

HTLBA Monthly Meetings Report of Meeting of April 28, 2008

The meeting was held on a rainy, blustery evening at Hamilton Township's Switlik Park Facility. It began on time at 7:00 P.M., and was led by HTLBA President, John Thomas. In attendance were only John, Finita Varchetto, Hazel O'Hara, Vince Cavalli, Joe Geraci and Bill Sullivan.

To begin, **Joe gave a demonstration and discourse on polishing bowls with shoe polish.** He explained how he washes his brown bowls, and then applies brown shoe polish by Kiwi. He rubs the polish on with a tissue or paper towel, and then uses a regular shoe polish brush to buff up the shine. We certainly thank Joe for taking the time to show us his technique.

We next discussed some logistical matters. The first issue was **players who arrive late for their scheduled game** on Wednesday evenings. John read aloud an excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2006, when it was decided that the matter was causing such disruption that the offenders, starting in 2007, would have to ask permission to share playing time with their own team mates in order to take part in the game. John noted that this discipline was rarely if ever enforced and that latecomers were usually eased into an ongoing game with permission of the skippers involved. We recognized that this is a disruptive situation and the skipper of the offending player should make sure he or she understands what a problem it is for the other players in this situation. Play will begin at 5:30 P.M. sharp on Wednesday evening, May 7th. Players should plan to be at the green no later than 5:15.

Equipment will be mustered up and transported to the bowling green in the same manner as in 2007. Teams will take turns in alphabetic order, beginning with the Celtics. Weekly reminders will be given to skippers whose turn is coming up. John will need to get the key from Art Pelcz for distribution to a team that has none.

The 2008 Team Lists handout was passed around and John noted that it includes the dates for our five tournaments, all of which will be held on Saturday mornings. He also noted that the 2008 schedule resembles that of last year.

We will play with the usual **women/distance advantage in 2008.** That is, women who are unable to reach the jack when bowling from the mat may move in front of the mat, up to a prescribed distance, before beginning their motion. Discussion centered on the reasons we allow this and the fact that there are some who object. The question of the possibility of some men needing this advantage was raised, and we voted to allow the same advantage for members of both sexes who may be too weak to bowl all the way to the jack. Any member who takes this advantage must also be encouraged to practice and so strengthen themselves physically, if possible, so as to eventually be able to bowl the full distance from the mat.

John asserted that care must be taken with **our subs who turn out as extra** and therefore not needed for league play this year, so that each one who comes to play on Wednesday evenings actually gets to play. He offered two suggestions which were voted into policy for 2008: a) As much as possible, any superfluous subs should have a game of their own to play in. This will necessitate the arrangement of equipment for an extra (fifth) rink each Wednesday. b) In the possible case of a single, superfluous sub, that sub may share playing time with John or possibly another skipper.

John reminded the membership of the **HTLBA web site** and described a newly added page called Documents. This page contains links to archived copies of team lists and schedules, and meeting minutes and agendas that may be downloaded by simply clicking an appropriate link.

John asked if there were any new **email addresses** to report, and Bill Sullivan offered his into record. John added that email is easier and cheaper to use than the US postal service.

Finally, **2008 club officer elections** were held. Nominations were called for. John and Ron Eget were nominated to serve as President and Vice-President, respectively, and Hazel O'Hara was nominated for Secretary. As there were no opposing nominations, the three were duly elected by acclaim, and the officers for 2008 will be:

President: John Thomas
Vice-President: Ron Eget
Secretary: Hazel O'Hara

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 7:45, the doors locked, and all departed.