

HTLBA Monthly Meetings Report of Meeting of July 31, 2006

The meeting was held at Hamilton Township's McManimon Building. It began on time at 7:00 P.M., and was led by HTLBA President, John G. Thomas. In attendance were John, Ron Eget, Jim Kenney, Roy Newman, George Zaharchuk, Carmine Tirone, Ray Fink, Fred Hegelman, Jennie Rogers, Hazel O'Hara, Anne Russo and Finita Varchetto.

To begin, John gave a demonstration and discourse on **giving hand signals to bowlers** from the 'head' (the area near the jack), regarding the apparent points and a suggested shot. In summary, the signaler, usually the team Skipper, holds fingers up (for team points) or down (for other team points) to show how many and whose points they are. He can then indicate the points by pointing closely to each of the point bowls. Finally, Hamilton bowlers typically use three kinds of shot: draw shot, drive shot and blocker. John suggested using a half-circle motion to indicate the line of aim and ultimate path of a draw shot, which is delivered to score a point by drawing up to the jack. He then suggested a signal like a fist pounded into an open hand to indicate a drive shot, which is played with exaggerated force and is used to break up or disturb the head. Finally, he suggested pointing to a specific location on the rink and making a signal like two fists held up together to indicate a block shot, which is delivered with a weaker force and to leave a bowl in a particular line of aim, so as to block off opponents' draw and drive shots. John also showed off his copy of The Lawn Bowler's Handbook.

The related issues of **A. three-players-per-team versus four-players-per-team, and B. setting up games with unequal numbers of players on opposing teams** were discussed. A. Those in attendance agreed that three is a better number for many reasons and it was agreed that next year's teams would have no more than three players each. B. Jim suggested that there already exist guidelines governing numbers of bowls to be used: in any game, even with unequal numbers of players, each team should have the same total number of bowls per end, and that there be a limit of 18 for the total number of bowls used by both teams. The following table summarizes Jim's suggestion in both equal and disparate situations:

Players	Bowls per Player	Total Bowls
1 vs 1	4 each	8
2 vs 2	4 each	16
3 vs 3	3 each	18
4 vs 4	2 each	16
2 vs 3	4 each vs 3 each minus 1	16
3 vs 4	3 each vs 2 each plus 1	18

All in attendance agreed with Jim's suggestions.

Equipment management will henceforth be the responsibility of those members with keys: Ray Fink, Ron Eget, Roy Newman and Arturo Ongaro. Roy Newman volunteered to head the Keyholders Committee and proposed that the group meet a half hour before game time at the building where the equipment is kept. The committee will also appreciate any volunteers to be keyholders, or who have the time to help and ask that they please identify themselves to a keyholder at or before the appropriate hour.

The schedule of tournament days, currently set for Saturdays at 8:30 A.M., was discussed briefly. It was decided that the schedule would remain as it is because of all the time it takes to complete a tournament.

Jim suggested that we **use the complete bowling green** by alternating directions between North-South and East-West on alternating weeks, regardless of shade conditions and as long as the wetter part of the green is not too wet. This will save wear and tear on the rinks we've been using because of all the rain we had in June and the first part of July. This arrangement shall begin the next time we play.

Discussion turned to the related questions; **A. How hot is too hot to bowl? and B. What do we do in case not enough players arrive for any game?** A. John said he didn't want to have to make a weekly decision for everyone because it is simple enough to derive a guideline based on the temperature. Among the members in attendance, there was some disagreement as to what that temperature should be. The majority agreed that if it were 90 or more degrees when it came time to leave their house for the bowling green on any morning or evening, they would simply not come. It was decided that the decision will continue to be left to each individual and that play would go on if there were enough present to carry it out. B. Two players per side are enough to play an 'official' HTLBA game. For whatever reason, if fewer than two arrive for a team, the team takes an official loss and gets no points. If the opposing team has enough players, they get an official win and one point for each player who arrives by game time.

Ray noted that the **park bathrooms** are locked up every Wednesday evening and asked if someone could please ask for them to be left open through the time we finish our games. John agreed to ask township groundskeeper foreman, Pat Rose, if this could be done.

Jim next asked about the possibility of getting some **new equipment**, specifically new mats. He asked John to get the township to buy new mats, as the present set are just doormats and usually slide out of position as each player bowls. It was noted that official bowling mats are heavier and a bit larger. John promised to get a price for new mats and present it to the township. Others in attendance wondered if it would be possible to get the township to also buy new bowls, specifically smaller sets for use by women players. This issue was left undecided as brand new bowls are expensive; the township has always gotten used bowls in the past; and used, smaller-size bowls are rare.

Finally, Jim suggested that some of our games be played by the **more standard rules** that govern other groups. He noted, for example, that our accommodation to women of letting them take steps ahead of the mat before delivering the bowl is becoming unnecessary as their strength develops. Also, international rules allow for the mat to be located and the jack to be rolled into place at the beginning of each end. John noted that our peculiarities in these instances are owing to the stiff nature of the grass on our green. As an experiment, and to prepare for possible international visitors or visits by some of us to other bowling greens, it was decided that the upcoming game between the Celtics and the Spirits in week 13 would be played strictly according to international rules.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 8:15, the doors locked, and all departed.