



# Discover Your Sport... Lawn Bowls



## Newsletter

JANUARY 2019

### MARY SPEASE MAKES THE NEWS

Excerpted with permission from  
*Stu News Laguna Beach*

Mary Spease's love of lawn bowling started three years ago when a past-president of the Laguna Beach Lawn Bowling Club asked if she and some other police officers and firefighters would be interested in playing against some retired first responders from Australia.

"It didn't take long after that initial outing to get me hooked on this fantastic sport," Spease said. "It's not as easy as it looks."

Spease, a Parking Services Officer with the City, joined the Laguna Beach Lawn Bowling Club and soon found out the sport is also much more competitive than one might think. The club has several members who enter into tournaments and travel throughout Southern California to play in them. The club also boasts five members on Team USA; one of them is Spease.

"My first overseas tournament will be played in China," Spease said. "There are actually two of them. The first one is called Tiger Bowls in Hong Kong and the other is called the One Belt One Road World Invitational played in Shenzhen."

The two upcoming overseas tournaments are in March of 2019. But it's not Spease's first international tournament. She also played in the 2018 North American Challenge, and won the 2018 Southwest Open Pairs this past April with playing partner Eileen Lancendorfer from



Long Beach. She also won SWWD 2018 Cal 5's (a five-person team) and the 2017 SWWD Novice Singles title. "I was able to make Team USA towards the end of my third year, which is very unusual," Spease said.

Not bad for a relative newcomer!

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## **TIDBITS FROM THE BOWLS USA AGM**

Compiled from BowlsUSA AGM minutes, 11/3/18

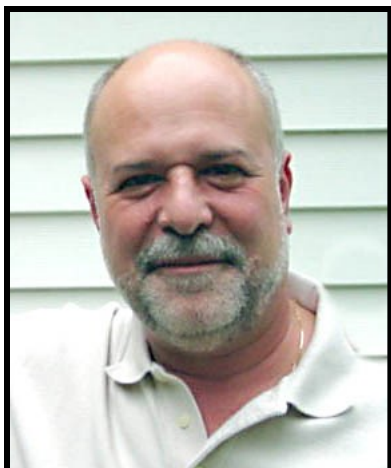
The BowlsUSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on November 3, 2018, in Peoria, AZ, just before start of the U.S. Open. Reports were delivered on a variety of actions and progress on projects. Division Councilors (two representing each Division) made proposals and made decisions that shape the future of operations. Here's a sampling of what took place.

- ◆ Outgoing President Richard Broad presented President's Award plaques to: Ernie Carlson, Ginger Harris, Georgie Deno, and Glorianne Mather for contributions to BowlsUSA and the sport of bowls. He also presented a gift to Secretary Dee McSparran in thanks for the support given during his tenure.
- ◆ Coaching Program (Heather Stewart, Chair): 2019 goals include initiating a re-certification process for the existing 152 club coaches, and efforts to offer the Certified Coach course in each division with the outcome of having at least one certified coach in every club.
- ◆ Newsletter (Georgie Deno, Editor-in-Chief): Reported a nearly 50% increase in the number of subscribers who opened the Newsletter by the end of 2018. Thanks were expressed for all of the input provided by every division.
- ◆ Website (Veronica Sum): Three people applied for the position of Webmaster. A decision on selection is expected in January 2019.
- ◆ Hall of Fame (Robb Pawlak, Chair): Joe Zinna (Central Division) and Mert Isaacman (Southwest Division) were admitted to the Hall of Fame [see the article on page 3 for details on these two deserving bowlers].
- ◆ Marketing (Adriana Sandoval): Watch for more intensive eblasts and the addition of some new features of the Newsletter in an effort to engage both social and tournament bowlers.
- ◆ 2019 Executive Committee: President, Scott Roberts; 1st Vice President, Veronica Sum; 2nd Vice President, Wayne Baines; Secretary, Dee McSparran; Treasurer, Kelly Warren.
- ◆ The 2019 National Championships will be held in September in San Francisco; the closing banquet will be at the Conservatory of Flowers.
- ◆ 2020 National Championships will be held in Milwaukee at the end of August that year.
- ◆ The 2019 U.S. Open will once again be hosted in Arizona; dates are 11/1-11/9/19.
- ◆ Among the Division Councilor reports: Northwest has seen a 30% increase in bowls membership; South Central is anticipating the addition of the Casa Grande Lawn Bowling Club which boasts 150 members; Southwest has purchased video equipment to film tournaments and has received a letter endorsing bowls from AARP.





## 2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



### **JOE ZINNA, Central Division**

Joe has competed successfully at the club, divisional, national, and international level. He took the pairs gold in three National Championship competitions and represented the U.S. in four North American Challenge competitions and in the Atlantic Rim-Ayr, Scotland, competition.

He has held the President, Vice President, and Treasurer positions at the Rockford Lawn Bowling Club. He was President of the Central Division in the 1990s and again from 2011 to 2013.

“Whether someone wants to discuss game strategy, rule interpretation, or the future of bowls, Joe will sit down and talk with you,” writes current Central Division President, Anna Witt. Joe’s recent appointment as a Men’s Team Selector demonstrates his ongoing engagement and commitment to the sport of bowls.

### **MERT ISAACMAN, Southwest Division**

With a wealth of honors in his bowling resume, Mert has garnered medals in national play 16 times and represented the U.S. in international play 18 times at the Asia Pacific Championships, the Hong Kong Classic, the North American Challenge, the World Cup, World Bowls, and the Maccabiah Games in Israel. He also was recognized as the American Lawn Bowling Association (forerunner of BowlsUSA) “Bowler of the Decade” runner up and is a member of the Jewish American Hall of Fame.



Mert has held the office of President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Southwest Division; and was the ALBA National Secretary-Treasurer. He was the U.S. Team Men’s National Selection Chairman in 2015-2016. Prior to that Mert took on the job as Chair of the U.S. Open tournament in southern California for five years from 2010 to 2014.

**Congratulations to our two latest inductees into the BowlsUSA Hall of Fame!**





## Team USA 2019

### **World Cup Indoor Singles** (Mar 5-13, Warilla, NSW, AUS)

- ~ Bob Schneider (CD)
- ~ Dee McSparran (SCD)

### **Tiger Bowls / China Tour** (Mar 9-16, Hong Kong, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, CHI)

- ~ Mary Spease, Lead (SWD)
- ~ Linda Roberts, Second (SWD)
- ~ Anna Witt, Third (CD)
- ~ Sandy Wall, Skip (SED)

### **Asia Pacific Championships** (Jun 18-28, Gold Coast, AUS)

- ~ Scott Roberts (SWD), Singles & Pairs Lead
- ~ Neil Furman (SWD), Pairs & Fours Skip
- ~ Bill Brault (SWD), Triples & Fours Lead
- ~ Aaron Zangl (SWD), Triples & Fours Second
- ~ Loren Dion (SWD), Triples Skip & Fours Third
- ~ James Flower (SWD), Alternate
- ~ Phil Luth (SWD), Manager
- ~ Alexis Vanden Bos (NWD), Singles & Pairs Lead
- ~ Melanie Vizenor (SWD), Pairs Skip & Fours Third
- ~ Alice Birkinshaw (SCD), Triples & Fours Lead
- ~ Janice Bell (PIMD), Triples & Fours Second
- ~ Anne Nunes (SWD), Triples & Fours Skip
- ~ Kottia Spangler (SWD), Alternate
- ~ Candy DeFazio (SWD), Alternate
- ~ Jackie Tucker (SED), Manager

## **HELP CREATE A HISTORIC TIMELINE OF BOWLS**

Submitted by John Grimes

In connection with hosting the National Championships in September 2019, the San Francisco LBC wants to create a timeline exhibit wall focused on club history to include noteworthy U.S. and international bowls milestones. If you know of **events, resources, documents, photos, graphics, interesting/fun historical nuggets, or experts** the club might find helpful, please email club president John Grimes at [john@grimescartoons.com](mailto:john@grimescartoons.com). The club thanks you and invites you to visit for the Nationals, or come play most Tuesdays through Sundays, year-round, weather and events permitting. Web site: [sflbc.org](http://sflbc.org).





### **What do We (Bowls USA) do for You (a Club member)?**

- We are a member nation of World Bowls under whose Laws of The Sport of Bowls we play.
  - We pay for the rights to publish those rules alongside our own Domestic Regulations governing the sport within the United States.
- We pay for the printing of these rule books and distribute one to every member of Bowls USA.
  - We recruit and train Umpires so that clubs and divisions have an expert to help us all play the game according to those rules and guidelines.
    - We sponsor the two most prestigious tournaments each year, the US Open and the National Championships.
- We provide coaching at the Club level to help improve your game. We pay for printing a "Tactics and Techniques" handbook and distribute them to every Bowls USA member.
  - We have a coaching program to certify Bowls USA Club coaches.
- We select club players to represent the USA in international events. We furnish uniforms to Team USA members.
- We sponsor camps, so bowlers of all levels can develop their bowling skill with help from experts.
  - We initiated a grant program for clubs to promote club development and to assist recruiting and retaining members.
  - We publish an electronic newsletter to keep members informed of activities at the National level and within all Divisions.
- We host and maintain a website to provide bowlers with current information about the sport, events and resources.
  - Bowls USA membership confers World Bowls membership and an entrée into any club, worldwide, through World Bowls affiliation.





## A NOVICE GUIDE TO THE (LAWN BOWLING) GALAXY

[Editor's note: Alan Burkholder is a novice bowler at the Laguna Beach, CA, Lawn Bowling Club. His "Novice Guide" is a witty rendition of his observations and experiences as a new lawn bowler. This is the sixth installment of the "Guide"; we'll share additional Burkholder observations in future Newsletter issues.]

By Alan Burkholder

### The Equipment:

#### Selecting Bowls

Which bowls are right for me? This is the only question on earth that cannot be answered on the internet (and not just because you really need to try them yourself). The suppliers of lawn bowls worldwide have a convoluted set of product names which change from year to year, supplier to supplier, and country to country. Also, there are few agreed-to metrics between manufacturers. So bias, weight, and grip will all be supplier-unique with no direct comparison across brands. The only agreed to specification is the size. A size 3 from Drakes Pride should have the same circumference as a size 3 from Taylor. And that size 3 should be the same 10 years ago and 10 years from now.

Bias charts indicate how much and the type of curve in the bowl. However, most charts do not compare across companies and they rapidly go out of date as the manufacturers change the names of the bowls. You can compare the bias of the bowls within a company using the company specific chart. Beware that some companies have different names for similar bowls in different countries. It is all just confusing.

So in the end, you need to try them out. Representatives from the suppliers might come to Laguna for a demo day this year. You should drop in for that if it happens, and try out their samples. In the meantime, you need to be borrowing other club members' bowls. You should ask first. Just dole out a few compliments and they will surely agree. Make it quick. Maybe 4-8 max. If it feels good, arrange to borrow them for an extended trial at an agreed to time. Some people selling used bowls will let you take them for a week or so. And some players have more than one set, so ask.

Talking about bowls is an important part of the culture. It is generally a safe topic for bowlers of all abilities. How did they buy them? How long have they had them? What do they like most about them? It is sort of like an interview, except there is no resume involved and you don't have to wear a suit. Once you get bowls, people will ask you the same questions, so you should start on your own story immediately. If the truth is uninteresting, make up something. Just don't tell them your size 4's were previously owned by Arnold Schwarzenegger. That's my story.

Next issue: Bowls Markings & Bowls Bags.

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## AN INTERVIEW AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Take a look at the Channel 9 [television interview](#) at the National Championships in Sun City Center, FL. It features Janice Bell and Ginger Harris (both from PIMD) and a brief tutorial by Sun City Center club president, Eric Porr. Good job folks!



## **LAGUNA BEACH LBC CONDUCTS NEW CLASS: HOW TO BE AN AWESOME LEAD**



The class, which was taught by the club's certified coaches, included drills, rules discussions, and video taping of bowlers' deliveries.



### **UPCOMING MAJOR TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE**

Watch this section in future issues for the latest updates on major tournaments. As available, we'll list the tournament dates, locations, entry deadlines, and a link/website where you can find more information.

**Arizona Mixed Rinks**, (2 men, 2 women), 1/19 to 1/20/19. Sun City, AZ (entry deadline 1/12/19). More info [here](#).

**Salisbury Singles**, 1/21 to 1/22/19. Sun City, AZ (entry deadline 1/14/19. More info [here](#).

**Thomson/Zivec Open Pairs**, 1/23 to 1/25. Sun City West, AZ (entry deadline 1/16/19. More info [here](#).

**South Central Division Open**, 2/9 to 2/14/19. Sun City & Sun City West, AZ (entry deadline 2/1/19). More info [here](#).

**Southeast Division Open**, 3/2 to 3/8/19. Men at Sun City Center; Women at Clearwater LBC.

**Southwest Division Open**, 4/6 to 4/11/19. Santa Anita, CA.

**Northeast Division Open**, 8/17 to 8/22/19. Buckhill Falls, PA.

**U. S. National Championships**, 9/23 to 9/28/19 hosted by PIMD, San Francisco, CA.

**U. S. Open of Lawn Bowls**, 11/1 to 11/9/19 hosted by South Central Division, Phoenix, AZ area.





## DRILL TO IMPROVE YOUR SKILL



### DRAW BOWLING DRILLS

#### R A N D O M L E N G T H S

##### OBJECTIVE :

Show your level of discipline, a skill in itself.

**EQUIPMENT :** 2 BOWLS 2 MATS 4 JACKS

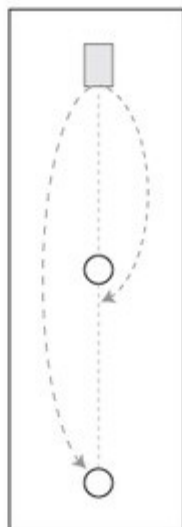
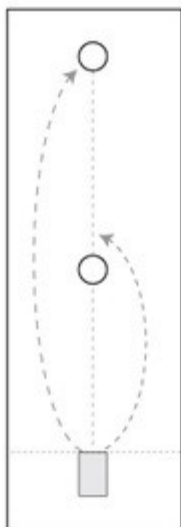
##### PROCEDURE :

Set yourself up on 2 Rinks and use this as a 20 minute warm-up routine.

Play **FH** short, then, **BH** long.

Then **FH** long, then, **BH** short on the return.

*Play deliveries alternating Hand and Length every time!*



**NOTE:**  
Diagrams show  
Draw for a Right-  
handed bowler.

I do not believe things happen accidentally. I believe you earn them.

- Madeline Albright



HOGLINE

## GOT AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWS-LETTER?

Send it to your Division editor as listed below:

**Central:** Glorianne Mather, [gloriannemather@yahoo.com](mailto:gloriannemather@yahoo.com)

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**Southwest:** Cynthia Murray, [cnthmurray@gmail.com](mailto:cnthmurray@gmail.com)

**Editor-in-Chief:** Georgie Deno, [postdeno@gmail.com](mailto:postdeno@gmail.com)



## NEW BOWLERS TAKE IT SERIOUSLY

Pam and Chuck Tuey are new, avid members of the Redlands, CA, Lawn Bowling Club and they take the sport seriously. So much so that they created a gingerbread version of the Redlands clubhouse and green.

Wonder if it's edible?!





## 2019 Development and Skills Camp

**Presented by Jackie Tucker**

**Bowls USA Coach,  
Bowls USA Presenter Assessor.**

**Sun City West LBC, Arizona**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**9:00am – 4:00pm**

**This Year's Theme:**

**Strategy of the Game**

**Presented by Marlene Cleutinx.**

**Cost \$50.00**

**Cash or check payable to Bowls USA on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of camp.**

**Please bring your own lunches.**

**To attend this exciting and informative camp,  
sign up with:**

**Heather Stewart at [heatherastewart78@gmail.com](mailto:heatherastewart78@gmail.com)**

**Following Friday clinic and drills, a social get-together at  
Hurricane Bar and Grill on Bell Road.**

**Registration required prior to February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**





## Umpires Corner

By Melanie Vizenor

BowlsUSA National Umpire-in-Chief

Hey, there! It's a new year and time to get after that New Year's resolution you made: to conquer the Laws of the Sport of Bowls by reading the rule book.

What?! That wasn't the first item on your New Year's resolutions list? Didn't even make the top 10? Oh, dear.

Here's a real-time UmpStumper, received in December. Your mission, should you decide to accept it (apologies to Mission: Impossible fans), is this: using the LSB, resolve the issue. It is presented to you as it was received by me:

Okay. The end has been played. Time for the vices to measure. However, one of the skips on the rink (who is also an umpire) has come down to supervise. When challenged by a vice, he stated, "I am the skip, I can be here, and I'm taking over". Hmmm..... What now? It was an inter-club tournament with no assigned umpires.

With 2019 upon us (can you believe it!), I am putting out a challenge to all umpires and those of you who are regular readers of this column to guide your club members through the LSB. But here's the catch: do it with kindness, gentleness, a little levity (please), and in a way that encourages newer and seasoned bowlers alike to play the game the way it's intended to be played -- in the spirit of true sportsmanship.

To do so, following the laws as set out in the rule book works like a charm; for example, staying off the mat until your opponent's bowl has come to rest, but being ready to begin your routine for delivering your bowl as soon as it's your turn.

For those who follow football, and this time of year it's all about football, there's a penalty for being off sides or for a false start. If you've noticed, when that happens, the players don't say, "Oh, what's the big deal? That's okay. We'll just go ahead and play the down anyway. No need for a penalty. Come on refs, relax! It's just a game."

Yes, it's true. It's just a game. Football is just a game. Bowls is a game.

So why is it important at the club/social level to play our game by the LSB? I refer you back to this month's UmpStumper. Future tournament bowlers learn this game at clubs across the United States. We, all of us who love this game, have a duty to ensure that it is played according to the Laws of the Sport of Bowls. They are quite simple, easy to follow, and designed to make the game fun for everyone.

I answered the above query by reply email and agreed with the sender that it was perfect for the first UmpStumper of 2019. Let's start off the New Year with a new perspective on how we want to play the game as opposed to last year's attitude as exemplified by the skip's (Really?! He's an umpire?) behavior in this month's UmpStumper.