



# The Yellow Jacket

## Newport Harbor Lawn Bowling Club

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**Chuck Muser**  
Editor  
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### March 2010

#### President's Message



The tournament season is upon us! The winter break is over and the beginning of the tournament season has begun. Many Newport members bowled in the Mumma, ladies skip, tournament in Riverside on Saturday, February 20th. Our club did very well, as you can see by these results:

Final results:

A-Green (16 teams)

1st Linda van den Berg (So Africa) & **Michael Siddall**

2nd **Anne Nunes & Bob Nunes**

3rd Robin Olson & Bill Brault  
4th Kottia Spangler & Conrad

Melton

B-Green (18 teams)

1st Gisela Schmid & Scott Roberts

2nd Patt Henry & Paul Gomez  
3rd Ann Kirchberg & Paul Gresbrink

4th **Sharon & Jerry Grady**

5th **Patty & Dale Lucas**

Congratulations to all who participated!

On another note, we will be having our Open House in a couple of months, and I would like to solicit your help in preparing for this one time a year event. Please feel free to call me or catch me at the club if you are interested in supporting the club to make this day a success.

See you on the greens! **Phil Luth**

#### The Sporting Scene

As **Phil Luth** pointed out in his message, the tournament season has begun, and it appears that **Dee McSparran** is still at the top of her game. After returning from her stellar performance at the championships in England in January she continued her run with a win in the women's singles at the 2010 South Cen-

tral Division Open, held during the week of February 13<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup> in Sun City Arizona. She walked away with top place in the Championship Flight.

And, Dee wasn't the only Newporter who excelled in that tournament. **Charlie Herbert** was skip on the team which took top place in the Championship Flight of the men's pairs and Challenge of the Third Flight of the Men's singles. **Ivan Hyland** was skip on the team taking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Championship Flight of the pairs.

In the Third Flight of the women's pairs **Dee McSparran** (there's that name again) was on the team taking 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Third Flight of the women's pairs. In the women's fours, **Anne Nunes** was on the team taking 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Championship Flight, **Maryna Hyland, Jan Hargraves** and **Dee McSparran** (and again) were on the team which won the Second Flight, and **Linda Jahraus** and **Patty Lucas** were on the team taking 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Third Flight.

And finally, in the men's triples, **Charlie Herbert** skipped the team taking 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Championship Flight, while **Ivan Hyland** was skip on the team winning the Second Flight, and **Simon Meyerowitz** was on the Challenge team in the Third Flight. All in all, a pretty good week of bowling for our folks from NHLBC.

Speaking of tournaments, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnival at the Long Beach LBC will be held on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Entries will close on March 25<sup>th</sup>, so put it on your calendar. This event features twelve prizes and has an interesting format, where you'll bowl with different partners in each of the three 12 end games. Sounds like fun.

Further in the future, and a big event, will be the U. S. Open which will be held September 25 through October 5<sup>th</sup> here in the Southwest Division. It looks like our club will be in this tournament up to our eyeballs, as we'll be hosting the Opening Ceremonies and Party

on September 24<sup>th</sup>. One has to assume that there will be bowling events held on our greens, but the schedule on the USLBA website is ambiguous on that point. We're sure that we'll be hearing more about this as the year progresses. Stay tuned.

#### Don't Move That Mat!

By the Mad Rule Guy

From time to time players have shown some confusion about all things relating to the mat, such as where it should be placed, and when it can and should be moved. Here's a few pointers in that regard, taken straight from that font of all wisdom, the USLBA "Rules of the Sport of Bowls – 2007 Edition" (of which all members should have a copy).

First of all, where should we put the thing? Here's the official skinny, paraphrased (so as not to bore you with official rules language). Place the mat on the center line of the rink **with the front of the mat at least two meters from the ditch**, two meters being about six and a half feet. The mat **can** be placed anywhere from the two meter line up to the near "hog" line. That decision is usually up to the skip of the team. The near "hog" line is twenty five meters (82 feet) from the ditch at the other end. On our greens it's designated with a red mark on the board running along the side of the green. Remember we're always talking about placing the **front** of the lengthwise mat on these lines.

OK, now, who can move the mat, and when? The rule book says that, after placement but before the jack has been delivered, a player can move the mat if it's found that the mat has not been placed correctly. After the jack has been delivered, but before the first bowl has been delivered, an opposing player (i.e.: a person on the team **not** setting the jack) can move the mat to its proper place if it's found to have been placed incorrectly, and then redeliver the jack.

Now, here's the kicker; after the first bowl has been delivered **no player** has the right to challenge the placement of the mat along the center line.

But, that doesn't mean that the mat cannot ever be moved during the course of the end. If it gets moved **off the center line** the player who's in control of the mat, the person who's up next to bowl, can move the mat back to a center position, **but not up or back from its original position.**

Yeah, OK, so this **is** boring, but think of how boring it would have been if we had just quoted the rule book at you. But, what the heck, since you've read this far, why don't we go on a bit and discuss **how** to place the mat. Some bowlers have been observed placing the mat with their backs to the ditch. That's not the best way to do the deed. By not facing back towards the ditch it makes it more difficult to tell where the center line is. It's always best to walk **backwards** on the center line to the point where you want to place the mat.



And, here's another tip. If your skip wants you to place the mat way out, say to the hog line, after you've set the mat down, put the jack right in the middle of the mat. That makes it easier for your skip to see if the mat is centered. And, enough about mats.

### Editor's Musings

This being a slow news month and needing copy to fill up the Yellow Jacket with something other than photographs I'll resort to writing some views and ideas about the local bowling scene. Hopefully I won't have to resort to doing this very often, a hope I'm sure many of you share.

We were bowling on a Tuesday late last month in rather cool and decidedly windy condition. The wind that day got me to thinking about the times when I was a brand new bowler and I heard more seasoned folks reminding their fellows to allow for the wind. Well, I was skeptical, to say the least. Come on, I

thought, how can the wind influence a three pound mass rolling on the ground. It just didn't seem logical.

Well, the longer I bowled, the more my skepticism seemed wrong. The evidence that the wind did, indeed, influence the trajectory of a three pound bowl sometimes was overwhelming. Take for instance the many times while bowling with a cross wind, a familiar circumstance when we're bowling 'toward the parking lot' in the daily rotation. We end up with a head where most, if not all, of the bowls are on one side of the jack. Either everybody was missing their line to the narrow side, or the wind was nudging the bowls to that side.

Or, when the rotation calls for bowling 'toward the clubhouse' and in the first end, every bowl goes scooting by the jack like the bowler was bent on ditching every shot. And then, coming the other way, you can't reach the jack if your life depends on it. On days like that, weight control is a constant struggle. Well, I finally figured out, the wind was shoving the bowl along going one way, and retarding it coming the other. It took me about three months to finally dump my skepticism and began telling my teammates "mind the wind now."

Speaking of weight control, when I first started in this maddening game I struggled with weight control, not my waistline but how hard to roll the damned bowl. Of course, I wasn't the only new bowler with this problem; it seems to be the most difficult part of the sport to master for most new bowlers.

Being of a systematic mind, I began asking some of our better bowlers how they controlled weight. Most of them would think about it a bit than say, "well, it just comes" or "its muscle memory." Neither explanation was very helpful to me, I wanted instant success!

Well, I've been bowling a few months short of three years now, and you know, they were right, I'm getting better and better. Oh, sure, I still struggle (especially when the wind is blowing) but more of my shots are at least closer to the right distance than not. But one thing that always has puzzled me is, what is 'muscle memory'?

I mean, muscles don't have brains so how can they have memory? Well this question was answered one day when I was watching an episode of PBS Interviewer in Chief Charlie Rose's excellent series on the brain. In that episode one the scientists explained that most of the brain is used to control our motions, such as walking, reaching, throwing, sitting, standing, and most in-

terestingly, talking. Yes, talking uses more muscles than throwing a ball. Think of how much your lips and tongue are involved in saying a single word.

Anyway, rolling a bowl is a motion, or really, a series of motions. Well, it seems that one part of our brain is devoted solely to planning such motions. That section of our brain is in action even when we're not moving, even while we're sleeping, in fact. So, when I'm standing on the mat looking down at the jack my brain is planning the series of motions. Because I've made a lot of shots over the course of the last thirty months, my memory kicks in and helps in the planning process and my shot rolls right where I want it to go. Well, OK, maybe not all the time, but more and more. It's all in the planning.

Well, enough of this for now.

### Of Jacks And Such

#### By the Mad Rule Guy

When is a rolled jack out of bounds? What's to be done about it? These are questions which come up now and then during the course of play. It's usually the latter question which is an issue, so we'll tackle that one second in this article. The easier question to answer is the first one.

A rolled jack is out of bounds if it ends up in the ditch, or if it ends up outside either of the side boundaries of the rink. If the jack ends up in side the boundaries, not in the ditch, but past the two meter mark, it is in bounds, although it will be placed at the two meter mark on the center line. Remember, two meters is about 6 and a half feet. It is also out of bounds if it does not travel more than 23 meters from the front of the mat. Twenty three meters is 75 and a half feet.

So, what's to be done if the jack is delivered to an out of bounds position? The opposing team then attempts to set the jack. At that time the opposing player can reposition the mat and then roll the jack. Now, here's the interesting part. If **that** attempt, the second one, results in an out of bounds jack, the jack is to be placed on the two meter mark on the center line, **no matter where the second out of bounds jack ended up.** Then, the player who would have been up to bowl first, before the jack was delivered out of bounds, will start bowling. In other words, the original order of bowling is preserved.

In the course of an afternoon of social bowling at our club these rules are sometimes not observed by all players. However, these are the rules, and they certainly should be known by all players,



even if sometimes the two skips in a given game choose to informally waive them. In any kind of formal play, tournaments, leagues and such, these rules will be in force.

While we're at it, let's talk about centering the jack once it's been rolled. A lot of interesting things are observed during this exercise . . . lots of waving arms, hands in the air and so on. Here are a few tips. Once you roll the jack, stay in the center of the mat, stand as straight as you can without leaning to either side, and then line up the jack with the center line of the rink with your eye.

Now, here's the tricky part, signal to your skip how far to move the jack to get it in the center of the rink. The best way to do this is to spread your hands the distance you want the jack moved, and place your hands to the side of your head you want the jack moved to. Never, repeat, **never**, place your hands in front of your face. That tells the skip



nothing. Remember, to the side of your head. If you feel just a half roll is needed indicate that with a curved hand moving in the direction you want the jack rolled. When the jack is in the correct centered position, indicate that to the skip by waving, turning a back flip, or whatever other motion you feel is appropriate.



Then, if you whack the jack into the ditch with your first bowl, that becomes still another kettle of fish which we'll handle some other time. [Our thanks to **Sally Cadwallader** for acting as our model.]

## Super Bowl Sunday



Local Bowler walks through the magic archway.



The local betting shop and its friendly bookie



If you check in bring your money



Bowling Action

(get your hands out of your pockets, Marine)





## **NHLBC CALENDAR FOR MARCH 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**

There are no special events scheduled for March

Because of the New Zealand trip there will be no board meeting in March



No, you're not seeing double. This is a really interesting set of heads which occurred in the Pairs competition in the 2009 MAP Tournament in October. This was on two adjoining rinks. Both jacks were hit and moved to within a few inches of the boundary, each being about five inches in bounds. Because players would have to shoot into the adjoining rink it was decided to suspend play in on rink so that the end on the other end could be finished. Special care had to be taken to protect the bowls on the suspended rink during play on the active one. It was an interesting situation.