

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club

(Established 1877)

“In the Ditch”

(141 Years Strong)

Volume 1, Issue 6

website: <http://notlbowls.ca>

October 2018

Wait a minute; the 2018 season is over? Where did that summer go? Did we not just start bowling in the cold of April? Was that just a few short months ago? Well, I guess that proves the old adage, “time flies when you’re having fun”!

Many thanks to all the supporting cast of characters that have helped make this newsletter a success.

It is hard to believe that the past six months have gone by so quickly.

Editor



From the President's Desk

Elly Warren, Club President - 2018

Annual General Meeting

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club's Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday, October 13, 2018 in the Simpson Room of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre.

President's Report

Another year has passed and I have survived my first year as president. It wasn't bad at all and a lot of it was fun.

It was too bad that we lost a lot of bowling time due to the extreme heat and humidity. Let's hope next year will be better.

Our first in-house tournaments had to be canceled because of the heat and the second one because of rain. That was really a shame. Doug Williams came up with the idea of having a tournament like that and Doug and Nancy ran with it and organized both of them only to have to cancel them. It was great that so many people were going to give it a shot. We won't give up and will set tournament dates for next season.

There is a chance that we won't be hosting tournaments next year. If that happens a request will go out to our 4 sponsors to either host our in house tournament or get their name on our scoreboards.

It was an easy year, we didn't purchase anything didn't sell much, maybe 2 tubes of Grippo and shirts were purchase by a number of people.

The BBQ's and pot lucks where great! Thanks everybody who put them on and all who helped.

The capital Improvement Committee, of Paul McHoull, David Cooper and Ray Guy had a meeting with Kevin Turcotte and Dan Maksenuk on September 27th to find out what is going on. We never heard from them this year so we requested a meeting so that we could inform you, the members, of whatever they have in store for us.

The discussion was recorded and the minutes written. I will read the highlights;

“Kevin is aware of the deterioration of the carpet and under pad. We are slated to have the carpet replaced in 2020/2021. A determination on what will be required to repair the base will be done at that time. Kevin is supportive of the re-orientation of the carpet when it is replaced.

The issue of lighting for evening bowling was discussed. A lighting measurement was completed which confirmed that the lighting is in-adequate. Kevin stated that two additional light standards would be required. We should be prepared to include it when we submit our concerns via the Recreational Master Plan. This plan has been delayed until 2019.”

I will post these minutes in the locker room.

I look forward to next season but first we have to get through the winter!

During that time I will try to get next year organized. Lawn bowling schedules written, opening ceremony with the mayor, and maybe a piper and a few other things.

I want to thank the members who will no longer be on the board. Jenny , Rose, Doug, Nancy, Ron, Lynn. Thank you for your time and hard work.

I thank David Klooz for offering to look after “membership” (*Chair – Membership and Publicity Committee*). Wayne is more than willing to continue writing the newsletter, thank you Wayne.

I would also like to thank Suzanne Vaillant and Lynne Gourlay for accepting the Social Conveners duties (*Chair – Supplies and Social Committee*), with Judy Griffin acting in the capacity of their assistant.

And a big thank you to all the people who are staying on with the board; Paul McHoull, Past President, Doug Williams as Treasurer and Carol Williams as Secretary plus David Cooper and Ray Guy, Capital Improvements Committee and Derek Shervill, (*Chair – Greens and Grounds Committee*) along with Judi and Buzz Allen.

Three new plaques have been added to our memorial board; Bill Plumer, David Morrison and Jerry Augustine.

Club’s Executive for 2019

Officers

President	Ms. Elly Warren
Vice President	
Past President	Mr. Paul McHoull
Secretary	Ms. Carol Williams
Treasurer	Mr. Doug Williams

Members

Tournament Secretary	
Chair – Membership and Publicity Committee	Mr. David Klooz
Chair – Greens and Grounds Committee	Mr. Derek Shervill
Chair – Supplies and Social Committee	Ms. Suzanne Vaillant
Chair – Finance Committee	

Capital Improvement Committee: **Mr. Paul McHoull, Mr. Ray Guy and Mr. David Cooper.**

The Club is still looking to fill a number of positions on the Executive; Vice President, Tournament Secretary and Chair – Finance Committee.

A luncheon, hosted by the Club and presented by the Supplies and Social Committee, was served after the adjournment of the meeting. Group photographs of the members of the Club were taken between lunch and dessert after which a final, chilly, day of bowling took place on the green.

Editor



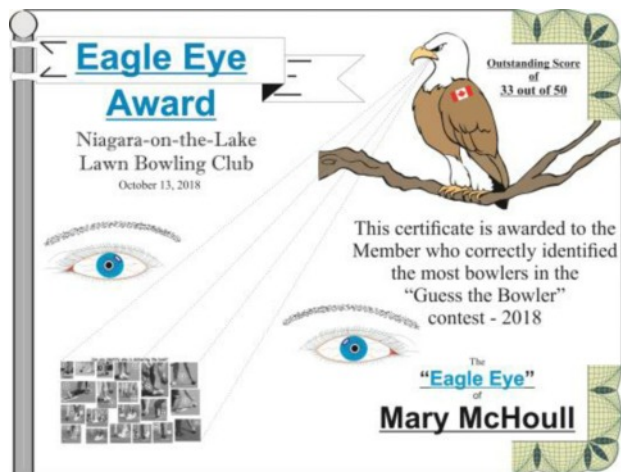
Group Photo - AGM 2018
Photo by David Klooz

Guess the Member Contest

The (now defunct) "Guess the Member Contest" Committee

Thank you to all those Club members who entered the contest, I guess that it was a little more difficult than anticipated as not everyone entered. The unused entry forms are in the locker room to be used as scrap paper! ♻️

An original, one-off, custom designed, likely never to be repeated certificate representing the "Eagle Eye Award" for correctly identifying the most members in their natural delivery stance was presented to **Mary McHoull**. Mary had an outstanding score of 33 correct picks out of a possible 50 (66%).



Eagle Eye Award

Congratulations Mary!

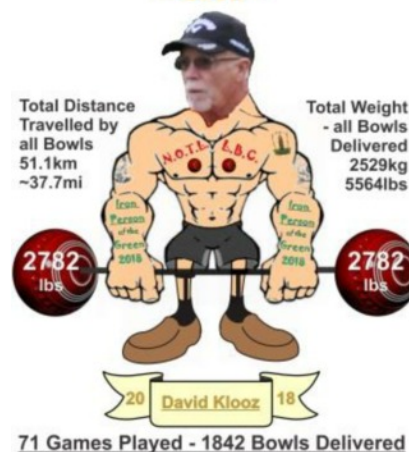
Well done Mary for submitting the best entry of them all!

"Iron Person" of the Year

The most prestigious honour of 2018 "Iron Person of the Year" as determined by the "In the Ditch" Statistical Staff goes to... **David Klooz**.

Throughout the season **David** played a total of **71** games, out of a possible 92 and delivered a total of **1842** bowls. A true "Iron-Man" of the lawn bowling green.

Iron Man of the Green - 2018 -



"Iron-Man of the Green" 2018

Congratulations David!

Well done David, we at "In the Ditch" know that next year all members, young and older, will aspire to the level of greatness that you have achieved, you have set the bar very high indeed.

The entire In the Ditch 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 a birthday in October, you know who you are.



Happy Birthday Everyone!

Ladies' Frontier League

Club Coordinator

The Ladies' Frontier League has finished for the season.

Senior Men's League

Editor

The Senior Men's League has finished for the season.

Tales of the Tournaments

Editor

BMO Tournament

On October 3rd 10 teams from various lawn bowling clubs in the area met, on the Big Green Square, in a mixed triples format tournament sponsored by BMO and hosted by your club.



BMO Tournament Sponsor

Your club was represented by one team made up of **Elly W.**, **Pat R.** and **Denise L.** **Paul M.** and **Derek S.** prepared the Draw for the tournament,

Doug and Nancy F. looked after the kitchen and tea.



BMO Tournament in Action

Tournaments are done for the year, see you all next year.

4-3-2-1

Editor

Since I forgot about the September report, despite a reminder from Wayne, you get a double dose of 4321.

September...

For a change there were no cancellations in September, with an average turnout of 10. The weekly winners were: Dan Connolly, Dave Taylor, Elly Warren and Rose Connolly (for the third time!).



September 4
Dan Connolly

September 11
Dave Taylor



September 18
Elly Warren

September 24
Rose Connolly

October...

October is our closing month. Unfortunately; October 2 was a washout, but Dan, Donna and I had a nice long chat.

We had a closing dinner on October 9, with 18 people attending; better than last year. This evening included a game with rather strange rules. The overall winner of this non-traditional game was Elly.

We had a rather low winner pay out this year with total prize money being \$32.25.

Our yearly winners were;

Champion: **Dan Jansen**

Second: **Cathy MacCon**

Third: **Heather Pettit**

Fourth: **Rose Connolly**

Most Improved: **Doug Findlay**

Highest Score: **Heather Pettit**

Most Dedicated: **Rose Connolly** and **Cathy McCon** (tied)

Most Generous: **Berkeley Lambert**

The 4-3-2-1 competition has finished for the season. Awards and prizes were handed out at the Annual General Meeting. See you all next year for 4-3-2-1, the more that play, the bigger the prizes!

Friday League Open Pairs

League Coordinator

The Friday League Open Pairs has finished for the season. See you all next year!

Social Convenors

Editor

I heard that there was going to be cannabis in the fridge after October 17th for all members...but it wasn't "Trudeau". (True though) I am so funny that sometimes I make myself laugh!

Greens Keepers

Editor

The greens keepers have put the green to bed for the season; see you all next year.

Monthly Membership Factoid:

The final membership factoids are about **YOU**, the Active playing member, your performance throughout the 2018 season and what you as members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club have accomplished during **Jitney play**.

Combined, the Club's membership played in **288** games during the Jitneys in 2018. The month with the most games played was **May** with **74**; the month with the fewest was **April** with **15**.

Throughout these **288** games all the Active players of the Club delivered an amazing total of **39,952** bowls.

Given the average weight of a single lawn bowl of **2.941 pounds** (the Club's weighted average) this amounts to a total weight of approximately **37** tons of lawn bowls delivered.

At an average volume of approximately **0.05876** cubic feet per bowl this amounts to **2347.6** cubic feet of lawn bowls or about the equivalent of one 53 foot semi-trailer, half full of lawn bowls.

The path that a delivered travels is a bit of a messed up arc. Let us presume that the average length of this arc is approximately **27.74** metres (91 feet). This means that combined the distance travelled by all the lawn bowls delivered by the Club members in 2018 Jitney play equals approximately **1108268** metres or **1108.3** kilometers (688.7 miles). This represents the approximate road distance from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Quebec City, PQ via Toronto and the 401.



No wonder you are all tired!

It has been quite a season!

“Keep to the Code”

An now, here are the final two sections in the Lawn Bowling Code of Ethics;

G. CONFIDENTIALITY 4

17. No World Bowls Official shall improperly disclose any documents or information entrusted to them in confidence.

H. IMPLEMENTATION

18. It is the duty of all persons under this Code of Ethics to see to it that World Bowls Rules and this Code of Ethics are applied.

World Bowls Code of Ethics

Arrrrrrrrrr Matey, was that not interesting and fun? Now, me hearties, man the poop deck and swab the mizzen mast and weigh the anchor, about 20 pounds (it’s a small anchor), and scrub your barnacles, we are off to next year.

Be ye ready to join the Niagara-on-the-Lake Short Mat Bowling Club for fun and excitement throughout the cooler months? Aye, but “where has the rum gone?”

Stay tuned for the OLBA’s spin on the Code of Ethics starting in next years’ April issue, if I remember.

Moments in History

Wes Turner – Club Historian

Club members played on the lawns of the Queens Royal Hotel. The club’s first tournament was held in 1886 and that may have been the first lawn bowling tournament held in Canada. *Wow!* In 1888, a tournament was played over two days, August 3 and 4, with 11 rinks present: four from Toronto, one from London, ON, two from Belleville, two from Niagara and two from Buffalo. The prizes were “beautifully finished bowls” and silver medals.

Perhaps it is time to re-initiate an “International Tournament” in the interest of detente and friendly competition. There is a lawn bowling club in Niagara Falls, New York and, there may be others just across the line. Wink, wink, nudge, nudge.

“Green” Speak

The Rake

The **Rake** is used to gather up the bowls at the end of each End. You cannot rake your garden or lawn with a **Rake** from the lawn bowling club. You could try however you would not be very successful.

Some clubs do not have or use rakes; I suppose that if one’s club does not have rakes one cannot use them. Instead the members “kick” the bowls around with the side of their feet (if you used the toe of your foot a person could do some very serious damage to their toe, and it hurts!) to gather them off to the side of the rink.

Using your garden or leaf rake at a club that does not have lawn bowl rakes is probably a bad idea. Most members would likely frown on the idea of someone using a garden rake to push their bowls around as they could get scratched! A leaf rake would be too “springy”.

Some players object to the use of rakes as they believe that their bowls can get scratched by the material of the rake. Properly constructed and maintained rakes should not scratch the bowls however; bowls rubbing against other bowls could scratch other bowls.

Generally, at the end of each End the Lead bowler on the team that did not score the points, in that End, is responsible for “raking” up the bowls and moving them off to the side of the rink. The generally accepted location is approximately one metre behind and to the right of the mat.

This is done so that all players know where their bowls are located (it helps to speed up play), so that their bowls do not get mixed up with the bowls from a neighbouring rink (this does happen on occasion), for general safety reasons as bowlers are less likely to stumble over a bowl if all the bowls for their rink are all in one place and, because it looks pretty. This is the same for each rink in play.

“Iron Person” of the Month

October’s Iron person of the month is ...**Denise Lundy** with a total of **6** games played during the month and **144** bowls delivered during those **6** games. A true “Iron-person” of the lawn bowling green.



Congratulations Denise!

Club Statistics

The 2018 Statistics Committee: Stats-O-La, Stats Meister, Stats-O-Rama & the Stats Guy

At last, the end of the stats for the 2018 bowling season, are you all sad?

October’s Stats

The weather this month was once again a mixed bag for October “am I fall, am I winter, am I still summer”? I’m so confused!

Jitneys

Scheduled	4
Played	4

Draws (usually 2 draws per Jitney)

Scheduled	8
Played	6

Bowlers per Draw

Average Bowlers per Draw in October					
Monday		Wednesday		Saturday	
Draw #1	Draw #2	Draw #1	Draw #2	Draw #1	Draw #2
13	20	21	12	5	0

Number of games played in October – 16

Seasonal Stats – 2018 Style

What your membership fee bought you this season; aside from this wonderful and informative newsletter and all the enjoyment on the big green patch!

Total number of Jitneys played – **59**

Total number of Draws played – **92**

Total number of Games played – **288**

Games played in the 1st draw – **197**

Pairs – **62**

Triples – 135

Games played in the 2nd draw – 91

Pairs – 47

Triples – 44

Average number of members per draw for all draws during the 2018 season: **13** or, 21.67% of the membership.

Average Bowlers per Draw in 2018					
Monday		Wednesday		Saturday	
Draw 1	Draw 2	Draw 1	Draw 2	Draw 1	Draw 2
18.7	9.1	13.8	6.5	18.6	11.2

Note: All statistics are based on Jitney play only and the statistics staff's ability to collect and record the data on a regular basis, and, extract the various bits of relevant information from the data into a meaningful format.

Green surface temperature

This month, the average surface temperature of our green was **36°C** (96.8°F), the warmest recorded at **53°C** (127°F), the coolest at **23°C** (73.4°F).

Greenside Humour

From around the world

Elly is 90 years old. She has played lawn bowling every day since her retirement 25 years ago. One day she arrives home looking downcast. "That's it," she tells her husband. "I'm giving up bowls. My eyesight has gotten so bad that once I've delivered the bowl, I can't see where it went."

Her husband sympathizes and makes her a cup of coffee, black without sugar. As they sit down, he says, "Why don't you take your sister with you and give it one more try."

"That's no good," sighs Elly. "My sister is a hundred and three, she can't help."

"Well, she may be a hundred and three," says the husband, "but her eyesight is perfect."

So the next day, Elly heads off to the bowling club with her sister in tow. She delivers her first bowl and squints down the rink unable to determine where the bowl stopped. She turns to the sister and asks. "Well, did you see where the bowl went?"

"Of course I did!" replies her sister somewhat sternly. "I have perfect eyesight!"

"Good, then where did it go?" asks Elly.

"Well, I don't remember" comes the confused reply.

Lawn Bowling Trivia

Black Blizzard; No this is not a Dairy Queen treat, although it could be, ice cream and licorice, yummy! \

When the wind blows the snow around it is called a blizzard. When the wind blows dirt around it is apparently called a "**Black Blizzard**." These blizzards also resemble big black clouds.

On May 9th, 1934 a giant storm rose up out of the Great Plains. A menacing wall of soil and dust headed east across the land, thick enough to block out the sun. This was apparently a "**Black Blizzard**".

And yes, this has absolutely nothing to do with lawn bowling! Although...if a **Black Blizzard** did blow across the green, it would not likely be "green" any more. Can you imagine the laundry bill!

A Member's Offering

The following is a traditional Cornish song, referring to events in Cornwall's history and so a sort of Cornish national anthem (ask Jenny). It inspired me to produce a little ditty that follows.

Anonymous Club Member

A good sword and a trusty hand!
A merry heart and true!
King James's men shall understand
What Cornish lads can do!
And have they fixed the where and when?
And shall Trelawney die?
Here's twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why!

Traditional Cornish Song

“The Little Ditty”

A good bowl and a trusty hand!
A merry heart and true!
Our good Queen Bess shall understand,
What lawn bowlers can do!
And have they fixed the where and when?
Is everything cut-and-dry?
Arise ye bowlers of Niagara.
For we shall never die.
Though, we'll carry on forever,
Lawn bowling in the sky!

Anonymous Club Member

In Closing

Well, that is “it” for the October edition. Look out for the next issue, sometime in the future.

Thank you to all those who have come out and supported your fellow members at the various events where your Club has been represented over the 2018 bowling season.

Boo!

**Have a Safe and Happy Halloween
and enjoy the “Off Season”.**



The End for 2018...or is it?
Woo, hah, hah, hah...