

BETWEEN BOWLS

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Happy BOWL-oween

My friend said – “What rhymes with orange.” I said – “No it doesn’t.”

A Step Back in Time

Part 1 of a 3 Part Series

Have you ever been at the Leslie Greens and wondered how it all started? How did we come to be so fortunate to be able to play bowls in such a tranquil and serene environment. Knowing about our past, and how we got to where we are today, will help us build on our future. This three part series, brought to you by Doug Normand, provides an historical landscape of the Leslie Bowling Greens and the Regina Lawn Bowling Club.

In the Beginning

The Regina Lawn Bowling Club’s long history begins in 1912, when land near the Gun Club was donated by the Provincial Government to build Regina’s first lawn bowling green. This land is now occupied by the Provincial Health Building. In 1922, when the land was reclaimed for development, the City of Regina donated some land and the club moved to a location near the General Hospital. In August of 1930, when construction on a new building began behind the General Hospital, the Regina Lawn Bowling Club was once again without a home. For this reason, the 1930 provincial tournament was held in Saskatoon instead of Regina, and the club prepared for a space in Confederation Park at the Exhibition Grounds, made available for a nightly fee.

Four men’s rinks and two ladies’ rinks were sent to Saskatoon for the 1930 tournament, which began on Labour Day, on a special chartered coach on the Canadian National Railway. On October 9, 1930 the club held their annual windup banquet at the Champlain Hotel and, for the first time, the club’s ladies were present. They were congratulated on their achievement at the provincial tournament, having won three first place and one second place spots. Some of the prizes won by the club included a silver plate, silver cigarette cases, cuff links and Wahl pencils. Following the banquet, the 85 attendees proceeded to the Metropolitan Theatre for an exclusive show.

The club remained at the Exhibition Grounds until 1932 when the City of Regina allocated land at the present day location now known as Leslie Park. The members built the “West Green” and a clubhouse. Mayor James McAra officially opened the new green, located at the present-day Victoria Avenue location, for the Victoria Day Games that year. Membership was 54 men and 20 ladies. The following Labour Day, the provincial tournament was back in Regina and was opened by, once again, Mayor James McAra at the club’s new location. 125 bowlers from Regina and Saskatoon played until midnight the first night, and the three-day tournament was heralded as “one of the most successful in history, the weather being ideal throughout and the new home of the Regina bowlers aiding to the enjoyment of the visitors.”



To be continued in the November issue

September Series

September Series – Several members participated in the September tournaments held at the RLBC. The men's and women's club tournament saw two strong teams in each category "Vi" for top spot in the best of 3 match (hint as to the winning skip of the women's pairs). We shifted to the open men's and women's event. Bowlers made up their own teams. We had hoped to see the team of Jan and Janet on the women's side, or, the team of Doug and Doug on the men's side. Did it happen ????? One weekend was devoted to an open mixed triples competition – sort of like the spring Competitive 3s league, only condensed into two days. Seven triples teams entered and they played a round robin format. Great competition was witnessed by the many spectators who came to cheer on their favorite team. Let us know if you liked the new tournament concepts!

B Cubed



The B Cubed Organizing Committee was able to offer a Mini-B³ league in September (10, 17, 24). Eight teams registered – a sell-out in short notice! Pizza was served at 5:30pm and games commenced at 6:00pm. We played under the lights – in the warm autumn evenings. We received great comments from the participants – they are looking forward to the spring league! Huge thanks to our volunteers (you know who you are) and a special thanks to our sponsor Tommy's Speakeater who offered discounts on beverages and nachos following the games. Can't forget to mention the Raffle Basket donated by Ripplinger Financial.

Note to the Organizing Committee from a Bashful Bowler: You managed to pull off an exciting mini-B Cubed with a short lead-in time. Participants were happy and enjoyed the fruits of your labour. Lots of new people! Lots of laughter! A job well done! Thanks as well to the volunteers who stepped up to help.

Group Bookings

Who knew that the schools would be allowed to book excursions – what with the COVID and all? The afternoons during the last two weeks of September were pretty busy – with school groups booked almost every day. Our team of Group Bookings volunteers (thank you for your commitment) were on hand to demonstrate the sport which we all love so much. Students had a great time. We also had a few group bookings during the season – we never want to turn away an opportunity to show the public how it's done at the RLBC.

Jan's Jitney

Members were thrilled when Jan Robson was able to offer Friday night Jitney. Several bowlers arrived at the greens, ready to win back their entrance fee. This year, losers didn't have to do any dishes (thank-you, COVID). It was a lot of fun playing under the lights – and the weather and mosquitos co-operated. Thanks for organizing Jan's Jitney, Jan.

Award of Merit



Congratulations to David Calam, the 2020 Award of Merit recipient. David's contribution to the sport of bowls was recognized at the RLBC Windup. There isn't enough room on this page to list all of David's contributions, but here are a few: Provincial Coach, NAC and Championships Chairperson, President of Bowls Canada, Bowls Sask board member, Coaching Clinics, Umpire. David received his Award of Merit jacket – which he proudly wore at the windup!

★Our Shining Stars★

A new plaque was established this year – ★"Our Shining Stars"★. This plaque is in recognition of outstanding volunteer work that goes above and beyond expectations at the Club. The first recipients of this very prestigious award go to ★Garth Zummack★ and ★Pat Schlotter★ for their work on restoring Green D last season. ★Garth★ and ★Pat★ were honored at the RLBC Club Windup with this inaugural award.



Put Me In Coach – I'm Ready to Play

Congratulations to Jean Roney and Harriette Pituley who are now part of the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) which Bowls Canada and 65 other sports offer across Canada. Bowls Canada currently has three coaching programs that meet NCCP National Standards: Bowls Club Coach, Bowls Competition Coach and Bowls Performance Coach. Jean and Harriette have become Certified Competition Coaches, the second level in the BCB



NCCP Program. By the way ~ David Calam achieved a certification as well. He is now a Certified Evaluator and was involved in certifying Jean and Harriette. The RLBC is fortunate to have **three** outstanding coaches.

RLBC Windup

Tear. ☹ After an unusual start to the lawn bowls season, the Regina Lawn Bowling Club opened later in the Spring – first for roll-ups, then for draws and Jitney, and finally for tournaments. The season came to an end on September 26 as members gathered for Awards, Tournament Pins, Jitney and Refreshments. Everyone had a good time – we missed those who could not attend. And, just when you thought this season couldn't get any weirder we had something happen at the 2020 Windup that has never happened before. There was a marriage proposal! ☺ See you next season!

Have you thought about

Have you ever wondered if there is something you could do to help out the club? There are lots of opportunities. Our whole organization is run on 'people power' of members working together. In the fall, there are always positions open for someone to help on the board. You might say, I don't mind helping but I don't want to be on the board. Not to worry! That is possible.

What we are looking for are people who will oversee an area of the club. You don't have to do all the work by yourself but be the leader of a group of fellow members. You don't know what it all entails? There are people who will give you information, guide you and encourage you. You are not working in a vacuum.

A huge money maker for the club is outside groups wanting to use our facilities. We need someone who will help arrange those bookings. This can be a one person job or two people splitting the work. Could you answer the inquiries of people? There are school groups, birthday parties, office groups, etc.

Or what about making sure the kitchen is running well? The catering leader working with a committee makes sure that food is available, is safe and is healthy for provincial tournaments, club gatherings (Open Day, Canada Day, etc.) and such. This is a great opportunity with lots of information and help available.

There is more. But, would you consider participating in leadership? If so, contact Doug Normand, Judy Whiting or Lois Kos.

AGM

Save the Date! The Annual General Meeting of the Regina Lawn Bowling Club is scheduled. Please try to attend – we have lots of information about this season as well as the 2021 season to share.

November 1, 2020

1:00pm

RLBC Clubhouse