



OCT 2019, Issue 1



National Championships a Rolling Success in San Francisco!

September 23-28, 2019, Golden Gate Park

John Grimes, President, San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club

Following 20 minutes of mesmerizing drumbeats by a Taiko troupe, a lone bagpiper led all 48 National finalists around the hedges from Robin Williams Meadow. Marching single file onto green one, the competitors representing every Bowls USA division, kicked off the 2019 Bowls USA National Championships. Hosted by the historic San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club and sponsored by the Pacific Intermountain Division (PIMD), the event was off to a blissful start.

Welcomed by the collective remarks of Tournament Chair/MC Robb Pawlak, Co-chairs Ginger Harris and Rita Arriaga, and PIMD President Zarka Popovic, each division's uniformed lineup was introduced. Local BUSA Hall of Famers Joe Shepard and Bill Campbell were honored by rolling the ceremonial first jack and bowl.

To celebrate completion of the club's six-year renovation of its three greens and century-old clubhouse, San Francisco Rec & Parks GM Phil Ginsburg and club President John Grimes cut a red ribbon (with real 4-foot scissors!) and the opening party moved into high gear.

Players and guests streamed inside for drinks and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, admiring the club's museum-like interior featuring a new 22-foot timeline of bowls, Golden Gate Park and club history. Founded in 1901, it's the oldest municipal bowls club in the country, later merging with the adjoining women's club (America's first women's bowls club). The pristine Edwardian clubhouse and three greens are a designated city landmark.

Under clear skies from Tuesday morning through mid-day Saturday, one could say temperatures *averaged* a perfect 76: with Mon/Tues in the low 90s and Thurs/Fri/Sat in the low 60s). Most importantly, the greens ran fast and smooth after great care by SF Rec & Parks' greenskeeper Tory Verhoven and club volunteers.

True to form, the tournament itself had high levels of performance and drama. Undefeated Anne Nunes (Newport Harbor/Southwest Stripes) won her third singles title in five years, her fourth since 2003, and her ninth overall including women's pairs titles. Nita Chambers (Jefferson Park/Northwest) was the runner-up at 5-2, capturing her first medal in five Nationals.

After the round-robin of seven games, the men's singles had a four-way logjam for first at 5-2. Following an impromptu huddle by Tournament Director Rod Arriaga, Robb Pawlak, and BUSA Officials, using plus-points to determine seedings, two semi-final games to 21 points commenced after Friday's lunch. Two-time defending champion Charlie Herbert (Newport Harbor/Southwest Stripes) defeated veteran Nationals and Open medalist Steve Smith (Coronado/Southwest Stars). Chris Davis (Jefferson Park/Northwest) reversed his morning loss to Rob Behncke (Milwaukee LP/Central) to earn a Saturday showdown with Charlie.





In women's pairs, clubmates Dee McSparran and Regina Banares (Sun City/South Central) went 6-1, while Sandra Wall (World Parkway/Southeast) and Martha Nilsen (Pinehurst/Southeast) finished second at 5-2. In men's pairs, Robert Busciglio (Long Beach) and Matt Bauchiero (Newport Harbor) of the 6-1 Southwest Stars edged out the Southeast's Bud Ricucci (Mount Dora) and Steve Nelson (Asheville), winning their crucial match by a single point.

Friday evening's gala awards ceremony was classically San Franciscan. Starting with drinks and appetizers in Golden Gate Park's majestic Conservatory of Flowers, 150 players and guests strolled through rooms of tropical gardens and lily pools to an adjoining banquet pavilion, greeted by a jazz trio and, voila, more wine! Master co-hosts Robb Pawlak and Rita Arriaga introduced Rec & Parks GM Phil Ginsburg (the club's de facto patron saint), who presented President Grimes with separate National Championships proclamations from SF Mayor London Breed, the city's Board of Supervisors and the California Legislature. Bowls USA President Scott Roberts, Tournament Director Rod Arriaga, Robb Pawlak, Memorial Fund Board member Debbie Tupper and PIMD President Zarka Popovic then awarded plaques and checks to all players, with top honors and resounding ovations for the dozen medalists. The first-ever 'Team' plaque was awarded to the SWD Stars for most points (games) won. Toasted in absentia was Co-chair Ginger Harris, who left town earlier to attend a family wedding.

Finally on Saturday morning under cool, windy conditions came the 2019 denouement of men's singles. Charlie Herbert started strong and maintained his intense focus against Chris Davis to pull away for the title. A crowd favorite all week, Chris was impressive and quietly charming in winning his first Nationals medal.

Thank you Bowlers, Guests and Volunteers!

On behalf of Robb, Ginger, Rita, Rod, SFLBC members and our entire PIMD family of clubs, Zarka Popovic and I are humbled and honored to have hosted the Nationals. Our dozens of local and regional volunteers are applauded for carrying out their tasks to perfection: from planning, grooming, fundraising, renovations and logistics, to greens set-up, marking, scorekeeping, umpiring, hospitality and publicity. As if our memories of dazzling play and warm camaraderie were not enough, we cherish our guests' kind expressions of appreciation, remarking how warmly-welcomed and pampered they felt all week. How grateful we are to be part of the uniquely friendly Bowls USA community!

The National Championships began in 1957 and is a premier bowls event of Bowls USA, crowning both men's and women's champions in singles and pairs. While Bowls USA sponsors the event, it is hosted by one of the seven divisions and one or more of its member clubs. Competitors in the Championships must be United States citizens who won their divisional qualifier called the playdowns. A competitor must be a member of an affiliated Bowls USA club. This requirement ensures that all divisions of the United States are represented.



Singles Winners:
Anne Nunes
Charlie Herbert



Pairs Winners:
Robert Busciglio, Matt Bauchiero
Regina Banares, Dee McSparran



LawnBowls CENTRAL

Glorianne Mather, Representative



“Great Bowling from the Lakes to the Rockies”

Anna Witt, Jim Grzybowski, Reecca Nguyen, Rob Behncke, Olia Behncke, Leif Andersen



By Ken Hopper

2019 Ralph Karlberg Tournament

We had one of our larger and most competitive tournaments this year. The winner of the 2019 Ralph Karlberg Tournament is Dale Robson and the runner up is Steve Maher. This year's tournament had a different twist to it at the end.

In earlier matches, Steve became the undefeated winner of the winner's bracket, thus reaching his first final. Dale had landed in the loser's bracket, but eventually emerged as the winner of that bracket, with the chance to play Steve again.

Since the tournament rules are that once you have 2 losses you are eliminated, Dale needed to defeat Steve twice in the finals, which he did. To our knowledge, and in our open era, this is the first time that has happened.

This is Dale's 3rd championship in the last four years.

Congratulations to Dale, Steve and all the other participants for making this an exciting tournament.



Dale and Steve

Veteran Novice pairs

Saturday, September 21

It was great weather for lawn bowling and Bob had cut the greens the day before. 15 players were divided into two groups for a 3 game round robin tournament. We were joined by our newest novices: Rye Richter and Bizzy Schultz. It their first tournament - previous experience was an Open House.

15 players required creativity for organization. Group A had 8 players for a conventional game setup. Group B, with 7 players, had a combination of doubles and cut throat triples. We made it through 2 games and lunch. The dense grey clouds to the southwest and radar reports on weather.com indicated the rest of the day was going to be wet – we decided to stay dry. Bob was able to make it to the wedding he was supposed to be attending.

The results after 2 games -

Group A

1st place – Bob Schneider/Scott Lehmann – 2 wins and 30 points

2nd place – Carl Landgren/Dale Parsons – 1 win and 21 points

3rd place – Max Cavender/Barb Blaney – 1 win and 19 points

Group B

1st place doubles – Vicki Olsen/Rye Richter – 1 win, 1 tie

1st place cut throat veteran – Dat Nguyen

1st place cut throat novice – Diana Nickerson

By Carl Landgren



“American Lawn Bowls was Born Here!”

Bobby Sayer, Dick Sayer, Jeri Spann, Susan Berg, Michele Arculli, Ryan Hastu



Alex Last, Representative



Bowls Northwest

Bob Wells, Representative



“The Greens that Grow Champions”

Andy Klubberud, John Hollingsworth, Pam Edwards, Chris Davis, Nita Chambers, Debbie Tupper



NORTHWEST Continued

“Ultimate Bowls” Format

On a recommendation from a new club member that hails from Australia, Portland LBC held a club tournament using the Ultimate Bowls Championships (UBC) format now played in Australia for big prizes.



In this 5-end game, the scoring is the star:

- 3 points for each toucher
- 3 points to the team who holds the shot after the leads’ bowls are played
- 10 points for closest bowl
- 5 points for second closest
- 3 points for third closes

At Portland our Ultimate Bowls Tournament consisted of 4 games that were completed in less than 4 hours. It was intended for pairs plays but we easily adapted it for triples. Team members were randomly drawn for each game. Scores stayed with the individual bowlers; the winner was determined by cumulative points.

This format offers a quick game and/or tournament. Social bowlers appreciated the random team selection. Everyone, especially new bowlers, loved that they contributed to the point count regardless of who won the end.

You can check out the real deal at <https://ultimatebowlschampionship.com.au>



Query the Coaches

Q: What is a suggested pre-delivery routine?

A: Having a consistent pre-delivery routine helps with focus and consistency and could include:

- Determine the shot required (skip may direct this)
- Take a few deep breaths to calm yourself
- Pick up the bowl and step onto mat consistently (consistency is key to making adjustments)
- If you carry a towel, which hand? Wet or dry?
- Visualize the shot
- Deliver the bowl
- Stay on the mat until your bowl comes to rest
- Contact a Club Coach for further advice



If you are interested in contacting a Club Coach, or training to be a Club Coach, contact Heather Stewart, Kottia Spangler, or Jackie Tucker. You must have bowled a minimum of 2 years to be a Club Coach, and have your club endorsement. For more information contact Kottia at k519ss@sbcglobal.net.



James Corr, Representative

The San Francisco Lawn Bowls Club, located in Golden Gate Park.



“Bowls by the Bay”

Larry Collaco, Janice Bell, Angie Peet, Scottie Marzonie, Rose Selby, Daniel Gorelick



"Home of the Finest Greens in North America"

Dee McSparran, Jimmy Wolterman, Regina Banares, Jim Filipiak,
Jean English, Wayne Baines



"Bowl in the Sun Where Fun's Number One!"

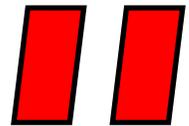
Steve Nelson, Jackie Williamson, Sandy Wall, Martha Nilsen, Bud Ricucci, Rick Fitzgerald





“The Home of Bowls in Southern California”

Eileen Lancendorfer, Steve Smith, Mary Thompson, Candy DeFazio, Robert Busciglio, Matt Bauchiero



“The Home of Bowls in Southern California”

Abe Pinnella, Adriana Sandoval, Barry Hayes, Anne Nunes, Lee Ang, Charlie Herbert

International Open Fours Tournament – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (August 2019)

“The host, Mohammed Iqbal Maricair, went out of his way to make us feel welcome. He checked in with us several times a day to see if we needed anything. I was touched by how friendly the other teams were. It made it so easy to form new friendships and renew old friendships that were made at Tiger Bowls. On a personal note, I was intrigued by the fact that I was frequently asked “How old are you?” Despite my gray hair and wrinkles, I can only hope they thought I looked younger than I am” – Sandy Wall, Skip

“Traveling such a long way with three other women I knew but hadn’t bowled much with seemed like a kind of anxious thing. But It was honestly one of the best experiences of my life. Almost from the beginning the atmosphere was wonderful. We were met by wonderful drivers, taken to really great accommodations - a hotel connected to a huge shopping mall so things were very convenient - and as a team we started connecting right away. Laughing, talking strategy, planning food, etc.” – Rikki Ricard, Third

“The tournament was one of the best run I have played in (and I ran tournaments for a living). The tournament had 20 women’s teams and 24 men’s teams. There were 2 greens, one a semi-covered stadium which ran about 14 seconds and the other green adjacent was outdoors and ran about 16 seconds. Yes, the weather was hot and muggy with rain a few days in the afternoon. Play would stop on the outdoor green for the rain which was very heavy but would resume when it stopped. The green drained very well and the rain did not affect the speed. However, once you started playing you forgot all about the weather! We had a great time together. I would go back in a heartbeat.” -- Cheryl Barkovich, Second

“Playing fours. Switching between 16 second and 14 second greens. 15 ends with a 2-hour time limit. No trial bowls. It was intense, exciting and fun. Watching the Malaysian 4’s teams play (men and women) was like watching chess matches -- every bowl by each player so strategically placed or played. What I admired was that a team was often structured with a top National player as Skip, and the others might be younger players (developing team). The Skip was providing guidance as the team played, sometimes switching positions in the next game, to let players get additional experience.” – Alexis Vanden Bos, Lead



One of the exciting things to find out was that the U.S. can actually send more than one men's team and one women's team. Countries may send their National Team(s), but also may send some club teams. The club teams, we were told, were teams that regularly play together and travel for tournaments. They were good players. The opportunity for U.S. players to be able to get this level of international experience is stimulating and enlightening. It is a different play than what we often see in the U.S.

"The event was well run in all aspects. We never had to worry about transportation to and from the airport or to and from the hotel and venue. Our hotel was quite modern with very comfortable rooms and included a daily breakfast buffet. The hotel adjoined one of the largest malls I have ever seen - five floors offering a variety of restaurants for dinner." -- Sandy Wall, Skip

"During the times we had free, the organizer, Mohammed, arranged for us to do some sightseeing and took us to the Central Market so we could do some shopping and one evening to China Town for dinner. During this excursion we were accompanied by the men's team from Korea. They became such good friends and we ended up rooting for each other as the tournament went along." -- Rikki Ricard, Vice

"We started our competition a little slowly losing our first 2 games, but then found our rhythm beating one of the Hong Kong National Teams, the Malaysian Police Team (both quality wins), and Kuala Lumpur A before tying a Malaysian team finishing our round robin play 3-2-1. That qualified us for the Plate Knock-out Round, but unfortunately, we lost in the Round of 12 to finish with a 3-3-1 record,". -- Cheryl Barkovich, Second.

"Besides the play and the beautiful polo shirts we were given and wore for the celebration of the National Day, I enjoyed the food. I ate anything and everything. I wanted to try any food that I might not get a chance to experience again – including Durian. Note: I will never eat Durian again, nor be within 300 yards of it. It was banned in the hotel due to the smell. But it is very popular. I am told it is an acquired taste." --Alexis Vanden Bos, Lead

The whole Team would recommend this event to U.S. Players. An amazing experience. And we end with a very kind assessment of our team play from our Skipper:

"I was really proud of our team. Even though we did not place in the medals, we really gave it our all. Alex would set the stage by placing one of her bowls near the jack with the other bowl behind. Cheryl would take out the opponent's bowls sitting near the jack with a perfect chop and lie. Rikki would draw to the jack increasing our points. She also made an awesome shot by taking the jack to the ditch - giving us three points. We won three games, tied one and lost three. It was disappointing to lose two of our games in the last end - one loss by two points and a one-point loss in our last game. However, it was a fantastic experience with some awesome teammates." -- Sandy Wall, Skip

