

# Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club

(Established 1877)

## “In the Ditch”

(141 Years Strong)

Volume 1, Issue 2

website: <http://notlbowls.ca>

June 2018

Welcome to the second edition of “In the Ditch” your club’s monthly newsletter.

A special thank you to all those who offered their comments and suggestions after reading the first issue, your encouragement certainly helped in developing this second offering.

The newsletter takes the entire month to develop, a few moments here, a few moments there. Once again I am indebted to all those who have taken the time to make a contribution to this issue.

Remember to thank all those who have contributed, (there has been very little editing this time around). It is only through their efforts and dedication to your club that you are able to enjoy this offering and keep up to date on what is happening “Around the Green”.

*Editor*



### From the President’s Desk

*Elly Warren, Club President - 2018*

It is hard to believe that another month has passed. We’ve had some really nice days for bowling and some bad ones of course.

The in house tournament was received with a lot of enthusiasm. We had 32 people signed up in a 1 week period!!!! How great is that?

We are still taking entries. At time of writing we have 2 people on the spares list. If that number goes up to 6 and nobody drops out, we have 2 more teams that can play. That would be terrific!

All our sponsors have renewed this year and the last 2 cheques for advertising were received as well.

We did not have an executive meeting this month, so nothing to report. We will probably have one in July.

This month orders were taken for club shirts. If anyone wants a name tag we can look after that as well.

Thanks to the people who are always there to help. Setting up the greens, doing the draw, cleaning up and looking after the “teas” on Saturday. The club can’t function without you!

July 1<sup>st</sup> Canada Day is tomorrow. At the club we celebrate this on Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> and have tea in between games. Normally we wear “whites” but I like to make that “red and white” for this year. Let’s be patriotic!

This week on Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup> we move to evening bowling. It will be in the evening on Monday and Wednesday for July and August. Please be there no later than 6:15. Thinking back to last year I think what we’ll do is one 10 end game. Two games didn’t work at all last year and when we did one game it was fine.

Enjoy the summer!

## Get Well Soon

As many of you are already aware, **Lindsay Cooper** is in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, England suffering from Hydrocephalus or, Fluid on the Brain. She is currently awaiting surgery which has been postponed due to emergencies at the hospital. My understanding is that after surgery the length of her recovery period is unknown however it is anticipated to be a long one and, air travel may be out of the question.

We all wish **Lindsay** a speedy recovery and **Jim** all the best during this trying period. The thoughts and prayers of the entire membership are with you guys.

*Editor, on behalf of the President*

## Your membership fees

*Doug Williams, Club Treasurer - 2018*

What happens to my membership fee or; “Where did it go”?

Have you ever wondered what happens to your membership fees after that hard earned cash leaves your accounts? Well, what follows is a brief explanation of how the “system” works;

Out of the dusty interior of your old wallet comes the club’s membership fee, for NOTL residents \$110 (\$115 for non-residents) for the season. Of this amount, \$31.50 per member comes off the top, and goes to the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association (OLBA) and disappears in to the vast unknown, similar to governments and your taxes.

Once the OLBA has taken their cut, the next piece of the pie, approximately \$59 (\$58.94) per member for 2018, disappears into the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake coffers, (see “government and taxes” above). This is an “annual lump sum” fee (\$3,713.15 for 2018) for the privilege of using the Community Centre and the Green. These funds probably go towards the operations and maintenance of the facility; power, water, flowers, salaries (not mine) etc.

Expenses for kitchen supplies and the Annual General Meeting eat up about \$10 per member.

At the end of the “doling out” period there is a little bit remaining amounting to \$10 per member, left over for the club. This disappears into the club’s coffers (see “government and taxes” above) and is used to cover various and sundry expenses throughout the year and help **YOU** enjoy your club’s activities.”

Please note: Additional revenue generated during the year from Advertising, Lockers and Tournaments provide about \$15 per member.

## Monthly Membership Factoid:

The final membership list is out! As such it is interesting to note that there is some fascinating information contained in this seemingly benign list.

For example, out of a total of **60** active (bowling) members, **45%** are men and **55%** are women. Draw your own conclusions, if you dare!

Stay tuned for next month’s “**Monthly Membership Factoid**”.

*Editorial Staff*

## Birthday Greetings

*Carol Williams, Club Secretary - 2018*

On behalf of the President, the executive and the entire Club I would like to extend Birthday Greetings to all members who celebrated, or will celebrate, a birthday in June/December, you know who you are. Let us not forget those in April/October and May/November, all of whom were missed in the last newsletter.



**Happy Birthday Everyone!**

## Ladies' Frontier League

*Elly Warren, Pat Rees*

**June 7...** The Ladies Frontier League had 12 teams today. NOTL was the host club. **Heather Pettit, Pat Girgenti** and **Mary Watson** came in first and won the Pat Lyons trophy.



**"Pat Lyons Trophy" Winners 2018**  
Heather Pettit, Pat Girgenti, Mary Watson

*Photo by Pat Rees*

### Congratulations Mary, Heather and Pat!

**Elly Warren, Pat Rees** and **Donna Jansen** came in third. It was a great day.

*Elly Warren*

**June 14...** The Ladies Frontier League bowled in Niagara Falls today. There were 12 teams. **Elly Warren, Pat Rees** and **Donna Jansen** placed 1<sup>st</sup> and were the winners of "The Shirley Pay Memorial" plaque.

*Elly Warren*



**The Shirley Pay Memorial plaque Winners 2018**  
Donna Jansen, Elly Warren, Pat Rees

*Photo by Rosa Giaccione, aka Rose Connolly*

### Congratulations Elly, Pat and Donna!

**Heather Pettit, Pat Girgenti** and **Heather Quick** placed 3rd.



**Third Place Pat Girgenti, Heather Quick, Heather Pettit**

**Rose, Jenny** and **Angela** had a win and a loss.

### Way to Go Ladies!!

**June 21...** Today we played in Glenridge. There were 14 teams. **Rose, Jenny** and **Sandi** were 4<sup>th</sup> place winners with 2 wins.



**Jenny Ley, Rose Connolly, Sandi Johnson**

*Photo by Pat Rees*

**Heather, Mary** and **Heather** had a win and a loss and so did **I, Pat** and **Donna**.

*Elly Warren*

**June 28...** We played in Port Dalhousie today. 12 teams. Heather, Heather and Mary won both games and came in second. Pat, Donna and I lost both games.

*Elly Warren*

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.

## Niagara Senior Men's League

*Dave Taylor/Wes Turner*

The League welcomed back the Port Dalhousie Club to the League after a several year hiatus.

There are two teams representing your Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club in the Niagara Senior Men's League, "Team B" and "Team M".



**Team B**

**Ron Gourlay, Dave Taylor, Jack Hazell**



**Team M discussing tactics**

**Doug Williams, George Watson, Berkley Lambert**

I have been asked to "refrain from putting the results of team M in the monthly newsletter" No explanation was given. So be it. There are no results for team "B" either.

*Editor*

## Tales of the Tournaments

*Doug and Nancy Findlay, Tournament Secretaries - 2018*

Do not forget the Simpson's Pharmacy Tournament on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, come on out and cheer on your favourite team.

### And Remember!

As an introduction to tournament play, all members are encouraged to enter the first **members only** "In-House Club Tournament".

This tournament is a mixed triples event, with three games, of 8 ends each, being played throughout the day. Teams will be established and balanced by the Club's Tournament Secretary(s).

The tournament takes place on the Club's Green on Monday, July 9, 2018. This is a regular bowling day so no Jitney that afternoon.

All the fun begins around 10:00 a.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup>, food, prizes, drinks and lots of bowling, and **prizes**. Even if you are not playing, come out and cheer on your favourite team.

*Editor*

## 4-3-2-1

*Jack Hazell, Dan and Donna Jansen*

First off, my apologies to **Jack Hazell** and to **Dan and Donna Jansen**, I completely forgot about 4-3-2-1 and neglected to include this important activity in the first newsletter so, here is an update from 4-3-2-1.

*Editor*

4-3-2-1 at NOTL is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, since 2002, with an average of 10.7 players coming out over the period 2002 to 2017, ranging from a low of 7.0 to a high of 14.6.

We use a handicap system, which was started after just a few weeks in 2002 when it was obvious that the same few players would always win, which was no fun for anyone. With this system, everyone has a chance as has been shown with few multiple winners over the years.

There are no runners allowed, so it is a great chance to practice your draw shots and since it is an individual score, if you have a bad day, you are not letting down a team.

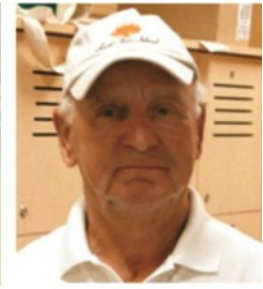
We try and recognize the weekly winners by posting their picture on the bulletin board every week.

This year, with 8 games played so far, we have one double winner, Heather Pettit, with Lynne Gourlay, Paul Rogers, John Twose, Rose Connolly, Dan Jansen and Jack Hazell winning one each.

*Jack Hazell, Coordinator*



Heather Pettit  
June 5 & 19

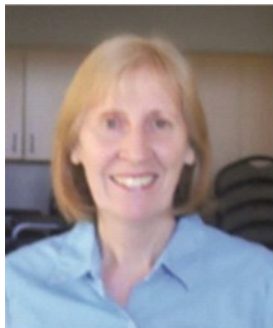


Dan Jansen  
June 12



Jack Hazell June 26

*Photos by Jack Hazell*



Lynne Gourlay  
May 8



Paul Rogers  
May 15



John Twose  
May 22



Rose Connolly  
May 29

If you are interested in how the various players are doing, there is an up to date scoring summary posted on the bulletin board as well as the pictures.

If you want to improve your draw game and perhaps also have a chance of winning the occasional produce of the week, rhubarb, pears, etc. (courtesy of Berkeley Lambert), come out on Tuesdays at 6:15 PM. New players automatically start with a high handicap.

## Friday League Open Pairs

*League Coordinator*

Wow, here we are, over half way through the season. The Friday League continues to offer some very exciting, edge of the seat, nail biting bowling well worth the "price of admission".

The month of June started off with a full complement of 5 games on the first evening then again on the second (the 8<sup>th</sup>). The evenings were partly cloudy, warm and bit muggy, still, good evenings for bowling.

The leader board is starting to get a little more defined as some of the teams rise to the top. The middle of the pack is getting clogged as half of the teams struggle to maintain even a slight modicum of dignity. The remaining teams are struggling to figure out what “modicum” means and are in a race for bottom honours.

Come on out and watch your Club’s “pros?” display their talents and skills on the big green square.

There is actually some excellent bowling happening on Friday evenings and if you do not come out to watch, you’re missing all the action!



**Oh: the Excitement of FLOP's**

Come on out and listen to the “**roar**” of the crowd as the fans (3) go wild!

## **Social Convenors**

*Rose Connolly/Jenny Ley*

“And things will change.”

The potluck turned out great! Lots of good food! Those lemon shortbread cookies were a delight.

Thank you to all the volunteers for the Saturday teas and tournaments. Everyone enjoys the snacks and the opportunity to catch up with friends, and, of course, to enjoy a good game of lawn bowling.

We are all looking forward to the barbecue at the end of the month. The sign-up sheet is in the locker room.

Sorry to say that Jenny and I will have to miss this event but looking forward to the next one.

A reminder goes out to all members to check the spare dates on the kitchen calendar and add your name to an empty space where you think that you can help out.

Enjoy and remember,

“Don’t stress over the little things.”

## **Monthly BBQ**

I would like to thank **Elly, Barb, Lloyd, Donna J., Mary** and **Wayne** help with all the pre-prep, **George** for collecting the monies, **Pat R.** for the dessert, and all the other willing helpers who cleared and washed up. This makes the BBQ a truly Club event.

*Ray and Heather Pettit, Monthly Coordinators*

## **Greens Keepers**

*Buzz and Judi Allen*

The Greens Keepers are doing a fine job; the “**fake**” grass is still green and is being “**fake**” watered and “**fake**” mowed on a regular basis to keep it in “**fake**” pristine condition.

There is nothing “**fake**” about this report!

*Editor*

## **“Green” Speak**

*Editorial Staff*

“Green” Speak will, hopefully, be a regular feature discussing some of the terminology associated with the Sport or Bowls (Lawn Bowling). I will try to keep it somewhat serious!

This month we will look at the surface we play on and some of its associated terminology.

## The Green

The Sport of Bowls (Lawn Bowling) is played on an area called a “**Green**” which is surrounded by a “**Ditch**” and is divided into “**Rinks**”.

Generally the **Green** is a “level” patch of ground that can be rectangular or square and measures between 31 meters (101’-8”) and 40 meters (131’-3”) in the direction of play. The playing surface of the **Green** at the Niagara-on-the-Lake club is square measuring approximately 38m (125ft.) in each direction.

The **Green** can be either a natural surface (vegetation, (maybe grass but not moss, trees, shrubs or banana plants)) or artificial (synthetic grass) as it is at our club. One would presume that an artificial surface would be more consistently level than a “natural” surface, i.e. less undulations and “pot” marks (divots). This is understandable as animals can get on a natural green and “dig” for grubs and such, looking for a meal. A bowler, who has the tendency to “lob” the bowl, will create more divots in a natural surface than in one made from a synthetic substance. There are a number of other reasons why a natural surface will vary, rain and grass cutting techniques, warm or cold periods to name a few, that typically do not affect a synthetic surface.

According to the people in the know, our **Green** is level, to within a tolerance of +/- 3mm or, 6mm (¼”) total variation. This is the degree of accuracy that is required by the “World Bowls Performance Standards for Flat Green Bowls Surfaces”. I am sure that most of the members, myself included, would disagree with this “level” of accuracy with respect to our green however, that is what I have told so please “don’t shoot the messenger”.

A **Green** is surrounded by a **Ditch**, which is kind of like a small moat but without the water and a draw bridge and no crocodiles. The ditch is not good for fishing or boating however, raising tadpoles is a possibility.

The **Ditch** should measure between 200mm (7 7/8”) and 380mm (15”) wide by 50mm (2”) to 200mm (7 7/8”) deep with a bank that is at least 320mm (12½”) above the level of the playing surface.

The **Ditch** is a good place for winter garbage to collect and pile up, to catch the rain, dirt and bugs in the summer and leaves in the fall, and the odd errant bowl that has been delivered at too great a pace (too heavy, fast, etc.) all season long. It has also been known to twist the odd ankle as well so, please take care when walking near the ditch.

The **Rink** is a small part of the Green where the Sport of Bowls (lawn bowling) is actually played.

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Our **Green** in NOTL is generally divided into 7 or 8 portions or **Rinks**, like in curling but not made of ice. Our **Rinks** run in an approximate North to South direction. **Rinks** can vary in width from 4.3 metres (14’-1”) and 5.8 metres (19’-0”) for outdoor play. Our **Green** is capable of supporting up to 8 **Rinks** of 4.6 metres, (15’-1”) wide, slightly over the minimum width. Over the course of the season the number of **Rinks** may be varied between 7 and 8. This allows the Club’s Greens Keepers to minimize wear patches across the playing surface.

The **Green** in Niagara-on-the-Lake is capable of supporting tournament play at all levels of competition, District, Provincial, National and even International events. The Club has, in the past, 2011, hosted the Ontario Provincial Mixed Pairs Championships.

So remember; the **Green**, BIG area, many games at same time, the **Ditch**, surrounds the Green, no water or draw bridge, the **Rink**, small, one game at a time, where all the excitement happens.

Some clubs have more than 1 Green; for example, the Commonwealth Bowls Club in Edmonton, Alberta has 4 regulation size grass Greens. The Edmonton club hosted the Commonwealth Games lawn bowling competition in 1978 and are bidding on the games for 2022. It just might be worth a

trip up there to watch some very high calibre lawn bowling should Edmonton get the games.

## Club Statistics

*Stats-O-La, the Stats Guy*

### June Stats

June's weather was a bit of a mixed bag what with conditions left over from April/May continuing on into early June. The weather certainly has an impact on the number of Club activities and the overall attendance at the Jitneys and other club functions.

#### Jitneys

Scheduled	13
Played	11
Not Played	2

#### Draws

Scheduled	26
Played	20
Not Played	6

#### Bowlers per Draw

Average Bowlers per Draw in June					
Monday		Wednesday		Saturday	
23.3	14.7	10.3	6.7	19.3	12.7

Throughout the month of June the most popular time to bowl, based on the average number of members in attendance during the Jitneys, was Monday afternoon, Draw 1. This was followed by Saturday Draw 1, Monday Draw 2, Saturday Draw 2, Wednesday Draw 1 with the least popular time to bowl being Wednesday Draw 2.

**Total number of games played in June – 57**  
**Total number of games played to date – 146**

## Green surface temperature

*Editorial Staff*

In last month's newsletter we discussed how the surface temperature of the Green can affect your feet. This got me wondering. How does the surface temperature affect your bowl?

For an answer I turned to our resident educational guru "**Professor Paul**" and, after hours and hours of consideration, experimentation, deep thought and exhausting deliberations, **Professor Paul** has come up with some fascinating deductions;

*"This poses an interesting question indeed.*

*I doubt that the temperature of the green's surface has much effect on a bowl's motion. I would expect that other factors such as the moisture content, wind speed, wind direction, number of bird droppings, number of dead worms, etc. would play a more significant role. On a day when the surface temperature is high one would expect that the surface is also quite dry and it seems to me that the bowl does run further and bend later. This effect is quite noticeable on grass if you start early in the morning when the grass is wet from dew and then dries out as the game progresses.*

*Of course another factor is what weird and wonderful conditions exist under the carpet. Too scary to contemplate!"*

*Professor Paul*

Good to know, thank you "**Professor Paul**".

This month, the average surface temperature of our green was **53.2°C** (127.8°F), the warmest recorded was **81.5°C** (178.7°F), the coolest was **24°C** (75.2°F).

### "Iron Person" of the Month

In fairness to all the active members I thought that this should be changed to a monthly statistic rather than just repeat the same name every month. The Iron Person is determined by the number of games an individual has played, at Jitneys, during the



month and the number of bowls delivered during those games.

The member with the most number of Jitney games played in June is...**Elly Warren**, a total of **14** games and **392** bowls delivered. A true "Iron-person" of the lawn bowling green.

### **Congratulations Elly!**

## **Greenside Humour**

*From around the world*

"A guy, (*let's call him George*), who owned a bar, won the lottery. To show his appreciation to all his customers, he sold **all** drinks for a **quarter**.

Two fellas walk in and each orders a beer.

"That will be 50 cents, says the bar owner".

"Fifty cents!" responds the customer, "I can't believe it." So the bar owner (*George*) explains why he does this.

Anyway, the two fellas order a couple of more rounds: double scotch on the rocks each and then a brandy each. Every time it's just a quarter a drink.

As they're drinking their third drinks, they notice three people at the opposite end of the bar and they're not drinking anything, they're just sitting there, chatting. One of the customers leans over to the bar owner and says, "What's with those guys? How come they're not drinking?"

"Oh, they're lawn bowlers." answers the bar owner, (*you remember George*) "they're waiting for happy hour."

## **Lawn Bowling Trivia**

Walt Disney was an avid bowler and, after he died, the Beverly Hills Lawn Bowling Club started the Disney Masters Tournament that continues to this day, now in its 4th decade.



The "Disney Masters Tournament" trophy

The trophy, designed by the Disney Company, is 4 feet high and is imbedded with Walt's personal lawn bowls. A statue of Mickey Mouse and a lawn bowling Jack adorn the top of the trophy.

## **In Closing**

Well, that is "it" for the second edition. Hope you all enjoyed reading this edition as much as you did reading the first.

Remember to come out and support your fellow members as they participate in the various lawn bowling activities throughout the month and entire season as they play at the various venues across the District.

Wouldn't this be a great way to spend a lovely summer's afternoon, watch some bowling, have a picnic, glass of fine Niagara wine, pâté, a cheese plate, a nice drive in the country side with the top down (the car's top), who knows...?

**Have a safe and happy summer everyone!**

*Editor*