

## *The Elm Park Jack Newsletter – Late Season Opening Edition*



*The Elm Park Triples is underway, that means spring has sprung at the Kerrisdale Bowls Club*

### *Welcome back to Kerrisdale*

Many apologies, for letting more than a month go by before welcoming everyone, new and old, back to the centry-old Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling club.

Once again, we have had a successful response this year to our call for new members with dozens of first-time bowlers eager to put their skills to the test.

At present, we have somewhere in the neighbourhood of 70 members so far and growing every week. Actual numbers won't be available until our treasurer Peter Cook returns from his European getaway.



*Looking good Nancy*

However, it would appear that last year's investment of three large banners emblazoned with the heading “Looking for new Members” is really paying off.

### *Calling all volunteers*

Last year, we had an overwhelming response from groups and organizations to rent our green for a fun day of team bonding or just for a fun day out of the ordinary.

It was so successful that a small band of dedicated volunteers suffered a mild case of burnout.

This season, our board has decided to limit the number of rentals to just 16 dates, so as not to put a burden on those wonderful volunteers, who are called on to help put on these important events.

So far, we have had three or four bookings but recently nearly a dozen more enquiries have flooded our email system, according to our new secretary Debra Golabek.



*Pretty bowls*

That means more cooperation from the membership will be needed to ensure the rentals run smoothly and efficiently.

It is also worth noting that as a non-profit club we exist almost entirely on individual memberships. League and tournament fees also make up a portion of the club's budget.

However, green rentals are the second most important source of income for the club, generating thousands of dollars towards keeping the club alive, maintained and in the black.

We need volunteers to help set up the rinks with mats, scoreboards and rakes, while also bringing a good variety of our club bowls outside for their use.

Volunteers are also be called upon to help assist the renters with how to play the game.

It is fun and the renters appreciate your time and energy, and remember, even though you may be a new bowler yourself, the renters likely know less than you do.

So, when you see a club notice in your email stream requesting volunteers, please do your part and sign up for at least one this season. I'm sure you will come away feeling rewarded.

If everyone could find the time to help with at least one rental, it would take the burden off the few, who have done the lion's share in the past. Thank you.

### *There's lots on the menu*

There is plenty to do at Kerrisdale for bowlers of all skill levels.

For the new bowlers, there are daily open draws at 1:30 pm throughout the season and evening bowling has now commenced at the club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 pm.

We strongly encourage our first-years to take advantage of their membership and get out as much as you can.

You will be rewarded and perhaps even a little surprised with how much better you can be with just a little consistent practice.

There is also an opportunity for a few novice bowlers to join a Kerrisdale triples team at a Wednesday evening triples league put on at the Granville Park club on Fir Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



*Granville Park LBC*

Each club team must have one first-year bowler as lead, one intermediate bowler as second and an experienced bowler as the skip. Teams can be any combination of men or women.

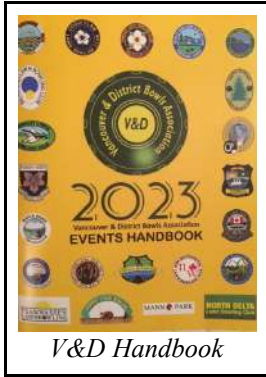
But the deadline is approaching quickly. The evening league starts on June 21 and we must know soon in order to successfully register a team.

If you feel this is something you might like to try, please email: [suphinnakutnok@hotmail.com](mailto:suphinnakutnok@hotmail.com) or approach Tom Berridge at the club for more details.

*... And there's more*

Members have the option of getting a key to the clubhouse cut, giving them even more access to the Elm Park green at times that might better fit your schedule.

For the more experienced bowler there are morning and evening leagues at Kerrisdale and nearby clubs that allow you the fun to challenge yourself against other club bowlers in pairs and triples formats.



Many new bowlers feel confident after a year or more of practice to take up the challenge. Two second-year bowlers, John DeMonye and Ross Gentleman, have already suited up for Kerrisdale teams at the weekly Elm Park Triples and Ed Angel leagues. Welcome aboard you two.

Whenever you feel ready, there are also tournaments sponsored every week by one or more of the 22 bowls clubs affiliated under the umbrella of the Vancouver and District association.

Pick up the yellow V&D events handbook at the club and leaf through the pages. Familiarize yourself with the events, including both upcoming provincial and national championships. There are lots of opportunities to get involved.

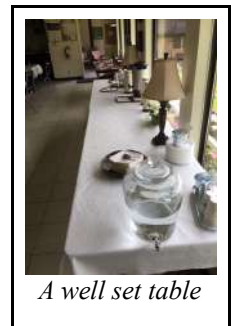
If you see something that interests you, reach out to other club bowlers and form your own team. Follow the specific rules for registration and submit your entry as directed in the handbook. It's fun to go on a road trip and great for team bonding, too.

### *Lending a helping hand*

Many thanks to our wonderful board member Debra Golabek for all her tireless energy to turn our once drab clubhouse interior into a warm and welcoming space.

It began prior to the Christmas party last year and the ambiance has grown with every added touch since. Thank you Debra.

Do you want to help Debra out? Ask her, I'm sure she would appreciate your help.



*A well set table*



*With a little help from friends*

Not to be outdone, our Mr. Fix-it, Brian Thomson, has been busy furnishing our rakes with plastic tubing so as not to scratch your bowls, when clearing them off the green. Many thanks to you Brian.

And I cannot close this section of the newsletter without also acknowledging the off-season contributions from woodworkers and painters extraordinaires, John and Bev DeMonye, for sprucing up the club bowls' holders and providing more spaces in which to store them.

You can admire their handiwork each and every time you borrow a set of club bowls at the club.

### *Maintaining the maintenance*

This season has had its challenges getting off the ground, when it comes to club maintenance.

The main mower was particularly ornery at the start of the grass-cutting season. It will have to be sent in for service and a check up to see why it was so sluggish and leaving tufts of matted grass in its wake.

Luckily, the back-up mower has been able to fill in admirably and keep the green running well.

Many thanks to greenskeeper David Goddard for his diligence and commitment to keeping the green at its best.

Thank you also to Tom Kwan for dropping in once a week to trim the surrounding grass area.



It also has become apparent that all is not well with our aging sprinkler system.

Recently, a technician had to be called in to replace our old and tired sprinkler control system that for almost 50 years has been steadily setting the times for when the daily watering comes on. We now have a brand new digital controller.

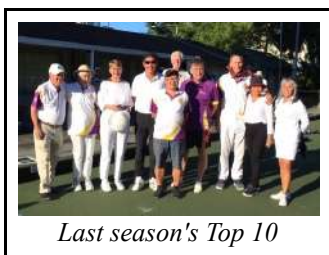
But that is not the end of it. For the past few weeks, the centre lawn sprinkler has not been operating as it should and may be acting up because of a short circuit somewhere in the connections.

However, the perimeter sprinklers are still functioning properly but without a functioning centre sprinkler, a portion of the green is not getting proper irrigation. Therefore, occasional hand watering is necessary.

A decision on how best to rectify this problem will have to be made in time, but whether it is to increase the capacity of the side sprinklers or make whatever repairs are necessary to valves in the water pump on the west side of the property, is still to be determined.

### *Top 10 announced*

After making it all the way to the semifinals last year, 14 club members put their names forward to make up this season's Top-10 team from Kerrisdale. One club bowler had to back out.



Club captain John Aveline had the difficult task of selecting the 2023 Top-10 playing roster.

The club members making up the team are as follows: singles - John Aveline; pairs - Belle Chan and David Goddard; triples - Jack Green, Dianne Petrant and Peter Lee; fours - Barrie Brown, Tom Berridge, Suphin Nakutnok, and Rosemary Cryer.

Ricki Chan, Brenda Rhodes and Ross Gentleman were asked to remain with the team as spares.



John has also suggested that all top-10 bowlers come out for an orientation and informal practice at the club green on Friday, June 16.

The Kerrisdale team has been given a first-round bye and will meet the winner of Richmond Firebird and North Vancouver Seymour in a second-round away match on June 23 at 7 pm.

### *Coach's Corner – Part 2 – The Delivery*

*Hello Kerrisdale bowlers and welcome to the second instalment of Coach's Corner!*

*So, we had a couple of evenings of "Next Step" coaching. If you couldn't be there, I don't want you to miss out entirely, so the next two Coach's Corners will be about some of the things we talked about and did.*

*This one is about delivery.*

*We all wish our bowls would go where we want them to rather than having them wander off in all directions, like a knight errant. Fortunately, we can do a few things to help us find our target.*

- 1. Face your point of aim – Whatever you are aiming at (e.g., the boundary marker), face that, have your toes pointed at it and step towards it. All of that will give you a much better chance of having your bowl take the path you want.*
- 2. Get down! Get funky! – The lower you can get down as you step forward and swing your arm, the closer your bowl is to the green when you release it and the smoother it will roll. The bowl is less likely to wander off and you can get a better feel for the weight. If you have trouble getting down, that's understandable – just try to go as low as you can (Limbo lower – how low can you go?)*
- 3. Follow through – As you release the bowl, follow through and have your fingers pointing at your aiming point. This should feel very natural – you are simply completing the step you are taking. The follow through will increase your chances of staying on target.*
- 4. Finally, the distance you throw the bowl is determined by NOT muscles, BUT speed. The faster you swing your arm, the further the bowls goes. If you want to throw a shorter bowl, just slow it down.*

*Quote of the day – "The worst day of bowls is still better than the best day at work."*

*Small circle on the inside! Coach John Aveline*



*The delivery man*



*Feeling peckish? We now have snacks available*