

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club

(Established 1877)

“In the Ditch”

(141 Years Strong)

Volume 1, Issue 1

April/May 2018

Welcome to the first edition of your club’s new monthly newsletter for 2018 “In the Ditch”. A new look, a new format and new information. Did I mention, this is my first attempt!

Really, “In the Ditch”, how original and unique is that? Oh come on, we have all been there, just read and enjoy. Hopefully you will find this newsletter informative and entertaining. I am always open to suggestions as to what to include, you can send me an email at, membership@notlbowls.ca. If you just tell me some afternoon chances are I will forget that you were ever there; email is better.

Sorry, I do not do a lot of pictures; see the club’s website <http://notlbowls.ca> for more photos of the various club events. If you want a photo in the newsletter you will have to email it to me and I will try to include it in the next issue.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the development of this first issue. Without their help and input this newsletter would have never made it to the “presses”. Hope they don’t mind my editing. See their bi-lines below each heading and remember to thank them for their effort, it is much appreciated.

Editor



From the President’s Desk

Elly Warren, Club President - 2018

On behalf of the entire executive and committee chairs it is my privilege to welcome all returning members and extend a special welcome to all the

new members to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club for the 2018 season. Please pass along to all your friends and neighbours that we are a friendly and welcoming club and extend them an invitation to come out and try the game.

As of press time the paid-up membership totalled 57 bowling members, 3 life time members and 1 social member.

After getting off to a somewhat rocky, start weather wise, in the month of April, May has shown her true colours and given us a good month for bowling.

A new newsletter, a new editor, a new format, what’s next, a new clubhouse? A special thank-you goes out to **David Klooz** for publishing the newsletter for the past few years, great job David; your past efforts in supporting the club through the newsletter and membership are much appreciated.

Your executive has been hard at work getting ready for the 2018 season and preparing for seasons into the future. Items currently tabled at the March executive meeting include; club In-house tournaments (members only) to be held in July and September, advertisers and tournament sponsors and how to provide them with greater visibility from the club. Webmaster Paul McHoull will be adding their messages to the club’s website for all to see.

Tournament Sponsors

Local companies and organizations are asked to sponsor club tournaments. These sponsors provide the prize funds (\$250) for each tournament which generally bears their corporate identity and provides them with a local venue for public exposure. The more people that turn out at a

tournament, the happier the sponsors are and are more likely to return. Aren't sponsors wonderful? Tournament sponsors for 2018 are;

- Simpson's Pharmacy;
- Oh Canada, Eh?;
- Montyro Financial and;
- Enzo Mancuso at BMO Nesbitt Burns.

Advertisers

Our score boards are supported by local businesses that provide signage on each board promoting their services. Please support these local businesses wherever possible as their advertising dollar (\$100 per year) is much appreciated. Advertisers purchasing signage this year are;

- NOTL Duplicate Bridge Club;
- Oh Canada, Eh?;
- The Wine Shop, and;
- Stone Road Dental.

Other potential advertisers that have been approached are;

- Virgil Chiropractic and Wellness and;
- Sotheby's Realty.

I would encourage all club members to help in this regard and bring forward suggestions of any local business that may be interested in supporting your club through the purchase of signage on our score boards, 8 rinks, 8 score boards, 4 advertisers, oops.

Official Opening

The official opening for the 2018 season took place on Saturday, May 12th, a somewhat chilly and blustery afternoon. Approximately 40 members, fans and onlookers attended the opening. A resounding rendition of "Oh Canada" was led by **Martin Quick** and the traditional Piper led the members in the annual "parade" across the green.

With the club's President officiating the **Lord Mayor, Pat Dart**, rolled the first official bowl of the season to open play for 2018. The Lord

Mayor's bowling prowess is improving as he hit the jack on his first attempt.



Lord Mayor Pat Dart delivers the first bowl

Photo by David Klooz

Due to the cooler weather the Jitney was cut to 1 draw with 5 games being played, 3 triples and 2 doubles. Tea was served both before and after the draw. Thank you to **Joan Klooz** and all the others who helped, for arranging both tea sessions on this chilly day.

Ladies' Frontier League

Heather Pettit, Pat Rees

The Ladies' Frontier League has been in existence since the early 1960's. The four original teams were from Port Colborne, Glenridge, Buffalo and Lancaster. (*I presume this is Buffalo, NY*). Only Glenridge remains from the original four.

The league comprises teams of Ladies Triples who bowl 2 twelve-end games in tournament style every Thursday. The location of play rotates through the clubs of the teams involved in the league. Clubs currently represented are; Glenridge, Niagara Falls, Beamsville, Port Dalhousie and Niagara-on-the-Lake, there are 16 teams in the league this year.

Everyone is encouraged to go out and watch the ladies bowl, especially when they are bowling here in town at your club. Support your local teams! Perhaps a league schedule could be posted on the club's bulletin board.

There are three teams representing the Niagara-on-the-Lake club this year, in no particular order;



Frontier League - Team 1

Photo by Pat Rees

Team 1

- Skip/Vice – Mary Watson/Heather Pettit
- Vice/Lead – Heather Quick/Pat Girgenti (not shown)



Frontier League - Team 2

Photo by Pat Rees

Team 2

- Skip – Elly Warren
- Vice – Pat Rees
- Lead – Donna Jansen



Frontier League - Team 3

Photo by Pat Rees

Team 3

- Skip – Rose Connolly
- Vice – Jenny Ley
- Lead – Angela Lynch/Sandi Johnson (not shown)

May 24; Port Dalhousie - **Rose, Jenny and Angela** placed first in the tournament and **Elly, Pat and Donna** placed fourth out of a full slate of 16 teams. The third ladies team must have been somewhere else in the final standings.

May 31; It was a dreary, albeit humid, day in Niagara. The Ladies Frontier League played in Beamsville on the last day of the month, the afternoon turned hot and humid. Results for the day were: Mary Watson, Heather Quick and Pat Girgenti placed first, Elly Warren, Pat Rees and Donna Jansen came in second out of a field of 14 teams. The third ladies team placed further down the leader board.

Well done Niagara-on-the-Lake teams!

Senior Men’s League

Dave Taylor, Wes Turner

The Senior Men’s League has also been in existence for many years, beginning sometime before 2001. No one seems to know when it started. Teams from numerous clubs around the area have played, or still play, in the “Niagara District Senior Men’s League”. The league has played at clubs such as; Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Glenridge, Beamsville and, in the past, Welland, Meritton and Port Dalhousie, to name a few. The number of teams in the league has varied from 10 to 12 teams.

The league plays every Wednesday morning with the play format based on Men’s Triples, two 10 end games are played.

Over the years many members of the club have played in this league such as; **Harold Clement, Gerry Rive, Alf Lyons, Ed Peterson, Wes Turner, Rory MacCon and Bob Findlay** to name a few. The number of teams playing in the league

has varied as has the number of teams from the club. This year there are 13 teams in the league. Two teams represent your Niagara-on-the-Lake club, they are:

Team B **Dave Taylor – Skip,**
 Jack Hazell – Vice
 Ron Gourlay – Lead

Team Geo **George Watson – Skip**
 Doug Williams – Vice
 Berkeley Lambert - Lead

I would encourage everyone to take the time to come out on a Wednesday morning, when they are playing in town, to watch the games and cheer on your local team. Check out the club's calendar to find out the dates when the league is in town.

I think that it would be great to have some league results posted in this newsletter. Perhaps someone from the club, who plays in the league, could make a note of where the NOTL teams placed each week and pass them along. How about some team photos; common boys, don't be shy.

Tales of the Tournaments

Doug and Nancy Findlay, Tournament Secretaries

Oh Canada, Eh!

Tournament 2018



Cast and Staff at Oh Canada, Eh!

Photo by Jones

On Tuesday, May 29th your club hosted our first tournament of the season in Niagara on the Lake. The tournament was sponsored by Oh Canada, Eh! Dinner Theatre. Eight teams participated with players from Ancaster, Burlington, Glenridge and Niagara on the Lake. Draw Masters were **Derek Shervill** and **Ray Pettit** and the kitchen was ably looked after by **Donna Jansen** and **Rose**

Connolly. The weather was beautiful and enabled a great day of bowling. The results are as follows:

1st place, winning all three games, went to: Kathy Smith from Ancaster and Neville Robson from Glenridge

2nd place, the highest two game winner, to: **Elly Warren** and **Pat Rees** from NOTL

3rd place, the next highest two game winner: Remi Canuel and Joan Way from Burlington

And, the Last Game High Score prize went to: **Denise Lundy** and **Martin Quick** from NOTL

Congratulations to all prize winners.

Our next tournament, sponsored by Simpson's Pharmacy, is Open Pairs on July 3rd. Plenty of spots are still available.

New Event This Year **Monday, July 9th**



Niagara-on-the-Lake

Photo by Findlays

Come out for a taste Tournament Experience involving only teams from our club.

Play triples in three 8 end games beginning at 10:00 and running until 3:00 or so.

Teams will be made up with at least one novice player on each team and balanced to make them relatively equal.

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per person

Snacks from the Café and tea and coffee will be provided

Four prizes will be awarded to winning teams.

Sign-up Sheet in the Locker Room

Doug and Nancy Findlay

Friday League Open Pairs

Wayne Jones

This year the Friday League Open Pairs (FLOP's) is playing a 12 team single Round Robin session. Play begins on Friday, May 18 and will run every Friday until to July 27th. Upon the completion of the Round Robin session there will be time allocated during which teams will be encouraged to play make-up games. This will be followed by a playoff session to determine the league championship.

Please feel free to come out to the green throughout the season and cheer on your favourite team. I am sure that you will see some excellent bowling.

The league began play on the somewhat chilly Friday evening of May 18th with 8 of the 11 teams vying for victory over their opponents. One team had a "Bye" giving them a victory by a registered score of 12-0. The remaining two teams will be playing a make-up game on a date to be determined.



FLOP's Begins Play, burrrr

Photo by Editor

After the chilly opening round the weather warmed up considerably for the second round of the season. A high level of skill and play was evident across the green.

After two rounds of play, three teams have dominated and have risen to a tie at the top of the leader board. Who will finally come out on top? Only time will tell because you will not hear it from me!

League Coordinator

Social Convenor

Jenny Ley, Rose Connolly

"The State of the union address from the kitchen gurus" was how Wayne approached Rose and I to add a monthly update for the newsletter. I'm not sure if we can come up to scratch, but as Taylor Swift, (yes the pop star) said;

"This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change."

We are only into a few weeks of the "New Year" and already change has occurred in the form of a pot luck, replacing the barbecue. Several days were interrupted by rain and no play...however on the days when we were able to bowl, we enjoyed great catering by the volunteers! Many thanks!

To those who have not added their names, please check the spare dates on the calendar.

Jenny and Rose

Emergency!, Emergency!, Emergency!

Breaking News; dit,dit,dah,dah,dit,dit...(I just had to do that.)

Apparently the volunteers who were arranging the Bar-B-Que for the end of June, the 30th, have had to withdraw. We are therefore in desperate need of replacements and are urgently looking for someone to volunteers.

If you are able to take on this most important and rewarding task please, either add you names to the list on the board in the locker room and/or contact Jenny and/or Rose or all do all three.

Editor

Greens Keepers

Buzz and Judi Allen

The Greens Keepers are away in sunny Italy enjoying the fine Italian food and good wine. Hopefully they will be well rested when they get home and get back in to the swing of things quickly. Have a great vacation **Buzz and Judi**.

I am sure that **Buzz and Judi** would like to send a most heartfelt thank you to all members who have pitched in and help setup and take down the greens, watered the flowers, etc. during their absence, thanks everyone.

The Editor

Club Statistics

The Draw Master

I am attempting to include some club statistics for the previous month in each newsletter. While somewhat boring for most people a good set of statistics can tell a real story about what is going on within any specific entity.

If you find them boring, don't bother reading them. If there are some statistics that you think may be interesting and meaningful, send me an email. I will try to find a way to collect and report them. If anyone is interested in helping to record and collect the information please let me know, I could always use an extra pair of hands or two.

April Stats

The weather throughout the month of April was against us what with rain, snow, cold winds and generally nasty conditions. This was the primary cause for most of the cancellations of Jitneys and Draws throughout the month.

Jitneys

Scheduled	8
Played	2
Cancelled	6

Draws – usually 2 draws per Jitney

Scheduled	16
Played	3
Cancelled	13

Average number of Bowlers per Draw

Draw 1	32
Draw 2	20

Total number of games played in April – 15.

The number of games played varies with each draw.

Total number of games played in April – 15.

May Stats

May's weather was a bit of a mixed bag as well what with conditions left over from April still hanging about, the snow disappeared and the rain seemed to take a bit of a hiatus. In general the weather conditions in May seemed to be a bit more tolerable albeit hot towards the end of the month. The winds remained gusty at times reaching speeds of up to 67kph although the average was a relatively calm 32kph.

Jitneys

Scheduled	13
Played	13
Cancelled	0

Draws

Scheduled	26
Played	22
Cancelled	4

Cancellations were mainly due to rain and hot temperatures.

Average Players per Draw in May

Monday		Wednesday		Saturday	
26.5	20.0	14.0	9.5	23.5	16.0

Total number of games played in May – 74.

Incidentally, according to my un-official attendance records, the member with the most number of games played to date is...**David Klooz** with 3 games in April and 19 in May. A true "Ironman" or is that "Iron-person" of the lawn bowling green. Congratulations **David!**

Green surface temperature

If you have ever wondered why your feet are a little tired and sore at the end of a bowling session, this may provide some insight.

During each game you can be walking or standing on the green for a long period of time. Some the heat from the green is transferred through your footwear to your feet. This can have an impact on how your feet feel at the end of an afternoon of bowling. Good footwear on the green is essential.

The difference between natural and artificial surfaces will be significant. The average surface temperature of our green in May was **56.9°C** (134.4°F), the warmest recorded at **80°C** (176°F), the coolest at **21°C** (69.8°F).

Green surface temperatures were not recorded in April.

Greenside Humour

From around the world

Upon returning home, Jack's wife asked "How was your bowling game, dear?"

"Well, I was bowling quite well but my eyesight's gotten so bad I couldn't see where the bowl went."

"But you're seventy-five years old Jack" admonished the wife, "Why don't you take my brother Scott along to help?"

"But he's eighty-five and doesn't even bowl anymore," protested Jack.

"But he's got perfect eyesight. He could watch to see where your bowl goes." His wife pointed out.

The next day Jack bowled with Scott looking on as Jack bowled to a long jack.

"Do you see where it went?" asked Jack.

"Yes," Scott answered.

Well, where is it?" yelled Jack, peering up the green.

"I forgot."

In Closing

Editor

Well, that is "it" for the first edition, hope you all enjoyed reading and are looking forward to the June edition.

Remember; don't pass up the opportunity to volunteer, this club, like most, runs on the efforts of its volunteers; don't let the 20% do 80% of the work, become a volunteer.