professional he is, he returned to the table to deal and continued to lose, hand after hand, to the smiling faces fortunate enough to be at his table. Many thank you John! We hope you'll be dealing again.

As we got into the evening, one thing was apparent...You didn't want any part of the table the lovely Patty Lucas was dealing at. And this should be no surprise to me since I personally said while bowling that day: "Oh I'll be at your table tonight!" Her sly response was: "Great, I'll smile all night while I take all of your money." That she did. I found myself somewhat broke at her table sitting between Dee, Charlie and others. **Charlie Herbert** had just hit it big next to me with a \$280 bet against her – One minor miracle! He tossed me eight \$20's and said go for it, neighbor. I tried to hang in there as long as I could, but 10 hands later at \$20 a pop and I was gone.

She had sent another down in flames. Before I left her table, I witnessed things getting heated as Patty struck another back to back "21" in front her. Without naming anyone, that yielded the response "you b*****!" All in good fun though...Really funny!

I enjoyed seeing Loren and Nicole Dion down from Santa Barbara for the event as well. In fact, at one point, I saw Loren sitting in dealing for John, and the young fellow was all business.

For much of the night, it appeared that **Halina Groothuis** was the winner of the evening with more than \$1,200 earned from her precision tactics at the table, but all of a sudden **Robert Alessi** stormed the tower with a total of \$1,530 looking like the victor...But, hold on to everything! Come 9pm at the Texas Hold 'em table, in the distance, I witness one **Edward and Martha Quo** counting up a big pile of money. Like the good writer and reporter I am, I went over to take a closer look. Amazing but true, I watched Ed count up nearly \$2,000 dollars in winnings...Simply an amazing accomplishment indeed. He was rewarded the \$50 prize, hands down, for the big winner of the night!

In closing, I'd just like to say that the leadership and the seamless work beginning with Gary's vision stemming down to those VIPs who helped was truly inspiring and, quite frankly, astounding. There was no doubt in this writers mind that the 80 to 90 "high rollers" who were present throughout the entire evening were full of a "gambler's spirit" and had a really great and memorable time, yours truly included!

A record amount was raised for the three that are soon to be off to Asia and Australia and after all the expenses were paid, there was \$50 in green fees earned and a \$200 donation to the club for a total \$250. Those who missed it should certainly not the next time around!

It's hoped that there will be another Casino Night in late-Spring or early-Summer for the esteemed players selected to represent the USA at the biennial "North American Challenge" in Milwaukee this September while they take on Canada's best

Until then...and please know that I'm definitely sticking on "13" next time!



Three Thank You's

The Yellow Jacket was asked to pass along these three messages:

From **Dee McSparran** - Dear fellow bowlers and all who participated in the Casino Night Fundraiser. My gratitude for your generosity would fill up the clubhouse just as all of you did last Saturday evening. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

From **Michael Siddall** - I personally wanted to thank you all again for your kindness and for supporting the event. It really means a lot to me and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you again real soon.

From **Joe Regan** - I just want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all the support and hard work for our fundraiser. I have never met a better bunch of caring people in my life. I want to make all of you proud!

NHLBC CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2010

Weekly Club Social Bowling

Mondays	Evening Bowling	6:30 pm
Tuesdays	Afternoon Bowling	1:00 pm
Wednesday	Morning Bowling	10:00 am
Thursdays	Afternoon Bowling	3:00 pm (Bring a Dish+ Games)
Saturdays	Morning Bowling	10:00 pm
Sundays	Afternoon Bowling	1:00 pm

Call (949-640-1022) 30 to 60 minutes before bowling begins. Give your name and number.

Special Events at NHLBC

February 3 - Wednesday	Board Meeting	2 to 4 PM
February 6 - Saturday	Winter League	9 to 3 PM
February 7 - Sunday	Bowling & Super Bowl Party	3 to 8 PM
February 14 - Sunday	Valentines Day Tournament	9 to 5 PM



Why Pay Dues To USLBA?

By Conrad Melton

Unfortunately, it has become one of the mysteries of our time: What do Bowls' parent organizations provide for bowlers who don't compete beyond the club level? Most of the mystery can be blamed on World Bowls and the United States Lawn Bowls Association, who have neglected to let their members know what they've done and what they're doing to keep the sport alive and well. So here's a list of their heftier functions. Most bowlers actually know about these duties, but some slip away from memory and some are taken for granted.

Defining the rules defines the sport.

USLBA and WB currently provide 70 pages of definitive stipulations for the sport. If it were not for these controls, there would be no standard, hence, hundreds of versions, resulting in no true version of the sport of Bowls. The laws define the playing area, the equipment, the kinds of competition that are available, the positions and responsibilities of each member of a team, the length of matches, what is a toucher, what to do about unexpected disturbances during a match, how to score, who and how someone can make challenges, how to appeal a ruling, what are appropriate penalties for various infractions, what are the responsibilities of tournament officials before, during and after a competition, behavior on and around the green, and guidelines in dozens of other areas. Some of these rules, procedures and principles have been passed down for hundreds of years. The rest are continually debated and fine-tuned to ensure our sport is safe from diluting influences, including technological advances, popular fads, transgressors or 'whatever.' In every country of the world, the rules keep the game the same.

Controls bowl manufacturing and artificial surfaces.

The USLBA is directly connected to, and continually communicates with, World Bowls, which, like its name implies, oversees every lawn bowling nation, community and club in the world. WB does the big ticket jobs that its 58 member nations cannot do. They certify the manufacture of bowls and the building and maintenance of greens, assuring bowlers everywhere that there are clear and absolute standards for bowls' diameter, weight, and bias. Can you imagine what would happen if there was no regulatory authority and black market bowls started becoming available? From that day onward, no competition in the world could be guaranteed of being a fair con-

test. Soon, the outcome of bowling tournaments would have no more credibility than TV wrestling.

Standards, Tests and Approvals

Have you ever heard a lawn bowler say "well, let's just go over to the park and we can bowl in the outfield on the baseball diamond?" It's ridiculous, of course. Without greens, there would be no bowls. Few people understand the complex and unique requirements for our "single use" bowling greens. But World Bowls safeguards green expertise and makes it available for each of its 58 "Member National Authorities." Have you ever wondered who has the responsibility for setting the standards for new technology in the manufacture and testing of artificial greens? If you guessed World Bowls, you're right.

Umpires

Umps are a benefit most bowlers simply take for granted. But no one plays this game for very long without needing a knowledgeable and objective authority to step in and on-the-spot resolve some strange occurrence. Umps are living libraries, our sport's pillars of accuracy and fairness, and they are sanctioned, organized, certified, and periodically re-certified, for the convenience of the players. Clubs also are expected to provide umpires for their in-house tournaments. If your Club membership contains a certified umpire, you're lucky. There are less than a hundred active umpires in the entire U.S. Can you imagine trying to play this game seriously without them? And they provide those services for free!

Providing opportunities for higher levels of competition.

Bowls is competitive. Even in the daily draw, where "it doesn't matter much which side wins," it's way more fun to finish first than second. And how satisfying is it when you draw your bowl within a foot of the jack? Bowlers know the longer you play, the better you get. That explains why most of us eventually choose to step up, attend an outside tournament, and see what it's like with tougher competition. Credit for sanctioning and supporting those options belongs to the parent organizations.

Who's good? Better? Best?

"Who's best?" is a question people never stop asking. USLBA's "playdowns" in each of its seven geographic regions, attracts and involves scores of serious bowlers with an opportunity to try and qualify for the National Championships. If the Championships and the

playdowns didn't exist, bowlers would demand that they be invented. Even among the few who never have and never will leave their home Club to compete, just the announcement that "the new National Champions" are from *your* Division is worth a healthy smile and some pride, right? The actual National Championships typically require about seventy people and a full year of work to produce. Unfortunately, too many bowlers take them for granted.

USA vs. the world.

Would Americans be appalled if bowlers couldn't put together a team to represent the USA in international competition? Of course we would. Because of the parent organizations, we can, and we do. The development and maintenance of those competitions, year after year, is organized, coordinated and protected by World Bowls and the 58 National Authorities, including the USLBA.

Ignorance sometimes rules.

Unfortunately, the existence of a national team is used by a lot of uninformed bowlers as an excuse to not support USLBA. Their "logic" goes like this: "Well, I'll never be good enough to be on a national team, and I don't want my dues money going to pay the expenses of those who are!" The truth is that the USLBA stopped providing financial assistance to our International bowlers years ago. Yes, it's a great honor to be chosen as a member of Team USA, but did you know each applicant must be able and willing to pay all their own expenses? That's times two for anyone who wants to take their spouse. Attending those competitions are a great honor, but the honoree pays the tab. And three thousand bucks is well beyond *chump change* for most of us, especially our champions who have jobs and children.

Who do we talk to?

No matter who "we" are or what the agenda, it's World Bowls (or one of the 58 Member National Authorities) that provides the contact points between every person and agency that has an interest in Bowls. Should bowls be in the Olympics? Keeping the channels open for discussion and maintaining cordial relations with the International Olympic Committee and the USOC are two more functions provided by our parent organizations.

In conclusion

There's a substantial list of reasons to keep the parent organizations alive and healthy: 70 pages of rules that keeps the game the same; standards for

the manufacture of bowls and the construction of greens; keeping the black market out of the game; libraries of information about natural greens; control over the development of artificial surfaces; umpires; maintaining intra- and international competition; coordinating communications between 58 bowls-playing nations; and the continual administrative guardianship to prevent even unintentional transgressors from taking the game into unwise or irresponsible directions.

A dollar and sixty-six cents?

Without WB and the USLBA, the game will surely continue to wither. Until

then, every Lawn Bowling Club in the world will welcome you to play with them as their honored and special guest. What other sport offers such treatment? In America, being a member of USLBA costs \$1.66 per month. What's that, a cup of coffee, one-tenth of a lunch for you and a friend, one-fiftieth of a day on the golf course?

No one can guarantee a vibrant resurrection of the sport, but fully supported, robust parent organizations surely provide the game with its best chance to survive.

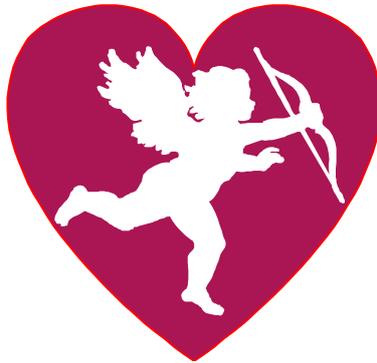
Bowlers know our sport is superior in its advantages: playable by both

genders and all ages, it provides safe and healthful exercise, strengthens mind-body coordination, rewards physical finesse, requires continual strategic analysis and flexibility, is inexpensive, and more. Unfortunately, the game's inherent greatness isn't enough to save it. But for less than two piddling bucks a month, each of us can do our share to both strengthen the game today and ensure that tomorrow our great-great-grandkids will have the chance to roll a bowl.

Conrad Melton is the secretary of the Southwest Men's Division of USLBA and the Umpire In Chief for USLBA.

February Birthdays

Ed Quo	2-Feb
Clay Nolde	5-Feb
Mullie Rubanenko	12-Feb
Doug O'Keefe	14-Feb
Tom Hargraves	16-Feb
Marlane Klaarmond	16-Feb
Eula Casselman	18-Feb
Carol McDonald	20-Feb
Dave Phillips	22-Feb
Emily Carpenter	25-Feb
Chris Chester	28-Feb



VALENTINE'S DAY SWEETHEART BOWL

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Ladies choice! Even though you members are terribly shy, force yourselves and ask a guy to play!

**And, don't forget
Super Bowl Sunday
February 7th
Bowling, Food, Football**

Sign Up At The Clubhouse