



APRIL 2019, Issue 1

## National News

**GRANTS.** Our Grant Program for 100% clubs is open. The deadline for applying for the grant is June 20, 2019. For more information, go to: <http://www.bowlsusa.us/grant-program.html>

## LawnBowls CENTRAL

Glorianne Mather, Representative

Milwaukee Lake Park is having it's first event of the bowling season on Friday, May 17th, in the evening. It is a Bring a Friend bowling and social event. Bowling lessons will be available for new bowlers along with food and beverages.



## Bowls Northwest

Bob Wells, Representative

### Indoor Short Mat Tournament scheduled for April 27th

Portland will host the first ever indoor Short Mat Tournament on Saturday, April 27th. Plans are currently underway for this 1-day, 4-rink event to happen at Matt Dishman Community Center in NE Portland. Players of all skill levels can take part and there will be practice time allowed for those bowlers unfamiliar with a short mat. More details available on our website.

## How can members support Bowls USA



The USLBA Memorial Fund, Inc., as a tax exempt organization, permits individuals or corporations to make tax deductible contributions to further the sport of lawn bowls in the USA. Support via this fund helps promote the sport of lawn bowls.



You can support the Memorial Fund with your every day shopping through Amazon Smile. Amazon will contribute 0.5% of your purchase to the USLBA Memorial Fund.

More details at [www.bowlsusa.us/lend-support.html](http://www.bowlsusa.us/lend-support.html).



Alex Last, Representative

### Upcoming Events:

NED Open at Skytop/Buck Hill—August 17-22, 2019

Arculli Pairs at Essex—September 7-8, 2019

East Coast Challenge at Pinehurst, NC—October 19-20, 2019



James Corr, Representative



The San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club, at Golden Gate Park, will be hosting the 2019 National Championships from September 24th, through the 27th, 2019.

Closing Banquet to be held at Conservatory of Flowers. Attendees will have free access to the Conservatory for the closing banquet in the Orchid Room.

### Team USA to Tiger Bowls

By Manager, Linda Pretzel-Roberts

Heading off to Tiger Bowls and the “One Belt One Road” China Open in Mid-March 2019, Team USA included Sandy Wall (SE), Anna Witt (CEN), Adri Sandoval (SW) and Linda Pretzel-Roberts (SW). Team USA men did not send a team this year. This is a terrific opportunity to bowl internationally, in tournaments endorsed by World Bowls. The competition is solely rinks/4’s teams, which can build a lasting camaraderie with your teammates. The challenge of both international players, and unfamiliar greens raises ones concentration and ability beyond expectations!

(Continued on page 5)





Ron Rollick, Representative



### Something New in Lawn Bowls?

It may well be an oxymoron to suggest there is something new in a game that is as old as lawn bowling. For sure, this twist on a tournament is unique in the South Central Division. It took place on March 14. The 16 team, 1 day tournament filled quickly.

The idea stemmed from a discussion between Jim Copeland and myself who had both played with Jack Behling. After he died his wife, Donna, gave Jim a massive trophy from the tournament they had won in New York's Central Park several years ago. It paid \$5000. The trophy will now be converted to recognize tournament winners.

As we chatted about Jack, we both chuckled as we fondly recalled how he hated narrow bowls and the idea "his prize money" was diluted to lower flights and worse yet, second place finishers in those flights. Those who knew him recalled he could be opinionated. He was also one hell of a bowler.

The South Central Division is well known for its quality greens and ample tournament schedule. Beyond the division, the Sun City communities run countless winter tournaments for local bowlers. I managed to get a day squeezed onto the busy schedule. We were not sure how it would play out, but we knew we wanted something different.

To honor Jack, we shaped it to fit his persona and preferences. Only Henselite Super Grip bowls would be used. Those old bowls from the 60's and 70's had a big bias. We set the tournament payoffs to only award prize money to the A pool 1st and 2nd place teams (first game winners) and the B pool 1st and 2nd place teams (first game losers). The lions share went to the tournament winner.

To make it way more interesting, we played the tournament at the Fairway artificial green that runs consistently at 14.7 seconds. I run our bowls program and was confident we could supply every bowler with a set of Super Grips; and we did. Suffice to say, it was truly an eye opener. For folks used to narrow drawing bowls, there was a constant lament; "take more grass dummy."

By days end, the comments were awesome. Bowlers, winners and losers alike, all stated they loved the tournament and many said it returned them to their roots where drawing with those big benders was the "right way" to bowl. I will save my commentary about right or wrong but will simply say; it was a blast to see every bowl drawing across boundary lines into the next rink.

There's no question, this tournament was well received and it's already on the schedule for next year. Thanks to Jim Copeland for adding to the tournament winners prize money. By the way, the winners were Claire Day and Mike Wagner. Claire often uses Super Grips at Fairway so that may well account for her stunning performance.

Jim and I are pretty darn sure Jack was smiling down from the heavens by day's end.

By Bill Pearson





# Super Grip Tournament Winners!

Winners! Mike Wagner and Claire Day



A Pool Winners!  
Darrell and  
Roseanne Jones



B Pool Winners!  
Ivo and Anne Van Bastelaere

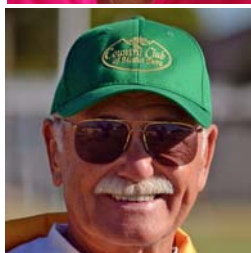
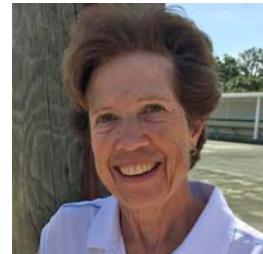


Gary Higgins, Representative

2019 SED National Championship Players:  
Singles: Jackie Williamson and Rick Fitzgerald  
Pairs: Sandra Wall and Martha Nilsen  
Bud Ricucci and Steve Nelson

Singles

Pairs





## Team USA to Tiger Bowls (Continued from page 2)



Sandy Wall, Adri Sandoval, Linda Roberts, Anna Witt—2019

Tiger Bowls/Hong Kong: This year there were 64 men’s teams, and 40 women’s teams entered to participate. Each team is assigned in a section of 8 (via blind draw), and would play a round-robin of that section. We play skins format, 8 ends each game, 8 points possible each game. The top 8 scoring teams advance to the semi-finals. It then turns to single-elimination games.

Unfortunately, excessive rain flooded the many greens in Hong Kong, leaving them unplayable. There were only 2, maybe 3, greens playable (one of which was an indoor carpet.) The organizer/sponsor, Jacky Wong, needed to make an impossible decision: how to run this tournament of 104 teams on 2 or 3 greens. He chose to allow the international players (those who flew in for the tournament) to play, and told the locals they could not. Understandably, the locals were upset. This is *THEIR* tournament! Imagine how you would feel if our US Open was shut out to US players!

This left 23 men’s teams and 12 women’s teams. These players traveled from Australia, Canada, China, England, Japan, Malaysia, Kenya, Macau, Singapore, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. And, of course, the good ole USA! These would be the same teams who would continue to China for the “One Belt-One Road” China Open.

Competition started on March 9. There are no roll-ups prior, nor are there “trial ends”. It is an 8-end game...so learn quickly!!! The women bowled in the rain on the grass on day 1. Day 2 we were inside on the carpet (about 6 seconds faster than the day before!). Unfortunately, Team USA did not medal this tournament. But, we witnessed some amazing bowling in the finals!

We then started the China Open. Again, we started in a drizzle, on grass. Anna and Adri were amazing with their strength in the morning games (running about 7-8 seconds!), giving us clear victories for our first two games. We succeeded again in the afternoon with a couple more victories, even with the sun shining and the grass getting over 10 seconds! We were then to play indoors in Zhuhai, China. Sandy brought us to a bronze medal with her excellent play on the 16-second carpet! It was an exciting time!

Tiger Bowls/China Open is a terrific opportunity to experience and truly understand the community of bowls. It was an honor to represent the USA in this competition, make new friends, renew old friendships, share ideas and techniques, and marvel at some bowlers’ abilities. Hopefully, Jacky Wong will agree to host/sponsor the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tiger Bowls next year—and the weather will be more forgiving!