

BETWEEN BOWLS

<http://www.reginalawnbowlingclub.ca>

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A League of Their Own

Here's a teaser for ya. At the recent RLBC Board Meeting, several ideas were pitched to the board about new leagues and social clubs that might fit nicely with our organization. Jordan and Judy are going to develop their plan and strategy for all the new leagues and then once the details are finalized (here's a secret . . . the Board already gave their thumbs up) we will be able to announce them. They are different and super exciting!

Youth Co-ordinator

Speaking of exciting ~~~~ Mark Sutyla is our new Youth Co-ordinator. Mark's expertise in coaching and working with youth bowlers makes him a perfect fit.

**Thank U
Mark Sutyla!**

Extra Ends . . . Navigational Services

Have you visited our website lately? The Regina Lawn Bowling Club's website is considered to be one of the best in Canada. When was the last time you took a look? It contains a host of information about the current season – news and updates. The RLBC website receives upgrades all the time. Sometimes the changes are very minor and other times the changes are significant. Before the lawn bowling season starts – why not take a tour of the our website

www.reginalawnbowlingclub.ca

RLBC Computer

Just in case you were wondering . . . the computer sitting on the desk in the clubhouse is for all members to use. Click on RLBC User – and you're in. If you click on one of the icons and you are prompted for a password – you're in the wrong place.

The Computer got a facelift over the long, cold winter. All new guts inside, and new software loaded to make it faster and more secure. All of the club's pertinent information is loaded on the computer for members to access – previous minutes, bylaws and regulations, job descriptions, etc.

Thank U Scott Watson!

Say WHAT Now? Contact Us

Got somethin' to say? Bet you do! Well guess what . . . we want to hear from you. (oh, that rhymed!)

We have two "Contact Us" forms on the RLBC Website.

Go to our website –
www.reginalawnbowlingclub.ca

Click on **Contact** along the top menu

Click on "**Contact Us Form**" from the drop-down menu. If you choose this option, all fields are required – and once you complete the form and hit the Submit button, one member of the RLBC Board will contact you.

~ **OR** ~

Click on "**Suggestion/Contact Form**" from the drop-down menu. If you choose this option, no fields are mandatory. You can complete the form and hit submit knowing with full confidence that your identity will not be known. However, you won't be contacted by the RLBC Board because we don't know who you are. And, if the Board has questions, we won't be able to get clarification.

So why not contact us?

Coach's Corner – Strengths v Weaknesses

Some coaches tell their players – find your opponent's weakness. If your opponent can't play a long jack – you go long. If your opponent can't effectively play their back hand – block up the forehand side. While this strategy may work for some, often times, the opposite is true. Build on **your** strengths. If you get possession of the mat/jack, and you like a short jack, go short. You will be much more comfortable playing to your strengths than trying to play to your opponent's weaknesses. When practicing, always spend some time working on the skills that you struggle with the most. That way, if your opponent plays this 'head game' with you, you'll be ready.

Bowls Basics

Aristotle once said, "The path to excellence is not an act but a habit". Old habits die hard! Avoid slow starts. We often hear bowlers say – "It always takes me a few ends to get going – I'm a slow starter". The trouble with being a slow starter is sometimes it is too late to catch up or salvage a game. Give yourself two ends – down and back – to catch onto the greens, and then with positive self talk, tell yourself that you can make your shots.

Remember – a good bowler gets better by playing a lot and practicing a lot.

**IT'S
SKILL
ALL THE
WAY!**

Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to work to make a better future for the RLBC. While their work is not complete, they have accomplished so much. They are starting to wind down so that they can enjoy the bowls season. The Committee tackled two important issues during the February meeting. The first was the dreaded finances. The second was the social aspect of sport of bowls and the club. The final documents, the final plans, the final results, the final conclusions ~ will be coming your way. As always, we love your feedback. So please feel free to drop the committee a line and let us know your thoughts – Judy at ginlinjin@hotmail.com

Orientation Committee

The Orientation Committee met at a secret location in the Zoom Cave on February 10. It was decided that we could do a better job in the transition between our Open House and Membership retention. We resurrected the old Buddy System ~ now called "Bowls Buddies". And we are working to define and enhance the original concept; and tweak it just a little bit.

The Committee is hard at work and here's what they've come up with so far.

-  A New Member Manual ~ which will be everything a new bowler wants to know ~ needs to know ~ but is afraid to ask. Existing members may even want a copy!

- ☘ An updated New Member Brochure which will be a short snip-it reference guide available to hand out at the Open House and after coaching. It's the condensed version!
- ☘ An In-Person Orientation ~~ did someone say, Tour Guide?
- ☘ Revamping and redeveloping the way in which we provide coaching lessons.
- ☘ Bowls Buddies.
- ☘ Finding a smooth transition from initial intro to bowls ~ to coaching ~ to membership ~ to retention.

There will be more communications sent to the membership as more things are finalized. The good news is that the RLBC Board of Directors is on-"Board" with our strategy, so that's a good thing.

RLBC Board Meeting

The February meeting, held on the 24th, was full of great conversation. The Minutes will be distributed later, but here are some highlights:

- ☘ We may have found a sponsor to provide shingles for the greens maintenance shed.
- ☘ We may have found a corporate sponsor.
- ☘ Getting steps onto the greens.
- ☘ Getting a Security Camera at the Clubhouse.
- ☘ Membership Renewal Day – it's happening.
- ☘ Membership Application Policy – it's in writing now.
- ☘ Budget has been drafted. Makes Cents!
- ☘ Only 3 Board vacancies to fill ~ Group Bookings, Catering, Beverage Services.
- ☘ B Cubed Committee had their first meeting.
- ☘ The Bowls Sask Schedule of Events has been created but not released pending Bowls Canada's decision regarding the Majors.

Bowls Etiquette – Miss Manners

Bowls Etiquette and Good Sportsmanship go hand in hand. Bowls etiquette is separate from the Rules of Lawn Bowling or the regulations that govern the Conditions of Play – which are mandatory. Bowls Etiquette promotes civility and friendship and is a sign that you respect the game, the players, the greens, the clubhouse, and the members. Some important Bowls Etiquette to remember:

- ☘ Begin each game with a friendly handshake and end the game with the same ~ Covid Style.
- ☘ Be on time. Dress appropriately – cover the goods. Be a gracious winner and a good loser.
- ☘ Be ready to step on to the mat and play when it is your turn.
- ☘ Possession of the mat is yours only until your delivered bowl comes to rest – once your bowl stops, vacate the mat or move to the side of the collection of bowls and be prepared to take your next turn. Have your bowl ready.
- ☘ Possession of the rink belongs to the team whose bowl is being delivered. As soon as each bowl comes to rest, possession of the rink is then transferred to the other team, with time being allowed for marking a 'toucher'.
- ☘ Provide the bowler delivering their bowl the courtesy of minimal noise and movements in an effort to not distract them.
- ☘ If you use a bowls cloth, ensure that it is out of the way when it is the next bowler's turn.

- ☘ Remain quiet and still on the green behind the head and away from the sideline markers until the score has been agreed upon by both teams.
- ☘ Never openly criticize the condition of a green. You must adjust your bowling to the conditions.
- ☘ You are a team member ~ Stay in the game ~ Use common sense ~ And have fun!
- ☘ But then again, you knew all that!

Don't forget, we are governed by Bowls Sask's **Code of Conduct** and **Code of Ethics**. If you want to familiarize yourself with these policies, they are found on the Bowls Sask Website www.bowlssask.ca/ | About Us | Policies & Programs | Risk Management ~ it's a lot of clicking to get there, but it might be worth a look-see before the season starts.

There's also a wack of policies that Bowls Canada has created and yes, same thing, all bowlers should familiarize themselves with these policies. Get ready to do a lot more clicking www.bowlscanada.com | About Us | Policies ~~~~ There are 21 policies developed so far – boy, someone had a lot of time on their hands at BCB! It was a long, cold off-season!

Yeah, so, just a little refresher course about the stuff that we seldom think about. It's always a good idea to familiarize yourself with the sport of Bowls governing body's websites and expectations. Well, what else do you have planned before the season starts?

Happy St. Patrick's Day