

In this is issue....

Excitement for the 2022 Season

Alberta Premier League 2021

Features of the Alberta Bowls website

Para Project at Stanley Park



The Right Bias *June 2022*

Welcome to the first issue of *The Right Bias* for 2022.

It is absolutely marvelous to be looking forward to a full season of play! All our regular tournaments are scheduled, we have several player development camps on the calendar, some coaches have received their training and are welcoming new members, most clubs have scheduled or have already held their Open Houses and clubs are again welcoming school groups and corporate groups back onto their greens. The first article of the newsletter will highlight some of the enthusiastic anticipation being felt at the clubs.

We have a feature article written by a member of Highlands on the inaugural Alberta Premier League you will enjoy reading. You'll find that on page two.

Highlighted on the top of page four are some of the new additions to the Bowls Alberta website.

And we finish off this edition with the excitement of what's happening at Stanley Park with a new Para Program.

Submissions for the next newsletter must be submitted before July 1st. Special thanks to Kathy Kerr for her article on page 2 for this one!

Excitement for this Season

The Alberta bowling season begins anywhere from late April to mid May. Medicine Hat seems to get out on to their greens before anyone else, followed by first one club in Emdonton, then one in Calgary and finally all the greens are welcoming bowlers back for another season! One thing all clubs have in common... most of their members can't wait for the first opportunity to begin rolling for another season.

This year, **Calgary LBC** is partnering with the Calgary Sport and Social Club, offering a weekly league for 30-something New Bowlers. The league will play on the same night alongside the Calgary Pride League. CSSC provides marketing, registration, and league coordinators, who manage teams and nightly rink assignments, while Calgary LBC offers free lessons. Music will be playing and participants are offered a discount to become full time members of the Club. The CSSC league filled so quickly a second league starting in August has been added. Plans are already in the works to create a CSSC "Roaring 20's" tournament in 2023 to help celebrate Calgary LBC's Centennial season.

Ditto on all the above for the **Commonwealth LBC**! They partnered with the Edmonton Sport and Social Club and have the same type of arrangement and addition of a second league starting in August. It seems there is a real interest growing in lawn bowls for all ages.

Back to Calgary for the exciting start to the season for **Rotary Park LBC**. Two evening leagues, a Pride League and 4's League are already filled up each with 120 bowlers. They haven't even advertised for the season and their membership has hit 392! They have set a record for membership for all clubs across Canada (old record was 250 for the Stanley Park Club in BC). Way to go Rotary Park LBC!

Lethbridge LBC held an Open House on May 15 with 15 people attending along with 4 new faces. One became a member that day. Regular bowling is Mon., Tue. and Fri. at 6:30. But since it has been so windy 'down under' it feels like summer hasn't arrived and so the season hasn't really started yet.

Continued on page 3...

Alberta's Premier League

Fast, exciting, and loud. Those were guiding principles Bowls Alberta head coach Derek Dillon used as he pulled together last year's first Alberta Premier League competition in Calgary. The league, similar to a TV-friendly event staged annually in Australia, was a big enough hit to earn a repeat spot on the crowded summer 2022 calendar, with plans for an ongoing annual tournament.

Unlike most provincial tournaments the teams are chosen by their home clubs and represent the club at the competition. In 2021 there were eight teams from three clubs in Calgary and two teams from Edmonton clubs.

The five-person teams split into singles, pairs, triples and fours throughout the competition. There are two five-end sets in each one-hour match with a one end tiebreaker if necessary. To further speed play, jacks are placed, not rolled. And there's music on the green - classic pop, rock and, because it's Alberta, country-rock - to help with the rhythm.



Bowls Alberta vice-president George Hamilton says his home club, Calgary's Stanley Park, took about three weeks to organize two teams. The Stanley Park Stingers team won the event. "We sent out an invitation to all members with a description of the event and the kind of people who would be most interested in participating. We had a selection committee and of those who applied we selected the players we thought would be the best fit," says Hamilton. Not all clubs were quite as methodical. Since last summer was the first outing some clubs basically sent any player who wanted to compete.

Hamilton says Covid affected some aspects of the tournament, restricting the social side of the three-day event a bit. "As people learn about it and do more mixing, we'll hopefully get more spectators and make it more fun to watch the event," says Hamilton. That's exactly what Dillon is hoping for. He introduced the Alberta Premier League to be engaging for spectators & to appeal to players who want a faster game.

"We've got to add some excitement and the game's got to go quicker. Now we play fours and pairs ... and you've got two and a quarter hour to finish. No one wants to sit there for two and a quarter hour to watch people play the old standard fours game," says Dillon. "What Australia has shown is you've got to adapt the game to be something faster and more exciting."

Dillon says he and his wife and several volunteers from the hosting Calgary Lawn club pulled together the event. The club, Dillon, Bowls Alberta, and Specialty Turf Care contributed funds including \$3,500 in prize money. Dillon adds his brother-in-law created the music playlist for the Calgary Lawn sound system.

At some point Dillon can see teams in Calgary and Edmonton clubs competing amongst themselves throughout the summer and then sending the top teams to the Alberta Premier League at the end of the season. And eventually it could be a national event with province against province using the fast, fun format. For 2022 however he's hoping for perhaps 14 teams to face off at this year's host club Calgary Rotary on Sept. 2-4.

Mike O'Reilly, who was president of Calgary Lawn last summer, says the event was a great opportunity to connect and reconnect with bowlers from around the province. The five-person team format allowed players to take on positions they don't often play. He says he usually plays lead in a fours game, but at the League he was the four's skip. "I think it allowed some great development of play." O'Reilly also likes the inclusion of music in the event. "Music attracts attention. People walking by the fence are leaning over and asking questions."

Ed Gallacher captained one of the Edmonton teams, the Highlands Flings. He confesses he likes to roll a lot of bowls but within the fast-paced, three-day format of the premier league, he was happy with two-bowl triples and three-bowl pairs. Gallacher has two granddaughters who are enthusiastic bowlers, and he says he can see the League would appeal to younger players. "The one thing the girls say is the games take too long."



Continuing the club to club trip from pg. 1

Back to Edmonton and we hear news from the **Highlands LBC**. Together with the Highlands Community League they are launching a fun new neighbourhood initiative in June. The 4-week Friday night 'League League' is aimed at community league members with little or no lawn bowling experience. The club provides the coaching and will organize the four-week tournament format. The community league will run an outdoor pub. Team fees go to the lawn bowling club and Highlands Community League will get the proceeds of pub sales. Highlands' President thinks the League League is a win-win for everyone.

Stanley Park LBC has added two new additions to their regular scheduled leagues. They have a new Cut Throat League on Wednesday nights as well as a Fun night on Monday evenings after the coaching clinics end. The Fun night will feature a different game format each week and will encourage members to bring a friend to try out bowling in a fun and non-competitive atmosphere.

Members of the **Royal LBC** are very excited to return to a full suite of club events and tournaments, morning and evening jitneys, and an evening of Aussie Pairs, and a return of corporate events along with other special groups like Big Brothers/Big Sisters. They have plans for a noon hour "Come out and Try Lawn Bowling" event specifically targeting the employees of the Alberta Government who work nearby. A very successful and encouraging Open House was held on May 14 with 108 people attending including 75 who had never bowled before! Four new people joined that day with several more likely to follow. The club has plans to offer new bowler orientation and coaching throughout the season to encourage the development of skills and to better prepare new bowlers for social jitneys and club events.

Special Olympics Bocce will once again utilize the **Medicine Hat LBC'S** lower green this season. Last year they played singles and had a cap on the number of participants. This year they plan to play pairs and hope participation numbers will increase. They also moved their date to coincide with the club's jitney on Wednesdays in the hopes of giving the bocce participants more of a spotlight, and to hopefully get some of the bocce players interested in bowls. Bocce players play for 10 weeks starting June 8. The club leadership is so happy that Special Olympics Bocce has joined them again and that the lower green can be regularly used.

The **Bow Valley LBC** is hoping 2022 will be a 'return to normal' year. One highlight of the club....they have the longest serving board member of all our clubs! We salute Pat Wismer for her service as secretary and data base manager for the club for over ten years!

Supporting other Communities

This past winter members of the Bowls Alberta Board were able to head down to **Red Deer** and assist in the first afternoon season of open bowling on the indoor soccer field at one of the city Recreation Centres. They were open for bowling through the spring and were pleased with the community involvement. They will pick up the program again in September. The city of Okotoks also ran a similar program and members of the Stanley Park LBC helped them get started. And later this month we have two members heading up to **Grande Prairie** to host a Try-It event at the former Grande Prairie LBC. The plans are to continue to support endeavors like these to increase participation across Alberta!



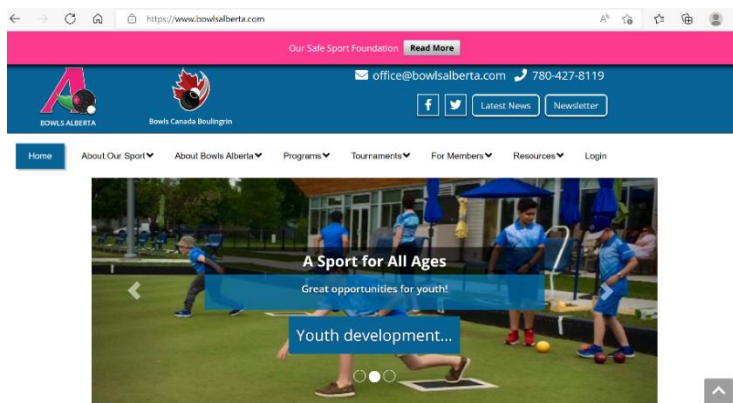
Training session at Calgary Lawn for members of the 2022 Development Squad was held May 22.



MLA Sarah Hoffman and Councilor Erin Rutherford checked out the Commonwealth Lawn Bowling club this past spring.



View of the Bowls Alberta Website



When was the last time you visited the Bowls Alberta website? There is lots of information there on all aspects of our sport along with links to websites with further information about our sport. You'll also find the updates you need about development camps tournaments and the provincial championships and of eventually results.

New for this season is the top 'frame' called '**Our Safe Sport Foundation**'. It states what safe sport is and what Bowls Alberta's commitment is. It includes information on reporting maltreatment if that occurs as you participate in Bowls Alberta's activities. There is also a link on the page to all our

Safe Sport Policies as well as our other Policies and Procedural Documents.

One other **new** item to bring to your attention...under the Resources section you'll find four pages you can select from. Check out the third one....**Bowls Alberta Merchandise**. Yes, Bowls Alberta now sells the shirts and the hats that we featured last year but also supplies for bowlers like grippo, tape measures, carrying slings, and polishing sleeves. All profits on the sale of items goes directly back to Bowls Alberta. If there are items you are looking for that are not listed please contact the office and we'll either order it in for you or direct you to the best place to purchase what you need.

Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club "Just Rolls With It"!

On April 29th, 2022 Bowls Canada Boulingrin announced the official launch of the "Just Roll With It" National Para Bowls program based on what was learned from the pilot projects of 2021. Check it out: [Just Roll With It](#).

Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club will be the first AB club to introduce a Para Bowls Program for children and adults who are visually impaired or physically disabled and are eight (8) years of age and older based on the Just Roll With It National Program! Their Para Bowls Program Co-ordinators are Glen Burnelle and Kathryn MacGregor. Glen brings his experience from working with wheelchair curlers and Kathryn from working as a director for visually impaired bowlers for many years. In preparation for the new program, Pat Vos, Executive Director of Bowls Alberta, and Lawn Bowls Coach Developer, will conduct the Bowls Canada Para Bowls coach training to twelve volunteers who signed up to assist the bowlers.

Advertisements were posted promoting a "Try It" Open house on June 7th, 14th, and 21st. The program will start on Tuesday June 7th at 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Thursday, June 9th at 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. It will continue throughout the summer on Tuesday evening starting at 7:00 pm and Thursday afternoon starting at 1:30 pm.



Zack and Gabriel are two visually impaired teenagers that bowled in 2021 under the direction of their moms.



Glen introducing curlers to lawn bowling in 2021.

Calgary Lawn Bowling Club will be hosting Bowls Alberta's 2022 Provincial Para Bowls Championships July 29 - 31. This will be followed by the first ever Bowls Canada Boulingrin's 2022 'Open' Canadian Para Bowls Championships to be held September 11 - 17 at the Windsor ON Lawn Bowling Club. A squad of para bowlers and their assistants will be identified at that event to work towards representing Canada at the World Bowls Championships scheduled to be held in 2023 in Australia. It's an exciting time with opportunities for 'classified' para bowlers in Alberta! Further information on classifications and the Conditions of Play for the Para Bowls Championships will be shared with clubs as soon as the information is made available by Bowls Canada.