

GLEN BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2018

Please forward all contributions, correspondence etc. to the editor at geralds@iafrica.com

The History of Bowls

Lawn bowling, or “bowling on the green,” is an outdoor game that has fascinated both young and old for centuries. The actual origin of the game is hidden in the haze of antiquity. We do, however, have authentic records of well over seven hundred years of bowling history.

Sculptured vases and ancient plaques show the game being played some four thousand years ago, and archaeologists have uncovered biased stone bowls from 5,000 B.C. which indicate our ancestors enjoyed the game of bowling more than seven thousand years ago.

When Caesar rules Rome, the game was known as “Bocce,” and the conquering Roman Legions may well have carried the game to Europe and the British Isles. By the thirteenth century, bowling had spread to France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Germany, and England.

Bowling was so well established in England by 1299 A.D. that a group of players organized the Southhamptom Old Bowling Green Club, the oldest established bowling club in the world that is still active. The game became so popular in England and in France it was prohibited by law because archery, essential to the national defense, was being neglected. The French king, Charles IV, prohibited the game for the common people in 1319, and King Edward III issued a similar edict in England in 1361.

Scottish Heritage

Fortunately, bowling was not suppressed in Scotland, where it attained a popularity which has increased with the years. Scottish bowlers developed the present flat green game, established rules, worked out a uniform code of laws, and were instrumental in saving the game for posterity. The ancient game of bowls has always been dear to the heart of every true Scot, and it has always held a prominent place in the history and literature of Scotland. To the Scots goes the credit also for giving the game an international background, as emigrant Scots enthusiastically carried the game with them to all parts of the world.

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Today there are more than 200 public bowling greens in the City of Glasgow alone. Every trade group has its own bowling league. Elaborate clubhouses, that completely enclose full-sized bowling greens for winter play, have recently become very popular in the British Isles, especially in Scotland. With this year round play, the game of bowls is reported to be rapidly outdistancing golf as the national game of Scotland.

Royal Heritage

Lawn bowling, or “bowls” has much literary and historical proof of being the real “Sport of Kings.” From the time of Edward III, the game was restricted by royal decree to “Noblemen and others having manors or lands.” Successive kings played and enjoyed the game. However, King Henry III, who had bowling greens installed at Whitehall, permitted the common people to play on Christmas Day.

Fortunately, no serious effort was made to enforce this ban, and of course it did not apply to Scotland. Almost every English monarch was a bowler, and the royal estates were all equipped with fine bowling greens. King James I was an ardent bowler, as was his son King Charles I. Both monarchs are reputed to have enjoyed playing for high stakes. King Charles, according to bowling tradition, lost over \$5,000 in one encounter with a Barking Hill merchant named Richard Shute. A bowling green has been a permanent fixture at Windsor Castle. Anne Boleyn was a bowler, as were many noblewomen, including the first Princess Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. The late Queen Mary, and King Edward V enjoyed the game of bowls. Edward VIII, now the Duke of Windsor, was president of the Royal Household Bowling club of Windsor Castle. His brother, the late George VI, was an enthusiastic bowler and patron of the English Bowling Association.

Noble Heritage

In the early days, it was fashionable for the aristocracy to have private bowling greens. Samuel Pepys mentions in his diary being invited to “play at bowls with the nobility and gentry.” Sir Francis Bacon, Sir Walter Raleigh, Victor Hugo, and Lord Macaulay were all bowlers. British officers installed bowling greens in the American colonies in New York in 1725, and in Port Royal Canada in 1734. George Vanderbilt and John D. Rockefeller had private bowling greens on their estates in 1896

Today, bowls is no longer solely a rich person's game. The world famous have played and enjoyed this game from ancient to modern times, ranging from Dr. Samuel Johnson to Dr. William Brady, and from Shakespeare to Walt Disney. Men play today on the very green at Plymouth Hoe where Sir Francis Drake and his captains bowled that memorable day in 1588 when the messenger arrived with the news of the invading Spanish Armada.

Literature, history and art all abound with references to this game, and we can indeed look back with pride on the noble heritage of our Royal and Ancient games of bowls. It may seem a little selfish, but some "old timers" dread the day when the American public really discovers this game. They picture bowling alleys deserted, golf courses neglected, and tennis courts empty, while waiting lines form at the bowling green; and there will be no royal decree to restrict this game to a favored few.

The American Scene

Lawn bowling appears to have been introduced into the American colonies in the 1600s, although archaeologists have uncovered biased stone bowls, now in a museum at Vancouver, B.C. which indicate that a similar game was played by the North American Indians centuries before this. Bowling greens were recorded in Boston in 1615, New Amsterdam, as New York was then called, and not long afterwards in Washington and Virginia.

Bowling at Mount Vernon

In 1726 George Washington's father, Augustus, took over management of the family estate at Mount Vernon, and in 1732, the year George was born, constructed the bowling green. At this time the game was highly favored as a genteel pastime by the ranking officers of the British Colonial Army, and the green at Mt. Vernon was undoubtedly very popular. George grew up with the game, became an avid bowler in his youth, and apparently this love of the game was never lost. He kept the green busy through the years. By 1754 he had come into his inheritance and settled down with Martha. They kept up the family tradition of sponsoring bowling on the green as "suitable for the intelligencia and ranking army officers." The game abruptly lost its popularity during the Revolution. On July 4, 1776, with the Declaration of Independence, the Colonies were rent apart. Those still loyal to the British Crown fled to Canada, were imprisoned or killed, and their property confiscated. This wartime hysteria swept all thing British with it, including bowling greens. Greens were plowed up, converted to camp grounds, planted with flowers or trees, and hidden as much as possible. At Mount Vernon the abandoned green was planted with young full grown trees described as a rugged type of magnolia. One of these trees, "The Washington magnolia," planted in the garden entrance to the bowling green is reputed to be hale and hearty today. Apparently all local records went too, as our national archives had no record of bowling activity for this period until our first edition. Recent research by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union record authentic maps which date back to 1726, locate the bowling green, and confirm our previous reports.

Canadians Preserve the Sport

To the Canadians we owe the preservation of Bowling on the Green in America. With peace, the game spread across the continent to Vancouver, and grew in popularity. In time, friendly games across the border began, and eventually old animosities were forgotten.

There is a certain magic in this game that builds lasting friendships, and Bowls has done a lot to cement the friendly relations that now exist between Canada and the United States. The game was not revived in the United States until 1879 when a bowler named Shepplin started a small private club in New Jersey. Soon this expanded to a second club and in 1885 the Middlesex Bowling Green Club was officially organized. New clubs appeared in Boston, and soon bowling greens were once again flourishing along the eastern seaboard. Fourteen years passed before the first West Coast club was formed. In 1899 the St. Andrews Society of San Francisco and Oakland combined to construct the first bowling green in the West in Golden Gate Park. The first Southern California lawn bowling club was formed in Los Angeles about 1908, and today there are more than thirty active clubs and many private greens in this area.

SOUTH AFRICA

Bowls as a sport began in South Africa around 1882, when the initial bowling green was commissioned. A lawn bowls club was subsequently established in Port Elizabeth at St Georges Park. South African Bowling Association was founded in 1904 as the governing body for the sport of bowls in South Africa. Afterwards, the growth of the women's game led to the establishment of South African Women's Bowling Association in 1935 to control and promote the women's game. The two controlling bodies merged in 1996 to establish Bowls South Africa.

Anybody who has any information re the history of Glen Bowls Club, please send to me. All input, stories, facts and photos, will be appreciated



REMEMBERING THE OLD HOUT BAY BOWLS CLUB DAYS – Willy Thomas

I have fond memories of the old club, which met its demise a good few years ago.

It was a single green club and attracted members from a wide area, largely as a result of being one of the earliest to provide flood-lit bowls, and, of course for its social side, which was pretty special.

The floodlights had to be removed eventually, when the wear and tear of both day and night bowls on the single green proved to be beyond the abilities of the poor green-keeper. But the social side never waned, until the reduction in membership arising out of Hout Bay becoming too expensive for the average retiree to settle in, and pressure from the council who upped the rates to a level we could not pass on to the members and then would only renew our tenancy on a one year basis, made any capital investment a major risk.

I think they had in mind to gain a much higher revenue from leasing the property to a sponsored crafts group for the newly expanding township, but the sponsor eventually pulled out and two free-lance groups now use the grounds for an over-run of children who cannot find accommodation in the main-stream schools.

For a spell in the late 80's or early 90's the number of members increased to a level where we fielded three flag sides and getting a game on a Saturday meant you had to get there early to be in the draw, but there was always room when it came to social events, even if some had to be catered for outside the clubhouse itself in the summer months.

Every excuse for a dinner-dance was grasped with enthusiasm and the St Patrick's day, Mother's day, New Year's eve and prize-giving evenings were some of the highlights, but any other excuse was also attacked with vigour.

On New Year's eve, everyone would pile out at about 11:45 to stand in awe watching Sol Kersner's fire-works display up the valley. The junior school adjacent to the club would also organise a yearly fire-works evening as a fund-raiser and the club members would forego their supper that evening and frequent our venue for a glorious show.

For the prize-giving evening, a lady by name Hilliary Morgan, would "volunteer" members to train for about five or six weeks to perform seven or eight skits based on musical accompanied performances which would regularly bring the house down. It was a good idea to wear old clothes during training evenings as errors in positioning or dance steps would result in the perfectionist director yanking some large men physically into line. She would probably be arrested for violent abuse these days.

Of course, there were sad moments too as when a senior member of the club, Jock Brown, died while delivering a bowl in a mid-week game, and it fell on two of his friends to go and tell his wife.

In those days we always wore whites and as the two approached the front door, his wife Hazel, who had in her days been a true belle in the Sea Point area, but knew how to call a spade a shovel, opened the front door and announced to the bearers of the news....."Its Jock isn't it – He's gone and @\$!&)%ing died, hasn't he? There was really no way they could respond to that.

Also sad for himself, but much to the amusement of his friends was what happened to one of our senior players, who shall remain anonymous.

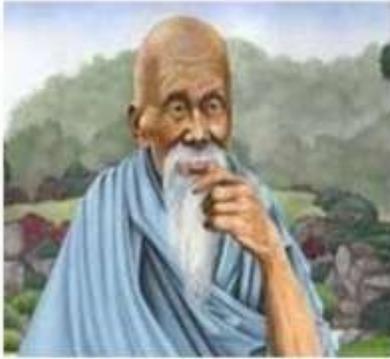
A really good skip who had retired to stay in a flat below his daughter's house up on the steep slopes of an up-market estate. He had arrived home and parked outside his garage while he removed his woods from the boot. As he lifted the case the bottom section had not been zipped up and all four woods went hurtling down the driveway and into the road. One lodged in a flowerbed, one wedged in a storm-water drain, one went over the edge and into a vacant plot of bush. These he recovered in the dark but one was still missing. Early the next morning he went out searching again, but the errant wood had gone hurtling down the road, leapt the driveway to another garage and left a hole in the timber panelling of the garage door. He never recovered that one and only played trips for a while until he could replace the set.

The demise of that club was extremely sad and I still get nostalgic as I regularly pass it and see the kids playing soccer on what is left of the green.

There are a few survivors of the old club still around and a number migrated to Camps Bay club and to Atlantic and Glen when it died.

Jack Glanger and Bumps Klein have passed, but some of us, like Axel Zoelzer, Ken Morton, Les Worms and I live to tell the tale.

Thought for the day



The Great Lao-Tzu said:
 "It is only when you see a mosquito landing on your testicles that you realize there is always a way to solve problems without using violence."



IF YOU RECOGNIZE THREE OR MORE
 YOU ARE OLD



A Game of Bridge
 A cleaning woman was applying for a new position. When asked why she left her last employment, she replied, "Yes sir, they paid good wages, but it was the most ridiculous place I ever worked. They played a game called Bridge, and last night lots of folks were there."
 She went on, "As I was about to bring in the refreshments, I heard a man say, 'Lay down and let's see what you've got.'
 Another man said I've got strength but no length.'
 Another man said to a lady, 'Take your hand off my trick.' I pretty near dropped dead just then when the lady answered, 'You jumped me twice when you didn't have the strength for one raise.'
 Another lady was talking about her protecting her honor, and two other ladies said, 'Now it's time for me to play with your husband and you can play with mine.'
 "Well, I just got my hat and coat and as I was leaving, I hope to die if I didn't hear someone say, 'Well I guess we'll go home now, that was the last rubber."

CATS & DOGS



Click on the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/FunniestFamilyMoments/videos/2137445706520806/>



Click on link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFptImGCOVI>

This is Priceless! Note reference to the "Main Stream Media"...73 years ago!!

What is meant by the modern term referred to as "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS"... The definition is found in 4 telegrams at the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri.

The following are copies of four telegrams between President Harry Truman and General Douglas MacArthur on the day before the actual signing of the WWII Surrender Agreement in September 1945.

The contents of those four telegrams below are exactly as received at the end of the war - not a word has been added or deleted!



(1) Tokyo, Japan 0800-September 1, 1945

To: President Harry S Truman

From: General D A MacArthur

Tomorrow we meet with those yellow-bellied bastards and sign the Surrender Documents, any last minute instructions?

(2) Washington, D C 1300-September 1, 1945

To: D A MacArthur

From: H S Truman *Congratulations, job well done, but you must tone down your obvious dislike of the Japanese when discussing the terms of the surrender with the press, because some of your remarks are fundamentally not politically correct!*

(3) Tokyo, Japan 1630-September 1, 1945

To: H S Truman

From: D A MacArthur and C H Nimitz

Wilco Sir, but both Chester and I are somewhat confused, exactly what does the term politically correct mean?

(4) Washington, D C 2120-September 1, 1945

To: D A MacArthur/C H Nimitz

From: H S Truman

Political Correctness is a doctrine, recently fostered by a delusional, illogical minority and promoted by a sick mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of shit by the clean end!

Now, with special thanks to the Truman Museum and Harry himself, you and I finally have a full understanding of what 'POLITICAL CORRECTNESS' really means.....

I wonder what
foreign people think
if they pass a
afrikaans church
and in front of the
church is written
DIE HERE



OMG, I'm rich!
Silver in the hair,
Gold in the teeth,
Crystals in the kidney,
Sugar in the blood,
Lead in the butt,
Iron in the arteries,
and an inexhaustible
supply of natural gas.

*I never thought
I'd accumulate such
wealth!*

Lessonslearnedinlife.com

So you think
English is
easy?

Homographs are words of like spelling but with more than one meaning. A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a heteronym.

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture..
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.

A

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ANDLES



Upcoming Events

Congratulations to all who are celebrating a Birthday during this month.

We wish all of you very good health and enjoy your special day

Marion du Rand 2nd, Ruven Kaplan 3rd, Brian Smollan 4th, Harry Faktor 6th,
Jaye Mendelsohn 8th, Leah Mann 11th, Ellis Henen 14th, Selmae Miller 16th,
Butch Cornel 18th, Dave Samuels 18th, Tessa Sanders 19th, Moira Myers 21st,
Kevin Campbell 24th, Irene Moss 28th

It has been suggested that all those who are celebrating their birthday this month and would like to bring cake/s to the Thursday evening braai should contact each other to arrange which date they will bring cakes, so as to prevent too much one week and nothing the next



Around the Bowls World

7th
COOK ISLANDS BOWLS CARNIVAL TOUR 2019 *Social Bowls in Paradise!*
 DEPARTING BRISBANE, SYDNEY & MELBOURNE 1 MAY - 9 MAY 2019*
 *TRAVEL DATES 1 MAY - 10 MAY FOR GUESTS FLYING HOME DIRECT FROM RAROTONGA TO SYDNEY



Authentic experiences can only be found locally. Uplift are the **experts** who take the time and have the **passion** to hunt out these little places with big experiences!

This incredible fully hosted tour represents outstanding value for money, and will provide you with amazing opportunities to bowl, meet the locals, see the very best sights, and rejuvenate.

The beauty and charm of the Cook Islands is matched only by the friendliness of her people. Here you will find the hospitality warm and spontaneous, the music and dancing exuberant, and the mood relaxed. We look forward to welcoming you to the wonderful "Cookis!"

HIGHLIGHTS

- + Social bowls carnival and rollups
- + Island Discovery Tour
- + World famous Muri Lagoon Cruise
- + Local markets
- + Church service
- + Primary school visit
- + Exclusive Polynesian "Island Night" Awards Evening

WILLING TO SHARE?



If you wish to share a room and no other client of same gender is available, then no single supplement is payable. *It's on us!*

Departures from BRISBANE, SYDNEY OR MELBOURNE travel dates 1 May - 9 May from **ONLY \$3549**

per person twin share plus taxes of approx. \$200 per person.

Departures from SYDNEY with direct return travel dates 1 May - 10 May from **ONLY \$3689**

per person twin share plus taxes of approx. \$200 per person.

Single Supplement \$755.

\$500 non-refundable deposit due at time of booking. Progress payment of \$1000 due on/before 30 November 2018. Full payment due by 25 January 2019.



May this Christmas
end the present year
on a cheerful note
and make way for
a fresh
and bright new year.

*Here's wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New
Year!*



Flag Practice

