



# Newsletter

December 2017

## U.S. OPEN BY THE NUMBERS

The U.S. Open of Lawn Bowls wrapped up play on November 17 at the Sarasota, Sun City Center, and Sun 'n' Fun Lawn Bowling Clubs in Florida. Here are some interesting statistics about the Open.

- 6 days of bowling
- 220 bowlers
- 19 umpires officiated
- 3 different venues
- 11 countries represented
- 18 commercial sponsors
- 1025+ games played

The gold medalists in each event received a new set of bowls from Open sponsor, Taylor Bowls. They were:

- Women's Singles:** Anne Nunes (USA)
- Women's Fours:** Melanie Vizenor, Rusty Hein, Adriana Sandoval, and Alexis Vanden Bos (USA)
- Women's Pairs:** Sandra Wall and Cathy Mills (USA)
- Women's Bowler of the Tournament:** Sandra Wall (USA)
- Men's Singles:** Raymond Barr (N. Ireland)
- Men's Fours:** David Dubois, Raymond Barr, David Hamilton (N. Ireland), and Billy Parker (Scotland)
- Men's Pairs:** Pat Beggs (Canada) and Tom Burnoski (USA)
- Men's Bowler of the Tournament:** Raymond Barr (N. Ireland)

Visit the [U.S. Open website](#) for complete results in all flights.

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### 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee conducts the day-to-day business and affairs of BowlsUSA. The President represents BowlsUSA, is an advocate for lawn bowls, and is the chief spokesperson for BowlsUSA in the U.S. and with World Bowls.

President	Richard Broad	<a href="mailto:bowlingbroad@gmail.com">bowlingbroad@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Scott Roberts	<a href="mailto:scottroberts1269@gmail.com">scottroberts1269@gmail.com</a>
2nd Vice President	Veronica Sum	<a href="mailto:vsum02@msn.com">vsum02@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Dee McSparran	<a href="mailto:bowlsusasecretary@gmail.com">bowlsusasecretary@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Alice Birkinshaw	<a href="mailto:treasureralice@gmail.com">treasureralice@gmail.com</a>
Imm Past President	Heather Stewart	<a href="mailto:heatherastewart78@gmail.com">heatherastewart78@gmail.com</a>

### 2018 DIVISION COUNCILORS

One male and one female Division Councilor is elected or appointed by each of the respective BowlsUSA divisions. Councilors represent their divisions in discussions and voting on a variety of issues and decisions affecting the interests of BowlsUSA as a whole. It is part of their job to get input from their Division members, share perspectives with the other Councilors, and then report back to their divisions on decisions made.

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Pacific Inter-Mountain	Ginger Harris	<a href="mailto:peacecorps.ginger@gmail.com">peacecorps.ginger@gmail.com</a>
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## A TALE OF TEAMWORK

Submitted by Adriana Sandoval

I bowled in the U.S. Open fours event with three players that I'd never played with before, but I instantly felt like a part of a team, and this team wanted to win. I had the sense that my three teammates had my back; they would be there no matter what. Although I'm somewhat new, I knew, instantly, that I was truly a part of this "team" when the 3 more experienced players affectionately teased me ...you see, if I bowled well, they called me their second. If I did not, they called me number two. Needless to say, I was determined to be their second!!

We had some hard fought matches. We felt like a team and we played like a team, keeping a positive attitude and helping each other to keep our spirits high. Like a true team, each of us stepped up when needed most. In the final match, this would especially come into play!

People may know we won the final match, but most don't know what it took to make it happen. We started out down by a lot. By most accounts, it would have been the beginning of a major defeat. But, as a team, we picked each other up, pulled it together, and regained control. We fought back to tie the score. As we neared the end of the game our opponents pulled ahead by two points. At this point, the spectators became overwhelmingly still. Everyone seemed just as focused and intent as the eight of us on the green. It felt as though each bowl beyond this point was willed to its place in the head. In this tense and suspenseful position, I believe it was the mutual trust, respect, and empowerment of my teammates that pushed us to maintain a high level of performance. And, in the end we won GOLD!!!



## SANTA BARBARA LAWN BOWLS CLUB TURNS 80

Submitted by Eileen Morton



With some goodies on hand that also made their debuts 80 years ago, the Santa Barbara LBC celebrated the Club's 80th birthday in October with a proclamation of Lawn Bowls Month bestowed by the City and County of Santa Barbara, speeches by local dignitaries, a game of bowls, recorded Big Band music from 1937, and refreshments that included Spam egg salad croissant sandwiches and some of the iconic beverages shown in the photo to the left.

As part of the festivities, a variety of community guests were treated to a bowling lesson and VIPs were presented with a gift certificate for 80 days of lawn bowling at the Club.



Mayor Schneider (L) presents a proclamation to Club President Sharron



In addition to Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider and County Supervisor Das Williams, guests included Jerry Jordano (on the left in the photo) who is a partner at Central Coast Home Health & Hospice (corporate sponsor for SBLBC), and members of the Santa Barbara Police department (Sgt. Kasi Corbett and Officers Kyle Rapp and C.J. Powell) who had a bowls lesson from past president Tony Cunningham (third from the left). Click [here](#) to see complete details about the event.





. . .that there is a lawn bowling club in Hot Springs, Arkansas? South Central Division recently welcomed the Village Green Bowls Club (VGBC) to their roster. Like many clubs across America, the Village Green membership is small in number but HUGE in enthusiasm and commitment to our sport.

VGBC is surrounded by the Ouachita Mountains in a beautiful, gated community about an hour's drive from Little Rock. You may never have heard of them, but they've been there for 39 years! They play on a synthetic green which was installed last year and enjoy a full schedule of leagues, socials, and community outreach. They also bowl year round — when the temperature is over 45 degrees.



The serene green in Arkansas.



The members lament that they are the only club in surrounding states and they say, "We follow Arizona in an atlas, but that's as close as we get to any competition outside of our club!" Maybe that's why they say "WE LOVE COMPANY!" If you want to visit, you'll need to let them know you're coming so you can be cleared through the gate.

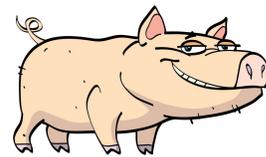
Some of the friendly VGBC members. Find out more about this little-known club at their [website](#).

**WHENCE "HOG LINE" ANYWAY?**

One of the standard markers on the side board of a bowling green is the "hog line". This mark is 23 meters from the plinth at each end of the rink.

An old Scottish saying goes: "As independent as a hog on ice." Now a hog on ice is anything but independent. Once he ventures forth onto a frozen pond, a hog usually ends up spread eagle, and must be removed by others.

Sports is the only entertainment where, no matter how many times you go back, you never know the ending. - Neil Simon



HOGLINE

An immobilized hog on a pond or lake is an obstacle to a game, such as curling, if he was too far from the spot from which the "stone" was delivered. There was no way you could avoid him and reach the target. Hence, the 40-pound stone that did not reach a minimum distance was declared illegal and removed from the game. Such a stone was called a "hog".

Lawn bowlers long ago adapted the term to "hog line". Here, however, it is the underthrown jack which is removed, while the line it must reach is called the "hog line".



## NEWS FROM SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

Submitted by Ron Rollick

Our [new website](#) is up and running. Go take a look; it's more visually oriented with lots of photos; and it allows a more fluid response to happenings and events. We'll surely miss Len Hitchcock who was our webmaster for more than a decade but he's now enjoying some well-deserved free time.

On a different note, we're beginning to see our usual "snowbird" influx — just in time for the start of our October to March bowling season. For full tournament information check out the [new website](#).

Lastly, a short "plug" for the 2018 U.S. Open. BowlsUSA and the South Central Division are excited to be hosting next year's event. The greens will be in fantastic shape and speed. The venues will be in close proximity to each other (no more than 10 miles between them). Why not plan a bowling trip and a vacation? The red rocks of Sedona are just a two-hour drive away; Las Vegas is four hours away; and the Grand Canyon is just six hours away. New links for the 2018 Open will be live shortly on the BowlsUSA and South Central Division websites.



### HERE'S AN IDEA

Well, actually, here are a few ideas, from Santa Barbara LBC.

Information provided by Scott Coons, Eileen Morton, and Sharron Adams

Thanks to some "handy" members who designed and made three strings of lights, Santa Barbara LBC is now enjoying bowling in the evenings. Associated with that, club member Scott Coons has initiated an online Meet Up group for people who are interested in learning what bowls is all about. That has resulted in five new members already.



Bud Viard gets a bowl into the hand of Jerry Jordano, founding partner of Central Coast Home Health & Hospice.

Club Board member Bud Viard is working to bring in more corporate teambuilding events and other get-togethers to take advantage of having the green available at night.



Bowling under the lights.

To capitalize on the interest in bowling in the evening, the club is offering a reduced membership fee for those who want to just bowl on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

And, Club President Sharron Adams and her husband have been holding "Open Saturday" events with free lessons once a month. These are advertised by way of banners on their clubhouse and by articles in online news venues and newspapers. The club has contracted with a public relations professional to facilitate these publicity efforts.





## BOWLS USA STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees provide ongoing support and expertise to the BowlsUSA Executive Committee and National Council in the subject areas shown below. Anyone who is interested in a certain area can volunteer by contacting the person who oversees that committee.

NED	Constitution & By-laws	Colin Smith	<a href="mailto:colin smith@optonline.net">colin smith@optonline.net</a>
SWD	Golden Bias Club	Dee McSparran	<a href="mailto:goldenbiasclub@gmail.com">goldenbiasclub@gmail.com</a>
SWD	Governance	Scott Roberts	<a href="mailto:scottroberts1269@gmail.com">scottroberts1269@gmail.com</a>
PIMD	Hall of Fame	Robb Pawlak	<a href="mailto:robbpawlak@mac.com">robbpawlak@mac.com</a>
SCD	International Affairs	Dee McSparran (women)	<a href="mailto:bowlsusasecretary@gmail.com">bowlsusasecretary@gmail.com</a>
SWD		Neil Furman (men)	<a href="mailto:neilcfurman@gmail.com">neilcfurman@gmail.com</a>
SWD	Laws of the Sport	Scott Roberts	<a href="mailto:scottroberts1269@gmail.com">scottroberts1269@gmail.com</a>
SWD	National Championships	Kottia Spangler	<a href="mailto:k519ss@sbcglobal.net">k519ss@sbcglobal.net</a>
	National Team Selection (men)	TBA	
	National Team Selection (women)	TBA	
SWD	National Umpire-in-Chief	Melanie Vizenor	<a href="mailto:mavizenor@gmail.com">mavizenor@gmail.com</a>
SWD	Newsletter Editor-in-Chief	Georgie Deno	<a href="mailto:postdeno@gmail.com">postdeno@gmail.com</a>
SCD	North American Challenge	TBA	
PIMD	Super Shots	Bud Birkenseer	<a href="mailto:budbirk@gmail.com">budbirk@gmail.com</a>
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NED	Webmaster	Dick Sayer	<a href="mailto:bowlsusawebsite@gmail.com">bowlsusawebsite@gmail.com</a>

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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>

**Southwest Division Open**, 4/21 to 4/26/18. Arcadia, CA. See the flyer on the following page. Watch for more info [here](#).

# SOUTHWEST DIVISION OPEN

**APRIL 21-26, 2018 ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA, USA**



**WOMEN'S & MEN'S:  
FOURS, PAIRS, SINGLES  
DATES FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TBD**

**ENTRY FEE: \$25/PLAYER/EVENT**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT: [SWLAWNBOWLS.ORG](http://SWLAWNBOWLS.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFO: [KSPANGLER@RCOE.US](mailto:KSPANGLER@RCOE.US)**





## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, ROBOTICS, AND CODING

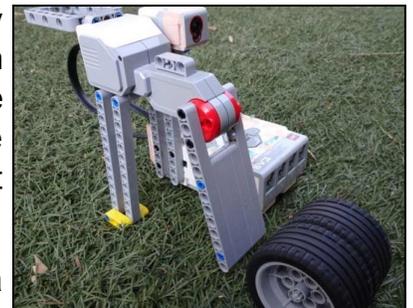
Can computers think? What is intelligence? Can we build a robot that learns from its past experiences? These are some of the tricky questions that Year 6 students at Ravenswood School for Girls in Sydney, Australia, have been tackling as they explore the role of robots and machine technology in society while learning to code. These students are enrolled in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program.

Dr. Joshua Ho (Head of the Bioinformatics and Systems Medicine Laboratory at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales) has brought those big ideas and big questions to the robotics program. Before, the students had been learning coding and doing activities with the robot, but haven't gone into that sort of philosophical and social side of the robots.

Students have been working with a lawn bowling robot to discover if it could deliver a perfect performance every time by learning from its past mistakes. Ho sparked their curiosity by showing them a video of a robot learning to flip a pancake. In the first few attempts the pancake flies off in many different directions, but each time it's learning and getting better. By about the 50th attempt, the robot could flip a pancake perfectly.

So, that was great source material for this task and Dr. Ho's idea was the lawn bowler. Can we teach the robot to bowl the perfect ball every time? Like the pancake, the task was about accuracy. It wasn't about how hard we could hit the ball or fast it could go, it was about pushing this ball so it would be accurate and rest next to the jack.

The lawn bowler was built using a Lego Mindstorms EV3 robotics kit. By coding the arm, students were able to control the accuracy of the "ball" (in this case, two EV3 tires) bowled after observing the robot's performance and giving it feedback. As the students continued reporting back, the robot adjusted the force it applied, improving its accuracy each time until it delivered the perfect ball.



The lawn bowling robot.

Through this complex program, students were able to learn what a "variable" is and how they could store a value for the force. The lawn bowling task, unpacked and broken down into the computational thinking behind it, revealed the skills that are taught by such a project.

This is the second year that Dr. Ho has worked with the school and he says having a robotics kit is a useful resource for students. Dr. Ho says, "Instead of just getting them to do very simple robotic things—such as getting the robot to move—I want to introduce scientific concepts and mathematical concepts."

This is an edited version of an article which first appeared in *Teacher*, published by ACER. It is reproduced with kind permission. Authored by Jo Earp. Click [here](#) to see the entire article.





*Umpires Corner*

By Melanie Vizenor,  
BowlsUSA National Umpire in Chief

**Bowl Displacement – Law 37**

In November’s Bowls USA Newsletter, the following scenario was put forth:

*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?*

The first thing that must be done is to separate out what’s valid movement and what isn’t. And this is where understanding **in motion** and **original course** becomes critical. The second sentence of the scenario says, “While in motion, the bowl hits” -- what bowl is being referred to in that second sentence: the delivered bowl or the bowl at rest?

Think about your opponent’s bowl promoting your bowl in for shot. It’s the same thing as what’s laid out in the first sentence of the scenario. It is valid movement. Now we come to “While in motion, the bowl” -- only a bowl **at rest** may be put into motion -- and it is that information that tells you to look at Law 37, specifically 37.1.3, “Displacement of a bowl in motion.”

The displaced bowl “comes to rest next to the jack.” There is no disturbance of the head. Thus, 37.1.3.1 encompasses all of the facts, which states, “If a bowl in motion (check) is displaced by a player (check) and it has not disturbed the head after it is displaced (check), the opposing skip must choose whether to” -- and then the options are listed. The “opposing skip” in this case is Skip A.

Here’s a different example. Can you make the right call?

*Team A’s bowl in its original course goes through the head, displacing two bowls, and then it hits Lead B’s foot, which deflects the bowl back into the head where it moves a bowl at rest, putting that bowl into motion. The bowl put into motion makes contact with the jack, causing the jack to go out of the rink of play. Yikes!!*

Ump Stumper will return to the Newsletter rather than residing on the Bowls USA website. This transition will occur with the first issue of 2018.

With the space remaining for this article, a big (and I mean BIG) shout-out to the non-playing umpires at this year’s 2017 US Open, and to **Bud Ricucci**, the SED Head Division Umpire, whose organization and leadership skills made it all happen.

And those non-playing umpires are: **Cal and Val Bechard, Thomas Bussell, Paul Courtice, Heather Comba, Gilles DeSerres, Jim Gingrich, Kathy Gonnella, Phil Griffin, Rusty Hein, Cassie Krowl, Helen Leroux, Di Olsen, Clem Reiss, Barb Smith, Jackie Tucker, John Williams, Gary Williamson, and Carl Zajac.**