



Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club

**JACK CHATTER**

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We began our season back in early May... oops, mid-June. Covid was upon us and we had no idea what to expect. A few members chose the understandable route and avoided play this year. A few others played on and in the end the Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club had a restricted, limited but rewarding summer of bowling. Social mornings and evenings, pairs and triples leagues, these were the extent of our club activities. Summer came, we coalesced into a smaller but cohesive club of very active bowlers.

We celebrated **New Brunswick Day** in fine style on August 3. Twenty-one members were on hand to participate in three games—two games of triples and one of fours. The one member left over (for those of you doing the math) was the social committee chair who took care of us all and made sure we all had a good time.

Following the matches, a spider was held, and won by Leroy McGinn. Membership prize



draws were won by Peter McCluskey, Colleen McHatten, William Cranke, Irene King, and Barb Hallett.

*Fraser and Colleen McHatten, and David Watts wore their New Brunswick team shirts for the occasion*

**Jenny Myers** of the Centennial Club in Moncton felt N.B. bowlers needed something special this summer, so she organized the **Inaugural CoVid 19 Invitational Tournament**. It involved eighteen pairs teams—womens or mixed—from Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton, and it took place on Wednesday, July 29. Fourteen Fredericton bowlers competed.

Each pair played two games and the seven teams from Fredericton enjoyed great results. The team of Leroy and Jane McGinn won the tournament and the pair of David Watts and Janet Brooks took second place. Lawrence



*left to right: David Watts, Janet Brooks, Jane McGinn, Leroy McGinn*

Keegan and teammate Helen

Leroux came in fourth. A total of

\$340 was awarded to the prize winners. Tim and Debbie McFadzen won the prize for the highest score amongst the teams out of the running.

Other Fredericton teams were Pat Beggs and Elaine Crawford, Walter Steeves and Jane Howell, Gloria McLaughlin and Peter McCluskey.

The **Fredericton club** responded with an **invitational Covid tournament** of its own on September 9. Four pairs teams each from the Moncton and Saint John club joined four pairs from the home club in a one-day event. The FLBC was represented by the teams of Colleen McHatten and Lawrence Keegan, Leroy and Jane McGinn, Peter McCluskey and Cheryl Mulholland, and Gloria McLaughlin and Patricia Albert.

The foggy morning and the cool cloudy air was no match for the bowlers. The day proved to be just fine for bowling, and the sun was a welcome sight for the awards presentations. In the end the consensus of opinion fell on the side of “a wonderful time was had by all”.

First prize winners were Jenny and Brian Myers of Moncton. Second went to Fredericton’s own Jane and Leroy McGinn, and third place to Linda and Dave Tripp of Moncton as well.

The third and final **Covid tournament** was played at **Saint John's Seaside Club** on Saturday, Sept. 18. Four Fredericton triples teams took part. They were comprised of: Leroy, Jane and Veronica McGinn; Gloria McLaughlin, Janet Brooks and Lawrence Keegan; Walter Steeves, Jane Howell and David Watts; and Elaine Crawford, Marilyn Samuels and Pat Beggs.



***Pat Beggs** displays fine form while Saint John's Kevin Phillips looks on*

With oil tankers lying in wait offshore, and colourful kites catching the breeze overhead, the teams began play on a beautiful late summer day. Bowlers appreciated the quality of Seaside's green, and many Fredericton bowlers commented on its speed. The Saint

John team skipped by Joe Briggs was the overall winner, but the FLBC performed quite well. The team of Lawrence Keegan, Janet Brooks and Gloria McLaughlin fared best of the Fredericton groups winning second place.





*Michelle Olscamp determines the teams*

Social bowling on the evening of **Labour Day**, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, was a lightly attended affair but like the other holiday celebrations this summer, was one of the happiest events of the year on our calendar. The twenty bowlers in attendance were enough for two games of triples and two games of pairs followed by a rousing spider roll-off won by Ulric Cormier.



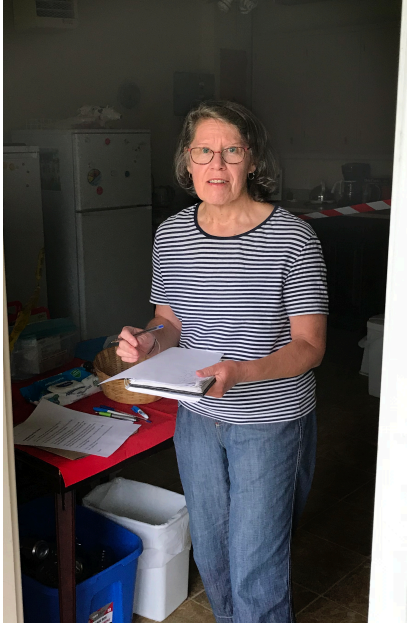
*Peter McCluskey and Leroy McGinn skip under the lights*



*It wouldn't be a Spider without a "spider".*

Door prize winners, selected at random, were Jill Fraser, David Watts, Barb Hallett, Jane Howell, Nora Valentino, Irene King, and Doreen Smith.

The club closed the season with an evening of fun bowling on Monday, September 28. It proved to be a time when we could congratulate each other for having done a great job of following the rules, of abiding by the restrictions, and of enjoying ourselves this year.



***Susan Fortune** assembled the teams for the final evening's games. Without her tireless efforts, especially in the matter of Covid sanitizing, we would not have been as successful as we were.*



*Munchies lie in wait for bowlers to complete their fun games during the club's final social night of the season.*

Now, as the summer comes to a close and early autumn arrives, we have to close the books on what was certainly less than our usual season but it felt like a full year, one which left all who enjoyed this summer of bowling with special memories to see us through a winter of who-knows-what.

*Future bowler **Ashley** brought her grandmother **Janet Brooks** to the green one evening to join in the festivities.*



Our season went reasonably well this year although COVID dug it's fingers in. We happily welcomed six new members. Some members who were unable to join us hope to return in 2021. Thank you to everyone for adhering to COVID restrictions. I sincerely want to thank all the members who helped schedule sign up, prepared things for play, cleaned and sanitized, took care of the greens, and the house needs. It was not always easy, however, we found our way.

Thanks to BCB, BNBB, and Sports NB who supported and provided the basis for our Operational Protocols to receive approval from the City and get us back on the green. Social, civic holiday events and competitions enjoyed by members were successful and fun.

We were able to play four rinks and expanded to six in September to hold a provincial invitational and touch base with other club members.

I am adding a quote from executive member Jane Howell that is so true. "Our survival is not necessarily threatened by the pandemic at this time. For sure, Covid is the main reason but we have learned a lot through the summer about staying safe while still enjoying our sport. We are now in a better position to argue that lawn bowling can remain part of your summer activities without threatening our health."

Thank you to Tim and Debbie. The benches look great with their new colour.

Cementing between the club house and the patio will take place soon, and the back boards will be painted in the spring with help from the City.

We will hold our annual meeting in November and then look forward to a great year in 2021.

**- Gloria McLaughlin,  
President, Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club**



**THERE** is nothing in this Covid time we can call to mind for guidance as a life map to show us the way through. There may have been a few club members in the early years who endured similar hardships in the past but they're not around any more.

For all intents and purposes, we endured the summer of 2020, and are still finding our way across this Covid pandemic wasteland, with only our best instincts and good intentions to fall back on. Whenever we can stop and take a well-deserved break and a breath we do so.

That is what we did this summer at the Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club. None of us knew what to expect when we set out to have a season, but we knew we wanted something to anchor us to a regular summer as we have come to know it.

So we arrived at our green willing to do whatever the requirements in place asked of us. There weren't many. They were easy to accommodate, and by doing so we enjoyed one of the best seasons of bowling in recent years. We weren't able to travel until late in the summer. We weren't able to establish club leagues until it became clear our adherence to the rules meant we could do so with no problems. What we were able to do was bowl with friends, to bowl on our green and enjoy the love of the game.

Now as our season ends, and we look back on the summer as it was, we can see something of great value, a time when out of our instinctive desire to do what is right and necessary, our club performed admirably and successfully. It wasn't what we had in mind but it was more than we could have expected.

No one wants to do it this way again. But if the current situation carries on into next year, we know the Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club can and will conduct another successful season of bowling. Until then, we can head into the off-season knowing our club has done its very best. Congratulations to all concerned.

*- editor, Jack Chatter*



*A striking sunset closes the season over the green of the Fredericton Lawn Bowling Club.*