



November 2017

## **WELCOME FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

This is the new look of the monthly (that's right, monthly) BowlsUSA Newsletter. But wait, there's more than just the look that's new. Here is a summary of what you'll be seeing in this and future issues.

- **Who knew?** Stories about some little-known, and some well-known, clubs: Their history, current status, innovative initiatives, and significant current events.
- **How they did it.** Stories that will share how clubs increased membership, got community backing, raised funds, engaged community organizations, and attracted specific populations/groups (like students, schools/colleges, firefighters, police, teachers, etc.).
- **Meet a special bowler.** Human interest stories about club members who have overcome barriers to be able to bowl or who go above and beyond for the good of the club or for the community. We'll hear about heroes in our midst, how people got involved in bowls, how being a lawn bowler has affected someone's life, and the "journey" of members who came to the U.S. from other countries.
- **Hogline's wit and pithy wisdom.** Wait! Who or what is Hogline, you ask. Well, Hogline is an earthy hog (no surprise there, I guess). He will appear randomly in the newsletter whenever he feels like injecting a little levity or wisdom.
- **What clubs are doing for fun.** Info about unique club activities or game formats, unusual themed events, and what clubs who are seasonal do to connect with and retain members during the off season.

A lot is changing, but you'll still see the always-informative Umpires Corner, messages from the BowlsUSA President, and other special sections as necessary.

..... <b>Inside this issue:</b>	
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**Good luck to all  
the U.S. Open  
bowlers!**



**NOW, READ ON TO GET A SAMPLING.**





## GOT AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Send it in to your Division editor as listed below:

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You're never a loser until you  
quit trying. -Mike Ditka



HOGLINE

## SEE A COOL TV SPOT ABOUT THE NORTHEAST OPEN

## CONGRATS TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

The winners of both of the women's events went undefeated.

**Pairs:** Dee McSparran/Alice Birkinshaw,  
South Central

**Singles:** Anne Nunes, Southwest

Things were close in the men's events as well with playoff games required to determine the winners.

**Pairs:** Steve Smith/Bill Brault, Southwest

**Singles:** Charlie Herbert, Southwest

It made for some exciting spectating and the weather was perfect at the Newport Harbor Lawn Bowling Club.

And check out the YouTube link [here](#) for a very special rendition of the National Anthem that was performed on opening day by the Newport Harbor LBC Rinks Cup Quartet.

## THE HAPPY & COLORFUL WINNERS MILWAUKEE LAKE PARK VET/NOVICE PAIRS TOURNAMENT

Novice Sandy O'Brien (L) & Veteran Rob Behncke (R)





## MEET A SPECIAL BOWLER

Submitted by Chuck Nesejt, Oaks North LBC

Ralph Trinity is a long-time member of the Oaks North Lawn Bowling Club in San Diego. Here's Ralph's story.

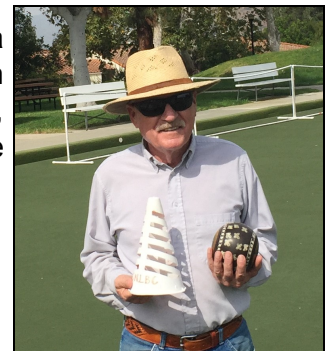
In 2000 Ralph was having trouble reading and went to see an eye doctor for reading glasses. The doctor took one look into Ralph's eyes and immediately said, "Ralph, you are legally blind. I hope you didn't drive here".

The doctor told Ralph that he only had about 3% of his vision remaining. He further diagnosed Ralph with retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a genetic disorder that affects the retina's ability to respond to light. This inherited disease causes a slow loss of vision, beginning with decreased night vision and loss of peripheral (side) vision. Eventually, blindness results. Most people who have this disorder are totally blind by age 30.

Not to be deterred, Ralph took up the sport of bowling in 2009 and is now a formidable Lead. Ralph says his vision is like looking through a straw. He can see the jack once he locates it but has trouble finding it. To accommodate Ralph, a small cone, painted white, is placed over the jack and then removed after he delivers his bowl.

Since RP also results in the loss of ability to differentiate colors; Ralph's bowls have lots of white x's painted on them so he can identify those size 7s in the head. Ralph has an uncanny ability to make accurate weight adjustments; consequently, everyone in the club is delighted when he's on their team!

Ralph and his wife, Sharon, who is a social member of the bowls club, are a familiar pair at the Oaks North Community Center where Sharon works on ceramics while Ralph bowls.



Ralph Trinity with the "tools" of his lawn bowling trade.

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## ON A WINNING STREAK

In September, on a fishing trip to NakNek River, King Salmon, AK, Dale Robson caught a trophy rainbow—32.5" and 16-17#. Dale says that rainbows that size are over 20 years old and very wary, so he was very lucky to catch the largest caught all year so far in that camp. The fish was released after taking the photo below.



Dale Robson's big fish

But the luck continued into October when Dale won the Washington Park LBC (Denver, CO) singles tournament thanks to a sixth end in which he moved the jack back to take four points and thereby set the stage for the win!.

Who knows what might happen in November!



Club President Ken Hopper (R) presents Dale Robson (L) with the winner's trophies.

Submitted by Ken Hopper, Washington Park LBC, Denver, CO





## TACOMA LBC UPDATE

Over the summer, the Tacoma Lawn Bowling Club put out a call for help in getting their inactive club up and operating again. Many clubs from across the lawn bowling community answered the call with remarkable results. Here's an update.

In just twelve weeks the Club gained 36 members. President Kane Tobin, Vice President Alaina Cozby, and Treasurer Lauren Donnellan committed to making the Club grow by posting flyers and talking to friends and strangers. The Club created a program that brought Tacoma residents together. In October they wound up their Summer/Fall Program with a rousing game in the pouring rain. Not to be deterred, the players donned their rain jackets and continued to play, cherishing the last hour.



Enjoying their "new" bowls.

The members of the Tacoma Club express their thanks to the Northwest Division Clubs (Seattle/Portland), Mt. Dora LBC in Florida, Oaks North LBC in San Diego, and Redlands LBC in California; and individuals who have supported them (Bob Young, Richard Broad, Larry Holman, and Nita Chambers to name a few). Support took the form of monetary donations, bowls donations and advice.

## BAY AREA CLUBS WELCOME LONG DISTANCE VISITORS

Submitted by Cheryl Minvielle and Jim Corr

The San Francisco Bay Area gets its fair share of visitors from afar, and often enough they include lawn bowlers ever on the lookout for that green they've yet to try.

On a sunny midweek morning in September, San Francisco LBC hosted David Gill, member of Seale and Sands Bowling Club in Surrey, England. Due to its prime location in Golden Gate Park, SFLBC is often the focus of tourists and foreign visitors. David very much appreciated the hospitality and even wrote an article that was published in the SF Chronicle newspaper.



L to R: Oscar Collaco, David Gill, Cheryl Minvielle & Sebastian Sciacca.

Across the Bay in Berkeley, traveling not quite so far, Edward Last and his wife, Berkely (yes, Berkely came to Berkeley) were pleased to find bowling on the left coast. Edward and Berkely are members of the New York Lawn Bowls Club, here to visit with family. Edward took time to enjoy a lively pairs game with local members, while Berkely, a new bowler, rolled a few on her own just to get a feel for the green.



L to R: Cathy Dinnean, Jim Corr, Edward Last, Ann Brillhart, & Berkely Last.



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By Chris Sweeney

It hasn't been a good year for my Cleveland Cavaliers. Even if you're not a sports fan, I am sure you've heard that the Cavs and Warriors are pretty darn good basketball teams (or at least were before Kyrie Irving...no, this is not the place for that). The pair have faced off in the last three NBA Finals. Golden State won the first round and Cleveland struck back epically in 2016.

The hype for what many deemed as an inevitable rematch began long before the first game of the 2016-17 season tipped off, but for good reason. The two teams ultimately breezed through the playoffs, losing a combined one game on their way to the NBA Finals. Unfortunately for me Golden State won the rubber match...convincingly.

But after hearing that term, "rubber match," thrown around over and over again throughout the course of the eight-month NBA season, I got curious: Why "rubber?" The world of sports is littered with rubber, from athletic fields to equipment, yet how did a word that came to describe one of the most innovative compounds in mankind become synonymous with the word "tiebreaker." It didn't make any sense.

That's because the word "rubber" isn't referring to the definition our industry has come to know all too well. The word's origins can be traced back to the 1600s, when the English used the term "rubber" as a reference to an object used for rubbing, or cleaning.

The term found its way into the popular 16th century game of lawn bowling, which is similar to bocce ball. Opponents roll wooden balls across the yard in an attempt to get them as close as possible to a smaller white ball without hitting it. A fatal mistake occurred if two balls "rubbed" together, thus eliminating one team.

Once "rubber" linked up with elimination, the game that would ultimately eliminate one team in a lawn bowling series became known as the "rubber match." The phrase made its way into a variety of 18th century card games and is now commonly used throughout the sports world.

Just like the compound it now commonly represents, the word "rubber" takes many forms.

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## UPCOMING DIVISION MAJOR TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

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

**South Central Division Open**, 2/10 to 2/15/18. Sun City, AZ (entry deadline 2/2/18). More Info [here](#).

**Arizona Senior Open Triples**, 2/27 to 3/1/18. Sun City West, AZ (entry deadline 2/22/18). More info [here](#).

**Arizona Senior Open Pairs**, 3/6 to 3/8/18. Sun City West, AZ (entry deadline 2/28/18). More info [here](#).

**Southeast Division Open**, 3/3 to 3/10/18. Men at Sarasota, FL; Women at Sun City Center, FL. (Entry forms available in January 2018.) More info at <http://www.sedlawnbowls.org>



## Umpires Corner

By Melanie Vizenor,  
BowlsUSA National Umpire in Chief

### Bowl Displacement – Law 37

Just the title of this article will cause some to start running for the hills, leaving little puffs of dust behind them. But stick around for a minute, take it slow and easy, and the next time you find yourself in a game where an interpretation of Law 37 comes about, you'll feel confident that you can do so. We'll start with Law 37.1 and keep it confined to that.

So ... Law 37.1, Bowl displacement by another player.

Bowl displacement by another player is broken down into three main parts: a bowl (1) in its original course, (2) in motion, and (3) at rest. The LSBs define a bowl that originates by your delivery of it from the mat as a bowl in its original course. Once your bowl reaches the head, stops moving, and is either a toucher or a non-toucher, it is a bowl at rest. If, while your bowl is resting in the head, it is moved by some action (a bowl in its original course hits it, a player moves it inadvertently), it is a bowl in motion.

Using those definitions, what's the answer to the following scenario?

A bowl at rest is disturbed by a bowl in its original course. While in motion, the bowl hits the foot of an opposing team member (team B) and then comes to rest next to the jack. Skip B says "our shot" and Skip A says "not in a million years." Who's right?

I think most of us intuitively know that Skip A is correct. But how would Skip A defend the position taken? Well, Skip A could call an umpire. But the point of this exercise is for you to correctly cite the governing law by applying the facts as presented. Hey, it happens. Sometimes there's no umpire available. The key is knowing the distinction between original course, in motion, and at rest. But what about the head being disturbed before or after the bowl in its original course is displaced? After all, that's mentioned in 37.1.1 and yet it's not even referred to here.

Well, it is my firm belief that you must first conquer the concept of original course, in motion, and at rest. If you do that, interpreting Law 37 and all of its permutations will be so much easier, along with the rest of the Laws of the Sport of Bowls.

The definition of "original course" and "in motion" are on page 8, C.15 and C.16, and encompass both the jack and any bowls. "At rest" is not specifically defined; rather, it is assumed to be understood by the reader.

The next Umpires Corner will cite the correct law and then present more complicated scenarios within the confines of Law 37.

That wasn't so bad, was it?